

STATE GAZETTE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

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PARIS, July 1.
OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
Army of the Rhine and the Moselle.
The General in Chief to the Executive Directory.

Head-Quarters at Kehl, the 6th and 7th
Messidor, (24th and 25th of June.)

I RECEIVED your courier of the 2^d Messidor [20th Jun.] directing me to pass the Rhine. This morning, at 9 o'clock, we made ourselves masters of the intrenchments of Kehl. Our troops have occupied the right bank of the river ever since three in the morning. We could only effect the passage opposite Kehl; the astonishing overflowing of the Rhine for two days had so inundated the isles where the troops were to land at Ganheim, that it was impossible to land on firm ground. The incredible obstacles that were to be overcome might have occasioned doubts of the success of such an enterprise, attempted by any other troops than French. The bravery of the soldiers, the calm courage of the officers who directed the attacks, surmounted every difficulty. In no part, as I have already informed you, could we make a first debarkation on Terra Firma.

After having landed on the isles, with which the Rhine abounds, it was necessary to drive the enemy from them, to attempt other passages, and to establish ourselves in them: The circumstance rendered a surprise impossible, and naturally afforded time for reinforcements to arrive. The rapidity and good conduct, however, of all the attacks, deprived the enemy of these advantages.

All the intrenchments of the isles were carried at the point of the bayonet without any firing; the enemy had only time to make a discharge of grape shot, from each of the pieces of cannon that defended the isles; and those that might have saved themselves were pursued with much vigour, that they had not time to destroy the little bridges that served them as points of communications. We got possession of them all.

The attack of the intrenchments of Kehl, offered much greater obstacles. We could not make it with our infantry. It was necessary to open on the enemy in a very considerable plain defended by their cavalry.—We could not oppose our own cavalry to theirs, for it was impossible to embark them; the artillery which followed the first embarkation was equally disabled, for it could not be conveyed over the isles; but the intrepidity of our troops supplied the want of means.—We made use of the artillery which we took, and it was sufficient to take artillery men with us, who were in a condition to act upon the enemy.

The 2600 men embarked were not sufficient to resist the reiterated attacks of the enemy, who camped at Wistette put them in a condition to make them, and the very vigorous fire of all the intrenchments which it was necessary to carry; the flying bridge, which on ordinary occasions might have acted in a very short period of time, could not be got ready in less than five or six hours; the excessive rapidity of the Rhine rendered the anchorage and recovering so difficult, that we ran the risk, for want of prompt and speedy succours, of losing the fruit of our enterprise.

It was necessary for an instant, to deprive the enemy who had passed of all means of retreat, in order to save them. I gave orders for the removal of all the boats that had carried the first intrenchment of troops, in order to send the necessary succour; this manoeuvre was made with sufficient speed, and we were enabled to begin with success the attack of Kehl.

The first redoubt on the plain was defended by five mortars and five thousand men. The attack and carrying of it were completed in a very short time. The artillery we took afforded us the means of answering that of the enemy with advantage, and of making the attack of the other intrenchments, which were successively carried with equal courage. At five in the morning, the enemy were entirely driven from Kehl and our troops pursued the

enemy in the road of Ossenbourg, and took from them three pieces of cannon and many prisoners.

Our artillery of the Isle of the Rhine seconded, by a well directed fire, the attack of the works which were within their reach. The loss of the enemy in this affair was very considerable in killed and wounded.—We took between 7 and 800 men, 2000 muskets, and 15 or 16 pieces of cannon.

The attack of Gambenheim had not the hope for success; the isles on which the troops ought to have landed, were covered with water from the swell of the two preceding days; this obstacle, however, did not stop us; the debarkation was made in open day, under the enemy's fire, and the troops engaged up to their middle in water, during which they attempted to land; but the rapidity of the current which separated them, did not permit them to recover their boats; they repassed to the left bank in the best order. The soldiers shed tears of rage to see their courage arrested by obstacles, which it was impossible to overcome.

This attack was commanded by the General of division Beaulieu, he having under his orders the General of brigade St. Suzanne, the Adjutant General Bellevue, Lechasseur, and the chief of the battalion of engineers, Hottelvin. The troops destined for this service immediately returned to the attack of Kehl, to support those which had passed; the passage of Kehl was commanded by the General of division Fernot; the different attacks were directed by the Adjutants General Montrichard, Abbatozzi, Dacien, and the chief of the brigade of engineers, Boisgerard; the reserve by the General of brigade Tholme. The General Detail commanding the centre of the army, took that of two divisions as soon as they had passed. The distinguished conduct of all these brave officers merits the highest eulogiums. I must not forget to give you the most advantageous account of the talents and activity of the General of brigade Rogier, chief of the Etat Major of the army; the immense business of his office did not prevent him from taking the most active part in all these affairs, and rendering the most signal services.

