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FROM FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, to TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1809.

DOWNING STREET, JANUARY 24, 1809.

The Honourable Captain Hope arrived late last last night, with a dispatch from Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is a copy.

His Majesty's Ship Ville de Paris, at Sea, January 18, 1809.

MY LORD, By the much lamented death of Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, who fell in action with the enemy on the 16th instant, it has become my duty to acquaint your Lordship, that the French army attacked the British troops in the position they occupied in front of Corunna, at about two o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

A severe wound, which compelled me to quit the field a short time previous to the fall of Sir John Moore, obliges me to refer your Lordship, for the particulars of the action, which was long and obstinately contested, to the inclosed report of Lieutenant-General Hope, who succeeded to the command of the army, and to whose ability and exertions in direction of the ardent zeal and unconquerable valour of his Majesty's troops, is to be attributed, under Providence, the success of the day, which terminated in the complete and entire repulse and defeat of the enemy at every point of attack.

The Honourable Captain Gordon, my Aide-de-Camp, will have the honour of delivering this dispatch, and will be able to give your Lordship any farther information which may be required.

I have the honour to be, &c.

D. BAIRD, Lieut.-Gen.

Right Hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

His Majesty's Ship Audacious, off Corunna, January 18, 1809.

SIR, In compliance with the desire contained in your communication of yesterday, I avail my-

self of the first moment I have been able to command, to detail to you the occurrences of the action which took place in front of Corunna on the 16th instant.

It will be in your recollection, that about one in the afternoon of that day, the enemy, who had in the morning received reinforcements, and who had placed some guns in front of the right and left of his line, was observed to be moving troops towards his left flank, and forming various columns of attack at that extremity of the strong and commanding position which, on the morning of the 15th, he had taken in our immediate front.

This indication of his intention was immediately succeeded by the rapid and determined attack which he made upon your division, which occupied the right of our position. The events which occurred during that part of the action you are fully acquainted with. The first effort of the enemy was met by the Commander of the forces, and by yourself, at the head of the 42d regiment, and the brigade under Major-General Lord William Bentinck.

The village on your right became an object of obstinate contest.

I lament to say, that soon after the severe wound which deprived the army of your services, Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, who had just directed the most able disposition, fell by a cannon-shot. The troops, though not unacquainted with the irreparable loss they had sustained, were not dismayed, but, by the most determined bravery, not only repelled every attempt of the enemy to gain ground, but actually forced him to retire, although he had brought up fresh troops in support of those originally engaged.

The enemy finding himself foiled in every attempt to force the right of the position, endeavoured, by numbers, to turn it. A judicious

and well-timed movement which was made by Major-General Paget, with the reserve, which corps had moved out of its cantonments, to support the right of the army, by a vigorous attack, defeated this intention. The Major-General, having pushed forward the 95th, (rifle corps), and 1st battalion 52d regiments, drove the enemy before him, and, in his rapid and judicious advance, threatened the left of the enemy's position. This circumstance, with the position of Lieutenant-General Fraser's division, (calculated to give still further security to the right of the line), induced the enemy to relax his efforts in that quarter.

They were, however, more forcibly directed towards the centre, where they were again successfully resisted by the brigade under Major-General Manningham, forming the left of your division, and a part of that under Major-General Leith, forming the right of the division under my orders. Upon the left, the enemy at first contented himself with an attack upon our piquets, which, however, in general maintained their ground. Finding, however, his efforts unavailing on the right and centre, he seemed determined to render the attack upon the left more serious, and had succeeded in obtaining possession of the village through which the great road to Madrid passes, and which was situated in front of that part of the line. From this post, however, he was soon expelled, with considerable loss, by a gallant attack of some companies of the 2d battalion 14th regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholls. Before five in the evening, we had not only successfully repelled every attack made upon the position, but had gained ground in almost all points, and occupied a more forward line, than at the commencement of the action, whilst the enemy confined his operations to a cannonade, and the fire of his light troops, with a view to draw off his

Price Sixpence.

