

# NEUE KAMPAGNE ZEITUNG

Issue 7

## MASSIVE BATTLE NEAR BERLIN

### Many Killed and Wounded as Laudon bests Frederick

The last day of August saw the gigantic clash that many had been waiting for. The combined army of Austrian and Russian forces under General Laudon (pictured below) confronted King Frederick's Prussian army around the small hostelry of der Fischergasthof on the Berlin to Küstrin Road, some 15 miles from Berlin.



*Ernst Gideon, Count von Laudon*

The Austro-Russian Army had withdrawn from surrounding Berlin as obviously Laudon feared being taken in the rear by Frederick's relieving force. Though the advantage of numbers lay with the Coalition forces, Frederick's formidable reputation sent them scurrying to secure advantageous ground and prepare to fight a defensive battle. Indeed, we believe had the Prussian advance not been so swift and unexpected then the Austro-Russian army would have dug field fortifications.

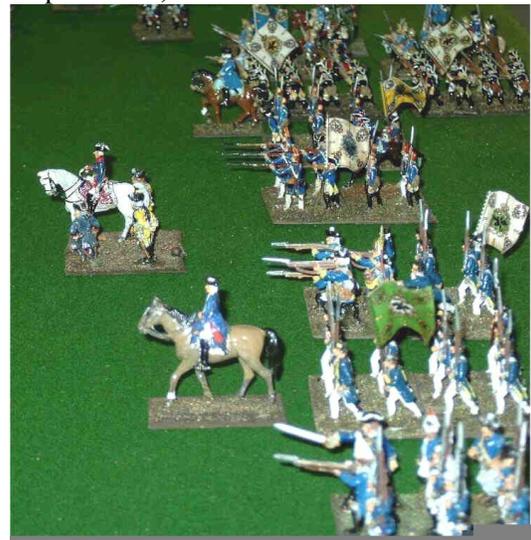
The Coalition forces made a splendid sight as they stood deployed on a long ridge facing South, awaiting the assault of the Prussians. On the low ground to their right (West) flank was the much-respected Austrian cavalry,

some two brigades and nearly all cuirassiers. Then came three divisions of white-coated infantry, amply supported by artillery. To their left, General Saltykov's Russian forces were situated to guard the road East to Küstrin. Most of their foot (a division) was placed on the ridge with the (mainly light) cavalry brigade on the plain below. The all important Russian siege train, that had recently arrived from Küstrin, was to their rear. Russian Jaegers and Pandours made ready to occupy a large wood to the front of their left flank.

King Frederick's forces arrived before this mighty array and deployed with their customary speed and efficiency. His Majesty might have been taken aback by the disparity in numbers but showed no signs of this.

He concentrated most of his forces to his left and centre, only a brigade of cavalry and a battalion of light infantry covered the right (Eastern) third of his line.

His three infantry divisions held the line from south of der Fischergasthof, behind the farm and fields and on to the Western hill. His brigade of cuirassiers took position on the left flank. (See map on page 2 for the initial dispositions.)



*Frederick leads his troops into battle*

The early clash came at the western end of the battlefield as both sides' heavy cavalry disputed control of the road to Berlin. It also seemed that Frederick was going to try a "left hook" to damage Laudon's forces but leave open the route to Berlin.

Laudon appeared to be content to keep his infantry on the ridge and only advance his cavalry and light foot and let Frederick do the early manoeuvring. Saltykov sent his light infantry into the wood to dispute possession with the Prussian Jaegers. His Cossacks stood guard to delay any flanking march from the East.

