

and our fire, where they must inevitably have perished, induced me, from motives of compassion, to hoist a flag of truce to carry them off.—Some were brought into the place over the breach, but from the extreme difficulty attending this, I allowed the enemy to carry the remainder away. General Leval, the French Commander in Chief, expressed his acknowledgment for the conduct of the British and Spanish nations on this occasion in the most feeling and grateful terms.—We have made prisoners ten officers, and twenty or thirty soldiers;—the enemy's loss has been very severe. The column that attacked the breach was two thousand men, composed of all the grenadiers and voltigeurs of the army. The enemy invested this town on the 20th December, since which period, one thousand British and seven or eight hundred Spanish troops, with only the defence of a wall, which appears to have been built as a defence against archery, and before the use of gun-powder, have resisted an army of ten thousand men, with a regular battering train of artillery, and have at last defeated and repulsed them.

The wall of the town has the additional disadvantage of being commanded within half musket shot, and flanked or taken in reverse in almost every part.

The conduct of all the troops has been admirable, and that of Lieutenant Colonel Gough, and the 2d battalion of the 87th regiment, exceeds all praise. Equal credit is due to the indefatigable exertions of Captain Smith's royal engineers, to whom much of our success is due. I have on all occasions received the greatest assistance from the military experience, and the great exertions of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Proby, second in command.

We have to regret the loss of two officers killed, Lieutenant Longley, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Hall, 47th Regiment. I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

Return of killed, wounded, and missing in the Action at Tarifa, on the 31st December 1811.

Royal Engineers—1 lieutenant killed.

2d Batt. 47th Reg.—1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 2 rank and file, wounded.

2d Batt. 87th Reg.—5 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 21 rank and file, wounded.

2d Batt. 95th Reg.—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

Total—2 officers, 7 rank and file killed; 3 officers, 24 rank and file, wounded.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

Royal Engineers—Lieutenant Longley, killed.

2d Batt. 47th Reg.—Lieutenant Hall, killed; Lieutenant Hill, slightly wounded.

2d Batt. 87th Reg.—Lieutenant M. Carroll and Ensign Waller, slightly wounded.

(Signed) T. BUNBURY, Brigade-Major.

SIR,

Tarifa, January 5, 1812.

IN my letter of the 1st instant, I had the honour to relate the particulars of our proceedings here, and of our victory at the breach. Since that period, the enemy has kept up a partial fire, and the breach was yesterday completely open for a space of twenty-five or thirty yards.

From the movements of the enemy last night, I was induced to suppose he intended another assault, and the garrison waited in eager expectation to give him another proof of British valour. To our astonishment, this morning at daylight the columns of the enemy were already at a distance, having taken advantage of a dark and stormy night to make a precipitate retreat, leaving in our possession all his artillery, ammunition, stores, &c. &c.

I immediately ordered Major Broad, with a part of the 47th regiment, to follow the enemy; he took possession of his artillery, waggons, and a quantity of stores, time enough to save them from the flames, the enemy having set fire to them. We have made some prisoners. From the number of dead found on the ground the enemy occupied, his loss on the whole must have been very great.

Marshal Victor was present in the French camp to give orders for the retreat.

We have thus seen the greatest effort the French are capable of making, frustrated by eighteen hundred British and Spanish troops, with only the defence of a paltry wall; and an army of ten thousand men, commanded by a Marshal of France, retreating from them silently in the night, after having been repulsed and defeated, leaving behind all their artillery and stores, collected at a great expence and by immense exertions.

I enclose a return of artillery and stores taken from the enemy.

The unremitting vigilance and exertion, the zeal and intrepidity of every individual of this garrison, is above praise.

I have the honour to dispatch this by my Acting Aid-de-Camp Captain O'Donoghue, of the 37th regiment, who is in possession of every information relative to my proceedings at this place, an officer of great merit and considerable length of service.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.
To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

Tarifa, January 5, 1812.

Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores, left by the Enemy before Tarifa, on the 5th January 1812.

2 brass eight and a half-inch howitzers, 5 brass sixteen-pounders, 2 twelve ditto, with travelling carriages complete.

4 cars for conveying heavy ordnance, 12 ammunition waggons, 1 gin, 1 forge cart; various other carts, limbers, spare carriages, &c. several thousand shells, round and grape shot for the above ordnance.

Great quantities of powder, hand grenades, rockets, rope, iron, small stores, and implements of all descriptions; also entrenching tools for five hundred men.

(Signed) P. J. HUGHES, Captain commanding Royal Artillery.

C. F. SMITH, Captain, Royal Engineers.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.

(True copy,)

(Signed) EDW. GROVE.