

MY LORD,

Cujes, July 24, 1815.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that the forts and ships in Toulon have this day hoisted the white flag, and that Marshal Brune and all the Generals and Admirals in that place have signed their acts of submission to the King.

The circumstances which led to this event, so far as in any way connected with the operations of the force under my orders, have been as follows:

On the first appearance of the fleet and transports, under Lord Exmouth, off the coast of France, Marshal Brune, who was opposite to Nice with a body of about five thousand infantry and three hundred cavalry, called the Corps of Observation of the Var, made immediate proposition for an armistice with the Commander of the Piedmontese force at Nice, in which object, he succeeded, and then marched directly to the relief of Toulon. On the 14th July, the day on which the troops landed at Marseilles, he caused a letter to be addressed to Admiral Lord Exmouth, inclosing copy of the armistice signed at Paris, and demanding an extension of it to the British force in this country, which was immediately rejected.

He then addressed Lieutenant-General the Marquis de Riviere, exercising the King's authority in Provence, stating his desire to send two officers to Paris, to offer the submission of Toulon, and saying he should refrain from hostilities during the ten days necessary for his communication. This proposition was also objected to, and the Marshal was informed, he must resign his authority to the officer who governed Toulon before Buonaparte's evasion, hoist the white flag, and suffer the garrison of Toulon to be composed of National Guards and Royalists, in as large proportion as the troops of the line. On the same day his letter was received by the Marquis de Riviere, information was had that he was marching towards Aix, on which I immediately ordered the whole of the British troops out of Marseilles, to take up such a position as might menace Toulon, watch him, and secure Marseilles itself against attack; but the report of his march on Aix gave way to that of his concentrating near Toulon, when the following dispositions were made by me: I directed the troops to move forward in two columns, one on the high road to Toulon, by Aubagne Gemenos and Cujes, and the other by the coast to Cassis and Ciotat, in which latter place I stationed a small garrison, and afterwards moved the column to Leques and St. Cyr, having an advance at Bandol. My own head quarters were at Cujes, having an advance at St. Anne's, with very strong ground both to my front and rear, and the power of collecting my force to act along the coast, or on the high road, as circumstances might best point out. The National Guards and Royalists occupied Beausset, Castelet, La Caliere, and other strong points in my immediate front or flank. Admiral Lord Exmouth had, in the mean time, detached one line-of-battle ship to Ciotat, and another to Bandol. The enemy's advanced posts were on the outside of the Pass of Ollioules. It was whilst the troops were in this position, the Marquis de Riviere and Marshal Brune carried on their negotiations, through the means of Admiral Ganteaume, who, on the day after the Marshal's first proposition was made, was

received in Toulon as the King's Commissioner. Various propositions were made, all with the view of gaining time. The two following were immediately rejected—that of acknowledging the King's authority, but retaining the tricolor flag, and that of requiring that the British troops should retire, and promise not to attack Toulon; on which no assurance would be given. Whilst these points were discussing, a party of the National Guards having moved to St. Nazaire, had thus turned the Pass of Ollioules, which caused so much agitation, as having occurred whilst Admiral Ganteaume was treating, that Marquis de Riviere thought proper to withdraw it, whilst I collected my left column and pushed forward an advance to support him, should the circumstance have brought forth an attack. Finally, yesterday, the submission of Marshal Brune and his Generals was received, but the regiments still refused to wear the white cockade; and it was only this day, whilst at Ollioules with Admiral Lord Exmouth, the submission of the whole was notified, and consent given to the Royalists and National Guards occupying the forts, in conjunction with a portion only of the regular troops.

The garrison of Toulon consisted of six * regiments of the line, a regiment of marines, a detachment of three hundred cavalry, artillery, veterans, &c., battalion of half pay officers and Federalists, called "Le Battalion Sacré," most of whom, with Marshal Murat and some of his adherents, were suffered to quit Toulon, and absconded, it is not known where, on the eve of the resolution being taken for hoisting the white flag.

The nature of the operation in which I have been engaged, has been such as to afford little opportunity of distinction for the officers and men under my orders, yet I cannot avoid expressing my sense of the zeal which animated all ranks, nor my obligations to the officers in command of brigades, Colonel Burrows and Colonel Burke, and the Officers of the Staff, for their assistance to me in all preparatory arrangements, particularly Major Sir Thomas Reade, Assistant Adjutant-General, Major Pfatt, Assistant Quarter-Master-General, Major Gamble, Royal Artillery, Major Gorreyuer, Military Secretary, Mr. Cummings, of the Commissariat, and Doctor Porteous.

Lieutenant-Colonel Faverges, of the Italian Levy, who commanded the advance, merits likewise my best thanks, as also Major Andreis, of the Staff, and Lieutenant Smith, of the Royal Engineers, by whom the duties of reconnoissance were principally exercised, and who executed them with an activity and intelligence that left me nothing to desire.

I can never sufficiently express my obligations and gratitude to Lord Exmouth and the Navy in general, for the cordial assistance they have shewn themselves disposed to render on every occasion, and for the aid in particular which I received from the Marines, of which a battalion was formed, under the command of Major Cox, and placed at my disposition.

Accounts have been received that Antibes has hoisted the white flag, so that there is now no declared enemy in the South of France.

This report will be delivered to your Lordship by

* 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 35th, 106th, veterans.