

Powstanie listopadowe na północno-wschodnim Mazowszu w prasie zagranicznej. Cz. I

The November Uprising in northeastern Mazovia in the abroad press. Part I

Wybuch powstania listopadowego odbił się szerokim echem zarówno w prasie europejskiej, jak i amerykańskiej. Artykuły prezentowały głównie przyczyny, przebieg i skutki powstania, ale nie brakowało również licznych ocen tego wydarzenia. Gazety anglojęzyczne (brytyjskie i amerykańskie) w różnym tonie wypowiadały się o powstaniu. W niszowych tytułach dominowały jednak komentarze przychylnie powstańcom, wedle których społeczeństwo angielskie i amerykańskie popierało działania Polaków, co w danych momentach nie zawsze było kompatybilne z oficjalną linią polityczną tych krajów.

Wiele miejsca w prasie zajmuje przebieg działań zbrojnych w czasie powstania, w szczególności z obszaru północno-wschodniego Mazowsza. Niezwykle często w tytułach gazet pojawiały się wzmianki o Łomży, Ostrołęce, Szczuczynie, rzadziej o Ciechanowcu czy Tykocinie. Był to obszar niezwykle ważny strategicznie ze względu na topografię oraz obecność na nim tradycyjnej lokalnej społeczności, jaką stanowiła przede wszystkim drobna szlachta mazowiecka.

Poniżej prezentujemy w oryginale pierwsze trzy zagraniczne artykuły prasowe, bądź ich fragmenty poświęcone powstaniu¹.

The Bristol Mercury

London, 7.6.1831

The latest intelligence. London, Monday Morning.

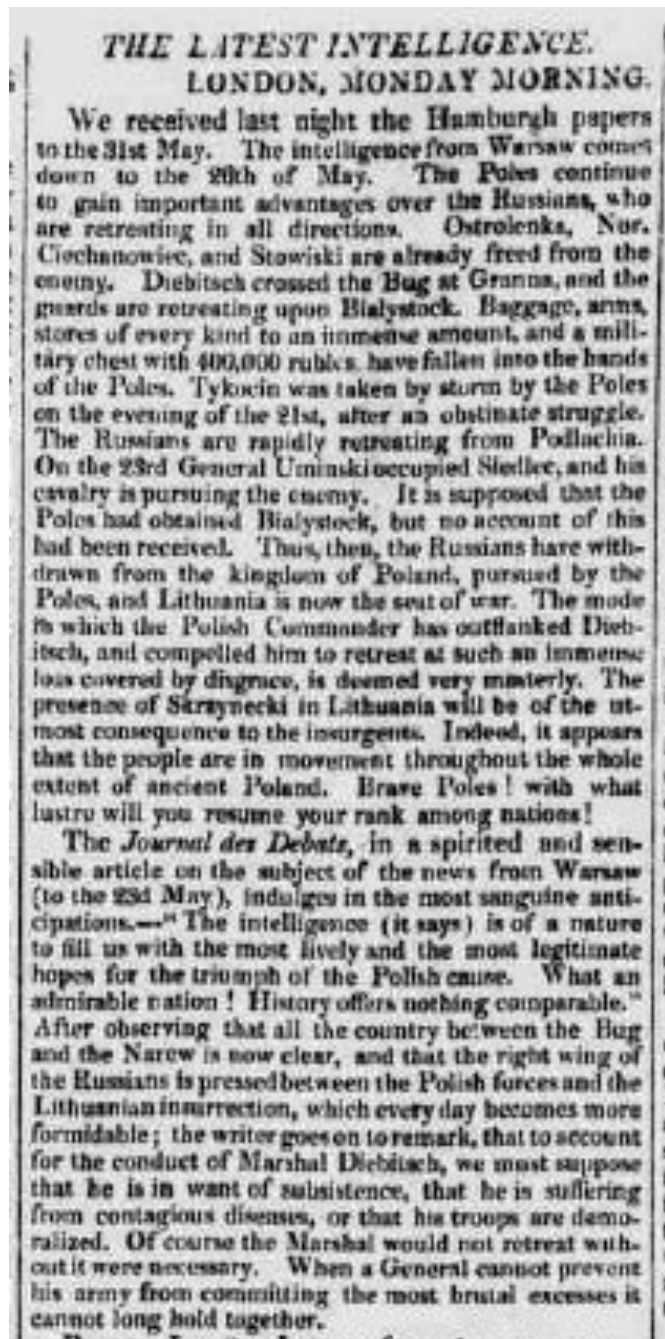
We received last night the Hamburg papers to the 31st May. The intelligence from Warsaw comes down to the 26th of May. The Poles continue to gain important advantages over the Russians, who are retreating in all directions. Ostrolenka, Nur, Ciechanowiec, and Stowiski are already freed from the enemy. Diebitsch crossed the Bug at Granna, and the guards are

