



SUPPLEMENT

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, May 18, 1813.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, was this morning received by Earl Bathurst, from Lieutenant-General Sir John Murray, Bart.

My LORD, Castalla, April 14, 1813.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, a copy of a dispatch addressed this day to General the Marquess of Wellington; and I am happy it is in my power to lay before your Lordship so convincing a proof of the gallantry and spirit which pervades this army.

I have, indeed, but faintly described the exertions of the officers and soldiers who have been engaged, but I still venture to hope that they will appear sufficiently meritorious to attract the notice and obtain the approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

This dispatch, with its inclosure, will be delivered to your Lordship by Captain D'Aguilar, of the 81st regiment, my Military Secretary. I have, with great inconvenience to myself, selected this officer, because he is so well qualified, from the situation he holds, to give your Lordship every information relative to this action, and indeed relative to this army and the province.

I think I may safely venture to assure your Lordship, that Captain D'Aguilar eminently possesses every quality which we prize in the character of a soldier; and I take the liberty of earnestly recommending him to your Lordship's favourable notice and protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. MURRAY, Lieut.-Gen.  
The Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

Head-Quarters, Castalla,  
April 14, 1813.

My LORD,  
I HAVE the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that the allied army under my command defeated the enemy on the 13th instant, commanded by Marshal Suchet in person.

It appears that the French General had, for the purpose of attacking this army, for some time been employed in collecting his whole disposable force.

His arrangements were completed on the 10th, and in the morning of the 11th, he attacked and dislodged, with some loss, a Spanish corps, posted by General Elio, at Yecla, which threatened his right, whilst it supported our left flank.

In the evening he advanced in considerable force to Villena, and I am sorry to say, that he captured, on the morning of the 12th, a Spanish garrison, which had been thrown into the Castle by the Spanish General, for its defence.

On the 12th, about noon, Marshal Suchet began his attack on the advance of this army posted at Biar, under the command of Colonel Adam.

Colonel Adam's orders were to fall back upon Castalla, but to dispute the passage with the enemy; which he did with the utmost gallantry and skill, for five hours, though attacked by a force infinitely superior to that which he commanded.

The enemy's advance occupied the pass that evening, and Colonel Adam took up the ground in our position which had been allotted to him.

On the 13th at noon, the enemy's columns of attack were formed, composed of three divisions of infantry, a corps of cavalry of about sixteen hundred men, and a formidable train of artillery.

The position of the allied army was extensive. The left was posted on a strong range of hills, occupied by Major-General Whittingham's division of

Spanish troops, and the advance of the allied army under Colonel Adam.

This range of hills terminates at Castalla, which, and the ground to the right, was occupied by Major-General Mackenzie's division, and the 58th regiment, from that of Lieutenant-General Clinton.

The remainder of the position was covered by a strong ravine, behind which Lieutenant-General Clinton was stationed, supported by three battalions of General Roche's division, as a column of reserve.

A few batteries had been constructed in this part of the line, and in front of the castle of Castalla. The enemy necessarily advanced on the left of the position. The first movement he made, was to pass a strong body of Cavalry along the line, threatening our right, which was refused. Of this movement no notice was taken; the ground to which he was pointing, is unfavourable to cavalry, and as this movement was foreseen, the necessary precautions had been taken: when this body of cavalry had passed nearly the half of our line of infantry, Marshal Suchet advanced his columns to the foot of the hills, and certainly his troops, with a degree of gallantry that entitles them to the highest praise, stormed the whole line, which is not less than two miles and a half in extent. But gallantly as the attack was made, the defence of the heights was no less brilliant: at every point the enemy was repulsed—at many with the bayonet.

He suffered very a severe loss; our gallant troops pursued him for some distance, and drove him, after a severe struggle, with precipitation on his battalions of reserve upon the plain. The cavalry, which had slowly advanced along our right, gradually fell back to the infantry. At present his superiority in that arm enabled him to venture this movement, which otherwise he should have severely repented.

Having united his shattered battalions with those which he kept in reserve, Marshal Suchet took up a position in the valley; but which it would not have been creditable to allow him to retain. I therefore decided on quitting mine; still, however, retaining the heights, and formed the allied army in his front, covering my right flank with the cavalry, whilst the left rested on the hills. The army advanced in two lines to attack him a considerable distance, but unfortunately Marshal Suchet did not choose to risk a second action, with the defile in his rear.

The line of the allies was scarcely formed when he began his retreat, and we could effect nothing more than driving the French into the pass with defeat, which they had exultingly passed in the morning. The action terminated at dusk, with a distant but heavy cannonade.

I am sorry to say that I have no trophies to boast of. The enemy took no guns to the heights, and he retired too expeditiously to enable me to reach him. Those which he used in the latter part of the day, were posted in the gorge of the defile, and it would have cost us the lives of many brave men to take them.

In the dusk, the allied army returned to its position at Castalla, after the enemy had retired to Biar. From thence he continued his retreat at midnight to Villeña, which he quitted again this morn-

ing in great haste, directing his march upon Fuente de la Higuera and Onteniente.

