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The London Chronicle, volume 112, July
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POSTSCRIPT
FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Dispatches have been received at the Admiralty from Sir Home Por HAM, dated off the coast of Biscay, containing an account of a successful attack made by a detachment from the squadron under the command of that able officer, with the co-operation of a guerilla force under the orders of Don Gaspar, upon the town and garrison of Lequeito (sic), near Cape Machicaco (sic). The object of this enterprize was to open a communication with the guerrillas, and by driving the French from the coast, to prevent all future supplies of provisions to their armies in the interior, by means of neutral or other shipping. Sir H. Popham commenced his operations by effecting a landing of between three and four hundred seamen and marines at Lequeito, where they gallantly attacked the enemy, who came out to meet them, and the result was the discomsiture of the whole of the French corps. Three hundred were made prisoners, and the rest were killed or wounded. The seamen, who fought with their accustomed bravery, succeeded inlanding one gun, with which they did considerable execution. The guerrillas harrassed the French most effectually in the rear, and hastened their overthrow in a decided manner.

The following are the particulars of the expedition, as received from Portsmouth:- "PORTSMOUTH, July 1.

"This morning arrived the Hotspur frigate, Captain Paice, with dispatches from Sir Home Popham, commanding a squadron of his Majesty's ships on the north coast of Spain on a particular service, relating that on the 20th ult, the marines of his Majesty's ships Venerable, Magnificent, Surveillante, Rhin, Medusa, Hotspur, Rover, Sparrow, and Lyra, landed at Lequeito, (a little to

the east ward of Bilboa (sic),) which was occupied by a division of the French army. On the 21st they obtained possession of the place, took three hundred prisoners, dispersed the rest of the enemy's force, destroyed all the magazines, containing stores and provisions, and then re-embarked to fulfil the farther objects of the expedition. The marine battalion could not land, owing to the Diadem (on board which ship they were) falling to the leeward. The Hotspur took all the prisoners on board, and arrived at Spithead this morning. We sustained but a trifling loss; it is said not more than five men killed and wounded. We may soon expect to hear of farther successes in this species of warfare, performed by this gallant little band." (from the hants courier.)

"Arrived the Hotspur, Capt. W. Price (acting), with 300 prisoners, comprising the garrison of Lequeito, which was taken possession of by the Spanish guerrillas, in conjunction with the squadron under Sir H. Popham. Loqueito (sic) is one of a chain of posts in the province of Biscay, occupied by the French, and by the possession of which they have hitherto prevented our communication with the Patriots. When the Hotspur sailed, the squadron was then proceeding against Deba, another of the posts, and it was expected that the whole must ultimately fall. Owing to the contrary winds, or a high surf, the marines on board the squadron were not able to land, and the guerrillas were in the first instance repulsed; the seamen of the Venerable, however, succeeded in getting a gun ashore, which they planted on a height commanding the post, when the Patriots returned to the attack, and carried it in a very high style. The courage and discipline of the guerrillas are spoken of in the most handsome terms by the officers of the Hotspur, who declare they never witnessed greater intrepidity than was shown by the Spaniards. Our loss has been trifling."

Deos (written Deba and Deva in some of the maps) is at the entrance of the river of that name, which falls into the Bay of Biscay, between Lequeito and St. Sebastian. The possession of these points may be viewed as of great importance, by reason of the facility which will be thus afforded of supplying the patriotic Spaniards with arms, ammuniton, and other warlike necessaries.

**The London Chronicle, Vol. 112, No. 8356, July 4-6
Monday, July 6.**

From the LONDON GAZETTE, July 4

July 6

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, July 4.

