

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1809.

Downing-Street, August 19, 1809.

A dispatch of which the following is a copy, was this day received at the Office of Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from Lieut. General the Earl of Chatham. K. G. dated head-quarters, Middleburgh, August 16, 1809.

Head-Quarters, Middleburgh, August 16, 1809.

MY LORD—I have the honour of acquainting your Lordship, that on the 13th inst. the batteries before Flushing being completed, (and the frigates, bombs, and gun-vessels, having at the same time taken their stations,) a fire was opened at about half-past one P. M. from 52 pieces of heavy ordnance, which was vigorously returned by the enemy. An additional battery of 6 24-pounders was completed the same night, and the whole continued to play upon the town with little or no intermission till late on the following day.

On the morning of the 14th inst. about 10 o'clock, the line of battle ships at anchor in the Durloo Passage, led by Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan got under weigh, and ranging up along the sea-line of defence, kept up as they passed a tremendous cannonade on the town for several hours with the greatest gallantry and effect. About four in the afternoon, perceiving that the fire of the enemy had entirely ceased, and the town presenting a most awful scene of destruction, being on fire in almost every quarter, I directed Lieut. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote to send in to summons the place; General Monnet returned for answer, that he would reply to the summons as soon as he had consulted a Council of War; an hour had been allowed him for the purpose, but a considerable time beyond it having elapsed without any answer being received, hostilities were ordered to recommence with the utmost vigour, and about 11 o'clock at night, one of the enemy's batteries, advanced upon the Sea Dyke in front of Lieut. Gen. Fraser's position, was most gallantly carried at the point of the bayonet, by detachments from the 96th, 71st, and light battalion of the King's German Legion, under Lieut. Col. Pack, opposed to a great superiority of numbers; they took 40 prisoners, and killed and wounded a great many of the enemy.

I must not omit to mention, that on the preceding evening an entrenchment in front of Major-General Graham's position, was also forced in a manner equally undaunted, by the 14th regiment, and detachments of the King's German Legion, under Lieut. Col. Nichols, who drove the enemy from it, and made a lodgment within musket shot of the walls of the town, taking 1 gun and 30 prisoners.

About two in the morning, the enemy demanded a suspension of arms for 48 hours which was refused, and only two hours granted, when he agreed to surrender according to the summons sent in, on the basis of the garrison becoming prisoners of war.

I have now the satisfaction of acquainting your Lordship, that these preliminaries being acceded to, as soon as the Admiral landed in the morning, Colonel Long, Adjutant-General, and Capt. Cockburn of the Royal Navy, were appointed to negotiate the further articles of capitulation, which I have now the honour to inclose. They were ratified about three this morning, when detachments of the Royals on the right, and of his Majesty's 71st regiment on the left, took possession of the gates of the town. The garrison will march out to-morrow, and will be embarked as speedily as possible.

I may now congratulate your Lordship on the fall of a place so indispensably necessary to our future operations, as so large a proportion of our force being required to carry on the siege with that degree of vigour and dispatch, which the means of defence the enemy possessed, and particularly his powers of inundation (which was rapidly spreading to an alarming extent,) rendered absolutely necessary.

Having hoped, had circumstances permitted, to have proceeded up the river at an earlier period, I had committed to Lieut. General Sir Eyre Coote, the direction of the details of the siege, and of the operations before Flushing, and I cannot sufficiently express my sense of the unremitting zeal and exertion with which he has conducted the arduous service intrusted to him, in which he was ably assisted by Lieut. Colonels Walsh and Offey attached to him, as assistants in the Adjutant and Quarter-Master Generals department.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the judicious manner in which the General Officers have directed the several operations, as well as with the spirit and intelligence manifested by the Commanding Officers of corps, and the zeal and ardour of all ranks of Officers.

It is with great pleasure, I can report the uniform good conduct of the troops, who have not only on all occasions shown the greatest intrepidity in presence of the enemy, but have sustained, with great pleasure and cheerfulness, the laborious duties they have had to perform.

The active and persevering exertions of the corps of Royal Engineers have been conducted with much skill and judgment by Col. Fyers, aided by Lieut. Col. D'Arcey, and it is impossible for me to do sufficient justice to the distinguished conduct of the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, under the able direction and animating example of Brigadier-General M'Leod.

The seamen, whose labours had already been so useful to the army, fought their reward in a further opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and one of the batteries was accordingly intrusted to them, and which they served with admirable vigour and effect.

I must here beg to express my strong sense of the constant and cordial co-operation of the Navy on all occasions, and my warmest acknowledgments are most particularly due to Capt. Cockburn of the Belleisle, commanding the flotilla, and to Capt. Richardson of the Caesar, commanding the brigade of seamen landed with the army.

