

The Battle Of Eylau

8 February, 1807

Following his complete victory over Prussia in the autumn of 1806, Napoleon advanced across northern Germany, chasing the remnants of Prussian forces and hoping to deal a decisive defeat to their Russian allies before winter brought a close to the campaign. In this he was disappointed; not only was he unable to sweep into the rear of the Russian army, but the new Russian commander, Count Levin Bennigsen, slipped the trap and gave Lannes' corps a bloody nose at Pultusk on 26 December. The weather brought an end to the campaign, and both armies suffered in their winter quarters.

Napoleon hoped to lure the Russians into a decisive combat west of the Alle River, just as Bennigsen hoped to draw Napoleon too far East. The result was several inconclusive maneuvers in January as the armies groped for each other in terrible weather. The Russian cavalry screen proved to be the superior in these conditions, and throughout this campaign Napoleon's couriers frequently fell into Bennigsen's hands. Several small actions took place during the first week of February as the Russians retired eastwards, pursued by the French.

Throughout the afternoon of 7 February the leading French columns of Augereau and Murat tangled with Russian defenders near Eylau. Bennigsen had chosen good defensive ground, and was hoping to be reinforced by General L'estoq, who commanded Prussia's last field division. Napoleon, by contrast, was struggling to assemble sufficient numbers, worried that the Russians would escape what he thought was a trap; he thus committed himself to a bloody assault against superior odds in sub-zero weather.

The battle of Eylau took place in a blinding snowstorm, and the fighting was characterized by huge shifts of initiative as the armies grappled in confusion. Napoleon's pinning attack failed when Augereau's men advanced blindly into Russian canister fire; one brigade was trying to advance in square (!) when it was shot to pieces. Augereau and St. Hilaire tried to rally the survivors just as the Russians launched a major assault on the French left which similarly became confused in a bloody tangle with Soult's men.

Davout's arrival on the right caught the Russians by surprise, and probably did more to save Napoleon's army than Murat's legendary cavalry charge in the center. In any event, by afternoon the battle had stalemated, with the Russian line bent back but not broken, and the French center paper thin. Had Bennigsen been better able to see through the snow, he probably would have realized the remarkable chance he had to snap the French army in two, for L'estoq's Prussians had finally arrived by 3:00 PM. But these troops were used to repulse Davout and restore the Russian line.

As night fell Ney's VI Corps finally arrived and drove back the last Russian attempt on the French left. At the Russian council of war that night, Bennigsen decided to withdraw, knowing that Napoleon still had fresh troops *en route*. The Russian decision to quit the field allowed Napoleon to claim a victory, but in reality the battle had been a draw: 20,000+ dead on each side, and no end to the campaign in sight. The armies would limp back into winter quarters and wait for Spring.

The Scenario:

The weather is Snowing, and variable. The ground is Hard (Frozen). The game's Basic Length is 7 turns.

The town of Preussich-Eylau (1 base) is soft cover only. The Pasmir River is frozen solid, and need not even be depicted on the table, if you wish.

The Russians set up first.

The French army is "Fair." It begins with a break point of 13. (Raise by 2 when Ney arrives)

The Russian army is "Fair." It begins with a break point of 17. (Raise by 1 when L'estocq arrives.)

Reinforcements:

Davout's III Corps: The French may enter Davout's corps on the first pulse of the first turn. They may count it as a Force for CP purposes, even though it arrives, not deploys.

L'estocq's Column: At the beginning of Turn Two, roll one die. If, at the beginning of any turn in which the die rolls equal or less than the current Turn number, L'estocq's corps arrives on the first pulse of that turn.

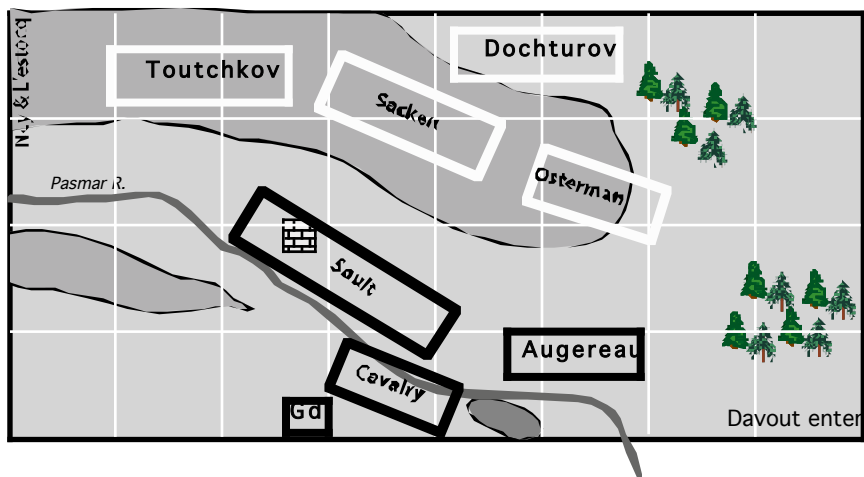
Ney's VI Corps: At the beginning of Turn Five, roll one die. If, at the beginning of any turn in which L'estocq's corps has already arrived in the previous turn *and* the die roll is equal or less than the current Turn number, Ney's corps arrives on the first pulse of that turn.