Admiral Lord Keith has transmitted to J. W. Croker, Esq. a letter from Capt. Sir Home Popham, dated on board his Majesty's ship *Venerable*, of Lequitio (sic), the 21st of last month, giving an account of an attack made upon the French troops in possession of that place by the Spanish guerillas, aided by Sir Home, and the officers and men of his Majesty's ships under his orders. The enemy had possession of a hill fort commanding the town, calculated to resist any body of infantry; and also 200 men posted in a fortified convent within the town, the walls of which were impervious to any thing less than an 18 pounder. —The convent might have been destroyed by the ships; but as the town would have materially suffered, and as the guns of the *Venerable* made no visible impression on the fort, it was determined to erect a battery on a hill opposite to the latter, which the enemy considered as quite inaccessible to cannon, and in that confidence rested his security. —A gun was accordingly landed in the forenoon of the 30th (chiefly by the exertions of Lieut. Groves, of the *Venerable*), notwithstanding the sea was breaking with such violence against the rocks at the foot of the hill, that it was doubtful whether a boat could get near enough for that purpose. It was then hove up a short distance by a movable capstan; but this was found so tedious, that men and bullocks were sent for to draw it; and it was at length dragged to the summit of the hill by 36 pair of bullocks, 400 guerillas, and 100 seamen, headed by the Hon. Capt. Bouverie. It was immediately mounted, and fired its first shot at four in the afternoon. The gun was so admirably served, that at sun-set a practicable breach was made in the wall of the fort, and the guerillas volunteered to storm it. The first party was repulsed, but the second gained possession without any considerable loss: several of the enemy escaped on the opposite side, and got into the convent.

In the course of the evening the sea abated a little, and a landing upon the island of St. Nicholas was effected, though with some difficulty, by Lieut. O'Reilly, of the *Surveillante*; marines were also landed from that ship, the *Medusa*, and *Rhin*, with a carrounade from each ship; and Captain Malcom took the command of the island during *Venerable's* battery on the hill. At dawn of the 21st, a 24-pounder was brought to the east side of the town, within 200 yards of the convent, and another was in the act of being landed upon St. Nicholas, to bombard it, when the French Commandant, Gillort, Chef de Battalion, beat a parley, and sur-

rendered with the remainder of his party, consisting of 290 men of the 119th regiment. The enemy's loss had not been ascertained, but it was supposed to be considerable, as the guerillas, who were better posted, and fired with more celerity, had 56 men killed or wounded. Not a man was hurt in his Majesty's squadron, either by the surf or the enemy. —There were two 18-pounders mounted on the fort, and three small guns in the barracks; the latter, with the muskets, were given to the guerillas, who were also supplied with every description of military stores of which they stood in need. The guns in the fort were rendered useless, the fort destroyed, and the convent blown up. —Sir Home Popham commends in high terms the conduct of all the officers and men employed on this occasion; and expresses his sense of the assistance rendered by Sir Howard Douglas and General Carrol, who had embarked in the *Venerable*, and volunteered their services wherever they could be employed.

Ingelesak beti aurretik. *The London Chronicle* egunkaria 1765ean sortu zen eta 1823ra arte iraun zuen *London Packet*-ek erosi arte. Askotan -hemen bertan esaterako- *London Gazette* egunkari ofizialetik hartzen zuen informazioa.

Informazio ofizial hori laburtuko dugu.

Home Popham kapitaina da berri emalea. Itsasontzi ingelesek eta Espainiako gerrilek Lekeition zeuden tropa frantsesak garaitu nahi zituzten. Etsaiak gotorleku bat zuen mendixka batean -Lumentxa mendia- eta 200 soldadu komentu batean -benetan jesuiten kolegioan-. "Komentu" hori ingeles kanoiek erraz suntsi zezaketen baina berarekin batera herri guztia, beraz Lumentxako tontorrean zegoen fuertea hartzea erabaki zuten; eta baita hartu ere Likularra aldera igo zuten kanoiari eta gerrilariei eskerrak -guztira 100 marinela, 400 gerrilari eta 36 pare idi-. Bien bitartean San Nicolas irla ere hartu zuten. Dena 1812ko ekainaren 20an. Hurrengo egunean panorama ikusirik errenditu egin ziren frantsesak. 290 soldadu frantses egin zuten preso, eta hildako dezente. Ingeles bat bera ere ez zen hil! Gerrilarien arteko hildakoak ez ditu aipatzen. Lumentxako fuertea eta "komentua" suntsitu egin zituzten -guk dakigula bertokoei suntsiarazi-. Pelikula egiteko moduko abenturak!



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