

CADIZ, August 15.

His Excellency the Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo has sent by express the following despatches to the Secretary at War.

No. I.

Most Excellent Sir,—Having observed on the 24th of July last, that there were already two practicable breaches in the body of the place of St. Sebastian, it was ordered to be attacked on the morning of the 25th; and I am greatly concerned to have to inform your Excellency that this attempt failed.

By an Imperial decree of the 1st of July, Marshal Soult was appointed *locum tenens* of the Emperor, commander in chief of the French armies in Spain, and commandant General of the Provinces in the South of France. He joined and assumed the command of the same on the 13th of the same month, being reinforced, almost at the same time, by the corps which had been under the orders of Gen. Clausel in Spain, as well as by other bodies of troops. He new modelled these armies into one of 9 divisions of foot, and a reserve of the same arm, called the army of Spain, and conferred the command of the right on Gen. Count de Rayle; that of the centre on Gen. Count d'Erlon, that of the left on Gen. Clausel, and that of the reserve on Gen. Vallet, to act as his Lieut. Gens.—and of the cavalry he formed 3 divisions, two of dragoons under the orders of Gens. Tilli and Treyleard, and the other of light horse, under those of Gen. Peter Sault. A numerous artillery had been attached to this army, and great part of it had already joined.

The allied army, as I have informed your Excellency was stationed in the gorges of the mountains. The brigade of British infantry under Gen. Bing, and Gen. Morillo's division of Spanish infantry, were on the right, covering the Roncesvalles pass. Lt. Gen. Sir Lowry Cole, with the 4th division under his command, was in Viscarret, for the purpose of supporting the above mentioned troops; and Lieut. Gen. Sir Thomas Picton, with the 3d division under his orders, was in Olaque, forming the reserve. Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Hill occupied the valley of Bastan, with the remainder of the 2d British division and the Portuguese under Count Amarante, from which had been detached to Aldudes, in the French territory, the brigade under Gen. Campbell. The British light and 7th divisions occupied St. Barbar's heights, the town of Vera, and the Echalar pass, keeping up the communication with the valley of Bastan. The 6th division formed the reserve of these troops in St. Estevan. Gen. Longa, with his division of Spanish infantry, kept up the communication between the troops at Vera and those under the command of Lieut. Gen. Sir T. Graham. Camp-Marshal Giron, with the Spanish infantry under his orders, covered the high road from St. Sebastian to Bayonne, and Count de la Bisbal, with the troops under him, blockaded the fortress of Pamplona.

Marshal Soult brought together, on the 24th of July, the right and left wings of his army, 2 divisions of the centre, and 2 of cavalry, in St. Juan Pie de Puerto; and on the 25th, attacked Gen. Bing's post in Roncesvalles, with from 30 to 40,000 men. Lieut. Gen. Sir L. Cole marched to his assistance with the 4th division, and these two Gens. united, succeeded in maintaining the post the whole day. But, the enemy having outflanked it in the evening, Sir Lowry Cole deemed it necessary to withdraw at night; and they did so, taking up a position in the environs of Zuviri. In the several attacks which took place on this day, the 20th (British) distinguished itself. In the evening of the same, 2 divisions of the enemy's centre attacked Sir R. Hill's position in the Maya pass, at the furthest end of the valley of Bastan. The attack having been principally directed against the brigade of the 2d division, under Major Generals Pringle and Walker, commanded by Lieut. Gen. William Stewart, they were obliged to fall back; but, having been reinforced by the brigade of the 7th division under the command of Major Gen. Barne, they repossessed themselves of that part of their post which forms the key of it, and would have re-occupied the whole, if Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Hill, informed of the retrograde movement which Sir Lowry Cole had been under the necessity of making, had not thought it expedient to march his troops back to Irurita. The enemy, however, did not advance beyond the Maya pass on the following day.

Notwithstanding the enemy's great superiority, he obtained no great advantage over these gallant troops during the 7 hours that the action lasted. All the regiments charged with the bayonet; but the conduct of the 32d, which marched up with Gen. Barne's Brigade, is entitled to particular praise.

