



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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### WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, June 17, 1812.

**MAJOR CURRIE**, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, arrived this Evening at Lord Bathurst's Office with a Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, addressed to the Earl of Liverpool by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Fuente Guinaldo, 28th May 1812.

WHEN I found that the enemy had retired from this frontier, on the 24th of April, I directed Lieutenant General Sir Rowland Hill to carry into execution the operations against the enemy's posts and establishments at the passage of the Tagus at Almaraz.

Owing to the necessary preparations for this expedition Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill could not begin his march, with part of the 2d division of infantry, till the 12th instant, and he attained the objects of his expedition on the 19th, by taking by storm Forts Napoleon and Ragusa, and the tetes-du-pont and other works, by which the enemy's bridge was guarded; by destroying those forts and works, and the enemy's bridge and establishments, and by taking their magazines and two hundred and fifty-nine prisoners, and eighteen pieces of cannon.

I have the honour to enclose Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's report of this brilliant exploit; and I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the difficulties with which he had to contend, as well from the nature of the country, as from the works which the enemy had constructed, and to the ability and the characteristic qualities displayed by Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill in persevering in the line, and confuing himself to the objects chalked out by his instructions, notwithstanding the various obstacles opposed to his progress.

I have nothing to add to Lieutenant-General Sir R. Hill's report of the conduct of the officers and troops under his command, excepting to express my concurrence in all he says in their praise. Too much cannot be said of the brave officers and troops who took by storm, without the assistance of cannon, such works as the enemy's forts on both banks

of the Tagus, fully garrisoned, in good order, and defended by eighteen pieces of artillery.

Your Lordship is aware that the road of Almaraz affords the only good military communication across the Tagus, and from the Tagus to the Guadiana, below Toledo. All the permanent bridges below the bridge of Arzobispo have been destroyed during the war, by one or other of the belligerents, and the enemy have found it impossible to repair them. Their bridge which Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill has destroyed, was one of boats; and I doubt their having the means of replacing it. The communications from the bridges of Arzobispo and Talavera to the Guadiana, are very difficult, and cannot be deemed military communications for a large army. The result then of Lieutenant-General Hill's expedition, has been to cut off the shortest and best communication between the armies of the South and of Portugal.

Nearly about the time that the enemy's troops, reported in my last dispatch to have moved into the Condado de Niebla, marched from Seville, it is reported that another considerable detachment under Marshal Soult went towards the blockade of Cadiz, and it was expected that another attack was to be made upon Tariffa.

It appears, however, that the enemy received early intelligence of Sir Rowland Hill's march. The troops under the command of General Drouet made a movement to their left, and arrived upon the Guadiana at Medellin on the 17th instant; and on the 18th, a detachment of the cavalry under the command of the same General drove in, as far as Ribera, the picquets of Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine's division of cavalry, which had remained in Lower Estremadura, with a part of the 2d division of infantry, and Lieutenant-General Hamilton's division of infantry. Marshal Soult likewise moved from the blockade of Cadiz towards Cordova; and the troops which had marched from Seville into the Condado de Niebla, returned to Seville nearly about the same time; but Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill had attained his object on the 19th, and had returned to Truxillo, and

