

On the 25th, I formed the army on the heights behind Soito, having the Sierra das Mesas on their right, and the left at Rendo on the Coa, about one league in rear of the position which they had occupied on the 27th. The enemy also retired from Aldea de Ponte, and had their advanced posts at Albergaria; and as it appears that they are about to retire from this part of the country, and as we have already had some bad weather, and may expect more at the period of the equinoctial gale, I propose to canton the troops.

I cannot conclude this report of the occurrences of the last week, without expressing to your Lordship my admiration of the conduct of the troops engaged in the affair of the 25th instant.

The conduct of the 2d battalion 5th regiment, commanded by Major Ridge, in particular, affords a memorable example of what the steadiness and discipline of the troops, and their confidence in their Officers, can effect, in the most difficult and trying situations. The conduct of the 77th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Bromhead, was equally good, and I have never seen a more determined attack than was made by the whole of the enemy's cavalry, with every advantage of the assistance of a superior artillery, and repulsed by these two weak battalions.

I must not omit also to report the good conduct on the same occasion, of the 21st Portuguese regiment, under the command of Colonel Bacellar, and of Major Arentschildt's artillery.

The Portuguese infantry were not actually charged, but were repeatedly threatened; and they shewed the utmost steadiness and discipline, both in the mode in which they prepared to receive the enemy, and in all the movements of a retreat made over six miles of plain, in front of superior cavalry and artillery.

The Portuguese artillery-men attached to the guns, which were for a moment in the enemy's possession, were cut down at their guns.

The infantry upon this occasion, were under the command of Major-General the Honorable C. Colville; Lieutenant-General Picton having remained with the troops at El Bodon, and the conduct of Major-General Colville, was beyond all praise.

Your Lordship will have observed by the details of the action which I have given you, how much reason I had to be satisfied with the conduct of the 1st hussars and 11th light dragoons, of Major-General Alten's brigade. There were not more than three squadrons of the two regiments on the ground, this brigade having for some time furnished the cavalry for the outposts of the army, and they charged the enemy's cavalry repeatedly; and notwithstanding the superiority of the latter, the post would have been maintained, if I had not preferred to abandon it to risking the loss of those brave men, by continuing the unequal contest under additional disadvantages, in consequence of the immediate entry of fourteen battalions of infantry into the action, before the support which I had ordered up could arrive.

Major-General Alten, and Lieutenant-Colonels Cumming and Arentschildt, and the Officers of these regiments, particularly distinguished themselves upon this occasion.

I have also to mention, that the Adjutant-General Major-General the Honorable C. Stewart, being upon the field, gave his assistance as an officer of cavalry, with his usual gallantry.

In the affair of the 27th, at Aldea de Ponte, Brigadier-General Packenham, and the troops of the fourth division, under the orders of Lieutenant-General Cole, likewise conducted themselves remarkably well.

His Serene Highness the Hereditary Prince of Orange accompanied me during the operations which I have detailed to your Lordship, and was for the first time in fire, and he conducted himself with the spirit and intelligence which afford a hope that he will become an ornament to his profession.

The enemy having collected, for the object of relieving Ciudad Rodrigo, the Army of the North, which were withdrawn from the attack which they commenced on General Abadia, in Galicia, in which are included twenty-two battalions of the Imperial Guard, and General Souham's division of infantry, composed of troops recently arrived in Spain from the Army of Naples, and now drawn from the frontiers of Navarre, where they had been employed in operations against Mino, together with five divisions, and all the cavalry of the Army called of Portugal, composing altogether an army of not less than sixty thousand men, of which six thousand were cavalry, and 125 pieces of artillery; I could not pretend to maintain the blockade of Ciudad Rodrigo, nor could any efforts which I could make, prevent, or materially impede, the collection of the supplies, or the march of the convoy for the relief of that place. I did all that I could expect to effect without incurring the risk of great loss for no object; and, as the reports, as usual, were so various in regard to the enemy's real strength, it was necessary that I should see their army.

I have had no reports from the North since I addressed your Lordship last, nor from the south of Spain. General Girard had collected at Merida a small body of troops; but I imagine that he will break up this collection again, as soon as he will hear that General Hill is at Portalegre.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

I enclose a return of the killed and wounded, on the 25th and 27th instant.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the Army under the Command of his Excellency General Lord Viscount Wellington, K. B. in an Affair with the Enemy, on the 25th of September, 1811, on the Heights of El Bodon.

11th Light Dragoons—8 rank and file, 12 horses,

killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Quarter-Master, 3 serjeants, 10 rank and file, 14 horses, wounded.

14th Ditto—1 Lieutenant, 2 rank and file, 5 horses, wounded; 1 horse, missing.

