



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, May 8, 1814.

CAPTAIN Milnes, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Lord William Bentinck, K. B. has arrived at this Office, bringing a dispatch, addressed by his Lordship to Earl Bathurst, of which the following is a copy :

MY LORD, *Genoa, April 20, 1814.*

MY dispatch of the 6th instant, will have made your Lordship acquainted with the occupation of Spezia, and with the movement of the troops down to that period.

Upon my arrival at Leghorn, I learnt that there were only two thousand men in Genoa. The possession of that harbour and fortress was of such very great importance, that I determined to move on as rapidly as possible, and to take advantage of its defenceless state : not succeeding, I had a safe retreat upon Spezia, from whence I might advance the infantry by Pontremoli towards the Po.

Upon my arrival at Sestri, I found that the enemy had been reinforced at Genoa. The garrison consisted of between five and six thousand men.

The roads in the mountains being very bad, and the means of transport as well by land as by sea, being limited, I was not able to concentrate the army till the 14th.

On the 8th, the enemy was dislodged from the strong country near Sestri.

On the 12th, Major-General Montresor's division drove the enemy from Mount Fascia and Nervi; and on the 13th established himself in the advanced position of Sturla. The country was extremely mountainous and difficult, and the troops met with considerable opposition.

On the 16th, dispositions were made for attacking the enemy, who had taken a very strong position in front of Genoa; his left upon the Forts Richelieu and Tecla, his center occupying the village of St. Martino, and from thence extending to the Sea, through a country the most impassable I ever saw, thickly covered with country houses, only communicating with each other by narrow lanes between high walls.

On the 17th at day break the attack began.

The 3d Italians under Lieutenant-Colonel Ceravignac, attacked with great spirit a height in front of Fort Tecla, drove away the enemy and took three mountain guns.

A part of the 3d Italians, moved up the Hill towards Fort Richelieu : while Lieutenant-Colonel Travers, descending from Mount Fascia, with the Calabrese and Greeks, got possession of the highest part of the hill above the fort, and some of his men pushed forward actually under the wall, when the garrison, afraid of being taken by escalade, surrendered.

Fort Tecla was hastily evacuated, and the greater part of the enemy's force made prisoners.

The fortunate possession of these strong forts, together with the heights, completely exposed the enemy's left, which in consequence retired.

The attacks upon the enemy's right were made in three columns by Major-Gen. Montresor's division, supported by that of Lieutenant-General Macfarlane. The troops advanced with great vigor, and although the intersected state of the country, enabled the enemy to maintain himself for a considerable period, his left being turned, he was obliged at last to retire precipitately into the town. The impossibility of making use of artillery, and the cover every where afforded both to the attackers and defenders, prevented any serious loss on either side.

At noon, the army, under cover of the houses, took a position within six hundred yards of the narrowest and most assailable front of the town, from whence the very bottom of the wall was discovered, and the defences could be easily destroyed.

Preparations were immediately and with great activity made by Lieutenant-Colonel Lemoine, commanding the artillery, and Captain Tylden, the principal engineer officer, for the construction of the necessary batteries; and it was hoped that an assault might have been given on the following day.

On the same day Sir Edward Pellew's squadron came in sight, and anchored in front of Nervi.

In the evening a deputation of the inhabitants, accompanied by a French officer, came to beg