

SIEGE OF GIRONA, BY THE FRENCH ARMY OF CATALONIA, IN 1809

Alvarez alone, though himself stricken with a violent fever, remained unyielding. Some spoke of capitulating; others, wishing to rejoin Blake's army, proposed cutting their way through by force of arms. Among the former, one man dared to utter the word "*capitulation*" in the Governor's presence; but the Governor, interrupting him instantly, retorted: *"What! Are you, then, the only coward here? When our provisions run out, we shall eat you and those of your ilk; then I shall do whatever I see fit."*

For its part, the Provincial Junta was making every effort to relieve the besieged city¹. Through trusted messengers, it informed the Governor: that, at a congress convened in Manresa on 20 November, the province's representatives had unanimously resolved to raise, immediately, a force of fifty thousand men, aged sixteen to forty-five, to enable Blake's army to lift the siege of Girona; that a loan of ten million reals was to be raised immediately from the province's wealthiest citizens, so that funds would not be lacking for the execution of an undertaking as vital, in the eyes of all Spaniards, as the salvation of Girona; and that General Blake, having attended the Manresa congress in person alongside his own generals, had there endorsed the campaign plan proposed for the immediate deliverance of Girona. And finally, to the wish expressed with such spontaneity and unanimity by an entire province, and which was to be followed by an immediate attack upon the besiegers' outer line, there was now joined the resolution expressed on 26 November by the Supreme Junta of Seville: to contribute every means at its disposal to ensure that General Blake might hasten to the aid of the defenders of Girona, defenders who, in the name of the King, had been declared to have served their country no less meritoriously than those of Zaragoza.

These tidings, disseminated throughout the city by Alvarez, rekindled the ardor of both the garrison and the inhabitants, inspiring in them the hope of a speedy deliverance. But it was too late; Girona was destined to fall before these reinforcements could arrive.

On 4 December, a howitzer and a cannon were positioned on the slope of Mount Llivia. That morning, they fired upon the Mercadal bastions, adjacent to the Oña, while troops quartered in the houses of the Marine suburb directed heavy musket fire at the front of the Puerta del Carmen. The batteries at Montjuïc and San-Juan had also been maintaining a sustained fire for two days;

¹ See supporting documents, No. 81

they succeeded in bringing down the bell tower of the Church of Santa Lucia, where the enemy had established a post. The besieged garrison returned very little fire. A single musket shot fired from the cathedral mortally wounded Engineering Battalion Commander Boischevalier.

On the morning of the 5th, five deserters from the Ultonia, Bourbon, and Wimpfen regiments exited the fortress and presented themselves at our outposts; they were in a truly wretched condition. The following night, Engineering Captain Vacani, accompanied by a fearless soldier, conducted a reconnaissance of the town redoubt. He confirmed that the redoubt possessed an unflanked escarpment, six to seven meters in height and lacking a ditch; that it was accessible only via the road leading from the town; and that it communicated with the Constable Fort by means of a sort of covered way.

On the 6th, fire from all the batteries continued unabated, and preparations were made for an assault on the town redoubt. At midnight, a column, composed of the elite companies of the Italian Division, assembled at the building known as the Casa Carmelita, situated at the foot of the Capuchin heights. At its head, sappers were equipped with scaling ladders, along with several artillerymen carrying shells intended to blow open the gate. A column of troops from Berg and Würzburg, assembled at the Convent of San-Daniel, was tasked with simultaneously seizing the hamlet of La Gironnella and launching feint attacks against the forts to divide the enemy's attention.

In this operation, executed with vigor, the redoubt was scaled, the gate smashed open, and the garrison put to the sword; only a few men managed to escape by leaping over the walls. The work was immediately placed in a state of defense; two cannons found within were turned against the city and the forts; the gorge wall was crenellated; the gate was barricaded with a dry-stone wall; and a garrison, consisting of a company of grenadiers from the Sixth Italian Regiment, supplied with three days' provisions and ammunition, was left behind. All other troops returned to the Faubourg de la Marine before nightfall².

At daybreak, fire from the town and the Constable redoubts pounded this redoubt, destroyed the gun carriages stationed there, and forced the defenders to huddle within the terreplein. Shortly thereafter, the enemy, fully aware of the vital importance of this post for maintaining communications with the forts, launched a sortie with their finest troops in an attempt to retake it. The ensuing attack was ferocious; however, the grenadier company of the Sixth Italian Regiment held its ground, buying enough time for a relief column to emerge from the Marine suburb and strike the sortie force in the flank. As the struggle dragged on, the Spaniards imprudently withdrew the garrisons from the Calvary and Chapter redoubts to join the fighting outside. Yet, while these garrisons were locked in combat with the Italian troops advancing from the Marine suburb, the Sixth Italian Regiment, commanded by Colonel Eugène and encamped on the mountain opposite the Constable Fort, seized the moment to execute a timely diversion. It advanced to the foot of the Calvary Fort, assaulted it, and captured it without firing a shot; then, turning its attention to the Chapter redoubt, it occupied that position as well, meeting no resistance³. From that moment on, the besieged force was compelled to abandon all hope of re-

² See supporting documents, Nos. 82 and 83.

³ See supporting documents, No. 84.

establishing communications with the forts on the Capuchin Mountain, forts which, containing no provisions, were bound to fall of their own accord before long.

With the sappers having established themselves within the houses of the hamlet situated at the foot of the Gironnella Tower, a decision was made to capitalize on this situation by driving a mine beneath the tower. The objective was to blow it up, thereby securing a second entry point into the city and outflanking the entrenchments that the besieged force had constructed behind the old breaches.

