

poor *compagnon de voyage* le Baron D'ieskau⁶ much out of order there.⁷

My new companions were very agreeable, polite men; and the *rencontre* of Monsieur du Barail at Bruges⁸ was a very lucky one, as it abridged or in a manner annihilated all disagreeable ceremony between us. We went to a French play there together and were invited to the same house where we played at cards and supped. We embarked next morning in a Dutch *trachschuit*⁹ together, and landing within less than a little league of this place, got all into a little Dutch wagon covered with oil-cloth, nine of us in a vehicle made for six; and in this curious equipage jumbled through a miserable deep road, and having not so much as sent a servant before us (for I found my cook¹⁰ who set out a week before at Dover), we drove in that genteel equipage immediately to the commandant's¹¹ door, mistook it, and made a visit to another, but content with that went to look out for an inn, a dinner, etc. We soon pitched upon one, had all our quarters laid out, and from that moment have lived together if not a gay life, which I think even Frenchmen can scarce do in this good town, yet with the greatest ease and familiarity. We keep but one table at which we are nine of our two families besides an accidental Dutch or Swiss officer whom we invite.

We walk and play a little at cards and do our business, and in that way our time passes much better than I could have expected.

Monsieur du Barail is as fair and open a man in business as he is

6. Lt-Gen. Baron Ludwig August von Dieskau (1701–67), German officer in the French service, *maréchal de camp* and commander-in-chief of the French forces in North America, 1755; Lt-Gen., 1762. He had been a prisoner of war since being captured at the first battle of Lake George 8 Sept. 1755 (CHUTE 257 and n. 42). French sources give his first names as Jean Erdman (*Dictionnaire de biographie française*, 1933–, xi. 312).

7. 'I left the poor Baron Dieskau there by no means well having had a fever all the night on board and his lameness much increased and grown very troublesome with the effect of it. I don't know whether he fell in your Grace's way but he is a sensible, a knowing and in all appearance an exceeding good sort of man' (Conway

to Devonshire Jan. 1759, Chatsworth MSS, 416/59).

8. 'Our rencontre at Bruges and the little difficulties we encountered together from the similar awkwardness of our situation, having neither of us a servant before or the least preparation for our reception here, threw us into a state of familiarity which has continued with mutual comfort to us; and with the help of an excellent disposition both in him and those with him made our life much more agreeable than anything else could in such a place' (*ibid.*).

9. An anglicized form of 'trekschuit,' 'a canal- or river-boat drawn by horses, carrying passengers and goods, as in common use in Holland' (OED *sub* 'trekschuit').

10. Not identified.

11. Not identified.