

The London Gazette.

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From Saturday December 31. to Tuesday January 3. 1721.

AT the Court at St. James's, the 3d of January, 1720.

P R E S E N T,

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

This Day the Right Honourable John Earl of Sutherland and Sir George Byng were sworn of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and took their Places at the Board accordingly.

Sheriffs appointed by His Majesty in Council for the Year 1721.

Berks,	Reginald Fellow, of Reading, Esq;
Bedford,	Richard Orlebear, Esq;
Cumbe,	Thomas Ingoldesby, Esq;
Buckland,	Joshua Laithes, Esq;
Cambr' & Hunt,	Edward Partherick, Esq;
Devon,	William Hull, of Exmouth, Esq;
Dorset,	John Meech, Esq;
Derby,	Richard Bagshaw, of Castleton, Esq;
Ebor,	Sir Walter Hawksworth, Bar.
Essex,	Timothy Brand, Esq;
Gloucester,	John Dowle, of Over, Esq;
Hertford,	Sir Charles Buck, Bar.
Hireford,	Edward Witherston, Esq;
Kent,	Jonathan Smith, of Swanscombe, Esq;
Leicester,	Joseph Danvers, Esq;
Monmouth,	Charles Probert, of Monmouth, Esq;
Northumb,	Edward Delavall, Esq;
Northampton,	Egidius Knightley, Esq;
Norfolk,	Nathaniel Life, Esq;
Nottingham,	John Sherwin, Esq;
Oxford,	Daniel Blake, of Coggs, Esq;
Rutland,	Orlando Browne, Esq;
Salop,	John Kinnersley, Esq;
Somerset,	William Applen, Esq;
Stafford,	Robert Bosvile, of Biana, Esq;
Southampton,	Charles Morley, of Droxford, Esq;
Surry,	Wight Woolley, Esq;
Suffex,	William Marckwicke, Esq;
Warwick,	Thomas Bailey, Esq;

Whitehall, January 2.

The Marquess de Pozobueno, his Catholick Majesty's Minister at this Court, has received by an Express the following Account of another Victory over the Moors, obtained by the Spanish Army at Ceuta, the 21st of December last.

After the Victory obtained on the 9th of December, by his Majesty's Forces, it was concluded that the Infidels, notwithstanding their great Loss, and the terrible Reception they had met with, would again attack us, as well on Account of their natural Obstinacy, as by Reason of the fresh Encouragement they would receive from the Reinforcements sent by their King from the Upper Country, and from the Frontiers to the Southward and to the Eastward towards Tetuan, to strengthen their Army. These Considerations, joined to the Zeal and Prudence of the Marquess de Lede, prevailed with him providently to improve the Fortifications of our Camp, by finishing the Works already begun, adding others, and increasing the Batteries, so that our Army lay encamped behind an Intrenchment that reaches from Sea to Sea, the Front of it extending about half a League, and about a quarter of a League distant from the Town of Ceuta. This Line is drawn answerable to the Unevenness of the Ground, jutting out in some Places, and drawing back in others, as has been requisite to take in the Hills and other Eminences, to which Purpose it has been unavoidable to form some obtuse Angles, by Means whereof, and of some saillant Points made to that Effect, all the Front is flanked, as well by the Musketeers as by several Batteries conveniently disposed.

Besides this Line, some advanced Works were thrown up on the principal Avenues, and more particularly a very large one, called the Tenaille, at 40 Paces Distance before the Center of our Infantry, with a good Communication between it and the Line, to convey along it the necessary Supplies.

This Work was secured by a Ditch five Foot in Depth, and 10 in Breadth, and before it a Parapet,

on which was fixed a Row of Cheveaux de Frize for a farther Check to the advancing of the Moors.

About half a Musket-Shot from this Work is a little Hill with some Brakes or Sloughs behind it, which might serve to cover the Moors that should approach that way, and yet it was not thought convenient to fortify or possess the same, in Regard that it was commanded by other Eminences, and for other sufficient Reasons.

The Openings in our Line left to relieve the Out-Posts, were made good by two Rows of Cheveaux de Frize, and well flanked.

Our Infantry lay encamped in two Lines; but every Battallion, having the particular Place they were to repair to, and make good in Case of an Attack assigned them, they all could and were accordingly to repair immediately to their respective Posts, by this Means drawing the two Lines into one behind the Breast-works, excepting only some Parties and Companies of Grenadiers, that were in the advanced Posts, and others remaining in the Rear as a Reserve, to reinforce such Posts as should have need of them; besides the Regiments of Horse and Dragoons appointed to remain in the Rear of the Infantry, and on their Flanks to sustain them.

All these Precautions were thought requisite, in Regard that his Majesty's Army at that Time, consisted of only 12,000 Foot, divided into 26 Battallions, and 4000 Horse and Dragoons in 32 Squadrons; for though a considerable Reinforcement of Troops lay embarked in the Bay of Gibraltar, they had not been able to cross the Straights by reason of the bad Weather.

