

after marching 240 kilometres in 7 days, and on the 9th he reached Alkmaar. The Batavian troops were reorganised to create 2 Divisions of almost equal strength. They were placed at the following positions (see map 4):

Right wing: 1st Division (Lt-Gen Daendels)  
 Advance Guard (Col Crass)  
 Oud-Karspel 1st Bat Jagers  
 Noordscherwoude 2nd Bat Jagers  
 1st Brigade (Col Rietveld)  
 Zuidscherwoude 1st Bat/1st H.B.  
 Broek 1 battalion grenadiers  
 2nd Bat/1st H.B.  
 3rd Bat/1st H.B.  
 St. Pancras 2nd Cie Horse Artillery  
 Rgt Dragoons (4 squadrons)  
 1 Cie pioneers with bridges  
 2nd Brigade (Gen-Maj van Zuylen van Nyevelt)  
 Ouddorp 1st Bat/3rd H.B.  
 1st Bat/4th H.B.  
 3rd Bat/4th H.B.  
 St. Pancras 3rd Bat/5th H.B.  
 5 coys 2nd Rgt Heavy Cavalry  
 Centre: 2nd Division (Lt-Gen Dumonceau)  
 Advance Guard (Col Gilquin)  
 Schoorl dam 4th Bat Jagers  
 6 coys grenadiers  
 1 squadron Rgt Hussars  
 1 division (1/3 coy) 1st Cie Horse Artillery  
 1st Brigade (Gen-Maj Bonhomme)  
 Koedijk 1st Bat/6th H.B.

3rd Bat/6th H.B.  
 7th H.B. of 3 battalions  
 3 squadrons Rgt Hussars  
 1 division 1st Cie Horse Artillery  
 2nd Brigade (Col Bruce)  
 Koedijk 3rd Bat/2nd H.B.  
 2nd Bat/6th H.B.  
 1st Rgt Heavy Cavalry (3+ squadron)  
 Rear Guard (Maj Tulleken)  
 Alkmaar 3rd Bat Jagers  
 3 coys grenadiers  
 1 coy 1st Rgt Heavy Cavalry  
 1 division 1st Cie Horse Artillery

Total strength of the Franco-Batavian army now was about 25,000 26,000 men. Brune had the assurance from General Kellerman at Brussels that he would receive reinforcements from the Belgian Garrisons.

Since the landing nothing important happened. But on the morning of the 9th the British tried with a force of 20 light dragoons to penetrate to the village Oud-Karspel. But the jagers, who were in position behind some fascines, let them advance till they were only a few metres away. And then they fired a volley, killing or wounding 12 light dragoons and as many horses. The survivors were routed instantly. This engagement convinced Brune that he now had to attack, before the British received more reinforcements. So he planned an attack on the morning of the 10th September.

To be continued in part 3: The battle of Zijpe

## Under Review

**Review of:**  
**Napoleon, 1812 The Road to Moscow.**  
**Cromwell Productions.**

I must confess that I was extremely excited when I first saw this video on sale at the Nationals in London earlier this year. It seemed that, at last, somebody had produced a video that might be of interest to Napoleonic wargamers and historians.

However, having now watched it several times, my feelings about this video are somewhat mixed. On one level, it is a good, basic introduction to the campaign and the period for the general viewer but it will be of little use to the average wargamer, never mind those with a specialised interest in the period.

The video itself, after a rather long introductory advertisement for the other titles in the series, lasts for rather less than an hour and covers the background to the campaign, the French invasion,

the occupation of Moscow and the terrible retreat. The accent is very much on the activities of the French main army and its opponents, with very little mention of the, for me, far more interesting manoeuvres and actions of the flanking forces.

The story, narrated by Robert Powell, is illustrated by scenes from the epic Russian version of "War and Peace", which features a very odd looking Napoleon and some quite wonderful scenes of French troops along with far too many of their 5th rate opponents (not that I'm biased!). Along with these, there are also several shots of paintings of the period, few of which are connected with the campaign, although it must be admitted that the ones used, although fairly well known, are impressive.