16th Ditto—2 horses, killed; 1 serjeant, 7 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded; 1 rank and file, 2 horses, missing.

1st Hussars, King's German Legion—1 serjeant, 4 rank and file, 23 horses, killed; 2 Captains, 4 serjeants, 1 trumpeter, 27 rank and file, 29 horses, wounded; 5 rank and file, missing.

2d Batt. 5th Foot—5 rank and file killed; 1 Captain 1 serjeant, 12 rank and file, wounded.

1st Batt. 45th Foot—1 serjeant missing.

77th Foot—4 rank and file killed; 14 rank and file wounded; 5 rank and file missing.

2d Batt. 83d Foot—5 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant, 13 rank and file wounded; 1 drummer, 4 rank and file, missing.

1st Batt. 88th Foot—5 rank and file missing.

94th Foot—1 rank and file missing.

Total British loss—1 serjeant, 26 rank and file, 37 horses, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 3 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Quarter-Master, 10 serjeants, 1 drummer, 85 rank and file, 49 horses, wounded; 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 21 rank and file, 3 horses, missing.

Total Portuguese loss—1 rank and file killed; 5 rank and file wounded; 1 drummer, 1 rank and file, missing.

General Total—1 serjeant, 27 rank and file, 37 horses, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 3 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Quarter-Master, 10 serjeants, 1 drummer, 90 rank and file, 49 horses, wounded; 1 serjeant, 2 drummers, 22 rank and file, 3 horses, missing.

N. B. The 14th and 16th Light Dragoons engaged near Espoja, on the left of the army.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,
Major-General and Adjutant-General.

List of the Officers wounded on the 25th September.

11th Light Dragoons—Lieutenant-Colonel Cummings, slightly; Lieutenant King, severely.

14th ditto—Lieutenant Hill, slightly.

1st Hussars, King's German Legion—Captains Burgman and Poter, severely.

2d Batt. 5th Foot—Captain Ramas, slightly.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the Army, under the command of his Excellency General Lord Viscount Wellington, K. B. in the Affair with the Enemy, near Aldea de Ponte, on the 27th of September, 1811.

Royal Horse Artillery—1 Lieutenant, wounded.

3d Dragoon Guards—4 horses, wounded.

1st or Royal Dragoons—1 horse, killed; 3 rank and file, 7 horses, wounded; 1 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

4th Dragoons—1 horse, missing.

12th Light Dragoons—2 horses, killed; 2 rank and file, 3 horses, wounded; 4 rank and file, 4 horses, missing.

1st Batt. 7th Fusiliers—9 rank and file, killed; 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 1 serjeant, 28 rank and file, wounded.

1st Batt. 23d Foot—1 Captain, 2 rank and file, killed; 1 Major, 1 Captain, 13 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file, missing.

1st Batt. 48th Ditto—1 Captain, 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 5 rank and file, wounded; 2 rank and file, missing.

5th Batt. 60th Ditto—1 company attached to the Hon. Major-General Cole—1 Captain wounded.

Light Infantry Brunswick Oels, (1 company attached to the 4th Division of Infantry)—1 rank and file, killed; 3 rank and file, wounded.

Total British Loss—1 Captain, 12 rank and file, 3 horses, killed; 1 Major, 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 54 rank and file, 14 horses, wounded; 3 rank and file, 6 horses, missing.

Total Portuguese Loss—1 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant, 10 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

Total General Loss—1 Captain, 13 rank and file, 3 horses, killed; 1 Major, 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 64 rank and file, 14 horses, wounded; 9 rank and file, 6 horses missing.

N. B. One Serjeant and one horse of the 18th Hussars (orderly to the Honorable Major-General Charles Stewart) missing, supposed to be taken prisoner.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,
Major-General and Adjutant-General.

Return of Officers killed and wounded, on the 27th September, 1811.

1st Batt. 23d Foot.—Captain C. Courtland, killed. Wounded.—Royal Horse Artillery—Lieut. Dunn, severely, not dangerously.

7th Fusiliers—Captain Willy, severely; Lieutenants Seton, Wallace, and Barrington, slightly.

23d Foot—Major and Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson and Captain Payne, severely.

1st Batt. 48th Foot—Captain Turpenny, slightly.

5th Batt. 60th ditto—Captain Prevost, severely.

—O—

FRÉKADA, OCTOBER 2, 1811.

"Since I addressed you on the 29th of September, I have learnt that the enemy retired from Ciudad Rodrigo on the 30th, the Army of the North towards Salamanca, and it is said, Valladolid; and the Army of Portugal towards Banos and Placentia.

"Girard's division of the 5th corps, which I informed your Lordship had been collected at Merida, has retired from thence, and has again been cantoned in the neighbourhood of Zafra.

