

SUPPLEMENT

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY the 8th of JUNE.

Published by Authority.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1813.

Foreign-Office, June 9, 1813.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, were this day received by Viscount Castlercagh, His Majcsty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Aflairs, from Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles Stewart, K. B. His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Prussia, dated

> Head-Quarters, Wurzen, May 20, 1813.

Mr LORD, May 20, 1813. HAVE just received the official account of the operations of the Allied Armies since the 2d instant, from General Knieseback, and I enclose a translation of it for your Lordship's information.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) CHARLES ST

CHARLES STEWART, Lieutenant-General.

BULLETIN.—(Translation.) Head-Quarters Wurzen, near Bautzen, May 19, 1813.

SINCE the battle of the 2d of May, the Allied Army has had no engagement of consequence with the enemy. Some small affairs have taken place, which have constantly proved the good conduct of the troops.

The following is a short account of the operations since the 2d of May. In order to weaken the enemy's line of operation by drawing him from his supplies, and to retire upon our own, the General commanding the Allied Army proposed to take up a position in Upper Lusatia. The enemy did not interrupt this operation, but slowly followed the

3

army. However, a brisk cannonade of a Prussian corps took place between Colditz and Waldheim, but they retired in the greatest order. In this affair Lieutenant-Colonel and Bregadier Von Steinmetz distinguished himself with his brigade; and the Prussian General St. Priest, with great judgment and decision attacked the enemy in flank, by which the affair was decided; the enemy lost four hundred men killed and wounded. Our loss in this action was two officers and one hundred and fifty men. We have to regret the loss of Major Kall, a most distinguished officer. On the 6th and 7th the enemy crossed the Elbe

1117

On the 6th and 7th the enemy crossed the Elbe at Dresden and Meissen. Several small detachments of partizans returned to the left bank of the river to annoy the enemy's rear. One of these detachments, under Lieutenant Zilmer, of the Brandenburg hussars, took an officer charged with dispatches of consequence, and twenty horses, near Zwekaw, and safely rejoined the army on the 10th.

About this time it was ascertained that the King of Saxony had declared for the enemy, and had given up Torgau to the French troops. This intelligence determined the Allies to evacuate the middle Elbe, and to concentrate the army at Bautzen.

The army has been in this position seven days, very quiet, and daily increasing in numbers, and a battle is shortly expected to take place.

Our detached corps continue successfully to annoy the enemy. On the 14th General Jelowaiski surprized a post at Konigsbruck and took the whole detachment prisoners, cousisting of eight officers and one hundred and seventy-three men. On the 12th and 15th the corps of General Milaradovitch had affairs, in which the enemy lost one thousand

men killed, and fifteen hundred wounded, and six officers and three hundred men were made prisoners. On the 18th General Jelowaiski made prisoners a troop of lancers of the Dutch guard, and in the afternoon, General Milaradovitch made a reconnoissance, in which the enemy lost one hundred killed, and one hundred and thirty prisoners; deserters come in daily from the enemy, and he suffers considerably by our skirmishes.

Head-Quarters, Wurzen, May 20, 1813.

MY LORD, THE enemy detached on the evening of the 17th and 18th in the direction of Lückau and Lübben, on our right; the force was stated to be Regnier's corps.

Intelligence being received that General Lauriston, with nine thousand men, would march to reinforce the troops above mentioned on the 19th, General Barclay de Tolly and General d'York, with a strong corps, were sent to intercept and fall upon General Lauriston.

General Barclay de Tolly fell in with the enemy in the neighbourhood of Konigswerde, and a sharp contest ensued, which was put an end to only by night-fall, and in which the Allies were completely successful. They drove back the enemy at all points, took upwards of fifteen hundred prisoners, a general of division, and eleven pieces of cannon. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded was considerable. The cavalry were in pursuit when the accounts came The loss on our side has not yet been awav. ascertained, nor am I in possession of the details of this affair.