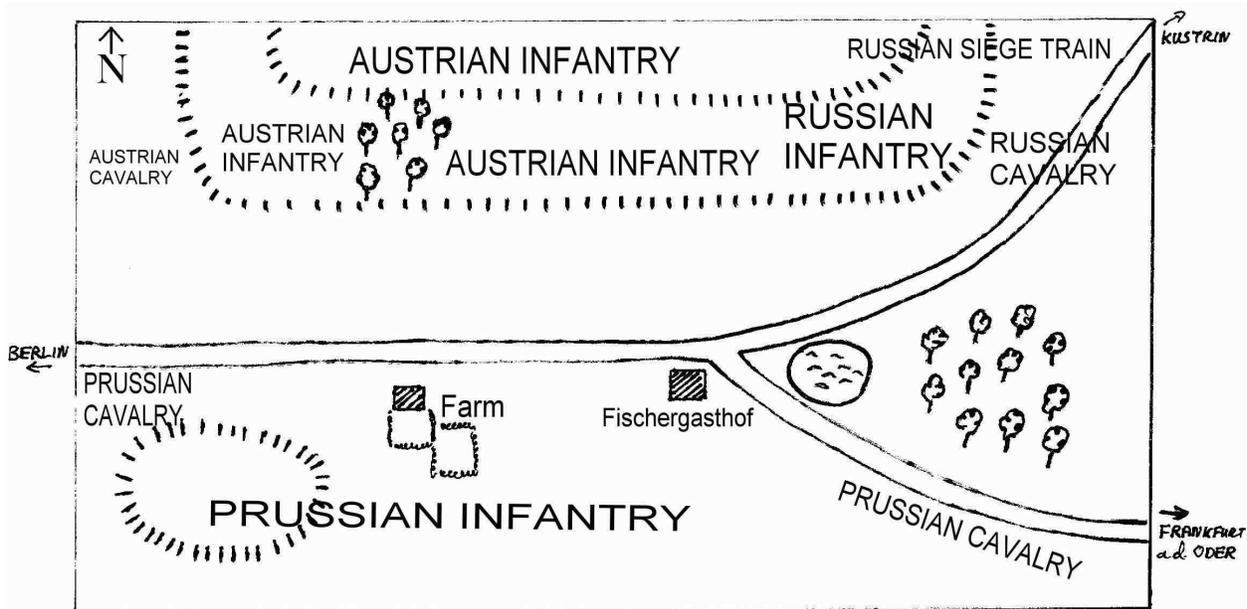
Laudon now realised that he had a decisive advantage in numbers and that if he remained passively defensive, the Prussians could relieve Berlin with their army intact. He would need to advance from his ridge to inflict a significant defeat on the enemy and prevent Frederick slipping away.

The cavalry melee on the Berlin road went Austria's way (not without loss though) but the close proximity of Prussian infantry and (more importantly) artillery meant they could not hold the position. Laudon started to shift some of his reserve infantry to his right while commencing a general advance to pin the Prussians in the centre. The Russians had evicted the Prussians from the wood and seen off their cavalry and they too began a general advance to try to envelop Frederick's right flank.



*King Frederick*

The Prussians put up a good fight and tried counter-attacking in places but numbers were against Frederick. He was forced to withdraw from the field and several of his rearguard battalions and a battery were forced to surrender to the victorious Coalition forces.



# HANNOVER TRIUMPHS AGAIN

## SAXE-HILDBURGHAUSEN CAN'T HALT MARCH ON FRANKFURT

After his success against the French at Koblenz, it seems Ferdinand of Brunswick has turned his attention towards the Imperial centre of operations at Frankfurt am Main.

Saxe-Hildburghausen attempted a sortie towards Mainz, only to run into a small Hannoverian division under General Sporcken barely 15 miles from Frankfurt.

It seems cavalry patrols had warned the Imperial General of the presence of Prince Ferdinand with a Hannoverian Corps at Mainz. Saxe-Hildburghausen found a reasonably defensible position around the village of Badstein. Here the Mainz to Frankfurt road crossed the Bachfisch Stream before passing through a line of low hills. He positioned most of his infantry (a couple of strong brigades) on the hills either side of the road with the French light gun covering the bridge. A couple of battalions were placed in hastily constructed earthworks in the village behind the bridge. The French cavalry (dragoons and chevauleger) were on his extreme left, behind a farm but in front of the stream. The Imperial dragoons were on the right of his line.

It was a nasty surprise to find that Sporcken's weak division (a couple of battalions with three cavalry regiments) had crossed the stream and was approaching the Franco-Imperial right flank. (See map).

