

NEUE KAMPAGNE ZEITUNG

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SPECIAL EDITION

BERLIN SURRENDERS !

Russian Gunners Prove Their Worth Again

King Frederick's capital is now in the hands of the triumphant Austro-Russian Army of Generals Laudon and Saltykov. Once again the Russian artillerymen (one pictured right) and engineers of their siege train showed they knew their business. After the rapid reduction of the fortress of Küstrin in late May (it seemed the Russians gunners had barely unpacked their equipment and set their batteries before it fell) they were out to prove that was no fluke.

It did take them a week longer, but a fortnight is not bad to capture the enemy's capital. Perhaps Laudon felt the Austrian siege train was not up to the efficient and effective professionalism of Saltykov's men (or perhaps he just didn't want to risk his guns). Whatever it was, the Russians deserve all credit for the fall of Berlin. The Austrians' half-hearted blockade of the city (they never even bothered about the western side) hardly merits equal billing.

So on Sunday 2nd October, General Eugene (the so recently appointed Garrison Commander, see previous issue) was forced to surrender not only the city and its militia garrison but also a siege train and his brigade from the field army. Presumably the King felt that the city garrison needed "stiffening" with regular units (especially after the debacles at Küstrin and Breslau) but it seems even the presence of regular troops can't make Prussians hold on to a city.

It was widely put about that Frederick himself was still in Berlin. Extensive searches and interrogation of citizens and soldiery by the Coalition Occupation Force (COF) have so far failed to locate the King.



Thus far there have been few reports of atrocities committed by the COF soldiers though we have heard that the Croats of the Karlstädter and Warasdiner Regiments are said to be "out of control". An (as yet) unconfirmed account says that an old Prussian soldier was shot out of hand by a Hussar from Baranyay's Regiment.

It seems the ex-Feldwebel thrust a packet of starch in the cavalryman's face shouting "If we'd used this on our underpants then you'd still be outside the city". This was obviously too much for the Hussar

(Austrian Hussars only wear undergarments of the softest silk so as not to chafe their delicate skin). He took out his pistol and dispatched the old-timer. [*We will endeavour to confirm this shocking report*]

The big question is "How will this effect King Frederick's plans and the course of the war?"

It seems the Austrian high command in the city is still unaware of the whereabouts of the remaining Prussian field forces or how much of a threat they pose. At the moment it appears that Frederick's ambitious plan to annexe Saxony with his pre-emptive strike has not achieved the success he hoped for. Though he captured and still holds both Dresden and Leipzig, the Saxon Elector still controls Erfurt and the rest of his realm. Balanced against this is the loss of Breslau, Küstrin and now Berlin, the scales seem heavily tipped against the Prussian King.

FRANKFURT UNDER SIEGE

IMPERIAL ARMY BOTTLED UP IN CITY

Subsequent to the Battle of Badstein, as predicted in the last issue of this journal, Prince Ferdinand continued on to Frankfurt am Main and commenced siege operations forthwith. Obviously as the campaigning season draws to a close, speed is of the essence. Saxe-Hildburghausen had retreated into the city and was no doubt surprised (as was our correspondent) to find a Hannoverian force arriving on the south side of the Main as well, blocking the road out to Heidelberg.

Reports are coming in that Ferdinand's troops are spreading far and wide to seek secure and comfortable winter quarters (and to deny them to the ReichsArmee).

Meanwhile it seems the French Army is mainly content to stay on the west bank of the Rhine (or too scared to venture on to the eastern side). There was a report of a French brigade appearing outside Koblenz (perhaps they hadn't heard it had been captured) but they apparently left soon after.

The Imperial high command had taken steps in the preceding weeks to hang on to Frankfurt. Many citizens had been pressed into improving the defences and martial law has been imposed (to the distress of trade in the city). Whether these draconian actions will succeed in keeping the Hannoverians out of the city until winter sets in will no doubt be revealed in the next few weeks.

It seems that the Imperial Commander was hoping for Austrian aid to help him keep the Hannoverian threat at bay. It seems his trust in his Hapsburg ally was seriously misplaced. The troops of the Empress-Queen are currently enjoying themselves in the Prussian Capital (thanks to the Russians). Kaunitz is quite content that the diversion created by the ReichsArmee and French forces has prevented Ferdinand of Brunswick joining with King Frederick to deliver a mortal blow to Maria-Theresa's ambitions.

CONGRESS OF ANTWERP ANNOUNCED POPE INTERCEDES IN ATTEMPT TO END WAR IN EUROPE

His Holiness the Pope, Benedict XIV, (pictured right) has been much distracted by the constant conflict raging across Europe (and indeed spilling out over the whole world). Well respected for his wish to avoid confrontation and the use of mediation, he has used his good offices to bring together the combatants for a "crisis" meeting.



The city of Antwerp has been designated the meeting place and all the leading powers have been invited to attend in early November. His Holiness hopes that his wishes will be respected by all sides. His previous recognition of the Kingdom of Prussia and his high standing with the Austrian Empress (who called him the "*sage par excellence*") makes him ideal as an unbiased facilitator.

SNIPPETS

News of a Postal Strike?

Well, *the* horse has gone lame and such is the scarcity of transport that it cannot be replaced. Young men between the ages 6 to 13, otherwise any older they would be in the army, are being 'placed' in various parts of the area to act as 'relay' runners to get the post through. "Its good work-experience" reports the mayor of Lippstadt. However the said mayor, one Hans Kneesaboomsedasy, is reported to be governor of several homes for destitute ladies and of course their offspring, which are legion! Your Government is paying a levy for each boy so employed, to their parent or their guardian, which of course in this sad case is the mayor. He was not available for comment or for a 'sitting' with our quick sketch artist. I'm sure this story of corruption in high places will run and run, no pun intended of course. The investigative journalistic duo of Aro Flotsum and Cathy Persifik will give you the plain facts in future editions.

Bremen is clapped out! Alarming news as many brothels, bier-kellers and other notorious hostelries are reporting a down turn in business. Well the English have moved out! However the BLVA (Bremen Licensed Victuallers Association) have received reports that several ships of the British Royal Navy are expected in Bremerhaven soon - what will they be carrying?