

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume III the Saxons in Our Ranks Chapter Three Part V: Campaign of 1812

By Commandant Sauzey

Translated by [Greg Gorsuch](#)

CHAPTER III

CAMPAIGN OF 1812¹

11. -- EVENTS AND COMBATS FROM 29 OCTOBER TO 13 NOVEMBER. MARCH FLANK ON WÓLKOWYSK.

The two corps remained until the 28th of October in the vicinity of Drohiczyn, without being attacked or disturbed by the enemy. The camp of the Saxon troops had been placed on the left bank of the Bug. It was there that reinforcements arrived for the first time from Saxony, led by Major Thimmel, from the regiment of Cuirassiers of the Guard: they amounted to 1,700 men. The cuirassiers destined for the Thielmann Brigade were kept and united with the two squadrons of the uhlans regiment "Prince Clement". The 7th Corps was reinforced in a larger way by the arrival of the Durutte Division, then only one brigade strong. This division consisted of poorly trained young soldiers of different nations; in its six regiments were Frenchmen, Germans (of Würzburg), Dutchmen, and a battalion of Spanish and Portuguese prisoners of war; the men were poorly dressed and poorly equipped, including coats and ammunition. The discipline of these troops -- the Wurzburg regiment, excepted -- was relative.²

The Austrian corps was also reinforced, on 27 October, by the two infantry regiments "Kaiser" and "Prince Lichtenstein", a battalion of the regiment "Czartoriski" and the regiment of hussars "Prince Lichtenstein". It counted then 32 battalions and 50 squadrons: in all, 30,000 men.

The manpower situation on 25 October gives the Saxon corps 12,283 men in the rank; 2,565 were dead or prisoners; 2,261 were in hospitals, sick or injured.

Chichagov had gathered his corps between Brest and Kaminiec-Litowsky. He proposed to drive back the Austrians and Saxons first to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and then, according to the orders he had received, to march towards the Berezina. For this, and on the advice of the Russian general headquarters, he divided his forces into two equal parts: one of them, with General Sacken, was to remain in observation before the enemy; the other, under his own direction, was to go immediately to the Berezina.

¹ This chapter is based on the excellent work of M. Lieutenant-Colonel Exner: *Der Antheil der Königlich Sächsischen Armee am Feldzuge Gegen Russland 1812* (Leipzig, Dunker and Humblot, 1896). -- We have followed the same divisions in material, and we have happily followed the rich contribution made by the Saxon Archives of War in this part of our national history.

² Lieutenant-Colonel Exner portrays Durutte's division in an imprecise light: these "undisciplined" troops saved more than one time the Saxon divisions compromised by panic...but the presence in their ranks of the *German* regiment of Würzburg would not prevent the Saxons from turning their guns and cannon against them on the day of the betrayal of Leipzig.

Prince Schwarzenberg, having learned of these dispositions, was to make a decision. He wrote on 29 October to the Emperor Joseph:

"I am without instructions from the Emperor Napoleon, in a country where it is extraordinarily difficult to obtain information, and before an enemy who can cover its movements at great distances, with his numerous cavalry. It is not a light task to begin new operations without stores, without sufficient clothing, and at the beginning of a harsh winter."

The commanders of the two corps did not have the same ideas on how to conduct the new operations.

Reynier would have liked them to act against the Russian forces remaining under observation on the Lesna; Schwarzenberg wanted to march towards Slonim, thus interpreting the indications of the Duke Bassano, "to have to oppose any enterprise on the rear of the Great Army and to a march of the enemy towards the Berezina."

The two corps marched on 28 October in the direction of Slonim. The Saxons crossed the Bug that day for the third time and headed by Orla to Narewka. The marches began before daylight, and they reached the bivouac only after dark; the troops traversed the hardest days of the campaign: no food, no wood, no straw; the water needed for the soup was melted snow. There was 15 degrees of cold; walking horses and carriages on icy, slippery roads was very difficult.

During this flank march, the vanguard of General von Gablentz covered the right flank. On 1 November, contact with the enemy, lost for nearly three weeks, was resumed in front of Wisoky by a squadron of Austrian hussars and the two squadrons of uhlans of the "Prince Clement" regiment, sent in reconnaissance. A squadron of the Frehlich Brigade had been attacked and repulsed by 400 to 500 Cossacks. The hussar regiment of Lichtenstein immediately marched against the Cossacks.