Saxe-Hildburghausen attempted to engage and defeat Sporcken's division before the larger enemy force could come up. In turn,

Sporcken endeavoured to outflank the Franco-Imperial Corps and cut off their route of retreat back to Frankfurt and thus gain time for his commander's Corps to arrive.

The Imperial Dragoons moved forward to delay Sporcken's troops while Saxe-Hildburghausen redeployed his forces eastwards to try to deal with this threat. Even the French cavalry on the left flank were ordered across to the right.

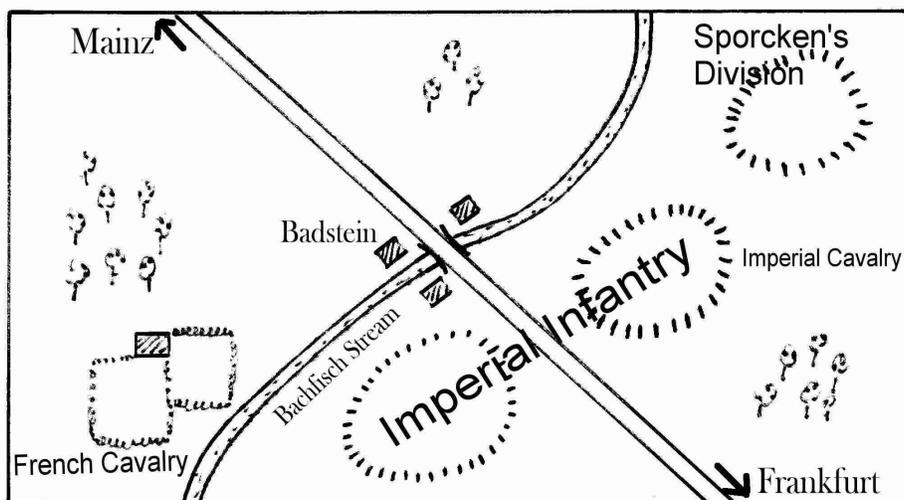
As the French cavalry were traversing the field, they were joined by another chevauleger regiment hurrying down the Mainz road. These horsemen were just ahead of Prince Ferdinand's Corps.

Initially the Hannoverian cavalry got the better of the Imperial Dragoons but could not chase them all from the field. The Dragoons rallied and counter-attacked, buying more time for support to come up. The French cavalry arrived, as did the light gun and some infantry.

Though one regiment of the French cavalry was badly cut up, the rest managed to inflict grievous damage to the Hannoverian cavalry.

The attentions of the artillery persuaded Sporcken's foot to withdraw out of range.

By now the head of Prince Ferdinand's Corps was well on its way to Badstein. The Imperial commander felt he could not successfully engage this many fresh troops and withdrew back to Frankfurt am Main. With the blocking force out of the way, Ferdinand continued his march on that city undelayed.



# 'Shock Horror Probe'

## Prussians Achieve yet New Depths of Both Duplicity and Horror !

### Weapons of Mass Defecation Deployed !!

Despite their sordid attempts to conceal their activities by disinformation about the same old style of Prussian atrocities the newly constituted Austrian Ministry of Truth is able to reveal what is really happening on The Central Front.

The illustration on the front page of the last issue purports to show a Prussian fusilier doing what the myrmidons of the despot do best - terrorising the defenceless. In fact this invaluable image captures the moment of the first deployment of a new 'vulgartungswaffen' generated by the twisted minds at the Berlin Ministry of War as the forces of retribution close in on them.

What we see, being prepared for launch, is none other than the first of the so called 'Luftpoopenpimpfen'! As collapse looms the Prussian government has reduced the age of conscription to six months and begun training these 'flying bums' or 'fleigenbotten' as the linguistically challenged have been known to call them.

The mechanism has been kept simple so that it could be rushed into production. The bayonet is replaced by a strong spring. Not visible in the picture is the soft suede "launching pad" onto which the ideologically indoctrinated infant is loaded. By quick forward motion of the musket the weapon is activated with the pink projectile speeding in a low arc over the targeted troops. At the critical moment these 'Dickekinder' void their bowels which have been previously 'loaded' with an intense diet of semi rancid baked beans 'enriched' with an internationally banned chemical additive based on senna pods!

