

The defence of Anholt

The Royal Marine Artillery

March 27th. 1811



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Drawings have the following text:

Richard Turnbull's famous Aquatinte.

Turnbull was a lieutenant in the Royal Marines and took part in the battle. In the background are the lighthouse and the English fortifications.

In the middle of the picture the Danish left wing led by Major Melsted, who is probably one of the two people standing and swinging with a saber. In the foreground the wounded Danes and among them on the right is probably seen Captain Prydtz lying with both his legs torn by a cannonball.

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The Royal Marine Artillery

1811



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CHAPTER X

THE DEFENCE OF ANHOLT: PART TAKEN BY THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY. LIEUTENANT ANDERSON, R.M.A. ON BOARD THE »SAFEGUARD.« INCREASE OF ESTABLISHMENT HEIGHT LIMIT FOR MORTAR SERVICE. BLUE UNIFORM AUTHORIZED FOR OFFICERS. NEW MORTAR RANGE AND R.M.A. DRILL-GROUND AT CHATHAM. R.M.A. DETACHMENTS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN, BALTIC, AND NORTH SEA FLAGSHIPS.

»The Romantic Defence of Anholt« was what the Prime Minister, Mr. Spencer Perceval, in Parliament, called the defence of that island by its Marine garrison on March 27th 1811, on the news reaching England of the defeat of the Danish expeditionary force which had attempted its recapture. Anholt, a small island in the Kattegat situated midway between Denmark and Sweden, had been held by us ever since May 1809, when it was seized, primarily in consequence of its importance as a lighthouse station for the safe passage of shipping proceeding to and from the Baltic. Its position rendered the occupation of the island further desirable as promising a convenient entrepot, or distributing centre, for the ports of Northern Europe, closed to British trade since 1806 by Napoleon's Berlin decree.

A Marine garrison had been kept at Anholt practically ever since its capture, it being anticipated that the Danes would endeavour to regain the island, as indeed they had declared their intention of doing. The island itself was a flat, barren, treeless stretch of sand-hills, six miles from end to end, and surrounded by reefs and shoals. It lay in the very centre of the Kattegat, forty miles from the Danish shore on one side and the same distance from the Swedish shore on the other. The island trended from west-south-west to east-north-east; its greatest width being three miles across at the southern end. Thence it narrowed gradually and terminated at the northern end in an elongated spit, or tongue, of low shore and sand dunes of slight elevation. The lighthouse was situated on the northern side of Anholt, about a mile from the extreme east point of the island.

The constant patrolling of the adjacent waters by British frigates and these, on finally realizing the situation, began to move back towards the south beach, which, as has been said, was about four off. Cap-

tain Maurice, as yet unaware of the strength of the enemy reserve, decided to follow them, as soon as he had shepherded in the surrendered. Danes and placed them in safe custody. The prisoners, or the greater part of them, were collected und hustled into the palisaded enclosure and shut up inside the R.M.A. stables, where the artillery brigade horses had been kept. »The priconers,« says Lieutenant Steele's account, »were hastily secured in the stables and a gun was pointed at the door with a sentry and a couple of marine artillerymen with lighted matches. The prisoners were told that they would be fired on if they attempted to break out.« That seen to, Captain Maurice moved off with the four R.M.A. howitzers, under Lieutenant R. C. Steele. horsed as before, and with forty infantry marines of the light company under Lieutenant Holtaway; all that Captain Maurice thought it advisable to take with him in consequence of the large number of prisoners - over 500 unwounded officers and men - on his bands. Captain Torrens, the Commandant R.M., although woundcd, accompanied Captain Maurice.

Following in the track of the Danish reserve, Captain Maurice reached the sand-hill ridgeoverlooking the sonth beach - near the place from which in the early morning Lieutenant Steele of the Royal Marine Artillery had reconnoitred. He saw the beach below crowded with Danes, beginning to embark on the transports, which were covered by the remainder of the gunboats, lying close in and prepared for action. With his small party it was hopeless for Captain Maurice to attack, a strong rear-guard force of Danes being formed also to prevent interference. The British could only stand and watch the enemy going on board. They waited until all the transports and gunboats there were under way, after which they returned to Fort Yorke.

In the finale of the affair, the Tartar chased the bulk of the transports and their escort, eight gunboats, which headed for the Jutland coast. These were the nearest enemy to her. She managed to overtake and capture two of the transports before being forced to haul off by shoal water near the Danish shore. Four gunboats and one transport, which had made off towards the Swedish coast, were chased by the Sheldrake. Two of the four were captured, and one gunboat was sunk.

The prisoners numbered five hundred and twenty unwounded officers and men; and the spoil included one field gun, two 4-inch mortars, and a considerable quantity of shells and ammunition, muskets and bayonets. Not more than wounded Danes were picked up off the field, all of them seriously wounded; a number of wounded had been carried to the reserve column during the July in the main attacks and taken on board the transports. In like manner, many of the dead Danes had been previously removed. Between thirty and forty dead Danes were found in the open. On the British side, thanks to the cover of the entrenchments, the casualties were only two killed and thirty wounded.

»The greater number of the Danish wounded,« says Lieutenant Steele in his narrative, were suffering from cannon-shot wounds, with injured limbs necessitating amputations. The Officers' Mess was turned into a hospital, »and the next morning as I was passing the door at the usual breakfast hour there stood two wheelbarrows full of arms and legs which were sent off to be buried at low-water mark.«

Captain Maurice, in his despatch to the Admiralty on the defence of Anholt, said this of the Royal Marine Artillery officers : »Lieutenant R. C. Steele claims my warmest acknowledgements for the arrangements he made, which enabled us to keep up so heavy and destructive a

fire.« «Lieutenant J. Bezant deserves every commendation I can give him for his cool and able judgment in the direction of the guns in the Massareene Battery.« The officers of the infantry marines were all individually named as, by Captain Maurice, deserving of »my warmest acknowledgements,« Lieutenants Holtaway and Tumbull* of the light company being also commended for their »great zeal and energy.« The Admiralty promoted Lieutenant Baker, R.N., of the Anholt schooner, to Commander, and awarded brevets to Captain Robert Torrens and to the senior subaltern of the infantry marines, Lieutenant and Acting Quarter-Master J. N. Fischer. No other officers of the marines at Anholt, either infantry or artillery, received any recognition of their services from the Admiralty. When, on May 13th, Brevet-Major Torrens requested permission of the Admiralty for the officers who had taken part in the defence of the island to wear »as a memorial« on the breastplates of their shoulder-belts the word »ANHOLT« - a species of honorary distinction which had been granted by the Horse Guards to certain line regiments, both cavalry and infantry, for special service on various occasions - the Admiralty reply was »while highly appreciating their zeal, gallantry and good conduct, my Lords cannot sanction any memorial or designation of the kind proposed.«

Wrote Admiral Saumarez to Captain Maurice on receipt of the Anholt despatch:

»I most heartily congratulate you on the brilliant success of the brave garnison under your command in having repulsed an attack of the enemy's selected troops, consisting of as many thousands as the whole force opposed to them amounted in hundreds, and on the gal lantry and intrepid conduct of your valiant heroes who succeeded in taking a

*The picture of »The Defeat of the Danes in the Attack on Anholt, March 27th. 1811,« reproduced here, was sketched on the spot and painted by Lieutenant Turnbull. It was published as a coloured engraving, and was widely popular for several years. Certain details of the representation do not, it should be said, conapond with the contemporary accounts of the engagement. It apparently shows the situation just after the Anholt schooner had come into action. The western Danish attacking force is that in the foreground, not yet aware of what had befallen the Danish attacking on the opposite side, and would seem to be making its final attempt to close on the British work. Lieutenant Turnbull, R.M. was appointed to the R.M.A. in March 1817. He had served with the Artillery in an acting appointment on board one of the bombs at the attack on Algiers in August 1816. He died in 1824, as the result of illness contracted by exposure to inclement weather during the Algiers Expedition.

greater number of prisoners than their own collective force. I can only assure you that this gallant affair is the theme of everyone's praise and has excited the admiration of all.»

