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*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. Dated on board the San Joseph, off Toulon, Sept. 12, 1810.*

SIR,

I CANNOT desist from forwarding to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the enclosed detailed Account of a gallant Enterprize performed by the Boats of the Amphion, Active, and Cerberus, which resulted in the Surrender of the Garrison of Grao, and the Capture and Destruction of a Convoy of the Enemy from Trieste.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. COTTON.

*Amphion, Gulph of Trieste,*

*June 29, 1810.*

SIR,

A CONVOY of several Vessels from Trieste were chased into the Harbour of Grao by the Boats of the Amphion Yesterday Morning, and the Officer (Lieutenant Slaughter), on his Return, reported they were laden with Naval Stores for the Arsenal at Venice. As the Italian Government are making great Exertions at the present Moment to fit out their Marine at that Port, the Capture of this Convoy became an Object of Importance, and I was the more induced to attempt it, as its Protection (it was said) consisted only in Twenty-five Soldiers stationed at Grao, an open Town in the Friule; the Sequel will shew that we were both deceived as to the Number of the Garrison and the Strength of the Place; and if I should enter too much into Detail in relating to you the Circumstances attending its Capture, I trust, Sir, you will consider it on my Part as only an anxious Desire to do Justice to the gallant Exertions of those who were employed on the Occasion.

The Shoals of Grao prevent the near Approach of Shipping of Burthen; the Capture of the Convoy therefore was necessarily confined to Boat Service, and I telegraphed to His Majesty's Ships Cerberus and Active on the Evening of the 28th, that their Boats and Marines should assemble alongside the Amphion by Twelve o'Clock that Night. It fell calm in the early Part of the Evening, and conceiving, from our Distance from Grao, that the Boats

of the Active (who was considerably in the Offing) would not arrive in Time, I wrote to Captain Gordon to request they might be sent immediately; I mention this as it will account why that Ship's Boats and Marines were not in the Station assigned them in the Attack, and that no possible Blame can be imputed to the Officers and Men employed in them for their not being present, as Distance alone prevented them. Captain Whitby, of the Cerberus, very handsomely volunteered his Services on this Occasion; but I considered it as a fair Opportunity for my Second Lieutenant (Slaughter), (the First Lieutenant being absent, having been detached on other Service in the Barge the Day before,) to distinguish himself, and he has fully in every way justified the Confidence I had in him.

The Convoy were moored in a River above the Town of Grao, and it was absolutely necessary to be first in Possession of it; the Defences of the Town were two old Castles, almost in Ruins, with Loop-holes for Musquetry, and a deep Ditch in their Front, extending from one Castle to the other. The Boats from the Amphion and Cerberus put off from the Ship about Forty Minutes past Eleven, and the Marines of both Ships under Lieutenants Moore and Brattle (of Marines), and Lieutenant Dickenson of the Cerberus, the whole under the Command of Lieutenant Slaughter, landed without Musquet-Shot to the Right of the Town before Daylight, and instantly advanced to the Attack, the Launches with Carronades under Lieutenant O'Brien (Third of the Amphion) accompanying them along shore. It had been intended that the Amphion's and Active's should have landed to the Right of the Town, and the Cerberus to the Left, but the former Boats not arriving, Lieutenant Slaughter very properly took the Cerberus's with him, and left the Gig to direct the Active's to the Left; of course they had much further to row, and much to the Regret of all, did not get on shore till after the Place was taken. A very heavy Firing commenced about Dawn of Day, the Enemy considerably stronger than was imagined, and, assisted by a numerous Peasantry, kept up a very destructive Fire on our Men whilst advancing, who purposely retired a little to the Left, taking Shelter under some Hillocks, and what the Unevenness of the Ground afforded; they were followed by the French