



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1812.

Foreign-Office, December 16, 1812.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, were received last night by Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from General Viscount Cathcart, K. T. His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Russia; dated at St. Petersburg, the 23d and 25th of November 1812.

My Lord, St. Petersburg, Nov. 23, 1812.

IN my dispatch of the 15th instant I had the honour to detail such operations of Marshal Kutusoff's army as had come to my knowledge up to the 9th of November; since that date no report has been received of the further proceedings of the corps entrusted to General Platoff. The Field-Marshal had calculated to reach Krasnoi on the 14th instant, but although he had approached within a few wersts of that place, I have not heard that his headquarters were established there on the 16th. His last dispatch of the latter date announces his intention of forwarding a journal of the preceding days, which will contain important relations, but it has not as yet been received. On the 9th of November Count Orloff Denizoff, being advanced on the roads towards Smolensko and Krasnoi, received intelligence of the march of a French corps from Smolensko in the direction of Kalouga, composed of fresh troops intended for the different regiments of guards; this force was under the command of General Barragé D'Hillier, having with him General Charpentier and Brigadier-General Augereau, brother to the Marshal of that name. They were distributed in the three villages of Yasvin, Lakoff, and Dolgomust. A disposition of attack was immediately made by three partizan corps, commanded by Captain Seslavin, Colonel Davidoff, and Captain Phigner. The result was that the corps under Charpentier was nearly cut to pieces, that Barragé D'Hillier having patiently heard a cannonade for several hours in the quarters of Augereau's division, made good his retreat to Smolensko, and that Augereau's corps of three thousand men, after losing

nearly one third of their number, laid down their arms and capitulated to Captain Phigner, who had not one thousand five hundred men, and who appears to have conducted this affair with infinite address and gallantry.

In this corps were two squadrons of cavalry, well mounted. The prisoners amounted to one general, sixty staff and other officers, and two thousand rank and file. The officers who capitulated stated the object of their march by that route, was to open another communication in the direction of Kalouga; they were not aware of the retreat of their army.

Since this affair, three general officers, upwards of twenty pieces of cannon, and four thousand prisoners have been taken near Smolensko, but the particulars are not yet reported.

On the 14th instant, General Count Wittgenstein was attacked by Marshal Victor, who had orders to drive him to the other side of the Dwina. The enemy was repulsed, with the loss of two to three thousand men, and was pursued the next morning in his retreat towards Senno, when six hundred prisoners were taken. I have the honour to inclose a copy of Major-General Baron Dörnberg's report of this affair.

Nothing material occurred at this post till the 18th, when Count Wittgenstein was joined by Colonel Chernichef, Aide-de-Camp to His Imperial Majesty; who had been detached by Admiral Tchichagoff, with a small corps of light cavalry, to discover and ascertain General Count Wittgenstein's position. In the course of this expedition, the Colonel had the singular good fortune to rescue Major-General Baron Winzengerode and his Aide-de-Camp, Captain Narishkin, between Vilna and Minsk; they were proceeding towards the frontier, under an escort of gens d'armes, and had been marched from Verrea, where they were presented to Buonaparte, with the French guards under the charge of Junot.

Colonel Chernichef also took three couriers, one coming from, and the other two going to Paris. From these sources of intelligence it is ascertained,

that Buonaparte was at Smolensko on the 13th instant.

Admiral Tchichakoff intended, according to his route, to arrive at Minsk on the 17th instant.

Colonel Chernichef arrived at the palace yesterday, accompanied by the prisoners he has released, and bringing with him the intercepted dispatches. Those from Paris contain nothing but military plans and maps.

The expedition of Colonel Chernichef was a continued and extraordinary exertion, he having marched seven hundred wersts in five days, and swam across several rivers.

It is stated, but no official report has been received, that General Sachen has been left with a detachment to observe Prince Schwartzberg, and that General Eartel has advanced to and occupied Mohileff.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

MY LORD, Jamich, Nov. 15, 1812.

