

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15.

Downing-Street, August 15, 1809.

Dispatches, of which the following are copies and extracts, were this day received at the Office of the Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B. dated Talavera, 29th July, 1809.

Talavera de la Reyna, July 29, 1809.

MY LORD.—General Cuesta followed the enemy's march with his army from the Alberche on the morning of the 24th, as far as Santa Olalla, and pushed forward his advanced guard as far as Torrijos.

For the reasons stated to your Lordship in my dispatch of the 24th, I moved only two divisions of infantry and a brigade of cavalry across the Alberche to Casalegos, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke, with a view to keep up the communication between Gen. Cuesta and me, and with Sir R. Wilson's corps at Escalona.

It appears that General Vanegas had not carried into execution that part of the plan of operations which related to his corps, and that he was still at Daniel, in La Mancha; and the enemy in the course of the 24th, 25th, and 26th, collected all his forces in this part of Spain, between Torrijos and Toledo, leaving but a small corps of two thousand men in that place.

His united army thus consisted of the corps of Marshal Victor, of that of General Sebastiani, and of seven or eight thousand men, the guards of Joseph Bonaparte, and the garrison of Madrid, and it was commanded by Joseph Bonaparte, aided by Marshals Jourdan and Victor, and General Sebastiani.

On the 26th Gen. Cuesta's advanced guard was attacked near Torrijos, and obliged to fall back, and the General retired with his army on that day to the left bank of the Alberche, General Sherbrooke continuing at Casalegos, and the enemy at Santa Olalla.

It was then obvious that the enemy intended to try the result of a general action, for which the best position appeared to be in the neighbourhood of Talavera, and Gen. Cuesta having consented to take up this position on the morning of the 27th, I ordered General Sherbrooke to retire with his corps to its station in the line, leaving General Mackenzie with a division of infantry and brigade of cavalry, as an advanced post in the wood on the right of the Alberche, which covered our left flank.

The position taken up by the troops at Talavera extended rather more than two miles; the ground was open upon the left, where the British army was stationed, and it was commanded by a height, on which was, in echelon and in second line, a division of infantry under the orders of Major-General Hill.

There was a valley between this height, and a range of mountains still further upon the left, which valley was not at first occupied, as it was commanded by the height before mentioned; and the range of mountains appeared too distant to have any influence upon the expected action.

The right, consisting of Spanish troops, extended immediately in front of the town of Talavera down to the Tagus. This part of the ground was covered by olive trees, and much intersected by banks and ditches. The high road leading from the bridge over the Alberche, was defended by a heavy battery in front of a church, which was occupied by Spanish infantry. All the avenues to the town were defended in a similar manner; the town was occupied, and the remainder of the Spanish infantry was formed in two lines behind the banks, on the roads which led from the town and the right, to the left of our position.

In the centre, between the two armies, there was a commanding spot of ground, on which we had commenced to construct a redoubt, with some open ground in its rear.

Brigadier-General Alexander Campbell was posted at this spot with a division of infantry, supported in his rear by Gen. Cotton's brigade of dragoons, and some Spanish cavalry.

At about two o'clock on the 27th, the enemy appeared in strength on the left bank of the Alberche, and manifested an intention to attack Gen. Mackenzie's division.

The attack was made before they could be withdrawn; but the troops, consisting of General Mackenzie's and Col. Donkin's brigades, and Gen. Anson's brigade of cavalry, and supported by General Payne with the other four regiments of cavalry, in the plain between Talavera and the wood, withdrew in good order, but with some loss, particularly by the 2d battalion 87th regiment, and 2d battalion 31st regiment, in the wood.

Upon this occasion, the steadiness and discipline of the 45th regiment, and of the 5th battalion 60th regiment, were conspicuous; and I had particular reason for being satisfied with the manner in which Major-General Mackenzie withdrew his advanced guard.

As the day advanced, the enemy appeared in larger numbers on the right of the Alberche, and it was obvious that he was advancing to a general attack upon the Combined Army.

General Mackenzie continued to fall back gradually upon the left of the position of the Combined Armies, where he was placed in the second line, in the rear of the Guards, Colonel Donkin being placed in the same situation further upon the left in the rear of the King's German Legion.

The enemy immediately commenced his attack in the dusk of the evening, by a cannonade upon the left of our position, and by an attempt, with his cavalry, to overthrow the Spanish infantry posted, as I have before stated, on the right. This attempt failed entirely.

Early in the night he pushed a division along the valley, on the left of the height occupied by General Hill, of which he gained a momentary possession, but Major-General Hill attacked it instantly with the Bayonet, and regained it.

This attack was repeated in the night, but failed, and again at day-light in the morning of the 28th, by two divisions of infantry, and was repulsed by Major-General Hill.

Major-General Hill has reported to me in a particular manner the conduct of the 29th regiment, and of the 1st battalion 48th regiment, in these different affairs, as well as that

of Major-General Tilson and Brigadier-General Stewart.