When the Naval General Service Medal, for actions between 1793 and 1840, was granted and issued in 1848 to »all Officers, Petty Officers, Seamen and Marines, present in any action, naval or military,« within the period, Anholt survivors apparently numbered only forty-two, and »Anholt« clasps to that number only were issued. Four clasps were issued to the Royal Marine Artillery: one each to Lieutenant Bezant, Corporal S. Weeks, and Gunners J. Penferry and D. Jones. (Illustrations facing page 1004-).

Lieutenant Bezant's medal with two clasps, one for »Basque Roads 1809« and one for »Anholt,« was sold in London in July 1918, at Messrs. Glendinning's sale of the Medals and Decorations in the celebrated collection owned by Dr. A. A. Payne of Sheffield. Lieutenant Bezant's medal with the Basque Roads and Anholt clasps was added to the collection in the Officers' Mess at Eastney in 1927. There seems to have been at first, in 1847, some demur at the Admiralty in regard to allowing the defence of Anholt to count as a naval action and thus being qualified for a Naval General Service Medal clasp. The difficulty was got over through the fact that not only was the island commanded by a postcaptain, Captain J. W. Maurice, R.N., but that the island had been temporarily rated as a sloop-of-war, and the marines, both artillery and infantry, borne on the books of a man-of-war in commission, the *Risonable*. There was also another difficulty raised. According to the Admiralty rule at that period, the Medal could only be granted for an action »noticed as a battle of conspicuous merit by the promotion of

the First Lieutenant of the ship, or the promotion of the Commander, if the action was fought by a small vessel. Captain Maurice was not promoted; but received the official thanks of his Commander-in-Chief. The fact, however, that the lieutenant in charge of the schooner *Afnholt*, the tender to the garrison, Lieutenant T. Loraine Baker, had been promoted to commander for his part in the action, enabled the Admiralty Committee finally to surmount the second obstacle.

In February 1812, Governor Maurice again received information from Gothenburg that another attack on *Anholt* by the Danes was in preparation. The Admiralty were informed and seven gun-brigs were sent from England to assist in the defence, together with a hundred infantry marines and ten R.M.A. gunners under Lieutenant W. H. Devon. The expected attack however did not take place, and eventually the Danish troops collected for the expedition were drafted off to join one of the army corps starting for Napoleon's Russian campaign.

The Royal Marines continued to garrison *Anholt* down to August 1812, when the infantry and half the gunners in the island were withdrawn, on relief by the 11th Royal Veteran Battalion from England, a formation comprised of able-bodied old soldiers and Chelsea pensioners. Lieutenant Bezant however, with a small party of the R.M.A. detachment, continued at *Anholt* for nearly a year afterwards, until the summer of 1813. Then, on the batteries being dismantled, they also left to rejoin Headquarters at Chatham.

Four ships, it has been said earlier in the account of the defence of *Anholt*, were sent off from England in February by Admiral Saumarez, on being informed by Captain Maurice that an attack on the island was impending. Two, the *Tartar*, frigate, and the *Sheldrake*, sloop, arrived, as it has been told, intimate to take a part in intercepting the retreating

Danish flotilla. The two others, the Safeguard and the Wrangler, the former carrying two 8-inch mortars and with on board a detachment of Royal Marine Artillery, reached Anholt a day or two afterwards. The Royal Marine Artillery detachment in the Safeguard, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 8 gunners, under First-Lieutenant David Anderson, came in, two months later, for an action with Danish gunboats, the fight being carried through in somewhat exceptional conditions. The Safeguard, a 12-gun brig-of-war, during May and June was kept on the station to cruise between Anholt and Jutland, chasing French privateers, or waylaying Danish vessels passing up and down the coast, and occasionally shelling Danish batteries and camps on the mainland. On June 29th, while on that duty, the gunbrig was attacked by four Danish gunboats canying 24-pr. guns. The Safeguard lay becalmed and the Danes came down on her with sweeps. The gun-brig, as it happened, was very sbort-handedt hat day. Only twenty nine men, including the marine artillery detachment, were on board. The rest, forty-four seamen and the lieutenant, the only commissioned naval officer on board except the captain, had been sent away in prizes recently taken. The enemy were held back by the Safepard's fire for a time, and then drew off nearly beyond range. After that they began cheering and all four gunboats came on again. The captain of the Safegard had gone below, and Lieutenant Anderson took charge on his own initiative. »Anticipating their inteation to close and board,« says Lieutenant Anderson in his official statement of what took place, sent in to Admiral Saumarez as Commander-in-Chieft of the Baltic Fleet, »and not having seen the Commander on the quiarter deck for some considerable time, I ceased firing to allow them to close. I addressed the ship's company, renewed the action and repelled a formidable attempt to board. Continued ac-

tion for one and a half hours longer until the commander came on the quarter-deck and said »Nothing more can be done for the Brig.« I answered, «If we are to fight, I will do so whilst there is a timber above water to stand on.« The Colours were hauled down. On that, »continues the report,« a cry was heard. »Fight the brig, Mr. Anderson, and we will go to the bottom with you.« The action, as stated, lasted three and a half hours in all, going on for nearly two hours after Lieutenant Anderson had the Colours re-hoisted. After that, with nineteen men out of the twenty-nine on board killed or wounded, crippled aloft, and with between five and six feet of water in the hold, the well defended Safeguard was obliged to surrender. The brig was taken possession of by the Danes, and towed into Randers Bay on the coast of Jutland, not far from which the action had taken place. Lieutenant Anderson was given parole, and continued in Denmark until the following November, when he was exchanged for a Danish officer, taken in the battle of Anholt, and returned to England. Lieutenant Anderson, for his part in the engagement, received the thanks of Admiral Saumarez. He remained a lieutenant, however, in spite of that and subsequent distinguished service elsewhere during the war, until 1826.*

At Chatham, throughout the year 1811, Brevet-Major Minto continued in command at headquarters of the four Royal Marine Artillery companies as before. Demands that were made on him from time to time by the Admiralty for embarkations of detachments gave a good deal of anxiety in regard to finding the men. The companies, from various causes, were considerably under strength, particularly as to thoroughly trained men. And at the same time Major Minto set his face against sending out gunners whom he considered not completely efficient and fully trained. The deficiency of men at Chatham, qualified for sending

*Lieutenant Davis Anderson, later on, by deed poll, took the additional name of Gibsone. He died in 1861 as Major-General Davis Anderson Gibsone. The captain of the Safeguard was able to account for himself satisfactorily and he was a few months later given the command of another gun-brig, the Flamer, in which during 1812, again in the Batic, he rendered notable service in two engagements.

out in response to Admiralty demands, led in the autumn of 1811 to the authorization of an increase in gunboats from the Baltic Fleet prevented any Danish attack on Anholt being made in 1810. It was then planned at Copenhagen to make an attempt to recover the island in the early spring of 1811, immediately on the winter ice breaking up and crossing to the island becoming practicable; before the Baltic Fleet, unually due in April, could reach its station. The middle of March was tentatively fixed for the attack.

The garrison of Anholt in March 1811 comprised three hundred and fifty infantrymarines under Captain (Acting Major) Torrens, R.M., and, thirty-one R.M.A, under First_leut. Richard C. Steele and Second-Lieut. John Bezant. Lieutenant Steele also did duty as A.D.C. to the Govenor. Captain J. W. Maurie, R.N., celebrated for his fine defence og Diamond Rock, Martinique, six years before, wa the Governor of Anholt in 1811. A small schooner, called H.M.S. Anholt, commanded by Lieutenant H. Loraine Baker. RN., with twenty-five men, was attached to the garrison for off-shore duty.

