

JUNIN
AND
AYACUCHO



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AÑO DEL SESQUICENTENARIO DE LAS BATALLAS DE JUNIN Y AYACUCHO

COVER:

Simón Bolívar
(Oil by Daniel Hernández)

JUNIN AND AYACUCHO

Preparation of the Campaign

AT the beginning of 1824, Peru was still not completely free of Spanish domination, even though General José de San Martín had declared independence on July 28, 1821. The King's Army occupied a large part of the southern Andean region of Peru, including Arequipa and Cuzco. Bolívar, the Liberator, who arrived in Lima in September of 1823, understood that as long as the Peruvian Sierra was not in the hands of the Patriots, the war could not be considered definitively concluded.

Bolívar assumed power as Dictator on February 10, 1824. He did not permit himself to become discouraged though faced by constant difficulties. Worn down by sickness and fever, he received the Colombian Minister, Mosquera, in Pativilca (180 kilometers north of Lima). When the Minister asked, "And what do you think you'll do now?" the Liberator answered, "Triumph!"

The months from March to June of 1824 were devoted to intense preparation for the Sierra Campaign. Bolívar decisively and energetically undertook the task of preparing the Liberating Army to confront the battle-hardened followers of Viceroy José de la Serna, who directed the Spanish resistance from Cuzco. He ordered his lieutenants—especially Sucre and La Mar—to recruit men in northern Peru and southern Colombia. He organized a tax system to finance the enormous expenses necessary for a well-trained army, able to oppose the enemy power. Concerning the Peruvian troops he wrote Santander, "... very good men, hardened in war and best of all they will walk twenty leagues a day for you as if it were nothing". The Liberator was concerned with even the smallest details: "Each soldier should bring two changes of clothes, a cloak and blanket, sandals or shoes, a complete infantry or cavalry outfit and their respective weapons in the best state possible". (Trujillo, March 14, 1824).



Bolívar in Pativilca
(Oil by Daniel Hernández)

The Peruvian towns and cities made remarkable contributions in money and kind. Bolívar demanded, as was his style, that they impose quotas, collect money from the religious brotherhoods and jewels from the churches, make ponchos, horseshoes, stirrups, and nails. "The churches and private individuals are giving us enough money to maintain the army for several months," wrote Bolívar on April 9th from Trujillo to the Venezuelan General, Bartolomé Salom. "The Peruvian Army has been reorganized at my side, and we hope to be ready soon to defeat the Spaniards in their own positions".



Simón Bolívar
(Oil by José Gil de Castro)

Peru was the nucleus of the Spanish military and political power, just as it had been the great aboriginal empire before. . . In spite of the serious difficulties placed in its way by the immense Spanish power, the spirit of insurrection in Peru gave signs of being as noble and as strong as in the other regions.

It was in Peruvian territory that the native uprising led by Tupac Amaru took place. This event is the oldest antecedent of the Revolution. From 1805 to 1819, conspiracy, some of them as important as that of Pumacahua, which, according to the historian Riva Agüero, corresponds in temper to the Mexican one of Hidalgo and of Morelos.

Neither should it be forgotten that the assistance of Peru decided the battle of Pichincha, which completed the liberating movement in the North, nor that by their tenacity and heroism, the Upper Peruvian guerillas, contributed to the consolidation of liberty in the South. Finally, Peruvian troops and leaders were of paramount importance in the battles of Junin and Ayacucho. Peru was not the passive field in which converged the Colombian and Argentine movements, but the favorable theatre in which these forces merged with those formed from its own people.

(Victor Andrés Belaunde, *Bolivar and the political thought of the Spanish American Revolution*. Baltimore, 1938).





Antonio José de Sucre
Grand Marshall of Ayacucho

Bolívar's obsessive drive to form an efficient army ready for the hardest journeys in the rugged Sierra terrain soon produced results. The Peruvian troops quartered in Trujillo and Cajamarca, as well as the Colombians in Huaylas and Huánuco, became highly trained military forces.

Antonio José de Sucre was named Commander-in-Chief of the United Liberating Army. Generals Jacinto Lara and José de La Mar were given direct command of the troops. "Our army is spirited and material and personnel are excellent," Bolívar assured Heres from Otuzco (April 15, 1824). According to Bolívar's own calculations, the Liberating Army consisted of nearly 7,000 Colombian soldiers (New Granadians, Venezuelans, Ecuadorians) and 3,000 Peruvians. In addition, the regular troops received significant support from agile and mobile bands of guerrilla fighters.