We have lost many brave Officers and soldiers in the defence of this important point in our position; among others I cannot avoid to mention Brigade-Major Fordyce and Brigade-Major Gardner; and Major-General Hill was himself wounded, but I am happy to say, but slightly.

The defeat of this attempt was followed about noon by a general attack with the enemy's whole force upon the whole of that part of the position occupied by the British army.

In consequence of the repeated attempts upon the height on our left by the valley, I had placed two brigades of British cavalry in that valley, supported in the rear by the Duc d'Albuquerque's division of Spanish cavalry.

The enemy then placed light infantry in the range of mountains on the left of the valley, which were opposed by a division of Spanish infantry under Lieutenant-General De Bassecourt.

The general attack began by the march of several columns of infantry into the valley with a view to attack the height occupied by Major-General Hill. These columns were immediately charged by the 1st German Light Dragoons and 2d Dragoons, under the command of General Anson, directed by Lieutenant-General Payne, and supported by Gen. Fane's brigade of heavy cavalry; and although the 2d dragoons suffered considerable loss, the charge had the effect of preventing the execution of that part of the enemy's plan.

At the same time he directed an attack upon Brigadier-General Alexander Campbell's position in the centre of the Combined Armies, and on the right of the British.

This attack was most successfully repulsed by Brigadier-General Campbell, supported by the King's regiment of Spanish cavalry, and two battalions of Spanish infantry; and Brigadier-General Campbell took the enemy's cannon.

The Brigadier-General mentions particularly the conduct of the 97th, the 2d battalion 7th, and of the 2d battalion 53d regiments, and I was highly satisfied with the manner in which this part of the position was defended.

An attack was also made at the same time upon Lieut. General Sherbrooke's division, which was on the left and centre of the first line of the British army.

This attack was most gallantly repulsed by a charge with bayonets, by the whole division, but the brigade of Guards, which were on the right, having advanced too far, they were exposed on their left flank to the fire of the enemy's battery and of their retiring columns; and the division was obliged to retire towards the original position, under cover of the 2d line of General Cotton's brigade of cavalry, which I had moved from the centre, and of the 1st battalion 48th regiment.

I had moved this regiment from its original position on the heights, as soon as I observed the advance of the Guards, and it was formed in the plain, and advanced upon the enemy, and covered the formation of Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke's division.

Shortly after the repulse of this general attack in which apparently all the enemy's troops were employed, he commenced his retreat across the Alberche, which was conducted in the most regular order, and was effected during the night, leaving in our hands twenty pieces of cannon, ammunition, tumbrils, and some prisoners.

Your Lordship will observe by the inclosed return the great loss which we have sustained of valuable officers and soldiers, in this long and hard fought action, with more than double our numbers. That of the enemy has been much greater. I am informed that entire brigades of infantry have been destroyed, and indeed the battalions that retreated were much reduced in numbers. By all accounts their loss is ten thousand men. Generals Lapille and Morlot are killed; Generals Sebastiani and Boulet wounded.

I have particularly to lament the loss of Major-General Mackenzie, who had distinguished himself on the 27th; and of Brigadier-General Langworth, of the King's German Legion; and of Brigade-Major Beckett, of the Guards.

Your Lordship will observe, that the attacks of the enemy were principally, if not entirely, directed against the British troops. The Spanish Commander in Chief, his Officers, and troops manifested every disposition to render us assistance, and those of them which were engaged did their duty; but the ground which they occupied was so important, and its front at the same time so difficult, that I did not think it proper to urge them to make any movement on the left of the enemy while he was engaged with us.

I have reason to be satisfied with the conduct of all the Officers and troops. I am much indebted to Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke for the assistance I received from him, and for the manner in which he led on his division to the charge with bayonets.

To Lieutenant-General Payne and the cavalry, particularly General Anson's Brigade, to Major-Generals Hill and Tilson, Brigadier-Generals Alexander Campbell, Richard Stewart, and Cameron, and to the divisions and brigades of infantry under their commands respectively, particularly the 29th regiment, commanded by Colonel White, the 1st battalion 48th, commanded by Colonel Donnellan, afterwards, when that Officer was wounded, by Major Middlemore; the 2d battalion 7th, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Myers; the 2d battalion 53d, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bingham; the 97th, commanded by Colonel Lyon; the 1st battalion of detachments, commanded by Lieut. Col. Bunbury, and the 2d battalion 31st, commanded by Major Watson, and of the 45th, commanded by Lieut. Col. Guard, and 5th battalion 60th, commanded by Major Davy, on the 27th.

The advance of the brigade of Guards was most gallantly conducted by Brigadier-General Campbell, and when necessary, that Brigade retired, and formed again in the best order.