"This attack," -- said in the report of General Frehlich, -- "was supported by a vigorous offensive of the Major von Seydlitz at the head of his Uhlans, on the right flank of the enemy: the Saxon major was unfortunately killed there; the Uhlans, exasperated by the death of their leader, led by Captain von Oersten and united to my hussars, avenged the death of their brave commander; the Cossacks, completely overwhelmed, were pursued body to body for a distance of more than a quarter of a mile."

General Lecoq wrote to the King of Saxony:

"Your Majesty's troops have lost only one man; but I must say, to my great regret, he was the best officer of our cavalry. The Uhlans of "Prince Clement," supporting the Austrian hussars, made a successful attack under the orders of Major von Seydlitz, who was killed. The usefulness of the lance is reaffirmed in this campaign: the riders of the "Prince-Clement" regiment have the greatest confidence in this weapon."

The command of the two squadrons of Uhlans was given to Major Thummel of the regiment of Cuirassiers of the Guard, who had just arrived with the reinforcements of the 7th Corps.

Passing Rudnia, the Saxons reached Lapinika on 12 November. The march of the columns was so much disturbed by the enemy that Reynier had to take special measures for the protection of the baggage. An offensive movement against the Russian troops guarding the Swislocz-Rudnia road gave some relief on 10 November, but many reinforcements arrived for the Russians. They stopped the Saxon vanguard on the 13th near Porazow and forced it to retreat north. Sahr's brigade, quickly pushed in support, did not manage to drive the enemy from the positions where it was positioned.

Orders found on Russian officers captured on the 13th informed that Generals Sacken and Essen III were following the 7th Corps to stop them in their march on Slonim. Appreciating things well and knowing the intention of the enemy, Reynier approached the Austrians and immediately went to Wołkowysk (Vawkavysk). He arrived on the 14th in two columns, the first having crossed by Izabelin and the second by Blankenitna.

12. -- BATTLE OF WOŁKOWYSK (15 AND 16 NOVEMBER).

The 7th Corps took position on 14 November on the heights north of the small town of Wołkowysk. It had been rallied the day before by a new brigade of the Durutte Division. Facing south was the first division, between the roads of Wołkowysk at Bialystok and Mosty; on its left the 2nd Division; the Durutte Division in the second line; the cavalry north of the city, which was occupied by the 1st Battalion of the Light Infantry Regiment "Lecoq". Some small posts were placed forward on the access roads; 2nd Battalion "Prince-Antoine" at the mill west of the city. They had wrongfully refrained from occupying on the left bank of the stream the houses which formed the suburb of Piaski and sending patrols in the direction of Izabelin; but the chosen position, supported on his right by Russa Creek, lent itself to a good defense.

Against the advice of General Lecoq, Reynier placed his headquarters at Wołkowysk. General Sacken, warned by a Jew (according to the Russian documents), gave the order to capture the locality during the night: three columns, each with 3 battalions and 100 cavaliers, were to envelop the city, and the battalions of the Russian 39th Eiger Regiment went directly to the house indicated by the Jew, and where Reynier had his headquarters. The Russian columns set off at 10 o'clock in the evening in a violent snowstorm and arrive at 3 o'clock in the morning in Wołkowysk: there was in the street a frightful melee in which the 1st Light Infantry Battalion "Lecoq" was jostled although it was supported by the battalions of grenadiers Spiegel and Anger, by the 2nd Battalion of "Prince Frederick" and by a part of the division of Durutte.

Reynier, completely surprised by the event, personally led, half-dressed, 2 companies of jäger against the enemy, while Second Lieutenant von Petrikowski defended the house of the headquarters as long as it is necessary to allow the safety of the carriages and horses.

Finally, in the morning, the Saxon battalions were thrown back on the main position of the corps, after having disputed the ground to the enemy foot by foot. Wołkowysk remained in the hands of the enemy; the troops had made sensible losses; the 1st Light Infantry Battalion "Lecoq" alone had lost 4 officers and 81 men. The flag of the 2nd Battalion "Prince Frederick" had been torn from the hands of the flag bearer in the fray.

Convinced that the fight would continue the next day, Reynier had asked Schwarzenberg to support him; but he could not arrive before 16 November.

