

NEUE KAMPAGNE ZEITUNG

Issue 9

Tits Picture - See Page Three

FRITZ MANAGES MINOR VICTORY NEUBRANDENBURG SURRENDERS TO PRUSSIAN SIEGE DESPERATE SWEDISH ATTACK BEATEN OFF

Despite rumours of his continued presence in Berlin, the Prussian King had led his remaining field army out of the city to strike at his weakest adversary. In an attempt to salvage something from the disastrous campaign he initiated, Frederick had headed North (apparently by a circuitous route) and made for Neubrandenburg.

Arriving outside the Swedish fortress on the 28th September, the siege batteries were deployed and emplaced and opened fire a week later. The garrison commander almost immediately surrendered (on 9th October) barely a week after Berlin had similarly capitulated.

It seems General Hamilton, having languished about in Pomerania-Mecklenberg since his victory at the River Havel, was taken by surprise by this move. His frantic attempt to relieve the siege was thwarted by the rapid success of the Prussians.

Arriving just a couple of days after the fall of Neubrandenburg, he found the Prussians in control of the fortress but their siege train still outside being packed up. He was also the wrong side of the enemy from his supply depot in Stralsund.

It appears that King Frederick offered a truce and was even prepared to hand back the fortress (no doubt on severe terms) to avoid further effusion of blood. The Swedish High Command were having none of this affront to Sweden's military prowess (or perhaps they did not trust Fritz's word). In a face saving gesture, Hamilton was ordered to capture the Prussian guns, or at least break through to make his way to Stralsund.

Even the sketchy intelligence available to the Swedish commander indicated that this would be a hazardous task. The Prussians had a Corps of about three (albeit weak) infantry divisions with cavalry and artillery support. Grenadiers and Cuirassiers were reported within the force. The Swedes could only

muster a line infantry brigade plus a battalion of grenadiers, a field battery and a cavalry brigade. The only glimmer of hope was that part of the Prussian forces would be involved in securing the recently acquired fortress.

Another problem was that in their rush to save Neubrandenburg they had entered an area to the South of the city that was bounded to the West by the seven mile long Tollense (Lake Tollense). Even a breakout could only be achieved to the North or Northeast. On top of this Hamilton was against Frederick himself.

The Prussian siege guns were in a protected battery on a small hill just to the West of the Berlin to Neubrandenburg road as it approached the fortress. Frederick had placed his Grenadier Brigade (four battalions) and a howitzer to protect this valuable asset. To their left (East) was a field battery and then a second strong brigade of five line battalions with their own light gun. Supporting this was cavalry on either wing. A Dragoon Brigade on the far right (Western) end and a Cuirassier Brigade on the other.

Hamilton decided to concentrate his forces against the Prussian right and so deployed to the West of the road, around the farm and field. His cavalry brigade was on his extreme left to the West of the farm. His field artillery was just to the East of the field with the line infantry brigade to its right. The right flank was held by the Pommern Grenadiers in column. (See map over page for starting positions.)

The Swedish cavalry swept forward hoping to take advantage of their slight local numerical advantage before the Prussian left wing horse could intervene. Horse Regiment Västergotland took on Von Finkenstein's Dragoons (Regt N° 10) while Dragoon Regiment Ostergotland and the Cuirassiers of Skvadron Adelsfahn took on Von Shorlemer's Dragoons (Regt N° 6).

Von Finkenstein's men had been soundly beaten by the Västergotlanders at the Havel and had never really recovered their strength and will. The Swedes again inflicted terrible execution on them and drove them from the field. However Von Shorlemer's troopers were made of sterner stuff and repulsed both of the Swedish units fighting them.

Both victorious cavalry regiments now turned on one another for the deciding round. The Swedish horsemen won the melee and the Prussian cavalrymen fled back along the face of the hill occupied by their Grenadiers and siege guns.

