



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY the 7th of DECEMBER.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1855.

By the QUEEN.

A PROCLAMATION.

VICTORIA, R.

WHEREAS Our Parliament stands prorogued to Tuesday the eleventh day of this instant December; We, with the advice of Our Privy Council, do hereby publish and declare, that the said Parliament shall be further prorogued, on the said eleventh day of December instant, to Thursday the thirty-first day of January next; and We have given Order to Our Chancellor of that part of Our United Kingdom called Great Britain to prepare a Commission for proroguing the same accordingly: And We do hereby further, with the advice aforesaid, declare Our Royal Will and Pleasure, that the said Parliament shall, on the said Thursday the thirty-first day of January next, assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs: And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs of the House of Commons, are hereby required and commanded to give their attendance accordingly, at Westminster, on the said Thursday the thirty-first day of January next.

Given at Our Court, at Windsor, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in the nineteenth year of Our reign.

GOD save the QUEEN.

Admiralty, December 7, 1855.

DESPATCHES, with Enclosures, of which the following are copies, have been received from Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

REPORTING DESTRUCTION OF CORN, &C., IN GHEISK-LIMAN.

No. 951. *Royal Albert, Kazatch Bay, November 24, 1855.*

THEIR Lordships are aware that when the small gun-boats were no longer required at Kinburn I sent them back to Captain Osborn, to afford him the means of destroying, at the latest period of the season, the harvest of this year, which I understood to be collecting in the neighbourhood of Gheisk-Liman, for the purpose of being transported in the winter months, partly to the enemy's army in the Crimea over the frozen Gulf of Azof, and partly to his army in the Caucasus by the military road.

2. The enclosed copy of a letter from Captain Osborn will show their lordships that in this, as on many former occasions, he has fully justified the confidence I have placed in him. The skilfulness of the arrangements made by him, and the admirable manner in which they were executed by himself, by Commander Kennedy, of the Curlew, and by the officers and men under their orders, completely frustrated the efforts of the large force that was brought against them in defence of the stores, which the enemy appears to have considered safe from any naval attack, in consequence of the shallowness of the water.

3. The effects of this brilliant enterprize, in the destruction of so much corn and forage at the commencement of winter, cannot fail to be severely felt by the Russian armies both in the Crimea and the Caucasus.

4. Commander Kennedy, in reporting his large share in the proceedings of the day in the com-

mand of the Curlew, states to Captain Osborn that at one place alone the rows of stacks were six deep and extended two miles, and it appears that for economy in transport and storage the straw was cut near to the ears of the corn.

5 As the ice is now forming on the shores of the Sea of Azof and the squadron is withdrawn, I feel it to be due to Captain Osborn to record that under circumstances of great difficulty, occasioned by unusually tempestuous weather, he has most ably continued through the summer, and brought to a successful close in the autumn, operations novel in their nature and extremely detrimental to the enemy, which commenced auspiciously in the spring under the direction of the late Captain Lyons of the *Miranda*; nor is it too much to say, that both commanding officers were supported throughout, by as dashing and as intelligent a band of young officers, seamen, and marines, as ever shone in the British Navy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND LYONS,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

No. 41. *Her Majesty's steam-sloop Vesuvius, off Gheisk, November 7, 1855.*

AFTER dark on the evening of the 3rd instant, the squadron under my command was assembled and anchored in 16 feet water, off Gheisk-Liman, and I made arrangements for the morrow to operate against the extensive collection of corn, forage, and fuel, belonging to the enemy, stacked along its shores, so as to distract the attention of the large force which, from previous observation, I knew to be in the neighbourhood.

Under Lieutenant Ross, of the *Weser*, I placed the *Curlew* in the temporary charge of Lieutenant Miall, and the *Ardent* in charge of Mr. Tilly, Second Master, each vessel having sufficient men left in her to weigh an anchor, or fight a gun, and man a few boats, giving orders to Lieutenant Ross to close in on the northern face of Gheisk, and to be prepared to co-operate with me inside the Liman.