The two most irritating parts of the video for me were the sequences featuring Dr David Chandler, which appeared to have been shot without the benefit of lights, and the quotations from Bourgoignes's memoirs, spoken in

French by somebody immaculately dressed in the uniform of a sergeant of the Fusilier Grenadiers, over which Robert Powell gives a translation. This totally ruined the effect and the powers that be would have done much better to leave the quotations in French and merely provide sub titles for those who require them.

Use is also made of, to quote from the advertising blurb, "the most advanced 3-D computer mapping techniques available." Obviously these techniques are highly expensive as well as advanced, which may explain why they make such little use of them.

One final gripe is that the picture quality, on my copy at least, is not marvellous, especially in the War and Peace scenes, although this may be due to the standards of Soviet cinematography rather than any fault of the producers of this video.

The video is accompanied by a paperback book which, basically, covers the same story in almost identical words to the video and is definitely not a threat

to Nafziger, Riehn, Foord or Duffy.

Despite these complaints, and the rather gratuitous presence of some WWII tanks half way through, the video does, as stated earlier, provide an adequate, easily accessible, introduction to the period for the novice, although quite how he is to get hold of it is another question as, unlike the titles in the series that cover campaigns of the British army and are to be marketed by W. H. Smiths, it only appears to be available via mail order from certain retailers or at wargames shows.

For the serious Napoleonic enthusiast the package may be an entertaining novelty item but is unlikely to have any useful value as it is far too simplistic and lacking in detail. My advice is to save your money and put it towards one of the aforementioned books or some figures.

C.J. Allen

(See page 31, where you will find a 'reader's review' of this product)



# **The Anglo-Russian Landings in Holland, 1799**

**Geert van Uythoven,  
Netherlands**

## **PART 3 The Battle of Zijpe, 10th September 1799**

### **Franco-Batavian plan of attack**

The Franco-Batavian attack would be made in three separate columns. The first column would be the right wing of the Franco-Batavian army, consisting of the 1st Batavian Division (Daendels). Their objective was the village Eenigenburg and the Westfriesche Dike behind it, and then to advance in the direction of St. Maarten. The left wing of their advance would be protected by the demolition of the bridges across the Groote Sloot.

The second column would be the centre of the Franco-Batavian army, consisting of the 2nd Batavian Division (Dumonceau). Their objective would be the Westfriesche Dike between the villages Eenigenburg and Krabbendam (the most southern point of the British defences). After this they had to advance to Krabbendam, and to capture this strongly fortified village. The 1st Brigade (Bruce) would attack this village along the Westfriesche Dike, and the 2nd Brigade (Bonhomme) from the direction of Warmenhuizen.

The third column would be the left wing of the Franco-Batavian army, consisting of the French Division Vandamme. This Division would be commanded directly by Brune, and had to attack the British defences between Krabbendam and Petten.

All three columns had to attack the British simultaneously at 03.45am. The darkness and the terrain forced the attackers to use the roads for their advance.

### **The battle of Zijpe; first column (I) (See Map 6)**

At 02.00am. Daendels left his starting positions, and at 04.00pm. he had already expelled the British from their forward positions at Haringkarspel and Dirkshorn. Moving from there to his objective at Eenigenburg, he found his way blocked by the Brigade Bonhomme from the second column. He reinforced this

brigade with a battalion of jagers and directed the remainder of his troops to St. Maarten. He then attacked this village and succeeded in capturing part of it, but then received the news of the disorder of the Brigade Bonhomme, whose attack was repulsed at Eenigenburg. Daendels left his Division at their position and went in person to the Brigade Bonhomme. After restoring order there he returned to his Division, and was just renewing his attack when he received the message that Bonhomme's second attack had been repulsed. He then held his position till a strong British column advanced from Schagen to Dirkshorn and threatened his flank. At 02.00pm. he retreated to his starting positions. Daendels' losses were 10 men killed, 71 wounded and 82 missing.

