

were then ordered to be assembled with rockets before dark, and under the direction of Captain Caldwell, in command of the ship bearing my flag, they maintained a continuous fire for upwards of three hours, which was attended with considerable success, causing fresh fires, and adding much to the general conflagration.

At daylight on the morning of the 10th instant, the positions of several of the mortar vessels had been advanced within easier range, and the gun-boats were again directed to engage.

The three-decked ship, which had been moored by the enemy to block and defend the channel between Gustafsvard and Bak Holmen, had been withdrawn during the night to a more secure position, but the fire from the batteries was increased, and the engagement was renewed with activity on both sides; fires continued to burn without intermission within the fortress, and about noon a column of smoke, heavier and darker than any which had yet been observed, and succeeded by bright flames, gave signs that the shells had reached combustible materials in the direction of the arsenal, the exact situation was at first concealed from our view, but the flames continuing to spread, it was soon evident that they extended beyond the Island of Vargon, and that many buildings on the Island of Svarto, were already in progress of destruction.

By the judicious management of the officers of artillery, a steady fire was kept up during the whole of the following night.

The rocket-boats in the evening were again assembled, when the gun-boats were recalled, and proceeded successively in separate divisions. The first, under the direction of Captain Seymour, of the *Pembroke*, made excellent practice, at a distance of about 2000 yards from the fortress; the second, under the direction of Captain Caldwell, at a later period of the night, succeeded also in adding to the fires already burning; but the glare of the flames exposing the boats to the view of the enemy, they maintained their ground, under a smart fire of bursting shells, with steady gallantry.

Considering the extent of injury which had now been inflicted upon the enemy, and reflecting that few buildings of importance remained to be destroyed on the Island of Vargon, and that those still standing upon Svarto were at the extreme extent of our range, and in positions where no shells had yet reached them, I was of opinion that no proportionate advantage was to be gained by continuing the fire during another day.

I accordingly despatched Captain Seymour, of Her Majesty's ship *Pembroke*, to communicate with Rear-Admiral Pénaud, and with the cordiality and ready concord which I have invariably experienced from that officer, arrangements were immediately concerted, and orders given to cease firing after daylight. Little fire, except at the rocket boats, had been returned by the enemy during the night, and it ceased almost entirely on his side before daylight, although the sea defences in general were little injured.

It remains for me to transmit now for their Lordships' information the enclosed reports of the proceedings of Captain Wellesley, of Her Majesty's ship *Cornwallis*, with the detached squadron to the eastward, on the 9th instant; and I beg you will inform their Lordships that the troops on *Drumsio* having offered no resistance to the ships under the orders of Captain Yelverton, he returned to his former anchorage the same evening.

Enclosed are the lists of casualties which have occurred in execution of the service which I have had the honour to detail; and I am thankful to say that they have been fewer than could possibly have been expected under the fire to which those who were engaged were repeatedly exposed. Some of the most severe injuries are those which unfortunately occurred from explosions of the rockets in the boats of the *Hastings* and *Vulture*.

Their Lordships will observe that I abstain entirely from reports on the proceedings of the squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Pénaud, which will, no doubt, be fully and ably explained to his own Government; but I may be permitted to acknowledge my deep sense of the valuable co-operation they have afforded, and to express my admiration of the gallant conduct of those under his orders, and my warmest thanks for the cordial support which I have received.

I have much satisfaction in reporting in the most favourable manner on the conduct of the officers, seamen, and marines under my command; and I transmit, for their Lordships' information, the lists of the officers and others who were employed on the various detached services which occurred during the operations.

My best thanks are due to Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, who has at all times afforded me the most ready assistance.

From Commodore the Honourable Frederick Pelham, Captain of the Fleet, I have received the most valuable support, and the energy and ability with which he has performed the important duties of his station have tended greatly to further the execution of the service, and demand my warmest thanks.

I am much indebted to Captain Ramsay of Her Majesty's ship *Euryalus*, for his active and useful exertions, as well as to Captain Glasse, of the *Vulture*, and Captain Vansittart, of the *Magicienne*, and to none more than to Captain Stewart, of Her Majesty's ship *Dragon*, whose zeal and ready resource attracted my particular attention.

The services allotted to Captain Wellesley, as well as those assigned to Captains Seymour, Hewlett and Caldwell, were executed to my entire satisfaction; and my best thanks are due for the assistance rendered by Captain Hall, of Her Majesty's ship *Exmouth*, on several occasions.

Late on the evening of the 10th instant, Her Majesty's ship *Merlin*, under the command of Captain Sullivan, struck upon an unknown rock on ground, which he had himself repeatedly examined while conducting me along the line of the mortar vessels.

No blame whatever can attach to this officer on the occasion, and I gladly avail myself of the opportunity which is thus afforded me of calling the especial attention of their Lordships to the unwearied activity of this valuable officer. It is to the singular ability and zeal with which his arduous duties have been performed that much of the success of the operations of the fleet may be attributed; and I trust that I may be permitted on this occasion to recommend to the especial notice of their Lordships the services of Lieutenant R. B. Creyke, of that ship, whose conduct has been most favourably reported.

My especial thanks are due to the officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery for the manner in which their important duties have been performed. The cool and steady courage with which they continued to conduct the duties of their stations deserves the highest praise; and I have