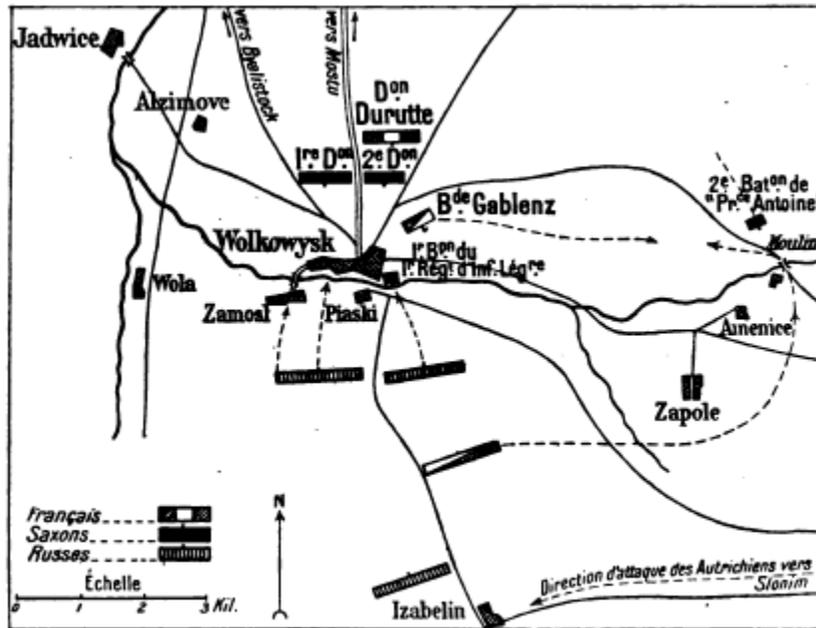
On the morning of the 15th, the Russians resumed the attack, which they directed on the left of the 7th Corps; the heights north of the city, occupied by the Saxon batteries, made the attack impossible.

At about 8 o'clock, a large number of Russian squadrons crossed the stream near the mill. General von Gablentz, who had been taking a position on the left during the night, broke loose with his brigade on the Russian horsemen.

"The attack was successfully conducted" -- says General von Gablentz in his "Journal"; -- "at the head, the regiment of hussars, preceded by its colonel, von Engel... After a savage melee, the hussars had to yield; the Colonel was on the ground under his horse, and the Cossacks who surrounded him had already struck him seven times with thrust and edge; but with cries: "The colonel is wounded!" The hussars retraced their steps, led by the Colonel's son who followed the campaign, as a volunteer. The light horse of "Polenz" and the uhlans "Prince-Clement" charge at this moment: the Russian cavalry fled in disorder to reach the left bank of the brook. The horse battery of Roth, arrived at a gallop, covered the bridge with grape-shot and rendered the most significant services in this pursuit."

New attacks, carried out at about midday against the left wing, were repulsed by the companies of the regiment "Prince Antoine" and the 2nd Regiment of light infantry; this last regiment drove the enemy at bayonet point on the other side of the bridge towards the mill.

On the 16th of November, the fight continued; but the Saxon battalions' efforts were powerless to retake the city of Wołkowysk, solidly occupied and bravely defended by the Russians.



Croquis des combats de Wolkowysk, 15 et 16 novembre 1812.

(D'après Exner.)

Sketch of the combat of Wolkowysk, 15 and 16 November 1812.

(After Exner.)

At nightfall, three salutes of artillery -- it was the signal agreed upon -- announced the arrival of the Austrians on the rear of the enemy; Schwarzenberg, yielding to Reynier's request, had left a part of his corps at Slonim to observe the army of Admiral Chichagov, and taking with him the divisions Trautenberg and Bianchi with the cavalry brigades Wreder and Frehlich, had arrived at Izabelin, after a forced march of ten hours; he had jostled the weak enemy troops he had encountered there.

Then Reynier, giving the motto "Victory and Wolkowysk!" He ordered the fire of all the Saxon batteries to be fired on the city; then he had it attacked by 12 companies of the Durutte division.

Russian troops, concentrated in the city, suffered enormous losses. Sacken, with the 18,000 men of infantry and the 7,000 horsemen of his body, retreated rapidly to Swyslocz.

The darkness of the night -- where the cold descended to 20°-- and the exhaustion of the troops prevented any pursuit.