On 8 December, at nightfall, the sappers took up positions at the foot of the Gironnella Tower and erected a protective screen there, which they covered with fresh ox-hides to shield it from incendiary materials. This operation was carried out with great audacity under a hail of grenades that the besieged defenders rained down from the top of the tower. To support this work, a light field piece was emplaced at the Fort Calvary; commanding the platform of the tower from above, it prevented the enemy from exposing themselves there during the day.

On the morning of 9 December, Battery No. 27, reinforced by the two guns positioned to its right, opened fire upon the Santa-Lucia curtain wall. The breach, now well underway, left no room for doubt regarding the success anticipated from the operation. Simultaneously, Battery No. 29 fired upon the rear of this breach to deny the enemy access to its approaches. The Spaniards were observed working to unroof neighboring houses, as if preparing to establish a barricade defense. At seven o'clock that evening, the Spanish officer commanding the artillery at the Fort of the Capuchins presented himself at our outposts claiming to be a deserter and was escorted to Marshal Augereau.

On that same day, the Spaniards launched a vigorous sortie from the town against the redoubts of the town and the Chapter, attempting to deliver provisions to the forts, which had been entirely without supplies, even water, for three days. However, they failed to force a passage between the redoubts, despite the town's artillery pounding the parapets in an effort to compel the defenders to withdraw into the interior of the earthworks.

Marshal Augereau, rightly judging that the fortress could no longer withstand his attacks, dispatched a parley officer to the Governor to offer him honorable terms, and, in the event of a refusal, to issue threats that were now entirely feasible to carry out: namely, to storm the gaping breaches that had reopened along the Montjuïc front and to scale the bastions of San-Francisco and Gracias (la Merci). This envoy was sent back by Alvarez, just as his predecessors had been; from the Governor's lips, much like those of Calvo, the former governor of Maastricht, issued but a single phrase: "*I will not surrender.*"

Meanwhile, the members of the Junta, anxious about the dire consequences to which the city was exposing itself through such obstinacy, commissioned physicians Viader and Samaniego to conduct a medical assessment of the Governor's health. The doctors confirmed that, since 27 November, he had been afflicted by a nervous fever, accompanied by fainting spells and delirium, that gave grave cause for concern regarding his life; they strongly advised him to relinquish the reins of command without further delay. Yielding to their entreaties and sensing that his end was drawing near, Alvarez formally handed over his authority to Brigadier Bolivar,

the King's Lieutenant, and from that moment on, sought only to devote his final hours to his faith.

Bolivar immediately convened the Junta and held a council of war, attended by the Bishop and the garrison's senior officers. All present acknowledged the utter impossibility of sending reinforcements to the outlying forts or of prolonging the defense of the fortress any further, given the condition of the breaches and the menacing position the besiegers now occupied, right at the very foot of the walls. It was unanimously decided that the moment had come when Girona could offer peace to the enemy on just and honorable terms, without forfeiting any of its glory in the eyes of the nation and of posterity. Consequently, the council entrusted the negotiations to Brigadier Fournas, who, through his magnificent defense of Montjuïc, had earned the esteem of the French and the confidence of the inhabitants.

On 10 December, Brigadier Fournas left the fortress under a flag of truce, crossed the Italian lines, and was escorted to Fornells, Marshal Augereau's headquarters. He stated the purpose of his mission and announced that the city consented to surrender within four days, provided that it received no relief during that interval. The Marshal angrily rejected this proposal, declaring that if the fortress did not accept the honorable terms he had offered within two hours, the assault would be launched that very evening, and that his troops, thirsting for vengeance, would ensure that it was absolute. Brigadier Fournas attempted to press the matter, emphasizing the enduring strength of the will to resist among both the garrison and the populace; however, he was cut short and sent back to the fortress to procure the necessary credentials to negotiate the terms of capitulation on the spot.

Upon his return, the defenders appeared to rally with renewed vigor, and the populace was seized by that surge of pride which blinds them to danger, a pride that compels them to face any peril, however formidable. Nevertheless, this moment of fervor proved fleeting. The newly opened breach at Santa-Lucia was wide and practicable; the sappers continued their tunneling beneath the Gironnella Tower; the outlying forts were on the verge of surrendering due to a lack of provisions and, consequently, could no longer serve as a sanctuary. Thus, there was no choice but to submit and accept the victor's terms.

Brigadier Fournas returned that very evening to Marshal Augereau's headquarters to finalize the capitulation, and hostilities ceased immediately. Upon his return to the fortress, he was accompanied by General Rey, the Chief of Staff, in order to obtain from the military junta their ratification of the articles stipulating a general amnesty, the restoration of public order, the guarantee of citizens' property rights, and respect for the established religion. However, as General Fournas had been unable to secure any terms regarding the freedom of the garrison, the officers gave vent to their grievances; indeed, many of them would have preferred to risk everything rather than submit to the harsh necessity of being taken as prisoners to France. Nevertheless, these complaints subsided once they had secured permission for one of their number to travel to General Blake to urge him to consent to an immediate exchange of the Girona garrison for an equal number of French prisoners held in the Balearic Islands, an exchange that would, of course, require Marshal Augereau's approval. Bishop Don Giovanni Ramirez and Intendant Don Carlos Beramendi also insisted that an additional article be included

to guarantee the safety and liberty of the clergy and all other non-military personnel; this new request having been granted, the capitulation was accepted and signed⁴.

