



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, November 17, 1812.

DISPACHES, of which the following are extracts, have been this day received at Earl Bathurst's office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Marquess of Wellington, dated Cabezon, 26th and 28th October, Rueda, 31st October and 3d November 1812.

Cabezon, 26th October, 1812.

I HAVE been so much occupied by the movements and operations of the army since the 18th instant, that I have not been able to write to your Lordship.

The operations of the Castle of Burgos continued nearly in the state in which they were when I addressed your Lordship on the 11th instant, till the 18th. Having at that time received a supply of musket ammunition from Santander, and having, while waiting for that necessary article, completed a mine under the church of St. Roman, which stood in an outwork of the second line, I determined that the breach which we had effected in the second line should be stormed on that evening, at the moment this mine should explode; and that at the same time the line should be attacked by escalade.

The mine succeeded, and Lieutenant-Colonel Browne lodged a party of the 9th Caçadores, and a detachment of Spanish troops of the regiment of Asturias in the outwork. A detachment of the King's German legion, under Major Wurmb, carried the breach, and a detachment of the Guards succeeded in escalading the line; but the enemy brought such a fire upon these two last detachments, from the third line, and the body of the castle itself, and they were attacked by numbers so superior, before they could receive the support allotted to them, that they were obliged to retire, suffering considerable loss. Major Wurmb was unfortunately killed.

It is impossible to represent in adequate terms my sense of the conduct of the Guards and German Legion upon this occasion; and I am quite satisfied, that if it had been possible to maintain the posts which they had gained with so much gallantry, these troops would have maintained them. Some of the men

stormed even the third line, and one was killed in one of the embrasures of that line; and I had the satisfaction of seeing that if I could breach the wall of the Castle we should carry the place.

Another mine was commenced under the second line from the Church of St. Roman, of which we remained in possession.

The enemy had on the 13th moved forward a considerable body of infantry, and six squadrons of cavalry from Briviesca to reconnoiter our out-posts at Monasterio. They attacked the picquet at the bridge in front of that town, but were repulsed by the fire of a detachment of the Infantry of the Brunswick Legion. In this affair, Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Frederick Ponsonby, who commanded at Monasterio, was wounded, but not severely, and I hope I shall soon again have the benefit of his assistance.

I had long had reports of the enemy's intention to advance for the relief of the castle of Burgos with the army of Portugal, reinforced by troops recently arrived from France, and with that part of the army of the north which was disposable; and they did advance in considerable force against the post at Monasterio on the evening of the 18th. The subaltern of the Brunswick legion, who commanded a picquet in St. Olalla, disobeyed his orders in remaining in that village upon the approach of the enemy, and he was taken with his picquet. The enemy consequently obtained possession of the heights which command the town of Monasterio, and our outpost was obliged to retire on the morning of the 19th to the Burgos side of the town.

I assembled the troops, excepting those necessary for carrying on the operations of the siege, as soon as it appeared by the enemy's movement of the 18th, that they entertained serious intentions of endeavouring to raise it, and placed the allied army on the heights, having their right at Ibeas, on the Arlanzon, the centre at Rio Vena and Magradas, and the left at Santa Pallacio. The enemy's army likewise assembled in the neighbourhood of Monasterio. They moved forward on the evening of the 20th with about ten thousand men to drive in our outpost at Quintana Palla, and Olmos. The

former withdrew by order, but the latter was maintained with great spirit by the Chasseurs Britanniques. Seeing a fair opportunity of striking a blow upon the enemy, I requested Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Paget to move with the 1st and 5th divisions upon the enemy's right flank, which movement having been well executed, drove them back upon Monasterio, and our posts were replaced in Quintana Palla.

On the morning of the 21st, I received a letter from Sir Rowland Hill, of the 17th, in which he acquainted me of the enemy's intention to move towards the Tagus, which was already fordable by individuals in many places, and was likely to become so by an army.

The castle of Chinchilla had surrendered on the 9th instant.

The enemy's force in Valencia was supposed to amount to not less than seventy thousand men, a very large proportion of which, it was expected, would be disposable for service out of that kingdom. I had desired Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill to retire from his position on the Tagus, if he should find that he could not maintain himself in it with advantage; and it was necessary that I should be near him, in order that the corps under my command might not be insulated, in consequence of the movements which he should find himself under the necessity of making; I therefore raised the siege of Burgos on the night of the 20th, and moved the whole army back towards the Douro.