Such was the Disposition of the Camp and Army, when on the 18th, some Volleys fired by the Moors in their Camp at Castillejos were heard, which it was known they had done to salute one of their chief Commanders then arrived in their Camp, with a considerable Reinforcement of Troops, and they having the foregoing Days received several Supplies, the Marquess de Lede concluded that they would attack us the next Day, whereupon he gave his Orders to the Troops, that they might be in a Readiness to march upon the first Signal given, to the Posts assigned to every Corps.

The same Day at Eight in the Evening it began to rain, which continued all the next Day in so violent a Manner, that it obliged the Infidels to put off their intended Operations.

On the 20th, at Noon, the great Guards gave Notice, that a considerable Body appeared coming down the Brake de las Canas, intending, as it seemed, to hold on their March along the Bank called Inferno, in order to get into the Road of Tangier, and from thence to extend themselves on the Eminence of the Scerraille, before the great Guard of our Center, which accordingly they performed. This Body consisted of between 800 and 1000 Horse, who seemed to be a Guard to several principal Officers that marched at the Head of them, and were distinguishable by their Habit, and the rich Furniture of their Horses. Having continued on that Eminence observing our Camp, and the Posture of our Army, till Four in the Afternoon, they then retired to their own.

This Motion of the Infidels, confirmed the Marquess de Lede in his Opinion, that they would advance as soon as possible with their whole Army, since they could not do it the Day before by reason of the Rain; and accordingly on the 21st at Sun-rising, some Parties of their Horse appeared, and at 8 of the Clock one Column of their Cavalry, directing their March to the Eminence of the Scerraille, near the Road of Tangier. Soon after followed two large Columns of Infantry, one of which marched towards the Coast and anchoring Place of Tramaguera, which comes up directly to our Left, and the other to the Brake de las Canas, at the Center of our Left. The Column of their Cavalry at 11 of the Clock countermarched towards their Left and came down the Brake that is opposite to the Center of our Infantry, but there appeared no other considerable Motion of theirs, till the very Moment of the General Attack.

A Party of about 60 or 70 Horse advanced to the Road that is on the Right of that of Tangier, a very high Ground, and open to overlook our Camp, and it was immediately discerned, that they were their Bishops and other chief Commanders, who continued in that Place till near one of the Clock, when they were seen to return on their Left, to join their Army, and give the Signal for the general Attack, as they did, some small Parties of Horse they had posted to that Effect firing along from one Eminence to another, whereupon one of their Columns of Infantry immediately moved in a very hasty Manner, and close Order, making a large Front, but being much more considerable in Depth, and with the same Swift-ness advanced to the little Hill, said above to be before our advanced Work called the Tenaile, in order to attack it, as they did with the greatest Bold-ness, fixing their Colours close by it, and marching up to our Cheveaux de Frize, which they endeavour'd to remove, with such Resolution, that it might be accounted Rashness, for they were exposed and lay open to the great and incessant Fire of our Infantry, and of several Batteries, which flank'd that Place, and yet they continued their Attempts all along the Front of the Tenaile and in other Places, firing continually, and seconded by the Fire of some other Bodies of their Infantry from the Eminences, whence, tho' somewhat distant, they not only reached with their long Firelocks, but in some Posts could see our Men from Head to Foot as they stood behind the Breastworks.

The Marquess de Lede, being sensible of the great Importance of that Post of the Tenaile, had provided it very well, and with the Supplies he sent from time to time, when he perceived the Enemy mostly bent against that Place, there were in it during the Heat of the Action, the two Battalions of the Regiment of Murcia, 26 Companies of Grenadiers, three Piquets of Infantry, and the Companies of Carabiniers of the Regiment of Belgia, Saguntum, and Dublin; and the Infidels carrying on their Attacks with the greatest Resolution and Undauntedness, he ordered the said three Regiments of Dragoons, with their Brigadier the Count de Pezucla, who commanded them, to dismount, and take Post in the Intrenchment, to reinforce the Infantry that defended it.

The Fight began at One of the Clock after Noon, and held on till Five in the Evening, with a Fire so great and continual, that all the Old Officers declare, that of all the Actions they ever were in in Europe, they never saw the like of this.