General D'York was engaged more on the right, and encountered a strong force: the support of Lauriston's corps, supposed to be Marshal Ney's. He was engaged till eleven o'clock at night, against very superior numbers, with success. Both the allied corps returned into the position this morning.

Six o'Clock P. M.

I am enabled, being just returned from General Milaradovitch's advanced-guard, to report to your Lordship that a very severe attack has been made to-day by the enemy, to possess themselves of the town of Bautzen. They attempted a false attack on our left, but the real one was on General Milaradovitch's right. General Kleist's corps was moved up to his support, and the attack was sus-tained by Generals Milaradovitch and Kleist, with the utmost gallantry. I witnessed two very gallant charges of Russian light cavalry, as well as extreme good conduct throughout the troops engaged. General Milaradovitch will be drawn to-night into the position.

It would seem from what has occurred this day, that the enemy intend a great effort here.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES STEWART, Lieutenant-General,

Viscount Castlereagh.

Head-Quarters, Goldberg, Silesia,

My LORD, May 24, 1813. I HASTILY detailed to your Lordship im my last dispatch the military movements on the 20th, and the attack on Bautzen by the enemy.

The intention of the enemy, in his attack on the right and left of Bautzen on the 20th, was to force the Spree River, and to pass to some heights on our right, thus threatening General Milaradovitch's rear, and gaining 'advantageous ground, from which his artillery could sweep our main position, and, under cover of whose fire, he might with greater facility make his disposition for the general attack

on the following morning. The action was bravely contested ; a Russian battalion and some Prussian lancers, under cover of a battery, boldly advanced and contested alone the heights, in spite of the enemy's powerful efforts, until they were supported by General Kleist's corps.

In the mican time, on the extreme right, the enemy's corps followed Generals Barclay de Tolly and D'York, in their retrograde movement from their expedition against General Lauriston.

General D'York's corps entered the position in the evening, but the whole of Barclay de Tolly's did not effect it till the following morning.

General Milaradovitch repulsed the repeated efforts of the enemy that were vigorously made to force him on the left, and the columns of the enemy, that had attempted to pass into the moun-Finding, however, tains, were kept in check. late in the evening, that General Kleist had fallen back into the main position, General Milaradovitch withdrew entirely from the Spree River and the town of Bautzen, and in the night occupied the ground marked out for him in the general line. The severe affairs of this day, reflect the bighest

honour on Generals Milaradovitch and Kleist, and the brave troops under their command.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) CHARLES STEWART, Lieutenant-General.

Viscount Castlereagh, &c. &c. &c.

My Lord, Goldberg, May 24, 1813. THE Allied Army under the orders of Count Wittgenstein, in position, in advance of Wurschen and Hochkirch, was attacked by the enemy at daybreak, commanded by Buonaparte in person, on the morning of the 21st instant.

It appears he had assembled all his forces for this effort, and had not detached largely, as had been supposed, to other quarters.

The ground selected by the Allies to resist the enemy's approach, on the great roads to Silesia and the Oder, was bounded on the left hy a range of mountains which separates Lusatia from Bohemia, through which Marshal Daun marched to the battle and victory of Hochkirh.

Some strong commanding heights, on which batteries had been constructed near the village of Jackowitz, (and separated from the chain of mountains by streams and marshy ground) formed the appui to the left flank of the position. Beyond, and in front of it, many batteries were pushed forward, defended by infantry and cavalry on a ridge that projected into the low ground near the Spree River. It then extended to the right, through villages which were strongly entrenched, across the great roads leading from Bautzen to Hochkirch, and Görlitz; from thence in front of the village of Bourthewitz to three or four very commanding hills,

C

which rise abruptly in a conical shape, and form strong features; these with the high ground of Kreekwitz were strengthened by batteries, and were considered the right point of the line.

The ground in the centre was favourable for cavalry, except in some marshy and uneven parts, where it would impede its operations. Electes were constructed, and entrenchments thrown up at advantageous distances on the plain, along the front of which ran a deep boggy rivulet, which extended round the right of the position.

