

# The Battle of Neerwinden, 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1793

*A Grande Armee Scenario by Greg Savvinos*

After the success of the French armies at Valmy the Armee du Nord under Dumouriez surged in to the Austrian Netherlands. The outnumbered defenders under Saxe-Weimar were defeated at Jemappes on November 6<sup>th</sup> 1792 and within the month all of Belgium was in French hands. The Austrian force retreated to the Rhine and awaited reinforcements whilst Dumouriez invaded the United Provinces.

As General Miranda attempted to take Maastricht without the benefit of siege artillery, the strengthened Imperial forces under Coburg launched the long awaited counter attack and forced the Republicans to retreat. Dumouriez hurried back from Holland and concentrated his army at Louvain .

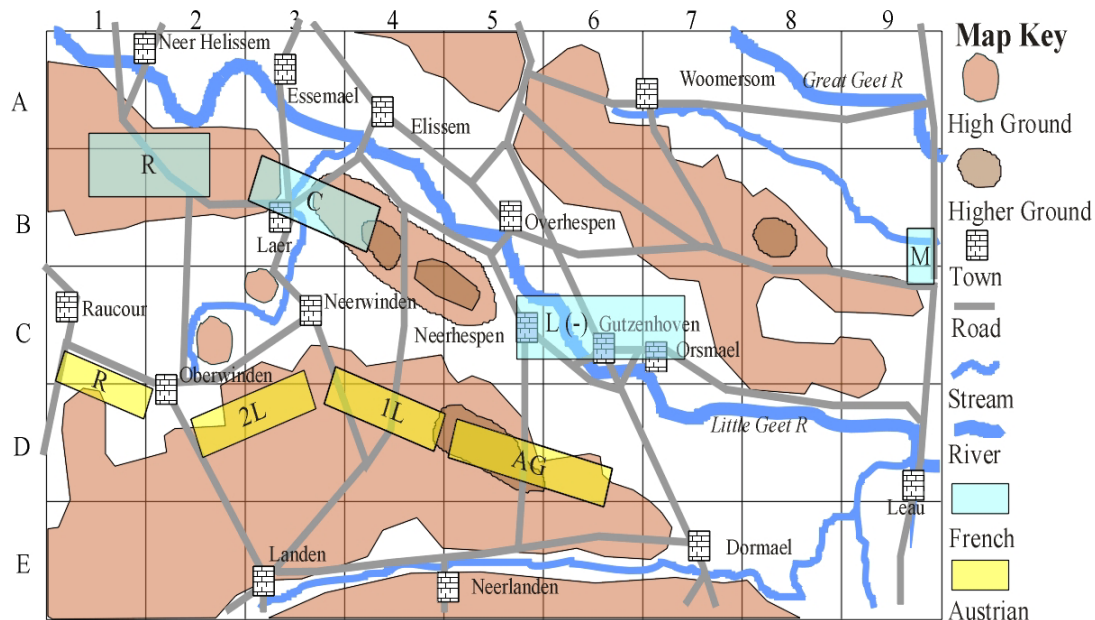
On March 18<sup>th</sup> 1793 the French attacked Coburg's Austrians, on the site of Marshall Luxembourg's famous victory over William of Orange in 1693, Neerwinden.

In the ensuing battle Dumouriez staked everything on an all out attack . The French met with some success in the centre and on the right and temporarily took possession of Neerwinden, but determined Austrian counter attacks, drove them back to their starting positions by dusk. However Miranda's force suffered a total defeat at the hands of the Austrian Advanced Guard, led by a young scion of the Hapsburg dynasty Archduke Charles, and more than 6000 French deserted overnight.

Dumouriez was forced to fall back but was able to fight again a few days later at Louvain, where he was again beaten. At this point he began secret negotiations with Coburg, which culminated in his attempt to turn the Armee du Nord against the Convention in Paris and to reinstate the monarchy. This plan foundered on the fact that most of his officers and men were genuinely attached to the cause of the revolution and Dumouriez and his party were lucky that the marksmanship of Lt Col Davout's volunteer battalion was not of the same order as their patriotism. Dumouriez, fled to the Austrians.

An important consequence of Neerwinden was that from that point forward every French commander was in the shadow of the guillotine and nobody was above suspicion. The Terror was at hand.

