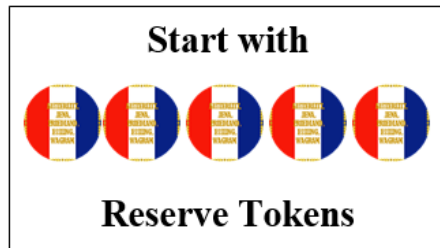


Way to Austerlitz Campaign - October – December 1805



After the victory at Ulm, the main body of the Napoleonic French army followed the remains of the Austrian army towards Vienna. Following the failure of the Austrian army at Ulm, a Russian army under General Mikhail Kutuzov was also withdrawing east, and reached the Ill river on 22 October, where it joined with the retreating Corps Kienmayer. On 5 November, they held a successful rearguard action in Amstetten. On 7 November, the Russians arrived in St. Pölten, and then moved across the Danube river the next day. Late on 9 November, they destroyed the bridges across the Danube, holding the last one, at Stein, near Krems, until the late afternoon. The following day, Mortier ordered Gazan to attack what they believed to be a Russian rear guard, at the village of Stein. This was a trap on the part of Kutuzov, laid for the sole purpose of convincing Mortier that he had retreated further toward Vienna, when he had actually crossed the Danube in force, and lay concealed behind the ridges above the village. In the ensuing Battle of Dürenstein, three Russian columns circled around the First Division of the Corps Mortier, and attacked Gazan from both the front and the rear. Not until Dupont's division arrived, after dark, was Gazan able to start to evacuate his soldiers to the other side of the Danube. Gazan lost close to 40 percent of his division. In addition, 47 officers and 895 men were captured, and he lost five guns, as well as the eagles of the 4th Infantry Regiment, and the eagle and guidon of the 4th Dragoons. The Russians also lost around 4,000, about 16 percent of their force, and two regimental colors. The Austrian Lt. Field Marshal Schmitt was killed as the battle concluded, probably by Russian musketry in the confused melee. At the Battle of Schöngrabern (also known as the Battle of Hollabrunn) occurred a week after the battle at Duerenstein. On 16 November 1805. near Hollabrunn in Lower Austria. The Russian army of Kutuzov was retiring north of the Danube before the French army of Napoleon. On 13 November 1805 Marshals Murat and Lannes, commanding the French advance guard, had captured a bridge over the Danube at Vienna by falsely claiming that an armistice had been signed, and then rushing the bridge while the guards were distracted. Kutuzov needed to gain time in order to make contact near Brünn with reinforcements led by Buxhowden. He ordered his rearguard under Major-General Prince Pyotr Bagration to delay the French.

After Hollabrunn, the armies gathered on the plains to the east of Brno. Napoleon could muster some 75,000 men and 157 guns for the impending battle, but about 7,000 troops under Davout were still far to the south in the direction of Vienna. The Allies had about 73,000 soldiers, seventy percent of them Russian, and 318 guns. On 1 December, both sides occupied their main positions to the decision battle..

AUSTERLITZ

1) Amstetten - 5 November 1805

Historical Background:

The French army initially caught up the Russians around Enns, Austria roughly 50 km west of Amstetten and then again at Oed, which was 3 km west of Amstetten. Bagration decided to fend off the French Army at Amstetten and posted his infantry and cavalry atop the hills on both sides of the main road. The artillery was positioned on the main road for the best line of fire. Murat led an initial charge with his cavalry escort of two squadrons against three Austrian cavalry regiments. His troops were overwhelmed and forced to fall back. Murat's troops were then reinforced by Nicolas Oudinot's grenadiers who were able to prevent Bagration's advance and forced his line to retreat back into Amstetten.

Murat waited for the balance of his column to arrive with Lannes. Lannes was ordered to move against positions held by Bagration and proceeded to attack. Bagration requested reinforcements and was then joined by Miloradovich and his force. As the battle persisted, The Russian Jägers were forced to fall back and a further attack upon Amstetten routed a Grenz infantry battalion. The battle dwindled down by nightfall.

Battle Notes

Allies Army

- Commander: Kienmayer / Bagration
- 5 Command Cards
- (Optional 4 Tactician Cards)

French Army

- Commander: Murat / Lannes
- (Optional 5 Tactician Cards)
- 5 Command Cards
- Move First

Campaign Special Rules - Amstetten:

Allies Reserve Roll:

= The Russian reinforcements can reach the battlefield faster than expected. The reinforcement marker is placed 1 hex towards to Amstetten before game start.

French Reserve Roll:

= Because of the Austrian losses at Ulm Campaign, the French can already roll 3 dice "Victory Event" and apply the result to the Austrian Units before game start.

2) Mariazell - 8 November 1805

Historical Background:

Von Merveldt's small corps had escaped capture at Ulm, and was attached to Kutusov's retreating Russians, when he received orders from the Austrian High Command to march to Styria to aid Archduke John's army. Realizing too late he had marched straight towards the advancing French, he turned to retrace his steps. With Davout's advance guard under the command of Heudelet de Bierre hot on his heels, Merveldt opted to make a stand at Mariazell. Taking advantage of the natural terrain in the area his worn out infantry waited for the French. Bierre, wasting no time, attacked with the French lights in the center and his light cavalry to the south of the village. The French cavalry attack broke through forcing many Austrians to surrender.

The Austrian Grenzers counter attacked out of the woods, but failed to capture the French artillery. Merveldt's Austrians, after a brief struggle, routed. remained uncontested.

Mack persisted in his idea of crossing to the north bank and went on the offensive, but, as night fell the French turned back the Austrian effort and Mack ordered the army to retreat back to Ulm.

