



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1799.

Downing-Street, September 2, 1799.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, was this Day received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir R. Abercromby, K. B.

SIR, *Helder, August 28, 1799.*

FROM the First Day after our Departure from England, we experienced such a Series of bad Weather, as is very uncommon at this Season of the Year.

The Ardour of Admiral Mitchell for the Service in which we were jointly engaged, left it only with me to follow his Example of Zeal and Perseverance, in which I was encouraged by the Manner that he kept a numerous Convoy collected.

It was our Determination not to depart from the Resolution of attacking the Helder, unless we should have been prevented by the Want of Water and Provisions.

On the Forenoon of the 21st Instant, the Weather proved so favourable that we stood in upon the Dutch Coast, and had made every Preparation to land on the 22d, when we were forced to Sea by a heavy Gale of Wind.

It was not until the Evening of the 25th that the Weather began once more to clear up.

On the 26th, we came to Anchor near the Shore of the Helder, and on the 27th, in the Morning, the Troops began to disembark at Day-light.

Although the Enemy did not oppose our Landing, yet the First Division had scarcely begun to move forward, before they got into Action, which continued from Five in the Morning until Three o'Clock in the Afternoon.

The Enemy had assembled a very considerable Body of Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery, near Calanstoog, and made repeated Attacks on our Right with fresh Troops.

Our Position was on a Ridge of Sand Hills, stretching along the Coast from North to South. Our Right Flank was unavoidably exposed to the whole Force of the Enemy. We had nowhere sufficient Ground on our Right to form more than a Battalion in Line; yet, on the Whole, the Position, though singular, was not, in our Situation, disadvantageous, having neither Cavalry nor Artillery.

By the Courage and Perseverance of the Troops, the Enemy was fairly worn out and obliged to retire in the Evening to a Position Two Leagues in his Rear.

The Contest was arduous and the Loss has been considerable. We have to regret many valuable Officers lost to the Service, who have either fallen or been disabled by their Wounds. The Corps principally engaged were the Reserve under the Command of Colonel Macdonald, consisting of the Twenty-third and Fifty-fifth Regiments.

The Regiments of Major-General Coote's Brigade, which have been much engaged, were the Queen's, the Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth, and Eighty-fifth Regiments.

Major General Oyley's Brigade was brought into Action towards the Close of the Day, and has sustained some Loss.

As the Enemy still held the Helder with a Garrison of near Two Thousand Men, it was determined to attack it before Day-break on the Morning of the 28th, and the Brigade under Major-General Moore, supported by Major-General Burrard's, were destined for this Service; but about Eight o'Clock Yesterday Evening, the Dutch Fleet in the Mars Diep got