

failed for Cerigo, to assist in the Reduction of that Island this Morning, had I not received the accompanying Dispatch from Captain Brenton, which so happily periods the Orders I had in Command from his Lordship to execute, and restores these Islands to their Freedom, and the lawful Exercise of their Rights and Liberties, under the Protection, and by the Assistance of His Majesty's Arms.

Cerigo has long been a Nest of Privateers of the worst Description, whose Piracies have been directed against the Trade of all Nations, and, from its Situation, of singular Annoyance to ours. And I cannot conclude these Details without observing, that though the Resistance has every where been inconsiderable to what might have been expected from local and other Advantages the Enemy possessed, yet the Zeal, Activity, and perfect Harmony that has existed in both Services was equal to surmount whatever could have been opposed to us.

To the Experience and Ability of Brigadier-General Oswald I am much indebted, and am confident we both unite in one Sentiment in Regard to Mr. Forelli, His Majesty's Minister to the Sept' Insular Republic.

From this Gentleman the most disinterested and judicious Councils have been received, and the cordial Reception we every where met with, amongst a People so long acquainted with his Character, is the best Proof of the high Estimation he is held in.

Captain Brenton's well known Merit would make it presumptuous in me to enlarge on it, and only renders it necessary to say, that I have derived the utmost Advantage from his Judgment, and bear willing Testimony to his Gallantry and Activity. He speaks most favourably of Mr. Willis, First Lieutenant of the Spartan, and I have equal Reason to be pleased with the Conduct of Mr. Cole, the First Lieutenant of this Ship, who commanded the Gun Boats, and with the Behaviour of all Descriptions of Officers and Men under my Command.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. W. SPRANGER.

To George Martin, Esquire, Rear-Admiral of the White, &c. &c. &c.

Spartan, off the Island of Cerigo,
13th October 1809.

SIR,

IN my last from Zante I expressed a Hope that we might be able to reduce the Island of Cerigo without any farther Reinforcement. This Idea was strengthened by Papers and Plans found upon the late Governor of the Island, made Prisoner at Zante. Major Clarke and myself decided upon making our first Attack upon the Forts in the Harbour of Avlemmeno, in order to prevent the Escape of any Vessels which might be there. The Forts are those of St. Nicholas and St. Joaquin. The first is a Stone Building mounting Nine Guns; the latter an Embrasure Battery of Four Guns. At Four P. M. on the 9th Instant we ran into the Bay. The Forts opened upon us, but were both silenced in a few Minutes by the Ship and Schooner, whilst the Troops under Major Clarke landing made several Prisoners. The Enemy had One killed and One wounded upon this Occasion. Only One Man of the Thirty-fifth was wounded on our Side.

At Day-light on the 10th we weighed with the

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Intention of immediately attacking the Castle of Caspal in the Bay of Cerigo, but variable Winds prevented our getting round. At Two P. M. the Troops and Marines were landed in a small Cove in the Bay of St. Nicholas, and marched forwards towards the Castle, one Watch of the Spartan following with Three small Field Pieces. I landed with the Troops that I might be enabled by Signal to command the Resources of the Ship without the Delay of sending Messages, foreseeing that we could not be brought to act against the Castle whilst the Wind continued Southerly. The Nature of the Country rendered our Approach to the Castle extremely difficult, particularly for the Guns, which did not arrive till Ten o'Clock on the 11th Instant at the Position the Troops occupied, a Height on a Level with the Castle, within Four Hundred Yards of it. A Fire commenced on both Sides with Guns and Musketry, which continued the greatest Part of the Day. In the Evening some Rockets were landed from the Ship, and in the Course of the Night some of them thrown at the Citadel. At Day-light I ordered Two Twelve Pounders to be landed from the Ship, but before they could be disembarked a Flag of Truce came out with an Offer of surrendering, provided the Garrison was allowed to return to Corfu. This we refused; and after some Deliberation it surrendered on the same Terms as those of Zante and Cephalonia. At Ten o'Clock our Troops took Possession of the Castle.

It is to the Zeal and Ability of Major Clarke, and the judicious Arrangements which he made of the Forces under his Command, that the speedy Reduction of this strong Post may be attributed. The Enemy were cut off from any Prospect of Escape or Relief, and were convinced that our Means of Offence were hourly increasing.

I cannot speak too highly of the Conduct of the Officers and Men of both Services, as well in respect to the cheerful Perseverance under Fatigue, as to their Gallantry when opposed to the Enemy.

I am happy to say our Loss has been much less than might have been expected. One Bombardier of the Royal Artillery killed, Two Privates of the 35th Regiment wounded.

I cannot in Justice to Lieutenant Willes, first of the Spartan, close this Letter without saying, that Fort St. Joaquin of Two Eighteen and Two Nine Pounders was completely silenced by the gallant Manner in which he attacked it in the Prize Schooner under his Orders, with a Party of the 35th Regiment on board. The Inhabitants of the Island received us with every Demonstration of Joy.

I have sent Lieutenant Willes in the Schooner with the Dispatches, and shall remain off this Place till I receive your further Directions.

I inclose for your Information the Articles of Capitulation, together with a List of Artillery, &c. found on the Island. I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BRENTON.

Captain Spranger, His Majesty's Ship Warrior.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION concluded between Captain Brenton Commanding His Britannic Majesty's Ship Spartan, and Major Charles William Clarke of His Britannic Majesty's 35th Regiment, Commanders of the English Land and Sea Forces a,