Battle Notes

Austrian Army

- Commander: Von Merveldt
- 4 Command Cards
- Optional 2 Tactician Cards

French Army

- Commander: de Bierre
- 5 Command Cards
- Optional 4 Tactician Cards
- Move First

Campaign Special Rules - Mariazell:

Austrian Reserve Roll:

= The Austrian could outmaneuver the French forces and get a free "La Grande Manoeuvre" before game start.

French Reserve Roll:

= The French was to confidently and let the Austrian take the initiative. The Austrian start game with the first turn.

3) Dürenstein - 11 November 1805

Historical Background

At Dürenstein, a combined force of Russian and Austrian troops trapped a French division commanded by Théodore Maxime Gazan. The French division was part of the newly created VIII Corps, the so-called Corps Mortier, under command of Édouard Mortier.

Battle Notes

Russian Army

Leaders: Kutuzov; Miloradovich;
Dokhturov; Strik
4 Command cards
4 Tactics cards
Move First

French Army

Leaders: Campana; Mortier;
Gazan; Graindorge
5 Command Cards
2 Tactics cards

In pursuing the Austrian retreat from Bavaria, Mortier had over-extended his three divisions along the north bank of the Danube. Mikhail Illarionovich Kutuzov, commander of the Coalition force, enticed Mortier to send Gazan's division into a trap and French troops were caught in a valley between two Russian columns. They were rescued by the timely arrival of a second

division, under command of Pierre Dupont de l'Étang. The battle extended well into the night. Both sides claimed victory. The French lost more than a third of their participants, and Gazan's division experienced over 40 percent losses. This scenario focuses on that period of the battle before the timely arrival of second division.

Campaign Special Rules - Dürenstein:

Austrian Reserve Roll:

= The Austrian get a additional command card and play with 5 instead 4 CC's.

French Reserve Roll:

= The French may place up to four 2-sided fieldworks on any hex, occupied by french troops.

4) Schöngrabern - 16 November 1805

Historical Background

The Battle of Schöngrabern (also known as the Battle of Hollabrunn) was an engagement in the Napoleonic Wars during the War of the Third Coalition, fought on 16 November 1805 near Hollabrunn in Lower Austria, four weeks after the Battle of Ulm and two weeks before the Battle of Austerlitz (Slavkov, Moravia - now Czech Republic).

Battle Notes

Allies Army

Leaders: Bagration
5 Command cards
3 Tactics cards

French Army

Leaders Murat, Lannes
5 Command Cards
4 Tactics cards
Move First

The Russian army of Kutuzov was retiring north of the Danube before the French army of Napoleon. On 13 November 1805 Marshals Murat and Lannes, commanding the French advance guard, had captured a bridge over the Danube at Vienna by falsely claiming that an armistice had been signed, and then rushing the bridge while the guards were distracted. Kutuzov needed to gain time in order to make contact near Brno (Brünn) with reinforcements led by Buxhowden. He ordered his rearguard under Major-

General Prince Pyotr Bagration to delay the French.

Murat and Lannes commanded the 4th and 5th Corps and the Reserve Cavalry. Bagration took up a position about 6 km north of Hollabrunn, on the hill above the small town of Schöngrabern (today part of Grabern).

Murat believed that the whole of the Russian army was before him, and hesitated to attack. Bagration then suggested to Murat that negotiations for an armistice should be opened. Murat agreed, and did not attack. Murat sent an aide to Napoleon to notify of the cease-fire and invited Wintzingerode, Bagration and other Russian officers to his headquarters for wine and polite conversation. Lannes never believed Wintzingerode for a minute, regarding the cease fire. Instead, he had a pretty good idea where Kutuzov was, and thought Bagration on his own, and knew Napoleon meant to

Campaign Special Rules - Schöngrabern:

Allies Reserve Roll:

= The Austrian could lead to an additional Artillery to the front. You may place a Austrian Horse Artillery adjacent to any Austrian unit.

French Reserve Roll:

= The French cut off russian reinforcements, the Russian don't get the "Mother Russia" roll in this game.

fight the Russians, not to negotiate with them. Already annoyed that his corps was at half strength and Murat was telling him what to do, he stood on the edge of the gathering, holding a glass of wine and glaring at friends and enemies alike. he spoke only to Bagration, whom he recognized as a professional soldier, not a buffoon like some in the present company. "If I was on my own and didn't have to put up with Murat's orders," he told the Russian general, "we'd be fighting, not standing around drinking and talking about the goddamned weather."

When Napoleon was informed of this he was furious and wrote to Murat:

"I cannot find words to express my displeasure. You only command my vanguard and have no right to agree to an armistice without my orders. You will cost me the fruits of a campaign. End the armistice at once, and attack the enemy. Inform him that the general who has signed this has no power to make it, that only the Russian Emperor has the right, and that when the Russian Emperor ratifies this agreement, I will also ratify it. But it is only a ruse. March, destroy the Russian army. You are in a position to take his baggage and artillery."

Bagration's troops had built some hasty earthworks north of Schongraben and deployed behind them when the French attacked the afternoon of 16 November. Russian artillery covered the road from Hollabrunn, raking the advancing grenadiers and infantry as the cavalry attacked them on both flanks. The artillery pounded the French and Schongraben - most of the village went up in flames. Murat repulsed the Russian cavalry but Bagration inflicted heavy casualties among the grenadiers and infantry. Though the French suffered, they overwhelmed the Russians by their superior numbers. The fighting continued until after midnight when the Russians finally withdrew, leaving 2400 casualties behind. Lannes escaped injury during the battle but Oudinot was not so fortunate; he was sent to the hospital in Vienna along with many other senior officers.

