

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, April 9.

[The Gazette contains a Letter from Sir James Saumarez, as Commander in the Baltic, dated London, 8th inst. enclosing to the Admiralty the following letter from Captain Maurice, Governor of Anholt.]

Fort Yorke, Island of Anholt, March 27.

SIR.—I reported to you in my letter of the 10th ult. my having received information of an intended attack on this Island by the Danes. On the 8th inst. I received corroboration of this intelligence, but as every exertion had been made to complete the works as well as our materials would allow, and as piquets were nightly stationed from one extreme of the Island to the other, in order to prevent surprise, I waited with confidence the meditated attack.

Yesterday his Majesty's ship Tartar anchored on the north side of the Island. The enemy's flotilla and army, consisting in all of nearly four thousand men, have this day, after a close combat of four hours and a half, received a most complete and decisive defeat, and have fled back to their ports, with the loss of three pieces of cannon, and upwards of five hundred prisoners; a number greater by one hundred and fifty men than the garrison I command.

I am now to detail the proceedings of the day. In the morning, just before dawn, the out-piquets on the south side of the Island made the signal for the enemy's being in sight. The garrison was immediately put under arms, and I lost not a moment in proceeding with the brigade of howitzers, and two hundred infantry, accompanied by Capt. Torrens, (who had hitherto acted as Major Commandant to the battalion,) in order to oppose their landing. On ascending an elevation, for the purpose of reconnoitring, I discovered that the landing had been already effected, under the cover of darkness and a fog, and that the enemy were advancing rapidly, and in great numbers.

On both wings the enemy now far outflanked us, and I saw that if we continued to advance, they would get between us and our works; I instantly ordered a retreat, which was effected in good order, and without loss, although the enemy were within pistol shot of our rear, and seemed determined to enter our batteries by storm: but Fort Yorke and Massareene batteries opened such a well-directed fire of grape and musketry, that the assailants were obliged to fall back and shelter themselves under the sand hills. As the day lightened, we perceived that the enemy's flotilla, consisting of 18 gun-boats, had taken up a position on the south side of the Island at point blank shot. I ordered the signal to be made to the Tartar and Sheldrake that the enemy had landed, upon which these vessels immediately weighed, and under a heavy press of sail used every endeavour to beat up the south side, but the extent of shoals threw them out so many miles, that it was some hours before their intention could be accomplished.—The gun-boats now opened a very heavy fire on our works, while a column of about six hundred men crossed the Island to the westward, and took up a position on the northern shore, covered by hillocks of sand, by breaks and inequality of ground. Another column made many attempts to carry the Massareene battery by storm, but were as often repulsed, and compelled to cover themselves under hillocks of sand, which on this Island are thrown up by every gale.

The column on the south side had now succeeded in bringing up a field piece against us, and Captain Holloway, who had commanded at the advanced post, joined us by water. I had been under great apprehensions that this Officer had fallen into the hands of the enemy; but finding, after several gallant attempts, that he was cut off from reaching head-quarters by land, he, with the coolest judgment, launched a boat, and landed his party under Fort Yorke, amidst the acclamations of the garrison. Immediately afterwards Lieutenant H. L. Baker, who, with Lieutenant Turnbull of the Royal Marines, and some brave volunteers, had, in the Anholt schooner, gone on the daring enterprise of destroying the enemy's flotilla in his ports, bore down along the north side of the Island. Things were in this position, when the column on the northern shore, which divided by the sand hills, had approached within fifty paces of our lines, made another desperate effort to carry the Massareene battery by storm; the column to the south-east also pushed on, and the reserve appeared on the hills ready to support them; but while the commanding officer was leading on his men with great gallantry, a musket ball put a period to his life.—Panic struck by the loss of their Chief, the enemy again fell back and sheltered themselves behind the sand hills. At this critical moment Lieut. Baker, with great skill and gallantry, anchored his vessel on their flank, and opened a well-directed fire. The sand hills being no longer a protection, and finding it impossible either to advance or retreat, the assailants hung out a flag of truce, and offered to surrender upon terms; but I would listen to nothing but an unconditional surrender, which after some deliberation was complied with.

In the mean time the gun-boats on the south side which had been much galled by the fire of Fort Yorke and the Massareene battery, got under weigh, and stood to the westward, and the column of the enemy which had advanced on the south side, finding their retreat no longer covered by the flotilla, also hung out a flag of truce, and I sent an officer to meet it. I was asked to surrender; the reply that I returned it is unnecessary to mention. The enemy finding my determination, sought permission to embark without molestation; but I would listen to nothing but an unconditional submission, and I have the pleasure to inform you, that this corps also laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

The prisoners, which were now more numerous than

my small garrison, were no sooner secured, than operations were commenced against the reserve, which had been seen retreating to the westward of the Island.