The *Vesuvius* I left in the offing, denuded of every available person; embarking officers and men as in the annexed list, from the *Vesuvius*, *Curlew*, *Weser*, and *Ardent*, with their boats, we left at daylight, towed by Her Majesty's gun-boats,

Recruit, Lieutenant G. Day.

Boxer, Lieutenant S. P. Townsend.

Cracker, Lieutenant J. H. Marryat.

Clinker, Lieutenant J. S. Hudson.

By 6.30 A.M. the flotilla was off Vodina, three miles north of Glofira; here long tiers of corn-stacks and much fuel was stored along the coast, with a Cossack guard for its protection; I immediately detached Commander Kennedy with the boats, covering him with the gun-vessels, and in a short time all was in flames, and the party cleverly re-embarked at the moment that a large body of Cossacks rode up from Lazalnite.

The town of Glofira became the next point of attack; it was greatly changed in appearance since visited by Captain Rowley Lambert in July last. Corn stacks, for some miles in extent, might now be seen along its southern and eastern face, placed close to the water's edge ready for transport; and between the rows of houses tier on tier were to be seen.

An entrenchment had been cut along the edge of the cliff commanding the spit; large bodies of dismounted cavalry were seen lining it, and armed men shewed in the rear of every house.

To endeavour to flank the defences, as well as destroy the corn stacks stored on a high hill east of Glofira, I despatched Commander Kennedy, with the boats of Her Majesty's ship *Curlew*, a paddle-box boat and cutter of the *Vesuvius*, the whole towed by the *Clinker*, Lieutenant Hudson, with orders to turn the spit end, and then attack in that direction, after giving a certain time to allow the enemy's attention to be divided by the other attack. The gun-boats *Recruit*, *Grinder*, *Boxer*, and *Cracker*, opening fire on the entrenchments with Shrapnell shell, and on the corn ricks with carcasses.

As the enemy could only be dislodged from the extreme west, and the carcasses did not well answer, and moreover endangered the whole town, I despatched Lieutenants Day and Campion with the small force of marines available, a howitzer boat and two rocket boats, to aid more effectually in carrying out my object.

Lieutenant Campion, with Mr. Verey, gunner, charging at the head of the marines, supported by Lieutenant Day and the seamen, all being under a sharp fire of musketry, succeeded in driving the enemy, with considerable loss, out of their trench work, and captured a small brass piece, and then steadily forced them back, with loss, from store to store, until the whole of the vast quantity of corn, stacked ready for thrashing and transport, was in flames.

The gallant manner in which Lieutenant Campion led the marines deserves to be brought under your notice.

Seeing the enemy collecting a number of men, ready to charge our men if they advanced beyond a ravine on the east face of the town, I recalled my force, and had the satisfaction of seeing all embarked, with only one man wounded.

The vessels off Gheisk were now seen to be engaged, Lieutenant Ross, of the *Weser*, having placed them in capital positions; and, as the enemy moved down large bodies of troops, especially cavalry, to resist his landing, and opened fire on him, he very unwillingly had to fire on the town, to dislodge them.

The proceedings of Lieutenant Ross were ably executed, and he fully succeeded in keeping in check a heavy body of cavalry which might have much incommoded the small force under Commander Kennedy, who, by the most strenuous exertions, had reached his position, and finding the cliff too steep to scale in the face of a large number of troops, who were firing on him from its crest, he very judiciously executed the duty I had entrusted to him, with the gun and the carcass rockets of the ship's boats, setting every store in flames, except one large government building considerably in the rear.

Commander Kennedy speaks in the highest terms of his party, for the shallowness of the water obliged the crews of the boats to be rowing and wading through the water from noon until midnight, the season too being now very cold.

Throughout the night the stores were burning fiercely, a sheet of flames extending fully two miles, but the town of Glofira, except where the troops had used the houses against us, remained untouched.

At an early hour on the 6th November, we weighed and proceeded into the Liman, steering towards Gheisk; the valuable services of Mr. George Perry, Acting Master of the *Vesuvius*, and Mr. Parker, Second Master of the *Recruit*, came here into play; and, at an early period, I had the satisfaction of seeing all the gun-boats anchored just in their own draught of water, within long gun-shot of the east extreme of Gheisk and the

neighbouring steppe, along the edge of which, for four miles, corn and hay was stacked in quantities far beyond what I had conceived to be possible, and at the base of the steppe, as well as that part of the spit commanded by the town, timber yards, fish stores, boats, &c., in numbers were accumulated.

