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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

London, August 10.—Defection of Joseph Bonaparte's Ministers.—Government received yesterday some farther accounts from Spain. They were brought from Gijon and St. Andero, by his majesty's ship Pluto, and are dated the 1st inst. A gentleman had arrived at St. Andero from Madrid, from which place he made his escape on the 25th ult. Joseph Bonaparte, as we have already stated, had reached the capital; but the whole of the troops there did not exceed 12,000 men.—The enemy were fortifying the Retiero; and the city presented the most afflicting spectacle. On their approach to the capital, several of the Spanish nobles upon whom Joseph Bonaparte had forced ministerial offices whilst they were in his power at Bayonne, made their escape, among whom was supposed to be the duc del Infantado. Whither they had fled was not ascertained, but there is little doubt of their having repaired to the popular standard.

It was indeed impossible to conceive that any thing but terror could have induced the high minded Spaniards to submit to the disgrace of serving a tyrant and an usurper, who, after dooming their deluded princes to a cruel and degraded confinement, came to enslave their country. The exaggerated power of the French arms, and the fabricated intimidation of the Spanish people, but above all the immediate danger of their own lives, induced those men to give a forced and temporary sanction to the shameful proceedings at Bayonne.—We had already expressed ourselves prepared for the renunciation of this compulsory allegiance, as soon as the intelligence of the success of the army of Castanos should reach Madrid. But the nature and invincible loyalty of the Spanish character displayed itself before this incentive could operate. As soon as the military escort that attended Joseph to his capital was removed to a little distance, and those about his person, who were not before allowed a moment's liberty, had the command of their own mo ions, they immediately determined to free themselves from the disgraceful imputation under which necessity had for a time placed them. They abandoned the usurper, and by that abandonment declared that the cause of their country was the only one for which all who deserved the name of men, could be satisfied to live or to die. We x - pect soon to hear of the arrival of those redeemed and regenerated ministers, at the camps of the patriot armies, whither their names and their example will attract thousands who have hitherto hesitated.—We trust, the detested usurper will, in a little time, be left alone, unfriended, and unpitied, to expiate his crime with his death, or to escape his doom by a disgraceful flight.

The official advices received yesterday from Andalusia, via Gijon, are dated the 17th ult. from the camp of general Castanos. They, of course, relate merely to the operations which preceded the glorious event of the defeat and surrender of Dupont's army on the 20th.

Among the innumerable advantages that are likely to result from this most splendid victory, one of the most important is the fresh vigor it will give to the spirit of patriotism in all parts of Spain. It will confirm those who were determined, fix those who were wavering, rouse those who were inclined to despond. The conquerors of Dupont will turn their attention to more extensive enterprises; they will advance into Castile, and compel Joseph Bonaparte to abandon a capital where he is detested. They will check the career of Bessieres, who, if he be not defeated by them, will be destroyed by the united force of Sir Arthur Wellesley and Gen. Spencer in Portugal, if he venture into that country. They will perhaps form a junction with the army of Gen. Blake, and cut off the whole French force from the succor they expect from Napoleon; for acting in distinct corps.

From the London Gazette Extraordinary.

DOWNING-STREET. Sept. 2.

Extract of a letter from Lieut. Gen. Sir Arthur Wellesley, dated head quarters at Caldas, the 16th of August, 1808.

I marched from Lyria on the 18th, and arrived at Abobaca on the 19th, which place the enemy had abandoned in the preceding night; and I arrived here yesterday. The enemy, about 4000 in number, were posted about ten miles from hence, at Borica; and they occupied Brilos, about three miles from hence, with their advanced posts. As the possession of this last village was important to our future operations, I determined to occupy it; and as soon as the British infantry arrived upon the ground, I directed that it might be occupied by a detachment, consisting of four companies of riflemen of the 60th and 95th regiments. The enemy, consisting of a small piquet of infantry and a few cavalry, made a trifling resistance and retired; but they were followed by a detachment of our riflemen to the distance of three miles from Brilos. The riflemen were then attacked by a superior body of the enemy, who attempted to cut them off from the main body of the detachment to which they belonged, which had now advanced to their support; larger bodies of the enemy now appeared on both the flanks of the detachment, and it was with difficulty that major general Spencer, who had gone out to Ebidos when he had heard that the riflemen had advanced in pursuit of the enemy, was enabled to effect their retreat to that village. They have since remained in possession of it, and the enemy have retired entirely from the neighborhood. In this little affair of the advanced posts, which was occasioned solely by the eagerness of the troops in pursuit of the enemy, I am concerned to add, that lieutenant Panbury, of the 2d battalion of the 95th, was killed, and the hon. captain Pakenham wounded, but slightly; but we have lost one rank and file killed, five wounded and 21 missing.

