

This article was downloaded by: [Carnegie Mellon University]

On: 26 January 2015, At: 10:16

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954

Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19>

Description of the Monument Commemorating the Battle of Alburra, Erected in the Town of Alburera

Major John H. Leslie R.A.

Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Major John H. Leslie R.A. (1908) Description of the Monument Commemorating the Battle of Alburra, Erected in the Town of Alburera, Royal United Services Institution. Journal, 52:361, 305-308, DOI: [10.1080/03071840809418798](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071840809418798)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071840809418798>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan,

sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT COM- MEMORATING THE BATTLE OF ALBUERA, ERECTED IN THE TOWN OF ALBUERA.

By Major JOHN H. LESLIE, R.A. (Retired List).

ALBUERA is a small town in Spain in the province of Badajoz, situated about 12 miles to the S.E. of the city of that name.

On 16th May, 1811, was fought the battle of Albuera, by the allied Spanish, Portuguese, and British forces (about 30,000), under the command of Marshal Sir William Carr Beresford, against the French (about 23,000), under Marshal Soult. Wellington was not present.

It was one of the most desperate battles of the Peninsular War, and was brought on by Soult in his endeavour to relieve Badajoz, which was at that time being besieged by the Allies.

The French were defeated, and, in consequence, Badajoz was not relieved.

The battle was commemorated by the war medal, or, in the case of those already possessing the medal, by a clasp. The word "Albuera" was also authorised to be borne on the colours or appointments of the several regiments engaged.

In the year 1852, a monument to commemorate the battle was erected by the Spanish authorities in the Square of Albuera (see illustration). This illustration, which it is believed is new to England, is reproduced from a photograph, which has been specially taken for the writer by the present (1907) representative of Badajoz in the Spanish Cortes.

Its dimensions, approximately, are as follows:—

The plinth, 18 feet by 18; the base of the monument, 10 feet by 10; the arch, including the pillars, 6 feet by 5; the thickness of the arch, 2½ feet; the height, 22 feet.

The Spanish inscription on the monument is as follows. At the top:—

Año
de 1852.
Albuera.
A los valientes del 16 de Mayo
de 1811.
La Comision
De Monumentos de Badajoz.

At the base of the left pillar:—

“Generales Españoles. Castaños. Blake. Lardizabal. Balles-
teros. Zayas. España. Penne.”

At the base of the right one:—“Generales Anglo-Portugueses.
Beresford. Stewart. Alten. Cole. Lumley. Hamilton.”

On the tablet at the centre of the base:—“Mando en Jefe.
Beresford.”

The names of these officers in full are:—

Francisco Javier Castaños, Captain-General of the Spanish
Army;

Joaquim Blake;

José de Lardizabal, Commanding the 1st Division, Spanish
Army;

Francisco Ballesteros, Commanding the 2nd Division, Spanish
Army;

José de Zayas, Commanding the 3rd Division, Spanish Army;

Carlo de España, Commanding the 4th Division, Spanish
Army;

Conde de Penne Villemur, Commanding the Spanish Cavalry;

William Carr Beresford, Commanding the Portuguese Army;

The Hon. Wm. Stewart, Commanding the 2nd Division,
British Forces;

Baron Charles Alten, Commanding the King's German Legion;

The Hon. Galbraith Lowry Cole, Commanding the 4th
Division, British Forces;

The Hon. William Lumley, Commanding the Cavalry Division;

John Hamilton, Commanding the Portuguese Infantry.

The following letter about the monument was published in *The Times* of 11th November, 1890:—

“SIR,—Yesterday I had the melancholy pleasure of visiting the battle-field of La Albuera, a battle-field hallowed and for ever sacred to many a British hearth and home. On asking if there were anything which commemorated the Englishmen who had fallen in the heroic defence of a land which now bears to their countrymen little good will (I myself having been lately arrested, without the slightest grounds, for sketching old and dilapidated fortifications), I was shown on the *plaza* a monument in the last stage of decay. It is built of bricks overlaid with marble, and this latter is almost all either on the ground, or on the point of falling off. The piece which bears the words, “Mando en jefe, Beresford,” is already cracking, and the lists of British and Spanish officers that are on the two upright columns are in a similar condition. (These two, it may interest some

readers to know, commence respectively with "Beresford, Alten, Stewart, Cole, and Castaños.")

"On making inquiries I found that the local *Ayuntamiento* felt deeply the disgrace of such a state of things, but that their finances would not allow them to undertake the restoration—an affair of some 2,000 *pesetas*.

"One has only to ride over the heights to the south-west of the village to imagine what the fire of the French batteries was like; and I thought that some of the families in England, who are proud to claim as their own those who fell under this same fire, would be grateful for this information, and would make it their business to see that the memory of those who died far from home and country is preserved on those sun-bleached Estremadura uplands where they lie—asleep.

"I am, Sir, yours truly,

"20th October.

SIDNEY H. MOORE."

In commemoration of the battle a star was issued by the Spanish Government, in accordance with its usual custom,¹ a few of which were conferred upon British officers, including those serving with the Portuguese Army.

This decoration (see illustration), founded on 1st March, 1815, is a four-pointed star, with a small gold button on each point. Resting between the two upper points of the star is an enamelled wreath of laurel—green leaves on a gold ground—measuring three-quarters of an inch across. The star itself measures, from point to point across the centre, nearly an inch and a half.

The rays of the star are enamelled crimson, quite plain, with a gold edge, and gold flames issue forth from the angles between the rays of the star.

In the centre is an oval enamelled medallion, in the middle of which, on a white ground, is the cypher, "F R" in gold, signifying Fernando VII. Rex, King of Spain (restored May, 1814), encircled by a blue band with the word "Albuera" upon it in gold letters.

The ribbon—1 inch wide—is crimson, with light and dark blue borders.

The British regiments which were engaged in the battle, and which carry "Albuera" on their colours or appointments, are:—

Cavalry.

3rd Dragoon Guards, now styled 3rd Dragoon Guards.

4th Dragoons, now styled 4th Hussars.

13th Light Dragoons, now styled 13th Hussars.

Artillery.

"D" troop, R.H.A. (Captain George Lefebure's), now styled "V" Battery, R.H.A.²

¹More than fifty different stars were issued by the Spanish Government for the Peninsular War to commemorate, not only battles, sieges, and actions, but even the smallest and most trivial outpost affairs.

²"D" troop was reduced in 1816, and reformed as "V" battery R.H.A., in 1900.

Captain James Hawker's Company of the 4th Battalion, R.A., now styled No. 72 Company, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Infantry.

Regiments.	Designation in 1908.
3rd, 1st Battalion	The Buffs.
7th, 1st and 2nd Battalions ...	The Royal Fusiliers.
23rd, 1st Battalion	The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
28th, 2nd "	The Gloucestershire Regiment.
29th, 1st "	The Worcestershire "
31st, 2nd "	The East Surrey "
34th, 2nd "	The Border "
39th, 2nd "	The Dorsetshire "
48th, 1st and 2nd Battalions ..	The Northamptonshire "
57th, 1st Battalion	The Middlesex "
60th, 5th "	The King's Royal Rifle Corps.
66th, 2nd "	The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Should any of the "Albuera" Regiments care to have a copy or copies of the photograph of the monument, the writer will be very pleased to present them.