I took the field with Major Torrens (who though wounded insisted on accompanying me) and Lieut. and Adjutant Steele; but as our prisoners were so numerous, and as we had no place of security in which to place them, I could only employ on this occasion the brigade of howitzers under Lieutenants R. C. Steele and Bezzant of the Royal Marine artillery, and part of the light company commanded by Lieutenant Turnbull. When we arrived at the west end of the Island, we found that the enemy had formed on the beach, and were protected by fourteen gun-boats towed close to the shore; to attack such a force with four howitzers and forty men, seemed a useless sacrifice of brave men's lives; I therefore with the advice of Major Torrens halted on the hills, while I reluctantly saw the reserve embarked under cover of the gun-boats, and the flotilla take a final leave of the Island.

I am happy to say our loss has not been so considerable as might have been expected from so desperate an attack, we having only two killed and thirty wounded. The enemy have suffered severely; we have buried between thirty and forty of their dead, and have received in the hospital twenty-three of their wounded, most of them have undergone amputation, three since dead of their wounds, besides a great number which they carried off the field to their boats. Major Melsteat the Commandant, fell in the field; Capt. Borgen, the next in command, wounded in the arm; Capt. Protz, Adjutant-General to the Commander of the Forces in Jutland, lost both his legs; since dead.

The most pleasing part of my duty is to bear testimony to the zeal, energy, and intrepidity of the officers and men I had the honour to command; to particularise would be impossible; the same ardour inspired the whole. To Lieut. Baker, next in command, who will have the honor of delivering this despatch, and will give you every information you may require, I am much indebted; his merit and zeal as an officer, which I have some years been acquainted with, and his volunteering with me in this service, claim my warmest esteem. Capt. Torrens, the senior Officer of Royal Marines, and who acted as Commandant of the Garrison, bore a conspicuous part on this day, and although wounded, I did not lose his valuable service and able support. The discipline and state of perfection to which he had brought the battalion is highly creditable to him as an officer.—Lieutenant R. C. Steele, senior Officer of Royal Marine Artillery, also claims my warmest acknowledgments for the arrangements he made, which enabled us to keep up so heavy and destructive a fire.—Capt. Steele, Lieut. and Quarter Master Fischer senior Subaltern, Lieutenant and Adjutant Steele, Lieutenants Stewart, Gray, Ford, Jellico, Atkinson, and Curtayne, all merit my warmest acknowledgments for the assistance they afforded me.—Lieutenant Bezzant of the Royal Marine Artillery, deserves every commendation I can give him, for his cool and able judgment in the direction of the guns on the Massareene battery. Lieutenant Turnbull, who acted as Captain of the Light Company, when he pursued the reserve, manifested such zeal and energy, that I have no doubt had we brought the enemy again to action, he would have borne a very conspicuous part.

I cannot sufficiently express my thanks to Captains Baker and Stewart of the Tartar and Sheldrake for their great exertions to get round to the flotilla; and had the wind the least favored them, they would have destroyed the whole.

I am happy to add that the property belonging to the merchants has been fully protected without meeting with the least loss.

The expedition sailed from the Randers, commanded by Major Melsteat (an officer of great distinction), and consisted of the following corps—

- 2d battalion of Jutland sharpshooters,
- 4th battalion, 2d regiment Jutland Yagers,
- 1st regiment Jutland infantry,

With some others, the names of which cannot be ascertained.

I have the honor to inclose the articles of surrender, a return of killed and wounded, a list of Danish officers taken and killed. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) J. W. MAURICE, Commandant.

The Commanding Officer of the troops of his Danish Majesty, occupied in the attack of Anholt, agrees to surrender prisoners of war at discretion, with all the troops to the forces of his Britannic Majesty; with the reserves that their personal property shall be retained by them, and that, at the convenience of the Commander of the Island of Anholt, a cartel with unsealed letters shall be sent to Jutland.

Given at Anholt, 27th March, 1811.
(Signed) Borgen, Capt. and Commander in Chief of the Danish troops on Anholt.

J. W. Maurice, Capt. Royal Navy, Governor and Commander of the Island of Anholt.

[Here follows a list, by name, of the killed and wounded, the former amounting to two, the latter to thirty, Capt. Torrens is the only officer wounded, and he but slightly—no officer killed.]

The names of the Danish Officers killed and taken, are given—the total is as follows:

Killed: 1 Major, 2 Captains, 1 First Lieutenant.
Taken: 5 Captains, 2 Adjutants, 9 Lieutenants, 504 rank and file, exclusive of wounded.

J. W. MAURICE.

Return of Ordnance Stores captured from the enemy in the attack of the 27th March, 1811.

1 brass four-pounder, 2 four-inch mortars, 434 muskets and bayonets complete, 470 swords, 16,000 musket ball cartridges, 14 four-inch shells.

R. C. STEELE, 1st Lt. Com. R. Artillery.

DOWNING-STREET, APRIL 9.

