

In the mean Time Captain Couchet, of His Majesty's Ships Abergavenny, with some Armed Vessels, proceeded off Leogane, which Place has been effectually blockaded since my Arrival at Port au Prince, and made various Demonstrations to draw the Enemy's Attention to that Side. I am happy in this Opportunity to express how much I am beholden to the Zeal and Promptitude with which Captain Couchet has assisted me in promoting His Majesty's Service.

On the Morning of the 17th Colonel Desfources, having made his Dispositions, marched in Two Columns, the Left directly to Grenier, under the Direction of Colonel Depeyster, in which was the British Detachment commanded by Major Clay. The Right Column, under the Direction of Colonel Vicomte D'Alzune, descended from St. Laurent.

Upon the Division of the Left arriving in the Bottom, which separated the Post of Grenier from the Enemy's Battery, it turned to the Right, and joined the Column that had marched from St. Laurent. The Fog and Haze in the Bottom prevented the Enemy from seeing this Movement. It was also concealed by the judicious Manner in which Captain Spicer of the Royal Artillery threw Shells from the Heights of Fournier from an Howitzer and Carronade, directing them against the various Ambuscades and Defences which the Enemy had thrown up to protect their Battery from any Attack in its Front or on its Right.

On the Junction of his Division into one Column, Colonel Desfources proceeded through a most difficult and almost inaccessible Country to turn the Left of the Enemy's Battery, and the Works which supported it, having left Troops on the Heights of St. Laurent to secure his Retreat, and Major Clay to protect him from any Attack that might be made by the Road from Leogane.

As the Colonel approached the Flank of the Battery, and that of the Breast-Work which defended it, he successively broke his Troops into Divisions, which kept the Enemy's Forces in Check and Suspence, until another Division, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Desfources, had, to their great Surprise, possessed themselves of the Heights considerably beyond them, when, after an ineffectual Resistance, they fled on all Sides, and left Colonel Desfources in Possession of their Battery, the Work of several Months, and of the Gun which they had in the preceding Night withdrawn from it for the Defence of their Breast-Work. This critical Enterprize, I am happy to say, was effected with but little Loss, and, by it's Success, I was freed from any Apprehensions from the Junction of the Enemy's Armies.

I am persuaded this additional Proof of Colonel Desfources's Military Ability and Spirit will meet with His Majesty's Approbation. That Officer speaks in the highest Terms of the Behaviour of the Troops under his Command, of the Officers who commanded the Columns, and, in a particular Manner of the Captains Rodanes, Conegrat, and Mouchet, of the Colonial Forces, who formed his Advanced Guard, and to their Intrepidity and Conduct he attributes much of the Success of his Operation.

As the Troops were assembling to proceed to other Objects, which I thought of Importance for the King's Service, I was informed by Brigadier-General Churchill of an Attack that had been made at Irois, where, though the Enemy had been fortunately repulsed in the Assault upon that Post, they still continued to invest it, and to threaten it's Siege.

No Time was lost in detaching the Honourable Colonel Maitland with a sufficient Force to the Assistance of that Officer. On his Arrival, Brigadier-General Churchill informed him of the Repulse of the Enemy.

I have the Honour to inclose to you a Return of the Killed and Wounded upon the Attack and Destruction of the Enemy's Battery and Breast-Works, and of the Ordnance and Ordnance Stores taken and destroyed.

*Return of Killed and Wounded in His Majesty's British and Colonial Troops, under the Command of Colonel Desfources, on the 16th and 17th of April 1797, at the Attack of the Enemy's Position of St. Laurent and Boutillier, from whence they were driven; and also at the Attack and Destruction of the Enemy's Battery, Breast-Works and Places of Arms near Post Grenier.*

*Head Quarters, St. Domingo,  
Port au Prince, May 8, 1797.*

In driving the Enemy from their Ambuscade above Post Guerin, (Jean Kinas entrenched Camp) under the Command of Major Clay, of the 40th Regiment.

66th Regiment.—1 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant wounded.

69th Ditto.—1 Rank and File wounded.

3d Battalion of Irish Brigade.—1 Officer wounded.

Total, 1 Rank and File killed; 1 Officer, 1 Serjeant, 1 Rank and File wounded.

On the Attack of Posts St. Laurent and Boutillier. Desfources Regiment.—1 Officer, 3 Rank and File, killed; 3 Rank and File wounded.

Des Pettris Ditto.—1 Rank and File killed.

Detachment of Troops from Jeremie.—1 Officer killed; 2 Rank and File wounded.

Jean Kina's Corps.—1 Serjeant killed; 4 Officers, 4 Rank and File, wounded.

Total, 2 Officers, 1 Serjeant, 4 Rank and File, killed; 4 Officers, 9 Rank and File, wounded.

At the Attack of the Enemy's Battery, Breast-Works, and Places of Arms, near Post Grenier.

Chasseurs Royeaux.—2 Rank and File wounded.

De Pestris's Regiment.—1 Rank and File wounded.

Chasseurs de York.—4 Rank and File wounded.

Chasseurs de Prince of Wales.—1 Officer, 1 Serjeant, 5 Rank and File, wounded.

Desfources Regiment.—1 Rank and File killed.

Total, 1 Rank and File killed; 1 Officer, 1 Serjeant, 12 Rank and File, wounded.

*Names and Rank of Officers killed and wounded.*

Captain Haly, of the 3d Irish Brigade, wounded.

Major Pocket, of the Jeremie Troops, killed.

Lieutenant De la Rue, of Desfources, killed.

Ensign Eviere, of Prince of Wales's Chasseurs, wounded.

Lieutenants Babin and Campanne, of Jean Kina's Corps, wounded.

Ensigns Le Pine and L'Artigonave, of Ditto, wounded.

E. B. LITTLEHALES,  
Dep. Adjutant General.