I had charged the Adjutant General Abbatozzi, Bellevue, Dacien, Montrichard, and the chief of the brigade of engineers Boisgerard, and Dedon, the chief of the battalion of pontonniers, with a survey of the Rhine, the preparation for a passage, and with all the details which an operation of such importance demand. Nothing could equal the intelligence with which these preparations were made, but the intrepidity and talents which were displayed in the execution.

The troops which have passed to Kehl, are the 2^d battalion of the third half brigade, and the 1st of the 15th light infantry, with the 31st, 89th, and 36th infantry, of the line. The chief of battalion Bodelievre, commanding the 2^d battalion of the 3^d half brigade of light infantry, particularly distinguished himself in the attack of the redoubts; the wounds which he received did not prevent his continuing at the post—he is known for one of the bravest officers of the army. The address, the bravery, and zeal of the battalion of pontonniers did not a little contribute to our success; they worked without intermission for sixty hours.

The General Lajollas, although not on the service, requested of me at the moment of attack, that he might lead, as he perfectly knew the localities of the place; this knowledge was highly useful, and his example did not a little animate the courage of our troops—I will impart to you other traits of courage which have marked this day. One of the most remarkable is in the manner in which the first redoubt on the plain was carried; the soldiers after having leaped into the ditch before escalade, threw a shower of stones upon the defenders, who threw down their arms, when they saw the French upon the parade, and forcing the gorge.

If the enemy had known of this enterprise, it would have been almost impossible—It is fortunate that they were the dupes of all the false attacks and movements which we made to conceal it from them; They were equally ignorant in the town of Strasburg; they knew nothing of the preparations till the moment that they could no longer be concealed from them; that was the passage of the boats upon the branch Mobile; on the 5th at mid day, I made the gates be shut, that the enemy might not obtain further intelligence.

In the midst of the eulogies which I have bestowed upon all those who have concurred in this operation, I regret that I have to complain of the water men of Strasburg, whose bad disposition has been carried to its height; those of whom boats were requisited for the expedition, refused the rudders to the requisition of the chief of the pontonniers. Your commissioners with the administrations of that town were obliged to make domiciliary visits to procure them; this retarded the passage two hours, and day began to appear before the departure of the first boats; so that the false attacks that were begun must have given the alarm along the whole river.

I hope we shall soon be in a position to extend our right hand to the army of Italy, and our left to that of the Sambre and Meuse.

You will excuse me, Citizn Directors, for not having sent my report as soon as the passage was effected. I consider our position upon the right bank of the Rhine as very uncertain, until the re-establishment of the bridge, as we had neither artillery nor cavalry, and it was impossible to pass them over.

The bridge is just finished between Kehl, and the Isle of the Rhine, it is about 250 toises; the rest of the army is now passing.

Health and respect,

(Signed) MOREAU.

P. S. I have this instant received an account that our troops have driven the enemy from Neumuhl, taken from them 200 men of the free corps of Ginlay, with a carriage and the swiftness of the horses saved the guns.

Annexed is the plan of the attacks; they were perfectly executed, except at Gambenheim; but I assure you, it was not the fault of the troops.

LONDON, June 7.
LA FAYETTE.

The following very affecting letter is written by M. Gillet, a gentleman who was Aid de-Camp to the unfortunate La Fayette. The tyranny of Robespierre! It is absurd to compare it to the treatment described by M. Gillet.
MR. EDITOR,

THE circumstance of our having been personally attached to General La Fayette, by the duties of our station in his army, and more particularly by the consideration of his private and public virtues, interested our liveliest feelings and gratitude in that pathetic description lately made by Mr. Fox, of innocence tortured with the most relentless and savage brutality. All the friends of humanity and liberty will sympathize in the eloquent grief of the great statesman, and in that burst of indignation and sorrow which broke from every part of the house of commons. But all the colours and powers of eloquence can never do justice to the unparalleled sufferings of the unfortunate La Fayette, so justly entitled to the praise of being a man of the most uncorrupted nature. Let the tender and compassionate hearts of the British fair, and the boasted generosity of Englishmen, contemplate that gallant and distinguished character, seized upon neutral ground, and from the month of August, 1792, buried alive in cold, subterraneous, solitary dungeons, deprived of exercise, of air, of the light of heaven, of all intercourse with human beings; stripped of all his clothes, before his being plunged in his last dungeon at Orlutz, and clad like a galley slave in trowsers and waist coat of sail cloth; enduring in that condition the memorable winter of 1794; destitute of every thing, refused