

Danube 20: Aspern-Essling AAR



DETAILED REPLAY OF SOLITAIRE GAME – DECEMBER 24TH, 2016

Background

The game begins with Napoleon attempting to cross the Danube over pontoon bridges. The Danube is in Spring flood and the pontoons at the single crossing site are in constant danger of being damaged or swept away. The Austrian plan is to allow a partial French crossing and then destroy the isolated troops. However, that plan requires quick concentration against the French after their initial crossings. The tension in the game comes from the preceding two elements. As each French unit attempts to cross the pontoon bridge there is a chance that it becomes damaged requiring a die roll on a subsequent turn to repair. Event cards can cause the bridge to be destroyed permanently. In the meantime, the Austrian units begin the game locked down and are released incrementally based on a release die roll each turn.



As in all Napoleonic 20 games, army morale plays a critical role. Players need to decide when to expend morale to gain certain benefits while making sure that enough is available to absorb losses and adverse events. The event cards can change the dynamics of the game at any moment. Can the French get the bulk of their army across, keep the pontoon bridge open, and deal a final blow to the Austrians and force a peace? Or, will the Austrians be able to concentrate their forces and crush a significant portion of the French army? Two armies march to destiny across the Danube at Aspern-Essling.



Figure 1: Initial setup with historical crossing site

Turn 01: Morning May 21st (Morale: French 8, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Random Events are skipped on Austrian First Turn

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 1 + 1 (for French units across Danube) results in no Austrian units released

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: “En Avant, mes braves!” – reserves can be committed without morale cost. N/A for this turn.

Movement Phase

- 2a placed on reinforcement box C
- 2a enters map at 1714 (1 MP) -> 1713 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from Bridgehead at 1511 -> 1410 (1 MP) -> Aspern 1311 (1 MP)
- 4c rolls for pontoon crossing: 5 – unit crosses pontoon intact. 4c moves from 1512 -> Bridgehead at 1511 (1 MP) -> Essling 1510 (1 MP)
- Napoleon rolls for crossing: 3 – Napoleon crosses but pontoon is damaged. Napoleon advances from 1512 -> Bridgehead 1511 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Turn Narrative

Lacking specific orders, all the Austrian units remained in their starting positions throughout the morning of May 21st. While the Austrians were sleeping in, the French expanded their crossing of the Danube. The two divisions of Messena's 4th Corps, having established the bridgehead across the Danube the evening before, advanced to occupy the fortified town of Aspern. Meanwhile, the other half of the Corps successfully crossed the Danube and occupied the

redoubt at Essling. Napoleon was pleased as he trotted on horseback across the Danube when suddenly he heard a major crash behind him. Turning back to face the river, he was dismayed to see the pontoon bridge seriously damaged by debris carried along by the Spring floods. Unaware of the damage to the bridge, the first elements of Lannes 2nd Corps advanced toward Lobau Island.

Napoleon got the jump on the Austrians this morning. However, his ability to exploit it would depend on how quickly his engineers could get the bridge repaired and his line of communications secured.



Figure 2: Situation at the end of Turn 1

Turn 02: Mid-Day May 21st (Morale: French 8, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Watch and Wait – add the “red” cards to the deck and reshuffle.

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 4 + 3 (for French Units across the Danube) – any unit can be released. Austrians release the I Corps.
- I Corps: moves from 0607 -> 0708 -> 0808

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

French Turn**Random Events Phase**

- Roll for bridge repair: 6 – bridge repaired
- Event Card: “En Avant, mes braves!” – reserves can be committed without morale cost. N/A for this turn.

Movement Phase

- 2b placed in reinforcement box C
- French expend 1 morale point for forced march giving all units 1 extra movement point.
- 2a moves from 1713 -> 1612 (1 MP) -> 1512 (1 MP). Roll for pontoon crossing: unit crosses but pontoons damaged. 2a moves from 1512 -> 1511 (1 MP).
- 2b enters map at 1714 (1 MP) -> 1713 (1 MP) -> 1612 (1 MP).
- 4c moves from Essling 1510 -> 1509 (1 MP) -> 1408 (1 MP) -> Raasdorf 1407 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from Aspern 1311 -> 1210 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP) -> Breitenlee 1109 (1 MP)
- Napoleon moves from Bridgehead 1511 -> 1410 (1 MP) -> 1409 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Turn Narrative

By mid-day, Charles decided to get some infantry closer to the crossing sites and ordered the I Corps forward through Gerasdorf. However, the bulk of the Austrian army remained fixed in position waiting for events to develop.

Napoleon recognized the Austrian indecision and seized the initiative and ordered all his available units to force march as the engineers had successfully repaired the pontoons. The first elements of Lannes 2nd Corps crossed the Danube into the bridgehead. Unfortunately, the stress of their march, damaged the pontoons again making them unusable. The remnant of the Corps entered the map and advanced to Lobau Island.

Napoleon only had three units across the Danube with a damaged bridge behind him. However, he could not resist the opportunity handed to him by the Austrian inactivity. He split Messena's 4th Corps sending one half to seize Raasdorf and the other to take Breitenlee. Each of these towns served as defensive anchors along the main road across the Marchfeld heading to Leopoldsdorf. If the Austrians remained cautious, the engineers repaired the bridge, and more

units brought forward, he will have escaped being trapped in the narrow bridgehead. Holding these towns would also hurt Austrian morale by unhinging their plans and threatening the objectives of Aderklaa and Glinzendorf. Risky moves but Napoleon had always been daring.



Figure 3: Situation at the end of Turn 2

Turn 03: Afternoon May 21st (Morale: French 7, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: "Rally on the Duke" – N/A as no broken Austrian units

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 4 + 4 (for French units across the Danube) – any unit released. Austrians choose Reserve 2 Cavalry
- Reserve 2 Cavalry moves from 1005 -> 1106 (1 MP) -> 1206 (1 MP) -> 1306 (1 MP)
- I Corps moves from 0808 -> 0908 (1 MP) -> 1007 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Roll for bridge repair: 2 – bridge remains damaged
- Event Card: “Intelligence Gathering” – French determine that the next event for the Austrians will be “Conflicting Orders”

Movement Phase

- Guards Infantry and reserve Cavalry moved to reinforcement Box C
- 2a moves from Bridgehead 1511 -> 1410 (1 MP) -> 1310 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from 1612 -> 1512 (1 MP)
- Reserve Cavalry enters map at 1714 (1 MP) -> 1713 (1 MP) -> 1612 (1 MP)
- Guards Infantry enters map at 1714 (2 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Turn Narrative

The Austrians are still slow to respond to the French threat. The Reserve 2 cavalry moves towards Raasdorf to screen the bridges leading to Baumersdorf and to be in position to get in the rear of any French units that may lunge towards Glinzendorf. The I Corps moves to screen Aderklaa and threaten the French at Brietenlee. Charles remains fixed near Hagenbrunn, leaving the direction of the action to his subordinates.

The engineers report to Napoleon that the raging waters on the Danube have delayed repair of the pontoon bridges. Napoleon is frustrated by the news and the threat that it poses. Then, a captured Austrian officer is brought to him and relays the intelligence that Charles has been nowhere to be seen at the front and is issuing conflicting orders that bear no relation to the actual conditions. Heartened by the apparent Austrian confusion, Napoleon decides to remain aggressive despite the danger of the damaged bridges to his rear.

The half of Lannes 2nd Corps that is already across the Danube advances outside of Aspern ready to occupy the city or support the forward line as circumstances dictate. The other half of the Corps moves to the bridges ready to advance across as soon as they are repaired. The Reserve cavalry arrives and advances to Lobau Island while the Guards infantry follows up behind.

If the engineers can just get the bridge in working order, the French can bring in supporting troops. Napoleon is counting on the continued confusion and lack of aggressiveness of the Austrians to maintain his exposed position.



Figure 4: Situation at end of Turn 3

Turn 04: Dusk May 21st (Morale: French 7, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: "Conflicting Orders" – French choose Austrian I Corps as forbidden to move

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 5 + 4 for French units across the Danube – Austrians can release two units. They choose Charles and II Corps.
- Charles moves from Hagenbrunn 0403 -> 0504 (1 MP) -> 0604 (1 MP) -> 0705 (1 MP) -> 0805 (1 MP) -> 0906 (1 MP)
- II Corps moves from 0604 -> 0705 (1 MP) -> 0805

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Roll for bridge repair: 4 – bridge repaired
- Event Card: “Matters Must Develop” – all cards shuffled

Movement Phase

- Roll for variable reinforcement 3a: 3 – delayed one turn
- 2b roll for pontoon crossing: 2 – unit crosses but pontoon damaged. 2b moves from 1512 -> Bridgehead 1511 (1 MP) -> 1410 (1 MP)
- Reserve Cavalry moves from 1612 -> 1512 (1 MP)
- Guards Infantry moves from 1714 -> 1713 (1 MP) -> 1612 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from Breitenlee 1109 -> 1208 (1 MP)
- 2a moves from 13010 -> 1209 (1 MP) -> Breitenlee 1109 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Turn Narrative

Charles had ordered the I Corps to move into a position to defend Breitenlee and threaten Aspern. Bellegarde, the commander of the I Corps was confused as he could see that the French already occupied Breitenlee. Thus, he stayed in position and sent a courier back to Charles with the information and awaited further instructions. This news finally prompted Charles to leave his headquarters at Hagenbrunn and head towards the front near Aderklaa. On the way, he ordered the II Corps to follow. Charles was finally on the move but it was nearly evening by the time he neared Aderklaa. The opportunity to deal a blow to the French on the first day was nearly gone.

