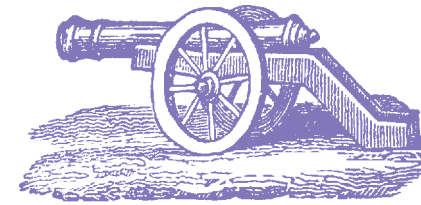


Reprinted from the
Scots Magazine of 1784,
where it appeared as
*Extracts from an authentic
Journal of the Siege
of Gibraltar.*



Journal of the Siege of
GIBRALTAR
1779 - 1783

Nutcracker Press



2011

1779

Certain words, unfamiliar or used here in an unfamiliar sense, are highlighted in red the first time they appear on each double-spread. These are explained in the glossary on pages 36 and 37.

Gen. Mendoza, commander of the Spanish camp at St Roque, wrote to Gen. Elliott, that he had received orders from his court to cut off all communication at Gibraltar by land and sea. *June 21.*

All the British in the neighbourhood of St Roque, even children in the small-pox, were sent into the garrison. The subjects at a distance, who could not come in on that day, were obliged to go to Portugal, and in their way thence to Gibraltar by sea, some of them were taken again by the Spaniards, and made prisoners. At this time some Spanish **barks** in the port were suffered to go away. June 9. Gen. Elliott, and the greatest part of the field-officers, his aid-de-camps, &c. had sent to St Roque, to compliment M. Mendoza on his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General. Mendoza received them very coldly, and did not ask any but the General to take chocolate, which now made us suppose he had then some intimation of the rupture that was to take place. *June 22.*

The *Enterprize* ship of war, in her passage from Tetuan, was chased by a Spanish man of war. The governor, at the advice of the naval commander, issued **letters of marque** to several privateers then in port. They immediately went out, and captured some small vessels. *July 7.*

Don Antonio Barcelo's squadron of four **xebecks** appeared in the morning to the eastward with forty settees. The *Childers* sloop engaged one of the xebecks. The *Panther* and *Enterprize* got under way, but the xebecks put into Ceuta. However, many of the convoy were taken, laden with wine, brandy, molasses, &c. We sent the crews through Landport Gate to Spain by themselves. Garrison chearful and unanimous. *July 11.*

Spaniards pitching tents about two miles in a straight line from the rock. The *Illerim*, Swedish frigate, from Tangier, warned by the xebecks against entering this port. The Swede answered, "His orders were to put into Gibraltar, and he would not deviate from them." A Spanish frigate stood for her, and fired two shot at her, which she returned, and then anchored under our guns. The next day she sailed for Malaga, followed by three Spanish vessels. *July 26.*

1779 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- July 31.* Since shutting up the communication, 283 oxen and 116 sheep have been imported from Barbary.
- Aug. 2.* A Dutch ship, ignorant of the blockade, put in for water. She had 700 **quintals** of rice on board, which the governor purchased for the troops.
- Aug. 18.* Scarce any thing escapes the fifteen Spanish cruizers at the entrance of the bay: They have taken Dutch, Danish, Swedes, and Venetians on suspicion, and carried them into Algesiras.
- Sept. 11.* The *Harerow*-boat met a Dutch **dogger** laden with wheat behind the hill, and brought her in. The governor kept the cargo, and made the crew of the row-boat a present of 50*l*.
- Sept. 12.* Began to fire on the Spanish lines. Fired 500 shot and shells.
- Sept. 16.* This afternoon a thirteen-inch shell from a sea-mortar at Willis's, fell within a few paces of the artillery, which seemed to disconcert the enemy a good deal, not thinking we could throw shells so far.
- Sept. 30.* Continue firing shot and small shells on the working parties at the lines, the latter with very good effect, often obliging the enemy to stop. They are throwing up sand-banks to cover their men from our upper batteries; making a **boyau** or covered way from their lines to their camp, and have demolished their stone guard-houses and sentry-boxes; and are preparing platforms at their lines for additional cannon and mortars. We don't expect their shot farther than the Bedlam Barracks, as the street-pavement is only taken up so far. We have raised the traverses on the esplanade, and across the street and line wall, as far as the grand parade, which seem to promise good shelter for our men. The enemy have not yet fired a shot at us.
- Oct 9.* Carried up a 24 pounder to the very summit of the rugged rock, at rock-guard, and making a cart-road to that and other parts of the hill.
- Oct. 14.* Fired from our gun on the summit of the rock 1350 feet perpendicular height: the enemy cannot easily cover themselves from this battery.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1779

- Oct. 20.* The Spaniards laid open to our view three new batteries, between Fort St Philip and the gate into the lines, two of 14 guns each, and one of 7 guns.
- Nov. 7.* The privateer *Peace and Plenty*, of 20 guns, Capt. Mackenzie, from Leghorn and Minorca for this place, forced ashore by the enemy's xebecs, &c. a little beyond Devils Tower. The crew got ashore with the assistance of our boats that went behind the hill on purpose; only one sailor killed. The enemy burnt the privateer.
- Nov. 14.* This day we were all highly delighted with the bravery and manœuvres of an English cutter in the Gut. About eight o'clock in the morning, signals were made at the Spanish watch-towers, of an enemy appearing from the west; upon which, two large xebecs and several gallies, got under way, as did Barcelo himself, and another ship of the line and a frigate. The cutter soon made her appearance off Cabrita Point, steering for the bay, wind N.W. A large xebeck having got near her, fired a shot; the cutter then hauled her wind, and stood to the southward; the xebeck and several others did the same; the wind increasing, the cutter got well a-head, and the Spaniards dropped to leeward. As soon as the cutter ran close up with the Barbary shore, she tacked and stood this way, and received the fire of the xebecs to leeward. A fifty-gun ship and a frigate, finding that the xebecs were not likely to gain the windward of the cutter, stretched across from Cabrita Point, to intercept her; they also dropped to leeward, whilst the cutter continued to keep well to windward. Barcelo, in his seventy-gun ship (the *St John Baptist*) hove to under Cabrita Point, to keep the windward gage; the cutter boldly pushed on, and shot a-head of him with surprising velocity; Barcelo then gave her a broadside, as did the fifty-gun ship then off Europa, which the cutter returned, and, slipping in between the two ships, anchored safely in the Bay. There were not less than twenty sail in chace of the cutter, which proves to be the *Buck*, of Folkestone, Capt. Fag. All Barcelo's ships are **blackstraped**, that is, they are dropped behind the hill, and are unable to recover their stations, so that we remain masters of the Bay till they can work up.
- Dec. 27.* Having had much rain and cold weather for this week past, it is observable, that the troops in the enemy's camp feel themselves very uncomfortably situated, many of their tents blown away, others shattered to pieces. They

1779 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Dec. 27. are now employed in erecting thatched huts for their habitation, each hut sufficient to contain two or three companies. Our own situation at this time appears rather alarming, there being a scarcity of almost every thing. Firewood, 4s. 6d. per quintal; flour, in the bakers hands, not sufficient for thirty days consumption, is sold for 1s. per pound, which is near 14 guineas the barrel; no fresh meat, except an old cow now and then, which is sold for 2s. the pound; pork, 2s. 6d.; a fowl, 14s.; a goose, a guinea and a half; a turkey, 2 guineas; eggs, 4s. 6d. per dozen; and every other thing in proportion. A most melancholy prospect for the inhabitants, and the women and children in the army! The troops may hold out for some months longer; but if Providence does not relieve us soon, I tremble for the approaching conflict.



1780

It is remarkable, the excessive hard wind that blew yesterday from S.S.E. without abating in the least, as this wind has not blown here, for upwards of an hour's continuance, ever since the year 174; nor have we had so much easterly wind since the year 1749.

Jan. 7.

Many robberies have been lately committed; a man of the 58th regiment was this day executed for that crime. He seemed anxious to go out of the world, for he turned himself off above an hour before his time. A Neapolitan polacre, laden with barley, from Sicily for Lisbon, having been providentially blown near Europa, we compelled her to come in. Her cargo may be of essential service to the garrison. We now and then get some trifling supplies from Barbary and Portugal, which only serve to fill the pockets of the adventurers, without relieving the distressed, who are unable to purchase them. A small settee prize arrived lately with a small quantity of rice, which sold for three guineas the hundred weight. We have deserters coming in frequently from the enemy, who acquaint us, that they are all ready at the lines for an attack upon us.

