

Pounders, which was feebly defended, was seized, the Guns spiked and thrown over the Precipice. There remained on the Summit of the Hill One large Gun and a Field Piece, which the Regiment was ordered to take Possession of; unfortunately the Guide was wounded, and the Troops became uncertain of the right Approach to the Hill: While in this Situation the Enemy's Grape Shot took Effect to such a Degree, as induced Lieutenant-Colonel Hay to order the Regiment to retreat, which it did with considerable Loss. Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald handsomely advanced with Part of the Grenadiers to cover the Retreat of the 31st Regiment, which he accomplished. It is proper to observe that a Night Attack on the Vigie was indispensably necessary, as Three Batteries of the Enemy flanked the Neck of Land which connects the Vigie with the Main; and in general in this Country, when you have to march to attack an Enemy's Post, who have Artillery, and where it is impossible for you to advance with any on your Part, it is almost a Matter of Necessity to attack at Night.

Hitherto the Troops continue healthy, notwithstanding their Exertions and Fatigue.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RALPH ABERCROMBY.

*Head Quarters, St. Lucia, May 31, 1796.*

S I R,

I HAVE the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 18th of March. In my Letter of the 22d of May I acquainted you that on the Day following we intended to make a Lodgement as near to the Enemy's Works as possible. This, however, was deferred from Necessity till the 24th.

The 27th, 53d, and 57th Regiments had been previously placed near the Point of Attack. On the Morning of the 24th the 27th Regiment lodged themselves upon Two different Points, the nearest of which was not more than Five Hundred Yards from the Fort. The Enemy made a vigorous Effort to dislodge them, but by the good Conduct and Spirit of Brigadier-General Moore, and the steady and intrepid Behaviour of the Officers and Men of the 27th Regiment, the Enemy were twice repulsed with considerable Loss, and before Night the Troops were compleatly under Cover: At the same Time the Communication to the Posts occupied by the 27th Regiment, was carried on with the utmost Vigour, and Two Batteries for Eight Pieces of Artillery were begun.

Upon the Evening of the 24th the Enemy desired a Suspension of Arms until Noon the next Day,

which was granted till Eight in the Morning: A Capitulation for the whole Island ensued, a Copy of which I have the Honor to enclose. On the 26th the Garrison, to the Amount of Two Thousand Men, marched out and laid down their Arms, and are become Prisoners of War. Pidgeon Island is in our Possession: The 55th Regiment has been detached to Souffriere and Vieux Fort, to receive the Submission of the Garrisons of those Places. From Souffriere we have been informed that peaceable Possession has been given; from Vieux Fort there is no Report. The principal Object of the Blockade of Morne Fortuné has been obtained. The Enemy has been prevented from escaping into the Woods; their Troops, whom they call Regulars, have been made Prisoners of War, and the armed Negroes have been in a considerable Degree disarmed.

Our Operations have been attended with considerable Labour and Fatigue, Roads were every where to be made through a mountainous and rugged Country, Artillery and Ammunition to be carried forward, and the Line of Investment, extending about Ten Miles, to be supplied with Provisions, without the Assistance of Carriages, and with few Horses

It is but Justice to the Troops to say that their Conduct has been meritorious; that they have undergone an uncommon Share of Fatigue with Cheerfulness, and in several Instances have given Proofs of the greatest Intrepidity. We are under great Obligations to Brigadier-General Knox for planning and executing the Road of Communication from Choc Bay, by Chabot, to Morne Duchasseaux. Brigadier-General Lloyd, of the Royal Artillery, and Captain Hay, the Chief Engineer, may justly claim their Share of Praise. Brigadier-General Hope has on all Occasions most willingly come forward and exerted himself in Times of Danger, to which he was not called from his Situation of Adjutant-General.

Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Christian and the Royal Navy have never ceased to shew the utmost Alacrity in forwarding the Public Service. To their Skill and unremitting Labour the Success which has attended His Majesty's Arms is in a great Measure due. By their Efforts alone the Artillery was advanced to the Batteries, and every Co-operation, which could possibly be expected or desired, has been afforded in the fullest Manner. I have the Honor to enclose the Return of Killed and Wounded during our Operations in this Island, together with a Return of the Artillery, Stores and Ammunition, as far as we have been enabled to collect. This will be delivered