But although I have taken no cannon from the enemy, in point of numbers his army is very considerably crippled, and the defeat of a French army, which boasted it had never known a check, cannot fail, I should hope, in producing a most favourable effect in this part of the Peninsula.

As I before mentioned to your Lordship, Marshal Suchet commanded in person.

The Generals Harispe, Habert, and Robert, commanded their respective divisions. I hear from all quarters that General Harispe is killed; and I believe, from every account that I can collect, that the loss of the enemy amounts fully to three thousand men; and he admits two thousand five hundred. Upwards of eight hundred have already been buried in front of only one part of our line; and we know that he has carried off with him an immense number of wounded.

We had no opportunity of making prisoners, except such as were wounded; the numbers of which have not yet reached me.

I am sure your Lordship will hear with much satisfaction, that this action has not cost us the lives of many of our comrades.

Deeply must be felt the loss, however trifling, of such brave and gallant soldiers; but we know it is inevitable, and I can with truth affirm, that there was not an officer or soldier engaged who did not court the glorious termination of an honourable life, in the discharge of his duty to his King and to his country.

The gallant and judicious conduct of those that were engaged deprived much more than one half the army of sharing in the perils and glory of the day; but the steady countenance with which the divisions of Generals Clinton and Mackenzie remained for some hours under a cannonade, and the eagerness and alacrity with which the lines of attack were formed, sufficiently proved to me what I had to depend on from them, had Marshal Suchet awaited the attack.

I trust your Lordship will now permit me to perform the most pleasing part of my duty, that of humbly submitting for His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's approbation, the names of those officers and corps which have had the fortunate opportunity of distinguishing themselves, in as far at least as has yet come to my knowledge.

Colonel Adam, who commands the advance, claims the first place in this honourable list. I cannot sufficiently praise the judicious arrangements he made and the ability with which he executed his orders on the 12th instant.

The advance consists only of the 2d battalion 27th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Reeves; the 1st Italian regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Burke; the Calabrian Free Corps, commanded by Major Carey; one rifle company of the 3d and 8th battalions King's German Legion, commanded by Captains Lueder and Brauns of those corps; and a troop of foreign hussars, under the orders of Captain Jacks, of the 20th dragoons, with four mountain guns, in charge of Captain Arabin, royal artillery.

The enemy attacked this corps with from five to six thousand men, and for five hours (and then only

in consequence of order) succeeded in possessing himself of the pass.

This fact alone says more in favour of Colonel Adam, and in praise of those he commands, than any words of mine can express. I shall therefore confine myself to assuring your Lordship, that the conduct of all engaged in this brilliant affair, merits, and has met with, my highest approbation.

Colonel Adam was wounded very early in the attack, but continued, and still continues in charge of his division.

On the 13th, the attack of the enemy on Colonel Adam's division was very severe, but the enemy was defeated at every point, and a most gallant charge of the 2d 27th, led by Colonel Adam and Lieutenant-Colonel Reeves, decided the fate of the day, at that part of the field of battle.

The skill, judgment, and gallantry displayed by Major-General Whittingham and his division of the Spanish army, rivals, though it cannot surpass the conduct of Colonel Adam and the advance.

At every point the enemy was repulsed; at many, at the point of the bayonet. At one point in particular I must mention, where a French grenadier battalion had gained the summit of the hill, but was charged and driven from the heights by a corps under the command of Colonel Casans.

Major-General Whittingham highly applauds, and I know it is not without reason, the conduct of Colonel Casans, Colonel Romero, Colonel Campbell, Colonel Casteras, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ochoa, who commanded at various points of the hills. To the chief of his Staff, Colonel Serrano, he likewise expresses himself to be equally obliged on this, as well as many other occasions;—and he acknowledges with gratitude the services of Colonel Catinelli, of the Staff of the Italian Levy, who was attached to him during the day.

These, my Lord, are the officers and corps that I am most anxious to recommend to His Royal Highness's notice and protection, and I earnestly entreat your Lordship will most respectfully, on my part, report their merits to the Prince Regent, and to the Spanish Government.

It now only remains for me to acknowledge the cordial co-operation and support I have met with from the several General Officers and Brigadiers, as well as from the various officers in charge of departments attached to this army.

To Major-General Donkin, Quarter-Master-General, I am particularly indebted, for the zeal and ability with which he conducts the duties of his extensive department, and the gallantry he displays on every occasion.

Major Kenah, who is at the head of the Adjutant-General's department, affords me every satisfaction. Lieutenant-Col. Holcombe, and, under his orders, Major Williamson, conduct the artillery branch of the service in a manner highly creditable. The different brigades of guns, under Captains Lacy, Thomson, and Gilmour (and Garcia, of the Sicilian army), and Lieutenant Patton, of the flying artillery, were extremely useful, and most gallantly served; and the Portuguese artillery supported the reputation their countrymen have acquired.

The army is now in march. I proceed to Alcoy in the hope, but not the sanguine hope, that I may be enabled to force the Albayda Pass, and reach

the entrenched position of the enemy of San Felipe, before he can arrive there.

