

# NEUE KAMPAGNE ZEITUNG

Issue 6

## PRUSSIAN ATROCITIES REVEALED !



### SHOCKING PICTURES – “TIP OF ICEBERG”

“Pictures obtained by *Der Wiener Taglich Spiegel* clearly show the depths to which the Prussian Army has descended,” said a spokesman for the Austrian Foreign Ministry. We have reproduced here (with permission) one of these sickening images. It plainly shows a Fusilier from Regiment N° 35 (Prinz Heinrich’s) performing a truly unspeakable act.

“If only this was the sole example of Prussian beastliness it would be bad enough” continued the spokesman, “but it is the tip of an iceberg as there are numerous instances of inhuman behaviour and torture. King Frederick’s men show no respect for anyone, soldier or civilian, man or woman, adult or child. Whether it’s on the battlefield or in the town square they behave like animals. You may recall that in the previous *Zeitung* the Russians made a complaint about their dastardly booby traps outside Küstrin.”

The celebrated diplomat Count Albrecht von Zweisprech has been urgently recalled to Berlin and placed in charge of the Department for Atrocity Denial. The former Plenipotentiary at the Imperial Court refuted that there had been any misbehaviour by Prussian troops. “They might get a little boisterous when they let their hair down, a few practical jokes and that sort of thing, but that is all. The Prussian soldier is renown for his care and consideration to his fellow man wherever he goes. Why I can cite numerous examples where not even one wounded enemy was left to suffer on the battlefield.”

It should be noted that some experts have questioned the authenticity of the pictures. For example, the one shown left some commentators claim is obviously faked, as the cuff buttons are clearly of the 1749 design, now only issued to the militia.

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### Kaunitz furious at Zeitung Revelation

A chance meeting by our Vienna diplomatic correspondent with an assistant secretary, Dick O’Peranum, from the Austrian Chancellor’s Office proved very illuminating. Dick (obviously of Irish descent) was trying some strange dark (in fact black) beverage called “stout”. This was proffered by a certain Arthur Guinness, who is carrying out marketing trials with the idea of setting up a brewery to produce the stuff commercially. Though Dick seemed to like this “Guinness Stout”, our correspondent was adamant that it would never catch on and would be consigned to the dustbin of history.

Nevertheless the alcohol loosened Dick’s tongue and he confided that the Austrian Chancellor was “beside himself with rage” after reading this paper’s exposé of Austrian Foreign Policy. Dick revealed that Chancellor

Kaunitz had sent personal messages to all the Coalition members to reassure them of Austrian commitment to the current campaign against the Prussian Alliance.

“Do you know how much it costs the Treasury to maintain our Diplomatic Corps? It costs a fortune to keep our network of diplomats in the field dissembling to our allies – then some cheap amateur goes and tells the truth! We’ve managed to get nearly three-quarters of the way through this campaigning year without involving Austrian troops in a major engagement and our army remains intact. Only our allies have suffered losses.”

“We recognise honesty and straight dealing when we see it, that’s why we avoid it like the plague.” He added, “Thank God our allies take us at face value.”

# KOBLENZ FALLS TO HANNOVERIAN BESIEGERS

## FERDINAND OF BRUNSWICK VICTORIOUS AGAIN

After a month long siege, Koblenz finally fell to a combined Anglo-Prusso-Hannoverian army on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The position of the city at the confluence of the Rivers Mosel and Rhine made investing and completely blockading the site difficult but eventually the militia garrison was no match for Ferdinand's professionals. Interestingly the besieging force included a brigade of Prussians. Obviously King Frederick takes support for his ally as more than lip service.

Prinz Ferdinand (pictured right) confided in our reporter that he had been worried about his lines of supply. "Operating so far into enemy territory, our line of communication with our supply depots was very tenuous. I originally left a fairly strong force under Prinz Karl Wilhelm as well as some dispersed units to try to guard the route to Kassel. At one time Imperial Dragoons appeared near Limburg and I thought that it was a reconnaissance and that Coalition forces would appear soon after. If they had straddled the road, the siege would have to have been lifted. Fortunately it remained quiet and I took a chance and brought Karl Wilhelm's troops in to the siege lines to break the stalemate."

"Now we have Koblenz and a secure base in the heart of enemy territory, there are many more possibilities and opportunities to prosecute this campaign," he added.

