

Count van hoorn, colonel dolman and the dutch attack essay



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Source E tells us a lot about why the attack failed. Where the source says “ There a halt was made and it was found that there was a considerable pass which it was judged should be occupied. This the Count van Hoorn did and remained there with four of five hundred.” This means that four or five hundred men were left to guard a pass and so were not available for the attack on the fort. At the time it was not thought that these men would be needed for a victory as the Dutch had underestimated the number of men and big guns at the fort.

On reaching the fort Colonel Dolman discovered “ Firstly, the fort appeared to be fortified with four good bastions or bulwarks, partly with earth and the rest with masonry with a good ditch” and “ Secondly, it was fortified with a good covered way and counterscarp, leaving those standing behind it in safety. The covered way was filled with men, who were well disciplined and alert and were faithfully keeping a lookout” for the Dutch. Once Colonel Dolman discovered how well defended the fort was he “ called all the senior officers and captains to a council of war to consider whether it was possible to take such a well organized fort: and it was unanimously agreed that it was not, all the more so because they saw that the Count van Hoorn’s troops were being attacked.” This tells us that the Dutch did not expect such a great defence at the fort and so were unprepared to capture it. When the Dutch says they don’t believe they could take the fort, the source says “ even more so because they saw that the Count van Hoorn’s troops were being attacked.

” Which implies that even with the Count van Hoorn’s men the Dutch would be unable to take the fort. The Dutch knew that they could not capture the

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fort but still had to attempt and so two attacks on the fort were made and when both failed and the Dutch had done as much damage as they could the Dutch withdrew “ in good order to help the troops of the Count van Hoorn.” The Count van Hoorn’s men could not help Colonel Dolman attack the fort as “ Skirmishing (fighting) had scarcely begun near the fort when the enemy appeared in the pass with foot and horse where the Count van Hoorn’s troops were occupying it.” The main reason source E tells why the Dutch attack failed is because the Dutch underestimated the defensive capabilities of Landguard fort. My site record also tells me a lot about why the Dutch attack failed. The Dutch landing site was about 2 miles away from the Fort.

Although this site provided cliff protection and time to unload, it also meant that the troops would have a long march before the battle therefore the men would not be at their best during the battle. As both source E and my site record confirm the Dutch troops split up at the end of the cliffs and about 400-500 men were left to guard a pass so that the English did not attack from the rear. It was not suspected at the time that these men would be needed. The fort was surrounded by open ground, which made spotting the Dutch very easy and allowed the English to fire at the Dutch before the Dutch could even get close to the fort.

The moral of the soldiers would have been very low as they went into battle as once they saw the fort’s defences and that it was undamaged they would have known that victory would be near impossible and that many men would die. The failure of the sea attack which left the fort undamaged would have been one of the greatest reasons of why the Dutch attack failed as the men had no chance of taking the undamaged fort.

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