



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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### WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, January 28, 1812.

**CAPTAIN O'DONOGHUE**, Acting Aide-de-Camp to Colonel Skerrett, has arrived this morning at Lord Liverpool's Office with dispatches from Major-General Cooke, of which the following are copies.

MY LORD,

I BEG to congratulate your Lordship upon the complete failure of the enemy's expedition against Tarifa, and to refer you to the inclosed copy of my letter to General Lord Wellington, conveying Colonel Skerrett's reports of the French having been repulsed with great loss in assaulting the breach which they had effected in the wall, and of their having retreated on the night of the 4th, leaving their heavy artillery, and a quantity of stores on the ground.

Your Lordship will see that Colonel Skerrett, and the brave troops under his command, have thoroughly done their duty.—He has expressed his sense of the effectual co-operation of the Spanish troops under General Copons, who in his report, gives his full approbation of the conduct of Colonel Skerrett, and the British troops under his orders, upon this, as he has done upon former occasions, during the last three months.

Captain O'Donoghue, of the 47th Regiment, acting Aide-de-Camp to Colonel Skerrett, has charge of this dispatch, and will give your Lordship any details relative to the late events at Tarifa.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) **GEORGE COOKE**, Maj. Gen.  
*The Earl of Liverpool*, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

Cadiz, Jan. 10, 1812.

I LAST night received a dispatch from Colonel Skerrett, dated the 1st instant, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, reporting the defeat of a strong column of the enemy on the day before, in an assault of the breach, which they had made in the wall of Tarifa.

I received at the same time intelligence from Lieutenant General Campbell, that the French had broke up from before the place in the night of the 4th, leaving their artillery, &c. and retiring by a pass of La Pena, under the fire of the navy.

I have this morning received Colonel Skerrett's report of that most satisfactory event, by his Aide-de-Camp, Captain O'Donoghue, and I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the copies of them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **GEORGE COOKE**, Maj. Gen.  
*General Lord Viscount Wellington*, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Tarifa, January 1, 1812.

IN my last I had the honour to state that the enemy commenced to batter in breach on the 29th December, since which period until yesterday he kept up a heavy fire of cannon on the breach, and of shells on the town, causeway, and island. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 31st December, a strong column was seen rapidly advancing to the breach;—our musquetry several times checked the enemy; and the firm front and intrepid behaviour of the troops, in less than an hour, gained a complete victory. The most bold of the enemy fell near the foot of the breach, and the mass of the column made a precipitate retreat.

The situation of the enemy's wounded, with which the ground was covered between his battery



and our fire, where they must inevitably have perished, induced me, from motives of compassion, to hoist a flag of truce to carry them off.—Some were brought into the place over the breach, but from the extreme difficulty attending this, I allowed the enemy to carry the remainder away. General Leval, the French Commander in Chief, expressed his acknowledgment for the conduct of the British and Spanish nations on this occasion in the most feeling and grateful terms.—We have made prisoners ten officers, and twenty or thirty soldiers;—the enemy's loss has been very severe. The column that attacked the breach was two thousand men, composed of all the grenadiers and voltigeurs of the army. The enemy invested this town on the 20th December, since which period, one thousand British and seven or eight hundred Spanish troops, with only the defence of a wall, which appears to have been built as a defence against archery, and before the use of gun-powder, have resisted an army of ten thousand men, with a regular battering train of artillery, and have at last defeated and repulsed them.

The wall of the town has the additional disadvantage of being commanded within half musket shot, and flanked or taken in reverse in almost every part.

The conduct of all the troops has been admirable, and that of Lieutenant Colonel Gough, and the 2d battalion of the 87th regiment, exceeds all praise. Equal credit is due to the indefatigable exertions of Captain Smith's royal engineers, to whom much of our success is due. I have on all occasions received the greatest assistance from the military experience, and the great exertions of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Proby, second in command.

We have to regret the loss of two officers killed, Lieutenant Longley, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Hall, 47th Regiment. I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.  
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

*Return of killed, wounded, and missing in the Action at Tarifa, on the 31st December 1811.*

Royal Engineers—1 lieutenant killed.

2d Batt. 47th Reg.—1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 2 rank and file, wounded.

2d Batt. 87th Reg.—5 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 21 rank and file, wounded.

2d Batt. 95th Reg.—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

Total—2 officers, 7 rank and file killed; 3 officers, 24 rank and file, wounded.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded.*

Royal Engineers—Lieutenant Longley, killed.

2d Batt. 47th Reg.—Lieutenant Hall, killed; Lieutenant Hill, slightly wounded.