## The battlefield of Neerwinden



## The Scenario

The weather is normal, with no variation. The ground is hard. The game's Basic Length is 6 turns. The town of Leau (D9) is hard cover, all other towns are soft cover. The Great and Little Geet rivers can only be crossed at bridges, all other streams are fordable and are treated as obstacles. The morale of the Austrian army is Confident. Its Break Point is 9. The morale of the French army is Fair. Its Break Point is 8.

## Roster for the *Armee du Nord* at Neerwinden

**Commander: Dumouriez (Good)**

Weather: Normal, (20")

Army's Break Point: 8

Generals Available: 2

This is a Traditional Army of 3 Forces, plus 1 detachment

### **Right : Valence (V) 3 / 9"**

1st Division : Neuilly

R/1/1 Line SK1 MX Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

R/1/2 Line SK1 MX Trained 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Division : Lamarche

R/2/1 Gren/Lt SK1 MX Veteran 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

R/2/2 Line SK1 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Division : LeVeneur

R/3/1 Line SK1 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

R/3/2 Line SK1 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

R/3/3 Cav HC Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

Corps Artillery

R: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_

R: 8-pdr Horse \_\_\_\_

### **Centre : Chatres 3 / 6"**

1st Division : Dietmann

C/1/1 Line SK1 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

C/1/2 Line SK1 Trained 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

C/1/3 Cav HC Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Division: Dampierre

C/2/1 Line SK1 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

C/2/2 Cav LC Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

Corps Artillery

C: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_

### **Left : Miranda 3 / 8"**

1st Division : Rualt

L/1/1 Light SK2 MX Trained 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

L/1/2 Line SK1 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

L/1/3 Line SK1 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Division : Champmorin

L/2/1 Grenadier SK1 Elite 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

L/2/2 Line SK1 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

L/2/3 Cav LC Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

Corps Artillery:

L: 8-pdr Horse A \_\_\_\_

L: 8-pdr Horse B \_\_\_\_

### **Detachment: Miaczynski 3 / 2"**

M/1/1 Light SK2 Trained 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

M/1/2 Cav LC Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

## Roster for the Austrian Army at Neerwinden

**Commander: Coburg (Average)**

Weather: Normal, (20")

Army's Break Point: 8

Generals Available: 3

This is a Traditional Army of 4 Forces.

### **Avantgarde: Charles (V) 2 / 12"**

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| AG/1 Michaljevich  | SK1 Veteran 7SP _____    |
| AG/2 Swarzenberg   | SK1 MX Veteran 6SP _____ |
| AG/3 Gruber        | SK1 Trained 3SP _____    |
| AG/4 Devay ( Gren) | SK0 Elite 6SP _____      |
| AG/5 Mylius        | SK1 MX Veteran 5SP _____ |
| AG/6 Hus Nr 32     | LC Elite 6SP _____       |

Corps Artillery:  
AG: 12-pdr Foot A \_\_\_\_  
AG: 12-pdr Foot B \_\_\_\_

### **1<sup>st</sup> Line: Ferraris**

**4 / 6"**

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1L/1 IR 10/3  | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| 1L/2 IR 59/38 | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| 1L/3 IR 35    | SK1 Trained 3SP _____ |
| 1L/4 Kur 12   | HC Elite 6SP _____    |
| 1L/5 Kur 14   | HC Elite 6SP _____    |

Corps Artillery:  
1L: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Line : Colloredo**

**3 / 5"**

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2L/1 IR 54/57 | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| 2L/2 IR 25/15 | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| 2L/3 Kur 10   | HC Elite 5SP _____    |
| 2L/4 DR & Ch  | LC Veteran 2SP _____  |

Corps Artillery:  
2L: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_

### **Reserve : Clairfayt**

**3 / 11"**

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| R/1 IR 58/30   | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| R/2 IR 55/38   | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| R/3 IR 34      | SK1 Trained 5SP _____ |
| R/4 Grenadiers | SK0 Elite 5SP _____   |
| R/5 Hus 16     | LC Elite 6SP _____    |
| R/4 Ch 31      | LC Veteran 5SP _____  |

Corps Artillery:  
R: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_

## **Alternative Neerwindens, play balancing etc.**

### **1. Lower French Morale**

The French Armee du Nord was organised in to brigades composed of both old regular army units and new (1791-92) volunteer units, which could justify downgrading all line infantry brigades to "Conscript" instead of "Trained". I chose to go with classing line infantry as "Trained" partly because, most of the volunteer battalions were from the more experienced volunteers of 1791, and partly because the French had won some minor actions in the days before the battle, which might have lifted morale. Well that and the fact that the French have enough problems. But if you really want to stick the boot in to the regicides feel free to try the following modifications to the scenario:

- Treat all French infantry brigades designated as Line as being rated "Conscript" for all game purposes.
- Reduce the strength of all Line infantry brigades with more than 4 SPs by one.
- The French army is now classified as "Shaky" and its break point is now 7.

