

The Road to Madrid, July 1809
After Action Report
Lt.Gen. Arthur C. Wellesley defeats GdD Sebastiani



Sir Arthur Wellesley

Both Wellesley and Sebastiani had observed clouds of dust rolling forward from the horizon, and both generals rode forward to review the lay of the land. The terrain before them was gently rolling arable land, with three minor ridgelines, two of which were closer to the French approach. There were three built-up areas, the most prominent, Pueblo de la Carniceria, was centrally positioned, close to the banks of the fordable stream that ran north to south dividing the battlefield. The second village, known as Aldea de la Gloria, was to the north and west of the watercourse, closer to the British approach. The third, dominating the northern most ridgeline, was known locally as Casa de Putas.

Sebastiani led with the German Division, commanded by GdD Leval, which he directed toward the south, with defensive orders to cover the right flank and occupy the ridge of Casa de Putas. His second division, commanded by GdB Ligier-Belair, directed one brigade towards Pueblo de la Carniceria and the second further to the south of the village in an attempt to turn the allied right flank.

Wellesley, quickly appreciated the importance of Pueblo de la Carniceria, and directed Gen. Sherbrooke with the First Division to occupy and hold the village, whilst an attack would be made by Gen. Hill in a wide flanking movement passing Aldea de la Gloria, and striking towards the left rear of Casa de Putas.

The French appeared to hold the advantage, as GdB Chasse, with two Dutch battalions, headed towards the outskirts of Pueblo de la Carniceria. But Ligier-Belair, felt the French should take the prize, and the Dutch were redirected towards the right flank. Meanwhile, Sherbrooke, seized the initiative and doubled the KGL brigade of Langwerth over the watercourse and into the village, much to the surprise of the French. However, the British move brought an immediate response, as three French battalions swarmed into the village. The 1st KGL battalion was hit simultaneously from two sides, and with insufficient time to barricade all the entrances to the village, the 3/75me Ligne burst in amongst the German defenders. In a sanguinary action the 75me successfully forced the Germans out of the town, but the 2nd KGL were able to withstand the initial French assaults and held their ground.



Sebastiani

On the British left, Gen. Hill led his two brigades around Aldea de la Gloria, and then struck east towards the rear of Casa de Putas. GdD Leval ordered Oberst von Porbeck to form a defensive line to the right of the Casa, with Nassau and Baden infantry. On the ridge, two batteries were deployed, and the Hessian and Frankfort battalions, advanced from the ridge into the valley below, forward of their gunline. GM Chasse, with the Dutch battalions, marched in rear of the ridge, and to the support of von Porbeck. Wellesley, ordered two batteries of artillery to deploy and engage the two exposed Hessian and Frankfort battalions. In response, the Hessian battery engaged a small group of exposed British riflemen who, caught by canister, were forced to seek shelter in the rear. This proved to be small conciliation for the Germans, as both the Hessian and Frankfort battalions took heavy casualties, forcing them, in turn, to run for cover behind the ridge.

Gen. Hill deployed his battalions into line and deliberately advanced into effective musketry range, to engage the defending Nassau and Baden battalions that von Porbeck had also deployed to counter the British threat. Both sides began trading volley's back and forth. The Baden battery on the ridge also targeted the 1/48th Northamptonshire Regiment, and this regiment would ultimately suffer the highest losses within both the British and French armies.

On the French left, the French advanced to engage the second British KGL brigade commanded by BG von Lowe. The French advanced, impulsively, and deployed to line to engage in a firefight. The KGL received them at the halt, and threw a series of devastating volleys at the French, which were returned but with much less effect, and the French reeled backwards. The French brought forward their supporting company of

Carnage&GloryII Napoleonic Battle Scenario

artillery, but they were unable to make much of an impression on the two British brigades in this area of the field.

At Pueblo de la Carniceria the remaining KGL battalion was holding out, but when the inevitable French assault came, they had little or no energy remaining to resist, and they were unceremoniously forced out, temporarily losing BG Langwerth, to a minor wound, during the combat. At the same time, the 1/2nd Guards were ordered to retake the village. They charged through the retiring KGL, but were unable to substantially occupy the buildings, before the French countercharged. Caught in the gardens and alley's between the buildings the French and British fought desperately, with the French ultimately being pushed back. At the same time the other Guards battalion was advancing to the north of the village, and pressed on towards the Hessian battery deployed on the opposite ridgeline. The Hessians tiring, and unsupported, fired and were able to prolong six of the eight cannon back in an attempt to evade the charging British, but caught in flight, most of the crews were bayoneted, and only one cannon was capable of limbering up and escaping the debacle.

At about the same time, on the French right, with both sides battered by the intensity of the firefight, and reserves being pulled into the front lines to replace the decimated battalions, BG Richard Stewart saw an opportunity. A Baden battalion had just been brought into line, as a Nassau unit on their immediate left withdrew slightly, this exposed the Baden flank. Stewart ordered forward the 1st Battalion of detachments in column. These stuck the Baden unit, and ploughed through their unit, nearly 200 men were killed or wounded in this devastating assault, and Oberst von Porbeck suffered a serious back wound as he attempted to evade capture in the vicious fighting.

