

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.
MONDAY, MARCH 25.

DOWNING-STREET, MARCH 25.

Despatches, of which the following are Copies, were last night received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Graham, dated Isla de Leon, 6th and 10th of March 1811.

Isla de Leon, March 6, 1811.

MY LORD.—Captain Hope, my first Aid-de-Camp, will have the honor of delivering this Despatch to inform your Lordship of the glorious issue of an action fought yesterday by the division under my command against the army commanded by Marshal Victor, composed of the two divisions Ruffin and Laval.

The circumstances were such as compelled me to attack this very superior force. In order as well to explain to your Lordship the circumstances of peculiar disadvantage under which the action was begun, as to justify myself from the imputation of rashness in the attempt, I must state to your Lordship that the allied army, after a night march of sixteen hours from the camp near Veger, arrived in the Morning of the fifth, on the low bridge of Barrosa, about four miles to the southward of the mouth of the Santi Petri River. This height extends inland about a mile and a half, containing on the north the extensive heathy plain of Chiclana. A great pine forest skirts the plain, and circles round the height at some distance, terminating down to Santi Petri; the intermediate space between the North side of the height and the Forest being uneven and broken.

A well conducted and successful attack on the rear of the enemy's lines near Santi Petri, by the vanguard of the Spanish army under Brigadier-General Ladriazabel, having opened the communication with the Isla de Leon, I received General De Penas's directions to move down from the position of Barrosa, to that of the Torre de Bermesa, about half-way to the Santi Petri River, in order to secure the communication across the River, over which a Bridge had been lately established. This latter position occupies a narrow woody Ridge, the right on the Sea Cliff, the left falling down to the Almanza Creek on the edge of the Marsh. A hard Sandy Beech gives an easy communication between the western points of these two positions.

My Division being halted on the Eastern Slope of the Barrosa Height, was marched about 12 o'clock through the wood towards the Bermesa, (cavalry Patroles having previously been sent towards Chiclana, without meeting with the enemy.) On the march, I received notice that the enemy had appeared in force on the plain, and was advancing towards the Heights of Barrosa.

As I considered that position as the key of that of Santi Petri, I immediately countermarched in order to support the troops left for its defence, and the alacrity with which this manœuvre was executed served as a favourable omen. It was however impossible in such intricate and difficult ground to preserve order in the columns, and there never was time to restore it entirely.

But before we could get ourselves quite disentangled from the wood, the troops on the Barrosa hill were seen returning from it, while the enemy's left wing was rapidly ascending. At the same time his right wing stood on the plain, on the edge of the wood, within cannon shot. A retreat in the face of such an enemy, already within reach of the easy communication by the sea beach, must have involved the whole allied army in all the danger of being attacked during the unavoidable confusion of the different corps arriving on the narrow ridge of Bermesa nearly at the same time.

Trusting to the known heroism of British troops, regardless of the numbers and position of their enemy, an immediate attack was determined on. Major Duncan soon opened a powerful battery of ten guns in the centre. Brigadier-General Dilkes with the Brigade of Guards, Lieutenant-Colonel Browne's (of the 28th) Flank Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Norcott's two companies of the 2d Rifle Corps, and Major Acheson with a part of the 67th foot (separated from the Regiment in the wood) formed on the right.

Colonel Wheatly's brigade, with three companies of the Coldstream Guards under Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, (separated likewise from his battalion in the wood), and Lieutenant-Colonel Barnard's flank battalion formed on the left.

As soon as the infantry was thus hastily got together, the guns advanced to a more favourable position, and kept up a most destructive fire.

The right wing proceeded to the attack of General Ruffin's division on the hill, while Lieutenant-Colonel Barnard's battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bushe's detachment of the 20th Portuguese, were warmly engaged with the enemy's tirailleurs on our left.

General Laval's division, notwithstanding the havoc made by Major Duncan's battery, continued to advance in very imposing masses, opening his fire of musquetry, and was only checked by that of the left wing. The left wing now advanced, firing; a most determined charge by the three companies of Guards, and the 87th Regiment, supported by all the remainder of the wing, decided the defeat of General Laval's division.

The Eagle of the eighth Regiment of Light Infantry, which suffered immensely, and a howitzer, rewarded this charge, and remained in possession of Major Gough, of the 87th regiment. These attacks were zealously supported by Col. Belson with the 28th regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Prevost with a part of the 67th.

A reserve formed beyond the narrow valley, across which the enemy was closely pursued, next shared the same fate, and was routed by the same means.

Meanwhile the right wing was not less successful: the enemy, confident of success, met General Dilkes on the ascent of the hill, and the contest was sanguinary; but the undaunted perseverance of the Brigade of

Guards, of Lieutenant-Col. Browne's battalion, and of Lieutenant-Colonel Norcott's and Major Acheson's detachment, overcame every obstacle, and General Ruffin's division was driven from the heights in confusion, leaving two pieces of cannon.

