



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1799.

*Downing-Street, October 13, 1799.*

**D**ISPACHES, of which the following are Copies, were this Afternoon received from Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Head-Quarters, Alkmaar,  
October 6, 1799.*

SIR,

**I** Dispatched my Aid-de-Camp Captain Fitzgerald, on the 4th Instant, with an Account of the Success obtained over the Enemy on the 2d; and Circumstances at that Moment not enabling me to give the Particulars of that Day's Action, I shall now enter into a Detail of the Occurrences which then took place.

The Disposition I have already transmitted to you of the intended Attack will shew that it was determined that a vigorous Effort should be made on the Left of the Enemy, where the French Troops were posted and concentrated about Bergen, a large Village surrounded by extensive Woods, through which passes the great Road leading to Haarlem, and between which and the Sea lies an extensive Region of high Sand Hills, impassable for Artillery or Carriages, difficult and very embarrassing from their Depth and broken Surface for Cavalry, and exceedingly forbidding from all these and other Circumstances to any Movements being attempted in them by a large Body of Infantry. Behind these Sand Hills, and to the Enemy's Right, through the whole Extent of North Holland, lies a wet and low Country, everywhere intersected with Dykes, Canals, and Ditches, which it rested with the Enemy to occupy and strengthen in whatever Manner and in whatever Points he pleased, and thereby to prevent our making any successful Attempt against his Right. His Centre was supported by the Town of Alkmaar;

and Water Communications gave him in every Direction the Advantage of drawing from and profiting by the Resources of the Country. The Delays which the unusual Severity of the Weather at this Season and the Whole of our Situation rendered inevitable, enabled him to improve his Position by new Works, which bore a formidable Appearance and threatened much Resistance.

Under all Circumstances it was evident, that it was only by a great Advantage gained on the Enemy's Left that we could drive him back, and force him to evacuate North Holland, thereby materially bettering our Situation by opening the Sphere of our Resources and future Exertions.

The combined Attacks were therefore made in Four principal Columns:

The First on the Right, under General Sir Ralph Abercromby, consisting of

Major-General D'Oyley's Brigade,  
Major-General Moore's Ditto,  
Major-General Earl of Cavan's Ditto,  
Colonel M'Donald's Reserve,  
Nine Squadrons of Light Dragoons commanded by Colonel Lord Paget,

And One Troop of Horse Artillery, marched by the Sea-Beach against Egmont-op-Zee with a View to turn the Enemy's Left Flank.

Of the Second, consisting of Russian Troops commanded by Major-General D'Essen, the greater Proportion marched by the Slaper Dyke through the Villages of Groete and Schorel upon Bergen, by the Road which all the Way skirts the Foot of the Sand Hills of Camperdown, about Three Hundred Feet high, presenting a steep Face to the Country much wooded, but from their Summit more gradually sloping towards the Sea. Part of this Column, under Major-General Sedmoratsky, debouchéd from the Zuyper Sluys, and were destined to cover the Left Flank of