

Rossbach - 5th November 1757

Last Modified: 23rd October 2008

The following scenario has been developed for Volley & Bayonet by Vincent Tsao.

Historical Background:

Frederick, defeated at Kolin, had to abandon the siege of Prague. This freed Charles of Lorraine to unite with Daun, making an enormous force of Austrians. After a long pause to re-organize, they slowly invaded Silesia. Meanwhile the Hanoverian Army of Observation under Cumberland hid from the French at Stade. The army was declared neutral by the convention of Kloster-Zevern. A second French army under Soubise with a contingent of Empire troops under Saxe-Hildburghausen threatened Saxony. To complete this litany of woe a Russian army was operating against the Prussians in the north.

Frederick marched to Saxony, seeking to attack the French-Imperial army but Soubise & Hildburghausen avoided battle while in the Austrians slowly swarmed over Silesia, capturing the fortresses of Breslau and Schweidnitz. An Austrian column under Haddick occupied Berlin and extorted a large sum of money along with two dozen pairs of gloves for Maria Theresa before fleeing from Prussian troops sent by Frederick. It is said that all the gloves were left-handed. Once this affair was over, Frederick concentrated his troops and returned to Saxony looking for a fight.

Soubise wanted to fall back into the mountains but Saxe-Hildburghausen demanded they not run from an army half their size. Frederick came upon them and was impressed by both the strength of the Allied position and the size of their force. Instead of attacking he formed up and observed them. Emboldened, Hildburghausen proposed a flank attack on the Prussians for the next day. Soubise acquiesced.

The ponderous Allied army began their flank march in full view of the enemy in a similar move that had lost Kolin for Frederick. Observing them from the attic of a tall building in Rossbach, the King decided to ambush the Allies. His army struck camp and disappeared behind the Janus Hill, with the cavalry and the 2nd line leading the way. The Allies assumed that he was retreating due to their threat against his supply lines and continued their foolish march. At 3:15 PM Prussian artillery unlimbered atop Janus Hill. Seydlitz deployed his cavalry across the path of the advanced Allied cavalry. The serried ranks of the Prussian infantry appeared behind the guns.

Seydlitz charged at 3:30 and soon defeated the Allied cavalry. The Prussian infantry rolled forward in oblique order while some French infantry deployed to face them. A short firefight ended when Seydlitz and his cavalry appeared from south of Tagerweben and fell on the right rear of the Allied infantry. A panic rout ensued, with only the Swiss Planta and Diesbach regiments forming square and falling back in good order. It was over in about an hour. The Allies lost at least 3,000 casualties and 5,000 prisoners; the Prussians lost 550 troops. It was a great boost to Prussian and Hanoverian morale and a blow to the French and their Allies. George II repudiated Kloster-Zevern and determined to stay in the war. Frederick headed back to Silesia and his great victory at Leuthen, to end the grim year 1757 with a miraculous recovery.

The Scenario:

The scenario starts with Frederick about to launch his attack on the hare-brained Allied flank march. The Prussians move first.

Allied Deployment:

Refer to the map. Infantry and artillery of the 1st line, 2nd line, Reserve and Reichsarmee columns are all in march formation. Units are listed from the front of the column back. Artillery is at the rear of each column. The Austrian cavalry are in front of the Empire cavalry, Penthievre (of Broglie's Reserve column) and Soubise are behind them. Saxe-Hildburghausen should be near the Reichsarmee column.

Saint-Germain and Loudon cannot move on the first turn. They may go stationary. They had orders to observe the former position of the Prussian army. Allowing them to respond immediately to the surprise attack on the head of the column seems unrealistic.

Prussian Deployment:

Prussians are deployed as on the map, guns unlimbered. Place leaders as you wish. Frei Battalion Mayr is in Rossbach.

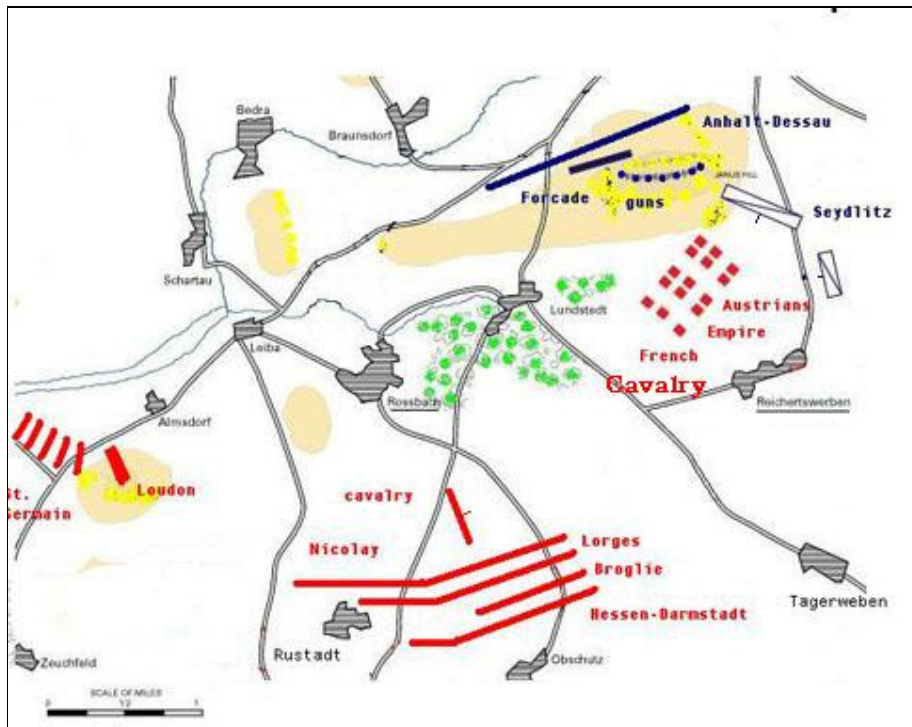
Game Length and Victory:

The game starts at 3:30 PM and ends on the 6:30 PM turn. This last turn is dusk; no units may recover from disorder and command radius is reduced to 4 inches.

