

99



# Edinburgh Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

FROM TUESDAY, APRIL 14. TO FRIDAY, APRIL 17. 1807.

## London Gazette Extraordinary.

DOWNING STREET, April 12. 1807.

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 Auchmuty, to the Right Honourable William Windham:

*Monte Video, Feb. 6. 1807.*

SIR—I have the honour to inform you, that His Majesty's troops under my command have taken by assault, and after a most determined resistance, the important fortress and city of Monte Video.

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

On consulting with Rear-Admiral Stirling, it was determined to attack Monte Video; and I landed on the morning of the 18th, to the westward of the Caretas Rocks, in a small bay, about nine 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 suffered 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 Monte Video. The right column, under the Honourable Brigadier-General 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 opened upon us; but a spirited charge in front, from the Light battalion un-

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der Lieutenant-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 so hard on our out-picquet, of four hundred men, that Colonel 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 Light battalion, which I ordered up, and directed to the particular point. The column now gave way on all sides, and was 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 set down before the town.

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

The enemy being in possession of the island of Ratones, commanded the harbour; and I was aware that their gun-boats 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 harbour, and completely shut in the garrison on the land side. Their communication was still, however, open by water, and their boats conveyed to them 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 twenty-four-pounders and two 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 6 twenty-four 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 south gate, that joins the works to the sea, and endeavour to