The defences of the island consisted of a palisaded enclosure within which were an octagonal battery, built round the lighthouse, called Fort Yorke,* mounting two 24-prs. and four 18-prs., a work built on a sandbag platform, to give command of fire on the south side and west over the outer parapet, known as the Massareene Battery, armed with four 24-prs. and four 18-prs., and a battery of one 13-inch and two 10-inch mortars, fronting south-east. Four 5½-inch carronades were fixed to fire from windows in the lighthouse. An isolated 18-pdr. on a platform was mounted four miles off on South Hill, a hundred feet high, the highest ground on Anholt, over looking and enfilading the beach near the south-west end of the island, where there was a wide

*So named after the Hon. Charles Yorke, First Lord of the Admiralty. The name Fort Yorke, given to the lighthouse octagon battery, was also used generally of the whole place.

strip of flat shore on which landing was easy. The garrison were ordinarily quartered in buildings within the palisaded enclosure between Fort Yorke and the Massareene Battery, where also were the officers' quarters and mess, and the R.M.A. gun-sheds and stables. From the moment of receiving the first warning in February everything possible was done towards strengthening the defences of the island, and pickets watched all round, day and night.

The first intelligence of the intended attack reached Anholt on February 7th 1811, when a Swedish brig engaged in the Baltic contraband traffic brought news that a Danish force of about twelve hundred soldiers was assembling in Jutland for a descent on the island before long. Another trader confirmed the news three days later. Then, on March 14th-nothing having happened meanwhile - a letter from Gothenburg in Sweden gave definite information as to the date of the attack and the force to be employed. Twenty Danish gunboats with armed luggers and other craft, together with transports carrying two thousand soldiers and a naval brigade, were, it was stated, under orders to assemble in Gjerrild Bay in Jutland (rather more than forty miles from Anholt to the south-west), on March 23rd, and start immediately afterwards.

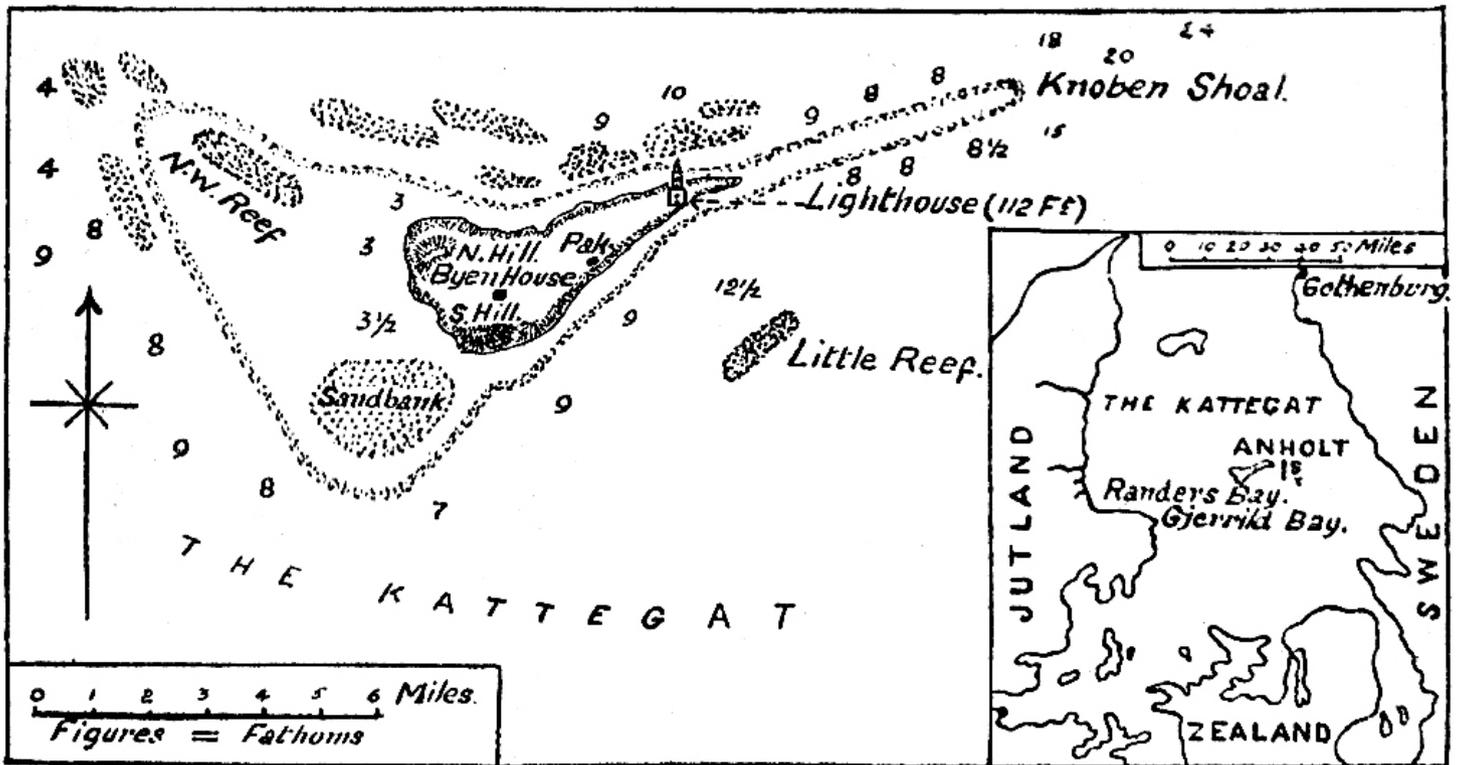
After finally ascertaining the approximate strength of the garrison through a spy, a Danish naval officer who landed on March 23rd under a flag of truce, ostensibly to make an inquiry on a private matter, the Danish gunboats and transports started from Gjerrild Bay after dark on the evening of March 26th. The transports were escorted by eighteen large gunboats and several armed small vessels.

They set out in two divisions, the first of which reached Anholt at 4 a.m. on March 27th and at once landed the naval brigade of Danish men-of-war-men and about two hundred soldiers. The second divi-

sion was following some way astem. The wind was from the west, favourable for a rapid crossing to the island. The landing on Anholt took place on the open beach at the south-west end of the island, in a dense fog.

The first alarm was given to the garrison by the firing of the picket posted near the single 18-pr. above the south beach. The picket there then sent word to Fort Yorke and fell back as the Danish numbers on the beach increased. Immediately all at Fort Yorke and thereabouts turned out and stood to arms and manned the works. As the reports brought by messengers from the picket were not consistent, from inability to see things clearly owing to the fog and dark early morning, Captain Maurice decided to make a reconnaissance at once, with two companies of infantry marines and the R.M.A. with four howitzers all horsed. Captain Torrens commanded the two companies; First-Lieutenant Steele was in command of the howitzer brigade; Lieutenant Bezant remained in charge of the Massareene Battery. What R.M.A. gunners could be spared from accompanying the howitzers meanwhile took post, with infantry marines, at the guns in the light house fort and the battery.

The force moved out through the fog and darkness of the morning for the south-west side of the island, a distance of some four miles from Fort Yorke. It halted as daylight was coming on and the fog clearing a little, at the foot of a ridge of sand-hills at a short distance from and overlooking the beach, where the enemy were reported to have landed. First-Lieutenant Steele then rode ahead to South Hill, in order to reconnoitre and choose a place for his guns. He quickly discovered that the enemy were in greater strength than had been reported, and that they were already advancing in two formed bodies. One set of



The Island of Anholt, 1811

Danes was coming on directly for the sand-hills; others, »in a heavy column in close order,« was marching along the beach, as though intending to work round towards the eastern end of Anholt. Some way off, about three miles away, the second Danish flotilla was seen nearing the island. These looked, as Lieutenant Steele described in an account he wrote afterwards, like »a little wood of masts flanked by heavy gunboats.« Captain Maurice's force was in immediate danger of being outflanked by the Danes moving towards the east, and at the same time the Danes coming on in front already outnumbered them. Lieutenant Steele rode back and reported, whereupon orders were at once given to withdraw and get back to Fort Yorke.