The Royal Army kept its troops in the central and southern provinces of the Sierra. The King's troops were in excellent condition, as Bolívar

recognized in a letter to Santander: "The Spanish soldiers walk fifteen or twenty leagues a day, and they carry in their provisions a small sack of coca, and one of barley or cooked or toasted corn. With this they march weeks and weeks, and their officers watch over the troops day and night. I'll tell you right now, there isn't a friend or enemy who doesn't say marvellous things about this Spanish army, they've been repeated so often that I'm beginning to believe them. For twelve years they've kept up the war and for twelve years they've been victorious with only slight setbacks" (February 10, 1824). The Spanish had an estimated 10,000 troops. Their commanders were well-trained military men, whose names were pronounced with respect—and sometimes fear—: La Serna, Canterac, Valdés, Monet, Ferraz, García Camba, Rodil. . . It was a well-formed, disciplined army, with leaders hardened by many battles.

Toward the First Great Victory

At the end of June the United Army began to move toward Cerro de Pasco, later to proceed to Jauja. Bolívar moved to Huánuco from Huaraz, which had served him as headquarters. The Córdoba division proceeded toward Cajatambo; the La Mar division toward Chavín de Huantar; the Lara division toward Huánuco. The vanguard was protected by the guerrillas under the command of General William Miller, seconded by Galindo, Correa, Ninavilca, Guzmán, Deza, and Estomba. Miller later described the strange dress of the mounted insurgents. "Some rode mules, others horses; some wore bearskin caps, others helmets, morions, and many slouch hats of vicuña wool. Their uniforms were no less varied: mussas jackets, infantry cuirasses and red dolmans taken from dead royalist were mixed with patriot uniforms. To this must be added mameluke pants, pants tied at the waist with bell bottoms and slits, fur-lined pants and short pants. Some wore sandals, others went barefoot. But all had one garment in common: each individual had a poncho, which was worn in the usual way, or tied around the waist as a sash, or hung whimsically from the shoulders. Nor was there anyone who did not carry a lasso. Their weapons were equally diverse—armed by chance, with rifles, carbines, pistols, swords, bayonets, sabres, large knives, lances or pickaxes—but everyone used them in combat with terrible success".

It took thirty days of arduous marching for the Liberating Army to reach the meeting point on the



General José de La Mar
Commander of the Peruvian Division of the
United Liberating Army

plain of Rancas near Cerro de Pasco. They had travel over dangerous trails, skirt abysses, cross swamps and frozen peaks. It should not be forgotten that the campaign was carried out in one of the highest mountain ranges of the world.

Bolívar reviewed his troops in Rancas (August 2) and exhorted them with echoing words:

Soldiers! You are going to fulfill the greatest task that Heaven has entrusted to mankind: that of saving a whole world from slavery.

Soldiers! The enemies you are going to destroy boast of fourteen years of triumph; thus they will be worthy to measure their arms against yours, which have also shone in a thousand battles.

Soldiers! Peru and all America await Peace, the daughter of Victory; and even liberal Europe contemplates you with delight, because the liberty of the New World is the hope of the Universe. Do you scoff at this? No, no! You are invincible!

Almost on the eve of the first great confrontation between the patriots and royalists, the Liberator ordered his army organized as follows:



General José María Córdoba
Commander of the Vanguard Division of the
United Liberating Army

Commander-in-Chief: General Antonio José de Sucre
General Chief of Staff: General Andrés de Santa Cruz
Chief of Staff (Colombian Divisions): Colonel Francisco Burdett O'Connor
Chief of Staff (Peruvian Division): General Agustín Gamarra

Vanguard Division

Commander: General José María Córdoba

Colombian Infantry Battalions	Caracas (formerly Zulia) Pichincha Voltígeros (formerly Numancia) Bogotá
Cavalry	Colombian Grenadier Regiment Andean Grenadier Squadron