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Head-Quarters at Villa Verde, August 17.

MY LORD,

The French general Laborde having continued in his position at Roleia since my arrival at Caldas on the 15th inst. I determined to attack him in it this morning. Roleia is situated on an eminence having a plain in its front at the end of a valley, which commences at Caldes, and is closed to the Southward by mountains, which join the hills, forming the valley, and about eight miles from Roleia is the town and old Moorish fort of Ebidos, from whence the enemy's piquets had been driven on the 15th, and from that time he had posts in the hills on sides of the valley, as well as in the plain in front of his army, which was posted on the heights in front of Roleia, its right resting upon the hills, its left upon an eminence on which was a windmill, and the whole covering four and five passes, into the mountains in his rear.

I have reason to believe that his force consists of at least 6000 men, of which about 300 were cavalry, with five pieces of cannon; and there were some reasons to believe that general Loison, who was at Rio Major yesterday, would join general Laborde by his right in the course of the night. The plan of attack was formed into three columns; the right, consisting of 1,200 Portuguese infantry and 50 Portuguese cavalry, destined to turn the enemy's left and penetrate into the mountains in his rear; the left, consisting of major general Ferguson's and brigadier general Bowes's brigades of infantry, three companies of riflemen, and 20 British and 20 Portuguese cavalry, was destined, under the command of major general Ferguson, to ascend the hills at Ebidos, to turn all the enemy's posts on the left of the valley, as well as the right of his post at Roleira; this corps was also destined to watch the motions of general Loison, on the enemy's right, who I had heard had moved from Rio Major towards Alcoentre last night.—The centre, consisting of major general Hill's brigade, general Nightingal's brigade, general Crauford's and brigadier general Fane's brigades, (with the exception of the riflemen detached with major general Ferguson), and 400 Portuguese light infantry, the British and Portuguese cavalry, a brigade of nine pounders, and a brigade of six pounders, were destined to attack general Laborde's position in front

The columns being formed, the troops moved from Ebidos about seven o'clock in the morning. Brigadier general Fane's riflemen were immediately detached into the hills on the left of the valley, to keep up the communication between the centre and left columns, and to protect the march of the former along the valley; and the enemy's posts were successively driven in. Major general Hill's brigade formed in three columns of battalions, moved on the right of the valley, supported by the cavalry, in order to attack the enemy's left; and brigadier generals Nightingale and Crauford moved with the artillery along the high road until at length the former formed in the plain immediately in the enemy's front, supported by the light infantry companies, and the 45th regiment of brigadier general Crauford's brigade, while the two other regiments of this brigade (the 50th and 91st) and half of the nine pounder brigade were kept as a reserve in the rear. Major general Hill and brigadier general Nightingale advanced upon the enemy's position, and at the same moment, brigadier general Fane's riflemen were in the hills on his right, the Portuguese infantry in a village upon his left; and major general Ferguson's column was descending from the height into the plains.—From this situation the enemy retired by the passes in the mountains with the utmost regularity and the greatest celerity; and notwithstanding the rapid advance of the British infantry the want of a sufficient body of cavalry was cause of his suffering but little loss in the plain.

