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Admiralty-Office, August 10, 1811.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Brisbane of His Majesty's Ship the Belle Poule, addressed to Captain Rowley of the Eagle, the Senior Officer in the Adriatic, and transmitted by Admiral Sir Charles Cotton to John Wilson Croker Esq.

His Majesty's Ship Belle Poule at Sea, Adriatic, May 6, 1811.

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that on the 4th Instant, being off the Coast of Istria with His Majesty's Ship Alceste in Company, at Ten A. M. we discovered and chased a large French Brig of War of Eighteen Guns, which shortly afterwards hauled into the small Harbour of Parenza.

Having received Intelligence that such a Vessel might be expected conveying Supplies of all Descriptions for the French Frigates at Ragusa, which had escaped from the recent gallant Action off Lissa, I felt that no means should be left untried to capture or destroy her. After reconnoitring her Position, and consulting the Pilots, and a most intelligent Officer I had on board, Mr. Thomas Boardman, Acting Lieutenant of the Acorn, who, from his general local Knowledge of the Adriatic, had handsomely volunteered his Services for the Cruise, I found it was impracticable for the Frigates to enter the Harbour, there being only Fifteen Feet Water in it, but that the Brig might nevertheless be cannonaded with Effect where she was then lying; accordingly at Three P. M. both Ships stood in, within a Cable's Length of the Rocks at the Entrance of the Harbour, and opened an animated Fire on her, and a Battery under which she lay, and in an Hour obliged her to haul ashore under the Town out of Reach of our Shot. The Ships were frequently hulled by the Battery, but sustained no other Damage but what could be immediately repaired. All further efforts from the Frigates being perfectly useless, I determined on taking Possession of an Island in the Mouth of the Harbour, and within Musket-Shot of the Town. The Ships were anchored, after the Close of Day, about Four Miles from the Shore, and about Eleven o'Clock the same Night Two Hundred Seamen, and all the Marines, went under the Orders of Lieutenant John M'Curdy, Senior Lieutenant of the Belle Poule, accompanied

by the Officers and Petty Officers named in the Margin *, and took possession of the Island without Opposition. With incessant Labour, and the most extraordinary Exertions, a Defence was thrown up, and a Battery of Four Guns (Two Howitzers and Two Nine-Pounders,) mounted on a commanding Position by Five o'Clock. A Field Piece was also placed at some Distance to the Left to divide the Attention of the Enemy, who, aware of our Operations, had been busily employed during the Night in planting Guns in various Parts of the Harbour. Soon after Five A. M. the French opened a cross Fire from Four different Positions, which was immediately returned, and kept up on both Sides with great Vigour for Five Hours, when the Brig being cut to pieces and sunk, and of course the Object of our Landing accomplished, the Guns, Ammunition, &c. were all reembarked, with the most perfect Order and Regularity.

I have only to lament that this Service has not been performed without some Loss, but considering the determined Resistance that was made, and the peculiar Situation of the Place, it is less than might have been expected. We have had Four killed and as many wounded belonging to the Two Ships, a particular List of whom is herewith transmitted.

List of Killed and Wounded belonging to His Majesty's Ships Belle Poule and Alceste, when destroying a French Brig of War in the Harbour of Parenza, the 4th and 5th May 1811.

Belle Poule.

- Mr. Richard Kelly, Gunner, killed, on shore.
- William Johnson, Able Seaman, ditto, on shore.
- Thomas Griffiths, Able Seaman, slightly wounded, on board.
- John Wilkinson, Private Marine, ditto, on shore.

Alceste.

- John Short, Private Marine, killed, on shore.
- Henry Collier, Private Marine, ditto, on shore.

* Belle Poule—Lieutenants R. Boardman, E. A. Chartres, and A. Morrison; Messrs. Blair, Chapman, Finlay, Maxwell, Hall, and Grose, Midshipmen.

Alceste—Lieutenant Hickman, Mr. Moore Master, Lieutenant Lloyd; Messrs. Adair, Croker, and Reding, Midshipmen.

Wilson Croker