A Note on the Russian O.B.

Here we go again. No two sources agree. Sometimes you can't even find agreement on the names of divisional commanders, much less precise unit strengths. The Russians didn't make matters any easier for us; this is a typical early-war scrambled-egg of an army. Wing commanders command divisions in their own wings, plus brigades in their own divisions. It's a mess. So I decided to make the three "front" wing commanders into Force commanders, since their battlefield positions never really changed during the fighting. I kept Dochturov, though, as a Wing Commander, because his large Reserve force was indeed sub-divided during the battle.

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The Eylau Battlefield:



La Grande Armée

Commander: Napoleon (Good)

Weather: Snowing, Variable (12") _____

Army's Break Point: 13 _____

This is a Napoleonic Army of 5 Forces. (Until the arrival of Ney's corps)

Napoleon has 2 ADCs (Mouton & Bertrand) and 3 Generals.

Imperial Guard: Bessières (V) 3 / 6"

G/1 Soules (O.G. Grenadiers) Guard 9SP _____

G/2 Dorsenne (O.G. Chasseurs) Guard 9SP _____

G/C Walther (Guard Cavalry) Guard 10 SP _____

G: 6-pdr Horse A ____

G: 6-pdr Horse B ____

G: 6-pdr Horse C ____

G: 6-pdr Horse D ____

IV Corps: Soult 2 / 12"**1st Division: St. Hilaire**

IV/1/1 Candras (Légère) Veteran 7SP _____

IV/1/2 Vare Veteran 8SP _____

2nd Division: Leval

IV/2/1 Vivies/Ferey (Légère) Veteran 9SP _____

IV/2/2 Schinner Elite 9 SP _____

3rd Division: Legrand

IV/3/1 Ledru (Légère) Veteran 8 SP _____

IV/3/2 Levasseur (Légère) Veteran 6 SP _____

IV/C Guyot (Chasseurs & Hussars) Veteran 5 SP _____

IV: 12-pdr Foot ____

IV: 4-pdr Horse ____

VII Corps: Augereau (V) 3 / 9"**1st Division: Desjardins**

VII/1/1 Lapisse (Légère) Veteran 8 SP _____

VII/1/2 Lefranc Veteran 8 SP _____

2nd Division: Heudelet

VII/2/1 Amey (Légère) Veteran 8 SP _____

VII/2/2 Sarrut Veteran 5 SP _____

VII/C Durosnel (Chasseurs) Trained 4 SP _____

VII: 12-pdr Foot ____

III Corps: Davout 1 / 14"**1st Division: Morand**

III/1/1 Ricard (Légère) Veteran 10 SP _____

III/1/2 Bonnet Veteran 9 SP _____

2nd Division: Friant

III/2/1 Lochet Veteran 7 SP _____

III/2/2 Grandeau Veteran 5 SP _____

3rd Division: Gudin

III/3/1 Petit Veteran 8 SP _____

III/3/2 Gauthier Veteran 7 SP _____

III/C Marulaz (Chasseurs) Veteran 5 SP _____

III: 12-pdr Foot ____**III:** 4-pdr Horse ____**Cavalry Reserve: Murat (V) 3 / 8" Aggressive**

C/H/1 St. Sulpice (Cuirassiers) Elite 7 SP _____

C/H/2 Clement (Cuirassiers) Elite 8 SP _____

C/D/1 Grouchy (Dragoons) Trained 8 SP _____

C/D/2 Milhau 1 (Dragoons) Trained 6 SP _____

C/D/3 Milhau 2 (Dragoons) Trained 5 SP _____

C/L/1 Bruyère (Hussars) Veteran 7 SP _____

C/L/2 Watier & Maubourg (Chass) Trained 6 SP _____

C: 4-pdr Horse ____**VI Corps: Ney (V) 3 / 8" Aggressive****1st Division: Marchand**