On 11 December, at eight o'clock in the morning, our troops took possession of the Puerto Nuevo and the Puerto de Arensy. The garrison marched out of the city via the Mercadal district and laid down its arms, along with eight regimental standards, upon the glacis. It still numbered 4,160 men out of the 9,371 it had comprised at the outset of the siege, including the reinforcements it had successively received. These wretched soldiers resembled specters and were a pitiful sight. General Pino was tasked, along with the Fourth Italian Regiment, with escorting them to Perpignan. Approximately fifteen hundred men remained behind in the hospitals. Among the prisoners were two generals, thirteen colonels, thirty-nine lieutenant colonels, four majors, and more than four hundred officers of every rank. Governor Alvarez did not depart until a few days later; he was confined in the Fort of Figueres, where he was to face a court-martial charged with determining whether he had not already sworn an oath of allegiance to King Joseph. He died shortly thereafter in his prison, succumbing to the illness from which he was suffering. Later, the Spanish exhumed his remains with great pomp, erected a tomb in his honor, and paid tribute to his memory.

Found within the fortress were one hundred and sixty-eight pieces of ordnance of various calibers, most of them unserviceable, one million rounds of infantry ammunition, fifty thousand cannonballs, ten thousand kilograms of gunpowder, and more than fifteen thousand muskets, almost all in poor condition. As for the food stores, they were empty. For a long time, the garrison had been without wood to cook their meals; without salt or wine, not even for the sick; without means of illumination, not even for the patrols; and, finally, without medicines. The military intendant's funds had dwindled to 562 reals (approximately 140 francs). To grind the meager amount of grain they still possessed, the inhabitants had nothing left but a few hand-mills, the tanners' mills, and the mortars belonging to the pharmacists and confectioners⁵.

It would be difficult to portray the deplorable state of this unfortunate city. The streets were choked with mounds of rubble and filth. More than half the houses stood deserted, and everyone bore the scars of the bombardment. Those lining the banks of the Oña and the Ter had collapsed under the concussions of the artillery, burying their wretched inhabitants beneath their ruins. The districts of San-Pedro and the Puerto de France had been obliterated by the fire of the breaching batteries; the quarter adjoining the Gironnella Tower was utterly uninhabitable; and the streets leading there from the lower town were crisscrossed with numerous earthworks, erected to contest every inch of ground should we succeed in seizing the German redoubt. Everywhere, one saw rooftops suspended in mid-air, poised to crash down alongside the ruins of the supporting walls; sections of flooring clinging precariously by a single edge; and shattered doors and windows. The vaulted ceilings of storehouses and churches had caved in. A great number of families, whose homes had been burned or demolished by bombs, lay huddled upon the cobblestones, with nowhere to take refuge. If one adds to these disasters the foul stench rising from every quarter, along with the harrowing spectacle of scattered limbs and mangled corpses, abandoned amidst the debris of shattered homes or half-buried beneath ramparts strewn with bomb fragments, broken muskets, splintered gun carriages, and blood-stained garments, one

⁴ See supporting documents, No. 85.

⁵ See supporting documents, No. 86.

can scarcely conceive how the Spaniards, overwhelmed by such manifold woes, managed to sustain a defense so prolonged and so tenacious. Beneath this heap of corpses and ruins, a somber monument to ill-fated heroism, nearly ten thousand inhabitants and peasants had perished, along with five thousand two hundred and eleven men of the garrison, among whom was a great number of officers.

The siege of Girona, which began on 7 June, lasted six months. Within this span of time, only one hundred and four days of regular siege works and attacks are recorded, namely: fifteen days for the three redoubts of San-Narciso, San-Luis, and Saint-Daniel; fifty days for Fort Montjuïc; and thirty-nine days for the city itself.

Many errors were committed during this siege: the poor choice of the front of attack; the premature assault on Fort Montjuïc; the assault launched against the city at a re-entrant section that was flanked on all sides; the dispersal of artillery assets, which were squandered to no effect; the placement of batteries at an excessive distance from the targets to be battered; the manner in which breaching operations were undertaken, by firing at the crest of the wall rather than attacking its base; and, finally, the discord that prevailed among the generals, as well as the inaction of the army of observation until the moment Marshal Augereau arrived to assume command. Far too little reliance was placed on the defensive aids of fortification to guard against sorties by the garrison and against the enemy from without; the plain of Salt, in particular, and the bridges over the Ter River, should have been defended by fieldworks. There were also missteps and irresolution in the conduct of the siege approaches.

The siege of Girona was a difficult undertaking that demanded firm and enlightened leadership, and that is precisely what was lacking. All these errors, taken together, explain the prolonged defense mounted by the Spaniards. For, had the siege been well conducted, the defenders would certainly not have had the opportunity to display that admirable steadfastness which enabled them to endure, for so long, the unheard-of hardships by which they were overwhelmed.

The losses sustained by the besieging troops, from both the siege division and the army of observation, can be estimated at fifteen thousand men. These casualties were caused far more by fevers than by enemy fire. Of the four thousand men comprising the Westphalian and Italian divisions at the start of the siege, the former was reduced to eight hundred and the latter to twelve hundred. Out of twenty-one engineer officers, thirteen were killed or wounded, and four fell ill with fever. More than half of the sappers and two-thirds of their officers were put out of action.