I AM very happy to inform your Lordship, that Victor has failed in fulfilling the orders he received from Buonaparte, to drive Count Wittgenstein behind the Dwina. He attacked yesterday morning. Count Wittgenstein ordered the advanced guard to retire to the Position. This was executed in a masterly manner: they retired in echiquier, under a very heavy fire, as if it was in a field day. In the Position the French were received by a well-directed fire from the artillery, by which they must have lost a great number in killed and wounded, I suppose between two and three thousand. The firing only ceased about seven in the evening. The French had made strong demonstrations on both wings, but the centre was chiefly engaged. This morning they began their retreat towards Senno. The troops who are in pursuit have as yet made about six hundred prisoners.

It is really a pleasure to see these troops fight.

The new-raised militia vie with the oldest regiments. One battalion of this militia being with the advanced guard, on receiving orders to fall back, first refused to do so, saying, the Emperor had not sent them there to retire, but to advance and beat the enemy, which they were willing to do.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed) DORNBERG.

Precis of the Journal of the Operations of the different Corps of the Army under the Command of Field-Marshal Prince Kutusoff, from the 11th to the 15th November 1812.

ON the 11th November General Millaradovitch reports, that on the 9th the advanced guard under his command was to be at the village of Alexecoly; the next day at that of Yakoff. Lieutenant-General Sheppelef reports, that a detachment, sent by him on the 29th, met a body of the enemy, and drove it out of Blnee; part of the Don Cossacks pursued it on the Smolensko road. The headquarters of the army were this day at the village of Lobgoff.

November 12.—Lieutenant-General Count Orloff Denizoff learning that a considerable foraging party

of the enemy's cavalry and artillery depôt were dispersed in the villages, attacked them, killed upwards of one thousand five hundred, made one thousand three hundred prisoners, and took one thousand horses, and four hundred carriages, mostly loaded with stores.

Two corps of General Millaradovitch advanced to the village of Ivergkoff.

The army halted.

November 13.—Captain Naschokin, of the hussars of the guards, detached by Adjutant-General Count Orgeroff, attacked a detachment of the enemy in the village of Ilmorai, with some chasseurs and light cavalry; the combat lasted four hours, when the enemy retreated to the village of Michailoff, where he pursued and took them.

Detachments under Colonel Prince Radbolk, and one sent out by Major-General Carpo, made upwards of one hundred prisoners.

General Millaradovitch reports on the 12th November, that Major-General Neoff had made one hundred and fifty prisoners at Charvanaoff.

Major-General Volosdini reports, that Colonel Kreiganobski defeated a detachment of seven hundred men under Major Aberjen, killing a part, and making prisoners the remainder, three hundred and seventy men, eighteen officers, and one staff surgeon.

Major-General Platoff reports on the 9th of November, that having pursued Beautharnois's corps, he came up with it at the river Bone, near the estate called Yandkoff, and without regarding the advantages of his position, he attacked the enemy; on this occasion, besides numbers of killed and wounded, he took thirty-three pieces of cannon and two hundred prisoners. He further reports that, during the pursuit of Beautharnois's corps on the 8th of November, sixty-nine guns were taken, and not sixty-two, as formerly reported. General Platoff is now pursuing the remains of the same corps.

Adjutant-General Orloff Denizoff attacked the enemy on their march to Krasnoj, killed five hundred and took four hundred on the 12th instant. The next day he took some prisoners, some of which were officers.

November 14.—Admiral Tchichakoff reports on the 11th instant, having left in the principality of Warsaw a corps under the command of General Sachen. He marched with the remainder to Preyan, intending to pursue his march through Slonim and Nesvich, to Minsk, where he proposed to arrive about the 17th or 19th November; that he had sent orders to Major-General Leiders and Lieutenant-General Eartel to march upon the same point. The former from Vollynia by Pinsk, the latter from Mozer by Lutsk, and that he would not fail to detach parties of light troops on the side of Vilna to keep up the communication with detachments on that flank.

