

**A MEMOIR OF THE LATE MAJOR-  
GENERAL ROBERT CRAUFURD,  
REPRINTED FROM THE MILITARY  
PANORAMA OF OCTOBER 1812. WITH  
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS FUNERAL**

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A Memoir of the late Major-General Robert Craufurd, reprinted from the Military Panorama of October 1812. With an account of his funeral by George Robert Gleig Robert Craufurd

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**GEORGE ROBERT GLEIG ROBERT CRAUFURD**

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BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE SUBALTERN"

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## A MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

MAJOR-GEN. ROBERT CRAUFURD.

**T**HE task of a biographer is rendered highly grateful and pleasing to his feelings, when he reviews the conduct of a departed soldier, whose life has been spent with glory in his country's cause ; and such are our sensations in recording the services of the late Major-General Robert Craufurd. This gallant and distinguished officer entered the army in the year 1779, at the early age of fifteen, and served four years as a subaltern, in the 25th regiment of foot. His early genius, firmness, candour, and daring spirit, obtained the patronage and friendship of his colonel, Sir Charles Stewart,† which were continued to him, in consequence of the perseverance he

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† Brother to the late Lord Bute.

evinced in the attainment of a thorough knowledge of the different branches of military science. Having been promoted to a company, when nineteen, he attended the reviews at Potsdam, and visited the principal theatres of war on the continent, where he devoted his time to the prosecution of military studies, and pursued them with such close application and unremitting ardour, as to become inferior to no officer in Europe in military tactics, or less deeply read in military history.

On his return from the continent, Captain Craufurd became desirous of some active employment on foreign service; we consequently find him, immediately after, employed in India, under Lord Cornwallis. Here he served two campaigns, commanding the 75th regiment, as eldest captain, and distinguished himself wherever an occasion offered. On returning to England, in 1794, Colonel, now Lieutenant-General, Charles Craufurd, who was employed by the British Government on a military mission to the Austrian armies, expressed a wish for the assistance of his brother; and they served together during the campaigns of 1795, 1796, and 1797. Lieutenant-General Charles Craufurd being se-



verely wounded, this gallant officer had the superintendence of the mission entrusted to him; in the discharge of which, a further occasion was afforded for the exercise of those splendid talents and literary abilities with which nature had endowed him, and which he had so richly cultivated.

In 1798, an invasion of Ireland being apprehended, he was appointed Deputy Quarter-Master-General of that country; and on the attempt made by Humbolt, the extensive knowledge Lieutenant-Colonel Craufurd displayed, obtained from his former commander, Lord Cornwallis, and also from Lord Lake, the warmest marks of approbation, as expressed in their accounts to government, viz. "*Of Lieutenant-Colonel Craufurd's zeal, spirit, and abilities, too much cannot be said;*" and all Ireland joined in his praises. In 1799, he was again employed on a military mission to the Austrian armies in Switzerland, where he remained until the expedition to Holland, under the command of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, when Lieutenant-Colonel Craufurd was appointed Deputy Quarter-Master-General, and directed to proceed to that country. Throughout that unfortunate

campaign, he displayed a continued series of ability and military skill, which met with the highest approbation of his illustrious commander.

In 1807, Brigadier-General Craufurd served under Lieutenant-General Whitelocke, in the expedition against Buenos Ayres, and commanded the light brigade which formed the advanced guard of the army, consisting of eight companies of light infantry, a detachment of recruits, about seventy of the 71st regiment, and eight companies of the 95th, or Rifle Corps. In this disastrous expedition, no officer was more distinguished than General Craufurd, whose opinion it was, that, if the main body of the army had been in a situation to support his advanced corps, which, on the 2nd of July, repulsed the enemy, taking twelve pieces of artillery, and pursued them to the entrance of Buenos Ayres, the town would have been carried with ease. In the subsequent operations of that army, the fortitude and perseverance of General Craufurd were particularly conspicuous. His division was the first to enter the town, and a large portion of them fell victims to the fury of the inhabitants, who, from their houses, assailed

*Major-General Robert Craufurd.* 7

the British troops, in a manner which afforded little opportunity of retaliation, or even of defence.

In October, 1808, Major-General Craufurd accompanied the expedition from Falmouth, under Sir David Baird, and commanded the light division of that army. In the advance and retreat of those troops, he lost no opportunity of exerting himself, where ability or courage could be exercised. On the 29th of July, the day after the battle of Talavera, he joined the army of Lord Wellington, having made an extraordinary march of twelve Spanish leagues, nearly fifty miles, in the short space of twenty-four hours.

The several actions in which Major-General Craufurd has been since engaged, have served to increase his reputation both for skill and courage. How fully we are warranted in making this assertion, a reference to the Gazettes of Lord Wellington will readily prove. After the fall of Ciudad Rodrigo, the light division of the combined army, under Brigadier-General Craufurd, consisting of the first battalions of the 43rd, 52nd, and 95th regiments; detachments of the 14th and 16th Light Dragoons, 1st Hussars, King's German Legion;