

13951.

[ 1099 ]



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1796.

*Downing-Street, November 13, 1796.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Captain Anstruther and Robert Craufurd, Esq; 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 of Austria, Herbolzheim, October 17, 1796.*

My Lord,

IN my Dispatch of the 13th I had the Honor of giving your Lordship an Account of the Movements of the Corps under the Command of General La Tour, Nauendorf and Petrarich, down to the 9th Instant. On the 10th General La Tour followed the Enemy towards Stokach and Engen; but finding that their Retreat through the Val D'Enfer could no longer be prevented, he discontinued the Pursuit; and marched by his Right towards the Valley of the Kinzig, in order to form a Junction with His Royal Highness. The Archduke arrived with his main Body in the Neighbourhood of Hornberg. On the 11th, Generals Nauendorf and Petrarich preceded him nearly in the same Direction. The former took Post at Elzach on the 14th, and the latter at Malsbigen. On the 15th the Corps of the Prince of Condé and General Frolich alone continued to follow the Enemy through the Defiles of the Black Forest.

In the mean Time General Moreau lost no Time in pressing of the Advantages which his Van Guard had gained on the 9th and 10th Instant. He passed with his whole Army, through the Val D'Enfer, and arrived at Fribourg on the 13th. Next Day he occupied Waldkirch, and his Posts extended along the Heights on the Right Bank of the Eltz.

This menacing Movement of the Enemy, and the extreme Difficulty of making an immediate Attempt on Kehl, determined His Royal Highness to defer the Execution of that Enterprize. Leaving therefore a sufficient Corps to observe the Place, he marched, on the 16th, to Malsbigen, and assumed the immediate Command of the Army of La Tour.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed).

ROBERT ANSTRUTHER,  
Captain 3d Guards.

*Head-Quarters of His Royal Highness the Archduke Charles of Austria, Fribourg, October 21, 1796.*

My Lord,

I Have the Honor of informing your Lordship, that, on the 19th Instant, His Royal Highness the Archduke attacked the Enemy, and, after an obstinate Combat, made himself Master of all the Positions on the Right Bank of the Eltz.

The Troops destined for this Operation marched from the Camp near Kentsingen before Day-break, but

[ Price Four-pence Halfpenny. ]

but such were the Difficulties of the Ground and the Badness of the Roads, that it was near Eleven o'Clock before they reached the different Points at which they were to assemble; they were then distributed into Three different Columns, of which the Right, under General La Tour, was destined to attack the Village of Kindringen; the Center, commanded by General Wartenleben, was to carry the Heights behind Mastingen; the Left, under General Petrarich was to proceed along the Road from Heimbarh, towards Emendingen, whilst Major-General Merfeld, with One Brigade, attacked the Woods on his Left, and Prince Frederic of Orange, with another, endeavoured to pass over the highest Parts of the Mountains, so as to turn the Right of the Enemy. General Nauendorf, from Elkach, had Orders to attack at the same Time the Post of Waldkirch.

About Noon the Action began: The Column of the Right met with a most obstinate Resistance; it was repeatedly repulsed in its Attack upon Kindringen, and the Success remained for some Time doubtful, until His ROYAL HIGHNESS, PUTTING HIMSELF AT THE HEAD OF THE GRENADIERS, THEY RETURNED WITH FURY TO THE CHARGE, AND DROVE THE ENEMY WITH GREAT LOSS FROM THE VILLAGE.

Major-General Merfeld had no less Difficulty in making himself Master of the Wood above Keimbach; the Ground was extremely favorable to the Enemy, and he defended it Inch by Inch; nor was he completely driven from it, until the PRINCE OF ORANGE, after a most laborious March, through a Country which seemed impenetrable for Troops, appeared in the open Ground above Emendingen, and began to attack his Right Flank. From that Moment the Victory became decisive. The Enemy repassed the Eltz at Emendingen and Deningen, destroying the Bridges in order to cover his Retreat.

