

their Arrival at Lincelles, they found the Post in the Possession of the Enemy. The Dutch Troops, having been forced to abandon it, had retreated by a Road different from that by which the British had advanced. To have fallen back in this Situation must have presented the Enemy, evidently superior in Numbers, an Opportunity of entirely defeating the Detachment. General Lake embraced a Resolution worthier of the Troops which he commanded, and which has been attended with Glory and Success. He determined upon an immediate Attack.

The Enemy occupied a Redoubt of uncommon Size and Strength upon a Height adjoining to the high Road, in Front of the Village of Lincelles. The Road itself was defended by other Works strongly palisadoed; Woods and Ditches covered their Flanks. The Battalions were instantly formed, and advanced under a very heavy Fire, with an Order and Intrepidity for which no Praise can be too high. After firing Three or Four Rounds, they rushed on with their Bayonets, stormed the Redoubt, and drove the Enemy through the Village. At the End of the Village the latter rallied, under the Protection of other Troops, and kept up, for some Time, a severe Fire: But they were again defeated, and so entirely put to the Rout, that they have not since appeared in that Quarter. They lost Eleven Pieces of Cannon, Two of which had been before taken from the Dutch. There are about 50 Prisoners: The Number of Killed and Wounded cannot be ascertained with any Precision; it is calculated at between 2 and 300 Men. By the concurring Testimony of these Prisoners, the Enemy had 12 Battalions upon the Post, and must have been upwards of 5000 Men.

I am sorry to add, that such Difficulties could not be overcome without considerable Loss. The Fall of Two gallant Officers, and the brave Men who have suffered upon this Occasion, must be Matter of Regret. It can only be imputed to the Ability of Major-General Lake, and the extraordinary Valour of the Officers and Men, that the Loss has not been still greater. The Conduct of Colonel Grinfield, Colonel Hulse and Colonel Pennington, have reflected Honor upon themselves, and merited His Royal Highness's warmest Approbation. Equal Praise is due to Major Wright, and the Officers and Men of the Royal Artillery attached to the Battalions.

As soon as the Retreat of the Dutch Troops was known, several Battalions were ordered from Camp to support the Guards. They arrived after the Action was at an End; but remained to strengthen the Post (which the Dutch had by this Time re-occupied) during the Night. They returned to Camp this Morning. The French made an Attack this Day upon the Dutch Post at Roubaix, in which they have been repulsed with considerable Loss.

The Works of Lincelles have been destroyed, and the Post left unoccupied.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

JA. MURRAY.

Return of the Number of Rank and File of the Three Battalions of Foot Guards, under the Command of Major-General Lake, who engaged the French on the 18th of August, 1793.

First Regiment	-	-	378
Coldstream	-	-	345
Third Regiment	-	-	398
Total	-	-	<u>1122</u>