

SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, October 5, 1812.

DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been this morning received at Earl Bathurst's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Marquess of Wellington, K. B.

Villa de Toro, near Burgos, 21st September 1812.

Continued to follow the enemy with the troops under my command till the 16th, when I was joined at Pampliega by three divisions of infantry, and a small body of cavalry, of the army of Gallicia; his Excellency the Captain-General Castaños having arrived at head-quarters on the 14th. The enemy had on the 16th taken a strong position on the heights behind Celada del Camino, and arrangements were made to attack them on the morning of the 17th, but the enemy retired in the night, and they were driven on the 17th to the heights close to Burgos. They retired through the town in the night, leaving behind them some cloathing and other stores, and a large quantity of wheat and barley; and they have since continued their retreat to Briviesca, where, it is reported, they have been joined by seven thousand conscripts. It is likewise reported, that the Prince of Esling has been ordered by the local government of France to come and take the command of the army.

The castle of Burgos commands the passages of the river Arlanzon in the neighbourhood, and the roads communicating with them, so completely, that we could not pass the river till the 19th, when we effected that operation in two columns, the 5th division and Brigadier-General Bradford's brigade above, and the 1st division and Brigadier-General Pack's brigade, and Major-General Anson's cavalry, below the town.

Burgos is situated in that division of Spain allotted to the army of the north, and General Caffarelli, who had been here on the 17th, had placed in the castle a garrison of the troops of that army, consisting, as is reported, of two thousand five hundred men. The enemy had taken considerable pains to fortify the castle of Burgos, and had occupied with a hornwork the hill of St. Michael's, which has a considerable command over some of the works of the castle, at the distance of three hundred yards.

They had likewise occupied other parts of that hill with flèches and other works for the protection of their picquets and outposts.