

N. B. The Casualties in the General Staff noticed in the Detail, but not in the Body of the Return.

ALEX. HOPE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
A. A. General.

Admiralty-Office, September 2, 1799.

CAPTAIN HOPE, of His Majesty's Ship Kent, and Captain Oughton, of His Majesty's Ship Isis, arrived this Afternoon with a Dispatch from Admiral Lord Viscount Duncan, of which the following is a Copy :

*Kent, off Aldborough, Sunday,
1st Sept. 1799.*

SIR,

I Transmit, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter to me from Vice-Admiral Mitchell, giving a distinct Detail of the great Success with which it has pleased Almighty God to crown His Majesty's Arms. The Boldness of the Vice-Admiral in running in on an open Shore with so numerous a Fleet, and in so very unsettled Weather, could only be equalled by the Gallantry of Sir Ralph Abercromby and his brave Troops, landing in the Face of a most formidable Opposition. During the whole of the Conflict on Tuesday I could plainly perceive the vast Superiority of the British Troops over those of the Enemy, though opposed with Obstinacy; and, in Justice to both the Land and Sea Service, I must say that I never in my Life witnessed more Unanimity and Zeal than has pervaded all Ranks to bring the Expedition to its present happy Issue.

Finding the Kent with several of the Russian Seventy-four Gun Ships to draw too much Water to be able to get into the Harbour, I have returned with them to this Anchorage; but, previous to my getting under Weigh at Eight o'Clock on Friday Morning, I had the Pleasure to see Vice-Admiral Mitchell, with the Men of War, Transports, and Armed Vessels in a fair Way of entering the Texel, with a fair Wind, and have not the least Doubt but the Whole of the Dutch Fleet were in our Possession by Noon on that Day.

These Dispatches will be delivered by Captains Hope and Oughton, both able and intelligent Officers, and who will give their Lordships more satisfactory Information relative to our successful Operations.

I shall now only add my sincere Congratulations to their Lordships on this great Event, which, I think, in its Consequences may be ranked among One of the greatest that has happened during the War. I am, Sir, &c.

DUNCAN.

P. S. The Winds having proved unfavourable; has occasioned my anchoring here; but I shall proceed to Yarmouth as soon as the Weather moderates.

MY LORD,

*Isis, at Anchor off the Texel,
August the 29th, 1799.*

IN a former Letter I had the Honor to write your Lordship, I there mentioned the Reasons that had determined Sir Ralph Abercromby and myself not to persevere longer than the 26th in our Resolution to attack the Helder and Port of the Texel, unless the Wind became more moderate. Fortu-

nately the Gale abated that Morning; and although a very heavy Swell continued to set in from the Northward, I thought a Moment was not to be lost in making the final Attempt. The Fleet therefore bore up to take the Anchorage, and I was happy to see the Transports and all the Bombs, Sloops, and Gun-Vessels in their Stations to cover the Landing of the Troops by Three in the Afternoon of that Day, when the Signal was made to prepare for Landing. The General, however, not thinking it prudent to begin disembarking so late on that Day, it was determined to delay it until Two in the Morning on the 27th. The intervening Time was occupied in making the former Arrangements more complete, and by explaining to all the Captains individually my ideas fully to them, that the Service might profit by their united Exertions. The Troops were accordingly all in the Boats by Three o'Clock; and the Signal being made to row towards the Shore, the Line of Gun-Brigs, Sloops of War, and Bombs opened a warm and well-directed Fire to scour the Beach, and a Landing was effected with little Loss. After the First Party had gained the Shore, I went with Sir Ralph Abercromby, that I might superintend the Landing of the Rest, and with the Aid of the different Captains, who appeared animated but with one Mind, the Whole were disembarked with as great Regularity as possible. The Ardour and glorious Intrepidity which the Troops displayed, soon drove the Enemy from the nearest Sand Hills, and the Presence of Sir Ralph Abercromby himself, whose Appearance gave Confidence to all, secured to us, after a long and very warm Contest, the Possession of the Whole Neck of Land between Kiek Down and the Road leading to Alkmaar, and near to the Village of Callantsoog.

Late that Night the Helder Point was evacuated by the Enemy, and taken Possession of by our Troops quietly in the Morning, as were the Men of War named in the enclosed List, and many large Transports and Indiamen by us the next Day. I dispatched Captain Oughton, my own Captain, to the Helder Point last Evening to bring off the Pilots, and he has returned with enough to take in all the Ships necessary to reducing the remaining Force of the Dutch Fleet, which I am determined to follow to the Walls of Amsterdam, until they surrender or capitulate for His Serene Highness the Prince of Orange's Service.

I must now, my Lord, acknowledge in the warmest Manner the high Degree of Obligation I am under to your Lordship for the liberal Manner in which you continued to entrust to my Directions the Service I have had the Honor to execute under your immediate Eye; a Behaviour which added to my Wish to do all in my Power to forward the Views of Sir Ralph Abercromby.

It is impossible for me sufficiently to express my Admiration of the Bravery and Conduct of the General and the whole Army, or the Unanimity with which our whole Operations were carried on; the Army and Navy on this Occasion, having (to use a Seaman's Phrase) pulled heartily together.

Where the Exertions of all you did me the Honor to put under my Orders have been so great, it is almost impossible to particularize any; but Captain Oughton has had so much to do, from the first em-