

order to secure them still further, I moved two brigades of the 4th division on the 30th, to the Convent of San Antonio, one of which (General Ross's), under Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir Lowry Cole, moved up the same day to the Sierra de Aya, and the other, on the morning of the 31st, leaving the 9th Portuguese brigade on the heights between the Convent and Vera, and Lezaca.

Major-General Inglis's brigade of the seventh division was moved on the 30th to the bridge of Lezaca; and I gave orders for the troops in the Puertos of Echalar, Zugarramurdi, and Maya to attack the enemy's weakened posts in front of those positions.

The enemy crossed the Bidassoa by the fords between Andara and the destroyed bridge on the high road, before day-light on the morning of the 31st, with a very large force, with which they made a most desperate attack along the whole front of the position of the Spanish troops on the heights of San Marcial. They were driven back, some of them even across the river, in the most gallant style, by the Spanish troops, whose conduct was equal to that of any troops that I have ever seen engaged; and the attack having been frequently repeated, was upon every occasion defeated with the same gallantry and determination. The course of the river being immediately under the heights on the French side, on which the enemy had placed a considerable quantity of cannon, they were enabled to throw a bridge across the river, about three quarters of a mile above the high road, over which in the afternoon they marched again a considerable body, which, with those who had crossed the fords, made another desperate attack upon the Spanish positions. This was equally beat back; and at length finding all their efforts on that side fruitless, the enemy took advantage of the darkness of a violent storm to retire their troops from this front entirely.

Notwithstanding that as I have above informed your Lordship, I had a British division on each flank of the 4th Spanish army, I am happy to be able to report, that the conduct of the latter was so conspicuously good, and they were so capable of defending their post without assistance, notwithstanding the desperate efforts of the enemy to carry it, that finding that the ground did not allow of my making use of the 1st or 4th divisions on the flanks of the enemy's attacking corps, neither of them were in the least engaged during the action.

Nearly at the same time that the enemy crossed the Bidassoa in front of the heights of San Marcial, they likewise crossed that river with about three divisions of infantry in two columns, by the fords below Salin, in front of the position occupied by the 9th Portuguese brigade. I ordered Major-General Inglis to support this brigade with that of the 7th division, under his command; and as soon as I was informed of the course of the enemy's attack, I sent to Lieutenant-General the Earl of Dalhousie to request that he would likewise move towards the Bidassoa, with the 7th division, and to the light division, to support Major-General Inglis by every means in their power. Major-General Inglis found it impossible to maintain the heights between Lezaca and the Bidassoa,

and he withdrew to those in front of the Convent of San Antonio, which he maintained.

In the mean time Major-General Kempt moved one brigade of the light division to Lezaca, by which he kept the enemy in check, and covered the march of the Earl of Dalhousie to join Major-General Inglis.

The enemy, however, having completely failed in their attempt upon the position of the Spanish army on the heights of San Marcial; and finding that Major-General Inglis had taken a position from which they could not drive him; at the same time that it covered and protected the right of the Spanish army, and the approaches to San Sebastian by Oyarzun, and that their situation on the left of the Bidassoa was becoming at every moment more critical, retired during the night.

The fall of rain during the evening and night had so swollen the Bidassoa, that the rear of their column was obliged to cross at the bridge of Vera. In order to effect this object, they attacked the posts of Major-General Skerritt's brigade of the light division, at about three in the morning, both from the Puerto de Vera and from the left of the Bidassoa. Although the nature of the ground rendered it impossible to prevent entirely the passage of the bridge after day-light, it was made under the fire of a great part of Major-General Skerritt's brigade, and the enemy's loss in the operation must have been very considerable.

While this was going on upon the left of the army, Mariscal de Campo Don Pedro Giron attacked the enemy's posts in front of the pass of Echalar, on the 30th and 31st. Lieutenant-General the Earl of Dalhousie, made General Le Cor attack those in front of Zugarramurdi, with the 6th Portuguese brigade, on the 31st; and the Honourable Major-General Colville, made Colonel Douglas attack the enemy's posts in front of the pass of Maya, on the same day, with the 7th Portuguese brigade. All these troops conducted themselves well.

The attack made by the Earl of Dalhousie, delayed his march till late in the afternoon of the 31st, but he was in the evening in a favourable situation for his further progress; and in the morning of the 1st, in that allotted for him.

In these operations, in which a second attempt by the enemy to prevent the establishment of the Allies upon the frontiers, has been defeated, by the operations of a part only of the Allied Army, at the very moment at which the town of St. Sebastian was taken by storm; I have had great satisfaction in observing the zeal and ability of the Officers, and the gallantry and discipline of the soldiers.

The different reports which I have transmitted to your Lordship from Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, will have shewn the ability and perseverance with which he has conducted the arduous enterprise entrusted to his direction, and the zeal and exertion of all the Officers employed under him.

I fully concur in the Lieutenant-General's report of the cordial assistance which he has received from Captain Sir George Collier, and the Officers, Seamen, and Marines under his command; who have done every thing in their power to facilitate