When asked if this taking of Koblenz meant the end of the Franco-Hannoverian *Entente*, the Prinz just smiled. He was similarly reticent when

quizzed about the French siege train which was thought to be in the city at one time.

When questioned about the notorious Snibbonaq elixir incident, Ferdinand replied that Colonel Ferguson and forgotten to remind him.



Ferdinand of Brunswick

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## WHERE IS RUMYANTSEV ?



It is rumoured that Count Pyotr Rumyantsev (pictured left) was given a command in the Imperial Russian Army at the express orders of her Majesty Tsarina Elizabeth. It is widely believed that he is actually her half-brother, sired by her father Petr I in a liaison with Pyotr's mother, the lovely Countess Rumyantsev.

We understand this has put Marshal Saltykov in a difficult position. He wants to make sure no harm befalls the Count but the man longs for action and the chance to prove himself. Alternatively it may be that the old Marshal doesn't want the Count (said to show great potential) to achieve prominence in battle and undermine his position.

So far Saltykov has erred on the side of caution and kept Rumyantsev away from the various campaign actions of the Russians by sending him off on long patrols in areas unlikely to be dangerous. (He's probably sick of the sight of the North Polish coast by now.)

The big question is – will he face front line action?

# PRUSSIAN MILITARY PROWESS HUMBLLED AGAIN

## THIS TIME BY THE SWEDES

Further woe was poured on the former glory of Prussian arms by a battle to the north of Berlin where the Berlin-Neubrandenburg road crosses the River Havel near Oranienburg. The cream of the Prussian infantry, the Grenadier Division including two Garde battalions, encountered a Swedish force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

General Wedel commanded the six elite Prussian battalions which were supported by a regiment of dragoons and a field battery. General Hamilton led six foot battalions (including Freikorps Light Infantry and Grenadiers), a field battery and, significantly, two regiments of horse and a squadron of Cuirassiers.

General Wedel deployed his infantry and artillery in and around the village of Oranienburg and placed his Dragoons to the east (his right) between a large pond and the hill (see map below).

General Hamilton placed his line infantry to the west of the road (his right), then his Grenadiers and artillery with a screen of Freikorps in front and finally his cavalry brigade on a hill on his left.

In previous times a Prussian General would have relished such an opportunity, not so now it seems. Instead of advancing with their former *elan*, the present day Grenadiers were content to sit tight and let the Swedes take the initiative. In fact one of the Garde battalions never emerged into sight from the village for the entire battle.

The Swedish cavalry advanced, looking for a place to ford the river and the Prussian dragoons moved forward to cover this. The Freikorps moved forwards over the northern bridge.

The grenadiers and infantry followed the screening skirmishers, while the Swedish artillery moved to

the river hoping to get the Prussians in range.

The Swedish cavalry found a crossing place and poured across the Havel. The Freikorps tried to cross the southern bridge but were driven back by artillery fire. They were to try again later, but canister from the artillery devastated the battalion and its remnants ran from the field.

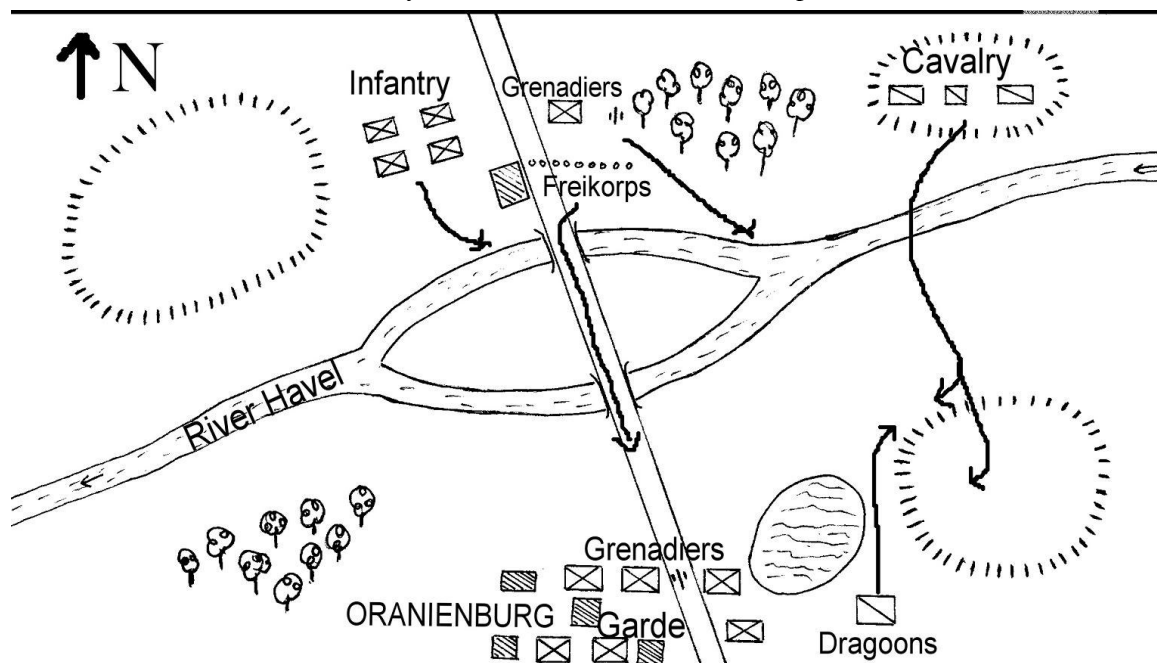
The Swedish cavalry were across the river and forming up for a charge. Finkenstein's Dragoon Regiment was not happy at the odds stacked against it but as it turned out only the first Swedish unit was required. Horse Regiment Västergötland charged home and drove Finkenstein's from the field with some considerable loss to the Prussians.

