

NEUE KAMPAGNE ZEITUNG

Issue 1

Please note our new title -The editor is indebted to Herr Stikkler von Worterbuch of Grossen Bad-Aspenpayne for his assistance in setting the record straight.

IT'S WAR (or is it?)

Persistent rumours are bouncing around the central European courts talking of preparations for war. First among these is the Prussian court of Frederick II. It seems that a scarcely veiled mobilisation of the army has been going on of late and the only point of discussion is not whether the army will march but where. However the Prussian propaganda machine did issue the following press release.

Is war imminent?

Crisis on the Elbe

It is well known that our gracious king and his ministers have laboured long and hard for peace in Europe. Now we know that the Habsburg Harridan is anxious to inflict further pain on this continent. It has been reported recently in the Dresdener Zeitung that pressure has been brought to bear on the noble king of Saxony to abandon neutrality and subsume his forces within those of the Dominatrix of the Danube.

When will the over-mighty Habsburgs cease their war-mongering and bullying of smaller states? Who will stand up for the gallant states of the Holy Roman Empire?

His majesty has in the past proved an enlightened ruler, is this another crusade which will be thrust upon him by the machinations of the two meddling monarchs of Austria and Russia. The empress of Russia is massing her troops in the west of her dominions and is rumoured to have gone to the lengths of releasing her favourite officers from their 'royal duties' in order that they may accompany their regiments to the front.

It is indeed a cruel world where this small, but proud country can be the target of the aggression of two such 'mighty' empires and two wicked women.

YES IT IS !

Even while the Prussian diplomats were putting out the above "Peace Statement" we understand that orders had been despatched to the King's Generals to implement a pre-arranged plan for the invasion of Saxony. In a show of typical thoroughness several different forces using various routes crossed the border into Saxony intent on annexing that country.

DRESDEN THE TARGET

As is typical of King Frederick, he did not even have the courtesy to declare war. His pre-emptive strike successfully catching his opponents unprepared. Several of the columns came together outside the walls of the fair city of Dresden. A mighty siege train was emplaced and a fearsome bombardment commenced. Outnumbered and outgunned, it was just a matter of time before the city succumbed.

DRESDEN FALLS

It took the mighty Prussian war machine a mere three weeks to achieve their objective. It appears that appeals to Austria for help were largely ignored. Merely a brigade of light troops being sent to "show the flag" but hardly deflecting the Prussians from the job in hand as it retreated in front of Frederick's men.

WHERE ARE THE RUSSIANS?

The main question at the moment, for both the Austrians and the Prussians, is the location and intentions of the Czarina's troops. Little has been heard as yet but surely they must appear somewhere soon.

Similarly, little has been heard from the Western theatre, though we do know that the renowned Prussian diplomat, Count Albrecht von Zweisprech, has been sent by his King to the Empire.

ENGAGEMENT AT PIRNA

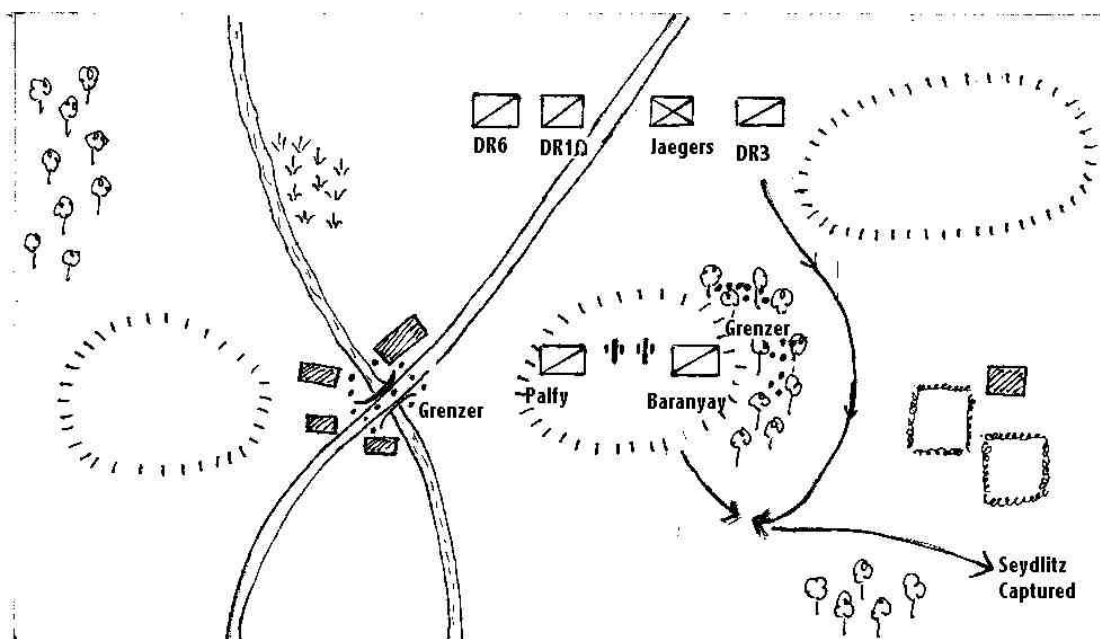
By a fluke, the Austrian display of solidarity with the Saxons did achieve a minor success when it found favourable ground and turned on the pursuing Prussian dragoons and jaegers just outside Pirna. General Seydlitz left his Kuirassiers in Dresden and set off at the head of three Dragoon Regiments (N°3 von Meinicke, N°6 von Shorlemer and N°10 von Finkenstein) together with 1st Battalion of the Jaeger Korps.

