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Downing-Street, November 19, 1810.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship, by Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington. Those of the 3d of November were received upon the 16th Instant; those of the 27th October, upon the 17th Instant; and those of the 20th October, this Day.

MY LORD, *Pero Negro, October* 20, 1810.

SINCE I addressed you, the Enemy have been employed principally in reconnoitering the Positions occupied by our Troops, and in strengthening their own. In effecting the former Object they have skirmished with the Troops on our Out-Posts, who have always conducted themselves well.

On the 14th they attacked with Infantry, supported by Artillery, a small Detachment of the 71st Regiment, which formed the Advanced Guard of Lieutenant-General Sir Brent Spencer's Division, near Sobral de Montagaree, in order to cover one of their reconnoitering Parties. This Detachment having the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Cadogan and Lieutenant-Colonel Reynell at their Head, charged the Enemy in the most gallant Style, and drove them into the Town.

The whole of the 8th Corps d'Armée, however, and Part of the 6th, arrived on the Ground near Sobral on that Evening; and I therefore thought it proper to withdraw Lieutenant-General Sir Brent Spencer's Division from the advanced Situation which it had occupied, and these Troops marched to Zibreira, about One Mile in the Rear, on the 15th in the Morning.

The Gun-Boats on the Tagus, under Lieutenant Berkeley, with which Admiral Berkeley has supported the Right of the Army near Alhandra, have likewise been engaged with the Enemy's reconnoitering Parties, and have been of great Service to us.

I have the Pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the Report which I communicated to you in my last Dispatch, regarding the March of the Detachments of Troops under the Command of General Barcellar, has been confirmed.

Colonel Trant arrived near Coimbra on the 7th, and immediately attacked the Enemy's Out-Posts, which he cut off from the Town, and he then pushed into it and took possession of it. The Resistance made by the Enemy did not last long, and he took Eighty Officers and Five Thousand Men (principally sick and wounded) Prisoners. I have the Honour to enclose the Copy of his Report to Marshal Beresford, and of a Letter from Marshal Beresford upon this Success.

On the following Day Brigadier-General Miller and Colonel Wilson arrived at Coimbra with their Detachments, and they have since taken about Three Hundred and Fifty Prisoners, being Soldiers who had straggled from their Regiments, on the Enemy's March, as they say, in Search of Food.

Colonel Wilson has since advanced to Condeixa, with an advanced Guard of Infantry and Cavalry, and Brigadier-General Miller is at Coimbra.

I inclose a Letter from Marshal Beresford on these Transactions.

A Detachment from the Garrison of Peniché, sent out by Brigadier-General Blunt, under Captain Fenwick, has been successful in a similar Manner, and has brought in Forty-eight Prisoners made in the Rear of the Enemy's Army, having killed Nine; and Lieutenant-Colonel Waters, who has been employed by me with small Detachments of Cavalry and Infantry, also in the Enemy's Rear, has taken many Prisoners.

The Difficulties which the Enemy experience in procuring Subsistence, owing to their having invaded this Country without Magazines, and having adopted no Measures for the Security of their Rear, or of their Communication with Spain, has rendered it necessary for the Soldiers to straggle in Search of

Food; and not a Day passes that Prisoners and Deserters are not sent in.

All remained quiet in the North of Portugal, according to the last Accounts. Marshal Mortier retired from Zafra and Los Santos on the 8th; and, according to the last Accounts, he had arrived at Seville with the Troops under his Command. General Ballasteros had followed him to the Neighbourhood of Castillo de las Guardias, and the Portugueze and Spanish Cavalry had moved on from the Guadiana towards the Sierra Morena.

In the meantime, the Infantry of the Marquis de la Romana's Corps was put in Motion for this Quarter on the 8th Instant, and the Head of it (the Division under the Command of General O'Donnell) arrived at Cabeça de Montechique Yesterday, having crossed the Tagus in the Morning.

My last Accounts from Cadiz are of the 4th Instant.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

WELLINGTON

Head-Quarters, Fort Sobral,
My Lord, *October* 17, 1810.

