



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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*Downing-Street, September 21, 1796.*

**D**ISPATCHEs, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Captain Anstruther by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

*Head-Quarters of His Royal Highness the Archduke Charles, Zell, near Wurtzburg, September 4, 1796.*

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship is acquainted with the unfortunate Circumstances which have obliged Colonel and Mr. R. Craufurd to remain for a Time at a Distance from the Scene of Operations: The Absence of these Gentlemen, at a Moment so particularly interesting as the present, must be regretted, as a Loss to the Public Service, which, though at their Request, I now attempt to detail to your Lordship the late Proceedings of the Army, I feel myself inadequate to supply.

Your Lordship is already informed of the Movements of His Royal Highness the Archduke up to the 31st Ultimo, at which Period the Right Wing of the Army was assembled in the Plain betwixt Forcheim and Bamberg, and the Left, consisting of upwards of Twenty Battalions and Fifty Squadrons,

under the Command of Lieutenant-General Stzaray, had reached Eberach, and threatened at once, by Detachments, the Points of Schweinfurt and of Wurtzburg.

Early on the 31st the Archduke entered Bamberg, and, from the Information there received of the Movements of the Enemy, determined to push on with the whole Army towards Wurtzburg, as being the Point on the Occupation of which depended the Possibility of forcing Jourdan to abandon the Meyn, and take his Retreat through the Country of Fulda, on the Lahn. His Royal Highness proceeded in the Evening to Bourg Eberach. General Kray took Post at Eltmann, and General Stzaray advanced to Kloster Schwartzach.

On the 1st of September the Archduke marched to Ober Schwartzach, General Kray to Geroldshoffen, and General Stzaray to Kitzingen, where he passed the Meyn: His Advanced Guard, under General Hotze, took Possession of the Town of Wurtzburg, the French Garrison retiring into the Citadel.

In the mean Time the Enemy strained every Nerve to reach Wurtzburg before the Main Body of the Austrian Army should come up; and, by forced Marches, arrived at Kornach, within Three Leagues

Leagues of the Town, the same Day on which General Hotze took Possession of it. Next Day (the 2d) Jourdan attacked, with the utmost Impetuosity the Corps under General Stzaray, but, though he succeeded in forcing some of his Posts, he was not able to make any Impression on the Main Position, and retired in the Evening to his Camp near Kornach. There he resolved to abide the Event of a Battle, and, in that View, posted himself in the following Manner.

His Right Wing, extending to the Meyn a little below Wurtzburg, rested on a very commanding Eminence, in Front of which a deep River rendered the Access extremely difficult. The first Line of his Centre occupied a long narrow Wood, skirting the Bottom of a Chain of Heights, on the Ridge of which his second Line was posted. His Left Wing, consisting almost entirely of Cavalry, was placed in the spacious Plain in Front of Kornach, but considerably thrown back, in order to receive the more effectual Support from the Infantry in the Wood. A numerous Artillery was distributed on the most essential Points along his Front. The Division of Lefevre remained posted behind Schweinfurt, to cover the great Road to Fulda, and a small intermediate Corps maintained his Communication with the Army.

His Royal Highness halted the 2d in his Camp of Ober Schwartzach, whilst a Bridge was thrown on the Meyn, near Dettelbach, which was not finished till late in the Evening. General Kray remained at Geroltzhoffen.

General Stzaray, in the mean Time, judging, from the Force and usual Conduct of Jourdan, that he would soon renew his Efforts to render himself Master of Wensbourg, embraced the spirited Resolution of rather advancing against him than of waiting for him in his Position. The Archduke approved of this Idea, and determined to facilitate the Execution of it, by making a combined Attack on the Enemy, to take Place early in the Morning of the 3d. The Intention was, that General Stzaray should move forward against the Corps which was opposed to him; that the Main Body, under the Command of General Wartensleben, passing the Bridge at Dettelbach, should attack the Centre of the Enemy, whilst General Kray, crossing the River at the Point nearest Geroltzhoffen, should turn his Left Wing.

Soon after Day-Break accordingly General Stzaray advanced and drove back the Posts of the Enemy; as, however, the other Two Columns had a considerable March to make, and met with much unexpected Delay in the Passage of the River, he soon found himself engaged alone by very superior Numbers, and was obliged not only to relinquish the Ground he had gained, but had much Difficulty in maintaining his original Position. At this critical Instant His Royal Highness sent Orders to General Wartensleben to ford the River with the whole of his Cavalry, and advance directly against the Left of the Enemy. His judicious Manceuvre had the desired Effect. Jourdan, seeing himself menaced in the most essential Point of his Position, withdrew from his Right the Troops with which he was pressing General Stzaray, who thus gained Time to re-establish himself in his Post.