General Nauendorf, mean Time, had been no less successful towards Waldkirchen; at the Moment his Column were assembled he found himself attacked by a large Body of the Enemy, commanded by General Moreau in Person, whom he not only repulsed, but drove beyond Waldkirchen, and made himself Master of that Post, and of the Passage of the River. On this Occasion Three Battalions of the Enemy were surrounded, One of which laid down its Arms, and the other Two were dispersed in the Woods.

Early on the 20th the Van Guard of the Army passed the Eltz at Emendingen, and found that the Enemy had taken a Position immediately behind the Village of Dentzlingen, with his Right to the Mountains and his Left to the marshy Ground beyond the Village of Verstelten. His Royal Highness determined immediately to attack him; and for that Purpose ordered General La Tour, with the Right Wing, to cross the Eltz at Deningen, whilst he himself, with the Left, and the Corps of Nauendorf, advanced along the Plain towards Fribourg. The Advanced Guard of the ARCHDUKE's Column dislodged the Enemy from Dentzlingen without Difficulty; but as General La Tour met

with considerable Opposition, and was obliged to re-establish the Bridge of Deningen, under the Fire of the Enemy's Artillery, it was Evening before he was able to force the Passage of the River; so that His Royal Highness did not judge it expedient to bring on a general Affair, in which only One Part of the Army could have been engaged. The Prince of Furstenburg, however, who commanded the Right of General La Tour's Column, found Means to dislodge the Enemy from Riegel, from whence he menaced the great Road to Brisach.

The whole Army passed the Night within Half Cannon Shot of the Enemy's Advanced Posts, and every Thing was prepared for renewing the Action early this Morning.

The Enemy, however, did not wait the Attack; his Main Body retired during the Night, and the Rear Guard followed at Day-Break. A small Corps only took the Route of Brisach, where it passed the Rhine, and destroyed the Bridge: The Rest of the Army directed its March upon Huningen, where a large Tete-de-Pont is said to be established.

During the Operations of the Main Army, the Corps of the Prince of Condé and General Frolich were extremely active in the Mountains. On the 18th the Prince of Condé drove the Enemy, with very considerable Loss from the strong Posts of St. Megers and St. Peter, in the Valley of that Name, and General Frolich forced some of the most important Passes of the Val d'Enfer. On the 19th and 20th they continued to drive the Enemy before them, and this Morning appeared descending from the Mountains above Fribourg at the Moment that the Archduke's Van Guard entered the Town, and contributed much towards pressing the Rear of the Enemy.

I am not at this Moment able to state to your Lordship, with any Degree of Accuracy, the Loss of the Austrians in the different Actions since the 17th, but am confident that it does not exceed a Thousand Men killed and wounded. Amongst the latter is General Count Wartenleben, who received a Grape Shot in the Arm, whilst leading his Column to the Attack on the 19th. There is, however, Reason to hope that the Wound will not prove dangerous.

The Loss of the Enemy has been very considerable. Several Pieces of Artillery, and upwards of 2000 Prisoners, have fallen into the Hands of the Austrians. The Number of Killed and Wounded is certainly not smaller.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

ROB. ANSTRUTHER.

*Head Quarters of His Royal Highness  
the Archduke Charles of Austria,  
Schlingen, October 25, 1796.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that His Royal Highness the Archduke Yesterday attacked General Moreau's Army, in the formidable Position of Schlingen, with so much Success, that the Enemy quitted it last Night, and is now in full Retreat towards his Tete-de-Pont near Huningen.

Notwithstanding the Victory obtained by the Archduke on the 19th, and the consequent Operations

tions of the 20th and 21st, General Moreau, contrary to what was expected, determined to make another Effort to maintain himself on the Right Bank of the Rhine, or at least to defer, as long as possible, the Passage of the River; and for this Purpose he took up a Position near Schlingen, the uncommon Strength of which could alone have enabled him to adopt such a Resolution without exposing his Army to Destruction.

This Position, which General Moreau had chosen, is so uncommonly strong, that I will attempt to describe it to your Lordship, in Hope of conveying some faint Idea of the Difficulties of the Operation which has been performed.

