



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1808.

*Admiralty-Office, August 23, 1808.*

**D**ISPACHES, of which the following are Copies, have been this Day received at this Office from Rear-Admiral Keats, addressed to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole :

*Superb, off Sproe in the Great Belt, August 13, 1808.*

SIR,  
I HAVE the Honour herewith to transmit a Copy of my Letters to Vice-Admiral Sir James Saumarez, relative to the Escape and Embarkation of great Part of the Spanish Army serving in this Part of Europe. An Event produced as well by the Honour, Patriotism, and Talents of its distinguished Chief, as by the Assistance and Protection which I was directed by their Lordships' Orders to afford it.

If the Weather proves moderate I hope to disembark the greater Part on the Island of Langeland this Day, where we have already a Post of Two Thousand Five Hundred Men.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To the Hon. W. W. Pole, Secretary,  
&c. &c. &c.

*Superb, off Sproe in the Great Belt, August 11, 1808.*

SIR,  
I HAVE the Honour and Satisfaction to inform you, that by an immediate and zealous Pursuit of the Measures recommended in the Duplicate of Instructions received by the Musquito on the 5th Inst., His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana, and nearly Six Thousand of the Spanish Troops under his Command, were embarked this Morning at Nyborg, which Place he took Possession of on the 9th.

By a Combination of the same Plan, more than One Thousand have joined us this Morning, by Sea, from Jutland, and another Thousand are thrown into Langeland, to strengthen the Post held by the Spa-

nish Forces in that Island, where it is proposed to land the Remainder the Moment Circumstances of Weather will permit of our moving. The Arrival of the Spanish Officer in the Edgar, on the 5th, of whose spirited Escape to the Squadron you were informed by Captain Graves, greatly facilitated our Means of Communication.

No doubt could be entertained of the Honour and Patriotism of Soldiers, who, indignant at the Proposal of deserting their Allegiance, though surrounded by hostile Battalions, planted their Colours in the Centre of a Circle they formed, and swore on their Knees to be faithful to their Country. All were equally anxious of returning to it. But One Regiment in Jutland was too distant and too critically situated to effect its Escape; and Two in Zealand, after having fired on the French General Frision, who commanded them, and killed one of his Aid-de-Camps, have been disarmed.

Some untoward Circumstances having occasioned Suspicion, and made a premature Execution of the Plan necessary, the Wind and Current being adverse, I left the Superb on the 8th, and went in my Barge to the Brunswick off Nyborg, and Two Hours after my Flag was hoisted. On the 9th the General took Possession of the Town.

Although the Danish Garrison yielded to Circumstances, an Armed Brig of Eighteen Guns, the Fama, and a Cutter, the Salorman, of Twelve moored across the Harbour near the Town, rejected all Remonstrance on the Part of the Danes, and every Offer of Security made by the General and myself. The Reduction of these Vessels being absolutely necessary, and the Spanish General unwilling to act hostilely against Denmark, such small Vessels and Boats as could be collected were put under the Command of Captain M'Namara, of the Edgar, who attacked and took them. On this Occasion I have to lament the Loss of Lieutenant Harvey, an Officer of much Merit, of the Superb,

and Two Seamen wounded; the Enemy had Seven killed and Thirteen wounded.

I should have noticed that the Spaniards, irritated at the Opposition their Friends who came to their Support met with, departed in some Measure from the General's Intention, and fired some Shot at them before they struck.

Expedition being deemed of the greatest Importance, I shifted my Flag to the Hound in the Harbour; and as neither of the Three Ships of the Line, from Circumstances of the Weather, could be brought near in, Fifty-seven Sloops or Doggers, found in the Port, were fitted by the Seamen, into which great Part of the Artillery, Baggage, and Stores were embarked that Night and the following Day, and removed to the Point of Slypsbarn, Four Miles from Nyborg, where the Army was embarked safely, and without Opposition, this Morning, notwithstanding the very unfavourable State of the Weather, and they are now under the Protection of His Majesty's Ships at the Anchorage off the Island of Sproe.

