



SUPPLEMENT
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Foreign Office, February 12, 1814.

THE Messenger, Sylvester, has arrived at this Office with dispatches, of which the following are copies and extracts, from Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles William Stewart, K. B. and the Right Honourable Lord Burghersh.

Extract of a Dispatch from the Honourable Sir C. W. Stewart, dated Chateau de Brienne, February 2d, 1814.

I AM gratified in being enabled to send your Lordship a far better report of the details of the battle of La Rothière, than if I had been so fortunate as to have been myself in the field.

Colonel Lowe's detail is so satisfactory, and so accurate, from his having had the advantage of being with Marshal Blücher in the advance during the whole day, that there is little in the official reports that have come in, which Colonel Lowe has not already noticed.

If Marshal Blücher was not long since immortalized, this day would have crowned him in the annals of fame, for whatever were the apprehensions entertained by many for the result of the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg's attack on the right, your Lordship will see by Colonel Lowe's report, the Marshal steadily pursued the combination upon which the result of the day depended; this foresight, judgment, and decision, is done justice to by all the allied army. The Russian artillery are spoken of in the highest terms of praise; the ground was so covered with snow, and so deep, that they were obliged to leave half their guns in the rear, and by harnessing double teams to the other half, they contrived to bring them forward and get a sufficient number into action.

The allies had about seventy or eighty thousand men in the battle; the other corps of the army which are not enumerated in the report, were not up. The enemy are supposed to have had about the same strength.

The enemy's last attack on the village of La Rothière, was at two o'clock this morning; immediately after they seem to have commenced their retreat, passing the Aube River; they took up a very strong rear-guard position at Lesmont with their right, and extending behind the Voire. Dispositions were made to attack it with the corps of the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg, and Generals Wrede and Guilay, and there was a sharp fire all his morning on this spot, but the day was so very unfavourable, and the fall of snow so excessive, the troops could make no progress.

In the mean time Field-Marshal Prince Schwartzberg has made his arrangements for the pursuit of the enemy, who have retired on Vitry, Troyes, and Areis.

Military Report from Colonel Lowe to the Honourable Sir C. W. Stewart, dated Head-Quarters, Army of Silesia, Trannes, Feb. 1, 1814.

SIR,

MY report of last night will have informed you of the state of preparation in which both armies stood for a general battle on this day. The confidence of the Allied Sovereigns, and of the Commanders of their armies, having placed at Field-Marshal Blücher's disposal the Austrian corps of General Count Guilay, and of the Prince Royal of Wirtemburgh, in addition to the forces under his own immediate command, he, after a reconnoissance this morning, made the following disposition for an attack:

The corps of General Baron Sacken was ordered to move forward in two columns from Trannes, one directing itself upon Brienne, by the road of Dienville, and the second on the village of La Rothière. The corps of General Count Guilay forming the reserve of the 1st column, and that of General Alsfuef of the second.

The Russian guards and cuirassiers, it was announced, would arrive and form a reserve for the

whole on the heights between Trannes and Eclance.

The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg was directed to march from Eclance upon Chaumenil, leaving a small wood in front of the right of our position, occupied by the enemy, to his left, and thus turning it, and opening his communication with General Count Wrede, who, it was announced, was advancing also upon Chaumenil from Doulevant.

The attack commenced precisely at twelve o'clock. The enemy was in position at Dienville and La Rothiere, and having his left at the small village of La Gibrie.

His cavalry, as well as that of the Allied Forces, was drawn out in the plain between the two positions; his infantry disposed in large masses on the flanks of, and within the villages, which were lined with artillery.

Skirmishing and cannonading in the plain were the preludes to the attack, but the attention was soon directed from this to a very heavy cannonading and musketry from the small wood on the right, and the village of La Gibrie. The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg drove the enemy from the village; but they returned in force, and again expelled him. A brigade of grenadiers was ordered to his support, but his own zeal and activity rendered this aid unnecessary. He attacked again, and remained master of both the wood and village. The movements in this quarter occupied nearly three hours. The enemy's demonstration menaced the flank of the position of the Allies; but Field-Marshal Blücher was not to be diverted from his object by them. The effect of the combination of General Wrede's movement was foreseen with the most accurate judgment; and before the village of La Gibrie was in the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg's possession, every requisite order was given for the execution of the movements just directed.