Central Division

Commander: General José de La Mar

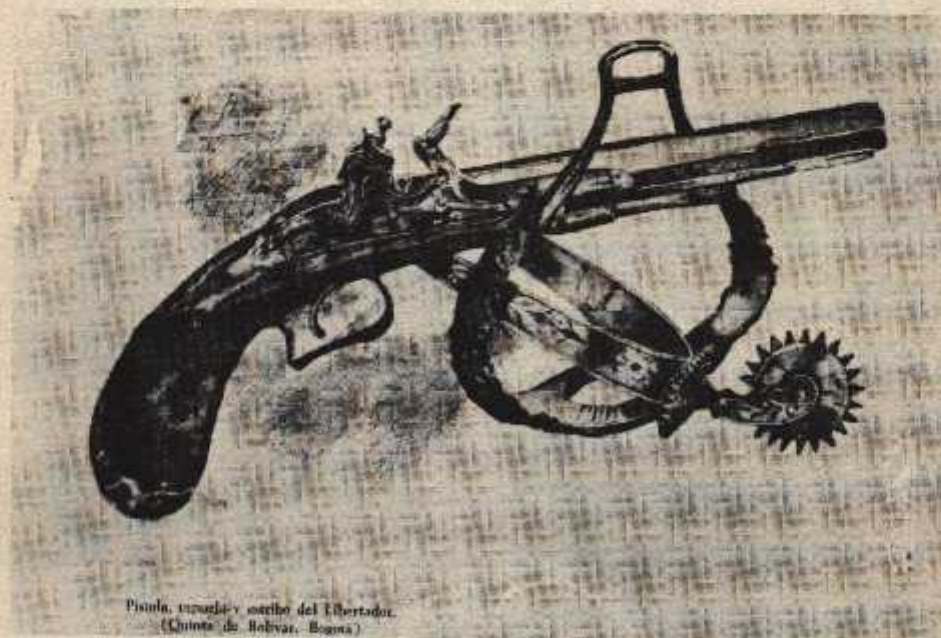
Peruvian Corps	Peruvian Legion 1st Guard 2nd Guard 3rd Guard
Cavalry	1st Regiment of Peruvian Hussars Cavalry (formerly Coraceros)
Light Artillery	6 pieces with supporting materiel and personnel

Rear Guard Division

Commander: General Jacinto Lara

Colombian Infantry Battalions	Rifles Vencedor Vargas
Cavalry	Colombian Hussars Regiment

General Commander of Cavalry: General Mariano Necochea
Commander of the Peruvian Cavalry Colum: General William Miller
Commander of the Colombian Cavalry Column: Colonel Lucas Carbajal
Guerrillas: Colonel Correa



Battle of Junín

Necochea's patriot cavalry, with which Bolívar marched, headed the Liberating Army. About 2 p. m. on August 6, 1824, the Liberator sighted the adversary retreating rapidly along the road to Tarma. He ordered Necochea to move down out of Chacamarca pass onto the Junín plain and to charge on the royalist squadrons that formed the rear guard of the column. On seeing this, the Spanish General Canterac did not hesitate to use his cavalry, confident of its numerical superiority (1,300 riders) and quickly prepared to charge with four squadrons, the other two remaining behind the wings. The latter two squadrons were meant to overrun the patriot flanks and also to be used as reserves. When still two kilometers from the place where Necochea's cavalry was emerging, the Spanish chief launched his attack.

The patriots had only the two squadrons of Colombian Grenadiers in battle position. They received the first attack, resisting with their long lances staunchly. The clash was terrible. The Colombians were thrown back in disorder on the remaining patriot squadrons, just readied for battle and descending arduously to the Junín plain.

Two squadrons of Peruvian Hussars under Miller's command tried to charge, but Canterac's determined attack and the obstacle of the treacherous marshes gave them no time to form and they, too, were routed and pursued. An order to retreat was given.

This almost hopeless situation was interrupted by a dramatic action which initiated the second, victorious phase of the battle. One Peruvian squadron, commanded by the Argentine, Manuel Isidoro Suárez, had remained intact as it had not reached the plain during the fight. These horsemen had not received the order to retreat and they were in an extraordinary position just at the rear guard of the royalists pursuing the other patriot troops.

Colonel Suárez, taking the initiative or, according to another version, accepting the suggestion of his Peruvian aide, Lieutenant José Andrés Rázuri ("Colonel, this is the moment! Let's attack the rear guard and we'll rout them") launched his men like an avalanche on the royalist squadrons, who in the dim of combat had become disorganized.

This sudden attack on the rear guard of the supposed victors paralyzed them for a moment and completely transformed the battle, permitting the patriot squadrons to reform, and to attack and disperse their pursuers. The German officer, Major Otto Philip Braun, was the temporary commander



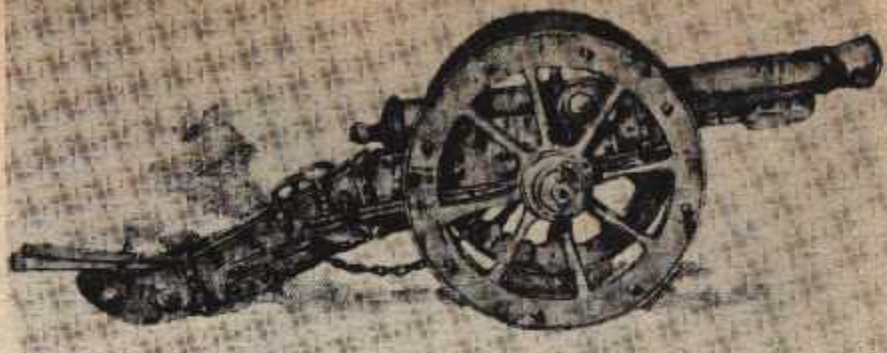
El Excmo. Sr. Don Agustín Gamarra, Gran Mariscal (Generalísimo) de los Ejércitos del Perú en la guerra por la independencia. Eligió diez veces por los peruanos. Presidente de la República cuatro años de paz, i murió gloriosamente el 18 de Noviembre de 1841, combatiendo a favor de la independencia de su patria como héroe i valiente defensor de la flauta Nacional.