Intelligence having been received from some French artillery prisoners, of the places where the enemy had concealed cannon and arms near Boldinsky monastery, twenty-seven cannon, five or six thousand stand of arms, five hundred sabres, and fifteen thousand shells, have been dug out. The headquarters of the army were this day at the village of Usoff.

November 15.—Major-General Platoff reports of the 11th instant, that Beauharnois's corps having turned from Duckotchina road towards Smolensko, he continues to surround it and cut off all provisions and forage.

Adjutant-General Count Orjeroff reports, under date of the 14th November, that he attacked the village of Krasnoi. The yagers, disregarding the fire of grape, attacked the enemy's columns with their bayonets, and after a combat, in which our artillery and cavalry were also engaged, took possession of the town; but observing strong columns of the enemy moving from Smolensko upon Krasnoi, they fell back three wersts, to the farm of Kulkoff. In this affair one colonel and two hundred and fifty rank and file were taken.

Lieutenant-General Count Ostermann Tolstoy reports, that being with his division of infantry on the 14th in the village of Kovisoff, and learning that the enemy was within half a werst of that place, he detached a squadron of the Kalinopolaky regiment, which killed a part and took ten prisoners.

General Millarodovitch reports, on the 12th, that being at the village of Knagencin, he sent a patrol upon the road from Smolensko to Krasnoi, to reconnoitre the enemy, which returned, having made seventeen prisoners. The same day, Count Ostermann Tolstoy sent the Pskofki regiment of dragoons to examine the state of the villages occupied by the enemy. This regiment, perceiving three squadrons of cavalry, attacked, and took five officers and two hundred and ninety men.

The enemy remained also this day in the village of Usoff.

Adjutant-General Count Orloff Denizoff also sent in two Generals of the division of General Almiras, and a Brigadier-General Burt, with an account of his having taken twenty pieces of cannon, near the town of Krasnoi.

MY LORD, *St. Petersburg, Nov. 25, 1812.*

IN addition to my dispatch of the 23d instant, I have now the happiness to inclose a translation of reports which have been received from Field-Marshal Prince Kutusoff, of the 10th and 20th instant, containing the details of the total defeat of the divisions of the French army under the commands of Marshals Davoust and Ney. Near two hundred cannon, and twenty thousand prisoners, have been taken in these affairs. Buonaparte is stated to have been with Marshal Davoust's corps in the night from the 16th to the 17th, and to have left the field of battle at full speed.

Every measure of precaution that could be thought of at this distance, has been provided for by the Emperor to prevent the escape of the enemy; and it appears that every exertion has been made by the several commanders of corps near Smolensko. Buonaparte has probably sent forward his favourite guards, the Polish divisions, and part of the Italian; but if Admiral Tchichagoff has arrived at his ground, it does not appear that this corps would escape to the frontier.

The display of force before General Count Wittgenstein's post, after the attack, was probably with

intention to favour the movement of the corps which have marched upon Minsk.

It is not improbable that part of Victor's corps may have taken the same direction.

General Wittgenstein is reinforced by the cavalry formerly under General Winzingerode, for the present commanded by Major-Gen. Kutusoff; who has made a most rapid march to Babinowitch, where he arrived time enough on the 18th to receive four hundred prisoners from one of the French divisions. He has also taken two Generals and one Colonel.

The French, with their usual savage and sacrilegious ferocity, wantonly blew up the venerable cathedral of Smolensko before they left that place.

The Deum has been sung this day in the great cathedral, in presence of their Imperial Majesties and the whole Court; the "Baton de Maréchal" of Marshal Davoust, and such of the eagles and colours taken in the last affair as are already arrived here, were previously brought to the cathedral, in which the other numerous trophies of war are already deposited.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

THE Commander in Chief General Field-Marshal Prince Kutusoff, from his head-quarters at the village of Dubrowo, submits to His Imperial Majesty the two following reports:

First Report, dated the 18th November.

