

I immediately ordered the necessary dispositions for a general attack. The light brigade, under the command of Major Jones of the 4th, consisting of the 85th light infantry under Major Gubbins, and the light companies of the army under Major Pringle of the 21st, covered the whole of the front, driving in the enemy's skirmishers with great loss on his main body. The 4th regiment under Major Faunce, by a detour through some hollow ways, gained unperceived a lodgement close upon the enemy's left. The remainder of the right brigade, under the command of the Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Mullins, consisting of the 44th regiment under Major Johnson, the marines of the fleet under Captain Robbins, and a detachment of seamen under Captain Money of the Trave, formed line along the enemy's front, while the left brigade under Colonel Paterson, consisting of the 21st regiment, commanded by Major Whitaker, the 2d battalion marines by Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm, and a detachment of marines by Major Lewis, remained in columns on the road, with orders to deploy to his left, and press the enemy's right, the moment the ground became sufficiently open to admit of that movement.

In this order, the signal being given, the whole of the troops advanced rapidly to the charge. In less than fifteen minutes, the enemy's force, being utterly broken and dispersed, fled in every direction over the country, leaving on the field two pieces of cannon, with a considerable number of killed, wounded, and prisoners.

The enemy lost in this short but brilliant affair, from five to six hundred in killed and wounded, while at the most moderate computation, he is at least One Thousand *hors de combat*. The 5th regiment of militia in particular, has been represented as nearly annihilated.

The day being now far advanced, and the troops (as is always the case on the first march after disembarkation) much fatigued, we halted for the night on the ground of which the enemy had been dispossessed. Here I received a communication from Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, informing me that the frigates, bomb ships, and flotilla of the fleet, would on the ensuing morning take their stations as previously proposed.

At day-break on the 13th, the army again advanced, and at ten o'clock I occupied a favourable position eastward of Baltimore, distant about a mile and a half, and from whence I could reconnoitre at my leisure the defences of that town.

Baltimore is completely surrounded by strong but detached hills, on which the enemy had constructed a chain of pallisaded redoubts, connected by a small breast-work; I have, however, reason to think that the defence to the northward and westward of the place, were in a very unfinished state. Chinkapin Hill, which lay in front of our position, completely commands the town; this was the strongest part of the line, and here the enemy seemed most apprehensive of attack. These works were defended, according to the best information which we could obtain, by about fifteen thousand men, with a large train of artillery.

Judging it perfectly feasible, with the description of forces under my command, I made arrangements for a night attack, during which the superiority of the enemy's artillery would not have

been so much felt, and Captain M'Dougall, the bearer of these dispatches, will have the honour to point out to your Lordship those particular points of the line which I had proposed to act on.

During the evening, however, I received a communication from the Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces, by which I was informed, that in consequence of the entrance to the harbour being closed up by vessels sunk for that purpose by the enemy, a naval co-operation against the town and camp was found impracticable.

Under these circumstances, and keeping in view your Lordship's instructions, it was agreed between the Vice-Admiral and myself, that the capture of the town would not have been a sufficient equivalent to the loss which might probably be sustained in storming the heights.

Having formed this resolution, after compelling the enemy to sink upwards of twenty vessels in different parts of the harbour, causing the citizens to remove almost the whole of their property to places of more security inland, obliging the government to concentrate all the military force of the surrounding states, bracing the militia, and forcing them to collect from any remote districts, causing the enemy to burn a valuable rope walk, with other public buildings, in order to clear the glacis in front of their redoubts, besides having beaten and routed them in a general action, I retired on the 14th, three miles from the position which I had occupied, where I halted during some hours.

This tardy movement was partly caused by an expectation that the enemy might possibly be induced to move out of the entrenchments and follow us, but he profited by the lesson which he had received on the 12th, and towards the evening I retired the troops about three miles and a half further, where I took up my ground for the night.

Having ascertained, at a late hour on the morning of the 15th, that the enemy had no disposition to quit his entrenchments, I moved down and re-embarked the army at North Point, not leaving a man behind; and carrying with me about two hundred prisoners, being persons of the best families in the city, and which number might have been very considerably increased, was not the fatigue of the troops an object principally to be avoided.

I have now to remark to your Lordship, that nothing could surpass the zeal, unanimity, and ardour, displayed by every description of force, whether naval, military, or marine, during the whole of these operations.

I am highly indebted to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane, Commander in Chief of the naval forces, for the active assistance and zealous co-operation which he was ready, upon every occasion, to afford me. A disposition conspicuous in every branch of the naval service, and which cannot fail to ensure success to every combined operation of this armament.

Captain Edward Crofton, commanding the brigade of seamen appointed to the small arms, for the animated and enthusiastic example which he held forth to his men, deserves my approbation, as do also Captains Nourse, Money, Sullivan, and Ramsay, royal navy, for the steadiness and good order which they maintained in their several directions.