



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1794.

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.*

In 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