After the battle, near Viasma, of the 22d October, my army made every effort to turn, if not all the enemy's corps, at least its advanced guard, on the road from Jelna to Krasnoi, in which it completely succeeded on the 17th and 18th November.

The 16th November the army made a movement by advancing five wersts, as far as the town of Krasnoi. The advanced guard fell in with the enemy, who were completely defeated by Lieutenant-General Onverow. On this occasion we became masters of one standard, some cannon, and made a great number of prisoners, one of whom was a General.

General Millarodovitch, commanding the advanced guard, with the 2d light corps of infantry, and the 2d of cavalry, perceiving the corps commanded by Marshal Davoust advance near Krasnoi, detached thither Lieutenant-General Prince Galitzin. The enemy, conceiving himself turned on all sides, began to defend himself. Our artillery made a terrible carnage in the enemy's ranks. Napoleon himself was an eye-witness of the battle, and not waiting for the issue, he fled with his whole suite to the village of Liadam, and abandoned the corps of Davoust.

The battle lasted the whole day; the enemy were completely defeated and dispersed in the neighbouring wood, for a distance of five wersts along the banks of the Dnieper—thus the corps of General Davoust has been completely destroyed. The loss in killed and wounded is immense. We have made prisoners two generals, fifty-eight officers of different ranks, nine thousand one hundred and seventy men, seventy cannon, three standards, and taken the bâton of Marshal Davoust.

On the 17th November, being informed that the corps of Marshal Ney, forming the rear guard of the enemy, was moving in the road leading to Krasnoi, I made the following dispositions:

Second Report.

In order to obtain a certain victory over Marshal Ney, and to cut off entirely his communication with the rest of the army, I reinforced General Millaradovitch with the 8th corps, giving him orders to prevent the Marshal's advance, and to take a position near the villages Syroherenic and Tcherniska. Major General Lourkouski perceived, about three in the afternoon, the enemy advancing. The thickness of the fog prevented him from ascertaining his numbers, who kept marching forwards till they were close to our batteries. The enemy attempting in vain to pierce through our lines, received, at the distance of two hundred and fifty paces, a general discharge of musketry and of forty pieces of cannon: the effect of this fire upon the enemy was extremely fatal. Finding he had no hope of escaping, he at length sent a flag of truce to General Millaradovitch. At midnight the whole corps d'armée of the enemy, amounting to twelve thousand men, were obliged to lay down their arms. All their artillery, in number twenty-seven pieces of cannon, all the baggage and military chest, were the fruits of our victory. In the number of prisoners are above one

hundred officers of different ranks. Marshal Ney was wounded, but saved himself by flight, and was pursued by the Cossacks beyond the Dnieper. The loss of the enemy is enormous: according to the report of the prisoners, four generals of division were wounded. We have not lost above five hundred men in killed and wounded.

The army is at present at Krasnoi, and the advanced guard at Dowbrowna, from whence we shall follow the movements of the enemy.

General Platow informs me by a private letter annexed, that the enemy left behind him, seventeen wersts from Smolensko, a great quantity of artillery, amounting to one hundred and twelve pieces.

Letter of General Count Platoff to the General Field Marshal, dated 17th November.

AFTER the signature of my report to your Highness, Captain Parkin arrived with the rations, and states that, at the distance of seventeen wersts from Smolensko, in the great road, he had counted one hundred and twelve cannon, besides a great number of tumbrils and carriages. I am not able to send your Highness a report in form, not having received it from the Governor of Smolensko. I join the unanimous voice of the troops in pronouncing, *Honneur à votre most Serene Highness!*

Printed by ROBERT GEORGE CLARKE, Cannon-Row, Parliament-Street.

Price Sixpence.]