Faced with Austrian inactivity, Napoleon moved to shore up his line. The left wing of Messena's Corps shifted out of Breitenlee down the road to close up on the right wing at Raasdorf. The leading elements of Lannes 2nd Corps advanced to take up the defense of Breitenlee. The remainder of the 2nd Corps crossed the pontoon bridges and advanced between the villages of Aspern and Essling. Once again, the fickle bridges are damaged after the crossing of the remainder of Lannes Corps. The Reserve Cavalry was left staring helplessly at the engineers working again to repair the bridges while the Guards infantry crossed to Lobau island. Napoleon anxiously asked for the status of the 3rd Corps but they are nowhere in sight.

Napoleon is frustrated. The Austrian inactivity delivered him a golden opportunity to defeat the lead portions of the Austrian army in detail. However, the continued problems with the pontoon bridges prevented him from concentrating his army fully and he could not risk overreaching until he got more troops across.



Figure 5: Situation at end of Turn 4

Turn 05: Evening May 21st (Morale: French 7, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: "Watch and Wait" – all cards shuffled

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 2 + 5 (for French units across the Danube) – Austrians release Reserve 1 Cavalry.
- Reserve 1 Cavalry moves from 0909 -> 1009 (1` MP)
- I Corps moves from 1007 -> 1008 (1 MP)
- II Corps moves from 0805 -> 0906 (1 MP) -> Aderklaa 1006 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 0906 -> Aderklaa 1006 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- I Corps and Reserve 1 cavalry attack the 2a infantry in Breitenlee. The Austrians are in the command radius of Charles and have a combined strength of 5. Since night is closing in, they do not commit any reserves. The defending 2a has a strength of 4 increased by

+1 for the town. The CRT column for the attack is 0. The die roll is a 3 and the units remain engaged.

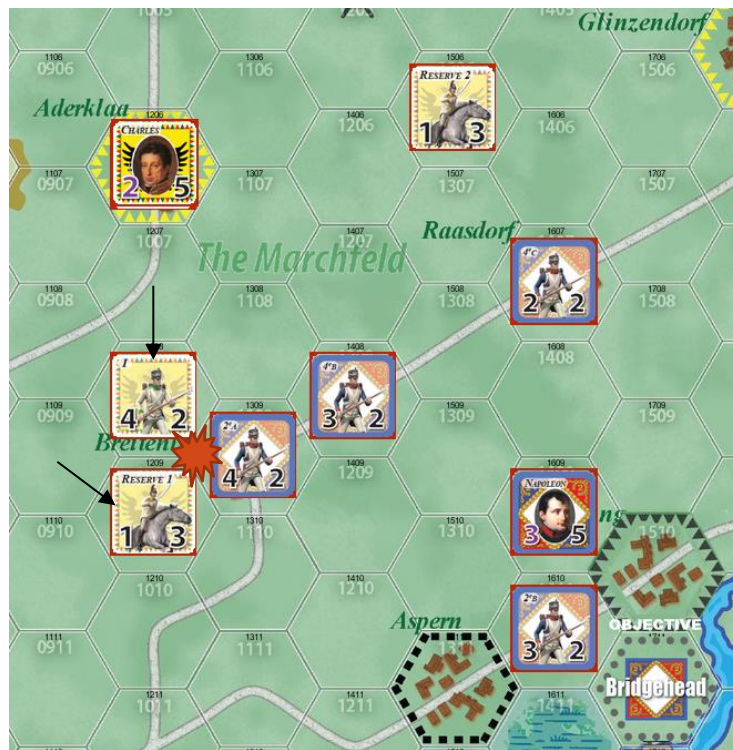


Figure 6: Turn 5 – Austrian evening attack on Breitenlee

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Roll for bridge repair: 1 – bridge remains damaged
- Event Card: “Determined Resistance” – Austrian Morale increased by 1

Movement Phase

- Roll for variable 3a reinforcement: 6 – and unit placed in Entry box C
- French expend one morale point for forced march
- 2b moves from 1410 -> 1310 (1 MP) -> 1210 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from 1208 -> 1108 (1 MP)
- Guard Infantry moves from 1612 -> 1611 (1 MP)
- 3a enters map at 1714 (1 MP) -> 1713 (1 MP) -> 1612 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- Austrian reserve 1 Cavalry disengages to hex 0910

Combat Phase

- The 2a and 4b Infantry are in command range of Napoleon and attack the I Corps outside of Breitenlee. French strength is 7 and they decline to commit reserves. Austrian strength is 4 and they also decline to commit reserves. The CRT differential is +2. Die roll

is a 6 for defender rout. The Austrian route roll is a 5 and the Austrians lose a morale point. The I Corps retreats 5 hexes to Wagram and Routed marker is placed on it. The French do not advance after combat. **(NOTE – The retreat path is incorrect as there is a French ZOC in hex 1007. It should have been 1008 -> 0908 -> 0907 -> 1006 -> 1005 -> 1004)**

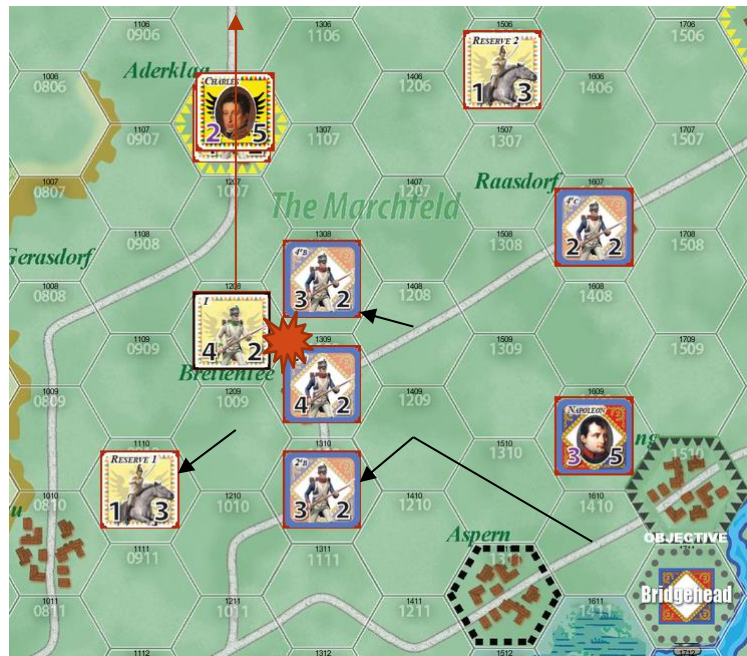


Figure 7: Turn 5 - French counterattack near Breitenlee

Turn Narrative

As he approached the front Charles realized the mistake of his inactivity. This was not a feint by the French but an actual crossing in force! Charles would have preferred more units on the scene, but felt he must do something to pressure the French in the waning hours before nightfall. He ordered the I Corps and the Reserve 1 cavalry forward to retake Breitenlee.

The Austrians moved forward smartly but Lannes' veterans were ready. In the fading light, the Austrian attack faltered and the two sides remained in place exchanging musket fire with little result.

Napoleon noticed the advancing Austrians and responded swiftly. The remainder of Lannes Corps forced marched to the left flank and positioned themselves to assault the right flank of the Austrian cavalry. With this new threat emerging from the increasing darkness, the cavalry disengaged. Meanwhile, the left wing of Massena's 4th Corps, that had recently moved out of Breitenlee, moved sharply across the fields to strike the left flank of the I Corps. Faced with overwhelming numbers, I corps routed all the way back to the safety of Wagram. The evening piecemeal assault by Charles was an utter failure.

Meanwhile, the lead elements of the 3rd Corps finally arrived and force marched to Labau Island where the Guard Infantry shifted to make room for them. Although heartened by the success of the evening attacks, Napoleon anxiously waited for the bridge to be repaired and his critical remaining units moved over the Danube before the rest of the Austrian army could concentrate the next day.