As the British retired the foremost Danes topped the sand-hills and began firing on them. One party of Danes made for the single 18-pr. on South Hill, and on reaching it hoisted Danish Colour on a signal mast, near by, and began to clear the gun for action and slew it round to fire on the British as they fell back. The withdrawal was conducted

in perfect order and Fort Yorke was safely reached; although several times during the four miles retreat it appeared that the headmost of the enemy would be able to close on them. More than once, as Captain Maurice described, they came within fifty yards. These were the Danish seamen of the naval brigade, about two hundred in number. They were boldly led by an officer, who came near enough to us to be recognized as the naval lieutenant who had visited Anholt three days before under the flag of truce. The Danish seamen, described Lieutenant Steele, were »advancing with rapidity and cheering the retreat of the howitzers.«

As Captain Maurice's force reached Fort Yorke and thus left a clear field of fire, the marines there and in the Massareene Battery and those manning the Lighthouse Battery opened on the enemy with musketry and grape. The firing at once checked the Danish advance, and the enemy turned aside from pursuing and ran into two »large houses,« as they are described, near by, on the western side of the island towards the beach. The gunners in Fort Yorke and Massareene Battery, reinforced quickly by some of the R.M.A. men who had brought in the howitzers, joined in the firing and before long forced the Danes out of the houses. The enemy after that re-formed into a column of attack among the nearest sand-hills. At the same time the Danish gunboats, which had been hitherto moving up along the coast on the north side of the island, so as to reach a position opposite the lighthouse and Fort Yorke on its sea side, were nearing their stations for action.

On the opposite side of the island the second column of Danish soldiers, whom Lieutenant Steele had seen marching by the towards the eastern end of Anholt, had meanwhile not yet been engaged. They had by now however turned in, and crossing east of the lighthouse,

had reach their intended position. The second flotilla of Danes had anchored and were about to land its body of troops on the south beach, where the first force had landed.

The Danes had now taken up their positions for battle everywhere. On our side all was ready. The British, if their numbers were few in comparison with the enemy, were in fortified works with sufficient guns and were full of confidence in themselves. From the top of the lighthouse, 112 feet high, there was a complete command of view all round.

The main attack on Fort Yorke and the Massareene Battery, where Lieutenant Bezzant and his R.M.A. gunners were, opened about seven o'clock. The Danes attacked simultaneously from both the eastern and the western sides. Each enemy column of attack was about six hundred strong-making up between them a force three times the strength in numbers of the defenders. The Danes all began swarming forward across the open, with the intention of carrying the British works at a rush. As they began their advance the Danish gunboats-eight or ten of them were at that point-opened fire on the Lighthouse Battery. The Danes of the western attack after their first repulse, fell back and then came on again, dragging forward with them a light field-piece, one of four that they had got ashore. With this the enemy now fired on the British. The Danish attacks in their second onset specially concentrated on the Massareene Battery side and the front between the lighthouse and the mortar battery, but at no point could they pass the palisades or break through the defence.

Lieutenant Steele's description of his men's work and what took place during the first two hours of the action-particularly referring to the eastern Danish attack - is as follows: »The Marine Artillery - and

there was one [man] stationed at each gun the moment the field-pieces [the howitzers] returned to the redoubt-pointed so exactly at the interstices [the gaps in the line of sand-hills] through which the enemy endeavoured to rush our works that no forlorn hope could go to more certain death; and while they rallied behind these natural approaches, our men waited before them, with the match lit and the muule of their guns levelied at the breaks through which they [the Danes] so bray tried to come at us.« Lieutenant Steele adds this of the western attack: »Tue column on the south [west] side brought up a field-piece and made repeated efforts, which were as repeatedly frustrated by our destructive fire.«

There was a short lull in the general artack towards nine o'clock. after the combined rushes from both sides had failed to carry the British position. During the temporary pause the western force of Danes were reinforced by of the troops landed by the second flotilla, all of whom were by now on shore. The greater part of these, however, were held back as a reserve and halted near the ridge of sand-hills a short way in rear of the western attacking force.

A few minutes before ten o'clock the enemy made their second attack in force, again simultaneously charging forward from opposite sides, east and west, and with the energy of desperation. The Danes, as Lieutenant Steele describes, now charged through the sand-hill gaps to »within pistol shot on both sides« [forty yards] to rush the defenders in a general assault, but, as Steele puts it, »our guns and musketry absolutely mowed them don. Their leaders were shot down, while the destructive fire of the batteries strewed the plain with killed and wounded.«

While the second Danish attack in force was taking place, aid came

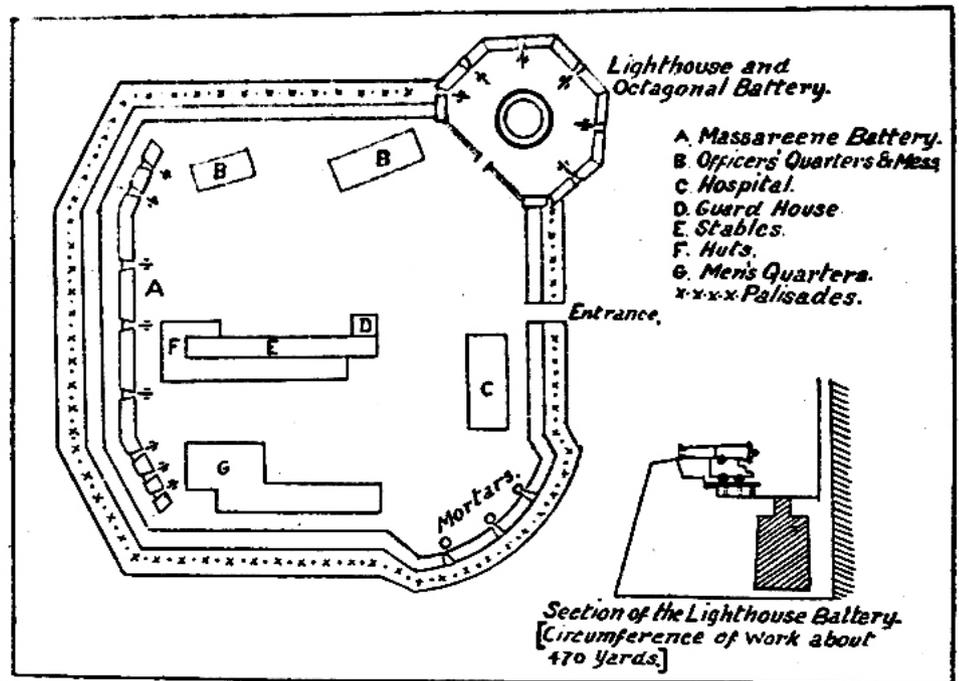
to the defenders from the side of the sea. First of all, just as this attack was beginning to open, a party of infantry marines, who had previously been on picket duty at North Hill and whose retirement had been cut off by the earlier advance of the enemy, managed to rejoin. They comprised part of the light company under Lieutenant Holtaway. Unable to get through to Fort Yorke overland, Holtaway and his men made for a small fishing hamlet on the coast, seized a boat, and daringly working their way round, firing now and again at Danish troops near the beach, landed close by Fort Yorke and amidst the cheers of their comrades, made their way inside the Lighthouse Battery. Tuen, a little time later, the Anholt schooner, with Lieutenant Baker, R.N., and another party of the R.M. light company, under Lieutenant Tumbull, came on the scene. They had been away for the previous three days, having, as Captain Maurice described, »gone on the daring adventure of destroying the enemy's flotilla in its own port,« before the Danes started. The Anholt schooner bore down along the north and east end of the island and ran in close to the beach flanking the sand-hills opposite where, just at that moment, the eastern force of Danes had recoiled to after once again being beaten back. In their last rush the Danes had lost their commanding officer, a major, the leader of the expedition and others of their foremost officers. A panic set in as the schooner began firing on them and enfilading their position with her four 4-prs. and musketry from Turnbull's party of marines. The eastern column on that raised a flag of truce and offered to surrender on terms. Captain Maurice refused to parley. He demanded instant and unconditional surrender; and without further effort the Danes on that side gave in and laid down their arms.

Lieutenant Baker, in his report to Admiral Saumarez, his Com-

mander-in-Chief, speaks thus of his impression as he arrived. »As we rounded the reef the noble and incessant fire kept up by the English batteries left no doubt of the result of the affair in my mind.«

The flank attack by the schooner was one deciding factor. There was yet another.

The attacking Danish gunboats had deserted their comrades on shore, and had gone off a short time before the Anholt closed in. A British frigate, the Tartar, 32 guns, had made her appearance, coming



Fort Yorke, Anholt.
From a M.S. official plan drawn in 1811
for Admiral Sir James Saumarez, Com-
mander-in-Chief, Baltic Fleet. 1811.

