

TO HIS EXCELLENCY CZAR ALEXANDER I, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THE ONGOING PROGRESS OF OUR TROOPS IN REMOVING THE MONSTER NAPOLEON FROM THE LANDS HE HAS SO RUTHLESSLY RAVAGED. BUT THAT THE LOCAL POPULACE HAD SHOWN THE METTLE AND DETERMINATION OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WHEN THEY DISPATCHED LA GRANDE ARMEE FROM THE LANDS OF HOLY MOTHER RUSSIA.

WE AWOKE ON 23RD OCTOBER 1813 TO A THICK MIST RENDERING OUR SUPERB ARTILLERY INEFFECTIVE FOR MUCH OF THE MORNING. THE ENEMY WERE RUMOURED TO HAVE RETREATED TO THE VILLAGE OF ADLERHAFEN AND TO HAVE TAKEN UP A SECURE POSITION WITH THEIR ARTILLERY ON DER ALTE MANN. UPON THE ORDERS OF OUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF, GENERAL GRAF VON AUGSBURG, I WAS INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND OF DER ALTE MANN AND PREVENT THE FRENCH FROM SUPPORTING THEIR FORCES TO THE WEST OF GRÖSSEGRUNEWALD. A STRANGE TACTIC CONSIDERING OUR STRENGTH OF NUMBERS AND EXPERIENCE COMPARED WITH THE VIRGIN PRUSSIAN BRIGADES WHO WERE TASKED WITH THE ASSAULT UPON THE TIEFEFLÜSS BRIDGE.

HAMPERED BY THE WEATHER AND LACK OF VISIBILITY THE REGIMENTS OF ARKHANGELROD, AZOV, VYATKA AND NOVGOROD ADVANCED IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF ADLERHAFEN. THE PATH WAS EXTREMELY POOR AND SURROUNDED BY DEEP CREVASSES, WOODS AND RIVERS. OUR PROGRESS WAS SLOW DUE TO THE TERRAIN, LEAVING OUR TROOPS DISORDERED FOR MUCH OF THE ROUTE. WITH THE MIST GRADUALLY LIFTING WE APPROACHED THE VILLAGE AND WERE IMMEDIATELY VOLLEYED UPON BY THE COMBINED FIREPOWER OF TWO VETERAN ENTRENCHED FRENCH REGIMENTS. WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR 12 POUNDER BATTERIES AND THE AUSTRIANS ASSAULTING FROM THE SOUTH WE SUCCESSFULLY PLACED THE TOWN UNDER RUSSIAN CONTROL . WE ACCEPTED THE SURRENDER OF THE BRAVE REMNANTS OF THE FRENCH 80TH LINE, ALL OTHER DEFENDERS HAVING FLED TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE GRÖSSEGRUNEWALD WOODS. UPON SECURING THE TOWN THE WAY WAS CLEAR FOR OUR CAVALRY TO ADVANCE. KEEN TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY, YOUR COSSACKS OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD AND LITOVSKI UHLANS FOLLOWED A NARROW PATH TO THE EAST OF ADLERHAFEN AND EMERGED WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE FRENCH SKIRMISHERS AND THE REAR OF THEIR ARMY. BUT FOR THE TERRAIN AND OUR DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SPACE TO MOVE INTO LINE WE WOULD HAVE SMASHED THE RETREATING FRENCH AND ROUTED THEM ALL THE WAY BACK TO PARIS.

PROGRESS IN SECURING DER ALTE MANN WAS SIMILARLY HAMPERED BY THE WEATHER. THE 10TH JAEGER NAVIGATED A PASSAGE THROUGH THE WOODS

OF BLOZZEHOLZ AND DELIVERED AN INITIAL VOLLEY UP THE STEEP SLOPES OF DER ALTE MANN UPON THE FRENCH ARTILLERY BEFORE BEING REPULSED. CONTINUOUS HARASSMENT FROM THE SMOLENSK DRAGOONS AND WITH THE ENEMY FOCUSED UPON RAINING THEIR SHELLS UPON OUR ADVANCING INFANTRY ON ADLERHAFEN, THE WAY WAS CLEAR FOR THE PAVLOV AND KIEV GRENADIERS TO TAKE THE HILL. ALL FOUR FRENCH 12 POUNDERS AND THEIR DIVISIONAL COMMANDER MARSHAL MACDONALD WERE CAPTURED IN THE ENSUING FIGHT. THE HILL WAS OURS DESPITE SOME FRENCH SNIPING FROM THE WOODS AND SPORADIC ATTEMPTS FROM SOME FRENCH SQUADRONS TO REGAIN THE GROUND. WITHIN AN HOUR THE 24TH HORSE ARTILLERY HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF THE GUNS AND WAS PREPARING TO SUBDUCE THE REMAINING FRENCH WHEN ONCE AGAIN THE WEATHER TURNED AND OUR VISIBILITY WAS REDUCED TO 50 FEET.

THE TERRAIN DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO THE MASSED CHARGES OF THE MOUNTED COSSACK DIVISION AND THEY REMAINED LARGELY DISENGAGED THROUGHOUT THE BATTLE. SPECIAL MENTION SHOULD BE MADE HOWEVER OF THE PSKOV CUIRASSIERS WHO DESPITE SUSTAINING LOSSES THROUGH SKIRMISH FIRE, PRESSED ON UPON THE FRENCH SQUARES. SUPERB SHOOTING FROM THE COMBINED BATTERIES OF THE AUSTRIANS AND THE RUSSIAN 25TH BRIGADES DROVE THE OCCUPANTS FROM THE WALLED MANOR OF SIGMUNDSHAUS.

OUR LOSSES WERE BUT A TRIFLE WITH MORALE HIGH AMONGST ALL BUT THE MOST INEXPERIENCED OF REGIMENTS. OUR BATTLE HARDENED ASTRAKHAN AND MOSCOW GRENADIERS FOUGHT WITH THEIR RENOWNED DETERMINATION AND THE NEWLY RECRUITED MOSCOW MILITIA IMPRESSED.

IN YOUR SERVICE

PRINCE ANDREI