

the naval Commander in Chief, the whole fleet got under weigh at break of day, and stood towards the Ance St. Sauveur, where the landing most to windward was to be effected.

I had received information that the troops of the line, and militia under arms, altogether amounted to 6000. I determined therefore to throw my principal force between that of the enemy in Grande-terre and Basse-terre, where it was his intention to have assembled nearly the whole of his force, immediately after our demonstration to windward had of necessity terminated. My plan was to attack in three columns; the scarcity of boats and the surf required that the whole should assist in each disembarkation, which was therefore effected successively. The first was made at the Ance St. Sauveur, where a detachment of the enemy, about five hundred strong, moving from Grande-Terre to join Admiral Count Linois and General Boyer, shewed a disposition to oppose the landing.

The brigs of war and gun boats, however, soon scoured that point, and eight hundred and fifty of the Royal York Rangers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Starck, disembarked (notwithstanding a heavy surf) without the loss of a man.

Lieutenant-Colonel Starck had instructions to make a rapid movement to drive and disperse the enemy occupying the strong country and ravines of Trou-au-chun, Petet Carbet, and looking towards Trois Rivieres; to threaten the left flank and rear of the enemy, posted to oppose the landing at Grande Ance, and to drive him from the important communication of Pautrizel, which leads to turn the strong post of Dolé and Morne Palmiste, the latter being one of the principal keys to Basseterre.

Meanwhile the fleet dropped down to Grand Ance, to effect the principal landing, where the enemy was in force, and possessed a strong position, with batteries commanding the landing place, which was susceptible of obstinate defence. The brigs of war and a gun boat placed to inflade, soon obliged the enemy to abandon his guns, one of which only, a long twelve pounder, was found mounted.

The surf was very great, and one of the gun boats was lost, but the exertions of the navy, and the steadiness of the troops surmounted every difficulty.

The 15th and 25th regiments with the remainder of the 1st and 2d brigades, under Major-Generals Sir Charles Shipley and Stehelin, were safely disembarked.

I immediately moved forward the troops to drive the enemy; but if he had before any hopes of maintaining his position for the night, a sharp fire of musquetry, by which we speedily drove him from Pautrizel, placed his left flank en l'air, and obliged him to retire.

The approach of darkness left no farther means of attack that night, and I placed the troops in their bivouac.

At break of day on the 9th, the troops were put in motion in two columns; the 1st brigade, under Major-General Sir Charles Shipley, moved upon, and occupied Dolé; the 2d under Major-General Stehelin, marched upon the left of the Morne Palmiste, by Pautrizel. It appeared that Comte de Linois and General Boyer had evacuated Dolé

in the night. The enemy, however, shewed himself in considerable force on the left of the Morne Palmiste, and on the face of that mountain, commanding the road to Basse-terre; his advance occupied Petits Hauts.

Captain Leith Fraser, my Aide-de-Camp, was ordered to gain the top of Morne Boucanier, by a difficult detour, with a rifle company of the Royal West India Rangers, and a light company of the 6th West India regiment, to alarm the enemy's right flank and rear, which being accomplished, obliged him to withdraw; his posts were every where driven, and he retreated to the Morne Palmiste.

I determined to push the enemy as rapidly as possible, considering the nature of the country, of which every part is not only susceptible of defence, but is even difficult of access without resistance, especially under the heat of a tropical sun.

A heavy cannonade now announced the disembarkation of the 3d brigade, under Major-General Douglass, in the vicinity of Bailif, and to leeward of Basseterre. I had instructed him to seize the Batterie des Trois; to occupy the capital, to mask, or if practicable, to take Fort St. Charles by a coup-de-main, to open his communication with the columns moving to the attack of Morne Palmiste, and to menace his retreat from thence to Morne Houel.

Major-General Douglass was, if necessary, also to detach from his rear, for the purpose of taking the passés of Zougeres, Pont de Noziere, and Constantine, commanding the approaches to the strong heights of Matouba, in reverse, so that the enemy might not have the means of equivocating between those positions, but be compelled to choose at once his dernier resource.

The enemy, who had been driven by the vessels covering the landing, collected on the heights, and attacked the light company of the 63d regiment, who were advanced; they gallantly maintained their ground against upwards of three hundred of the enemy, who came down to attack them. Captain Lynch and Lieutenant Wigley were wounded on that occasion.

Major-General Douglass, in person, supported them by part of the York Chasseurs, under Lieutenant-Colonel Ewart, and he was immediately driven with loss.

While this operation was going on, the columns of the 1st and 2nd brigades gained the heights of Morne Palmiste, from whence the enemy was driven at all points, and was now retiring to Morne Houel, which he had fortified with eight pieces of artillery. This was the position where Comte Linois and General Boyer had professed their determination of ultimately disputing the superiority in the field.

I received information that the Commandant of Grande-Terre with the whole armed force was, as I expected, moving in my rear to form a junction with the main body at Morne Houel. I accordingly reinforced my rear guard to protect our communications, and occupied in force all the passes of the Gallion, a river running through a formidable ravine at the foot of Morne Palmiste. Thus the troops from Grand-Terre were completely cut off from forming their junction, which they attempted without success by paths through the wood, late in