

it is with the deepest Concern I have the Honor to inform your Lordship that we lost Thirty-five Rank and File of the 93d Regiment by the oversetting of One of the Boats, notwithstanding every possible Effort to rescue those unfortunate Men.

The Remainder of the Troops could only be brought on Shore on the succeeding Day, when the extraordinary Obstacles to all Intercourse with the Fleet, which nothing but the Courage and Perseverance of British Seamen could surmount, barely enabled us to obtain the indispensable Supplies of Water and Provisions for immediate Subsistence.

On the Morning of the 8th the Army, consisting of the 24th, 59th, 71st, 72d, 83d, and 93d Regiments, about Four Thousand strong, was formed into Two Brigades, with Two Howitzers and Six light Field Pieces, and moved off towards the Road which leads to Cape-Town; and, having ascended the Summit of the Blaw-Berg, or Blue Mountains, and dislodged the Enemy's Light Troops, I discovered their main Body, drawn up in Two Lines, prepared to receive us, and even in Motion to anticipate our Approach.

The Enemy's Force apparently consisted of about Five Thousand Men, the greater Proportion of which was Cavalry, and Twenty-three Pieces of Cannon, yoked to Horses, the Disposition of which, and the Nature of the Ground occupied by the Enemy's Troops, made it evident that they intended to refuse their Right Wing, and with their Left attempt to turn our Right Flank; but, to frustrate their Design, I formed the Army into Two Columns, the Second Brigade under Brigadier-General Ferguson keeping the Road, whilst the First struck to the Right, and took the Defile of the Mountains. Having accomplished my Purpose, our Line was formed with equal Celerity and Order; and the Left Wing, composed of the Highland Brigade, was thrown forward, and advanced with the steadiest Step, under a very heavy Fire of Round Shot, Grape and Musquetry. Nothing could surpass or resist the determined Bravery of the Troops, headed by their gallant Leader, Brigadier-General Ferguson, and the Number of the Enemy, who swarmed the Plain, served only to augment their Ardour and confirm their Discipline. The Enemy received our Fire, and maintained his Position obstinately, but in the Moment of charging, the Valour of British Troops bore down all Opposition, and forced him to a precipitate Retreat.

The first Brigade, composed of the 24th, 59th, and 83d Regiments, and commanded in the Absence of Brigadier-General Beresford, by Lieutenant-Colonel Baird, was unavoidably precluded, by their Situation, from any considerable Participation in the Triumph of the British Arms, though the Flank Companies of the 24th had however an Opportunity of distinguishing themselves in dislodging a Number of Horse and Riflemen from the Heights on our Right Flank. This brilliant Achievement however was clouded by the Loss of Captain Foster, of the Grenadiers, whose Gallantry is best recorded in the Bosoms of his Brother Soldiers, and the universal Regret of the Army.

It is utterly impossible to convey to your Lordship an adequate Idea of the Obstacles which opposed the Advance, and retarded the Success of our Army, but it is my Duty to inform your Lordship, that the Nature of the Country—a deep, heavy,

and arid Land, covered with Shrubs, scarcely pervious to light Bodies of Infantry; and above all, the total Privation of Water under the Effects of a burning Sun, had nearly exhausted our gallant Fellows in the Moment of Victory, and with the utmost Difficulty were we able to reach the Reit Valley, where we took our Position for the Night. A considerable Portion of the Provisions and Necessaries with which we started, had been lost during the Action, and we occupied our Ground under an Apprehension that even the great Exertions of Sir Home Popham and the Navy could not relieve us from Starvation.

My Lord, on every Occasion where it has been found necessary to call for the Co-operation of British Seamen in Land Enterprizes, their Valour has been so conspicuous, and their Spirit of Labour and Perseverance so unconquerable, that no Tribute of my Applause can add a Lustre to their Character; but I discharge a most agreeable Portion of my Duty in assuring your Lordship, that on the recent Employment of their Services, they have maintained their Reputation: And in this Place it behoves me to inform your Lordship, that the uniform good Conduct of those gallant Fellows, and the Zeal of Captain George Byng who commanded them, together with that of every subordinate Officer, have merited my fullest Approbation.

The Loss of the Enemy in this Engagement is reputed to exceed seven hundred Men in killed and wounded; and it is with the most sensible Gratification that I contrast it with the inclosed Return of our Casualties. Your Lordship will perceive the Name of Lieutenant Colonel Grant among the wounded, but the heroic Spirit of this Officer was not subdued by his Misfortune, and he continued to lead his Men to Glory, as long as an Enemy was opposed to his Majesty's 72d Regiment. I have the cordial Satisfaction to add, that his Wound, though very severe, is not pronounced dangerous; and I indulge the Hope and Expectation of his early Recovery and Resumption of Command.

On the Morning of the 9th, recruited by such Supplies as the unwearied Diligence and Efforts of the Navy could throw on shore, the 59th Regiment however, being almost completely destitute of Food, we prosecuted our March towards Cape-Town, and took up a Position South of Salt River, which we trusted might preserve a free communication with the Squadron; for our Battering Train, as well as every other Necessary, except Water, was to pass to us from His Majesty's Ships. In this Situation, a Flag of Truce was sent to me by the Commandant of the Garrison of Cape-Town, (the Governor General Jaansens, having retired after the Action of the 8th into the Country, moving by Hottentots Holland Kloof,) requesting a Suspension of Hostilities for Forty-eight Hours, in order to negotiate a Capitulation. In Answer to this Overture, I dispatched Brigadier-General Ferguson, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Brownrigg, to stipulate, as the Condition of my Acquiescence, the Surrender of the Outworks of the Town within Six Hours, allowing Thirty six Hours for arranging the Articles of Capitulation.

My Proposition being assented to, the 59th Regiment marched into Fort Knokke; and the next Day, in Conjunction with Sir Home Popham, the Terms were agreed upon, and His Majesty's Forces