Västergötland then tried to charge the grenadier regiment behind the pond, hoping to roll up the Prussians from their rear (sounds very French). The Prussians' training and morale came in to play, as they formed square and proved to be an immovable obstacle in the cavalry's path. More so as a Garde battalion moved to support them.

As evening drew on a stalemate developed. The Swedish cavalry could not get amongst the well-drilled Prussian infantry and their own artillery was out of range to support them. The Swedish infantry declined to advance because of the attentions of the Prussian artillery and the limited avenues of approach.

A Parley was held but no particular agreement was reached. As darkness fell the second Garde battalion emerged from Oranienburg, but only to sneak away into the night with the rest of the Prussians, leaving the Swedes masters of the field.

As luck would have it, we have come by the report of General Wedel, reproduced it in full overleaf.



## General Wedel's Battle Report

Sire,

*In accordance with your orders I advanced to the banks of the River Havel. As I approached in the evening light, my scouts reported the presence of the Swedish army on the opposite bank. Their presence indicated a gathering of the forces of the alliance and I resolved to prevent them advancing further south. General Finck reported that Colonel Ritter of the Polentz Grenadiers was proposing a night attack citing their regimental motto ( Dio Noctuque Pugnamus ), but I over ruled him as I thought the troops required a rest following their hard marches of the previous days.*

*Forming up the following morning I placed the infantry in the centre together with the artillery covering the likely enemy approach across the Havel bridges. My hope was "Vi et Prudentia" to prevail. The cavalry, under the command of Maximillian von Leeb, were on my right. By mid-morning the enemy dispositions were seen and they were obviously going to use their overwhelming cavalry strength on our right. Their skirmishers advanced, probing our centre, but were repulsed by the fire of our battery.*

*Meanwhile the enemy horse had discovered fords enabling them to cross the Havel. Von Leeb had hoped to attack each unit of horse as they crossed, but with all three formed "Viribus Contactis", he could only fall back. Once his flanks were secure he did attack, but after a struggle, was overwhelmed.*

*Undaunted, the infantry held their ground, formed a flank and defied the enemy horse, forcing them to fall back outside musket range. With his infantry attack stalled and cavalry neutralised, the Swedish commander sued for parley. He said that to save further unnecessary bloodshed he would fall back to the northern bank with his infantry. When I requested that his cavalry also fall back, he refused. I was unable to force the issue and settled for what was offered.*

*Taking counsel from the senior officers several courses of action were suggested, including an immediate assault on the enemy position. To this I could but reply "Volo non Valeo". The difficulties experienced by the enemy in advancing across the river, plus the presence of their cavalry would make such a venture reckless in the extreme. Against some opposition I ordered a retreat towards our base, hoping to reunite with your force in the coming days. (Vivemus in spe).*

*May I take this opportunity to single out the meritorious actions of Captain Hart of the artillery, who carried out his duties in a truly professional manner this day. As Caesar said, actions like the one today should make us "Fortior ex arduis". I am reminded of the words of a Portuguese proverb:*

*"One must carry the awareness of defeat as a standard of victory"*

*Your obedient and humble servant*

*Klaus Von Wedel*

## Diplomatic News

### VIENNA

There seems to be a new game abroad in the corridors of diplomatic power in the city; establishing who is the most insignificant of Austria's allies. Sources say that the strong contenders at the moment are Sweden and France. The former has at last fired a shot in anger (at something other than a sheep !), but the activities of Austria's Gallic allies remain a complete mystery. Even who commands the French forces in the field is, it seems, a state secret.

