

Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton immediately attacked the rear-guard with Major-General Anson's and Major-General Victor Alten's brigades of cavalry, and drove them in upon the main body at Tordesillas. As the right and centre of the army were at a considerable distance, I could not bring up a sufficient body of troops in time to attack the enemy during their passage of the Douro, and they effected that operation without material loss; and took their position on that river, with their right on the heights opposite Pollos, their centre at Tordesillas, and their left at Simancas, on the Pisuerga.

I moved our left to Pollos on the 3d, and obtained possession of the ford over the Douro at that place. But as the ford was scarcely practicable for infantry, and the enemy's corps was strongly posted, with a considerable quantity of cannon, on the heights which command the plain on which the troops must have formed after crossing the ford, and as I could not establish the army on the right of the Douro till I should have adequate means of passing the river, I did not think it proper to push our troops further.

General Bonnet was at Aguilar del Campo in the end of last month.

Admiralty-Office, July 28, 1812.

ADMIRAL LORD KEITH has transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dispatches from Capt. Sir Home Popham, of His Majesty's Ship *Venerable*, giving an account of his further proceedings subsequent to those reported in his former letters, and inserted in the Gazette of the 14th instant.

On the 2d, the squadron under his orders being off Guetaria, an attack was intended to be made upon that place, and two companies of royal marines were landed under Major Williams, accompanied by General Carrol, for the purpose of reconnoitring; but some parties of the enemy being discovered crossing the hills, and the Guerillas, whose co-operation had been expected, being engaged with the enemy in a different quarter, the plan of attack was relinquished, and the marines re-embarked, but without loss.

The Guerillas had been employed in an action with a detachment of the enemy conducting eighty prisoners from Asturias. One hundred and thirty of the enemy are stated to have been killed, and fifty taken, who had been left wounded on the field

of battle, and the Spanish prisoners were liberated.

On the 5th Sir Home Popham arrived off Castro, where a twenty-four-pounder and a company of marines had been landed by Sir George Collier from the *Surveillante*, to assist Colonel Longa in an attack on the place. Information was however received of the approach of two thousand five hundred French troops, whose arrival obliged Longa to retire, and the parties landed from the squadron were again re-embarked without loss. In the evening the enemy were seen marching into the town.

On the 7th the enemy were driven from the town by the fire of the squadron, and took post on the hills, and preparations were made for a landing and attack on the castle on the following morning, which accordingly took place on the 8th, when the Commandant of the castle surrendered with one hundred and fifty men, the remainder of the enemy's force having marched towards Larido. Twenty-six guns of different sizes were found in the town and castle of Castro; those in the former were withdrawn, and the latter was put into a state of defence and garrisoned by the marines and Spanish artillerymen of the *Iris*, Captain Christian.

On the 10th the squadron proceeded off *Puerta Galletta*, to co-operate in an attack upon it with the Spanish troops under Longa; and on the 11th much firing was kept up against the batteries; but the enemy being found to be stronger than the Spaniards had expected, the attack was abandoned. During the morning, Captain Bloye of the *Lyra*, landed with a party of marines, and knocked off the trunnions of the guns in the *Bagona* battery, and destroyed one mounted on a height.

On the 12th the *Venerable* anchored off Castro, which had been feebly attacked by the enemy the evening before; one of the imperial guards was wounded, and brought in a prisoner.

On the 15th, the enemy's moveable column having been drawn by a feint to *Santona*, from whence it could not reach Guetaria in less than four days, another attack was intended to be made upon the latter place, in concert with the Guerillas under Don Gaspar, and with the promised aid of one of the battalions under General Mina.

Early in the morning of the 18th, one twenty-four pounder under Lieutenant Groves, and a howitzer under Lieutenant Lawrence, of the marine artillery, were landed from the *Venerable*, and mounted on a hill to the westward of Guetaria, under the directions of Captain Malcolm, of the