

Siege of Badajoz, whose Labours and Exertions deserved a very different Result.

Major-General Picton directed the Operations on the Left of the Guadiana, and Major-General Houlton on the Right; and I am much indebted to those Officers, as well as to Major-General Hamilton, and the other General and Staff-Officers, and the Officers and Troops under their Commands respectively.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher of the Royal Engineers was the directing Engineer, and immediately superintended the Operations on the Left of the Guadiana; and Captain Squires those on the Right of that River; and these Officers and the Corps of Engineers have by their Conduct on this Occasion augmented their Claims to my Approbation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Framingham commanded the Artillery, having under his Orders Major Dickson attached to the Portuguese Service, who, during the Absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Framingham with the Troops which were employed to cover the Operations, conducted all the Details of this important Department. I had every Reason to be satisfied with these Officers, and most particularly with Major Dickson, from whose Activity, Zeal, and Intelligence the public Service has derived great Advantage in the different Operations against Badajoz.

Captain Cleves of the Hanoverian Artillery conducted that Department on the Right of the Guadiana with great Success.

The Service of the Batteries was performed by Detachments from the 1st, 2d, and 3d Regiments of Portuguese Artillery, who conducted themselves remarkably well. They were aided by Captain Rainsford's Company of the Royal Artillery, who were indefatigable; some of them having never quitted the Batteries.

I am much indebted to General Leite, the Governor of the Provincia of Alentejo and of Elvas, for the Assistance which he again afforded me in this Operation.

I inclose a Return of the Killed and Wounded throughout the Siege, from which Your Lordship will observe that, excepting in the Attempts to obtain Possession of St. Christoval, our Loss has not been severe.

We still maintain the Blockade of Badajoz.

I have not yet heard that the Enemy have moved from their Position at Llerena, and I imagine that the Arrival of the 9th Corps has been delayed longer than was expected; and it is probable that Soult will be unwilling to move till he will hear of the Movements of the Army of Portugal.

They broke up from the Tormes on the 3d, and their Advanced Guard arrived at Ciudad Rodrigo on the Evening of the 5th.

They moved forward again on the 6th, and Lieutenant-General Sir Brent Spencer withdrew the Advanced Guard of the Troops under his Command first to Navé d'Aver, and then to Alfayates.

The Enemy patroled on the 6th into Fuentes de Honor, and into Navé d'Aver.

I inclose Sir Brent Spencer's Report of these Operations, from which it appears that the Royal Dragoons, under Lieutenant-Colonel Clifton, and a Troop of the 14th, the whole directed by Major-General Slade, distinguished themselves.

I imagine that the Enemy's March in this Direction was intended as a Reconnoissance, and to cover the March of a Convoy to Ciudad Rodrigo; as on the following Day, the 7th, the whole moved from thence to Moras Verdes, in the Direction of the Pass of Banos, near which Pass General Regnier had been with Two Divisions of the Army of Portugal, since the 5th. On the 8th, in the Evening, One Division of General Regnier's Troops had come through Baños, and I expect that those Divisions will have arrived at Placentia the 9th, and the whole Army on the 10th.

P. S. Since writing this Dispatch, I have received Accounts that General Drouet's Troops joined on the Enemy's Right at Berlanza and Azuaga Yesterday, and a Report that their Cavalry were in Movement towards Los Santos this Morning. The British Cavalry, and the 2d and 4th Divisions, were about to march from Villa Franca and Almendralejo towards Albuera, and I have ordered there General Hamilton's Division, and shall proceed there this Night myself, if I should find that Report confirmed.

*Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-General Lord Viscount Wellington K. B. at the Siege of Badajoz, from 30th May to the 5th June 1811, both Days inclusive.*

Royal Artillery—1 Lieutenant killed; 2 Rank and File, wounded.

2d Batt. 5th Foot—1 Lieutenant, 3 Rank and File, killed; 1 Serjeant, 3 Rank and File, wounded.

7th Fusileers—2 Rank and File wounded.

2d Batt. 39th Foot—2 Rank and File wounded.

1st Batt. 40th Foot—1 Rank and File killed.

1st Batt. 45th Foot—3 Rank and File wounded.

2d Batt. 48th Foot—1 Rank and File wounded.

51st Foot—9 Rank and File wounded.

1st Batt. 57th Foot—1 Ensign, 1 Rank and File, wounded.

2d Batt. 66th Foot—2 Rank and File killed.

74th Foot—2 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant, 6 Rank and File, wounded.

2d Batt. 83d Foot—1 Serjeant, 3 Rank and File, wounded.

85th Foot—1 Rank and File killed; 3 Rank and File wounded.

1st Batt. 88th Foot—1 Rank and File killed; 1 Rank and File wounded.

94th Foot—2 Rank and File wounded.

Chasseurs Britanniques—3 Rank and File killed; 5 Rank and File wounded; 2 Rank and File missing.

Detachments 1st and 2d Light Battalions of the King's German Legion—1 Rank and File wounded.

Brunswick Oels—4 Rank and File wounded.

Total British Loss—2 Lieutenants, 13 Rank and File, killed; 1 Ensign, 3 Serjeants, 48 Rank and File, wounded; 2 Rank and File missing.

Total Portuguese Loss—1 Lieutenant, 20 Rank and File, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Ensigns, 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 63 Rank and File, wounded; 2 Rank and File missing.