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Foreign-Office, October 22, 1813.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been this day received from Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles William Stewart, K. B. and from Edward Thornton, Esq.

My Lord, *Töplitz, October 1, 1813.*

THE affair I mentioned in my dispatch, of the 29th ult. near Altenburg, has turned out to be of more importance than was at first imagined, and the Hetman Platow, with his usual ability and gallantry, has accomplished a very brilliant exploit against a considerable body of the enemy.

This corps was under the orders of General Lefebvre Denouette, and consisted of some French light cavalry, the Polish uhlans of the guard, and a brigade of light dragoons, under the orders of General Pirot. Generals Keisciski and Krutecks were also in command.

The force consisted of eight thousand cavalry and seven hundred infantry, one squadron of Mamelukes, and a small party of Tartars of the guard, under the orders of Colonel Murot. The whole were attacked by Platow, and completely put to the route.

General Keiseiski is reported by the prisoners to have been killed. Fifteen hundred prisoners, five guns, and forty officers (three of the staff), are the fruits of this victory.

The army has broken up from hence, and is in movement to the left. The corps of General Count Wittgenstein was yesterday at Komnatau, and that of General Kleist near Brüx.

The Austrians are marching upon Chemnitz. There is a report from the enemy that Napoleon, attended by the King of Saxony and family, set out for Leipsig upon the 28th instant; the head-quarters are said to be removed there.

The French corps, under Marshal Angereau, have marched from Bamberg to Coburg, having left a considerable force at Würzburg.

I have reason to believe the Russian and Prussian army exceed eighty thousand men, which will now be assembled on the Chemnitz and Freyberg line: to these may be added the corps of Kleinau of ten thousand men, together with all the Austrians.

General Benningsen's corps, which has been reviewed this day, is in a very efficient state as to appearance; but I have no exact information as to the numbers arriving.

A reinforcement of seven thousand men of the Prussian corps of General Kleist, is upon the road from Prague.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,
Lieutenant-General.

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

My Lord, *Zerbst, October 4, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that General Pozzo di Borgo has received intelligence from the head-quarters of the armies in Bohemia, under date of the 24th ultimo, stating that the corps of General Benningsen having joined the Grand Army, the Allied Sovereigns had come to the resolution of making a movement by their left from Bohemia, and that this movement should be executed on the 1st of the present month.

This intelligence determined the Prince Royal to attempt the passage of the Elbe. The bridge at Rosslaw had been already completed, while the works of the tête de pont on the left bank had been traced out, and were in a state of progress. Detachments of Swedish troops were in possession of Dessau, and the town of Acken, on the left bank, a little lower, down the river was fortifying, under

the direction of Count Woronzow, in such a manner as to render it a place of considerable strength, while preparations were accelerated for constructing a bridge there.

In the mean time, the enemy, who appear to have had no idea of the passage of the Elbe, at Acken, sent strong detachments of troops to occupy Dessau and the line of the Mulda, and employed themselves in throwing up works, as well before that town, as in front of the tête de pont at Rosslau, with intent to impede the passage there, and to obstruct the movements of the army after the passage. This gave occasion to skirmishes between the enemy and the Swedish advanced guard, which was obliged to relinquish Dessau, and to retire to the neighbourhood of the tête de pont at Rosslau, and indeed to the right bank of the river.

Under these circumstances, the Prince Royal received intelligence from General Blücher, on the 1st instant, informing His Royal Highness that he should, on that day, make a movement with his whole army on his right towards Hertzberg; that on the following day he should be at Jessen; on the 3d at Elster, and on the following day (to-day) would effect the passage of the Elbe at Elster, proceeding upon Kemberg against the French corps stationed there.

The bridge at Acken had just been completed, and yesterday, to-day, or perhaps to-morrow, was each spoken of as the probable day for passing the river.

General Blücher crossed the Elbe at Elster yesterday with some opposition, and attacked the entrenched village of Wartenberg on the opposite bank, which he carried, after an obstinate resistance, making himself master of sixteen pieces of cannon. It is understood that this victory, which was carried against the corps commanded by Bertrand, was not obtained without considerable loss, particularly among the troops commanded by General D'York; but the particulars have not yet been received.

The Prince Royal received this intelligence yesterday evening, while he was at Rosslau, or immediately on his return here, and took the resolution of crossing the whole army to-day over the Elbe, at Acken and at Rosslau, the Russians at the former, and the Prussians and Swedes at Rosslau, somewhat later or otherwise, according as it should be understood whether the French would make a stand at Dessau. This however was not to be expected, when once the passage of the Russians was completed at Acken, particularly under the position of General Blücher's army, and in effect it was learnt this morning, that the French had retired from Dessau, where, consequently, I learn that the head-quarters of the Prince Royal will be established this evening. His Royal Highness left this place about nine o'clock this morning.

Yesterday evening Mr. Adlercrentz, a son of the General, and an Aide-de-Camp of the Prince Royal, returned here from the Imperial head-quarters, to which he had been sent after the

battle of Dönnowitz. He brings intelligence of the actual movement of the grand army, as was projected, on the 1st instant; and it was calculated that it would be advanced as far as Chemnitz, on yesterday, the 3d.

I am as yet without details of the affair of General Blücher; but Baron De Wetterstedt has engaged me to detain this messenger until I shall receive a dispatch from him this evening for M. de Rehausen, and he promised me, (for he went to-day to Dessau) to transmit to me at the same time the same particulars, if he should obtain them. I shall keep this dispatch open for them.

We have indirect accounts of General Czernitschew having taken possession, with his corps of Cossacks, of the whole city of Cassel, from which Jerome Buonaparte had fled. But nothing has yet been received from himself.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) E. THORNTON,

P. S. Ten P. M. I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship inclosed, a letter which I have just received from Baron de Wetterstedt.

(Signed) E. T.

Head-quarters, Dessau,
October 4, 1813.

ACCORDING to reports received from General Blücher, he has been engaged with the fourth French corps, commanded by General Bertrand.

The latter was strongly entrenched in a village between Wartenberg and Bledin.

General d'York's corps dislodged and overthrew the enemy, taking above one thousand prisoners; sixteen pieces of cannon, and seventy tumbrils, with their train, were captured. A body of two thousand men threw themselves into Wittenberg; the remainder of the enemy's troops fell back upon Kemberg. General Blücher pursued them, and his head-quarters will be this evening at the latter place. His cavalry is at Düben.

By five o'clock this morning, the enemy's troops, under the orders of Marshal Ney; which were in this town, amounting to eighteen thousand men, had begun their retreat towards Leipzig.

Our advanced posts had, in the course of this evening, pushed on as far as Raguba and Jesnitz, and to-morrow the junction with General Blücher will take place.

The van-guard of the Russian army, under the orders of Count Woronzoff, occupies Coëthen. Bernbourg is garrisoned by Russian cavalry. To-morrow the two armies of the Prince Royal and of General Blücher, will make a combined movement in advance, probably in the direction of Leipzig. They form together a total of one hundred and twenty-seven thousand or one hundred and thirty thousand men. His Royal Highness will, without doubt, establish his head-quarters at Reguhn.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) DE WETTERSTEDT.

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