I felt severely the sacrifice I was thereby obliged to make. Your Lordship is aware that I was never very sanguine in my expectations of success in the siege of Burgos, notwithstanding that I considered success was attainable, even with the means in my power, within a reasonably limited period. If the attack made on the first line on the 22d or the 29th had succeeded, I believe we should have taken the place, notwithstanding the ability with which the Governor conducted the defence, and the gallantry with which it was executed by the garrison. Our means were limited; but it appeared to me, that if we should succeed, the advantage to the cause would be great, and the final success of the campaign would have been certain.

I had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the officers and troops during the siege of Burgos, particularly with the brigade of Guards.

During the latter part of the siege the weather was very unfavourable, and the troops suffered much from the rain. The officers at the head of the artillery and engineer departments—Lieutenant-Colonel Robe, and Lieutenant-Colonel Burgoyne, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, who commands the reserve artillery, rendered me every assistance: and the failure of success is not to be attributed to them. By their activity we carried off every thing in the course of one night, excepting the three eighteen-pounders destroyed by the enemy's fire, and the eight pieces of cannon which we had taken from the enemy on the night of the 19th ultimo in the storm of the hornwork. Having sent our cattle to meet the equipment expected from Santander, we had not the means of moving the latter.

The enemy was not aware of our movement, and did not follow us till late on the 22d, when ten thousand men encamped on this side of Burgos.

The British army encamped at Celada del Camino and Hornillos, with the light cavalry at Estepan and Baniel. We continued our march on the following day, the right of the army to Torquemada, the left to Cordevilla, at which places we crossed the Pisuerga.

The enemy followed our movement with their whole army. Our rear guard consisted of two light battalions of the King's German Legion, under Colonel Halkett, and of Major-General Anson's brigade of cavalry; and Major-General Bock's brigade was halted at the Venta del Pozo to give them support. The whole under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton. Don Julian Sanchez marched on the left of the Arlanzon; and the party of Guerillas, heretofore commanded by the late Martinez, on the hills on the left of our rear guard.

Major General Anson's brigade charged twice with great success, in front of Celada del Camino, and the enemy was detained above three hours by the troops under Lieutenant General Sir S. Cotton in the passage of the Hormaza, in front of that village.

The rear guard continued to fall back in the best order, till the Guerillas on the left having been driven in, they rode towards the flank of the rear guard of Major General Anson's brigade, and four or five squadron's of the enemy mixed with them. These were mistaken for Spaniards, and they fell upon the flank and rear of our troops. We sustained some loss, and Lieutenant Colonel Pelly, of the 16th dragoons, having had his horse shot, was taken prisoner.

The delay occasioned by this misfortune enabled the enemy to bring up a very superior body of cavalry, which was charged by Maj. Gen. Bock's and Major-Gen. Anson's brigades, near the Venta del Pozo, but unsuccessfully, and our rear-guard was hardly pressed. The enemy made their charges on the two light battalions of the King's German Legion, formed in squares, but were always repulsed with considerable loss by the steadiness of these two battalions. They suffered no loss, and I cannot sufficiently applaud their conduct and that of Colonel Halkett who commanded them.

The exertions and conduct of Lieutenant General Sir S. Cotton, and of the officers and staff attached to him throughout this day, were highly meritorious, and although the charge made by the cavalry was not successful, I had the satisfaction of observing great steadiness in their movements. Major Bull's troop of horse artillery, under Major Downman and Captain Ramsay, distinguished themselves.

The army continued its march on the 24th, and took up its ground on the Carrion, with its right at Duenas and its left at Villa Muriel, and the 1st battalion 1st Guards joined us from Coruña.

I halted here on the 25th, and the enemy attacked our left at Villa Muriel. They were repulsed, however, by the fifth division of infantry, under the command of Major General Oswald, in the absence of Lieutenant General Leith on account of indisposition.

I had directed the third battalion of the Royals to march to Palencia, to protect the destruction of the bridges over the Carrion at that place, but it appears that the enemy assembled in such force at that point, that Lieut. Colonel Campbell thought it necessary to retire upon Villa Muriel, and the enemy passed the Carrion at Palencia. This rendered it necessary to change our front, and I directed M. General Oswald to throw back our left, and the Spanish troops upon the heights, and to maintain the Carrion with the right of the fifth division. The bridge of Villa Muriel was destroyed; but the enemy discovered a ford, and passed over a considerable body of infantry and cavalry. I made M. General Pringle and M. General Barnes attack

these troops under the orders of M. General Oswald; in which attack the Spanish troops co-operated, and they were driven across the river with considerable loss. The fire upon the left had been very severe throughout the day; from which we suffered a great deal; and M. General Don Miguel Alava was unfortunately wounded while urging on the Spanish infantry in the pursuit of the enemy.

I broke up this morning from the Carrion, and marched upon Cabeçon del Campo, where I have crossed the Pisuerga.