The artillery consumed a prodigious amount of ammunition, exhausting all the magazines in Perpignan and the neighboring strongholds. Firing upon both the city and the forts, it discharged eleven thousand nine hundred and ten bombs, seven thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight shells, and eighty thousand round shots. Most of the guns in the siege train, along with their carriages, were rendered unserviceable.

General Amey, appointed Governor of Girona, immediately ordered the disarmament of the inhabitants and organized a new governing junta. Work began to clear the city of the refuse that cluttered it, to repave the streets, and to repair the breaches in the fortifications. The monks,

having attempted to disturb the peace, were all arrested and transported to France as prisoners of war. The fortress was placed in a state of defense, and supply magazines were established to support a garrison of four thousand men. Shortly thereafter, acting on orders from the Minister of War, the forts on the Capuchin Hill, the Gracias and Santa-Maria bastions, and the Gironnella Tower were demolished; only a security enceinte was retained.

The first operation undertaken by Marshal Augereau following the capture of Girona was to disperse the levée en masse that Blake had raised in the surrounding countryside in an attempt to relieve the besieged city. To this end, on 18 December, the brigades of Generals Guillot and Palombini advanced toward La Jonquiere, where they defeated a force of six thousand insurgents, inflicting upon them a loss of five hundred men, while General Verdier outflanked this force with a column moving toward Massanet and Sant-Llorenç de la Muga. On the 25th, Souham's division dispersed the bands of Rovira and Claros in the vicinity of Olot and Camprodón, and seized Ripoll, where an arms manufactory was located. At the same time, General Pino's Italian division destroyed a force of four thousand men. Having restored order and re-established his lines of communication in the Empordà, Marshal Augereau then marched on Vic against the Spanish army, which he defeated at the Coll de Espina and compelled to retreat toward Tarragona; he then commenced the blockade of Hostalric.



STATE OF THE TROOPS EMPLOYED IN THE SEIGE OF GIRONA

ARMY OF OBSERVATION

HEADQUARTERS

Count Gouvion Saint-Cyr, Division General, Commander in Chief, Seventh Corps.
Rey, Brigadier General, Chief of Staff.

1st DIVISION, General Souham.

1 st Brigade, General Bessières.	{	1 st Light.....	3	bn.	1965	m.	pres.
		3 rd id.....	1		639		
		24 th Dragoons.....	3	sq.	597		611 h.

2 nd Brigade, Colonel Espert.	{	42 nd Line.....	3		2406		
		67 th id.....	1		644		

2nd DIVISION (Italian), General Pino.

1 st Brigade, General Mazzucchelli.	{	1 st Light.....	3	bn.	1359		
		4 th Line.....	3		1580		

2 nd Brigade, General Fontane.	{	2 nd Light.....	3		1507		
		6 th Line.....	3		1427		
		7 th Line.....	1		477		

3 rd Brigade, General Palombini.	{	Royal Chasseurs.....	3		483		437
		Napoleon Dragoons.....	3	sq.	429		455

3rd DIVISION, General Chabot.

1 st Brigade, General Dumoulin.	{	7 th Line.....	2		1034		
		" " " " " "	"		"		
2 nd Brigade, Adjutant Commandant Devaux	{	93 rd Line.....	1		687		
		3 rd Provisional Chasseurs.....	3	sq.	498		316

TOTAL.....					<u>15732</u>	m.	<u>1819</u> h.
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SIEGE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS

Count Verdier, Division General, Commandant of the siege troops.
Saint-Hilaire, Battalion Chief, Chief of Staff.

INFANTRY

FRENCH DIVISION, General Verdier.

1 st Brigade, General Joba.	{	32 nd Light.....	1	bn.	846	m.	pres.	
		16 th Line.....	1		730			
		28 th Chasseurs à Cheval.....	1	sq.	170		186	h.
2 nd Brigade, General Guillot.	{	2 nd Line.....	1		490			
		56 th id.....	1		684			
		2 nd Neapolitan Chasseurs.....	3		329		329	
3 rd Brigade, General Amey.	{	Würzburg Regiment.....	2		1519			
		1 st Duchy of Berg.....	2		1310			
		2 nd id.....	2		1313			
		Gendarmerie.....	det.		9		9	

WESTPHALIAN DIVISION, General Morio.

1 st Brigade, General Hadeln.	{	2 nd Line.....	2	bn.	1009			
		4 th id.....	2		822			
2 nd Brigade, General Ochs.	{	1 st Light.....	1		306			
		3 rd Line.....	2		1446			
		Gendarmerie.....	det.		8		8	
		Cuirassiers.....	det.		12		12	

ITALIAN DIVISION, General Lecchi.

1 st Brigade, General Millossewitz.	{	Royal Velites.....	1	bn.	461		
		5 th Line.....	2		820		
2 nd Brigade, General Zenardi.	{	1 st Neapolitan Line.....	2		765		
		2 nd id. id.....	2		1119		
		Crown Prince Chasseurs.....	2	sq.	294		214
TOTAL.....					<u>14456</u>	m.	<u>758</u> h.

Note: The losses of these troops during the siege was in the environs of six thousand men; this was far more from fever and sickness, than from enemy fire.

HEADQUARTERS

Bobillier , Captain.
Ragmey, id.
San-Juan, id.
Collet, id.
Bluteau, id,
Charlet, id.
Honnet, Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp of
General Taviel .

Boileau, Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp of
General Taviel.
Millet, Lieutenant.
Guérin, id.
Mahé, id.
Gérard, id.

