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Bulletin Suivant and Ministère de la Guerre

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Bulletin Suivant

and

Ministère de la Guerre

Translated by Chelsea Lindeman and Emily Wisser

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Translators' Introduction

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Bulletin Suivant and *Ministère de la Guerre* were both written in 1815, during the era of the Napoleonic Wars. *Bulletin Suivant* is an article written by a reporter, which recounts the events that took place during the battle of Waterloo. It also contains an excerpt from the *Journal de Paris* that details the progress of the British and Prussian armies, headed by the Duke of Wellington and Prince Blücher, respectively, between June 27th and 29th. The second document, *Ministère de la Guerre*, relates to the aftermath of the Battle of Waterloo. Because Napoleon's army met defeat, the allied powers wrote a treaty that aimed to create a new system of power in lieu of Napoleon's downfall. The document is an official treaty written on July 3rd, which presents the articles upon which the powers within the wars agreed. Among these powers are Baron Bignon, Count Guilleminot, and Count De Bondy on behalf of Marshal Prince of Eckmuhl from France; Baron Müfling on behalf of Generalfeldmarschall Prince Blücher from Prussia; and Colonel Hervy on behalf of S.E. Duke of Wellington from Britain. This treaty also serves as an introduction of the leaders and important titles in the armies that were involved. The following report was published—in greater detail—at the Headquarters of Prince Schwarzenberg on June 21st and was delivered to Zurich by the Russian and Austrian post.

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Brussels, June 19th, noon.

On the night of the 17th of June, the Prussian Army, under the orders of Prince Blücher, convened with the English Army, commanded by the Duke of Wellington; Prince Blücher took his general headquarters to Wavre. On the 18th at 12:30, Napoleon attacked the Duke of Wellington near Saint Juan, about two and a half kilometers from Waterloo, with an excessive amount of violence. Despite the best efforts of the French, they were vigorously pushed back each time.

At approximately 3:00PM, the Duke ordered the English cavalry to attack a French column that wanted to take Fort Mont St. Juan by force. The English cavalry broke through, took control over a large part of the assailants, and imprisoned 3000 men, many of whom were Eagles¹. They battled, however, until 6:00. In that moment, the Prussian Army rushed with great impetuosity onto the right flank of the French. Prince Blücher wanted to cut off Napoleon from Jemape. Napoleon employed all of his skills to stop the Prussians, but as the

¹ A hierarchical group of soldiers under Napoleon's army. TR-

Duke of Wellington quickly advanced from his side, the outlook was bleak. Suddenly, the situation manifested itself into such chaos within the ranks of the French army that its soldiers began to disperse.

The entire road is covered with canons and carriages that the enemy has abandoned. The Prussian and English armies are following the trail very closely and vigorously.

The Prince of Orange suffered a gunshot to the arm; however, the wound does not prove to be fatal. The Duke of Axierre, who commanded the English army and its quartermaster General Sindly are dead. Several of the Duke's military assistants, Lord Sommerset among them, were gravely injured. The Duke of Wellington arrived here in Brussels at 10 in the morning, and he will return to Nivelles this evening.

They just published the following news from his general headquarters: an English courier arrived at the same moment in the carriage of the Duke of Bassano, bringing the news that 300 canons, Napoleon's crew, and a large part of the French army have been taken.

The aforementioned evidently proves that the French army is in great disarray. Vandamme is believed to be dead. Two of Napoleon's military assistants, Dumoulin and Cambacères, have been taken. The last of the French prisoners said that Napoleon left the army after his defeat had been decided.

Berne, June 24th, 1815 (3:00 pm).

Chancellery of Berne.

Excerpt from the *Journal de Paris*, June 29th, 1815.

Report of the French Army June 28th.

We receive alarming details on the progress of the allies; a dispatch from Marshal Grouchy, dated from Soissons the evening of June 27th at 10 pm, announces that the enemy is in full force at Compiègne. The count of Erlon, not having been able to re-enter this city, went to Senlis, traveling along the edge of the forest.

The enemy occupies Pont-Sainte-Maixence (within 14 miles of Paris); he is aiming his columns toward Creil and Senlis. In this state of affairs, Marshal Grouchy finds it necessary to urge on toward Paris and bring his headquarters to Dammartin. The General Reillé's corps will position themselves at Gonesse, and General Vandamme's corps at Nanteuil.

The telegraphic communications already intercepted between Lille and Boulogna, and Metz and Strasbourg, have also just been intercepted between Paris and Lille, and Paris and Metz.

Meanwhile, the discussions of the Chambers become more heated every day; tricolored scarves reappear everywhere, etc. Despite this, they are working on a new constitution, which must be presented and appeal to the friends and foes of the current French government.

Bonaparte was at Malmaison and was preparing to flee.

Massena commanded the National Guard of Paris, to which he announced that the Guard was meant to protect only properties.

Excerpt true to its original version.

P.S. Some malicious individuals have spread falsehoods that two battalions from Berne had been imprisoned. The creators of these falsehoods and those who spread these lies will be exemplarily punished.

Berne, July 4th, 1815.

Chancellery of the Secret Council.

