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DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by Viscount Castlereagh, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from General Viscount Cathcart, K. T. His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Russia, dated the 30th November, and 6th and 7th instant.

My Lord, St. Petersburg, Nov. 30, 1812.

IN my dispatch of the 25th instant, I had the honour to state to your Lordship the important and brilliant success of His Imperial Majesty's arms in the affairs of the 17th and 18th, in the former of which Marshal Davoust's division was defeated and dispersed with great loss, Buonaparte and the Marshal flying from the field of battle; and in the latter Marshal Ney's division, near the same place, said to have consisted of eighteen thousand men, appears to have been completely accounted for by the numbers killed and wounded, in addition to those who afterwards laid down their arms. I also stated the general distribution of the armies as they stood at that time.

I have now the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that General Field-Marshal Prince Kutusoff Smolenski, reports, on the 23d November, from Laniky Farm, that Buonaparte, with his guards, left Orsha on the 20th November, and marched on the road to Kochanoff; and that, on the 21st the remaining troops of the enemy marched out of the former place, leaving twenty-six guns, and some hospitals, in which were upwards of fifty wounded French officers.

General Count Platoff is ordered to follow the army marching on Kochanoff.

A detachment under Major-General Ermaloff, consisting of fourteen battalions of infantry, some cavalry, and two companies of artillery, is directed to move by Orsha to reinforce Count Platoff.

The advanced guard of the main army, under the command of General Millaradovitch, consisting of the 2d and 7th divisions of infantry, and the 2d division of cavalry, was to cross the Dnieper on the 23d, at Kopys, and was to direct its march upon Tolotchina to join General Ermaloff's detachment.

The main army will cross the Dnieper, at Kopys, on the 24th, and march by Starasel to Tsetzershioff, from whence it may be directed according to circumstances, either upon Bobra or Berezinoff.

General Wittgenstein reports on the 24th November, from the village of Cherai, that Admiral Tchichagoff was at Borisoff on the 24th instant, whence General Langeron informed the Count, by letters of the 22d instant, that General Count Lambert was at Borisoff on the 21st, where he defeated the whole corps of Dembroffski, taking six cannon, two colours, and three thousand prisoners, driving them on upon the road to Orsha; that Count Lambert had also taken at Kaidanoff two guns, and from two to three thousand prisoners, and that, including the hospitals at Minsk, in the last eight days upwards of eleven thousand prisoners, and twenty-four guns had been taken.

Victor and Oudinot have retired from before Count Wittgenstein upon Borisoff; the latter is marching in pursuit of them, and on the 23d took eight hundred prisoners and many carriages.

Count Wittgenstein reports, that General Platoff is marching against the great body of the enemy's corps upon Toulouchinow, by which it appears the enemy is enclosed on three sides—General Platoff in his rear, Admiral Tchichagoff in their front, and Count Wittgenstein on their flank.

A report was received yesterday of another general officer, whose name I have not heard, having been taken prisoner; and I have also understood that accounts are received, that General Ertle was arrived at Egoumen.

The detachment under General Sacken is understood to be fully adequate to keep Prince Schwartzenberg in check.

The attempt to blow up the cathedral of Smolensko failed, the match having gone out before it reached the mine.

The fate of Marshal Ney has not been ascertained.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

My Lord, St. Petersburg, Dec. 6, 1812.

IHAVE the honour to transmit the report of the defeat of Victor's corps by General Count Wittgenstein, on the 27th November.

It would seem that this corps had altered its direction from Borisoff, and was proceeding up the left bank of the Berezina, when it was charged by Count Wittgenstein. On the 16th, at daybreak, the Count pursued Buonaparte on a road which leads to Vilna, still upon the left bank of the Berezina.

A bridge had been thrown over the river, at a place about thirty versts from Borisoff, where there was an advantageous position for the enemy's rear guard, and for covering the passage.

In this day's march the French lost the whole of their equipages and plunder, and were vigorously and repeatedly attacked at the bridge.

The position on the left bank being continually reinforced by fresh troops, was contested till night, when it was evacuated, and the bridge was destroyed as soon as the rear guard had passed. There is a cross road from this point which leads to the great road to Vilna, and it was the intention of Count Wittgenstein to pursue, as soon as he either received pontoons, or re-established the bridge.