2d Batt. 87th Reg.—Lieutenant M. Carroll and Ensign Waller, slightly wounded.

(Signed) T. BUNBURY, Brigade-Major.

SIR,

*Tarifa, January 5, 1812.*

IN my letter of the 1st instant, I had the honour to relate the particulars of our proceedings here, and of our victory at the breach. Since that period, the enemy has kept up a partial fire, and the breach was yesterday completely open for a space of twenty-five or thirty yards.

From the movements of the enemy last night, I was induced to suppose he intended another assault, and the garrison waited in eager expectation to give him another proof of British valour. To our astonishment, this morning at daylight the columns of the enemy were already at a distance, having taken advantage of a dark and stormy night to make a precipitate retreat, leaving in our possession all his artillery, ammunition, stores, &c. &c.

I immediately ordered Major Broad, with a part of the 47th regiment, to follow the enemy; he took possession of his artillery, waggons, and a quantity of stores, time enough to save them from the flames, the enemy having set fire to them. We have made some prisoners. From the number of dead found on the ground the enemy occupied, his loss on the whole must have been very great.

Marshal Victor was present in the French camp to give orders for the retreat.

We have thus seen the greatest effort the French are capable of making, frustrated by eighteen hundred British and Spanish troops, with only the defence of a paltry wall; and an army of ten thousand men, commanded by a Marshal of France, retreating from them silently in the night, after having been repulsed and defeated, leaving behind all their artillery and stores, collected at a great expence and by immense exertions.

I enclose a return of artillery and stores taken from the enemy.

The unremitting vigilance and exertion, the zeal and intrepidity of every individual of this garrison, is above praise.

I have the honour to dispatch this by my Acting Aid-de-Camp Captain O'Donoghue, of the 37th regiment, who is in possession of every information relative to my proceedings at this place, an officer of great merit and considerable length of service.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.  
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

*Tarifa, January 5, 1812.*

*Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores, left by the Enemy before Tarifa, on the 5th January 1812.*

2 brass eight and a half-inch howitzers, 5 brass sixteen-pounders, 2 twelve ditto, with travelling carriages complete.

4 cars for conveying heavy ordnance, 12 ammunition waggons, 1 gin, 1 forge cart; various other carts, limbers, spare carriages, &c. several thousand shells, round and grape shot for the above ordnance.

Great quantities of powder, hand grenades, rockets, rope, iron, small stores, and implements of all descriptions; also entrenching tools for five hundred men.

(Signed) P. J. HUGHES, Captain commanding Royal Artillery.

C. F. SMITH, Captain, Royal Engineers.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.

(True copy,)

(Signed) EDW. GROVE.

SIR,

Tarifa, January 9, 1812.

IN my letter of the 5th instant, I omitted to mention the unremitting exertions, and the great assistance afforded to this place for a considerable time past by Captains Dickson, Searle, Pell, and Carroll, of His Majesty's navy, the last of whom commanded the division of gun-boats, and has on many occasions materially annoyed the enemy, and impeded his progress in bringing up his guns for the siege, in which service he has been exposed to considerable danger, which I request may be added to my report.

I have the honour to be, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.  
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, January 28, 1812.

**A** DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been this morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Campbell, dated Gibraltar, 3d January 1812.

**A**N incessant fire of cannon and musketry at intervals, continued at Tarifa on the 30th ultimo, and during that night.

On the 31st, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, the enemy (having effected a breach in the east wall of the town) advanced with two thousand picked men, grenadiers and light infantry, to assault the place. Eight companies of the 87th regiment, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Gough, were stationed on the walls in that district of the town. The enemy was received by them, when near the breach, with three cheers, under a steady discharge of musketry. From the spirited behaviour of this corps, aided by a well directed fire from two field-pieces mounted on the north east tower, under the command of Captain Mitchell, of the royal artillery, which flanked the column as it advanced, the enemy was broken and dispersed with great slaughter.

Contrasting our loss with that of the enemy in the defence of the town, it appears that ours amounts to two officers killed, three wounded, seven non-commissioned officers and privates killed, and twenty-four wounded; whilst the enemy have lost, from the best reports, at the smallest calculation, three hundred men in killed and wounded, besides ten officers prisoners, many deserters, and a great number of sick, which are left without accommodation. Fifty deserters reached Algesiras yesterday in the most deplorable state, and they assure us that many would come in but for the difficulty which they experience.

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

*Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Rear Admiral Legge to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated, on board the Revenge, in Cadiz Bay, 11th inst.*

SIR,

**I**HAVE great satisfaction in informing their Lordships of the retreat of the enemy from before Tarifa, leaving their guns, stores, and ammunition, after an unsuccessful assault at the breach,

in which they were most gallantly resisted, and sustained an immense loss. I understand the British forces under Colonel Skerrett had two officers and seven men killed, and between twenty and thirty wounded.