I HAVE the Honour to report to your Lordship, that, by Letters from Brigadier-General Miller, from Coimbra, I am informed of our Northern Militia having entered that Place on the 8th Instant. Colonel Trant, with the Oporto Militia, it appears (I have no Report from that Officer), first entered it; and Brigadier-General Miller, and Colonel Wilson, who, with the Militia of the Minho, and some regular Cavalry, had followed the Enemy along his own Line of March, on the Eastward of the Sierra of Caramula, entered a few Hours after Colonel Trant.

Brigadier-General Miller had collected, of Stragglers and Pillagers left in the Rear of the French Army, about Three Hundred and Fifty, and more were continually bringing in. Colonel Wilson, with an Advance Guard of about Two Hundred Cavalry, and Four Battalions of Militia, was to be at Condeixa on the 10th and 11th.

The whole of these Prisoners have been sent off to Oporto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. BERESFORD.

My Lord, *Cazal-Cochin, October* 19, 1810.

I HAVE the Honour to annex, for your Lordship's Information, a Letter which I have received from Brigadier-General Blunt, Governor of Peniché, informing of the Loss occasioned to the Enemy by some small Parties sent out from his Garrison, and of the good Conduct of those Troops of the Line and Militia employed on those Occasions.

(Signed) W. C. BERESFORD,
Marshal and Lieutenant-General.

To His Excellency the Marshal General
Lord Viscount Wellington, K.B.

SIR, *Peniché, October* 16, 1810.

YOU will be pleased to represent to His Excellency Marshal Beresford, that a few Days since I sent out a Party consisting of One Serjeant and Eighteen Privates of the Tondella Militia (Volunteers) with the View of intercepting Couriers, or any other Service by which they might annoy the Enemy; they returned Yesterday, bringing with them two Cavalry Horses equipped, some Swords, Pistols, Caps, &c.

The Sergeant reports having fallen in with Thirty Horsemen, at the moment dismounted, attacking them and killing Five; the rest made their escape. The Horses flew in different directions, so that only two could be secured. One Militia Man was killed and Two wounded.

You will also be pleased to report to His Excellency, that in consequence of Information received from the Country-people that between Two and Three Hundred Marauders were destroying the Habitations and committing dreadful Outrages on the few Peasants that fell into their Hands, about Five Leagues and a Half from this, I detached the Major de Praca Fenwick with One Hundred and Fifty Recruits and Militia Yesterday Evening to disperse or bring them in, in which he has succeeded, killing a few Men* and making Twenty-eight Prisoners, with the Loss of only Two Men. Major Fenwick speaks in the warmest Terms of the Ardour of the Recruits and Militia, with the Officers who commanded them; but what, under Circumstances, he has considered equally worthy of Admiration, was to see Resentments stifled, and the Soldiers, alive only to the Feelings of Humanity, anxious to spare the Enemy they had subdued.

You will also be pleased to report the Arrival of Twelve Deserters, who with the Prisoners shall be sent to Lisbon the first favourable Occasion.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. BLUNT, Brig. Gen.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arbuthnot, Military Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

I hope his Excellency will not disapprove my having permitted the Party of Militia to dispose of the Horses.

* Five killed, Four wounded.

My Lord, *Cazal Cochin. Oct.* 20, 1810.

SINCE writing to your Lordship the Information I have received from Brigadier-General Miller relative to the Re-occupation of Coimbra, I have received from Colonel Trant a more detailed Statement of the Circumstances, and which I have the Honour of annexing a Copy of for your Lordship's Information.

The Prisoners, by Colonel Trant's Statement, appear to have been more numerous than by the first Accounts we were led to consider them; Three or Four Hundred afterwards collected by Brigadier-General Miller, dispersed in plundering Parties in the Neighbourhood of Coimbra, will have to be added to what Colonel Trant captured.

The Circumstance and Mode of the Re-occupation of Coimbra is an additional Proof of the Activity and prudent Enterprize with which Colonel Trant has fulfilled the Objects of the Instructions given to him, and which I have no Doubt your Lordship will appreciate.

(Signed) W. C. BERESFORD.

SIR, *Coimbra, 7th October*, 1810.

I HAVE much Pleasure in acquainting your Excellency with my having successfully attacked the Town of Coimbra this Day, with Loss of only a few Men killed and wounded.