The flat Country, which, extending from the Meyn to within Two German Miles of Balle, separates the Mountains of Franconia and Suabia from the Rhine, becomes, to the Southward of Mulheim, almost a regular Oblong, about an English Mile and a Half in Breadth, at the South-East Angle of which is the Village of Schlingen. This Plain is bounded on the South by a Rivulet, which, rising at the Foot of the high Mountain called the Hoher Blauen, near the Village of Sitzen Kirchen, runs to Ober Eckenheim, and from thence, in a Western Direction, through Nieder Eckenheim, Liel and Schlingen, to Steinstadt, where it falls into the Rhine. At Schlingen the Hills on the Right of the Rivulet, (which are steep and covered with Vineyards) turn suddenly to the Northward, and running in that Direction towards Muhlheim, form the Eastern Boundary of the Plain; but those on the Left Bank of the Rivulet, which are very high and commanding, continue quite to the Rhine, when they terminate abruptly. Not far from the Source of the above mentioned Rivulet, there rises another, which, taking an opposite, that is South-Easterly Direction, passes through Sitzenkirchen, and, at the Village of Caudern, falls into the Rivulet of that Name; which, running South and South-West through a very deep, and, for a considerable Distance, almost unpassable Ravine, discharges itself into the Rhine Six or Seven English Miles above Steinstadt. A Third Rivulet, rising about an English Mile to the Westward of Caudern, runs in a nearly Parallel Direction to the latter, through Feuerbach, Riedlingen and Badenmuhle, and falls into the Rhine a little below the Mouth of Caudern.

Between the Heads of the above mentioned Ravines is a Chain of high rugged Hills, covered with extensive and very thick Woods.

In this almost inattackable Situation was placed the Right Wing of the Enemy's Army. The Corps which covered the Extremity of it occupied Caudern, Sitzenkirchen, and the surrounding Heights, from whence the Line proceeded along the Hills above Ober and Nieder Eckenheim, Liel, Schlingen and Steinstadt, all of which Places were strongly occupied; and the Left Flank of the Line came quite to the Rhine, which runs close under the Heights of Steinstadt. Advanced before the Center of his Army the Enemy had a very strong Corps of Infantry on the Heights and in the Vineyards between Schlingen and Feldberg.

About an English Mile in the Rear of the Centre of the Position, that is, to the Southward of Liel, is the Village of Tannenkirch; between it and Liel is the highest Hill of the whole Position; and from Tannenkirch the Ground falls towards the Ravine in which Riedlingen is situated: So that, in case of the Right Wing being driven from the extremely strong Ground on which it was posted, it had, (by falling back to the Heights of Tannenkirch) another good Position, rather *en Potence*, indeed, to that of the Left Wing between Schlingen and Steinstadt, but the salient Part is secured by the high and almost inattackable Hill between Tannenkirch and Liel.

An Attempt to oblige Moreau to quit his Position, by marching a very strong Column through the Mountains on the Left Bank of the Caudern, and through the Wisenthal, so as to threaten his Communication with his Tete-de-Pont at Huningen, would have been too tedious an Operation in the present Situation of Affairs, and attended with the utmost Difficulty now that the Rains have rendered the Roads so bad. The Archduke therefore determined to attack the Right Wing of the Enemy's Army, and, if possible, to dislodge it from the Hills above Caudern, Feuerbach, Sitzenkirchen, and Ober and Nieder Eckenheim; after gaining Possession of which Ground, His Royal Highness, if the Enemy had persevered in maintaining his Position, could the next Day have proceeded to the Attack of the Heights behind the Ravine of Redlingen. The Attempt was arduous; but every Thing was to be expected from the Exertions of the Army; for the gallant Examples invariably shewn the Troops, in the most trying Situations, by the BROTHER of their EMPEROR, and the great Ability with which he has commanded them, has inspired the whole Army with a Degree of Confidence in and Attachment to His Royal Highness, which is carried to Enthusiasm.

The Attack was performed in the following Manner.—The Army was divided into Four principal Columns: The First, or Right Column, consisted of the Prince de Condé's Corps, commanded by His Serene Highness, its Advanced Guard being led by the Duke d'Enghien: The Second Column consisted of Nine Battalions and Twenty-six Squadrons, commanded by the Prince of Furstenberg: The Third Column of Eleven Battalions and a Brigade of Cavalry, under General La Tour; and the Fourth Column consisted of the whole Advanced Guard of the Army, under Major-General Nauendorf.

