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time, the neighbouring French divisions, Chabran's on his left and Turreau's on his right, were to render assistance by creating diversions.

Further description will be facilitated by giving a table showing the composition and situation of the various bodies of troops, beginning with the Austrians, and proceeding in order of their positions from west to east. It should be mentioned that an Austrian regiment consisted of three battalions of six companies each, but the battalions (which were of an average strength of 800 men) were often detached and used singly. On the French side, a demi-brigade consisted of three battalions of nine companies each (one of them a grenadier company) and was roughly 1,800 to 2,200 men strong. Here also it often happened that battalions were detached from their demi-brigade and used separately. The battalions were identified by their number followed by that of the demi-brigade to which they belonged. Thus, 1st/38th meant the 1st battalion of the 38th demi-brigade. It was also common for the grenadier companies of several different battalions and demi-brigades to be grouped together.

All the French troops involved (Turreau's, Lecourbe's and Chabran's Divisions) were under the control of Masséna and formed part of the Army of Helvetia. The Austrian troops who took part in these operations, however, belonged to two different Armies. From the Simplon pass to the Grimsel the Austrian units formed part of Hadik's Corps which belonged to the Army of Italy under Suvorof. On the other hand, the units which occupied the Urserental, the Reuss valley and the regions between the lakes of Lucerne and Zürich, together with the remaining Austrian troops in Switzerland, belonged to the Army of the Archduke Charles.

Briefly the French plan was the following. Boivin was to attack on Schwyz from Arth, while the little column from Gersau came along the shore of the lake of Lucerne to Brunnen. Between them they were to drive their opponents of Jellachich's Brigade up the Muotta valley towards the Prigel pass, and so away from the lake of Lucerne and the Reuss. Lecourbe with the reserve on board the flotilla, was to sail to Brunnen, to bombard it from the water and to land some companies to assist in taking Brunnen.

Porson's task was to advance along the western shore of the Urner See past Bauen and Isenthal to attack Seedorf. Daumas was to march from Engelberg over the Surenen pass, descending into the Reuss valley to attack Attinghausen. Lecourbe's Column would by this time have finished its work at Brunnen. After re-embarking it was to sail down the Urner See, put on shore at Sisikon three companies which were to march over the Axenberg to attack Altdorf in rear, and then proceed to bombard Flüelen and land its remaining companies there.

Loison's Column was appointed to cross over the Joch pass from Engelberg into the Gadmatal, then to march up the latter and over the Susten pass into the Meiental to attack Wassen. The combined Columns of Lecourbe, Porson, Daumas, and Loison, were then to push up the Reuss valley and into the Urserental. Gudin's part, which was the hardest to play of all, was to proceed up the Haslital and to force the Grimsel pass at the head of it, then to descend into the Rhone valley and to cross over the Furka pass into the Urserental, and finally to attack Andermatt in order to turn the position of the Devil's bridge.

Meanwhile, Turreau was directed to assist Gudin by attacking up the Rhone valley from Brig, and by attempting to capture the Simplon pass. Chabran was to attack on Boivin's left, between the lakes of Aegeri and of Zürich.

By means of these very ingeniously laid plans it was hoped to corner Strauch's Brigade in the Rhone valley by attacking it from both ends at once, and to cut Simbschen's force into isolated pieces as a result of the four simultaneous attacks on the Reuss valley. All Lecourbe's Columns were timed to start on the 14th of August, and the results may be anticipated so far as to say that everything turned out exactly according to plan, for on the 16th of August there was not a single Austrian soldier left in either of the Reuss or Rhone valleys.

In describing the adventures of the various columns it will be most convenient to start with the left of Lecourbe's Division.