General Agustín Gamarra
General Chief of Staff of the
United Liberating Army

of the Colombian grenadiers, and directed the attack and pursuit of the left flank of the enemy. The skillful and energetic action of the Peruvian cavalry changed a defeat into victory. Bolívar, grateful, gave the triumphant unit the name of the Hussars of Junín.

The battle lasted only 45 minutes. The lance and saber were the only weapons, and no shot was fired. The losses of the patriot cavalry were 45 dead and 100 wounded. The loss of the distinguished Anglo-German officer, Charles Sowersby, who died two days later in Carhuamayo, was to be regretted. The daring Argentine, Mariano Necochea, received six wounds. For the royalists, the losses were greater: two commanders, two officers, and 248 individuals of the troop among the dead and wounded, and 80 taken prisoners. The victor's booty comprised 400 saddled horses and a large quantity of weapons.

Artillery piece from the epoch
of the Independence



Advance Southward

From Huancayo, where the patriots rested for some days, they proceeded on their march to Huamanga. The Chilean leader, Bernardo O'Higgins, and the Argentine Minister, Bernardo Monteagudo, joined them. Bolívar and his staff reached Huamanga on August 28th and were present for the entry of the divisions, which arrived by way of Huanta on August 31st and September 1st.

During the journey southward, the Liberator and his army were triumphantly received by the people. The dispersed, the stragglers, and the sick left by the royalists, together with new volunteers, increased the United Army's troops by 2,000 men.

The King's troops lost nearly 2,500 men, including deserters, sick, and exhausted, in their precipitous flight from Junín to Huamanga. In addition, General Canterac's prestige was badly damaged. Because of disagreements with him, General Rafael Maroto, infantry division commander, resigned his post and set out alone for Cuzco. Half of the King's lancer squadron revolted and made their commander and officers prisoners. Canterac urgently asked Viceroy La Serna to send more troops from Cuzco but it was by then impossible for the Viceroy to spare any.

On September 16 the Liberating Army left for the Apurímac area, travelling through Cangallo,

Andahuaylas, and Aymaraes provinces to Chalhuanca. By these movements Bolívar meant to threaten the left flank of the Royalist Army and even hinder Jerónimo Valdés' troops, expected from Upper Peru (Bolivia), from joining Viceroy La Serna, who was in Limatambo (near Cuzco).

The Liberator personally reviewed the positions of his army. He did not believe that a decisive encounter was imminent because the rainy season was about to begin, and because he had intercepted a letter from the royalist Colonel Sánchez to Colonel Caparrós, which read, "The Viceroy is only trying to defend Cuzco".

Several matters required Bolívar's attention in the Peruvian capital. Furthermore, his health was poor. Thus he returned from the little town of Sañaica to the coast, leaving his friend, Sucre, instructions and the necessary orders to continue the campaign.

Reorganization of the Royal Army

In his headquarters at Limatambo, Viceroy La Serna reorganized his troops. By a general order on the 23rd of September, 1824, he organized the Army of Peruvian Operations in the following way:

2nd to the Viceroy and General Chief of Staff: Lieutenant General José de Canterac
2nd Chief of Staff: Brigadier José Carratalá
Aide-de-camp to the Viceroy: Brigadier Antonio Vigil

Vanguard Divisions (Four Battalions)

Commander of the Division: Field Marshall Jerónimo Valdés
2nd Commander of the Division: Brigadier Martín Ruiz de Somocurcio

First Division (Five battalions)

Commander: Field Marshall **Juan Antonio Monet**

2nd Commander: Brigadier **Juan Antonio Pardo**

Chief of Staff: Colonel **Gaspar Claver**

Second Division (Five Battalions)

Commander: Field Marshall **Alejandro González Villalobos**

2nd Commander: Brigadier **Manuel Ramírez**

Chief of Staff: Colonel **Luis Raseti**

Cavalry Division

Commander: Brigadier **Valentín Ferraz**

Chief of Staff: Commander **Ramón Gascón**

Chief of the 1st Brigade: Brigadier **Andrés García Camba**

Chief of the 2nd Brigade: Brigadier **Ramón Gómez de Bedoya**

Artillery (Fourteen Pieces)

General Commander: Brigadier **Fernando Cacho**

General Commander of Engineers: Brigadier **Miguel Atero**

In all, the royalist Army consisted of almost 10,000 men, including 1,600 riders and 14 artillery pieces.