### **Second column (II)**

The 1st Brigade (IIa)(Bonhomme) would attack first. Their orders were to advance from Schoorlham to Warmenhuizen and Tuitgenhorn and to attack the Westfriesche Dike from there. However, at Tuitgenhorn the problems began. The road that was designated by Brune to the Brigade Bonhomme was a wide ditch! So because of this big mistake from Brune, Bonhomme couldn't follow his orders. So on his own initiative, he followed the only other narrow road in the direction of the enemy, the road to Eenigenburg. There he blocked the way of the Division Daendels, as we already saw. The brigade advanced in the direction of Eenigenburg, under heavy fire. Only at 05.00am. could Bonhomme attack the British positions at Eenigenburg. Arriving before Eenigenburg two guns of the horse artillery, positioned on the road, opened fire. Giving support to Bonhomme's jagers and the jagers detached by Daendels to assist him. The jagers advanced to within range in skirmish order and opened a brisk fire on the British. After a while Bonhomme ordered his first battalions to attack. These charged and reached the ditch in front of the Westfriesche Dike, but couldn't cross it because the bridge was destroyed by gunfire. They received heavy fire, which they couldn't answer effectively, because there was no room to deploy the troops. The attacking battalions retreated in disorder. After restoring the order (with the help of Daendels), and after reinforcing these troops with 1st and 2nd Battalion 7th Halb Brigade, the Batavians attacked again. They were again repulsed in disorder. Even the example of the Lieutenant Colonel of the Hussars Antoine Marie Collaert, who, unable to do anything with his hussars because of the terrain, went forward in person to lead the attacking troops, had little effect. Realising that further attacks were fruitless, he ordered his troops somewhat back out of range of the British guns, and took up position there. He left his artillery and jagers to engage the British. The brigade held this position till the retreat of Daendels, when he also retreated with his troops at 03.00pm.

The 2nd Brigade (IIb)(Bruce) also saw their attack fail because of the orders given by Brune. They had to attack Krabbendam before 03.00am. Part of this














brigade found their way blocked by numerous vehicles, and could only reach the battlefield at 07.00am. Dumonceau, knowing that the result of the whole battle depended on the taking of Krabbendam attacked already at 06.00am. with all the troops he had at his disposal. That were 100 men infantry from the Brigade Bonhomme, a company of hussars and a howitzer. With this force he began the attack on the entrenchments in front of Krabbendam. At 07.00am. the first troops of the Brigade Bruce arrived; 200 men of the 3rd Battalion Jagers and 2nd Battalion 6th Halb Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Anthing. When the jagers received the order to attack, they did so with such vigour that they captured the battery of 2 guns covering the road along which the Batavian troops were advancing. In this act they lost their commander, the Major Daniel Tulleken, who's head was knocked off by a canon ball. After the taking of the guns the jagers attacked the entrenchments in front of Krabbendam, and the village itself, and they succeeded in capturing these and most of the village, taking many prisoners. On the British side Lieutenant General Abercromby, who was present at this position, knew the situation was critical. He ordered the reserve, positioned behind the British left wing, to move to Krabbendam. Then he dismounted, and in person took command of 5 companies of 2nd Regiment Foot, the only troops available, and encouraged them to hold their position as long as possible. They did so and received the Batavians with heavy fire. On the Batavian side the jagers now were reinforced with the 2nd Battalion 6th Halb Brigade At the moment of dislodging the last of the British from their entrenchments, disorder caused part of this battalion to take flight. This flight caused panic among other troops and nearly all Batavian troops in Krabbendam took to flight. After collecting the fugitives and restoring order, the Batavians again took Krabbendam and deployed a battery of two guns, but couldn't advance any further. The British having received reinforcements were firing from behind the cover of the Westfriesche Dike at the Batavians, who were stopped by the ditch in front of the Westfriesche Dike and had no room to deploy. At 03.00pm. Dumonceau ordered a retreat. The Batavians weren't pursued.

Dumonceau's losses were 86 men killed, 427 wounded, and 294 missing.

