

To imported with the proper Officers of the Customs at the Port where the same shall be imported, under the Penalties and Forcitures mentioned and referred to in an Act passed in the Thirty-ninth Year of His present Majesty; and the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are to give the necessary Directions herein accordingly.

*W. Fawcener.*

Admiralty-Office, October 10, 1807.

*A Letter from Captain Mundy, of His Majesty's Ship Hydra, addressed to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, of which the following is a Copy, has been transmitted to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole, by Rear-Admiral Purvis.*

*His Majesty's Ship Hydra, at Sea,*  
My LORD, August 7, 1807.

I HAVE the Honour to relate, that I chased Three armed Polaccas into the Harbour of Begu, on the Coast of Catalonia, late last Night; and having reconnoitred this Morning, deemed an Attempt on them practicable, although under the close Protection of a Battery and Tower.

At Fifty Minutes after Noon the Ship was anchored, with Springs on the Cables, at the Entrance of the Port, and began the Attack; a smart Fire was returned by the Enemy, which however considerably abated after somewhat more than an Hour's Action; on perceiving which, I ordered a Party of Fifty Seamen and Marines, under the Command of the Second Lieutenant, (Mr. Drury,) with Lieutenants Hayes and Pengelly, of the Marines, Mr. Finlaiston, (Midshipman,) Mr. Goddard, (Clerk,) Volunteer, attended by Mr. Bailey, Assistant-Surgeon, to land on the Flank of the Enemy, and drive them from their Guns, keeping up a heavy Fire from the Hydra, to cover the Boats; yet, notwithstanding our Endeavours to draw the particular Attention of the Battery, the Detachments were soon exposed to a cross Discharge of Landgrage from the Shipping and Fort, as well as Musketry from the Rocks: unshaken, however, they advanced; and having mounted the Cliff, which was most difficult of Access; they attacked the Fort with such Intrepidity, that the Enemy did not think proper to await their closing, but spiking the Guns, rushed out on the one Side as our brave Fellows entered at the other.—The Battery contained Four Twenty six-Pounders.

This gallant Achievement gave me an Opportunity of employing the Broadside solely on the Vessels, from which a constant Fire was still kept on our People on Shore.

On gaining the Guns Mr. Drury advanced with the Seamen and a few Marines to the Town, leaving Mr. Hayes and his Party to retain them, and to occupy the Heights that commanded the Decks of the Vessels, and from which he could annoy the Enemy, who were in great Numbers on the opposite Side of the Harbour, which is extremely narrow. As soon as the Town was cleared of the Enemy, the Crews abandoned their Vessels, but formed in Groups of Musketry among the Rocks and Bushes, firing on the Seamen, who had now seized the Boats on the Beach, and were boarding the Polaccas, while another Party of the Enemy had gained a

Height above the Marines, and kept them continually engaged, notwithstanding some Guns were kept playing on them from the Hydra.

At Half past Three, observing Mr. Drury in full Possession of the Vessels, I sent the rest of the boats, under Lieutenant Little, to assist in towing them out, and at Four had the Satisfaction of seeing them rounding the Point, when the Marines reembarked under a heavy Discharge of Musketry, the Enemy having collected their whole Force to harass the Retreat.

When I review the Circumstances attending the Debarkation of this Handful of Men, and reflect on the many Difficulties they had to surmount in an Attack on a Fort strongly defended by Nature, as well as Art, there opposed to more than Three Times their Force for Two Hours, succeeding in possessing themselves of the Vessels, and deliberately laying out Hawfers to the very Rocks that were occupied by the Enemy, and warping them out against a fresh Breeze, exposed to a galling Fire of Musketry, I feel perfectly incapable of writing a Panegyric equal to their Merits; but it has not required this Exploit to stamp these Officers with the Character of cool Judgment and determined Bravery. During the Term of Four Years I have witnessed frequent Instances of the Gallantry of Lieutenants Drury and Hayes; and Lieutenant Pengelly, (though not so long a standing in the Hydra,) has ever been a Volunteer on such Services.

I have also the greatest Pleasure in adding, that the above-mentioned Officers speak in enthusiastic Terms of the Behaviour of all employed under them: to your Lordship's Notice and Protection, therefore, I beg most strongly to recommend them.

The Conduct of the rest of the Officers and Ship's Company fully equalled my utmost Wishes; to the tremendous Fire they kept up I attribute the Smallness of our Loss and Damage, namely—One killed and Two wounded on board, and Four wounded of the Detachment, the Fore and Mizzen-topmasts and Foretop-Sailyard shot through, a few in the Hull, and the Rigging triflingly cut, is all the Damage.

To Mr. McKenzie, the First Lieutenant, who has served with me the whole of the War, I feel much indebted for his Affilance throughout this little Enterprize.

A Description of the captured Vessels, and the Names of the Killed and Wounded, I inclose, for your Lordship's Information. The Prince Eugene and Caroline were returning to Marfeilles.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

G. MUNDY.

*To the Right Honourable Lord Collingwood,  
Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.*

*A List of Vessels captured by His Majesty's Ship the  
Hydra, August 7, 1807.*

Polacca Ship Prince Eugene, of 16 Guns (pierced for 20) and 130 Men.

Polacca Brig La Belle Caroline, of 10 Guns (pierced for 14) and 40 Men.

Polacca Brig Il Carmen de Rosario, of 4 Guns (pierced for 10) and 20 Men.

*Names of the Killed and Wounded belonging to His  
Majesty's Ship the Hydra, August 7, 1807.*

Henry Brown, Seaman, killed.