



*There are the plans of fair, delightful Peace,  
Warward by party rage, to live like Brothers*

Vol. XV.

### LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

Continuation of Extracts from London papers.

LONDON, MARCH 25.

#### ATTACK ON BERGEN-OP-ZOOM.

Extracted from the London Gazette Extraordinary of Monday last.

Sir Thomas Graham writes from his headquarters Calmbout, March 10th, reporting that an attack on Bergen-op-Zoom, which seemed at first to promise complete success, ended in failure, with severe loss to the first division, and to Brig. Gen. Gore's brigade. The General was determined to attempt to carry the place by storm, since the success of two of the columns in establishing themselves on the ramparts justified such a risk. The troops employed were formed in four columns. Maj. Gen. Cooke accompanied the left column which made the attack between the Antwerp and Waterport gates, Maj. Gen. Skerrett, and Brig. Gen. Gore both accompanied the right column, which attacked to the right of the New Gate; this was the first which forced its way into the body of the place. The two columns were directed to move along the ramparts so as to form a junction as soon as possible, and then to proceed to clear the ramparts and assist the centre column, or to force open the Antwerp gate. An unexpected difficulty, in passing the ditch on the ice, occasioned a considerable delay and the left column did not gain the rampart till half past 11.

Meanwhile the lamented fall of Brig. Gen. Gore, and Lt. Col. the Hon. George Carleton, and the dangerous wound of Maj. Gen. Skerrett, depriving the right column of their able direction, it fell into disorder, and suffered great loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. The centre column having been forced back with considerable loss by the heavy fire of the place, (Lieut. Col. Morrice, its commander, and Lieut. Col. Elphinstone commanding the 33d regiment, being both wounded) was reformed under Major Muttelbury, marched round and joined Maj. Gen. Cooke, leaving the left wing of the 55th, to remove the wounded from the glacis. However, the guards had suffered very severely during the night, by the galling fire from the houses on their position, and by the loss of the detachment of the 1st guards, which having been sent to endeavor to assist Lieut. Col. Carleton, and to secure the Antwerp gate, was cut off, after the most gallant resistance which cost the lives of many most valuable officers.

At day break the enemy having turned the guns of the place, opened their fire against the troops on the unprotected rampart, and the reserve of the 4th column (the Royal Scots) returned from the Waterport gate, followed by the 32d. The former regiment getting under a cross fire from the place and Waterport redoubt, soon afterwards laid down their arms.

Maj. Gen. Cooke, then despairing of success, directed the retreat of the guards, which was conducted in the most orderly manner, protected by the remains of the 69th regiment, and of the right wing of the 55th (which corps repeatedly drove the enemy back with the bayonet) under the Maj. General's immediate direction. The General afterwards found it impossible to withdraw these weak battalions, and having thus, with the genuine feelings of a true soldier, devoted himself, he surrendered to save the lives of the gallant men remaining with him.

I should wish to do justice to the great exertions and conspicuous gallantry of those officers who had the opportunities of distinguishing themselves. I have not as yet been able to collect sufficient information.

Sir Thomas Graham then mentions the conduct of various officers in high terms of commendation, and transmits such lists of the killed and wounded as could at that time be procured.

A more complete detail of this unfortunate affair is given in the following extract of a report from Major Gen. Cooke, whose column, we lament to say, after gaining footing on the ramparts, in spite of unexpected obstacles, was compelled to surrender to the enemy.

I have the honor of reporting to your Excellency, that the column that made the attack on the Antwerp side got into the place about 11 o'clock the night of the 8th, by the clock of this town: but at half past eleven, the time we were regulated by, a delay having occurred at Bourgblie, occasioned by finding it necessary to change the point of attack, on account of the state of the ice at the first intended spot. Every exertion was made by Lieut. Col. Smith and Capt. Sir G. Hoste, of the royal engineers, in getting on the ladders and in directing and placing them for the descent into the ditch, the passing the feet in the ice, and the ascending the ramparts of the body of the place; during which operation several men were lost by a fire from the ramparts. After we were established on the ramparts, and had occupied some houses, from whence we might have been much annoyed, and had sent a strong patrol towards the point at which Maj. Gen. Skerrett and Lieut. Col. Carleton had entered, I detached Lieut. Col. Clifton with part of the 1st guards, to secure the Antwerp gate, and to see if he could get any information of the column under Lieut. Col. Morrice. Lieut. Col. Clifton reached the gate, but found that it could not be opened by his men, the enemy throwing a very heavy fire up a street leading to it. It was also found that they occupied an outwork, commanding the bridge, which would effectually render that outlet useless to us. I heard nothing more of this detachment but considered it as lost, the communication having been interrupted by the enemy.

Lieut. Col. Roake, with part of the 3d guards was afterwards sent in that direction, drove the enemy from the intermediate ramparts, and reached the gate, when he found it useless to attempt any thing, and ascertained that the outwork was still occupied. We were joined in the course of the night by the 33d, 65th and 2d battalions of the 60th regiment, but the state of uncertainty as to what had passed at other points, determined me not to weaken the force now collected, by attempting to carry points which we could not maintain, or penetrate through the streets with the certain loss of a great number of men, particularly as I heard that the troops at the Waterport Gate, under Lieut. Col. Muller were very seriously opposed, I sent the 33d to reinforce him.