The tide of events seems to be carrying a reluctant Marshal Daun to fight with Austrians rather than allies. So far the Austrian war machine has confined itself to a couple of minor skirmishes and the complete topographical rearrangement of the area around Breslau. This latter activity reversed all the prosperity gained by the region under the rule of the Prussian crown, returning many local farmers to the penury they experienced in the 1730's.

### WARSAW

The Diet today formally invited applications from candidates for the Polish crown. It was decreed that the present incumbent (the king of Saxony) had done so little to promote the prosperity of his people, or carry out his royal responsibilities that his abdication took immediate effect.

A second decree reminded neighbouring countries that Poland was a sovereign state and wished to be free of foreign intervention. All foreign troops should therefore withdraw from Polish soil and not enter again without express permission of the Polish crown.

### BERLIN

There is still confusion over the state of the declared (and postponed) elections. Several of the merchant class are particularly vocal in their opinions. The candidacy of Oberfeldwebel (retired) Krule has caused quite a stir with many supporters flocking to his conservative "Starchers Party" banner. The close siege has rallied some support to the crown, but insurance premiums are rising daily and the close proximity of the enemy is unsettling to the populace. Last Tuesday former cabinet member Butterbur chaired a public meeting which was promoting the declaration of Berlin as a "free city" for the purpose of trade. His argument that "trade was international and should not be fettered by mere national boundaries or disputes", received some attention, but as he was warming to his theme a group of protesters entered from a side door and carried him away.

## VERSAILLES

Between the festivities of the Summer Season at the palace there is much discussion over events abroad. The Marquis de St Everemond organised a soiree at which guests could engage in guessing where particular countries were on a map of Europe. This delicate entertainment (based on the vulgar peasant game in which tails; or indeed other appendages, are pinned on horses) caused much amusement. The Comte D'Alencon was disqualified on the grounds he had been educated, but the declared winner, Madame Sansculotte, managed to place her flag within 100 kilometres of the correct location of Vienna.

A second entertainment consisted of a gallery of portraits of possible army commanders. Guests were required to guess which one was the commander. Chevalier Maurice won the prize, a years tax exemption for his estates.

## ROME

His Holiness Pope Benedict XIV opened the new "Papal Peace Centre" in the Vatican City.

All the ambassadors and military attachés of the leading powers were present. The occasion was marked by a 21 gun salute and a march past by the Swiss Guard in full regalia.

## Colophon & Verso

(est 1648)

### Just in stock;-

Learn Austrian in a week

Russian for beginners

Cossack Etiquette

Property repairs for the beginner

### New titles in our slim pocket editions;-

Great French commanders of today

Examples of Prussian diplomatic subtlety

Austrian risk taking - a modern appreciation

The Swedish campaign against arson

### Clearance sale;-

Military Maxims, by His Majesty Frederick II

Cavalry manoeuvres, by Maximillian Von Leeb  
Military field works, by General Werner  
Strategic offensive; the end of confrontation, by Marshal Daun  
Anatomy of Glory, French success on the battlefield, by Duc de Richlieu

## Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I must protest most strongly at the outrageous and plainly false accusations made by Count Fermor in the previous edition of this august journal.

We are all saddened by the loss of life in whatever circumstances and that of a mere youth causes more pain. However the Coalition must bear the blame for the consequences of its unwarranted attacks on we peace-loving Prussians.

We can only surmise that young Ivanov met his untimely end because he was playing with combustible material near unused charges. To suggest that our soldiers would have left a charge with a delayed fuse is calumny of the worst order.

I can categorically state that the Prussian army would NEVER employ such a device (and anyway, ours have a much longer time delay).

Thank you for this opportunity to set the record straight.

