



The London Gazette

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Downing-Street, September 24, 1799.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Day received from Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,
Sept. 20, 1799.*

SIR,

IN my Dispatch of the 16th Instant I acquainted you with my Intention of making an Attack upon the Whole of the Enemy's Position, the Moment that the Reinforcements joined.

Upon the 19th, every necessary Arrangement being made, the Army moved forward in Four principal Columns in the following Order :

The Left Column, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, consisting of Two Squadrons of the 18th Light Dragoons, Major-General the Earl of Chatham's Brigade, Major-General Moore's Brigade, Major-General the Earl of Cavan's Brigade, First Battalion of British Grenadiers of the Line, First Battalion of Light Infantry of the Line ; The 23d and 55th Regiments under Colonel Macdonald,

destined to turn the Enemy's Right on the Zuyder Zee, marched at Six o'Clock on the Evening of the 18th.

The Columns upon the Right, the First commanded by Lieutenant-General D'Hermann, consisting of

The 7th Light Dragoons,
Twelve Battalions of Russians, and
Major-General Manners' Brigade ;
the Second, commanded by Lieutenant-General Dundas, consisting of
Two Squadrons of the 11th Light Dragoons,

Two Brigades of Foot Guards, and
Major-General His Highness Prince William's Brigade ;

the Third Column, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney, consisting of

Two Squadrons of the 11th Light Dragoons,
Major-General Don's Brigade,
Major-General Coote's Brigade ;

marched from the Positions they occupied at Day-break the Morning of the 19th. The Object of the First Column was, to drive the Enemy from the Heights of Camper Duyn, the Villages under these Heights, and finally to take Possession of Bergen : the Second was to force the Enemy's Position at Walmenhuysen and Schoreldam, and to co-operate with the Column under Lieutenant-General D'Hermann : and the Third, to take Possession of Ouds Carpel at the Head of the Lange Dyke, a great Road leading to Alkmaer.

It is necessary to observe, that the Country in which we had to act, presented in every Direction the most formidable Obstacles. The Enemy upon their Left occupied to great Advantage the High Sand-Hills which extend from the Sea in front of Petten to the Town of Bergen, and were entrenched in Three intermediate Villages. The Country over which the Columns under Lieutenant-Generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney had to move for the Attack of the fortified Posts of Walmenhuysen, Schoreldam, and the Lange Dyke, is a Plain intersected every Three or Four Hundred Yards by broad deep wet Ditches and Canals. The Bridges across the only Two or Three Roads which led to these Places were destroyed, and Abbatis were laid at different Distances.

Lieutenant-General D'Hermann's Column commenced its Attack, which was conducted with the greatest Spirit and Gallantry, at Half past Three.

o'Clock in the Morning, and by Eight had succeeded in so great a Degree as to be in Possession of Bergen. In the wooded Country which furrounds this Village the principal Force of the Enemy was placed, and the Russian Troops, advancing with an Intrepidity which overlooked the formidable Resistance with which they were to meet, had not retained that Order which was necessary to preserve the Advantages they had gained; and they were, in consequence, after a most vigorous Resistance, obliged to retire from Bergen, (where, I am much concerned to state, Lieutenants-General D'Hermann and Tchertchekoff were made Prisoners, the latter dangerously wounded,) and fell back upon Schorel, which Village they were also forced to abandon, but which was immediately retaken by Major-General Manners' Brigade, notwithstanding the very heavy Fire of the Enemy. Here this Brigade was immediately reinforced by Two Battalions of Russians, which had co-operated with Lieutenant-General Dundas in the Attack of Walmenhuysen, by Major-General D'Oyley's Brigade of Guards, and by the 35th Regiment under the Command of his Highness Prince William. The Action was renewed by these Troops for a considerable Time with Success; but the entire Want of Ammunition on the Part of the Russians, and the exhausted State of the whole Corps engaged in that particular Situation, obliged them to retire, which they did in good Order, upon Petten and the Zyper Sluys.

As soon as it was sufficiently light, the Attack upon the Village of Walmenhuysen, where the Enemy was strongly posted with Cannon, was made by Lieutenant-General Dundas. Three Battalions of Russians, who formed a separate Corps, destined to co-operate from Krabbendam in this Attack, commanded by Major-General Sedmoratzky, very gallantly stormed the Village on its Left Flank, while at the same Time it was entered on the Right by the 1st Regiment of Guards. The Grenadier Battalion of the Guards had been previously detached to march upon Schoreldam, on the Left of Lieutenant-General D'Hermann's Column, as was the 3d Regiment of Guards and the 2d Battalion of the 5th Regiment, to keep up the Communication with that under Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney.—The Remainder of Lieutenant-General Dundas's Column, which, after taking Possession of Walmenhuysen, had been joined by the First Battalion of the Fifth Regiment, marched against Schoreldam, which Place they maintained, under a very heavy and galling Fire, until the Troops engaged on their Right had retired at the Conclusion of the Action.