Figure 8: Situation at end of Turn 5

Turn 06: Night May 21st (Morale: French 6, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: “Even The Simplest Things Are Difficult” – roll is a 3 meaning for no combined arms attacks which is meaningless in a night turn

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 5 + 5 (for French units across the Danube) – Austrians release Grenadier and V Corps
- Movement is reduced to 1 MP at night
- V Corps moves from 0209 -> 0210 (1 MP)
- Reserve 1 Cavalry moves from 0910 -> 0911 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves from 0603 -> 0704 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Night Operations Phase

- Austrians gain 1 morale point (it would have been 2 but the French control the towns of Breitenlee and Raasdorf).

French Turn**Random Events Phase**

- Roll for bridge repair: 2 – bridge remains damaged
- Event Card: “Matters Must Develop” – cards reshuffled

Movement Phase

- 4b moves from 1108 -> 1208 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from 1110 -> 1111 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Night Operations Phase

- French do not recover morale as the bridge is still damaged

Turn Narrative

During the night, the Austrians released the V Corps and the Grenadiers and got them slowly moving forward. The Reserve 1 cavalry slid to the right with the intention of finding the French left flank in the morning while the I Corps recovered from its rout. Since the French occupied the starred villages of Breitenlee and Raasdorf, the Austrians could only recover one morale point at night.

Napoleon's plans continued to be dashed by the inoperative pontoon bridges. The knowledge that they were still isolated dampened the morale of the French army. Napoleon made minor adjustments to his line during the night. He pulled the left wing of the 4th Corps back from its exposed position after the Breitenlee attack, to its former position along the road. Lannes moved the left wing of his Corps further to the left to block any attempted dash into Aspern by the Austrians.

The first day of battle ended with frustration for both sides. Continuing problems with the pontoon bridges foiled Napoleon's plans to crush the Austrian army in detail. Meanwhile, the failure of Charles to recognize the strength of the French crossing and concentrate his army

allowed the French to seize key positions along the central road through the Marchfeld. A belated piecemeal attack to recover Breitenlee ended in failure. However, the morale of both armies remained relatively high as neither were significantly damaged by battle. It remained to be seen what the morning would bring.



Figure 9: Situation at the end of the first day of battle

Turn 07: Morning May 22nd (Morale: French 6, Austrian 7)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event card: “Charles Leads The Charge” – one unit can get +1 to its combat factor but is subject to the Le Garde Recule

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 2 + 5 for French units across the Danube – Austrians release IVb
- Austrians expend one morale point for forced marches
- IVb moves from 1103 -> 1104 (1 MP) -> Baumersdorf 1204 (1 MP) -> 1205 (1 MP)
- Reserve 2 Cavalry moves from 1306 -> 1405 (1 MP) -> 1506 (1 MP) -> 1606 (1 MP) -> 1607 (1 MP)
- II Corps moves from Aderklaa 1006 -> 1007 (1 MP) -> 0908 (1 MP) -> 0909 (1 MP)
- I Corps moves from 1003 Wagram -> 1004 (1 MP) -> 1005 (1 MP) -> Aderklaa 1006 (1 MP) -> 1007 (1 MP road)

- Grenadier moves from 0704 -> 0804 (1 MP) -> 0905 (1 MP) -> 1005 (1 MP)
- V Corps moves from 0210 -> Lang-Enzendorf 0311 (1 MP) -> 0411 (1 MP) -> Jedlersdorf 0512 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Roll for bridge repair: 5 – bridge repaired
- Event Card: “Onto The Marchfeld” – 4th Corps is designated to get an extra MP

Movement Phase

- Reserve Cavalry Crossing Roll: 1 unit fails to cross pontoons damaged
- 2a moves from Breitenlee 1109 -> 1209 (1 MP) -> 1310 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from 1111 -> 1211 (1 MP) -> 1311 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from 1208 -> 1309 (1 MP) -> 1408 (1 MP) -> 1509 (1 MP)
- 4c moves from 1407 -> 1408 (1 MP) -> 1509 (1 MP) -> 1609 (1 MP)
- Napoleon moves from 1409 -> 1410 (1 MP) -> 1511 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Turn Narrative

Charles finally got the bulk of his army moving towards the battlefield with forced marches. He was tempted to strike Breitenlee again but decided to wait until he had more troops in place. He sent the Reserve 2 cavalry around the hanging French right flank to threaten Ellsling. The I and II Corps moved in position to assault Breitenlee. In the meantime, the rest of the released units converged as quickly as possible on to the Marchfeld.

Napoleon received welcome news from his engineers at daybreak that the pontoons had finally been repaired. However, just as the Reserve Cavalry was about to cross, a section of the bridge broke free and the desperately needed reinforcements remain stranded on the far bank. Napoleon could see that Charles was finally gathering his hosts and the French were in trouble. He pulled back his lines to a more contracted position covering the approaches to Aspern and Essling.

The failure of the bridges was now reaching a critical point. The Austrians were concentrating and the four French units across the Danube were increasingly at risk. The French needed those reinforcements trapped on the far side of the Danube!

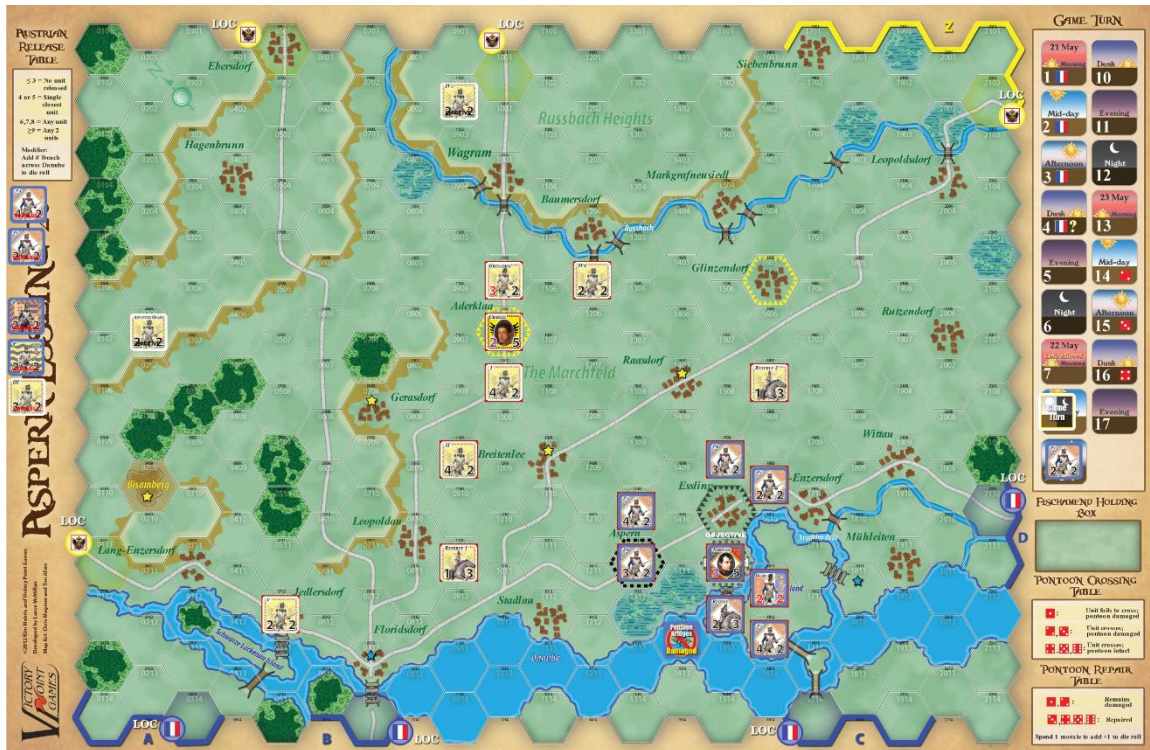


Figure 10: Situation at end of Turn 7

Turn 08: Mid-Day May 22nd (Morale: French 6, Austrian 6)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event card: Cuirassiers versus Battalion-Masse – French cavalry not doubled during countercharge

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 1 + 5 for French units across the Danube – Austrians release 4a
- Austrians expend one morale point for forced march (morale now 5)
- II Corps moves from 0909 -> 1009 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP) -> 1209 (1 MP)
- I Corps moves from 1007 -> 1108 (1 MP) -> 1208 (1 MP) -> 1309 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from Aderklaa 1006 -> 1107 (1 MP) -> 1108 (1 MP)
- Reserve 1 Cavalry moves from 0911 -> 1011 (1 MP) -> Stadlau 1112 (1 MP)
- V Corps moves along road from Jedlersdorf 0512 -> 0612 (1 MP) -> Floridsdorf 0713 (1 MP) -> 0812 (1 MP) -> 0912 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves 1005 -> 1106 (1 MP) -> 1206 (1 MP) -> 1307 (1 MP)

- IVb moves from 1205 -> 1306 (1 MP) -> 1406 (1 MP) -> 1507 (1 MP)
- Reserve 2 cavalry moves from 1607 -> 1708 (1 MP)
- IVa moves from 0902 -> 1002 (1 MP) -> Wagram 1003 (1 MP) -> 1004 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- I and II Corps combine to attack the French 2a at 1310. Austrians are in command and have a strength of 8 and do not commit reserves. The French have a strength of 4 and expend a morale point (morale now 5) to commit reserves to increase strength to 5. Final differential is +3. Die roll is a 2 for defender withdrawal. 2a retreats to 1410. The Austrians do not advance after combat.



