

themselves remarkably well in this affair, which took place in the view of every man of both armies.

The enemy retired during that night; and on the following evening they posted themselves with their right on the heights near Cabeza Vellosa, and their left on the Tormes at Huerta; their centre at Aldea Rubia. The object of the enemy in this movement being to endeavour to communicate with the garrisons in the forts of Salamanca by the left of the Tormes, I changed the front of the army, and placed the right at St. Martha, where there is a ford over the Tormes, and the advanced posts at Aldea Lingua.

I sent Major-General Bock's brigade of heavy dragoons across the Tormes, in order to observe the passages of the river.

The enemy crossed the Tormes at Huerta about two o'clock of the morning of the 24th, in considerable numbers of cavalry, infantry, and artillery; and there was every appearance of a general movement in that direction. The conduct of Major-General Bock's dragoons was conspicuously good upon this occasion; they did every thing in their power to make known the enemy's movement, and opposed their advance vigorously, under many disadvantages, in order to afford time for the dispositions necessary to be made on the occasion.

As soon as I was certain that the enemy had crossed the Tormes, I requested Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham to cross that river with the 1st and 7th divisions; and I sent over Major-General Le Marchant's brigade of cavalry; and I concentrated the remainder of the army between Morisco and Cabrerizas, keeping the advanced posts still at Aldea Lingua. At about noon the enemy advanced as far as Calvarissa de Abaxo; but, observing the disposition made for their reception, they retired again in the afternoon to cross the Tormes to Huerta; and they have since remained in the position which they occupied on the 23d.

The siege of these forts has not advanced with the rapidity which I expected; although from the pains taken, and the expence incurred in their construction, I was prepared to meet with some difficulties, and provided an equipment accordingly, the difficulties are of a formidable nature, and the forts, three in number, each defending the other, are very strong, although not of a regular construction.

We have breaches open in the convent of St. Vincente, which is the principal work; but these cannot be attacked in security till we shall have

possession of Fort St. Cayetano. Major-General Clinton made an attempt to carry that work by storm on the night of the 23d instant, the gorge having been considerably damaged by the fire of our artillery. This attempt unfortunately failed, and I am concerned to add, that Major-General Bowes was killed. He was so eager for the success of the enterprise that he had gone forward with the storming party, which consisted of a part of his brigade, and was wounded; and after his first wound was dressed he returned again to the attack, and received a second wound which killed him. Our loss in officers and men was likewise considerable.

By a letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, of the 22d, I learn that General Drouet had been considerably reinforced from Andalusia, since the defeat of General Ballesteros at Bornos in the beginning of the month, and had advanced as far as Almendralejo and Villa Franca; and Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill had concentrated his troops.

General Ballesteros had sustained a severe loss, in his action at Bornos on the 1st of June; and I understand that he retired to the neighbourhood of Gibraltar.

In the North, General Santocildes, under the direction of General Castanos, has invested Astorga with the Gallician army, and is about to attack that place; in which operation I imagine that he cannot be interrupted.

The Guerillas are in unmolested possession of all parts of the country, and the enemy's weak and scattered garrisons are cut off from all communication with each other, or with the country.

P. S. I enclose a return of the killed, wounded, and missing, from the 16th to the 24th instant inclusive.

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No. 1.

*Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Army under the Command of His Excellency General the Earl of Wellington, K. B. on the Advance from Fuente Guinaldo to Salamanca, from the 16th to the 19th June.*

*Head-Quarters, Salamanca, June 18, 1812.*

11th Light Dragoons—1 horse killed; 1 horse missing.

14th Ditto.—4 horses killed; 1 serjeant, 2 trumpeters, 2 rank and file, 6 horses, wounded.

1st Hussars, King's German Legion—3 cornets, 2 rank and file, 4 horses, wounded.

General total—5 horses killed; 3 cornets, 1 serjeant, 2 trumpeters, 4 rank and file, 11 horses, wounded.