The Column under Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney proceeded to its Object of Attack at the Time appointed, and after overcoming the greatest Difficulties and the most determined Opposition, carried by Storm the principal Post of Ouds Carpel at the Head of the Lange Dyke; upon which Occasion the 40th Regiment, under the Command of Colonel Spencer, embraced a favorable Opportunity which presented itself of highly distinguishing themselves.

This Point was defended by the chief Force of the Batavian Army under the Command of General Daendels. The Circumstances, however, which occurred on the Right rendered it impossible to profit by this brilliant Exploit, which will ever reflect the

highest Credit on the General Officers and Troops engaged in it; and made it necessary to withdraw Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney's Column from the Position which he had taken within a short Distance of Alkmaer. The same Circumstances led to the Necessity of recalling the Corps under Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, who had proceeded without Interruption to Hoorne, of which City he had taken Possession, together with its Garrison.

The Whole of the Army has therefore re-occupied its former Position.

The well-grounded Hopes I had entertained of complete Success in this Operation, and which were fully justified by the Result of the Three, and by the First Successes of the Fourth Attack upon the Right, add to the great Disappointment I must naturally feel on this Occasion; but the Circumstances which have occurred I should have considered of very little general Importance, had I not to lament the Loss of many brave Officers and Soldiers, both of His Majesty's and the Russian Troops, who have fallen.

The Gallantry displayed by the Troops engaged, the Spirit with which they overcame every Obstacle which Nature and Art opposed to them, and the Cheerfulness with which they maintained the Fatigues of an Action which lasted without Intermision from Half past Three o'Clock in the Morning until Five in the Afternoon, are beyond my Powers to describe or to extol. Their exertions fully entitle them to the Admiration and Gratitude of their King and Country.

Having thus faithfully detailed the Events of this First Attack, and paid the Tribute of Regret due to the distinguished Merit of those who fell, I have much Consolation in being enabled to state that the Efforts which have been made, although not crowned with immediate Success, so far from militating against the general Object of the Campaign, promise to be highly useful to our future Operations. The Capture of Sixty Officers and upwards of Three Thousand Men, and the Destruction of Sixteen Pieces of Cannon, with large Supplies of Ammunition, which the intersected Nature of the Country did not admit of being withdrawn, are convincing Proofs that the Loss of the Enemy in the Field has been far superior to our own; and in addition to this it is material to state that nearly Fifteen Thousand of the Allied Troops had unavoidably no Share in this Action.

In viewing the several Circumstances which occurred during this arduous Day, I cannot avoid expressing the Obligations I owe to Lieutenant-Generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney for their able Assistance, and also to mention my great Satisfaction at the Conduct of Major-Generals His Highness Prince William, D'Oyley, Manners, Burrard, and Don, to whose spirited Exertions the Credit gained by the Brigades they commanded is greatly to be imputed.

Captain Sir Home Popham and the several Officers of my Staff exerted themselves to the utmost, and rendered me most essential Service. I feel also much indebted to the spirited Conduct of a Detachment of Seamen, under the Direction of Sir Home Popham and Captain Godfrey of the Navy, in the Conduct of Three Gun Boats, each carrying One

12 Pound Carronade, which acted with considerable Effect on the Alkmaer Canal; nor must I omit expressing my Acknowledgments to the Russian Major-Generals Essen, Sedmoratzky, and Schutorff.

I transmit herewith Returns of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

I am, Sir, yours,

FREDERICK.

P. S. Not having yet received Returns of the Loss sustained by the Russian Troops, I can only observe, that I understand their Loss in killed, wounded, and missing, amounts to near 1500 Men.

Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,
September 20, 1799.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of His Majesty's Forces under the Command of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, in the Action of the 19th September.

11th Regiment of Light Dragoons.—1 Rank and File wounded.

Grenadier Battalion of Guards.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 11 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 2 Serjeants, 44 Rank and File wounded; 4 Serjeants, 23 Rank and File missing.

3d Battalion of the 1st Regiment of Guards.—2 Rank and File killed; 2 Lieutenant-Colonels, 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 42 Rank and File wounded; 43 Rank and File missing.

1st Battalion of the Coldstream Regiment of Guards.—1 Serjeant, 9 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Serjeant, 21 Rank and File wounded; 1 Serjeant, 13 Rank and File missing.