General Platoff had already got to the right bank, probably at Borisoff.

Admiral Tchichagoff's quarters appear to have been at no great distance, but no particular report of the distribution or movements of this part of the force, has as yet been received, since the affair of Count Lambert.

It appears, however, from the conclusion of Count Wittgenstein's last report that he expects the concert and support both of the Admiral and of Count Platoff.

General Millaradovitch was stated to have arrived at Borisoff when the last accounts came away.

The head-quarters of the main army were still advancing on a line parallel to, and to the southward of the main road from Smolensko to Minsk, but considerably in the rear of the present operations.

There are long defiles to pass on the road from Borisoff to Minsk, as well as on that upon which Buonaparte is supposed to be marching; and it scarcely appears possible, that the remains of his army can get through these difficulties in presence of so many troops, with artillery and cavalry, regular as well as irregular.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

MY LORD, St. Petersburg, Dec. 7, 1812.

WHILE in the act of dispatching the messenger, I received from the palace a report from Admiral Tchichagoff, dated the 29th November, upon the march to Ostachow, detailing his proceedings from the 21st November, and stating that, in concert with Counts Wittgenstein and Platoff, he is in pursuit of the French, whose force he estimates at seventy thousand men, including Oudinot and Victor, and which he says is provided with cavalry and artillery.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

Journal of Military Operations from the 7th to the 13th November 1812, dated Head-quarters Kopys.

November 7.—MAJOR-GENERAL Borosdini having driven the enemy from Laeda, pursued them with a part of his detachment as far as Bolschoi Kolotofsky, and with his Cossacks as far as Kosan, where they were relieved by those of the detachment commanded by the Aide-de-Camp General Count Oscharofsky. The enemy lost in his flight seven pieces of cannon, and a number of carriages.

The General of Cavalry, Count Platoff, reports, under date of the 5th instant, that having on the 3d approached Smolensko, and having learnt from the inhabitants who were quitting it, that the enemy occupied the Fauxbourg of Petersburg, he gave

immediate orders to his troops to attack under cover of the fire of the artillery of the Don.

Colonel Kaysaroff, after having with his chasseurs broken the barrier which the enemy had placed, vigorously pursued them into the Fauxbourg itself, from whence they fled in alarm and disorder within the walls of the fortress, where they were exposed to a fire of grape-shot from the neighbouring heights. Whilst the Cossacks and the chasseurs were engaged in the Fauxbourg, the enemy made a sortie in two columns, with eight pieces of cannon and a mortar, resolutely determined to repossess themselves of the Fauxbourg. But Major-General Koutcinckoff with his Cossacks, and Colonel Kaysaroff with his chasseurs, fell upon them, and having repulsed the infantry, took their cannon. The Fauxbourg was retaken, when night put an end to the contest. On the 4th the enemy established themselves behind the palisades, keeping possession of the left bank of the Dnieper, whilst his columns quitted the town with precipitation.

Count Platoff caused Te Deum to be sung in presence of the troops, accompanied by a discharge of artillery and a hurrah of the soldiers.

The enemy on quitting the town, sprung the mines which they had formed under several places of the fortress, which set fire to the houses of the Fauxbourg of Petersburg, which were situated opposite the fortress.

The Aide-de-Camp, General Baron Mettersakomelsky reports, that the officer whom he had detached with three squadrons, had discovered an enemy's column at three versts from Winnisa-Louki, and having surrounded them, he sent the Staats-Rottmeister of the hussars of the Aklm-feldt guards, with a proposal to lay down their arms. This commission he executed with complete success—the number of prisoners amounted to two thousand five hundred men.

Intelligence has been received, that the detachment under Count Oscharofsky, has occupied Mohilow after having dislodged the enemy. Provisions and forage sufficient to subsist the whole army, during ten days, were found in the place.

Head-quarters of the army at Dabroi (great road to Orsha).

November 8.—The Aide-de-Camp, General Count Oscharofsky, reports, on the 7th, that the French army having abandoned, on the night of the 8th, the village of Kosan, had marched to Dombrowna, and that many prisoners had been made in their flight, of which, however, the Count could not yet fix the number, as it increased every moment.

