



AND

NORTH-CAROLINA WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

"Ours are the Plans of fair delightful Peace,
Unwarp'd by Party Rage to live like Brothers."

VOL. I.

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NO. 3.

ENGLAND.

From the London Gazette Extraordinary, of September 6.

Downing Street, Aug. 2.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received by the Rt. Hon. Henry Dundas, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of State, from Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Abercromby, K. B.

Helder, August 28.

SIR,

From the first day after our departure from England, we experienced such a series of bad weather, as is very uncommon at this season of the year.

The ardor of Admiral Mitchell for the service in which we were jointly engaged, left it only with me, to follow his example of zeal and perseverance, in which I was encouraged by the manner in which he kept a numerous convoy collected.

It was our determination not to depart from the resolution of attacking the Helder, unless we should have been prevented by the want of water and provisions.

On the forenoon of the 21st inst. the weather proved so favourable, that we stood in upon the Dutch coast, and had made every preparation to land on the 22d, when we were forced to sea by a heavy gale of wind.

It was not until the evening of the 25th, that the weather began once more to clear up.

On the 26th, we came to anchor near the shore of the Helder, and on the 27th, in the morning, the troops began to disembark at day light.

Although the enemy did not oppose our landing, yet the first division had scarcely begun to move forward, before they got into action, which continued from five o'clock in the morning, until three o'clock in the afternoon.

The enemy had assembled a very considerable body of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, near Callangstrong, and made repeated attacks on our right with fresh troops.

Our position was on a ridge of sand hills, stretching along the coast from North to South. Our right flank was unavoidably exposed to the whole front of the enemy. We had no where sufficient ground on our right to form more than one battalion in line; yet, on the whole, our position, though singular, was not, in our situation, disadvantageous, having neither cavalry nor artillery.

By the courage and perseverance of the troops, the enemy was fairly worn out, and obliged to retire in the evening to a position two leagues in his rear.

The contest was arduous, and the loss was considerable. We have to regret many valuable officers lost to the service, who have either fallen or been disabled by their wounds. The corps principally engaged were the reserve under the command of Col. Macdonald, consisting of the 23d and 55th regiment.

The regiments of Major Gen. Coote's brigade, which have been much engaged, were the Queen's, the 27th, the 20th, and 85th regiments.

Major Gen. Ovley's brigade was brought into action towards the close of the day, and has sustained some loss.

As the enemy still held the Helder with a garrison of near of 2000 men, it was determined to attack it before day-break, on the morning of the 28th, and the brigade under Major Gen. Moore, appointed by Major Gen. Burrard's, were destined for this service; but about 8 o'clock yesterday evening, the Dutch fleet in the Meer's Diep got under way, and the garrison was withdrawn, taking their rout through the marshes towards Medenblick, having previously spiked the guns in the batteries, and destroyed some of the carriages. About 9 at night, Major Gen. Moore, with the second battalion of the royals, and the 92d regiment, under the command of Lord Huntly, took possession of this important post, in which he found a numerous artillery, of the best kind, both heavy and field train.

All that part of the Dutch fleet in the Nieuwe Deep, together with their naval magazine at Nieuwe Werk, fell into our hands this morning; a full detail of which, it is not in my power to send. This day we have the satisfaction to see the British flag flying in the Meer's Diep, and part of the 5000 men, under the command of Major Gen. Don, disembarking under the batteries of the Helder.

During the course of the action, I had the misfortune to lose the service of Lieut. Gen. Sir James Poultney, from a wound he received in his arm, but not before he had done himself the greatest honor, and I was fully sensible of the loss of him. Major Gen. Coote supplied his place with ability.

Col. Macdonald who commands the reserve, and who was very much engaged during the course of the day, though wounded, did not quit the field.

Lieut. Col. Maitland, returning to England, to go on another service, and Major Kempt, my aide-camp, and bearer of this letter, whom I beg leave to recommend to your notice and protection, will be able to give any further information which it may be required.

