



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1809.

Downing-Street, May 24, 1809.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, was received this Evening from Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Wellesley, by Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

MY LORD,

Oporto, May 12, 1809.

I HAD the Honour to apprize your Lordship, on the 7th Instant, that I intended that the Army should march on the 9th from Coimbra to dispossess the Enemy of Oporto.

The Advanced Guard and the Cavalry had marched on the 7th, and the whole had halted on the 8th to afford Time for Marshal Beresford with his Corps to arrive upon the Upper Douro.

The Infantry of the Army was formed into Three Divisions for this Expedition, of which Two, the Advanced Guard, consisting of the Hanoverian Legion and Brigadier-General R. Stewart's Brigade, with a Brigade of Six-Pounders, and a Brigade of Three-Pounders under Lieutenant-General Paget, and the Cavalry under Lieutenant-General Payne, and the Brigade of Guards; Brigadier-General Campbell's and Brigadier-General Brigades of Infantry, with a Brigade of Six-Pounders, under Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke, moved by the High Road from Coimbra to Oporto, and one composed of Major-General Hill's and Brigadier-General Cameron's Brigades of Infantry, and a Brigade of Six-Pounders, under the Command of Major-General Hill, by the Road from Coimbra to Aveiro.

On the 10th in the Morning, before Daylight, the Cavalry and Advanced Guard crossed the Vouga with the Intention to surprize and cut off Four Regiments of French Cavalry, and a Battalion of Infantry and Artillery, cantoned in Albergaria Nova and the neighbouring Villages, about Eight Miles

from that River, in the last of which we failed; but the Superiority of the British Cavalry was evident throughout the Day; we took some Prisoners and their Cannon from them; and the Advanced Guard took up the Position of Oliviera.

On the same Day Major-General Hill, who had embarked at Aveiro on the Evening of the 9th, arrived at Ovar, in the Rear of the Enemy's Right; and the Head of Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke's Division passed the Vouga on the same Evening.

On the 11th, the Advanced Guard and Cavalry continued to move on the High Road towards Oporto, with Major-General Hill's Division in a parallel Road, which leads to Oporto from Ovar.

On the Arrival of the Advanced Guard at Vendas Novas, between Sonto Redondo and Grijon, they fell in with the Outposts of the Enemy's Advanced Guard, consisting of about Four Thousand Infantry, and some Squadrons of Cavalry, strongly posted on the Heights above Grijon, their Front being covered by Woods and broken Ground. The Enemy's left Flank was turned by a Movement well executed by Major-General Murray, with Brigadier-General Langworth's Brigade of the Hanoverian Legion; while the 15th Portuguese Regiment of Brigadier-General Richard Stewart's Brigade attacked their Right, and the Rifle Men of the 95th, and the Flank Companies of the 29th, 43d, and 52d of the same Brigade under Major Way, attacked the Infantry in the Woods and Village in their Center.

These Attacks soon obliged the Enemy to give Way; and the Honourable Brigadier-General Charles Stewart led Two Squadrons of the 16th and 20th Dragoons, under the Command of Major Blake, in Pursuit of the Enemy, and destroyed many and took many Prisoners.

On the Night of the 11th the Enemy crossed the Duero, and destroyed the Bridge over that River.