

complete Possession of the Heights that encompass this Bay. On the same Day at Noon, a small Body of the Enemy entered the Town of Rosas, which, in an Instant, was cleared of its Inhabitants, who either fled to their Boats or the Citadel for Protection; but a well directed Fire from the Excellent and Meteor Bomb, both within Point-blank Shot of the Town, obliged the Enemy precipitately to retire. On the first Appearance of the Enemy, Colonel O'Daly, Governor of this Fortrefs, made Application to me for Assistance, when I immediately reinforced his Garrison with the Marines of the Excellent, (with the Exception of an Officer and Twenty-five Men, who had been previously detached to Fort Trinité,) and an Officer and Fifty Seamen. On the 7th, the Enemy took Possession of several Houses and Ruins in the Rear of the Town as an advanced Post, from which he has been repeatedly dislodged by the Citadel and the Guns and Shells of His Majesty's Ships in the Bay. On the 8th at Noon, observing a Body of Miguelets hard pressed by the Enemy from their advanced Posts, I was induced to make a Sortie from the Citadel with the Seamen and Marines, and the Officers commanding them, but the very superior Force of the Enemy, who endeavoured to surround us, obliged us to retire, but not till my Officers and Men had displayed a Spirit and Courage which gave me the most lively Satisfaction. I am sorry I am obliged by this little Affair to send your Lordship a Return of wounded Men.

Late on the Evening of the 9th I received from the Governor the unpleasant Advice, that a large Breach was made in the Rampart of the Citadel by a Part of the Bulwark falling down, sufficiently capacious to admit Twenty-five Men abreast. I professed to the Governor every Assistance that the Urgency of the Moment required, and directed Captain Collins to immediately weigh and place the Meteor as near the Shoal as possible, to flank the Breach in the Event of an Attack. I sent at the same Time Two Boats to enfilade the Beach with the Cannons; fortunately the Lateness of the Hour precluded the Enemy gaining Information of the Event. The following Morning I sent an Officer and a Party of Seamen to assist in repairing the Breach, directing the Seamen and Marines in the Citadel to be employed on the same Service. By every Exertion the Rampart was placed in a State of Security for the Night, the Defence of which was entrusted to an Officer and Forty Seamen, whom I sent on Shore for that Purpose. On the third Day I was happy to see the Repair completed, and the Work as defensible as it was previous to the Disaster.

On the Morning of the 15th Instant, at Eight o'Clock, the Enemy made a most resolute Assault on the Fort Trinité with about Two Hundred Men, and a Reserve of about Two Thousand to support them. The Enemy was bravely repulsed; but in a Moment again advanced in greater Force, when Two of the outer Gates were broke open; but by a most galling and steady Fire of Musquetry and Hand-Grenades from the Fort, the Enemy was a second Time obliged to retire with great Loss, leaving their Leader, a Chief of Brigade, and many others, dead under its Walls, and the second in Command carried off desperately wounded. Expecting a third Assault would be made, I threw in a

Reinforcement of Thirty Marines, with a Captain and Subaltern, by means of a Rope Ladder, which was effected without Loss, and with One Man but slightly wounded, during an incessant Fire of Musquetry.

I cannot speak in Terms of sufficient Praise of the Officers and Men in their glorious Defence of Fort Trinité, on which Occasion Five Marines were wounded, and One Spaniard; but I have the Satisfaction to inclose to your Lordship a Letter I have received from the Spanish Officer commanding his Garrison, which does him great Honour.

No further Attempt was made on this Fort till the 20th Instant, when the Enemy opened a Battery of Three heavy Guns from a Height commanding it; but as yet has made no Impression on its Walls. The Lucifer Bomb had been throwing her Shells the Two preceding Days to prevent the Enemy making a Lodgment on this Height; but was compelled to retire, after being struck three Times by the Battery. During the previous Night the Enemy threw up an extensive Intrenchment Three Hundred Yards from the Citadel, and at Day-break opened a Fire upon the Ships in the Bay from Three large Mortars, which obliged us to retire out of their Reach: the Bomb Vessels, from having a longer Range of Shells than the Enemy, were enabled to throw them with Effect.

Fort Trinité, from its insulated Situation and Strength, I am of Opinion, may stand a long Siege. But I am not so sanguine with respect to the Citadel, whose Garrison is very inadequate to its Defence, and having, as I conceive, a vulnerable Point. I waited on the Governor on Sunday last, to take my leave, when he informed me, that he was in Expectation of a Reinforcement; but I am apprehensive the Blockade of the Enemy in Barcelona will prove an Obstacle to his expected Success.

I beg leave to conclude this Dispatch to your Lordship, by expressing how highly satisfied I have been with the Conduct of the Officers and Company of the Ship I have the Honour to command, as likewise of those of the Meteor, and Lucifer Bombs, commanded by Captains Collins and Hall, whose great Exertions during the arduous and most fatiguing Service, they have imperiously been called upon to perform, reflects the greatest Credit upon them. I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WEST.

Right Hon. Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood,  
Es. Es. Es.

*List of Men belonging to His Majesty's Ship the Excellent, who were wounded in Action with the Enemy between the 8th and 16th Days of November 1808, in Rosas Bay.*

Robert Palmer, Seaman.  
John Sands, ditto.  
Francis D. Coke, ditto; dangerously.  
James Lambe, Marine.  
Delisse Closhin, ditto; badly.  
John M'Neal, Seaman; slightly.  
W. Brown, Serjeant of Marines; slightly.  
Edward Magennis, Seaman.  
James Roberts, Marine.  
Peter Hyson, ditto.  
James Martin, Seaman; slightly.  
John Burrows, ditto; badly.

