



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

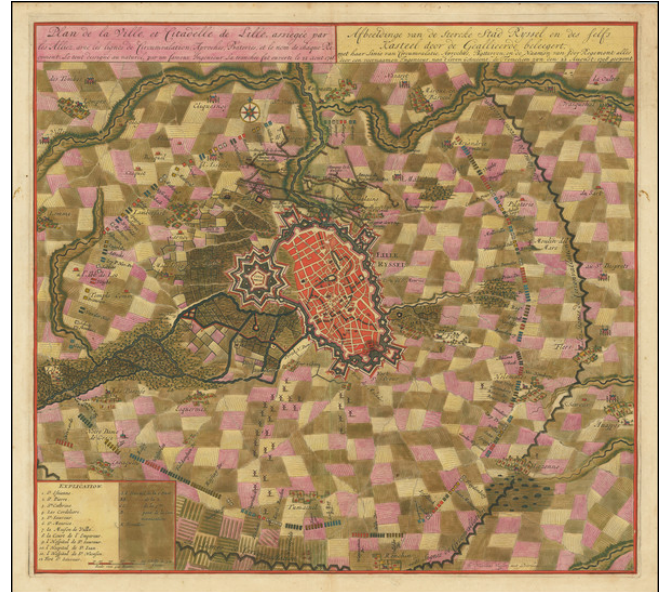
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Plan de la Ville et. Citadelle de Lille, assiegee par les Alliez, avec les lignes de Circumvaluation, Aproches, Bateries; et nom de chaque Regiment, Le tout dessigne au naturel, par un fameux Ingenieur La tranchee fut ouverte le 22 Aout 1708.

Stock#: 69847
Map Maker: Visscher II
Date: 1709 circa
Place: Amsterdam
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 21 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Exceptional Old Color Plan of the Siege of Lille

Finely executed map illustrating the fortifications of the City and Castle and the theater of war around the city of Lille in Northern France.

The citadel and fortified city, including streets and buildings noted. Surrounding farmlands are shown with beautifully rendered windmills and houses along with mountains and forests.

The map shows the city during the War of the Spanish Succession when the city was occupied by the Dutch.

Siege of Lille

The Siege of Lille (August 12 – December 10, 1708) was a major component of the 1708 campaign season during the War of the Spanish Succession. After a defense of 120 days, the French garrison surrendered the city and citadel of Lille, commanded by Marshal Boufflers, to the forces of the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene.



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The siege was famous among contemporaries for l'affaire des poudres ("the gunpowder incident"), where the Chevalier de Luxembourg with 2,000 horsemen passed through the Allied lines and succeeded in delivering 40,000 pounds of desperately needed gunpowder to the defenders.

The siege was made possible by the defeat of the French army at the Battle of Oudenarde and the landing in Ostend of large amounts of ammunition and food after the Battle of Wijnendale. Eugene commanded the forces besieging Lille, while Marlborough commanded the forces covering those forces against external French interference. For a short period in late September however, after Eugene was injured on the 21st, Marlborough took command of both the besiegers and the covering force.

On October 22, 1708 the Allies entered the city. Boufflers continued to resist from Lille's citadel for several weeks. While the allies' repelled French attempts to relieve their precious fortress—the last substantial French bastion in northern Flanders—Boufflers' defense likewise prolonged the siege well into winter, to the point where no operations could be undertaken against France that year.

For France, the results of the siege were mixed. The city's stubborn defense tied down Marlborough for the remainder of the 1708 campaigning season, preventing him from inflicting further damage on France in the aftermath of Oudenarde. But, with the loss of Lille, northern Flanders reverted to allied control. The Allies moved against Ghent, taking the city in late December. The fall of Lille also opened a corridor for an allied invasion of France in 1709, but this effort would run into a bloody standstill at the Battle of Malplaquet.

Detailed Condition:

Old color.