The enemy appear to be moving in this direction from Duenas. I propose to halt here to-morrow.

P. S.—I have the honour to inclose returns of the killed and wounded.

Return of Killed and Wounded of the Army under the Command of His Excellency General the Marquess of Wellington, K. B. in the Siege of the Castle of Burgos, from the 11th to the 17th October 1812.

- Royal British Artillery—5 rank and file killed; 7 rank and file wounded.
- Royal Military Artificers—1 rank and file wounded.
- Coldstream Guards, 1st Batt.—3 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.
- 3d Foot Guards, 1st Batt.—3 rank and file killed; 3 rank and file wounded.
- 1st Foot, 3d Batt.—1 lieutenant wounded.
- 2d Foot, or Queen's—10 rank and file wounded.
- 32d Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 ensign, 2 serjeants, 1 rank and file wounded.
- 36th Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.
- 42d Foot, 1st Batt.—3 rank and file wounded.
- 53d Foot, 2d Batt.—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, wounded.
- 58th Foot, 2d Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 ensign wounded.
- 60th Foot, 5th Batt.—2 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.
- 61st Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file wounded.
- 79th Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file, wounded.
- 1st Line Batt. King's German Legion—2 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.
- 2d Ditto, Ditto—3 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.
- 5th Ditto, Ditto—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, killed; 3 rank and file wounded.

Total British loss—1 serjeant, 23 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 2 ensigns, 3 serjeants, 39 rank and file, wounded.

Total Portuguese loss—4 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 27 rank and file, wounded.

General Total—1 serjeant, 27 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 2 ensigns, 3 serjeants, 66 rank and file, wounded.

(Signed) S. A. GOODMAN, D. A. A. G.

Names of the Officers wounded.

11th October 1812.

- 32d Foot—Ensign Quill, severely.
- 15th October 1812.
- 1st Foot—Lieutenant Rac, Acting Engineer, slightly.
- 58th Foot—Ensign Baylie, slightly.

PORTUGUESE.

15th October 1812.

- 12th Regiment of the Line—Captain White, severely.

(Signed) S. A. GOODMAN, D. A. A. G.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Army under the Command of His Excellency General the Marquess of Wellington, K. B. in the Siege of the Castle of Burgos, from the 18th to the 21st October 1812, inclusive.

- Royal Engineers—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.
- Royal British Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.
- Coldstream Guards, 1st Batt.—1 captain, 1 ensign, 1 serjeant, 22 rank and file, killed; 2 captains, 1 serjeant, 32 rank and file, wounded.
- 3d Foot Guards, 1st Batt.—8 rank and file killed; 2 lieutenants, 15 rank and file, wounded.
- 11th Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant, 4 rank and file, wounded.
- 24th Foot, 2d Batt.—4 rank and file killed; 3 rank and file wounded.
- 42d Foot, 1st Batt.—8 rank and file wounded.
- 53d Foot, 2d Batt.—1 rank and file wounded.
- 58th Foot, 2d Batt.—1 serjeant, 6 rank and file, killed; 12 rank and file wounded; 2 rank and file missing.
- 60th Foot, 5th Batt.—2 rank and file wounded.
- 61st Foot, 1st Batt.—2 rank and file wounded.
- 79th Foot, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file wounded.
- 1st Line Batt. King's German Legion—1 lieutenant, 1 serjeant, 24 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 22 rank and file, wounded.
- 2d Ditto, Ditto—1 major, 2 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 7 rank and file, wounded.
- 5th Ditto, Ditto—12 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 7 rank and file, wounded.

Total British loss—1 major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 3 serjeants, 81 rank and file, killed; 4 captains, 5 lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 119 rank and file, wounded; 2 rank and file missing.

Total Portuguese loss—8 rank and file killed; 1 ensign, 2 serjeants, 41 rank and file, wounded; 2 rank and file missing.

General Total—1 major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 3 serjeants, 89 rank and file, killed; 4 captains, 5 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 4 serjeants, 160 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

(Signed) S. A. GOODMAN, D. A. A. G.

Names of the Officers killed and wounded.

Killed.

18th October 1812.

- Coldstream Guards—Captain Harvey.
- 19th October 1812.
- Coldstream Guards—Ensign Burgess.
- 1st Line Batt. King's German Legion—Lieutenant Bothmer.
- 2d Ditto, Ditto—Major Wurmb.

Wounded.

18th October 1812.

- 3d Foot Guards—Lieutenants Holborn and Knox, severely.
- Coldstream Guards, 1st Batt.—Captain the Honourable W. G. Crofton, slightly; Captain the Honourable J. Wapole, severely.
- 1st Line Batt. King's German Legion—Captain Laroche, dangerously.
- 2d Ditto, Ditto—Lieutenants Hesse and Quade, severely.
- 5th Ditto, Ditto—Captain Backmeister, severely, right arm amputated; Lieutenant Schlaeger, slightly.