The enemy continued a galling fire upon us, and at one time held the adjoining bastion, from the angle of which they completely commanded our communication with the exterior, and brought their guns at the angle to bear against us. They were charged and driven away by Majors Muttelbury and Hogg, with the 69th and 55th, in a very spirited and gallant style.

Finding that matters were becoming more serious, and being still without any information from other points excepting that of the failure of Lieut. Col. Morrice's column near the Nour Gate, I determined, at the suggestion of Col. Lord Proby, to let part of the troops withdraw, which was done at the ladders where they entered.

About day-light the enemy having again possessed themselves of the before-mentioned bastion, they were again driven from it by Majors Muttelbury and Hogg with their weak battalions, in the same gallant manner. I soon afterwards began sending off some more men, when Lieut. Col. Jones, who had been taken prisoner in the night, came to me (accompanied by a French officer, who summoned me to surrender) and informed me that Lt. Col. Muller, and

the troops at Waterport Gate had been obliged to surrender, and were marched prisoners into the town, when I also learnt the fate of Lieut. Col. Clifton's detachment, and of Maj. Gen. Skerrett, Maj. Gen. Gore, and Lieut. Col. Carleton, and that the troops which had followed them had suffered very much, and had been repulsed from the advanced points along the ramparts where they had penetrated to, I was convinced that a longer continuance of the contest would be a useless loss of lives, and without a prospect of relief as we were situated. I therefore consented to adopt the mortifying alternative of laying down our arms.

A letter from Sir Thomas Graham, dated March 11th, states that an agreement had been entered into for the exchange of prisoners, and encloses a copy of this agreement, agreeably to which all but the wounded were marched out from Bergen-op-Zoom, for the purpose of being embarked for England, as soon as the navigation of the river shall open. Sir Thomas Graham speaks highly of the humanity of the French commandant; and requests that an aid-de-camp of the French General, prisoner in England, should in compliment to him be released without exchange.

The following are the principle articles of this agreement:

Art. 1. A suspension of hostilities for three days, to commence from this day at noon, in order to afford time for making the necessary arrangements for the execution of an exchange of prisoners: Answer, granted.

Art. 2. That all prisoners of war; wounded and others, belonging to his Majesty's forces, shall be given up, giving their parole of honor not to serve against France or her allies, in Europe, until they are regularly exchanged. Answer, granted.

Art. 3. That all French prisoners of war, wounded and otherwise, shall be given up, and be accounted for by the prisoners to be recorded to his Britannic Majesty, as has been stipulated in the preceding article. Answer, granted.

Art. 4. As some of his Majesty's officers and soldiers have been dangerously wounded, they shall be left in the fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom; and two medical officers, together with the requisite number of hospital attendants, to take care of them. Answer, granted.

Art. 5. That when the officers or any others of the British wounded shall be cured, they shall receive passports from the Governor of Bergen-op-Zoom to enable them to proceed to the English out-posts; and that the medical officers and hospital attendants be in the like manner permitted to depart, when their services shall be no longer required. Answer, granted.

Hosendaal, March 9.

I gave you an account in a former letter, of two unsuccessful attempts to take Antwerp by assault and to capture or burn the fleet there. We failed because our force was wholly inadequate, and because our allies the Prussians had ulterior objects to pursue. A few days ago we got a large supply of military stores, together with a quantity of Congreve rockets, some of which were played off with very fine effect from the ramparts of Williamstadt, in presence of our gallant commander Sir T. Graham. All the formidable materials of war moved on the advance of our army, and we received a reinforcement of some fine regiments, the 1st royals, and the others from Stralsund. Every one supposed that another attack upon the fleet was immediately to take place and were anticipating the more favorable result, when this morning, the arrival of a number of wounded men gave us to understand that the attack was made not on Antwerp, but on Bergen-op-Zoom. Bergen-op-Zoom is one of the strongest towns in Europe. In former campaigns, the French (I think in 1746) attempted to carry it by assault; they were