Yours, etc

Count Albrecht von Zweisprech

Sir,

I have read with interest and empathy the complaints by the traders of Berlin. Don't these tin-pot generals realise the problems they are causing to honest hardworking businessmen? Here in Frankfurt am Main, the military regime of Sachsen-Hildburghausen has made trade nearly impossible. As well as the problems of troops garrisoned in the city we have great difficulty getting goods in and out of the city because of the limited access and military checkpoints. All we've seen is a few Hannoverian horsemen - this seems over-reaction to me.

Kurt Mahner  
Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce

## Classified Advertisements

### Missing

If any reader has information about the current whereabouts of the French Army of the Rhine or any knowledge about who in fact commands it, could they

please contact urgently and in confidence Box 803,  
Paris. Reward offered for accurate news.

**Gentlemen – Increase the Size of Your Weapon**

Doctor Strabismus' patented method for artillery  
enlargement.

After years of painstaking research, at last the good  
Doctor is ready to reveal his secrets. – Box 494,  
Leipzig.

## **SNIPPETS**

### **Kassel**

British reinforcements are reported as having reached Kassel, whose citizens have given them a very warm welcome. With all this merriment and festivities will they be up for the fight?

A chance quip from a member of the general staff reveals that these eager troops are heading South. An interview with the Colonel of a regiment of foot guards reveals that they are yet to receive the supplies of winter clothing yet the weather is liable to change before very long.

We have received a note from a young captain in one of the Scottish regiments at Kassel, he writes....  
*' Sir, we have been overwhelmed by the friendly greeting from the citizens of Kassel, all our needs have been catered for, fine food and wine and of course beef for the other ranks. In fact the whole march has been littered with such friendly, welcoming hospitality. They realise as we do that we are here to help and bring this campaign to a speedy end'.*

This newspaper can report that we have a correspondent now embedded with this British force and will report regularly with updates for these pages.

### **Vienna**

A normally reliable internal source has told us that the Austrian War Department has contacted the esteemed Doktor Alzheimer von Zimmer in an attempt to improve the cerebral facilities of the Austrian field commanders. We understand this was brought about when the Austrian Army arrived outside the walls of Berlin only to find that as well as clean underwear, they'd forgotten to pack a siege train for the journey.

"Can you imagine – travelling all that way and then finding you have no change of pants!" said our informant. "Though a rambling old Prussian soldier did offer us a packet of starch," he added.

[We also understand that the Hannoverians have referred Colonel Ferguson to the good Doktor as well.]

### **Madrid**

The death of court composer Domenico Scarlatti has been announced. Perhaps best known for his 555 keyboard sonatas, the composer died 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

### **Paris**

Recent research has shown that absenteeism is rife in the French army. "It occurs throughout the army," said a spokesman, "from the simple private right up to Marechal."

### **Hannover**

A Grand Parade by English Foot Guards to celebrate the fall of Koblenz is to take place this Saturday followed by a display of Fireworks (accompanied of course by Mr Handel's excellent music). The paper-at-see will be out in force with their quick sketch pads to record the rich and famous who will be in attendance.

### **London**

Reports from India describe a victory for the Honourable East India Company's forces under General Robert Clive against the French-backed Nawab of Bengal at Plassey.

### **Venice**

It has been reported that representatives from the Grand Porte have been negotiating with leading Venetian shipping agents for a "Grand Cruise" along the Adriatic Sea. Facilities for some 20,000 Ottoman holidaymakers were requested we understand.

### **Stockholm**

A cure for Swedish deafness??

A cure has been found for the outbreak of temporary deafness in our shepherds. After their excursion to Berlin [Swedes got there first!!] the post traumatic stress disorder of being confronted by a gigantic enemy force resulted in the shepherds being unable to hear anything except the bleating of their loved ones. However it is now spring and the rams of the Swedish army have the rising ewe syndrome.

### **Police report from Kassel**

3 English soldiers arrested for scrumping! Is this English for theft?

"They are rotten to the core," says Orchard owner, Herr Proff E. Terin

"His prices are too high," says their commanding Officer - the case continues

### **Frankfurt an der Oder.**

After his performance outside the walls of Küstrin, General Werner has been appointed as the new commander in charge of Camp Excavations - Latrine Division.

### **Bremerhaven**

Three more ships of the British Royal Navy have arrived with still more British troops. Where are they going? - the British stiff upper lip is also tight on this subject! They have been reported as having drawn Winter equipment. As the weather is clement this reporter feels that a journey to high places may be being planned. Time will tell.