

# The Ülm Gazette

all the news that is fit to print, and then some

## Battle in Portugal

The forces of Spain, in a surprise move, have attacked the kingdom of Portugal. The pretext for the move was that the corrupt (and yes, that is the Spanish court calling a regime corrupt) regime in Lisbon had abandoned its catholic principles and were accepting assistance and succor from the "heretic" English and the secular French. despite this, the Papal nuncio in Madrid was known to be strongly (if not vociferously, given the presence of growing Spanish forces in Naples) opposed to the idea.

That being said, it appears that aggression has worked out for the Spanish. After breaking the Portuguese army and their British and French 'advisors' in a brisk action near Oporto, Spanish forces proceeded to Lisbon. To everyone's surprise the

were welcomed as conquering heroes, and their ranks swelled by enthusiastic volunteers. Señor Zorro is rumored to be unsufferably smug about the whole event. The next question facing southern Europe, now that the forces of His Most Catholic Majesty have been shown to be active, if not competent, is where are they headed next? A certain amount of nail biting is evident on the Italian Peninsula and in Southern France.

## Trouble in the new World

On a related note, the diplomatic discourse between the Court of St. James and the Escorial about new world issues have sunk to a new low. With Minister Zorro calling English settlers "trailer trash" and the English accusing the Spanish of "raids [that] have burned three trailer parks in the crown

colony of Georgia. Estimated damage: £2, 3s, 2d". That about enough to buy a small schnitzel and a Wiessbier in local currency, which just goes to show the paucity of goodwill in international relations. Now the Spanish claim they have captured English Spies in the Caribbean, fomenting well deserved unrest in Santo Domingo. The return of the Old World wars to the New is only a matter of time.

## News from St. Petersburg.

In an uncommon flurry of communication, the Tsarina's court seems to be trying to make itself more accessible to the west, as well as indulge in some well placed propaganda. Among the releases to the world's press: MILITARY MYSTERY MUDDLES MOSCOW "In the present climate of increased tension

*between the major powers, conversation in Moscow turns naturally to discussion of the defenses of Mother Russia, and the Empress' decision to entrust those defenses to HH Prince Potemkin. Some observers note with approval the Prince's extensive resume, including a brief period in the senior echelons of the Prussian military service. Indeed, the Prince was once accorded the rare privilege of commanding the Prussian Grenadier Guard in battle. However, various sources which refuse to be named note that the Prussian Guard was extensively reformed after an encounter with Austrian light infantry. Some of those sources even go on to mutter darkly about "other services" the Prince may have rendered the Empress; though what those might be, your correspondent cannot possibly venture to suggest."* In addition to this suggestion of discord among the Tsarina's closest advisors we have

this from the Ministry for ~~War~~, err Defense  
*"It has been suggested in some quarters that "Refugees from Kiev have ... "*  
*We cannot imagine who these "refugees" were, since there were no refugees from Kiev. Indeed the Russian army was welcomed with open arms (and, in certain houses of entertainment, ...)*  
*The situation in Poland was quite different. The local forces fought so furiously against the outrageous Prussian invaders as to have routed a couple of brigades. Even as I write, a trickle of pitiable refugees from Poland are understood to be beseeching the Czarina to order her forces to intervene, to liberate Orthodox Poles from foreign oppression. The Patriarch of Moscow is understood to be highly sympathetic [sic]."*  
 This distaste for Fellow Christians might serve to explain the complete lack of forces on Mother Russia's Moslem frontier. Mind you the complete torpor evident in the Tokapi's mil-

Italy manoeuvres might explain that also.  
The Treaty of Hamburg  
 The northern powers, England, Prussia and Norway, have signed a treaty in Hamburg. Details of the treaty are mostly secret. The only clause to be released to the public was the first. This is very brief and to the point, reading :  
*Article One: Sweden, Prussia and England (Hanover) enter into a treaty of non aggression with each other.*  
 From the size of the final document, and the length of the signing ceremony, experienced observers are in no doubt that there is more to the treaty than just that. Diplomatic reaction among the participants was positive (surprise!). The English were unavailable for comment, but Count Podwiels stated that the Prussians agreed to the treaty as originally proposed,

without amendment, and the Regent of Sweden, attending in person, was roused from his porter induced sleep long enough to mumble something his brogue-to-german interpreter assured us meant:  
*"Certainly a treaty consistent with the sympathies of the Swedish Crown and people."*  
 Russian comment was, understandably, less positive. Vassily Pratsky Hypo-Secretary to Her Imperial Majesty, temporarily attached to the staff of Prince Potemkin was heard to comment:  
*"The Times reports that the Treaty of Hamburg has been signed, enjoining mutual support between England, Prussia and Sweden. Are the Russian authorities alone in feeling that this is serious cause for concern?"*  
 Apparently, yes, as no-one else appears to care. Then again, this may not be what he said; it is hard to tell between that

atrocious accent, the beard, and the vodka.

### Other European Events.

Neutrals Crushed all over Europe  
 The powers went on a wild spree of subjugation, proving once more that living adjacent to someone with an weapons and a parlous bank balance is a mistake.

1/2 the Elector of Bavaria's army (1 battalion) deserted to their fellow German Catholics near Passau. The elector surrendered to the inevitable, and now enjoying an unchanging view of the Transylvanian plain. Pity those bars spoil the view. The queen of Hungary's forces found the Dalmatians a tougher proposition, as the zealots died to a man against her troops. Pretty ineffective as they failed to cause any Austrian casualties, though. Her Majesties forces were surprised when they found the defensive forces

of La Serenissima consisted of 2 boy-scouts and a pit bull terrier. These were refused permission to join the Hapsburg forces on the grounds that they would "lower the tone of the mess". (Austria wins, no SP gain)

Prussia subdued Duchy of Warsaw without loss. the Story was somewhat different in Poland however. The Prussian press release has 2 battalions being callously ambushed by polish "bandits" during a parley. Or when they were defending the radio station. Or something. Poles claim the 2 battalions of Saxons were incautiously sent off on their own and deserted *en masse*. (Prussia captures the Duchy of Warsaw without loss, but loses 2 SP in Poland)

The Kievian army, on the other hand woke up one morning and found they were now working for the Tsarina. (+2

SP). So did the Livonians (+1 SP). We are pretty sure that the Lithuanians would have obliged also, but there does not appear to be a Lithuanian army this week (1/2 of 1 rounded down is 0, sorry Simon)

The forces of France have more good fortune, with the Lorrainers and the Marathans seeing the point of all those bayonettes. (+1 SP to the French in both places)

Meckleberg and Norway similarly roll over for the Volvo salesmen. (+1 SP to the Swedes in both places)

Westphalia and Nizam decide that troop contributions to the Empire are a good plan (+1 SP to the English in both places)