### Third column

The French troops left Schoorl at 02.00am. 2 battalions with 2 guns (IIIa) had to advance along the Kanaal van Alkmaar in the direction of Krabbendam; 2 battalions (IIIb) along the Slaperdike and 1 battalion (IIIc) through Kamp to Petten. The troops took with them some 'portable bridges', to cross the numerous ditches. This part of the British positions was defended by 2 brigades under the command of Major General Burrard. His troops were placed behind the Schoorlsche Zeedike, and at the entrenchments in front of Petten and on the head of the Slaperdike. Vandamme ordered his skirmishers to outflank the

entrenchments on the head of the Slaperdike, and to engage the defenders, and after some time he attacked frontally with his grenadiers. They were stopped by the circular canal in front of the Schoorlsche Zeedike. Part of the grenadiers jumped into the canal, to swim over it, covered by the other part. Most of them were drowned, killed or wounded. Brigadier General David was among the casualties, he was mortally wounded and died some days later. The battle continued for some hours, after which the French troops retreated out of range, and at 03.00pm. retreated to their starting positions. French losses were 789 men.

### Aftermath

The Franco-Batavian attack was beaten off with heavy losses. The Franco-Batavians lost 1759 men, and the British only 184! The British now knew the strength of their position. They could use the cover of the Schoorlsche Zeedike and Westfriesche Dike, while the attackers had to advance across open ground and were canalised by the many canals and ditches. All movements had to be made along the roads. Cavalry wasn't of any use, and the artillery from the attackers had to take position on the roads, only to be masked by the attacking infantry.

The main reasons for the failure of the Franco-Batavian attack were:

1. Insufficient preparations (bridging materials, etc).
2. No reconnaissance of the terrain, and inadequate orders, or orders that couldn't be obeyed.
3. Not to reserve the roads that had to be used for the designated troops.
4. No strong artillery support for the infantry that had to attack strong positions frontally.
5. Separation of forces by not attacking the designated objectives.

The morale of the Batavian troops was low after this defeat. Already during the battle panics occurred, as we already saw. In the evening of the 10th September, a sergeant of the 1st Battalion Jagers positioned at the village Broek yelled that the British cavalry was coming. This caused a great panic with men yelling that they were surrounded. 5,000 men took flight. It was only at St. Pancras, the headquarters of Daendels, could the rout be stopped by the 3rd Battalion 5th Halb Brigade. Order restored, they were brought back to their positions. Some fugitives made it to Alkmaar, and there spread the panic to the train, who took flight as far as Haarlem. The sergeant who started the panic was shot!

The next day both armies stayed at their positions without much action. Some fighting occurred at Warmenhuizen. Lieutenant General Dumonceau judged he was hampered by the British outpost at Warmenhuizen (100 men), who's position was very strong because of the demolition of the bridge in front of their position. In the night from 14-15th September some jagers and grenadiers, commanded by the Captain of the jagers Hendrik van Goudoever,



attacked the British. Under cover of the fire of the jagers, the grenadiers repaired the bridge, and stormed over it. The British didn't await them but took flight. Batavian losses were 1 men killed and 3 wounded. British losses were 2 men killed and 3 wounded. A small feat of arms, but it did help to restore Batavian morale.

Brune now realised that he was in no position to attack. So the Franco-Batavians strengthened their defences to await the inevitable Anglo-Russian attack. The main defences were along the line, Oud-Karspel - Schoorl - Groet - Kamp. Daendels' proposition to extend the defences to the east was rejected.

### Anglo - Russian Reinforcements

On 13th September York arrived in Holland, and took over command. From then on strong reinforcements arrived:

13th September; 1st Russian Division (Lieutenant General Jerepsoff), with the commander of the Russian troops Lieutenant General D. Hermann.

14-17th September; 3rd British Division (Lieutenant General Dundas), 2nd Russian Division. (Major General d'Essen)

Total Anglo-Russian strength was now about 40.000 men with the following composition:-

Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the combined Anglo-Russian army in Holland.