A lucky shot from the Swedish field battery had discomfited one of the Prussian grenadier battalions who pulled back out of position, requiring King Frederick himself to bring them back into line. The Swedish foot moved resolutely forward and the Prussian left was still some moves away.

It seemed a glimmer of hope had appeared for the Swedes and their triumphant horse set off to outflank the left of the Prussian hill position. What a disappointment was in store for them as they found both battalions of the Garde hidden in the lee of the hill. An assault on the siege guns now looked all but impossible but perhaps there was still a chance to escape.

The Prussian Grenadier Brigade moved forward from the hill to try to pin the advancing Swedes. In a remarkable show of musketry, two line battalions of Swedes

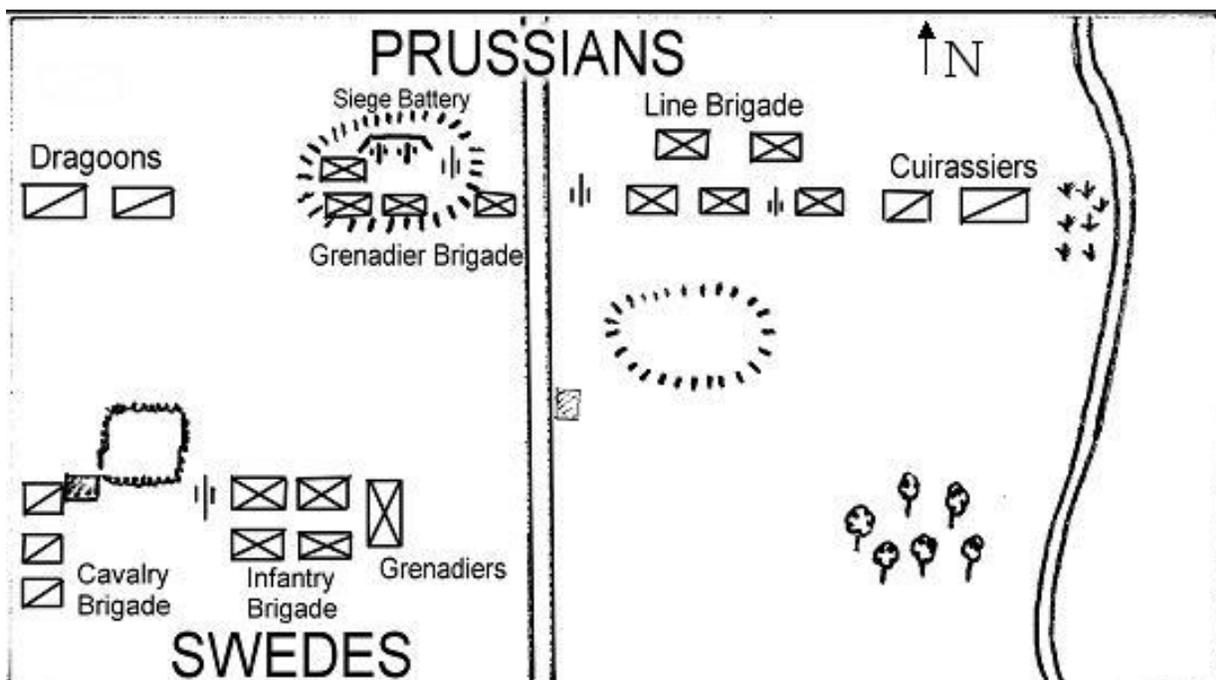


outshot three Prussian grenadier battalions by five to one! However this was the high water mark for the plucky Swedes.

The Prussian battery now had them in range, Von Shorlemer's dragoons had returned and the Prussian left wing troops were closing in. A deadly salvo of canister saw off the returning Prussian Dragoons but the pressure from the Grenadiers and the field and howitzer batteries caused Swedish units to fall back one after another.

Hamilton prepared to make a stand around the farm but a deadly charge by Von Buddenbock's Cuirassiers shattered the remaining Swedish cavalry and cut off any hope of withdrawal. Sadly the Swedish commander surrendered to prevent any further needless effusion of blood.