	3 rd Regiment.....	{	2 nd Company.....	3	off.	99	m.	pres.
			5 th id.....	3		110		
			12 th id.....	3		83		
			10 th Company.....	3		97		
Foot Artillery.....	4 th Regiment.....	{	12 th id.....	2		79		
			13 th id.....	3		102		
	6 th Regiment.....	{	4 th Company.....	2		68		
			14 th id.....	3		76		
	Westphalian Art.....	{	1 st Company.....	2		36		
			2 nd id.....	1		41		
	Berg Artillery.....		Det.....	1		38		
Horse Artillery.....	2 nd Regiment.....		Det.....	"		51		
Artillery workers.....	" "	{	3 rd Company.....	1		34		
			9 th id.....	1		10		
White pioneers.....	" "		1 st Company.....	3		123		
	12 th Battalion.....		" "	3		173		369 h.
Train.....	2 nd Battalion <i>bis</i>		" "	1		64		121
	4 th and 13 th Bns. <i>bis</i>		" "	1		78		106
			TOTAL.....	36	off.	1362	m.	535 h.

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ARTILLERY

7th CORPS

HEADQUARTERS

Ruty, Brigadier General, Commandant of the artillery.
 Clémont, Squadron Chief of the Italian artillery.
 Marsillac, Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp of General Ruty.
 Albrepin, id.

TROOPS

Foot Artillery.....	{	7 th Regiment.....		11 th Company.....	2	off.	64	m.	
		Italian Artillery..		" "	2		21		
Horse Artillery.....	{	2 nd Regiment....		2 nd Company.....	2		87		87 h.
		Italian Artillery.		" "	3		67		
Pontooners.....		2 nd Battalion.....		2 nd Company.....	2		79		
Artillery workers.....		" "		6 th Company, det..	"		13		
		4 th Battalion, <i>bis</i> .		6 th Company.....	"		379		488
Train.....	{	6 th Battalion, <i>bis</i> .		6 th Company.....	"		18		1
		4 th and 6 th		" "	"		107		159
		Italians.....		" "	"		126		182
TOTAL.....					11	off.	961	m.	973 h.

ENGINEERS

SIEGE BRIGADE

HEADQUARTERS

Count Sanson, Division General, Commandant of the engineers.
 Théviotte, Battalion Chief, Aide-de-Camp of General Sanson .
 Pâris, Battalion Chief, Chief of Staff.
 Leclerc, Battalion Chief (sick).
 Fleury, Battalion Chief, Chief of the attack (wounded).

Poitevin Dubousquet, Captain (sick).
 Binarville, id. (killed).
 Boischevalier, id. (killed) .
 Derouet, id. (wounded).
 Mairet, id. (sick).
 Ferraudy, id. (wounded).
 Plazanet, id. (wounded).
 Soleirol, id. (wounded).
 Bourgoin, id. (wounded).
 Clerget Saint-Léger, id.

Renard, Captain of miners, (wounded).
 Boyer, Captain of sappers, (sick).
 Vincenzi, Captain of the Italian engineers
 (wounded).
 Grassi, Lieutenant id. (wounded).
 Locquin, Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp of
 General Sanson (wounded).
 Madron, Adjutant (wounded).

TROOPS

Miners	1 st Battalion.	5 th Co.	{	Lavacherie, Cpt., (sick).	}	3	off.	82	m.	6	h.
				Defranc, Lieutenant.							
				Caniot, id. (sick).							
	2 nd Battalion.	7 th Co.	{	Lafitte, Cpt. (wounded).	}	3		68		3	
				Morlaincourt, (Théodore), Cpt.							
				Sarrebourg, Lieutenant, (wounded).							
Sappers.	3 rd Battalion.	2 nd Co.	{	Poulain, Cpt. (wounded).	}	3		101		5	
				Giclat, Lieutenant.							
				Eussenat, id. (wounded).							
It. Sappers.	4 th Co.	{	Ronzelli, Cpt. (wounded).	}	3		63		5		
			Allietto, Lieutenant								
			Traversari, id. (wounded).								
TOTAL.....						12	off.	314	m.	19	h.

NOTE. During the siege, these troops had five officers wounded and three sick; forty-eight non-commissioned officers and soldiers killed, one hundred and two wounded, and twenty-seven sick.

ENGINEERS

7th CORPS

HEADQUARTERS

Baron Kirgener de Planta, Brigadier General, Commandant of the engineers.

Dianous, Colonel, Chief of Staff.

Tournadre, Battalion Chief.

Menard, Captain.

Michaud, id.

Lenoir, id.

Lavigne, Aide-de-Camp of General Kirgener.

Atthalin, Lieutenant, id.

Ruggieri, Captain of the Italian engineers.

Vacani, id.

TROOPS

Three companies of sappers or miners detached to the siege.

No. 81

Proclamation by the Junta of Catalonia to the inhabitants of the province.