Tho' this Attack was begun by one great Column of Infantry, it was sustained and several Times renewed by two other Columns or Bodies of between 8 or 10000 Men each, which followed in the Rear, and were in the Nature of a Reserve. Perceiving that they could not possess themselves of the Tenaile by the Front or Head, they made 3 several Attempts to enter it at the Gorge, but all those Posts being well flank'd by the Fire of our Infantry, and our Artillery which was charg'd with small Shot, they lost so many Men, that at length, having met with so many Repulses, and finding all their Attempts were in vain, their Fire begun to abate about half an Hour after four, and being convinced of the Impossibility of succeeding; they turn'd their Colours and began to fly at 5 in the Evening; nor is it strange, that they should draw off with such Precipitation, for in the same manner they move and come on to their Attacks. It was observed upon their Retreat, that they took up some Standards as well as Colours, whence it was concluded that some of their Cavalry dismounted had been joined with the Infantry in carrying on their Attack. The main Body of the Cavalry did not come near the Trenches, as they had done, to no Purpose in the Action on the 9th, for being either warned by the great Loss they had then sustained, or better commanded by an abler General, they advanced and continued in the Rear of the Infantry, sustaining and encouraging them, as also helping to carry off their Dead and Wounded Men, as is usual with them on all Occasions, to ease the Infantry of that Trouble. It was also observed, that most of the Killed and Wounded being carry'd beyond the Brake by the Infantry, many of those who had performed this Part, either would stay there or scourg'd off to avoid returning to the Engagement, whereupon the Commanders of the Enemy's Cavalry appointed some Parties to force those Runaways back to the Attack, with their drawn Scymiters in their Hands. It is not easy to express how extraordinary careful they are to carry off the killed and

Wounded, nor is the Reason of it known, but they themselves killed all that were dangerously wounded before they carry'd them off.

According to all the best Intelligence that could be had of the Strength of the Infidels, and what was observed during the Engagement, their Army amounted to 60000 Men, and among them 15000 Horse, including 10000 Blacks, called the King's Guards, being the Troops most depended on for their Courage and Conduct. The Loss they suffered upon this Occasion is computed at seven or 8000 Men killed and wounded, as near as can be guessed, as well by those they carry'd off and what remained in the Camp, as by the great Slaughter there was seen to be made by the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery, which never ceased playing during the four Hours the Action lasted, sometimes with their Bullet, and at other times with Cartridge-Shot, as Occasion required, having been duly and skillfully served by its Commandant the Brigadier Don Joseph Gayoso, and by the Colonels Count Marlani and Don John Pangarron. The Infidels also suffered very much in their Retreat, especially at the Time they ascended the Eminences, being exposed to the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery. Our Loss may be above 300 Men killed and wounded, according to the Accounts of the 21st. Among the killed is Major General Don Felix de Aragon, who commanded at the Attack. Brigadier Don John Pacheco Portocarrero, Colonel of the Regiment of Murcia, and Colonel Don Peter de Pineda, Captain of Grenadiers in the Spanish Guards, are dangerously wounded, both of them in the Thigh, as is Don Francis Fantoni Valderrama, Sub-Lieutenant in the Spanish Guards, and several other Officers, of whom an Account is expected, and of all the other Particulars. Lieutenant General Don Joseph de Chaves, and Major General Chateaufort, though they were sick in Bed, went out to be present at the Action, and continued till the last, the former of them received a Contusion, and the Brigadier Count de Ytre, Colonel of the Regiment of Belgia, two.

The Marquess de Lede was, during the whole Time of the Action in the Center, at the Attack, making the necessary Dispositions, and giving Orders for the Defence, and all that was requisite, and his Horse was shot under him with two Musket Balls.

The Regiments of Dragoons of Belgia, Saguntum and Dublin, were posted on the Way of our Centre, but as soon as they dismounted, and were incorporated with the Infantry, for the Defence of the Intrenchment, their Place was supplied by the Regiments of Horse of the Prince and Roussillon, to be ready upon Occasion. The Regiments of Horse of the Orders and Montesa, had their Post on the Right, and that of Dragoons of Pavia on the Left.

All the General and Inferior Officers signalized their Valour, Conduct, and Zeal, as appears by the Success of this great Victory, and the Bravery and Steadiness of the Soldiers was suitable, which was so extraordinary in the Grenadiers who defended the Post of the Tenaile, that many of them not valuing the Security of the Breastwork, mounted upon it, and continued there firing, till they were wounded, or their Officers by Force obliged them to come down; which they no sooner did than others got up to fill the Places they had left, the Authority and Threats of their Officers not being sufficient to keep them behind the Breastwork, being so animated, that without regarding the Duty of Obedience, or the Danger they exposed themselves to, they chose the greatest Hazards to do the more Harm to the common Enemy of Christendom.

The Bishop of Ceuta giving fresh Proofs of his Zeal and Charity, went into the Camp and continued there during the whole Action, attended by several Priests, administering the Holy Sacraments to such as were dangerously wounded, and assisting all in their Spiritual and Temporal Concerns with extraordinary Fervour and Constancy in the midst of Dangers; for one of the Chaplains that assisted him in these pious Functions, was wounded by his Side.

The Chevalier Gomicour, Colonel of the Regiment of Horse of Milan, and Quarter-Master General of the Horse of the said Army, arrived at Court with this important Advice on the 28th of December at Night; and being immediately admitted by his Majesty to Audience, gave this present Account, till farther Particulars can be had.