¹ Artykuły prasowe pozyskane z zasobów newspapers.com.

retreating upon Bialystock. Baggage, arms, stores of every kind to an immense amount, and a military chest with 400,000 rubles have fallen into the hands of the Poles. Tykocin was taken by storm by the Poles on the evening of the 21st, after an obstinate struggle. The Russians are rapidly retreating from Podlachia. On the 23rd General Uminski occupied Sedlec, and his cavalry is pursuing the enemy. It is supposed that the Poles had obtained Bialystock, but no account of this had been received.

Thus, then, the Russians have withdrawn from kingdom of Poland, pursued by the Poles, and Lithuania is now the seat of war. The mode in which the Polish Commander has outflanked Diebitsch, and compelled him to retreat at such an immense loss covered by disgrace, is deemed very masterly. The presence of Skrzynecki in Lithuania will be of the utmost consequence to the insurgents. Indeed, it appears that the people are in movement throughout the whole extent of ancient Poland. Brave Poles! With what lustre will you resume your rank among nations!

The *Journal des Debats*, in a spirited and sensible article on the subject of the news from Warsaw (to the 23rd May), indulges in the most sanguine anticipations. The intelligence (it says) is of a nature to fill us with the most lively and the most legitimate hopes for the triumph of the Polish cause. What an admirable nation! History offers nothing comparable." After observing that all the country between the Bug and the Narew is now clear, and that the right wing of the Russians is pressed between the Polish forces and the Lithuanian insurrection, which every day becomes more formidable; the writer goes on to remark, that to account for the conduct of Marshal Diebitsch, we must suppose that he is in want of subsistence, that he is suffering from contagious diseases, or that his troops are demoralized. Of course the Marshal would not retreat without it were necessary. When a General cannot prevent his army from committing the most brutal excesses it cannot long hold together.



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Sentinel and Democrat

Burlington, Vermont Friday, July 29, 1831

The London Star of the evening of the 3rd of June, says, "The brave Polish Commander has completely out-manceuvred the Russians. While a Polish corps was amusing them at Minsk, Skryznecki united all the corps on his left, crossed the Bug, and taking Ostrolenka by assault has proceeded to Lomza, defeated the Russian Guards at Tychosin, and in fact occupied the whole country between the Bug And Narew". (...)

Middlebury Free Press

Wednesday, August 03, 1831

(...) Thus the national army, by ten days' offensive operations and with a force very inferior to that of the enemy, drove the Russian Guards and the frontiers of the kingdom, which they had burdened as long as there was no apprehension of danger, took in different places 600 prisoners among whom is Colonel Shatnout Aid-de-Camp to the Grand Duke Michael and many officers of rank, besides 800 sick and convalescent at Lomza. In many places the country people took and bro't in soldiers with their arms and horses. Besides this, a great many magazines which the enemy had farmed in the rear of the army, a quantity of baggage, &c. fall into our hands. (...)