On the extreme right the country was flat and woody, intersected by roads bearing towards the Bober and the Oder.

General Barckay de Tolly's corps was stationed here, and should be considered more as a manœuvering corps, placed to guard against the enemy's attempts on the right and rear of the allies, than as immediately in position; the extent of the whole line might be between three and four English miles. The different corps occupying it were as follows: General Kleist's and General d'Yorck's corps in echelon and in reserve on the right: General Blucher's, Count Wittgenstein's, and General Milaradovitch's formed on the left; and the guards and grenadiers, and all the Russian cavalry, were stationed in reserve in the centre.

The enemy evinced, early in the action, a determination to press the flanks of the Allics; he had thrown a very strong corps into the mountains on our left, which favoured his species of warfare, but General Milaradovitch was prepared here, having detached Prince Garchikoff and Count Asterman with ten battalions of light troops, and a large corps of Cossacks, with their artillery, under Colonel Davidoff, to occupy these hills.

After a very strong tirailade in this quarter, and a distant cannonading on our right, which commenced the action, the enemy began to develope his forces, and to move his different columns of attack to their stations.

The contest in the mountains became gradually warmer, and he supported it by a very powerful line of artillery. The Prince of Wirtemberg's and General St. Priest's divisions, of General Milaradovitch's corps, were here sharply engaged, and a charge of cavalry succeeded against some guns of the enemy, one of which was taken.

Buonaparte was now visible on a commanding spot, directing the battle. He deployed in front of the town of Bautzen his guards, cavalry, and lancers, and shewed heavy columns of infantry on the esplanade before it, bringing up besides a number of brigades of artillery, with which he occupied some advantageous heights, between our position and Bautzen, that were favourable to support his attacks.

These demonstrations denoted an effort in this direction, and a disposition was accordingly made with General Blucher's corps and our commanding cavalry to meet it: but an increasing fire, and a more lively cannonade on our right, made it ultimately no longer doubtful where his chief attempt was aimed. Columns of attack, under cover of a heavy fire, were now in motion from the enemy's left, while others were filing to gain our right; and General Barclay de Tolly was attacked by a very superior force under Marshal Ney, and Gene-

ral Lauriston; and notwithstanding the most gallant efforts, was forced to abandon the villages of Klutz and Cannervitz. General Barclay de Tollyhad orders, if outnumbered, to change the ground he occupied in front of Cannervitz and Prieslitz, and to place himself on the heights surrounding the villages of Rachel and Baruth, by which the army would change its position on the left, and cover the main roads through Wurtzen and Hochkirch to the rear : but the enemy outflanked him on the right, while they warmly engaged him in front, and occupied these heights before him, which determined him to throw himself on the right of Wurschen, where the Imperial head-quarters had been, and which equally answered the object When it was perceived that General Barclay de Tolly was pressed by immense odds, General Blucher was ordered to move to his right, and attack the enemy in flank.

General Blucher was afterwards supported by Generals Kleist and D'York, and here a most sauguinary contest eusued.

These attacks succeeded in checking the enemy. That of General Blucher's corps exceeds all praise; and the Prussians in this eventful day, as at the battle of Lutzen, again evinced what their troops are capable of accomplishing when beaded by a King they love, and fighting for their country, their liberty, and independence.

A charge of four thousand of their cavalry on columns of the enemy's infantry, which had carried the village of Kracknitz, completely repulsed him, and the Prussians again occupied it, displaying the greatest order and steadiness under the most galling fire. Still these gallant efforts were arrested by the enemy's bringing up fresh troops, and though partial successes were obtained, the general issue was in suspense.

A momentary advantage being gained by the enemy in consequence of General Barclay de Tolly's movements, he lost no time in making every exertion to push it to the utmost, renewing, at the same time, his attack on our left flank, and assaulting the batteries that covered the conical heights, as also those of Kreckwitz on the right. He made himself master of the latter, and of one of our batteries, which gave him, in some degree, the key of the position, as it commanded the low ground on the right and centre of it. Still in every other part of the line the Allies firmly sustained the conflict; but it soon became apparent that the enemy had not only superior forces to fight us at all points, but he had also the means of prolonging his flank march on our right, thus threatening our communications and menacing our rear.