The day, and Neubrandenburg belonged to King Frederick.

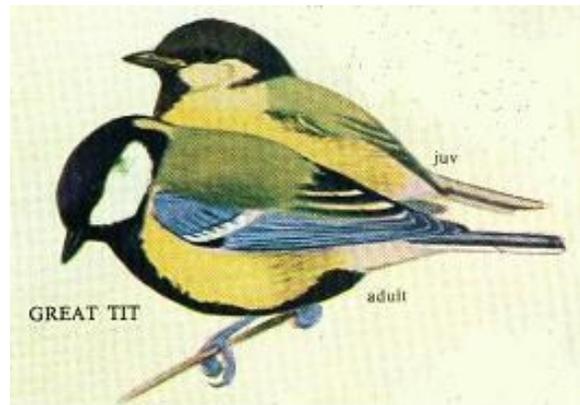


A PAIR OF GREAT TITS

Pictured specially for Major Gruntfuttock

Never let it be said that we do not respond to the wishes and criticism of our readers.

(The Major's further request for a nice beaver has presented our artist with some difficulty as the creature refuses to keep still while it's painted. We may have to resort to nailing it to the floor.)



Berlin Bywords

The new administration of the capital is making itself felt. Rather than use the plentiful barrack accommodation constructed by his Majesty, the occupying powers have decided "in their wisdom" to institute a eastern european version of the detested *dragonnade*. No doubt influenced by their erstwhile western allies, the Austro-Russians have seemingly decided that oppression rather than conciliation is the way to win over the populace.

Not all Berliners exhibit the same antipathy to their "visitors". The gaudily costumed light cavalry of the Tsar do not seem to lack for partners at the impromptu "soirees" taking place at the Royal palace. Nor, it seems, does General Fermor. Disdaining the aloof manner of his colleague Saltykov, he has enthusiastically thrown himself into the social life of Berlin. The general is regularly seen in the company of Countess W....., a lady of great experience, who has taken it upon herself to guide the general through the unfamiliar waters of Berlin society.

News has been received concerning the ex cabinet member Augustus Butterbur. Readers may remember that Herr Butterbur spoke out against the war and actively campaigned for a peace, so that trade could recover. He was mysteriously spirited away from a public meeting some months ago, but yesterday he was seen by your correspondent in the company of several Austrian officers. A vigorous debate was in progress, involving copious gesticulations. The subject under "discussion" could not be discovered; none of the parties concerned wishing to be interviewed. Rest assured that your correspondent, with the editor's approval, will continue to follow this story.

One of the main topics of conversation within the well-known hostelry the "Grand Duke" on Monday last was, where is his Majesty and the

army.? Most, if not all of those present believed that his Majesty was in residence at the palace, trying to organise the defence of the city. The army was last seen heading west under General Dohna, but nothing has been heard for a month.

The conduct of General Eugene was also a matter for debate. The principal question seemed to be "Why Eugene?" He was chosen by his Majesty, but his past record was not one to inspire confidence. His previous command had been the garrison of Breslau and look what happened there. He had "disappeared" for weeks, with no one at army headquarters knowing his whereabouts. Now, less than a month after assuming responsibility for the capital, and having the garrison reinforced, the city falls, seemingly without a fight. Some of the less charitable debaters, (often those with several empty flagons behind them), pointed out that there was an Austrian general of the same name, and wasn't that a coincidence!

General Wedel, the recently appointed commander of overseas forces has found time within his onerous schedule to visit the new city commander General Saltykov. Reports suggest that his interest lay not within the military sphere, discussions on these topics may have led to some unease on both sides, but on matters Byzantine. Ever keen to broaden his knowledge, General Wedel has asked for copies of the works of Alexius Commenius and our information is that General Saltykov has sent back a report to Moscow including the request. How refreshing it is in this period of brutal conflict that one of our senior commanders can find the time to pursue the lamp of the enlightenment.