The enemy having moved a corps to his left, Gen. Baron Sacken drew all his force to the attack of La Rothiere, which formed the key of the enemy's position.

General Count Guilay attacked the town of Dienville, but met with very considerable opposition. The contest was protracted to a very late hour, and it was not until after mid-night, that it was announced to the Marshal that the enemy was expelled, leaving two hundred and eighty prisoners in Count Guilay's possession.

The most obstinate resistance however was made at La Rothiere; Baron Sacken expelled the enemy, but he returned with heavy columns of infantry and batteries of artillery, and renewed the attack with great vigour, gaining possession of the church and some of the houses, whilst the Russians occupied the others. Buonaparte in person, it is reported by the prisoners, led on the attack himself, at the head of the young guard, and had a horse shot under him. The fire with which they were received, rendered the attempt of no avail, and about ten o'clock at night, the whole village was ceded to the more obstinate valour of the Russian troops.

On the right of the village General Sacken took upwards of twenty pieces of cannon; near a thousand prisoners were also taken; the less in killed and wounded was very great.

The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg advanced

upon Chaumenil, and formed his junction with the General Count Wrede. The former took six pieces of cannon, and the latter seventeen.

Thus was the victory complete in every quarter.

Immediately after the battle commenced the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and Field-Marshal Prince Schwartzburgh came on the ground. Field-Marshal Blücher immediately afterwards proceeded to the front, to carry into effect the dispositions he had made. He was among the foremost in the attack of the village of La Rothiere, and in supporting the troops who were attacked in it. A cossack orderly, of General Griesenau, was shot by his side. Reserves were moved forward by the orders of His Imperial Majesty and Prince Schwartzburgh, but only three battalions were employed.

There are prisoners taken of the 3d, 4th, and 6th corps, and of the guards. Buonaparte is supposed to have had the great body of his army collected.

There are many details which time does not admit my at present giving, but in proportion as they become known, the battle of La Rothiere, in the numbers engaged, in the losses on the part of the enemy, and in its consequences, will perhaps be found one of the most important of the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LOWE, Colonel.

P. S. The reports state sixty pieces of cannon taken.

Military Report from Colonel Lowe to the Honourable Sir C. W. Stewart, dated St. Ouen, February 4, 1814, Nine A. M.

SIR,

THE reports of this morning are that a cannonading was heard on yesterday afternoon at Pagny, on the road between Vitry and Chalons, which it is supposed must have been in consequence of a rencontre between the corps of General D'York and Marshal Macdonald. A reconnoissance, pushed on yesterday as far as Sagny, on the road from hence to Chalons, ascertained the enemy to be there posted with a force of about two thousand infantry and two squadrons of cavalry. The enemy had a force at Vitry which will probably endeavour to effect a junction with Marshal Macdonald or with Marshal Marmont, who, there is every reason to suppose, proceeded, after the retreat, to Arcis.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. LOWE, Colonel.

Despatch from Lord Burghersh, dated Bar Sur Aube, Feb. 1, 1814.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the satisfaction of announcing to your Lordship, that the enemy, commanded by Buonaparte, have this day been defeated. Thirty-six pieces of cannon, and three thousand prisoners, are already in the hands of the Allies.

Buonaparte had placed his army in two lines, extending across the plain from the front of Dienville, on the right, by the village of La Rothiere, towards Tremilly, on the left.

In front of the left, he occupied the village of La Gibrie, and the woods by which it was surrounded.

In reserve, General Marmont was placed in

village of Morvilliers. The heights also about the town of Brienne were occupied.

Your Lordship has been informed that the corps of Marshal Blücher, consisting only of General Sacken's division, and part of General Langeron's division, had yesterday taken up a position near Trannes.

The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg was in communication with the right of General Blücher, and in position at Maison.

General Guilay removed from Bar Sur Aube to support General Blücher: his corps was formed on the great road between Trannes and Dienville.

