

# THE ARGENTINE NEWS.

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## FROM THE INTELLIGENCE.

### FROM THE 10th GEN. ENTRENCHMENT, Oct. 2.

#### BATTLE OF THE ALMA.

HEAD-QUARTERS, KITCHIA RIVER, Sept. 23, 1854.

My Lord Duke—I have the honor to inform your Grace that the Allied force attacked the position occupied by the Russian army, behind the Alma on the 25th inst., and I have great satisfaction in adding that they succeeded in less than three hours, in driving the enemy from every part of the ground which they held in the morning, and in establishing themselves upon it.

The English and French armies moved on the 10th, and launched for the night on the left bank of the river at the 10th, and have previously supported the advance of a part of the Earl of Cardigan's brigade of Light Cavalry, which had the object of forcing the enemy to move up a large body of Dragoons and Cossacks, with Artillery.

On this, the first occasion of the English encountering the Russian force, it was impossible for any troops to exhibit more steadiness than did this portion of her Majesty's Cavalry.

It fell back upon its supports with the most perfect regularity, and the conduct of the Artillery, which was quickly silenced by the batteries I caused to be brought into action.

Our losses amounted to only four men wounded.

The day's march had been most wearisome, and under a burning sun, the absence of water, until we reached the insignificant stream which I have the honor to inform you it is so severely felt.

Both arms moved towards the Alma the following morning, and it was arranged that Marshal St. Arnaud should assail the enemy's left, by crossing the river at its junction with the sea, and immediately above it, and that the remainder of the French divisions should move up the heights in their front, while the English army should attack the right and centre of the enemy's position.

In order that the gallantry exhibited by Her Majesty's troops, and the difficulties they had to meet may be fully appreciated, I need not tell, even at the risk of being considered tedious, to endeavour to make Your Grace acquainted with the position the Russians had taken up. It crossed the great road about 2½ miles from the sea, and is very strong by nature.

The bold and almost precipitous range of heights—of from 350 to 400 feet—that from the sea closely border the left bank of the river, here ceases, and formed the left, and turning thence round a great amphitheatre or wide valley, and ending in a slight pinnacle, where their right rested, and where the descent to the plain was more gradual. The front of the ridge was in the extent. Across the mouth of this great opening, is a lower ridge at different heights, varying from 60 to 100 feet above the river, and at distances from it of from six to eight hundred yards.

The river itself is generally fordable for troops, but it is extremely rugged, and in most parts steep; the willows around it form a screen down to the left bank, from affording cover to the attacking party, and in fact everything had been done to derive an excellent use of the shelter. In front of the position on the right bank, at about two hundred yards from the Alma, in the village of Beaulieu, were two strong bridges which had been partly destroyed by the enemy. The high pinnacle and ridge were alluded to, and near it the position was, and consequently, there the greatest number of batteries had been placed for defence. Half way down the height, a strong position was a trench of the extent of some 600 yards, and a line of willows advanced up the even steep slope of the hill. On the right, and a little retired, was a powerful covered battery, which was heavily shelled, and flanked the whole right of the position.

Artillery, at the same time, was posted at the main, the least commanded the passage of the river, and its approach generally. On the slopes of these hills, (which the soldiers tallied) were the guns of the enemy's Artillery, while on the heights above it was grouped, to between 45,000 and 50,000 men.

The combined armies advanced on the same alignment, Her Majesty's troops in contiguous double columns, with the front of two divisions covered by Light Infantry, and a troop of Horse Artillery, the Second Division under Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, forming the right, and touching the left of the Third Division of the French army, under His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, and the Light Division under Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown, the left; the first being supported by the Third Division, under Lieutenant-General Sir Richard England, and the last by the First Division, commanded by Lieutenant-General His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

The Fourth Division, under Lieutenant-General Sir George Cathcart, and the Cavalry, under Major-General Earl of Lucan, were held in reserve, to protect the left flank against a rear attack, a large body of the enemy's Cavalry, which had been seen in that direction.