Jan. 10.

Spaniards fired some shot: one went through the roof of Mr. Quarten's house near Old Governor's Garden.

An ordnance store-ship got in, and informed us the fleet from England, with a convoy for this place, were on their way. Joyful news indeed! In the night another brig with flour confirmed the account, and that Adm. Rodney had taken a rich convoy, 24 sail, with a 64 gun ship and some frigates. All alive.

Jan. 13.

The *Apollo* frigate with the glorious news, that Adm. Rodney had taken and destroyed six or seven Spanish ships of the line off Cadiz: Barcelo hauling close in at Algesiras, and making a boom across the harbour, to secure himself.

Jan. 15.

Fourteen of the line, two of them Spanish prizes, and thirty of the convoy, arrived. Our bay, so long empty, now became a wood. Don Juan de Langara y Huarte, the Spanish admiral, lodged in a private house: he has several slight wounds. The Governor visits him daily, and shews him every mark of civility. He seems a good humane man. Since, he has got the rank of lieutenant-

Jan. 18.

1780 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Jan. 22. general, which has raised his spirits greatly, and indicates his king's approbation of his conduct.

Feb. 13. Adm. Langara and all his officers allowed to pass into Spain on their parole. Our fleet sailed, 23 of the line, Spanish prizes included. Unluckily, few coals brought in the convoy. The prizes will serve for firewood.

[*Strength of the Garrison at Adm. Rodney's departure*]

4 colonels, 9 lieutenant-colonels, 7 majors, 56 captains, 99 lieutenants, 54 ensigns, 337 serjeants, 173 drummers, and 568 effective rank and file; Artillery, with officers included, 568; Artificers company, with ditto, 124.

N.B. Adm. Rodney brought out a very small supply of provisions for the troops, not six months; but we had a pretty good stock in the stores, on his arrival, owing to our having issued fresh meat from Barbary, to the soldiers, in lieu of salt; a measure wisely adopted by the governor, and carried into effect by the spirited exertions of Mr. Davies, the garrison agent-victualer.

March 13. A deserter informs us, that our last shell killed and wounded 25 of the enemy.

March 19. A Spanish *feu de joye* for the birth of a prince.

May 3. Last Sunday evening, a fire in the Spanish camp consumed upwards of 20 **suttling** tents. The inhabitants erecting sheds to the southward, near Mount Pleasant, in daily expectation of an attack.

May 6. A sham fight in the Spanish army.

May 7. Forty-seven British in a **cartel** from Spain.

May 8. John Hill, of the 39th, hanged for theft; a young man, but an old offender. Four **Walloon**s deserted from the enemy; their horse followed, took two, cut one to pieces, the fourth got into the garrison.

May 18. Garrison sickly, the small-pox carries off 18 or 20 a-week, mostly children.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1780

A little after one o'clock this morning, a ship was discovered standing towards New Mole. The *Enterprize* hailed her; they answered, "Fresh beef from Barbary." The *Enterprize* hailed again, and, supposing she was an enemy, fired at her, and made the alarm signal: on which the ship immediately burst out into a blaze, as did a second, and a third that were near her; then others, to the number of nine. Our ships and the garrison kept up a brisk cannonade towards the fire-ships; boats were sent to tow them off. Two of them dropt very near New Mole, and went into Rosia Bay, where the *Panther* lay at anchor: the others were too far out. They burnt surprizingly well for three hours; the masts of some of them stood to the very last, and appeared as if under sail. I never beheld so awful a sight! – the darkness of the night, illuminated by the blaze of the fire-ships, and the fire of the garrison and our shipping; the consternation of every one at so sudden an alarm; and the stillness of the night being broke by the beating of drums, and roaring of cannon, afforded a spectacle not easily to be described! The enemy's design seems to have been directed against our stores in the New Mole and shipping; no mischief, however, was done, owing to the enemy's precipitation, in setting fire to their ships too soon, and not to any alertness of the garrison; for it was near an hour, I believe, before our artillery exerted themselves. We expected to have been bombarded at the same time from the lines. Barcelo was out, on this occasion, with his squadron, ready to intercept our men of war, in case they had been obliged to cut their cables. The morning following every thing was silent, and we had the pleasure of seeing the mortified Barcelo returning to Algesiras, after his disappointments. There were above twenty vessels in the New Mole, at the time the fire-ships were sent over.

June 7.

This morning two English vessels arrived from Portugal, one a privateer, the other with sheep, wine, and oil.

June 8.

A Spanish 70, two frigates, and a xebeck, stood close in towards the *Panther* and *Enterprize*, and fired as they passed; they did no damage to us, but had some of their own killed and wounded.

June 24.

At two in the morning their gun-boats attacked the *Panther*, without any effect.

June 27.

1780 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- July 2.* Our cartel brought from the enemy 103 British. In the night the *Panther* sailed for England. Remain the *Enterprize*, Leslie, *St Fermin* sloop, Faulkner, with the *Gibraltar* and *Fortunes* loops.
- July 4.* 103 more British by the cartel.
- July 8.* A Walloon deserter: he swam from the battery this side fort Negro.
- July 12.* A boat from Barbary with fowls.
- July 17.* Spanish gun-boats fired at our ships, only a gun or two.
- July 19.* Another attack from the gun-boats. Pity we have not a few gun-boats ourselves.
- July 23.* A boat from Faro, with the taking of Charlestown, and all the public news.
- July 24.* Five British by the cartel.
- July 31.* A vessel from Minorca with supplies, nearly taken behind the hill, but protected by our boats.
- Aug. 3.* The *Fox*, Patron Pratts, a small *settee*, with the mail from Faro, taken in the Gut. A great disappointment.
- Aug. 12.* A brig coming in, fought all the Spanish cruizers, until within gun-shot of Europa, when it falling calm, she was boarded and towed off. We knew her to be the *Dolphin* brig, Capt. Grant, with supplies from Lisbon. This loss chagrined us much, as we thought her lost for want of due assistance.
- Aug. 16.* Our cartel brought the crews of the *Dolphin*, Grant; *Sally and Richard*, Hays; *Polly*, Coffin; and a Capt. Wilson.
- Sept. 9.* The enemy now keep us blockaded closer than ever; there are not less than eight or ten armed vessels under Cabrita Point, two or three at Tariffa, six or eight at and about Tangier, three or four at Tetuan, some at Ceuta, and, I believe, several off the Gut's mouth; so that it is almost impossible for any

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1780

- vessel to escape. Four gun-boats and two gallies form a chain every night, from Cabrita to Europa Point, and in the morning return to their anchoring place under the land. At Algeiras there is a frigate, three xebecs, and some small cruizers; at Ceuta, two frigates, besides small vessels. When a sail appears standing for the Streights, signals are made at the watch-towers along the coast, which enables the cruizers to take their own time, and station themselves accordingly. On the land side, the enemy seem to be quiet enough, all their works being complete. They continue to erect stone houses in the camp.
- We have not been able to get an ox from Barbary ever since June 12. and every thing has become so excessively dear in the town, that it is difficult for persons of moderate income to live: a turkey has been sold for three guineas and a half; a couple of ducks, one guinea; a goose, one guinea; a large hen, half a guinea; powder sugar, 2s. per lb.; soap, 1s.; charcoal, per 25 pounds, one guinea; oil, per pint, 2s.; pork, per pound, 2s. 6d.; fish, at the rate of 1s. 6d.; firewood, the cwt. 5s.; tallow candles, 2s. per lb.; onions, per 25 pounds, half a guinea; and every thing else in proportion.
- Arrived this morning, under favour of a dark night, a small *settee* from Mahon, with thirty-one pipes of wine, and other necessaries, which are sold at enormous prices—many things for almost their weight in silver. Better they did not come at all; for, on the arrival of these paltry vessels, the prices of things are enhanced in the shops.
- Our cartel brought over a midshipman, who confidently reported, that our outward-bound East and West India fleets are taken and carried into Cadiz. A terrible stroke!
- A Walloon serjeant came in, dressed like a farmer, a German; seems intelligent, and speaks English and French pretty well. He is not allowed to go about like the other deserters, but is stationed with part of the 58th on W. M. Hill.
- A dark night: The Spaniards erected a breast-work on the Isthmus between our Land-port Gardens and the Round Tower, above 60 feet long, 10 thick, and within 800 yards of our lines. They also demolished the wheels of the garden-wells, fired the huts, came as far as Bayside and Lower

Sept. 9.