#### British army:

Major General Tarringdon, commander of the artillery.  
Colonel Anstruther, Quartermaster-General

#### Battalions:

##### Advance Guard (Major General Knox)

Grenadiers	1
Jagers	1

##### 1st Division (Lieutenant General Ralph Abercromby)

##### 1st Guards Brigade (Major General Doyle)

Guard Grenadiers Battalion	1
1st Regiment Guards	1

##### 2nd Guards Brigade (Major General Burrard)

2nd Regiment Guards	1
3rd Regiment Guards	1

##### 1st Brigade (Major General Coote)

2nd Regiment Foot	1
27th Regiment Foot	1
29th Regiment Foot	1
69th Regiment Foot	1
85th Regiment Foot	1

##### 2nd Brigade (Major General Moore)

14th Regiment Foot	1
21st Regiment Foot	1
49th Regiment Foot	1
79th Regiment Foot	1
92nd Regiment Foot	1

##### 2nd Division (Lieutenant General James Pulteney)

##### 3rd Brigade (Major General Don)

17th Regiment Foot	2
40th Regiment Foot	2

##### 4th Brigade (Major General Lord Cavan)

20th Regiment Foot	1
63rd Regiment Foot	1

##### 5th Brigade (Colonel MacDonald)

23rd Regiment Foot	1
55th Regiment Foot	1

##### 3rd Division (Lieutenant General Dundas)

##### 6th Brigade (Major General Lord Chatam)

4th Regiment Foot	3
31st Regiment Foot	1

##### 7th Brigade (Major General Prince William)

5th Regiment Foot	2
35th Regiment Foot	2

##### 8th Brigade (Major General Manners)

9th Regiment Foot	2
56th Regiment Foot	1
Artillery 3rd Battalion	1
4th Battalion	1
Horse artillery	1 company

#### Squadrons:

Cavalry	
7th Regiment Light Dragoons	4
11th Regiment Light Dragoons	4
15th Regiment Light Dragoons	4
18th Regiment Light Dragoons	2

NB. Strength: Guard battalions 1000 men.

Foot battalions 680 men

Cavalry squadrons 150 men

#### Russian army:

Lieutenant General D. Hermann, Commander in Chief of the Russian troops  
Major General Capzewitz, commander of the artillery

#### Battalions:

##### Advance Guard (Major General Southoff)

Regiment Jagers van Pondhoff	2
Grenadiers van Petersburg	1

##### 1st Division (Lieutenant General Jerepsoff)

##### 1st Brigade (Colonel Gr. van Fersen)

Regiment van Jerepsoff	2
Regiment van Fersen	2

##### 2nd Brigade (Colonel Doubiansky)

Combined Grenadiers	3
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##### 2nd Division (Major General d'Essen)

##### 1st Brigade (Major General Zedmoradzky)

Regiment van Zedmoradzky	2
Composed Grenadiers	2

##### 2nd Brigade (Major General Darbinioff)

Regiment van Darbinioff	2
Combined Grenadiers	1



**3rd Brigade (Major General Emmé)**

Regiment van Emmé	2
Combined Grenadiers	2
Artillery Regiment van Capzewitz	1

**Squadrons:**

Cavalry Regiment Hussars	4
Cossacks 7th Division	6

NB. Strength: battalions 640 men.

Squadrons 150 men

The Franco-Batavian army didn't receive many reinforcements. Its disposition and strength were as follows:

Général en Chef: Brune

Chef de l'état-major: Général de Brigade Dardenne

**French army:**

Commander in Chief French troops: Général de Division Vandamme

Commandant de l'artillerie: Général de Brigade Sérour

**Battalions:**

Infanterie de Ligne:

48e Demi-Brigade (D.B)	1 (and 3 companies grenadiers)
49e Demi Brigade	3
54e Demi Brigade	3
60e Demi Brigade	1
90e Demi Brigade	3
	-----
	11

**Squadrons:**

Cavalerie:

10e Regiment Dragons	4
5e Regiment Chasseurs à Cheval	1
16e Regiment Chasseurs à Cheval	4
	-----
	9

Artillerie:

4e company du 4e Régiment à Cheval	
1e company du 8e Régiment à Cheval	
2 companies des 6e et 7e Régiments à Pied	

These troops were situated as follows (See Map 7):

A. 4 battalions, the squadron of the 5th Régiment Chasseurs à Cheval and a battery of 6 guns in the line Kamp - Groet - Schoorlham, commanded by Général de Brigade Rostollant.

