

A Party of about 60 or 70 Horse advanced to the Road that is on the Right of that of Tangier, a very high Ground, and open to overlook our Camp, and it was immediately discerned, that they were their Bishops and other chief Commanders, who continued in that Place till near one of the Clock, when they were seen to return on their Left, to join their Army, and give the Signal for the general Attack, as they did, some small Parties of Horse they had posted to that Effect firing along from one Eminence to another, whereupon one of their Columns of Infantry immediately moved in a very hasty Manner, and close Order, making a large Front, but being much more considerable in Depth, and with the same Swift-ness advanced to the little Hill, said above to be before our advanced Work called the Tenaille, in order to attack it, as they did with the greatest Boldness, fixing their Colours close by it, and marching up to our Cheveaux de Frize, which they endeavour'd to remove, with such Resolution, that it might be accounted Rashness, for they were exposed and lay open to the great and incessant Fire of our Infantry, and of several Batteries, which flank'd that Place, and yet they continued their Attempts all along the Front of the Tenaille and in other Places, firing continually, and seconded by the Fire of some other Bodies of their Infantry from the Eminences, whence, tho' somewhat distant, they not only reached with their long Firelocks, but in some Posts could see our Men from Head to Foot as they stood behind the Breastworks.

The Marquess de Lede, being sensible of the great Importance of that Post of the Tenaille, had provided it very well, and with the Supplies he sent from time to time, when he perceived the Enemy mostly bent against that Place, there were in it during the Heat of the Action, the two Battalions of the Regiment of Murcia, 26 Companies of Grenadiers, three Piquets of Infantry, and the Companies of Carabiniers of the Regiment of Belgia, Saguntum, and Dublin; and the Infidels carrying on their Attacks with the greatest Resolution and Undauntedness, he ordered the said three Regiments of Dragoons, with their Brigadier the Count de Pezucla, who commanded them, to dismount, and take Post in the Intrenchment, to reinforce the Infantry that defended it.

The Fight began at One of the Clock after Noon, and held on till Five in the Evening, with a Fire so great and continual, that all the Old Officers declare, that of all the Actions they ever were in in Europe, they never saw the like of this.

Tho' this Attack was begun by one great Column of Infantry, it was sustained and several Times renewed by two other Columns or Bodies of between 8 or 10000 Men each, which followed in the Rear, and were in the Nature of a Reserve. Perceiving that they could not possess themselves of the Tenaille by the Front or Head, they made 3 several Attempts to enter it at the Gorge, but all those Posts being well flank'd by the Fire of our Infantry, and our Artillery which was charg'd with small Shot, they lost so many Men, that at length, having met with so many Repulses, and finding all their Attempts were in vain, their Fire begun to abate about half an Hour after four, and being convinced of the Impossibility of succeeding; they tur'd their Colours and began to fly at 5 in the Evening; nor is it strange, that they should draw off with such Precipitation, for in the same manner they move and come on to their Attacks. It was observed upon their Retreat, that they took up some Standards as well as Colours, whence it was concluded that some of their Cavalry dismounted had been joined with the Infantry in carrying on their Attack. The main Body of the Cavalry did not come near the Trenches, as they had done, to no Purpose in the Action on the 9th, for being either warned by the great Loss they had then sustained, or better commanded by an abler General, they advanced and continued in the Rear of the Infantry, sustaining and encouraging them, as also helping to carry off their Dead and Wounded Men, as is usual with them on all Occasions, to ease the Infantry of that Trouble. It was also observed, that most of the Killed and Wounded being carried beyond the Brake by the Infantry, many of those who had performed this Part, either would stay there or scourg'd off to avoid returning to the Engagement, whereupon the Commanders of the Enemy's Cavalry appointed some Parties to force those Runaways back to the Attack, with their drawn Scymiters in their Hands. It is not easy to express how extraordinary careful they are to carry off the killed and

Wounded, nor is the Reason of it known, but they themselves killed all that were dangerously wounded before they carried them off.

According to all the best Intelligence that could be had of the Strength of the Infidels, and what was observed during the Engagement, their Army amounted to 60000 Men, and among them 15000 Horse, including 10000 Blacks, called the King's Guards, being the Troops most depended on for their Courage and Conduct. The Loss they suffered upon this Occasion is computed at seven or 8000 Men killed and wounded, as near as can be guessed, as well by those they carry'd off and what remained in the Camp, as by the great Slaughter there was seen to be made by the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery, which never ceased playing during the four Hours the Action lasted, sometimes with their Bullet, and at other times with Cartridge-Shot, as Occasion required, having been duly and skillfully served by its Commandant the Brigadier Don Joseph Gayoso, and by the Colonels Count Marlhani and Don John Pangarron. The Infidels also suffered very much in their Retreat, especially at the Time they ascended the Eminences, being exposed to the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery. Our Loss may be above 300 Men killed and wounded, according to the Accounts of the 21st. Among the killed is Major General Don Felix de Aragon, who commanded at the Attack. Brigadier Don John Pacheco Portocarrero, Colonel of the Regiment of Murcia, and Colonel Don Peter de Pineda, Captain of Grenadiers in the Spanish Guards, are dangerously wounded, both of them in the Thigh, as is Don Francis Fantoni Valderrama, Sub-Lieutenant in the Spanish Guards, and several other Officers, of whom an Account is expected, and of all the other Particulars. Lieutenant General Don Joseph de Chaves, and Major General Chateaufort, though they were sick in Bed, went out to be present at the Action, and continued till the last, the former of them received a Contusion, and the Brigadier Count de Ytre, Colonel of the Regiment of Belgia, two.

The Marquess de Lede was, during the whole Time of the Action in the Center, at the Attack, making the necessary Dispositions, and giving Orders for the Defence, and all that was requisite, and his Horse was shot under him with two Musket Balls.

The Regiments of Dragoons of Belgia, Saguntum and Dublin, were posted on the Way of our Centre, but as soon as they dismounted, and were incorporated with the Infantry, for the Defence of the Intrenchment, their Place was supplied by the Regiments of Horse of the Prince and Rouffillon, to be ready upon Occasion. The Regiments of Horse of the Orders and Montesa, had their Post on the Right, and that of Dragoons of Pavia on the Left.

All the General and Inferior Officers signalized their Valour, Conduct, and Zeal, as appears by the Success of this great Victory, and the Bravery and Steadiness of the Soldiers was suitable, which was so extraordinary in the Grenadiers who defended the Post of the Tenaille, that many of them not valuing the Security of the Breastwork, mounted upon it, and continued there firing, till they were wounded, or their Officers by Force obliged them to come down; which they no sooner did than others got up to fill the Places they had left, the Authority and Threats of their Officers not being sufficient to keep them behind the Breastwork, being so animated, that without regarding the Duty of Obedience, or the Danger they exposed themselves to, they chose the greatest Hazards to do the more Harm to the common Enemy of Christendom.

The Bishop of Ceuta giving fresh Proofs of his Zeal and Charity, went into the Camp and continued there during the whole Action, attended by several Priests, administering the Holy Sacraments to such as were dangerously wounded, and assisting all in their Spiritual and Temporal Concerns with extraordinary Fervour and Constancy in the midst of Dangers; for one of the Chaplains that assisted him in these pious Functions, was wounded by his Side.

The Chevalier Gomicour, Colonel of the Regiment of Horse of Milan, and Quarter-Master General of the Horse of the said Army, arrived at Court with this important Advice on the 28th of December at Night; and being immediately admitted by his Majesty to Audience, gave this present Account, till farther Particulars can be had.