I have the honour to inclose a return of the garrison of Flushing, in addition to which I have learned that, besides the number killed, which was considerable, upwards of one thousand wounded men were transported to Cadzand, previous to the complete investment of the town.

I also subjoin a statement of deserters and prisoners, exclusive of the garrison of Flushing.

This dispatch will be delivered to your Lordship by my first Aid-de-Camp Major Bradford, who is fully qualified to give your Lordship every further information, and whom I beg leave earnestly to recommend to his Majesty's protection.

I have the honor to be, &c.

CHATHAM.

(Signed)

His Excellency the General of Division Monnet, one of the Commandants of the Legion of Honour, Commandant in Chief of the Forts of Flushing, having authorised Monsieur L'Eveque, Captain of the Imperial Engineers, and Monsieur Montonnet, Captain of the Imperial Artillery, to treat of terms of Capitulation for the surrender of the town of Flushing to the troops of his Britannic Majesty; and their Excellencies Lieut. Gen. the Earl of Chatham, K. G. &c. and Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan, K. B. &c. Commanding in Chief the military and naval forces before Flushing, having authorised Capt. Cockburn, of his Majesty's ship Belleisle, commanding the British Flotilla, and Col. Long, Adj. Gen. to treat conjointly with the said Commissioners thereon, they have, after duly exchanging their respective powers, agreed to the following articles, viz.

Art. I. The garrison of Flushing shall be prisoners of war, and shall march out of the place with all the honours of war; they shall deposit their arms on the Quay of the Water Gate; they shall return to France on their parole, and shall not for one year bear arms against his Britannic Majesty, or the allies whom he may have at the time of capitulation.

This article is applicable to the officers of marine actually at Flushing.

Answer.—The garrison of Flushing will be permitted to march out of the town with the honours of war required, and they will lay down their arms on the glacis; but must be considered as prisoners of war, and sent as such to England.

The officers of marine will share the fate of the rest of the garrison.

Art. II. General and Staff officers, officers of the marine and of the corps composing the garrison shall keep their arms, their horses, and all their property which belongs to them. The non-commissioned officers, soldiers, seamen, and officers' servants, shall keep their haversacks.

Ans. Granted.

Art. III. The sick and wounded capable of being sent out shall be forwarded to France, the remaining sick shall be left to the care and humanity of the General commanding the troops of his Britannic Majesty, and sent to the French dominions as soon as their condition will permit; there shall be left a sufficient number of medical attendants for the care of the sick; the medical attendants shall receive the same allowances as those of his Britannic Majesty.

Ans. The sick and wounded must be considered as prisoners of war. Such as are in a state to be removed shall be embarked with the garrison; the rest will remain under the care of French Physicians and surgeons until sufficiently recovered to admit of their being removed.

The physicians and surgeons will receive the allowances usually granted to prisoners of war of their rank and description, together with such further remuneration for their attendance on the sick as the General commanding the British army may be pleased to grant.

Art. IV. The non-combatants, such as the sub-inspector, the commissary of war, the medical attendants, the heads of the different administrative departments shall not be considered as prisoners of war: they shall be at liberty to dispose of their effects, their private and personal property, and to carry it to France, as well as all documents relative to their accounts, in order to justify their conduct to the French government. This arrangement is applicable to the Commissaries and civil officers of the marine, to the artificers and attendants of the port, to the officers of the customs and duties, as well as to the paymasters of the army and navy.

Ans. The officers and others mentioned in this article, all attendants on the French army, and in short Frenchmen of every description not inhabitants of Flushing previous to the year 1807, will be sent to England, and hereafter treated according to such arrangement as may take place between the two governments respecting non-combatants; their private and personal property shall be respected, and permission will be given them to retain all such papers as specifically relate to, and may be necessary for the settlement of their accounts.

All Frenchmen and others who may be permitted to remain, will be expected to take the oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty when required, and to conform to all laws and regulations which may hereafter be made by the British government.

Art. V. If no particular stipulation has been made concerning the sick left at Middleburgh, under the care of the medical attendants and the officers of the said hospital, they shall be treated according to Articles III. and IV. of the present capitulation.

Ans. Granted; conformably to the answers given to the third and fourth articles.

Art. VI. The property of the inhabitants shall be respected, they shall be at liberty to withdraw into France with their private property, they shall have every security in this respect, and shall not be molested in any manner for their opinions and the part they have taken during the siege.

Ans. The property of the inhabitants of every description will be respected, it being understood that all naval and military stores will be held in requisition until paid to be the private property of individuals, and the British government shall, in that case, be at liberty to make use of the same on paying a just remuneration to the proprietors.

Such inhabitants as may be desirous of retiring to France, and shall certify this intention within eight days after the ratification of this capitulation shall be permitted to do so at a period to be determined by the British Commander in Chief, and no inhabitants shall be molested on account of any opinion or conduct he may hitherto have held.

