

the Banks on the Roads which led from the Town and the Right, to the Left of our Position.

In the Centre, between the Two Armies, there was a commanding Spot of Ground, on which we had commenced to construct a Redoubt, with some open Ground in its Rear.

Brigadier-General Alexander Campbell was posted this Spot with a Division of Infantry, supported in his Rear by General Cotton's Brigade of Dragoons, and some Spanish Cavalry.

At about Two o'Clock on the 27th, the Enemy appeared in Strength on the Left Bank of the Alberché, and manifested an Intention to attack General Mackenzie's Division.

The Attack was made before they could be withdrawn; but the Troops, consisting of General Mackenzie's and Colonel Donkin's Brigades, and General Anson's Brigade of Cavalry, and supported by General Payne with the other Four Regiments of Cavalry, in the Plain between Talavera and the Wood, withdrew in good Order, but with some Loss, particularly by the 2d Battalion 87th Regiment and 2d Battalion 31st Regiment, in the Wood.

Upon this Occasion the Steadiness and Discipline of the 45th Regiment, and of the 5th Battalion 60th Regiment, were conspicuous; and I had particular Reason for being satisfied with the Manner in which Major-General Mackenzie withdrew his advanced Guard.

As the Day advanced, the Enemy appeared in larger Numbers on the Right of the Alberché, and it was obvious that he was advancing to a general Attack upon the Combined Army.

General Mackenzie continued to fall back gradually upon the Left of the Position of the Combined Armies, where he was placed in the Second Line, in the Rear of the Guards, Colonel Donkin being placed in the same Situation further upon the Left in the Rear of the King's German Legion.

The Enemy immediately commenced his Attack in the Dusk of the Evening, by a Cannonade upon the Left of our Position, and by an Attempt with his Cavalry to overthrow the Spanish Infantry posted, as I have before stated, on the Right. This Attempt failed entirely.

Early in the Night he pushed a Division along the Valley on the Left of the Height occupied by General Hill, of which he gained a momentary Possession, but Major-General Hill attacked it instantly with the Bayonet, and regained it.

This Attack was repeated in the Night, but failed, and again at Daylight in the Morning of the 28th, by Two Divisions of Infantry, and was repulsed by Major General Hill.

Major General Hill has reported to me in a particular Manner the Conduct of the 20th Regiment and of the 1st Battalion 48th Regiment, in these different Affairs, as well as that of Major General Tilson, and Brigadier-General Richard Stewart.

We have lost many brave Officers and Soldiers in the Defence of this important Point in our Position; among others I cannot avoid to mention Brigade-Major Fordyce, and Brigade-Major Gardner: and Major General Hill was himself wounded, but I am happy to say, but slightly.

The Defeat of the 27th was followed about Noon by a general Attack upon the Enemy's whole Force upon the Whole of our Part of the Position occupied by the British Army.

In consequence of the repeated Attempts upon the Height on our Left by the Valley, I had placed two Brigades of British Cavalry in that Valley, supported in the Rear by the Duc d'Albuquerque's Division of Spanish Cavalry.

The Enemy then placed Light Infantry in the Range of Mountains on the Left of the Valley, which were opposed by a Division of Spanish Infantry under Lieutenant-General De Basscourt.

The general Attack began by the March of several Columns of Infantry into the Valley with a View to attack the Height occupied by Major-General Hill. These Columns were immediately charged by the 1st German Light Dragoons and 23d Dragoons, under the Command of General Anson, directed by Lieutenant-General Payne, and supported by General Fane's Brigade of heavy Cavalry; and although the 23d Dragoons suffered considerable Loss, the Charge had the Effect of preventing the Execution of that Part of the Enemy's Plan.

At the same Time he directed an Attack upon Brigadier-General Alexander Campbell's Position in the Centre of the Combined Armies, and on the Right of the British.

This Attack was most successfully repulsed by Brigadier-General Campbell, supported by the King's Regiment of Spanish Cavalry, and Two Battalions of Spanish Infantry; and Brigadier-General Campbell took the Enemy's Cannon.

The Brigadier-General mentions particularly the Conduct of the 97th, the 2d Battalion 7th, and of the 2d Battalion 53d Regiments, and I was highly satisfied with the Manner in which this Part of the Position was defended.

An Attack was also made at the same Time upon Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke's Division, which was on the Left and Centre of the 1st Line of the British Army.

This Attack was most gallantly repulsed by a Charge with Bayonets, by the whole Division, but the Brigade of Guards, which were on the Right, having advanced too far, they were exposed on their Left Flank to the Fire of the Enemy's Battery, and of their retiring Columns; and the Division was obliged to retire towards the original Position, under Cover of the 2d Line of General Cotton's Brigade of Cavalry, which I had moved from the Centre, and of the 1st Battalion 48th Regiment.

I had moved this Regiment from its original Position on the Heights, as soon as I observed the Advance of the Guards, and it was formed in the Plain, and advanced upon the Enemy, and covered the Formation of Lieutenant-General Sherbrooke's Division.

Shortly after the Repulse of this general Attack, in which apparently all the Enemy's Troops were employed, he commenced his Retreat across the Alberché, which was conducted in the most regular Order, and was effected during the Night, leaving in our Hands Twenty Pieces of Cannon, Ammunition, Trunkils, and some Prisoners.

Your Lordship will observe by the inclosed Return the great Loss which we have sustained of valuable Officers and Soldiers, in this long and hard-fought Action, with more than double our Numbers. The Loss of the Enemy has been much greater, and I am assured that entire Brigades of Infantry have been destroyed, and indeed the Battalions that remained were much reduced in Numbers. By all