



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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*Downing-Street, February 4, 1812.*

**M**AJOR the Honourable A. Gordon, has arrived this evening at Lord Liverpool's Office with a dispatch, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Gallegos, 20th January 1812.

MY LORD,

**I** Informed your Lordship in my dispatch of the 9th, that I had attacked Ciudad Rodrigo, and in that of the 15th, of the progress of the operations to that period; and I have now the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that we took the place by storm yesterday evening after dark.

We continued from the 15th to the 19th to complete the second parallel, and the communications with that work; and we had made some progress by sap towards the crest of the glacis. On the night of the 15th we likewise advanced from the left of the first parallel down the slope of the hill, towards the Convent of St. Francisco, to a situation from which the walls of the Fausse Braye and of the town were seen, on which a battery of seven guns was constructed, and they commenced their fire on the morning of the 18th.

In the mean time, the batteries in the first parallel continued their fire; and yesterday evening their fire had not only considerably injured the defences of the place, but had made breaches in the Fausse Braye wall, and in the body of the place, which were considered practicable; while the battery on the slope of the hill, which had been commenced on the night of the 15th, and had opened on the 18th, had been equally efficient still further to the left, and opposite to the suburb of St. Francisco.

I therefore determined to storm the place, notwithstanding that the approaches had not been brought to the crest of the glacis, and the counterscarp of the ditch was still entire. The attack was accordingly made yesterday evening in five separate columns, consisting of the troops of the 3d and light divisions, and of Brigadier-General Pack's brigade. The two right columns, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Toole, of the 2d Caçadores, and Major Ridge, of the 5th regiment, were destined to protect the advance of Major-General Mac Kinnon's brigade, forming the third, to the top of the breach in the Fausse Braye wall, and all these, being composed of troops of the 3d division, were under the direction of Lieutenant-General Picton.

The fourth column, consisting of the 43d and 52d regiments, and part of the 95th regiment, being of the light division under the direction of Major-General Craufurd, attacked the breaches on the left, in front of the suburb of St. Francisco, and covered the left of the attack of the principal breach by the troops of the 3d division; and Brigadier-General Pack was destined with his brigade, forming the 5th column, to make a false attack upon the southern face of the fort. Besides these five columns; the 94th regiment, belonging to the 3d division, descended into the ditch in two columns on the right of Major-General Mackinnon's brigade, with a view to protect the descent of that body into the ditch, and its attack of the breach in the Fausse Braye, against the obstacles which it was supposed the enemy would construct to oppose their progress.

All these attacks succeeded; and Brigadier-General Pack even surpassed my expectations, having converted his false attack into a real one, and advanced guard, under the command of



Lynch, having followed the enemy's troops from the advanced works into the Fausse Braye, where they made prisoners of all opposed to them.

Major Ridge, of the 2d battalion of the 5th regiment, having escaladed the Fausse Braye wall, stormed the principal breach in the body of the place, together with the 94th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, which had moved along the ditch at the same time; and had stormed the breach in the Fausse Braye, both in front of Major-General Mac Kinnon's brigade. Thus these regiments not only effectually covered the advance from the trenches of Major-General Mac Kinnon's brigade by their first movements and operations, but they preceded them in the attack.

Major-General Craufurd and Major-General Vandeleur, and the troops of the light division on the left, were likewise very forward on that side; and in less than half an hour from the time the attack commenced, our troops were in possession of, and formed on the ramparts of the place, each body contiguous to the other. The enemy then submitted, having sustained a considerable loss in the contest.

Our loss was also, I am concerned to add, severe, particularly in officers of high rank and estimation in this army. Major-General Mackinnon was unfortunately blown up by the accidental explosion of one of the enemy's expence magazines, close to the breach, after he had gallantly and successfully led the troops under his command to the attack. Major-General Craufurd likewise received a severe wound while he was leading on the Light Division to the storm, and I am apprehensive that I shall be deprived for some time of his assistance. Major-General Vandeleur was likewise wounded in the same manner, but not so severely, and he was able to continue in the field. I have to add to this list Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne of the 52d regiment, and Major George Napier, who led the storming party of the Light Division, and was wounded on the top of the breach.

