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FROM TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, to FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1809.

DOWNING STREET, August 11, 1809.

Dispatches, of which the following are extracts, have been received at the office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B.

MY LORD, *Placentia, 15th July 1809.*

After I had written to your Lordship on the 1st instant, Joseph Bonaparte crossed the Tagus again, and joined Sebastiani with the troops he had brought from Madrid, and with a detachment from Marshal Victor's corps, making the corps of Sebastiani about twenty-eight thousand men, with an intention of attacking Vanegas' corps. Vanegas, however, retired into the mountains of the Sierra Morena, and Colonel Larey with his advanced guard attacked a French advanced corps in the night, and destroyed many of them.

The French troops then returned again to the Tagus, which river Joseph had crossed with the reinforcement which he had taken to Sebastiani's corps; and this last corps, consisting of ten thousand men only, was on the left bank of the Tagus, about Madnelejos, in front of Vanegas, who was again advancing.

The last accounts from this quarter were of the 8th.

The French army under Victor, joined by the detachments brought by Joseph from Sebastiani's corps, and amounting in the whole to about thirty-five thousand men, are concentrated in the neighbourhood of Talavera, and on the Alberché; General Cuesta's army has been in the position which I informed your Lordship that it had taken up since I addressed you on the 1st instant.

The advanced guard of the British army arrived here on the 8th, and the troops which were with me on the Tagus arrived by the

10th; the 23d light dragoons and the 48th arrived yesterday; the 61st regiment will arrive to-morrow.

I went to General Cuesta's quarters at Almaraz on the 10th, and stayed there till the 12th, and I have arranged with that general a plan of operations upon the French army, which we are to begin to carry into execution on the 18th, if the French should remain so long in their position.

The Spanish army under General Cuesta consists of about thirty-eight thousand men, (exclusive of Vanegas' corps), of which seven thousand are cavalry. About fourteen thousand men are detached to the bridge of Arzobispo, and the remainder are in the camp under the Puerte de Mirabeté.

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the seven battalions of infantry from Ireland and the islands, and the troop of horse artillery from Great Britain, arrived at Lisbon in the beginning of the month.

General Craufurd's brigade is on its march to join the army, but will not arrive here till the 24th or 25th.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*Talavera de la Reyna,
July 24, 1809.*

MY LORD,
According to the arrangement which I had settled with General Cuesta, the army broke up from Placentia on the 17th and 18th instant, and reached Oropesa on the 20th, where it formed a junction with the Spanish army under his command.

Sir Robert Wilson had marched from the Venta de Bazagon, on the Tietar, with the Lusitanian legion, a battalion of Portuguese chasseurs, and two Spanish battalions, on the 15th; he arrived at Arenas on the 19th, and on the Alberché, at Escalona, on the 23d.

General Vanegas had also been directed to break up from Madrilejos on the 18th and 19th, and to march by Trenbleque and Ocana to Puentevedras on the Tagus, where that river is crossed by a ford, and thence to Arganda, where he was to arrive on the 22d and 23d.

On the 22d, the combined armies moved from Oropesa, and the advanced guards attacked the enemy's outposts at Talavera. Their right was turned by the 1st hussars and the 23d light dragoons under General Anson, directed by Lieutenant-General Payne, and by the division of infantry under the command of Major-General Mackenzie, and they were driven in by the Spanish advanced guards under the command of General Sarjas and the Duc d'Albuquerque.

We lost eleven horses by the fire of cannon from the enemy's position on the Alberché, and the Spainards had some men wounded.

The columns were formed for the attack of this position yesterday; but the attack was postponed till this morning by desire of General Cuesta, when the different corps destined for the attack were put in motion, but the enemy had retired at about one in the morning to Santa Olalla, and thence towards Torrijos; I conclude to form a junction with the corps under General Sebastiani.

I have not been able to follow the enemy as I could wish, on account of the great deficiency of means of transport in Spain. I inclose the copy of a letter, which I thought proper to address upon this subject to Major-General O'Donoghue, the Adjutant-General of the Spanish army, as soon as I found that this country would furnish no means of this description.

General Cuesta has urged the Central Junta to adopt vigorous measures to relieve our wants: till I am supplied, I do not think it proper, and indeed I cannot, continue my oper-

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