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## CAPTURE OF MONTE-VIDEO.

LONDON, April 12.

Downing Street.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received this morning at the office of Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from Brigadier General Anson, to the Right Hon. William Windham.

Monte-Video, Feb. 6, 1807.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that His Majesty's troops under my command were taken by assault, and after a most determined resistance, the important fortresses and city of Montevideo.

The Ardent with her convoy, arrived at Maldonado on the 5th January; and immediately took under my orders the troops from the Cape, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Backhouse. On the 13th I evacuated that place without opposition, leaving a small garrison on the island of Gorilla.

On consulting with Rear Admiral Stirling, it was determined to attack Montevideo; and I landed on the morning of the 18th, to the westward of the Cerros Rocks, in a small Bay, about three miles from the town. The enemy were in great force, with guns on the heights, when we disembarked; but they did not advance to oppose us, and I ordered me to take a strong position, about a mile from the shore. A trifling cannonade, and some firing at the outposts, commenced in the afternoon, and continued occasionally during our stay on that ground.

On the 19th we moved towards Montevideo. The right column, under the Hon. Brigadier Gen. Lumley, was early opposed. About four thousand of the enemy's horse occupied two heights to his front and right. As we advanced, a heavy fire of round and grape shot opened upon us; but a spirited charge in front, from the Light Battalion under Lieut. Colonel Brownrigg, dispersed the corps opposed to him, with the loss of a gun. The enemy on the flank did not wait a similar movement, but retreated. They continued retiring before us, and permitted us, without any further opposition, except a distant cannonade, to take up a position about two miles from the citadel. Our advanced posts occupied the suburbs, and some small parties were posted close to the works; but in the evening the principal part of the suburbs was evacuated.

The next morning the enemy came out of the town, and attacked us with their whole force, about six thousand men, and a number of guns. They advanced in two columns; the right, consisting of cavalry, to turn our left flank, while the other, of infantry, attacked the left of our line; this column pushed in our advanced posts, and pressed to hard on our out piquet of 400 men, that Col. Browne, who commanded on the left, ordered three companies of the 40th under Major Campbell, to their support; these companies fell in with the head of the column, and very bravely charged it; the charge was as gallantly received, and great numbers fell on both sides; at length the column began to give way, when it was suddenly and impetuously attacked in flank by the Rifle Corps, and the Light Battalion, which I ordered up, and I directed to the particular point. The column now gave way on all sides, and pursued with great slaughter, and the loss of a gun to the town. The right column, observing the fate of their companions, rapidly retired, without coming into action.

The loss of the enemy was considerable, and has been estimated at fifteen hundred men; their killed might amount to between two and three hundred; we have taken the same number of prisoners, but the principal part

of the wounded got back into the town; I am happy to add, that ours was comparatively trifling.

The consequences of this affair were greater than the action itself. Instead of finding ourselves surrounded with horse, and a petty warfare at our posts, many of the inhabitants of the country separated and retired to their several villages, and we were allowed quietly to sit down before the town.

From the best information I could obtain, I was led to believe that the defences of Montevideo were weak, and the garrison by no means disposed to make an obstinate resistance; but I found the works truly respectable, with 160 pieces of cannon; and they were ably defended.

The enemy being in possession of the island of Ratonas, commanded the harbor; and I was aware that their gunboats would annoy us, as we apprehended. A two gun battery was constructed on the 23d to keep them in check, and our posts were extended to the harbor, and completely shut in the garrison on the land side. Their communication was still, however, open by water, and their boats conveyed to their troops and provisions; even water for the garrison was obtained by these means; for the wells that supply the town were in our possession.

On the 25th we opened batteries of four 24 pounders and 2 mortars, and all the frigates and smaller vessels came in, as close as they could with safety, and cannonaded the town. But finding that the garrison was not intimidated into a surrender, I constructed on the 28th, a battery of six 34 pounders within a thousand yards of the south-east bastion of the citadel, which I was informed was in so weak a state that it might be easily breached. The parapet was soon in ruins, but the rampart received little injury, and I was soon convinced that my means were unequal to a regular siege; the only prospect of success that presented itself, was, to erect a battery as near as possible to a wall by the fourth gate, that joins the works to the sea, and endeavor to breach it. This was effected by a six gun battery, within 600 yards, and though it was exposed to a very superior fire from the enemy, which had been incessant during the whole of the siege, a breach was reported practicable on the 2d instant. Many reasons induced me not to delay the assault, though I was aware the troops would be exposed to a very heavy fire in approaching and mounting the breach. Orders were issued for the attack an hour before day-break the ensuing morning, and a summons was sent to the governor in the evening to surrender the town. To this message no answer was returned.

The troops destined for the assault consisted of the Rifle corps under Major Gardner, the Light Infantry under Lieutenant Col. Brownrigg, and Major Trotter, the Grenadiers under Major Campbell and Tucker, and the 38th regiment under Lieut. Col. Vassie and Major Nugent.

They were supported by the 40th regiment under Major Dalrymple, and the 87th under Lieut. Col. Butler and Major Miller. The whole were commanded by Col. Browne. The remainder of my force, consisted of the 17th light dragoons, detachments of the 20th and 21st light dragoons, the 47th regiment, a company of the 71st, and a corps of 700 marines and seamen, were encamped under Brigadier Gen. Lumley, to protect our rear.

