



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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Downing-Street, May 24, 1809.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, was received this Evening from Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Wellesley, by Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

My Lord, Oporto, May 12, 1809.

I HAD the Honour to apprize your Lordship, on the 7th Instant, that I intended that the Army should march on the 9th from Coimbra to dispossess the Enemy of Oporto.

The Advanced Guard and the Cavalry had marched on the 7th, and the whole had halted on the 8th to afford Time for Marshal Beresford with his Corps to arrive upon the Upper Douro.

The Infantry of the Army was formed into Three Divisions for this Expedition, of which Two, the Advanced Guard, consisting of the Hanoverian Legion and Brigadier-General R. Stewart's Brigade, with a Brigade of Six-Pounders, and a Brigade of Three-Pounders under Lieutenant-General Paget, and the Cavalry under Lieutenant-General Payne, and the Brigade of Guards; Brigadier-General Campbell's and Brigadier-General Brigades of Infantry, with a Brigade of Six-Pounders, under Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke, moved by the High Road from Coimbra to Oporto, and one composed of Major-General Hill's and Brigadier-General Cameron's Brigades of Infantry, and a Brigade of Six-Pounders, under the Command of Major-General Hill, by the Road from Coimbra to Aveiro.

On the 10th in the Morning, before Daylight, the Cavalry and Advanced Guard crossed the Vouga with the Intention to surprize and cut off Four Regiments of French Cavalry, and a Battalion of Infantry and Artillery, cantoned in Albergaria Nova and the neighbouring Villages, about Eight Miles

from that River, in the last of which we failed; but the Superiority of the British Cavalry was evident throughout the Day; we took some Prisoners and their Cannon from them; and the Advanced Guard took up the Position of Oliviera.

On the same Day Major-General Hill, who had embarked at Aveiro on the Evening of the 9th, arrived at Ovar, in the Rear of the Enemy's Right; and the Head of Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke's Division passed the Vouga on the same Evening.

On the 11th, the Advanced Guard and Cavalry continued to move on the High Road towards Oporto, with Major-General Hill's Division in a parallel Road, which leads to Oporto from Ovar.

On the Arrival of the Advanced Guard at Vendas Novas, between Sonto Redondo and Grijon, they fell in with the Outposts of the Enemy's Advanced Guard, consisting of about Four Thousand Infantry, and some Squadrons of Cavalry, strongly posted on the Heights above Grijon, their Front being covered by Woods and broken Ground. The Enemy's left Flank was turned by a Movement well executed by Major-General Murray, with Brigadier-General Langworth's Brigade of the Hanoverian Legion; while the 15th Portuguese Regiment of Brigadier-General Richard Stewart's Brigade attacked their Right, and the Rifle Men of the 95th, and the Flank Companies of the 29th, 43d, and 52d of the same Brigade under Major Way, attacked the Infantry in the Woods and Village in their Center.

These Attacks soon obliged the Enemy to give Way; and the Honourable Brigadier-General Charles Stewart led Two Squadrons of the 16th and 20th Dragoons, under the Command of Major Blake, in Pursuit of the Enemy, and destroyed many and took many Prisoners.

On the Night of the 11th the Enemy crossed the Duero, and destroyed the Bridge over that River.

It was important, with a View to the Operations of Marshal Beresford, that I should cross the Douro immediately; and I had sent Major-General Murray in the Morning with a Battalion of the Hanoverian Legion, a Squadron of Cavalry, and Two Six Pounders, to endeavour to collect Boats, and, if possible, to cross the River at Ovinas, about Four Miles above Oporto; and I had as many Boats as could be collected brought to the Ferry, immediately above the Towns of Oporto and Villa Nova.

The Ground on the Right Bank of the River at this Ferry is protected and commanded by the Fire of Cannon, placed on the Height of the Sierra-Convant at Villa Nova, and there appeared to be a good Position for our Troops on the opposite-Side of the River, till they should be collected in sufficient Numbers.

The Enemy took no Notice of our Collection of Boats, or of the Embarkation of the Troops, till after the First Battalion (the Buffs) were landed, and had taken up their Position under the Command of Lieutenant-General Paget on the opposite Side of the River.

They then commenced an Attack upon them, with a large Body of Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery, under the Command of Marshal Soult, which that Corps most gallantly sustained, till supported, successively by the 48th and 66th Regiments, belonging to Major General Hill's Brigade, and a Portuguese Battalion, and afterwards by the First Battalion of Detachments belonging to Brigadier-General Richard Stewart's Brigade.

Lieutenant-General Paget was unfortunately wounded soon after the Attack commenced, when the Command of these gallant Troops devolved upon Major General Hill.

Although the French made repeated Attacks upon them, they made no Impression, and at last Major General Murray having appeared on the Enemy's Left Flank on his March from Ovinas, where he had crossed, and Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke, who by this Time had availed himself of the Enemy's Weakness in the Town of Oporto, and had crossed the Douro at the Ferry, between the Towns of Villa Nova and Oporto, having appeared upon the Right with the Brigade of Guards, and the 29th Regiment, the whole retired in the utmost Confusion towards Amaranthe leaving behind them Five Pieces of Canon, Eight Ammunition Tumbrils, and many Prisoners.

The Enemy's Loss in killed and wounded in this Action has been very large, and they have left behind them in Oporto 700 sick and wounded.

Brigadier-General the Honourable Charles Stewart then directed a Charge by a Squadron of the 14th Dragoons, under the Command of Major Hervey, who made a successful Attack on the Enemy's Rear Guard.

In the different Actions with the Enemy, of which I have above given your Lordship an Account, we have lost some, and the immediate Services of other valuable Officers and Soldiers.

In Lieutenant-General Paget, among the latter, I have lost the Assistance of a Friend, who had been most useful to me in the few Days which had elapsed since he had joined the Army.