From 13 to 16 November, the 2 Saxon divisions had lost 30 officers and more than 600 men, and the Durutte division 450 men. Reynier testified to the troops his satisfaction for their intrepidity in the fighting at Wolkowysk.

13. -- NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE RUSSIAN ARMY. MARCH ON ROZANA AND ON THE VISTULAR.

On 17 November, at the first light of day, the two corps began to pursue the enemy that was hoped to reach before them the defiles of the forest of Bielowisk. The Saxon Corps stopped that day at Sokoliniki, and the Austrian Corps at Porozovo.

2,000 Russians, separated from their corps, were caught up in this march. The vanguard of the 7th Corps succeeded in catching the Russian rearguard on the 18th, and routed it at Weli-Krinki after a short engagement. The next day, a new meeting further accelerated the retreat of the enemy on Brest and Kobryn.

Reynier rightly expressed the opinion that it was necessary to push the enemy into the swamps of Podolia, if one wished to shelter oneself from their enterprises on the flank or the rear of the army; but, his corps being insufficient to fulfill this task, he asked Schwarzenberg to lend him his assistance; the latter consented only reluctantly, for he wished to return to Slonim to watch from there the movements of the Admiral Chichagov.

The 2 corps finally restarted their march the 22nd against the South, and arrived the 26th on the line of the Murawiec, without new combat. They had made during this movement more than 8,000 prisoners, delivering to Brest 800 sick and 200 Saxon prisoners.

General Sacken had retired by Ratno in the direction of Lutsk, across the marshes of Podolia. One was prepared to follow and to occupy a large part of the Volhynia, when Schwarzenberg received from the Duke of Bassano in a letter the order to renew the march against the armies of Chichagov. He prescribed it "to press your maneuver and come to take part in the great events."

This order of the French minister could only be executed with the greatest difficulty. The last marches had enormously tired the troops; the cold was terrible, the provisions were wanting; clothing and equipment were in a deplorable state. The leather of recently slaughtered animals was used to make shoes, and the skins of sheep replaced ragged coats. During the preceding month, it had only been possible with exception to shelter the troops at night, and the regiment of hussars had regularly bivouacked from the 23rd of June until the beginning of December.

The two bodies had the most urgent need to rest and rebuild. Nevertheless, Schwarzenberg wanted to carry out the Duke of Bassano's orders and turn to Slonim. On the 7th of December, the Saxon corps reached Rozana, by Pruzhany and Sielec, and the Austrian corps at Slonim.

It was there that the events were learned: the retreat of the Grand Army, the debacle of the troops, and the battle of the Berezina. This news was reported by Reynier's aide-de-camp sent on 21 November to the imperial headquarters. Berthier, in the name of the King of Naples who had taken command of the army after the departure of the Emperor, made it known that as the Imperial troops had abandoned the line of the Memel, the Austrian and Saxon corps were to ensure "their best" protection of Warsaw.

The movement on Warsaw was thus begun on the 18th of December, by an intense cold; eyewitnesses say that:

"The thermometer had descended to 26° Reaumur.³ He who was betrayed by his forces and could no longer walk was irretrievably lost: he remained behind and had only to wait for his fate. Only the walk prevented freezing; a sick and exhausted soldier got on a carriage and was soon thrown into a stiffened body. Only one method gave the soldiers good results to fight the freezing: it was to rub the hands, the feet and the face with tallow..."

General Lecoq says in his report of 20 December to the King of Saxony:

"Our troops suffered a great deal, but less than the young soldiers of the Durutte Division. The useless movements deprive the indispensable rest, cause a great number of frozen members, and prevent the requisition in Volhynia of a quantity of necessary things. We were not worried by the enemy during the last stages, but the troops were very cold. The boundless precautions of General Reynier and our commissariat (Lieutenant-Colonel von Ryssel) allowed us to have something to eat every day. Your Majesty can be certain that General Reynier and I do everything the possible for the wounded and sick I cannot praise enough the conduct of each, officers and soldiers."

The 7th Corps, including the Grenadier Battalion of Eychelberg (formerly of Brause) left at that time in garrison at Bialystok, and 900 men of reinforcements brought by Lieutenant-Colonel Lehmann of the "Prince John" Regiment of Light Horse. It numbered barely 16,000 men; the Saxon divisions only entered this figure for 8,200 men.