Department of War

This the 3rd of July, 1815, the commissioners appointed by the commanders in chief of their respective armies are as follows:

Monsieur Baron Bignon², treasurer of foreign affairs;

M. ³ Count Guilleminot⁴, chief of the general staff of the French army;

M. Count De Bondy⁵, Prefect of the Department of the Seine, on behalf of his Excellency Marshal Prince of Eckmuhl⁶, commander in chief of the French army, on the one hand;

And M. general staff Baron Müfling⁷, on behalf of his highness Generalfeldmarschall⁸ Prince Blücher⁹, commander in chief of the Prussian army;

M. colonel Hervey, on behalf of S.E. Duke of Wellington, commander in chief of the English army, on the other;

Have agreed upon the following articles:

Article I: There will be a suspension of arms between allied armies, commanded by his highness Generalfeldmarschall Prince Blücher, his Excellency the Duke of Wellington, and the French army under the city walls of Paris.

2. Tomorrow, the French army will march to establish a presence behind the Loire River. The total evacuation of Paris will be accomplished in three days, and the army's effort to move south of the Loire will end in eight days.

3. The French army will take with it its material, country artillery, military cases, horses, and the battalions' properties, without any exceptions. This will be

² Louis Pierre Edouard. He entered Napoleon's service during the Hundred Days and was appointed minister of foreign affairs under the executive commission. TR-

³ Abbreviation for Monsieur. TR-

⁴ Armand Charles Guilleminot. He was a French general during the Napoleonic Wars. He served in the Hundred Days and fought at Quatre Bars and Waterloo. After Waterloo, Guilleminot was designated a commissary under Marshal Davout and as a commissary to Davout, he signed the armistice with Blücher. TR-

⁵ Prefect of the Department of the Seine. TR-

⁶ Louis Nicholas Davout was the Prince of Eckmuhl. He took part in the Egyptian expedition and was promoted Major General July 3rd, 1800. He reluctantly accepted the Minister of War position. TR-

⁷ Friedrich Karl Ferdinand Freiherr von Müfling. Between the first occupation of Paris and the Hundred Days, Müfling was the chief of staff under Russian general Barclay de Tolly and General Kleist von Nollendorf. In the Waterloo campaign he was Prussian commissioner at the Duke of Wellington headquarters. After the battle of Waterloo, he served in the army of occupation in France and was also military governor of Paris for a brief period of time. TR-

⁸ Generalfeldmarschall is the highest level in the military hierarchy of the German Army between 1871-1919. TR-

⁹ Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher. A Prussian Generalfeldmarshal who allied with the Duke of Wellington and lead his army against Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. TR-

the same for depot personnel and for the personnel of the different branches of administration within the army.

4. The sick and the wounded, as well as health officers who will remain there to take care of them, are set under the special protection of the commanders in chief of the English and Prussian armies.

5. Military personnel and employees who are mentioned in the preceding article, will, shortly following their recovery, be able to rejoin the corps to which they belong.

6. The women and children of all the individuals who belong to the French army will have the freedom to remain in Paris.

These women will be able, without any difficulty, to leave Paris to meet up with the army and carry with them their properties and the properties of their husbands.

7. The line officers employed with the federates or with the riflemen of the national guard, will be able to reside with the army, or return to their domiciles, or their birth places.

8. Tomorrow July 4th, at noon, Saint Denis, Saint Ouen, Clichy, and Neuilly will be surrendered to us. The day after tomorrow, July 5th, at the same time, Montmartre will be handed over. The third day, July 6th, all the borders will be surrendered.

9. Services inside Paris will continue to be provided by the National Guard and by the corps of the local police force.

10. The commanders in chief of the English and Prussian armies promise to respect and make their subordinates respect the current authorities, for as long as they exist.

11. Public properties -- either those that belong to the Government or those depending on municipal authority -- will be respected. The allied powers will not intervene in any way in the administration and management of these properties. This excludes properties related to the war.

12. The following will be respected in the same way: people and private property, inhabitants, and in general, all individuals who find themselves in the capitol, will continue to enjoy their rights and liberties, without having to be troubled or sought after for anything, relative to the positions that they hold or would have held, to their conduct and their political opinions.

13. The foreign troops will not interfere with the supply of the capitol, and on the contrary, will protect the arrival and the free circulation of objects that are intended for the capitol's supply.

14. The present convention will be observed and used to rule over the mutual relationships until the conclusion of the peace.

In case of a breach of the treaty, it must be denounced following the usual means at least ten days in advance.

15. If difficulties arise under the enforcement of some of the articles of the present convention, the interpretation will be made in favor of the French army and the city of Paris.

16. The present convention is declared common to all the allied armies, except for the ratification of these powers upon which these armies depend.

17. The ratifications will be exchanged tomorrow, July 4th, at 6 o' clock in the morning at Pont de Neuilly.

18. Commissioners will be appointed by the respective parties to monitor the implementation of the present convention.

Three official prints were made and signed at Saint-Cloud by the aforementioned commissioners, and the date and year above.

Signed Baron Bignon,
Count De Bondy
Baron Muffling
T.B. Hervey, Colonel.

The present suspension of arms is approved and ratified.
In Paris, the third of July, 1815.

Signed, Marshal Prince of Eckmuhl.
For duplication:

Lieutenant General Chief of the General Staff,
Signed, count Guilleminot.
Printed at Poulet's, 9 Augustins street,