A list of the killed and wounded as far as we have been able to ascertain it, accompanies this letter.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.
RALPH ABERCROMBY.

To the Rt. Hon. Henry Dundas, &c.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 2.

Capt. Hope, of his Majesty's ship Kent, and Capt. Oughton, of his Majesty's ship Isis, arrived this afternoon with dispatches from Admiral Lord Viscount Duncan, of which the following is a copy;

Kent, off Aldborough,
Sunday, September 1.

SIR,

I transmit, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter to me from Vice-Admiral Mitchell, giving a distinct detail of the great successes with which it has pleased Almighty God to crown his Majesty's arms. The boldness of the Vice-Admiral in running in on an open shore with so numerous a fleet, and in so very unsettled weather, could only be equalled by the gallantry of Sir Ralph Abercromby, and his brave troops, landing in the face of a most formidable opposition. During the whole of the conflict on Tuesday, I could plainly perceive the vast superiority of the British troops over those of the enemy; though opposed with obstinacy, and in justice to both the land and sea service, I must say, that I never in my life, witnessed more unanimity and zeal, than has pervaded all ranks to bring the expedition to its present happy issue.

Finding the Kent, with several of the Russian 74 gun ships to draw too much water to get into the harbour, I have returned with them to this anchorage; but previous to my getting under way at 8 o'clock on Friday morning, I had the pleasure to see Vice-Admiral Mitchell, with the men of war, transports, and armed vessels, in a fair way of entering the Texel with a fair wind, and have not the least doubt, that the whole of the Dutch fleet were in our possession by noon on that day.

These dispatches will be delivered by Capt. Hope and Oughton, both able and intelligent officers, and who will give their Lordships more satisfactory information relative to our successful operations. I shall now add my sincere congratulations to their Lordships on this great event, which I think, in its consequences, may be ranked among one of the greatest that has happened during the war.

I am, Sir, &c.
DUNCAN.

P. S. The winds having proved unfavourable, has occasioned my anchoring here; but I shall proceed to Yarmouth, as soon as the weather moderates.

Isis, at anchor off the Texel,
August 29, 1799.

MY LORD,

In a former letter I had the honor to write your Lordship, I there mentioned the reasons that had deter-

mined Sir Ralph Abercromby and myself not to persevere longer than the 26th, in our resolution to attack the Helder and Port of the Texel, unless the wind became more moderate. Fortunately, the gale abated that morning, and though a very heavy swell continued to set in from the northward, I thought the moment was not to be lost in making the final attempt. The fleet therefore bore up to take the anchorage, and I was happy to see the transports and all the bombs, floops and gun vessels in their station to cover the landing of the troops by three in the afternoon of that day, when the signal was made to prepare for landing. The General, however, not thinking it prudent to begin disembarking so late on that day, it was determined to delay it until two in the morning of the 27th. The intervening time was occupied in making the former arrangements more complete, and by explaining to all the Captains individually my ideas fully to them, that the service might profit by their united exertions.—The troops were accordingly all in the boats by three o'clock; and the signal being made, to row towards the shore, the line of gun-boats, floops of war, and bombs opened a warm and well directed fire to scourge the beach, and a landing was effected with little loss. After the first party had gained the shore, I went with Sir Ralph Abercromby, that I might superintend the landing of the rest, and with the aid of the different Captains, who appeared animated but with one mind, the whole were disembarked with as great regularity as possible.

The ardour and intrepidity which the troops displayed, soon drove the enemy from the nearest sand-hills; and the presence of Sir Ralph Abercromby by himself, whose appearance gave confidence to all, secured to us, after a long and very warm contest, the possession of the whole neck of land, between the Kiek Down and the road leading to Alkmaer, and near to the village of Callanfoog.