(Signed) S. A. GOODMAN, D. A. A. G.

Extract of a Dispatch from the Marquess of Wellington, dated Cabezon, October 28, 1812.

SINCE I wrote to your Lordship upon the 26th, I have had an opportunity of seeing the enemy's whole army, as they plac'd themselves opposite to us, on the Pisuegra, yesterday. They are certainly in very great strength. The army of Portugal has received a reinforcement of ten thousand men, including cavalry, from France; and I have reason to believe that there are two divisions of infantry now with this army belonging to the army of the north. The cavalry of the army of the north is certainly with the army of Portugal, and they have at least five thousand good cavalry.

No event of importance has occurred since I addressed your Lordship on the 26th. The enemy formed their army in the plain in our front yesterday. They have cannonaded different parts of our line without doing us any injury, excepting that Lieutenant-Colonel Robe, of the Royal Artillery, was wounded severely, but not dangerously, yesterday.

Rueda, October 31, 1812.

THE enemy crossed the Carrion on the 26th and 27th, and formed their army on the heights near Cijales, on the last of those days, opposite our position on the left of the Pisuegra, and their advanced guard about two miles in front of their main body, and half that distance from Cabezon.

On the 28th they extended their right, and endeavoured to force the bridges of Simancas and Valladolid, the former of which was defended by Colonel Halkett, with his brigade of the 7th division, and the latter by Lieutenant-General the Earl of Dalhousie, with the remainder of the 7th division. At length Colonel Halkett, being hard pressed, blew up the bridge. He at the same time detached the Brunswick Oels' regiment to Tordesillas, towards which quarter the enemy detached troops on the evening of the 28th. As soon as I found that this was the case, I thought it proper to break up from the Pisuegra and to cross the Douro, which object was effected without difficulty on the 29th instant, by the bridges of Puente Douro and Tudela.

The bridge of Tordesillas was destroyed on the enemy's approach to that town, on the evening of the 28th, and I had sent orders to the regiment of Brunswick Oels to take post on its ruins, in such manner as to prevent the enemy from repairing the bridge. I had the mortification, however, of learning, on the night of the 29th, that this regiment had been obliged to abandon its post, and as I had seen the enemy's whole army in march towards Tordesillas on that evening, it was obvious that no time was to be lost. I therefore marched the army at an early hour yesterday morning to their left, and posted the troops on the heights between Rueda and Tordesillas, immediately opposite, and near the bridge of Tordesillas. We found the bridge nearly repaired on our arrival,

but the enemy had made no attempt to pass it, and they have now no large assembly of troops in this neighbourhood.

I learn that some of them marched last night towards Valladolid, and others towards Toro.

I have received letters from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill of the 29th.

The Tagus was every where fordable, and the enemy had passed a small body of troops over at Fuente Duernas.

Sir Rowland Hill had collected his troops on the Jacamah. He was likely to receive my orders to move upon Anvalo on the 29th.

Rueda, November 3, 1812.

I TAKE the opportunity of the return of the messenger Myers to Coruña, to inform you that the army have continued in the position in which I placed them on the 30th of October; and the enemy have made no attempt to pass the Douro. The bridge of Tordesillas is repaired, and they are employed in the repair of that of Toro. Their troops are extended along the Douro, from the latter place to Valladolid.

In the mean time, the troops under Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill will arrive this day and to-morrow on the Adaja. The General received my orders to break up from his position on the Jacamah on the 29th, and he intended to carry them into execution on the morning of the 30th. He had intended to destroy the Puente Larga, but the mine failed; and the enemy having collected a large body of troops between the bridge and Aranjuez, they immediately attacked our post on the bridge, but were repulsed with considerable loss by the 2d battalion 47th regiment, and a detachment of the 95th, under the command of Colonel Skerret. I have not received the return of our loss upon this occasion, but I understand it is about forty men. No officer was touched. Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill mentions in high terms the conduct of the troops. These circumstances, delayed the march from the right of Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's position till the evening of the 30th, and he has since continued it without being at all molested by the enemy.

The building called La China, in the Retiro, and all the guns, stores, &c. which that work contained, which had not been carried away, were destroyed before the troops were withdrawn from Madrid.

The Spanish divisions of Don Carlos d'España and Comte de Penne Villemur are with Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill.

A small body of the enemy's troops were at Valde Mono on the 31st, and entered Madrid at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 1st instant.

I have accounts from the North stating that Longa has taken a convoy, escorted by three hundred men, near Victoria.