VI/1/1 Liger-Belair (Légère) Veteran 6 SP _____

VI/1/2 Roguet Veteran 7 SP _____

2nd Division: Gardanne

VI/2/1 Marcognet (Légère) Veteran 7 SP _____

VI/2/2 Delabasse Veteran 7 SP _____

VI: 12-pdr Foot ____

Russian Army

Commander: Bennigsen (Average)

Weather: Snowing, Variable (12") _____

Army's Break Point: 17 _____

This is a Traditional Army of 6 Forces. (Until the arrival of L'estoq's corps)

Dochturov is a Wing Commander with authority over the 4th and 14th Divisions and the Reserve Cavalry.**Right Wing: Touthchkov (V) 3 / 12"****Advanced Guard: Markov**

R/A/1 Markov (MX) Veteran 8 SP _____

R/A/2 Gogel (Jägers) Veteran 7 SP _____

R/A/3 (Mixed Lt Cavalry) Trained 7 SP _____

5th Division: Touthchkov

R/5/1 Leontiev Veteran 7 SP _____

R/5/2 Ogarey (Jägers) Veteran 5 SP _____

R/C/1 Borosdin (Dragoons) Trained 7 SP _____

R/C/2 Shepeley (Hussars) Veteran 6 SP _____

R: 12-pdr Foot A ____

R: 12-pdr Foot B ____

R: 6-pdr Foot ____

R: 6-pdr Horse A ____

R: 6-pdr Horse B ____

Center: Osten-Sacken 4 / 9"**3rd Division: Titov**

C/3/1 Oushakov (Grenadiers) Elite 7 SP _____

C/3/2 Titov Veteran 5 SP _____

C/3/3 Netting Veteran 6 SP _____

8th Division: Essen

C/8/1 Engelhardt (Grenadiers) Elite 8 SP _____

C/8/2 Filisov Veteran 6 SP _____

C: 12-pdr Foot A ____

C: 12-pdr Foot B ____

C: 6-pdr Foot A ____

C: 6-pdr Foot B ____

Left Wing: Osterman-Tolstoy 4 / 14" Cautious**Advanced Guard: Barclay**

L/A/1 Lieven (Jägers) Veteran 9 SP _____

L/A/2 Dochturov (Hussars) Veteran 7 SP _____

Flying Column: Baggavout

L/F/1 Baggavout Veteran 6 SP _____

L/F/2 Lambert (Hussars) Veteran 7 SP _____

2nd Division: Osterman-Tolstoy

L/2/1 Mazovsky (Grenadiers) Elite 6 SP _____

L/2/2 Soukin (Grenadiers) Elite 7 SP _____

L/2/3 Lieven (Jägers) Veteran 6 SP _____

Cavalry: Pahlen

L/C/1 Cuirassiers

Elite 10 SP _____

L/C/2 Dragoons

Trained 7 SP _____

L: 12-pdr Foot A ____

L: 12-pdr Foot B ____

L: 6-pdr Horse A ____

L: 6-pdr Horse B ____

Reserve Wing: Dochturov 4**4th Division: Somov 3 / 6** (combined with elements of the 7th Division)

4/1 Schreider

Veteran 6 SP _____

4/2 Arseniev

Veteran 8 SP _____

4/3 Zapolsky

Veteran 6 SP _____

4/4 Liaponov

Veteran 6 SP _____

4: 12-pdr Foot ____

4: 6-pdr Foot ____

14th Division: Kamensky 3 / 5

14/1 Alexiev

Veteran 6 SP _____

14/2 Gersdorff

Veteran 6 SP _____

14/3 Pirch (Jägers)

Veteran 5 SP _____

14: 12-pdr Foot ____

14: 6-pdr Foot ____

Reserve Cavalry: Tschaplitz (V) 2 / 5 Aggressive

RC/1 Hussars

Elite 6 SP _____

RC/2 Dragoons

Trained 5 SP _____

RC/ 3 Cossacks 1

Raw 5 SP _____

RC/4 Cossacks 2

Raw 5 SP _____

RC: 6-pdr Horse ____

Prussian Corps: L'estocq 2 / 4 Aggressive

P/1 von Kall (Light inf) MX

Veteran 6 SP _____

P/2 Auer& Rembow (Grenadiers) MX

Veteran 7 SP _____

P/3 Dierecke

Veteran 5 SP _____

P/4 Prittwitz (Hussars & Uhlans)

