

FROM HERTFORD, Wednesday 30 June 1762

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Address: To the Honourable Horatio Walpole at Strawberry Hill, near Twickenham, Middlesex.

Postmark: 30 IV.

June 30th 1762.

Dear Horry,

I CAN only tell you that an officer¹ is arrived from Germany with an account of a glorious victory² (for that is the expression) by Prince Ferdinand over the French army. All our generals³ are safe. Harry Townshend⁴ and another officer⁵ of the Guards are killed; Monsieur Stainville,⁶ a French general, is thought to be killed, and two of their first corps, the Grenadiers de France and Royaux, are taken.⁷

This is all I am able to learn; thank God my brother is safe.

Yours ever,

HERTFORD

1. Lt-Col. Robert Boyd (1710-94), K.B. 1785; first aide-de-camp to Prince Ferdinand; Col. (39th Foot), 1766; Gen., 1793; governor of Gibraltar, 1790. He brought the dispatches of the victory (*London Gazette Extraordinary* 30 June).

2. The battle of Wilhelmsthal, 24 June; see MANN vi. 46-7; Sir Reginald Savory, *His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany during the Seven Years' War*, 1966, pp. 366-75, 509, 510, 514.

3. Including Conway.

4. Lt-Col. Henry Townshend (d. 24 June 1762), aide-de-camp to P. Ferdinand (*ante* 4 June 1758, n. 21). Lord Pembroke wrote to Chase Price from Gudensberg 29 Oct.: 'His company was in the Foot Guards, who . . . went off rather early in the day. . . . Harry would not submit to follow them, but went to the Grenadiers of the line, who behaved like angels. Like them he was shot through the body'

(Price MSS in the possession of the Marquess of Salisbury, cited Namier and Brooke iii. 552-3).

5. William Middleton (1738-95), of Belsay Castle, Northumberland; 5th Bt 1768; M.P. Northumberland 1774-95; Lt, 1759, Capt., 1762, in the 'Blues'. He was erroneously reported to have been killed (Conway to Grafton 25 June, Grafton, *Autobiography*, ed. Anson, 1898, p. 39; MANN, loc. cit.).

6. Jacques-Philippe de Choiseul (d. 1789), called Comte de Stainville; brother of the Duc de Choiseul; Lt-Gen. and commander of the Grenadiers de France (La Chenaye-Desbois v. 663; DU DEFFAND i. 217). He escaped unhurt.

7. They had formed the French rear-guard and had been taken only after 'a most desperate hand to hand fight'; see W. E. Manners, *Some Account of the . . . Marquis of Granby*, 1899, pp. 242-3.