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Journal of the Siege of Neifs, 1758.

THE Marquis de Ville began, on the 4th of August, to invest the Fortrefs of Neifs on the Side of Neuffadt; but the Side of the Cittadel remained open till the 30th of September, when Count Harfch joined M. de Ville, and took the Command of those two combined Corps. The same Day, the Enemy caused all the Cattle of the Villages about the Place to be brought off: But Measures had been so well taken, that the Garrison was in Want of nothing, and found itself abundantly provided with every Thing necessary for its Subsistence.

On the 3d of October, the Body of the Place, as well as the Cittadel, were invested on all Sides by an Army of about 20,000 Men, the Head Quarters whereof were at first at Stephanndorff, and afterwards at Giesmansdorff.

On the 5th, the Enemy erected two large Redoubts on his Right towards Klumpenau, and placed some Field Pieces therein, and two more Redoubts on their Left towards the Rochusberg: The Peasants and Soldiers had, in the mean While, made Gabions and Fascines, and stored them in particular Places, together with thick Planks, Boards, and Tools necessary for the Siege.

Lieutenant Eoda, of the Regiment of Preifac, was made Prisoner the 12th. The Enemy was, that Day, reinforced by two Battalions of the Regiment of Mercy, and lost considerably by Desertion, principally among the Saxons, Bavarians, and the Soldiers of the Hungarian Regiment of Simschæn.

The 15th, a Train of Artillery and Ammunition arrived at the Enemy's Camp; as did,

On the 16th, two Battalions of Palaviciny and Old Wolfenbittel. The Croats gave the Alarm to several of our Guards; but the Fire of our Artillery and Musketry obliged them to retire: And, according to the Report of Deserters, the Enemy lost also a great many Men and Horses by a pretty brisk Cannonading from the Town upon their Camp, which they had pitched too near the Cittadel; and were thereby obliged to remove it, the following Night, 800 Paces farther back.

A fresh Train of Artillery, and about a hundred Waggons of Ammunition, arrived, on the 20th, at the Enemy's Camp, whose Dispositions shewed that they were upon the Point of opening the Trenches; and such Measures were taken in the Place, as were most proper to interrupt their Operations.

Capt. Lippe, of the Bavarian Regiment of Moravitzky, was taken Prisoner by our Patrols, on the 24th. The Desertion was great amongst the Enemy. They also received, that Day, a large Train of heavy Artillery, and a great deal of Ammunition; and the Deserters reported, that, since the coming up of this new Supply, there were 100 Pieces of Cannon, 40 Mortars, and a large Quantity of Ammunition, in the Camp.

In the Night of the 26th, the Enemy erected two Batteries of Cannon, and one of Mortars. They began at Day-break to fire from them upon the Sluice N^o 14. Their Design was to let the Water out by destroying the Sluice, and afterwards to attempt an Attack upon some of the Outworks which are on that Side. They caused also the Fore-Ditch to be founded by the Croats, who were however soon obliged, by the Fire of our Artillery and Musketry, to retire with great Loss. The Sluice was immediately repaired, and there still remained Water in the Fore-Ditch eight Feet deep. The Cannon from the Place and Outworks dismounted also their Batteries. But Lieutenant Henschke, of the Artillery, was unfortunately killed upon the Rampart by a Cannon-Shot.

The following Night the Enemy raised a Redoubt opposite to the Fort Bombardier; and designed erecting a Battery thereon; but the Cannon of the Cittadel, as well as that of the other Works that could bear upon that Redoubt, soon destroyed all the Works thereof. The Enemy began also that Night a Parrallel behind the Mehrengasse.

The 27th, the Enemy repaired their Batteries in the Night, and continued firing; but their Cannon was again dismounted even before Night; and the Deserters, who came over in great Numbers, all said, that the Besiegers had sustained there a considerable Loss of Men, and even of some Pieces of Cannon, which had been rendered useless.

The 28th, they fired chiefly upon the Town, but without much Success. Lieut. Lankisch of the Regiment of Manstein was killed in the Guard-Room by the bursting of a Bomb: There was also one Soldier killed, and two wounded in the Barracks. The same Day, the Enemy were reinforced by three Battalions, the Names of them unknown. They finish'd their Parrallel in the Night, and made their Approaches within 200 Paces of the Covert-way of the Cittadel. They also made a large Redoubt at the Bottom of the Carnickelberg; but the Fire of the Cannon and small Arms, which was continued without Intermision, joined to the Granadoes and Stones which were poured down incessantly during the whole Night and the following Day, killed a great many of the Besiegers.

The 29th, the Enemy made a continual Fire upon the Town, which was as briskly answered. On the other Hand, they repaired their Approaches, as well as their Batteries and Redoubts; but our Fire greatly incommoded them. Theirs had a good deal slackened, their Batteries having almost been dismounted; but it was renewed the 30th in the Morning, and continued the 31st; but the Fire from the Town silenced it towards Evening. There were two Soldiers killed and one wounded in the Barracks. The Enemy was reinforced the same Day with four Battalions, which having incamped too near the Cittadel, were exposed to a smart Cannonading from it.

In the Night of the 1st of November, the Enemy withdrew their Cannons and Mortars from off the Batteries, and also begun drawing off their Artillery; several Pieces of Cannon, and some hundreds of Waggons with Ammunition having been carried over the Neifs near Klumpenau, and taken the Road to Ziegenhals. They have however been at work upon their Approaches and Redoubts; and our Artillery has been kept in constant Play. The Deserters, the Number of whom has been greater this Night, than it had yet been before, have all affirmed, that the Loss of the Besiegers had been very considerable. On the 2d, the Enemy continued that whole Day, and the following Night, sending back the Cannon, Mortars, and the Ammunition and Baggage-Waggons. The Deserters reported, that the King was approaching with his Army.

In the Night of the 3d, the Enemy raised, within 500 Paces of the Cittadel, a large Redoubt, which, in a few Hours, was demolished by the Fire of our Batteries.

On the 4th in the Afternoon, they at last marched off in three Columns, and encamped at half a Mile from the Place, between Tschauwitz and Klumpenau.

On the 5th a large Body of their Troops passed over the Neifs near that last mentioned Place; another Body still remained in the Camp; and as I observed that the Approaches and Redoubts were still full of Men, I ordered a Sally at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, with 600 Foot, 300 Horse, and 60 Hussars.

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