

the 1st division of infantry on the right, at Aldea Tejada, in order to secure that passage for the troops over the Zunguen; in case the movements of the enemy on our right flank should render it necessary for me to make choice either of giving up my communication with Ciudad Rodrigo or Salamanca.

On the 15th in the morning I found the enemy fortifying their position at Mozarbes, which they had taken up the night before; at the same time that they were moving bodies of cavalry and infantry towards their own left, and to our communications with Ciudad Rodrigo. It was obvious that it was the enemy's intention to act upon our communications; and as they were too strong, and too strongly posted for me to think of attacking them, I determined to move upon Ciudad Rodrigo. I therefore put the army in march in three columns, and crossed the Zunguen, and then passed the enemy's left flank, and encamped that night on the Vansa. We continued our march successively on the 16th, 17th, 18th, and this day, when part of the army crossed the Agueda, and the whole will cross that river to-morrow.

The enemy followed our movement on the 16th with a large body, probably the whole of the cavalry, and a considerable body of infantry, but they did not attempt to press upon our rear. They took advantage of the ground to cannonade our rear guard, consisting of the light division, under Major-General Charles Alten, on the 17th, on its passage of the Huebra at San Muñoz, and occasioned some loss.

The troops have suffered considerably from the severity of the weather, which, since the 15th, has been worse than I have ever known it at this season of the year.

I am sorry to add, that we have had the misfortune to lose Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Paget, who was taken prisoner on the 17th. He commanded the centre column, and the fall of rain having greatly injured the roads and swelled the rivulets, there was an interval between the 5th and 7th divisions of infantry. Sir Edward rode to the rear alone, to discover the cause of this interval, and, as the road passed through a wood, either a detachment of the enemy's cavalry had got upon the road, or he missed the road, and fell into their hands in the wood. I understand that Sir Edward was not wounded, but I cannot sufficiently regret the loss of his assistance at this moment.

In my dispatch of the 7th inst. I communicated to your Lordship my opinion of the strength of the enemy, as far as I could judge of it from the reports I had received, and from what I had seen. I have since learnt that General Caffarelli, with the army of the North, certainly remained joined with the army of Portugal. Joseph Buonaparte left Madrid on the 4th instant, and arrived at Penamunda on the 8th, leaving at Madrid the civil authorities of his government, and a small garrison. These authorities and troops evacuated Madrid on the 7th, and marched for Castile; and Colonel Don Juan Palaria the Medico took possession of that city.

Your Lordship will have seen General Ballesteros's letter of the 24th of October, to the Regency, from which you will observe, that he had disobeyed the orders of the Government, given to

him at my suggestion, to march his troops into La Mancha, and hang upon the enemy's left flank, because the Regency and Cortes had offered me the chief command of the Spanish armies.

The whole of the enemy's disposable force in Spain was therefore upon the Tormes in the middle of this month; and they were certainly not less than eighty thousand men, but more probably ninety thousand; of these ten thousand were cavalry; and as the army of Portugal alone had one hundred pieces of cannon, it is probable that they had not less in all the armies than two hundred pieces.

(Enclosure, No. 1.)

SIR, *Alba de Tormes, Nov. 11, 1812.*

I HAVE the honour to report the steps I have taken to carry into effect your instructions for the defence of this place, which, I am happy to say, have obliged the enemy to withdraw the greatest part of the force opposed to us; and I feel almost confident we shall be able to retain our position as long as you may deem expedient.

I yesterday garrisoned and provisioned the castle, and by the exertions of Captain Goldfinch of the engineers, it is put into as good a state as circumstances will admit; he is continuing strengthening it. Captain Goldfinch has been of great assistance to me.

I have appropriated to each regiment a district of this town, and the commanding officer has barricaded the streets and buildings in a very judicious manner. Brigadier Da Costa and Campbell's brigades are in our position on the left bank of the Tormes. Brigadier Campbell reports his having caused the enemy some loss, in their attempt to pass a ford near his position.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tulloh has made so good an arrangement of his two brigades of guns, that, united with the position of the two brigades of infantry on the left bank of the Tormes, I consider my flanks secure.

Early yesterday morning Major-General Long, commanding the cavalry in front, reported that the enemy were advancing in great force; I was therefore induced to retire the cavalry.

About ten o'clock the enemy appeared on the heights in considerable force of cavalry, and a few infantry, covering, as I conceived, a reconnoissance of several officers of rank. About two o'clock the enemy's force was increased to fifteen squadrons, and six thousand infantry, and twenty guns, including six six-inch howitzers, which immediately commenced firing, and continued until it was dark. The enemy's light troops advanced close to the walls we had hastily thrown up; but from the cool and steady conduct of the 51st regiment, Colonel Stewart; 71st regiment, the Honourable Colonel Cadogan; the 92d, Colonel Cameron; General Howard's brigade, the enemy dared not attempt the town.

About eight o'clock in the evening I was repeatedly informed that the enemy's infantry was considerably increasing, which induced me to order three battalions of Brigadier Da Costa's brigade into town, leaving his other battalion for the protection of the fords. The enemy during the night withdrew their artillery, and I have left a small