

*A RELATION of the great and glorious Success of
the Fleet and Forces of Her Majesty and the States General at
Vigo: the Land Forces being under the Command of his Grace
the Duke of Ormond, and the Fleet commanded by Sir George
Rooke.*

As it is by Authority.

From Vigo, October 16. 1702.

Captain Hardy, Commander of Her Majesty's Ship the *Pembroke*, having been detached with some other Ships by Sir George Rooke, and sent into *Lagos*, he there got Intelligence, That Monsieur *Chateaurenault*, with the French Men of War and the Spanish Flota, was arrived at *Vigo*: Whereupon he made all possible haste to rejoin the Fleet, and traversing 40 Leagues, overtook the Admiral on the 6th of October, and gave him an Account of this News; who with great joy declared his Opinion to proceed directly to *Vigo*, and sent Notice of it immediately to the Dutch Admiral; and the next day, the Weather being somewhat more moderate than it had been the day before, he call'd a Council of the Flag-Officers, and came to this Resolution, That considering the Attempting and Destroying those Ships would be of the greatest Advantage and Honour to Her Majesty and Her Allies, and very much tend to the Reducing the Power of *France*, the Fleet should make the best of its way to the Port of *Vigo*, and assault them immediately with the whole Line, in case there were room enough for it; if not, by such Detachments as might render the Attempt most effectual.

This being resolved, Orders were given accordingly for sailing thither with all Speed; but the Winds being contrary and uncertain, it was the 11th of that Month before the Fleet could possibly gain that Port. The Entering into it was with great Difficulty, but performed without any ill Accident.

The Weather was so thick, That the Fleet was not discovered by the Town of *Vigo*, till they came upon it, and tho' they then fired thick from thence, the Fleet, without taking any notice of it, proceeded up the Harbour within 3 or 4 miles of *Rodondallo*, where the French Fleet and Galleons lay within a narrow Passage, thinking they had sufficiently secured themselves by the Castle on one side, and Platforms on both sides of the River, planted with their best Guns to Flank the Entrance; which was defended also by a strong Boom they had laid cross it, made of their Masts, Yards, Cables, Top Chaines and Casks.

The Fleet coming to an Anchor, the Admiral called a Council of the General Sea and Land Officers, who came to this Resolution, That in regard the whole Fleet could not without great hazard of being in a huddle, attempt the Ships and Galleons where they were, a Detachment of 15 English, and 10 Dutch Ships of the Line of Battel, with all the Fire-Ships, should be sent to use their best Endeavours to take or destroy the aforesaid Ships of the Enemy; and that the Frigats, and Bomb-Vessels should follow the Rear of the Fleet, and the great Ships move after them, to go in if there should be Occasion.

It was also resolved, That the Army should Land the next morning, and march to the Fort on the South-side of *Rodondallo*, and Attack it; and from thence where it should be most useful for the Annoying of the Enemy. But in regard it was not known what depth of Water there might be, is was thought most adviseable to make the Attempt with the smallest Ships; and to give the better Countenance to the Service, it was resolved, That all the Flag-Officers should go in with the Squadron.

Pursuant to this Resolution, his Grace the Duke of *Ormond* landed with great Diligence and Expedition, with about 2000 Men on the South-side of the River, without any Opposition; and ordered the Granadiers to march, under the Command of the Lord Viscount *Shannon*, directly to the Fort that Guards the Entrance of the Harbour where the Boom lay, which he performed with great Gallantry. There appeared about 8000 Foot between the Fort and the Hills; but upon our Men's advancing, they retired, after a little Skirmish with the Granadiers, who likewise pushed a Party of the Enemy, and followed them to the Fort, and possessed themselves of the lower Battery; whereupon Lieutenant-General *Churchill's* Regiment came upon the Left, and took Post there with them. After the Batteries were taken, the Enemy retired into an Old Castle or Stone Tower, and there fired upon our Men for some little time; but opening the Gate, and intending to make a Salley, as the Officers who are Prisoners say, the Granadiers forced into the Castle, and possessed themselves of it. In this Fort there were 300 French Marines and 50 Spaniards, and 40 Guns.

At 9 a Clock in the morning, as soon as the Land Forces were landed, the Admiral made a Signal to weigh, which was accordingly done, the Line form'd, and the Squadron pushing their Passage in upon the Enemy, but when the Van was got within Cannon-shot of the Batteries, it fell calm, so that they were forced to come to an Anchor again; but about 2 a Clock, a Gale coming up, the Ships next the Enemy cut their Cables, the rest weighed, and running in upon the Enemy, received all their Fire till the Ships were got the length of the Boom: Vice-Admiral *Hopson*, in the *Torbay*, broke through at once, but the rest of his Division, and Vice-Admiral *Vandergoes*, and his Division, who went in abreast to give the greater weight to the Boom, stuck, and were obliged to cut their way through.