A month later, on October 24th, the Viceroy began operations, ordering his troops to cross the Apurímac River at a point where that imposing volume of water divided into three fordable branches. La Serna hoped not only to flank the patriot Army on its right, but also to threaten their communications with the north and to find new resources for the maintenance of his own troops. The royalist troops passed through Parcos, Pacmarca, Haquira, Colquamarca, Quiñota, Mamara, Sabaino, Antilla, Lake Chilloco, Chalhuanca, Sañaica, Pampachiri, crossed the Pampas River, Altos de Larca, Lake Coñari, Carhuanca, the Pomacochas valley and Vilcashuamán, reaching Raccay-Raccay where they made camp on the 18th of November.

Since neither Sucre nor La Serna knew the exact direction of his rival's advance, marches and counter-marches followed one another as each army received definite intelligence of the other's movements. The composition of the Liberating Army was almost the same as it had been on the

eve of the battle of Junín, except that the Peruvian General Agustín Gamarra was now General Chief of Staff, and Miller had replaced Necochea—who was recovering from wounds received in Junín—as head of the patriot cavalry.

Action at Collpahuaco or Matará

At the beginning of December the patriot Army was marching to Huamanga in the belief that the royalists were avoiding combat, but in reality La Serna was preparing a stratagem.

Sucre thought that the royalists would not have time to turn towards higher ground and intercept his march to Huamanga. Thus he ordered his Army to cross the deep ravine of Collpahuaco. Córdoba's Vanguard Division and La Mar's Central Division, as well as Sucre's staff, executed the crossing without significant difficulties. The Rear Guard division, headed by Jacinto Lara and in charges of protecting the artillery and equipment followed by Miller's Cavalry, made the crossing more slowly. Then came the surprise.

The Spanish General Jerónimo Valdés led his battalions to the attack and they were able to reach the patriot rear guard. Rifles' Colombian battalion valiantly resisted but lost a third of its men. The gunfire lasted from four until six-thirty in the evening. In this setback the patriot army suffered the loss of 400 men, dead, wounded, and scattered, and a considerable amount of munitions, equipment, and artillery.

ravine. On the 8th, he crossed planted fields and orchards and took to the slopes of Condorcunca Mountain, locating himself on the heights from which he could dominate the small Ayacucho plain. Upon seeing the maneuver, Sucre ordered his troops to advance to the little town of Quinua facing the enemy. The two armies upon whom the fate of Hispanic America now depended were facing each other.



Capitulation of Ayacucho
(Oil by Daniel Hernández)

The Ayacucho Battlefield

From the 4th to the 6th of December the two armies continued their marches without losing sight of one another, although separated by the Pangora River. Sucre advanced to Quinua and the Viceroy nearly reached Macachecra. On the 6th Valdés occupied the high areas of Pacaicasa and camped halfway between Huanta and Huamanga. The next day he continued along the Huamanguilla

In the afternoon of December 8th, the advance guards exchanged isolated rounds of gunfire.

The battlefield on which the last battle of American liberty was to be decided was known to the Indians by the name of Ayacucho (corner of the dead); it is a plain 1,300 meters in length by 700 in width, oriented longitudinally from east to west, bounded on the west by the steep slopes of Condorcunca Mountain and the town of Quinua, and with deep gullies to the north and south.

The Battle of Ayacucho

Soldiers from almost all of the American hemisphere and much of Europe, under the command of a young, 29-year-old General of extraordinary military capacity, Antonio José de Sucre, finally faced the Royal Army of Peru, commanded by the Viceroy himself and seconded by fifteen generals. The imminent clash of arms was of crucial significance. If Sucre's army were defeated, it would not be able to reorganize since retreat would be impossible, given the hostility of the indigenous populations of Huanta and Huancaavelica and the difficulty of obtaining provisions. As for the royalists, their situation was just as critical, as they would find themselves between the patriot forces and Olañeta's rebels.

La Serna's position on Condorcunca, dominating the Quinoa field, was tactically advantageous. If the assailant tried to approach up the slopes, he would have to do so by steep, narrow paths, facing intense fire from the troops in the heights.

Located on the left of the patriot lines was La Mar's Division (the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Peruvian Battalions, and the Peruvian Legion). On the right was Córdoba's Division (the Grenadier, Ecuadorian, Venezuelan, Bogotá, Caracas, Voltigeros, and Pichincha Battalions). In the center was Lara's Division (the Vargas, Vencedor and Rifles Battalions), with Miller's Cavalry located behind it (the Colombian Grenadiers, the Colombian Hussars, the Hussars of Junín, and the Buenos Aires Grenadiers). The only piece of artillery, one canon, was placed between Córdoba's and Lara's Divisions.

