

Enemy's Camp extended it self from above Aloft to Schillebille on the Scheld. Prince Eugene arriv'd at Asche, having left his Cavalry at Maeftricht.

On Saturday the 7th the Army continu'd at Asche. A Regulation was made for the Baggage. Pioncers were sent on every side to make Ways.

Sunday the 8th the Duke of Marlborough was very ill of a violent feverish Distemper, but was much better towards the Evening. Orders were given at Mr. d'Auverquerque's Quarters. There were 4 Battalions sent in to reinforce the Garrison of Brussels, and 8 Squadrons and as many Battalions order'd away with Major-General Cadogan and the Quarter-Masters to make the Ways.

Monday the 9th the Army march'd in 4 Columns by the Left; all the Horse of the Right Wing in one Column on the Right, the Horse of the Left in a Column on the Left, and the Foot of both Lines breaking in the middle in two Columns in the Center. The Earl of Albemarle was left with all the Granadiers of the Army, and 30 Squadrons, to make the Rear Guard, in case the Enemy should have made any Movement towards Brussels.

This Morning his Grace the Duke of Marlborough heard, that the Detachments of 700 Men from Aeth, Courtray and Menin, were safely got into Audenarde; and that Brigadier Chancelous, who had likewise hung himself into the Town, was not in any Apprehension for the Safety of it; Walleff's Dragoons were likewise to be in the Town this Morning from Aeth, whither they had been sent from Asche for that end. The Regulation touching the Baggage was exactly observ'd, and the Ways being well made, the Army march'd with exact Order, tho' with the most extraordinary Expedition; the Head was past Herselingen, which is above 5 Leagues from Asche, before 11 a Clock, the Lines perfectly clos'd up without any straggling, or any thing left behind. The Duke of Marlborough gave Orders for the Army to pitch their Tents just in their March, fronting towards the Enemy. The French, who were far from expecting that the Duke of Marlborough's Army was able to make such a March, did not beat their General 'till three a Clock in the Afternoon, reckoning themselves sure of the Camp of Lessines, in which they design'd to cover the Siege of Audenarde, which they had invest'd this Morning, their Artillery being ready at Tournay. At seven the Retreat was beat, which was the Signal for striking the Tents, and marching immediately. The Army march'd all Night, and Major-General Cadogan, with his Detachment, having taken Post and made Bridges over the Dender at Lessines, the Army began to pass at 11 a Clock on Tuesday the 10th, and continu'd their March to the Camp on the other side. The Rivulet that falls into the Dender, below the Camp of Lessines, is what makes the Strength of that Situation: The Enemy finding themselves disappointed of this Camp, left their Rout towards the Camp of Lessines, in which they had march'd several Hours, and fac'd towards Gavre, to pass the Scheld there.

Wednesday the 11th. This Morning News came that the Enemy had quitted Audenarde. Brigadier Chancelous charg'd their Rear-Guard with Walleff's Dragoons. Major-General Cadogan was sent with 16 Battalions and 8 Squadrons, to make the Ways and Bridges at Audenarde. The Army began to March at 8 a Clock by the Left, still in four Columns, as it had Encamp'd. After the News came of the Enemies being still passing at Gavre, and that there were hopes of coming to Action, the Army march'd with so great Expedition, that the Head was at two of the Clock in the Afternoon at the Bridges over which the 16 Battalions, that were with Major-General Cadogan, were then passing; the 8 Squadrons, and the Quarter-Masters, with Major-General Rantzau, were posted on an Eminence behind the Rivulet that runs into the Scheld; they saw a great many French Squadrons drawn up on the Plain on the other side the Rivulet, and the March of the French Army being directed towards their Right; they had slung 7 Battalions of Foot into Fleurne, through which the high way runs along the Scheld. The Rivulet above is Marthy, and hardly passable for Horse, though very narrow. These Appearances made it uncertain, whether their true Design was to hinder the Duke of Marlborough's passing the Scheld, or to gain their own Lines between Lille and Tournay, which they might expect to have time enough to do; for they could by no Means imagine such a vast Army could march 5 Leagues in a very close Country, save their Ways made, pass a great River, and give them Disturbance all in one Day.

