

The Battle of Waterloo – June 18, 1815

The Emperor Napoleon versus The Duke of Wellington and Prince Blucher

French Historical Perspective:

Napoleon's Proclamation to the Army, June 14, 1815



“Soldiers: This day is the anniversary of Marengo and Friedland, which twice decided the destiny of Europe. Then, as after the battles of Austerlitz and Wagram, we were too generous. We believed in the protestations and oaths of princes to whom we left their thrones. Now, however, leagued together, they strike at the independence and sacred rights of France. They have committed unjust aggressions. Let us march forward and meet them; are we not still the same men? Soldier: At Jena, these Prussians, now so arrogant, were three to one; at Montmirail six to one. Let those who have been captive to the English describe the nature of their prison ships, and the sufferings they endured. The Saxons, the Belgians, the Hanoverians, the soldiers of the

Confederation of the Rhine, lament that they are obliged to use their arms in the cause of princes who are the enemies of justice, and the destroyers of the rights of nations. They well know the coalition to be insatiable. After having swallowed up twelve millions of Poles, twelve millions of Italians, one million Saxons, and six millions of Belgians, they now wish to devour the States of the second order among the Germans. Madmen! One moment of prosperity has bewildered them. To oppress and humble the people of France is out of their power; once entering our territory, there they will find their doom. Soldiers: We have forced marches before us, battles to fight, and dangers to encounter; but firm in resolution, victory must be ours. The honor and happiness of our country are at stake!, and, in short, Frenchmen, the moment is arrived when we must conquer or die!”



Waterloo – French Special scenario conditions:

Tactical Formations:

Maneuver on road – March Column

Maneuver over open terrain – Double Company or company column

Engagement – Double company or Company Column or Line

Defense against cavalry – Square

Open order formation is restricted to Light troops and battalions rated C+ and above only.

Tactical Doctrine:

All infantry have integral skirmish companies, and may use offensive skirmish fire against any enemy formations.

French offensive tactics were highly refined by this period, and typically saw a general engagement of an enemy position with skirmish and artillery in an effort to weaken the close order formations resolve. Skirmishers would screen the movements of their battalion columns that would maneuver to exploit the enemy positions weak spots. Once sufficiently weakened by skirmish and artillery fire, the French columns would attempt to close with the enemy without deploying to line. However, if the enemy close order formations showed no signs of disruption, the French close order formations could deploy to line and engage in a brief firefight, before closing upon the enemy with the bayonet. Clausewitz would refer to these two phases of the engagement as the ‘destructive’ and the ‘decisive’ phases. The former was the ‘softening’ of the enemy, and would require time and patience, the latter was the ‘breaking’ of the enemy, and was preferably achieved with the bayonet and/or the sword.

Reserve artillery would be used en masse to reinforce a particular point in the line to support the divisional artillery to either press an advantage or deliberately blow a hole in the opposing lines. French doctrine was to use their artillery aggressively, to prepare an attack, or to directly support an attack by advancing to within canister range

On the field of battle, the light cavalry [Chasseurs, Lancers and Hussars] would typically be reserved for a pursuit role, whilst the heavier battle cavalry [Cuirassier, Carabinier and Dragoons] would be massed and used as a battering ram in brigade or greater strength to break an opponent’s resistance, engaging against either foot or mounted opponents. When battle cavalry was deficient light cavalry could also be thrown into the offense.

Grouchy’s Arrival:

The French players on the Plancenoit table, at the beginning of turns four through nine, will throw one D6.

A throw of 6 will indicate the illusion, to the Prussians, of an approach of French forces from the direction of Wavre towards the exposed Prussian rear. This will lead to a counter reaction from the Prussians, and reduce the potential force available to them on the Plancenoit table

The Threat from Hal:

Prior to the start of the battle Napoleon received reports of Allied troop movements in the direction of Hal. On a random dice roll the French will detach forces to confirm the information and counter the threat. Accordingly the French may be asked to throw one D6, with the following results:

6 = Units [305], [310], [311], [294], [295], [296] and [297] will be unavailable

4 or 5 = Units [305], [310], [311], [291], [292] and [293] will be unavailable

2 or 3 = Units [305], [310] and [311] will be unavailable

1 = Threat will be ignored and all units will be available

Carnage&GloryII Napoleonic Battle Scenario

French Tactical Victory Conditions:

Hougoumont Table:

Inflict losses on the Anglo-Netherland force [one point for every one point of army morale loss to the Allies].

Break defensive line north of Hougoumont [25 points]

Secure and hold orchard to the northeast of Hougoumont [5 points]

Secure and hold Hougoumont BUA [5 points]

Secure and hold woods to the south and southeast of BUA [5 points]

La Haye Sainte/Papelotte Table:

Inflict losses on the Anglo-Netherland force [one point for every one point of army morale loss to the Allies].

Break defensive line along the Ohain Road [25 points]

Secure and hold La Haye Sainte BUA [5 points]

Secure and hold La Haye Sainte orchard [5 points]

Secure and hold Papelotte or La Haye [5 points]

Plancenoit Table:

Inflict losses on the Prussian force [one point for every one point of army morale loss to the Allies].

Establish and hold an offensive/defensive line at least 450 paces east of Plancenoit [30 points], or

Hold Plancenoit Church and establish defensive line through and north of Plancenoit [20 points], or

Establish and hold a defensive line at

Victory Status:

The victory status will be provisionally assessed by C&GII, as inconclusive, pyrrhic, minor or major.

If the French achieves 50 points towards their tactical objectives and the opposing force record a major victory, this will be reduced to a minor victory. If the opposing force records a minor victory, this will be reduced to an inconclusive action.

If the French achieve more than 50 points towards their tactical objectives and they record a minor victory, this will be increased to a major victory, and if the result is an inconclusive action, this will be increased to a minor victory.

Note:

Territorial victory points for BUA's, woods or orchards can only be claimed if more than fifty percent of the disputed territory is controlled by one side or the other.