I reported to your Lordship that General Wrede was to co-operate with General Wittgenstein, in his attack on Vassy. The enemy having, however, abandoned that position, General Wrede marched upon Doulevant, from whence he was directed to advance upon the road by Tremilly to Chaumenil.

Two divisions of Russian grenadiers, and a division of cuirassiers, amounting to about six thousand men, and forming a part of the reserve under the orders of General Barclay de Tolly, formed the support of the different corps, and were engaged in the action of this day.

General Blücher began his attack about twelve o'clock, by advancing the corps of General Guilay towards Dienville, and by forming the divisions of his own corps in front of La Rothiere.

The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg advanced about the same time from Maison upon La Gibrie; he was strongly opposed in the woods about that place, but at last succeeded in forcing the enemy to retire, and in carrying the village. The enemy made an attempt to retake this position, but was received most gallantly by the troops of the Prince Royal, and totally repulsed. During the latter part of this attack, the corps of General Wrede arrived upon the right of the Prince Royal, and immediately advanced upon Tremilly.

The Uhlans of Prince Schwartzburgh made a most successful charge in front of that village, and took six pieces of cannon. General Wrede possessed himself of the place.

General Sacken finding that his right was secured by the successes which had attended the attack of the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg and General Wrede, determined to attack the centre of the enemy's position at La Rothiere. While his infantry were engaged in the attack of the village, General Blücher directed a charge of cavalry upon the right of it, which was attended with complete success; twenty pieces of cannon were captured, and a considerable number of the cavalry of Buonaparte's guard were killed or taken.

The enemy was driven from La Rothiere, and notwithstanding several attempts to retake it, was finally baffled in his object.

General Guilay, late in the evening, advanced upon Dienville. I left the ground with Prince Schwartzburgh before this movement had been completed, but the report has since arrived, that he succeeded in taking the part of the village on the right of the Aube, the enemy having retired to the other side of that river, and having destroyed the bridge.

So ended, my Lord, the affair of this day; the enemy still held the ground beyond La Rothiere, and was still in possession at dark of the heights of Brienne.

The Russian and Prussian guards have already arrived near Trannes, and to-morrow will be in position to support the attack of the enemy's remaining positions.

The corps of General Colbredo arrived this day at Vendœuvres, and will arrive to-morrow morning at Dienville.

The corps of General Wittgenstein and D'York are marching upon Vitry.

It appears that the three corps of Marshals Marmont, Mortier, and Victor, were present in the action of this day. Generals Colbert and Grouchy were also present.

I have not been able to ascertain the remaining corps which formed part of the enemy's force.

I beg to congratulate your Lordship upon this first success in a general affair on the territory of France.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) BURGHESH.

Dispatch from Lord Burghesh, dated Bar Sur Aube, February 2, 1814.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my report of yesterday, I have this day to announce to your Lordship the retreat of the enemy from all his positions about Brienne, with the loss of seventy-three pieces of cannon, and about four thousand prisoners.

Buonaparte continued the action of yesterday with considerable obstinacy till towards twelve at night: his principal efforts were directed to the re-occupation of the village of La Rothiere; he directed himself the attack of the young Guards upon that place, but was repulsed with considerable loss.

General Blücher was present at the defence of this village, and contributed materially by his exertions in the repulse of the enemy.

General Guilay was engaged till near twelve o'clock in the attack of Dienville; the vigorous opposition he met with was only to be overcome by the skill and ability he displayed, and by the gallantry of his troops. The place, after several hours of the most severe contest, remained in his undisputed possession.

Baffled in the different attempts to regain the advantages he had lost, Buonaparte at last decided upon a retreat: his columns appear to have began their movement to the rear about one in the morning, his rear guard was however in occupation of the position of Brienne at daylight.

General Guilay moved along the Aube upon the enemy's right, the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg marched upon Brienne, General Wrede advanced upon the right of the Prince Royal.

The enemy retreated in two columns, the right upon Lesmont, the left upon Lassicourt and Ronay.

The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg made a most brilliant charge upon the cavalry which covered the enemy's retreat near St. Christophe.

General Wrede dislodged a corps of infantry from a strong position upon the Voire, near Lassicourt.

General Guilay, assisted by the infantry of the Prince Royal, took Lesmont by assault.

