

the Braak Sand: one of them got on Shore for a short Time, but at Daylight we had the Mortification to observe her working back on the Ebb Tide, and, with the other Two, regained their Anchorage, though not without considerable Damage, having received the Fire of the Dart, Biter, and Boxer Gun-Brigs, within Pistol-Shot, before they cut.

I kept the Selby in the Rear to act, had any remained long enough on Shore, to have destroyed them by firing Carcasses, and have now to regret I reserved her for that Purpose, as I am confident, had Captain Williams been directed to lay one of the Enemy's Ships on board, he would have been successful in bringing her out.

I put Mr. Scott, First Lieutenant of the Andromeda, in the Command of the Boats in a Gig, and Mr. Cochran, Third Lieutenant, in another Boat; and as I had all the Cutters to attend on the Fire Vessels except the Kent, directed their Lieutenants in Gigs to put themselves under his Command, and by which Means not any Lives were lost; the Kent, Lieutenant Cooban, I directed to attack the Gun Vessels, who trimmed them pretty handsomely, and prevented any Boats from annoying ours that were employed to take out the Crews of the Fire Ships.

I feel particularly indebted to Captains Mainwaring, Baker, and Seater, as also to Lieutenant King, Second Lieutenant, who was left in Command of the Andromeda, for their Perseverance in getting over the Banks to render us every Assistance by Boats, and to be in Readiness to meet the Enemy, had they ventured over the Braak Sand; which Position they maintained for that Purpose in Spite of fresh Gales, and direct Opposition to the established Pilots, who gave up the Charge of each Ship on their Hands while in this Situation; and before, when I first made the Proposition, positively refused taking Charge of any Vessels of the lightest Draught of Water intended for this Service; but with the Assistance of Mr. Moor, Master, (who I put on board the Dart to lead in,) and Mr. Wheatland, Mate of the Ann Hired Cutter, who very handsomely volunteered their Services to take any of the Ships in on my suggesting it to them, and some Men which I got out of Smugglers, I was enabled to put one on board each of the Gun Vessels and Fire Brigs; I feel an inward Satisfaction at bringing the whole of the Squadron through the Roads without the least Difficulty. I cannot omit mentioning that Mr. Butcher, Master of the Nile, and Mr. Dean, Master of the Vigilant, (Luggers,) at my Request would have laid as a leading Mark at Gravelines Hook; the former performed this Service, and I embarked with Thirty Volunteers from the Andromeda in the latter; and through the whole of this Service I feel particularly indebted to the Commanders of the several Vessels and Cutters for their very steady Conduct.

I enclose a List of Killed and Wounded, and am sorry to say Captain Leef, of the Comet, is among the latter, having been blown up. I have also to acquaint you, for their Lordships' Information, that, from the mangled and unhappy State of many of the Prisoners, I was induced to send a Flag of Truce with them into Dunkirk.

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

H. INMAN.

SIR, *Dart, off Dunkirk, July 8, 1800.*

AGreeable to the Directions you honored me with to board the easternmost of the Enemy's Frigates in Dunkirk Roads, should it be practicable, I have complete Satisfaction in acquainting you, that about One A. M. I succeeded in carrying La Desirée National Frigate mounting Forty Guns long Twenty-four Pounders on the Main Deck, with a Complement of Three Hundred and Fifty Men, some of whom were on Shore.

From your being so nearly situated to me during the Attack I have only to anticipate your Approbation of the Dart's Conduct; but as individual Merit could not be distinguished but by those present, I trust I may be permitted to speak in Terms the most gratifying of Lieutenant M'Dermeit, who gallantly led the Boarders on this Occasion, and who, I fear, will lose his Arm by a severe Wound he received; indeed I cannot say enough in Praise of his Gallantry in this unequal Contest, having every Reason to believe the Enemy were fully apprised of your Intentions from the Resistance they made and the Preparations that were found on board.

Lieutenant M'Dermeit, with much Presence of Mind, on being wounded, called to me he had Possession of the Ship, but feared they would rally, and requested an Officer might be sent to take Charge. Lieutenant Pierce gallantly anticipated my Wishes by jumping on board, completely repulsed the Enemy who were rallying at the After-Hatchway, instantly cut her Cables, got her under Sail and over Banks which could not have been effected Half an Hour later. I also beg to state Mr. Ingledon the Master's Conduct, as highly meritorious in placing the Dart so completely on board the Desirée, and who nearly lost his Life supporting the Boarders, by falling between the Ships; indeed all the Officers whom I had the Honor to command behaved in a Manner that will ever merit my warmest Acknowledgments; and when I think of the Support given me by my brave Crew, I feel confident I shall never forget their Loyalty and Merit.

Inclosed I send you a List of Killed and Wounded, and am,

Sir, your very humble Servant,

To Captain Inman.

P. CAMPBELL.

*A List of the French Squadron in Dunkirk-Roads on the Evening of the 7th of July.*

La Pourfivante, of Forty Guns, Twenty-four-Pounders on the Main Deck, wears a Broad Pendant, Commodore's Name Castagnie, Chief of Division.

La Desirée, of Forty Guns, Twenty-four-Pounders on the Main Deck, commanded by Citizen Deplancy: taken by His Majesty's Sloop Dart.

L'Incorruptible, of Forty Guns, Twenty-four-Pounders on the Main Deck.

La Carmagnole, of Fifty Guns, Eighteen-Pounders on the Main Deck.

*A Return of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ships in the Action with the French Squadron in Dunkirk-Roads on the Morning of the 8th July 1800.*

Dart.—1 killed; 11 wounded.

Comet.—2 wounded.