repulsed, and left about a thousand of their men dead on the glacis. Marshal Saxe, however, renewed the attempt and took it by stratagem. We were encouraged to expect success, because it was known that the French garrison wished to evacuate it, and to throw itself into Antwerp; and also that the town's people were all in our interest. The British army, therefore, advanced, from its cantonments on the 6th and 7th towards Antwerp the head quarters being at Calmbout. On the 8th, it suddenly marched to Fort Lillo and Bergen-op-Zoom: all these places being only a few hours march from each other, the object proposed to be attacked was given out to be Fort Lillo, which lies between Bergen and Antwerp. The former however was only masked, and the real attack was made on Bergen on the same night. Bergen is on a rising ground or hill, the only one in the country protected by a marsh on the south-east, and watered by the little river Zeom, which is divided into dykes and canals. On the west it is washed by a branch of Scheldt. The assault was made by two brigades simultaneously, on the north side next Tholen, and on the south-east. The brave Major General, Skerrett the intrepid defender of Tariffa, commanded the attack. He had some time before broke his leg by a fall from his horse, from which he was not recovered. The other brigade was conducted by Major General Gore. It consisted of the 1st guards, 1st royals, and 44th, with a detachment of the 91st. It traversed a frozen morass, cleared the emplacements and chevaux-de-frize, and scaled the ramparts; they actually got into the town undiscovered. The other brigade consisting of the 55th 69th and 33d, and some of the 21st and 37th, also assaulted by escalade, but was vigorously opposed. The enemy raised up the ladders from the ramparts with hooks, and dashed down the men on the frozen ditches; the gates, however, were forced open from the inside and the greater part of the assailants entered. The garrison, though surprised, was not thrown into confusion; it rallied, lined the houses on each side of the streets with musquetry, and enfiladed them with grape shot and howitzer shells. The guards were drawn up and prepared to fire by platoons, when they were ordered to throw out their priming and to charge. They advanced at the *pas de charge*; but they met nothing but showers of grape and canister shot and bullets. Almost all the brigades was laid prostrate; nor did the other brigade suffer less, though they only gained the ramparts; in short, it was very like the Buenos Ayres business, only that no blame can attach to our brave veteran commander; in fact nothing could be better planned than the attack, or more heroically executed. The two leaders, Gens. Gore and Skerrett, were literally pierced with balls. The first fell dead on heaps of slain, but Gen. Skerrett has survived. The corps now began to retreat; but here the enemy feeling his strength and his vantage ground, shut the gates. Many threw themselves over the ramparts, but the greater number remained in the town, killed, wounded and prisoners. To intercept the retreat, the French opened the sluices, which flooded the dykes over the ice. Three lines of works, and three courses of dykes had the retreaters to pass, under showers of round, grape and shells, before they could be safe; yet, wonderful to tell, numbers of wounded men, with balls in their bodies, got over all; numbers also were drowned in the attempt. It was a moonlight night, but occasionally clouded—no blue lights, &c. were exhibited; but the aim was not less sure nor the fire less destructive. Of about 4,500 men engaged in the assault, it is said, that not 1,500 escaped. We trust, however, the loss will turn out not near so great.

The enemy will boast of having taken two pair of colors, but there

was no honor lost—they were lost only when their gallant commanders ceased to breathe. The enemy's general, whose name I have not learnt, behaved with urbanity. He sent a flag of truce to propose giving up the worst wounded men; which proposal was accepted, and between 6 and 700 were delivered to us at the Antwerp gate. Such has been the result of what I hope will be the last sacrifice to Moloch.

London, March 14.

We have this day to perform the mortifying and unusual task of announcing the failure of the British arms, attended with a loss exceeding that which has purchased many of our most important successes. The disaster occurred in Holland. An enterprise undertaken by the orders of Sir T. Graham, with hopes justified, in a great measure at least, by the impression made in the first instance, with the object of obtaining possession of the strong fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom, was finally frustrated with the loss on our part of nearly the whole of the troops engaged, by death, or by a capitulation containing a covenant for the exchange of the captives. The details of the operations, down to their disastrous close, have been published this morning in an Extraordinary Gazette, which we insert at full length, with feelings, whose poignancy will not permit us to say more than we condole most sincerely with our afflicted country on an occasion so truly distressing.

From the London Sun, of April 5.

We have this morning received a letter from Bordeaux of a very late date, the contents of which, we regret to say, give us too much reason to fear that a great difference of opinion prevails among the leading men, who are favorable to the re-establishment of the Bourbon dynasty upon the throne of France. When union is on every account so desirable, we cannot but deeply lament the existence of any circumstance which should, upon an important point, cause a division of those into two parties, who, for the happiness of the world, ought to be the most cordially and closely linked together in one. We have been for some time aware of the fact, that the French emigrants in this country had split upon the same rock, but we had hoped that the moderation and justice of their monarch would have prevented the schism from spreading into France, and that the hatred of the tyrant, common to all, would have kept down every minor matter upon which contrariety of sentiment prevailed, till the restoration of a better order of things afforded the opportunity for smoothing away difficulties, and making arrangements which should meet the wishes of every friend to France and mankind. We still trust that such will be the course pursued, and that the French nation will not have to ascribe the failure of the good cause and its subsequent relapse into the horrors of despotism, to any partial and (hereafter) reconcilable difference as to the proper mode of accomplishing the glorious event in view. We appeal against prejudices in favor of their opinions, to the loyalty & patriotism of every true Frenchman. Let them for the present bury every thought but that of saving their country; let them stop every recollection but that of her wrongs; let them forget every motive of action but that of her misery; let them set no other object within their gaze but that of the overthrow of their tyrant, and with the restoration of her rightful king, the return of peace and concord, to medicine her wretchedness, to heal the wounds of Europe. This indeed were public virtue, and God and man will reward their exertions to the fullest extent of their desires.

The following are extracts translated from our letter:

I grieve to tell you that the proclamations issued in the name of his Majesty, and the explanation of the views of one part of the royalists, have been productive of very bad effects.