The initiative lay squarely with Wellesley at this point, GdD Leval was in danger of being defeated in detail as Gen. Hill pressured him from the front, and BG Campbell threatened to turn his rear having just defeated the Hessian battery on the ridge. Wellesley ordered forward the heavy cavalry brigade of BG Sir Henry Fane. Seeing this movement in Wellesley's rear, and without heavy cavalry of his own, Sebastiani felt it advisable to accept defeat and retire, in order, from the field.

French losses, in dead and wounded, amounted to 1,668 men [13%] including 306 prisoners, mostly Hessian artillerists, and men of the Baden regiment. Losses also include Oberst von Porbeck, and seven cannon, captured by the victorious British Guards. British losses, in dead and wounded, amounted to 660 men [5%] including 110 prisoners, mostly men of the KGL, captured during the struggle for Pueblo de la Carniceria. Losses also included BG Langwerth, who suffered a minor arm wound, during the defense of the village.

Sebastiani had failed to halt Wellesley's advance to Madrid, and it was clear that King Joseph would need assistance from MdE Victor, and perhaps MdE Soult, to repel the British. King Joseph counseled with MdE Jourdan and ordered an immediate concentration on Talavera de la Reina.

Legend:

Units and Officers that are grayed out indicate that they are off table in reserve.

Units and Officers that are in red indicate that they have a compulsory movement restriction, or in the case of an officer, wounded or otherwise incapacitated [captured].

[W] denotes No Advance

[R] denotes Halt or Retire

[Y] denotes Routing

[D] denotes Dispersed and removed from the field

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Corps Comte Sebastiani

[114] General de Division Comte Sebastiani - Active B [1200 paces]

Division Louis Liger-Belair

[115] General de Brigade Louis Liger-Belair - Active C+ [650 paces]

[141]	5/7me Artillerie a Pied	0/ 142	[6] D+
[142]	1/58me Regt.de Ligne	0/ 566	C
[143]	2/58me Regt.de Ligne	208/ 371	B-
[144]	3/58me Regt.de Ligne	13/ 554	D+
[145]	1/75me Regt.de Ligne	118/ 373	C
[146]	2/75me Regt.de Ligne	0/ 481	C+
[147]	3/75me Regt.de Ligne	97/ 402	C-

Brigade Baron Jean-Pierre-Antoine Rey

[116] General de Brigade Baron Jean-Pierre-Antoine Rey - Active B+ [500 paces]

[148]	1/28me Regt.de Ligne	24/ 333	C-
[149]	2/28me Regt.de Ligne	7/ 362	B-
[150]	3/28me Regt.de Ligne	41/ 334	B-
[W] [151]	1/32me Regt.de Ligne	39/ 626	D+
[152]	2/32me Regt.de Ligne	71/ 538	C [Honors]
[153]	3/32me Regt.de Ligne	168/ 482	C

Division Baron Jean-Francois Leval

[117] General de Division Baron Jean-Francois Leval - Active B- [875 paces]

Brigade Heinrich Freiherr von Porbeck

[118] Oberst Heinrich Freiherr von Porbeck - Severely wounded B [400 paces]

[154]	III.Fuss Batterien Steinmetz	0/ 190	[8] C+
[Y] [155]	I.von Harrant Nr.4 [Baden]	213/ 471	C+
[156]	II.von Harrant Nr.4 [Baden]	296/ 385	C+
[157]	I.Nassau IR Nr.2	138/ 335	D+
[W] [158]	II.Nassau IR Nr.2	23/ 435	C

Brigade David-Hendrik Chasse

[120] Generalmajor David-Hendrik Chasse - Active C [350 paces]

[162]	3me Artillerie a Cheval Trip	0/ 100	[4] C
[163]	I.2me Regt.Linie	12/ 501	B-
[164]	I.3me Regt.Linie	1/ 538	C

Brigade Balthazard Grandjean

[119] General de Brigade Balthazard Grandjean - Active C [350 paces]

[D] [159]	III.Fuss Batterien Venator	196/ 10	[1] C- [Lost 7 cannon]
[D] [160]	I/Erbprinz Brigade	154/ 244	B-
[R] [161]	Rheinbund Btnn von Frankfort	142/ 362	C

Division Christophe-Antoine Merlin

[122] General de Brigade Christophe-Antoine Merlin - Active C+ [650 paces]

Brigade Jean-Baptiste-Alexandre Strolz

[123] General de Brigade Jean-Baptiste-Alexandre Strolz - Active C+ [300 paces]

[167]	10me Chasseurs a Cheval	0/ 400	C-
[168]	26me Chasseurs a Cheval	0/ 346	D+

Brigade Ormancey

[124] Colonel Ormancey - Active C+ [500 paces]

