

The London Gazette Extraordinary *Sunday, Sept. 13.*

Les 5 et 6 juillet 1807, les forces britanniques tentent de reprendre la ville de Buenos Aires aux Espagnols. Elles se heurtent à une résistance farouche, dirigée par Jacques de Liniers. Le 10 juillet, le général WHITELOCKE, commandant les forces britanniques, adresse à Londres une dépêche pour rendre compte de l'échec de son entreprise et de sa capitulation.



C'est le 13 septembre 1807, dans les colonnes de la *London Gazette Extraordinary*, que l'Angleterre apprendra ce cuisant revers des armes britanniques en Amérique du Sud qui vaudra au général WHITELOCKE un procès retentissant en 1808 et de nombreuses caricatures dans les journaux de l'époque.



Gaëtan de Raucourt s'est récemment porté acquéreur du n° 122 du journal *THE NEWS*, daté du dimanche 20 septembre 1807 qui reproduit intégralement les principaux passages de la *London Gazette Extraordinary*, et notamment la dépêche du général WHITELOCKE et les termes du traité signé le 7 juillet. Il vous propose de les découvrir dans la suite de ce document.

Downing-Street, Sept. 12, 1807

Lieutenant Colonel BOURKE, Deputy Quarter-Master General to his Majesty's troops serving in South America, arrived this morning at the Office of Viscount CASTLEREAGH, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from the Rio de la Plata, with a dispatch from Lieutenant-General WHITELOCKE, addressed to the Right Hon. William WINDHAM, of which the following is a copy :

Buenos Ayres, July 10, 1807

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his information, that upon being joined at Montevideo on the 15th of June, by the corps under Brigadier-General CRAUFURD, not one moment was lost by Rear-Admiral MURRAY and myself in making every necessary arrangement for the attack of Buenos Ayres. After many delays, occasioned by foul winds, a landing was effected, without opposition, on the 28th of the same month, at the Ensinada de Barragon, a small Bay about 30 miles to the Eastward of the town. The corps employed on this expedition were three brigades of light artillery, under Captain FRASER; the 5th, 38th, and 87th regiments of foot, under Brigadier-General Sir Samuel ACHMUTY; the 17th light dragoons, 36th and 88th regiments, under Brigadier-General the Hon. Wm. LUMLEY; eight companies of the 95th regiment, and nine light infantry companies, under Brigadier-General CRAUFURD; four troops of the 6th dragoon guards, the 9th light dragoons, 40th and 45th regiments of foot, under Colonel the Hon. T. MAHON; all the dragoons being dismounted, except four troops of the 17th, under Lieut. Colonel LLOYD.

After some fatiguing marches through a country much intersected by swamps and deep muddy rivulets, the army reached Reduction, a village about nine miles distant from the bridge over the Rio-Chuelo; on the opposite bank of which the enemy has constructed batteries, and established a formidable defence. I resolved, therefore, to turn this position, by marching in two columns from my left, and crossing the river higher up, where it was represented fordable, to unite my force in the suburbs of Buenos Ayres. I sent directions at the same time to Colonel MAHON, who was bringing up the greater part of the artillery under the protection of the 17th Light Dragoons and 40th regiment, to wait for further orders at Reduction.

Major-General LEVESON GOWER having the command of the right column, crossed the river at a pass called the Passo Chico, and falling in with a corps of the enemy's, gallantly attacked and defeated it, for the particulars of which action, I beg to refer you to the annexed report. Owing to the ignorance of my guide, it was not until the next day that I joined with the main body of the army, when I formed my line by placing Brigadier-General Sir Samuel ACHMUTY's Brigade upon the left, extending it towards the Convent of the Recoleta, from which it was distant two miles. The 36th and 88th regiments being on its right; Brigadier-Gen. CRAUFURD's Brigade occupying the central and principal avenues of the town, being distant about three miles from the Great Square and Fort; and the 6th dragoon guards, 9th light dragoons and 45th regiment being upon his right, and extending towards the Residencia. The town was thus nearly invested, and this disposition of the Army, and the circumstances of the Town and Suburbs being divided into squares of 140 yards each side, together with the knowledge that the enemy meant to occupy the flat roofs of the houses, gave rise to the following plan of attack.

