

and Brigadier General Campbell attacked their Position; and having turned their Left Flank by the Heights, they abandoned it, leaving a Gun and some Prisoners behind them. This Attack was necessarily made at a late Hour in the Evening.

On the Seventeenth, we moved to Ruivaes (waiting to see whether the Enemy would turn upon Chaves, or continue his Retreat upon Monte Alegre) and on the Eighteenth to this Place.

I here found that he had taken a Road through the Mountains towards Orense, by which it would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to overtake him, and on which I had no Means of stopping him.

The Enemy commenced this Retreat, as I have informed your Lordship, by destroying a great Proportion of his Guns and Ammunition. He afterwards destroyed the Remainder of both, and a great Proportion of his Baggage, and kept nothing excepting what the Soldiers or a few Mules could carry. He has left behind him his Sick and Wounded; and the Road from Penafiel to Monte Alegre is strewed with the Carcases of Horses and Mules, and French Soldiers, who were put to Death by the Peasantry before our Advanced Guard could save them.

This last Circumstance is the natural Effect of the Species of Warfare which the Enemy have carried on in this Country.

Their Soldiers have plundered and murdered the Peasantry at their Pleasure; and I have seen many Persons hanging in the Trees by the Sides of the Road, executed for no Reason that I could learn, excepting that they have not been friendly to the French Invasion and Uturpation of the Government of their Country; and the Route of their Column on their Retreat could be traced by the Smoke of the Villages to which they set Fire.

We have taken about Five Hundred Prisoners. Upon the whole the Enemy has not lost less than a Fourth of his Army, and all his Artillery and Equipments, since we attacked him upon the Yonga.

I hope your Lordship will believe that no Measure which I could take was omitted to intercept the Enemy's Retreat. It is obvious, however, that if an Army throws away all its Cannon, Equipments, and Baggage, and every Thing which can strengthen it, and can enable it to act together as a Body, and abandon all those who are entitled to its Protection, but add to its Weight and impede its Progress, it must be able to march by Roads through which it cannot be followed with any Prospect of being overtaken by an Army which has not made the same Sacrifices.

It is impossible to say too much of the Exertions of the Troops. The Weather has been very bad indeed. Since the Thirteenth, the Rain has been constant, and the Roads in this difficult Country almost Impracticable. But they have persevered in the Pursuit to the last, and have been generally on their March from Day-light in the Morning till Dark.

The Brigade of Guards were at the Head of the Column, and set a laudable Example; and in the Affair with the Enemy's Rear Guard on the Evening of the 16th, they conducted themselves remarkably well.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*Commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Pembroke.*

*Southern Regiment of Royal Pembroke-shire Local Militia.*

The Right Honourable William Lord Kensington to be Colonel. Dated May 15, 1809.

John Hensleigh Allen, Esq; to be Lieutenant Colonel. Dated as above.

John Leach, Esq; to be Major. Dated as above.

Thomas Philipps, Esq; to be Captain. Dated as above.

George Bowling, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

Thomas Propert, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

Thomas Philipps, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

John Crum, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

David Runwa Paynter, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

William Harries, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

Lewis Childs, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

Richard Rees, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

James Childs, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

George Smith, Gent. to be Lieutenant. Dated as above.

John Boston, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

Samuel Hood Philipps, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

John Vogle, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

Richard Llewellyn, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

George Davies, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

Nathaniel Eland, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

William Thomas, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

Morgan Davies, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

John William Russell, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

James Dalton, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

William Davies, Gent. to be Ensign. Dated as above.

William Richardson, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

John Llewellyn, Gent. to be ditto. Dated as above.

William Cozens, Gent. to be Quarter-Master. Dated as above.

William Thomas, M. D. to be Surgeon. Dated as above.

*Commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County Palatine of Lancaster.*

William Hulton, Esq; to be Deputy Lieutenant. Dated October 24, 1808.

Samuel Clowes, Esq; to be ditto. Dated as above.

*2d. Battalion of Royal Lancashire Militia.*

The Honourable Richard Mullins to be Ensign. Dated January 15, 1809.

John Hulton, Gent. to be ditto. Dated January 19, 1809.

Joshua Oglethorpe, Gent. to be ditto. Dated February 15, 1809.

*3d. Ditto.*

Joshua Dearden, Gent. to be Lieutenant. Dated May 20, 1809.