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FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, to TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1808.

DOWNING STREET, SEPTEMBER 2, 1808.

Dispatches, of which the following are Copies and Extracts, were last night received from Lieutenant-General Sir HARRY BARRARD and Lieutenant-General Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY, dated from head-quarters at Lourinha, addressed to Viscount CASTLEREAGH, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and brought by Captain CAMPBELL, Aid-de-Camp to Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, dated Head-Quarters at Caldas, the 16th of August 1808.*

I marched from Lyria on the 13th, and arrived at Ahobaco on the 19th, which place the enemy had abandoned in the preceding night; and I arrived here yesterday. The enemy, about four thousand in number, were posted about ten miles from hence, at Borica; and they occupied Brilos, about three miles from hence, with their advanced posts. As the possession of this last village was important to our future operations, I determined to occupy it; and as soon as the British infantry arrived upon the ground, I directed that it might be occupied by a detachment, consisting of four companies of riflemen of the 60th and 95th regiments. The enemy, consisting of a small piquet of infantry and a few cavalry, made a trifling resistance and retired; but they were followed by a detachment of our riflemen to the distance of three miles from Brilos. The riflemen were then attacked by a superior body of the enemy, who attempted to cut them off from the main body of the detachment to which they belonged, which had now advanced to their support; larger bodies of the enemy appeared on both flanks of the detachment, and it was with difficulty that Major-General Spencer, who had gone out to Ebidos, when he had heard that the

riflemen had advanced in pursuit of the enemy, was enabled to effect their retreat to that village. They have since remained in possession of it, and the enemy have retired entirely from the neighbourhood.

In this little affair of the advanced posts, which was occasioned solely by the eagerness of the troops in pursuit of the enemy, I am concerned to add, that Lieutenant Bunbury, of the 2d battalion of the 95th, was killed, and the Honourable Captain Pakenham, wounded, but slightly; and we have lost some men, of whose number I have not received the returns:

*Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, in the Action at Lourinha, August 15, 1808.*

5th Batt. 60th Foot—1 rank and file, killed; 5 rank and file, wounded; 17 rank and file, missing.  
2d Batt. 95th Foot—4 rank and file, missing.

*Officers Killed and Wounded.*  
95th Foot—Lieut. Bunbury, killed; Captain the Hon. H. P. Pakenham, wounded.

G. B. TUCKER, Dep. Adj. Gen.

*Head Quarters, at Villa Verde, August 17, 1808.*

My Lord; The French General Laborde having continued in his position at Roleia since my arrival at Caldas on the 15th instant, I determined to attack him in it this morning. Roleia is situated on an eminence, having a plain in its front; at the end of a valley, which commences at Caldas; and is closed to the southward by mountains, which join the hills; forming the valley on the left; looking from Caldas. In the centre of the valley; and about eight miles from Roleia, is the town and old Moorish fort of Ebidos, from whence the enemy's piquets had been driven on the 15th, and from that time he had posts in the hills on both sides of the valley, as well as in the plain in front of his army, which was posted on the heights in front of Roleia, its right resting upon the hills, its left upon an

eminence on which was a windmill, and the whole covering four or five passes into the mountains in his rear.

I have reason to believe that his force consisted of at least six thousand men, of which about five hundred were cavalry, with five pieces of cannon; and there was some reason to believe that General Loison, who was at Rio Major yesterday, would join General Laborde by his right in the course of the night. The plan of attack was formed accordingly, and the army having broken up from Caldas this morning, was formed into three columns; the right, consisting of twelve hundred Portuguese infantry and fifty Portuguese cavalry, destined to turn the enemy's left, and penetrate into the mountains in his rear; the left, consisting of Major-General Ferguson's and Brig.-Gen. Bowers's brigades of infantry, three companies of riflemen, a brigade of light artillery, and twenty British and twenty Portuguese cavalry, was destined, under the command of Major-General Ferguson, to ascend the hills at Ebidos, to turn all the enemy's posts on the left of the valley, as well as the right of his post at Roleia; this corps was also destined to watch the motions of General Loison, on the enemy's right, who I had heard had moved from Rio Major towards Alcoentre last night. The centre column, consisting of Major-General Hill's, Brigadier-General Nightingale's, Brigadier-General Craufurd's, and Brigadier-General Fane's brigades, (with the exception of the riflemen detached with Major-General Ferguson), and four hundred Portuguese light infantry, the British and Portuguese cavalry, a brigade of nine pounders, and a brigade of six-pounders, were destined to attack General Laborde's position in front.

The columns being formed, the troops moved from Ebidos about seven o'clock in the morning. Brigadier-General Fane's riflemen were

Price Sixpence.