Sept. 14.

Sept. 23.

Sept. 29.

Oct. 1.

1780 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- Oct. 1* Forbes Guard-houses, and hung bundles of combustibles on the palisadoes, to burn them down; the flame of which alarmed our guards, who fired on them, and made them retreat, leaving many of their bundles behind. No great damage done. M. d'Estaing came down to the lines. Enemies cruisers very alert.
- Oct. 3.* Fired at a sentry at the **chandelier** and breast-work; he turned his backside to us.
- Oct. 4.* The enemy took an English sloop last night in the bay, after a good deal of firing.
- Oct. 11.* A small settee from Minorca with supplies. Our boats brought a Danish dogger from Malaga to Copenhagen, loaded with lemons, oranges, raisins, &c. very refreshing, especially to the sick; the Governor kept the cargo. Our boats also attempted a large Dutchman; but a Dutch frigate fired on them.
- Oct. 12.* One of the 56th deserted from Middle-hill guard. The enemy's gun-boats prevent our fishing boats going out. Each gun-boat has one 26 pounder.
- Oct. 20.* A small vessel from Minorca, with a little of every thing. In the dark nights we fire light balls on the Isthmus, which the enemy often extinguish with tubs of sand.
- Oct. 21.* A town-vessel, with wine and other necessaries, from Algiers. No parties now by land, only by water.
- Oct. 26.* In the night the enemy extended their chandelier 50 or 60 feet to the eastward, notwithstanding our fire.
- Oct. 31.* Two soldiers, of 56th and 62d at Upper Forbes's, got down by ropes, and deserted.
- Nov. 1 3.* A **snow** from the westward, taken coming in. Fired several well-directed shells into the enemy's chandelier.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1780

- Last night two soldiers let themselves down by a rope, at Zoca battery; they then stripped, and swam it. They will probably be drowned. (This happened; the bodies were found the 8th.) The enemy have extended their chandelier. A firing at night, at sea. A vessel seemed to blow up. *Nov. 3*
- Last night fired from all our batteries facing the Isthmus. *Nov. 11.*
- This morning, a large polacre, from the west, stood in for the Bay, with a little wind at north-west; the gun-boats went out to meet her; she fired at them, and they at her, constantly keeping within musket shot: they covered the vessel frequently with round and grape shot. The vessel returned the fire faintly, but kept standing on, the enemy afraid to board her. Some xebecks stretched down on her, and fired a broadside or two. At last she got under our guns, which played briskly on the enemy, and obliged them to decamp. She proves to be the *Young Sabine*, Capt. McClorg, from London, in eighteen days, with flour and other necessaries—a noble supply!—she is 200 tons burden, eighteen men. She was almost torn to pieces, not less than twenty nine shot struck her in the rigging; one man wounded. *Nov. 12.*
- This afternoon a Minorca bark got in, with supplies from Mahon, amidst a number of Spanish cruisers, who took her for one of their own vessels. *Nov. [?13.]*
- This morning a **Tartan**, a little to the eastward of the hill, made signals for assistance from thence, which our navy gentry did not seem to understand, as no boats went out: she got within long-gun-shot of Europa, when she was boarded and carried off by a Spanish lugger's boat. The Tartan's crew made their escape here in their own boat. This vessel had supplies from Minorca. *Nov. 14.*
- Last night a firing in the Bay, a brig taken. *Nov. 15.*
- An attack at night by the gun-boats, while the enemy strengthened their chandelier. In the morning thousands of sand-bags piled on it; an excellent cover from our upper batteries. *Nov. 17.*
- A gun burst on the King's battery, killed a bombardier, and wounded three others. Firing from the gun-boats, and working on the Isthmus every night. In searching for a serjeant of the 73d, missing, found two skeletons *Nov. 19.*

1780 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- Nov. 19.* of soldiers behind the rock. The enemy finishing a new 12 gun battery; they plunder the Landport-gardens, night and day, and, in spite of our fire, behave with astonishing intrepidity. General Alvarez, who commands the enemy, visits the lines once or twice a-week, we know him by his uniform and suite: on these occasions it is the etiquette never to fire into the lines.
- Nov. 30.* The enemy have got a number of fire-ships. When our convoy arrives, we must keep a sharp look-out, otherwise the enemy will attempt to burn our ships. I wish we had eighteen or twenty gun-boats, carrying a twenty-four pounder each, with thirty or forty men: two of these are equal to a frigate in calm weather. If we had had a few of these, under an enterprising naval commander, we might have brought in an abundance of supplies, by seizing neutral vessels, and saving many of our own that were taken. I am persuaded, too, that with such boats we might cannonade the enemy's camp, and **enfilade** their lines and chandelier, in calm nights, without any risk, as they would be a small object for the enemy to fire at. Those that the Spanish have are about thirty or forty tons burden, very low in the water, carrying one very large triangular sail, and rowing fourteen or fifteen oars on each side: the gun peeps over the prow of the boat, and is always elevated? But, I am informed, they can fire nearly point-blank, if they please, by lifting out a sliding-board in the prow, which forms a port:—they sail very fast, and keep well up to the wind. — I say, with a few of these boats we might set fire to the fire-ships that are at Orange Grove, and destroy their xebecks.
- Dec. 1.* This afternoon several signals were made at the towers, of an enemy being to the eastward; a large ship appeared standing for the rock, two xebecks in chace of her. The gun-boats soon got a-breast of her, and fired at her; she returned the fire, and about noon got close under Europa, unhurt. This ship proves to be the *Antigallican* letter of marque, of twenty-four guns, and seventy men, from Smyrna, in ballast. Our pavement as far as Southport dug up, 60 Catholics, 30 Jews, and 20 British inhabitants, employed in it.
- Dec. 9.* A ten-inch shell from the Old Mole penetrated the centre of the chandelier. We are now only making experiments: when we begin in earnest, it is expected we shall be able to shake and fire this work. Three settees from Minorca, and a brig from Leghorn, with wines and necessaries, got in. The enemy's approaches come on apace.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1780

- Dec. 14* We are now laying heavy cannon in the sand behind the Old Mole, to send red hot shot into the enemy's artillery park. The enemy's approaches brought close to their chandelier. Begun a new work, an **epaulment**, from the east angle of the chandelier, extending towards the centre Stone Guard-house.
- Dec. 17.* Extended this work thirty yards.
- Dec. 19.* More extended and an English sloop taken.
- Dec. 21.* This afternoon repeated signals were made, of an enemy being in sight to the westward: the gun-boats all got out, then two large xebecks attempted it, but were becalmed. Soon after a small xebeck, from towards Ceuta, stretched across this way, having English colours hoisted, and firing guns as a signal to the xebecks. At noon a cutter appeared, standing for Europa, from the Barbary shore: she was fired on by the gun-boats, but happily got in safe. She proves to be the *Speedwell* cutter, express with dispatches for our Governor. She was boarded off Ceuta, by a small lugger, on which occasion, the captain [Mr Gibson] received a wound by a small shot. The lugger was very roughly treated, and many men killed. The corpse of a man of the 56th regiment was yesterday found behind the rock, with both arms and one leg broke.
- Dec. 22.* A sloop coming in taken.
- Dec. 23.* Arrived the *Hannah* privateer, Venture, from London and Lisbon, with butter, cheese, beef, pork, and other provisions: an excellent supply.
- Dec. 24.* The *Kitty* and *Polly*, of Liverpool, got in during the night, laden with butter, cheese, potatoes, and 300 barrels of flour: a noble supply! One or two more such cargoes would fill the place.
- Dec. 29.* Two vessels with Moorish colours taken by the enemy. Our boats took a Spanish bark in the Bay.
- Dec. 31.* The *Patron*, Capello, from Minorca, with brandy and provisions: a glorious supply! From the several vessels lately got in, Providence seems to smile on us again.