The effect of a mass volley of these weapons on soldiers who must labour for hours to keep a white uniform clean may be readily imagined!

Suspensions are growing that the weapon also works in greater depth. Human charity has required special orphanages to be established for the captured pimpfen. Not only does this place an additional burden on the long suffering Austrian tax payer but morale is damaged by the actions of the prisoners who form up and march about with a goosestep wailing such slogans as "Fritz maken der Blitz" and "Gott Poopen Oesterreich".

Truly we live in terrible times !

## News

### Kassel

Orchard Owner Drops Case;- There seems to have been words in various ears and a few coins have changed hands! 'They're just young boys' says Herr Terrin. His two daughters are very pleased and were seen embracing the soldiers while posing for our sketch artist.

All's well that ends well. It's reported that the three are reporting back to their Regiments as they appear to be on the march.

### Munster

Three Battalions of Irish troops with a train of artillery and some Dragoons arrived today. More drink is having to be carted here from neighbouring towns and of course the price has gone up! There is now a shortage of potatoes! This War!

### Berlin

Sources close to the war office report that the king has carried out a restructuring of the senior posts within the army. A new post has been created, one that represents the forward thinking of his majesty. Aware of the importance of foreign commerce to our nation, he has created a department of external affairs within the military administration. The senior general in charge of this department will be responsible for the development of an outline strategy document which will establish the parameters of, and resources required for, the implementation of an overseas military presence. Obviously the man in charge of this project will require special skills and it was the unanimous view of the military cabinet that the best candidate was General Wedel, who so eloquently displayed his military skills in the recent battle with the Swedish army. The distinguished gentleman's erudition and linguistic skills will serve him well in this challenging post

### Hannover

The English Guards (they look too good to fight) are leaving the city - that stiff upper lip prevents me from knowing their destination but its South - that's the best I can do and that only because they left by the South Gate! Your reporter has arranged transport which is in short supply as everything on four legs has been requisitioned by the British. The two sad donkeys are a sight to see and have a smell to savour!

More Honours for Prinz Ferdinand after his capture of Koblenz; He has been granted a fresh title 'Duke of the Rhine' and an increased pension of course

### **Kassell**

The *Dear Dietrich* Column in the local newspaper has picked up the story of Herr Terrin's daughters 'His daughters, Quora and Ruffa, were distraught at their friends leaving but if rumours have any sort of foundation these new boyfriends are being replaced with the English Guards!!'

### **Press release**

Update from your embedded reporter with the English Guards: Passed through Kassel heading south, the reports and rumours are right! It's on to the Rhine to help our fellow countrymen and allies before Frankfurt! Yes its true we could see action very soon.. Wait News from the front its that man Ferdinand again. By just showing up he put the Franco-Imperials to flight as they slivered back to Frankfurt and its seems that he just missed by a few hours march, bagging the whole lot! The troops are strangely buoyant at the thoughts of not fighting the enemy but having a 'go at the Jocks' whatever that means...

### **Dresden**

The restoration works being carried out in this city and in Leipzig are progressing well.

### **Marburg**

From your reporter with the Guards; Crossing the river before Marburg the whole army has turned East! Towards the small town of Hersfeldt, Why? The commander, as usual is tight-lipped about this. A supply of Winter clothing has arrived from the company of Novak N Good. I've been told that the Guards get first pickings of the supplies and those 'Jocks' can '...freeze their bullocks off' Is this clothing for animals as well? Strange people our English allies...A further report soon by fast pigeon, just getting my ass in gear..

### **Berlin**

The authorities today announced that the present period of unrest should shortly come to an end. Representatives of His Majesty have intimated that the forces of General Wedel are expected in the city in the near future. The general's orders are to maintain an air of calm within the capital and detain any troublemakers for investigation by the appropriate authorities.

A deputation from Breslau arrived at the Ministry of the Interior today seeking information concerning the eviction of Austrian forces and the

reinstatement of the previous Prussian administration.

The Foreign Office has denied rumours , circulating amongst the Polish exiles that an agreement has been signed by His Majesty supporting the right of the Polish people to determine their own destiny. The minister has made it plain that Prussia does not feel it is right to interfere in the affairs of other states.