Lieut. Gen. the Hon. W. Stewart was slightly wounded. I was not apprised of these occurrences until late in the night of

the 25th; but, the moment I heard of them, I immediately made dispositions for concentrating the army on the right, taking, however, the necessary precautions for carrying on the siege of St. Sebastian and the blockade of Pamplona. I might easily have executed my plan on the 27th, had not Lt. Gen. Sir L. Cole and Sir T. Picton, agreed in the opinion, that the post, which they occupied at Zuviri, could not be defended so long as it would be necessary to maintain it; they accordingly fell back early on the morning of the 27th; and took up a position to cover the blockade of Pamplona, posting their right, which consisted of the 3d division in front of the Ugarte, and extending it as far as the heights on the other side of Gonaiz; the left, composed of the 4th division, of Camp-Marshal Bing's brigade, and of the Portuguese under Brig. Campbell, on the heights in front of Villaba, resting their left on a chapel in the rear of Sourauren, through which village runs the road leading from Ostiz to Pamplona, and their right upon another height which defended the high road from Zuviri to Roncesvalles. Gen. Morillo's Spanish division, and such part of Count de la Bisbal's troops as were not employed in the blockade, formed the reserve, the regiments of Pavia and el Principe being detached from the latter, to occupy part of the height on the right of the 4th division, which commanded and defended the Zuviri road.

The British cavalry, commanded by Lt. Gen. Sir Stapleton Cotton, posted itself on the right near Ugarte, the only point where this arm could be employed.

The river Lanz runs through the valley which was on the left of the allied army and on the right of the French, following the Ostiz road. On the other side of this river, there is another range of mountains which is connected with Lizaso and Marcalain, through which villages it was necessary to keep up the communication with the remainder of the army. I joined the 3d and 4th divisions at the time of their going to occupy their ground on the 27th; and, shortly after, the enemy formed his army upon a mountain, the front of which extends from the Ostiz high road to that of Zuviri, and posted a division on the left of this road, and in a few villages in front of the 3d British division; he also had a strong body of cavalry in that quarter. As soon as they had occupied their ground, they attacked the height on the right of the 4th division, which at that time was occupied by a battalion of the 4th Portuguese regt. and by the Spanish regiment of Pravia. These troops defended their post, and drove the enemy from it with the bayonet. Seeing how important this height was to our position, I reinforced it with the 40th (British) which, together with the Spanish regts. of el Principe and Pravia, have maintained it ever since, notwithstanding the repeated efforts which the enemy made on the 27th & 28th to carry it. Almost at the same time that they attacked the said height on the 27th, they took possession of the village of Sourauren, which enabled them to establish their communication by the Ostiz road, keeping up a brisk fire of musketry all along the line until it grew dark. On the morning of the 28th, the 6th division incorporated itself with us, and I ordered it to occupy the heights on the left of the valley of Lanz, drawing up its principle force in the same valley, in the rear of the left of the 4th division; in consequence of which, the left of the said 6th division defended the said heights, and rested its right on the village of Oricain.

Scarcely had this division taken the above mentioned position, when it was attacked by a vastly superior force of the enemy's which had successively assembled in the village of Sourauren. Notwithstanding the great superiority of the assailants, as its front was also defended by its own light troops posted on the heights to its left, and on the other side, by the fires of the heights on its right, which were occupied by the troops of the left of the 4th division, and Gen. Campbell's Portuguese brigade, they speedily and gallantly drove back the enemy who was under the necessity of retiring, with considerable loss, owing to the brisk fire which was directed against his front and both flanks. With a view to extricate his troops from the critical situation in which they were placed in the valley of Lanz, the enemy then attacked the height on the left of the 4th division, defended by the 7th regt. of Portuguese Chasseurs, and succeeded in making himself master of it for a short time, but, the same regiment attacking it anew, supported the brigade of the 4th division under the orders of Major Gen. Ross who marched at its head, he was driven from it with considerable loss. At this time the battle became general along the whole extent of the heights occupied by the 4th division, and was favorable to us on

every point, except that where was posted a battalion of the 10th (Portuguese) of Gen. Campbell's brigade. This battalion, unable to make head against the superior numbers by which it was attacked, was compelled to give way, which enabled the enemy to establish himself on our line, close on the right of Gen. Ross's brigade which was under the necessity of withdrawing from its post.