B. 3 battalions at Bergen, commanded by Général de Brigade Gouvion.

C. 2 battalions at Alkmaar, reserve under command of Brune himself.

D. 2 battalions at Egmond, commanded by Vandamme.

The disposition of the other cavalry and artillery is not known.

**Batavian army:**

Strength:

1st Division (Lieutenant General Daendels)	
(HQ at St. Pancras)	
Advance Guard (Colonel Crass)	
E. Oud-Karspel - 1st Battalion Jagers	483
Noordscherwoude- 2nd Battalion Jagers	489
F. 1st Brigade (Colonel Rietveld)(HQ at Zuidscherwoude)	
Zuidscherwoude - 3 companies grenadiers/4th H.B	299
1st Battalion/1st Halb Brigade	571
Broek - 2nd Battalion/1st Halb Brigade	669
3rd Battalion/1st Halb Brigade	700
St. Pancras - 2nd company Horse Artillery	154
Regiment Dragoons (4 squadrons)	492
G. 2nd Brigade Major General van Zuylen van Nyevelt	
(HQ at Ouddorp)	
Ouddorp - 1st Battalion/4th Halb Brigade	678
2nd Battalion/4th Halb Brigade	498
5 companies 2nd Regiment Heavy Cavalry	198
St. Pancras - 1st Battalion/5th Halb Brigade	529
2nd Battalion/5th Halb Brigade	457
3rd Battalion/5th Halb Brigade	481
	-----

Total 1st Div: 6,698

2nd Division (Lieutenant General Dumonceau) (HQ at Koedijk)

Advance Guard (Colonel Gilquin)	
H. Schoorlham - 4th Battalion Jagers	511
6 companies grenadiers	489
1 squadron Regiment Hussars	114
1 division (1/3 company) 1st company Horse Artillery	60

1st Brigade (Major General Bonhomme) (HQ at Koedijk)

J. Koedijk - 1st Battalion/6th Halb Brigade	509
3rd Battalion/6th Halb Brigade	550
1st Battalion/7th Halb Brigade	502
2nd Battalion/7th Halb Brigade	375
K. Hijloo - 3 squadrons Regiment Hussars	372
1 division 1st company Horse Artillery	88

2nd Brigade (Colonel Bruce) (HQ at Koedijk)

L. Koedijk - 1st Battalion/2nd Halb Brigade	474
2nd Battalion/2nd Halb Brigade	421
3rd Battalion/2nd Halb Brigade	449
2nd Battalion/6th Halb Brigade	582
3rd Battalion Jagers	298
3 companies grenadiers	208
1 division 1st company Horse Artillery	12
Alkmaar/Schermeer -	
1st Regiment Heavy Cavalry (4 squadrons)	434

Total 2nd Division: 6,448

Total Franco-Batavian strength now was about 23,000 men.

**Anglo-Russian plan of attack (See Map 7)**

York decided to attack the Franco-Batavian positions on 19th September. Even though the Russians still weren't recovered fully from their sea journey, and that the commanders hadn't had time to get acquainted with the terrain. The troops were also



suffering from the shortage of supplies. The number of vehicles was too small to get the supplies from Den Helder to the troops. Bringing the supplies with ships through the Zuiderzee to Oude Sluis was not always possible. The attack would start at daybreak (05.00am.), and would be made in four columns:

The right column (I) was commanded by the Russian Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Hermann. It was to consist of 9000 Russians and 2500 British (8th Brigade (Major General Manners)(3 bats), 1 regiment light dragoons (500 men) and 4 guns of the horse artillery battery). Their right wing (with the cavalry and artillery) was to advance along the coast, and then to attack the villages Kamp and Groet from the back (a). When these villages were captured, the remainder of the column would advance along the Slaperdike and make contact with the right wing (b). The whole column then would advance through Groet and Schoorl to Bergen (c). The Brigade Manners would be the reserve. This column would have to fight the French troops, commanded by Vandamme. (Vandamme had appointed Rostollant as commander of the Advance Guard. Brune didn't leave Alkmaar during the whole battle, although later he was called 'the hero of Bergen').

