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Admiralty, August 6, 1855.

A DESPATCH, of which the enclosed is a copy, has this day been received from Rear-Admiral the Honourable R. S. Dundas, C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Baltic.

*Duke of Wellington,
at Nargen, July 30, 1855.*

SIR,

I BEG you will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that having received, on the 24th instant, from Captain Yelverton, of Her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, information which appeared to render it desirable that he should again examine the south-western shores of the Island of Kotka, I took immediate measures to strengthen the squadron under his orders by the addition of four gun-boats, to be detached from off Cronstadt by Rear-Admiral Baynes, together with the further addition of four mortar-vessels from hence, which he had hoped to be able to employ.

I have much satisfaction in transmitting for their Lordships' information the enclosed report of proceedings of Captain Yelverton, who, with the squadron under his orders, has again succeeded in completing the destruction of buildings and military stores to a considerable extent on the Island of Kotka; and I beg once more to express my entire approbation of the manner in which he has executed the service entrusted to him, and of the conduct of the officers and men employed on the occasion.

I am happy in having this opportunity to recommend to the favourable notice of their Lordships the conduct of Mr. George Giles, Master of the *Arrogant*, and Mr. Macfarlane, the Master of the *Magicienne*, who have now been constantly employed in those ships on the various services which I have recently had occasion to report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. S. DUNDAS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Enclosure in Admiral Dundas's Letter.

*Her Majesty's ship, Arrogant,
off the Mouth of the Kymene,
July 28, 1855.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that very early on the morning of the 26th I was joined, off

the Island of Hogland, by the *Cossack* and *Magicienne*, bringing with them the mortar vessels *Prompt*, *Pickle*, *Rocket*, and *Blazer*. I stood immediately to the northward, leaving the *Ruby* to bring on the gun-boats, which were not then in sight. They joined at noon, and at 2 P.M. we all anchored off Fort Rotsensholm.

As the safety of our expedition rested chiefly on our investing and holding the entire possession of the fortified Island of Kotka, I determined upon taking it at once. Accordingly I anchored the mortar vessels out of range, and leaving two gun-boats to look after them, I proceeded with the rest of the vessels to the westward of Kotka, for the purpose of destroying the bridge, so as to cut off the retreat of the garrison, and prevent their receiving reinforcements from the mainland. Captain Vansittart of the *Magicienne*, with his accustomed zeal and activity, threaded his way at once through the shoals, and destroyed the bridge. As soon as all the vessels had anchored, so as to command the great military road leading from the fort of Hogfors Holm, and also the channel dividing the island from the main, I landed all the Marines under command of Captain S. N. Lowder, R.M. with Lieutenant Geo. D. Dowell, R.M.A. and Lieutenants H. C. Mudge and P. R. Holmes, R.M., who took possession without being opposed, as the garrison (no doubt apprised of our coming by the telegraphs along the coast) had very recently evacuated, leaving behind them a large amount of military stores, which have since been burnt.

I beg to enclose a list of all the Crown property destroyed by Captain Lowder, including barracks, magazines, ordnance stores, storehouses, stables, guard-houses, and other Government buildings, with an immense amount of timber intended for building and other military purposes.

The following morning I weighed, leaving Captain Fanshawe with the *Cossack* in charge of this most important point, which required the utmost care and attention, as the enemy on several occasions threw out reconnoitring parties, as if inclined to attempt the recovery of the island.

I feel it due to Mr. George Giles, Master of this ship, and Mr. Geo. A. Macfarlane, Master of the *Magicienne*, to mention the zeal and attention with which they have sounded and buoyed, night and day, the intricate channels of this coast, enabling me (without the assistance of pilots) to