

*Extract of a Dispatch from the Marquess of Wellington, dated Cabezon, October 28, 1812.*

SINCE I wrote to your Lordship upon the 26th, I have had an opportunity of seeing the enemy's whole army, as they plac'd themselves opposite to us, on the Pisuegra, yesterday. They are certainly in very great strength. The army of Portugal has received a reinforcement of ten thousand men, including cavalry, from France; and I have reason to believe that there are two divisions of infantry now with this army belonging to the army of the north. The cavalry of the army of the north is certainly with the army of Portugal, and they have at least five thousand good cavalry.

No event of importance has occurred since I addressed your Lordship on the 26th. The enemy formed their army in the plain in our front yesterday. They have cannonaded different parts of our line without doing us any injury, excepting that Lieutenant-Colonel Robe, of the Royal Artillery, was wounded severely, but not dangerously, yesterday.

*Rueda, October 31, 1812.*

THE enemy crossed the Carrion on the 26th and 27th, and formed their army on the heights near Cijales, on the last of those days, opposite our position on the left of the Pisuegra, and their advanced guard about two miles in front of their main body, and half that distance from Cabezon.

On the 28th they extended their right, and endeavoured to force the bridges of Simancas and Valladolid, the former of which was defended by Colonel Halkett, with his brigade of the 7th division, and the latter by Lieutenant-General the Earl of Dalhousie, with the remainder of the 7th division. At length Colonel Halkett, being hard pressed, blew up the bridge. He at the same time detached the Brunswick Oels' regiment to Tordesillas, towards which quarter the enemy detached troops on the evening of the 28th. As soon as I found that this was the case, I thought it proper to break up from the Pisuegra and to cross the Douro, which object was effected without difficulty on the 29th instant, by the bridges of Puente Douro and Tudela.

The bridge of Tordesillas was destroyed on the enemy's approach to that town, on the evening of the 28th, and I had sent orders to the regiment of Brunswick Oels to take post on its ruins, in such manner as to prevent the enemy from repairing the bridge. I had the mortification, however, of learning, on the night of the 29th, that this regiment had been obliged to abandon its post, and as I had seen the enemy's whole army in march towards Tordesillas on that evening, it was obvious that no time was to be lost. I therefore marched the army at an early hour yesterday morning to their left, and posted the troops on the heights between Rueda and Tordesillas, immediately opposite, and near the bridge of Tordesillas. We found the bridge nearly repaired on our arrival,

but the enemy had made no attempt to pass it, and they have now no large assembly of troops in this neighbourhood.

I learn that some of them marched last night towards Valladolid, and others towards Toro.

I have received letters from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill of the 29th.

The Tagus was every where fordable, and the enemy had passed a small body of troops over at Fuente Duernas.

Sir Rowland Hill had collected his troops on the Jacamah. He was likely to receive my orders to move upon Anvalo on the 29th.

*Rueda, November 3, 1812.*

I TAKE the opportunity of the return of the messenger Myers to Coruña, to inform you that the army have continued in the position in which I placed them on the 30th of October; and the enemy have made no attempt to pass the Douro. The bridge of Tordesillas is repaired, and they are employed in the repair of that of Toro. Their troops are extended along the Douro, from the latter place to Valladolid.

In the mean time, the troops under Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill will arrive this day and to-morrow on the Adaja. The General received my orders to break up from his position on the Jacamah on the 29th, and he intended to carry them into execution on the morning of the 30th. He had intended to destroy the Puente Larga, but the mine failed; and the enemy having collected a large body of troops between the bridge and Aranjuez, they immediately attacked our post on the bridge, but were repulsed with considerable loss by the 2d battalion 47th regiment, and a detachment of the 95th, under the command of Colonel Skerret. I have not received the return of our loss upon this occasion, but I understand it is about forty men. No officer was touched. Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill mentions in high terms the conduct of the troops. These circumstances, delayed the march from the right of Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's position till the evening of the 30th, and he has since continued it without being at all molested by the enemy.

The building called La China, in the Retiro, and all the guns, stores, &c. which that work contained, which had not been carried away, were destroyed before the troops were withdrawn from Madrid.

The Spanish divisions of Don Carlos d'España and Comte de Penne Villemur are with Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill.

A small body of the enemy's troops were at Valde Mono on the 31st, and entered Madrid at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 1st instant.

I have accounts from the North stating that Longa has taken a convoy, escorted by three hundred men, near Victoria.