### **Warsaw**

There has been much speculation concerning documents which were reportedly left on a bench in the public park on the banks of the Vistula. Unconfirmed reports from those associated with the Balicki faction suggest that it proves that the Austrian plan is to annex parts of Galicia, with or without Russian support Pro-Saxon groups argue that Augustus would not allow this to happen. It is said that the king has signed a secret treaty with Britain, whereby his position as king of Poland would be guaranteed by Britain in return for Saxon troops serving with British forces overseas. Your correspondent has heard that there are secret clauses to the treaty dictating which countries would be allowed to have troops on Polish territory. Also trade agreements regarding British, Polish and Saxon goods.

The mood of the common people has been inflamed by the uncertainties in national affairs and in an attempt to establish order a motion is going to be submitted to the Diet calling for the assembly of the National Army.

### **Vienna**

A certain element of over-confidence seemed to be evident in the coffee houses of Vienna last week. Sources close to the Foreign Office were keen to tell all who would listen that the war would soon be over and the Prussian king "was finished". "Berlin will burn", the peace-loving Viennese declared. What of the future? Well the pyromaniacal tendencies seemed to have gained the ascendancy in the Austrian capital, the word from our correspondent is that General Laudon, whilst in conversation with the Russian General Saltykov, proposed an Austro-Russian campaign summed up as follows

"The next campaign is to burn Stockholm"

Perhaps the Swedish court should consider carefully their future actions, for with allies like Austria and Russia, who needs enemies?

### Late News from Berlin

Today his Majesty returned to the capital with his army. Although the combined armies of his enemies stood in his path, he forced his way through to bring hope to the beleaguered city. His first act was to call a conference with the foreign minister. He then held successive audiences with the representatives of several foreign states, prominent amongst whom were his allies from western Germany and Great Britain. His Majesty spent by far the longest time with the latter, before making arrangements to be informed of developments in Poland and Saxony.

General Eugene has been given command of the garrison under the guidance of his Majesty. The local militia has been called out to assist in preparing the defences and organising fire-fighting teams.

## LETTERS

From the Department of Information

Atrocities?

Sir,

Your last issue carried a report concerning events on our eastern border. It suggested our troops carried out barbarous acts against innocent children.

The minister feels that one or two important points were overlooked in your report.

Firstly where was the duty of care, supposedly incumbent on the officers of the regiment in which the unfortunate young lad served? Officers should look after the men under their command. How reckless is it to send a young and inexperienced lad into an area that has lately been the scene of fighting and is likely to contain unattended munitions. Surely, the task should have been given to more experienced soldiers. In addition had the necessary risk assessment procedures been carried out?

Before any apportioning of blame the necessary authorities are certain to ask for the relevant paperwork (International forms EW132 and EW 146) together with the assessments of the supervising officers and their commanders.

Secondly, what was such a young lad doing in the area in the first place. Civilized nations do not send young boys to war. Have they no age for conscription in Russia?

In this country no lad under the age of 18 is allowed in front line service, what are the arrangements in Russia?

It has been remarked by some cynical representatives of foreign powers that perhaps the officers sent the lad because he was expendable

and a "bit of a lark", a joke which "went wrong". We cannot comment other than to say we would not have acted in the same way.

Jobbes Würth

Sir

After a worrying hiatus a letter has today arrived from my son, who is, as you know, serving with the army under the command of His Majesty. I crave your indulgence once again to print the letter, as it represents the feelings our youth should hold for their country.

Franz Meyer

Father

*This is the first time in almost a month that I have had the opportunity to take time to write to you. Please pass on my love to mother and assure her that I am in the best of health. In spite of seemingly endless marches the commissariat was always at hand and every man has had plenty to eat.*