Some Sacrifices of Horses and Stores were conceived necessary by the General; and as I considered it right, under the peculiar Circumstances, to enter into the Views and Wishes of the Marquis de la Romana, every unavoidable Act of Hostility was rigidly abstained from, for I did not consider it any to bring away the Brig and Cutter that rejected our Offer of Security, and forcibly opposed our Entrance into the Port; and I even undertook to liberate the Vessels employed as Transports, provided no Interruption was made by any to the peaceable Embarkation of our Friends.

I should be unjust to the meritorious Exertions of the Officers and Seamen employed on this short but fatiguing Service, if I neglected to represent their Merits on this Occasion to you; Captain Graves's Services were required afloat; Captain McNamara, of the Edgar, undertook the Equipment of the Transports, with the Embarkation of the Stores; the Embarkation of the Troops was made under the Direction of Captain Jackson, of the Superb, and Captain Lockyer, of the Hound; Captain Smith, of the Devastation, and Captain James, of the Kite, were indefatigable in their Exertions in the various Duties I assigned them. Many Circumstances having combined to make an Attack on the Rear probable, great Precaution was necessary.

Such Guns as could be brought against us were spiked, and the Embarkation was covered and most effectually protected by the Minx Gun-Brig and the Two Prizes, and by the very judicious Disposition of the Gun-Boats, under the Command of Captain May, of the Royal Artillery, who volunteered, and whose Services on this and other Occasions were highly useful.

It is not easy to express the Joy and Satisfaction felt by every Class of the Army at this Event; and no Circumstance, I believe, could have afforded more real Pleasure to us all. One, the Regiment of Zamora, made a March of Eighteen Danish Miles in Twenty-one Hours.

I transmit herewith for your further Information, Copies of such Letters as I deemed it requisite to address to His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana and the Governor of Nyborg on this Occasion. The Replies to the former were verbal through

a confidential Officer, and the latter were made personally.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*Vice-Admiral Sir James Saumarez, &c. &c. &c.*

Note.—Since this Letter was concluded, we entertain some Hopes that Part of the Regiment in Jutland, we thought lost, has escaped to the Post at Langeland by the Western Channel.

SIRS, *Superb, off Langeland, Aug. 5, 1808.*

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that I have received from my Government the most positive Instructions to endeavour to communicate with the Spanish Officers commanding the Troops of that Nation in the Vicinity of my Command, and to concert with them Measures to secure their Retreat from any Place of Embarkation which they may possess, and for placing them in a State of Security until Transports for their Reception can be provided to convey them to Spain, for which, as well as the necessary Provisions, Measures have already been taken, and indeed of the Arrival of them I am in hourly Expectation. Until that Period shall arrive, they are welcome to share in the Accommodation and Provisions of the Ships under my Command; but as that might not afford ample Means at present, although I am in Expectation of the Commander in Chief, I would suggest under the Pressure of Circumstances, the Removal of the Troops to some of the Islands in the Belt for their perfect Security. But as a Measure of this Magnitude to the Interests of the Spanish Nation would necessarily require a concerted Plan, left by Attention to partial Interests the general one might suffer, I request an unreserved and confidential Communication, either to the Ships off Nyborg, that stationed off Langeland, or any of His Britannic Majesty's Ships in the Belt, and through the Bearer of this, or by any other Means. I propose sending on Sunday, unless I should earlier receive some Person on board, a Flag of Truce under some Pretext to the Spanish Post at Spoyberg, and if this should be safely received, I wish, in token of it, a small Guard might parade in some conspicuous Situation at Noon To-morrow, near the English Ship at Anchor, or under Sail near Spoyberg.