Head-quarters at Romanoff.

Nov. 9.—The Count Oscharofsky reports, that a detachment sent by him pursued the rear guard of the enemy on their retreat from Kosan. The Cossacks, in following it on each side of the great road, had cut off part of it from Dombrowna, and regardless of the fire of grape-shot, threw themselves, together with the chasseurs, upon the enemy's column, killed more than a thousand men, took four pieces of cannon, with the caissons laden with grape, besides a considerable number of carts, and made six hundred prisoners.

Major-General Borosdin reports, on the 4th, that having with his detachment driven the enemy from Dombrowna, he had pursued him to Orsha, on which occasion he took above four hundred men and eight officers. At Dombrowna was found a small magazine of flour, oats, and hay.

General Count Platoff reports on the 7th, that, proceeding from Smolensko to Dombrowna, he had destroyed a detachment of the enemy, which, after the defeat of the French army at Krasno, had saved

itself by flight, and passed over to the right bank of the Dnieper, in order to come up again with the main body. The Count made three thousand prisoners, among whom is the late Chief Commissary General at Smolensko de Puibusque. In a second report, General Platoff states, that, continuing on the 7th, his route to Dombrowna, he was informed that Marshal Ney was marching with the remains of his corps to Loubawitzch, and had been seen in the afternoon at Gousuiroff. Having occupied this place with his Cossacks on the left, General Platoff ordered masked batteries to be raised on the road; and having permitted the enemy to advance, he suddenly opened upon them a tremendous fire of grape shot, so that confounded, and seeing it impossible to pierce through to Loubawitzch, they threw themselves into the woods on the banks of the Dnieper, and covering their march by chasseurs, pressed along the bank of the river until the night was far advanced; and threw into it the four pieces of cannon they had with them.

The 8th, at about six o'clock in the morning, the advanced guard came up with the enemy in advance of Dombrowna. He was again received with grape shot on coming out of a forest on the road. Our Cossacks, profiting by the disorder of the enemy, and the well directed fire of our artillery, attacked with the lance, killing many, and making eight hundred prisoners, among which was a Commissary-General and ten officers. Marshal Ney, seeing his total defeat, threw himself into the forests, and collecting the troops whom the attack of our Cossacks had dispersed, he occupied the village of Jarouboff, where he defended himself with obstinacy, until night, which put an end to the combat.

November 10.—General Count Platoff reports, on the 9th, that during the pursuit of the enemy to Orsha he made four hundred prisoners. The enemy defends the passage of the river with his artillery, while he gives the town up to the flames. The Partizan Dasidoff attacked the enemy on the 9th at Kopys, and killing many, made two hundred and eighty-five prisoners, besides taking a quantity of equipages; passing afterwards the river by swimming, he sent various parties to Schkloff, Staroselje, and Orsha.

The Count Platoff reports, on the 9th, that the enemy had, after some resistance, been driven from Orsha, and that at one o'clock the town had been occupied by our troops. The enemy left there twenty pieces of cannon, some provisions, and his hospitals, in which were found, of officers alone, fifty persons.

On the 11th the grand army halted at Lannike.

November 12.—The Aide-de-camp General Count Oscharoffsky reports, on the 12th, that having arrived on the 11th at Gorhi, he had sent Major Rschefsky, with the regiments of Cossacks of the Don, of Schamscheff, and one hundred and fifty hussars, in pursuit of the enemy, who had just quitted the place. The Major Rschefsky came up with and nearly destroyed them, making four officers and two hundred and fifty soldiers prisoners, and taking many equipages.

The head-quarters of the army at Morosoff.

The Tirailleur of the 1st grenadier company of the regiment of infantry of Moscow, Stepan Jeremenko, had been left, in order to be cured of the wounds he had received at Smolensko, to the care of the principal of that Government, the Sub-Lieutenant Krestschetoff. After his cure had been completed, and during the retreat of the French, a detachment of forty-seven men passed by the villages of Mlethino and Polsino. He immediately assem-

bled the peasants of those places, and encouraging them by his example, he killed seven of the forty-seven, and having bound with cords the forty remaining, he sent them with the peasants to the outposts of the Cossacks. The said Jeremenko having by so courageous an action shewn his zeal for the service, and given a proof of the spirit which characterizes the Russian soldier, His Highness the General Field Marshal has advanced him to the rank of subaltern officer, and has likewise given him the badge of the military order of St. George.