Figure 11: Austrians attack near Aspern

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Roll for bridge repair: 4 – bridge repaired

- Event Card: “Determined Resistance” – since both sides have a morale of 5, this event has no effect.

Movement Phase

- Reserve Cavalry Crossing Roll: 5 – crosses intact. Reserve Cavalry moves from 1512 -> Bridgehead 1511 (1 MP) -> 1410 (1 MP) -> 1310 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from Aspern 1311 -> 1211 (1 MP)
- 2a moves from 1410 -> Aspern 1311 (1 MP) -> 1210 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from 1509 -> 1409 (1 MP)
- 4c moves from 1609 -> Essling 1510 (1 MP)
- 3a moves from 1612 -> 1512 (1 MP). Checks for crossing: 4 – crosses intact. Moves from 1512 -> Bridgehead 1511 (1 MP).
- Guard moves from 1611 -> 1512 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- Reserve 1 Cavalry disengages to 1011

Combat Phase

- 2a attacks II Corps at 0 differential on the CRT. Die roll is 6 for defender rout. Rout roll is 5 and Austrians lose a morale point (morale now 4). II Corps routs past Aderklaa. French do not advance.
- The reserve cavalry and 4b combine to attack the I Corps. Differential is +1. Roll is a 6 for defender rout. Rout roll is also a 6 and the Austrians lose another morale point (morale now 3). Austrians rout along the road to Leopoldsdorf. The Reserve cavalry rolls for controlled advance. Die roll is a 5 for kept and the French do not advance.



Figure 12: French counterattack near Aspern

Turn Narrative

With the French falling back towards the fortifications at Aspern and Essling, Charles pushed forward his entire army with forced marches. The I and II Corps caught up with the right wing of Lannes 2nd Corps just outside of Aspern. Outnumbered 2:1 the French committed their reserves and the veterans performed an orderly withdrawal under fire to the area between the two towns. Under Charles' direct command, the Austrians did not pursue until additional troops could be brought up to support.

In the nick of time for the French the pontoon bridges were repaired and holding. The Reserve Cavalry galloped across with pent up fury and charged into the Austrian I Corps with support from the left wing of Massena's 4th Corps. Simultaneously, Lannes Corps advanced with the right wing assaulting the Austrian II Corps and the left wing threatening the Reserve I Cavalry in Stadlau.

The Austrian cavalry disengaged back out to the road to Floridsdorf. The Austrian infantry was shocked by the sudden aggressiveness of the French whom they assumed were taking defensive positions. The II Corps crumbled first and routed past Aderklaa towards Wagram. Isolated and assaulted by both infantry and cavalry, the I corps routed a long way down the road to Leopoldsdorf. The sudden change in fortune caused Austrian morale to plummet.

Napoleon was elated. He finally got key units across the Danube and he routed the two strongest formations in the Austrian army. After a day and half of frustration he could feel the momentum switching into his favor. The French would take the offensive again!



Figure 13: Situation at end of Turn 8

Turn 09: Afternoon May 22nd (Morale: French 5, Austrian 3)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Intelligence Gathering – determine that the French will draw Pernety's Zeal and the Ardor of the Pontooners on their turn.

Movement Phase

- Release Roll: 5 + 6 for units across the Danube. The Advanced Guard which is the final unreleased unit is released.
- Advanced Guard moves from 0206 -> 0307 (1 MP) -> 0407 (1 MP STOP).
- IVA moves along the road from 1004 -> 1005 (1 MP) -> 1006 Aderklaa (1 MP) -> 1007 (1 MP – extra MP for all road movement)
- V Corps moves from 0912 -> 1011 (1 MP) -> 1010 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves from 1307 -> 1308 (1 MP) -> 1208 (1 MP)
- IVb moves from 1507 -> Raasdorf 1407 (1 MP)
- Reserve 2 Cavalry moves from 1708 -> 1608 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 1108 -> 1207

Reaction Phase

N/A

Combat Phase

- II and I Corps recover from Rout
- Austrians recover one morale point for a Lull (morale now 4)

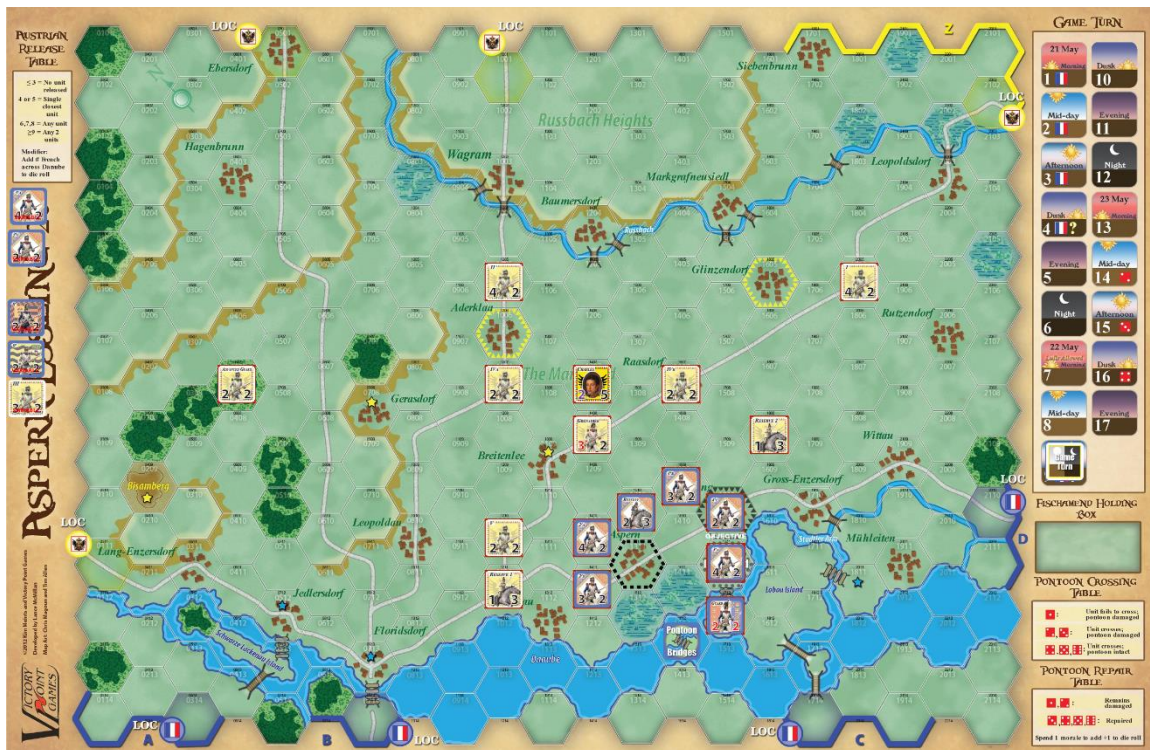


Figure 14: Situation after Austrian Phase of Turn 9

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Pernety's Zeal and the Ardor of the Pontooners on their turn. One will be added to pontoon crossing rolls this turn.