Veteran 5 SP _____

LABELS FOR EYLAU**Napoleon (Good)****Gd: Bessières (V) 3 / 6"**

G/1 Soules (O.G. Gren) SK2

G/2 Dorsenne (O.G. Ch) SK2

G/C Walther (Gd Cav)

G: 6-pdr Horse A**G:** 6-pdr Horse B**G:** 6-pdr Horse C**G:** 6-pdr Horse D**IV: Soult 2 / 12"**

IV/1/1 Candras (Légère) SK2

IV/1/2 Vare SK2

IV/2/1 Vivies/Ferey (Légère) SK2

IV/2/2 Schinner SK2

IV/3/1 Ledru (Légère) SK2

IV/3/2 Levasseur (Légère) SK2

IV/C Guyot (Ch & Hu)**IV:** 12-pdr Foot**IV:** 4-pdr Horse**VII: Augereau (V) 3 / 9"**

VII/1/1 Lapisse (Légère) SK2

VII/1/2 Lefranc SK2

VII/2/1 Amey (Légère) SK2

VII/2/2 Sarrut SK2

VII/C Durosnel (Ch)**VII:** 12-pdr Foot**III: Davout 1 / 14"**

III/1/1 Ricard (Légère) SK2

III/1/2 Bonnet SK2

III/2/1 Lochet SK2

III/2/2 Grandeau SK2

III/3/1 Petit SK2

III/3/2 Gauthier SK2

III/C Marulaz (Chasseurs)**III:** 12-pdr Foot**III:** 4-pdr Horse**Cav: Murat (V) 3 / 8" Agg**

C/H/1 St. Sulpice (Cuirassiers)

C/H/2 Clement (Cuirassiers)

C/D/1 Grouchy (Dragoons)

C/D/2 Milhaud 1 (Dragoons)

C/D/3 Milhaud 2 (Dragoons)

C/L/1 Bruyère (Hussars)

C/L/2 Watier & Maubourg (Chass)

C: 4-pdr Horse**VI: Ney (V) 3 / 8" Agg**

VI/1/1 Liger-Belair (Légère) SK2

VI/1/2 Roguet SK2

VI/2/1 Marcognet (Légère) SK2

VI/2/2 Delabasse SK2

VI: 12-pdr Foot**Bennigsen (Average)****R: Touthkov (V) 3 / 12"**

R/A/1 Markov MX SK1

R/A/2 Gogel (Jägers) SK1

R/A/3 (Mixed Lt Cavalry)

R/5/1 Leontiev

R/5/2 Ogarey (Jägers) SK1

R/C/1 Borosdin (Dragoons)

R/C/2 Shepeley (Hussars)

R: 12-pdr Foot A

R: 12-pdr Foot B

R: 6-pdr Foot

R: 6-pdr Horse A

R: 6-pdr Horse B

C: Osten-Sacken 4 / 9"

C/3/1 Oushakov (Gren)

C/3/2 Titov

C/3/3 Netting SK1

C/8/1 Engelhardt (Gren)

C/8/2 Filisov

C: 12-pdr Foot A

C: 12-pdr Foot B

C: 6-pdr Foot A

C: 6-pdr Foot B

Left: Osterman 4 / 14" Cau.

L/A/1 Lieven (Jägers) SK1

L/A/2 Dochturov (Hussars)

L/F/1 Baggavout

L/F/2 Lambert (Hussars)

L/2/1 Mazovsky (Grenadiers)

L/2/2 Soukin (Grenadiers)

L/2/3 Lieven (Jägers) SK1

L/C/1 Cuirassiers

L/C/2 Dragoons

L: 12-pdr Foot A

L: 12-pdr Foot B

L: 6-pdr Horse A

L: 6-pdr Horse B

Res: Dochturov 4**4th Div: Somov 3 / 6"**

4/1 Scchreider

4/2 Arseniev

4/3 Zapolsky

4/4 Liaponov

4: 12-pdr Foot

4: 6-pdr Foot

14th Div: Kamensky 3 / 5"

14/1 Alexiev

14/2 Gersdorff

14/3 Pirch (Jägers) SK1

14: 12-pdr Foot

14: 6-pdr Foot

R. Cav: Tschaplitz (V) 2 / 5" Agg

RC/1 Hussars

RC/2 Dragoons

RC/ 3 Cossacks 1 SK2

RC/4 Cossacks 2 SK2

RC: 6-pdr Horse

P: L'estocq 2 / 4" Agg

P/1 von Kall (Light inf) SK1 MX

P/2 Auer& Rembow (Gren) SK1 MX

P/3 Dierecke

P/4 Prittwitz (Hussars & Uhlans)