I accordingly ordered the 48th and 27th to charge with the bayonet, first, the enemy's body which had just taken possession of the height, and, next, that of the left. Both attacks, or charges, were made in so able and so gallant a manner, that the enemy was driven from both points with immense loss. At this time the 6th division advanced, and took up a position in the same valley, nearer the left of the 4th. This put an end to the attack upon this part of our front, and it was but feebly carried on upon other points of our line.

During this severe contest, the gallant 4th division, which has so frequently distinguished itself in this army, surpassed its own former brilliant conduct. All the regiments charged the enemy with the bayonet; and the 40th, 7th, 20th, and 23d, did form four different instances.—Their officers set them the example, and Major Gen. Ross had 2 horses killed under him; which he mounted one after the other.

The Portuguese troops behaved admirably well, and I had every reason to be pleased with the conduct of the Spanish regiments of Pravia and el Principe.

I directed Sir R. Hill to march by Lanz to Lizaso, the moment I knew that Lieut. Generals Sir Thomas Picton, and Sir Lowry Cole had withdrawn from Zuviri, and desired Lord Dalhousie to proceed from St. Esteban to the same point; they both reached it on the 28th, and the 7th division afterwards marched to Marcalain.

The force opposed to Sir R. Hill, followed this General, and arrived at Ostiz on the 29th. The enemy, who occupied on the mountain a position which it was not easy to attack, having been reinforced, and seeing that he could make no impression upon our front, resolved to try whether he could turn our left by attacking Sir R. Hill's corps, to which end he reinforced with another division the troops which he had opposed to him, maintaining at the same time, the points which he occupied on the mountain on which was drawn up his principle force; but withdrawing those of his left, which lined the heights in front of the 3d division, during the night of the 29th, he occupied with a strong body of men the summit of the mountain on our left, on the side of Lanz, in front of the 6th and 7th divisions, thereby connecting the right of his position with the detached divisions, for the purpose of attacking Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Hill.

Notwithstanding all I have stated, I determined to attack his position; to which end, I directed Lieut. Gen. Lord Dalhousie to make himself master of the summit of the mountain in front of him, by which operation the right of the enemy's line would be turned; and I desired Lieut. Gen. Sir T. Picton to proceed across the heights which the enemy's left had occupied, and to turn the latter by the Roncesvalles road. The dispositions for attacking the front of his position were made, and the troops ready to effect it, the moment we should observe the impression made upon his flanks by the above-mentioned movements. Major Gen. Pakenham, to whom I confided the command of the 6th division as soon as Major Gen. Pack was wounded, turned the village of Sourauren when he saw that Lord Dalhousie had driven the enemy from the mountain which protected that flank, and the 6th division and Gen. Bing's brigade which had been relieved by the 4th which was on the left of our position in the direction of the Ostiz road, immediately attacked the village of Sourauren, and likewise drove the enemy from it. Lieut. Gen. Sir Lowry Cole also attacked the front of the enemy's principal position, with the 7th Chasseurs, supported by the 11th, both Portuguese, the 40th (British) and the battalion under the command of Col. Bingham, composed of the 53d and of the Queen's regiment (British.) All these operations compelled the enemy to abandon his position, which was one of the strongest and most difficult of access that I have ever seen occupied by troops.

Upon withdrawing from the mountains the enemy lost a great many prisoners.