Proceedings of the military Operations of the Russian Army, from the 13th to the 16th November.

November 13.—The Aide-de-Camp General Count Oscharoffsky, as he was proceeding on the 12th, with part of the detachment under his command, from Schkloff towards Mohilow, was informed by some of the inhabitants, who had left that place, that the enemy's troops which had remained there, had threatened to set on fire all within their reach; in consequence of this information, Count Oscharoffsky, without loss of time, ordered on the Cossacks from Paltawa, mounted the riflemen, and arrived before night with his cavalry and artillery, in time to save the town, from whence he immediately drove the enemy—thus at the same time relieving the place, and many large magazines which it contained, from the danger with which it was threatened.

Another part of the detachment, under the orders of the Staats-rost-meister of the Hussards of the Guards, Natschakin, which had been sent on by the road to Knaeschnitzi, came up with the enemy on their retreat from that place, attacked them, and took one officer and one hundred men prisoners, putting the rest to flight, whom they pursued for six versts beyond Knaeschnitzi. In the magazines at Mohilow, there were thirty-four thousand kouds of provisions and forage.

General Millaradovitch reports that, on the 12th, he shall be with part of his van guard at Totoschin.

The grand army halted at Kopys.

November 14.—General Platoff reports that on the 12th, some of the enemy's troops, which had separated from the corps under Marshal Ney, and had taken the road to Loubawitzch, surrendered, to the number of eight hundred men. The enemy's loss in prisoners was, indeed, so very great that he found it was unnecessary to make any particular report on the occasion, as it seldom occurred that he took less than a thousand prisoners each day.

Colonel Potemkin, belonging to General Millaradovitch's van-guard, in his report of the 13th, states, that Major General Karpow had assembled six hundred prisoners at Zolotschina, and that at Kostel they had found one hundred Ischetwerts of rye.

On the 13th General Platoff reports, that Lieutenant General Martinott having attacked the enemy, with Major General Kontenikoff's brigade, as he was marching on the high road, killed five hundred of them, and made four hundred prisoners, amongst whom was General Dscworofsky.

The head-quarters were at Staroselje.

November 15.—Lieutenant-General Schefelert's report of the 10th states, that the major part of the merchants of Ratslaff Polosott, together with the citizens of that town, animated by the love for their country, had equipped a detachment of one hundred cavalry; and having armed them with pikes, swords, and muskets, during the whole of

the continuance of the military operations in the government of Sniolensko, they had made several excursions, in which they had had many affairs with the enemy, with advantage to themselves, by which means they in fact saved their town from being plundered.

The head-quarters at Krouglo.

Report from the General of Cavalry Count Wittgenstein to His Imperial Majesty, dated Staroc Borysoff, November 29th.

YESTERDAY I had the honour most submissively to report to your Imperial Majesty, upon the defeat of the corps of Marshal Victor, from whom the troops of your Majesty took four cannon, two standards, sixty-seven staff and other officers, and three thousand prisoners, independently of a considerable number killed and wounded. After this victory there surrendered, the General of Division Parthenaut, the General of Brigade Bilier, the Chief of the Staff D'Elert; Generals Canius and Blamont; five colonels, fifteen lieutenant-colonels, two hundred and twenty-four officers, and seven thousand eight hundred privates; amongst these were two whole regiments of cavalry, fully mounted, the one a Saxon regiment, and one of Berg. I afterwards resolved on attacking Napoleon himself; which I did not fail to perform on the same day.