Count the exhaustion value of each enemy column exhausted, double if that formation is off the table or has a morale collapse. Army commanders are worth 3 points each if slain. If Frederick is slain, Prussia loses the war.

The Allies win if they score 20+ points. They win a famous victory if they exhaust all three Prussian columns. The Prussians need 20+ points for victory, and 40+ points for a famous victory.

The Map:



Note: Towns are underlined, villages are not.

Allied Army:

French & Imperial Army Prince de **Soubise** AC for all French units (only)

FM Prince von **Saxe-Hildburghausen** AC for all Austrian/Empire units (only)

Austrian Cavalry GM **Brettlach** DC EX 2 [][]

Brettlach KR Austrian (7 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Trautmannsdorf KR Austrian (7 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Reichsarmee Cavalry GM **Hohenzollern** DC EX 2 [][]

Hohenzollern KR (+ Kurpfalz & Wurttemberg DR) M4 [][] HC/MC PT (9 sqdns)

Bayreuth KR (+ Ansbach DR 10 sqdns) M4 [][] HC/MC PT

1st Line GL **Nicolay** DC EX 12 [][][][][][][][][][][][][][][][]

Piemont IR 1 (+ ½ Deux-Ponts) M5 [][][] BG PT

Piemont IR 2 (+ ½ Deux-Ponts) M5 [][][] BG PT

St. Chamont IR M4 [][][] BG PT

Brissac IR M4 [][][] BG PT

Royal Roussilon IR M4 [][] BG PT

Reding Swiss IR M5 [][] BG PT

Planta Swiss IR M5 [][] BG PT

La Reine CR (+ Bousset & Fitz-James 6 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Bourbon CR (+ Beauvilliers & Rougrave 6 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Heavy artillery M5 [][] Heavy PT

Medium artillery M5 [][][] Medium PT

2nd Line GL **Lorges** DC EX 8 [][][][][][][][]

Mailly IR 1 M4 [][] BG PT

Mailly IR 2 M4 [][] BG PT

La Marck IR (+ ½ Royal Pologne & St. Germain) M5 [][][] BG PT

Castellas Swiss IR (+ ½ Royal Pologne) M5 [][][] BG PT

Salis Swiss IR M5 [][] BG PT

Wittemer Swiss IR M5 [][] BG PT

Diesbach Swiss IR M5 [][] BG PT

Reserve Column **Broglie** DC EX 4 [][][][]

Penthievre CR (+ Saluces, Lameth, Lusignan, Escars) M5 [][] HC (10 sqdns)

Poitou IR M4 [][] BG PT

Provence IR (+ ½ Beauvoisis) M4 [][][] BG PT

Rohan IR (+ ½ Beauvoisis) M4 [][][] BG PT

Reichsarmee Column **Hessen-Darmstadt** DC EX 5 [][][][][]

Wurzburg Blau IR M5 [][] BG PT

Hessen-Darmstadt IR M5 [][] BG PT

Kur-Trier IR (+ Barel & ½ Ferentheil) M3 [][][] BG PT

Medium artillery M4 [][] Medium PT

Kronegk IR (+ ½ Ferentheil) M3 [][][] BG PT

Rear Column **Saint-Germain** DC EX 5 [][][][][]

Conde CR (+Bezons & St. Jal 6 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Touraine IR (+ ½ Conde) M4 [][][] BG PT

La Marine IR 1 (+ ½ Conde) M4 [][][] BG PT

La Marine IR 2 M4 [][] BG PT

Poly CR (+ Grammont & Montcalm 6 sqdns) M5 [][] HC

Light Corps **Loudon** DC EX 3 [][][]

Austrian Hussars (11 sqdns) M5 [s][s] LC

Apchon DR (French) (4 sqdns)
Croats

M5 []
M5 [s][s]

MC (linear)
BG NE

French: 19 Infantry, 6 cavalry, 2 artillery stands

Austrians/Reichsarmee: 5 infantry, 5 cavalry, 1 artillery stand

Allied Army Notes:

Some infantry regiments have been distributed among like morale troops in the same columns so that the French/Reichsarmee infantry have twice as many regimental stands as the Prussians. Giving them one for each regiment gave them six more stands. Usually better troops get more stands for a given amount of troops and I don't think the Allies rate that treatment. The other choice was to give some Prussian regiments two stands. I opted for this approach instead. Broglie's two cavalry brigades have been amalgamated since they total 10 squadrons between them. Exhaustion levels range from 35%, 40%, 45% and 50%. These troops were not given the benefit of the doubt since they have been surprised on their flank march.