"I likewise learn that General Foy, who had advanced as far as Zarza Major in the valley of the Ala-

gon, with his own division, and one of the Army of the Centre, has retired towards Placentia."

—O—
LONDON, OCTOBER 23.

A Lisbon mail, and despatches from Lord Wellington, dated on the 9th inst. are arrived; but neither contain, nor could, indeed, be expected to contain, any thing of importance. The enemy, having relieved Ciudad Rodrigo, have separated in order to carry on the destruction of Spain in the detail; from which, however, we may observe, that they will be again withdrawn, and their work interrupted, should we resume the blockade of Ciudad Rodrigo, even supposing that we do not engage in more active operations.

The Gallician army now again appears to be threatened by that division of the enemy which retired upon Salamanca, after the skirmishes of the 25th and 27th. This was to be expected; but General ABADIA is, we trust, on a better condition to face his foes than he would have been, but for our seasonable respite; and should he be defeated, we do not think they will venture to pursue him into the fastnesses of Galicia, with Lord WELLINGTON still in their rear. The Spaniards in the south of Spain will likewise have to sustain the pressure of an accumulated force since the return of their enemies from Ciudad Rodrigo.

Letters reached town yesterday from the French coast, to the 20th instant, and from Paris to the 18th. BONAPARTE had not, at that time, returned to the capital; nor was he immediately expected.

A Hamburg paper is in town, containing extracts of letters from merchants in London, to their correspondents at Hamburg; inserted by order of the French Government, for the purpose of shewing the people how idle it is to attempt to deceive the vigilance of the police. Several commercial travellers are pointed out by name in the same paper; as resident in London, but belonging to houses in Hamburg. The principals of some of these houses have been obliged to enter into bonds to a large amount for the immediate return of their agents to Hamburg.

The last mail from Heligoland mentions, that another very violent gale of wind has been experienced there, by which several vessels had received considerable damage.

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Soon after the departure of Lord W. BENTINCK from Sicily, General CAMPBELL, who has the command of the British forces, issued the following General Orders:

"Head-quarters, Messina, September 3.

"Lieutenant-General MAITLAND informs the army, that the Commander of the Forces has already sailed for England; and that his Lordship has undertaken this voyage from the most urgent political motives, which highly interest the honor of Great-Britain, and the prosperity of Sicily.

"In the absence of the chief of this army, Lieutenant-General MAITLAND finds himself more than ever obliged to be assiduous in cultivating the good-will and opinion of his brother Officers; and requests from the soldiers the most solicitous attention to the fulfilment of their duties. He trusts that he will receive throughout the district the experienced assistance of the General Officers, and that the entire army shall be united and ready for every emergency that the vicissitude of events may produce.

"The four following persons, namely, ORAZIO BALANTINIO, ANTONIO BARESE, VINCENTO SMIRIDA, and GIOVANNI GRILLO, who have been imprisoned for holding correspondence with the enemy in Calabria, have been set at liberty, by order of General MAITLAND, on his return from Palermo.

"These persons have been liberated, not because there wanted sufficient proof against them, but because the General would not condemn to death, immediately after having assumed the command of the British army, four men, who were arrested by his predecessor, whose departure prevented the pending sentence.

"He avails himself of this occasion to exercise an act of clemency, which will not be renewed at any other time. He is resolved to use his utmost means to put an end to the system of espionage, and of treachery, which has been for so long a time, and in a manner so notoriously practised by persons of evil intentions, and equally enemies of the Sicilian people and the British. He is resolved, in consequence, to watch attentively persons of this description; and is determined from this time forward, to bring before a Council of War, those, whoever they may be, who shall be thus found holding communication with the enemy, and thus placing in danger the British army and this Island; and immediately the sentence of that Council shall be executed.

"J. CAMPBELL, Adjutant-General."

Lord W. BENTINCK arrived at Plymouth on Saturday morning, having been preceded by General MACFARLANE and Brigadier-General ADAM. His Lordship and suit sailed on Monday last, in the *Menelaus* frigate, for Sicily.

A plan of a most destructive engine has been brought forward by a Mr. FANE, and was a few days since, exhibited before the Lords of the Admiralty. It is a four-pound shot, wrapped round with a prepared cotton, and made very hard: the moment it starts from the cannon's mouth, it presents one solid mass of fire; and whatever it hits, whether rigging or hull of a ship, will immediately take fire.

—O—
CAPTURE OF A FRENCH LUGGER.

On Monday afternoon, the French lugger-privater *La Praise*, pierced for 14 guns, and carrying 56 men, a prize to the sloop *Rolla*, Captain CLARKE, was brought into Ramsgate harbour. The circumstances connected with this capture are detailed in the follow-