Brigadier-General Sir Samuel ACHMUTY was directed to detach the 38th regiment to possess itself of the Plaza de Toros, and the adjacent strong ground, and there take post : the 87th, 5th, 36th, and 88th regiments were each divided into wings; and each wing ordered to penetrate into the street directly in its front. The light battalion divided into wings, and each followed by a wing of the 95th regiment, and a three-pounder, was ordered to proceed down the two streets on the right of the central one, and the 45th regiment down the two adjoining; and after clearing the streets of the enemy, this latter regiment was to take post at Residencia. Two 6-pounders were ordered along the central street, covered by the carabineers and three troops of the 9th light dragoons, the remainder of which was posted as a reserve in the centre. Each division was ordered to proceed along the street directly in its front, till it arrived at the last square of houses next the river Plata, of which it was to possess itself, forming on the flat roofs, and there wait for further orders. The 95th regiment was to occupy two of the most commanding situations, from which it could annoy the enemy. Two corporals with tools were ordered to march at the head of each column, for the purpose of breaking open the doors; the whole were unloaded, and no firing was to be permitted until the columns had reached their final points and formed; a cannonade in the central streets was the signal for the whole to come forward.

In conformity to this arrangement, at half past six o'clock of the 5th inst., the 38th regiment moving towards its left, and the 87th straight to its front, approached the strong post of the Retiro and Plaza de Toros, and after a most vigorous and spirited attack, in which these regiments suffered much from grapeshot and musketry, their gallant Commander, Brigadier-General Sir Samuel ACHMUTY, possessed himself of the post, taking thirty-two pieces of cannon, an immense quantity of ammunition, and 600 prisoners. The 5th regiment meeting with but little opposition, proceeded to the river, and took possession of the church and convent of St. Catalina.

The 36th and 88th regiments, under Brigadier-Gen. LUMLEY, moving in the appointed order, were soon opposed by a heavy and continued fire of musketry from the tops and windows of the houses; the doors of which were barricaded in so strong a manner, as to render them almost impossible to force. The streets were intersected by deep ditches, in the inside of which were planted cannon, pouring showers of grapes on the advancing columns. In defiance, however, of this opposition, the 36th regiment, headed by the gallant General, reached the final destination; but the 88th being nearer to the fort and principal defences of the enemy, were so weakened by his fire as to be totally overpowered and taken. The flank of the 36th being thus exposed, this regiment, together with the 5th retired upon Sir Samuel ACHMUTY's post at the Plaza de Toros; not, however, before Lieut.-Col. BURNE, and the grenadier company of the 36th regiment, had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, by charging about 800 of the enemy, and taking and spiking two guns. The two 6-pounders moving up the central streets meeting with a superior fire, the four troops of carabineers, led on by Lieut.-Col. KINGSTON, advanced to take the battery opposed to them, but this gallant officer being unfortunately wounded, as well as Capt. BURRELL, next in command, and the fire both from the battery and the houses proving very destructive, they retreated to a short distance, but continued to occupy a position in front of the enemy's principal defences, and considerably in advance of that which they had taken in the morning.

The left division of Brigadier-General CRAUFURD's brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel PACK passed on nearly to the river, and turning to the left, approached the great square with the intention of possessing itself of the Jesuit's College, a situation which commanded the enemy's principal line of defence. But from the very destructive nature of his fire, this was found impracticable, and after sustaining a heavy loss, one part of the division throwing itself into a house which was afterwards found not tenable, was shortly obliged to surrender, whilst

the remaining part, after enduring a dreadful fire with the greatest intrepidity, Lieut.-Col. PACK its commander being wounded, retired upon the right division commanded by Brigadier-General CRAUFURD himself. This division having passed quite through to the river Plata, turned also to the left to approach the Great Square and Fort from the North East Bastion, of which it was distant about four hundred yards, when Brigadier-Gen. CRAUFURD, leaving the fate of his left division, through it most advisable to take possession of the Convent of St Domingo, near which he then was, intending to proceed onward to the Franciscan Church which lay still nearer the fort, if the attack or success of any other of our columns should free him in some measure from the host of enemies which surrounded him. The 45th regiment being further from the enemy's centre, had gained the Residencia without much opposition and Lieut.-Col. GUARD having it in possession of his Battalion Companies, moved down with the Grenadier Company towards the centre of the town, and joined Brig.-Gen. CRAUFURD.

The enemy, who now surrounded the Convent on all sides, attempting to take a 3-pounder which lay in the street, the Lieut.-Col. with his Company, and a few Light Infantry under Major TROTTER, charged them with great spirit. In an instant the greater part of his Company, and Major TROTTER (an Officer of great merit) were killed, but the gun was saved. The Brig.-General was now obliged to confine himself to the defence of the Convent, from which the riflemen kept up a well directed fire upon such of the enemy as approached the post; but the quantity of round shot, grape, and musketry to which they were exposed, at last obliged them to quit the top of the building; and the enemy, to the number of 6000, bringing up cannon to force the wooden gates which fronted the fort, the Brig.-Gen. having no communication with any other columns, and judging from the cessation of firing that those next him had not been successful, surrendered at four o'clock in the afternoon.