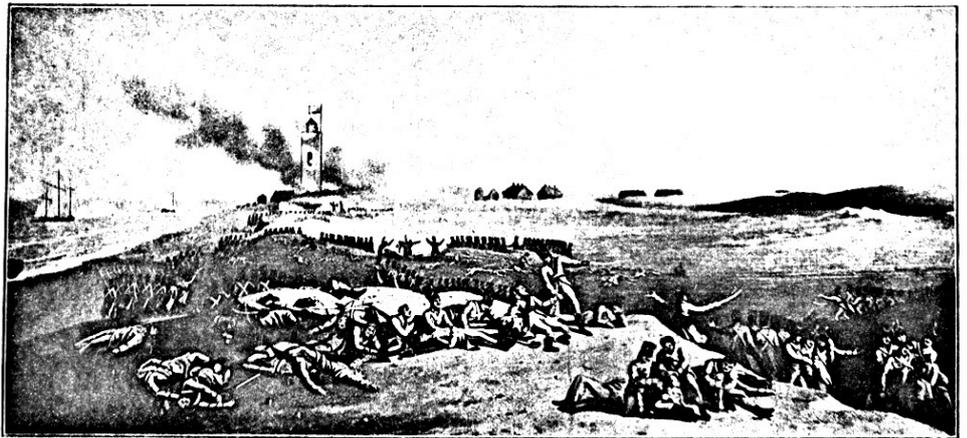
towards the gunboats, whereupon they cut their cables and made off. Unknown to the Danes, the Tartar had reached the island, with the 16-gun sloop of-war Sheldrake, at dusk on the evening of the 26th, and anchored north of Anholt. The mist over the sea shrouded everything in the earlier part of the following morning and nothing of either British ship was for some time visible to the Danes. The two, as it happened, had been sent by Admiral Saumarez from England on the admiral receiving a letter from Captain Maurice, written in February, that an attack was preparing. A gunbrig with two 8-inch mortars and a R.M.A. detachment on board, the Safeguard, and the Wrangler, another gunbrig, had also been despatched from England, but had not yet arrived. On learning of the landing of the Danes, Captain Maurice sent instructions to the Tartar to attack as soon as possible on the western side of the island. The Sheldrake he instructed to keep watch off the eastern end. The Tartar, under a heavy press of sail, beat up in the indicated direction, but with the wind as it was and the intricate and far-extending shoals, she was forced to work round the Knob shoal, which threw her out of her course for ten or twelve miles, with the result that it was some hours-after the crisis of the fight had been passed before she could take her part against the enemy.

The Danes of the western attack soon saw what had happened with their comrades, and they, also seeing the gunboats making off, in their turn showed a flag of truce. On that, Captain Robert Steele* of the infantry marines, acting as Garrison Adjutant, went out, accompanied by a sergeant of the Marine Artillery as interpreter (the latter speaking Danish), to meet the flag-bearer, who came forward together with three officers. The spokesman of the three attempted to bluff at first, but on Captain Steele treating it as »a piece of insolence« and turning to

*There were two Steeles at Anholt: Captain Robert Steele of the Infantry and First-Lieutenant Richard Charles Steele of the Artillery.

walk away, the Danes changed their tone. »The next moment,« says Lieutenant R. C. Steele - in his narrative, »the Danes, holding up white handkerchiefs, called that they would lay down their arms and leave the island. They were told that the only terms were unconditional surrender. On that the three Danish officers took off their swords and handed them over.«

There still remained intact the Danish reserve force in rear, a large body of soldiers, apparently two battalions.



Anholt - The Defeat of The danes,
27th Match 1811.

From a Contemporary drawing
by Lieut. R. Turnbull, R.M.

GALLANT DEFENCE OF ANHOLT*

The official details of the late defence of Anholt will be found amongst our Letters on Service; but the affair was altogether of too brilliant a nature to be passed over, without the record of farther particulars. Captain Maurice, R.N. the governor of the island, was already well known to his country, by his distinguished defence of the Diamond Rock, at Martinique, in the year 1805; and the present achievement has greatly added to his military fame.

It is proper to mention, that the sailing force consisted of a Danish flotilla, of 33 sail, of which, according to our Gazette, were 18 heavy gun-boats, carrying nearly 3000 men. Our little garrison, including officers, seamen, marines, &c. amounted to only 350 men; yet, with the loss of only two killed and 30 wounded, we killed the Danish commander, three other officers, and 50 men; and took prisoners besides the wounded, five captains, nine lieutenants, and 504 rank and file! Three pieces of artillery, 500 muskets, and 16,000 rounds of cartridge, also fell into our possession; and two gun-boats, and 250 more prisoners, were taken by his Majesty's ships *Sheldrake* and *Tartar*, in their retreat!

The following is the Danish official account of the attack; which, considering the intimacy between the governments of France and Denmark, is more correct and candid than could have been expected: -

"Copenhagen, March 31.

"It was some time ago determined to make an attack upon the island of Anholt, now in possession of the enemy, in order to conquer the fort and establishments there erected. This intention would have been put in execution in the fall of last year, but as the enemy's ships of war kept on their station until the frost and ice set in, this plan was given up, being found to be impracticable.

*Anholt, which has been some time in the occupation of the English, as a dépôt, and point of communication between this country and the Continent, is an island of Denmark, situated in the Cattegat, and surrounded by sand-banks. A lighthouse was erected on the island, in consequence of the dangerous nature of the coast. - It lies in longitude 11°55' east of Greenwich; latitude, 56°38' north.

” It was in the commencement of the spring that the attack was again resolved to be made; but the gun-boats which were intended to be used in the expedition, were at that time in winter quarter in the lakes, which were this year, for a long time, filled with ice, and which prevented the vessels being put into activity before the beginning of the present month.

” The order for attack was given, and on the 23d inst. the flotilla and the transports were assembled in Gierrild Bay. The island was reconnoitred, and it was found that there was only one schooner lying on the station. We knew that the light house was fortified, but no other part of the island. It was in consequence determined that the troops should be disembarked by night, and in the morning march against the light-house fort, and storm it, whilst in the mean time the gun-boats were to fire upon it from the rear, a formal siege being found to be impracticable. - On the 26th, 12 gun-boats and 12 transport vessels sailed from Gierrild Bay, having on board the troops destined for the expedition.

” On the 27th, at four o’clock in the morning, the troops were disembarked in the greatest order. The first lieutenant, Colonel Holsten, in the naval service, marched immediately with 200 seamen along the shore, but, unfortunately, he was discovered by a patrol of cavalry. The enemy now fled into the fort, and it was not in our power to cut him off. The intrepid naval lieutenant Holsten, followed them, and stormed the fort, but was beaten off. Major Melstedt then put himself at the head of the 650 men under his command and being joined by the 150 men under Captain Reydez, and the seamen under Lieutenant Holsten, undertook a general storm, but were again forced to retire. In the mean whilst the flotilla were laid round the fort, and commenced a fir-

ing on it, which the troops were preparing to make a fresh attack. The loss which had been sustained by these brave warriors only tended to increase their ardoir. --Whilst the gun-boats kept up a brisk fire on the flank of the fort, Major Melstedt on the one side, and Lieuterlant Holsten on the other, commenced the attack. The outwork were already gained, and the troops were preparing to get over the high walk, when cartridge shot was poured down on them from more than forty-pieces of cannon. Major Von Melsteds ended his honousable a the career at the head of his troops. Captain Van Reydez then immediately took the command, and inspired new life in into the brave troops, who with the greatest steadiness stood the dreadful fire, and, in conjunction with the valiant Lieutenant Holsten, renewed the attack. A cannon ball. carried away both of Captain V. Reydez's legs, and another put an end the life of Lieutenant Holsten, whilst leading his brave seamen on to the combat. The men, who had still to pass the inner and very ditch, were obliged to give way for the cartridge balls; but their retreat was nevertheless conducted with the utmost order. An English flying battery pursued the fugitives, and the retreat was performed under a continual fire from this enemy. In the mean time, and very unexpectedly, a frigate 'was seen to the northward, which stood round to the east of the island; a brig steered the to the west , and a schooner came from the southward. It came on to blow hard, and the gunboats could no longer keep their station. Endeavours were then made to reimbark as many as possible of the troops; aan to save such as had something of the appearance from the the enemy. The transport vessels had something of the appearancc of gun-boats, and they were therefore caused to steer towards the Trefeard, in order thereby to decoy the frigate to follow them, and thereby save the gun-boats and t11e troop!. IJ\$arked

oo board of them, but the wind increased, and the gale became so violent, that the gun-boats could scarcely be kept afloat.

