

wind would permit; and on the evening of the 28th ultimo, off the south end of Lissa, I met with Lieutenant M'Dougall, of His Majesty's ship *Unité*, who, with a judgment and zeal which does him infinite credit, had put back, when on his voyage to Malta in a neutral, to acquaint me he had seen three French frigates, forty miles to the southward: every sail was carried on in chase, and at nine in the morning of the 29th the enemy were seen off the island of Augusta: he formed in line upon the larboard tack, and stood towards us for a short time; but finding His Majesty's ships bearing upon him under all sail in close line abreast, he bore up to the N. W. and set steering sails. At eleven the rear ship separated and stood to the N. E.; I immediately detached the *Unité* after her, (and Captain Chamberlayne's report to me of the result I have the honour to enclose). At twenty minutes after one P. M. the *Alceste* commenced action with the other two, by engaging the rear in passing to get at the *Commodore*, but an unlucky shot soon afterwards bringing down our maintop-mast, we unavoidably dropped a little astern: cheers of 'vive l'Empereur' resounded from both ships, they thought the day their own, not aware of what a second I had in my gallant friend Captain Gordon, who pushed the *Active* up under every sail, and brought the sternmost to action, within pistol-shot; the headmost then shortened sail, tacked and stood for the *Alceste*, (which though disabled in her masts, I trust he experienced was by no means so at her guns), and after a warm conflict of two hours and twenty minutes, it ended by the French *Commodore* making sail to the westward; which from my crippled state I was unable to prevent, and the other surrendering, after being totally dismasted and five feet water in her hold; she proved to be the *Pomone*, of forty-four guns and three hundred and twenty-two men, commanded by Captain Rosamel, who fought his ship with a skill and bravery, that has obtained for him the respect and esteem of his opponents; the other was the *Pauline*, of similar force, commanded by Monsiur Montford, Capitaine du Vaisseau, with a broad pendant; they were from Corsu going to join the squadron at Trieste. The *Alceste* had twenty killed and wounded, *Active* thirty-two, and *Pomone* fifty; and it is with poignant regret I inform you, that Captain Gordon has lost a leg; but thank God he is doing well; his merits as an officer I need not dwell upon, they are known to his country; and he lives in the hearts of all who have the happiness to know him. His first Lieutenant, Dashwood, lost his arm soon after he was wounded, and the ship was fought by Lieutenant Hays in a manner that reflects the highest honour upon him; his services before had frequently merited and obtained the high approbation and strong recommendation of his Captain, who also speaks in the warmest praise of Acting Lieutenant Moriarty, Mr. Lothian, Master, Lieutenant Meers, Royal Marines, and every officer, seaman, and marine under his command.

And though our success was not so complete as I trust it would have been, could the *Alceste* have taken up her intended position alongside *Pauline*, instead of that ship, from the fall of our topmast, being enabled to manœuvre and choose her distance, I feel it my duty to state, that every officer and man here behaved most gallantly: I was most

ably assisted on the quarter-deck by my First Lieutenant A. Wilson, and Mr. H. Moore, Master; and the main-deck guns were admirably directed by Lieutenant James Montague and Mr. James Adair, acting in the place of Lieutenant Hickman, at Lissa with the gun-boats. In justice to two very deserving officers (Lieutenant Miller, Royal Marines, *Active*, and Lieutenant Lloyd, Royal Marines, *Alceste*), it is necessary to mention they were ashore with most of their respective parties at Camesa Castle and Hoste's Islands for the defence of Lissa, hourly threatened with an attack from the enemy, assembled in great force at Scisina.

The *Kingsfisher* hove in sight and joined soon after the action, and Captain Tritton rendered essential service by taking the prize in tow.

Captain Bligh, of the *Acorn*, to whom I have entrusted the defence of Lissa in our absence, has had an arduous duty to perform; but no difficulties arise, when all are actuated by zeal for His Majesty's service; and the little squadron you have done me the honour to entrust me with, possess it in an eminent degree.

*Unité* has just joined, after seeing the *Persanne* into Lissa; and Captain Chamberlayne, with his usual alacrity, has repaired his damages, and made the signal of being fit for service; and, I am happy to say, this ship will in a few hours more be perfectly so also.

I intend sending the *Active* with prizes and prisoners to Malta as soon as possible, which, from the state of her wounded officers and men, I am sure will meet your approbation. Enclosed are lists of the killed and wounded, and

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) MURRAY MAXWELL.

To Captain Rowley, His Majesty's ship *Eagle*, and Senior Officer of Adriatic Squadron.

His Majesty's Ship *Unité*, Lissa N. E. Five Leagues, Friday, Nov. 29, 1811.

SIR, I AM to acquaint you, that, in obedience to your signal to chase this morning, I was enabled, by the superior sailing of His Majesty's ship under my command, to so far close immediately in the wake of the enemy's frigate at noon, as to exchange bow and stern-chasers, but the very variable state of the weather from that time, the wind veering from the south to the east, and our opponent keeping us directly astern, prevented my getting closer until near four o'clock, when part of our broadside being fired at him, he returned his, and struck his colours. You will judge my astonishment at her proving to be *La Persanne*, of eight hundred and sixty tons, twenty-nine nine-pounders, and a complement of one hundred and twenty-five men and sixty-five troops, having on board one hundred and twenty iron, and a few brass ordnance: she was commanded by Mons. Joseph Endie Satic, Capitaine de Frigate, whose masterly manœuvres and persevering resistance for near four hours, reflect great credit on him. Our masts, yards, sails, and rigging bear ample testimony to his galling fire.

We have only one man wounded; the enemy two killed and four wounded. The coolness and steady attention to my orders on the part of my First