The royalist line had Valdés' Division (the Cantabria, Centro, and Castro Battalions, and the 1st Battalion of Imperial Alejandro) on the right. This sector was reinforced by two squadrons of the Hussars of Ferdinand VII, plus four canons. Slightly set back from the center was Monet's Division (the 1st Battalion of Burgos, Infante's and Victoria's Battalion of the First Regiment). The left wing was made up of González Villalobos' Division (the 1st and 2nd Battalions of Gerona, the 2nd Battalion of Imperial Alejandro, and the 1st Battalion of the First Regiment and Ferdinand VII), plus the Halberdier Squadron of the Viceroy, and two squadrons of the Dragoons of Peru. Behind the Villalobos Division there were seven cavalry squadrons, plus the seven remaining canons.

Before the beginning of the memorable battle (about 8 o'clock in the morning) an unusual scene of chivalry and emotion took place. Knowing that there were several officers in the Spanish camp

with brothers, relatives, or friends on the patriot side, Monet proposed to Córdoba that they be allowed a brief meeting before the battle. Sucre gave permission at once, and about fifty patriots, mostly Peruvians, participated in the fraternal encounter. For many it was to be their last good-bye.

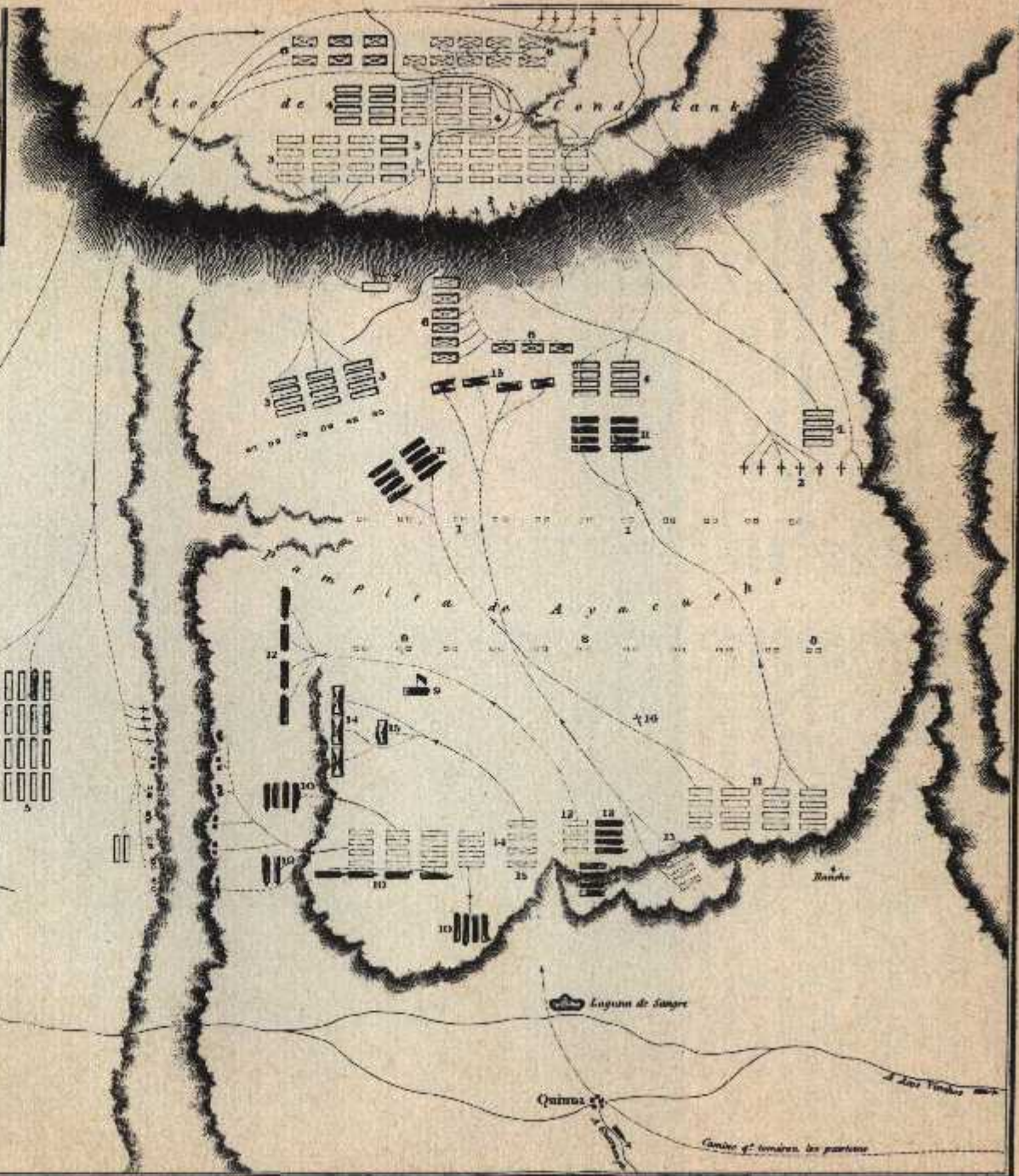
At mid-morning, La Serna ordered Valdés to begin the attack against the advance posts of La Mar's Division. Almost at the same time Sucre finished reviewing the patriot lines, exhorting the troops with vibrant phrases that have become history: "Soldiers! On today's efforts rests the fate of South America. . . another day of glory will crown your admirable perseverance! "

