



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1793.

Whitehall, September 11.

MR. Richard Lawry, Acting Lieutenant of His Majesty's Fireship the *Comet*, dispatched by Rear-Admiral Macbride from Gravelines Pitts, arrived this Afternoon at the Office of the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, with a Dispatch from Colonel Sir James Murray, Adjutant-General to the Forces under the Command of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, of which the following is a Copy.

Furnes, September 9, 1793.

SIR,

IT is with extreme Sorrow that I have to acquaint you with the unfortunate Event of an Attack which the French Army made upon that of Field-Marshal Freytag upon the 8th Instant. The latter was posted, as I have had the Honor of informing you, at Hondchoote, the Right upon the Canal, the Left extending towards Leyrel.

The Enemy had made an Attack the preceding Evening, in which they had been repulsed; but upon that Day attacking upon every Point, notwithstanding the greatest Exertions of Bravery in the Troops, and of Ability in General Walmoden, who then commanded them, they succeeded in forcing the Center of his Line. He retired behind the small Canal which runs from Bulfam to Steenkirk.

The Loss has been very severe. His Royal Highness has not as yet received any Return, nor have any further Particulars been transmitted. Many gallant Officers have fallen. The whole Loss in the different Actions is supposed to be near 1500 in Killed, Wounded and Missing; that of the Enemy has been unquestionably greater. Three Pieces of Cannon, and between Two and Three Hundred Prisoners have been taken. I understand that the Hanoverians have lost the same Number of Cannon.

Upon

Upon the 7th His Royal Highness sent Two Battalions of Hessians to General Walmoden's Support; but finding that Aid to be ineffectual, he was reduced to the Necessity of collecting his whole Force, by abandoning the Position he had taken near Dunkirk. Thirty-two of the heavy Guns, and Part of the Stores provided for the Siege, were left behind, there being no Means of carrying them off. The Army marched last Night, and encamped this Morning near Adinkerque.

It appears that the Enemy had collected Force for this Enterprize from every Quarter of the Country, from the Armies of the Rhine and the Moselle, and particularly that which had occupied the *Camp de Cesar*. They were commanded by General Houchard, who is said by the Prisoners (though with what Degree of Truth cannot be ascertained) to have been mortally wounded at Rexpoede.

In the Retreat upon the Night of the 6th, His Royal Highness Prince Adolphus and the Field-Marshal were, for a short Time, in the Possession of the Enemy. A Patrole of Cavalry, which ought to have been in their Front, having taken another Road, they went into the Village of Rexpoede, through which one of the Columns was to pass, but which was then occupied by the Enemy. His Royal Highness was slightly wounded with a Sword upon the Head and Arm; but I have the Satisfaction to say, that no bad Consequences are to be apprehended. The Field-Marshal was wounded in the Head, and, I am happy

to add, only in the same Degree. He has, however, been unable, since that Time, to take the Command of the Army. Captain Ouslar, one of His Royal Highness's Aides de Camp, was killed, and another, Captain Wangenheim, very severely wounded.

From this Situation His Royal Highness and the Field-Marshal were relieved by the Intrepidity and Presence of Mind of General Walmoden, who, upon discovering the Enemy were in Possession of Rexpoede, had immediately collected a Body of Troops, attacked it without Hesitation, and defeated them with great Slaughter.

I must repeat that nothing could exceed the Steadiness and good Behaviour of the Troops in these repeated Engagements. Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine commanded the Rear-Guard, and much is due to his Conduct and Military Skill.

The Enemy made a Sortie on the Night, and another on the Evening of the 8th; in both of which they were repulsed without much Loss on our Side.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient
humble Servant,
J. A. MURRAY,
Adj. General.

P. S. The Cavalry, from the Nature of the Country, have been very little engaged.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.