The enemy approached the passage of the Beresina in great force, and stood there to defend it with the greatest obstinacy, in order to save his artillery and baggage; without being disconcerted by his great efforts, I drove him back the distance of three versts. The engagement lasted the whole day. To-day I compelled him to cross the river near Stoudenzie, where, after having passed it, he burned the bridge; but having received pontoons from Admiral Tchichagoff, I am at this moment occupied in getting them thrown on the river. I shall pass it immediately, and shall act in conjunction with him and General Platoff. Yesterday we took from the enemy one field-piece, and made fifteen hundred prisoners. To-day we took twelve pieces of cannon, and a considerable number of them he cast himself into the river. I have also taken a number of officers and men; others are continually arriving, so that I have not as yet been able to take any account of them; they bring in, besides, so many carriages, belonging to Buonaparte as well as to private individuals, that the distance of half a verst is covered with them, so as not to allow persons to pass either on foot or on horseback. I have been obliged, therefore, to dispatch three companies of militia to clear a passage only for the troops. Upon these carriages, most of them lately the property of Moscow families, was found, besides a great booty for the troops, a quantity of church plate and other effects, which the enemy had stolen at Moscow. We are occupied in collecting it all together, in order to send it to the Governor-General of Moscow. In reporting this most humbly to your Imperial Majesty, I lay at the same time at your feet the standards which I have taken from the enemy.

We have lost, during these days, above three thousand men.

Report of Admiral Tchichagoff, on the Road of Ostachero, on the 29th of November.

SEEING the possibility of communicating directly with St. Petersburg, I profit of it, to make known to your Majesty all that has happened since my last report. The following day after my arrival at Minsk I reinforced my advanced guard,

and ordered General Lambert to go on the side of Borisow. On the 21st of November he attacked at the break of day the redoubts occupied by the rear guard of General Dombrowsky, who had arrived in great haste from Beresina to take possession of it. The resistance was very great; they fought a long time, and with fury. Your Majesty possesses in Count Lambert an active, courageous, and able general, capable of surmounting every difficulty, who having perceived the importance of this post, in which the enemy had collected all their force to maintain themselves, decided to take it, and completely succeeded. The enemy lost two thousand men in killed, and we have made as many prisoners. The remains of the corps of Dombrowsky have been pursued and dispersed.

In the mean time, whilst my advanced guard was going from Minsk to Borisow, General Ichaplitz was sent to Lemberin to observe the passage of the Beresina, and Colonel Loukowkin to take possession of every thing that the enemy had been obliged to abandon. Some detachments of Dombrowsky had really crossed that river, Colonel Loukowkin attacked them, and took from them a colonel, many officers, three hundred soldiers, and one colour.

The passage of the river near Borisow had been judged so important, that the enemy turned towards it all his attention. In consequence, Oudinot was detached to reinforce Dombrowsky, but the tete du pont established on this side, rendered fruitless all their endeavours.

The enemy, determined to force his passage, made demonstrations upon many points, and he succeeded at last in finding a very strong position, at thirteen versts from Borisow, where he placed a battery of thirty pieces of cannon, and having on its flanks marshes and heights. He effected the passage of the river under the protection of his batteries, so as to render it impossible for us to prevent it, particularly as the river, at the place where he effected his passage, was very narrow, so that the infantry crossed it on horseback.

On the 27th and 28th we heard a cannonade, first on the right and then on the left. The Counts Wittgenstein and Platoff approached. Communications were established between us. On the 28th I attacked the enemy in front, at the same time that Wittgenstein found himself already engaged with the troops which defended the passage of the river on the opposite side. Some prisoners informed us that Napoleon was in person at this battle, with all his force, which amounted to about seventy thousand men. The corps of Oudinot and Victor, that formed part of it, were composed of soldiers who had not suffered much, as they were still provided both with artillery and cavalry.

The guard of Napoleon is likewise in tolerable condition. The enemy was driven back to the distance of four or five versts, with the loss of one cannon, many officers, some hundreds of prisoners, and a considerable number of killed.

Lieutenant-General Sacken, whom I left in the environs of Brzeck, has perfectly executed my orders. The Prince of Schwartzenberg has twice approached Slonim; but General Saken having attacked Regnier two days successively, forced him to retreat and join Prince Schwartzenberg. Lieutenant-General Regnier has lost one pair of colours and one thousand prisoners.

I have just learnt, that the enemy is retreating from before me, having lost one more cannon and some baggage. I am going to pursue them.