

damages sustained by the respective Ships; as also their Losses in killed and wounded, which your Lordship will perceive is far from trifling. The Mainmast of the Windsor Castle being more than Three Quarters cut through by a Granite Shot of Eight Hundred Weight, we have found great Difficulty in saving it.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. T. DUCKWORTH.

*Right Hon. Lord Collingwood, &c. &c. &c.*

P. S. I am sorry to observe that, in the Course of this Letter to your Lordship, I have omitted to mention that, having placed the Honourable Captain Capel in the *Endymion*, which had been advanced in the Stream of the Bosphorus, for the Purpose of ascertaining when the Squadron could stem the Current, and for a watchful Observation of the Movements of the Turks, as well as to facilitate Communication with the *Porte*, I feel myself indebted to that Officer for his zealous Attention and Affiduity during the Time he was placed in that arduous Situation.

J. T. D.

*Royal George, off Constantinople,  
February 21, 1807.*

MY LORD,

I HAD the Honour of transmitting to your Lordship, by the late First Lieutenant of the *Ajax*, the various Details relating to the Transactions of the Squadron till the 17th Ultimo. Your Lordship will from thence have been informed of my Resolution of passing the Dardanelles the first fair Wind. A fine Wind from the Southward permitted me to carry it into Effect on the Morning of the 19th.

Information had been given me by His Majesty's Minister, Mr. Arbuthnot, and Sir Thomas Louis, that the Turkish Squadron, consisting of a Sixty-four Gun Ship, Four Frigates, and several Corvettes, had been for some Time at Anchor within the Inner Castle; and conceiving it possible they might have remained there, I had given Orders to Rear Admiral Sir Sydney Smith to bring up with the *Thunderer*, *Standard*, and *Active*, and destroy them, should our Passage be opposed.

At a Quarter before Nine o'Clock the Whole of the Squadron had passed the Outer Castles, without having returned a Shot to their Fire (which occasioned but little Injury). This Forbearance was produced by the Desire of His Majesty's Minister, expressed to preserve every Appearance of Amity, that he might negotiate with the strongest Proof of the pacific Disposition of our Sovereign towards the *Porte*: a second Battery, on the European Side, fired also with as little Effect. At half-past Nine o'Clock, the *Canopus*, which, on account of Sir Thomas Louis' Knowledge of the Channel, joined to the steady Gallantry which I had before experienced, had been appointed to lead, entered the narrow Passage of *Sestos* and *Abydos*, and sustained a very heavy Cannonade from both Castles, within Point-blank Shot of each. They opened their Fire upon our Ships as they continued to pass in Succession, although I was happy in observing that the very spirited Return it met with had so considerably diminished its Force, that the Effect on the sternmost Ships could not have been so severe.

Immediately to the N. E. of the Castles, and between them and Point *Pesquies*, in which a formidable Battery had been newly erected, the small Squadron which I have already alluded to were at An-

chor. The Van Division of our Squadron gave them their Broadfides as they passed, and Sir Sydney Smith with his Division closed into the Middle, and the Effect of the Fire was such that in Half an Hour the Turks had all cut their Cables to run on shore. The Object of the Rear-Admiral was then to destroy them, which was most rapidly effected; as in less than Four Hours the whole of them had exploded, except a small Corvette, and a Gun-Boat, which it was thought proper to preserve. I inclose to your Lordship a Statement of their Number, and when I add also an Account of the Losses His Majesty's Ships have sustained, I cannot help expressing my Satisfaction that we have suffered so slightly; as, had any of their Stone Shot, some of which exceed Eight Hundred Weight, made such a Breach between Wind and Water, as they have done in our Sides, the Ship must have sunk; or had they struck a lower Mast in the Centre, it must evidently have been cut in two; in the Rigging too, no Accident occurred that was not perfectly arranged in the Course of the next Day. The Sprit-sail Yard of the *Royal George*, the Mast of the *Canopus*, and the Maintop-sail Yard of the *Standard*, are the only Spars that were injured.

It is with peculiar Pleasure that I embrace the Opportunity, which has been at this Time afforded, of bearing Testimony to the Zeal and distinguished Ability of Sir Sydney Smith; the Manner in which he executed the Service entrusted to him was worthy of the Reputation which he has long since so justly and generally established. The Terms of Approbation in which the Rear Admiral relates the Conduct of Captains *Dacres*, *Talbot*, *Harvey*, and *Moubray*, which, from my being under the Necessity of passing the Point of *Pesquies* before the Van could anchor, he had a greater Opportunity of observing than I could, cannot but be highly flattering; but I was a more immediate Witness to the able and officer-like Conduct which Captain *Moubray* displayed in Obedience to my Signal, by destroying a Frigate with which he had been more particularly engaged, having driven her on Shore on the European Side, after she had been forced to cut her Cables, from under the Fire of the *Pompeé* and *Thunderer*. The Sixty-four having run on Shore on *Pesquies Point*, I ordered the *Repulse* to work up and destroy her, which Captain *Legge*, in conjunction with the Boats of the *Pompeé*, executed with great Promptitude and Judgment. The Battery on the Point, of more than Thirty Guns, which, had it been completely finished, was in a Position to have annoyed the Squadron most severely in passing, was taken Possession of by the Royal Marines and Boats' Crews of the Rear Division; the Turks having retired at their Approach, and the Guns were immediately spiked. This Service was performed under the Direction of Captain *Nicholls*, of the *Standard's* Marines, whose Spirit and Enterprize can never be doubted; but as Circumstances rendered it impracticable to effect the entire Destruction of the Redoubt, Orders were given by Sir Sydney Smith to Captain *Moubray*, which I fully approved, to remain at Anchor near the *Pesquies*, and to employ Lieutenants *Carroll* and *Arabin*, of the *Pompeé*, and Lieutenant *Lawrie*, of the Marines, to complete the Demolition of the Redoubt and Guns, which when performed, the