About 3 a Clock the French Cavalry in that Plain, before our advanc'd Guards, began to disappear, taking their March towards their own Right; then Major-General Cadogan, who, between 3 and 4, with 12 of the 16 Battalions, had pass'd the Bridge, attack'd the Village Heurne with such Bravery (Brigadier Sabine with his Brigade being at the Head) that they soon made themselves Masters of the Village, in which were 7 French Battalions, 3 of which were taken intire, as was the greater part of the other four.

Immediately after Major-General Rantzau with the 8 Squadrons with the Quarter-Masters, pass'd the Rivulet, and advanced into the Plain where the French Horse had been drawn up between the Villages of Roize and Mullen. A great many Squadrons of their Rear-Guard being still passing through that Plain, the 8 Squadrons with the Quarter-Masters, being term'd into 8 Squadrons, attack'd them with great Vigour, and drove them into the Close Ground and the Highway that led into the March of their own Army. Here it was that the Prince Elector of Hannover distinguish'd himself, charging with his Sword in his Hand at the Head of a Squadron of Bulau's Dragoons; his Horse was shot under him, and Colonel Lusky that commanded the Squadron was kill'd, fighting bravely by him: Lieutenant-General Schulemberg, and several other Volunteers, behav'd themselves with great Spirit, and led up the Squadrons. Here the French Regiment La Berthouche, and several other Regiments, were entirely broke. The Colonel La Berthouche being dangerously wounded, was taken, as were many other Officers, with 12 Standards and Kettle-Drums.

In the mean time the Troops continu'd to pass the Bridges with great Diligence; the Prussian Horse form'd themselves upon the Right, in the same Plain where our advanc'd Guard was, and the rest of the Horse as they pass'd follow'd the Prussians through the Village of Heurne into the Plain; the Foot by reason of the length of the March, and that the Horse had galloped a great part of the Way, arriv'd later at their Bridges, so that 'till five a Clock there was no Foot but the 16 Battalions.

My Lord Duke, with Prince Eugene, being pass'd into the Plain to the Head of the Horse, where they were forming, and perceiving the great need there was of Foot, sent Orders to the Foot that had been employ'd in the Attack of the Village to leave their Post there, and sling themselves into the Hedges on the other side of the Plain, towards which the Enemy seem'd to be marching with great Diligence. There were then but two Battalions of ours on that side of the Plain, which were Major-General Colliar's, and Brigadier Grumckan's; they were attack'd with great Fury, but maintain'd their Post with great Bravery 'till more Foot came up to sustain them, long afterwards. My Lord Duke of Marlborough sent Orders after Orders to the Foot to prest their March, the French being then forming and ready to attack the Foot that was there with very unequal Numbers. In this time the Duke of Argyle arriv'd with 20 Battalions; they were hardly posted when the French attack'd them with great Fury, driving some Prussian Battalions from their Post, which, notwithstanding the inequality of Numbers, they retok again Sword in Hand: This happened about six in the Evening. Count Luttm by this time was coming up with the rest of the Foot of the Right to sustain this Attack. My Lord Duke finding the great Effort was like to be made on the Right, sent to the Left for 20 Battalions; the Left Wing, which had pass'd their Horse through Audenarde, and the Foot on Bridges below the Town made for that Purpose, arriving some time later than the Right, had form'd themselves in two Lines, with the Village of Merghem behind them.

As soon as the Foot arriv'd, they form'd themselves into two Lines before the Horse, and then attack'd in very good Order, the Inclosures and Villages in their Front wherein the French were posted. About 7 a Clock the Fire grew universal both on the Right and Left; in most Places the French gave way, but being sustain'd with fresh Troops, the Action was maintain'd very obstinately a good while after; before the Left of the Left Wing there was a kind of an Opening, through which a Road that led into the Plain on the Top of the Hill, the Prince of Frize at the Head of the Dutch Foot clear'd this opening.

The Duke of Marlborough having sent to Monsieur d'Auverquerque and the Count Tilly, to desire they might undertake something to employ the Enemy on the Right, on the Instant in which this was performing, my Lord Marlborough arriv'd at the Left, Prince Eugene taking