To attack upon as many points as possible was, I thought, the only way to foil the troops that had now had 36 hours to prepare for us; the gun-boats *Grinder*, *Boxer*, *Cracker*, and *Clinker*, were left to cover the landing party. To Lieutenant *Ross* of the *Weser*, I signalized to prepare to land, and divided the force in the *Liman* into three bodies; the left under Lieutenants *Day* and *Townsend*, consisted of boats and men of *Recruit* and *Boxer*; the centre I entrusted to Commander *Kennedy*, having under him Lieutenants *Hamilton*, *Campion*, *Marryat*, and *Mayne*, with all the boats of the *Curlew*, *Ardent*, *Grinder*, and *Cracker*, and port rocket and gun-boats of the *Vesuvius*, in charge of the officers named in the margin;* the right division under Lieutenant *Chetham Strode*, and Lieutenant *Hudson*, consisted of the starboard gun-boats of *Vesuvius*, and those of *Clinker*, together with some marines, Mr. R. Farquharson, Midshipman, in charge of the latter. Lieutenant *Ross*, on the west side of *Gheisk Spit*, had the boats and small-arm men of the *Weser*, with a small force from *Curlew* and *Ardent*, under Lieutenant *Miall*, and Mr. *Tilly*, Second Master, in readiness to co-operate.

The different parties pulled in and effected a landing at appointed places, fully a mile apart; the Russian troops, within light breastworks, attempted to prevent them, but failed, and in a few moments a screen of flames and smoke rolling from our men towards the enemy, prevented the latter seeing where or how to manœuvre in order to cut off any of our small detachments.

On the right and centre the enemy mustered strongest, and at one time observing a column of some 1500 Cossacks moving rapidly off the left, I directed Commander *Kennedy* (who by that time had connected his fires with those of Lieutenant *Day*) to re-embark all but the marines, and with them to proceed to his right, and I reinforced him with the marines of the *Recruit* and *Weser*, under Lieutenant *Campion*. This answered perfectly; the enemy arrived too late to save anything on the left, whilst our men steadily worked towards the right division, under Lieutenants *Strode* and *Ross*, who, in spite of a heavy but badly directed fire from the houses on the heights, steadily held their ground, and effectually destroyed a great accumulation of materials for boats and ship building, fish stores, cavalry camp gear and granaries.

When everything but the town of *Gheisk* was destroyed, I ordered the embarkation to take place, and detached some boats to cover Lieutenant *Ross*, between whom and his boat the enemy were throwing a body of men, who, by their uniform, I believed to be regular infantry.

By 2 p.m., everything was finished, and all the parties safely re-embarked on board their respective gun-boats, the casualties amounting to only six men wounded in all, one of them dangerously and another severely.

Nothing further being left within our reach in *Gheisk-Liman*, except the store of corn which escaped on the previous day at *Glofira*, I, therefore, ordered Commander *Kennedy* with the moiety of the boats to return to their respective ships, and remained with the *Recruit*, *Ardent*, *Boxer*, and

Cracker's boats to finish what had escaped east of *Glofira*.

On the 6th the weather, which had favoured us most providentially, changed; fogs and strong breezes came on, but directly I was able, the rocket boats and carcasses were again employed upon *Glofira* until the fires extinguished yesterday were re-lighted, and another extensive accumulation of corn in flames; I then weighed and returned to the *Vesuvius*, reaching her the same afternoon.

I despair of being able to convey to you any idea of the extraordinary quantity of corn, rye, hay, wood and other supplies, so necessary for the existence of Russian armies both in the Caucasus and the Crimea, which it has been our good fortune to destroy.

That these vast stores should have been collected here, so close to the sea, whilst we were still in the neighbourhood, is only to be accounted for, by their supposing that they could not be reached by us, and judging by the position the squadron under the late Captain *Edmund Lyons*, took up in May last, the Russians had established a camp and fortified their town only to meet a similar attack.

