

Admiralty-Office, June 15, 1813.

*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, Port Mahon, March 31, 1813.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a statement of the capture of the island of Ponza, on the coast of Naples, which reflects much credit on Captains Napier and Mounsey, by whom the naval service was directed.

It affords me peculiar satisfaction that this enterprise has been effected without bloodshed, owing to the judicious manner in which it was carried into execution.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ED. PELLEW.

*His Majesty's Ship Edinburgh, Palermo Bay, March 2, 1813.*

SIR,

IN the absence of Sir Robert Laurie, I have the satisfaction of transmitting Captain Napier's letter and reports, received this day by the *Furieuse*, stating the capture of the island of Ponza by the *Thames* and *Furieuse*, under his orders, and 10th regiment, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Coffin, without the loss of a single man.

I congratulate you, Sir, on the capture of this island, as, by Captain Mounsey's report, it affords a commodious mole for the frigates employed on that coast, with a plentiful supply of water.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. H. L. DUNDAS, Captain.

*Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.*

*His Majesty's Ship Thames, Ponza Harbour, February 27, 1813.*

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your directions, I embarked Lieutenant-Colonel Coffin, and the 2d battalion of the 10th regiment, on the 16th instant, and arrived off Ponza on the 23d, the harbour of which is about a quarter of a mile wide, with a mole at the extreme end of it, defended by four batteries, mounting ten, twenty-four and eighteen-pounders, and two nine-inch mortars.

Colonel Coffin and myself agreed, that the shortest and surest road to success, was by running both ships into the mole, and carrying the place by assault; but the weather was unfavourable for such an attack, until the morning of the 26th, when the ships bore up in close order with a fine breeze.

The enemy were prepared for our reception, and opened their fire nearly half an hour before our guns could bear: the batteries were, however, passed with little injury, the ships engaging on both sides, and the *Thames* was anchored across the mole-head, the *Furieuse* bringinging up a little a-stern of her.

Colonel Coffin and the troops landed the same instant, and pushed for the height of a strong tower, into which the enemy had retreated, and their appearance, together with the severe fire from the ships, induced the Governor to hoist a flag of truce, and agree to the inclosed capitulation.

I have much pleasure in informing you that this service has been performed without the loss of a man in either profession: our being hulled three times and *Furieuse* twice, sails and rigging a good deal cut, is the only damage suffered.

The most perfect cordiality has subsisted between the two services, and I am much indebted to Captain Mounsey for the excellent support he gave, and his quickness in following our motions; and if the resistance had been greater, and another battery, (which was expected) I have little doubt but we should have succeeded, particularly with such a storming party as Colonel Cashell's regiment, and such a leader as Colonel Coffin.

I have much reason to be satisfied with my first Lieutenant, Davies, officers, and ship's company; their steady conduct and excellent firing-accounts for the smallness of our damage. Captain Mounsey likewise speaks highly of Lieutenant Croker, his officers and crew; Mr. James Wilkinson, mate of this ship, I attached to Colonel Coffin, and Mr. Black, of the *Furieuse*, I entrusted with the charge of the landing.

Inclosed is a return of prisoners, guns, &c. and I shall send a survey of the Island by the earliest opportunity.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER, Captain.

*Sir Robert Laurie, Bart. Captain of His Majesty's Ship Ajax.*

*Island of Ponza, February 26, 1813.*

**CAPITULATION** of the Island and Forts of Ponza, concluded by William Mounsey, Esq. Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Furieuse*, and Lieutenant-Colonel Cashell, commanding the 2d Battalion 10th Regiment, on the part of the Commanders of the British Forces by Sea and Land, and Mr. Paul August Joseph Bassat, Commissary of the Navy and Army of the Islands of Ponza and Ventolena, and Captain Carlo Mireconda, commanding a detachment of Light Infantry, on the Part of John Baptiste Dumont, commanding the Island of Ponza and its Dependencies, in the name of the Neapolitan Government.

Article I. The island of Ponza and its dependencies shall be given up to the troops of His Britannic Majesty, in their present state: officers shall be nominated on both sides to take the inventory of every thing in the place belonging to Government.

Answer.—The island shall be given up this day to the troops of His Britannic Majesty, and there shall be inventories made out of all the military stores.

Art. II. The garrison shall march out with the honours of war, and all the officers without exception shall retain their arms and personal baggage.

Answer.—The garrison shall march out with the honours of war, in consequence of the courageous defence which it has made, and shall lay down their arms on the glacis, on leaving the Tower, and shall be considered as prisoners of war, and treated as such. All the officers, without exception, shall equally be prisoners of war, and in consequence of