



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1799.

*Downing-Street, November 28, 1799.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received this Day from the Right Honorable Lord William Bentinck by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

*Head-Quarters, Montenaux,  
October 26, 1799.*

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that a Report was this Morning received by General Melas from General Karaczai, (who commanded a Corps of Six Thousand Men near Novi to observe the chief Débouché from Genoa,) stating that he had been attacked by very superior Numbers of the Enemy, and, after a very severe Engagement, had been obliged to retire with considerable Loss to Alexandria, where he had taken up a Position behind the Bormida. General Kray marched this Morning with a considerable Reinforcement, and I hope will arrive Time enough to prevent the Enemy from making any further Progress. A Resolution has been taken on the Part of the Commander in Chief immediately to embody the Piedmontese Army; these Troops are to be placed in every respect upon their ancient footing; they are to take the Oath of Fidelity to the King of Sardinia only; and are in no Manner whatever to be made subject to Austrian Discipline. The Piedmontese Troops that are em-

ployed have behaved upon all Occasions in the most gallant and honorable Manner. Vast Numbers of Deferters come in daily, who all describe the Distress of the Enemy, for Want of Provisions, to be extreme.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. BENTINCK.

*Head-Quarters, Centalo,  
November 6, 1799.*

MY LORD,

I IN my last Letter I had the Honor of acquainting your Lordship, that in consequence of Information having been received that a large Detachment of the Enemy was coming from the Side of Savoy, the Army made a Movement to its Right. The French having taken Pignerol and Susa, and having advanced to Salucco, threatening our Communication with Turin, General Melas thought it necessary to march still farther to his Right; and a Camp was chosen between Bra and Fossano. These Operations, when connected with the System of Defence only, upon which this Army had so long been acting, deceived the French into a Belief that the Austrians were in full Retreat. The Evacuation of Mondovi, which was determined upon for the Purpose of adding a very considerable Force to the Army, confirmed still more this Opinion. Elated with these Hopes, they advanced on all Points, and on the 3d took Possession of Savigliano.

On the 4th the Enemy marched in Three Columns to attack the Austrian Army. The First Column marched from Savigliano by Marenne, the Second by Genola, and the Third marched to the Attack of Fossano, which had been put in a State of Defence, and was occupied by a considerable Garrison. It happened that the Austrian Army moved with the same Intent, at the same Time, and in the same Number of Columns, and upon the same Roads. Lieutenant-General Ott commanded the Right Column, Lieutenant-General Elfnitz the Centre, and Major-General Gottersheim the Left. The Two Armies met at Marenne and Genola. It was not till after a very severe Engagement that General Ott obliged the Enemy to fall back from Marenne; a Part retired to Genola, and a Part to Savigliano. General Ott pursued the Enemy to the latter Place, where he took Three Cannon and above One Thousand Prisoners. The Column of General Elfnitz, that was destined for the Attack of Genola, met with a much more formidable Resistance. The Action lasted for several Hours, and it was not till the Arrival of the Column of General Ott from Savigliano upon the Rear of the French, that Victory declared in Favor of the Austrians. The Two Columns immediately proceeded in Pursuit of the Enemy: General Ott by Villa Fallette, General Elfnitz by Valdigi. The Army halted at Night at Centalo. The Column of General Gottersheim repulsed the French from Fossano to Murazzo. It will appear surprising, that, while our Army was at Centalo, a Division of the French Army remained between Mu-

razzo and Ronchi, with the Stura in their Rear, over which there was no Bridge.

Early in the Morning of the 5th the Army marched in Two Columns to Ronchi and Murazzo. The Enemy, surprised, made no Resistance, and Two Hundred Prisoners were taken without any Loss. It appears that the French Army was completely defeated, and that this Division was left there without Orders. The Austrians have made in the Two Days above Three Thousand Prisoners. The Army being extremely fatigued remained at Ronchi; but this Morning, General Melas having determined to follow up his Success with the greatest Vigour, the Army marched in Two Columns, one upon the Intrenched Camp of the Madona del Almo, and the other upon Casaglia; the Enemy retreated everywhere upon our Approach; it is reported that the French are retiring over the Mountains.

It is impossible to do Justice to the Valor and Perseverance of the Austrian Army. The Operations of the Army prior and subsequent to this Affair, when considered in a Military Point of View, entitle the Commander in Chief to the Admiration of the whole World.

Accounts were received Yesterday from General Kray, that he had attacked the Enemy near Alexandria, had obliged them to retire to Pozzolo Formigoio, with the Loss of One Thousand Prisoners.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. BENTINCK,

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