I inclose copies of two letters I have received from Captain Dickson, of his Majesty's ship Stately, who commanded the naval forces before Tarifa, whose conduct in the many trying situations he has been placed in merits my warmest acknowledgments. He speaks in the highest terms of that of the officers and men under him, in the arduous duties they had to perform, increased by the badness of the weather they had to contend with in that exposed and dangerous anchorage.

I have the honour to be, &amp;c.

A. K. LEGGE.

*His Majesty's Ship Stately, Tarifa Bay,  
4th January 1812*

SIR,

**I**HAD the honour to write to you by the Dart (cutter) on the 30th ult. and informed you that the enemy had summoned the town to surrender. I have now the satisfaction to acquaint you, that on the 31st ult. they made a breach and desperate attack with two thousand men and voltigeurs, and were repulsed with immense loss, leaving in our possession eight officers and several men, and the valley by which they made the attack, covered with their wounded. Our loss is most trifling; two officers killed and a few men. They soon after requested permission to bury their dead, which was granted them. The extreme bad weather we have had, with the deluge of rain that has fallen, has much impeded the enemy, and they are dying in their trenches by cart-loads, with wet and cold. The ships and vessels of war and transports under my orders, I have the pleasure to say, are all safe: the Druid, Thunder and convoy are sheltered in Sandy Bay: the flotilla of gun-boats are here with me.

Lieutenant Jenkins has been most active in placing the Desperate in every direction to annoy the enemy, and if you can possibly spare him, Sir, to return, he may be of essential service.

The Basilisk has had letters for you this week past, and has been repeatedly driven back with westerly gales, but I am not without hopes of getting her to Cadiz in a day or two. The enemy are deserting to us in great numbers.

I have, &amp;c.

G. S. DICKSON.

The Honourable A. K. Legge.

*His Majesty's Ship Stately, Tarifa Bay,  
5th January, 1812.*

SIR,

**I**HAD the honour to state to you in my letter of yesterday's date, that the enemy had made a breach and desperate attack with two thousand men and Voltigeurs, and had been most gallantly repulsed with great loss, and some prisoners.

I have now the pleasure to inform you, that the whole of the enemy's army were observed this morning making a most precipitate retreat to the westward, leaving behind them in their trenches the whole of their artillery, consisting of nine pieces of cannon and two mortars, with an immense quantity of shot and shells, and intrenching tools.

And as the intention of the expedition has now been so happily fulfilled, and the presence of His Majesty's ships and vessels under my command being no longer necessary here, I purpose joining you immediately, leaving His Majesty's ship *Druid* at Tarifa with the transports to follow, with such proportion of the army as Colonel Skerrett shall deem proper to embark.

I have now the pleasing task to state to you, Sir, that during the whole of this little siege, the exertions of Captains Searle, Pell, Everard, and Carroll, with the several lieutenants, commanding mortar brigs, and gunboats, viz. Jenkins, Rook, Style, Rattray, Cobb, and Basden, in taking up positions, and their extreme perseverance in remaining at their different anchorages, during the most tempestuous weather, to the great annoyance of the enemy in carrying on their operations, and giving countenance to our little army on shore, has been most meritorious, and demands of me my warmest acknowledgments, as also Commodore Penrose's first lieutenant, Julian, who handsomely volunteered his services in the *San Juan's* pinnace. I should be wanting were I not to recommend to you, Sir, my first Lieutenant Davis, for his indefatigable exertions with a party of seamen, in assisting the army in getting up guns and landing stores; and indeed, the very great cheerfulness with which every officer and seaman I have had the honour to command has borne the privations naturally attendant on the extreme tempestuous weather we have had to contend with, has been most praiseworthy.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) E. S. DICKSON, Captain.