At the appointed hour the troops marched to the assault. They approached near the breach before they were discovered, when a destructive fire from every gun that could bear upon it, and from the musketry of the garrison, opened upon them. Heavy as it was, our

loss would have been comparatively trifling, if the breach had been open: but during the night, and under our fire, the enemy had barricaded it with hides, so as to render it nearly impracticable. The head of the column missed the breach, and when it was approached, it was so shut up, that it was mistaken for the untouched wall. In this situation the troops remained under a heavy fire for a quarter of an hour, when the breach was discerned by Captain Renny of the 40th light infantry, who pointed it out, and gloriously fell as he mounted it.—Our gallant soldiers rushed to it, and, difficult as it was of access, forced their way into the town. Cannon were placed at the head of the principal streets, and their fire, for a short time, was destructive; but the troops advanced in all directions, clearing the streets and batteries with their bayonets, and overturning their cannon. The 40th regiment, with Colonel Browne, followed. They also missed the breach, and twice passed through the fire of their batteries before they found it.

The 87th regiment was posted near the North gate, which the troops who entered at the breach were to open for them, but their ardour was so great they could not wait.—They scaled the walls and entered the town as the troops within approached it. At daylight every thing was in our possession except the Citadel, which made a show of resistance, but soon surrendered, and early in the morning the town was quiet, and the women were peaceably walking the streets.

The gallantry displayed by the troops during the assault, and their forbearance and orderly behaviour in the town, speak so fully in their praise, that it is unnecessary for me to say how highly I am pleased with their conduct. The service they have been engaged in since we landed, has been uncommonly severe and laborious, but not a murmur has escaped them; every thing I wished has been effected with order and cheerfulness.

Our loss during the siege was trifling, particularly as we were not sheltered by approaches, and the enemy's fire of shot and shell was incessant. But it is painful for me to add, that it was great at the assault. Many most valuable officers are among the killed and wounded. Major Dalrymple, of the 40th, was the only field officer killed. Lieut. Colonel, Vassie, and Brownrigg, and Major Tucker, are among the wounded. I am deeply concerned to say, that the two former are severely so.—The enemy's loss was very great—about 800 killed, and 500 wounded, and the Governor Don Esteban Ruis Huidobro, with upwards of 2000 officers and men, are prisoners.—About 1500 escaped in boats or scattered themselves in the town.

From Brigadier-General the Hon. W. Lumley, and from Col. Browne, I have received the most able and the most zealous assistance and support. The former protected the line from the enemy during the siege. The latter conducted it with great judgment and determined bravery.

The established reputation of the Royal artillery has been firmly supported by the company under my orders, and I consider myself much indebted to Captains Watson, Dickson, Carmichael and Willgref, for their zealous and able exertion. Captain Fanshaw of the engineers was equally zealous, and though young in the service, conducted himself with such propriety, that I have no doubt of his proving a valuable officer. Owing to great fatigue, he was taken ill in the middle of our operations, and Capt. Dickson readily undertook his office, and executed it with the greatest judgment.

From the heads of corps and departments; from the general staff of the ar-

my; from the medical, and from my own personal staff, I have received the most prompt and cheerful assistance.

It is sufficient to say that the utmost cordiality has subsisted between Rear Admiral Stirling and myself; I have received from him the most friendly and polite attention, and every thing in his power to grant.

The Captains and officers of the navy have been equally zealous to assist us; but I feel particularly indebted to Captains Donnelly and Palmer, for their great exertions. They commanded a corps of marines and seamen, that were landed, and were essentially useful to us with the guns, and in the batteries, as well as in bringing up the ordnance and stores.

This dispatch will be delivered to you by Major Tucker, who was wounded at the assault; and as he has long been in my confidence, I beg leave to refer you to him for further particulars.

I have the honor to be, &c.

S. ACHMUTY.

Brigadier-General commanding.  
To the Right Hon. Wm. Windham, &c.

P. S. I am extremely concerned to add, that Lieutenant Colonels Vassie and Brownrigg both died yesterday of their wounds. I had flattered myself with hopes of their recovery; but a rapid mortification has deprived his majesty of two most able and gallant officers.

Return of the killed; wounded, and missing, of the forces under the command of Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Achmuty, between the 16th of January, the day of landing at the Punto de Curetus, to the 20th of January inclusive.

Between 12th and 20th ult.—1 Lieutenant, 1 drummer, 18 rank and file, killed; 2 majors, 3 captains, 1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 119 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file, missing.

During the siege—1 captain, 3 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 12 rank and file, wounded; 7 rank and file missing.

At the assault—1 major, 3 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 sergeants, 5 drummers, 105 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 3 colonels, 3 captains, 8 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 4 staff, 18 sergeants, 5 drummers, 252 rank and file, wounded.

Total—1 major, 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 sergeants, 6 drummers, 126 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 majors, 6 captains, 10 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 4 staff, 20 sergeants, 6 drummers, 366 rank and file, wounded; 8 rank and file, missing.

Captains Willgref and Crookshanks, and 31 rank and file included in the above, have since returned to duty.

J. BRADFORD,

Deputy Adjutant-General.

Return of ordnance, ammunition, arms, &c. taken from the enemy at Montevideo, February 5, 1807.

Total of guns—51 twenty-four pounders; 68 eighteen pounders; 57 six pounders; 28 four pounders; 32 three pounders; 2 two pounders; 3 one pounders—in all 312.

Total of mortars—4 twelve-inch, 3 nine-inch, 2 eight-inch, 4 six-inch—in all 13.

Total of carronades—2 thirty-two pounders; 2 twenty-four pounders, 6 twelve-pounders—in all 10.

Total of howitzers—10 six and half inch.

A. WATSON,  
Capt. Commanding Artillery.

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