The artillery, under Brigadier-General Howorth was also, throughout these days, of the greatest service, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the assistance I received from the Chief Engineer Lieut. Col. Fletcher, the Adjutant-General, Brigadier-General the Hon. C. Stewart, and the Quarter-Master-General Colonel Murray, and the officers of those Departments respectively, and from Colonel Bathurst and the Officers of my personal Staff.

I also received much assistance from Colonel O'Lawlor, of the Spanish Service, and from Brigadier-General Whittingham, who was wounded when bringing up the two Spanish battalions to the assistance of Brigadier-General Alexander Campbell.

I send this by Captain Lord Fitzroy Somerset, who will give your Lordship any further information, and whom I beg leave to recommend.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Return of the numbers killed, wounded and missing, of the army under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B. in action with the French army, commanded by Joseph Bonaparte, on the 27th and 28th July, 1809.

JULY 27.—Killed—7 officers, 2 sergeants, 122 rank and file.—Wounded—24 officers, 17 sergeants, 1 drummer, 465 rank and file.—Missing—3 officers, 1 sergeant, 2 drummers, 202 rank and file.

JULY 28.—Killed—27 officers, 26 sergeants, 4 drummers, 613 rank and file.—Wounded—171 officers, 148 sergeants, 15 drummers, 3072 rank and file.—Missing—6 officers, 14 sergeants, 7 drummers, 418 rank and file.

TOTAL.—Killed—5 General Staff, 2 Lieut. Colonels, 1 Major, 7 Captains, 15 Lieutenants, 3 Cornets or Ensigns, 1 Adjutant, 28 Sergeants, 4 drummers, 735 rank and file.—Wounded—9 General Staff, 16 Lieut. Colonels, 12 Majors, 53 Captains, 71 Lieutenants, 34 Cornets or Ensigns, 6 Adjutants, 65 sergeants, 16 drummers, 3527 rank and file.—Missing—5 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Cornet or Ensign, 15 sergeants, 9 drummers, 620 rank and file.—Total—5967.

Horses.—211 killed—74 wounded—159 missing.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B. to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, dated Talavera, August 1, 1809.

Since I had the honor of addressing you on the 29th July, the Enemy have continued to keep a rear guard of about ten thousand men on the heights on the left of the Alberche.

The extreme fatigue of the troops, the want of provisions, and the numbers of wounded to be taken care of, have prevented me from moving from my position.

Brigadier-General Craufurd arrived with his brigade on the 29th in the morning, having marched twelve Spanish leagues in little more than twenty-four hours.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, dated Talavera, 1st August, 1809.

When I addressed you this morning, I had not received the report from the Outposts. It appears that the enemy withdrew the rear-guard, which was posted on the heights on the left of the Alberche, last night, at eleven o'clock, and the whole army marched toward Santa Olalla, I conclude, with an intention of taking up a position in the neighbourhood of Guadarama.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, AUGUST 22.

Downing-Street, August 21.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this morning received at the Office of Viscount Castlereagh one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieut. General the Earl of Chatham, K. G. dated Head-quarters, Middleburgh, August 18, 1809.

Middleburgh, August 18, 1809.

MY LORD.—I have the honor to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the articles of Capitulation\*, for the surrender of the Towns of Zeirische and Duiveland, concluded on the 15th inst. by Lieut. General the Earl of Roslyn and Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Keats, with the Deputies of those Towns and Islands; and I have much satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that I have every reason to believe we shall be enabled to draw very ample supplies of cattle, spirits, and biscuit, from that quarter.

The enclosed return of the late garrison of Flushing received from General Monnet last night, so materially differs from that which accompanied my dispatch of the 16th inst. that I think it expedient to transmit it for your Lordship's information.

I am also informed that the enemy during this service has suffered a very heavy loss in killed and wounded, which, together with the prisoners of war who have fallen into our hands, the enemy's force opposed to us in this Island, may very fairly be stated at nine thousand men.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) CHATHAM.

\* Inserted in the Extraordinary Gazette of the 20th. Amount of troops in the garrison of Flushing, on the 17th of August, 1809.

300 Officers, 4985 rank and file, 618 sick and wounded.—Total 5893.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE,

OF AUGUST 19.

Downing-Street, August 20.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received at the Office of Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General the Earl of Chatham, K. G. dated Head-quarters, Middleburgh, August 11, 1809.

Head-quarters, Middleburgh, 11th August, 1809.

MY LORD.—I received yesterday evening your Lordship's dispatch of the 8th inst. by the Messenger Mills, and I must entreat of your Lordship to offer my most dutiful acknowledgements to his Majesty, for the gracious attention he has been pleased to express of my humble endeavours in his service; and I shall feel the greatest satisfaction in communicating to Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote, and the General and other Officers, and the troops employed here under my command, the sense which his Majesty entertains of their meritorious conduct in the service in which they have been engaged, as well as the confidence his Majesty feels in their future good conduct, and which I trust they will not disappoint.

The enemy has continued to give what interruption he