



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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*Whitehall, May 23.*

**A** Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this Morning received from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

S I R, *Tournay, May 19, 1794.*

**I**n my last Letter I mentioned to you His Imperial Majesty's Intention of making a general Attack with his whole Force, in order, by a joint Co-operation with the Troops under the Command of General Clairfayt, to compel the Enemy to evacuate Flanders:

On the 18th at Night the Army moved forward, for this Purpose, in Five Columns.

The Two Columns on the Left were intended to force the Passages of the Marque, and, by a vigorous Attack on the Enemy's Posts along the River, to cover the Operations of the Three remaining Columns: These were destined to force the Enemy's Posts by Roubaix, Waterloo and Mouscron, thus to favor General Clairfayt's Passage of the Lys, and then, by a Junction with his Corps, to have cut off the Communication between Lisle and Courtray.

Unfortunately the Two Columns on the Left forced the Passage of the Marque so late, and were so much fatigued by the Length of their March, that they were not able to accomplish the Remainder of the proposed Plan, while the Column on the Right, under

General Busche, finding the Enemy at Mouscron in much greater Numbers than had been expected, was under the Necessity of relinquishing its Attack, and of retreating to its former Position at Warcoing.

Lieutenant-General Otto proceeded with his Column through Leers to Waterloo, from whence, after some Resistance, he drove the Enemy, and pushed on to Turcoing.

My Column consisted of Seven Battalions of British, Five of Austrians, and Two of Hessians, with Six Squadrons of Light Dragoons, and Four of Hussars. We moved forward from Templeuve to Lannoy, which we forced the Enemy to evacuate, after a short Cannonade, in which I had the Misfortune to lose Major Wright, of the Royal Artillery, a brave and deserving Officer.

Having left the Two Hessian Battalions at Lannoy, I proceeded to Roubaix, where we found the Enemy in great Strength both of Men and Cannon. The Resistance was proportionably stronger, but equally unavailing, as the Enemy soon found themselves compelled to retire, which they did towards Mouscron.

Having at this Time no Intelligence of the Two Columns on my Right and Left, notwithstanding I had made every Effort to obtain it, I did not think it prudent to advance any further, but was resolved to have left my Advanced Guard, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Abercromby, at Roubaix, and, with the Remainder of my Corps to have taken a Position

a Position on the Heights behind Lannoy. The Orders for this Purpose were given, but having acquainted His Imperial Majesty, who had advanced to Lannoy, with my Intention, the Necessity of co-operating with General Clairfayt induced His Majesty to direct that I should proceed to the Attack of Mouveaux.

I accordingly directed the Attack to be made by Lieutenant-General Abercromby with the Four Battalions of Guards. He found the Enemy strongly intrenched, but having cannonaded it for some Time, the good Countenance of the Flank Battalion of Guards, who advanced to storm it with the utmost Order, supported by the First Battalion, and seconded by the 7th and 15th Light Dragoons, under Lieutenant-Colonel Churchill, compelled the Enemy to retire; with the Loss of Three Pieces of Cannon and of a considerable Number of Men, who were cut down by the Light Dragoons in the Pursuit, which was continued as far as Bouderes.

Upon maturely considering the Nature of our Situation, I directed Lieutenant-General Abercromby to remain at Mouveaux with the Four Battalions of Guards; and having posted Four Austrian Battalions to cover Roubaix, I detached the Second Brigade of British Infantry, under the Command of Major-General Fox, to take Post on my Left, on the great Road leading from Lisle to Roubaix. The Cavalry was divided with these several Corps, for the Purpose of patrolling, the Nature of the Country not admitting of their being of any other Use. My Advanced Posts communicated with those of General Otto, on my Right, who I now found had got Possession of Turcoing.

Early the next Morning the Enemy attacked the Post of Turcoing in great Force, and I received an Application from Colonel Devay, who commanded there, to make a Diversion in his Favor; for which Purpose I sent Two Battalions of Austrians, giving them express Direction, if they should be pressed, to fall back upon me, but, by some Mistake, instead of doing so, they joined Colonel Devay. From this Circumstance, an Opening was left on my Right, of which the Enemy availed himself in the Attack upon my Corps, which took Place soon after, and, by so doing, obliged me to employ the only Battalion I had left, to secure a Point which was of the utmost Consequence to us.

At this Period a very considerable Column of the Enemy, which we have since learnt amounted to 15,000 Men, appeared advancing from Lisle, whilst another Corps, having forced its Way through General Otto's Position by Waterloo, attacked us on the Rear. The few Troops that remained with me, soon

gave Way before such superior Numbers, nor was it in my Power, with every Effort I could use, assisted by those of the Officers who were about me, to rally them. At that Moment the advanced Parties of the Column from Lisle shewed themselves also upon the Road between Roubaix and Mouveaux, and I found it impossible to succeed in the Attempt which I made to join the Brigade of Guards.

Thus circumstanced, I turned my Attention to join General Fox's Brigade, but upon proceeding to Roubaix for that Purpose, I found it in the Possession of the Enemy.

Thus completely cut off from every Part of my Corps, nothing remained for me to do, but to force my Way to that of General Otto, and to concert Measures with him to free my own Troops.

This I effected, accompanied by a few Dragoons of the 16th Regiment, with great Difficulty; but the Project of marching upon Lannoy, to which General Otto had consented, as a Measure which would greatly facilitate the Retreat of my Corps, being given up, upon finding that the Hessians had been obliged to abandon that Place, I found myself under the painful Necessity of continuing with General Otto's Column the remainder of the Day.