” To enter into an engagement with the enemy was not to be thought of, and it would have been a useless waste of time to have endeavoured at this time to collect the boats together. It was therefore deemed most expedient to let the flotilla disperse itself; signal was accordingly made for the boats to reach the nearest shore, and the flotilla accordingly dispersed itself, agreeably to orders given. The movement could not be perceived by the frigate, which was lying to the eastward of the island, on account of the extended reef which runs out from it. Eight of the gun-boats that were nearest together made the best of their way for Jutland, whilst the other four, with the utmost bravery, engaged the Brigand schooner. They detained the enemy in his progress, and brought him several points out of his course. One of these boats is safe, the fate of the other three is still uncertain, possibly they may be fallen into the enemy's hands. Although this expedition has been unsuccessful, the enemy will certainly not have to boast of having obtained an easy victory. Even during the retreat, the schooner sustained so much damage, that she was obliged to put in under the island, and seek to obtain assistance. Besides the three commanders several other of our officers fell in the field of honour.

” During the whole of the affair, the most determined courage was shewn on our part, and the very considerable loss sustained in killed and wounded, in proportion to the corps employed, will sufficiently prove the determined resolution and courage with which these brave men continued the combat under such heavy fire, and have again, on this occasion, proved the ancient valour which is inseparable from the

characters of the people of Denmark and Norway, who are ready to shed their blood for their king and native country.

*"From the Stockholm Post, Tidningar,
March 27."*

All the private letters from the Baltic, teem with expressions of homage to English courage and firmness. The summer, therefore, which has been that happily commenced, will, we trust, not be lost in inactivity. It is in this quarter at least that we may expect to assist Spain without exciting her jealousy, or impairing our military resources. The defeat of the Danish flotilla must have already severed some of the threads of that cord which binds its characteristic decision, will complete the separation; and Bernadotte may, perhaps, have already determined to accommodate himself to the interests of the nation which he has been sent to govern, and to forget his master; or else have bowed his mind to relinquish a presumptive throne, in which he cannot be maintained but by the power that placed him there. a presumptive

Extracts from private Letters relative to this glorious Defence.

" While the enemy was thus kept in check on the south side, the other wing had extended across the island, and advanced with uncommon bravery to assault on the north side. The discharge of grape and musketry from forts Yorke and Massarane, swept the plain and beach, and obliged them to approach by degrees, from bank to bank. They rallied often and courageously; their brave leaders advanced within half-pistol shot of our guns; the signal for a united effort from the south side was made; their gun-boats had opened a heavy fire on our works; a

field-piece enfiladed the Massarune battery; when a general, judicious, and well-directed discharge of grape and musketry from both our batteries, killed their leader, their guide, who was a captain in the Danish navy, and strewed the field with slain and wounded. This was their last great effort; they kept a precarious fire intolerable, and having advanced too far to retreat without infinite slaughter, they surrendered at discretion. Thus in four hours and a half 2000 men were defeated, 90 officers, and 550 men, became prisoners to a garrison of 350, who had no defence but what raised themselves, with that resistance a Briton always makes to the approacher of an enemy. As soon as the prisoners were secured, the brigade of howitzers, supported by about 40 men, again marched out to annoy them in their retreat and re-embarking, but from the heaviness of the sand the guns were impeded in their course, and the reserve was getting on board under the cover of a formidable line of gun-boats, before our howitzers could act with effect; but the result is glorious; every man did his duty, and we trust, that our victory of this day will gain the approbation of our country.”

”My dear Sir,

”Island of Anholt, March 31.”

” I have great pleasure in announcing to you the defeat of a large Danish armament, fitted out for the capture of the island, and destruction of the light-house. They landed at day-light on the 27th, and advanced in very good order to the attack. Their intention was to take it by storm. They had been informed that the garrison was disaffected at being obliged to remain on this barren island, and a great part of them would lay down their arms on the first gun being fired. In this they were mistaken: the brave garrison received them with cheers, and kept up such a galling and incessant fire as left them no time to form

or recover themselves. After a contest of five hour they surrendered at discretion; a very great number fled to their boats and escaped; the remainder, nearly 600, laid down heir arms and were marched into the garrison as prisoners of war. We went into action with less than 400 men, and have lost only two killed, and about thirty wounded. The enemy have lost in killed, their commandant, a naval officer who guided them, (we recollected his features, and he proved a lieutenant who came over some time since in a flag of truce) and a subaltern, their second in command, lost both his legs, and died this morning.

” The Danish commandant was much beloved: he fell by a musket shot from a mariue at my elbow; the fellow had fired five times inefficinally; the sixth brought him down, when he exclaimed, ”:take that pinch of snuff you s-----l,” and immediately began to re-load his piece with all the coolness imaginable. The marines, (there were op.I, toti\$’ 5eaine• en sliore) J assuu _you, distinguished themselves greatly on the occasion. The Danes behaved themselves as bravely as men could do, så situated. They advanced within pistol shot of our guns, and anuoyed as a good dead from behind the sand-hills, by their ,usketry.

” We are short of officers, though those we have are excellent, and are much barassed by the severe duty of guarding so many prisoners, without a proper place of confinement for them.”

The naval history of the present year, 1811

*Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Amiral of the Red
&c, Portsmouth.*

APRIL 9.

*Copy of a Letter from Vice-admiral Sir James Saumarez, Bart, and K.B.
&c. to John Wiilson Croker, Esq. dated London, the 8th instant.*

Sir,

I have the highest satisfaction in transmitting to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter I have this morning received from Captain Maurice, governor of Anholt, acquainting me of an attack having been made on that island by a formidable military force, supported by eighteen heavy gun-boats and other armed vessels, on the 27th ultimo; which was defeated in the most gallant manner by governor Maurice and the brave garrison under his order, with the loss, to the enemy, of their commander and three other officers killed, and sixteen officers and upwards of five hundred rank file taken prisoners.

I cannot too strongly express to their lordships my high admiration of the very gallant conduct of Governor Maurice, and Major Torrens, senior officer of the royal marines, and the other officers and men composing the brave garrison, and my satisfaction that this brilliant service has been performed with so little loss on our part.

I have also great pleasure in transmitting a letter from Captain Baker, of the Tartar, giving an account of the operations of that ship and his Majesty's sloop Sheldrake, in support of Captain Maurice, and in pursuit of the retreating flotilla of the enemy. Their lordships will, I doubt not, also appreciate the good conduct of Captain Stewart in attacking and defeating so superior a force as that opposed to him, each of the gun-boats carrying heavy metal, and being manned with sixty or sev-

enty men.

Lieutenant Baker, who has brought the despatches, bore, as their lord-ships will observe, a distinguished part in this gallant affair, and is strongly recommended to their favourable attention.

I have, &c.

JAMES SAUMAREZ.

*Fort Yorke, Island of Anholt,
27th March, 1811.*

Sir,

I reported to you in my letter of the 10th ultimo, my having received information of an intended attack on this island by the Danes. On the 8th instant, I received corroboration of this intelligence, but as every exertion had been made to complete the works as well as our materials would allow, and as picquets were nightly stationed from one extreme of the island to the other, in order to prevent surprise, I awaited with confidence the meditated attack.

Yesterday H. M. S. Tartar anchored on the north side of the island. The enemy's flotilla and army, consisting in all of nearly four thousand men, have this day, after a close combat of four hours and a half, received a most complete and decisive defeat, and are fled back to their ports, with the loss of three pieces of cannon, and upwards of five hundred prisoners, a number greater by one hundred and fifty men than the garrison I command.