With youthful impetuosity, Colonel Rubín de Celis' 1st Battalion of the First Royalist Regiment "threw itself recklessly into the attack", dragging down the nearby guerrillas. Seeing Rubín's thoughtless notion, Sucre gave brilliant orders. He commanded General Córdoba, aided by Miller's Cavalry, to attack the royalist center and, leaving the Rifles Battalion in reserve, he ordered Lara's Division, together with Vencedor and Vargas, to reinforce the position of La Mar's Division which was threatened by Valdés' attack.

In carrying out the order, Córdoba "in his summer blues, with no more adornment than his youthfulness and his sword, shaking his white straw hat with his right hand and guiding his favorite chestnut horse with his left", arrogantly exhorted his troops: "Division, fire at will, forward, march as victors!" The charge of that 25-year-old Colombian general destroyed Rubín de Celis' Battalion. The royalist cavalry that descended to the plain was likewise routed by the Colombian and Buenos Aires Regiments. Córdoba energetically continued the advance, seizing the seven canons of the left sector, with "everything giving way before him," as the Spanish officer, García Camba, noted with graphic conciseness.

Canterac tried to aid his troops with the help of Monet's Division. The Division wedged itself between Córdoba and La Mar, leaving the latter in an awkward position and forcing him to retreat. But the decisive action of Vargas' Battalion and of the Hussars of Junín allowed La Mar to reorganize his Division. Thus, reinforced by Vencedor, "he daringly marched over the other divisions of the enemy's right flank (Valdés). . . put them to flight, their defeat complete and absolute," admitted Camba himself.

Meanwhile, with a victorious thrust Córdoba reached the heights of Condorcunca and took the wounded Viceroy La Serna prisoner. In the center, Lara assured triumph by pursuing the scattered royalist troops in the direction of Tambo, where



Referencia

1. Terceros del año real
2. Artillería 36. Brigada Cacha
3. 1.ª División de Inf. 24. Gen. Morúa
4. 5.ª " " " " Gen. Villalobos
5. División de la Vanguardia; Gen. Vialto
6. Quince escuadrones de caballería; Brigada Ferrás
7. Virrey
8. Terceros del año de los Independientes
9. General Anco
10. División del Perú; Gen. De La Mar
11. División de Colombia; Gen. Córdova
12. " " " " Gen. Lora
13. Caballería de Colombia
14. " " " " Gen. Miller
15. Escuadrones de los Andes
16. La única pieza de artillería que restan los patriotas

BATALLA de AYACUCHO

December 9 de 1824.

Caballería
 Patriotas
 Infantería

Plan of the Battle of Ayacucho (From the Memoirs of Miller)

La Mar was also sending his Peruvian troops in the footsteps of Valdés' Division.

The number dead on the Battle of Ayacucho was very high, so many that one witness, Manuel Antonio López, later said, "In proportion to the number of combatants and considering the very short duration of the battle (little more than half an hour of real full-scale combat), we know of no bloodier conflict in history". Maybe that was an exaggeration, but, according to Sucre, of the 9,300 royalists there were 1,800 dead and 700 wounded; and of the 5,800 patriots, some 500 dead and 609 wounded. "The bayonet and the lance rarely worked with more terrible efficiency in modern warfare," added López.

The Capitulation of Ayacucho

The patriots took more than 1,000 prisoners, including 60 officers. Since the Viceroy was wounded, Canterac and Carratalá came to Sucre to surrender. "Although the position of the enemy should have reduced him to unconditional surrender, Sucre believed it worthy of American generosity to grant some honors to the defeated, who had been victorious for fourteen years in Peru". (Battle report).

