

Rhin, while the Honourable Captain Bouverie landed with two guns (one short twenty-four pounder and one twelve pounder carronade) from the Medusa, and, after many difficulties in drawing them up, mounted them on the top of a hill to the eastward. The Venerable's guns began firing at noon, and continued till sun-set, when those of the enemy on that side were silenced; and the Medusa's were put in readiness to open on the following morning. During the night, however, intelligence was received of the approach of a body of French troops, which afterwards proved to be a division of between two and three thousand men, that had just arrived at Saint-Sebastians from France, and was immediately sent forward by forced marches to Guetaria.

The uncertainty with respect to the enemy's force, and the disposition of the Guerillas to oppose their advance, prevented the re-embarkation of the guns and men landed from the squadron, until the retreat of the Spaniards, after some skirmishing with the superior numbers of the French, in which the latter are stated to have suffered severely. Captain Bouverie then destroyed the two guns from the Medusa, and re-embarked with all his men, and every thing belonging to the guns. Captain Malcolm was detained longer, by a message brought to him by one of Don Gaspar's Aide-Camps, stating that the enemy had been beaten back, and urging him to remain in his battery; finding, however, that the enemy was advancing fast, he gave orders to re-embark, and brought off his party, with the exception of three midshipmen and twenty-nine men, who were taken prisoners, but fortunately without having one man killed or wounded.

Sir Home Popham had sent to propose an exchange of the men taken on this occasion for some of the French prisoners on board the squadron, and was in hopes of succeeding in this proposal.

The Spaniards lost a captain of artillery, and had a serjeant and ten men badly wounded. Those in want of surgical aid were received on board the Venerable.

The detachment expected from General Mina's army arrived the morning after the action, and joined Don Gaspar, having marched eighteen Spanish leagues in two days.

Admiralty-Office, July 28, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Thomas Warrant,
commanding His Majesty's Schooner Sealark;
No. 16626. B

addressed to Admiral Sir Robert Calder, Bart.
and transmitted by the latter to John Wilson
Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's Schooner Sealark,

July 23, 1812.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 21st instant, when cruising off the Start, in the execution of your orders, at eight A. M. a signal was made from the signal station, of an enemy being in the S. E. quarter; after running for three hours in that direction, I discovered a large lugger under English colours, chasing and firing at two large merchant ships steering up Channel, which I believe were West Indiamen. On the lugger discovering the Sealark to be a cruizer, she altered her course to starboard, and made all possible sail; but finding the schooner gaining on her, she shortened sail, hoisted English colours, and cleared for action, and wore repeatedly to endeavour to get to windward of the schooner; but fearing she might escape if she had so done, I was determined to lay her on board, which I accomplished between her fore and main-chains, when an action commenced, which lasted one hour and thirty minutes, during which time a most severe fire was kept up with great guns and musketry, the enemy using hand grenades, &c.; when, perceiving that she had taken fire, I then directed Mr. James Beavor, the Acting Master, to board her, which he did in the most spirited manner, and carried her. She proves to be the Ville de Caen, Captain Cocket, of sixteen guns and seventy-five men, belonging to Saint Maloës; had sailed from the Isle of Bas the day before, had taken nothing, and is the same vessel which had beaten off the Sandwich lugger some time since. I am sorry, Sir, to acquaint you, that our loss has been very severe, having had seven men killed (amongst whom was my Clerk), and myself and twenty-one men wounded, several of them dangerously. The enemy's loss, as nearly as I can collect, has been fifteen killed, who, with the Captain, were found on deck when taken possession of; and sixteen wounded, most of them severely. I beg particularly to recommend to your notice the steady, brave, and good conduct of Mr. Beavor, the Acting Master, with the Pilot, and every other petty officer, seaman, and marine engaged in this arduous and unequal contest. I enclose a return of the killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

THOS. WARRAND, Lieut. and
Admiral Sir Robert Calder, &c. &c. &c.

