

Round Shot—540 Twenty-four-Pounders. 200  
Eighteen-Pounders. 80 Twelve-Pounders.  
Grape Shot—70 Twenty-four-Pounders. 28 Eighteen-Pounders. 16 Twelve-Pounders.  
Bar Shot—24 Twenty-four-Pounders. 14 Twelve-Pounders.  
Double Headed Shot—12 Twenty-four-Pounders.  
Total of Guns—51 Twenty-four-Pounders. 68  
Eighteen-Pounders. 31 Twelve-Pounders. 25  
Nine-Pounders. 57 Six-Pounders. 38 Four-Pounders. 32 Three-Pounders. 2 Two-Pounders. 8 One-Pounders.—312.  
Total of Mortars—4 Twelve-Inch. 3 Nine-Inch.  
2 Eight-Inch. 4 Six-Inch.—13.  
Total of Carronades—2 Thirty-two-Pounders.  
2 Twenty-four-Pounders. 6 Twelve-Pounders.—10.  
Total of Howitzers—10 Six and Half-Inch.

A. WATSON,  
Capt. commanding Royal Artillery.

*Admiralty-Office, April 12, 1807.*

CAPTAIN DONNELLY, of His Majesty's Ship *Ardent*, arrived this Morning with Dispatches from Rear-Admiral Stirling, commanding a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships in the Rio de la Plata, of which the following are Copies:

*Diadem, off Monte Video,  
8th Feb. 1807.*

SIR,

I HAVE peculiar Satisfaction in congratulating my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the Capture of *Monte Video*, as well from the Importance of the Conquest, as from the Honour which has thereby been acquired by His Majesty's Arms.

Immediately on the Arrival of Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Achmuty, at Maldonado, it was determined to invest this place, and having assembled our Force off the Island of Flores, a Descent was effected on the 16th Ultimo, near Carreta Point, which is about Seven Miles to the Eastward of the Town. The Enemy had assembled in considerable Numbers, and with several Pieces of Artillery seemed determined to oppose our progress.

The Navigation of the Rio de la Plata, with the strong Breezes which we have experienced for several Weeks, rendered the Landing of Troops, and assisting their Operations, very difficult, but the Place chosen was happily adapted to allow the covering Vessels, under the Direction of Captain Hardyman, to approach so close as to command the Beach, and notwithstanding the Weather threatened, and was unfavourable, the Soldiers got all on Shore without a single Accident of any Kind, and were in Possession of the Heights before Six o'Clock, with such Things as the General wanted.

On the 19th the Army moved forwards, and as an Attempt to harass the Rear was expected, I directed Boats to proceed close along Shore to look out for and bring off any wounded Men, whilst the covering Vessels were placed to prevent the Enemy from giving Annoyance, and I had the Happiness to hear that all the Sufferers were brought off, in Despite of well directed Efforts to destroy them. In the Evening I dropped, with the Fleet, off Chico Bay, near which the Army encamped, within Two Miles of the City.

I had landed about Eight hundred Seamen and Royal Marines, under the Orders of Capt. Donnelly, to act with the Troops; and, as I saw no Advantage could result from any Effort of Ships against a strong Fortress, well defended at all Points, and which, from the Shallowness of the Water, could not be approached within a Distance to allow Shot to be of any use, I disposed the Squadron so as to prevent any Escape from the Harbour, as well as to impede a Communication between Colonna and Buenos Ayres, and confined my whole Attention to give every possible Assistance in forwarding the Siege, by landing Guns from the Line of Battle Ships, with Ammunition, Stores, Provisions, and every Thing required by the Commander of the Forces.

The Distance which the Ships lay from the Shore, with the almost constant high Winds and swell we had, and the great Way every Thing was to be dragged by the Seamen, up a heavy sandy Road, made the Duty excessively laborious. The Squadron had almost daily Fourteen hundred Men on Shore, and this Ship was often left with only Thirty Men on board.

The Defence made by the Enemy protracted the Siege longer than was expected, and reduced our Stock of Powder so low, that the King's Ships, with all the Transports, and what a Fleet of Merchantmen had for Sale, could not have furnished a further Consumption for more than Two Days, when a practicable Breach was fortunately made, and on the 3d Instant, early in the Morning, the Town and Citadel were most gallantly carried by Storm.

In a Conversation with the General on the preceding Day, I had made such Disposition of the smaller Vessels and armed Boats, as appeared most likely to answer a desired Purpose, and so soon as Fort Saint Philip was in Possession of the British Troops, Lieutenant William Milne, with the armed Launches, took Possession of the Island of Ratonnes, mounting Ten Guns and garrisoned by Seventy Men, which surrendered without any Resistance, although it is well adapted for Defence, and might have given considerable Annoyance. A very fine Frigate mounting Twenty-eight Guns was set Fire to by her Crew, and blew up with an awful Explosion; as also Three Gun Boats, but the other Vessels in the Harbour were saved by the Exertion of our People.

It has been much the Custom to speak slightly of the Resistance to be expected from the Spaniards in this Country; and with confidence of the Facility which has been given to Naval Operations, by a prior Knowledge of the River. but the Battles lately fought prove the former Opinion to be erroneous, and experience evinces that all the Information hitherto acquired has not prevented the most formidable Difficulties.

The Conduct of the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Royal Marines of the Ships and Vessels, which I kept with me for this Service, has met with my entire Approbation, and I feel persuaded that I should have had Occasion to express my Satisfaction with the Exertions of the Officers and Crews of the *Diomedé* and *Protector*, if I had not been obliged to detach them on other Service.

I am much indebted to the able Assistance which Captain Warren has afforded me; and I admire the Zeal, the Patience, and Diligence of every Indi-