1781

- Jan. 11.* The two Moorish vessels carried in by the Spaniards the 29th ult. brought over Consul Logie, and all the British subjects, from Tangier and Tetuan, the Emperor of Morocco having ordered them away, as he had farmed his ports to the Spaniards, whom he now calls his best friends.
- Jan. 16.* A brig from Madeira, with 70 pipes of wine.
- Jan. 18.* The *Tartar*, a private cutter from England, in 14 days, with provisions, had a letter of marque against the Dutch; the Governor also issued them.
- Jan. 20.* Early to-day the serjeant commanding Bayside guard, took an opportunity to get over the palisading, and deserted to the enemy. He walked gently on, while his own guard, and other parts, fired on him, apparently very indifferent whether he was shot or not. After pausing some time, as if undetermined what to do, he proceeded on, and got into the enemy's work. This unhappy man, it seems, has been a long time in the 56th regiment, bore an excellent character, was paymaster to the company, and lately kept a mess for officers; but getting into debt, was drove to commit that desperate act. He has left behind him a wife and two children.
- Jan. 23.* In the night, sailed for Minorca, the *Hannah*, Venture, of 20 guns, and the *Young Sabine*, Maclorg, of 10 guns. The enemy did not miss them until between eight and nine in the morning; for, owing to the height of the hill, which throws a shade on the water under the walls, they cannot see our vessels from their side, until the sun is far above the horizon. A large xebec stood to the eastward; but they had twelve hours advance of her.
- Jan. 28.* The *Tartar*, Robert Brown, a large ship from Leghorn, with wine, brandy, oil, and other necessaries: an excellent supply!
- Jan. 30.* Two small vessels from Minorca.
- Feb. 9.* Arrived the *Salisbury* cutter, 22 guns, from Minorca, homeward bound.
- Feb. 19.* A large polacre from Minorca, in five days, with an excellent cargo of wine, brandy, sugar, and other articles.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1781

- A brig from Minorca, with liquors, &c. in six days. *Feb. 21.*
- A Genoese brig, with raisins, brought in by the crew. *Feb. 28.*
- A snow from Algiers, taken coming in. *March 4.*
- A small settee arrived from Minorca; enemy looking out sharply. A soldier of the 72d deserted from Landport. *March 5.*
- No baking this last fortnight for want of flour. Damaged biscuit sells at two reals (about 5¾d.) a-pound; firewood, 3 dollars, or 10s. the quintal, 112lb.; charcoal, 6s. 8d. the arrove; onions, 1s. 10d. per lb.; an old ox at 3s. 8d. per lb. Yet no distress among the people, except the Jews, who abstain from pork and salt beef as unclean; they are dejected, and meagre as cameleons. *March 8.*
- A polacre and tartan, from Minorca with supplies. *March 17.*
- Tartar* cutter, Gibson, from Minorca with supplies; a Tuscan polacre from Leghorn for Liverpool: she sailed again the 22d; but the wind failing, she was boarded by the Spaniards: she was laden with wine and raisins: the enemy will see we are well stored with these articles. *March [?18.]*
- French flour, from Minorca, sold at 3l. 10s. per quintal; coarse ditto, half bran, 46s. 8d.; coarse biscuit, 4l. 1s. 8d. *March 24.*
- A Spanish prize brought in, 120 tons, with wine, brandy, nuts, &c *March 26.*
- Two soldiers of the 56th executed for burglary and robbery. *March 28.*
- Enterprise* and *Fortunes* sailed for Mahon. A brig from Lisbon with provisions taken. The crew did not manage properly. *March 29.*
- A cutter from England with rum, and a few coals. Expect our fleet, from the Spanish ships returning. *April 3.*
- Spanish side all in agitation; numbers of signals. The *Kite* cutter arrived from our fleet, which she left off Cadiz yesterday. Joyful news! *April 11.*

1781 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

April 12. Our fleet and convoy under Adm. Darby were seen early entering the Streights mouth. Many of them entered the bay. The enemy's gun and mortar boats fired at them, but were obliged to retreat. The enemy now open their batteries on the land side, firing shot and shells into the town: the inhabitants fly to the southward for safety. Some of the enemy's shells reach the New Mole, near two miles and a half; their shot beyond Southport. Great conflagration and destruction in the town.

April 13. The enemy continue to fire as brisk as possible from the lines; several people killed and wounded: the gun and mortar boats attack the shipping. The town at this time is nothing but a scene of riot, drunkenness, destruction, and confusion! The soldiers plundering without opposition, and committing every kind of atrocity. The inhabitants have had a few tents given them, to protect them from the weather. Upwards of 3000 shot and shells were this day fired from the enemy.

April 14. The enemy's fire increases; stores and provisions landing rapidly at New Mole, Rosia and Camp Bay. The enemy's gun-boats harrass the shipping in the bay exceedingly.

April 20. To this day the enemy's fire has been excessive hot; greatest part of the town destroyed by fire, shot, and shells; we reckon about 4000 to be fired by day and night. Our batteries do not fire on the enemy, except a shot or shell now and then. To-day the wind sprung up east; our fleet set sail with all the empty transports that were ready to go. Thirteen colliers scuttled, and remain in the New Mole. Numbers of inhabitants gone home in the greatest distress, after living many years in the garrison, in comfortable, and some in genteel circumstances. It were to be wished, indeed, that a veil could for ever be thrown over the conduct of the troops at this period.

This was the second time the garrison was relieved. Had the enemy made a bold push about this time, and stormed the place, what number of men had we to oppose them!

[*Strength of the garrison at Adm. Darby's departure, 20th April 1781.*]

3 colonels, 8 lieutenant-colonels, 8 majors, 60 captains, 98 lieutenants, 34 ensigns, 344 serjeants, 174 drummers, 4710 rank and file; – artillery, with officers included, 566; artificers company, 124.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1781

The supplies brought by Adm. Darby were great indeed; not less than two years provisions for the troops! But the inhabitants were still sufferers; several small cargoes and private ventures came out with the fleet, but could not be landed, as the firing began both by sea and land, which excluded every idea but that of immediate self-preservation: people were more anxious about a tent to cover them from the weather, than a store-house; and the landing of the king's provisions prevented all private business from going on. The fleet was impatient to get away from the gun and mortar boats daily visits; and the victuallers, &c. were as impatient to sail under protection, and therefore returned with their cargoes and ventures.

The enemy's fire slackens, now only about 2000 shot and shells a-day.

Upwards of twenty vessels from Minorca, with provisions and liquors; also a vessel with cattle from Algiers.

Enemy's gun and mortar boats fired between 2 and 300 shot and shells.

Governor ordered all inhabitants to remove their timber and combustible matter out of their houses in town, in twenty-four hours. The soldiers stripped the houses most shamefully. A man of the 58th ordered for execution for plundering.

Gun and mortar boats fire 2 or 300 rounds every day. Several of the inhabitants killed and wounded.

Two vessels from Leghorn and Minorca, with liquors, salt, and fruit. Two soldiers of the artificers ordered for execution for plundering the King's stores.

Last night the *Enterprise*, with a convoy of fifteen sail, went for England. The *Flora* and *Crescent*, and two Dutch frigates, passed the Streights to the westward. In the morning, heard repeated broadsides.

A soldier of the 58th executed for plundering.

Enemy fire about 600 shot a-day. The inhabitants retire to holes and caves.