On approaching to near the fire of the guns, which soon became extremely formidable, the two leading divisions deployed into line and advanced to attack the front, and the supporting divisions followed the movement. Hardly had this taken place when the village of Beaulieu, immediately opposite our centre, was fired by the enemy at all points, causing a continuous blaze for 300 yards, obscuring their position, and rendering a passage through it impracticable. Two regiments of Brigadier-General Adams' brigade, part of Sir De Lacy Evans' division, fell in with the enemy's Cavalry at a deep and difficult ford to the right, and the remainder of the brigade, under Major-General Pennefather, and the remaining regiment of Brigadier-General Adams' Cavalry, which had been in the rear, opposed by the enemy's Artillery from the heights above, and pressed on towards the left of their position, with the utmost gallantry and steadiness.

In the meanwhile, the Light Division, under Major-General, effected the passage of the Alma, and the remainder of the division of the river itself, were, from their rugged and broken nature, most serious obstacles, and the vineyard, through which the troops had to pass, and the trees which the enemy had felled, created additional impediments, rendering every species of formation, under a galling fire, nearly an impossibility. Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown, advanced against the enemy, under great disadvantages.

In this difficult operation, he nevertheless persevered, and the First Brigade, under Major-General Cochrane, succeeded in carrying a redoubt, materially aided by the judicious and steady manner in which Brigadier-General Buller moved on the left flank, and the gallantry of the 1st and 2nd Rifle Brigades, under Major Narcotti, who promises to be a distinguished officer of light troops.

The heavy fire of grape and musketry, however, to which the troops were exposed, and the great exertions of the 1st and 2nd Rifle Brigades, 23rd, and 33d regiments, obliged this brigade partially to relinquish its hold, and the 1st and 2nd Rifle Brigades, under Brigadier-General Buller, succeeded in crossing the river, and had moved up in support, and a brilliant attack was made by the 1st and 2nd Rifle Brigades, under Major-General Bentinck, drove the enemy back, and secured the final possession of the position.

The Highland Brigade, under Major-General Colin Campbell, advanced in admirable order, and, coinciding with the advance of the Guards; and Major-General Pennefather, with the right of the Light Division, forced the enemy completely to abandon the position they had taken such pains to defend and secure. The 53th regiment, immediately on the right of the Royal Artillery, which it suffered equally with that corps an immense loss.

The aid of the Royal Artillery in all these operations was most efficient. The exertions of the field officers, and the capacity of the troops, and the manner in which they acted were unexampled, and the precision of their fire materially contributed to the success of the day.

was actively engaged in watching the left flank. The nature of the ground did not admit of the employment of the Cavalry under the Earl of Lucan, but they succeeded in taking some prisoners at the close of the battle.

In the detail of these operations, which I have gone into as far as the space of a despatch would allow, Your Grace will perceive, that the services in which the General and other Officers of the army were engaged, were of no ordinary character; and I have great pleasure in submitting them for Your Grace's most favorable consideration. The Duke of Cambridge, under Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown conducted his division under the most trying circumstances, demonstrated the greatest amount of valor and approbation. The fire to which his division was subjected, and the difficulties he had to contend against, afforded him the opportunity of best energies were applied to the successful discharge of his duty.

I must speak in corresponding terms of Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, who likewise conducted his division with perfect satisfaction, and exhibited equal coolness and judgment in carrying out a most difficult operation.

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge, brought his division into action in support of the Light Division, with great ability, and for the first time an opportunity of showing the enemy his devotion to Her Majesty, and to the profession of which he is so distinguished a member.

My best thanks are due to Lieutenant-General Sir R. E. Taylor, who, by the aid of the Hon. Sir George Cathcart, and Lieutenant-General the Earl of Lucan, for their gallant and successful conduct, which I am afforded, and I feel it my duty especially to refer to Your Grace's notice the distinguished conduct of Major-General Bentinck, Major-General Sir Colin Campbell, Major-General Pennefather, Major-General Adams, and Brigadier-General Buller.

In the affair of the previous day, Major-General the Earl of Cardigan, exhibited the utmost spirit and coolness, and kept his brigade under the most perfect command.

The manner in which Brigadier-General Strangways directed the Artillery, and executed his duty, I feel it my duty to refer to as meriting to be brought forward, in my own satisfaction.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Burgoyne, was constantly by my side, and rendered me his counsel and advice, the most valuable assistance; and the commanding Royal Engineer, Brigadier-General Tyliden, was always at hand to carry out any service I might direct him to undertake.

