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Admiralty-Office, August 19, 1809.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received at this Office from Sir Richard John Strachan, Bart. K. B. Rear-Admiral of the White, &c. addressed to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole.

Kangaroo, in the West Scheld, off the Kaloot, August 11, 1809.

SIR,

I BEG Leave to acquaint you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I am this Moment going up to Bathz, in South Beveland, which has been attacked by a strong Detachment of the Enemy's Flotilla, and which by Sir Richard Keats's Reports, consists of Two Frigates, one bearing a Vice-Admiral's Flag, Thirty Brigs, Eight Luggers or Schooners, and Fourteen Gun-boats.

I was under the Necessity of detaining our Flotilla to prevent Supplies being thrown into the Garrison at Flushing, and to assist in cutting off its Communication with Cadfand, which Service was effectually done, except during the late heavy Gales which drove the Gun-Boats from their Stations. and prevented our Ships entering the Scheld, from the Circumstance of their not being able to weigh their Anchors. Since the Weather has moderated, the Wind has provokingly drawn round to the South East, which is the only Obstacle that prevents Lord William Stuart, with a Squadron of Ten heavy Frigates passing Flushing, as well as Rear-Admiral Lord Gardner, with the effective Line of Battle-Ships, taking up the Anchorage in Dykeshook Bay, where I intend his Lordship shall remain, with a view of having the Assistance of that Squadron in our further Operations against the Enemy, and eventually to proceed up the Scheld.

The Divisions of the Army under the Earl of Rosslyn and Marquis of Huntley landed on South Beveland on the 9th.

The Cavalry and Ordnance Ships with the Brigs and some Sloops of War, have passed through the Slough, into the West Scheld, and are now availing themselves of every favourable Tide to proceed to Bathz. I am also endeavouring to warp the Pallas and Circe through by the same Channel, and with every Probability of Success.

Sir Home Popham was detached with some Gun Vessels for the Purpose of founding the River, and of joining Sir Richard Keats at Bathz.

The Batteries are not yet ready to open on Flushing, therefore I hope to be here again in Time to co-operate with the Army in the Attack on that Garrison.

I am concerned to add, that the Enemy has cut the Dyke to the Right of the Town, and the Island is likely to be inundated. I have ordered Rear-Admiral Otway to send the Monmouth and Agincourt to England for Water, as soon as they can be got down from Zierickzee; and earnestly intreat that other Measurs may be adopted for supplying the Army and Navy from England, as I apprehend all the Water in this Island will be spoiled by the Inundation, and that there is not more in the other Islands than is necessary for the Subsistence of the Inhabitants.

Their Lordships must be aware that in this extensive and complicated Service, it is impossible for me to enter so fully into Detail as I could wish, especially as our Arrangements must vary in Proportion with the Movements of the Enemy.

In my Absence I have directed Rear-Admiral Otway to superintend the several Duties relative to the Investment of this Island, and to correspond with the Admiralty on all Matters of Service.

Captain Dobbie, who acted in the Pallas during the Absence of Captain Seymour, is the Bearer of this Dispatch. He had my Flag for some Time in that Ship, and has been particularly attentive to the public Service.

In consequence of the protracted Siege of Flushing, and the Necessity for the Flotilla going up the Scheld, I have ordered Guns from the Ships of War to fit Twenty Transports as Gun-Ships, and with the Launches of the Ships under Rear-Admiral Otway, to form a Flotilla for the lower Part of the Scheld, which I trust their Lordships will approve.

You will please likewise to inform their Lordships that Lord Gardner has ordered the Centaur and Thebus to cruize off the Texel.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. J. STRACHAN.

Honourable W. W. Pole.