1781 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- June 3.* Two serjeants killed, some men wounded. A tartan from Minorca taken; the crew got here in a boat.
- June 9.* A prodigious explosion, with bursting of shells and a conflagration, in the enemy's camp. It is supposed above 1000 shells were destroyed. Mr Cadell brought over 105 English women and children, and 36 Jews and Jewesses.
- July 3.* Three soldiers wives whipped for buying stolen goods. We disturb the enemy, by firing into their camp while they are at dinner, as they do us when in our beds.
- July 7.* This morning we discovered a brig in the gut, standing for the bay, with light breezes at west; she had two or three oars to leeward. Signals were made at the towers, of an enemy. The gun-boats on this sallied out from Algesiras, and made towards her; when they were pretty near, she opened her larboard ports, and fired on them; they also fired round and grape at her. A xebeck then got under way and stood for her. One or two gun-boats (or prames) were towed out to protect her, she being then within a league and a half of Europa. The xebeck was becalmed, and could not come up. However, after two hours close engagement with the gun-boats, the brig got safe in, though very much shattered. She proves to be the *Helena* sloop of war, Lieut. Roberts commander, in sixteen days from Portsmouth, with dispatches; she had one man killed and some wounded. There were fourteen gun-boats upon her at one time, pouring grape into her as thick as hail.
- July 13.* A small settee from Mahon taken.
- July 17.* A schooner came in from Faro with onions, salt, and fruit.
- July 18.* Another with same, and some sheep. The arrove of onions, or 25lb. sells at 10s. 6d.; grapes, 11d. per lb.; an old ox, 3s. 8d. per lb.; mutton and goat, 4s. 6d. per lb.; veal, very scarce, 5s. 6d. per lb. Four hens sold this day at 50s.
- July 19.* *Kite* cutter in twenty-eight days from Sheerness, with dispatches.
- July 28.* A shell from the mortar-boats fell through the hospital roof; most of the sick, &c. got out before it exploded. One unhappy man, whose thigh was

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1781

- broke, could not stir; the shell fell upon his other thigh, and, when it burst, shook him almost to pieces. *July 28.*
- Between nine and ten last night, a shell fell into a house near the King's Bastion, where Majors Mercier, Vignoles, and Capt. Burke, the town-major, were sitting; it fell upon the latter's thigh; the other two ran out before it burst. The town-major was blown up to the cieling when it exploded, and soon after died. The loss we sustain by the death of this valuable and promising young officer was regretted by every one. He was a loss to society, to the garrison, and to his country. Last night the *Helena* and *Kite* sloops sailed for England. *Flying Fish* ordnance cutter arrived. *[?Sept.] 19.*
- We fire 5 or 600 rounds a-day. *Oct. 1.*
- Ens. Stevens of the 39th killed by a shell. *Oct. 10.*
- A heavy fire; two of the 72d deserted. *Oct. 22.*
- A cutter taken coming in. *Oct. 30.*
- Anson* cutter, and four small vessels from Portugal with sheep, poultry, and fruit. All the fruit and onions bought by the Governor for the hospitals. Those in the scurvy perfectly cured in four days by eating lemons. *Oct. 31.*
- Lieut. Fraser of the 73d lost a leg. The enemy has raised a new battery to annoy the ships at the New Mole. *Nov. 4.*
- Phoenix* ordnance-cutter from England, Brig.-Gen. Ross passenger. A large cutter taken coming in. *Nov. 13.*
- A shell from St Carlos fell near Picardo Vineyard, distance 4000 yards. A boat from Portugal with refreshments. Two Walloon deserters came in. *Nov. 16.*
- Yesterday morning, between five and six, general orders were given for all the troops to repair to their respective quarters, and the wine-houses to be immediately shut. The 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, with all the companies of grenadiers and light infantry of the garrison, were ordered *Nov. 27.*

1781 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Nov. 27. to assemble on the Red Sands, at twelve o'clock at night, where they were joined by a detachment of the royal artillery, another of artificers company, and about 150 seamen; the whole composing a body of near 2000 men, under the command of Brig. Ross, in order to make a *sortie* for destroying the enemy's advanced batteries. The men assembled with the greatest cheerfulness imaginable; the artificers being provided with materials for burning and destroying the works. About two in the morning the whole body sallied through Landport, and passed by Bayside and Forbeses, towards St Carlos. The Spanish patrols at the gardens, immediately on discovering our men, fired their pieces, and fled towards the lines. We took no notice of them, pushed on, and stormed St Carlos, as well as the other new batteries. An officer and several Spanish soldiers were put to the sword there; one artillery officer taken, who was compelled to produce the keys of the powder magazines. We then spiked ten mortars and eighteen pieces of cannon, which the enemy had mounted there: this done, we set fire to the whole work, which burnt most furiously, and the magazines blew up. Our troops then returned, in perfect order, to the garrison, with the small loss of five men killed and twenty-one wounded. We brought in prisoners, one sub-lieutenant of the Walloon guards, (Baron Helmstadt), one sub-lieutenant of artillery, and ten men. The whole business was executed within the space of an hour. The enemy was struck with such surprise at this unexpected *coup-de-main*, that we suppose they deserted their batteries at the lines, as there was very little fire from them during the transaction. This work of the enemy, thus destroyed, has cost them immense labour and expence, as it was most completely finished – It is supposed it must have stood them in fifteen millions of dollars, or 2,500,000*l*.

Nov. 28. About three this morning the enemy, apprehending we were making another *sortie*, opened all their batteries upon the Isthmus, showering abundance of grape-shot and musketry: they beat to arms in the camp, and were all in motion: they continued their fire a long time, till a shell was fired from one of our upper batteries upon St Carlos, which convinced the enemy we had no troops there; on which they ceased firing.

The Governor's thanks to the troops yesterday were as follows:

“The bravery and conduct of the officers, seamen and soldiers, on this glorious occasion, surpasses my best acknowledgements.”

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1781

An English cutter taken coming in; also a small sloop. *Dec. 7.*

Phoenix and *Unicorn* cutters sailed with all our letters for England. *Dec. 13.*

Two ordnance-transports in twenty days from England. *Dec. 19.*

Maj.-Gen. Ross sailed for Portugal, in his way to England. *Dec. 21.*

Baron Helmstadt, prisoner of war, who lost a leg when St Carlos was stormed, died this morning, much regretted. He was put in a coffin, covered with black cloth, and decorated with elegant white furniture. The corpse, dressed in full uniform, according to the custom of Spain, was conducted, with a company of grenadiers, (the Governor and other principal officers marching in solemn procession, and a band of music playing a dirge), to the water-side at New Mole, and there put on a boat – three volleys fired over the corpse at putting off: the corpse was then conducted under a flag of truce to the bottom of the bay, where a Spanish boat came to receive it. *Dec. 29.*



1782

- Jan. 4.* The *St Philip's Castle*, a small armed ship from Mahon, with twenty-two Spanish prisoners; she sailed to the eastward on the 10th.
- Jan. 13.* Two ordnance-transports sailed for England.
- Jan. 16.* Two cutters appeared from the westward; but the enemy following them very close, they pushed to the eastward.
- Jan. 17.* Antonio Juanico, a Minorcan, who came from Faro with supplies, convicted as a spy, and ordered for execution on Feb. 4.: he was afterwards respited.
- Jan. 23.* The enemy repairing their destroyed batteries on the Isthmus. We set their fascine works in St Carlos on fire, two or three times; they soon put it out with baskets of sand.
- Jan. 29.* The two cutters seen on the 16th worked their way into the bay unperceived; they had ordnance-stores on board: the *Tartar* cutter also arrived from Lisbon, in three days.
- Feb. 4.* The provisions, &c. by the three cutters, sold as follows:— a sheep, 13l. 10s.; Port wine, per doz. 1l. 15s.; hyson tea, per lb. 1l. 1s.; ham, 2s.; corned beef, 1s. 2d.; potatoes, 1s. 6d.; lemons, 14 dollars the hundred, 2l. 6s. 8d. Before these arrivals, hyson sold at ten and twelve dollars a lb.
- Feb. 10.* Three small vessels from Portugal, with fruits and necessaries.
- Feb. 15.* The *Young Sabine*, from England, with provisions; and next day, the *Eliza* with the same.
- Feb. 17.* Early this morning repeated alarm signals were made at the Spanish towers, with firing of guns; soon after, a cutter appeared from the west, standing for the bay, wind fresh N.W. A small immediately dispatched to Cabrita to intercept her; three gun-boats and a frigate soon followed. When the cutter got off Cabrita, a shot was fired at her from thence; she then hoisted English colours and a pendant; several shot were fired from the same battery, but they all fell short – the cutter did not alter her course. The xebec soon after bore down right upon her; when she got within half musket-shot, the cutter let fly