I consider this movement as promising greater advantages than a direct pursuit, as the road which he has chosen being very favourable for cavalry, in which arm he is so much superior, I should probably be delayed too long to strike any blow of importance.

I beg leave to enclose a return of the killed and wounded of the allied army.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. MURRAY, Lieut. Gen.

P. S. I have omitted to mention, that in retiring from Biar, two of the mountain guns fell into the hands of the enemy; they were disabled, and Colonel Adam very judiciously directed Captain Arabin, who then commanded the brigade, to fight them to the last, and then to leave them to their fate. Captain Arabin obeyed his orders, and fought them till it was impossible quite to get them off, had such been Colonel Adam's desire.

(Signed) J. M.

*Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Allied Army, commanded by Lieut. Gen. Sir John Murray, Bart. in the Action which took place near Castalla, on the Evenings of the 12th and 13th April 1813, with the French Army, commanded by Marshal Suchet.*

General Staff—1 lieutenant killed; 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant, wounded.

26th Light Dragoons—1 rank and file wounded. Foreign Troop, Hussars—2 horses killed; 2 horses wounded.

Brunswick Oels' Hussars—1 horse killed.

Neapolitan Cavalry—1 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

Royal British Artillery—4 rank and file wounded.

Royal Artillery Drivers—1 rank and file wounded; 3 horses killed; 1 horse wounded.

Portuguese Artillery—3 rank and file wounded.

1st Batt. 27th Foot—2 rank and file killed; 1 drummer, 16 rank and file, wounded.

2d Batt. 27th Foot—1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 16 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 82 rank and file, wounded; 2 rank and file missing.

1st Batt. 58th Foot—1 rank and file killed; 5 rank and file wounded.

4th Batt. King's German Legion—3 rank and file killed; 9 rank and file wounded.

6th Batt. Ditto—1 rank and file killed; 5 rank and file wounded.

Roll Dillon's—4 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant, 14 rank and file wounded; 9 rank and file missing.

Rifle Company, Roll's Regiment—1 lieutenant, 1 serjeant, and 4 rank and file, wounded.

Rifle Company, 3d Batt. King's German Legion—1 lieutenant, 4 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 11 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

Rifle Company, 8th Batt. King's German Legion—3 rank and file killed; 9 rank and file wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

1st Italian Regiment—23 rank and file killed; 1 major, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 4 serjeants, 45 rank and file, wounded; 28 rank and file missing.

Calabrese Free Corps—8 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 3 serjeants, 46 rank and file, wounded; 1 horse killed.

Total British loss—2 lieutenants, 2 serjeant, 1 drummer, 65 rank and file, killed; 1 colonel, 1 major, 1 captain, 8 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 15 serjeants, 1 drummer, 258 rank and file, wounded; 42 rank and file missing; 7 horses killed; 3 horses wounded; 1 horse

Total Sicilian loss—1 rank and file killed; 8 rank and file wounded.

Total Spanish loss—2 lieutenants, 73 rank and file, killed; 4 lieutenants, 183 rank and file, wounded; 1 horse killed; 7 horses wounded.

General total—4 lieutenants, 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 139 rank and file, killed; 1 colonel, 1 major, 1 captain, 12 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 15 serjeants, 1 drummer, 449 rank and file, wounded; 42 rank and file missing; 8 horses killed; 10 horses wounded; 1 horse missing.

(Signed) THOMAS KENAH,  
Major, Assistant-Adjutant-General.

*Names of the Officers killed and wounded.*

*Killed.*

10th Foot—Lieutenant Thompson, D. A. Qr. Gen.  
Rifle Company, 3d King's German Legion—Lieutenant Hazlebach.

5th Regiment Spanish Grenadiers—Lieutenant Don Juan Suares.

2d Regiment Burgos—Lieutenant Don Jose Pizano.

*Wounded.*

Colonel Adam, D. A. G. commanding the advance, slightly.

75th Foot—Lieutenant M'Dougall, Dy. Ass. A. Gen. severely (since dead).

2d Batt. 27th Foot—Lieutenant Duhigg, severely; Lieutenant Jameson, slightly.

Rifle Company, 3d King's German Legion—Lieutenants Freytag and Appuhn, severely.

1st Italian Regiment—Major Faverge, Lieutenant Martinach, Ensign Monti, slightly.

Roll's Rifle Company—Lieutenant Segopor, slightly.

Calabrese Free Corps—Captain Tavello, Lieutenant Megliacchas, slightly.

1st Regiment of Cordova—Lieutenant Don Francisco Morales.

Caçadores of Guadalaxara—Lieutenant Don Francisco Caslarieda.

Caçadores of Mallorca—Lieutenant Don Juan del Puerto, Ensign Don Manuel Terrano.

(Signed) THOS. KENAH, A. A. Gen.

The men returned missing, were those that fell badly wounded on retiring through the Biar Pass on the 12th instant, and whom it was impossible, from the nature of their wounds, to bear immediately away. Many of them have since been brought in from Biar, whither they were carried by the enemy, and left on its evacuation.

(Signed) GEORGE D'AGUILAR, Mil. Sec.