

the Land Forces, whereupon a Council of War was held of the Sea-Officers, and it was resolv'd that the Ships designed to return to *Great Britain* should leave behind them, to assist in the Attempt, all the Marine Soldiers above the middle Complement of each of them, and that the Squadron of *English* and *Dutch* designed to be continued abroad with *Sir Edward Whitaker* should remain at *Port Mahon*, to assist with their Marines and Seamen in the Reduction of that Place, so long as the Lieutenant-General should desire it, regard being had to the Season of the Year, the time their Provisions might last, and the transporting from *Naples* to *Barcelona* four thousand of the Emperor's Troops for the Service of his Catholic Majesty.

It was also resolv'd that the *English* Ships should spare the Forces as much Bread as they could, and both they, and the *Dutch*, all their Cannon-shot, except what might be necessary for their own Defence, and that when every thing should be landed which was necessary for the Siege, the Admiral should proceed to *England* with one Second Rate, and six Thirds of ours, and eight *Dutch* Ships of the Line; but some time after this he sent home two *English* and two *Dutch* Ships of War, with the empty Transports of both Nations, in order to their being discharged.

Having watered the Ships at *Majorca*, he sail'd from thence the 17th of *September*, and being informed, when off of *Gibraltar*, that four *French* Men of War from *Cadix* had taken near *Cape Spartel*, and went into that Port, some of our Merchant Ships which run without Convoy, he left two Third Rates, one Fourth, and a Fifth, to cruise in that Station, under Command of Captain *Hartnoll*, and arriv'd at *St. Helen's* the 19th of *October*, having met in the Soundings with the Squadron cruising there under the Command of the Lord *Dursley*, of whose Proceedings I have already given an Account.

While the Artillery, and all things necessary were putting on shore for attacking the Castle of *Port Mahon*, *Sir Edward Whitaker* order'd a Ship of 70, and another of 50 Guns to *Port Fornelle*, in order to reduce the Fort there, which they did, after four Hours Dispute, it being a strong Place with 4 Bastions, 12 Guns, and garrisoned by forty *French*, but the least of our Ships was much damaged in her Masts and Yards, and had six Men killed and twelve wounded; and to this Harbour all the Transport Ships, with the Bomb-Vessels, were sent, the Admiral having not had any convenient Place before to secure them in.

Some little time after the General sent a Detachment of about a hundred *Spaniards*, with three hundred or more of the Marquis *Pisaro's* Regiment to *Citadella*, the chief Town of the Island, on the West side thereof, and *Sir Edward Whitaker* dispatched two Ships of War thither; which Place put them to no great Trouble, for the Garrison immediately surrendering, were made Prisoners of War, being a hundred *French*, and as many *Spaniards*.

The 17th of *September* our People began to play on the Enemy's Lines on the South side of the Harbour of *Mahon*, from a Battery of 10 Guns, and after about four Hours Dispute, making themselves

*Sir John Leake arrives in England, Sir Edward Whitaker being left abroad.*

*The Fort at Port Fornelle reduced.*

*Citadella surrendered.*

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Masters