Movement Phase

- Roll for arrival of 3c. Roll is a 1 and unit does not enter and is moved to the Turn 10
- 2b moves from 1211 -> 1111 (1 MP)
- 2a moves from 1210 -> 1110 (1 MP)
- Reserve Cavalry moves from 1310 -> 1209 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from 1409 -> 1309 (1 MP)
- 4c moves from Essling 1510 -> 1409 (1 MP) -> 1408 (1 MP)
- 3a moves from Bridgehead 1511 -> Essling 1510 (1 MP) -> 1509 (1 MP)
- Napoleon moves from Bridgehead 1511 -> 1410 (1 MP) -> 1310 (1 MP)
- Guard Infantry rolls for pontoon crossing with a +1 for the event card. Roll is a 5 + 1 = 6 and unit crosses with pontoon intact.
- Guard Infantry moves from 1513 -> Bridgehead 1511 (1 MP) -> Essling 1510 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- Austrians considered a countercharge with the Reserve I Cavalry but did not want to risk allowing the entire French 2nd Corps to concentrate on the V Corps if the charge failed.
- Reserve 2 Cavalry disengages from 1608 to 1607

Combat Phase

- 2b attacks Reserve I Cavalry at 1011 with +2 differential on CRT (risking the exchange with hopes of getting a defender rout). Roll is a 1 for engaged.
- 2a attacks V Corps at 1010 with a +2 differential on the CRT. Roll is a 2 for the dreaded exchange. Morale modifiers even out.
- Reserve Cavalry and 4b combine on an attack against the Grenadiers in 1208 with a +2 differential on the CRT. Roll is a 6 for Defender Rout. AS the Grenadiers are an elite unit they get a -2 on their rout roll. The roll is a 6 modified to a 4 requiring them to retreat 4 hexes with a loss of an Austrian morale point (morale now 3) since this exceeds their movement allowance. The unit retreats from 1208 -> 1108 -> 1107 -> 1006 -> 1105. French Reserve Cavalry rolls for controlled advance. The roll is a 2 resulting in lost control. Reserve Cavalry advances from 1209 -> 1208 -> 1108. 4b advances from 1309 -> 1208.
- 4c attacks IVb. The French commit reserves at the cost of a morale point (morale now 4). After adding one to the French for the reserves and 1 to the defender for the town, the combat is resolved on the +0 CRT differential. Roll is a 3 for an engaged result.

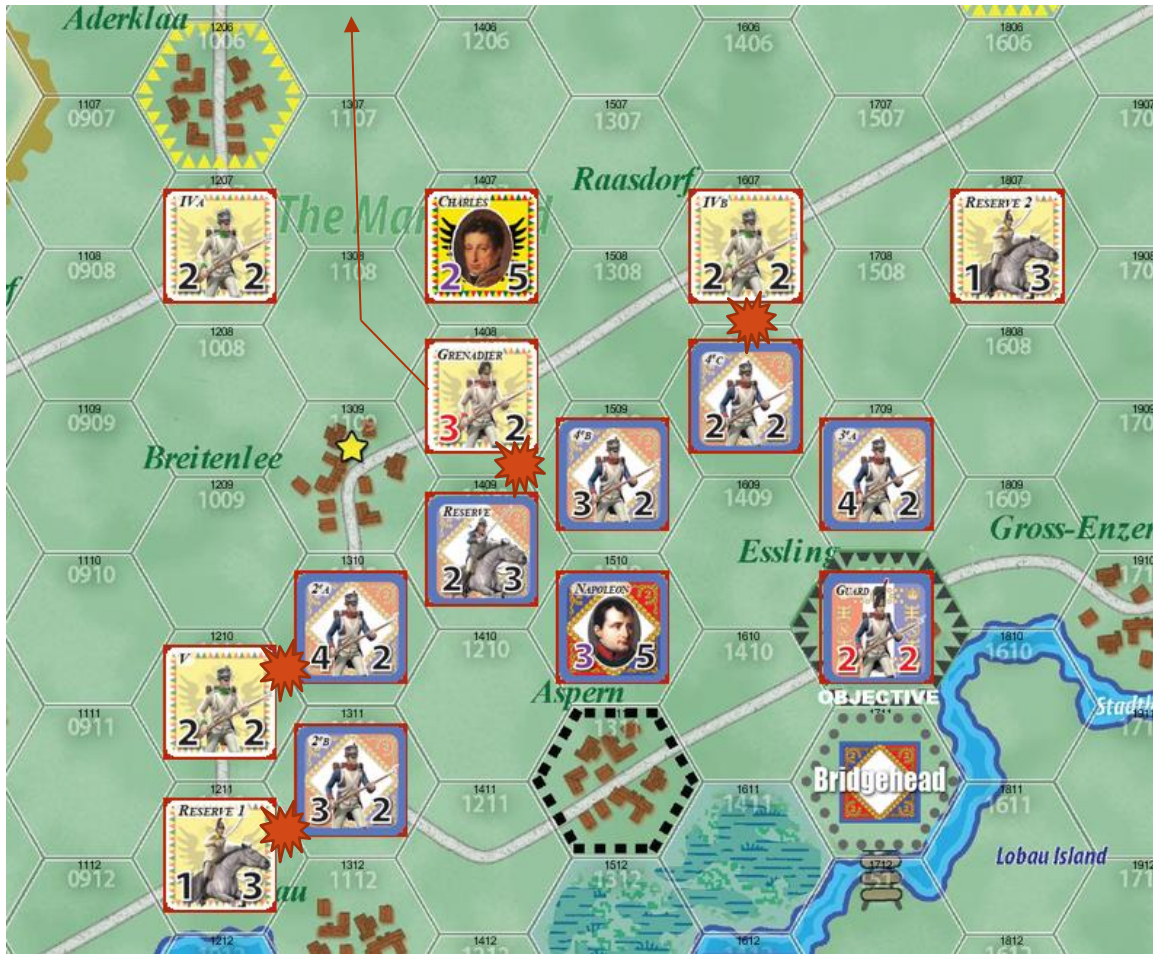


Figure 15: French May 22nd Afternoon Attack

Turn Narrative

After the disastrous rout of his two largest Corps, Charles moved to patch the holes in his line. The V Corps shored up the right flank while the Grenadiers and a portion of the IV Corps moved to plug the gaps in the center. Unfortunately, there were still significant gaps in the line giving the French the opportunity to concentrate attacks on the isolated units. Charles may have been better served to pull back towards the rallying I and II Corps and out of range of a direct French attack.

Napoleon wasted no time pressing forward with his entire army to engage the weakened Austrian line. Lannes 2nd Corps assaulted the Austrian right between Breitenlee and Stadlau. The Austrians acquitted themselves well against a much stronger French force. The Reserve I cavalry maneuvered nimbly against the left of Lannes Corps keeping them engaged while avoiding significant casualties. The right wing of the French 2nd Corps assaulted the much weaker Austrian V Corps. After intense fighting both units broke but this result was more harmful to the French as their unit was larger.

In the center, Charles was counting on his elite Grenadiers to maintain the line. Napoleon threw the left wing of Massena's 4th Corps and the Reserve Cavalry against them. Isolated in the center

of the line, this combined attack was too much for the Austrians who routed back to the edge of the Russbach Heights. Flush with victory, the French cavalry could not be restrained in pursuit until they encountered a portion of the Austrian IV Corps outside of Aderklaa. The left wing of Massena's Corps moved in support seizing the former position of the Austrian Grenadiers.

Meanwhile, the weaker right wing of the French 4th Corps moved forward to assault the Austrian I Corps in and around Raasdorf. The forces were evenly matched so the French committed their reserves. Even with this extra push, no advantage could be gained and the two sides settled down into an exchange of desultory fire.

On the French right, a portion of the 3rd Corps moved forward against the Austrian Reserve 2 cavalry. However, before the sides could close, the Austrian cavalry withdrew.

Charles' army was in considerable risk during the afternoon and Napoleon attempted to deal him a knockout blow. The two Austrian flanks fought admirably while the center was overwhelmed. Fortunately for Charles the II Corps had rallied and would be in position to bolster the Center. Meanwhile, Napoleon was frustrated that he did not get the decisive result he desired. Lannes Corps was weakened greatly. Napoleon sent couriers back to hurry the reinforcement of the remainder of the 3rd Corps which could be a deciding factor in the battle. Both sides are tired with morale sinking as the light faded to dusk on the second day.



Figure 16: Situation at End of Turn 9

Turn 10: Dusk May 22nd (Morale: French 4, Austrian 3)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Even the Simplest Things Are Difficult. Die roll is a 5 for no effect since not playing with FOW.

Movement Phase

- II Corps moves from 1005 -> 1106 (1 MP) -> 1107 (1 MP)
- I Corps uses road movement to gain an extra MP from 1805 -> 1706 (1 MP) -> 1606 (1 MP) -> 1507 (1 MP).
- Advanced Guard moved from 0406 -> 0508 (1 MP) -> 0608 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 1207 -> 1206 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- French Reserve Cavalry disengages to Breitenlee 1109.

Combat Phase

- Reserve I Cavalry attacks 2B near Stadlau. Since unit is out of command, the differential is -3 set to -2 (lowest on the CRT). The Austrians roll a fortunate 6 for an engaged result.
- IVb engages the French 4c outside of Raasdorf with a differential of 0. Roll is a 5 for defender withdrawal. 4c retreats from 1408 -> 1309. The Austrians do not advance.
- Grenadiers recover from rout.