Although it might have been easy, by a general assault of the grenadiers and guards in reserve, to have recovered the heights of Kreckwitz, still the pressure round the flank on Barclay de Tolly's corps would have again necessitated the abandonnent of them, and when these troops moved to their point of attack, the centre, where the enemy still shewed a powerful force, would have been endangered.

It was only from considerations of such a nature as I have above detailed, that the Allies were induced to change their position at five o'clock in the evening, having from day break, admirably contested every part of the field of battle. The superiority of numbers was with the enemy, but the heroism and firmness displayed by the Allies must be respected even by their adversaries.

The magnanimous conduct of His Imperial Majesty and the King of Prussia, made the greatest impression on all around them; they never quitted the field of battle, and I witnessed in His Imperial Majesty the most ardent and anxious desire, by renewed attacks, to sustain the position, had not reasons of prudence, coupled with the most important considerations, decided otherwise.

I feel I cannot do justice to the details of the battle, nor to the extraordinary efforts made. I have endeavoured to give your Lordship the most faithful account of what I personally witnessed. The determination being taken to place the army in a new position, the troops were in motion about seven o'clock in the evening, for the ground between Weissenberg and Hochkirch. The enemy opened immediately a tremendous fire from the heights of Kreckwitz and the village of Cannewitz, on the retiring columns; but every gun was withdrawn from the batterics, and the troops moved as at a field day. The corps of Generals Tolly, D'York, Blucher and Kleist, marched off from their right to Weissenberg ; those of Wittgenstein and Milaradovich from their left to Hochkirch. The retreat was made in echelon, covered by the cavalry: the enemy did not attempt to molest it, and it was conducted with the most perfect order. General Kleist's corps formed the rear guard to the corps moving on Weissenberg, and a battery of forty pieces, planted by Count Wittgenstein on the Heights of Wurtzen, impeded the enemy's advance. General Milaradovitch covered the retrcat of the troops on Hochkirch, and the army were in their position at night.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART, Lieutenant-General.

P. S. From the most authentic information I can procure, the force of the Allies did not exceed sixty-five thousand men; that of the enemy I estimate at least at one hundred and twenty thousand.

The loss on both sides was great. The enemy's must have been tremendous; I am unable to state the numbers with any accuracy.

C. S. Lieut. Gen.

Head-Quarters, Goldberg, Silesia, My Lord, May 24, 1813.

THE army continued to retire on the 22d in two columns. on the great roads from Bautzen to Lowenberg....The enemy made an attempt to interrupt the corps of General Milardovitch, in which he completely failed. At Reichenbach the rear-guard took up a position, which they defended in the most obstinate manner against the enemy's advance, led by Buonaparte in person. The enemy shewed a strong force of cavalry, and made several charges on that of the allies, and one into the town of Reichenbach, which were successfully repulsed, with the loss of some hundreds killed, wounded, and taken, and several officers.

By bringing up a number of guns and a great force, and by outflanking our rear-guard, it was obliged to leave Reichenbach, but fell back on Gorlitz in the best order.

The conduct of the troops this day, after their long service and unequal combat of the 21st, has been beyond all praise. Throughout the late movements there has been no loss of guns, tumbrils, or baggage of any kind in the Allied Army.

General Bülow's corps, joined by General Bondell's in the neighbourhood of Relitz and Trebbin, finding that the enemy had withdrawn the corps of Victor in that quarter, for the purpose of his general operations against the Allied Army, has renewed the offensive, and has pushed his patroles to Baruth and towards Wittenburg.

The enemy did not advance above half an English mile on the side of Gorlitz, yesterday. This morning they have not pressed, and all retires in perfect order.

The Allied Army are moving in the direction of Schweidnitz.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) CHARLES STEWART, Lieutenant-General.

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

[Price Sixpence,]