It was then necessary to make a disposition to attack the formidable position which he had taken up. Brigadier general Fane's were already in the mountains on his right, and no time was lost in attacking the different passes, as well to support the riflemen as to defeat the enemy completely. The Portuguese infantry were ordered to move up a pass on the right of the whole; the light companies of major general Hill's brigade, and the 18th regiment moved up a pass next on the right, and the 95th regiment supported by the 9th, under brigadier general Nightingale, a third pass; and the 45th and 32d regiments, passes on the left. These passes were all difficult of access, and some of them were well defended by the enemy, particularly that which was attacked with the greatest impetuosity, and reached the enemy, before those whose attacks were to be made on their flanks: the defence of the enemy was desperate, and it was in this attack principally that we sustained the loss which we have to lament—particularly of that gallant officer the hon. lieutenant colonel Lake, who distinguished himself on this occasion.—The enemy was, however, driven from all the positions he had taken in the passes of the mountains, and our troops were advanced in the plains on their tops. For a considerable length of time, the 29th and 9th regiments alone were advanced to this point, with brigadier general Fane's riflemen at a distance on the left, and they were afterwards supported by the 5th regiment, and by the light companies of major general Hill's brigade, which had come up on their right; and by the other troops ordered to ascend the mountains, who came up by degrees. The enemy here made three most gallant attacks upon the 29th and 9th regiments, supported, as I have above stated, with a view to cover the retreat of his defeated army; in all of which he was, however, repulsed; but he succeeded in effecting his retreat in good order, owing principally to my want of cavalry, and secondly, to the difficulty of bringing up the passes of the mountains with celerity, a sufficient number of troops, and of cannon, to support those which had first ascended. The loss of the enemy, has, however, been very great; and he left three pieces of cannon in our hands.

I cannot sufficiently applaud the conduct of my troops throughout the action. The enemy's positions were formidable, and he took them up with his usual ability and celerity, and defended them most gallantly. But I must observe, that although we had such a superiority of numbers employed in the operations of this day, the troops actually engaged in the heat of the action were from unfavorable circumstances, only the 5th, 9th, 28th; the riflemen of the 94th & 40th; and the flank companies of major-gen. Hill's brigade, being a number by no means equal to that of the enemy; their conduct, therefore, deserves the highest commendation.

I cannot avoid to take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgements for the aid and support I received from all the general and other officers of this army. I am particularly indebted to maj. gen. Spencer for the advice and assistance I received from him; to maj. gen. Ferguson for the manner in which he led the left column; and to maj. gen. Hill, and brig. gens. Nightingale and Fane for the manner in which they conducted the different attacks which they led. I derived most material assistance also from lieut. col. Tucker and lieut. col. Bathurst in the offices of deputy adjutant and deputy quarter master gens. and from the officers of staff employed under them. I must also mention that I had every reason to be satisfied with the artillery under lieut. col. Robe. Inclosed herewith is a return of killed, wounded, and missing. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR WLELESLEY.

Total officers, non-commissioned officers. Rank and file, and horses killed, wounded and missing, 432.

[Here follows a letter from gen. Wellesley, dated Lavrinha, August 18, stating the arrival of the brigades under gen. Ackland and Anstruther; and stating his belief that Junot was assembling his whole force at Torres Vedras: and a letter from sir Harry Burrard dated Head Quarters, Maceira, Aug. 21, which serves as an envelope of the following letter from gen. Wellesley which is addressed to sir Harry Burrard].

Vimiera, August 21.

SIR—I have the honor to report to you, that the enemy attacked us in our position at Vimiera, this morning. The village of Vimiera stands in a valley, through which runs the river Maceira; at the back, and to the westward and northward of this village, is a mountain, the western point of which touches the sea, & the eastern is separated by a deep avenue from the heights, over which passes the road which leads from Lourinha and the northward, to Vimiera. The greater part of the infantry, the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 8th brigades were posted on this mountain, with eight pieces of artillery; maj. gen. Hill's brigade being on the right, maj. gen. Furguson's on the left, having one battalion on the heights, separated from the mountain. On the eastern and southern side of the town is a hill which is entirely commanded, particularly on its right, by the mountain to the westward of the town, and commanding all the ground in the neighborhood to the southward and eastward, on which brig. gen. Fane was posted with his riflemen and the 50th regiment, and brig. gen. Anstruther with his brigade, with half a brigade of 6 pounders and half a brigade of 9 pounders, which had been ordered to ther position in the course of last night. The ground over which passes the road from Lourinha commanded the left of this height, and it had not been occupied, excepting a piquet, as the camp had been taken up only for one night; and there was no water in the neighborhood of this height. The cavalry and the reserve of artillery were in the valley, between the hills on which the infantry stood; both flanking and supporting brig. gen. Fane's advanced guard.