Boivin had arranged the troops of his Column in such a way that while some of them marched direct on Schwyz from Steinen, others followed the north shore of the lake of Löwen, and others again followed the south shore of that lake. In this way an Austrian observation post which had been enjoying the view from the Rigi was cut off. One battalion (the 2nd/84th under Margotti) was directed to climb over the shoulder of the Mythen and so turn the Austrian position. Meanwhile, the three

companies from Gersau had advanced along the shore of the lake of Lucerne to the bridge over the Muotta near Brunnen, and the reserve column embarked on the flotilla appeared off the shore. This flotilla was composed of two ships each mounting four guns, one ship with one gun and one howitzer, one ship with a 12-pounder gun, two ships capable of carrying 200 men, and several smaller vessels. The flagship was the *Länder Baue*, and the flotilla was under the nautical directions of Henry and Chapel. A landing of five companies under Montfort was made at Brunnen, and the Austrians were bombarded from the lake with the result that Brunnen fell into the hands of the French after severe fighting. At the same time the Austrians were driven out of Schwyz up the Muotta valley towards the Prigel pass, and the Swiss irregulars (raised with the help of English subsidies) were scattered. Lecourbe had now nothing more to fear from Jellachich's Brigade in his attack on the Reuss valley.

Porson's Column had left Bauen early on the same day (14th of August) and marched along the western shore of the Urner See towards Seedorf. From Isenthal he sent six companies of the 2nd/38th under Juillet up the Kleintal and thence over the slopes of the Gitschen (at the foot of the Urirotstock) and the Honegg Alp to Seedorf, while the remainder of his column proceeded to Seedorf direct. He arrived there about midday and drove the Austrians to the right (eastern) bank of the Reuss, but was checked himself on the left bank owing to the destruction of the bridge.

Daumas' Column had left Engelberg at 3 a.m. that same morning and crossed the Surenen pass (7,562 feet), arriving at Attinghausen at 2 p.m. to find that that bridge over the Reuss had also been destroyed.

Meanwhile, Lecourbe had re-embarked the companies which had landed at Brunnen, and sailed southwards down the Urner See to Sisikon where he landed some of them again, with orders to march over the Axenberg to attack Altdorf in rear and so turn the Austrian position at Flüelen. The flotilla then sailed on to Flüelen which it bombarded, and the remaining companies were landed at about 6 p.m. This combined attack resulted in the abandonment of Flüelen and Altdorf by the Austrians at nightfall. In their retreat, some of them escaped up the Schächental towards the Klausen pass, and the remainder went up the Reuss valley to Amsteg, pursued by the French.

Late that night (14th of August) Porson's and Daumas' Columns were got across to the right bank of the Reuss, partly with the help of the flotilla and partly over the repaired bridges. The 1st and 2nd/38th were left in the Schächental to capture the Klausen pass, while the 3rd/38th and 2nd/76th accompanied Lecourbe with his grenadier companies up the Reuss valley towards Amsteg.

As a result of the first day's operations, therefore, the Austrians had been driven right away from the lake of Lucerne and from the lower portion of the Reuss valley. It is now necessary to turn to the activities of the next Column: Loison's.

This Column had left Engelberg and marched over the Joch pass (7,267 feet), and down to Mühletal. Then, turning to the east up the Gadmatal, it crossed the Susten pass (7,421 feet), arriving at Färnigen in the Meiental on the evening of the 14th of August, after twenty-two hours' marching. On the way it was assailed by a storm, and Zschokke who accompanied the Column gives the following eyewitness account of the crossing of the Susten pass. "The way which leads from the rocky gorge of the wild Gadmatal to the Meiental is only a narrow shepherd's path, very steep and bordered by a precipice from the depths of which the sound of the roaring torrent rises. If the Austrians had only contemplated the possibility of their being surprised, a handful of their troops could have held the pass against several thousand men. The men climbed up one after another. The guns were dragged up the rocks by means of ropes, or lifted over the dangerous places on men's shoulders. The horses which accompanied the column were freed from their burdens and driven up unled. Some of them lost their balance and crashed to the bottom."

So matters stood at the end of the second day of operations, the 15th of August, with the Austrians cleared completely out of the Reuss valley below the Devil's bridge. For the description of what happened on the following day, it is necessary to go back and to consider the events which took place in the Rhone valley during the previous days.

*Continued on page 2241.*

#### SWISS Y.M.C.A.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a lantern slide lecture which will be given by Mr. Wallis B. Elliott, Secretary for England of the Missions to Lepers, on Saturday, January 31st, at 6 p.m., at 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C., to which everybody is heartily invited.



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