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Admiralty-Office, August 3, 1799.

Copy of a Letter from Sir William Sydney Smith, Knight, Captain of His Majesty's Ship Tigre, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated at Acre, the 3d of May, 1799.

SIR,

I Have the Honor to enclose you Copies of my Letters to Earl Saint Vincent, of the 7th of April and 2d Instant, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; as also a Sketch of the Position of the Forces. The Enemy have made Two Attempts since Yesterday Morning to force the Two English Ravelines, but were repulsed with Loss. The Works have now Cannon mounted on them, and are nearly completed. We have thus the Satisfaction of finding ourselves, on the Forty-sixth Day of the Siege, in a better State of Defence than we were the First Day the Enemy opened their Trenches, notwithstanding the Increase of the Breach which they continue to batter with Effect; and the Garrison, having occasionally closed with the Enemy in several Sorties, feel greater Confidence that they shall be able to resist an Assault, for which they are prepared.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

*Tigre, Saint Jean D'Acre Bay,
April 7, 1799.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that as soon as the Return of fine Weather, after the Equinoctial Gale, allowed me to approach this unsheltered Anchorage, I resumed my Station in the Bay with the Squadron under my Orders. I found the Enemy had profited, by our forced Absence, to push their Approaches to the Counterescarp, and even into the Ditch of the North East Angle of the Town-Wall, where they were employed in mining the Tower, to increase a Breach they had already made in it, and which had been found impracticable when they attempted to storm on the 1st Instant. The Alliance and Prize Gun-Boats, which had been caught in the Gale, had fortunately rode it out except One; and Captain Wilmot had been so indefatigable in mounting the Prize Guns, under the Direction of an able Officer of Engineers, Colonel Phelipeaux, that the Fire therefrom had already

slackened that of the Enemy; still, however, much was to be apprehended from the Effect of the Mine, and a Sortie was determined on, in which the British Marines and Seamen were to force their Way into it, while the Turkish Troops attacked the Enemy's Trenches on the Right and Left. The Sally took place this Morning just before Daylight; the Impetuosity and Noise of the Turks rendered the Attempt to surprize the Enemy abortive, though in other Respects they did their Part well. Lieutenant Wright, who commanded the Seaman-Pioneer, notwithstanding he received Two Shot in his Right Arm as he advanced, entered the Mine with the Pikemen, and proceeded to the Bottom of it, where he verified its Direction, and destroyed all that could be destroyed in its then State, by pulling down the Supporters. Colonel Douglas, to whom I had given the necessary Step of Rank to enable him to command the Turkish Colonels, supported the Seamen in this desperate Service with his usual Gallantry, under the increased Fire of the Enemy, bringing off Lieutenant Wright, who had scarcely Strength left to get out of the Enemy's Trench, from which they were not dislodged, as also Mr. Janverin, Midshipman of the Tigre, and the Rest of the Wounded. The Action, altogether, speaks for itself, and says more than could be said by me in Praise of all concerned. I feel doubly indebted to Colonel Douglas for having preserved my gallant Friend Lieutenant Wright, whose Life, I am happy to say, is not despaired of by the Surgeon. We have, however, to lament the Loss of a brave and tried Officer, Major Oldfield, who commanded the Theseus's Marines, and fell gloriously on this Occasion, with Two of the Men under his Command. Our Loss in Wounded is Twenty-three, among which is Lieutenant Beatty, of the Marines, slightly. The Turks brought in above Sixty Heads, a greater Number of Musquets, and some intrenching Tools, much wanted in the Garrison. A further Attack on the Enemy's Second Parallel was not to be attempted without a greater Number of Regular Troops. The Return of the Detachment was well covered by the Theseus's Fire, Captain Miller having taken an excellent Position to that Effect.

The Result of our Day's Work is, that we have taught the Besiegers to respect the Enemy they have