

French account of the Battles, Defeats &c, of the Duke of York's army, near Dunkirk, between the 8th and 15th of September.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

"From the members of the common Council of Dunkirk.

"Dunkirk, September 8—4 A. M.

WE refer you to our last dispatches, dated at 9 o'clock. Inclosed is a copy of a letter from the Municipality of Bergues, which has come to hand this moment.

"The night has passed in tranquility, although the citizens, in spite of fatigue, are still in duty, watch and watch: He informs that Houchard has been reinforced by a body of 15000 men, whom he has put under marching orders for Dunkirk. The General himself is not far from Furnes. An army of 80,000 men is said to compose his present force. This is possible—but we dare not assert the number to be so great. He adds, that our troops are still in pursuit of the enemy, and that their rout is total. We presume that he means those who were expelled from the environs of Bergues and Houdschoote; for with respect to our late besiegers, we do not conceive that General Houchard can overtake them till the morning; and it is probable that they will march all night to avoid a battle.

"At half-past 5. We are positively assured that the enemy has evacuated the camp to which they first retreated; they will not tarry to admit of pursuit, for at this moment we have received intelligence that a body of 10,000 men together with our garrison, is in full march after them.—These troops are commanded by General Landrin.

(Signed) "DESAUGE, BLAISEL,
"et EMERY, Mayor."

Letter from the Administrators of Bergues, to their Colleagues, at Dunkirk, Sept. 8, P. M.

"Our position gives us every advantage over the enemy. Our troops continued their march for Houdschoote—and this morning appeared before the lines, where the enemy were entrenched, better than breast high—The attack commenced with a very brisk and deadly discharge of small arms; in a few moments the brave grenadiers gained possession of the trenches. Nothing could withstand the intrepidity of our troops: they carried all before them. The artillery, baggage, and a vast body of the English, with their officers, have fallen into our hands. It is this moment reported, that 600 Emigrants are taken; we can scarcely credit so large a number; this possibly wants confirmation. Prisoners are continually coming in. We have taken a number of waggons, a travelling forge, and other camp equipage.

"P. S. After the sealing of this letter, 400 prisoners have arrived, and more are coming in. A body of 6 or 7000 men are this moment passing forward to Furnes; they are part cavalry, troops of the line, and light infantry."

Extract of a letter from General Houchard, to the Minister at War.
Dunkirk, Sept. 10, 1793.

"Citizen,

"At length the wishes of the nation are accomplished. The soldiers of tyranny have retreated from before the walls of Dunkirk.

"The attack of the village of Houdschoote, terminated in a victory of the utmost importance. It completed the total rout of our enemies in the nights of the 8th and 9th inst.

"Persuaded that we were in possession of Houdschoote, the enemy retreated from before Dunkirk, at midnight. It was a fortunate moment for them, as General Landrin entered the city, at 5 in the morning, at the head of his troops, united with the

brave garrison, had determined to give them battle. If this reinforcement had not been sufficient, I should have marched to their assistance with 10,000 men, and recommenced the action that evening. The enemy very carefully avoided this rencontre with the armies of the Republic, by retreating to Furnes. We are in possession of their cannon and military stores.

"Never was a victory more complete, nor deserving higher eulogium. The forces of the Republic, in general, have behaved with the most daring intrepidity. The particular details shall be forwarded in my next dispatches.—At this moment I am crowded with business, and the returns are not completely made out.

(Signed)
HOUCARD."

The Common Council of the Community of Dunkirk, to the Mayor and Municipal Officers at Graveline.

Dated Sept. 18, 1793.

"We have informed you, in your dispatches of yesterday morning, and of last evening, that the enemy was preparing to abandon their camp. This they effected last night, and retreated with precipitation towards Furnes, leaving behind them a great part of their baggage. Intelligence is just arrived, that in their camp, and the canal of Furnes, a prodigious quantity of military stores have been found.—The following are the principal articles, 52,000 sacks of earth, 800 chivalets for pontoons, a prodigious quantity of planks, 800 barrels of powder, 41 pieces of cannon, the major part of which are battering cannon, 600 twenty-four pound balls, a number of muskets, waggons, serges hives, pick-axes, entrenching tools, stores, &c. with 30 head of cattle, a vast quantity of forage, and an infinity of other matters, the detail of which would be too long to insert.

"The celerity with which the enemy abandoned their camp, proves their terrific apprehensions, at the movements of Gen. Houchard. We are informed that a part of the army of this General is now on their march to exterminate them from Furnes.