The enemy first appeared at 8 o'clock in the morning, in large bodies of cavalry on our left upon the heights on the road to Lourinha; and it was soon obvious that the attack would be made upon our advanced guard, and the left of our position; and maj. gen. Furguson's brigade was immediately moved across the ravine to the heights, on the road to Lourinha, with 3 pieces of cannon; he was followed successively by brig. gen. Nightingale with his brigade, and 3 pieces of cannon; brig. gen. Ackland with his brigade, and brig. gen. Bowes with his brigade. These troops were formed (maj. gen. Furguson's brigade in the first line; brig. gen. Nightingale's in the second; and brig. gen. Bowes' and Ackland's in columns in the rear) on these heights, with their right upon the valley which leads into Vimiera; and their left upon the other ravine, which separates these heights from the range which terminates at the landing place at Maceira. On these last mentioned heights, the Portuguese troops which had been in the bottom near Vimiera, were posted in the first instance, and they were supported by brig. general Crauford's brigade.

The troops of the advanced guard on the height to the southward and easward of the town were deemed sufficient for its defence, and maj. gen. Hill was moved to the centre of the mountain on which the great body of the infantry had been posted, as a support to these troops and as a reserve to the whole army. In addition to this support, these troops had that of the cavalry in the rear of their right. The enemy's attack began in seven columns upon the whole of the troops on this height; on the left they advanced, notwithstanding the fire of the riflemen, close to the 50th reg. and were checked and driven back only by the bayonets of that corps. The 2d battalion, and 43d regt. were likewise closely engaged with them in the road which leads to Vimiera; a part of that corps having been ordered in the church yard to prevent them from penetrating into the town. On the right of the position they were repulsed by the bayonets of the 97th regt. which corps successively supported by the 2d battalion of the 52d regt. which by an advance in column took the enemy in flank. Beside this opposition given to the attack of the enemy on our advanced guard by their own exertions, they were attacked in flank by brig. gen. Auckland's brigade in its advance to its position on the heights on the left, and a cannonade was kept up on the flank of the enemy's columns by the artillery on those heights.

At length, after a most desperate contest, the enemy was driven back in confusion from this attack with the loss of 7 pieces of cannon, many prisoners, and a great number of officers and soldiers killed and wounded. He was pursued by the detachment of the 20th light dragoons, but the enemy's cavalry was so much superior in numbers, that this detachment has suffered much, and Lt. Col. Taylor was unfortunately killed. Nearly at the same time the enemy's attack commenced upon the heights on the road to Lourinha. This attack was supported by a large body of cavalry, and was made with the usual impetuosity of French troops. It was received with steadiness by maj. gen. Ferguson's brigade, consisting of the 36th, 40th, & 71st regts.; and these corps charged as soon as the enemy approached them, who gave way, and they continued to advance upon him supported by the 22d, one of the corps of brig. gen. Nightingale's brigade, which as the ground extended, afterwards formed a part of the first line; by the 29th regt. and by brig. gen. Bowe's and Auckland's brigades, while brig. gen. Crauford's brigade, and the Portuguese troops in two lines advanced along the height on the left. In the advance of maj. gen. Ferguson's brigade, 6 pieces of cannon were taken from the enemy, with many prisoners and vast numbers were killed and wounded.

The enemy afterwards made an attempt to recover part of his artillery by attacking the 71st & 82d regts. which were halted in a valley in which it has been taken. These two regts. retired from the low grounds in the valley to the heights, where they halted, faced about, fired, and advanced upon the enemy, who had by that time arrived in the low ground, and they thus obliged him again to retire with great loss. In this action, in which the whole of the French force in Portugal was employed under the Duke D'Abrantes in person, in which the enemy was certainly superior in cavalry and artillery, and in which not more than half the British army was actually engaged, he has sustained a signal defeat and has lost 18 pieces of cannon, 23 ammunition waggons with powder, shells, stores of all descriptions, and 20,000 rounds of musket ammunition. One general officer (Beniere) has been wounded and taken prisoner, and a great many officers and soldiers have been killed, wounded and taken.

The valor and discipline of his majesty's troops have been conspicuous upon this occasion, as you, who witnessed the greater part of the action must have observed; but it is a justice to the following corps to draw your notice to them in a particular manner,