As faithful guardians of the interests you entrusted to our care during the critical circumstances of this war of religion and independence, it is our most sacred duty to reveal to you, openly and without concealment, the situation of the Principality. Our homeland, dear fellow citizens, is in grave danger and stands on the brink of the abyss. In this state, she calls upon the arms of her children to save her. Girona, immortal Girona, after enduring for seven months the deadliest and most relentless siege in recorded history, is reduced to the last extremity; the enemy forces besieging her are determined to reduce the city to a heap of ashes. Her wretched inhabitants, abandoned by their fellow citizens, drag themselves amidst the ruins; opening dying eyes and stretching out emaciated arms, they cry out to you in trembling voices: "*Brothers, to guard the threshold of your own homes, we have held the enemy army at bay for eight months; we have enabled you to enjoy your property in peace by sacrificing our own possessions and all we hold most dear. Now, nothing remains for us but to lose our bodies, weakened by the hunger we endure. Come to our aid, for your own sake!*" If the compassion inspired by our wretched plight is not enough to move your hearts, let concern for your personal safety do so. Let us wage war against these audacious enemies who await only the fall of Girona to come and plunder your homes. These vile arsonists and barbaric murderers will lay waste to your fields, desecrate your temples, violate your wives and daughters, and take your lives; we have seen enough examples of such atrocities within this province. Yet the prospect of such calamities will not be necessary; the suffering and peril of your brethren will suffice to stir your hearts and arm your hands. Courage, Catalans! Prepare to fight with zeal and to reap the fruits of a victory that is certain, provided you place your trust in those who govern you. Emulate the ever-memorable victory of Bruch; take up arms and march valiantly, singing patriotic hymns; let the alarm bell ring throughout the Principality and strike terror into the hearts of our enemies. Let their army find itself hemmed in on all sides and let those who manage to escape find no refuge, neither in Figueres nor even in Perpignan, where you shall go to avenge your just cause and recover, with interest, the treasures they have plundered from you. Win but a single victory, and the province shall be free forever. Barcelona shall be ours; the Pyrenees shall be our ramparts; valor shall be our lot, and cowardice that of the enemy.

When you return to your homes, laden with the arms and riches you have won, your wives will reach out their arms to you; with cheeks wet from tears of joy, they will clasp you to their hearts and crown you with laurels. Before engaging the enemy, let your first care be to implore divine mercy through the intercession of the Mother of God, protectress of Spain, on the feast of her Immaculate Conception, and of the invincible martyr San Narciso, patron of Girona. Upon your return, you shall gather in your parish church to sing a solemn *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for the victory and to attend Mass for the repose of the souls of those who died defending the faith. Place your utmost trust in your leaders and in the government. Thanks to its latest wise measures, you shall lack nothing, and you will see the roads filled with supplies. Respect property; be temperate and obedient; live in unity with the soldier, who, unclothed and unpaid, endures the elements and the hardships of war all year long. Regard him as a brother and never lose sight of this truth: "*that despite the intrigues of our enemies, our perfect unity ensures our independence.*" Distribute the weapons so that the best are in the hands of the bravest and most

skilled; let those who have none arm themselves with staves. The Superior Junta and the Corregimiento (township) Junta, ever tireless in their devotion to the homeland, have taken vigorous measures to assist you in this vital expedition; they will ensure you want for nothing. Those who distinguish themselves will be richly rewarded; the families of those who may fall on the battlefield will be provided for, and the wounded will receive the utmost care. The Junta has no doubt that all its orders will be carried out with alacrity. Yet, should any renegade Catalan, contrary to all expectation, refuse to fulfill his duties, he shall be punished with the full severity his lack of patriotism deserves. March forth, then, brave youth! Place your trust in God, Our Lord, and in the skilled general who commands our army; rely on your leaders and arm yourselves with steadfastness. Let not the false rumors spread by the enemy dismay you; never give way to a hasty flight, which, by sowing fear within the ranks, would bring about total ruin. Show courage and discipline, and victory shall be yours.

No. 82

*Report from Marshal Augereau to the Minister of War
regarding the capture of the town redoubt.*

Fornells, 7 December 1809.

I hasten to inform Your Excellency that yesterday I ordered General Pino to launch an attack on the town redoubt, situated on the heights between Girona and the forts. Following the capture of the Marine suburb, an event I had the honor of reporting to Your Excellency, the Italian troops carried out this order with bravery beyond all praise; and, despite the fire from the town and the forts, these troops, driven by the utmost ardor, did not hesitate for a moment and took the redoubt by storm.

Your Excellency will find the specific details of this engagement in the attached report from General Pino.

I had also ordered Brigadier General Amey, commanding the siege troops, to seize the Gironnella suburb; the troops of the Confederation displayed great composure and bravery in capturing this suburb at the point of the bayonet and holding their ground there. This operation coincided perfectly with that of General Pino.

The insurgents are now cut off from one another.

Please accept, etc.

Signed: MARSHAL DUKE OF CASTIGLIONE.

No. 83

Letter from General Pino to the Marshal Duke of Castiglione.

Fornells, 7 December 1809.

I have the honor to report to Your Excellency that, in accordance with your orders, the redoubt known as the Town Redoubt was taken by assault between midnight and one o'clock.

Battalion Commander Sausse, of the Seventh Line, was placed in charge of the operation, commanding a company of carabineers from the First Light, two companies of grenadiers from the Sixth Line, a company of carabineers from the Second Light, and a company of voltigeurs from the Fourth Line.

These five companies advanced in echelon formation, with arms shouldered, until they reached the level of the redoubt. The first company scaled the walls using ladders while under a hail of grenades; the second company, wheeling to the right, approached the redoubt's gate, which was closed and defended by a piece of 4 spewing grapeshot. Artillery Captain Beffi personally attached a petard to the gate, blowing off half of it; a second petard blew off the remainder.

Two other companies supported the leading ones; just as part of the force was entering through the redoubt's gate, the other contingent, which had been scaling the scarp using ladders, was already atop the parapet. We did not fire a single musket shot during the entire operation; the reserve company, drawn up in battle formation facing the Gracias bastion and the patrol path, did not open fire until the stronghold fired upon our columns. The fire from this reserve, combined with that from the feint attacks simultaneously launched against the forts and the Mercadal bastions, so disconcerted the Spanish troops that, firing haphazardly, they wounded only five or six of our men.

