

enemy in a strong position near Orthes, with his right on the heights on the high road to Dax, and occupying the village of St. Boes, and his left the heights above Orthes and that town, and opposing the passage of the river by Sir R. Hill.

The course of the heights on which the enemy had placed his army, necessarily retired his centre, while the strength of the position gave extraordinary advantages to the flanks.

I ordered Marshal Sir W. Beresford to turn, and attack the enemy's right with the 4th division under Lieutenant-General Sir Lowry Cole, and the 7th division under M. General Walker and Colonel Vivian's brigade of cavalry; while Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton should move along the great road leading from Peyrehorade to Orthes, and attack the heights on which the enemy's centre and left stood, with the 3d and 6th divisions, supported by Sir Stapleton Cotton with Lord Edward Somerset's brigade of cavalry. M. General Charles Baron Alten, with the light division, kept up the communication, and was in reserve between these two attacks. I likewise desired Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill to cross the Gave and to turn, and to attack the enemy's left.

Marshal Sir W. Beresford carried the village of St. Boes with the 4th division, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Lowry Cole, after an obstinate resistance by the enemy; but the ground was so narrow that the troops could not deploy to attack the heights, notwithstanding the repeated attempts of Major-General Ross and Brigadier-General Vasconcello's Portuguese brigade; and it was impossible to turn the enemy by their right, without an excessive extension of our line.

I therefore so far altered the plan of the action, as to order the immediate advance of the 3d and 6th divisions, and I moved forward Colonel Bernard's brigade of the light division, to attack the left of the height on which the enemy's right stood.

This attack, led by the 52d regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Colborne, and supported on their right by Major-General Brisbane's and Colonel Kean's brigades of the 3d division, and by simultaneous attacks on the left by Major-General Anson's brigade of the 4th division, and on the right by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton, with the remainder of the 3d division and the 6th division under Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, dislodged the enemy from the heights, and gave us the victory.

In the meantime Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill had forced the passage of the Gave above Orthes, and seeing the state of the action, he moved immediately with the second division of infantry under Lieutenant-General Sir William Stewart, and Major-General Fane's brigade of cavalry, direct for the great road from Orthes to St. Sever, thus keeping upon the enemy's left.

The enemy retired at first in admirable order, taking every advantage of the numerous good positions which the country afforded. The losses, however, which they sustained in the continued attacks of our troops, and the danger with which they were threatened by Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's movements, soon accelerated their movements, and the retreat at length became a flight, and their troops were in the utmost confusion.

Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton took advantage of the only opportunity which offered to charge with Major-General Lord Edward Somerset's brigade in the neighbourhood of Sault de Navailles, where the enemy had been driven from the high road by Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill. The 7th hussars distinguished themselves upon this occasion, and made many prisoners.

We continued the pursuit till it was dusk, and I halted the army in the neighbourhood of Sault de Navailles.

I cannot estimate the extent of the enemy's loss: we have taken six pieces of cannon and a great many prisoners, the numbers I cannot at present report. The whole country is covered by their dead. Their army was in the utmost confusion when I last saw it passing the heights near Sault de Navailles, and many soldiers had thrown away their arms. The desertion has since been immense.

We followed the enemy the day after to this place; and we this day passed the Adour; Marshal Sir W. Beresford, with the light division, and Colonel Vivian's brigade upon Mont de Marsan, where he has taken a very large magazine of provisions.

Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill has moved upon Aire, and the advanced posts of the centre are at Casares.

The enemy are apparently retiring upon Agen, and have left open the direct road towards Bordeaux.

Whilst the operations, of which I have above given the report, were carrying on on the right of the army, Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, in concert with Rear-Admiral Penrose, availed himself of an opportunity which offered on the 23d of February, to cross the Adour below Bayonne, and to take possession of both banks of the river at its mouth. The vessels destined to form the bridge could not get in till the 24th, when the difficult, and at this season of the year, dangerous operation of bringing them in was effected with a degree of gallantry and skill seldom equalled. Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope particularly mentions Captain O'Reilly and Lieutenant Cheshire, Lieutenant Douglas, and Lieutenant Collins, of the royal navy, and also Lieutenant Debenham, agent of transports; and I am infinitely indebted to Rear-Admiral Penrose for the cordial assistance I received from him in preparing for this plan, and for that which he gave Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope in carrying it into execution.

The enemy, conceiving that the means of crossing the river, which Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope had at his command, viz. rafts made of pontoons, had not enabled him to cross a large force in the course of the 23d, attacked the corps which he had sent over on that evening. This corps consisted of six hundred men of the 2d brigade of guards, under the command of Major-General the Honourable Edward Stopford, who repulsed the enemy immediately. The rocket brigade was of great use upon this occasion.

Three of the enemy's gun-boats were destroyed this day, and a frigate lying in the Adour received considerable damage from the fire of a battery of