Canterac and his comrades determined the conditions of their surrender plan. The next day, December 10th, García Camba and Valdés went to the patriot camp to carry negotiations. Sucre imposed only three restrictions. And so the famous Capitulation of Ayacucho was signed on December 11th in Huamanga. By this settlement "the remainder of the Spanish army, all Peruvian territory which it occupied, all of the provisions, equipment, military stores, and the port of Callao

with its stocks" passed into the patriot's hands. (Nevertheless, Rodil disregarded this clause of the surrender and continued his stubborn resistance until January of 1826).

Sucre could rightfully say at the end of the official description of the battle, "The Peruvian campaign is ended, her independence and America's peace have been signed on this battlefield". And, upon learning of the triumph, Simón Bolívar proclaimed from Lima, "Soldiers, you have given South America liberty, and a fourth of the world is the monument of your glory".

"It can be said, without exaggeration," affirmed the Venezuelan writer, Arturo Uslar Pietri, "that in the history of the Hispanic world there are two key dates. One is, without a doubt, the 12th of October, 1492, when the reality of a New World rises to man's global vision; the other clearly must be that 9th of December of 1824, when, with the triumph of Ayacucho, Latin America finally and definitively becomes independent and takes her destiny into her own hands".

References:

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- Campañas de la Guerra de la Independencia del Perú. Estado Mayor General del Ejército (Lima, 1928)
- General Felipe de la Barra, La Campaña de Junín y Ayacucho (Lima, 1974).
- Comisión Nacional del Sesquicentenario de la Independencia del Perú. Antología de la Independencia del Perú (Lima, 1972).

I entreat you to bring to my notice those leaders and officers of Peru meritorious of promotion for their services in the campaign in order to give them due acknowledgement. This act I believe to be politic and reasonable.

Receive, my General, my felicitations for the glory gained by our forces at Ayacucho, and for the brilliant part you had in this victory. You will receive recompense in the nation's gratitude, and in mine. I have been unable to give you higher rank, as I am told none exists, therefore Providence alone may fill this space. May God be willing that you find satisfaction with these thanks.

Have the goodness to convey my compliments to General Miller and to the remainder of those leaders and officers who brought such glory to your country.

Ever your close and affectionate friend

Bolívar

(Letter from Bolívar to Field Marshall José de la Mar, Lima, 28th December 1824)



Sword of Bolívar
(National Museum of History, Lima)

AVISO

AL PÚBLICO.

Lima Diciembre 18 de 1824.

GRAN VICTORIA TRIUNFO DECISIVO

El ejército libertador al mando del jeneral Sucre ha derrotado completamente al ejército español el 9 del presente mes en los campos de Guamanguilla. El jeneral La-Serna que lo mandaba, ha sido herido y se halla prisionero con los jenerales Canterac, Valdes, Carratalá y demas jefes oficiales y tropa. Por consiguiente, todos los bagajes del enemigo, su armamento y pertrechos, se hallan tambien en nuestro poder. El teniente coronel Medina, ayudante de S. E. el Libertador conducia los partes oficiales de la accion; y es de lamentar la desgracia que tuvo de ser asesinado en Guando por los rebeldes de aquel pueblo. Mas todas las autoridades de los lugares inmediatos al sitio de la batalla, avisan oficialmente el triunfo de nuestras armas, añadiendo que el jeneral Canterac que quedó mandando el campo, despues de haber sido herido el jeneral La-Serna, capituló con el jeneral Sucre estipulando espresamente, que la fortaleza del Callao se entregará al ejército libertador.

El 9 de diciembre de 1824, se ha completado el dia que amaneció en Junin: al empezar este año, los españoles amenazaban reconquistar la América con ese ejército, que ya no ecsiste. Los campos de Guamanguilla han sido testigos de la victoria que ha terminado la guerra de la independencia en el continente de Colon. Allí se ha decidido la cuestion que divide la Europa, que intereza inmediatamente á la América, que es trascendental á todo el jénero humano, y cuyo influjo alcanzará sin duda á mil de mil jeneraciones que se sucedan: esta cuestion es, si el mundo debe gobernarse por el poder absoluto de los que se llaman Lejitimos, ó si es llegada la época en que los pueblos gozen de sus libertades y derechos. En fin, el ejército libertador ha resuelto el problema y ha levantado el último monumento que faltaba á su gloria: la gratitud escribirá en él los nombres de los vencedores de Guamanguilla, y del ilustre jénio que ha dirijido la guerra, que ha salvado al Perú y que en los sucesos de Febrero no ha encontrado, sino nuevos caminos para la gloria: su fama durará hasta la muerte del mundo, y este es un presentimiento que tienen todos los corazones que suspiran por la libertad.

Lima. 1824 *imprensa administrada por J. Maria Concha*

In this way the *Gaceta del Gobierno* of Lima reported the triumph of Aysucho



Battlefield of Ayacucho