

P. S. I have omitted to say, that Captain Carroll's services were particularly meritorious; and Lieutenant Corbyn, of the *Invincible*, who commanded a battery manned by seamen, kept up a well directed and heavy fire. The importance of this acquisition, and the rapidity with which the fort has been taken, make it quite unnecessary for me to say how much I approve the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Prevost, and of Capt. Adam.

*Fort San Philippe, Col de Balaguer,*  
SIR, *June 7, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in obedience to your orders, I proceeded on the 2d instant, with the brigade under my command, consisting of the 2d battalion 67th regiment, and Roll Dillon's regiment, to which was added a detachment of the Royal Artillery, with two field pieces, under the command of Captain Arabin, and Roll's Rifle Company, to attack the Castle of San Philippe, in the Col de Balaguer.

Captain Adam, of His Majesty's ship *Invincible*, joined off Salou, for the purpose of co-operating with the troops under my command.

We landed on the 3d instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, about one mile to the eastward of the entrance to the Pass from Tarragona. I was then joined by the Spanish regiments of Barcelona and Palma, under the command of Don Jose Charles.

I immediately directed Roll's Rifles, the Light Company of the 67th, and Roll's Light Company, under the command of Captain Muller, of Rolls', to invest the Fort as closely as possible, which he did so completely by two o'clock, that the enemy could not shew himself before his parapet.

One six-pounder was brought up the Sierra del Tasal, a very steep mountain, within seven hundred yards of the Fort to annoy the enemy with Shrapnell shells.

The Engineer Officers not having arrived with the entrenching tools till very late, nothing further could be undertaken that evening.

The Fort of San Philippe is situated upon the eastern extremity of an insulated village, in the centre of the Col de Balaguer, commanding completely the great road through the pass. It is a square Fort, with some bastions, but commanded on two sides by almost inaccessible mountains.

On the 4th, two 12-pounders and one howitzer, under the command of Lieutenant Corbyn, of His Majesty's ship *Invincible*, and manned by the crew of that ship, were likewise brought up to the Tasal. This battery continued to play upon the Fort the whole day, in order to attract the attention of the enemy, whilst Captain Chyne, of the Royal Engineers, was tracing out the ground for the breaching batteries, within three hundred yards of the place, and the troops busied in filling the sand bags. At night, the whole of the seamen and troops were employed, the former in bringing up five 24-pounders, shot, powder, &c. for the battery, whilst the troops constructed the work. The ground being very unfavourable, the whole could not be completed before break of day.

The embrasures were therefore filled up, and the

work deferred till the following evening, when Captain Adam and myself sent a summons to the commanding officer, offering the most favourable terms; but they were rejected. On the 5th the batteries continued a heavy fire upon the fort. In the evening the working parties and seamen went down early to the battery.

The enemy having perceived the filing down, kept a heavy and galling fire of shells, round and grape shot, during the whole of the night, which occasioned some loss.

Unfortunately about ten o'clock a most violent storm of thunder and lightning commenced, which impeded the works greatly, and as the seamen and troops were quite exhausted, we found it expedient again to delay bringing the guns upon the platforms, and to keep the embrasures masked. In the evening a battery of two eight-inch mortars, (commanded by an officer of the marine artillery, belonging to the Strombolo Bomb) was placed upon the road, within a few hundred yards of the castle, under the breaching battery, as was likewise one of two four pounders upon the heights to the right, where the riflemen were stationed. At day-break these three batteries opened to protect the working party at the breaching battery, and kept up a tremendous fire, until six o'clock, when that of the castle having completely ceased, their expense magazines upon the batteries being blown up by the shells from the mortars. The white flag was hoisted upon the castle: Captain Zehufenning and Captain Stoddart, of the Royal Navy, were sent in and returned in about five minutes, with an offer of surrender, upon conditions of marching out and grounding their arms upon the glacis, and of being permitted to carry their personal baggage with them.

As Marshal Suchet's approach was hourly expected, Captain Adam and myself judged it right to grant them the terms required, as we should by that means get the fort in a good state of defence.

The advance of the division immediately took possession of the Castle.

I have the honour to enclose you a return \* of the ordnance, ammunition, provisions and stores, found in the place, as likewise a return of the prisoners taken.

I now come to the pleasing task of calling your notice to the admirable conduct of the whole of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and soldiers I have had the honour to command.

Their labour and exertion has been severe, but I should be wanting in my duty did I not particularize Captain Chyne and Lieutenant Gipps, of the Royal Engineers, Captain Arabin, of the Royal Artillery, and Captain Muller, of the advance.

The success of this expedition may in a great manner be attributed to the zealous and indefatigable exertions of Captain Adam, and the Officers and seamen of the Royal Navy.

I beg likewise to particularize Captain Carroll, of His Majesty's ship *Volcano*, and Lieutenant Corbyn, of the *Invincible*.

I impute our loss being so trifling to the tremendous and well directed fire kept up by the latter from his battery. I have the honour to enclose

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