*The Honourable A. K. Legge, &c. &c. &c.*

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

*Copies of two Letters from Commodore Penrose to John Wilson Croker, Esq.*

SIR, *San Juan, Gibraltar, Jan. 1, 1812.*

IN continuation of my letter by the *Conqueror*, of the 30th ultimo, I request you to inform their Lordships that the same wind which took that ship out of the Straights, enabled Captain Dickson to attempt to regain his station; but a strong breeze and heavy sea forced every ship, vessel, and gun-boat to leave Tarifa, and take shelter again in this bay. In the middle of the day we had received information that the breach in the walls appeared practicable, and that the town had been in consequence summoned, and a proper answer returned. About 5 P.M. I had the great satisfaction of seeing Lieutenant Cobb arrive with the intelligence, that a storm had been attempted about 8 A.M. yesterday, by about two thousand men, and the assailants gallantly repulsed with considerable loss, said to be about three hundred men, while on our part, two officers and three men are all who have lost their lives in this additional instance of the steady valour of the British troops. I have sincerely to regret, that our ships and bomb vessels were absent, they would not only have been able to annoy the enemy, but the perseverance, quickness, and skill shown by Captain Dickson, and all those who have been put under him, either by Admiral Legge or

myself, merited to share every honour, and participate in the cheerful sight of the enemy's repulse. Not one moment has been lost by Captain Dickson, either by leaving Tarifa beyond absolute necessity, or in returning with every possible dispatch, when the wind had again permitted.

Two light companies are ordered to proceed to assist the brave garrison, who have suffered great hardships and fatigue, from excessive rains, and I have provided for General Ballesteros making a diversion, which I hope he will attempt when the weather serves, but the rain and squalls at this moment are both excessive.

3 A.M.—Accounts from Tarifa agree, that the extreme bad weather, and incessant rains, have reduced the French army to great distress, and it is certain that sickness prevails in a great degree, and that they are in great want of bread and wine, but no appearance of retreat had been yet indicated; two hundred light troops are now on board the gunboats, which had been driven here by the late gales, and a few boats of the country which have been hired, and are endeavouring to beat down. General Ballesteros, and one thousand three hundred Spanish grenadiers, are embarked, and waiting the first slant of wind.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. V. PENROSE.

*J. W. Croker, Esq.*

*San Juan, Gibraltar, Jan. 4, 1812.*

I REQUEST you to inform their Lordships that, after closing my letter yesterday, I received intelligence from Captain Lobo, that fifty deserters had come in from the French army in the course of the preceding afternoon, all of whom give accounts of great distress prevailing throughout it; want of bread and wine, and great sickness.

Accounts from Tarifa in the afternoon stated, the enemy appeared to be about erecting another battery, for the purpose of effecting a breach in another part of the wall; but from the excellent measures taken within, I do not think any fears need be entertained of the result of another attempt to storm. I should, indeed, feel in a state of the most perfect security, if we could get the Spanish grenadier battalion under Ballesteros all down, in addition to the two light companies which General Campbell has already sent.

4 P.M. January 5.—I have now the very great satisfaction to request you to inform their Lordships, that I have just received the intelligence that the enemy, after making some demonstrations of an assault during last night, broke up from before Tarifa, leaving seven brass eighteen-pounders and two howitzers spiked, with ammunition-waggons, tools, &c. In addition to the gallant repulse which I have before mentioned in the attempt of the French, and the fire from our guns, which have been most ably worked, both on the land and from our ships and boats when occasions offered, the enemy has had to encounter such excessive rains, attended with want of provisions and every species of shelter, that it is just to give him great credit for his persevering so long as he did.

I cannot speak to the loss of the enemy, or of

our own correctly, and this will of course be detailed in the military reports.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. V. PENROSE.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

P. S. Since the date of Captain Dickson's letter, two other guns have been discovered, which were buried in a house; and from deserters, I apprehend that a twenty-four-pounder is also hid at some little distance.

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to John Wilson Croker, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship the *Caledonia*, Port Mahon, 16th December 1811.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter from Rear-Admiral Fremantle, giving cover to one from the Honourable Henry Duncan, Captain of His Majesty's ship *Imperieuse*, detailing the particulars of a very gallant service performed by that ship and the Thames, at Palinuro, on the coast of Calabria, on the 21st October last, aided by a party of the 62d Regiment, under the command of Major Darley.

Captain Duncan, on this as on all other occasions, has shewn the greatest judgment and enterprise; and I have read with great satisfaction the handsome expressions which he uses towards Captain Napier and Major Darley, the officers and men under their orders.

I have to regret this very gallant affair has not been performed without loss; and sincerely lament that the public service has been deprived of Lieutenant Pipon, of the Royal Marines, and Lieutenant Kay, of the 62d, killed, and the severe wound of Captain Oldham, of that Regiment, on this occasion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EDW. PELLEW.

John Wilson Croker, Esq. Secretary to the Admiralty, &c. &c. &c.