The Cavalry now charged the Left of the Enemy, and drove it from its Ground: But the Enemy retiring behind the Wood, the Austrians remained exposed to a Fire of Musquetry and Grape, which obliged them to abandon the Advantage they had gained. A second Attempt of the same Nature had a similar Fate; and, after fruitless Endeavours to draw the Enemy into the Plain, His Royal Highness resolved to await the Arrival of the Rest of General Wartensleben's Column, without which it was evident the Position of the Enemy could not be forced.

At length the Infantry appeared advancing from Dettelbach, and General Stzaray moving forward at the same Time, a combined Attack was immediately formed against the Wood which covered the Enemy's Front. Eight Battalions of Grenadiers advanced for this Purpose with equal Order and Impetuosity, regardless of the Swarm of *Tirailleurs* who harassed them, they gained the Wood without firing a Shot, and in a few Minutes drove the Enemy not only from thence but from the Heights beyond it. This Advantage, and the Appearance of General Kray's Column on the Right, decided the Fortune of the Day. Jourdan made no Attempt to recover the Ground he had lost, but began his Retreat on every Point; this he for some Time conducted with much Regularity; his Cavalry preserving considerable Countenance, and forming repeatedly, under Protection of their Light Artillery, to check the Pursuit of the Austrians. At length however

however continually harrassed by the Hussars, and overpowered by a prodigious Fire of Artillery from the Heights, the Confusion became general, the excessive Fatigue of the Austrians and the coming on of Night alone saved them from total Destruction.

The Loss of the Austrians on this Occasion amounts at most to Eight Hundred Men, amongst whom are no Officers of Distinction; that of the Enemy is by far more considerable. Two thousand Prisoners are already brought in, and the Number of Killed and Wounded cannot be smaller. One Colour, Six Pieces of Cannon, and a great Number of Ammunition and Baggage Waggons have fallen into the Hands of the Conqueror,

The Success which on this Occasion has attended the Austrian Arms is to be ascribed chiefly to the personal Conduct of his Royal Highness the Archduke. Present every where, where the Danger was the most pressing, he animated the Troops by his Example, and preserved them in Order by the Coolness and Quickness of his Manœuvres, and at length seized, with infinite Judgment, the true Point of Attack which decided the Victory.

The Army passed the Night on the Field of Battle, and the next Day crossing the Meyn at different Points, encamped near this Place,

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT ANSTRUTHER,  
Captain 3d Guards.

*Head Quarters of His Royal Highness the Archduke Charles, Zell, near Wurtzburg, September 5, 1796.*

MY LORD,

Yesterday the Citadel of Wurtzburg capitulated; the Garrison, to the Number of 700 Men, surrendering themselves Prisoners of War. General Belmont, Chief of the French Artillery, is amongst the Number.

A prodigious Quantity of Stores, of Ammunition and Provisions has been found in the Town and Citadel, partly left there by the Austrians, partly collected by Requisition from the neighbouring Country.

Intelligence is received that the Enemy has abandoned in Schweinfurt 70 Pieces of Artillery, which he was unable to transport.

From the Reports of the Corps in Front, there is every Reason to believe that the Enemy has deci-

dedly quitted the Meyn, and directed his Retreat to Fulda. The Light Troops which have been sent in Pursuit, continually bring in Prisoners and Baggage, and the Peasantry, exasperated at the unheard of Outrages of the Enemy, has risen in many Parts, and deliver up or destroy all the Stragglers who fall into their Hands.

His Royal Highness, determined to persevere in the same Line of Operations, this Day detaches Colonel Count Meerfeldt, with Ten Squadrons of Light Cavalry, to form a Junction with the Garrisons of Mannheim and of Mayence, by which Means a Corps of Twelve or Fifteen Thousand Men will be enabled to act in the Rear of the Enemy. From the distinguished Abilities of the Officer to whom this Enterprize is entrusted, the greatest Hopes are entertained of it's Success.

The Army moves this Day towards Wertheim; and the Head Quarters will be To-Morrow at Rendingen.

By the latest Accounts received from the other Side of the Danube, it appears that General La Tour still maintained himself in Front of Munich; but the Successes on this Side had not then produced the expected Effect of forcing General Moreau to a Retreat. It hardly seems possible that he should now venture to delay it.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

ROBERT ANSTRUTHER,  
Captain 3d Guards.

*Wilhelmsbad, near Hanau, September 3, 1796,*

IN consequence of the late Actions, the Army of Jourdan is retreating, in the most disorderly Manner possible, in different Directions, About 3000 Men passed this Place since Yesterday Morning, almost all of them without Arms, and Dragoons and Hussars on Foot, having lost their Horses. The Peasants have almost every where risen upon them, and, when in small Numbers, either killed or disarmed and plundered them: A great many have passed Steinheim, coming from Aschaffembourg, but the greater Part of the Army seems to be directing it's Retreat, by Fielde, towards Wetlar, in order to pass the Lhan.

At Frankfort, and every where in the Neighbourhood, the Enemy seem to be preparing for their Departure. They have again taken Hostages from several Places belonging to the Elector of Mayence,