Previous to this, I had sent Orders to General Abercromby to retire from Mouveaux to the Heights behind Roubaix, where it was my Intention to have assembled my Corps; and the Coldstream Battalion had been posted to cover the Communication till he effected his Retreat. In consequence of these Directions, General Abercromby began his Retreat, and on his Arrival upon the Heights at Roubaix finding himself surrounded upon all Sides without a Possibility of assembling the Corps, he determined to continue it to Lannoy. This he effected amidst the repeated Attacks of the Enemy, who poured upon him from all Parts. General Abercromby found Lannoy also in Possession of the Enemy, but he avoided the Town by marching round it under a very heavy Fire, and soon after reached Templeuve.

Major-General Fox, after sustaining, with great Resolution, a very vigorous Attack from the principal Part of the Column which came from Lisle, began his Retreat also, and finding himself cut off from the Brigade of Guards, and Lannoy occupied by the Enemy, he directed his March upon the Village of Leers, at which Place he joined the Column of Lieutenant-General Otto.

I inclose you a Return of our Loss upon this Occasion. I regret that it is so great, but when the Nature of the Action is considered, and that it was conducted in a Country the most favorable to the Views of the Enemy that they could have wished

wished for, while their perfect Knowledge of these Parts enabled them to take every Advantage of it, it might have been expected to have been still more considerable. From the Badness of the Roads, the Loss of the Horses, and the Timidity of the Drivers, the leaving a Part of our Artillery became inevitable.

I am to desire that you will assure His Majesty, that the Officers and Men shewed all the Firmness and Resolution on this Occasion that could be expected from them; and it would be an Injustice done to the Rest to distinguish any particular Corps. The Abilities and Coolness with which Lieutenant-General Abercromby and Major-General Fox conducted their different Corps under these trying Circumstances, require, however, that I should particularly notice them.

It is a peculiar Consolation to me that the Column under my Command executed to the full Extent their intended Part of the Operation; and that, in the Check which they afterwards sustained, the Conduct of the British Troops has entitled them to the warmest Expressions of Gratitude and Admiration on the Part of His Imperial Majesty.

I am, &c.

FREDERICK.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,  
 Sec. Sec. Sec.

*Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing on the  
 17th and 18th of May, 1794.*

- 7th Light Dragoons. 6 Rank and File wounded; 15 Rank and File missing—4 Horses killed, 10 Horses wounded, 32 Horses missing.
- 11th Light Dragoons. 1 Rank and File killed; 1 Quarter-Master and 1 Rank and File wounded—1 Horse killed, 2 Horses wounded.
- 15th Light Dragoons. 1 Surgeon and 5 Rank and File killed; 1 Surgeon's Mate and 14 Rank and File wounded, 2 Rank and File missing—9 Horses killed, 9 Horses wounded, 18 Horses missing.
- 16th Light Dragoons. 1 Rank and File killed; 2 Rank and File wounded; 5 Rank and File missing—2 Horses killed, 5 Horses wounded; 3 Horses missing.

Royal Artillery. 1 Serjeant and 4 Rank and File killed; 2 Officers, 1 Serjeant and 17 Rank and File wounded; 1 Officer, 1 Drummer and 26 Rank and File missing—31 Horses killed, 6 Horses wounded, 64 Horses missing.

Royal Military Artificer. 5 Rank and File missing. Flank Battalion of Guards. 1 Serjeant and 17 Rank and File killed; 3 Officers, 1 Serjeant and 54 Rank and File wounded; 2 Serjeants, 3 Drummers and 25 Rank and File missing.

1st Regiment of Guards. 5 Rank and File killed; 7 Rank and File wounded; 20 Rank and File missing.

Coldstream Guards. 1 Drummer and 6 Rank and File wounded; 9 Rank and File missing.

3d Regiment of Guards. 1 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant and 8 Rank and File wounded; 32 Rank and File missing.

14th Foot. 8 Rank and File killed; 22 Rank and File wounded; 1 Officer, 3 Serjeants, 2 Drummers and 68 Rank and File missing.

37th Foot. 2 Serjeants and 11 Rank and File killed; 2 Officers, 4 Serjeants and 34 Rank and File wounded; 2 Officers, 4 Serjeants, 1 Drummer and 140 Rank and File missing.

53d Foot. 3 Officers, 1 Serjeant and 14 Rank and File wounded; 1 Officer, 8 Serjeants, 2 Drummers and 191 Rank and File missing.

Total. 1 Surgeon, 4 Serjeants and 58 Rank and File killed; 10 Officers, 1 Quarter-Master, 1 Surgeon's Mate, 8 Serjeants, 1 Drummer and 185 Rank and File wounded; 4 Officers, 17 Serjeants, 9 Drummers and 538 Rank and File missing—47 Horses killed, 32 Horses wounded, 117 Horses missing.

*Officers killed, wounded and missing.*

Artillery. Major Wright wounded, since dead; Lieutenant Boger wounded; Lieutenant Downman missing.

Flank Battalion of the Guards. Lieutenant-Colonel Ludlow, Lieutenant-Colonel Manners, Captain Drummond, wounded.

14th Foot. Major Brown wounded and missing.

37th Foot. Lieutenant Murray, Lieutenant Cunningham, wounded; Captain Cook, Lieutenant McKenzie, missing.

53d Foot. Major Scott, Captain Brisbane, Ensign Pierce, wounded; Lieutenant Rynd missing.

15th Light Dragoons. Surgeon Bradley killed, and Surgeon's Mate wounded.

J. H. Craig, Adj. Gen.

N. B. Some of the Men returned missing are hourly coming in.