[170]	Chevau-Leger Regt. [Westphal]	0/ 487	B-
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Strengths:

losses/active

1765/	8693	Bayonets
0/	1233	Sabres
196/	442	Artillerists
7/	19	Cannon

1961/	10368	Total of all arms
	20	Standards present

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Napoleonic Battle Scenario

Army Sir Arthur Coley Wellesley

[501] Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Coley Wellesley - Active B [1300 paces]

Brigade Howorth

[502] Major General Howorth - Active C- [350 paces]

Division Sir John Cope Sherbrooke

[503] Major General Sir John Cope Sherbrooke - Active C+ [875 paces]

[502] Elliott's Bde [1/2 RFA] 0/ 147 [6] C+

[503] Sillery's Bde [6/7 RFA] 1/ 148 [6] D+

Brigade Henry Fred Campbell

[504] Brigadier General Henry Fred Campbell - Active C- [350 paces]

[506] 1/2nd Foot Guards 13/ 985 C-

[507] 1/3rd Foot Guards 41/1006 C

[D] [508] I co. 5/60th Foot 40/ 19 B

Brigade Sir Alan Cameron of Erracht

[505] Brigadier General Sir Alan Cameron of Erracht - Active C+ [300 paces]

[509] 1/61st [South Gloucestershire] 64/ 740 C

[R] [510] 2/83rd Foot 7/ 553 D+

[511] II co. 5/60th Foot 0/ 63 C+

Brigade Ernst E.K. Langwerth

[506] Brigadier General Ernst E.K. Langwerth - Lightly wounded C- [300 paces]

[D] [512] 1st KGL Battalion 221/ 436 C-

[513] 2nd KGL Battalion 72/ 659 C+ [Honors]

[514] 1st KGL Light Bttn [-] 0/ 106 B

Brigade Sigismund von Lowe

[507] Brigadier General Sigismund von Lowe - Active B- [500 paces]

[515] 5th KGL Battalion 92/ 518 C+

[516] 7th KGL Battalion 4/ 553 C

Division Sir Rowland Hill

[508] Major General Sir Rowland Hill - Active B [875 paces]

[504] 1st KGL Foot Art. [Rettberg] 0/ 148 [6] C-

Brigade Christopher Tilson

[509] Brigadier General Christopher Tilson - Active C [300 paces]

[W] [517] 1/3rd [The Buffs] 36/ 728 C+

[518] 2/48th [Northamptonshire] 90/ 495 C

[519] 2/66th [Berkshire] 30/ 503 D+

[520] III co. 5/60th Foot 1/ 62 C

Brigade Richard Stewart

[510] Brigadier General Richard Stewart - Active C [300 paces]

[521] 29th [Worcestershire] 67/ 531 D

[Y] [522] 1/48th [Northamptonshire] 311/ 496 C-

[523] 1st Battalion Detachments 9/ 600 C-

Division William Payne

[515] Lieutenant General William Payne - Active B [875 paces]

Brigade Sir Henry Fane

[516] Brigadier General Sir Henry Fane - Active B [500 paces]

[537] 3rd DG [Prince of Wales] 0/ 525 C

[538] 4th Dragoons [Queens Own] 0/ 545 D+

Brigade Sir Stapleton Cotton

[517] Brigadier General Sir Stapleton Cotton - Active B- [500 paces]

[539] 14th LD [Duchess of Yorks Own] 0/ 464 C+

Strengths:

losses/active

1098/ 9053 Bayonets

0/ 1534 Sabres

1/ 443 Artillerists

0/ 18 Cannon

1099/ 11030 Total of all arms

30 Standards present

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Napoleonic Battle Scenario

The immediate post battle losses including dead, wounded and missing were:

Minor victory for the British Army

The French IV Corps d'Armee has suffered losses of:

[21%] 2686 men of all arms
incl.[2%] 306 prisoners of all arms

[23%] 2480 bayonets
[0%] 0 sabres
[25%] 206 artillerists
7 cannon[s] lost

Honors: [152] 2/32me Regt.de Ligne

Losses include 1 General[s]:

[118] **Heinrich Freiherr von Porbeck - Severely wounded**

The British Army has suffered losses of:

[15%] 2050 men of all arms
incl.[0%] 110 prisoners of all arms

[20%] 2049 bayonets
[0%] 0 sabres
[0%] 1 artillerists

Honors: [513] 2nd KGL Battalion

Losses include 1 General[s]:

[506] **Ernst E.K. Langwerth - Lightly wounded**

The following day, following return of dispersed and walking wounded the results were:

Major victory for the British Army

The French IV Corps d'Armee has suffered losses of:

[13%] 1668 men of all arms
incl.[2%] 306 prisoners of all arms

[14%] 1467 bayonets
[0%] 3 sabres
[24%] 198 artillerists
7 cannon[s] lost

The British Army has suffered losses of:

[5%] 660 men of all arms
incl.[0%] 110 prisoners of all arms

[6%] 660 bayonets
[0%] 0 sabres
[0%] 0 artillerists