

I was thus rendered incapable of landing, so sent Mr. Parker, Second Master of this ship, on shore in charge of the boats and landing party, who succeeded in carrying out my instructions as to the destruction of all the boats there (seven in number), many new fishing nets of great length, five large new fishing establishments, full of quantities of fishing tackle and other gear: this service he performed in a most gallant manner, and much to my satisfaction, as they were the whole time exposed to a very smart and annoying fire from the enemy's concealed infantry (at a very short distance), who, in spite of our fire from the ship, had managed to creep down close to them, favoured by the inequality of the ground and the long grass, so that our party had to make a long detour (covered by a hot fire of rifles from the Recruit) to prevent them being cut off, and to get to their boats. The Russians kept up a constant fire of rifles from the lighthouse, in which they had succeeded in lodging themselves, upon the boats, and then upon the ship, which we returned with rifles only, and I think to some purpose, until we weighed and shifted further out. Not a man was hit, though ship and boat were many times. As I did not wish to injure the lighthouse, I did not attempt to fire, so as to dislodge them, with shot or shell from the guns.

The 17th I stood along the spit to see if any more boats or nets could be found along the shore

where I could destroy them, as also to drive away a number of troops I saw hidden behind some banks, and at the same time to try and set fire with carcasses to a number of new stores, built on the broad part of the spit high up but too far off for me with my small force to attempt to land and destroy.

I could see no more boats, but their perseverance in thus rebuilding these houses, boats, and nets, with the fact of so many troops being there to protect them, tells its own tale, that they must be much in want of provisions.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. F. DAY,  
Lieutenant-Commander.

*Captain Osborn, Senior Officer.*

In consideration of the services mentioned in the above Despatches—

Lieutenant George Fiott Day has been promoted to the rank of Commander; and

Mr. William H. Parker will be promoted to the rank of Master, so soon as he shall be qualified; and

A Medal and £15 gratuity, for conspicuous gallantry, have been awarded to William Rickard, Quartermaster of Her Majesty's ship Weser.