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St. James's, December 29.

Extract of a Letter from the Right Honourable General Eliott, Governor of Gibraltar, to the Earl of Hillsborough, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated Gibraltar, November 28, 1781; received December 27.

I HAVE the Honour to communicate to your Lordship, that the uniform Appearance of the Enemy's Operations sufficiently shewing, that an Attempt to storm and destroy the Whole of their Advanced Works, now arrived at the highest State of Perfection, after immense Labour and Expence, would probably be attended with the desired Success, it was therefore judged expedient to carry the same into immediate Execution.

The necessary Arrangements being made, a considerable Detachment, formed in Three Columns, marched from the Garrison, upon the Setting of the Moon, at Three o'Clock on the Morning of the 27th Instant. The Columns were severally composed of an Advanced Corps, a Body of Pioneers, Artillery-Men carrying Combustibles, a Sustaining Corps, with a Reserve in the Rear. The Pioneers of the Left Column were Seamen from His Majesty's Ships.

The Force of the Enemy, in their Lines and Advanced Works, consisted of Fifty or Sixty Cavalry, and Six Hundred Infantry, composed of the Spanish and Walloon Guards, Artillerists, Castadores, and other Light Troops, besides the usual Body of Workmen carrying their Arms.

The vigorous Efforts of His Majesty's Troops, on every Part of the exterior Front, were irresistible; and the Enemy, after a scattering Fire of short Duration, gave Way on all Sides, and abandoned their stupendous Works with great Precipitation.

The Pioneers and Artillerists made wonderful Exertions, and spread their Fire with such amazing Rapidity, that in Half an Hour Two Mortar Batteries of Ten Thirteen-Inch Mortars, and Three Batteries of Six Guns each, with all the Lines of Approach, Communication Traverses, &c. were in Flames, and are reduced to Ashes. The Mortars and Cannon were spiked, and their Beds, Carriages and Platforms destroyed. Their Magazines blew up, one after another, as the Fire approached them.

The Enemy, seeing all Opposition to be ineffectual, offered no other Annoyance than an ill-directed Fire of Round and Grape Shot from the Forts St. Barbara and St. Philippe, and the Batteries on the Lines, and remained in their Camp Spectators of the Conflagration.

The whole Detachment was in the Garrison again by Five o'Clock, just before the Break of Day. Brigadier General Ross had the Chief Command, and conducted the Attack with so much Judgment, through the Variety of critical Incidents attending an Enterprize of this Nature, as highly contributed to the general Success. The Center Column was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Dachenhausen, of Reden's Regiment; the Right by Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo, of Hardenbergh's; the Left by Lieutenant-Colonel Trig, of the 12th; and the Reserve by Major Maxwell, of the 73d. The Seamen, in Two Divisions, were commanded by Lieutenant Campbell, of the Brilliant, and Lieutenant Muckle, of the Porcupine.

Captain Curtis, of the Brilliant, (commanding the Squadron in the Bay) accompanied them as a

Volunteer, and greatly distinguished himself, by his Discernment, Assistance, and personal Efforts. To the Attention and Valour of these Chief Officers, and the Steadiness of the Troops, was owing the good Order observed throughout the Whole.

Greater Zeal for His Majesty's Service was never shewn; nor was there ever an Enterprize more perfectly executed.

Many of the Enemy were killed upon the Spot; but owing to the Darkness and other Circumstances, I am not enabled to inform your Lordship either of the exact Number, or their particular Quality. A Sub-Lieutenant of Grenadiers, with Rank of Captain, and Seven of the Walloon Guards, with an Officer and Three Artillery Men, were taken Prisoners.

It is with extreme Pleasure that I acquaint your Lordship the Loss on our Part has been inconsiderable, a Return of which is herewith inclosed.

A Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, at the Sally, on the 27th of November, 1781.

Royal Artillery. 1 Rank and File wounded.
12th Regiment. 1 Rank and File killed; Lieutenant Tweedie, 1 Rank and File wounded.
39th ditto. 1 Serjeant wounded.
72d ditto. 1 Rank and File wounded.
73d ditto. 1 Rank and File killed; 2 Rank and File wounded.

S. A. Company. 1 Rank and File wounded.
Hardenbergh's. 2 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant, 1 Rank and File wounded.
Reden's. 1 Rank and File missing.
Total. 4 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant, 2 Serjeants, 17 Rank and File wounded; 1 Rank and File missing.

Five Seamen wounded; but only one dangerously.
N. B. None of the Wounded since dead, but all likely to do well.

G. A. ELIOTT, Governor.

War-Office, December 29, 1781.

23d Regiment of Dragoons. Captain Lieutenant Thomas Crewe Dodd is appointed to be Captain of a Troop, vice David Hawell.

Ditto, Lieutenant John Petty, of 19th Dragoons, to be Captain Lieutenant, vice Thomas Crewe Dodd.

Ditto, Ensign John Armstrong, of 9th Foot, to be Cornet, vice Thomas Eyre.

Ditto, John Burgh, Clerk, to be Chaplain.

1st Regiment of Foot, 1st Battalion, ——— Walshe, Gent. to be Ensign, vice David Urquhart.

Ditto, 2d Battalion, Lieutenant Sir George Keith, of 88th Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Fielder King.

5th Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant Prideaux Selby, of the Northumberland Militia, to be Ensign in one of the Additional Companies, vice Thomas Allison.

9th Regiment of Foot, Cornet Thomas Eyre, of 23d Dragoons, to be Ensign in one of the Additional Companies, vice John Armstrong.

18th Regiment of Foot, Serjeant Major William Musgrave to be Quarter-Master, vice Thomas Holland.

46th Regiment of Foot, Ensign William James to be Lieutenant, vice Charles Flood.

Ditto, John Murray, Gent. to be Ensign, vice William James.

48th Regiment of Foot, Ensign Robert Leslie to be Lieutenant, vice William Thompson.