During these proceedings we never had more than 200 men engaged; the enemy had, from the concurrent testimony of Lieutenants *Ross* and *Strode*, and my own observation, from 3,000 to 4,000 men in *Gheisk* alone.

Where every officer exerted himself to the utmost, and did all and more than I expected of them, it would be invidious for me to mention one more than another; it was their coolness, zeal, and example, that rendered steady many of the younger men, who for the first time were under fire, and but for their general intelligence and zeal, the enemy would have easily frustrated our operations.

The zeal, good conduct, and gallantry of the men, was deserving of every praise.

Commander *Kennedy*, my second in command, gave me the most valuable co-operation, and from him, as well as the reports of the other officers, I feel justified in placing before you the names of the following warrant officers and men, who, under fire, behaved remarkably well, viz.: Mr. *Richard Verey*, Acting Gunner of Her Majesty's ship *Ardent*; *Thomas Kerr*, Gunner, Royal Marine Artillery, Her Majesty's ship *Vesuvius*; *Peter Hanlan*, A.B., Her Majesty's ship *Curlew*; *David Barry*, A.B., Her Majesty's ship *Cracker*.

The enclosed plan, illustrative of our operations, by Mr. *George Perry*, Acting Master of the *Vesuvius*, will, I trust, be of use, and I beg you will allow me to call your attention to the unvarying zeal of that officer.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SHERARD OSBORN.

Captain and Senior Officer in the
Sea of Azof.

Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund

Lyons, Bart., &c., &c., &c.

G.C.B.

*Return of Men Wounded during the operations
of the 4th, 5th, and 6th November, 1855, in
Gheisk-Liman.*

Thomas Middleton, *Vesuvius*, Gunner R.M.A., slightly

John Cook, *Vesuvius*, Ord., slightly

Peter Hanlan, *Curlew*, A.B., dangerously

Thomas Cuddehey, *Curlew*, Private R.M., severely

John Burke, *Recruit*, A.B., severely

Robert Atwood, *Weser*, Private R.M., slightly

(Signed) SHERARD OSBORN,

Captain and Senior Officer.

* Mr. *Armstrong*, Mate; Mr. *Scott*, Gunner; Mr. *Verey*, Gunner.

A Return of Officers and Men of Her Majesty's ships Vesuvius, Curlew, Ardent, and Weser, detached and employed destroying the enemy's resources in Gheish-Liman, during the 4th, 5th, and 6th November, 1855.

VESUVIUS.

Gig—Captain S. Osborn, Senior Officer ; Mr. G. D. Perry, Acting Master.

Rocket Boat—Lieutenant Chetham Strode ; Mr. Joseph Scott, Gunner.

Paddle-box Boat—Mr. R. R. Armstrong, Mate.

Paddle-box Boat—Mr. Gilbert King, Assistant-Surgeon ; Mr. R. D. Farquharson, Midshipman.

Boats' crews, all small-arm men and Marines.

CURLEW.

Gig—Commander J. J. Kennedy.

Pinnace—Lieutenant Mayne.

Gig—Lieutenant Miall.

Pinnace—Mr. George Morant, Midshipman.

All small-arm men and Marines.

ARDENT.

Cutter, Rocket Boat, and Gig — Lieutenant Campion : Mr. Verey, Acting Gunner.
20 Blue-jackets and 11 Marines.

WESER.

11 Marines belonging to Weser.

(Signed) **SHERARD OSBORN,**
Captain, and Senior Officer.

In consideration of the services mentioned in the above Despatches, Commander John James Kennedy will be promoted to the rank of Captain, so soon as he shall be qualified; and Lieutenant Hubert Campion has been promoted to the rank of Commander.

Published by THOMAS LAWRENCE BEHAN, Editor, Manager, and Publisher, of No. 7, Suffolk Place, Haymarket at No. 45, St. Martin's Lane, both in the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the County of Middlesex.

Printed by THOMAS RICHARD HARRISON and THOMAS HARRISON, Printers, at their Office, No. 45, St. Martin's Lane, in the Parish and County aforesaid.

Saturday, December 8, 1855.

Price Four Pence.