*His Majesty's Ship Imperieuse, Melazzo,*  
SIR, 9th November 1811.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 21st ult. the *Imperieuse* and Thames discovered ten of the enemy's gun-boats in the port of Palinuro, with a number of merchant vessels, and a quantity of spars (intended for the equipment of the Neapolitan navy) hauled up on the beach; but, from the strength and situation of the harbour, I did not think the force I then had sufficient to attack it with a prospect of complete success, I therefore sent the Thames to Sicily to request the assistance of a detachment of soldiers; and on the 28th she rejoined me with two hundred and fifty of the 62d Regiment, under Major Darley, but unfortunately at the commencement of a S.W. gale, which precluded all possibility of landing till the evening of the 1st, when the troops, together with the marines of both ships, under Lieutenant Pipon, and detachments of seamen under Lieutenant Travers of the *Imperieuse*, the whole commanded by Captain

Napier, were disembarked from the Thames at the back of the harbour, and immediately ascended the heights in a very gallant style, under a heavy fire from the enemy, who were assembled in force to oppose them, and who, soon after dark, endeavoured to retake their position, but one volley obliged them instantly to retire. The *Imperieuse* had in the mean time been endeavouring to occupy the attention of the gun-boats and battery in front, but light and baffling winds prevented our getting nearer than long range during that evening. Next morning, finding that nothing could be done on the land side against the battery and a strong tower that protected the vessels on the beach, and within pistol-shot of which the gun-boats were moored, I ordered the Thames to close; and having directed Captain Napier to return on board her, we bore up at the commencement of the sea-breeze, and running along the line of gun-boats within half musket-shot, obliged them almost instantly to surrender, and two were sunk. We then anchored close to the fort, which in about fifteen minutes was completely silenced, and in a quarter of an hour more the colours on the tower were struck to his Majesty's ships, and it was instantly taken possession of by Lieutenant Travers, who, on seeing us stand in, had most gallantly pushed down the hill with a party of marines and seamen, and was waiting almost under the walls of the fort, ready to take advantage of any superiority the ships might have over it. The guns (twenty-four pounders) were then thrown into the sea; the gun-boats secured; and the crews of both ships sent to launch the vessels and spars, which could not be completed till after noon next day, when the troops (who had all this time remained in undisputed possession of the heights) were re-embarked, the marines withdrawn from the tower, which was completely blown up, together with two batteries and a signal-tower on the hill; the ships and prizes put into sea with the land wind. Carraciolo, Captain of a frigate, commanded the division of gun-boats; and General Pignatelli Cercero the land forces, which consisted latterly of about seven hundred men, including peasantry.

I cannot sufficiently express my high approbation of the conduct and gallantry of every officer and man belonging to both services. Captain Napier, of the Thames, particularly distinguished himself both on shore and in the command of his ship. Major Darley also deserves every praise, and is entitled to my best thanks for his intrepidity and judgment, which could not have been exceeded. I have before had an opportunity of representing the gallantry of my first Lieutenant Travers; his behaviour on this occasion was most exemplary, and called forth the admiration of every officer, whether of the army or navy. Captain Napier and Major Darley, most handsomely allow to him the credit of having discovered and led them by a short cut to the heights which most probably saved the lives of many men.

Enclosed is a list of the vessels taken and destroyed, and a return of the killed and wounded. Among the former I have to regret Lieutenant Kay, of the 62d Regiment, and Lieutenant Pipon, of the Royal Marines of the *Imperieuse*.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. DUNCAN, Captain.

Thomas Francis Fremantle, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c. &c. &c. Sicily.

No. 16567.

B



*List of Vessels taken and destroyed in the Harbour of Palmyra, November 1 and 2, 1811.*

- 1 gun-boat, carrying two eighteen-pounders, and 50 men; destroyed.
- 3 ditto, carrying 1 eighteen-pounder and 30 men each; destroyed.
- 6 ditto, carrying 1 eighteen-pounder and 30 men each; taken.
- 22 feluccas loaded with oil, cotton, figs, raisins, silk, &c. taken.
- 20 large spars, intended for the equipment of the ships of war at Naples, taken.
- 10 feluccas loaded with oil, part of the above convoy, taken on the 21st October by the Imperieuse.

Total taken and destroyed—10 gun-boats, 32 sail of merchant vessels, and 20 large spars.

*Return of Men killed and wounded at the Attack of Palmyra, November 1 and 2, 1811.*

Imperieuse—1 killed and 2 wounded.  
Thames—2 wounded.  
62d Regiment—4 killed and 7 wounded.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded.*

Imperieuse—Lieutenant Pipon, Royal Marines, killed.  
62d Regiment—Lieutenant Kay, killed; Captain Oldham, severely wounded.  
(Signed) H. DUNCAN, Captain.

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[ Office-Door in the Rear, in Cannon-Row. ]

[ Price One Shilling. ]

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