

[1936]

I beg to take this opportunity of rectifying this omission, and of assuring your Lordship that the Major-General distinguished himself in the operations which led to the charge, and in the charge made by the gallant troops under his command, as he has upon every occasion which has offered since he has been under my command.

From my personal observation and the reports which I have received since the action of the 22d of July, I am afraid that I have omitted the names of many other officers who had opportunities of distinguishing themselves; and in a case in which all did their duty in a manner so honourable to themselves and their country, the limits of a dispatch do not permit the mention of the names of all who have drawn the notice of their superiors by their conduct: I must, however, correct the omission of which I have been guilty in the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Arentschildt, and the 1st hussars of the King's German legion, who were distinguished by their conduct throughout the whole of the day of the 22d July; and likewise in that of Lieutenant-Colonel Elley, the Assistant Adjutant-General, who attended Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton throughout the action, was wounded by a bayonet in the charge made by Major-General Le Marchant's brigade, and had two horses killed under him.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

Valladolid, September 7, 1812.

I QUITTED Madrid on the 1st instant, in order to direct the movements of the troops ordered to be collected at Arevalo, as reported in my dispatch of the 30th August.

We moved from Arevalo on the 4th, and passed the Douro on the 6th, at the fords of Herrera and El Abrojo.

After General Foy had found that the garrison of Astorga had surrendered, by capitulation, he returned to the Esla, and marched upon Carvajales, with a view to surprise and cut off the Portuguese militia which had been employed under Lieutenant-General the Conde D'Amarante, in the blockade of Zamora. The Lieutenant-General, however, made good his retreat, without loss, to the frontiers of Portugal; and General Foy carried off the garrison of Zamora on the 29th of August, and marched for Tordesillas.

I cannot avoid to draw your Lordship's attention to the conduct of the Conde D'Amarante, and of the

militia under his command, in these operations. The zeal of the militia of the province of Tras-los-Montes in voluntarily serving beyond the frontiers of the kingdom, deserves the highest commendation.

The whole remains of the army of Portugal having been thus collected between this place and Tordesillas, we found their advanced guard yesterday strongly posted on the heights of La Cisterniga; and I know that there was a considerable body of troops in and about this town.

As it was late in the day before our troops had crossed the Douro, we did not move forward till this morning. The enemy retired from La Cisterniga during the night; and they abandoned the town on our approach to it in the morning, and crossed the Pisuerga, and blew up the bridge. They were closely followed by the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Rousonby with a detachment of the 12th light dragoons through the town; but some time having elapsed before the infantry could come up, the enemy could not be prevented from destroying the bridge.

They then retired along the right of the Pisuerga to Dueñas, where their rear will probably halt this night.

When General Foy moved towards Astorga, the army of Galicia retired; and since his march to the Douro, they have again advanced to the Esla.

The Empecinado has informed me that General Villa Campa had taken prisoners the troops which had been the garrison, and had evacuated Cuéncza after the surrender of the Retiro. These troops amounted to one thousand men, with two guns, and belonged to Suchet's army. My last accounts from Lieutenant-General Maitland are of the 24th.

My Lord, Valladolid, Sept. 8, 1812.

SINCE I wrote my dispatch of the 7th, I have received a dispatch of the 29th from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, from Llerena, to which place the General had moved in pursuit of the troops under General Drouet.

He sends me the enclosed letter from Colonel Skerrett*, who commands the British and Portuguese troops, which compose part of the detachment under General Cruz, from which I learn that the allies had entered Seville on the 27th. I conclude that the blockade of Cadiz is raised, as I have received several accounts of the destruction of military stores

* Already published.