The second column (II) under the command of Lieutenant General Dundas, would consist of 2000 Russians (3 bats commanded by Major General Zedmoradsky) and 4500 British (The 1st Guards Brigade (Doyle), 2nd Guards Brigade (Burrard) and 7th Brigade (Prince William), 2 squadrons light dragoons and 12 guns). The Guards would attack the village Warmenhuizen through the villages Eenigenburg and Haringkarspel (d), while the Russians would attack this village from Krabbendam (e). The 1st Guards Brigade with the light dragoons would then cross the canal with a pontoon-bridge, and then advance to Schoorl from the west (f). There they would have to take up positions, while the 2nd Guards Brigade and the Russians would try to cross the Kanaal van Alkmaar with boats and attack Schoorl (g). Alternatively, in the event of the crossing failing, to advance in the direction of St. Pancras (h). The 7th Brigade would leave 1 battalion at St. Maarten, and 1 battalion near Schoorl. York would accompany this column.

The third column (III) was commanded by Lieutenant General Pulteney, and would consist of 5000 British (1st Brigade (Coote) and 3rd Brigade (Don), 2 squadrons light dragoons and 8 guns). The 3rd Brigade would advance through Dirkshorn to Oud-Karspel and attack this village frontally (j). The 1st Brigade would advance through Schagen and the Heer Hugowaard (k) and attack Oud-Karspel in the flank and back (l). If Oud-Karspel was captured, the 3rd Brigade would have to advance in the direction of Schoorl to support the 2nd column (m), while the 1st Brigade would advance south (n), and keep in contact with the left column by way of patrols. The 3rd Brigade would have to leave a battalion as a reserve near Kalverdijk.

The left column (IV) commanded by Lieutenant General Abercromby would consist of 9000 British (2nd Brigade (Moore), 4th Brigade (Cavan), 5th Brigade (MacDonald), 6th Brigade (Chatam) and the Advance Guard (Knox), 2 squadrons light dragoons (160 men) and 12 guns. This column had to advance already on the 18th from Winkel and Aartswoude between the Schermeer and the Zuiderzee to Hoorn (p). On the 19th they had to outflank the Batavian positions and to advance to Purmerend as quick as possible (q). If the attack on the right wing did succeed, the left column could advance south as far as possible, without any danger. In this way this column would outflank the Batavian positions and force them to retreat.

Next Issue Part 4  
19th September 1799, the battle of Bergen

## Orbat Errata

**Unfortunately an error was made in Part 2, issue 9, page 24, the infantry Demi-Brigades (D.B.) should number as follows:-**

**1 battalion 48e D.B. and 3 coys grenadiers  
3 battalions 49e D.B.  
3 battalions 54e D.B.  
1 battalion 60e D.B.**

**This gives a total of 8 battalions instead of the 4 that were indicated.**



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# The Anglo-Russian landings in Holland, 1799

Geert van Uythoven,  
Netherlands

## PART 4

The battle of Bergen, 19th September 1799 (See Map 8)

### The battle of Bergen; right column

The Commander in Chief of the Anglo-Russian troops, the Duke of York, had ordered daybreak as the time for the simultaneous attack of all columns. As may be clear this could be interpreted in many different ways. So the attacks of the various columns were made at different times. Before daylight the Russians of the right column advanced. At 02.30am Major General Southoff started with the Advance Guard, followed one hour later by Lieutenant General Hermann with the main force. Southoff advanced with his troops from Petten along the Sanddike and took Kamp without much fighting (a). Hermann advanced along the Slaperdike, took the entrenchment at the French side, and the village Groet where at the entrance a field gun was captured (b). The French, who were fully surprised by the unexpected attack, didn't resist long, but retreated to the open terrain in the direction of the Kanaal van Alkmaar. The Russian troops were now in great disorder. They had to advance in the dark by narrow roads. They couldn't recognise their own troops, and in many occasions fired on each other.