Without being disturbed by the enemy, it marched until the 26th of December by Pruzhany on Wołczyn, and from there, after crossing the Bug, to the river Liewjec. It then faced the east in a defensive position and, on 3 January

³ As written. Author has either transcribed temperature scale incorrectly, or the degrees, as 26° Re which would be 95° F. Translator.

1813, settled in cantonments around Okuniew, on the right bank of the Vistula. General von Gablentz, returned to his post after a short illness, occupied with the rear-guard -- 2nd Light Infantry Regiment, combined battalion, regiments of hussars and light-horse "Polentz", half horse battery -- the line Sloszek-Wengerow-Sucha.

There, 11 January 1813, took place a last fight on the right bank of the Vistula. Large enemy infantry and cavalry forces deployed before the front of the position and chased the defenders behind the Liewjec stream. Already 3,000 Cossacks had crossed the brook on the ice below the town of Liw and reached Stanislo'wo: fortunately 6 companies of the 2nd light regiment, the hussars and the half-battery on horseback came; the enemy, strafed at first, was then attacked with a bayonet; the retreat was done in the evening on Dobre without appreciable damages. The 7th Corps remained at Okuniew until 26 January.

The Austrian corps had arrived at Pultusk and was connected by the Siegenthal Division with the 1st Corps. Leaving on 28 January a weak rearguard at Milosna, it passed onto the left bank of the Vistula. At the end of January it was fully in Warsaw, after an agreement between Reynier and Schwarzenberg entrusted an Austrian brigade with the line of the outposts.

By the middle of January, the number of Saxon divisions had fallen, due to illness, to 5,700 men under arms. Each regiment of infantry was reduced to a single battalion; consequently, a considerable number of officers in command were sent to Saxony by order of General Lecoq, to instruct the recruits who had just been called under the command of General Lecoq flags.

On the order of the Viceroy of Italy, the 7th Corps had to detach 2,000 men for the garrison of the fortress of Modlin: 1,200 men Durutte Division, the combined battalion and the 2nd Battalion of the regiment "Prince Frederick Augustus" were appointed for this mission; this last battalion, reinforced by the incorporation of the 1st Battalion, numbered 280 men; the greater number of the officers and non-commissioned officers of this regiment, with Colonel Boblick, were directed to Raczyn and returned to Saxony, together with a large column of men unable to campaign.

The two battalions mentioned above, at the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Bose, remained at Modlin until the capitulation of this place on 1 December 1813.

14. -- RETREAT OF THE 7th CORPS ON KALISZ. OPERATIONS OF AUSTRIANS. -- COMBAT OF KALISZ.

In January 1813, there were between Schwarzenberg and Russian General Vasilchikov negotiations for a suspension of hostilities; they did not succeed, but at least had the advantage of sparing the 7th Corps, at Warsaw, the attacks of the enemy during the last weeks of this month.

The Emperor Joseph, informed of these facts, sent at the end of January to the Prince von Schwarzenberg the order to establish his troops in winter quarters near Krakow and to conclude an armistice, after having agreed to a line of demarcation with the Russians.

The chief of staff of the Austrian corps, Major General von Stutterheim, says, concerning the state where the auxiliary corps was then:

"...We had lost, in this long winter campaign, more than 6,000 men by fire, and nearly 4,000 by disease or cold. There were as many in the hospitals where typhus took a hundred every day. In this situation, we felt obliged to finally take winter quarters..."

"Prince von Schwarzenberg, "man of the most exquisite honor," could remain the ally of France, while not behaving like a belligerent vis-à-vis Russia.⁴ For more than four weeks he remained on his positions of the Narew, with his

⁴It is in under these colors that the German writers depict the duplicity of the Austrians. "The exquisite honor" of Schwarzenberg was not going so far as to let his cannon fire against us!

corps weakened by fighting, marches and privations, covering Warsaw and protecting the rallying of the French pursued by the Cossacks..."

Without any hope of help, the Auxiliary Corps and the 7th Corps remained in front of the Russian armies and "confronted with the slanders of the French, their allies"(!). The Austrians and Saxons had covered for four weeks the remains of the French army and the towns on the Vistula. Schwarzenberg could not accept the injunction of Prince Eugene, to prevent the Russians from crossing the Vistula, to oppose the occupation of Warsaw, and finally -- which was impracticable -- to retreat to Kalisz (Kalisch) with the 5th Corps (Polish) and the 7th. He, however, rendered a signal service to Poniatowski and Reynier; he took the necessary measures to secure their retreat; after which he informed Reynier that it was high time for him to think of the safety of the Austrian Corps, and he retired to the Wartha.

