



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1812.

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