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Admiralty-Office, August 22, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir James Saumarez, Bart. and K.B. to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated on board the *Victory*, in *Hawke Road*, 12th August 1812.

SIR,

YOU will please to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the enclosed letters, which I have received from Rear-Admiral Martin, dated the 4th and 5th instant, stating the arrival of the Russian flotilla of gun-boats at Riga, also detailing his proceedings, and stating intelligence of the operations of the armies, and an account of a severe action between Count Witgenstein's corps and Marshal Oudinot, in which the latter was defeated, with the loss of three thousand prisoners and some cannon.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JAS. SAUMAREZ.

Riga, 4th August 1812.

THE Russian gun-boats, so long expected, and at one time so anxiously desired, arrived here on the 31st ultimo, and now form a most important acquisition to the defence of the place.

The way Captain Stewart has conducted himself in the command of the Russian and English gun-boats, is highly praiseworthy, and his unremitting activity, so creditable to the country, has been willingly imitated by the officers and men of the *Aboukir* and *Ranger*, who are placed under his orders; they have unquestionably kept the enemy from crossing the river, at the falls above the town, where a body of infantry and horse still remain entrenched; the only time they ever advanced towards

the boats they were dispersed in a very few minutes, after losing five men and two horses killed.

General Cravart, who commands the troops of the enemy in this neighbourhood, during the absence of Marshal Macdonald, sent, on the 27th ultimo, to summons General Essen to surrender, assigning as a reason for doing so, that his battering train would arrive in the course of a fortnight.

There has been a sharp affair in the neighbourhood of Witepsk, where it seems a strong division of the enemy crossed the Duna, and attacked part of the corps of Prince Bagration; but they were repulsed, and pursued across the river to the distance of several miles. The enemy sustained a considerable loss in killed and prisoners, most of them Wirtemberg troops; the Russian loss is not mentioned, except that a General Okuloff was killed.

T. B. MARTIN.

Sir James Saumarez, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Riga, 5th August 1812.

I HAVE infinite satisfaction in acquainting you, that a messenger is arrived from General Count Witgenstein, stating, that a severe action was fought between his corps and that under Marshal Oudinot, on the 30th and 31st ult. in the neighbourhood of Polosgh, or Poloch.

It appears that Oudinot had crossed the Duna, and was marching with a view, it is supposed, of coming round upon Riga, and cutting off the communication with Saint Petersburg, when Count Witgenstein commenced a most spirited attack, and obliged him to re-cross the river, with the loss of three thousand prisoners and some cannon.

The fighting had been very sharp, and the Count was pursuing the enemy when the courier came away.