The wily Austrian Nadasti fell back until the road passed through a low ridge of hills and crossed a small river at a village just north of Pirna. He positioned his two Hussar Regiments (von Baranyay and Palfy/Kalnocky) either side of his two light guns on a hill overlooking the road he had just retreated along. He also had three battalions of Grenz troops and his position was further strengthened by placing one (Karlstadter Likaner) in a village to his left and the others (Karlstadter Oguliner and Warasdin Creutz) in a wood which bounded the hill on the right.

The galling fire from Nadasti's guns forced von Seydlitz into action. The Baron himself led an outflanking force of von Meinicke's Regiment around the wood on the right flank of the Austrian gun line whilst the others pinned the enemy. The concealed grenzer

troops then revealed themselves with a crashing volley as the horsemen went by, emptying a good many saddles in the process. Nadasti withdrew his Hussars to the rear of the hill, trusting the artillery to keep the main Prussian line at bay and then charged the flanking force with Baranyay's regiment. This was the time Seydlitz needed to be personally leading his men, for the Prussian mettle failed at the crucial time. Surely von Meinicke's men would not have hesitated and been caught at the halt by the Hussars if the noble Baron had been at their head? Even so it seemed the Prussians had held the charge as a bitter and protracted melee ensued before the Dragoons broke. In the pursuit the rampant Hussars annihilated the Dragoon regiment and captured the Baron. This is the second time in consecutive campaigns that Seydlitz has been captured and the third time in his career. It is probably indicative of his "Vorwaerts" attitude that leaves him open to such risk.

In some ways it is surprising to find him "in the saddle" again, as after his treatment by the Prussian high command after the Battle of Leipzig, it was thought his retirement from a military career was final. This journal has managed to come by an article (see page 3) from the archives of our sister publication, previously suppressed by the authorities which perhaps explains much.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

"CALL ME MISTER", SAYS BARON SEYDLITZ

Baron Seydlitz was shocked to hear that Prince Heinrich thought so little of him. It seems that an honourable offer by the Austrians to exchange the Prussian Cavalry General has been turned down flat by the haughty Prince. After years of loyal service to the Royal Family, this came as a body blow to the veteran campaigner. "In my younger days his Majesty the King exchanged a higher ranking officer for me, now it appears his Highness the Prince feels me not even worth a private." The brave General was captured at the head of his cavalry during the recent Battle of Leipzig while, it must be said, the cowardly Prince was scuttling off the field to save his own hide.

Within the mighty walls of Leipzig, however, the bold cavalryman was shown more respect by his captors. Indeed Feld Marschal Leopold von Daun (the magnificent victor of the engagement) has several times invited Seydlitz to dine with him and talk over former battles. This honourable reception by his captors and the disgraceful contempt shown by his former commander has convinced the General to retire from his military career. The offer of a small estate near Salzburg was also a consideration we believe.

"Yesterday I was General von Seydlitz, today I am Herr Seydlitz, tomorrow I will be farmer Freddie," said the disgruntled ex-commander. We understand that the exchange was not one way. The Austrian cavalry has been involved in an intense training program to fight and charge, we believe, in the "Prussian Manner". As yet, our military correspondent has been unable to ascertain what this means due to the curtain of secrecy surrounding these manoeuvres but hopes to have something about the charge in this column soon.

We wonder if King Frederick will be more willing to get the good Baron back this time or whether Seydlitz will take up farming permanently. However given his record any return from captivity will probably be temporary.

To Let – Fine gentleman's accommodation close to centre of Berlin and cavalry barracks. Owner unexpectedly travelling abroad for some time. Initially short term let, but will consider renewal. Furnished to exacting standards, ample wine cellar. Prospective clients should in the first instance contact the firm of Pfalz, Pfalz and Pfalz, Linden Strasse, Berlin.

Wanted - Set of maps of Central Europe, especially Poland, Pommerania and Silesia. Also good quality and reliable compasses. Contact Russian High Command, St Petersburg.

Business Oppotunity

By authority of the Comptroller of the Royal Household. Tenders are required for the supply of snuff to the Royal Family. This is a supplementary tender occasioned by an unexpected shortage. Snuff will be required in several strengths and must be supplied in waterproof, airtight boxes of no more than 3inches by 3 inches by 1 inch.

Situations Vacant

Wanted - Generals of Character and Ability. Good remuneration. Please apply to Prince Saxe etc etc etc, The Court, Nurnberg.

Events

The Officers of the 14th Regiment of Foot invite any interested party to the 3rd Colonel Stumpf Memorial Lecture to be held at the Potsdamer Hall, tonight at 8pm. The lecture is entitled "Travels in Silesia – bringing Order out of Chaos". The revered Colonel, was, of course, instrumental in the success of the 1740 campaign. His career was brought to an untimely end by the unfortunate juxtaposition of several cases of excellent wine, a certain lady of quality, a medieval pole arm and his penchant for enjoying a swim in the moonlight.

Help Required

Anybody know the French for "Send your Army over the Rhine"? None of my French contacts seem to understand my efforts. Prince Saxe, Nurnburg