

The superiority of numbers was with the enemy, but the heroism and firmness displayed by the Allies must be respected even by their adversaries.

The magnanimous conduct of His Imperial Majesty and the King of Prussia, made the greatest impression on all around them; they never quitted the field of battle, and I witnessed in His Imperial Majesty the most ardent and anxious desire, by renewed attacks, to sustain the position, had not reasons of prudence, coupled with the most important considerations, decided otherwise.

I feel I cannot do justice to the details of the battle, nor to the extraordinary efforts made. I have endeavoured to give your Lordship the most faithful account of what I personally witnessed. The determination being taken to place the army in a new position, the troops were in motion about seven o'clock in the evening, for the ground between Weissenberg and Hochkirch. The enemy opened immediately a tremendous fire from the heights of Kreckwitz and the village of Cannowitz, on the retiring columns; but every gun was withdrawn from the batteries, and the troops moved as at a field day. The corps of Generals Tolly, D'York, Blucher and Kleist, marched off from their right to Weissenberg; those of Wittgenstein and Milaradovitch from their left to Hochkirch. The retreat was made in echelon, covered by the cavalry: the enemy did not attempt to molest it, and it was conducted with the most perfect order. General Kleist's corps formed the rear guard to the corps moving on Weissenberg, and a battery of forty pieces, planted by Count Wittgenstein on the Heights of Wurtzen, impeded the enemy's advance. General Milaradovitch covered the retreat of the troops on Hochkirch, and the army were in their position at night.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,  
Lieutenant-General.

P. S. From the most authentic information I can procure, the force of the Allies did not exceed sixty-five thousand men; that of the enemy I estimate at least at one hundred and twenty thousand.

The loss on both sides was great. The enemy's must have been tremendous; I am unable to state the numbers with any accuracy.

C. S. Lieut. Gen.

Head-Quarters, Goldberg, Silesia,  
May 24, 1813.

MY LORD,

THE army continued to retire on the 22d in two columns on the great roads from Bautzen to Lowenberg. The enemy made an attempt to interrupt the corps of General Milaradovitch, in which he completely failed. At Reichenbach the rear-guard took up a position, which they defended in the most obstinate manner against the enemy's advance, led by Buonaparte in person. The enemy shewed a strong force of cavalry, and made several charges on that of the allies, and one into the town of Reichenbach, which were successfully repulsed, with the loss of some hundreds killed, wounded, and taken, and several officers.

By bringing up a number of guns and a great force, and by outflanking our rear-guard, it was obliged to leave Reichenbach, but fell back on Gorkitz in the best order.

The conduct of the troops this day, after their long service and unequal combat of the 21st, has been beyond all praise. Throughout the late movements there has been no loss of guns, tumbrils, or baggage of any kind in the Allied Army.

General Bülow's corps, joined by General Bonnell's in the neighbourhood of Relitz and Trebbin, finding that the enemy had withdrawn the corps of Victor in that quarter, for the purpose of his general operations against the Allied Army, has renewed the offensive, and has pushed his patrols to Baruth and towards Wittenburg.

The enemy did not advance above half an English mile on the side of Gorkitz, yesterday. This morning they have not pressed, and all retire in perfect order.

The Allied Army are moving in the direction of Schweidnitz.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,  
Lieutenant-General.