"At 10 o'clock, a body of 10,000 men, entered our city. They halted for a few hours on the glacis and along the barrier de L'Estran. The whole body resumed their march at 5 o'clock, and are gone in pursuit of the enemy. We hope they will come up with them at Furnes or in its environs.

"The entrenchments of their enemy, their numerous batteries, and their favorable situation in the forest of Rosendal, gave them such a superiority, as it might have been thought, would have demanded the sacrifice of 10,000 men to dislodge them.

"The movements of the enemy sufficiently indicated, that they wished to inspire terror by their bombardment; and then to attempt an escalade. At this moment an officer announces the arrival of a body of 3000 men from the armies of the Rhine."

(Signed) EMERY, Mayor."

Letter from the National Commissioners to the Army of the North, at Dunkirk, Sept. 16, 1793.

"We are informed, Citizen Colleagues, from various quarters, that Furnes is evacuated by the enemy, and that they are extending towards Nieuport, though it is uncertain whether they will not retreat to Ostend, at least, their present movements strongly indicate this determination.

"These reports increase, we begin to credit them—Orders are given for clearing the country, and hastening the line to march.

"It is unfortunate that we are not instructed in the dispositions which ought to be made, till the moment they should be carried into execution. Yesterday we visited the troops commanded by the brave Castagnier; tomorrow we shall take some particular measures relative to this body of troops, of which we shall inform you, we are of opinion, that

they merit an extra compensation. We shall forward, by all opportunities, a copy of our proceedings.

"A rescript from General Canlon, informs us this moment, that his advanced guard has marched for Furnes. You are authorized to say, that we are there.

"Our brave troops are unhappy at meeting with no reward worthy of their courage. We shall be assiduous in collecting the brilliant traits of that valour, of which the Soldiers of the Republic, have furnished such glorious examples; and which although they are very numerous are frequently unknown to the public.

"P. S. General Gigaux has entered Furnes without encountering any obstacle, as we learn by a dispatch which arrived in the night. We expect to be there in the morning.

"With this, we transmit, a German letter, found among other papers in the enemy's camp, it is directed to the Prince Paul inkrem 2, by one of his nephews. The citizens whom we appointed to examine these papers, have shown us the following passage. "The Dauphin of France shall be King under the regency of the King of England, who is to continue Regent during the minority of LOUIS XVII. They say that Spereck has returned to London on this commission." Thisrodomantade merits nothing but the contempt of Republicans; nevertheless, it may be well enough to pursue the scrap, as it may enrich the history of our revolution.

(Signed) "BERLER,
"TRULLARD."

DEFEAT of the PRUSSIANS in Alsace.

Letter from Adjutant General Duvingnan, dated Head-Quarters of Weissembourg the 15th of September, 1793.

"The success which I have just achieved, merits your attention."

"On the 14th of September, the enemy was attacked with that vigor, which the French Republicans display when combating the enemies of his country. In every part, the slaves of tyranny have felt the energy of liberty. They have fallen beneath its weight, and fled before the blow. The post of Limbac alone remained in their possession; but on the 14th, (yesterday) their fortified camp was stormed, and the enemy thrown into complete disorder. Two pieces of cannon and 1600 muskets are taken; their loss in men was considerable. And you will see by our returns, that good fortune and courage march hand in hand. Every moment of the 12th and 14th was signalized by new proofs of bravery. Among those who distinguished themselves, (for it is impossible to recount the heroism of each individual) citizen Buvau an officer of the 7th regiment of Light-Infantry deserves to be mentioned.—At the moment of the attack of the entrenched camp of Northweiler, he was the first who leaped the redoubt amid the opposing bayonets of the enemy. This example was followed by his brave brothers in arms, and general success was the consequence. A well supported discharge of artillery, and an incredible fire of musketry, frequently silenced a very warm fire from pieces of 17, and 25; though ours were only eights. Among the troops who signalized themselves in the action of yesterday, the 2d battalion of the Rhine and Loire, and the first of Lot and Garrone. A battalion of farmers, the 87th light infantry, and the first of the 46th regiment, all together in one ward, displayed the greatest courage. Our success in this affair may be attributed in a great measure to the efforts of the soldiery of the Republic, who planted a piece of cannon on the top of a mountain; this decided the victory, by throwing the enemy into confusion.

"The representatives of the people were active in every quarter, and their presence contributed to the success of our arms. We