

## ROYAL OAK.

*Wounded.*

Daniel Thomas, private, badly.

## ALBION.

*Wounded.*

Robert Parsons, private, severely.  
 Andrew Dunn, private, severely.  
 Thomas Woodward, private, severely.  
 John Compton, private, slightly.  
 John Pratt, private, slightly.  
 George Fraser, private, slightly.

## RAMILLIES.

Thomas Daw, private, died from fatigue.

*Wounded.*

John Brice, private, badly.  
 William Mellows, private, severely.  
 John Vaughan, corporal, severely.  
 Bryan Hughes, corporal, severely.  
 John Linigar, corporal, slightly.

Total—1 killed; 16 wounded.

*His Majesty's Ship Tonnant, Chesapeake,*

SIR, 12th September, 1814.

IN my dispatch of the 2d instant, recounting the success of our expedition against Washington, I acquainted you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the winds had been unfavourable for the return of the ships which were detached up the Potomac, under Captain J. A. Gordon of the Seahorse, to co-operate against the capital; but that I had heard of their having accomplished the destruction of Fort Washington. I have now the honour not only to confirm this report, but to transmit for their Lordships' information, a copy of Captain Gordon's detail of his proceedings, in which his further success has exceeded my most sanguine expectations; having forced the populous city of Alexandria to capitulate, and having brought down the river in triumph, through a series of obstacles and determined opposition, a fleet of twenty-one enemy's vessels. The difficulties which presented themselves to these ships in ascending the river, impeded by shoals and contrary winds, and the increased obstacles which the enemy had prepared against their return, with a confident hope of obstructing their descent, were only to be overcome by the most indefatigable exertions.

I trust, therefore, that the resolution and gallantry displayed by every one employed upon this service, which deserve my warmest applause, will be further honoured by the approbation of their Lordships.

I have the honour to be, &amp;c.

ALEX. COCHRANE,

Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief.

John Wilson Croker, Esq.

*Seahorse, Chesapeake,*

September 9, 1814.

SIR,

IN obedience to your orders, I proceeded into the River Potomac, with the ships named in the

margin\*, on the 17th of last month, but from being without pilots to assist us through that difficult part of the river called the Kettle-Bottoms, and from contrary winds we were unable to reach Fort Washington, until the evening of the 27th. Nor was this effected but by the severest labour. I believe each of the ships was not less than twenty different times a-ground, and each time we were obliged to haul off by main strength; and we were employed warping for five whole successive days, with the exception of a few hours, a distance of more than fifty miles.

The bomb-ships were placed on the evening of the 27th, and immediately began the bombardment of the Fort, it being my intention to attack it with the frigates at day-light the following morning. On the bursting of the first shell, the garrison were observed to retreat; but supposing some concealed design, I directed the fire to be continued. At eight o'clock, however, my doubts were removed by the explosion of the powder-magazine, which destroyed the inner buildings, and at day-light on the 28th we took possession. Besides the principal fort, which contained two fifty-two pounders, two thirty-two pounders, and eight twenty-four pounders, there was a battery on the beach of five eighteen pounders, a martello tower with two twelve-pounders and loop-holes for musquetry, and a battery in the rear of two twelve and six six-pound field-pieces. The whole of these guns were already spiked by the enemy, and their complete destruction, with their carriages also, was effected by the seamen and marines, sent on that service, in less than two hours. The populous city of Alexandria thus lost its only defence; and, having buoyed the channel, I deemed it better to postpone giving any answer to a proposal made to me for its capitulation until the following morning, when I was enabled to place the shipping in such a position as would ensure assent to the terms I had decided to enforce.

To this measure I attribute their ready acquiescence, as it removed that doubt of my determination to proceed, which had been raised in the minds of the inhabitants by our army having retired from Washington: this part of our proceedings will be further explained by the accompanying documents.

The Honourable Lieutenant Gordon of this ship, was sent on the evening of the 28th to prevent the escape of any of the vessels comprized in the capitulation, and the whole of those which were seaworthy, amounting to seventy-one in number, were fitted and loaded by the 31st.

Captain Baker, of the Fairy, bringing your orders of the 27th, having fought his way up the river past a battery of five guns and a large military force, confirmed the rumours, which had already reached me, of strong measures having been taken to oppose our return; and I therefore quitted Alexandria without waiting to destroy those remaining stores which we had not the means of bringing away.

Contrary winds again occasioned us the laborious task of warping the ships down the river, in which a day's delay took place, owing to the

\* Seahorse, Euryalus, Devastation, Ætna, Meteor, Erebus, Anna Maria dispatch boat.