

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!*

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