*First I must pass on good news, Lothar has been promoted to corporal in our section, this was because the previous corporal, Gunther Hess has also been promoted. All these changes began once a replacement officer arrived with the regiment. Captain Waldstein, whom I mentioned in an earlier letter, has had to be sent home on sick leave. One night, whilst on guard duty he suffered a bad fall and had the misfortune to bang his head, although no one had been able to find either what he tripped over or, what he banged his head on. His replacement is Captain Seitz, an old soldier, who served in the Silesian campaign. He seems a good man, concerned for our welfare and has carried out one act which has pleased almost the entire regiment. He has moved Feldwebel Stinck to the colour party, as senior guard to the ensign, a place of great honour, reserved only for the bravest men. The feldwebel protested he was not worthy, but Captain Seitz would have none of it and in proposing the move to the Colonel added that Captain Waldstein had personally recommended that the feldwebel be given the post in time for the next battle. Colonel Manteuffel was seemingly only too happy to agree, the only unhappy man in the regiment seemed to be feldwebel Stinck!!*

*Corporal Russ from the next platoon is concerned about Captain Seitz, saying he has the look of a man who is seeking death or glory and prefers the former to the latter. He says that he has seen that look before in officers before battle and in almost every case the officer died and so did most of his men. I cannot agree with his sentiments, the captain has a fire in his eyes and a desire to do his duty and is constantly reminding the men that they should "behave like a true soldier, upholding truth, justice and honour.*

*Yesterday we saw the Austrian army for the first time. They were encamped on a long ridge overlooking the valley. There were dozens of regiments and countless batteries of guns. If we are to fight them tomorrow, as seems likely, because the king called all the generals to his tent last night, then it will be a bloody day, perhaps worse than the battle against the Russians earlier. Rumours are circulating that the Russian army is also ahead of us, but the men are undaunted, we have beaten them once and can do so again.*

*Later...*

*Well Lothar has just been to see me and there will be a battle tomorrow. The men are busy preparing themselves, extra ammunition has been issued and also extra food rations. Tomorrow will be a decisive day for our country and be assured father that I will do my duty.*

*Your son*

*Fritz*

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## **The Truth Will Out!**

The editor and publishers of Neue Kampagne Zeitung wish to apologise for the late publication of this issue.

This was due in no small part to the attempts by certain of the "Crowned Heads of Europe" to censor the hard hitting but accurate reporting this journal is renown for.

Our team of correspondents has built up an enviable reputation for factual and informed journalism using only the most respected and reliable sources recognised for their honesty and integrity.

This was obviously unwelcome for certain governments who found that too much truth finding its way into the Public Domain was a threat to their political machinations. Thus various "Boards of Public Safety" and so on, dispatched their Gendarmerie in an effort to locate and silence this very journal.

We are happy to report that these clumsy attempts at "Information Control" have failed miserably. However the attentions of these unwelcome investigators meant the offices and printing presses of the Zeitung had to be relocated more than once. This of course led to some delays in getting this issue out and much recent news has been held over to the next edition to prevent further delay.

Rest assured, dear readers, we will maintain our well-established reputation with the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of fair play.

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

For Sale; Pontoon Bridge, only one owner and used only once. Best offers to the Garrison Commander, Koblenz

For Sale; - German/Russian dictionaries. No longer required. Special price for bulk purchases. Box 449, Vienna.

For Sale;- Combat Manual (in French). Mint condition, never used. Apply Prince De Broglie, Box 283, Köln.

Advert reproduced from the BAOR The British Army on the Rhine, news sheet, Wanted; Volunteers for garrison Duty at Koblenz, only those with heart and balls need apply. Preferably their own not anything that's being lying around for a bit!

Situation Vacant – Negotiator, with proven track record. Apply in confidence to Box 308, Frankfurt am Main.

Wanted - Loads of Bullocks! In fact anything with 4 legs really! Transport animals required - Best Prices given. Contact BAOR headquarters, Kassel

### **Translations**

We understand that those who did not benefit from a classical education may have had difficulties with General Wedel's dispatch reported in the last issue. For these readers we offer the following.

VIRIBUS CONTACTIS - With gathered strength

VIVEMUS IN SPE - We live in hope

VOLO NON VALEO - I am willing but unable

FORTIOR EX ARDUIS - Stronger from difficulties

VERSA EST IN CINERES - It is turned into ashes

DIO VOLENDO IO LO FARO - God willing I will do it

DIO NOCTUQUE PUGNAMUS - We fight by day and night

VI ET PRUDENTIA By fame and prudence