I deeply regret to say, that he has since fallen to a violent fever, and I am very sorry to hear that he was present at the affair of the 25th inst., and that he was then suffering from serious illness. He had, from the illness of Major-General Adams, and the absence of the most efficient man, I cannot speak too highly of Brigadier-General Estcourt, Adjutant-General of the Cavalry, who, during the short time he has conducted the duties of the Quartermaster-General, has displayed the greatest ability as well as aptitude for the office.

I am much indebted to my Military Secretary, Colonel Derriman, Major-General Lord Burghersh, and the officers of my personal Staff, for the zeal, intelligence, and activity, they all, without exception, displayed.

Lieutenant Derriman, R. N., the Commandant of the Royal Artillery, has rendered the whole of the operation, and rendered me an essential service, by a close observation of the enemy's position, which his practised eye enabled him accurately to watch.

I lament to say, that Lieutenant Colonel Lagonie, who was attached to my headquarters by the Emperor of the French, fell in the morning of the 25th inst., on his return from Prince Napoleon's division, where he had obligingly gone, at my request, to see a communication of his Imperial Highness.

This misfortune is deeply regretted, both by myself and in office. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

mental officers of the army have submitted to most unusual privations. My anxiety to bring into the country every Cavalry and Infantry soldier who was available, prevented me from embarking their baggage animals, and these officers have with them in this most trying battle what they can carry, and they, equally with the men, are without tents or covering of any kind.

I have not heard a single murmur. All soon impressed with the necessity of the arrangement; and they felt, I trust, satisfied that I shall bring up their batteries at the earliest moment.

The conduct of the troops has been admirable. When it is considered that they have suffered severely from sickness during the last two weeks of the winter we had in the Crimea, they have been exposed to the extremity of wet, cold, and heat; that the daily exertions to provide themselves with water have been excessive; and that they have been pursued by cholera in every battle-field, I do not go beyond the truth in declaring that they merit the highest commendation.

In the ardor of attack they forgot all they had endured, and displayed that high courage, which I did not think it necessary for an Irish soldier is ever distinguished, and under the heaviest fire they maintained the same determination to conquer as they exhibited before they went into action. I should be wanting in duty, My Lord Duke, if I did not mention to Your Grace the most earnest manner, my deep feeling of gratitude to the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, who, by their assistance, afforded the army upon this, as on every occasion, where it could be brought to bear upon the enemy, the most efficient aid.

They watched the progress of the day with the most intense anxiety, and, as the best way of exciting their participation in our success, and their sympathy in the sufferings of the wounded, they never ceased to be laboring in the hospitals we left the ground this morning, to provide for the sick and wounded, and to carry them down to the nearest labour in which we could employ officers even volunteered to participate, and to assist in the most judicious manner with the warmest feelings.

I mention no names, fearing I might omit some who were worthy of notice, but none who were associated with us spared any exertion they could apply to so sacred a duty.

Sir Edmund Lyons, who had charge of the whole, was, as always, most prominent in rendering assistance, and providing for emergencies.

I enclose the return of killed and wounded. It is I lament to say, very large; but I hope, all circumstances considered, that it will be felt that no life was unnecessarily sacrificed, and that the number of the wounded was not achieved without a considerable sacrifice.

I cannot venture to estimate the amount of the Russian loss. I believe it to have been great, and such is the report in the capital cities.

The number of prisoners who are not hurt is small, but the wounded amount to 900 or 800. The general officers, Major-Generals Karginoff and Shookanoff—fell into our hands. The former is very badly wounded.

I will not attempt to describe the movements of the French army—that will be done by a better hand than I, but I do not think to say, that their operations were eminently successful, and that under the guidance of the distinguished Commander-in-Chief, Marshal St. Arnaud, they manifested the utmost gallantry, the greatest ardor for the attack, and the most intrepid courage, for which they are so famed.

This despatch will be delivered to Your Grace by a noble and brave officer, who is capable of affording you the fullest information, and whom I beg to recommend to your special notice.

I have, &c.

RAGLAN.

I enclose a sketch of the field of battle.

His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

GRAND TOTAL OF KILLED, WOUNDED, AND CAPTURED BY THE ALLIED ARMY.

Killed—Twenty six officers, which is very great; twenty six drummers, five hundred and six rank and file, and two yak horses.