Despatches of which the following are extracts, were this morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington, dated Oliveira de l'Hopital, 21st March.

Oliveira, de l'Hopital, March 21.

The enemy suffered much more in the affair of the 15th, than I was aware of, when I addressed you on the 16th instant; the firing was not over until dark, and it appears that great numbers were drowned in attempting to ford the Ceira.

The enemy withdrew his rear-guard from that river in the course of the 16th, and we crossed it on the 17th, and had our posts on the Sierra de Murcella; the enemy's army being in a strong position on the right of the Elva. They moved a part of their army on that night, but still maintained their position on the Alva, of which river they destroyed the bridges. We turned their left by the Sierra de Santa Quiteria, with the 3d, 1st, and 5th divisions, on the 18th, while the light division and the 6th manœuvred in their front from the Sierra de Murcella; these movements induced the enemy to bring back to the Sierra de Moita the troops which had marched the preceding night, at the same time that they retired their corps from the Alva, and in the evening their whole army were assembled upon Moita, and the advanced posts of our right were near Arganil, those of our left across the Alva.

The enemy retired from the position of Moita in the night of the 18th, and have continued their retreat with the utmost rapidity ever since; and I imagine their rear-guard will be at Celerico this day.—We assembled the army upon the Sierra de Moita on the 19th, and our advanced posts are this day beyond Pinhancos.

The militia under Colonels Wilson and Trant are at Fornos.

We have taken great numbers of prisoners, and the enemy have continued to destroy their carriages and their cannon, and whatever would impede their progress.

As the greatest number of the prisoners taken on the 19th had been sent out on foraging parties towards the Mondego, and had been ordered to return to their position on the Elva, I conclude that the enemy had intended to remain in it for some days.

Soult has gone to Seville since the fall of Badajos, and it is reported, that about three thousand French troops had been seen on their march through Barcarota to the southward.

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LONDON GAZETTE, APRIL 13.

A despatch of which the following is an extract was yesterday received from Lieut. Gen. Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Goveia, March 27, 1811.

When I found that the enemy retired with so much celerity, from Moita, I continued the pursuit of them with the cavalry and the light Division under Major Gen. Sir W. Erskine only, supporting these troops with the 6th and 3d Divisions of Infantry, and by the Militia on the right of the Mondego; and I was induced to halt the remainder of the army till the supplies which had been sent round from the Tagus to the Mondego should arrive. This halt was the more desirable as nothing could be found in the country; and every day's march increasing the distance from the magazines on the Tagus, rendered the supply of the troops difficult and precarious; and the further advance of the main body for a few days did not appear to be necessary. The cavalry and light troops continued to annoy the Enemy's rear and to take prisoners; and the Militia under Col. Wilson had an affair with a detachment of the Enemy on the 23d, not far from Celerico, in which they killed seven, wounded several, and took 15 prisoners. The Militia under General Silveira also took some prisoners on the 25th. The enemy retired to his left, the 2d corps by Goveia through the mountains upon Guarda, and the remainder of the army by the high road upon Celerico. They have since moved more troops upon Guarda, which position they still hold in strength. Our advanced guard is in front of Celerico towards Guarda, and at Alverca, and the 3d Division on the mountains and occupying Ponto Meseralla and Prados.—The allied troops will be collected in the neighbourhood of Celerico to-morrow. Gen. Ballesteros surprised Gen. Ramon on the 1st at Palma, dispersed his detachment, took 500 prisoners. Gen. Ballesteros has since retired to Valverde, and I hear that Gen. Zayas has been detached from Cadiz with 6000 men, including 400 cavalry, to be disembarked at Huelva to join Gen. Ballesteros.

The enemy have withdrawn from Pinhel across the Coa.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, APRIL 12.

Despatches have this day been received at this Office from Charles Stuart, Esq; his Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, dated the 30th ult. stating that Sir W. Beresford, having united the whole of his force in Portalegre on the 23d of March, advanced on the 24th, and attacked the enemy with his cavalry on the 25th. They were compelled to abandon Campo Mayor with the loss of 600 men killed and wounded. On the 26th Gen. Beresford's head-quarters were at Elvas. The Enemy had withdrawn their whole force, excepting a weak piquet, to the other side of the Guardiania.—The corps under Marshal Soult has halted in the neighbourhood of Elerena. Gen. Ballesteros had returned to Gibraltar on the 29th, where his force had been increased by the arrival of 6000 men under Gen. Zayas. Martial Bessieres arrived at Zamora on the 5th of March with 7000 men.

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Mr. Perceval in moving, in consequence of the Prince Regent's message, that £100,000 be granted for the suffering peasantry of Portugal, said that "it had been the good fortune of the Regent during the short time he had held the Government, to see the character of the British nation displayed in a greater variety of brilliant and glorious exploits, than had, perhaps,