The result of this day's action had left me in possession of the Plaza de Toros, a strong post on the enemy's right, and the Residencia, another strong post on the enemy's left, whilst I occupied an advanced position opposite his centre; but these advantages had cost him about two thousand five hundred men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The nature of the fire, to which the troops were exposed, was violent in the extreme. Grape shot at the corners of all the streets, musketry, band-grenades, bricks, and stones from the tops of all the houses, every householder with his negroes defended his dwelling, each of which in itself was a fortress, and it is not, perhaps, too much to say, that the whole male population of Buenos Ayres was employed in its defence.

This was the situation of the army on the morning of the 6th inst. when Gen. LINIERS addressed a letter to me, offering to give up all his prisoners taken in the late affair, together with the 71st regiment, and others, taken with Brig.-Gen. BERESFORD, if I desisted from any further attack on the town, and withdrew his Majesty's forces from the river Plata, intimating at the same time, from the exasperated state of the populace, he could not answer for the safety of the prisoners, if I persisted in offensive measures. Influenced by this consideration (which I knew from better authority to be founded in fact), and reflecting of how little advantage would be the possession of a country, the inhabitants of which were so absolutely hostile, I resolved to forego the advantages which the bravery of the troops had obtained, and acceded to the annexed treaty, which I trust will meet the approbation of his Majesty.

I have nothing further to had, except to mention, in terms of the highest praise, the conduct of Rear-Adm. MURRAY, whose cordial co-operation has never been wanting whenever the army could be benefited by his exertions. Cap. ROWLEY of the Royal Navy, commanding the seamen on shore, Captain BAYNTUN, of his Majesty's ship Africa, who superintended the debarkation, and Captain THOMPSON, of the Fly, who had the direction of

the gun-boats, and had previously rendered me much service by reconnoitring the river, are all entitled to be best thanks.

As his character already stands so high, it is almost unnecessary to state that from my second in command, Major-Gen. LEVESON GOWER, I have experienced every zealous and useful assistance; my thanks are likewise due to Brigadiers-Gen. Sir S. ACHMUTY and LUMLEY, and to Col. MAHON and Brigadier-Gen. CRAUFURD commanding brigades. I cannot sufficiently bring to notice the uncommon exertions of Capt. FRASER, commanding the Royal Artillery, the fertility of whose mind, zeal and animation in all cases, left difficulties behind. Captain SQUIRES of the Royal Engineers, is also entitled to my best thanks; nor should I omit the gallant conduct of Major NICHOLLS of the 45th regiment, who on the morning of the 6th instant, being pressed by the enemy near the Residencia, charged them with great spirit, and took two howitzers and many prisoners. Lieutenant-Colonel BRADFORD, Deputy Adjutant-General, has likewise a great claim to my approbation as a gallant and promising Officer.

The Officers of my personal Staff, Lieut.-Col. TORRENS, Military Secretary, Captains BRAWN, FOSTER, DOUGLAS, and WHITTINGHAM, Aides-du-Camp, must also be mentioned by me in terms of just regard; the knowledge which the latter possesses of the Spanish language has been eminently useful to me.

This dispatch will be delivered to you by Lieutenant-Colonel BOURKE, Deputy Quarter-Master-General, who has afforded me that assistance which might be looked for from an Officer of his military talents and attachment to the service; to whom I beg to refer you for any further particulars respecting the military operations in this part of the world.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. WHITELOCKE, Lieutenant-General

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Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

Killed – 1 Major, 6 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 3 Staff, 18 Sergeants, 4 drummers, 279 rank and files – 316

Wounded – 3 Lieutenants-Colonels, 5 Majors, 16 Captains, 33 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 2 Staff, 1 Volunteer, 43 Sergeants, 11 drummers, 558 rank and file – 674

Missing – 2 Staff, 1 Quarter-Master, 4 Sergeants, 5 drummer, 196 rank and file – 208

Total, 316 killed, 674 wounded, 208 missing – 1198

The Light Company of the 71st regiment, attached to the Light Battalion, suffered severely, but not correct return of their loss has been received.

The prisoners have all been exchanged.