I have great pleasure in reporting to your Lordship the uniform good conduct, spirit of enterprise, and patience and perseverance in the performance of great labour, by which the general officers, officers, and troops of the 1st, 3d, 4th, and Light Divisions, and Brigadier-General Pack's Brigade, by whom the siege was carried on, have been distinguished during the late operations. Lieutenant-General Graham assisted me in superintending the conduct of the details of the siege, besides performing the duties of the general officer commanding the first division; and I am much indebted to the suggestions and assistance I received from him for the success of this enterprise.

The conduct of all parts of the 3d division, in the operations which they performed with so much gallantry and exactness on the evening of the 19th, in the dark, afford the strongest proof of the abilities of Lieutenant-General Picton and Major-General Mac Kinnon, by whom they were directed and led; but I beg particularly to draw your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel O'Toole of the 2d Cacadores, of Major Ridge of 2d battalion 5th foot, of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell of the 94th regiment, of Major Man-

ners of the 74th, and of Major Grey of the 2d battalion 5th foot, who has been twice wounded during this siege.

It is but justice also to the 3d division to report, that the men who performed the sap belonged to the 45th, 74th, and 88th regiments, under the command of Captain M'Leod of the royal engineers, and Captain Thomson of the 74th, Lieutenant Beresford of the 88th, and Lieutenant Metcalfe of the 45th, and they distinguished themselves not less in the storm of the place, than they had in the performance of their laborious duty during the siege.

I have already reported in my letter of the 9th instant, my sense of the conduct of Major-General Craufurd, and of Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne, and of the troops of the light division in the storm of the redoubt of St. Francisco, on the evening of the 8th instant. The conduct of these troops was equally distinguished throughout the siege, and in the storm, nothing could exceed the gallantry with which these brave officers and troops advanced and accomplished the difficult operation allotted to them, notwithstanding that all their leaders had fallen.

I particularly request your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Major-General Craufurd, Major-General Vandeleur, Lieutenant-Colonel Barnard of the 95th, Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne, Major Gibbs, and Major Napier of the 52d, and Lieutenant-Colonel M'Leod of the 43d. The conduct of Captain Duffey of the 43d, and that of Lieutenant Gurwood of the 52d regiment, who was wounded, have likewise been particularly reported to me; Lieutenant-Colonel Elder, and the 3d Cacadores were likewise distinguished upon this occasion.

The 1st Portuguese regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, and the 16th, under Colonel Campbell, being Brigadier-General Pack's brigade, were likewise distinguished in the storm, under the command of the Brigadier-General, who particularly mentions Major Lynch.

In my dispatch of the 15th, I reported to your Lordship the attack of the Convent of Santa Cruz, by the troops of the 1st division, under the direction of Lieutenant-General Graham, and that of the Convent of Saint Francisco, on the 14th instant, under the direction of Major-General the Honourable C. Colville. The first-mentioned enterprise was performed by Captain Laroche de Stackenfels, of the 1st Line Battalion King's German Legion; the last by Lieutenant-Colonel Harcourt, with the 40th Regiment. This regiment remained from that time in the suburb of Saint Francisco, and materially assisted our attack on that side of the place.

Although it did not fall to the lot of the troops of the 1st and 4th divisions to bring these operations to their successful close, they distinguished themselves throughout their progress, by the patience and perseverance with which they performed the labours of the siege. The Brigade of Guards, under Major-General H. Campbell, was particularly distinguished in this respect.

I likewise request your Lordship's attention to the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher, the chief engineer, and of Brigade Major Jones, and the officers and men of the Royal Engineers. The ability with which these operations were carried on exceeds all praise; and I beg leave to recom-

mend those officers to your Lordship most particularly.

Major Dickson, of the royal artillery, attached to the Portuguese artillery, has for some time had the direction of the heavy train attached to this army, and has conducted the intricate details of the late operation, as he did those of the late sieges of Badajoz, in the last summer, much to my satisfaction. The rapid execution produced by the well-directed fire kept up from our batteries, affords the best proof of the merits of the officers and men of the royal artillery, and of the Portuguese artillery employed on this occasion. But I must particularly mention Brigade-Major May, and Captains Holcombe, Power, Dyneley, and Dundas, of the royal artillery, and Captains Da Cunha and Da Corta, and Lieutenant Silva, of the 1st regiment of Portuguese artillery.