- French Reserve Cavalry attacks Austrian Reserve I cavalry. Unit is out of command reducing strength by 1 for a 0 differential. The French commit reserves (morale now 3)

- to raise the CRT differential back up to +1. Roll is a 3 for defender withdrawal. Reserve I retreats to 1010. Since this is in an EZOC th unit has to roll to see if it breaks. Roll is a 1 and Reserve I cavalry breaks and Austrian morale is reduced to 2 and French morale increases to 4. French Reserve Cavalry rolls for controlled advance. Roll is 4 meaning it is safe. Reserve Cavalry advances to 1011 and then to 1010 where the Austrian unit broke.
- 4c and 3a combine to attack the Austrian IVb unit in Raasdorf which gains +1 for the town. Differential is 6 to 2+1 or +3. Die roll is 4 for defender rout. The rout roll is a 2 which is equal to the unit's movement allowance so the Austrians do not lose morale. IVb retreats from Raasdorf -> 1406 -> 1306. 3a advances into Raasdorf



Figure 18: Turn 10 Austrian Reaction and French Combat Phases

Turn Narrative

As the light faded, Charles moved the recently rallied I and II Corps back toward the battlefield. The Reserve I cavalry isolated on the right flank maintained its close engagement with the remainder of Lannes Corps. Meanwhile a portion of the Austrian IV Corps pushed the right wing of Masenna's 4th Corps away from Raasdorf. Charles was engaged in a delicate balancing act trying to maintain his line until his two most powerful Corps could return to the battle.

Napoleon looked impatiently over his shoulders to the pontoon bridges but still no sign of the overdue remainder of the 3rd Corps. Napoleon decided to take advantage of his cleared center by swinging the Reserve Cavalry into the rear of the Austrian Reserve I Cavalry entangled in battle with the remainder of Lannes Corps and destroying them against the Danube. Seeing the

threat, the Austrian Cavalry counter charged Lannes and forced his troops back down the road towards Aspern. Instead of pursuing, the Austrians turned to meet the advancing French cavalry to their rear. However, being disorganized from their charge against the infantry, the Austrians were forced to retreat against the superior French cavalry. During the vicious pursuit by the French, the Austrians finally broke reducing their morale even further.

Meanwhile, Napoleon directed the left wing of Massena's 4th Corps to cover the center by taking unoccupied Breitenlee while the right wing of the 4th Corps assisted by a portion of the 3rd Corps assaulted a portion of the Austrian IV Corps at Raasdorf. The Austrians were routed but managed a controlled retreat towards the heights that did not damage morale. Elements of the 3rd Corps advanced into Raasdorf while the Guards infantry moved out of Essling to cover the right flank of the French army.

The French had some partial success but still could not deliver the knockout blow that Napoleon had hoped for. However, Austrian morale was dangerously low as evening drew near.

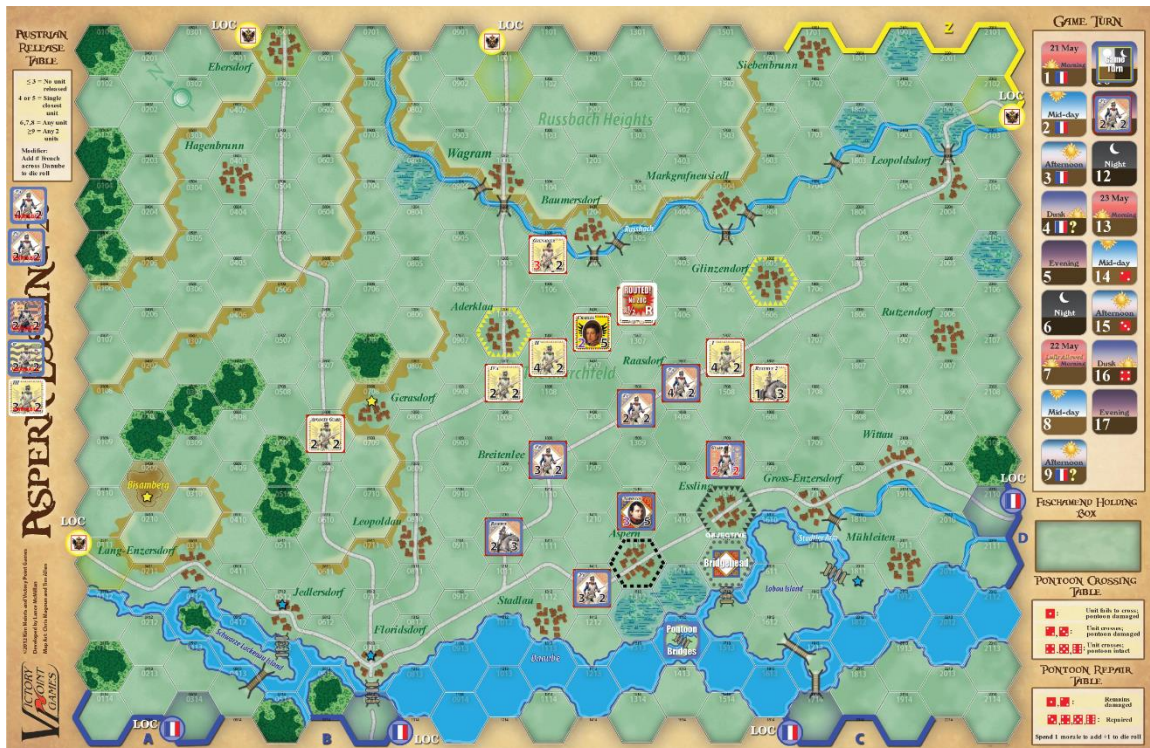


Figure 19: Situation at End of Turn 10

Turn 11: Evening May 22nd (Morale: French 4, Austrian 2)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: No longer the Austrians of Old – one free morale point expenditure.

Movement Phase

- Austrians spend free morale point for forced march.
- IVa moves from 1007 -> 1008 (1 MP)
- II moves from 1107 -> 1108 (1 MP)
- Grenadier force marches from 1105 -> 1106 (1 MP) -> 1107 (1 MP) -> 1207 (1 MP)
- Reserve 2 Cavalry moves from 1607 -> 1606 (1 MP) -> 1506 (1 MP) -> 1406 (1 MP)
- Advance Guard force marches from 0608 -> 0709 (1 MP) -> 0809 (1 MP) -> 0909 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- IVa and II Corps are in command range of Charles and attack the French 4b in Breitenlee. French expend a morale point (now reduced to 3) to commit reserves. Differential is 6 to 3 + 1 for reserves + 1 for town = +1 on the CRT. Roll is a 3 for defender withdrawal. 4b withdraws from 1109 -> 1209. II Corps advances into Brietenlee.
- I Corps and Reserve 2 Cavalry are in command range of Charles and assault the French 3a in Raasdorf. Austrian combat factors are 5 to a French strength of 4 +1 for the town. Combat is resolved on the 0 column of the CRT. Roll is a 5 for defender withdrawal. 3a withdraws from Raasdorf 1407 to 1408. Austrians roll for controlled advance and get a 3 indicating it is lost and Reserve 2 Cavalry must advance into Raasdorf.
- The Grenadiers are in the command range of Charles and attack the French 4c at 1308. Combat is resolved on the +1 column of the CRT. Die roll is a 6 for defender rout. Rout roll is a 2 meaning a retreat of 2 hexes but no morale loss for the French. 4c retreats from 1308 -> 1309 -> 1310. The Grenadiers advance to 1308.
- IVb recovers from Rout

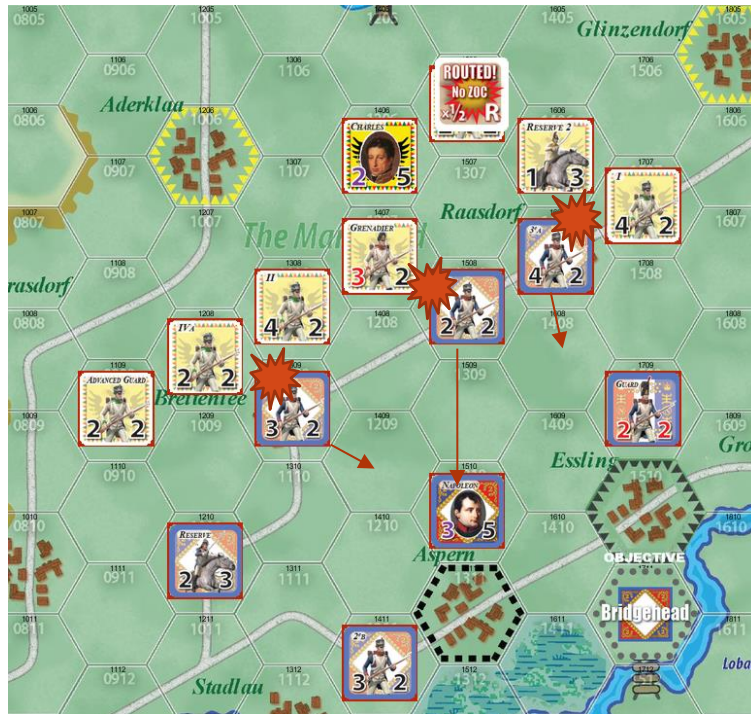


Figure 20: Turn 11 Austrian Combat Phase

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Matters Must Develop – shuffled all cards.