The principal public concern is that of what the future holds. The price asked of his Majesty for the return to him of his capital is certain to be high. How high the conference at Antwerp will decide.

SNIPPETS

Not much news from our embedded reporters in the Anglo-Hannoverian forces as there has been a bit of a clampdown on information. Why? What's afoot... apart from a brawl between some guards and these 'Jocks' persons over a footybally match (don't think we Germans should take up such a silly game). There is not much to report and no gossip at all except for a paternity case being filed by an irate orchard owner!

Miraculous Survival. The shooting of a Berlin citizen by an Austrian Hussar (reported in the last issue) did not lead to loss of life. The victim, Feldwebel Karl Krule, was indeed shot squarely in the chest. Luckily it was not only his underpants that were starched – all his underclothes were similarly treated – including his vest. Furthermore the treatment rendered the garment so stiff it was impossible to remove. When it was time, as per army regulations, for a change of underwear (as often as once a year it seems) Herr Krule was forced to put a clean vest on over his old one. In his long army service he had accumulated so many layers they proved to be “pistol-proof”. Copious application of Snibbonaq, internally, externally and by enema, proved efficacious in achieving a full recovery. (Herr Krule is currently writing a serial “The Starchers – an everyday tale of laundry folk”.)

News; **Hersfeldt welcomes the 'Jocks'** Arriving on the same day as the annual Bundershue fair attend by loads of (the region's) cobblers. Here they plied their trade in a bout of re-shoeing the English with the funny accent!

Court News; **Our Betters and Superiors to take the waters in Braunschweg!** It's the annual migration from Hannover to the Spa in this fine city. Many notable personages plus their guests have somehow managed to find plenty of horses to convey rider and carriage to this jewel by the waterfall of Schweg. The mud pools are expecting heavy usage. The Prince is holding a Grand Masque at The Schweg Hotel on the Saturday, the guest list is full of the great and good. I hear the roving duo of Aro Flotsum and Cathy Persifik are covering the party-how did they get there and why? They couldn't have flown!

Lippstadt is to hold elections for a new mayor who, following startling revelations in this august journal, seems to have gone into hiding - it was heard that he wanted to 'take the waters'.

FRANKFURT SAVED BY ONSET OF WINTER

The Reichsarmee has held on to Frankfurt am Main by the skin of its teeth we can reveal. The Anglo-Hannoverian siege only just failed to capture the city before worsening weather conditions forced Prince Ferdinand to withdraw in to winter quarters. Despite missing out on this “jewel”, the Hannoverian commander can be reasonably satisfied with taking the city of Koblenz from the French.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale – Large quantity of new maps. Special Order suddenly cancelled. Detailed and accurate except for “Prussia” written across most of Germany. Box 383, Berlin.

For Sale - Orchard in prime location - genuine reasons for sale, apply PO Box 69, Kassel.

Fed Up With Having Irregular Troops? Make sure all your troops are regular with Dr Strabismus' famous Sennoprune Elixir. As recommended by General Werner (Prussian Latrine Division). Ask at your local Apothecary.

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BLUNDERING AUSTRIAN FELDGENDARMES FAIL TO LOCATE ZEITUNG OFFICES

Despite repeated attempts, the Austrian Authorities have failed entirely in their misguided efforts to silence the “Voice of Truth and Reason”. As reported previously, the honest and accurate reporting by this journal has alarmed many of the rulers of Europe. The despot of Vienna has ordered Colonels Maulwurf and Fledermaus of the Austrian Feldgendarmerie to use every man to find and close down this journal. So far the bunglers (reputedly recruited from the Army Staff Officers!) have failed to even find the decidedly obvious trail left to our recently evacuated offices, let alone have even an inkling of our present location.

Rest assured, dear reader, we will continue to bring you the truth.

Now who on earth would be knocking at the door at this time of night.....