Our operation, which began at midnight, was completed in less than an hour. We found a piece of 12 and a piece of 4 in the redoubt; the small garrison stationed there was put to the sword.

I ordered two companies of grenadiers from the Sixth to remain in the redoubt, along with four hundred rations of bread, meat, brandy, and water, twelve thousand infantry cartridges, and a supply of sixty rounds for each of the guns.

General Mazzucchelli directed the operations with great intelligence and energy.

I have the honor, etc.

Signed: PINO.

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## No. 84

*Report from Marshal Augereau to the Minister of War  
regarding the capture of Calvary Fort and the Chapter  
redoubt.*

Fornells, 9 December 1809.

I had the honor of informing Your Excellency that, during the night of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the Italian division had seized the town redoubt, and the Confederation division had taken the Gironnella suburb. Seeing that all their lines of communication were cut, the enemy launched a general sortie from the town and the forts at eleven o'clock on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, attempting to retake the positions they had lost. They focused their efforts particularly on the town redoubt. The two companies of Italian grenadiers defending it held their ground for two hours with courage beyond all praise, awaiting the arrival of the reserve force that General Pino had ordered forward to their aid. At the same time, Brigadier General Amey, who was positioned below Montjuïc, advanced; finding themselves flanked on both sides, the enemy was forced to retreat into the town in disorder, leaving a large number of dead on the field.

Colonel Eugène, who was also operating on the reverse slopes of the Constable and Capuchins forts with an Italian column, joined forces with the column commanded by General Amey and spontaneously captured the Calvario and Chapter redoubts.

We found eight pieces of artillery in the redoubts, along with supplies. Our losses were minimal. This engagement has completely dashed the hopes of the inhabitants of Girona.

The Confederation and Italian soldiers vied for glory on this fine day, proving themselves worthy of His Imperial Majesty's favor.

I shall inform Your Excellency of the officers who distinguished themselves, once I have received the specific reports from each corps.

I request that you commend to His Majesty's favorable notice Colonel Eugène of the Sixth Italian; Brigadier-Colonel Gaiter, commanding the Berg Brigade; Captains Grandler and Erlée and Lieutenant Egelbrecht of the Würzburg Regiment; Lieutenants Germer and Branner of the Berg Regiment; and Second Lieutenant Gustiniani of the First Italian Light, all of whom conducted themselves admirably in this engagement and were the first to enter the redoubts.

Captain Collet of the Imperial Artillery joined the infantry in the assault. This brave officer immediately set about directing the guns against the enemy.

Please accept the assurance of my high regard.

*Signed:* MARSHAL DUKE OF CASTIGLIONE.

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No. 85

Capitulation of the fortress of Girona and its forts.

ARTICLE Ist. The garrison shall march out with the honors of war and be taken to France as prisoners of war.

ART. II. All inhabitants shall be respected.

ART. III. The Catholic religion shall continue to be observed by the inhabitants and shall be protected.

ART. IV. Tomorrow, at half-past eight in the morning, the relief gate and the Areny gate shall be handed over to the French troops, along with the forts.

ART. V. Tomorrow, 11 December, at half-past eight in the morning, the garrison shall march out of the fortress and file past the Areny gate; the soldiers shall lay down their arms on the glacis.

ART. VI. An artillery officer, an engineer officer, and a war commissary shall enter the city at the moment the gates are taken over, to receive the stores, maps, plans, etc.

Done at Girona, at seven o'clock in the evening, 10 December 1809.

Signed: JULIAN BOLIVAR, ISIDRO DE LA MATA, BLAS DE FOURNAS, JOSÉ DE LA IGLISIA, GUILLERMO MINALI, GUILLERMO NASCH.

The General Chief of Staff of the Seventh
Corps of the Army of Spain.

Signed: REY.

Approved by us, Marshal of the Empire, Commander-
in-Chief of the Seventh Corps of the Army of Spain.

Signed: MARSHAL DUKE OF CASTIGLIONE.

First note added to the capitulation of Girona.

Fornells, 10 December 1809.

The French garrison taking possession of the fortress shall be quartered in barracks, not billeted in private houses; officers shall receive the same housing allowance as that allocated to the Spanish garrison. None of the government documents deposited in the archives of the ayuntamiento (city council) may be diverted, removed, or burned.

All members and employees of the junta, regardless of their opinions, will be respected, as will their property.

All foreigners in the city, whether by exile or for any other reason, will have, like the members and employees of the junta, the right to return to their homes with their belongings and baggage.

All residents who wish to relocate may do so with their possessions and belongings; all city property will be respected.

(Signatures follow.)

Second note added to the Capitulation of Girona.

Fornells, 10 December 1809.

ARTICLE 1st. A lieutenant or sub-lieutenant chosen from among the garrison officers will receive passports to travel to the headquarters of the Spanish army and inform the commander-in-chief of the capitulation of Girona. At the same time, he will request the exchange of the garrison's officers and soldiers for an equal number of French officers and soldiers held in the islands of Majorca and elsewhere. His Excellency the Duke of Castiglione promises to grant this exchange as soon as the specified number of French prisoners arrives at a port in France.

ART. II. Within three days of the city's surrender, the bishop will issue passports to the priests under his command, allowing them to return to their respective cities to live there as ministers of peace, under the protection of Spanish law.

(Signatures follow.)