In my Letter of the 6th, I had the Honour to

inform you, that it was my Intention to proceed to Mealhada in the Course of the Day, with an Expectation of forming a Junction with the Corps under the Command of Brigadier-General Miller and Colonel Wilson, and combining an Attack on this City, but, on my Arrival there, I learned that those Two Corps were delayed from Want of Supplies in the very exhausted Districts extending immediately North of Busaco, and that the Cavalry attached to them could not move forward in consequence of the Fatigue it had experienced in its former Marches.

I had now no other Alternative in order to prevent any Measures of Defence taking place at Coimbra, from whence I was only Three short Leagues distant, than to proceed on with my own Division, while yet a strong Probability existed of my Arrival at Mealhada not being made known.

I therefore marched at Mid-day, having a Squadron of Cavalry in my Front, under the Command of that gallant young Officer Lieutenant Dutel, whose Name I have already had Occasion to submit to your Excellency's Notice, supported by Two Hundred Light Troops; the Column of Infantry was headed by the Coimbra Regiment as the Post of Honour. In my Plan of Attack it was intended to enter at Two Points at one Time, one Division by the high Road from Oporto, the other to branch off from the Column on having passed Fornos, and by ascending the Heights to the Eastward of the Town, enter by the Arco Santa Anna, passing through Loretto; but this Arrangement was to take place only in the Event of my finding the Enemy on his Guard.

At a short Distance from Fornos, towards Mealhada, I fell in with a Detachment of the Enemy to the Right of that Village; it commenced firing, but having pushed on the Cavalry to Fornos, I succeeded in cutting it off from all Communication with Coimbra, and it surrendered, after losing some Men; and I met no other Post of the Enemy. I directed the Cavalry to gallop through the principal Streets, cross the Bridge of the Mondego, and by penetrating into the Lisbon Road, to intercept any Information sent to the Main Army. This was effected with the utmost Spirit by Lieutenant Dutel, with the Loss of only One Dragoon killed.—I dispatched Divisions of Infantry into the principal Parts of the Town; an unconnected Resistance took place during an Hour, in which we had only Two Men killed; Colonel Serpa, of the Penafiel, and about Twenty-five Men wounded of that Corps. Colonel Serpa commanded the First Brigade, and his spirited Conduct has entitled him to your Excellency's Approbation. On the Santa Clara Side of the Mondego, where a great Proportion of the Enemy's Force was stationed in the Convent, some irregular Firing was kept up upon the Cavalry in crossing the Bridge; but the French Commanding Officer, immediately after Lieutenant Dutel had crossed, proposed capitulating. I proceeded to the Convent, and would allow no Terms but Discretion. On my Promise of exerting my Protection against the Insults of the Peasantry, the Troops laid down their Arms and marched out.

I have Reason to believe the Number of Prisoners exceeds Five Thousand, of whom nearly Four Thousand are marched off towards Oporto, including an entire Company of the Emperor's Marine Guards; Three Thousand Five Hundred Firelocks were found, and almost the whole loaded, from whence you may form an Idea of the Number in a State for defensive Service; those Arms I have distributed amongst the Ordinanza of the Country; I found no Artillery. We got possession of a Quantity of Oxen and Sheep, which were collected for the Subsistence of the Enemy's Troops, and have proved a seasonable Supply to our own. Amongst the Prisoners are, I should suppose, Eighty Officers. The Commissaire Ordinateur en Chef M. Flandin, who represented a Governor, will remain sick at Coimbra.

From the Nature of Attack, your Excellency will easily conceive how difficult it was to controul the Soldiers, or to prevent the armed Peasantry from plundering. Those latter, I am sorry to say, committed Acts of Violence, but, I believe, not more than Six or Eight Frenchmen were the Victims of their Resentment. I should here observe, that nothing can possibly exceed the State of Wretchedness in which I found the City; the Enemy, not content with sacking it to the very utmost Extent, and stripping the few Housekeepers who remained of even their personal Clothing, had wantonly set fire to some Houses, and had heaped into the Streets, in one general Mass of Disorder, all the Furniture which they could not take with the Army; it cannot be expected, therefore, that Soldiers, of whom about Eight Hundred were Relatives of the Town and its Neighbourhood, accompanied by their wretched Relatives, could patiently witness a Scene of Devastation in which their Property had been thus unjustifiably and irretrievably destroyed. I request your Excellency, however, to be persuaded that every possible Exertion has been made to give Protection to the French who have fallen into our Hands; and, after the first Moments, I succeeded in securing them from Insult.