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

- a broadside at the enemy, which threw her into the utmost confusion; hauled her wind, and dropt close astern of the cutter, after making a very faint return of fire: the cutter shot a-head, the frigate and gun-boats then stood across to cut her off, but the cutter played grape upon the latter, and sent her round shot up to the frigate to windward, then stood between the enemy and Europa, having received two broadsides from the frigate, and three rounds from the gun-boats. It was a pretty fight, and must have afforded even the enemy surprise and pleasure, from the able manœuvres of the cutter, which proves to be the *Flying Fish*, Capt. Anthony, with ordnance stores, only eight days from England. The frigate and gun-boats were wafted within long-gun shot of Europa, and some well-directed shot fired at them from the batteries.
- Feb. 17.*
- The *Governor*; Capt. Sheldon, from Cork, with provisions, ran on shore under Orange Battery; saved the cargo. *Feb. 18.*
- A tartan from Leghorn, with wine and other articles. Four cutters sailed for England. *Feb. 20.*
- The *Mercury*, Capt. Heyington, with wines and fruit, from Lisbon, came safe to an anchor after half an hour's warm fire from a Spanish frigate. A *feu de joye* by the enemy for the taking of Minorca. *Feb. 23.*
- The *St Anne*, ordnance storeship, from London. The enemy of late not very attentive to the blockade. *Feb. 28.*
- The *Indian King*, from Leghorn, with bricks, timber, and liquors. Pretty brisk fire in the night. *Feb. 27.*
- Set fire to the enemy's new battery on the west side of the Isthmus; burned from five in the morning till eight. A heavy fire on both sides. *March 2.*
- A small vessel from Algiers, with wine, &c. *March 5.*
- Lieut. Cuppage of the artillery, wounded by a shell from the Rock Gun. *March 10.*
- The enemy have raised a very high epaulment, near the east angle of the northermost garden; we have endeavoured, to very little purpose, to set it on

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- March 16* fire with carcasses. Last night a xebeck, and today a frigate, arrived at Algeiras. When the wind shifts to the east, the vessels stationed at Cabrita are obliged to evacuate that post, and return to Algeiras, or go to sea to cruise, during the easterly wind; the gun-boats are also obliged to go into the river, on account of the swell that runs along the Spanish side of the Bay.
- March 22.* Our windmill took fire by its over quick motion, and burned to the ground.
- March 24.* The *Vernon* ordnance storeship arrived with our gun-boats and stores. We have been wishing much for her arrival these three weeks past. She was escorted to lat.36 by the *Success* frigate, which falling in with the *Sta Catalina*, a Spanish frigate, engaged and took her, and then returned to England, leaving the *Vernon* to make the best of her way here alone. The *Apollo* and *Cerberus* frigates, with four transports, having the 97th regiment on board, as a reinforcement to the garrison, were mistaken for enemies by the *Success*, which determined Capt. Pole to set fire to the *Sta Catalina*: the officers and crew were sent to the Orange Grove, in a cartel, the day following, having been put on board the *Vernon* at sea.
- March 31.* A shell set fire to the enemy's nearest approach; burned rapidly some hours; kept a very heavy fire on them while employed in extinguishing it.
- April 10.* Lieut. Whetham, of the 12th, killed by a shell at Landport Guard.
- April 20.* The *Antigallican* in eight days from Falmouth, brings an account of a total change of ministry.
- April 24.* We tried one of our new gun-boats this forenoon; an 18 pounder was mounted in her afterbow, on a sliding carriage; the first and second shot fired horizontally ricochet four times; the third shot, at utmost elevation, did not ricochet, but went in a line from New Mole boom to the Saluting Battery, without the boat's being strained in the least. We promise ourselves great things from these gun-boats during the summer.
- May 8.* The *Apollo* and *Cerberus* frigates, 4 storeships, and 3 transports, sailed in the night. The Spaniards, next day, took the 3 transports.
- May 9.* This afternoon arrived at Algeiras, from the west, a Spanish line-of-battle

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

- May 9* ship, with eight large empty storeships. Their appearance is very shabby, their rigging quite dry, and they seem to be poorly manned.
- May 10.* A Portuguese bark, from Tetuan, cleared out for Cadiz, with 30,000 oranges and a few pipes of oil, slipped in here last night, and is come to an exceeding good market. The oranges may have cost them, at most, sixty **cobs**, and they will now sell for about two thousand cobs.
- May 13.* The ships that arrived at Algeiras the 9th inst. are unrigging; and those that came in March 24 have proceeded to the Orange Grove. It is reported, with some degree of probability, that those ships are lined with cork, &c. and intended to operate against this place in the course of the summer; we are therefore preparing to give them a suitable reception whenever they come.
- May 20.* Three men, of the 58th regiment, were missing to-day from the camp, having carried off their cloaths. A party was sent up the rock, and some boats were sent round the hill, in search of them. A long rope was found near the Sugar Loaf, from whence the deserters attempted to get down; they were all found near each other, behind the hill, dashed to pieces. Their bodies are sent for, to be exposed to public view under the gallows, where they will afterwards be buried.
- May 28.* The enemy have been busily employed, these ten days past, on two very large ships at Algeiras, thickening the larboard side with light materials; they have cut out eleven or twelve ports between decks, and shortened the larboard waist: I suppose they intend to make the upper deck splinter proof, as well as the sides shot proof. From every appearance, they will be snug batteries on the water. A vessel from Leghorn, with refreshments, and 12 Corsicans. Spanish hospital burnt. Ninety Spanish transports, with troops and stores, for their camp.
- June 2.* Brig. Stanton died this morning.
- June 4.* His Majesty's birth-day, flags hoisted, and salutes fired. The enemy at work on their floating batteries.
- June 10.* One of the Corsicans stabbed another with his knife, of which he died.

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- June 10.* The enemy boast their floating batteries can neither be burnt nor sunk.
- June 11.* A Spanish shell broke in the magazine in St Anne's battery, and blew up; 15 men killed, as many wounded.
- June 13.* A man of the 58th deserted from Landport-fleche. The Corsican tried and acquitted.
- June 14.* A Spanish xebeck becalmed in the bay, our batteries and vessels fired at her, our *twelve* gun-boats were manned, and Capt. Curtis sailed out with them towards the xebeck, which firing a gun for assistance, *two* Spanish gun-boats came and carried her off. It is a great pity our gun-boats did not get out a little sooner.
- June 17.* A small vessel from Algiers with provisions taken by the Spaniards. Beef would have sold for eight reals the pound, and mutton for ten.
- June 18.* Eighty-three Spanish ships with troops arrived.
- June 21.* Two men in a boat from the opposite side of the bay; they had been lately taken in a small settee, and brought the first news of Rodney's victory in the West Indies.
- July 3.* The enemy now forming a roof over their floating batteries at Algesiras, to be shot and shell proof.
- July 8.* The enemy boarded a brig coming from the westward, and carried her into Algesiras.
- July 12.* Four men of the prames deserted in a boat; a serjeant of the 72d missing.
- July 13.* One of the 58th deserted from the Queen's Lines by help of a rope. One of the 73d sent to the prison ship as a false prophet, having declared about seven weeks ago, that in six weeks, six days, and six hours, the place would be taken, and the Governor killed. The serjeant of the 72d taken behind the hill; after having got half way down, he was stopped by a precipice.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

- The Duc de Crillon took command of the enemy; their cruisers extremely alert: we conjecture our fleet is on the way. *July 17.*
- Serj. Lowe of the 72d hanged for desertion. *July 24.*
- Two sloops of war arrived in a haze with a gust of wind from the east, with provisions, liquors, and 72 Corsicans; confirmed Rodney's victory; fired all our guns, and gave three cheers, and a *feu de joye*. *July 25.*
- An epidemic disorder begins to prevail in the garrison; some call it influenza, others catarrh, and most people a cold: it is of short duration, and resembles a cold, attended with a heavy pain in the head. Last night the enemy executed a most extensive work, unperceived by us till this morning: they have made covered way or line, about ten feet high, and extending east to west for about 2000 yards: it is supposed not less than 10,000 men were employed on it: they had not above six hours darkness to accomplish it in; that is, from the setting of the moon, at ten o'clock, till day-light. *Aug. 16.*
- To-day seven barges, with crimson awnings, proceeded, about eleven o'clock, from Algesiras, to the pier near Orange Grove, attended by twelve gun-boats; about half an hour after their arrival, they put off in the same order; upon which the line-of-battle ships there immediately dressed out with a variety of flags, and saluted the boats with twenty-one guns; the gun-boats also fired, as did all the ships at Algesiras, several of which were likewise dressed. A frigate then got under way, and went to visit the barge half-way over, when she gave a salute of twenty-one guns, the boats firing alternately. When the barge got to Algesiras road, another salute was given. They went on board one of the floating-batteries, which was hauled out for that purpose; several guns were fired from her, while the visitors were on board. They afterwards went on board the admiral's ship, where they staid till near six in the evening, when they returned to the pier, and then another general royal salute was given. We suppose the Count d'Artois arrival has been the occasion of this rejoicing. *Aug. 18.*
- To-day a barge, with a flag of truce, came over from Orange Grove, and rowed close under the line wall, till it got opposite the Ragged Staff, when Capt. Vallotton went off, and soon returned on shore. The barge still kept *Aug. 19.*

