

Admiralty-Office, November 14, 1801.

Copy of another Letter from Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. &c. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship *Foudroyant*, Valette, October 8, 1801.

SIR,

I Have the Pleasure of acquainting you, for the Information of their Lordships, that His Majesty's late Sloop the *Bull Dog* has been recovered from the Enemy by the gallant Exertions of Captain Lord William Stuart, of His Majesty's Ship *Champion*; I enclose a Copy of a Letter from Captain Rogers, of the *Mercury*, conveying the Intelligence of that Event to me; and have the Honor to be, &c.

KEITH.

*Mercury, Gulf of Tarento,*  
September 17, 1801.

MY LORD,

HAVING received Information that His Majesty's late Sloop the *Bull Dog* had sailed from Ancona, on the 25th August, with several *Trabacolos* for Egypt or Tarento, laden with Cannon, Powder, Shot, &c., I went immediately in Pursuit of them with the *Mercury* and *Champion*; and on the Morning of the 15th, just entering the Gulf of Tarento, we had the Satisfaction to discover the *St. Dorothea* in chase of the above-mentioned Vessels, but at a very great Distance to Windward, and it was impossible to get near enough to keep Sight of them after Dark; however we continued beating to Windward all Night, and at Day-light the *Champion* made the Signal for seeing them to Leeward close in with Gallipoli: but she was unable to prevent their anchoring under the Guns of the Garrison; this was however no check to the Gallantry of Lord William Stuart, who persevered in a very distinguished Manner, notwithstanding the Fire from the Batteries and the *Bull Dog*, until he got close under her Stern, and then gave her so warm a Return, that in a few Minutes she hauled down her Colours, and the Cable being cut, was soon without Reach of the Batteries.

There were Four *Trabacolos* and a Tartan with the *Bull Dog*, all of which had warped close to the Walls of the Garrison, except one *Trabacolo*, which was also well in and defended by the Batteries; but the *Mercury* was enabled to get so near as to drop a Boat and bring her off without Mischief; she is laden with Brass Mortars, Field Pieces, &c. and was destined for Tarento.

Lord William Stuart reports one Man killed on board the *Champion*, and several Shot in the Masts and Hull, chiefly from the Batteries.

I have, &c.

THOMAS ROGERS.

Right Hon. Admiral Lord Keith, K. B.

*Downing-Street, November 14, 1801.*

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, has been received at the Office of the Right Honorable Lord Hobart, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from General the Honorable H. E. Fox, commanding His Majesty's Troops in the Mediterranean, dated Malta, 7th October 1801.

I Have the Honor to enclose to your Lordship a Letter I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Airey, commanding the Troops in British Pay, in the Island of Elba.

SIR, *Porto Ferrajo, September 16, 1801.*

I Have the Honor to inform you, that since my last Dispatch, we could observe the Enemy busily employed in strengthening their Works and Batteries round this Place, and especially towards the Church of the Annunciata, and English Fort, where we found they had thrown up some additional Works, and masked all the Embrasures, by filling them with Fascines.

Sir John Warren arrived here on the 12th Instant, and from all the Intelligence I had received, I thought, with the Assistance of the Marines of the Fleet, and a Party of Seamen, an Attack from the Garrison might be attended with good Effects; that we might at least Destroy the Batteries, that shut up the Port, and by bringing their Force into the Field, be able to ascertain, how far the Accounts we had received of their Numbers were to be depended on.

The Admiral acceded to my Representation, and on the Morning of the 14th Instant, with the Concurrence of the Governor, a little before Day-light, a Landing was made by Two separate Divisions, amounting in the whole to about 1000 Men, including Tuscans, Peasants, Pioneers, &c. at the same Time that a Reserve was left in the Garrison under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel De Bercy, to make a Sortie from the Gate, if found practicable, and to co-operate with the main Body, in seizing the Works in Front of the Falcone.

The Landings were made with Success, and the Batteries round the Bay were destroyed, but finding our Force not sufficient to compleat the whole Business, we re-embarked our Troops with comparatively little Loss, having destroyed the Batteries of Punta Pina, the Grottoes, and Giovanni, with a great Quantity of Powder and made-up Ammunition, and bringing off into the Garrison One Hundred and Fifty Barrels of Gunpowder: we also brought off with us Fifty-three Prisoners, including Three Captains and Two Subalterns.

I feel myself much indebted to the Corps of Marines and Seamen for their Support and Assistance, and was much pleased to see the Steadiness of the Swiss Troops under Captain De Winter; Captain Knobler of that Corps, who had the Command of the Division sent against Punto Rina, speaks very handsomely of the Detachment of De Bercy's Corps who acted with him on this Occasion.

I beg Leave further to express my Gratitude to Captain White of His Majesty's Ship *Renown*, for his great Attention in the Arrangement for the Landing, and his Activity in re-embarking the Troops, when a good deal pressed by the Enemy.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE AIREY, Lieutenant-Colonel.

I cannot close this Letter without submitting to your Excellency the very meritorious Conduct and uncommon Zeal and Attention of Messrs. Grant and Lettedale, in preparing and providing every Thing necessary for the Operations of the Day.

*Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, in the Attack of the Enemy's Batteries on the Island of Elba, on the 14th Instant.*

De Bercy's Corps.—3 missing.

Swiss Corps.—5 killed, 14 wounded, 11 missing.