

necessary to obtain possession of the work on the hill of St. Francis before we could make any progress in our attack. Accordingly Major-General Craufurd directed a detachment of the light division, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Colbourne, of the 52d Regiment, to attack the work shortly after it was dark. The attack was very ably conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Colbourne, and the work was taken by storm in a short time: two captains and forty-seven men were made prisoners, and the remainder of the garrison were put to the sword. We took three pieces of cannon. I cannot sufficiently applaud the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Colbourne, and of the detachment under his command, upon this occasion. I am happy to add that our loss in this affair has not been severe, six men having been killed; Captain Mein and Lieutenant Woodgate, of the 52d, Lieutenant Hawksley, of the 95th, and fourteen men having been wounded.

The success of this operation enabled us immediately to break ground within six hundred yards of the place, notwithstanding that the enemy still held the fortified convents; and the enemy's work has been turned into a part of our first parallel, and a good communication made with it.

Lieutenant-General Hill arrived at Merida on the 30th December. He had hoped to surprise General Dombrowski (who I had been led to imagine was killed in General Hill's last affair with the enemy) in that town; but his advanced guard was discovered on the 29th by a patrol from a small detachment of the enemy, which happened to be at La Nava, which effected its retreat to Merida, notwithstanding the efforts of a detachment of Lieutenant-General Hill's cavalry to prevent it. General Dombrowski retired from Merida in the night, leaving a magazine of bread, and one hundred and sixty thousand pounds of wheat in the town, and several unfinished works, which the enemy had been constructing.

On the 1st, General Hill moved forward with the intention of attacking General Drouet, who commands the 5th corps, at Almendralejo. This General, however, retired upon Zafra, leaving a magazine in the town, containing four hundred and fifty thousand pounds of wheat, and some barley. On the 3d, Lieutenant-General Hill sent a detachment, consisting of the 28th regiment and two squadrons of the 2d Hussars, some squadrons of the 10th Portuguese Cavalry to Fuente del Maestre, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Abercrom-

by. Our cavalry defeated a body of the enemy's cavalry which was there; having taken two officers and thirty men prisoners.

Lieutenant General Hill having found that General Drouet had retreated upon Llerena, and that it would be impossible for him to follow to a greater distance, returned to Merida on the 5th, in order to place the troops under his command in better cantonments, during the bad weather.

I have the honour to enclose letters from Lieutenant General Hill, of the 30th of December, 2d and 6th of January, giving an account of his operations, returns of killed and wounded, &c.

*Return of killed, wounded, and missing of the Army under the Command of His Excellency General Viscount Wellington, K. B. in carrying a Redoubt before Ciudad Rodrigo, on the night of the 8th instant.*

*Head-Quarters, Gallegos, Jan. 9, 1812.*

43d Reg. 1st Batt.—2 rank and file killed; 7 rank and file wounded.

52d ditto, 1st Batt.—2 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 2 rank and file, wounded.

52d ditto, 2d Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

95th ditto, 1st Batt.—1 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 4 rank and file, wounded.

95th ditto, 2d Batt.—1 rank and file wounded.

95th ditto, 3d Batt.—2 rank and file wounded.

Total.—6 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 17 rank and file, wounded.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,  
Major-General, and Adjutant-General.

Note.—1 captain of artillery, 1 subaltern, and 46 rank and file, taken prisoners in the redoubt, and 3 pieces of ordnance, 1 howitzer, and 2 four-pounders.

*Names of Officers wounded on the 8th of January 1812.*

1st Batt. 52d Reg.—Captain Mein and Lieutenant Woodgate, both severely, but not dangerously.

1st Batt. 95th Reg.—Lieutenant Hawksley, severely, but not dangerously.

MY LORD, Merida, Dec. 30, 1811.

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I put the troops under my orders in march from their several cantonments, and entered this Province on the 27th instant by Albuquerque, Villa de Rey, and St. Vicente; and by the intelligence which I received from various quarters, I was led to entertain the most sanguine hopes that I should have been able to surprize the enemy's troops stationed in this town. I was, however, disappointed in my expectations, by finding in La Nava, on our approach to that village yesterday, with the column from Albuquerque, a party of the enemy