

The Royal Gazette

And New Brunswick Advertiser.

Vol. 4.

SAINT JOHN, MONDAY, JULY 29, 1811.

No. 187.

Printed and Published by JACOB S. MOTT, Printer to the KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, at the Sign of the BIBLE and CROWN, Prince William-Street; where Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c. will be thankfully received. [6d. single.]

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

DOWNING-STREET, JUNE 2,

Despatches, of which the following are extracts, have been this day received by the Earl of Liverpool, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington, dated Elvas, 22d May.

On the night of the 15th instant I received from Marshal Sir William Beresford, letters of the 12th and 13th instant, which reported Marshal Soult had broken up from Seville about the 10th, and had advanced towards Estremadura, notwithstanding the reports which had been previously received that he was busily occupied in strengthening Seville and the approaches to that city by works; and that all his measures indicated an intention to remain on the defensive in Andalusia.

I therefore set out on the following morning from Villa Formosa; and having received further information of the 14th, from Sir William Beresford, of the enemy's movements, I hastened my progress, and arrived here on the 19th, and found that Sir William Beresford, had raised the siege of Badajos, without the loss of ordnance or stores of any description; and collected the troops under his command, and had formed a junction with Generals Castanos and Blake at Albuera, in the course of the 15th instant.

He was attacked there on the 16th by the French army under the command of Marshal Soult; and after a most severe engagement, in which all the troops conducted themselves in the most gallant manner, Sir William Beresford gained the victory. The enemy retired in the night of the 17th, leaving between 900 and 1000 wounded on the ground.

Sir William Beresford sent the allied cavalry after them; and on the 19th, in the morning, reinvaded Badajos.

I enclose reports of Sir William Beresford, of the 16th and 18th instant, on the operations of the siege to the moment of raising it, and on the battle at Albuera; and I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the ability, the firmness and the gallantry manifested by Marshal Sir William Beresford throughout the transactions on which he has written. I will add nothing to what he has said of the conduct of all the officers and troops, excepting to express my admiration of it, and my cordial concurrence in the favorable reports by Sir William Beresford of the good conduct of all.

All has remained quiet in Castile since I quitted that part of the country.

The battalions of the 9th corps, belonging to regiments serving in the corps d'armee in Andalusia, had marched from Salamanca on or about the 15th, and went towards Avila, and were to come by Madrid.

I send this despatch by Major, (Lieutenant-Col.) Arbuthnot, the Secretary of Marshal Sir William Beresford, who was present in the battle of Albuera, and can give your Lordship any further information you can require; and I beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship.

Extract of a letter from Marshal Beresford to Lord Wellington, dated Albuera, May 16, 1811.

In conformity to your Lordship's instructions given to me on the 24th ultimo, in consequence of the then state of the weather, and our means of communication across the Guadiana having been destroyed by the sudden flooding of that river, and leaving my cavalry in Zafra, Los Santos, and Villa Franca, I placed the infantry with its head at Almendralejo, Azuecal, and Villa Alva, where were the divisions of Major-General the Honorable William Stewart and Major-General Hamilton; and the Hon. Major-General Cole's division with Brigadier-General Madden's brigade of cavalry in Merida, the infantry brigade of it commanded by Brigadier-General Kemmis, and that was intended for the attack of Fort Saint Cristoval, at Montejo, and the light brigade German Legion under Major-General Baron Alten, at Talavera Real, leaving the light battalion L. L. Legion in Olivenca, during the period of waiting the fall of the water of the Guadiana; and the re-establishment of our bridge, it being of considerable importance to push the enemy from us as far as possible during the siege, as he had on our obliging him to retire from Llerena to Guadalcanal held the latter place.