I have likewise particularly to report to your Lordship, the conduct of Major Sturgeon, of the royal staff corps. He constructed and placed for us the bridge over the Agueda; without which the enterprise could not have been attempted, and he afterwards materially assisted Lieutenant-General Graham and myself, in our reconnoissance of the place, on which the plan of the attack was founded; and he finally conducted the 2d battalion 5th regiment, as well as the 2d Caçadores, to their points of attack.

The Adjutant-General, and the Deputy-Quarter-Master-General, and the officers of their several departments, gave me every assistance throughout this service, as well as those of my personal staff; and I have great pleasure in adding, that, notwithstanding the season of the year, and the increased difficulties of procuring supplies for the troops, the whole army have been well supplied, and every branch of the service provided for during the late operations, by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Commissary-General Bisset, and the officers belonging to his department.

The Marshal del Campo, Don Carlos d'Espana and Don Julian Sanchez, observed the enemy's movements beyond the Tormes, during the operations of the siege; and I am much obliged to them, and to the people of Castille in general, for the assistance I received from them. The latter have invariably shewn their detestation of the French tyranny, and their desire to contribute by every means in their power to remove it.

I will hereafter transmit to your Lordship a detailed account of what we have found in the place; but I believe there are one hundred and fifty-three pieces of ordnance, including the heavy train belonging to the French army, and great quantities of ammunition and stores. We have the Governor, General Banier, about seventy-eight officers, and one thousand seven hundred men, prisoners.

I transmit this dispatch by my Aide-de-Camp, the Honourable Major Gordon, who will give your Lordship any further details you may require; and I beg leave to recommend him to your protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WELLINGTON.

I enclose a return of the prisoners and of the ordnance which has been taken on this occasion. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of the killed and wounded, I therefore transmit a list containing the names of those who have fallen, according to the best information I could obtain, and I

will forward the returns to your Lordship as soon as possible.

*Return of killed and wounded between 15th and 19th January.*

British loss—1 serjeant, 25 rank and file, killed; 4 captains, 5 lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 133 rank and file, wounded.

Portuguese loss—1 serjeant, 15 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 77 rank and file, wounded.

*Names of Officers wounded between 15th and 19th of January.*

*15th January.*

Royal Engineers—Captain Mulcaster, slightly; Lieutenant Skelton, severely, since dead.  
Portuguese Artillery—Second Lieutenant Roberts, slightly.

*16th January.*

Royal Engineers—Captain M'Culloch, severely; Lieutenant Marshall, slightly.  
2d Batt. 5th Foot—Ensign Ashford, severely.  
74th Regiment—Lieut. Ramage, slightly.  
1st Batt. 88th—Lieut. Armstrong, slightly; Lieut. Flack, dangerously.

*18th January.*

Portuguese Artillery—Lieut. A. De Corta Silva, slightly.

*19th January.*

Royal Artillery—Capt. Dynely, slightly; Captain Power, ditto.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded on the Night of the 19th of January, according to the best information that can be obtained; the Returns not yet received.*

*Killed.*

Major-General Mac Kinnon;  
2d Batt. 5th Foot—Captain M'Dougall;  
1st Batt. 43rd Foot—Captain Hardyman;  
1st Batt. 52d Foot—Captain J. Dobbs;  
94th Foot—Captain Williamson.

*Wounded.*

Major-General Craufurd, severely.  
Major-General Vandeleur, slightly.  
Royal Engineers—Lieutenant Thomson, severely;  
43d Foot—Captain Fergusson, slightly.  
52d Foot—Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne, severely;  
Major George Napier, lost an arm; Lieutenant Gurwood, slightly.  
77th Foot—Captain M'Lean, severely (lost a leg).  
88th Foot—Lieutenant Beresford, slightly.  
95th Foot—Captain Uniacke, severely.  
1st Portuguese Artillery—Captain Queerle.

*3d Division.*

50 non-commissioned officers and rank and file killed; 70 ditto wounded.

*Light Division.*

14 non-commissioned officers and rank and file killed; 60 ditto wounded.

*General Pack's Brigade.*

9 non-commissioned officers and rank and file wounded.