In my present Situation it is impossible, ardently as I enter into the Views of my Government and the Spanish Nation, to attempt to lay down any fixed Plan. My Services, and that of every Englishman under my Command, are devoted to the Cause; but before Measures can be adopted, we must communicate, agree on, and combine as far as it may be possible, the Interests of the Spanish Troops in Jutland and Zealand with those in Funen and Langeland. I shall keep a Ship for some Days off Spoyberg; and every Ship under my Command will be on the look-out to receive any Boats that may approach them.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*To the Officers of His Most Catholic Majesty's Troops.*

SIR, *Superb, off Langeland, Aug. 7, 1808.*

UNDERSTANDING from the Spanish Officer that the accompanying Paper\* is the true State

\* Thought unnecessary now to send.

and Situation of the Spanish Troops in Denmark and its Dependencies, the following, according to the various Circumstances that present themselves to my View, appears to form a Plan that promises the fairest Prospect of Success to ensure their Security and ultimate Embarkation.

Those in Zealand I would propose to force their Way to the Peninsula, of which Halkon, near Corsoir, forms the projecting Point towards Sproe. That Isthmus appears capable of being defended, or at least seems to afford the Means of Defence for a few Days, till I could remove them to the Island of Sproe.

Those at Frederica, by seizing on Vessels, might possibly force an Embarkation and unite with those on Funen, which might perhaps be favoured by some Movements of the Troops at Odense.

Separate, or united with those in Jutland, I apprehend those in Funen could secure themselves in the Presqu' Isle (Peninsula) which terminates near the Island of Romsoe, of which the Pass near Kúrteminde appears to form the Gorge, and I could, if necessary, remove them to Romsoe; it would greatly facilitate the necessary naval Operations, and might enable me to send a Ship of the Line towards Frederica to favour the Troops in Jutland, if those in Langeland should be thought in Security on that Island; if they should, the other Troops might be landed at Leisure on that Island, and the whole embarked from thence; but if the Troops at present there are incapable of maintaining themselves at that Place, in that Case I must leave a Ship of the Line and a Sloop, which could at almost any Time receive them on board, and convey them to any other Place that might be approved of, till Transports could be procured for their Reception. My Means, (Three Ships of the Line and Half a Dozen small Vessels at most,) are not perhaps sufficient to embrace all these Objects at once; but the Zeal and Exertion of the Officers and Ships' Companies would greatly diminish the Difficulties, and I should be much aided in lending Assistance to the Troops at Frederica if, as I have before said, those in Langeland should be considered capable of maintaining that Post without any immediate Support. I am aware some Sacrifices of Horses, and perhaps Cannon, might be necessary, and we must be prepared to encounter even unforeseen Difficulties; Naval Arrangements and Movements are ever dependent, in some Degree, on Weather; but I should hope to surmount them all. It would of course be right to drive in Cattle, and take whatever Provisions might be practicable with the Troops, as it would not only save our present Supply which, the Victuallers not having at this Moment arrived, is rather scanty for the Spanish Army, but would put me at Ease on that Score, provided any unavoidable Delay should intervene, and prevent my sending Supplies to them on Shore.

In my present uninformed State I am not in a Situation to judge how far it might be in the Power of, or deemed preferable by the Spanish Commander, to seize on Nyborg. It would secure the Inactivity of the Gun Boats in that Port. But such a Measure might possibly involve the Safety of the Troops in Zealand and Jutland, by inducing the Danes to act hostilely, when otherwise they might be disposed to wink at, or make no serious Efforts to impede the quiet Removal of the Spanish Troops.

But if the Principles of this Plan should be approved of, and deemed feasible by those in Command, I would recommend the Movement to be general. That it be agreed to act upon it in all its Parts the same Day, except a Discovery should take place, in which Case each Part should act immediately without Hesitation.

I acknowledge I should have little Expectation of the Success of any Negotiation for the peaceable Removal of the Troops. But a Declaration immediately after the Movement shall have commenced, of the peaceable and unoffending Object in View, accompanied with a Threat of Retaliation in the Event of any hostile Opposition on the Part of the Danes or French, might perhaps be found advantageous.

In stating the Naval Force at present under my Command, it is right to observe, I am in Expectation of more Ships, and have been informed that a sufficient Supply of Provisions for all the Spanish Troops is now on its Passage to me.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*To His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana,  
Commander in Chief of the Spanish Troops  
in Denmark.*

N. B. I have just heard that the expected Supply of Provisions is in Part arrived, which obviates Difficulties on my Part.