I am now to detail the proceedings of the day. In the morning, just before dawn, the out-picquets on the south side of the island made the signal for the enemy's being in sight. The garrison was immediately put under arms, and I lost not a moment in proceeding with the brigade of howitzers, and two hundred infantry, accompanied by Captain Tor-

rens (who had hitherto acted as major-commandant to the battalion), in order to oppose their landing. On ascending an elevation, for the purpose of reconnoitring, I discovered the landing had already been effected, under the cover of darkness and a fog, and that enemy were advancing rapidly, and in great number.

On both wings the enemy now far outdanked us, and I saw that if we continued to advance, they would get between us and our works; I instantly ordered a retreat, which was effected in good order, and without pistol-shot I although of our rear, and seemed determined to enter our batteries by seamen, but Fort Yorke and Massareene batteries opened such a well-directed fire of grape and musketry, that the assailants were obliged to fall back and shelter themselves under the sand-hills. As the day lightened, we perceived that the enemy's flotilla, consisting of eighteen gun-boats, had taken up a position on the south side of the island at point-blank shot. I ordered the signal to be made to the Tartar and Sheldrake, that the enemy had landed, upon which these vessels immediately weighed, and under a heavy press of sail, made every endeavour to beat up the south side, but the extent of shoals threw them out so many miles, that it was some hour before their intention could be accomplished. The gun-boats now opened a very heavy fire on our works, while a column of about six hundred men crossed the island to the westward and took up a position on the northern shore, covered by hillocks of sand, by breaks and inequality of ground. Another column made many attempts to carry the Massareene battery by storm, but were as often repulsed, and compelled to cover themselves under hillock of sand, which on this island are thrown up by every gale.

The column on the south side had now succeeded in bringing up a

field-piece against us, and Captain Holtoway, who had commanded at the advanced post, joined us by water. I had been under great apprehensions that this officer has fallen into the hands of the enemy; but finding after several gallant attempts; that he was cut off from reaching head-quarter by land, he with the coolest judgment, launched a boat, and landed his party under Fort Yorke amidst the acclamations of the garrison. Immediately afterwards Lieutenant H. L. Baker, who, with Lieutenant Turnbull of the royal marines, and some brave volunteers, had, in the Anholt schooner, gone on the daring enterprise of destroying the enemy's flotilla in his ports, bore down along the north side of the island. Things were in this position when the column on the northern shore, which, divided by the sand hills, had approached within fifty paces of our lines, made another desperate effort to carry the Massareene battery by storm; the column to the south-east also pushed on, and the reserve appeared on the hills ready to support them; but while the commanding officer was leading on his men with great gallantry, a musket-ball put a period to his life. Panic-struck by the loss of their chief, the enemy fell back, and sheltered themselves behind the sand-hills. At this critical moment Lieutenant Baker, with great skill and gallantry, anchored his vessel on their flank, and opened a well-directed fire. The sand-hills being no longer a protection, and finding it impossible either to advance or retreat, the assailants hung out a flag of truce, and offered to surrender upon terms; but would listen to nothing but an unconditional surrender, which after some deliberation was complied with.

In the mean time the gun-boats on the south side, which had been much galled by the fire of Fort Yorke and Massareene battery, got under weigh, and stood to the westward, and the column of the enemy,

which had advanced on the south side, finding their retreat no longer covered by the flotilla, also hung out a flag of truce, and sent out an officer to meet it. I was asked to surrender the reply that I returned it is unnecessary to mention. The enemy finding my determination, sought permission to embark without molestation; but I would listen to nothing but an unconditional submission, and I have the pleasure to inform you, that this corps also laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

The prisoners which were now more numerous than my small garrison, were no longer secured, than operations were commenced against the reserve, which had been seen retreating to the westward of the island.

I took the field with Major Torrens (who, though wounded; insisted on accompanying me), and Lieutenant and Adjutant Steele; but, as our prisoners were so numerous, and as we had no place of security, in which to place them. I could only employ on this occasion, the brigade of howitzers under Lieutenants R. C. Steele and Bezant, of the marine artillery, and part of the light company commanded by Turnbell. When we arrived at the west end of the island, we found that the enemy had formed on the beach, and were protected by fourteen gun-boats, towed close to the shore; to attack such a force, with four howitzers and forty men, seemed a useless sacrifice of brave men's lives; I therefore with the advice of Major Torrens, halted on the hills, while I reluctantly saw the reserve embarked, under cover of the gunboats, and the flotilla take final leave of the island.

I am happy to say our loss has not been so considerable as might have been expected, from so desperate an attack, we having only two killed and thirty wounded. The enemy have suffered severely; we

have buried between thirty and forty of their dead, and have received in the hospital twenty-three of their wounded, most of them have undergone amputation, three since dead of their wounds, besides a great number which they carried off the field to their boats. Major Melsteat the commandant fell in the field; Captain Borgan, the next in command, wounded the arm; Captain Prutz, adjutant-general to the commander of the forces in Jutland, lost both his legs; since dead.

The most pleasing part of my duty is to bear testimony to the zeal, energy, and intrepidity of the officers and men I had the honour to command; to particularize would be impossible; the same ardour inspired the whole. To Lieutenant Baker, next in command, who will have the honour of delivering this despatch, and will give you every information you may require, I am much indebted; his merit and zeal as an officer, which I have some years been acquainted with, and his volunteering me on his service, claim my warmest esteem. Captain Torrens, the senior officer of royal marines, and who acted as commandant of the garrison, bore a conspicuous part on this day, and, although wounded, I did not lose his valuable service and able support. The discipline and state of perfection to which he had brought the battalion is high creditable to him as officer. Lieutenant R. C. Steele, senior officer of royal marine artillery, also claims my warmest acknowledgements for the arrangements he made, which enabled us to keep up so heavy and destructive a fire. Captain Steele, Lieutenant and Quartermaster Fischer, senior subaltern, Lieutenant and Adjutant Steele, Lieutenants Stewart, Gray, Ford, Jellico, Atkinson, and Curtayoe, all merit my warmest acknowledgements for the assistance they afforded me. Lieutenant Bezant, of the royal marine artillery, deserves every commendation I can give him for his cool and able judgment in the direction of

the guns on the Massareene battery. Lieutenant Turnbull, who acted as a captain of the light company, when we pursued the reserve, manifested such zeal and energy, that I have no doubt, had we brought the enemy again to action, he would have borne a very conspicuous part.

I cannot sufficiently express my thanks to Captain Baker and Stewart, of the Tartar and Sheldrake, for their great exertions to get round to the flotilla; and had the wind tire least favoured them, they would have destroyed the whole.

I am happy to add that the property belonging to the merchants has been fully protected without meeting with the least loss.

The expedition sailed from the Randers, commanded by Major Melsteat (an officer of great distinction), and consisted of the following corps.

2d battalion of Jutland sharp shooters.

4th battalion, 2d regiment of Jutland Yagers.

1st regiment Jutland infantry.

With some others, the names of which cannot be ascertained.

I have the honour to enclose the article of surrender, a list of killed and wounded, and a list of Danish officers killed and taken. Also a return of ordnance stores taken.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J, W. MAURCE, Commandant.

To Vice-admiral Sir James Saumarez,

Bart. K. B. &c.

The commanding officer of the troops of his Danish majesty, occupied in the attack of Anholt, agrees to surrender prisoner of war at discretion, with all time troop, to the forces of his Britannic majesty; with

the reserves that their personel property shall be retain by them, and that, at the convemece of the commander of tbe island of Anholt, a cartel sealed letters shall be sent to Jutland.

Given at Anholt, the 27th of March, 1811.

BORGEN

Captain and Commander-in-chief
of the Danish Troops on Anholt

*J. W. Maurice, Captain Royal Navy,
Governor and Commanant of the
Island of Anholt.*

**A Return of Killed and Wounded at the Garrison of Anholt,
March 27, 1811.**

Killed.

Guestn. Brachio, serjeant; Anthony Lock, private.

Wounded.