The Austrians separated with regret from the Saxons; to protect the right flank of these last, the brigades Zechmeister and Frelich were placed at Błonie and Sachaczew, and senior officers of the staff were sent as parliamentarians to the commanders of the Russian columns who were to cross the Vistula on the ice at Czerwinski and Zacroczy, declaring to them that these two points were to be kept until 7 February to cover the retreat of the Austrian parks. In this way, the Saxons were able to reach Łowicz without being attacked on their right flank.

After having learned by Schwarzenberg of the retreat of the Austrians, Reynier could not hide from himself that a longer stay of the 7th Corps in Poland would bring his complete annihilation. He then went to Kalisch and began his movement on Brzezina on 3 February, in several columns. The infantry had been melted into one division. General Funck, commander of the 2nd Division, had been recalled to Saxony.

To cover this march on the right, General von Gablentz had reinforced his ordinary vanguard of the "Lecoq" Regiment, with four companies of Voltigeurs of the Durutte division, and 300 Polish lancers. On the 11th he arrived at Turek, in the midst of a cloud of Cossacks. In the evening, four squadrons of Russian hussars and Uhlans wanted to remove the outposts and marched against the two companies of jäger of Schlegell's jäger posted at the entrance of the village: the Russians were repulsed. On the morning of the 11th, the 3rd and 4th squadrons of hussars, attacked by a superior cavalry, had been thrown back on Turek with a loss of 32 men: Captain von Taubenheim had been seriously wounded. These various attacks allowed the Russian corps of Winzingerode to advance quickly.

On the afternoon of the 13th, the various fractions of the 7th Corps occupied the following locations:

- in Borków Stary, General von Nostitz, with most of the regiment "Prince-Antoine" and 2 pieces of 4;
- in Kokanin, the grenadier battalion of Liebenau, 2 companies of the "Prince-Antoine" regiment and 2 pieces of 4;
- between Kokanin and Kalisz, General von Steindel, with the regiment "Prince-Clement", the battery of Brause and 4 pieces of 4;
- in Winiary, the Sahr brigade;
- the column of General Gablentz had reached the villages of Żelazków and Zborów;
- reserve artillery and parks in Kalisz; the city was occupied by a part of the Durutte Division and some Polish companies which had joined the 7th Corps during its retreat.

Before the beginning of the fight, the following order of the day of Reynier was brought to the attention of the troops:

"The general-in-chief informed the corps that the troops of General von Gablentz had been attacked by the enemy during the night of the 12th, and that this general had repulsed the Russians in a manner he felt proper; all the arms mutually lent their assistance; and if particular praise is to be given to the detachment of Colonel von Hann, to the 1st Light Infantry Regiment of Lieutenant Colonel von Brause, and to the hussars, -- it is because the circumstances have favored the aforesaid bodies. The general-in-chief regrets not being able to give the troops the rest they so

badly need after so many fatigues; he relies with confidence on their endurance and solidity during a march which, in spite of its difficulties, will be for them one of the most honorable of the campaign."

General Lecoq, warned of the approach of important Russian forces, made Reynier the most pressing instances for the cantonments of the brigades to be tightened near Kalisz, under the protection of the heights to the east of the city. Reynier did not wish to modify his first dispositions, pretending that he had before him only a few detachments of enemy cavalry, and that he did not expect any serious attack. He ordered to march against the Russians, stationed at the village of Russów since the beginning of the afternoon of the 13th. The attack was to be pronounced only at the arrival of the regiment of light horse of "Polenta" and of a part of the Polish Cossack regiment, a regiment of new levy which had met with the column of General von Gablentz.

The light horse regiment was ordered to march on Kokanin: it was assaulted during its march, north of Borków, on its front and on its right flank, by an enemy cavalry much superior in number: a small part of the regiment, which numbered only 200 horses in the rank, managed to make a gap in the direction of Ilno and Kokanin; Colonel Hann, several officers, 36 men were put out of action; 30 horsemen were taken prisoner.