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The Attack was made with great Resolution and Bravery; and the good Conduct of the Land Forces contributed much to the Success, having contrived the Attack of the Fort just as the Ships, upon their coming to the Boom, poured in their Broadfides upon them, which obliged them in half a quarter of an hour to yield at Discretion.

The Duke of Ormond, as soon as this Service was over, marched away with the Forces to Rodendello; and it is said that he, with the Dutch, have seized there a considerable quantity of Plate.

As soon as our Ships had passed the Boom, the Enemy, by the Example of Monsieur Chateaurenard, set fire to and blew up several of their Ships, and run others of them ashore: The List annexed gives a full Account of what are burnt, sunk, and taken; of all forts there were seven or eight and thirty Sail, and not one of them escaped being taken or destroyed.

There are 5 French Men of War in the English possession, which the Admiral hopes to bring home.

The English have also 4 Galleons afloat and 2 ashore; and if it be thought impracticable to bring any of them home, the Admiral will take care to secure their Effects for the Service of the Publick.

The Dutch have taken the Bourbon, a Man of War, but she is not in a condition to be carried home; and they have likewise possessed themselves of 5 of the Galleons.

There has been some Silver taken out of the bottoms of the Galleons that were burnt, which makes it be believed there may be a good quantity on board those that are taken; at least, they are very rich in other valuable Goods, there having been little or nothing removed besides some Plate, as the Officers who are taken do affirm.

We have not lost one Ship in this Action, neither English nor Dutch. The Torbay had like to have been burnt by one of the Enemy's Fireships, who clapt her on board, and had certainly done the Execution, had she not blown up. The Torbay was all on Fire on one side, yet by the exemplary Bravery and Diligence of the Captain, it was Extinguish'd, and the Ship preserved. We have no particular Account of the Seamen killed or wounded in this Action; but in general, that we have lost but very few.

Of the Landmen, Mr. Ramsden, Lieutenant of the Granadiers; a Lieutenant of my Lord Shannons, and about 30 Soldiers, killed: Colonel Pierce who commanded next to my Lord Shannon, and entred the Battery one of the first, was wounded with a Cannon-shot in the Thigh, but there is hopes he will recover; Mr. Talmash, Colonel Seymour, Colonel Newton, wounded.

There are taken Prisoners, the Admiral of the Assogua ships, Monsieur d'Alligre Chef d'Escadre Mon. le Marquis de Galifoniere Cap. of the Hope; with many other Officers, and 4 or 500 private Soldiers.

The Sea and Land Officers, and all the private Seamen and Soldiers shewed in this Action all the Courage and Resolution imaginable.

Colonel Stanhope, my Lord Tunbridge, and all the Voluntiers behaved themselves with great Bravery.

French Ships in the Harbour of Rodendallo.

Ships Names.	Captains Names.	N ^o of Guns.	
<i>Le Fort</i>	<i>Chateau Renault</i>	76	Burnt.
<i>Le Prompte</i>	<i>Beaujeu</i>	76	Taken, and will be carried home.
<i>L'Assuré</i>	<i>D'Aligre</i>	66	Taken, and will be carried home.
<i>L'Espérance</i>	<i>Marquis Gallisonice</i>	70	Taken, but run ashore and bilg'd, and sunk.
<i>Le Bourbon</i>	<i>Mon. Bolt</i>	68	Taken by the Dutch.
<i>La Sirène</i>	<i>Mon. Gon</i>	60	Taken, but run ashore and bilg'd.
<i>Le Solide</i>	<i>Chamelin</i>	56	Burnt.
<i>Le Firme</i>	<i>Boissier</i>	72	Taken, and will be carried home.
<i>Le Prudent</i>	<i>Grand Pré</i>	62	Burnt.
<i>Le Modere</i>	<i>L'Autier</i>	56	Taken, and will be carried home.
<i>Le Superbe</i>	<i>Botterville</i>	70	Taken, but run ashore and bilg'd.
<i>La Dauphine</i>	<i>Duplefis</i>	46	Burnt.
<i>Le Voluntaire</i>	<i>Soret</i>	46	Taken, but run ashore and bilg'd.
<i>Le Triton</i>	<i>De Counte</i>	42	Taken, and will be carried home.
<i>L'Enflame</i>	<i>Tricombault</i>	64	Burnt.
Frigats.			
<i>L'Entreprenant</i>	<i>Polignac</i>	22 8	Burnt.
<i>Choquante</i>	<i>St. Osman</i>		
<i>Le Farois</i> Fireship	<i>Delesallett</i>		Burnt.
3 Curvets			Burnt.

17 Galeons,

4 afloat } taken.
2 ashore }

And 5 taken by the Dutch, the rest burnt.