

tained.) but on advancing, I found the Country to be so extremely strong and close, as not to admit of a Separation of the Division, and it was consequently moved in a single Column, the First Brigade leading.

On rising a Height just above the Village des Habitans, we perceived an Out-post of the Enemy on some high Ground in our Front, and separated from our Column by a deep Ravine. This Party however soon abandoned his Position, fearful of being turned, and the Column pushed on, its Advance skirmishing with the Enemy, until he shewed himself in extended Order over some high and tolerably open Ground.

The Rifle Company of the Royal West India Rangers were detached through the Canes, to turn his Left, the 15th Regiment to his Right, and the 13th Light Infantry moved down a Road which led direct to his Position. A smart Affair now took place, and the Enemy was soon driven over a Ravine in his Rear, on the opposite Bank of which he had an Entrenchment, and where he again endeavoured to make a Stand; but the 13th Light Infantry, supported by the Remainder of the 1st Light Infantry Battalion, forced him from it in a very spirited Way; and the whole Battalion took Post for the Night on the Ground they had gained, the Remainder of the Division occupying strong Ground in the Rear.

On the 31st, the First Brigade moved to a Position within Twelve Hundred Yards of, and parallel to, Post Bellair, by which I was in Hopes of penetrating to the Rear of that Work; but on reconnoitring the Passes of the Ravine between us, they were found so difficult that I was induced to take Ground to my Right (from whence an Approach to the Enemy's principal Defences was alone practicable); but previous to this Movement, having ascertained that Artillery might be most usefully employed on that Spot, I desired Two Six-Pounders and Two Five and a Half Inch Mortars to be brought up there, which by the uncommon Exertion (I may almost say unparalleled Efforts,) of the Navy, was effected during the Night of the 2d, and the Battery opened on the Morning of the 3d, under the Direction of Captain Unett, Royal Artillery. In the Evening of the 2d, I determined to occupy the Ridge Beaupaire St. Louis, on the upper Part of which the strong Post of Bellair is situated, and for this Purpose pushed forward the 1st Battalion Grenadiers, under Major Browne, and a Detachment of the 4th West India Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Buchan, the whole to be eventually under the Command of the latter Officer.

This Detachment succeeded in their Object without Opposition; but on the Morning of the 3d, the Enemy being observed moving in Force from his Work, evidently intending an Attempt to dislodge Lieutenant-Colonel Buchan's Party, I lost not a Moment in moving to his Support with the First Brigade. Ere I could reach him, however, a very smart Action had commenced, but we arrived in Time to compleat the Repulse, and to drive the Enemy back to his Post with severe Loss.

Not judging it expedient immediately to attempt the Assault of the Work, as well from my Knowledge of your Excellency's Plan, as from the extreme Fatigue of the gallant Troops who were impatient to execute it, I contented myself with

pushing forward the First Light Infantry 15th Regiment, and Third West India, within a few hundred Yards of Bellair. The two former Corps were not much annoyed during the Remainder of the Day, but the Enemy made a Movement in the Afternoon against the Third West India Regiment, and a Company of the Royals under Major Allen, which was spiritedly repulsed, but unfortunately not without Loss.

I grieve to say also the general Loss is not inconsiderable, as will appear by the enclosed Returns of Killed and Wounded.

During the Night we got up Two Eight-Inch Howitzer Mortars, under the Fire of which I proposed to have possessed myself of Post Bellair, but at Eight o'Clock in the Morning of the 4th Instant, (being a few Hours before the Battery was compleated,) Flags of Truce were shewn from Bellair, and the Head Quarters of General Ernouf, which terminated all Hostilities.

With the Exception of the Grenadier Companies of the Second and Fourth Battalions of the 60th Regiment, who, notwithstanding every Exertion of their gallant Officers, did not conduct themselves to my Satisfaction, it only remains for me to express my highest Approbation of the good Conduct of the Division under my Command, of their patient Endurance of Fatigue and Deprivation, of their cheerful and prompt Obedience to every Order, and of their Gallantry, whenever an Opportunity offered for its Manifestation.

Where all deserve so much Praise, it is difficult to discriminate, but the good Fortune of the Grenadiers of the 46th Regiment, under Captain Ogilvie, and of the 1st Light Battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel David Stewart, brought their Merits very conspicuously forward. They, in truth, behaved most admirably.

To Brigadier-General Sir Charles Shipley I am particularly indebted for his indefatigable Exertion and friendly Co-operation on every Occasion, from the Period of his having reconnoitred the Point of Debarkation, to his ready Assistance in the Affair of the 3d.

To Brigadier-General Barrow, for his cordial Services on all Occasions, but especially during the Action of the 3d, when he brought up his Brigade in a very handsome Manner to my Support, I owe my best Thanks.

The Arrangements, Zeal and Activity of Lieutenant-Colonel Riall, on whom the Command of my own Brigade devolved, have been conspicuous.

The Detachment of the Royal Artillery, under Captain Unett, fully deserve their Share of Praise; and the Conduct of the Royal Engineers, under Brigadier-General Sir Charles Shepley and Colonel Johnstone, was highly meritorious.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, Deputy Q. B. M. General, has conducted the Duties of his Department much to my Satisfaction.

Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, Deputy Adjutant-General, merits my warmest Acknowledgments, by his zealous Services, which have been unremitting, and particularly for his Exertions and able Assistance in the Affair of the 3d.

Dr. Burke and the Medical Staff have ably and diligently performed their Duties; and the same Credit is due to Mr. Deputy Commissary-General Wethered in his Department.

I cannot omit mentioning Captain Beatty, Assist-