1st Battalion of the 3d Regiment of Guards.—1 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 17 Rank and File wounded.

27th Regiment of Foot. 1 Rank and File wounded.

1st Battalion of the 17th Regiment of Foot.—6 Rank and File killed; 2 Majors, 2 Captains, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 34 Rank and File wounded, 3 Rank and File missing.

2d Battalion of Ditto.—2 Rank and File killed; 1 Major, 1 Subaltern, 19 Rank and File wounded.

1st Battalion of the 40th Regiment of Foot.—1 Subaltern, 16 Rank and File killed; 1 Major, 4 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 47 Rank and File wounded; 1 Captain, 12 Rank and File missing.

2d Battalion of Ditto.—10 Rank and File killed; 3 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 4 Serjeants, 39 Rank and File wounded; 11 Rank and File missing.

1st Battalion of the 5th Regiment of Foot.—5 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 1 Rank and File wounded; 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 1 Rank and File missing.

1st Battalion of the 34th Regiment of Foot.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns wounded; 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer missing.

1st Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Foot.—1 Subaltern, 1 Staff killed; 3 Subalterns wounded;

10 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 203 Rank and File missing.

2d Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Foot.—1 Captain, 1 Serjeant, 16 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Subaltern, 4 Serjeants, 46 Rank and File wounded; 1 Serjeant, 97 Rank and File missing.

56th Regiment of Foot.—30 Rank and File killed; 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 33 Rank and File wounded; 2 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 57 Rank and File missing.

Total.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Captains, 2 Subalterns, 1 Staff, 2 Serjeants, 109 Rank and File killed; 7 Lieutenant-Colonels, 6 Majors, 15 Captains, 15 Subalterns, 20 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 345 Rank and File wounded; 22 Serjeants, 5 Drummers, 463 Rank and File missing.

Return of Officers killed, wounded, missing, and taken Prisoners.

Grenadier Battalion of Guards.—Lieutenant-Colonel Morris and Captain Gunthorpe, killed; Colonel Wynyard and Captain Neville, wounded.

3d Battalion of the 1st Guards.—Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, wounded; Lieutenant-Colonel Dawkins and Captain Forbes, wounded and taken Prisoners; Captain Henry Wheatley, wounded; Ensign D'Oyley, wounded and taken prisoner.

1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards.—Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham, wounded.

1st Battalion of the 17th Foot.—Major Grey, Major Cockburne, Captains Grace and Knight, wounded; Lieutenant Wickham, missing, supposed taken; Lieutenant Wilson and Ensign Thomson, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 17th Foot.—Major Wood and Lieutenant Saunders, wounded.

1st Battalion of the 40th Foot.—Ensign Elcomb, killed; Major Wingfield, Captains Dancer, Thompson, Gear, Myers, and Lieutenant Williams, wounded; Captain O'Donnell, missing.

2d Battalion of Ditto. Captain Trollope, wounded, since dead; Captains Dancer and Thornton, and Lieutenant M'Pherson, wounded.

1st Battalion of the 5th Foot.—Lieutenant-Colonel Stephenfon, wounded; Lieutenant Harris, wounded, since dead.

1st Battalion of the 35th Foot.—Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald and Major Hay, wounded; Major Petit, wounded and taken Prisoner; Captain Manary, Ensigns Wilkinson, Deane, and Jones, wounded.

1st Battalion of the 9th Foot.—Lieutenant Woodford and Quarter-Master Holles, killed; Lieutenant Smith, wounded and taken Prisoner; Lieutenants Grant and Rothwell, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 9th Foot.—Captain Balfour, killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Crew, wounded; Ensign French, wounded and taken Prisoner; Ensign Butter, missing.

56th Regiment of Foot.—Captains King and Gilman, and Lieutenant Prater, wounded.

N. B. Lieutenant Rowad of the Royal Navy, wounded.

Four Seamen, killed.

Seven Seamen, wounded.

Three Hundred and Fifty Rank and File of the 1st Battalion of the 35th Regiment cannot exactly be accounted for, from the Nature of the Action, and from the Regiment being sent immediately to the Helder in charge of Prisoners; but it is much feared that nearly One Hundred are killed, and the Remainder wounded and missing.

The Return of the Royal Artillery, received since the general Return was closed.

Five Gunners, Four Gunner Drivers, Three Additional Gunners, killed.

First Lieutenant Eligie wounded and taken Prisoner.

Volunteer John Douglas wounded.

Eight Gunners, Six Gunner-Divers, Four Additional Gunners, wounded.

Seven Gunners, Nine Gunner-Divers, missing.

(Signed) ALEX. HOPE,
Assistant-Adjutant-General.

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