



# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday, November 14, to Tuesday, November 17, 1812.

\* \* \* The intelligence which has been this day received from the Marquess of Wellington will be published in a Supplement to this Gazette.

Admiralty-Office, November 17, 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 the *Caledonia*, off Toulon, October 12, 1812.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter from Captain Codrington, detailing a service lately performed in concert with the Baron d'Eroles, highly creditable to those officers.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD PELLEW.

SIR, *Blake, Salon Bay. Sept. 27, 1812.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that according to a plan previously arranged between the Baron d'Eroles and myself, a joint attack was made last night on the Puerto of Tarragona, and the Mole swept of all vessels and boats which had there sought protection. The *Blake* and *Franchise* left this anchorage after dark, and the Baron marched from Reus at nine o'clock, P. M. when the Jubilee, in consequence of publishing the New Constitution, made such a movement the less to be expected. The boats of the two ships reached the *Francoli* at about one o'clock, and shortly afterwards the Baron having properly posted his troops for intercepting any sortie which might be made by the garrison, and for cutting off the retreat of such people, as might be in the vessels and lower town, gave the concerted signal for the boats to open their fire. The enemy were taken so completely by surprise, that some time elapsed before they returned a shot; and I understand General Bartoletti, the Governor, actually mounted his horse without boots or stockings. Seeing only the fire of the boats, about two hundred grenadiers came out of the town, but being met by a volley of musketry

from a small party of the Spanish troops in ambush at the Capuchin Convent, and being then charged with the bayonet, those who were able made the best of their way back again. The position of the Olive, occupied by a party of *Briballa* (*Calagirats*) was carried in the mean time in a very animated manner; and several false attacks on the walls of the fortress attracted the attention of the enemy, and occasioned a brisk fire of cannon from their whole line. The boats then pulled into the Mole; and having finished the operation allotted to them, notwithstanding an angry discharge of shot and shells from the town, the troops retired to Reus, and the ships anchored with the prizes in Tarragona Bay.

The *Franchise* was extremely well placed by Captain Bircli, off the Mole Head, for giving such assistance as might have been wanted; and I have reason to be much pleased with the conduct of Lieutenant Hughes (senior lieutenant of this ship) who commanded, and the whole of the officers and seamen who acted under his orders in the boats, for the exactness with which they executed the duties allotted them, without injury to the operations of the troops, and for the great activity which they shewed in bringing out the prizes.

My anxiety to afford all the aid which any unforeseen occurrence might require, and to be ready to profit by any favourable result which might lead to an attack of more importance, induced me to push the *Blake* forwards towards the *Milagro*. But notwithstanding that the light of the moon enabled the enemy to direct their shot with considerable precision, she was struck only by one, which passed through the maintop-sail.

It would be great presumption in me to offer an opinion on the military conduct of the Baron d'Eroles, who gains the respect and regard of all who act with him, as well as all who act under his orders. But I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of remarking, that such was the secrecy and silence of his march, that when the troops and boats were each contiguous to the other in their appointed stations, each doubted the other's arrival until the concerted signal was made; and such was the steadiness and good order of the troops, who killed or drove back by the bayonet all the force of the enemy which ventured to oppose them, that not a sin-