



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1813.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, June 5, 1813.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Lord William Cavendish Bentinck, K. B. His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Sicily, and Commander of His Majesty's Military Forces in the Mediterranean.

MY LORD, *Palermo, April 9, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a report from Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson, commanding at the island of Lissa, stating to me the reduction of the neighbouring islands of Agosta and Curzola, by a detachment of the garrison under his command.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. C. BENTINCK, Lieut. Gen.
The Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD, *Lissa, February 23, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that in consequence of information having been received here, that several merchant vessels bound to this island, had been captured by a French privateer, and carried into the island of Lagosta, Admiral Fremantle and myself judged it expedient to lose no time in putting an end to a system, which was likely to become very detrimental to the prosperity of this island, and to our commercial interests in general. For this purpose I embarked on board His Majesty's frigate Apollo, commanded by Captain Taylor, on the 19th ultimo, with de-

tachments from this garrison amounting to about three hundred men, including artillery, with two six-pounders, two howitzers, and two mountain guns. The troops, together with a detachment of seamen and marines, landed on the island of Lagosta on the 21st, and marched towards the principal work, constructed by the enemy for the defence of the island, from whence the garrison opened a well-directed fire of shot and shells. As the work in question is situated on the summit of a high conical hill, commanding the town, I found it necessary to take up a favourable position, from whence I was enabled to forward the preparations necessary for the reduction of the fort. During this interval, Captains May, 35th, and Ronea, Calabries Free Corps, together with Mr. G. Bowen, First Lieutenant of His Majesty's ship Apollo, with a party of forty men, succeeded in spiking the guns of one of the enemy's lower batteries, and in destroying a magazine of provisions, both of which were within musket-shot of the fort. On this occasion a French serjeant of artillery and two soldiers were taken prisoners. Mr. Ullark, purser of His Majesty's ship Apollo, volunteered his services on both these occasions. Having received certain intelligence that a detachment of three hundred men, commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel, had marched from Ragusa to reinforce the garrison of Lagosta, and being aware of the great difficulty which would have attended the attempt to get battering artillery on the only hill which commanded the fort, Captain Tayler and myself were induced to offer favourable conditions to the French commandant, who, after some hesitation, agreed to surrender (together with the garrison, consisting of one hundred and thirty-nine men), on the terms, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose your Lord-

ship. I have also the honour to enclose your Lordship a return of the enemy's ordnance, ammunition, and stores, which fell into our hands. It is particularly gratifying to me to be able to inform your Lordship, that during the whole of our operation, the inhabitants gave us the most unequivocal proofs of their attachment, and rendered us the most efficacious assistance.

Finding that the French privateer, together with the prizes, had taken refuge in the island of Curzola, Captain Taylor and myself immediately proceeded thither. We landed (without delay) the troops under my command, with one hundred and twenty seamen and marines, together with a howitzer and field-piece. Major Slessor, 35th, advanced at day-break with the flankers, and got possession of a fortified building on the height, which commands the town within musket-shot. In this operation he was supported by a second party, under the command of my Military Secretary, Captain Ball, 81st regiment. The enemy opened a sharp fire of musketry from their lines, as also from the windows and doors of the houses, and endeavoured to bring an eighteen-pounder in one of the towers of the town wall to bear on our position, which we prevented by a well-directed fire from the howitzer, six-pounder, and musketry.

Captain Taylor, in order to accelerate the surrender of the town, undertook to silence the sea batteries, which he accomplished in the most brilliant and effectual manner, after a continued firing of three hours, during which the Apollo was always within range of grape-shot from the batteries. This point being effected, Captain Taylor and myself judged it expedient to send Major Slessor with a flag of truce into the town, proposing that the women and children should be allowed to quit it before we erected our mortar batteries; the enemy availed himself of this opportunity to offer to capitulate on terms which, with certain modifications, we agreed to, in consequence of which the garrison, consisting of a lieutenant-colonel and about one hundred men, marched out of the town, which we immediately occupied.

We found on taking possession of the town that the French had packed up the church plate and bells of Lagosta and Curzola, for the purpose of sending them to the Continent, and Captain Taylor and myself experienced the most heartfelt satisfaction in restoring them to the oppressed inhabitants.

I have the honour to transmit your Lordship returns of the ordnance, stores, and ammunition which we got possession of at Curzola. I have also the honour to enclose your Lordship a copy of the terms of capitulation, which were signed at the moment that the expected French corps intended to reinforce the menaced islands appeared on the Peninsula of Sabioncello, only a mile distant from the town of Curzola.

To express my approbation of the conduct of Captain Taylor throughout the whole of the expedition, I fulfil a duty which is peculiarly grateful to my feelings. He unremittently aided me with his advice, and promoted very considerably the success of the expedition by his personal exertions on shore with the troops. I have the fullest reason to be satisfied with the support which I experienced from Major Slessor, of the 35th, and the whole of the officers. Lieutenant Rains, who had the direction of the artillery, performed the service allotted him with the greatest zeal. The services of Lieutenant M'Donald, of the 35th, who had the direction of the gun-boats which accompanied the expedition, were found of great utility.

I feel great satisfaction in communicating to your Lordship, that during the whole of this service, which was rather severe, owing to the unusual coldness of the weather, the conduct of the troops was highly praiseworthy, and they were ably supported by the seamen and marines who acted with us on shore.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. D. ROBERTSON, Lieut. Col.

To His Excellency Lieutenant-General
Lord William Bentinck, &c. &c. &c.

Whitehall, June 5, 1813.

WHEREAS it hath been humbly represented unto His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that on Monday morning last Mr. Thomson Bonar and Mrs. Bonar, his wife, of Chislehurst, in the county of Kent, were found in their bed-room most inhumanly and barbarously murdered;

His Royal Highness, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice any person or persons who may have been aiding, assisting, or in any manner concerned in the perpetration of the said atrocious murders, is hereby pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to promise His Majesty's most gracious pardon to any such person or persons so aiding or assisting in the said murders as aforesaid, (except the person or persons who actually committed the same,) who shall discover his or their accomplice or accomplices therein, so that he, she, or they may be apprehended and convicted thereof. SIDMOUTH.

And, as a further encouragement, a reward of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS is hereby offered by Thomson Bonar, Esq. son of the deceased, to any person making such discovery as aforesaid, (except as is before excepted,) one hundred pounds, part thereof, to be paid to any person who shall give such information as may lead to the commitment for trial of any one or more of the offenders; and the sum of four hundred pounds, remainder thereof, to be paid on his or their conviction.

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