

defending the new bridge of Bolueta; his reserve at Castrejuna. As soon as the enemy's force was ascertained, General Renoyales formed his plan of attack: part of the vanguard and Campillo's regiment were to pass the river at Portugalette, and proceed to the heights of Santo Domingo, to attack the enemy's right at daybreak on the 14th, whilst General Porlier, with the vanguard, attacked the enemy who were in possession of the two bridges in the town, and the troops at the bridge of Bolueta and the heights of Ollargan were to attack the enemy's left, which was strongly posted on the heights of Begona and el Morro.

At three o'clock on the morning of the 14th, the attack commenced with great vigour, and, after a heavy fire of four hours, the enemy was driven from the bridges of the town, and from the heights of Begona and Morro; and at nine o'clock, they commenced a precipitate retreat towards Zornoza, pursued by General Renoyales's division, and the vanguard, headed by Porlier: had the troops which were to have attacked the enemy's right, arrived at the appointed time, the victory would have been most complete, and probably General Rouget, with the greater part of his troops, would have been cut off from Durango. Their loss on this occasion far exceeded ours, which was twenty killed and fifty wounded. It was highly gratifying to see the steadiness of the newly raised troops of General Renoyales's division. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on their Chief, in whom they place the greatest confidence, and who is indefatigable in his exertions to complete and organise his division.

Since the 15th we occupied Galdacano and Zornoza, our advance close to Durango, which point the enemy have strengthened, having two guns on the bridge of Yurreta, and occupying several houses in the town; they have also an encampment on their left of the town, on the heights of Santa Lucia and Bctuno.

On the night of the 20th, we received intelligence that the enemy were moving to attack us, and that a column had marched to Orduna, the high road from which to Bilbao joins the road from Zornoza to Bilbao, about a mile from the latter town. General Mendizabal determined to fall back and wait the enemy on the left bank of the river, in nearly the same position as that occupied by General Renoyales on the 14th instant.

On the night of the 21st the enemy advanced from Durango in three columns, two by Zornoza, the other by Villaro, with a view of possessing

themselves of the heights that led from Arrigorriaga, and flanked those of Bolueta, which was the right and the key of our position. Renoyales's division occupied from the heights of Bolueta to those of Olaviaga, which supported our left, covering the bridges of St. Anton, the wooden bridge, and the bridge of boats.

At daybreak on the morning of the 22d, General Mendizabal with part of the vanguard, proceeded to attack this column, directing that the division of Iberia should meet us at Arrigorriaga. Dispositions were made, which seemed to ensure the destruction of this column. The enemy on finding that we were in possession of the bridge of Arrigorriaga and roads leading to Bilbao, changed their direction, and by a most rapid march, favoured by the thickness of the woods, effected their junction with the second column, which was destined to make a simultaneous attack upon the bridge of Bolueta. General Mendizabal, with the vanguard, and Longa's division, arrived in time to resist the enemy's attack; their principal efforts were to force the bridge of Bolueta, which was defended in the most gallant manner; the enemy suffering considerable loss without being able to gain a foot of ground; their efforts on the left of our line proved equally unsuccessful.

General Renoyales at the head of his brave peasant soldiers met their attack at every point; the enemy attempted in vain to force the two bridges of the town, and that of boats; night coming on the enemy retired to his position on the heights of St. Domingo, el Morro and Begona. Arrangements were made for a combined attack upon the enemy's position, but finding that he had, upon being attacked by Renoyales, who crossed the river in front of the heights of Banderas, early in the night, commenced his retreat, no time was lost in pursuing him, and notwithstanding the great advantage he had in point of time, from the rapidity with which the division of Iberia marched, we came up with him near the town of Zornoza, and attacked his rear with such vigour, that his retreat became a confused and disorderly flight; insomuch that they did not avail themselves, as they might have done, of several strong positions which the road from Zornoza to Durango presents. At one of the strongest of these positions they made an effort to stand, but the gallantry of the Commandant-General Longa, who at the head of his troops led the attack, animating them by his example, who charged the enemy with a few cavalry and a