As Brigadier-General Miller, and Colonel Wilson's Corps, will arrive here To-morrow, I propose to leave one of my Brigades behind, and to march, with the Remainder of my Division, as an Escort to Oporto; for such is the Animosity of the People of this Country, excited by the late Passage of the French Army, that I consider my Presence absolutely necessary, particularly in the intermediate District between Mondego and Vouga.

I shall conclude this Report by assuring your Excellency that the Spirit of the Militia upon this Occasion was such as would do Credit to any Troops of the Line, and I have observed no individual Exception; I do not, therefore, compliment any particular Officer.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) N. TRANT.

My Lord, *Pero Negro, 27th Oct. 1810.*

I ENCLOSE two Letters from Marshal Beresford, with Reports from Brigadier-General Blunt, of Successes against the Enemy's Detachments, by Parties detached from the Garrison of Peniché. The former was mentioned to your Lordship in my Dispatch of the 20th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

Head Quarters, Cazal Cochin,
My Lord, *20th October* 1810.

I HAVE the Honour to annex the Extract of a Letter I have this Instant received from Brigadier General Blunt, by which your Lordship will see he continues to pick up the Marauders and Stragglers from the Enemy. I have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. BERESFORD,
Marshal and Lieut.-General.

Extract of a Letter from Brigadier-General Blunt, to Lieutenant-Colonel Arbuthnot, dated Peniché, 19th October 1810.

YOU will be pleased to report to His Excellency Marshal Beresford, that, in consequence of Information, I detached a Party on the 17th under the Command of Major Tavares to fall in with the Enemy's Foragers, but unfortunately the Enemy had retired.

Major Pinto was detached Yesterday for the same Purpose to a Distance of Five Leagues. He succeeded in taking Twenty-three Prisoners, Two of the Enemy were killed and One of the Recruits. It is great Gratification to see the Alacrity with which they offer themselves on every Occasion.

My Lord, *Pero Negro, 27th October,* 1810.

THE Enemy still occupy the same Positions in Front of this Army which they held when I addressed you on the 20th Instant. They have detached some Troops towards Santarem, and on the 23d General Loison marched towards that Place with the Division under his Command; and it appears, from Accounts from the Commanding Officer at Abrantes, of the 24th, that a Body of the Enemy's Infantry and Cavalry entered Thomar on that Day. The Reports which I have received from the Prisoners and Deserters which have been brought in, concur in the Accounts of the Distress felt by the Enemy for the Want of Provisions of all Descriptions. They state that they are collecting and preparing Materials to construct a Bridge over the Tagus; but although we have a good View of that River from different Parts of the Ground occupied by the Army, and have Officers and others employed on the Left of the Tagus, to observe the Motions of the Enemy, I have not been able to discover either where this Work is carrying on, or where the Bridge is to be placed on the River, if it should be constructed.

The Enemy appears to be very anxious to collect Boats; and on the 24th endeavoured to drive a Party of the Ordenanza from Chamusca, by the Fire of Artillery, in order to obtain possession of some which were under that Place.

Colonel Wilson had been at Leyria, with the Cavalry attached to General Barcellar's Division, and had proceeded to Ourem. The Advance of the Infantry was at Pombal.

On the Side of Obidos and Ramalhal, the British Cavalry and a Battalion of Spanish Light Infantry, and the Troops of the Garrison of Peniché, confine the Enemy's Detachments; and they really possess no Part of the Country, excepting that on which their Army stands.

By the last Accounts from General Silveira of the 17th Instant, it appears that all was quiet in the North; and he had not received any Accounts of the March of Troops in Castille.

The Parties of Guerillas had been more daring than usual; and they had united in the Neighbourhood of Valladolid, early in the Month of October, to the Amount of Fifteen Hundred, in order to carry off a Convoy of Money which had been raised in Contributions from the Country, in which Attempt however they failed.

According to the Accounts of the 21st, from Estremadura, it appears that Marshal Mortier's Corps was still at Seville; and General Ballasteros was observing it from Aracena.

The second Division of the Marquis de la Romana's Corps, under General Carrera, arrived at Lisbon on the 25th, and will be with the Army this Day.—My last Accounts from Cadiz are of the 4th Instant. I have, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

My Lord, *Pero Negro, 3d Nov.* 1810.