Two infantry divisions of Winzingerode's corps followed the cavalry; pushing on Kalisz, they separated the Saxon troops in two and cut them off from the town; the various Saxon cantonments were attacked almost at the same time and reduced in isolation to their own resources, without any hope of being supported.

The catastrophe of Kalisz, the last combat of the campaign against Russia, was the result of several partial engagements: their unfortunate outcome was the consequence of the vicious dispositions of Reynier, who had dispersed his troops on an extended front, instead of making them take a position in Kalisz.

a) Combat at Kokanin. After its attack on the light horse, the enemy threw itself upon the village of Kokanin; Three companies of grenadiers, with Lieutenant-colonel von Liebenau, received it by their fire, and succeeded in making with bayonet a way through the Russian squadrons; the grenadiers, formed in a square, arrived at Kalisz after an hour's march and took part in the defense of the city. The two companies of the "Prince-Antoine" regiment and another company of grenadiers, surrounded in the church of Kokanin, were made prisoner after exhausting their ammunition.

b) Combat at Borków. -- The village of Borków was attacked in the same way. Several Russian columns converged on it at the same time, and the six companies of the "Prince-Antoine" Regiment could not escape them and were surrounded by them. General von Nostitz, seeing that he could not count on any help, surrendered, after having burned his last cartridges, with 19 officers and 300 men, half of whom were out of action.

c) Combat at Winiary. At three o'clock in the afternoon, strong enemy columns appeared before the position occupied by the Sahr Brigade, -- battalions of grenadiers of Spiegel, Eychelberg, Anger, -- 2nd Light Infantry Regiment, -- and Bonriot battery. The fire of the artillery forced the Russians to stop. The Anger battalion, called to Kalisch to reinforce the occupation, found the enemy already established in the suburb of Tynez and had to fall back on Winiary. When Durutte's division seized the part of town on the right bank of Prosna, the brigade established itself on the heights north of Kalisch. At six o'clock in the evening, after a cannon fire lasting several hours, the Russian infantry columns advanced. After the Anger battalion had occupied Prosna, the Spiegel battalion and those of the light infantry repulsed the enemy. Towards 9 o'clock in the evening, the brigade united with the Saxon troops, assembled to the west of the city; the Anger battalion, which formed rear-guard, had to stop the pursuit of the Russians several times with its bayonets. The 2nd Light Infantry Regiment had lost 41 men (Captains Haynemann and Bunau were wounded); -- the grenadiers of Spiegel, 50 men; -- those of Anger, 65 men.

d) Combats of Pawłówek and Pruszków. -- Pawłówek and Pruszków were assailed by the Russians almost at the same time as Borków and Kokanin. The Cossacks, who presented themselves at first, were repulsed by the fire of the Saxon infantry. It abandoned the two villages, formed in two squares between which were placed the battery of Brause and the 4 pieces of the regimental artillery of the regiment "Prince Clement". Colonel Mellentin's regiment, with which General von Steindel was also present, retreated to Kalisch in this formation, which made it possible to repel repeated attacks by the enemy. A Cossack party, however, reached the artillery and seized a piece of four; but 8 volunteers spontaneously came out of the squares, reached the Cossacks who could only take the cannon very slowly, threw them off their horses and brought back the piece... Sergeant-Major Vollborn was appointed sub

lieutenant for this act of arms. The brigade, surrounded on all sides and under the violent but inefficient fire of the Russian artillery, had to give up reaching Kalisz before dark. To reach the left bank of the Prosna, it was necessary to cross the river, with water up to their hips. The artillery was allowed to cross on the ice, except for two pieces of regiment which were broken and unable to be transported; thus, General von Steindel succeeded in pulling his troops out of a situation which seemed inextricable.