Movement Phase

- Roll for arrival of 3c. Roll is a 1 and reinforcement is moved to turn 12.
- 2b moves from 1211 -> 1210 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP)
- 4c and Napoleon move from 1310 -> 1410.

Reaction Phase

- Austrians decline to react.

Combat Phase

- French 2b and 4b attack Austrian II Corps in Breitenlee. Differential is 6 to 4 (+1 for the town) = +1. Die roll is 5 for defender withdrawal. II Corps withdraws to 1108. 2B advances into Breitenlee.
- French 3a attacks the Grenadiers in 1308 and the Reserve2 Cavalry in Raasdorf 1407. Differential is 4 to 4 (+1 for the town) = -1. Die roll is 4 for engaged.
- 4c recovers from rout in 1410.

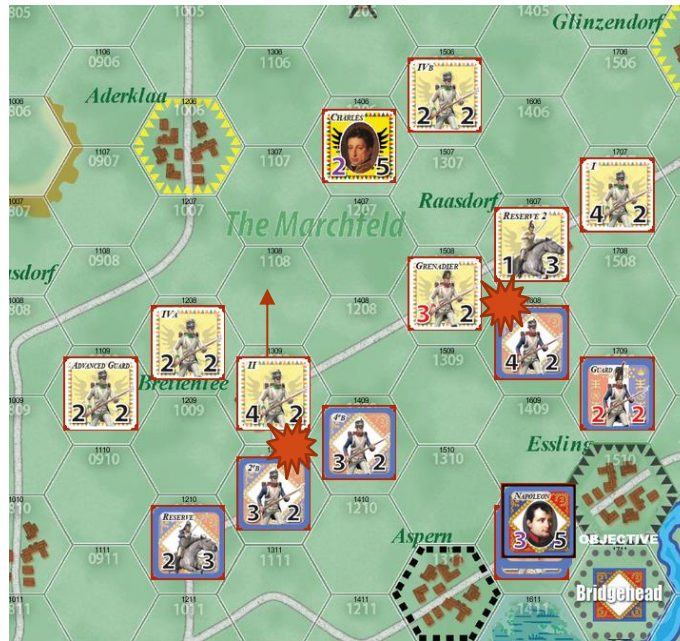


Figure 21: Turn 11 French Combat Phase

Turn Narrative

In the near dark of evening, Charles rallies his troops to force march and attempt to force the French out of the key towns of Breitenlee and Raasdorf. It would be a boost to Austrians morale to deny the French access to these towns over night. The II Corps with elements of the IV Corps assaulted the outnumbered French in Breitenlee. The French 4b Corps committed their reserves but it was not sufficient to stem the Austrian tide and the French fell back in good order outside the town.

Meanwhile on the left of his army, Charles swung the Reserve 2 cavalry around to the right flank of the I Corps to join in the assault on Raasdorf without getting entangled with the French Guard. Seeing the Austrian Grenadiers forming to attack the 4c to their rear, the elements of the 3rd Corps decided discretion was the better part of valor and retreated from the town to hex 1410. The elated Reserve 2 cavalry could not be controlled and pursued into the town cutting off the occupation by the I Corps.

The elite Austrian Grenadiers attacked elements of Massena's 4th Corps along the road to Raasdorf. The French, seeing 3rd Corps pull out of Raasdorf, panicked and routed back towards Aspern allowing the Austrians to seize the road. If the Grenadiers had started their attack earlier, the French 3rd Corps may have been cut off and forced to retreat through the fire of the Grenadiers. It was an opportunity lost.

Napoleon, stunned by the change in fortune, peered impatiently in the darkness for the arrival of the remainder of the 3rd Corps to no avail. Attempting to retrieve the situation, he ordered the remnants of the 2nd Corps to assist elements of the 4th Corps in retaking Breitenlee. Faced

with a furious assault from two directions in the darkness, the Austrian II Corps relinquished Brietenlee to the surging French 2 Corps.

Nightfall descended on the second day of battle. Both sides were worn out from a full day of battle with inconclusive results. Morale was dangerously low and the armies were badly in need of rest. The Austrians were unable to contain the French in the bridgehead while the French failed to deal a decisive blow to the scattered Austrians when the opportunity presented itself. Both armies settled down for the night to rest and plan for the third day of the struggle.



Figure 22: Situation at End of Turn 11

Turn 12: Night May 22nd (Morale: French 3, Austrian 2)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Conflicting Orders French player chooses Austrian IVa as not being able to move.

Movement Phase

- I Corps moves from 1507 -> 1406 (1 MP)
- Reserve 2 Cavalry retreats from 1407 Raasdorf -> 1507 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves from 1308 -> 1207 (1 MP).

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Night Operations Phase

- Rally Step – attempt to rally V Corps. Roll is a 2 for eliminated
- Rally Step – attempt to rally Reserve I Cavalry. Roll is a 5 and unit is rallied to hex 0111
- Morale increase of +1 (would have been +2 but French occupy Breitenlee) to 3

French Turn**Random Events Phase**

- Event Card: Strike They Will Break – Reserve Cavalry gets +1 MP

Movement Phase

- Roll for entry of 3c. Roll is a 3 and unit is moved to Turn 13 on the track.
- Guards Infantry retreats from 1509 -> Essling 1510 (1 MP)
- 3a withdraws from 1408 -> 1409 (1 MP)
- 2b withdraws from Breitenlee -> 1110 (1 MP)
- 4c moves from 1410 -> 1310 (1 MP)
- Napoleon moves from 1410 -> Aspern 1311 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- N/A

Night Operations Phase

- Rally Step – attempt to rally 2a. Roll is a 5 for rallied and unit is placed on 1714.
- French recover +1 morale to 4
- Reshuffle Event Card Deck

Turn Narrative

Both sides took advantage of the night to rest and straighten their lines. The French pulled back from the vicinity of Raasdorf and the exposed position in Breitenlee. Each side was able to rally a previously broken unit. Napoleon was still fuming over the wayward half of 3rd Corps still not appearing.



Figure 23: Situation at The End of Turn 12

Turn 13: Morning May 23rd (Morale: French 4, Austrian 3)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Conflicting Orders – French player selects Austrian II Corps to not move.

Movement Phase

- Reserve 2 Cavalry moves from 1507 -> 1607 (1 MP) -> 1608 (1 MP)
- I Corps moves from 1406 -> 1507 (1 MP) -> 1508 (1 MP)
- IVb moves from 1306 -> 1406 (1 MP) -> Raasdorf 1407 (1 MP)
- Reserve I Cavalry moves along the road with 1 extra MP from 0111 -> 0211 (1 MP) -> Lang-Enzersdorf 0311 (1 MP) -> 0411 (1 MP) -> Jedlersdorf 0512 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 1206 -> 1107 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- No combat. Austrians recover one morale point for the lull increasing their morale to 4.

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Intelligence Gathering – French see that next turn Austrians will draw Charles Leads The Charge Banner In Hand.

Movement Phase

- Roll for entry of 3c. Roll is a 4 and unit is placed in Reinforcement Entry Hex C
- Guards move from Essling 1510 -> 1410 (1 MP)
- 3a moves from 1409 -> Essling 1510 (1 MP)
- 4c moves from 1310 -> Aspern 1311 (1 MP)
- 4b moves from 1209 -> 1310 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from 1110 -> 1210 (1 MP)
- Reserve Cavalry moves from 1010 -> 1111 (1 MP)
- 2a moves from 1714 -> 1713 (1 MP) -> 1612 (1 MP)
- 3c enters map at 1714 (1 MP) -> 1713 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- No combat. French recover one morale point for the lull increasing their morale to 5.

Turn Narrative

Charles awoke early and saw that the enemy had retreated away from Raasdorf. He ordered the left wing of his army forward towards Essling. He also saw that the French had fell back from Breitenlee and ordered the II Corps to seize it immediately. The remainder of the right wing was to advance and join II Corps to assault the French beyond the town as soon as it was occupied. Due to confusion in orders, the II Corps commander assumed he was to wait until the forces on either flank began to advance. Thus, the morning frittered away without any action from the Austrian right wing other than the rallied Reserve I cavalry advancing along the river road to Jedlersdorf.

Napoleon saw the support coming from the rallied portions of Lannes 2nd Corps plus the wayward remainder of the 3rd Corps arriving across the Danube. With the bulk of the Austrian army finally closing in a coordinated manner and intelligence that the Austrians were gearing up for a major assault from a captured officer, Napoleon chose to continue to fall back to the fortifications of Aspern and Essling and towards his advancing supports.



Figure 24: Situation at End of Turn 13

Turn 14: Mid-Day May 23rd (Morale: French 5, Austrian 4)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event card: Charles Leads The Charge Banner In Hand – can choose one unit as +1 combat factor but must use the Le Garde Recule Rule.