I HAVE not observed any Alteration in the Enemy's Position or Numbers since I addressed you on the 27th Ult.

They have a considerable Body of Troops, principally Cavalry, on the Tagus, between Punhete and Santarem; and I have Reason to believe that Loison's Division of Infantry had not marched in that Direction, as I reported to your Lordship they had in my last Dispatch; some of the Corps composing that Division have certainly remained in the Camps in Front of this Army.

The Enemy have pushed some Troops across the Zezere above Punhete, principally Cavalry, apparently to reconnoiter the Roads in that Direction and the Fort at Abrantes; but I conclude that the Rains which have fallen within these few Days will have swelled that River, and that these Troops will have retired again.

They are still reported to be at Work upon Materials for a Bridge both at Santarem and Barquinha; but I have detached Major General Fane with a Body of Cavalry and Infantry to the Left of the Tagus, from whom I hope to receive accurate Accounts of what is passing opposite to him on this Side; and he will endeavour to destroy these Materials if it should be practicable.

It is reported by all the Deserters that the Enemy's Troops continue to suffer great Distress from the Want of Provisions.

It is impossible to form an Estimate of the Quantity of Provisions which they found in the Villages on the Ground which they occupy; but it is certain, that they can draw none from any other Part of the Country, the whole being in the Possession of our Troops.

The Garrison of Peniché, and the Garrison of Obidos, which Place Captain Fenwick, of the Portuguese Service, has lately occupied, under the Direction of Brigadier-General Blunt, and the British Cavalry, continue to carry on a destructive Warfare in the Rear of the Enemy's Right, while the high Road from Coimbra by Leyria is in the Possession of Colonel Wilson's Detachment.

I enclose a Letter from Marshal Beresford, on the Effects of the Operations of Brigadier-General Blunt and Captain Fenwick.

I have received no Letter from General Silveira of a later Date than the 19th October. He had not

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at that time, heard of the March of any of the Enemy's Troops in Castille.

He occupied with his Detachment the Roads from Almeida to Trancoso, Celorico and Guarda. He had heard that General Bonnet had evacuated the Asturias, and, it is supposed, had moved into Biscay.

I have letters from Estremadura and Castromarin of as late a Date as the 27th of October, stating that Mortier's Corps was still at Seville in a very inefficient State, and having many sick.

My last Accounts from Cadiz are of the 22d Ult.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

My Lord, *Sapataria, 3d Nov.* 1810.

I HAVE the Honor to annex a Return taken from the several Reports received from Brigadier-General Blunt, of the Number of Killed and Prisoners to the Detachment which he sent from Peniché to Obidos, under the Command of Captain Fenwick (Lieutenant in the Buffs) since his former Reports of the Proceedings of that Officer, and which, with what had been previously reported upon, will make the Amount of the Enemy's Loss to that Detachment, besides the Wounded which they are generally enabled to carry off, about One Hundred and Sixty Men.

I take the Occasion of remarking to your Lordship the Zeal and Judgment of Brigadier-General Blunt in re-occupying the Town of Obidos when the principal Force of the Enemy had passed it; and he gives much Applause to Captain Fenwick for his Activity and Conduct in the Command of the small Detachment he has been enabled to detach from Peniché, under his Command.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) W. C. BERESFORD.

To Lord Viscount Wellington, &c. &c. &c.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Prisoners by the Detachment at Obidos, under the Orders of Captain Fenwick, since last Report.

Oct. 27th—1 Serjeant, 19 Privates Prisoners.

Nov. 1st—5 Privates Prisoners, 7 Privates Killed.

P. S. 46 Bullocks and 200 Sets of Hospital Bedding taking from the Enemy on the 1st November, likewise 2 Horses.

Sapataria, 3d Nov. 1810.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Army under the Command of Viscount Wellington, in Skirmishes with the Enemy on the 9th, 12th, 13th, and 14th October, 1810.

Killed—1 Serjeant, 19 Rank and File, 22 Horses.

Wounded—7 Officers, 7 Serjeants, 77 Rank and File, 10 Horses.

Missing—1 Serjeant, 41 Rank and File, 12 Horses.

Names of Officers Wounded.

1st Hussars, King's German Legion—Captain Linsingen, slightly; Captain Aly, ditto.

