

All the Roads to Coimbra from the Eastward, lead over one or the other of these Sierras. They are very difficult for the Passage of an Army, the approach to the Top of the Ridge on both Sides being mountainous. As the Enemy's whole Army was on the Right of the Mondego, and as it was evident that he intended to force our Position, Lieutenant General Hill crossed that River, by a short movement to his Left, on the Morning of the 26th, leaving Colonel le Cor with his Brigade on the Sierra de Marcella, to cover the Right of the Army; and Major General Fane with his Division of Portuguese Cavalry, and the 13th Light Dragoons in front of the Alva, to observe and check the Movements of the Enemy's Cavalry on the Mondego. With this Exception, the whole Army was collected upon the Sierra de Bufaco, with the British Cavalry observing the Plain in the Rear of its Left, and the Road leading from Mortagoa to Oporto, through the mountainous Tract which connects the Sierra de Bufaco with the Sierra de Caramula.

The 8th Corps joined the Enemy in our Front on the 26th, but he did not make any serious Attack on that Day. The Light Troops on both Sides were engaged throughout the Line.

At Six in the Morning of the 27th, the Enemy made Two desperate Attacks upon our Position, the one on the Right, the other on the Left of the highest Point of the Sierra. The Attack upon the Right was made by Two Divisions of the 2nd Corps, on that Part of the Sierra occupied by the 3d Division of Infantry. One Division of French Infantry arrived at the Top of the Ridge, when it was attacked in the most gallant Manner by the 88th Regiment, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Wallace; and the 45th Regiment, under the Command of the Honourable Lieutenant Colonel Meade, and by the 8th Portuguese Regiment under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas, directed by Major General Picton.

These three Corps advanced with the Bayonet, and drove the Enemy's Division from the advantageous Ground which they had obtained. The other Division of the 2nd Corps attacked further on the Right, by the Road leading by St Antonio de Cantaro, also in front of Major General Picton's Division. This Division was repulsed before it could reach the Top of the Ridge, by the 74th Regiment under the Command of the Hon. Lieut. Colonel Trench, and the Brigade of Portuguese Infantry under the Command of Colonel Champelmond, directed by Colonel Mackinnon. Major General Leith also moved to his Left, to the Support of Major General Picton, and aided in the Defeat of the Enemy in this Part, by the 3d Battalion Royals, the 1st Battalion, and the 2d Battalion 38th Regiment.

In these Attacks Major Generals Leith and Picton, Colonels Mackinnon and Champelmond of the Portuguese Service, who was wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, the Honourable Lieutenant Colonel Meade, Lieutenant Colonel Sutton of the 9th Portuguese Regiment, Major Smith of the 45th Regiment, who was unfortunately killed, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas, and Major Birmingham of the 8th Portuguese Regiment, distinguished themselves. Major General Picton reports the good Conduct of the 9th and 21st Portuguese Regiments,

commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sutton, and by Lieutenant Colonel de Aroujé Bacellar, and of the Portuguese Artillery, commanded by Major Arent-child.

I have also to mention in a particular Manner the Conduct of Captain Dansey of the 88th Regiment.

Major General Leith reports the good Conduct of the Royals, 1st Battalion 9th, and 2d Battalion 38th Regiment; and I beg to assure your Lordship, that I never witnessed a more gallant Attack than that made by the 88th, 45th, and 8th Portuguese Regiment, on the Enemy's Division which had reached the Ridge of the Sierra.

On the Left, the Enemy attacked with Three Divisions of Infantry of the 6th Corps, that Part of the Sierra occupied by the Light Division of Infantry, commanded by Brigadier General Crawford, and by the Brigade of Portuguese Infantry, commanded by Brigadier General Pack.

One Division of Infantry only made any Progress towards the Top of the Hill, and they were immediately charged with the Bayonet by Brigadier General Crawford with the 43d, 52d, and 95th Regiments, and the 3d Portuguese Caçadores, and driven down with immense Loss.

Brigadier General Coleman's Brigade of Portuguese Infantry, which was in Reserve, was moved up to support the Right of Brigadier General Crawford's Division, and a Battalion of the 19th Portuguese Regiment, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Macbean, made a gallant and successful Charge upon a Body of another Division of the Enemy, which was endeavouring to penetrate in that quarter.

In this Attack Brigadier General Crawford, Lieutenant Colonels Beckwith of the 95th, and Barclay of the 52d, and the commanding Officers of the Regiments engaged, distinguished themselves.

Besides these Attacks, the Light Troops of the Two Armies, were engaged throughout the 27th, and the 4th Portuguese Caçadores, and the 1st and 16th Regiments, directed by Brigadier General Pack, and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel de Reyo Barreto, Lieutenant Colonel Hill, and Major Armstrong, shewed great Steadiness and Gallantry.

The Loss sustained by the Enemy in his Attack of the 27th has been enormous.

I understand that the General of Division Merle and General Maucune are wounded, and General Simon was taken Prisoner by the 52d Regiment, and Three Colonels, Thirty-three Officers, and Two Hundred and Fifty Men.

The Enemy left Two Thousand killed upon the Field of Battle, and I understand from the Prisoners and Deferters that the Loss in wounded is immense.

The Enemy did not renew his Attack excepting by the Fire of his Light Troops on the 28th, but he moved a large Body of Infantry and Cavalry from the Left of his Centre to the Rear, from whence I saw his Cavalry in march on the Road which leads from Mortagoa over the Mountains towards Oporto.

Having thought it probable that he would endeavour to turn our Left by that Road, I had directed Colonel Trant, with his Division of Militia, to march to Sardoal, with the Intention that he should occupy these Mountains, but unfortunately he was sent round by Oporto by the General Officer commanding in the North, in consequence of a small Detach-