

On the Receipt of your Lordship's Dispatch of the 13th of last Month, conveying to me His Majesty's Commands to evacuate the Island of Walcheren with the Forces under my Orders, and further signifying the Determination of His Majesty, that previously to the Evacuation I should take such Measures as I might deem most effectual for the Demolition of the Basin of Flushing, and the Naval Defences of the Island, I made the necessary Preparations for the Removal of the Sick and Convalescents of the Army, and the Arrival of a Division of Transports afforded me the means of completing their Embarkation on the 26th Ultimo.

On the same Day the new Frigate that was built in the Dock Yard, was got out of the Basin, and which enabled me on the following Morning to commence the Demolition of the Sea Defences, Basin, Dock Yard, Arsenal, Magazines Naval Store-Houses, &c. of the Town of Flushing, the total Destruction of which was completed on the 11th Instant.

These Services were conducted under the immediate Direction and Superintendence of Lieutenant-Colonel Pilkington, Commanding Engineer, assisted by a strong Party from the Navy, under the Command of Captain Moore, and for the Particulars, I beg Leave to refer your Lordship to the Lieutenant-Colonel's Report, a Copy of which I enclose.

The very judicious and skilful Manner in which these Measures have been completed, reflects great Credit upon Lieutenant-Colonel Pilkington, and the several Officers who acted with him, and I am persuaded it will afford your Lordship peculiar Satisfaction to know, that the whole of this extensive Work has been accomplished, without any Injury being done to the Inhabitants; the Destruction not having extended beyond what was necessary to deprive the Enemy of the Advantage of Flushing as a Naval Station.

The Embarkation of the Ordnance and the Stores of the several Departments having been completed, the Army was withdrawn and embarked on the 9th Instant, but the Weather being extremely unsettled, and conceiving it probable from the active and continued Preparations of the Enemy, that he might hazard an Attack, I judged it expedient still to hold the Towns of Flushing, Middleburg, and Ter Veer, and Fort Rammekins; at the same Time I made an Arrangement for the Disembarkation of the Army, the four Divisions of which were stationed as follows, viz. the 1st Division immediately off the Town of Flushing; 2d Division to the Westward of that Town; 3d Division between Flushing and Fort Rammekins, to act and co-operate with the Naval Force in the Sloo Passage, under Captain Mason; and the 4th off Ter Veer, to act and co-operate with the Naval Force between the Veer Gat and Wolversdyke, under Commodore Owen.

By this Disposition, had the Enemy attempted to invade the Island, the four Posts above mentioned could easily have been reinforced, and the Enemy in the Event of his effecting a Landing, attacked in his Flanks and Rear; as from the Precautions I had taken in stopping the Fresh Water Sluices, his Advance into the Country must have been confined to the Dykes and Causeway, from Ter Veer through Middleburg to Flushing.

The Fleet continued Wind-bound until this Morning, when the Rear Guards were withdrawn,

the Ships of War and Transports from the West Scheldt got under weigh, and I conclude those in the Veer Gat moved about the same Time.

I feel great Satisfaction in mentioning the very able and cordial Support I have uniformly received from Rear-Admiral Otway, and that our Arrangements for the final Evacuation of the Island were approved of by Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan, on his Arrival on the 11th Instant.

I cannot conclude this Report without acquainting your Lordship that I found the Army in an excellent State of Discipline, and that the Conduct of the Troops has in every Respect merited my warmest Approbation.

On the Day of Embarkation, the different Corps of the Army marched from the several Points, and embarked in the most perfect Order and Regularity, and the Magistrates of the Towns and Villages, expressed to the Officers left in the Command of the Rear Guards, that the Troops on their Departure, had in no Instance molested or injured the Inhabitants.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. DON, Lieut.-Gen.

SIR,

*Flushing, Dec. 11, 1809.*

IN obedience to your Orders of the 25th U.C. and with the Concurrence of Captain Moore of the Royal Navy, the necessary Directions were given to commence the Demolition of the Basin, Arsenal, Dock-Yard, Naval Defences, and Magazines of this Place; and on the 26th, a Party of Seamen, under the Superintendence of Captain Tomlinson, began at Low Water to destroy such Parts of the Break-Waters as appeared to protect the Entrance of the Harbour. On the following Day, Captain Moore, with Parties of Seamen, proceeded on the Destruction of the Wharfing of the Basin and of the Dock-Yard, and both were accomplished in a few Days in the most effectual Manner.

The Demolition of the Sea Defences was also begun upon on the 26th Ult., under the immediate Superintendence of Captain Rudyerd of the Royal Engineers, assisted by Captain Read, with a Detachment of Officers and Men of the Royal Staff Corps, and Captain Donovan and a Detachment of Officers and Men of the Royals.

Arrangements were, on the same Day, made to proceed on the Demolition, by mining, of the Piers and Masonry of the Flood-Gates at the Entrance of the great Naval Basin, under the Directions of Captains Squire and Fanshawe of the Royal Engineers.

I have now the Honour to inform you, that the Services allotted to the Royal Navy have been most effectually accomplished, the Dock-Yard, Arsenal, Magazines, and every Building belonging to the Naval Establishment being wholly destroyed. The Entrance of the Harbour is also blocked up, by sinking of Vessels filled with heavy Materials, so as to render the Passage of Ships of War impracticable.

The Destruction of the Defences towards the Sea, under the Direction of Captain Rudyerd, has also been completely carried into Effect, by dismantling the Batteries, throwing down the Parapets, and in every Respect extending the Devastation of such Works, as far as could be accomplished without hazarding an Inundation of the Town; and with regard to the important Service of the Mines