

tion of the Convoy at Palamos. I had great Reliance in Captain Fane's Knowledge of the Place, and as the Reinforcement the French had received in Catalonia gave me no Hope of Assistance from General O'Donnell, who had full Occupation for his Troops, I felt that I should be deficient in my Duty if I did not employ the Means in my Power with Energy, to effect the important Service of depriving Barcelona and the French Army of the Supplies which this Convoy would convey to them. I gave it, Sir, every Consideration, with the Anxiety natural to Responsibility, and the more I reflected the more my Mind was fortified with Hopes of Success.

I therefore formed my Plan, and Captain Fane did me the Favour to volunteer the Command of Three Hundred and Fifty Seamen, Two Hundred and Fifty Marines, and Two Field-Pieces, selected from the Ships under my Orders, and well appointed for this desirable Service. The Enemy's Vessels lay in the Mole, and consisted of a very fine new National Ketch, mounting Fourteen Guns, with Sixty Men, Two Xebecs of Three Guns each, and Thirty Men, and there were Eight Merchant Vessels under their Convoy, all laden with Provisions for Barcelona; they were protected by Two Twenty-four-Pounders, one in a Battery which stood high over the Mole, and the other with a Thirteen-Inch Mortar in a Battery on a very commanding Height; there were also, from the Information I received, about Two Hundred and Fifty Soldiers in the Town.

From light Winds it was near One o'Clock in the Afternoon of the 13th before the Ships could get far enough into the Bay to put the Men on shore, and they were soon after landed on the Beach in the finest Order under Cover of the Sparrowhawke and Minstrel Sloops, without Harm, the Enemy having posted themselves in the Town, supposing we should be injudicious enough to go into the Mole without dislodging them; soon after our Men moved forward to take the Town and Batteries in the Rear; the Enemy withdrew to a Windmill on a Hill, where they remained almost quiet Spectators of our People taking Possession of the Batteries and the Vessels in the Mole; the Mortar was spiked and the Cannon thrown down the Heights into the Sea; the Magazine blown up; the whole of the Vessels burnt and totally destroyed, save Two which were brought out; in short the Object had succeeded to Admiration, and at this Time with the Loss of no more than Four or Five Men from occasional skirmishing; but I am sorry to relate, that in withdrawing our Post from a Hill which we occupied to keep the Enemy in check until the Batteries and Vessels were destroyed, I fear that our People retired with some Disorder, which encouraged the Enemy, who had received a Reinforcement from St. Felice, to advance upon them, and, by some unhappy Fatality, instead of directing their Retreat to the Beach where the Cambrian, Sparrowhawke and Minstrel lay to cover their Embarkation, the brave but thoughtless and unfortunate Men came through the Town down to the Mole; the Enemy immediately occupied the Walls and Houses, from which they kept up a severe Fire upon the Boats crowded with Men, and dauntlessly fired upon and killed several who had been left on the Mole, and were endeavouring to swim to the Boats.

Nothing could exceed the good Conduct of Captain Pringle, of the Sparrowhawke, Captain Campbell, of the Minstrel, and Lieutenant Conolly, First of the Cambrian, (who commanded that Ship in the Absence of Captain Fane,) both in the landing and withdrawing the Men, and the Officers in the Launches with Carronades, and the Two Mortar Boats of the Cambrian; indeed the Officers and Men of all the Boats distinguished themselves beyond all Praise in going to the Mole to bring off the Men who had been left behind. In performing this arduous Service they suffered much, but I had the Satisfaction to perceive the Fire of their Carronades and Mortars upon the Enemy was very destructive.

I feel a Delicacy in noticing the Exertions and Gallantry of an Individual where most appear to have an equal Claim, but it is due to Mr. George Godfrey, my First Lieutenant, whose Exertions both on shore and in the Boats bringing off the Men were conspicuous.

Unfortunately Captain Fane, as I am informed, was at the Mole giving Directions to destroy the Vessels when our Men were withdrawn from the Post on the Hill; he remained there with Firmness to the last, and is among the Missing, but I have received a satisfactory Account that he is well.

I feel, Sir, with unfeigned Grief, that our Loss has been severe, as you will see by the inclosed Return; but had it not been for the Indiscretion of the People straggling from their Post and coming into the Town, contrary to my Caution, the Enemy would not have dared to approach them, and the Loss would have been very inconsiderable, compared with the Importance of the Service performed. The French had entered Catalonia with an Army of Ten Thousand Men with little Means of Subsistence, and as I was ordered to this Coast for the express Purpose of depriving the Enemy of their expected Supplies, I considered that some Energy and Enterprize was necessary to accomplish it; the Force I employed was fully adequate to this Service, and I confided the Execution of it to an Officer of Reputation, I therefore cannot reproach myself, as my Conduct would have been censured if I had not undertaken it, although I must ever deeply regret the severe Loss.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS ROGERS.

*Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.*

*Abstract of the Returns of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, belonging to His Majesty's Ships Kent, Ajax, Cambrian, Sparrowhawke, and Minstrel, killed, wounded, and missing, in destroying the Enemy's Convoy at Palamos, 13th December 1810.*

Kent—3 Seamen, 7 Marines, killed; 7 Officers, 12 Seamen, 19 Marines, wounded; 1 Officer, 11 Seamen, 21 Marines, missing; 1 Seaman deserted.

Ajax—11 Seamen, 4 Marines, killed; 3 Officers, 12 Seamen, 6 Marines, wounded; 19 Seamen, 18 Marines, missing.

Cambrian—2 Officers, 3 Seamen, 1 Marine, killed; 3 Officers, 12 Seamen, 7 Marines, wounded; 1 Officer, 11 Seamen, 4 Marines, missing.

Sparrowhawke—1 Seaman killed; 1 Officer, 2 Seamen, wounded.