

barges, at which time the Rota frigate and Plantagenet 74 also stood into port. When the brig's boats came within hail, Capt. R. ordered them to keep off—they, however, continued pulling for the A. when the boats were fired into from her, which killed 8 or 10 of the enemy. The 74 and frigate perceiving this, forthwith manned 16 barges, with about 450 men; the G. A. then cut her cables, and warped in directly under the guns of the fort. Between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, the whole number of barges were discovered from the Armstrong, within pistol shot, when at the moment, they were about dividing into four divisions, a broadside from the long tom and 3 long 9's were fired into them, which put the enemy into much confusion, killing the 1st lieut. of the frigate, who commanded the barges, and many others. The whole of the barges then came under the Armstrong's bow, keeping up a continual fire, which was returned from on board with great spirit. Several attempts were made to board the Armstrong, but were repulsed, with great destruction to the enemy. The barges finding that they could not carry her, hauled off until morning, when they renewed the attack, the brig in company. The G. A. commenced with a brisk fire on the brig and barges, and continued it for some time; but finding the force of the enemy was too great, and seeing no hopes of saving the ship, Capt. Reid gave orders to cut away the masts and rigging, and to fire three nine pounders, through her bottom. This was promptly executed, when the crew then abandoned her, and arrived safe on shore. Thus fell the Armstrong into the hands of the British, after a resistance worthy the cause which animated her gallant officers and crew. The enemy, on taking possession of the Armstrong, finding her so much injured and in a sinking condition, set her on fire. The G. A. had killed, A. O. Williams, 1 seaman, and 7 wounded. Loss of the enemy, 160 killed, and 150 wounded, as acknowledged by them—the number, however, supposed to be greater.

The Armstrong's force was 6 long 9's and a 42 pounder midships, with a complement of 90 men.