SIR, *Brunswick, August 9, 1808.*

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of this Morning, and to congratulate you and the Spanish Nation on the firm and manly Step you have taken on this important Occasion. Circumstances of Weather unavoidably prevent the Arrival of Two Ships of the Line now in Sight. I send Captain Graves of the Brunswick, informed of my Ideas, to see what Uses can be made of the Vessels at present in Nyborg. In my present Situation I can receive nearly Fifteen Hundred Men on board; and, under all Circumstances, it appears to me the most advisable to convey the Troops with all Expedition to Langeland; and, as it appears to be the Opinion of your Aid-de-Camp that you will be in a Situation to maintain that Island, to take Post there till the Arrival of Transports to embark the Army, I shall order Seamen in to man Twenty of the Smacks at present in the Port, and more as the Ships arrive. I apprehend the Baggage and Artillery had better be embarked in them, and moved out under my Protection. Among the Spanish Troops perhaps Seamen may be found; and I would suggest the Propriety of the immediate Establishment of a Marine Corps on the most extensive Scale possible; and I request your Excellency to keep in Mind, the Embarkation of Water and Provisions with the Troops, in our present Circumstances, is of great Consequence.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*To His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana,  
Commander in Chief of the Spanish Troops  
in Denmark.*

SIR, *Brunswick, off Nyborg, Aug. 9, 1808.*

HIS Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Spanish Forces in Denmark having deemed it expedient under the present Circumstances to take Possession of Nyborg, my Duty naturally calls me

to a Co-operation with the Troops of that Nation, and a consequent frequent Communication with the Town of Nyborg. To place your Excellency as much at ease as possible respecting the Line of Conduct that may be adopted in the present Event by the English Admiral commanding in the Belt, notwithstanding the Hostility of this Day, I have the Honour to inform you, that I have given the strictest Orders to all under my Command, to observe towards the Inhabitants of Nyborg the utmost Civility; and it is my Wish to abstain from every hostile and offensive Act, so long as no hostile and offensive Measures are pursued by the Troops of Denmark or France against those of Spain; but if any Opposition should be attempted either by the Danes or French to the peaceable and unoffending Object in view, namely, the quiet Embarkation of the Spanish Troops, I shall certainly, though most reluctantly, take Measures which it is to be apprehended might occasion the Destruction of the Town of Nyborg.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To His Excellency the Governor of the  
Town of Nyborg.

*Hound, Nyborg Harbour,  
August 10, 1808.*

SIR,

IT must be evident to your Excellency, that as my Entrance into the Harbour of Nyborg was hostilely opposed, I am bound by no absolute Law or Usage to abstain from Hostilities, and to respect the Property of the Inhabitants. But although neither one nor the other could be better secured

than by the Word of a British Officer, still it must be evident to your Excellency that under existing Circumstances the Spanish General has Occasion for several of the small Craft in Port, and that unless the Masters and Crews of them will lend their Aid to equip and navigate their Vessels, it may *not be in my Power* to secure them from Injury; but if they will, I pledge myself, after the Service on which they are required (and which will be of short Duration) shall have been ended, that I will not only use every Means in my Power to secure them from Injury, but grant Passports to them all to return in Safety.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

To His Excellency the Governor of the  
Town of Nyborg.

SIR, *Superb, off Langeland, August 13, 1808.*

I HAVE detained the Euryalus a few Hours, for the further Satisfaction of assuring their Lordships that the whole of the Spanish Troops taken off by His Majesty's Ships at Nyborg, will be landed in the Course of this Afternoon at Langeland.

A Convention has been entered into between His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana and the Governor of the Island, which, on one Hand, enjoins Abstinence from Hostility, and on the other, a sufficient Supply of Provisions, provided the Island, which is fertile, can produce it.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*The Hon. W. W. Pole, &c. &c. &c.*

Printed by ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers Street, Gough Square.

[ Price Sixpence. ]