95th Regiment—Captain Percival, severely, not dangerously; Lieutenant Ecles, severely.

5th Batt. King's German Legion—Lieutenant Muller, severely.

Brunswick Infantry—Captain Schufeldt, severely.

General Staff—Captain D. Merceo, slightly.

Downing-Street, November 19, 1810.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship, by Lieutenant-General Sir John Stuart, K. B., dated Messina, 22d September 1810.

My Lord,

EARLY on the Morning of the 18th Instant our Attention was much occupied by the opposite Movements of General Murat, who, by the Embarkation of the principal Body of his Army in the whole of his long Range of Boats at Scylla and the Punta del Pizzo, and the Disposition of these Vessels after being cast off from the Shore, seemed to indicate a conclusive Design upon the Part of our Line extending towards the Faro.

While the Attention of our Left was engaged by the above Operation, Information was brought to me that a Division of the Enemy, having embarked at Reggio during the preceding Night, had been perceived completing a Landing upon our Right, just before Dawn, at about Seven Miles to the Southward of Messina.

Reinforcements, which were held in Reserve in this Garrison to move according to Circumstances, marched to sustain our Posts at the invaded Point upon the first Signal of Alarm; but the active Vigilance of the Troops stationed at that Extremity of our Defences, and their prompt and spirited Behaviour, under the Conduct of Major-General Campbell, had already happily rendered the Presence of these Succours unnecessary.

The Repulse of the Enemy in this partial Enterprize, and the equally disgraceful and precipitate Flight of the French General who commanded it, with the Sacrifice of so considerable a Part of his Equipment, are more fully detailed in the adjoined Report from Major-General Campbell to myself, on the Proceedings of this fortunate Day; and I hope His Majesty will be graciously pleased to draw an Augur from the Relation of this Officer of the future Conduct of this Army at large, in any Emergency of Service which it may become their Duty to encounter.

The Zeal, the Warmth exemplified by the neighbouring Peasantry in our Behalf, and which were not manifested without a Loss, and the Judgement as well as Alacrity with which I have since learnt that those in remoter Districts made immediate Dispositions to obstruct the Progress of the Enemy in their possible Attempt to penetrate into the Country, were far beyond what I could have hoped or expected from their peaceful Habits; and so strongly was their Animosity marked towards their Invaders, that the Interposition of our Escorts was frequently necessary to protect our Prisoners from their Fury in conducting them, after their Surrender, to the Citadel of Messina.

A Colour inscribed as a Gift from Gioachino Napoleone to the Royal Corsican Corps, said to be new for the Occasion of the Expedition, fell among other Captures of the Morning into our Hands, and I hope His Majesty will be graciously pleased to approve my Transmittal of this Trophy to be respectfully laid at the Feet of His Sicilian Majesty, as a Token of our Zeal in Support of his royal Cause, and as a Record that the first Effort of a daring Enemy to plant the Standard of Usurpation in this his second Kingdom, and which still owns his rightful Dominion, was repulsed by a British army.

I cannot close this Communication to your Lordship without expressing my official Acknowledgments to the great Assistance I have derived from Lieutenant General Lord Forbes, as well as the other general Officers, and indeed every Department and Rank of this Army, during a long Period of Four Months, in which the Contiguity and constant Menaces of an enterprizing Enemy have demanded from us a System of unabating Vigilance, to which every Mind has submitted with Cheerfulness, but which your Lordship will believe has not been without its Fatigue.

The habitual, cordial, and friendly Co-operation which I have received from Admiral Martin and the Naval Force under his Orders during this Interval of Anxiety, I have before had Occasion to mention to your Lordship.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. STUART, Count of Maida.

SIR, *Messina, September* 18, 1810.

Being apprized about a Quarter past Four this Morning, that a Detachment of the Enemy's Boats had approached and fired upon the Cavalry Picquet at St. Stefano, I deemed it expedient to repair towards that Place; and on my Way thither, discovered (before Daylight) a smart Fire of Musketry, apparently near Mili. On my Arrival at Mili, I found Lieutenant-Colonel Adam, with the 21st Regiment, very judiciously posted in that advantageous Spot (supported by the 3d King's German Legion) with Two Six-Pounders; and the Riflemen of the King's German Legion in his Front, beyond the Mili Fiumara, briskly exchanging Shots with the Enemy.