### **2. Greater French Concentration**

Dumouriez had spread his forces across a wide front. Had he concentrated his forces he might have been able to get a significant local superiority. To give reflect a greater French concentration of force you might want to try this:

- Austrians deploy first in the positions indicated by the scenario map.
- French can then deploy their forces anywhere in B and C 1 to 6 as long as they are not within 12" of an Austrian unit.
- Miaczynski's detachment is absorbed in to Miranda's force. Miranda's new command radius is 10"

### **3. Stronger Austrian Artillery**

Look to be perfectly honest apart from the French horse artillery I could not find any real information on what either side's artillery consisted of. All I had to go on where a few general references to the fact that the Austrians were well supplied with guns and that they were effective. In the scenario I decided this meant a 12pdr for each Austrian force, with slightly more in the Advanced Guard. If you feel this is too miserly add one 12pdr to each Austrian force.

### **4. French Skirmishers.**

I was of two minds on how to reflect the French skirmishers for this early period of the Revolutionary Wars. Should they be as numerous and effective as they had clearly become by the time of Hondschoote in September 1793, which would mean a rating of SK2, or can it be argued that the training camps set up by Custine in May 1793 were instrumental in improving the skirmishing abilities of the Republican armies? I tend to incline to the latter view so in the standard scenario French line infantry generally has a skirmish rating of SK1, however if you think this is below their capabilities, or you simply want to give the French a slight edge, class all French infantry and mixed brigades as SK2.

## Labels for the Neerwinden Scenario

### French

#### Dumouriez (Good)

##### Valence (V) 3 / 9"

R/1/1 Line SK1 MX  
 R/1/2 Line SK1 MX  
 R/2/1 Gren/Lt SK1 MX  
 R/2/2 Line SK1  
 R/3/1 Line SK1  
 R/3/2 Line SK1  
 R/3/3 Cav HC  
 R: 12-pdr Foot  
 R: 8-pdr Horse

##### Chatres 3 / 6"

C/1/1 Line SK1  
 C/1/2 Line SK1  
 C/1/3 Cav HC  
 C/2/1 Line SK1  
 C/2/2 Cav LC  
 C: 12-pdr Foot

##### Miranda 3 / 8"

L/1/1 Light SK2 MX  
 L/1/2 Line SK1  
 L/1/3 Line SK1  
 L/2/1 Grenadier SK1  
 L/2/2 Line SK1  
 L/2/3 Cav LC  
 L: 8-pdr Horse A  
 L: 8-pdr Horse B

##### Miaczynski 3 / 2"

M/1/1 Light SK2  
 M/1/2 Cav LC

### Austrian

#### Coburg (Average)

##### Charles (V) 2 / 12"

AG/1 Michaljevich SK1  
 AG/2 Swarzenberg SK1  
 AG/3 Gruber SK1  
 AG/4 Devay ( Gren) SK0  
 AG/5 Mylius SK1 MX  
 AG/6 Hussar Nr 32 LC  
 AG: 12-pdr Foot A  
 AG: 12-pdr Foot B

##### Ferraris 4 / 6"

1L/1 IR 10/3 SK1  
 1L/2 IR 59/38 SK1  
 1L/3 IR 35 SK1  
 1L/4 Kur 12 HC  
 1L/5 Kur 14 HC  
 1L: 12-pdr Foot

##### Colloredo 3 / 5"

2L/1 IR 54/57 SK1  
 2L/2 IR 25/15 SK1  
 2L/3 Kur 10 HC  
 2L/4 DR & Ch LC  
 2L: 12-pdr Foot

#### Clairfayt 3 / 11"

R/1 IR 58/30 SK1  
 R/2 IR 55/38 SK1  
 R/3 IR 34 SK1  
 R/4 Grenadiers SK0  
 R/5 Hus 16 LC  
 R/4 Ch 31 LC  
 R: 12-pdr Foot