



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1812.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

*Downing-Street, December 3, 1812.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are extracts, were received last night by Earl Bathurst, addressed to his Lordship by the Marquess of Wellington.

*Pitiegua, November 7, 1812.*

**T**HE enemy repaired the bridge at Toro at a much earlier period than I expected. I therefore desired Sir Rowland Hill to continue his march by Foutiveros upon Alba de Tormes, and as soon as I found that he was sufficiently forward, I broke up yesterday morning from the position which I had held in front of Tordesillas since the 30th of last month, and I am in march towards the heights of St. Christoval, in front of Salamanca.

The enemy has not pressed at all upon the rear of the troops under Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, nor have those on the Douro followed the march of the troops under my command: I conclude that the two corps will unite, which, in consequence of the situation of the Douro, I could not prevent.

*Ciudad Rodrigo, November 19, 1812.*

**T**HE troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill crossed the Tormes, at Alba, on the 8th instant, and those under my command took their position on the heights of St. Christoval de la Cuesta on the same day; Brigadier-General Pack's brigade occupying Aldea Lengua, and Brigadier-General Bradford's Cabrerizos on the right; and the British cavalry covering our front. I had desired Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill to occupy the town and castle of Alba, with Major-General Howard's brigade of the 2d division, leaving Lieutenant-General Hamilton's Portuguese division on the left of the Tormes to support those troops; while the 2d division was posted in the neighbourhood of the fords of Encinas and Huerta; and the 4th divisions remained at Calvarassa de Ariba in reserve.

On the 9th the enemy drove in the picquets of

Major-General Long's brigade of cavalry, in front of Alba; and Major-General Long was obliged to withdraw his troops through Alba on the morning of the 10th. In the course of the day, the enemy's whole army approached our positions on the Tormes, and they attacked the troops in Alba with twenty pieces of cannon and a considerable body of infantry. They made no impression on them, however, and withdrew the cannon and the greater part of the troops on that night, and this attack was never renewed.

I enclose Lieutenant-General Hamilton's report to Sir Rowland Hill of the transactions at Alba, which were highly creditable to the troops employed. From the 10th till the 14th the time was passed in various reconnoissances, as well of the fords of the Tormes as of the position which the troops under my command occupied on the right of that river, in front of Salamanca; and on the 14th the enemy crossed that river in force, at three fords near Lucinas, about two leagues above Alba.

I immediately broke up from Saint Christoval, and ordered the troops to move towards Arapiles; and as soon as I had ascertained the direction of the enemy's march from the fords, I moved with the 2d division of infantry, and all the cavalry I could collect, to attack them; leaving Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill with the 4th, and Lieutenant-General Hamilton's divisions, in front of Alba, to protect this movement, and the 3d division in reserve on the Arapiles, to secure the possession of that position.

The enemy, however, were already too numerous, and too strongly posted at Mozarbes to be attacked; and I confined myself to a cannonade of their cavalry, under cover of which I reconnoitred their position.

In the evening I withdrew all the troops from the neighbourhood of Alba to the Arapiles, leaving a small Spanish garrison in the castle, and having destroyed the bridge. In the course of the night and following morning I moved the greatest part of the troops through Salamanca, and placed Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Paget with