Thus situated, and when full Daylight rendered all Objects distinctly visible, I clearly observed about Forty of the Enemy's large Boats disembarking Troops between St. Stephano and Galati; which, as they gained the Shore, pushed on and occupied the Crest of the whole Ridge of rising Ground, extending from the Place of their Debarkation to the Front and Right of the Mili Fiumara.

Every Measure of Precaution was adopted to occupy the Mountain Passes adjacent to the Mili Position; and while thus employed, and eagerly watching the Enemy's further Movements, I observed not only an Hesitation and Period to his further Advance upon the Heights, but that he was actually hastily re-embarking his Troops nearest the Beach, occasioned, I have no Doubt, by the spirited and unexpected Manner in which he was brought to Action by the 2d Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, which, moving from its Cantonments of St. Placido, hung upon his Rear and Left. I had no sooner satisfied myself as to this Point, than I directed the 21st Regiment, with Two Six-Pounders, to move briskly forward by the great Road and Beach from Mili, preceded by the Riflemen of the 3d and 4th King's German Legion, and Flankers of the 21st Regiment, which produced the double Effect of precipitating the Enemy's Retreat to his Boats, and throwing into our Power the whole of the Corps which had gained the Heights, and others whom their Boats abandoned to his Fate.

I understand this Corps to have been under the Orders of General Cavignac, and to have consisted of Two Battalions of Corsicans, 1st Battalion of the 2d Neapolitan Light Infantry (Six Companies), 1st Battalion 3d of the Line Neapolitan Infantry (Six Companies), 1st Battalion of the 4th of the Line Neapolitan Infantry (Six Companies), in all about 3500 Men; of whom, one of the Corsican Battalions, with a Stand of Colours, a Colonel and Chef de l'Etât Major of Division, a Lieutenant-Colonel-Commandant, with Forty inferior Officers, including an Aid-de-Camp of General Cavignac, and upwards of Eight Hundred Soldiers, have surrendered Prisoners of War at Discretion.

It is now only necessary for me to add, that the Corps which repulsed the Enemy were Captain Joerres' Troop of the 20th Light Dragoons; the 2d Light Infantry Battalion (to whom every Praise is due for the spirited and masterly Manner in which it made the first Impression upon them); the Riflemen of the 3d and 4th King's German Legion; the 21st Regiment; and a Portion of the 3d King's German Legion; as also a Detachment of the Royal Artillery, with Field-Guns, under Lieutenant Cotton.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Adam of the 21st Regiment I was peculiarly indebted. His thorough Knowledge of the Country and Passes would have enabled us to anticipate and check the Enemy, had he endeavoured to move further than Mili.

I was accompanied by my Aid de-Camp, Captain A'Court, whose active Exertions were conspicuous to all. I have also to mention, in Terms of Acknowledgement, Captains Hill and Freuller, Assistant-Adjutant-Generals, and Lieutenant Burke, Aid-de-Camp to Major-General Spencer. The whole of the Conduct of the Troops was cheerful and animated; and the best Disposition in Aid of us was exhibited by the Peasantry of the Country, who, with Arms, and every other Weapon of Offence they could collect, flocked to our immediate Assistance; and, what is most consolatory, we have not to regret the Loss of a single Officer killed or wounded. Two Men of the 21st Regiment, and one Rifleman, were slightly wounded in this singular Incursion of the Enemy.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. CAMPBELL, Maj. Gen. and Adj. Gen.

P. S. I have not been able accurately to ascertain the Loss of the Enemy. Two Officers of the Corsican Battalion are among their Wounded, of which there were many, as well as Killed upon the Field. His most material Loss must have been upon his Retreat and in the Boats which were completely within the Range, not only of our Field Guns, but also of our Musketry; one Boat was sunk, one deserted to us, and many were disabled. Reports have also been received that several dead Bodies have floated on Shore near the Scene of Action. The Peasantry have likewise brought in as Prisoners a considerable Number, who concealed themselves in the Country.

J. CAMPBELL, Maj. Gen. and Adj. Gen.

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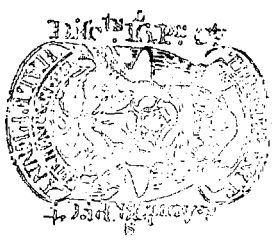

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