Art. VII. The necessary carriages and vessels shall be furnished by the English commissioners, at the expence of

their government, for transporting from this place to the French dominions the sick and the private effects of the officers. These effects shall not be searched, and shall have full security during their passage.

Ans. Every expence of transporting the French garrison, sick, &c. with their baggage, to England, will, of course, be defrayed by the British government.

Art. VIII. If any difficulty shall arise in the interpretation of any of the above articles, it shall be settled by the undersigned commissioners, and as much as possible in favor of the garrison.

Ans. Granted.

Given under our hands in Flushing this 15th day of August, 1809.

(Signed) GEO. COCKBURN, Captain H. M. S. Belleisle, commanding the British Flotilla.

ROBERT LONG, Col. Adj. Gen.

(Signed) F. MONTONNET, Capitaine D'Artillerie, P. LEVBUQUE, Capitaine Commandant du Genie.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES.

Art. I.—The undersigned Commissioners have agreed that all ordnance, military and naval stores of every description, as well as all maps, charts, plans, and military memoirs, &c. and all public property whatsoever, shall be made over with inventories thereof to such commissioners as shall be appointed by the generals commanding the British and French forces conjointly to deliver and receive the same.

Art. II.—It is likewise agreed that as soon as the ratification of the present capitulation shall be exchanged, the gates of the town and the sluices shall be occupied by detachments of the British army, and the French troops shall evacuate the forts at noon on the 17th instant.

Art. III.—It is further agreed that this capitulation shall be ratified by the Generals commanding in chief the British and French armies; and that the ratifications shall be exchanged at the French advanced posts on the Middleburgh Road, at 12 o'clock this night; in default of which, the present capitulation, and suspension of arms to be considered as null and void.

Given under our hands at Flushing, this 15th day of August, 1809.

Approved and ratified by us,

(Signed) CHATHAM, Lieut. Gen. Commanding the Forces.

R. STRACHAN, Rear Admiral, Commanding the Naval Forces.

Examined and ratified,

(Signed) MONNET, General de Division.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) T. CAREY, Lieut. Col. Military Secretary.

LIVERPOOL, AUGUST 23.

THE EXPEDITION.—We have the satisfaction of laying before our readers the dispatch of Lord Chatham, announcing the surrender of the forts of Flushing, published on Sunday in an Extraordinary Gazette, and dated on the 16th of August. The anxieties which have for several days agitated the public mind are now happily dissipated by these official advices; and this first and most important object being secured, we begin to look forward with additional interest to the future operations of the expedition. The terms of the capitulation are such as will meet general approbation. The town was completely in our power, and no plea, as in the convention of Cintra, was drawn from the necessity of dispatch to cheat the conquerors of the fruits of their valour and perseverance, by obtaining possession of the place by liberating the garrison. They are all made prisoners of war, and are to be sent to England. All Frenchmen not inhabitants of Flushing before the year 1807, will be sent to England also, and from the circumstance that the inhabitants who remain will be required to take the oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, there is no doubt but that it is the intention of Government permanently to annex the Island of Walcheren to the British dominions.

The batteries mounting 52 pieces of heavy ordnance opened their fire soon after noon on the 13th, at which time also the frigates, bombs, and gun-boats, took their stations, and the whole continued to play upon the town until late the following day. The line of battle ships were then brought in, and kept up a most tremendous cannonade for several hours. At four in the afternoon of the 14th, the fire of the enemy had entirely ceased, and the town presented an awful spectacle of conflagration. The place was then summoned, and the space of an hour given to the commandant to deliberate upon the surrender. The time being expired and no answer given, hostilities recommenced, and one of the enemy's batteries was carried in the most intrepid style by detachments from the 96th, 71st, and light battalions of the German Legion. At two in the morning of the 15th, the enemy demanded a suspension of arms for 48 hours, which being refused; the place was surrendered on the proposed basis of the garrison becoming prisoners of war. The number of the Garrison is 4379. The prisoners and deserters taken in the Island of Walcheren are 1850—224 pieces of brass and iron ordnance were found in Flushing, with an immense quantity of shot, shells, and different kinds of ammunition.

The loss of the British army, we are happy to find is much smaller than previous reports had stated; and considering the nature of the service, and the great strength and excellent state of the enemy's fortifications, comparatively trifling.

The total loss from the 8th inst. to the surrender on the 15th inclusive is, 3 officers, 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, 26 rank and file killed; 15 officers, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, 83 rank and file wounded.

The squadron brought against Flushing was composed of the St. Domingo, bearing the flag of Sir R. J. Strachan, the Blake, with the flag of Lord Gardner, the Repulse, Victorious, Denmark, Audacious, and Venerable. The flotilla of gun-boats and bomb-vessels was under the orders of Captain Cockburn, of the Belleisle; besides which, there