

It was adviseable to attack the Tower from the Bay, the Fortitude and Juno were ordered against it, without making the least Impression by a continued Cannonade of Two Hours and a Half; and the former Ship being very much damaged by red-hot Shot, both hauled off. The Walls of the Tower were of a prodigious Thickness, and the Parapet, where there were Two Eighteen-Pounders, was lined with Basins Five Feet from the Walls, and filled up with Sand; and, although it was cannonaded from the Height for Two Days, within 150 Yards, and appeared in a very shattered State, the Enemy still held out; but a few hot Shot setting Fire to the Basins, made them call for Quarter. The Number of Men in the Tower were Thirty-three; only Two were wounded, and those mortally.

On the 11th I was again forced from the Gulph by a strong westerly Gale, and took Shelter under Cape Corfe; and, upon the Wind abating, it fell at once calm, which prevented my Return off St. Fiorenzo until the Morning of the 17th. At Nine that Evening the Enemy's Works were formed and taken, with inconsiderable Loss on the Part of His Majesty, but the French suffered much; and on the 19th in the Evening the empty Town of Fiorenzo was taken Possession of, the Whole of the Garrison having gone off towards Bastia in the Two preceding Days. I herewith transmit you the Copy of a Letter from Commodore Linzee to me, and one from Captain Young to him, with the State of His Majesty's Ship Fortitude under his Command; and an Account of the Killed and Wounded.

The cool and intrepid Conduct of Captain Young cannot be too much admired, or that of Captain Woodley of the Alcide, who, from having a correct Knowledge of the Bay, nobly offered his Service to place the Fortitude, which he did with the greatest Judgment; and the handsome Testimony Captain Young bears of it, makes it unnecessary for me to say a Word in his Praise; but I felt it very much my Duty to write Commodore Linzee the Letter I also herewith transmit a Copy of, as well as Copies of Letters the Commodore and I have been honoured with from Lieutenant-General Dundas, which will shew that Exertions were not wanting in the Officers and Seamen of His Majesty's Navy.

I should be wanting in Gratitude as well as Justice to Lieutenant-Colonel Moore and Major Koehler was I to omit acquainting you how much I feel myself indebted for their very great Zeal and Exertion in informing themselves of the State of the Country in the Neighbourhood of Fornelli, and cannot help attributing much to both for our Success. With respect to their Conduct in the Field, I leave Lieutenant-General Dundas to speak of it, but I understand it has been highly meritorious, as has that of the Whole of the Troops. Captain Woodley will be the Bearer of this Letter, to whom I beg to refer you for such Particulars as you wish to be informed of, as he is perfectly well acquainted with every Transaction from the Landing of the Troops to this Hour.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

H O O D.

The Right Hon. Henry Dundas.

*Alcide, in the Bay to the Westward of Mortella,
February 9, 1794.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that it being the Opinion of Lieutenant-General Dundas, as well as my own, that an Attack, both by Sea and Land, should be made as speedily as possible on

the Tower of Mortella, in order to secure the Anchorage in that Bay for His Majesty's Ships, and to have easy Communication with the Troops on Shore, I immediately directed His Majesty's Ships Fortitude and Juno for that Service. The Land Wind in the Morning was too faint for them to weigh; at One o'Clock P. M. the Sea Breeze came in, and they immediately got under Sail, and both Ships (with the Assistance of Captain Woodley, who, with great Zeal and Activity, voluntarily undertook to assist Captain Young in placing the Ships against the Tower, he having a very good Knowledge of the Bay, and which he executed with great Skill and Judgment) when a very severe and well-directed Fire was kept up by both Ships for Two Hours and a Half. Captain Young, whose cool, steady and gallant Conduct was very conspicuous, deserves the highest Encomiums, as by his Exertion the Flames, which at several Times broke out by the red hot Shot lodged in the Ship's Side, were extinguished, which would otherwise have inevitably destroyed her: His Officers and Ship's Company have their Share of Merit on the Occasion.

Captain Hood of the Juno, who fortunately received no Damage, did every Thing that his Situation could admit of, and conducted himself like an experienced and good Officer.

I herewith transmit, for your Lordship's Information, Captain Young's Report of the Damages sustained on board the Fortitude; also the Report of the Carpenters who have been ordered to survey her.

I have the Honor, &c.

ROBERT LINZEE.

Right Hon. Lord Hood.

S I R,

Fortitude, Feb. 9, 1794.

IN Obedience to your Orders, I went Yesterday in His Majesty's Ship Fortitude, which I command, against the Tower of Mortella, where I remained Two Hours and a Half; when finding that neither the Fire of the Fortitude nor that of the Juno (who was extremely well placed to batter the Tower) had made any material Impression; and the Main-Mast of the Ship being much wounded, many of the Shrouds cut away, Three of the Lower Deck Guns dismounted, several hot Shot in the Hull, and a great many Men blown up by the Explosion of Powder from a Powder-Box that was struck by a hot Shot; and being so near the Tower and the Rocks, that if the Wind should die away it would be difficult, and if it should change so as to blow on Shore it might be impossible, to get away, I thought it prudent to haul off. Soon after I had done so, the Ship was perceived to be on Fire from the Main Deck to the upper Part of the Quick Work on the Quarter Deck, occasioned by a hot Shot that had lodged in the Side; but after cutting out the Shot, and opening the Side in different Places, the Fire was extinguished without having done any material Damage.

I had infinite Pleasure in observing, during the whole of the Action, the most cool, intrepid Courage in all the Officers and Men of the Fortitude; and I am particularly pleased to have this Opportunity of doing them Justice, by saying, that I do not think any Men could do their Duty better; and I have only to regret, with them, that their Exertions were not attended with better Success.

And if Captain Woodley will allow me, I shall be happy also in having this Opportunity of thanking him for the very great Assistance I received in placing the Ship, from his Knowledge of the Place, and from the Coolness and Clearness with which he gave his Directions, as well as for the Advantages I reaped from