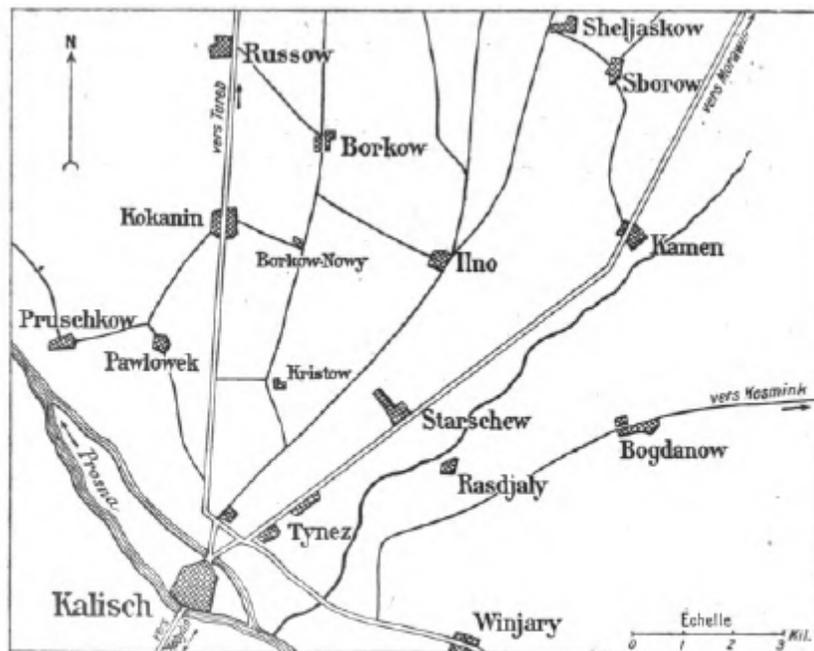
Of all the troops of General von Gablentz, the regiment of light cavalry of "Polentz" alone had taken part in the battle of Kalisz.

The efforts of the Russians to settle in the city during the night remained fruitless.

The battalion of Anger grenadiers and a part of the 2nd Light Infantry Regiment sent to Kalisz to reinforce the occupation there, found the opportunity to make themselves known. Captain Geibler, posted at the bridge of the Prosna with his grenadiers, threw himself on a Russian column and dispersed it.

At daybreak, the 7th Corps left Kalisz and its surroundings and reached Kobylin on 15 February, after a painful march.

The losses of the Saxons were considerable. They amounted to 40 officers and more than 1,000 injured in combat or prisoners. Unreservedly, with no single direction, almost without ammunition, they had fought against the 6,000 to 8,000 cavalry and 10,000 foot soldiers of Winzingerode's corps. It was to the bravery of the officers and the troop, as well as that of Generals Leroq, Sahr, and Steindel, that the 7th Corps was not to suffer the same fate on 13 February as the Klengel Brigade at Kobryn.



Croquis des environs de Kalisch.

(D'après Exner.)

Sketch of the area of Kalisz.

(After Exner.)

The *Official Saxon Bulletin* published the following article after the arrival of General Lecoq's report on the battle of Kalisz:

Dresden, 18 February 1813.

"The 7th Corps had just taken, on 13 February, near Kalisz, very concentrated cantonments, when it was attacked at about noon on his left by 6,000 or 8,000 Russian horsemen followed by 2 infantry divisions. This attack was so sudden that it was impossible for the various corps to meet and concentrate in Kalisch on the location indicated for the corps meeting. Each body had to form itself in square, and retreat; none of these squares were broken, notwithstanding the enemy's cavalry and grape-shot. The first, the grenadier battalion of Liebenau entered Kalisz; it was followed by the Sahr Brigade and some battalions of the Durutte Division. The troops placed in the suburb of Kalisz defended them until evening. The square of the "Prince Clement" regiment, under the command of General Steindel, succeeded in rejoining the army corps by passing the Prosna under the fire of several batteries; after a five-hour fight against a superior enemy who enveloped them on all sides, it left only two pieces of four dismounted."

"General von Nostitz was not so fortunate: in his quarter far removed from Kalisz he opposed a long resistance with the regiment "Prince Antoine" 450 strong men and 4 cannons; late at night we could still hear his fire; he finally fell into the hands of the enemy."

"One was anxious about the fate of General von Gablentz, who was with the vanguard far enough from the army corps: on 15 February, we received the news that he had fortunately arrived at Schildberg."

"The Captain von Golz, of the "Prince-Antoine" Regiment, was killed; Major von Liebenau was seriously injured. General Steindel and Colonel Mellentin were particularly distinguished. Sergeant-Major Vollborn, of the "Prince Clement" regiment, came out of his square with 8 volunteers and took back from the enemy a Saxon cannon which it had seized: he will be appointed an officer. -- The corps withdrew to Kobylin where it was on 15 February."

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