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- Aug. 19.* very close, waiting for his return, when a shot was fired from a **prame**, to make her keep at a proper distance. Capt. Vallotton returned to the barge, which, it is said, brought a present of fruit and game from the Count d'Artois to the Governor.
- Aug. 20.* To-day we sent off a flag of truce, with answers to letters received yesterday.
- Aug. 22.* Yesterday afternoon we set fire to the enemy's new line of communication, which burnt rapidly; near 1500 men were detached from the lines to extinguish it, upon whom we fired exceeding brisk; the enemy also opened their batteries upon us, and the fire on both sides was very quick, till near nine at night, when it ceased; we had three men slightly wounded on the occasion. The enemy, it is supposed, must have lost many, as they were several times drove from their work. It is agreed, that the fire on this occasion was the severest ever seen, annoyed the enemy so exceedingly, that they were absolutely forced to abandon their thirteen-gun battery, on the western side of the Isthmus, which they had opened for the first time to-day. From Rock Gun to Willis's we fired, in the space of one hour, not less than 1300 rounds.
- Aug. 26.* A battalion of seamen formed under Capt. Curtis. Eleven ounces of brown bread, 14 quarts [a quart is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a penny]: coffee 12 reals [a real is about 2d. $\frac{7}{8}$.] a lb.; brown sugar, 16 reals; mutton, 12 reals; fish, 4 reals a lb.; green tea, 7 dollars [a dollar is 3s. 4d.] a lb.; fountain water, 2 reals a small keg; vegetables, none to be had.
- Sept. 1.* A boat, with Lieut. Campbell of the *Brilliant*, dispatched very privately with the Governor's dispatches.
- Sept. 3.* This morning two French line-of-battle ships from the eastward were going through the Streights, on which a Spanish frigate made a signal to speak with them; this done, they stood in for Algesiras, where they came to an anchor. Several large boats are building in the river: they appear to have a covering over them, like that of the floating batteries.
- Sept. 4.* This morning sixteen large boats came out of the river, and went to Orange Grove; they have very high and thick parapets forward, and appear to be

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

intended for landing troops. Seven of the floating batteries sailed from Algesiras to Orange Grove this afternoon, with a stiff south-west breeze, but were, notwithstanding, almost two hours performing the voyage, which is about four miles. They appear like floating islands, and are excessively deep in the water: three of them have two tiers of guns, the lower ports within about four feet of the water's edge.

Sept. 4

To-day near 100 boats came out of the river, and ranged themselves along the shore to the northward; many others came from Algesiras, and about thirty from the westward. The number of boats the enemy now have, exclusive of those belonging to the men of war, may be capable of bringing over about 5000 men. Three floating batteries remain at Algesiras, preparing to join the others, so that it is likely the attack will take place in a few days.

Sept. 5.

This morning a floating castle or battery was towed from the river to the Orange Grove; it appears to be a formidable machine, shot proof, but very unwieldy. The boats, near 200 in number, are now lying at the mouth of the first river. A deserter from the enemy came over last night. Three French polacres, with troops, arrived this morning from the westward.

Sept. 6.

Last night several directing lights having appeared on the water, and along the coast, and some boats off the Old Mole head, we fired grape shot on the water. This morning, in consequence of a project of Gen. Boyd, which was left to his own direction, we opened all our batteries to the northward on the enemy's advanced works, firing red-hot shot to set them on fire. The project succeeded so well, that we set fire and burnt the enemy's batteries in many places, and totally consumed the Mahon battery. The enemy frequently attempted to put out the fire; and from the numbers employed in this business, and the severity of our fire, I make no doubt their loss must have been very dreadful. From this specimen of the efficacy of red-hot shot, we entertain great hopes that we shall be able, by the same means, to succeed against the floating batteries.

Sept. 8.

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Sept. 8. The enemy's force now at the Orange Grove consists as follows:—

Nine ships of the line,	600 guns
Three frigates,	90
Two xebecks,	46
Nine floating batteries	138
One floating castle,	6
Fifteen gun-boats,	15
Sixteen parapet-boats,	16
Three bomb-ketches (and six mortars)	24
Fourteen mortar-boats (14 ditto)	
Two hundred boats for landing troops.	

20 mortars and 935 guns

Sept. 9. This morning, about five o'clock, a rocket was thrown up from Fort St Philip, at which moment from fifty to sixty shells were fired at us, all at once, from the enemy's lines and advanced works. They opened a sixty-four gun battery, on the isthmus, against us, being their new work, and they are now firing excessively brisk. The wind being strong east, prevents their men of war, floating batteries, &c. from coming over to co-operate. The ships appear to be full of troops. Some of the shot from the enemy's advanced works go within the boom at New Mole. At noon, seven Spanish and two French ships of the line stretched towards the New Mole; one of them fired several shot at a small vessel that came in from Algiers this moment with cattle and other necessaries. The ships then stood to the S.E. afterwards put about, and stretched, ~~in line of battle, close in with Europa;~~ they then opened on our batteries as they came along, as far as the New Mole, firing many broadsides; we returned the fire briskly. About five in the afternoon, while some of the ships were still firing, sixteen gun-boats came from Orange Grove, and having ranged themselves under the line-wall, began to cannonade the batteries; but we gave them so warm a reception, that they sheered off in less than an hour. About two o'clock after midnight, the line-of-battle ships came on to a second attack, extending from Europa to the Parson's Lodge; they fired several broadsides each, (their shot reaching Wind-mill Hill), and then retired. We did not fire much at them, nor were we in the least alarmed. The wind blew fresh east on this occasion.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

Sept. 10. We perceive that one of the line-of-battle ships has put in to Algeiras, with her gib-boom shot away. At ten this forenoon the line-of-battle ships repeated their attack, by which we had two seamen killed, and two badly wounded. On the land-side, the enemy keep up a heavy cannonade and bombardment.

Sept. 11. The enemy's line-of-battle ships went and anchored yesterday off Carteia, after their fierce attack, and do not seem inclined to renew the sport immediately. The one that put in to Algeiras has taken out her bowsprit, and lowered a little of her fore-topmast. We have scuttled the frigates and other ships in the New Mole. The enemy's fire on the land-side has destroyed the traverses in the lines, and filled those places with rubbish, which we clear in the night.

Sept. 12. About one o'clock this morning, it being dark, the enemy's gun and mortar boats came over, and ranged along the line-wall; they fired upwards of 200 rounds of shells and shot, and then retired. The combined fleets of France and Spain appeared in the Gut this morning, standing for the Bay; they are now all coming in, to the number of forty sail of the line, including five or six three-deckers. They anchor opposite the rivers and Carteia. There is one Spanish, one French, vice-admiral, and four rear-admirals. This is the most formidable fleet ever seen in Gibraltar Bay. It is supposed the number of men now employed against this fortress, by sea and land, exceeds 100,000. The weather is favourable at this time for the enemy, and I fancy they will invest us to-morrow.

Sept. 13. This morning all the battering ships got under way, and made one tack in the Bay, wind at north west, and very pleasant weather: at nine they bore down towards the King's Bastion, and other parts of the line-wall, between Ragged Staff and Saluting Battery; as soon as they got within 800 or 1000 yards of our walls, they dropped anchor; upon which a fire commenced, as well from the batteries as those ships: this continued without interruption the whole day. About four in the afternoon we perceived that our red hot shot had set fire, in many places, to the enemy's ships; but they had water-engines constantly playing upon them, which, in appearance, put out the fire: however, about eight o'clock at night, their fire was exceedingly slack, and at nine totally ceased. We could plainly perceive the ships were on fire; soon after we heard violent screamings on board them,

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Sept. 13. rockets thrown up, and innumerable boats from the fleet coming to their assistance. The fire from the garrison continued without intermission, both of red-hot shot and grape. About midnight our twelve gun-boats sallied out from the New Mole, and rattled grape in amongst the enemy's boats in a terrible manner.

