



SUPPLEMENT
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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, April 14, 1812.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been this day received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Camp before Badajoz, 27th March 1812.

The operations of the siege of Badajoz have continued since I addressed you on the 20th, notwithstanding the badness of the weather, till the 25th instant. On that day we opened our fire from twenty-eight pieces of ordnance in six batteries, in the first parallel; two of which were intended to fire upon the outwork called La Picurina, and the other four to enfilade or destroy the defences of the fort on the side attacked. I directed Major-General Kempt, who commanded in the trenches on that afternoon, to attack La Picurina by storm, after it was dark that night; which service he effected in the most judicious and gallant manner.

The attack was made by five hundred men of the 3d division, formed into three detachments; the right under the command of Major Shaw, of the 74th; the centre under the Honourable Captain Powys, of the 83d; and the left under Major Rudd, of the 77th regiment. The communication between the outwork and the body of the place, was entered on its right and left by the right and

left detachments, each consisting of two hundred men; half of each of which detachments protected the attack from sallies from the fort, while the others attacked the work in its gorge.

It was first entered, however, by the centre detachment of one hundred men, under the command of the Honourable Captain Powys, of the 83d regiment, who escalated the work at the salient angle, at a point at which the pallisades had been injured by our fire. The detachments which attacked the work by the gorge had the most serious difficulties to contend with, as it was closed by not less than three rows of strong pallisades, defended by musketry, and a place of arms for the garrison, musket proof, and loopholed throughout. When the attack upon the salient angle, however, succeeded, the whole got into the work.

The enemy's garrison in the outwork consisted of two hundred and fifty men, with seven pieces of artillery, under the command of Colonel Gaspard Thiery, of the Etat Major of the Army of the South; but very few, if any, escaped. The Colonel, three other officers, and eighty-six men, have been taken prisoners, and the remainder were either killed by the fire of our troops, or drowned in the inundation of the River Rivellas. The enemy made a sortie from the ravelin called St. Roque, either with a view to recover La Picurina or to protect the retreat of the garrison, but they