Late that night the Helder-Point was evacuated by the enemy, and taken possession of by our troops quietly in the morning, as were the men of war named in the enclosed list, and many large transports and Indiamen by us the next day. I dispatched Capt. Oughton, my own Captain to the Helder Point last evening to bring off the pilots, and he has returned with enough to take on all the ships necessary to reducing the remaining force of the Dutch fleet, which I am determined to follow to the walls of Amsterdam, until they surrender or capitulate for his Serene Highness the Prince of Orange's service.

I must now, my Lord, acknowledge in the warmest manner the high degree of obligation I am under to your Lordship for the liberal manner in which you continued to entrust to my directions the service I have had the honor to execute under your immediate eye; a behaviour which added to my wish to do all in my power to forward the views of Sir Ralph Abercromby, has been highly grateful to me.

It is impossible for me sufficiently to express my admiration of the bravery and conduct of the General and the whole army, or the unanimity with which our whole army and navy on this occasion, having, to use a Roman's phrase, pulled heartily together.

Where the exertions of all you did me the honor to put under my orders have been so great, it is almost impossible to particularise any; but Capt. Oughton has had so much to do, from the first embarking of the troops to the present moment, and he has shewn himself so strenuous in his exertions for the good of the expedition, as well as giving me much assistance from his advice on every occasion, that I cannot but mention him in the highest manner to your Lordship, and at the same time express my wish that your Lordship will suffer him to accompany whoever may bear your dispatches to England, as I think the local knowledge he has gained, may be highly useful to be communicated to their Lordships of the Admiralty.

The manner in which the captains, officers and seamen, landed from the fleet, and behaved while getting the cannon and ammunition along to the army, requires my particular thanks. And here let me include in a special manner, the Russian detachment of boats, from whose aid and most orderly behaviour, the service was much benefitted indeed.

I am also much indebted to Capt. Hope, for the clear manner in which he communicated to me your Lordship's ideas at all times, when sent to me by your Lordship for that purpose, as every thing was better understood from such explanation than they could otherwise have been by letter.

It is impossible for me to furnish your Lordship at present with any list of the killed, wounded or missing seamen, or of those who were unfortunately drowned on the beach, in landing the troops, having as yet no returns made to me; but I am very sorry to say, that I was myself witness to several boats overletting on the surf, in which I fear several lives were lost. I have the honour to be,
A. MITCHELL.

To the Rt. Hon. Adm. Lord Viscount Duncan, Commander in Chief, &c.

A list of men of war, &c. taken possession of in the Nieuwe Diep.

Broederschap (guardship) of 54 guns; Vespawing, of 64 guns; Helder, of 32 guns; Venus, Dalk, and Minerva, of 24 guns each; Hector, of 44 guns; and about thirteen Indiamen and transports.

A. MITCHELL.

Admiralty-office, Sept. 3, 1799.

Lieutenant-Collier, of his Majesty's ship Isis, arrived this day with dispatches from Vice-Admiral Mitchell, to Evan Nepean, Esq. Secretary to the Admiralty, of which the following are copies.

Isis, at anchor at the red buoy, near the Vlieter, Aug. 30, 1799,
2 o'clock P.M.

SIR,

I have the very great satisfaction to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the whole of the Dutch fleet near Vlieter, surrendered without firing a single gun, agreeably to a summons I sent this morning. The Dutch squadron was to be held for the orders of his Serene Highness the Prince of Orange, and the orders I may receive from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for their further proceedings.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.
MITCHELL.

Evan Nepean, Esq.

Isis, at anchor at the red buoy, near the Vlieter, Aug. 31, 1799.

SIR,

It blowing strong from the South-west, and also the flood tide, I could not send away my short letter of last night; I therefore have, in addition, to request you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the morning of yesterday I got the squadron under way at five o'clock, and immediately formed the line of battle, and to prepare for battle.