He had rendered a most important Service at the Moment he received his Wound, in taking up the Po-

sition which the Troops afterwards maintained, and in bearing the first Brunt of the Enemy's Attack.

Major Hervey also distinguished himself at the Moment he received his Wound in the Charge of the Cavalry on this Day.

I cannot say too much in Favour of the Officers and Troops.

They have marched in Four Days over Eighty Miles of most difficult Country, have gained many important Positions, and have engaged and defeated Three different Bodies of the Enemy's Troops.

I beg particularly to draw your Lordship's Attention to the Conduct of Lieutenant-General Paget, Major-General Murray, Major-General Hill, Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke, Brigadier-General the Honourable Charles Stewart, Lieutenant-Colonel Delancey, Deputy Quarter-Master-General, and Captain Mellish, Assistant Adjutant-General, for the Assistance they respectively rendered General Stewart in the Charge of the Cavalry this Day and on the 11th, Major Colin Campbell, Assistant-Adjutant-General, for the Assistance he rendered Major-General Hill in the Defence of his Post, and Brigadier-General Stewart in the Charge of the Cavalry this Day, and Brigade-Major Fordyce, Captain Corry and Captain Hill, for the Assistance they rendered General Hill.

I have also to request your Lordship's Attention to the Conduct of the Riflemen and of the Flank Companies of the 29th, 43d, and 52d Regiments, under the Command of Major Way of the 29th, and that of the 16th Portuguese Regiment, commanded by Colonel Machado, of which Lieutenant-Colonel Doyle is Lieutenant-Colonel, and that of the Brigade of the Hanoverian Legion, under the Command of Brigadier-General Langworth, and that of the Two Squadrons of the 16th and 20th Light Dragoons, under the Command of Major Blake of the 20th, in the Action of the 11th; and the Conduct of the Buffs commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Drummond, the 48th commanded by Colonel Duckworth, and 66th commanded by Major Murray who was wounded, and of the Squadron of the 14th Dragoons under the Command of Major Hervey, in the Action of this Day.

I have received the greatest Assistance from the Adjutant-General and Quarter-Master-General Colonel Murray, and from all the Officers belonging to those Departments respectively throughout the Service, as well as from Lieutenant-Colonel Bathurst and the Officers of my personal Staff, and I have every Reason to be satisfied with the Artillery and Officers of Engineers.

I send this Dispatch by Captain Stanhope, whom I beg to recommend to your Lordship's Protection: his Brother the Honourable Major Stanhope was unfortunately wounded by a Sabre whilst leading a Charge of the 16th Light Dragoons on the 10th Instant. I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Abstract of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Army under Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, in Action with the Advanced Posts of the French Army at Albergaria Nova, the 10th May 1809.

None killed; 1 Major, 2 Rank and File, wounded; 1 Rank and File, missing.

Total—4.



Name of Officer wounded.

Hon. Major Lincoln Stanhope, of the 16th Dragoons, slightly wounded in the Shoulder.

Abstract of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, in the Action on the Heights of Grijon, on the 11th May 1809.

19 killed, 63 wounded, 14 missing.—Total 96.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

16th Light Dragoons—Captain Sweatman, wounded slightly; Lieutenant Tomkinson, severely.

1st Batt. Detachments—Captain Owens, 38th Foot, wounded; Lieutenant Woodgate, 52d Foot, severely wounded.

1st Batt. King's German Legion—Captain Delanring, killed.

2d ditto—Captain Langrelin, severely wounded.

Rifle Corps King's German Legion—Lieutenant Ladders, wounded.

Abstract of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Army under Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, in Action with the French Army under the Command of Marshal Soult, in the Passage of the Duero, on the 12th May 1809.

23 Rank and File, killed; 2 General and Staff Officers, 3 Majors, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Serjeant, 85 Rank and File, wounded; 2 Rank and File, missing.

Total—23 killed, 96 wounded, 2 missing—121.

Names of Officers killed, wounded, and missing.

Lieutenant-General Paget lost his Arm, but doing well.

Captain Hill, Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Hill, slightly.

14th Light Dragoons—Major Hervey lost his Right Arm, but doing well; Captain Hawker and Lieutenant Knipe, slightly.

3d Foot—Lieutenant Monaghan, slightly.

48th Foot, 2d Batt.—Major Erskine, slightly.

66th Foot, 2d Batt.—Major Murray, severely in the Arm; Captain Binning, slightly.

Royal Engineers—First Lieutenant Hamilton, severely.

Oporto, May 13, 1809.

Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, Carriages, and Ordnance Stores, &c. &c. taken in the Arsenal of Quartieri-St. Oviedo, on the 12th May 1809.

Brafs Guns French, the Carriages broken to Pieces—10 Twelve-Pounders, 12 Eight-Pounders, 18 Four-Pounders, 16 Three-Pounders.

Brafs Howitzers French, One Carriage good—2 Eight Inch, 1 Six Inch.

French Caiffons—4 serviceable, 36 unserviceable.

3000 whole Barrels of English Gunpowder.

300,000 English Musket Cartridges.

Round Shot—2000 Nine-Pounders, 256 Eighteen-Pounders, 508 Twelve-Pounders, 656 Eight-Pounders, 580 Four-Pounders, 200 Three-Pounders.

Shells—400 Six-Inch.

600 Flannell Cartridges.

Cafe Shot—120 Six-Inch Howitzers.

Wheels good—8 Guns, 30 Howitzers, 18 Carrs.

60 Handspikes.

12 Tarpaulins.

3,000 French Flint.

10 Slow Matches.

100 Spunges.

30 Copper Ladles.

G. HOWARTH,
Brig. Gen. Royal Horse Artillery.

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