It is due to the character of Prince Schwartzburgh, to call your Lordship's attention to the skill and talent he has displayed in bringing the troops under his orders to the brilliant situation in which they at present stand.

From the frontiers of Switzerland, after traversing all the great defences on this side of France, he has formed a junction with the army of Field-Marshal Blücher, and, in conjunction with it, has baffled the enemy's attempts to fall with superior numbers on a separate corps, and has achieved a most glorious victory.

Prince Schwartzburgh has received a sword from the Emperor Alexander, in token of the high sense he entertains of his merit. General Wrede and the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg have been decorated on the field of battle with the Second Class of the Order of St. George.

The distinguished gallantry and enterprise of Field-Marshal Blücher, was never more conspicuous than in the battles of Brienne.

Generals Guilay and Frenelle have particularly distinguished themselves.

The troops of the allies have universally fought with the most distinguished gallantry; they merit the gratitude and admiration of the world.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) BURGHERSH, Lieut. Col. 63d Reg.

Extract of a Dispatch from Lord Burghersh, dated Bar Sur Seine, February 6, 1814.

I HAVE the satisfaction of being able to report to your Lordship, that the advanced guard of General D'York made yesterday a successful attack upon the rear of Marshal Macdonald's army near La Chaussee, between Vitry and Chalons. Three cannon and several hundred prisoners were taken by the Allies; the enemy was pursued on the road to Chalons.

I am sorry to have to report to your Lordship, that General Colorado was yesterday wounded, while reconnoitring the enemy's position upon the Barce.

Although the wound is not considered dangerous, yet the whole army will lament the necessary absence of that gallant and distinguished officer from his active duties in the field in this important moment.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, February 9, 1813.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bart. commanding His Majesty's forces in North America.

*Head-Quarters, Quebec,
December 22, 1813.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, Colonel Murray's report to Major-General Vincent of his having taken possession of Fort George, at Niagara, on the 12th instant, without opposition.

In consequence of my having directed a forward movement to be made by the advance of the right division of the army serving in the Canadas, for the

purpose of checking a system of plunder organised by the enemy against the loyal inhabitants of the Niagara district; Colonel Murray was ordered to march with two six-pounders, a small detachment of light dragoons, and three hundred and fifty rank and file of the 100th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, together with seventy of the western warriors, under Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, of the Indian department, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, this force arrived in the neighbourhood of Fort George in time to frustrate the enemy's predatory designs, and to compel him to effect a precipitate retreat across the Niagara River, having previously sent his ordnance and stores to his own side, and stained the character of the American nation by the wanton conflagration of the town of Newark, reduced at this most inclement season to a heap of ashes, in direct violation of the reiterated protestations of the American commanding Generals to respect and protect private property. I have much satisfaction in adding to my report, that the promptitude with which Colonel Murray executed this service, has been the means of rescuing a fertile and extensive district from premeditated plunder, and its loyal inhabitants from further outrage and captivity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST.

To Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, *Fort George, December 12, 1813.*

HAVING obtained information that the enemy had determined on driving the country between Fort George and the advance, and was carrying off the loyal part of the inhabitants, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, I deemed it my duty to make a rapid and forced march towards him with the light troops under my command, which not only frustrated his designs, but compelled him to evacuate Fort George, by precipitately crossing the river and abandoning the whole of the Niagara frontier. On learning our approach he layed the town of Newark in ashes, passed over his cannon and stores, but failed in an attempt to destroy the fortifications, which are evidently so much strengthened whilst in his possession, as might have enabled General M'Cleure (the Commanding Officer) to have maintained a regular siege; but such was the apparent panic, that he left the whole of his tents standing.

I trust the indefatigable exertions of this handful of men have rendered an essential service to the country, by rescuing from a merciless enemy, the inhabitants of an extensive and highly cultivated tract of land, stored with cattle, grain, and provisions, of every description; and it must be an exultation to them to find themselves delivered from the oppression of a lawless banditti, composed of the disaffected of the country, organised under the direct influence of the American Government, who carried terror and dismay into every family.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. MURRAY, Colonel.

To Major-General Vincent, &c. &c. &c.