

which effectually commanded the town and beach. Here we found run on shore and burnt to the water's edge, and abandoned, the four steamers of war which had escaped from Kertch, under the command of Rear-Admiral Wolff, whose flag was flying in the Moloditz. I now landed the small-arm men and marines of the squadron under Commander Lambert of the Curlew, accompanied by those of the French ships, with orders to destroy all shipping and Government stores, but to respect private property. This was done without molestation, although we had information that 800 Cossacks with guns were at Petroskoi, five miles off. Many vessels were destroyed, and corn stores to the estimated value of £50,000. An 8-inch 62-cwt. gun was also recovered from the wreck of one of the Russian steamers, and is now on board the Miranda.

Immediately the boats returned, the squadrons weighed for Arabat; I at the same time detached the Swallow and Wrangler to Genitchesk, to command the entrance to the Putrid Sea, and the Curlew to cruise between Krivaia Spit and Sand Island, and thus prevent vessels escaping us by getting up the Don.

3. On the morning of the 28th we arrived off Arabat, and engaged the fort (mounting 30 guns), for an hour and a half, at the end of which time a shell blew up the enemy's magazine; the ships having been ordered to keep at shell range, and being well-handled, had only one casualty, the chief engineer of the Medina being slightly wounded by a splinter; the French senior officer's ship received two shots in the hull, but fortunately no one was hurt. The enemy must have lost many men, from the precision with which the shells burst in his works, independently of that caused by the explosion.

The Commanders of the vessels employed\* deserve every credit for the skilful manner in which they manœuvred their vessels in a very strong breeze and shoal water, without a single accident; and I may be permitted to say none were more distinguished than our gallant Allies. The large garrison at Arabat rendering any attempt at landing out of the question, I now proceeded for Genitchesk, parting, with a regret, from Captain de Sédaiges and his squadron, who left at the same time for Kertch. I take this opportunity of mentioning the efficient, cordial, and hearty co-operation I received on every occasion from M. de Sédaiges and the ships under his orders, and my hope that it may again be my good fortune to have him for my colleague.

4. The allied squadrons have destroyed upwards of 100 vessels during the three days they have been in this sea, principally laden with provisions for the Russian army in the Crimea; had we sent these vessels in as prizes, we should have lost much valuable time, and not been able to effect so many captures. The active and zealous way in which the officers and ships' companies perform their duties, and the cheerful manner in which they suffer this pecuniary loss, for the benefit of the service, will I trust meet with your approbation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. M. LYONS,  
Captain.

\* Vesuvius, Commander S. Osborne; Stromboli, Commander C. P. Coles; Ardent, Lieutenant W. Horton; Medina, Lieutenant H. B. Beresford; Viper, Lieutenant W. Armytage; Lynx, Lieutenant C. M. Aynsley; Recruit, Lieutenant G. F. Day; Arrow, Lieutenant W. K. Jolliffe; Snake, Lieutenant H. McKillop; Beagle, Lieutenant W. N. W. Hewett.

Sub-Inclosure to No. 1.

*Name of Officer slightly wounded off Arabat on the 28th May, 1855, belonging to Her Majesty's steam-vessel Medina.*

Mr. W. H. Houghton, Assistant Engineer, First Class.

(Signed) E. M. LYONS,  
Captain and Senior Officer.

SIR,  
*Her Majesty's ship Miranda, off the town of Genitchesk, May 29, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I arrived here shortly after dark last night, with Her Majesty's ships under my orders, and joined the Swallow and Wrangler, which ships had already destroyed or captured all the vessels in this neighbourhood outside the Straits of Genitchesk; but a very great number had passed the straits, which are only fifty yards wide, and are commanded by the low cliffs on which the town is built, and were moored inside under the cliff.

At six o'clock this morning, I sent Commander Craufurd with a flag of truce, to demand the immediate surrender of all these vessels, and of the immense corn stores for the supply of the army in the Crimea, and of all Government property of every description; stating that if these terms were complied with I would spare the town and respect private property, but that if not the inhabitants were immediately to leave the town.

Commander Craufurd was met by an officer, of apparently high rank, who refused to accede to these terms, saying that any attempt to land or to destroy the vessels would be resisted.

The enemy at this time had six field-pieces in position, and with about 200 men with them, and, visible from the mast-head drawn up behind the town, a battalion of infantry, besides Cossacks.

Having allowed till 9 A.M., for the reconsideration of the refusal to deliver up the vessels and stores, and receiving no answer, I at that time hauled down the flag of truce, and placed the steamers as near to the town and the passage into the Putrid Sea, as the depth of the water would allow, but they were only able to approach within long range. Seeing that if the enemy, who had removed his guns from their former position, could place them in the town, so as to command the passage, and that if he could place his infantry in a similar manner, it would be impossible for the boats to pass the channel and destroy the vessels and stores, I directed the ships to shell the town, which they did so effectually, that the boats, as per enclosure, under the command of Lieutenant J. F. C. Mackenzie, got safely through the passage, and set fire to the shipping (73 in number), and the corn stores. This service was ably performed by Lieutenant Mackenzie, and the boats returned without accident.

4. The wind having shifted about two hours after the boats came off, some of the corn stores did not catch fire; conceiving the destruction of this corn, as well as of some more distant vessels in so favourable a position for supplying the Russian armies in the Crimea, to be of the utmost importance, I sent the boats again, commanded and officered as before, although I was aware that from the enemy having had time to make preparations, it would be a hazardous enterprize. The ships accordingly resumed their fire upon the town, and the boats proceeded. Lieutenant Cecil W. Buckley of this ship; Lieutenant Hugh T. Burgoyne, of the Swallow; and Mr. John Roberts, gunner of the Ardent, volunteered to land alone and fire the stores; this offer I ac-