



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY the 22d of SEPTEMBER.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1812.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, September 23, 1812.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received at Earl Bathurst's office, addressed to his Lordship by Major-General Cooke, dated Cadiz, August 30, 1812.

My Lord, *Cadiz, August 30, 1812.*

SINCE my letter of yesterday's date, reporting the entry into Seville of the allied corps under General La Cruz and Colonel Skerrett; I have received a dispatch from the latter, of which I transmit a copy herewith, and a return of the killed and wounded of the British detachment.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. COOKE, Major-General.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Seville, August 28, 1812.

I HAVE the honour to report the movements of the detachment under my orders since the date of

my last. The result of which, the capture of the city of Seville by assault, defended by eight French battalions and two regiments of dragoons, entrenched, will I trust be considered as honourable to the allied arms and serviceable to the cause of Spain.

On the 24th instant General Cruz Mourgeon commanding the Spanish troops, and myself, judged it advisable to make a forward movement on Seville, for this purpose it was advisable to force the enemy's corps of observation of three hundred and fifty-cavalry and two hundred infantry, at St. Lucar la Mayor. I marched from Manzanilla with eight hundred troops, composed of the 1st regiment of guards, the 87th, and the Portuguese regiment, Brigadier-Gen. Downie, accompanied with six hundred Spanish troops. The Spanish column attacked on the right, and the British and Portuguese on the left. The French were driven through the streets with precipitation, leaving some killed, wounded, and prisoners. We took post at San Lucar without the loss of a man.

On the 26th instant, General Cruz and myself

having judged that it would be attended with the most beneficial effects, both on the public opinion and in saving the city from being plundered, if the French could be precipitated in their retreat from Seville; the allied troops, in consequence, marched for this purpose, and arrived at the heights of Castillejos de la Cuesta, immediately above Seville, on the morning of the 27th, at six o'clock.

The Spanish troops formed our advance. The French advance was driven in; the cavalry retired, leaving the infantry in the plain, which last were charged by the Spanish cavalry, who made many prisoners.

The Spanish troops attacked a redoubt on our left, and lost a good many men. The columns advanced into the plain, by which movement this redoubt was turned, and its communication cut off; the Spanish troops under General Cruz took the right, and made a detour to arrive and attack on that flank of Triana (the suburbs of Seville). I ordered the redoubt to be masked by a detachment of the 20th Portuguese regiment, and advanced a field piece with some troops, to keep in check the enemy's fire at one of the gates of the city opposite to us, and after giving sufficient time for the Spanish column to arrive, the British and Portuguese troops advanced to the attack in front; the cavalry and artillery advanced at a gallop, supported by the grenadiers of the guards, and the infantry following.

The enemy abandoned the gate: we entered the suburbs, and advanced near to the bridge of Seville with as much rapidity as possible, in hopes of preventing its destruction, which would have rendered it extremely difficult for us to succeed. We were checked by the fire of grape-shot and musketry at the turning of the street. The grenadiers of the guards advanced to our support, and drove every thing before them. At this moment part of the Spanish column arrived; we advanced to the bridge under a heavy fire; Captain Cadoux, of the 95th, with great judgment made a flank movement on our left; Captain Roberts, of the artillery, brought up with rapidity two guns; a heavy fire of cannon and musketry was soon brought to bear on the enemy, who were driven from their position on the other side of the river, and from the bridge, which they had only in part destroyed. The grenadiers of the guards, and some Spanish troops, led the columns that crossed the bridge. A general rout ensued, and the enemy were driven through the streets, which were strewed with their dead, and pursued at all points, leaving behind

them valuable captures of horses, baggage, and money.

It is difficult for me to express the joy of the people of Seville. The inhabitants, under the fire of the French, brought planks to lay across the bridge; and their acclamations and vociferous marks of joy, added to the immense crowd, rendered it extremely difficult for the officers to advance through the streets with their columns.

The vast extent of this city, the exhausted state of the troops who had advanced in double quick time for three miles, and the want of cavalry, rendered it impossible to continue the pursuit beyond the town.—Such was the rapidity of our attack, that this victory over a French division, and the passage of a bridge which the enemy had materially destroyed, with his infantry and artillery, formed on the banks of the river, was achieved with a loss that appears almost incredible.

I have only to regret the loss of one officer, Lieutenant Brett, royal artillery, who was killed, gallantly fighting his gun, at the bridge. The intrepidity of this valuable officer was observed by the whole detachment.

The loss of the enemy must have been very great. We have taken several officers, and, I believe, near two hundred prisoners.

The conduct of every officer and soldier has been above praise; where all have behaved well, it is difficult to distinguish; I must, however, mention the detachment of the King's German legion, commanded by Cornet Wieboldt; the artillery, by Captain Roberts; detachment of 95th, by Captain Cadoux; and the grenadiers of the 1st regiment of guards, by Captain Thomas. To Colonel Maitland, 1st regiment of guards, (second in command,) I am much indebted from the commencement of this service; and in the attack of Seville his military talents, intrepidity, and zeal, were particularly conspicuous. I am also much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Colquitt, commanding a detachment of the 1st regiment of guards; to Lieutenant-Colonel Prior, commanding a detachment 20th Portuguese regiment; and to Major MacLain, commanding a detachment 87th regiment.

The exertions of Captain Wynyard (Coldstream Guards) Assistant-Adjutant-General, and Lieut. Reid, Royal Staff Corps; Staff Officers attached to the detachment; have been indefatigable. Captain Bunbury, 20th Portuguese regiment, Brigade-Major, and Lieutenant Smith, Royal Engineers, were at this time detached on other service.

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During the whole of this attack, our Allies, the Spaniards, have rivalled the conduct of the British and Portuguese troops; and General Cruz Murgeon, by his military talents and bravery, has principally contributed to the successful result of the day.

Inclosed is a return of the killed and wounded.

During last night a division of 7 or 8000 French troops passed by. Our attack has saved the city from the devastations and contributions with which it was threatened.

Captain Wynyard is the bearer of this dispatch, who will inform you of any further particulars you may require.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SKERRETT.

To Major-General Cooke, &c. &c. &c.

P. S. A return of the guns and military stores taken, will be sent as soon as the quantity can be ascertained. Two of the field-pieces which the enemy advanced against us, fell into our hands.

Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Troops under the Command of Colonel Skerrett, at the Capture of the City of Seville by Assault, on the Morning of the 27th August 1812.

Royal Artillery—1 subaltern, 1 horse, killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

2d Hussars, King's German Legion—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, 1 horse, killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

1st Foot Guards, 3d Batt.—4 rank and file wounded.

95th Rifle Corps, 2d Batt.—1 subaltern, 6 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded.

Total—1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, 2 horses, killed; 1 subaltern, 12 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded.

(Signed) W. CLINTON WYNYARD,
A. A. General.

Name of Officer killed.

Royal Artillery—First Lieutenant Brett.

Name of Officer wounded.

95th Rifle Corps—First Lieutenant Llewelyn, slightly.

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[Price Sixpence.]

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