

the great fishing establishments situated upon it. Commander Craufurd executed this service with great vigour, and his report I have the honour to enclose. The extraordinary quantity of nets and stores of fish, and the scale of the works destroyed fully confirm the statements made by the work people that their occupation consisted in supplying food to the army in the Crimea, everything going to Simpheropol by the great northern road along the steppe. Whilst this service was being executed I reconnoitred the mouth of the river Mious, fifteen miles west of Taganrog, in Her Majesty's ship Jasper, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson. The shallow nature of the coast would not allow us to approach within a mile and three quarters of what in the chart is marked as Fort Temenos. The fortification was an earthwork of some extent and ditched but not pierced for guns. It was evidently of an old date, and as I could see no one within it, I again returned to the same place, accompanied by the boats of Her Majesty's ships Vesuvius and Curlew, and Her Majesty's gun-vessels, Cracker, Boxer, and Jasper.

Cavalry in large bodies, armed for the most part with carbines or rifles, were evidently much harassed by riding upon supposed points of attack; and when we got to Fort Temenos, and the usual Cossack picquet had been driven off, I and Commander Lambert, proceeded at once with the light boats into the river. When there, and immediately under Fort Temenos, which stands upon a steep escarpé of eighty feet, we found ourselves looked down upon by a large body of both horse and foot, lining the ditch and parapet of the work. Landing on the opposite bank, at good rifle-shot distance, one boat's crew, under Lieutenant Rowley, was sent to destroy a collection of launches and a fishery, whilst a careful and steady fire of Minie rifles, kept the Russians from advancing upon us. Assuring ourselves of the non-existence of any object worth hazarding so small a force any farther, we returned to the vessels, passing within pistol shot of the Russian ambuscade. The cool steadiness of the officers and men in the gigs, together with the wonderful precision of the fire from the covering vessels, distant as they were, doubtless kept the enemy in check, and prevented serious consequences. To Commander Lambert, Lieutenants Grylls and Rowley, and Mr. Tabuteau (Mate), who were in the gigs, as well as to Lieutenants Marryatt, Townshend, and Hudson, who commanded the gun-vessels, my best thanks are due.

The gig of the Grinder, under Lieutenant Hamilton, had a narrow escape upon the same day from a similar ambuscade, at a place called Kirpe, 10 miles east of Marianopol, the very proper humanity of Lieutenant Hamilton in not firing into an open defenceless town as it appeared to him, having nigh entailed the loss of a boat's crew when he attempted to land and destroy a corn store. A heavy fire of musketry at half pistol shot providentially injured no one, and Lieutenant Hamilton appears to have most skilfully escaped.

The 19th July, I reconnoitred Taganrog in the Jasper gun-boat. A new battery was being constructed upon the heights near the hospital, but although two shots were thrown into it, it did not reply.

Every part the town showed signs of the injuries it had received when we visited it under the late Captain Edmund Lyons, of the Miranda. The long series of Government stores burnt by the Allied Flotilla had not been repaired, and the only sign of any communication being now held, by water, with the Don, was one large barge upon the beach.

To put a stop, however, to all traffic of this nature, and to harass the enemy in this neighbourhood, I have ordered Commander Craufurd to remain in the Gulf of Azof, with two gun-vessels under his orders.

That the squadron has not been idle, I trust this report will show; and without entering more into details than I have done, I can assure you, Sir, that from Ghenitch to Taganrog, and thence round to Kamiskeva, we have kept the coast in a state of constant alarm, and their troops incessantly moving. The good service done by the gun-boats in this way has been very great.

The total amount of provisions, corn, fisheries, forage, and boats, destroyed, has been something enormous.

Nothing can exceed the zeal and activity of the officers, or good conduct of the men, constituting this squadron; and constant work, does not, I am happy to say, appear as yet to impair their health.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SHERARD OSBORN,
Commander and Senior Officer.

Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund
Lyons, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Her Majesty's ship Swallow,
off Crooked Spit, Sea of Azof,
July 15, 1855.

SIR,
IN compliance with your orders, I proceeded in Her Majesty's steam gun-boat Grinder, with Cracker and Boxer, and boats of the squadron to reconnoitre the Crooked Spit.

Having cleared the spit of some mounted troops who occupied it, I ordered a detachment of boats, with their respective officers, to land and destroy the immense fishing establishments and nets found upon the point of it. The country seemed swarming with cavalry, but, by the able management of the officers in command of the gun-boats, and by their good fire, they were effectually driven off the spit some distance inland.

Having reconnoitred as far into the land as we could see from the mast head of the Grinder, all the boats were ordered to land and set fire to very large and extensive government stores upon the upper part of the spit, including large fishing establishments, an enormous quantity of nets, haystacks, and several large houses used as government stores. I learnt from a Russian fisherman, that the fish caught on this spit and cured here was immediately forwarded to Simpheropol, for the use of the Crimean army; and I conclude that a very severe blow has been inflicted upon the enemy by the amount of property which was destroyed, including spars, timber, fish, nets, and boats; apparently the most extensive fishing establishment in the Sea of Azof; and I am happy to say without a casualty. My thanks are due to Lieutenants Hamilton, of Grinder, and Townsend, of Boxer, as also to Lieutenants Rowley, of Curlew; Grylls, of Fancy; Sullivan, of Vesuvius; Mr. Aldrich, Master of Swallow; Mr. Deare, Gunner of Curlew; and Mr. Windsor, Gunner of Swallow; who all and each by their zeal and activity rendered great service in destroying so large an accumulation of stores and houses in so short a space of time.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FRED. A. B. CRAUFURD,
Commander.

Commander Osborne,
Senior Officer.