

## Boxtel, 14 & 15 September 1794

The combat of Boxtel, on 14 & 15 September 1794, was fought between the Anglo-Allied army commanded by the Duke of York, and the French army under Pichegru. On the 14th, the Allied outposts behind the Dommel river were attacked by the French. The 'Campagne-Journal' of General Düring says the following: "General von Hammerstein in the meanwhile, ordered me through his adjutant, [First] Lieutenant von Scheither, to return the horse artillery [two 6-pdr cannon] and the supporting forces, consisting of the Irwine's Hussars and the Hompesch *Chasseurs à Pied*. The General [van Düring himself!] answered [von Hammerstein] that this was impossible, and proved that he was not able to maintain his post [Boxtel] without them. In spite of this, he received this reply: 'As necessary as the General [von Düring] believes it is, to leave the horse artillery in Boxtel, it is General von Hammerstein impossible to do without them. As General von Hammerstein without doubt will make the best use of these guns, he will take full responsibility if a cannon, after having defended itself long enough, would be captured [by the enemy], and will know how to make use of his heavy guns at St. Michiels-Gestel. However, if he [General von Düring] would like to have outpost-cannon ['Vorposten-Canonen'], **the General [von Hammerstein] offers to send him 2 amusettes**. However, these must only be send forward in case of an attack, and not deployed earlier. Lieutenant Ritter will gave the order to them [the Amusettes] to leave at darkness.' [Von Porbeck, pp. 455-456]"

As no mention is made in the documents I have about these amusettes afterwards, it is possible they never had a chance to arrive before the French attack materialised. However, the use of an amulette is mentioned during other events: "About an hour later then at Boxtel, the enemy started his attack near St. Oedenrode, Wolfswinkel, and Breugel. He arrived on the plain in front of St. Oedenrode with a superior cavalry force, and an infantry column on the road from Beest, which strength could not be ascertained because of the intersected and patched terrain. Our outposts were immediately pushed back to the main pickets, and the enemy attacked with two columns. They could not make much progress, because of the resistance offered by the pickets, **which were reinforced with an amulette under Ensign Tindorf**, and directed by the *Jäger*-Captain Ochs from Hessen-Kassel who directed the troops outstandingly; and by the flanking batteries positioned on the other side of the stream, consisting of the battalion-cannon of the grenadiers, commanded by the Ensign Brückmann. [Von Porbeck, pp. 471-472]"

And somewhat further: "At the same time, the enemy with numerous cavalry threw our pickets at Breugel and Wolfswinkel back across both bridges there. He tried to take these [bridges], **but was prevented in doing this by the heavy and effective fire of the Hanoverian jäger and the Loyal Emigrées, supported by an amulette**. [Von Porbeck, p. 472] ", and "Around evening, from the tower in Breugel it was clearly discovered that the enemy marched behind Son [village] with 4 squadrons, 2

battalions and 3 cannon, from which they fired several cannon shots at Breugel [village] during the night. **Finally, the enemy infantry tried to capture the bridge several times, but this was prevented by the amulette which was positioned here, and fired with the utmost effect.** [Von Porbeck, p. 473] "

And more : "[15 September] The bridge at Nijnsel however was already to strong in enemy hands, and even our strongest attack was not able to dispel them. This caused the brave Major von Driberg to lead in person a hundred grenadiers under Captain von Behr, and a hundred Loyal Émigrés, to attack the enemy with the bayonet and to become master of the plain near the bridge. Because of the outstanding dispositions of the major, and the exemplary bravery of Captain von Behr and Ensign Ahrens, **as well as the Artillery-Ensign Tindorf, who acted with both amulettes with much energy and aggressiveness,** without doubt this goal would have been reached. If not at the same time the enemy managed to force the right flank of St. Oedenrode (...) [Von Porbeck, pp. 477-478] "

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