I cannot sufficiently praise the conduct of all the Generals, officers and men during these operations. The attack made by Lord Dalhousie was admirably conducted by him, and carried into effect by Major Gen. Wright, and the troops of his brigade. That which was made by the Hon. Edward Pakenham, Major Gen. Bing, and Lieut. Gen. Sir Lowry Cole, as well as the move-

ment executed by Sir T. Picton, deserve my utmost commendations. The latter General assisted in the attack on the mountain, by detaching troops from his left; the Hon. Lieut. Col. Trench was wounded in this attack, but, I hope not dangerously.

As these operations were carrying on, and I saw the advantage which we were obtaining, I successively detached troops to the assistance of Sir R. Hill.

The morning being already pretty far advanced the enemy made his appearance in front of him, and commenced to manoeuvre with a view to extend himself on his left flank, which laid him under the necessity of retiring from the height which he occupied in the right of Lizaso, and of taking up a position on the contiguous range of mountains. Notwithstanding the superior numbers by which he was attacked, he maintained it.

I continued to pursue the enemy from the mountain which he at first occupied, as far as Olaque, where I immediately placed myself in the rear of the left of those who attacked Lt. Gen. Sir R. Hill. During the night they abandoned the ground in front of this General, and, yesterday, took up, with two divisions, a strong position in Dona Maria's pass.

Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Hill and Lord Dalhousie attacked and drove them from the said pass, notwithstanding the vigorous resistance which they made, and the formidable strength of their position. I am concerned to add, that Lt. Gen. the Hon. W. Stewart was again wounded upon this occasion.

While the said Generals were attacking the enemy, I advanced with Gen. Bing's brigade, and the 4th division, under the command of Lt. Gen. the Hon. Sir Lowry Cole, by the Belate pass, to Irurita, with a design to turn the enemy's position in Dona Maria.

Camp-Marshal Bing captured in Elizondo a large convoy on its way to the enemy and took a great many prisoners.

We have this day carried on the pursuit through the valley of the Bidasoa, and captured a great quantity of baggage and many men.

The above-mentioned Gen. Bing has taken possession of the valley of Bastan and occupied the position of the Maya pass; and to night the army will be in nearly the same positions as on the 25th of July.

I hope Government will be satisfied, upon this occasion, with the conduct of the troops of the allied army under my immediate command.

The enemy's army, having received considerable reinforcements, and been equipped anew, since its last defeat, made a formidable effort to raise the blockade of Pamplona, with the whole of its forces; the reserve, under General Villatt, excepted, which remained in front of such of our troops as cover the Irun high road. This attempt was frustrated by the operation of part only of the Allied army; and the French army has sustained a fresh defeat, and lost a great many officers and men.

The enemy's hopes of obtaining greater advantages than the first which he had in contemplation—the raising of the blockade of Pamplona—were certainly very sanguine; and, accordingly, he brought to Spain a numerous body of cavalry, and a great many pieces of cannon, although neither arm could, generally speaking, be advantageously used by either army in the battle which we have fought. In the evening of the 28th, they sent off the artillery to Juan del Pie de Puerto; owing to which precaution it has reached the French territory.

From the detailed account of the operations, your Excellency will perceive how much reason I have to be pleased with the conduct of all the Generals, Officers, and men. It is impossible for me to express the enthusiasm and gallantry of the 4th division, and I am greatly indebted to Lieut. Gen. Sir Lowry Cole, for the able manner in which he conducted the operations of this division. I am equally so to Major Gen. Ross, Major Generals Anson and Bing, and to Brigadier General Campbell in the Portuguese service. All the Commandants and officers of regiments distinguished themselves by their gallantry; but I took particular notice of that of Lieut. Col. O'Toole, of the 7th Chasseurs, in the charge with the bayonet, upon our left on the 28th, and of that of Capt. Tellez Jurdau, of the 11th, both Portuguese, in the attack of the 30th on the mountains.

I ought not to pass over in silence the particular services rendered, during these operations, by Lieut. Generals Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Dalhousie, and Sir T. Picton; nor can I avoid mentioning, that Lieut. Gen. Count de la Bisbal has given me as much assistance as lay in his power, and was consistent with the attention which he was to pay, above all things, to the blockade