

THE BATTLE OF SOLFERINO

Piedmontese *Gazette*

The Piedmontese *Gazette* publishes the following account written on the evening of the day on which the battle was fought:

During the night, from the 19th to the 20th instant, the Austrians evacuated the right bank of the Mincio.

On the 24th the Emperor ordered the army of the King of Sardinia to occupy Pozzolengo, and to invest Peschiera, while the French army occupied Solferino and Cavriana.

The King ordered the first and fifth divisions to despatch detachments to the places mentioned, and the third division also to send a detachment towards Peschiera.

The Austrians during the night from the 23^d to the 24th advanced towards the right bank of the Mincio.

Reports of deserters are unanimous in stating that forty thousand men were collected at Piedmontese.

Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers met with unexpected difficulties at Solferino, and the Piedmontese reconnoissances also encountered great forces of the enemy. While Baraguay d'Hilliers performed prodigies of valor at Solferino the masses of the enemy continued to advance.

At Castiglione the Emperor perceiving that he was now contending with the entire army of the enemy, deployed the corps of General Niel and McMahon in the plain, and ordered Canrobert to rejoin with the Imperial Guard the reserve on the heights.

The King had been requested to direct all the forces possible against Solferino and he accordingly ordered Gen. Fanti and Durando to convey succors to the French. Gen. Fanti had already commanded the movement to be made, when news arrived that the reconnoissance of the third and fifth division was in danger of being cut off at Desenzano by a superior force of the enemy. The King recalled Fanti and ordered a brigade of Aosta to return promptly to San Martino. However, Baraguay D'Hilliers won Solferino and marched against Carriana.

The King having been informed that, notwithstanding the third and fifth divisions were engaged, it was difficult to carry the heights of San Martino, ordered a general attack of those divisions, with the brigade of Aosta, the first division under General della Marmora, and the brigade of Piedmont.

In spite of a violent tempest General della Marmora directed his course by Pozzolengo and descended upon San Martino, but was attacked from the side of Pozzolengo. The 4th Regiment moving to the left repulsed the enemy, causing great losses with our artillery.

In spite of Gen. Durando's delay, occasioned by the tempest, and by the ignorance of the guides, the 3^d and 5th divisions, and the brigade of Aosta, dislodged the enemy from his formidable positions, and a brilliant victory ended a contest of 15 hours, sustained with heroic constancy. The order of the army was admirable.

[Here follows details as to the loss of the Piedmontese, according to which 1,000 were killed, and about the same number wounded. The heights having been occupied, the French forced the enemy to retire to Goito, thus beaten along their whole line. According to positive information it results that 25,000 Sardinians held their ground against 50,000 Austrians, who were united, and engaged with all the advantages of position.]