Names of Officers killed

82d Foot – Major TROTTER

6th Dragoon Guards – Captain BURRELL

Veterinary Surgeon Lauders, 9th Dragoons

Lieutenant FULTON, 38th Foot

36th Foot – Captains WILKINSON and JOHNSON

87th Foot – Captains CONCIDINE and JOHNSON. Lieutenants HAMILTON, BARRY, HULL, and Q. M. BUCHANAN

Assistant-Surgeon – FERGUSON, 88th

Officers wounded

Lieutenants SQUAREY, Royal Navy, slightly

Lieutenant MACONOCHIE, Royal Artillery, ditto

Lieutenant-Colonel KINGSTON, 6th dragoons guards, severely

Lieutenant COWDALL, 9th light dragoons, slightly

Light Battalion – Lieutenant-Colonel PACH, 71st regiment, slightly; Lieutenant-Colonel CADOGAN, 18th regiment ditto; Lieutenant SMITH, 40th regiment, severely; Captain GREENWELL, 45th regiment ditto; Lieutenant COX, 87th regiment, slightly; Lieutenant NICKLE, 88th regiment, ditto; Lieutenant BURY, ditto, slightly; Captain BROOKMAN, 71st regiment, dangerously; lieutenant ADAMSON, ditto, severely.

5th Regiment – Hon. Major KING, slightly

36th Regiment – Captain SWAIN, severely; Captain VERNON, slightly; Captain WINGFIELD, severely; Lieutenant COTTON, ditto; Lieutenant CHALLONER, slightly; Lieutenant WHITE, severely; Lieutenant WHITTEL, ditto

38th Regiment – Ensign WILTSHIRE, severely; Volunteer Henry de WAAL, ditto

45th Regiment – Captain PAYNE, severely; Lieutenant MOORE, ditto

47th Regiment – Lieutenant RUTLEDGE, severely

87th Regiment – Major MILLER, severely; Captain ROSE, dangerously; Captain BLAKE, slightly; Captain DES BARRES, ditto; Captain GORDON, severely; Lieutenant CROWE, severely; Lieutenant LOVE, slightly; Lieutenant BUDD, slightly; Lieutenant FITZGERALD; Assistant Surgeon BUXTON, dangerously

88th Regiment – Major IREMONGER, slightly; Captain Mc PHERSON, ditto; Captain CHISHOLM, ditto; Captain DUNN, ditto; Captain THOMPSON, ditto; Lieutenant ADAIR, severely; Lieutenant THOMSON, ditto; Lieutenant GRAYDON, ditto; Lieutenant WHITTLE, ditto; Lieutenant BULLER, ditto; Lieutenant MACKIE, slightly; Lieutenant GREGG, ditto; Adjutant ROBERTSON, ditto

95th Regiment – Major Mc LEOD, slightly; Major TRAVERS, ditto; Captain O'HARE, severely; Captain ELDER, ditto; Lieutenant CARDOUX, ditto; Lieutenant Mc LEAD, ditto; Lieutenant SCOTT, ditto; Lieutenant TURNER, ditto; Lieutenant NOBLE, ditto; Lieutenant COANE, ditto; Lieutenant Mc CULLOCK, slightly

Officers missing

36th Regiment – Surgeon BOYCE, Assistant-Surgeon Read

DEFINITIVE TREATY

1. There shall be from this time a cessation of hostilities on both sides of the River Plata.
2. The troops of his Britannic Majesty shall remain for the period of two months, the fortress and place of Monte Video, and, as a neutral country, there shall be considered a line drawn from San Carlos on the West, to Pando on the East, and there shall not be on any part of that line hostilities committed on any side, the neutrality being understood only that the individuals of both nations may live freely under their respective laws, the Spanish subjects being judged by theirs, as the English by those of their nation.
3. There shall be on both sides a mutual restitution of prisoners, including not only those which have been taken since the arrival of the troops under Lieutenant-General WHITELOCKE, but also those his Britannic Majesty's subjects captured in South America since the commencement of the war.
4. That for the promptest dispatch of the vessels and troops of his Britannic Majesty, there shall be no impediment thrown in the way of the supplies of provisions which may be requested for Monte Video.
5. A period of ten days from this time is given for the re-embarkation of his Britannic Majesty's troops to pass to the North side of the river La Plata, with the arms which may actually be in their power, stores, and equipage, at the most convenient points which may be selected, and during this time provisions may be sold to them.
6. That at the time of the delivery of the place and fortress of Monte Video, which shall take place at the end of two months fixed in the 2d Article, the delivery will be made in the terms it was found, and with the artillery it had when it was taken.
7. Three Officers of Rank shall be delivered for and until the fulfilment of the above Articles by both parties, being well understood that his Britannic Majesty's Officers who have been on their parole, cannot serve against South America until their arrival in Europe.

Done at the Fort of Buenos Ayres, the 7th day of July, 1807, signing two of one tenor.

JOHN WHITELOCKE, Lieutenant-General Commanding
GEORGE MURRAY, Rear Admiral Commanding

SANTIAGO LINIERS
CESAR BALBIANI
BERNARDO VELASCOS

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Gaëtan de Raucourt
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