

lieutenant. The garrison of Narva, comprising about a thousand regular troops under the command of Baron Itern, had successfully resisted every attack for over six weeks, and with very little artillery had wrought considerable havoc among the besiegers.

It was on the 15th of November that Charles, with about 20,000 troops, landed in the Gulf of Riga. With 4,000 horse and about the same amount of infantry he advanced to the relief of Narva. Appearing suddenly before the Russian camp on the last day of the month, he attacked at once, and within three hours the trenches were forced and the Russians were in full flight. Those who could not escape laid down their arms, and the following morning Charles entered victorious into Narva.

Having successfully vanquished two of his enemies, Charles now marched against Augustus who was besieging Riga. Success again awaited him, and from the victory of Riga he proceeded to overrun Poland and Saxony. From 1701 to 1705 he was occupied in driving the Saxons and Russian auxiliaries out of Poland and accomplishing the dethronement of Augustus. In 1705, despite the opposition of a large body of the nobles, Charles succeeded in having Stanislaus Lesczinski crowned King of Poland. Augustus withdrew into his own kingdom of Saxony, but was finally compelled to conclude the Peace of Alt-Ranstadt, in which he resigned the crown of Poland, recognized King Stanislaus and renounced his alliance with Czar Peter. Palkul, whom Charles viewed as a traitor to Sweden, was given up and broken on the wheel.

Czar Peter had not been idle while Charles was engaged in subduing Augustus. In 1703 he conquered the Swedish province of Ingria and laid the foundation of his capital, St. Petersburg, on one of the islands at the mouth of the Neva. The following year he captured Narva, and in 1705 and 1706 overrun Esthonia, Livonia and Poland.

It was not until the close of 1707 that Charles again turned against Peter. Gathering his armies, he entered Russia in January, 1708, and won his first victory at Smolensk. Instead of following up his advantage and marching on Moscow, he entered into negotiations with Mazeppa, the Hetman of the Cossacks, and turned southward to the Ukraine. On arriving there he found Mazeppa powerless to help him and that the Zaporavian Cossacks had been defeated by a Russian army. He then marched on to the siege of Pultowa. The Czar had now time to gather