I directed a small column of two thousand men, composed of the 1st brigade 2d division, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne, with two squadrons of cavalry and two Spanish four-pounders, to proceed from Almendralejo by Ribera and Maquilla to Azuaga to threaten his right, sending at the same time four squadrons of cavalry from Brigadier-General Long at Villa Franca to Llerena, to support the Count de Penne Villamur, who was then with the Spanish cavalry of General Castanos' corps, to make him fear an attack in front, and General Ballasteros went from Monasterio to Montemolin to threaten his left. These

manœuvres had the desired effect; as soon as the enemy saw the advance of Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne near Azuaga, where he had five hundred infantry and three hundred cavalry, he abandoned precipitately the place and retired to Guadalcanal, which place the General Latour Maubourg, with the 5th corps, quitted in two hours after the arrival of this detachment, and at eleven o'clock at night retired near to Constantino. Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne performed this service in a most judicious and handsome manner.

The weather having been some time fine, and the waters of the Guadiana having subsided, and our preparations having by Lieutenant-Col. Fletcher's activity been nearly completed for the siege of Badajos, on the 3d of May I sent three brigades of infantry, a brigade of six-pounders, and two squadrons of cavalry, under the orders of Major-General the Hon. Wm. Stewart, to invest more closely Badajos, on the south of the river, which he performed with his usual zeal and attention on the 4th. On the 6th instant, I directed the march of the remaining divisions on Badajos, one by Albuera, the other by Talavera, leaving the cavalry as before placed. On the 7th I came before Badajos with these divisions. General Castanos furnished also to co-operate in the siege two thousand men, under the command of Brigadier Don Carlos D'Espagne. On the 8th I directed the brigade of Brigadier-General Kemmis, which had been previously placed on the Chebora, to proceed to the Torre de St. Ingracia, about two miles from Badajos, on the Campo Mayor road; and to be joined there by the 17th Portuguese regiment, two squadrons of cavalry, and 4 six-pounders from Elvas; the force to meet at three o'clock in the morning, and the whole to be placed under the orders of the Hon. Major-General William Lumley, to invest the north side, and to attack fort St. Cristoval. By some accident to the bearer of the orders to Brigadier-General Kemmis, the officer did not arrive at his post till nine o'clock: the Hon. Major-General Lumley on the approach of the light companies of the brigade, advancing towards the town, with the force he brought from Elvas, the garrison made a sortie upon it, but was immediately drove back, and the grenadiers of the 17th regiment particularly distinguished themselves by charging the enemy, headed by Colonel Turner; the detachment suffered the loss as per return No. 1.

On the 8th, Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher, to protect the further approaches, constructed batteries against the Pardalleiras and Piquero, on the heights commanding them, though at a considerable distance; and Captain Squire whom the Lieut. Col. had sent to superintend the works intended to be erected against Saint Cristoval, began his operations on the 8th. The breaking ground on that side immediately caused great jealousy to the enemy, and he opposed it by a most heavy fire of shot and shell, and on the morning of the 10th, he made a sortie against the battery constructing, with about twelve hundred men, being within five hundred yards of the place. He soon reached the battery, and it having of the covering party allotted to it, only one light infantry company in it, the enemy got possession of it, but had it not for two minutes, as the whole of the covering party that was close to the battery on the slope of the hill immediately seized their arms, and drove the enemy back with considerable loss to him, but I regret to say our's on this occasion must have been considerably greater, from our troops having exposed themselves to the shot and shell of the town and Fort of Saint Cristoval; and the musquetry from the latter.

I annex the return of our loss on this day, and in it I have to lament being deprived of the services of Col. Turner, who in the very short time he had been in the Portuguese service, had given me the greatest satisfaction, and in these two days, the most conspicuous proofs of his gallantry.

I annex the returns of our further loss of men on the respective days that our operations against Badajos continued, and the Hon. Major-General Lumley's reports on the circumstances and consequences of the enemy's sorties.

