



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1812.

Downing-Street, February 4, 1812.

MAJOR the Honourable A. Gordon, has arrived this evening at Lord Liverpool's Office with a dispatch, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Gallegos, 20th January 1812.

MY LORD,

I Informed your Lordship in my dispatch of the 9th, that I had attacked Ciudad Rodrigo, and in that of the 15th, of the progress of the operations to that period; and I have now the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that we took the place by storm yesterday evening after dark.

We continued from the 15th to the 19th to complete the second parallel, and the communications with that work; and we had made some progress by sap towards the crest of the glacis. On the night of the 15th we likewise advanced from the left of the first parallel down the slope of the hill, towards the Convent of St. Francisco, to a situation from which the walls of the Fausse Braye and of the town were seen, on which a battery of seven guns was constructed, and they commenced their fire on the morning of the 18th.

In the mean time, the batteries in the first parallel continued their fire; and yesterday evening their fire had not only considerably injured the defences of the place, but had made breaches in the Fausse Braye wall, and in the body of the place, which were considered practicable; while the battery on the slope of the hill, which had been commenced on the night of the 15th, and had opened on the 18th, had been equally efficient still further to the left, and opposite to the suburb of St. Francisco.

I therefore determined to storm the place, notwithstanding that the approaches had not been brought to the crest of the glacis, and the counterscarp of the ditch was still entire. The attack was accordingly made yesterday evening in five separate columns, consisting of the troops of the 3d and light divisions, and of Brigadier-General Pack's brigade. The two right columns, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Toole, of the 2d Caçadores, and Major Ridsge, of the 5th regiment, were destined to protect the advance of Major-General Mac Kinnon's brigade, forming the third, to the top of the breach in the Fausse Braye wall, and all these, being composed of troops of the 3d division, were under the direction of Lieutenant-General Picton.

The fourth column, consisting of the 43d and 52d regiments, and part of the 95th regiment, being of the light division under the direction of Major-General Craufurd, attacked the breaches on the left, in front of the suburb of St. Francisco, and covered the left of the attack of the principal breach by the troops of the 3d division; and Brigadier-General Pack was destined with his brigade, forming the 5th column, to make a false attack upon the southern face of the fort. Besides these five columns; the 94th regiment, belonging to the 3d division, descended into the ditch in two columns on the right of Major-General Mackinnon's brigade, with a view to protect the descent of that body into the ditch, and its attack of the breach in the Fausse Braye, against the obstacles which it was supposed the enemy would construct to oppose their progress.

All these attacks succeeded; and Brigadier-General Pack even surpassed my expectations, having converted his false attack into a real one, and advanced guard, under the command of

