

REMAINS of EARTHEN FORTIFICATIONS, the "BATTERY" (BORISOV)

On the eve of the war of 1812, the Russian military Department decided to build a powerful earth fortification on the right Bank of the Berezina river opposite Borisov, designed to cover the local bridge crossing and prevent the movement of the alleged enemy along the Moscow highway from Minsk to Smolensk. At the beginning of March 1812 in Borisov arrived miner company 2nd pioneer regiment Lieutenant Colonel M. G. Sazonov. Soon he in aid was sent to Colonel A. I. Gresser with the patronage of the company and a detachment of the reserve battalions of the 1st and 33rd Jaeger regiments. With the involvement of the local population, the military began the construction of the tete-de-Ponts, representing the two redoubt connected by internal defensive (retrenchment). By the beginning of military operations, the fortification had not been completed. Among other things, the main enemy offensive went North, and the retreat of the 2nd Western army of General p. Bagration to the South. There was no one to protect the fortification either. As a result, the French cavalry took Borisov without a fight. By order of Napoleon, the fortifications had to be buried. Work began in the autumn, but the French military administration was delayed by the order of the Emperor. In the battle of November 21, 1812, the avant-garde of the 3rd Western army seized the fortification, blocking the way of retreat of the remains of the great army to Minsk. In 1813, measures were taken to restore the fortifications "in case of possible unfavorable turnover of the war." Restored strengthening prisoners of war of the great army. After the Congress of Vienna in 1815 Borisov's tet-de-Pont lost its military-strategic importance