

storm the citadel. Thereupon Captain Robert Faulknor, of the sloop *Zebra*, laid his ship alongside the sea-wall, scaled the parapet, and stormed the citadel.<sup>1</sup> Two years later (1796) Captain Drury proposed to bottle up the Dutch fleet inside the Zuider Zee and put an end to its depredations upon British shipping. He planned to carry the batteries commanding the channel by means of landing parties, and, having opened it to the Fleet, to block the Texel with sunken Dutch merchantmen, re-embarking the landing parties when the Fleet had done its work.<sup>2</sup> Save that the block-ships were to be provided from enemy vessels within the channel the project is not remote in conception from the Zeebrugge design. It was rejected by Admiral Duncan, and the fact emphasizes the boldness and confidence of the Admiralty in sanctioning at Zeebrugge a vastly more formidable risk. Three years later occurred the cutting out of *Hermione*. An act of mutiny had placed the ship in Spanish hands two years before, in October 1799, she was discovered in the harbour of Puerto Cabello by Captain Edward Hamilton of H.M.S. *Surprise*. He resolved to cut her out from under the shore batteries. Sending six boats into the harbour under cover of darkness, he boarded *Hermione*, overpowered her crew, and in spite of a hot fire carried her out of the harbour. There are details of similarity to the Zeebrugge Raid, but as a deed of daring Captain Hamilton's achievement cannot rank with it.<sup>3</sup> Fitter to be associated with it is the expedition to Ostend under Captain Home Riggs Popham, R.N., in May 1798, which achieved the destruction of the canal gates. The landing

<sup>1</sup> *Nineteenth Century and After*, June 1918, p. 1199.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1202.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1198.