Movement Phase

- Reserve I Cavalry uses Road Movement for +1 MP and advances from Jedlersdorf 0512 -> 0612 (1 MP) -> Floridsdorf 0713 (1 MP) -> 0812 (1 MP) -> 0912 (1 MP)
- Advance Guard advances from 0909 -> 0910 (1 MP) -> 1010 (1 MP)
- IVa moves from 1008 -> 1009 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP)
- II Corps moves from 1108 -> 1208 (1 MP) -> 1209 (1 MP)
- I Corps moves from 1508 -> 1408 (1 MP) -> 1309 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves from 1207 -> 1308 (1 MP) -> 1408 (1 MP)
- IVb moves from 1407 -> 1508 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 1107 -> 1108 (1 MP) -> Breitenlee 1109 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- French Reserve Cavalry countercharges IVa at hex 1110. Combat factor is doubled to 4 for a differential of +2 on the CRT. Die roll is a 1 for engaged.

Combat

- Advanced Guard and IVa combine to attack the Reserve Cavalry at +2 on the CRT. Die roll is 4 for defender withdrawal to 1211. Advance Guard advances into 1111.
- I Corps takes advantage of the +1 for event Card and attacks 4b in hex 1310 with a strength of 5. The French expend a morale point (drop to 4) to commit reserves. Final CRT column is +1. Die roll is 3 for defender withdrawal. 4b retreats through the Guardsat 1410 and on to 1411. I Corps advances to 1310.
- II Corps attacks 2b at hex 1210 on the +1 column of the CRT. Roll is 3 for defender withdrawal. 2b retreats into Aspern 1311. This is NOT a hazardous retreat as EZOC does not extend into Aspern. The unit continues its retreat to 1312. II Corps advances to 1210



Figure 25: Turn 14 French Reaction and Austrian Combat Phase

French Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Flood Waters Rise – the pontoons are damaged

Movement Phase

- 2a moves from 1612 -> 1512 (1 MP)
- 3c moves from 1713 -> 1612 (1 MP)
- 2b moves from 1312 -> 1212 (1 MP) -> Stadlau 1112 (1 MP)
- Napoleon moves from Aspern 1311 -> 1411 (1 MP Stop)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- The 4c sallies from Aspern to help support the French Guard that is tangled up with the advancing I Corps. The combat takes place on the 0 column of the CRT. Die roll is a 6 resulting in defender rout. Rout roll is a 1 saving the Austrians a morale point loss. The French Guard declines to advance but since it *could have advanced* there is no French morale loss due to Le Garde Recule. Austrian I Corps routs to 1309.
- 2b attacks the Advanced Guard in 1111 on the +1 CRT column. Roll is 1 for attacker withdrawal and 2b retreats back to 1212. The Austrians decline to advance after combat.
- Reserve Cavalry attacks the II Corps. French commit reserves reducing morale to 3. Attack takes place on -1 column of the CRT. Roll is 2 for attacker rout. Rout roll is a 4 resulting in a further loss of French morale to 2. Cavalry retreats to the Bridgehead but that is only 3 hexes. Since the Pontoons are damaged, the Cavalry cannot cross and breaks. This decrease French morale to 1 and increases Austrian morale to 5. II Corps declines to advance.
- Roll for sudden death: Roll is 4 and game continues.



Figure 26: Turn 14 French Combat Phase

Turn Narrative

Charles personally moved over to the right wing to get the assault moving before the French reinforcements could arrive. The Advanced Guard, IVa and II Corps all moved directly against the French before Aspern. In a deft move, Charles brought the strong I corps, which had been threatening Essling, over to the right to assault the French 4b Corps in the center. The Grenadiers, IVb and Reserve 2 Cavalry remained out of command range of Charles and stayed back guarding the left wing of the army. Reserve I cavalry continued its advance up the river road to threaten the left of the French line.

The French Reserve Cavalry attempted to break up the rhythm of the Austrian attack by charging the Austrian IVa Corps. The Austrians formed squares and held their ground engaging the French cavalry. In the meantime, the Advance Guard took advantage of the tangled melee to slam into the flank of the French Cavalry. This forced the French to withdraw towards Aspern followed closely by the Austrian Advance Guard.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Austrian attack went according to plan. The I Corps, personally exhorted by Charles pushed 4b into the swamps beyond Aspern. This situation left 2b almost surrounded facing an assault by the Austrian II Corps. The French narrowly escaped through Aspern and continued on to the swamps along the Danube.

Pressed into the cramped area near the bridgehead, Napoleon was limited in available counterattack options. He ordered a portion of Lannes Corps to advance to Stadlau to try and relieve pressure on the left flank and the hard-pressed Reserve Cavalry. Although not preferred, the Guards Infantry was caught up into contact with the I Corps. Napoleon regretted not retreating them into the bridgehead. However, he couldn't have known that the flood waters would rise, damaging the pontoons again, and stranding his much-needed reinforcements on the opposite bank of the Danube!

The counterattacks started out well for the French with the Guards Infantry and 4c routing the I Corps outside of Aspern. Even though routed, the Austrian commander halted the retreat quickly and overall Austrian morale was not impacted. However, the rest of the assault miscarried badly. 2b was forced to withdraw in the face of stiff resistance of the Austrian Advanced Guard. Meanwhile, the Reserve Cavalry committed reserves in a desperate attempt to push back the Austrian II Corps. Seeing their support on the left fall back prematurely, the Cavalry panicked and routed towards the bridgehead. There they found the pontoons damaged and broke. Their cries of all being lost spread quickly through the army and morale plummeted.



Figure 27: Situation at End of Turn 14

Turn 15: Afternoon May 23rd (Morale: French 1, Austrian 5)

Austrian Turn

Random Events Phase

- Event Card: Caution and Uncertainty – all units -1 MP

Movement Phase

- Austrians expend 1 morale point for forced march (reduced morale to 4) in order to cancel out the effect of caution and Uncertainty
- Advance Guard moves from 1111 -> Stadlau 1112 (1 MP)
- IVa moves from 1110 -> 1111 (1 MP) -> 1211 (1 MP)
- Grenadier moves from 1408 -> 1309 (1MP) -> 1310 (1 MP)
- Charles moves from 1109 -> 1110 (1 MP)
- Reserve I Cavalry uses road movement to move from 0912 -> 1011 (1 MP) -> 1010 (1 MP) -> 1110 (1 MP)

Reaction Phase

- N/A

Combat Phase

- The Advanced Guard moves against the French 2b in hex 1212. The attack is at -1 on the CRT. Die roll is a 5 for defender withdrawal. 2a retreats to 1312 which is a hazardous

retreat do to the EZOC of the Austrian IVa Corps. Hazardous retreat roll is a 1 and the French unit breaks. Austrian morale is raised to 1 and French morale reduced to 0. Austrians win!



Figure 28: Turn 15 Austrian Combat Phase

French Turn

Random Events Phase

Movement Phase

Reaction Phase

Combat Phase

Turn Narrative

Smelling blood Charles called on all his units to force march to the attack. However, the forces were exhausted and moved forward cautiously. Nevertheless, Charles aligned his forces to continue the push to seize Aspern. The Advance Guard, although outnumbered was able to force the French 2b Corps to retreat. Forced to retreat across the line of fire of the Austrian IVa, 2b broke. This reduces the French morale to 0 and the Austrians won the battle.

Conclusion

This was an interesting game that illustrated the dramatic swings of fortune that can happen in Aspern-Essling. The first day was slow paced with the French frustrated by issues with the pontoon bridge and the Austrians slow to activate and concentrate. Morale was fairly even by

the end of the day with the French expending morale with forced marches. Even though they denied the Austrians the +2 morale recovery over night by holding the Marchfeld towns, the French could not recover morale due to the damaged bridges.

The second day brought a lot of action. The Austrians concentrated a portion of their army in the morning and were assaulting the outskirts of Aspern by mid day. In a dramatic swing of fortune the French repaired the bridges and assisted by a timely charge of the reserve cavalry were able to rout the two most powerful Corps in the Austrian army. The French attempted to press their advantage during the afternoon but although enjoying some success in the center the Austrian flanks held admirably. At dusk, Napoleon was able to seize the key Marchfeld towns and things looked good although he was worried about the delay in reinforcements. However, a strong coordinated attack by Charles that evening with his rallied Corps changed the momentum for good.

The morning of the third day saw Napoleon retreating toward the fortified downs while bringing up his rallied troops and reinforcements. Morale was dangerously low for both sides. Charles pressed the attack outside of Aspern in the midday and afternoon. With the pontoons damaged and French units routing and then breaking when realizing they couldn't cross, the situation quickly deteriorated for the French. They suffered a decisive loss when their morale went to 0.