

a Position on the Heights behind Lannoy. The Orders for this Purpose were given, but having acquainted His Imperial Majesty, who had advanced to Lannoy, with my Intention, the Necessity of co-operating with General Clairfayt induced His Majesty to direct that I should proceed to the Attack of Mouveaux.

I accordingly directed the Attack to be made by Lieutenant-General Abercromby with the Four Battalions of Guards. He found the Enemy strongly intrenched, but having cannonaded it for some Time, the good Countenance of the Flank Battalion of Guards, who advanced to storm it with the utmost Order, supported by the First Battalion, and seconded by the 7th and 15th Light Dragoons, under Lieutenant-Colonel Churchill, compelled the Enemy to retire; with the Loss of Three Pieces of Cannon and of a considerable Number of Men, who were cut down by the Light Dragoons in the Pursuit, which was continued as far as Bouderes.

Upon maturely considering the Nature of our Situation, I directed Lieutenant-General Abercromby to remain at Mouveaux with the Four Battalions of Guards; and having posted Four Austrian Battalions to cover Roubaix, I detached the Second Brigade of British Infantry, under the Command of Major-General Fox, to take Post on my Left, on the great Road leading from Lisle to Roubaix. The Cavalry was divided with these several Corps, for the Purpose of patrolling, the Nature of the Country not admitting of their being of any other Use. My Advanced Posts communicated with those of General Otto, on my Right, who I now found had got Possession of Turcoing.

Early the next Morning the Enemy attacked the Post of Turcoing in great Force, and I received an Application from Colonel Devay, who commanded there, to make a Diversion in his Favor; for which Purpose I sent Two Battalions of Austrians, giving them express Direction, if they should be pressed, to fall back upon me, but, by some Mistake, instead of doing so, they joined Colonel Devay. From this Circumstance, an Opening was left on my Right, of which the Enemy availed himself in the Attack upon my Corps, which took Place soon after, and, by so doing, obliged me to employ the only Battalion I had left, to secure a Point which was of the utmost Consequence to us.

At this Period a very considerable Column of the Enemy, which we have since learnt amounted to 15,000 Men, appeared advancing from Lisle, whilst another Corps, having forced its Way through General Otto's Position by Waterloo, attacked us on the Rear. The few Troops that remained with me, soon

gave Way before such superior Numbers, nor was it in my Power, with every Effort I could use, assisted by those of the Officers who were about me, to rally them. At that Moment the advanced Parties of the Column from Lisle shewed themselves also upon the Road between Roubaix and Mouveaux, and I found it impossible to succeed in the Attempt which I made to join the Brigade of Guards.

Thus circumstanced, I turned my Attention to join General Fox's Brigade, but upon proceeding to Roubaix for that Purpose, I found it in the Possession of the Enemy.

Thus completely cut off from every Part of my Corps, nothing remained for me to do, but to force my Way to that of General Otto, and to concert Measures with him to free my own Troops.

This I effected, accompanied by a few Dragoons of the 16th Regiment, with great Difficulty; but the Project of marching upon Lannoy, to which General Otto had consented, as a Measure which would greatly facilitate the Retreat of my Corps, being given up, upon finding that the Hessians had been obliged to abandon that Place, I found myself under the painful Necessity of continuing with General Otto's Column the remainder of the Day.

Previous to this, I had sent Orders to General Abercromby to retire from Mouveaux to the Heights behind Roubaix, where it was my Intention to have assembled my Corps; and the Coldstream Battalion had been posted to cover the Communication till he effected his Retreat. In consequence of these Directions, General Abercromby began his Retreat, and on his Arrival upon the Heights at Roubaix finding himself surrounded upon all Sides without a Possibility of assembling the Corps, he determined to continue it to Lannoy. This he effected amidst the repeated Attacks of the Enemy, who poured upon him from all Parts. General Abercromby found Lannoy also in Possession of the Enemy, but he avoided the Town by marching round it under a very heavy Fire, and soon after reached Templeuve.

Major-General Fox, after sustaining, with great Resolution, a very vigorous Attack from the principal Part of the Column which came from Lisle, began his Retreat also, and finding himself cut off from the Brigade of Guards, and Lannoy occupied by the Enemy, he directed his March upon the Village of Leers, at which Place he joined the Column of Lieutenant-General Otto.

I inclose you a Return of our Loss upon this Occasion. I regret that it is so great, but when the Nature of the Action is considered, and that it was conducted in a Country the most favorable to the Views of the Enemy that they could have wished