No expressions of mine could do justice to the conduct of the troops throughout. Nothing less than the almost unparalleled exertions of every officer, the invincible bravery of every soldier, and the most determined devotion to the honor of his Majesty's arms in all, could have achieved this brilliant success, against such a formidable enemy, so posted.

In less than an hour and a half from the commencement of the action, the enemy was in full retreat. The retiring division met, halted, and seemed inclined to form: a new and more advanced position of our artillery quickly dispersed them.

The exhausted state of the troops made pursuit impossible. A position was taken on the eastern side of the hill; and we were strengthened on our right by the return of the two Spanish battalions that had been attached before to my division, but which I had left on the hill, and which had been ordered to retire.

These Battalions (Walloon Guards and Ciudad real) made every effort to come back in time, when it was known that we were engaged.

I understand, too, from General Whittingham, that with three squadrons of cavalry he kept in check a corps of infantry and cavalry that attempted to turn the Barrosa Height by the sea. One squadron of the 2d Hussars, King's German Legion, under Capt. Bushe, and directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Ponsouby, (both had been attached to the Spanish Cavalry) joined in time to make a brilliant and most successful charge against a squadron of French dragoons, which was entirely routed.

An eagle, six pieces of cannon, the General of Division Ruffin, and the General of Brigade Rousseau wounded and taken; the Chief of the Staff, General Bellegarde, an Aide-de-Camp of Marshal Victor, and the Colonel of the 8th regiment, with many other Officers killed, and several wounded and taken prisoners; the field covered with the dead bodies and arms of the enemy, attest that my confidence in this division was nobly repaid.

Where all have so distinguished themselves, it is scarcely possible to discriminate any as the most deserving of praise. Your Lordship will, however, observe how gloriously the Brigade of Guards, under Brigadier-General Dilkes, with the Commanders of the Battalions Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. Onslow, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sebright (wounded,) as well as the three separated companies under Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, maintained the high character of his Majesty's household troops. Lieutenant-Colonel Browne, with his Flank Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Norcott, and Major Acheson, deserve equal praise.

And I must equally recommend to your Lordship's notice Colonel Wheatly, with Colonel Belson, Lieut. Colonel Prevost and Major Gough, and the Officers of the respective Corps composing his Brigade.

The animated charges of the 87th regiment were most conspicuous; Lieutenant-Colonel Barnard (twice wounded,) and the Officers of his flank battalion, executed the duty of skirmishing in advance with the enemy in a masterly manner, and were ably seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bushe of the 20th Portuguese, who, likewise twice wounded, fell into the enemy's hands, but was afterwards rescued. The detachment of this Portuguese regiment behaved admirably throughout the whole affair.

I owe too much to Major Duncan, and the Officers and Corps of the Royal Artillery, not to mention them in terms of the highest approbation; never was artillery better served.

The assistance I received from the unwearied exertions of Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, and the Officers of the Adjutant-General's Department, of Lieut. Colonel the Hon. C. Cathcart, and the Officers of the Quarter-Master-General's Department, of Captain Birch and Capt. Hope, and the Officers of the Royal Engineers, of Capt. Hope, and the Officers of my personal staff, (all animating by their example,) will ever be most gratefully remembered. Our loss has been severe; as soon as it can be ascertained by the proper return, I shall have the honor of transmitting it. But much as it is to be lamented, I trust it will be considered as a necessary sacrifice, for the safety of the whole allied army.

Having remained some hours on the Barrosa Heights, without being able to procure any supplies for the exhausted troops, the Commissariat mules having been dispersed on the enemy's first attack of the Hill, I left Major Ross with the detachment of the 3d battalion of the 95th, and withdrew the rest of the division, which crossed the Santi Petri River early the next morning.

I cannot conclude this Despatch without earnestly recommending to his Majesty's gracious Notice for promotion, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Browne, Major of the 28th foot; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Norcott, Major of the 95th; Major Duncan, Royal Artillery; Major Gough of the 87th, Major the Honourable E. Acheson of the 67th, and Captain Birch of the Royal Engineers, all in the command of Corps or detachments on this memorable service; and I confidently trust that the bearer of this despatch, Captain Hope, (to whom I refer your Lordship for further details) will be promoted, on being permitted to lay the Eagle at his Majesty's feet. I have the honor to be, &c.

THOMAS GRAHAM.

P. S. I beg leave to add, that two Spanish Officers, Captains Miranda and Naughton, attached to my staff, behaved with the utmost intrepidity. T. G.

Isla de Leon, March 10, 1811.

MY LORD—I have the honor to transmit to your

Lordship the return of the killed and wounded in the action of the 5th instant, and I have the satisfaction to add, that the wounded in general are doing well.

