

The Battle of Pirna-Konigstein Camp

Following the news of the astounding defeat of the Prussians at Lobositz, the Saxon army was roused from its fatalistic slumber and was once more determined to break out of the trap that Frederick has caught them in at their camp at Pirna. With the determination of the Saxon Generals renewed, the time and method of the breakout was catalysed by the bold manoeuvre of the Austrian General, Maximillian Browne. Whilst the attention of Frederick and the main Prussian Army was focussed on the Austrian position on the Elbe Fluss, Browne had taken a flying column of elite and fast moving troops deep into Saxony. If they could link up with the Saxon army then together they would perhaps have the strength and impetus to break through the encircling Prussians and make it to freedom!

Browne's plan had been only partially successful however. The Prussians had taken the bait and attacked the Austrian army whilst it was deployed around the village of Lobositz and had received a bloody nose from the uncharacteristically efficient Austrian infantry. However, as the Prussian reserves moved up to crush the upstart Hapsburgs, Frederick unaccountably ordered a retreat. Perhaps his confidence was shaken at the improvement of his previously unimpressive foe or he had an instinct that all was not quite right with the battle he had been drawn into. The Prussian army was able to withdraw in good order adequately protected from enemy Hussars and Croats by their own undefeated cavalry. The main Prussian army was again free to scupper Browne's plan, but would they be in time?