The Two First Columns were destined to employ the Enemy so as to prevent his detaching considerably from his Left Wing, but not to attempt any real Attack on the Main Position of that Wing, the Ground from Schlingen to the Rhine being too strong to admit of it.

The Third and Fourth Columns were to make the real Attack on the Enemy's Right Wing, and to endeavour to get round his Flank.

The Prince of Condé's Column assembled at Neuburg, and advanced to Steinstadt, which Village they attacked and carried, and maintained with great Firmness

Firmness during the whole Day, though entirely commanded by the Left of the Enemy's Position.

The Prince of Furstenberg's Column assembled at Mülheim, and advanced towards Schlingen. It took Possession of the Heights opposite the Enemy's Position behind Schlingen, and maintained them under a severe Cannonade.

General La Tour's Column marched from Vegeheim through Feldberg. The Right Wing of it attacked the Enemy in the Vineyards, between Feldberg and Schlingen, whilst the Left drove them out of Eckenheim, then passed the Ravine, and attacked the woody Hills behind it. The Nature of the Ground was such, that both these Attacks met with the most obstinate Resistance; the Right, however, at length succeeded in forcing the Enemy to quit the Vineyards, and retire behind Liel, and the Left, after driving them out of a great Part of the Wood, took a Position with it's Right Flank to Nieder Eckenheim, and it's Left extending towards Feuerbach.

General Nauendorf's Column had preceded General La Tour's as far as Feldberg, from whence it took to the Left along the Foot of the Mountain, on which stands the Castle of Burgleim. It then divided into several Columns; one of these attacked the Village of Sitzenkirchen, and after carrying it descended by the Ravine I have described towards Candern. Another Column of much more considerable Force, to the Left of the former, was commanded by General Nauendorf himself. He attacked the strong Height situated between the Ravine of Sitzenkirchen and that of the Candern, and having gained Possession of them after much Opposition, he arrived immediately above the Town of Candern. A Third Column of Light Infantry and Hussars, commanded by Major-General Merfeld, drove the Enemy from the strong woody Heights to the Right of Sitzenkirchen, and got Possession of all the high Ground between Candern and Feuerbach, which forms a Part of the Chain that runs between the Heads of the Ravines, and is connected with the high Hill between Tannenkirk and Liel. By this Means General Merfeld was enabled to establish a Communication near

Feuerbach with General La Tour's Left. The Enemy was now also driven from the Village of Candern.

General Nauendorf's Corps had been in March all Night, and, owing to the extreme Badness of the Roads in the Mountains, (rendered almost impassable) had not been able to commence it's real Attack till Two o'Clock; so that it was late in the Afternoon before it succeeded as far as I have mentioned. An extreme thick Mist, followed by a violent Storm, which lasted till Dark, put an End to the Action.

The Enemy, finding that the Operations of the Day had completely prepared the Way for an Attack upon the Heights of Tannenkirchen, (which was to have taken Place this Morning) did not chuse to await it, but retreated in the Night. His Rear Guard quitted the Heights behind Schlingen about Four o'Clock this Morning, and he appears to be retiring towards his Tete-de-Pont at Hunningen.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

ROBERT CRAUFURD.

*Head Quarters of His Royal Highness the Arch-Duke Charles of Austria, Mappach, October 27, 1796.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that in the Course of last Night General Moreau's Army retreated across the Rhine at Hunningen.

The last of his Rear Guard was this Morning still on the Heights of Weiller, on which he had constructed a large and solid Work; but, after a little skirmishing with the Hussars, they evacuated the Height and Redoubt before any Infantry could come up; and nothing now remains on this Side the River but a few Troops in a small Tete-de-Pont, behind which is a kind of Horn-Work, lately constructed on the Island called Shueter Insel.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

ROBERT CRAUFURD.

Printed by EDWARD JOHNSTON, in Warwick-Lane.