Third addendum to the capitulation of Girona.

Fornells, 10 December 1809.

Spanish officials belonging to the military administration are declared free, as non-combatants, and may request passports to travel with their personal effects wherever they see fit. This group includes: the intendant, war commissioners, hospital and commissariat staff, and army physicians and surgeons.

(Signatures follow.)



No. 86

*Report from Marshal Augereau, Duke of Castiglione, to the
Minister of War, regarding the capture of Girona.*

Girona, 14 December 1809.

I have had the honor of forwarding to Your Excellency the terms of capitulation for the city and forts of Girona. I now send you the report detailing the subsequent operations leading up to the stronghold's surrender.

In my previous letters, I informed you that I had wrested the Marine and Gironnella suburbs, as well as the Ciudad (City), Capitulo (Chapter), and Calvario (Calvary) redoubts, from the enemy. Throughout these various engagements, the Italian, French, and German troops covered themselves in glory. Communications between the city and the forts were severed so completely that it became impossible for even a single man to leave the forts; their garrison would have been forced to surrender on the 10th due to a lack of provisions, had the city itself not asked to capitulate.

I had ordered General of Artillery Taviel to bring up from Figueres and Roses all the ammunition needed to bombard the city for six days, enough to reduce it to ashes and open breaches wide enough for half-battalions to advance abreast; I was determined to make a harsh example of the place should the garrison and inhabitants dare to withstand the assault. Various reconnaissance missions I had conducted at Montjuïc and among the batteries led me to decide on certain modifications to the existing works. The commanders of the engineers and artillery were ordered to shift four pieces of 24 from the San-Juan battery further to the right, to gain a better view of the base of the wall. I set the mining team to work on the Gironnella Tower, and, intending to direct the main attack through the Santa-Lucia breach, I had two pieces of 24 positioned at the foot of the Pezón Verde (Mamelon Vert), protected by strong traverses against fire from the Mercadal bastions. This battery commanded a reverse view of the entire Santa-Lucia quarter, rendering it untenable for the enemy. Three additional pieces of 24 were set up

near the Marine suburb to destroy the defenses of the Gracias Bastion and the section of the fortifications where the Oña River enters the city.

Our fire commenced at six o'clock on the morning of the 9th and continued without interruption until evening: the bombardment persisted throughout the night. The Santa-Lucia breach was already becoming wide enough for fifteen men to advance abreast; the Ter battery had made the Santa-Lucia quarter untenable for the enemy, and the other batteries had achieved devastating results. Mining operations were progressing quite rapidly. The firing resumed on the 10th and continued with great success until one o'clock in the afternoon, at which point I was informed that a brigadier and a colonel had emerged from the stronghold and were asking to capitulate. I sent General Rey, my chief of staff, to hear their proposals; however, as these officers lacked the necessary authority, they were sent back into the town with orders to return with an answer within the hour. They were warned that, should this deadline pass, the firing would resume and I would entertain no further proposals. The brigadier soon returned and was brought to my headquarters just as I was setting out to inspect the state of the siege works and breaches myself.

This officer reported that Governor Alvarez had received the last rites; that the city was in a state of great agitation; and that he could only request a suspension of hostilities. He implored me to send a prominent figure with him to convey my intentions to the inhabitants, explaining that while the majority wished to surrender, a certain faction was still trying to stir up unrest, and he foresaw that, unless I granted his request, calamity would befall the unfortunate city of Girona. In response to the trust the populace placed in His Majesty's leniency, I issued instructions to General Rey, who proceeded into the town accompanied by my aide-de-camp, de Chavanges, and the Spanish brigadier.

At eight o'clock that evening, my chief of staff returned with a Spanish general and a senior officer, bringing the terms of capitulation, which I approved. The terms were scrupulously carried out, and today all give thanks for the Emperor's clemency.

I am highly satisfied with the zeal, energy, and talents of General Rey, my Chief of General Staff; he has rendered services to the army, and I commend him to His Majesty's favor.

The garrison, numbering six thousand men, has laid down its arms and eight standards on the glacis; the first convoy of prisoners consists of four thousand three hundred men, including two generals, thirteen colonels, thirty-nine lieutenant-colonels, four majors, and nearly four hundred officers of all ranks. Sixteen hundred sick men and about sixty officers remain in the city's hospitals, along with Governor-General Alvarez.

Found within the stronghold were one hundred and sixty-eight pieces of artillery of various calibers, fifty thousand cannonballs, one million infantry cartridges, ten thousand kilograms of gunpowder, and a large quantity of muskets; a full report will be submitted to Your Excellency as soon as the inventories have been handed over to the General Staff.

General Taviel, commanding the artillery, and Battalion Commander Paris, commanding the engineers, have carried out my intentions perfectly.

As I have already had the honor of reporting to Your Excellency, I cannot speak highly enough of the excellent spirit prevailing in the army and the bravery of all the troops; generals, officers, and soldiers alike ask only to give further proof of their complete devotion to the Emperor.

I enclose a list of officers who, through their distinguished conduct, are worthy of His Majesty's favor. I humbly request that He grant them such honors, as well as the requests I have had the honor of submitting to you.

Girona is becoming a valuable military stronghold for the army; I am establishing the necessary facilities there. I have ordered a strong reconnaissance mission toward Hostalric. I beg Your Excellency to assure His Majesty that I am making every arrangement to restore tranquility to Upper Catalonia.

Please accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Signed: MARSHAL DUKE OF CASTIGLIONE.

END OF VOLUME TWO