Sept. 14. When the day began to dawn, we perceived the enemy had abandoned their floating batteries. We picked up two large boats full of men, and a great many floating on rafts and timbers. Our boats then went on board the junk ships, or floating batteries, though on fire, to save the unhappy wretches that were left to perish in the flames; we brought out 350 and upwards, including eight or nine officers. The ships blew up successively, one after the other, with such violence, that many doors and windows ashore were forced open by the concussion. The bay is covered with the wreck of these formidable ships. The appearance they exhibited in flames, and the flashes from the different batteries of the garrison, illumined the face of the hill, and changed midnight almost into noon-day. The explosions soon after terminated this awful and tremendous business, and the expectations of the enemy, whose camp had been crowded with people of all conditions, and, I suppose, from all parts, to behold the reduction of Gibraltar. The enemy seemed to direct their whole fire, on this occasion, at the King's Bastion, where it centred as in one common focus: but our artillery there behaved with too much cool intrepidity to be disconcerted by any thing; indeed, they had been so long inured to danger and fatigue, that they, as well as the rest of the troops in the garrison, seemed to have acquired a perfect indifference about death or danger. A bomb-ketch co-operated, on this occasion, to very little purpose, and which I only mention to pay a compliment to the enemy's mortar-boats, one of which is, in my opinion, of more service than three bomb-ketches. At ten this day, the firing ceased on both elements. The combined fleet of France and Spain were mere spectators of this sad catastrophe – Some thousands of the enemy must have perished. Our loss was trifling, not above twelve killed, and thirty wounded: among the former, a most valuable officer, Capt. Reeves, of the artillery.

Sept. 20. At two o'clock this morning, we had a visit from the gun and mortar boats, without our receiving any damage. Their shells fall short into the water, since the destruction of the battering ships.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar 1782

List of the battering ships that came against Gibraltar, Sept. 13.

	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
<i>La Pastora</i> (admiral's ship)	28	700
<i>Talla Piedra,</i>	28	700
<i>St Francisco de Paula,</i> 1st,	26	700
<i>El Rosario,</i>	26	700
<i>St Christova,</i>	18	600
<i>St Francisco de Paula,</i> 2d.	9	366
<i>Santa Anne,</i>	10	350
<i>St Juan,</i>	10	400
<i>Principe Carlos,</i>	11	400
<i>Los Dolores,</i>	6	280
Total,	172	5196

On the land side the enemy fire about 800 shells, and double the number of shot, every 24 hours. *Sept. 24.*

Last night it blew a heavy gale at S.W. which must have been very detrimental to the combined fleet, which lay at single anchor. As soon as the day appeared, we discovered a Spanish line-of-battle ship within a few hundred yards of our walls; and having fired a few shot at her, she ran ashore, off Ragged Staff, and hoisted an English jack over her Spanish ensign, as a signal that she had surrendered to the garrison. The weather abating about this time, Capt. Curtis went off, and took possession of the ship, which proves to be the *St Michael*, of seventy guns, and 650 men, commanded by Brigadier Don Juan Moreno. The officers and crew were conducted to Wind-mill Hill, and encamped there. Several of the enemy's men of war had driven half over the bay – one line-of-battle ship within gun-shot, at which we fired some red-hot shot, which obliged her to throw her powder overboard. This afternoon repeated alarm-signals were made from the enemy's watch-towers, and soon after we discovered the British fleet, under Lord Howe, coming in with a convoy; and about six, the *Latona* frigate anchored off Rosia, the enemy not daring to oppose her passage. During the night several victuallers and store-ships got in: the remainder were driven behind the hill. *Oct. 11.*

1782 Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

- Oct. 12.* Our fleet and convoy several leagues to the eastward. The *Panther* worked round this afternoon with some store-ships.
- Oct. 13.* Our fleet to the eastward. The combined fleet, of forty-five or forty-six sail of the line, sailed this afternoon towards our fleet, which was formed in line of battle to receive them. Every heart was anxious concerning the event.
- Oct. 14.* Combined fleet out of sight! Our fleet a little to the east.
- Oct. 15.* Several transports, with troops from the camp, sailed for Ceuta. The *Panther* returned to join the fleet. The wind east this evening, our fleet coming down, convoy not with them.
- Oct. 16.* The *Latona* returned from the fleet, with some of the store-ships.
- Oct. 17.* Our fleet behind the hill. Wind S.W. An English frigate from the west joined the fleet.
- Oct. 18.* Wind east. Our fleet is coming down; all the convoy arrived. Several of the line-of-battle ships came in, and landed the 25th and 59th regiments, and in the evening returned to the fleet.
- Oct. 19.* Wind east. Our fleet under an easy sail standing for the westward; the combined fleet following, at two or three leagues distance. The *Tisiphone* fire-ship came in, and landed 1000 barrels of powder. Capt. Curtis is on board the fleet. The *St Michael* floated, and anchored off New Mole. [*Strength of the garrison after being relieved by Lord Howe.*] 5 colonels, 10 lieutenant-colonels, 12 majors, 82 captains, 132 lieutenants, 73 ensigns, 428 serjeants, 239 drummers, 6135 effective rank and file.
- Nov. 30.* Several small vessels from Portugal; the articles sold as follows:— A sheep, 19 dollars 4 reals; a fowl, 2d. 1r.; a turkey, 6d. 6r.; lemons, per mil. 40d.; oranges 30d.; apples, per lb. 2r. 12 quarts; cheese, 1d.; butter, 1d.; sugar, 1d.; hyson tea, 9d.; souchong, 6d. 2r.; onions, 4r.; coffee, 1d. 6r.; raisins, 1r. 2q.; almonds, 2r. 8q.; honey, 3r. 8q. A dollar is 3s. 4d. Sterling.

1783

Thirty-three gun and mortar boats, with the land batteries, fired about an hour; one of our shells sunk a gun-boat. *Jan. 4.*

Flag of truce announced peace. The *Thetis* from England with the preliminaries. *Feb. 22.*

[*Abstract of the killed, wounded, &c. &c. from the beginning to the end of the siege, April 12. 1781 to Feb. 27. 1783.*]

Killed ,	220
Dead of wounds,	110
Dead of sickness,	536
Discharged on account of wounds and loss of limbs,	138
Discharged on account of incurable complaints,	181
Deserted,	43
Total loss during the siege,	1228

[*Number of shot and shells fired from the garrison during the siege, with the quantity of powder expended in the said time.*]

Corn powder, whole barrels,	7,515
Round shot, 32 pounders to 3 ditto,	53,857
Shells, 13 inch to 4 inches,	124,155
Grape shot, 32 pdrs to 3 ditto	12,063
Carcasses, 13 inch to 8 inches,	605
Round shot, 1 pound.	13,840

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Arrove (Arroba)	A weight of approximately 25 lbs.
Bark (Barque)	A three-masted vessel, two of the masts being square-rigged.
Blackstraped	Trapped in an inconvenient position by the tide - possibly derived from Black Strap Bay nearby.
Boyau	A communication trench covered by a parapet.
Cartel	A ship used to exchange prisoners between enemy forces.
Cob	A Spanish coin worth about 4s. 8d.
Chandelier	A moveable parapet.
Dogger	A Dutch fishing vessel.
Enfilade	A linear trench; <i>as a verb</i> , to rake such a trench with gunfire from its ends.
Epaulment	A fortification to protect an enfilade or a gun emplacement.
Letter of marque	A private ship licensed to attack enemy shipping, sometimes called a privateer; the document giving such a license.
Poleacre (Polacca)	A Mediterranean vessel with three masts
Prame	A kind of floating battery or flat-bottomed vessel, mounting several cannon: used in the disembarcation of troops
Quintal	A weight of about one hundredweight.
Settee	A ship with a sharp prow and two or three lateen sails.

Journal of the siege of Gibraltar

Snow	A vessel with two masts similar to a brig.
Sutling	Following an army to sell provisions.
Tartan	A single-masted vessel with a large lateen sail.
Walloon	A native of the Low Countries.
Xebeck (Xebec)	A small three-masted ship with both square and lateen sails.

