

sheathing her as low as we could at Cockspar, her Bottom Worm-eaten quite through, and her Stern rotten, as appears by a Survey of Shipwrights held on her a short Time before, wherein it is declared she could not swim above Two Months, her Men Guns, and Ammunition being on Shore, I thought her the most eligible to sink, as her Weight would keep her across the Channel, when lighter Vessels could not, owing to the Rapidity of the Current, and hard sandy Bottom, which prevented the sticking fast where they were sunk. The Savannah Armed Ship, purchased into the King's Service by Order of Commodore Sir James Wallace some Time before, was scuttled and sunk also; Four Transports were sunk besides, which blocked up the Channel; several smaller Vessels were also sunk above the Town; and a Boom laid across, to prevent the Enemy sending down Fire-rafts among our Shipping, or landing Troops in our Rear.

The Fowey, Keppel Brig, Comet Galley, and Germain Provincial Armed Ship, were got to Town previous to sinking the Vessels; the Germain, having her Guns in, was placed off Yamairaw, to flank our Lines.

Three French Frigates were now advanced up the River to the Mudflat, One of them having 12 Pounders, with Two Rebel Gallies, carrying each Two 18 Pounders in their Prows, anchored in Five Fathom Hole; from whence the Frigate failed into the back River, with Intent to cannonade the Rear of our Lines: She threw a great Number of Shot, which being at their utmost Range, did no Execution. The Gallies advancing nearer did some Damage to the Houses. A few Shot now and then from the River Battery made them keep a respectable Distance.

The French having now made regular Approaches, and finished their Batteries of Mortars and Cannon near enough to our Works, on the 3d of October, at Midnight, opened their Bomb-Battery of Nine large Mortars: At Day-break they also opened with Thirty-seven Pieces of heavy Cannon, landed from the Fleet, and fired on our Lines and Batteries with great Fury. This lasted Day and Night until the Morning of the 9th, when finding little Notice taken of their Shot or Shells, at Day-break stormed, with their whole Force, the Comte d'Estaing at their Head. This Attempt proved most fatal to them, for they met with so very severe a Repulse from only Three Hundred Men, assisted by the Grape-shot from the Batteries, that from this Day they worked with indefatigable Labour to carry off their Cannon and Mortars, and descended to a Degree of Civility we had hitherto been Strangers to. Their Loss was very great, most of their best Officers and Soldiers killed and wounded; the Comte d'Estaing among the latter.

On the Night of the 17th the French entirely quitted their Works, retreated to their Boats, and embarked under Cover of their Gallies. General Lincoln, with the Rebel Army, retreated up the Country with great Precipitation, burning every Bridge behind them; and we are told their Army is totally dispersed.

The French have been favoured by the Weather to their utmost Wishes the whole Time of being on this Coast; their great Ships lying constantly at Anchor in Fourteen Fathoms, and the Small Craft from Charles Town employed watering them from this River. The only Accident we know they met with was losing One Boat with 100 Men.

When the French Troops were all embarked, an Officer was sent on Shore to exchange Prisoners: This being finished, they lost no Time in returning

down the River with their Frigates and Gallies to Tybee.

The Vigilant, with the Scourge and Vindictive Gallies, the Snake Half-Galley, and Three Transports, were obliged to remain at Calibogie the whole Siege; where Captain Christian of the Vigilant secured them all in so strong a Position, and erected a Battery on Shore to protect them, that the French and Rebels thought it most prudent to let them alone: They are now all at Tybee, the French Fleet having left this Coast the 26th of October, and their Frigates left this River the 2d of November.

On the 4th of November the Myrtle Navy Victualler, who was taken by the French, and turned into a Watering-Vessel, being blown out of this River a few Days before they left it, returned to Tybee with a Rebel Galley, expecting to find their Friends; they both fell into our Hands. The Galley is called the Rutledge, carries Two 18-pounders in her Prow, and Four Sixes in her Waist; I have named her the Viper, and appointed Mr. John Steel, Master's Mate of the Rose, to command her, with an Establishment similar to the other Gallies, until the Admiral's Pleasure is known. Mr. Steele's Behaviour at the Battery, on the Spot where the French and Rebels stormed our Lines, deserves particular Notice.

His Majesty's Ship Ariel of 24 Guns, on a Cruise off Charles Town, (when the French came on this Coast) was taken on the 11th of September, after a very gallant Resistance, by the French Frigate Amazon of 36 Guns. His Majesty's Ship Experiment, having lost all her Masts and Bow-sprit in a Gale of Wind, on her Passage from New York to Savannah, fell into the Middle of the French Fleet off this Bar, and was taken on the 24th of September, together with the Myrtle Navy Victualler, and Champion Store-ship.

I now beg Leave to acknowledge the particular Services of Captain Brown of the Rose, before and during the Siege, for his very spirited Exertions on every Occasion: Lieutenant Lock of the Rose, and Lieutenant Crawford of the Fowey, were ever diligent, anxious and spirited during this whole Business, Captain Fisher, who commanded the Savannah armed Ship, acted as Brigade Major to the Sea Department; and, while he continued in Health, did his utmost to forward the Service.

Captain Knowles, Agent to Transports, so soon as he was exchanged as a Prisoner, served at the Batteries; and Lieutenant Goldsbrough of the Vigilant, by whose Diligence and Activity the King's Troops were brought through Wallcut to Savannah, I have appointed to the Vigilant, in room of Captain Christian, who has the Honour to present you these Dispatches. Captain Brown, late of the Rose, was to have carried them, but his extrem ill Health prevents it. The General having sent his Dispatches to England in a Brig of the Commissary General's Department, Captain Christian takes his Passage in her also.

Captain Mowbray, of the Germain Provincial armed Ship of St. Augustine, who was stationed at Yamairaw to flank our Lines, was very diligent in that Service, and assisting Lieutenant Goldsbrough in sinking Vessels, and laying a Boom across the River, above the Town. Mr. Tate, Master of the Nancy, and Mr. Watson, Master of the Tweed Transports, have very particular Thanks for their constant Services at the Batteries. Mr. Wilson, Master of the Venus, and Mr. M'Curdie, Master of the Neptune Transports, have the same. I must beg Leave to mention the very spirited Services of

Mr.