In spite of their disorder the main force under Hermann rashly continued their advance to Schoorl, taking heavy losses from the French troops now on their left wing (c). The French there used the cover of hedges and bushes to place their skirmishers, and these maintained a heavy fire on the Russians who were advancing in front of their positions. The Russians of Southoff in the meanwhile after their taking of Kamp had advanced southwest into the dunes (d), and now mistook the Russians on the road to Schoorl for the French because of the heavy firing (from the French skirmishers) in their direction. And they also opened fire on the unfortunate Russians of the main force. These were still advancing slowly, firing left and right, and without any order. Adding to the already great confusion was the arrival of the second part of the main force, the brigade of Major General Darbinioff. These troops mingled with the already disordered troops, but still they continued their advance. They took Schoorl, and then advanced to Bergen (e).

At Bergen General Gouvion didn't expect the Russians at all. He didn't receive a message about the Russian attack, and at Bergen the French couldn't hear the firing because of the strong southwest wind. So when he realised the Russians were coming, he hastily assembled his troops and took up position some kilometres in front of Bergen. The Russians at that place had to advance some 800 paces along a straight avenue. There Gouvion positioned a battery of 2 guns, covered by infantry

and cavalry, and at both sides of the avenue he posted skirmishers. So when the Russians arrived, they were stopped by heavy fire from the battery in front and the skirmishers on both flanks. Hermann now had to wait for the arrival of his own artillery. This took some time, because of the heavy terrain and the weariness of the horses, who had to pull the guns already a long way. At the arrival of the artillery Hermann resumed the attack, and after some fighting at 08.00am succeeded in capturing Bergen. The French troops retreated to the south. At Bergen all order was gone. And the Russian troops, already fighting and advancing under fire for many hours, started to plunder. Hermann realised it wouldn't be long before the French would counter-attack, so he feverishly tried to rally his troops and to make them ready for the defence, while he waited for the arrival of the reserve, the 8th British Brigade under Major General Manners. Manners had received the order from Hermann to follow the Russian main force. But, advancing along the Slaperdike, Manners' brigade encountered behind Groet part of the French troops that initially retreated in the direction of the Kanaal of Alkmaar, and attacked these troops. Seeing that these were retreating in the direction of Schoorl, he decided to follow them (f). There he became embroiled with part of Dumonceau's troops, and couldn't be of any use for Hermann for the next hours.

Gouvion reported the loss of Bergen to Brune in Alkmaar. Brune, who didn't leave Alkmaar the whole day, ordered his reserve at Alkmaar to advance and attack Bergen (g), and ordered Vandamme at Egmond to attack with his troops (h). At this moment all the luck was on the Franco-Batavian side. The attack of the reserve from direction of Alkmaar coincided with the attack of the Vandamme, who advanced from Egmond aan Zee, dispelled the disordered Russians from the dunes and attacked Bergen from the west and the attack of the rallied troops from Gouvion and Rostollant. The Batavian 1st and 3rd Bat/6th H.B. under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Antony Benedict Carteret, who came from Koedijk (see second column) attacked Bergen from the east (i). These troops arrived at about the same time at Bergen, and a simultaneous attack at 09.00am followed. The Russians were still too disordered to receive such an attack effectively, and after some fierce house to house fighting they were put to flight. Many Russians couldn't escape and were made prisoner; the Russian Commander in Chief Hermann and many other officers were made prisoner when they tried to escape by way of the dunes. His second in command, Lieutenant General Jerepsoff was killed. Major General d'Essen took command of the Russians that could escape and led them back in the direction of Schoorl, hotly pursued by the two Batavian battalions. Beside the prisoners the Franco-Batavians captured 12 guns and 7 flags.

When d'Essen arrived at Schoorl he found the village occupied with Batavian troops! What had happened?

### Second column

Lieutenant General Dumonceau was at his Head Quarters at Koedijk, where prior to the battle a pontoon-bridge was laid across the Kanaal van Alkmaar. At 05.00am he received news of the Russian attacks, and the French defeat on the Franco-Batavian left wing. He ordered the reserve (2nd Brigade, Colonel Bruce) to assemble near the pontoon-bridge,