By the best account that can be collected from the wounded French Officers, the enemy had about 8000 men engaged. Their loss by reports from Chiclana, in killed, wounded and prisoners, is supposed to amount to 3000; I have no doubt of its being very great.

I transmit too a return of the ordnance in our possession, and also the most accurate note that can be obtained of prisoners, most of whom are wounded.—They are so dispersed in different Hospitals, that an exact return has not yet been obtained.

I have the honor to be, &c.

THOMAS GRAHAM, Lieut. Gen.

P. S. Detachments of cavalry and infantry have been daily employed in carrying off the wounded, and burying the dead, till the evening of the 8th instant, by which time all the enemy's wounded that could be found among the brushwood and heath were brought in.

Return of the nature and number of pieces of Ordnance taken in the action of Barrosa, on the 5th of March, 1811.

2 seven-inch howitzers, 3 heavy eight-pounders, 1 four pounder, with their ammunition waggons, and a proportion of horses.

(Signed)

A. DUNCAN,
Major, Royal Artillery.

Return of Prisoners of War taken in the Action of Barrosa, on the 5th of March, 1811.

2 General Officers, 1 Field Officer, 9 Captains, 8 Subalterns, 420 rank and file.

N. B. The General of Brigade Rousseau and two Captains, since dead of their wounds.

JOHN MACDONALD, Dep. Adj. Gen.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the troops under the command of Lieut. Gen. Graham, in the action of Barrosa, with the French Corps d'Armee, commanded by Marshal Victor, on the 5th of March, 1811.

Detachment of the 2d Hussars King's German Legion—6 horses killed; 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 31 rank and file, 20 horses wounded.

Royal Artillery—3 rank and file killed; 2 Captains, 6 Lieutenant, 32 rank and file wounded.

Royal Artillery Drivers—1 Sergeant, 2 rank and file, 18 horses killed; 1 Sergeant, 7 rank and file, 22 horses wounded.

Royal Engineers—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.

2d Battalion of the 1st Regiment of Guards—2 Ensigns, 2 Sergeants, 31 rank and file killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 3 Captains, 4 Ensigns, 8 Sergeants, 169 rank and file wounded.

Detachment of 2d Battalion Coldstream Guards—1 Ensign, 8 rank and file killed; 2 Ensigns, 1 Sergeant, 45 rank and file wounded.

Detachment 2d Battalion 3d Guards—1 Captain, 14 rank and file killed; 1 Lieut. Colonel, 1 Staff, 3 Sergeants, 82 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion 9th foot—3 rank and file killed; 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants, 2 drummers, 50 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion 28th foot—9 rank and file killed; 2 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 3 Sergeants, 52 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies of the 2d Battalion 82d foot—8 rank and file killed; 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, 86 rank and file wounded.

Detachment of the 3d Battalion 95th foot—1 Captain, 13 rank and file killed; 1 Lieut. Colonel, 2 Lieutenants, 3 Sergeants, 45 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies of the 2d Battalion 47th foot—1 Ensign, 1 drummer, 19 rank and file killed; 1 Captain, 49 rank and file wounded.

1st Battalion of the 28th foot—6 rank and file killed; 1 Lieut. 5 Sergeants, 75 rank and file wounded.

2d Battalion of the 67th foot—10 rank and file killed; 1 Lieut. Colonel, 1 Captain, 1 Lieut. 1 Ensign, 1 Sergeant, 30 rank and file wounded.

2d Battalion of the 87th foot—1 Ensign, 3 Sergeants, 1 drummer, 40 rank and file killed; 1 Major, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 6 Sergeants, 118 rank and file wounded.

Detachment of the 2d Battalion 95th foot—6 rank and file killed; 2 Lieutenants, 1 Sergeant, 1 drummer, 26 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies of the 20th Portuguese Regiment—9 rank and file killed; 1 Lieut. Colonel, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 5 Sergeants, 37 rank and file wounded.

Company of the Royal Staff Corps—1 drummer wounded.

Total—2 Captains, 5 Ensigns, 6 Sergeants, 2 drummers, 187 rank and file, 24 horses killed; 5 Lieutenant-Colonels, 1 Major, 14 Captains, 26 Lieutenants, 8 Ensigns, 1 Staff, 45 Sergeants, 4 drummers, 936 rank and file, 42 horses wounded.

Grand Total of individuals killed and wounded—1243.

JOHN MACDONALD,

Lieut. Col. Dep. Adj. Gen.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal Demands against the Estate of the late JONATHAN MOREHOUSE, Merchant of this Town, deceased, are requested to send in their accounts duly attested to the Subscribers, within Eighteen Calendar Months from the date hereof; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to WILLIAM MOREHOUSE, } Executors
ICHABOD CORBITT, }
Annapolis, 7th May, 1810.