In running in, two of the line of ships Ratviliam and America, and the Latona frigate took the ground. We passed the Helder Point and Meer's Diep, and continued our course along the Texel in the Channel that leads to Vlieter, the Dutch squadron laying at anchor in a line at the red buoy in the South-east course.

The Latona frigate got off and joined me; but as the two line of battle ships did not, I closed the line. About half past ten I sent Captain Rennie, of the Victor, with a summons to the Dutch Admiral, as it was Lord Duncan's wish I should do so; and in her way she picked upon a flag of truce with two Dutch captains, from the Dutch Admiral to me. Captain Rennie very properly brought them on board; and from a conversation of a few minutes I was induced to anchor in a line at a short distance from the Dutch squadron, at their earnest request.

They returned with my positive orders not to alter the position of the ships, nor to do anything whatsoever to them, and in one hour to

submit or to take the consequences.

In less than the time, they returned with a verbal answer, that they submitted according to the summons, and should consider themselves (the officers), on parole, until I heard from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Prince of Orange, for my further proceedings.

I have now the honour to enclose you herewith the line of battle in which the squadron advanced, a copy of my summons to the Dutch Admiral, and also a list of the Dutch fleet.

Admiral Story's flag is down, and I have sent an officer on board each of his ships to have an eye over and the charge of them, as themselves requested that it should be so.

I have also furnished them with the Prince of Orange's standard, many of them not having had it before, and they are now all under these colours.

To maintain quiet among their crews, I issued a strong manifesto, of which I also inclose a copy herewith.

The animated exertions and conduct of the whole squadron are far above any praise I can bestow on them; but I shall ever feel most sensibly impressed on my heart their spirited conduct during the whole of this business. We have all felt the same same zeal for the honour of our Sovereign and our country; and although the conclusion has not turned out as we expected, yet the merit I may say, in some measure, is still not the less due to my squadron; and if I had brought them to action, I trust it would have added another laurel to the Navy of England in this present war. The Dutch were astonished at and thunder struck at the approach of our squadron, never believing it possible that we could so soon have laid down the buoys, and led down to them in line of battle in a Channel where they themselves, go through but with one or two ships at a time.

I have sent Lieut. Collier with these dispatches, who will give their Lordships every information, as he has been employed in the whole communication with the Dutch squadron, and was also on shore with me as my Aid-de-Camp, on the day of landing.

I have the honor to be, &c.
A. MITCHELL.

P. S. Since writing the above I received the Dutch Admiral's answer, in writing, which I enclose herewith.

A List of the Dutch Squadron, taken possession of in the Texel, by Vice-Admiral Mitchell, August 29, 1799.

- Washington, Rear Admiral Story, Captain Chapelle, 74 guns.
- Guelderland, Capt. Waldeck, 68 guns.
- Admiral de Ruyter, Capt. Hijjs, 68 guns.
- Utrecht, Capt. Hof, 68 guns.
- Cerberus, Capt. De Jong, 68 guns.
- Leyden, Capt. Van Beram, 68 guns.
- Beschemmer, Capt. Lillbracht, 54 guns.
- Batavier, Capt. Van Senden, 54 guns.
- Under the Vlieter: Amphitrite, Capt. Schutter, 44 guns.
- Under the Vlieter: Mars, Capt. De Beck, 44 guns.
- Ambuscade, Capt. Riverji, 32 guns.
- Galathea, Capt. Droop, 16 guns.

A. MITCHELL.

BATAVIA.

HAGUE, SEP. 6.

The President of the Diplomatic Body of the Batavian Republic, in their 1st Chamber, session of yesterday, read a communication, stating, that according to the accounts he had received, our army was in the best state of defence, and were daily receiving large reinforcements; and that the outposts of the enemy were stationed at Schagen, and those of our army at Petten; that the Duke of York had joined the former, and that Gen. Dumonceau was expected to-day or to-morrow, to take the command of the latter. He also communicated a letter from the Executive Directory, enclosing another from the Agent of Marine, with a number of other papers, amongst