

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 *Chatham 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.