Robert Torrens, commandant, slightly; John Easby, corporal, severely; Benjamin Addison, corporal, ditto; Jordan Derby, serjeant-major, slightly; Cornelios Cowen, serJeant, ditto; William Baker, corporal, ditto; Patrick Boyle, corporal, ditto; John Halstend, drummer, ditto; William Shulks, private, severely; John Clark, private, ditto; Thomas Robinson, private, ditto; Daniel Murphy, private, ditto; Joseph Batchelor, private, ditto; John Taylor, private, ditto; John Hammond, private, ditto; John Hillman, private, ditto; Francis Wright, private, ditto; William Fitt, private, slightly; Charles Petty, private, ditto; Abraham Stainsbury, private, ditto; Samuel Chapman, private, ditto; James Yeates, pri-

vate, ditto; James Cowly, private, ditto; Thomas Lloyd, private, ditto; William Arrowsmith, private, ditto; Thomas Mahony, private, ditto.

Royal Marine Artillery.

Sampson Weeks, corporal, slightly; Joseph Lewis, gunner, dangerously; John Parker, gunner, slightly; Isaac Duck, gunner, ditto.

Total killed and wounded - 32.

J. W. MAURICE.

An Account of Danish Officers killed and taken in the Attack of the 27th March, 1811.

Major Melsteat, commander, killed; Captain Borgen, taken; Captain Major, ditto; Captain Krag, ditto; Captain Rothwith, ditto; Captain Hoest, ditto; Captain Prutz, killed; Premier Lieutenant Von Munck, adjutant, taken; Lieutenant Klee, ditto; Lieutenant Diedrick, ditto; Lieutenant Coutt Van Plater, adjutant, ditto; Lieutenant Hielmann, ditto; Lieutenant Hagermann, ditto; Lieutenant Boye, ditto; Lieutenant Claussen, ditto; Lieutenant Limberg, ditto; Lieutenant Møller, ditto; Lieutenant Obel, killed; Lieutenant Leth, taken; Captain Holstein, (Marine) killed.

Killed - 1 major, 2 captains, 1 first lieutenant.

Taken - 5 captain, 2 adjutants, 9 lieutenants, 504 rank and file, exclusive of wounded belonging to the undermentioned corps: -

2d battalion of Jutland sharpshooters.

4th battalion, 2d regiment Jutland Yagers.

4th battalion, 1st regiment Jutland infantry.

J. W. MAURICE.

Return of Ordnance Stores captured from the Enemy in the Attack of the 27th of March, 1811.

1 brass ordnance field four-pounder.
2 four-inch mortars.
434 muskets and bayonets complete.
470 swords.
16,000 musket-ball cartridges.
14 four-inch shells fixed.

R. C. STEELE, First-lieutenant and
Commanding Officer Royal Marine Artillery.

*His Majesty's Ship Tartar, off Anholt,
March 31, 1811.*

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you that the Wrangler and Safeguard not being ready, I proceeded with the Shelldrake, according to your orders Yaemouth Roads, on the 20th instant, and anchored off the north side of Anholt on the 26th. On communicating with Captain Maurice, I was happy to learn from him that the garrison were in high health and spirits, and an opportunity very speedily occurred to prove the just foundation on which he reposed his heavy firing commenced from the batteries round the light-houses. which made it certain that the island was attacked on the south side. I immediately weighed also the Shelldrake, and as soon as it was sufficiently light, a telegraphic signal was made from the island, that the enemy had landed, and that the gun-boats kept up a heavy fire. The wind being from the westward, I had the mortifying alternative to run ten or eleven miles to get round reef extending from the east of the island, or beat up a still greater

distance to weather that branching out from its north west point. But, considering that the knowledge of the irigate being near to the island (of which they were nitherto iguorant) would make a considerable impression on the enemy, I resolved on going to leeward, round the shoal of the Knobens, as bringing me sooner in their sight, at the same time I mode a signal to the Sheldrake to keep on the north side of the island, Captain Maurice having signefied, by telegraph, that she would be serviceable there.

As we rounded the reef, the noble and inccessant fire kept up from the English batteries, left no doubt, in my mine, as to the result of the affair; and, about ten o'clock, I had the satisfaction to observe signal made from the light-house, that the enemy's to the number of five or six hundred, had surrendered at dicretion.

As I had expected, their flotilla made off the instant the Tartar came in sight, and the wind being light during the fore part of the day, they were enabled to sweep directly to windward; and, as their small draught of water allowed them to go within the western reef of the island, while we were obliged to beat round it, they were nearly out of sight to leeward before we could bear up after them. The Sheldrake, however, was happily placed in the way of that division of them which eudearoured to escape toward the coast of Sweeden.

I beg leave to enclose a copy of Captain Stewart's letter to me, stating the capture of two of them; and I cannot sufficiently praise the intrepidiry and skill with which he attacked a force so superior to his own. Those which I pursued separated in different courses; three of the largest steered for the island of Læssoe, and follow them; but they had gained so much the start of me, that they were noit within reach of my guns when night came on, and we found purselves in shoal water,

on the flat extending to the southward of that island, and were obliged to haul off. I afterwards captured two of their transports, which I had passed during the chase of the gun-boats; one of them had twenty-two soldiers on board, with a considerable quantity of ammunition, shells &c. the other contained provisions.

The island being greatly encumbered with prisoners, Captain Maurice has sent a flag of truce to Jutland, offering to release them on their parole not to serve until regularly. If this proposal should be accepted, it is my intention to take them over to Randers in the Tartar and Sheldrake, and at the same time, to demand the officers and crew of his majesty's late sloop Pandora, wrecked.

The prisoners of war taken in the gun-boats consist of two lieutenants of the Danish navy, and 110 men.

I have directed the Wrangler to proceed to England, with Lieutenant Baker, royal navy, of the island of Anholt, charged with Captain Maurice's despatches, which I hope may meet with your approbation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Sir James Saumarez, Bart, and K. B. JOSEPH BAKER, Captain.
Vice-Adm. of the Red, Commander-in-Chief, &c.

SIR, *H. M. Sloop Sheldrake, Anholt, March 28, 1811.*
I obedience to your signal yesterday to keep on the north side of the island, my attention was particularly occupied in preventing the escape of the enemy's flotilla to leeward, hoping by so doing I anticipated your wishes.

At two P M observing the Tarta to windward of the island, and the gun-boats endeavouring to push through passage inside the reef, I

endeavoured to plade myself in such a situation as to turn them, or render an action unavoidable. About four P.M. we closed within long range of shot their force consisting of 16 gun-boats and armed vessels, in close and compact order, formed in line, steering down with the apparent determination of supporting each other; but they, finding us equally determined to bring them to cluse action, began to disperse just when we were in hopes of placing ourselves in such a situation as must have annihilated the whole of them in a short time. However, as five of them kept in one direction, I kept after them, and have the pleasure to inform you, we brought them to close nation at half-past four, when one of them, No. 9, immediately struck, she mouments two long 18-ponuders, and four brass howitzers, 65 men, and commoded by a lieutenant of repute in the Danish nany. Immediately the prisoners were on board, we made all sail after the largest lugger, which I am also happy to inform you, we captured about eight P.M. after exchanging a few shot. She proved to be gun-vessel, No. 1, mounting two long 24-pounders, and four brass howitzers, complement of 70 men, only 60 of whom we found on board; from the number of shot she received, I am convinced she must have lost many of her crew; her commander is also a lieutenant in the Danish navy.

I am extreimely rejoiced to say we have no person hurt; our sails and rigging being a little cut, and a few grape-shot in the hull, is the extent of our damage.

I feel great pride in being avle to inform you, the officers and rew i have the honnour to command, behaved so as to meet my warmest praise, and I can assure you, Sir, all on board were greedy annoyed at the enemy not allowing us the pleasure og making an example of the so much talked of Danish gun-boats.

Night cominig on, and we having on board 40 more prisoners than oer own people, I am sorry to say we could not succeed in capturing any more of them, as they separated after the first had struck; but several that escaped were under our fire, and appeared to suffered much - so much so, that some of the people say one sunk.

I have, &c.

J. P. STEWALLT.

Captain Baker, H. M. S. Tartar.



Tegnet af Chr. Würgler Hansen.