

killed might amount to between Two and Three Hundred; we have taken the same Number of Prisoners, but the principal Part of the wounded got back into the Town; I am happy to add, that ours were comparatively trifling.

The Consequences of this Affair were greater than the Action itself. Instead of finding ourselves surrounded with Horse, and a petty Warfare at our Posts, many of the Inhabitants of the Country separated, and retired to their several Villages, and we were allowed quietly to set down before the Town.

From the best Information I could obtain, I was led to believe that the Defences of Monte Video were weak, and the Garrison by no Means disposed to make an obstinate Resistance; but I found the Works truly respectable, with One hundred and sixty Pieces of Cannon; and they were ably defended.

The Enemy, being in Possession of the Island of Ratonas, commanded the Harbour; and I was aware that their Gun Boats would annoy us, as we apprehended. A Two Gun Battery was constructed on the 23d to keep them in Check, and our Posts were extended to the Harbour, and completely shut in the Garrison on the Land Side. Their Communication was still, however, open by Water, and their Boats conveyed to them Troops and Provisions: Even Water for the Garrison was obtained by these Means; for the Wells that supply the Town were in our Possession.

On the 25th we opened Batteries of Four Twenty-four Pounders and Two Mortars, and all the Frigates and smaller Vessels came in, as close as they could with Safety, and cannonaded the Town. But finding that the Garrison was not intimidated into a Surrender, I constructed, on the 28th, a Battery of Six Twenty-four Pounders, within a Thousand Yards of the South East Bastion of the Citadel, which I was informed was in so weak a State that it might be easily breached. The Parapet was soon in Ruins, but the Rampart received little Injury, and I was soon convinced that my Means were unequal to a regular Siege; the only Prospect of Success that presented itself was, to erect a Battery as near as possible to a Wall by the South Gate, that joins the Works to the Sea, and endeavour to breach it. This was effected by a Six Gun Battery within Six hundred Yards, and though it was exposed to a very superior Fire from the Enemy, which had been incessant during the whole of the Siege, a Breach was reported practicable on the 2d instant. Many Reasons induced me not to delay the Assault, though I was aware the Troops would be exposed to a very heavy Fire in approaching and mounting the Breach. Orders were issued for the Attack an Hour before Day break the ensuing Morning, and a Summons was sent to the Governor in the Evening to surrender the Town. To this Message no Answer was returned.

The Troops destined for the assault consisted of the Rifle Corps under Major Gardner, the Light Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Brownrigg and Major Trotter, the Grenadiers under Majors Campbell and Tucker, and the 38th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Vassal and Major Nugent.

They were supported by the 40th Regiment under Major Dalrymple, and the 87th under Lieutenant-Colonel Butler and Major Miller. The whole were commanded by Colonel Browne. The Remainder of my Force, consisting of the 17th

Light Dragoons, Detachments of the 20th and 21st Light Dragoons, the 47th Regiment, a Company of the 71st, and a Corps of 700 Marines and Seamen, were encamped under Brigadier-General Lumley, to protect our Rear.

At the appointed Hour the Troops marched to the Assault. They approached near the Breach before they were discovered, when a destructive Fire from every Gun that could bear upon it, and from the Musketry of the Garrison, opened upon them. Heavy as it was, our Loss would have been comparatively trifling, if the Breach had been open, but during the Night, and under our Fire, the Enemy had barricaded it with Hides, so as to render it nearly impracticable. The Night was extremely dark. The Head of the Column missed the Breach, and when it was approached it was so shut up, that it was mistaken for the untouched Wall. In this Situation the Troops remained under a heavy Fire for a Quarter of an Hour, when the Breach was discerned by Captain Renny of the 40th Light Infantry, who pointed it out, and gloriously fell as he mounted it. Our gallant Soldiers rushed to it, and, difficult as it was of Access, forced their way into the Town. Cannon were placed at the Head of the principal Streets, and their Fire, for a short Time, was destructive: but the Troops advanced in all Directions, clearing the Streets and Batteries with their Bayonets, and overturning their cannon. The 40th Regiment, with Colonel Browne, followed. They also missed the Breach, and Twice passed through the Fire of the Batteries, before they found it.

The 87th Regiment was posted near the North Gate, which the Troops who entered at the Breach were to open for them, but their Ardour was so great that they could not wait. They scaled the Walls and entered the Town as the Troops within approached it. At Day-light every Thing was in our Possession except the Citadel, which made a show of Resistance, but soon surrendered, and early in the Morning the Town was quiet, and the Women were peaceably walking the Streets.

The Gallantry displayed by the Troops during the Assault, and their Forbearance and orderly Behaviour in the Town speak so fully in their Praise, that it is unnecessary for me to say how highly I am pleased with their Conduct. The Service they have been engaged in since we landed, has been uncommonly severe and laborious, but not a murmur has escaped them; every Thing I wished has been effected with order and cheerfulness.

Our Loss during the Siege was trifling, particularly as we were not sheltered by Approaches, and the Enemy's Fire of Shot and Shell was incessant. But it is painful for me to add, that it was great at the Assault. Many most valuable Officers are among the Killed and Wounded. Major Dalrymple of the 40th was the only Field Officer killed. Lieutenant-Colonels Vassal and Brownrigg and Major Tucker are among the wounded. I am deeply concerned to say that the Two former are severely so. The Enemy's Loss was very great, about Eight Hundred killed, Five Hundred wounded, and the Governor Don Pasquil Ruis Huidobro, with upwards of Two Thousand Officers and Men are Prisoners, About Fifteen Hundred escaped in Boats or secreted themselves in the Town.

From Brigadier-General the Honourable W.