On the 12th I received information from Gen. Blake that Marshal Soult had left Seville, on the 10th, and with the avowed intention of coming to Badajos, his force stated to be 15,000 men; and Gen. Latour Maubourg had already again moved upon and occupied Guadalcanal and Llerena, from which places the Count de Penne Villamur had been obliged to retire. As General Blake had come down to Frejenal, and General Ballasteros from Monasterio had pushed his advances within a league of Seville, I could not judge if this advance of Marshal Soult was merely to oblige these Generals to retire, and leave him undisturbed in Seville, or really as it was given out to be, against me, and

with the object of raising the siege of Badajos, and therefore continued my operations against the place, until the further advance of Soult should more clearly determine this point; but in the middle of the night I received information from Gen. Blake and other quarters, of the rapid advance of Marshal Soult, and which left no doubt as to his intentions. I immediately sent to suspend operations against Badajos, and to commence to remove to Elvas our guns and stores, which unfortunately had been nearly completed to what would have been wanted for the siege.

By great exertions of Lieut. Colonel Fletcher of the Royal Engineers, and Major Dixon of the artillery, every thing was removed on the evening of the 15th. To Lieut. Gen. Leite's (the Governor of the Province of Alemtejo) zeal and unwearied activity in whatever regards the service and welfare of his country, it is but just to say we are on all occasions much indebted; and particularly on this in the getting together the transports necessary to us, and in furnishing and forwarding whatever else could be useful. I seize with pleasure this opportunity of giving to General Leite, that praise which he has ever so fully merited.

I had been obliged, to cover the removal of the stores, &c. to leave the division of Major-General the Hon. G. L. Cole before Badajos. Major-General Cole marched from before Badajos to join the army here at two o'clock on the morning of the 16th; and arrived about half an hour before the enemy made his attack.

I have, however, the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that the enemy cannot boast of having got a particle of our stores; they were all safely lodged in Elvas, and with the exception of Brigadier-General Kemmis's brigade, which was on the north side of the Guadiana, our troops were all united on the morning of the 16th, to meet the attack and oppose the march of Marshal Soult.

Albuera, 18th May, 1811.

My Lord—I have infinite satisfaction in communicating to your Lordship that the allied army, united here under my orders, obtained on the 16th inst. after a most sanguinary contest, a complete victory over that of the enemy, commanded by Marshal Soult; and I shall proceed to relate to your Lordship the circumstances.

In a former report I have informed your Lordship of the advance of Marshal Soult from Seville, and I had in consequence judged it wise, entirely to raise the siege of Badajos, and prepare to meet him with our united forces, rather than by looking to two objects at once, to risk the loss of both. Marshal Soult, it appears, had been long straining every nerve to collect a force which he thought fully sufficient to his object for the relief of Badajos, and for this purpose he had drawn considerable numbers from the corps of Marshal Victor and General Sebastiani, and also I believe from the French army of the centre. Having thus completed his preparations, he marched from Seville on the 10th inst. with a corps then estimated at 15 or 16,000 men, and was joined on descending into Estremadura by the corps under Gen. Latour Maubourg, stated to be 5000 men. His Excellency Gen. Blake as soon as he learnt the advance of Marshal Soult, in strict conformity to the plan proposed by your Lordship, proceeded to form his junction with the corps under my orders, and arrived at Valverde in person on the 14th inst. where having consulted with his Excellency and General Castanos, it was determined to meet the enemy and to give him battle.

On finding the determination of the enemy to relieve Badajos, I had broken up from before that place, and marched the infantry to the position in front of Valverde, except the division of the Hon. Major-General G. L. Cole, which, with 2000 Spanish troops, I left to cover the removal of our stores.

The cavalry which had, according to orders, fallen back as the enemy advanced, was joined at Santa Martha by the cavalry of General Blake: that of General Castanos under Count de Penne Villamur had been always with it.

As remaining at Valverde, though a stronger position, left Badajos entirely open, I determined to take up a position (such as could be got, in this widely open country) at this place, thus standing directly between the enemy and Badajos.

The army was therefore assembled here on the 15th inst. The corps of Gen. Blake, though making a forced march to effect it, only joined in the night, and could not be placed in its position till the morning of the 16th instant, when Gen. Cole's division, with the Spanish brigade under Don Carlos d'Espagne also joined, and a little before the commencement of the action—Our cavalry had been forced on the morning of the 15th inst. to retire from Santa Martha and joined here. In the afternoon of that day the enemy appeared in front of us. The next morning our disposition for receiving