

The Whitecoats are Coming

11 June, 1809

A fictitious *Grande Armée* scenario by Sam Mustafa

Austria's war effort in 1809 was compromised by an unrealistic grand-strategic ambition to recover everything lost since the first defeats against revolutionary France. Thus the main campaign in the Danube valley was 'supplemented' by subsidiary thrusts in Northern Italy, Dalmatia, and southern Poland. This latter campaign, entrusted to the Archduke Ferdinand, was woefully understrength for its theoretical task: the neutralizing of France's new Polish puppet state, the Grand-Duchy of Warsaw, while simultaneously guarding against any Russian moves.

The Russians were the wild-card in the calculations of both sides in 1809. Although technically allied to France and thus obligated to assist the French war effort, the Russian leadership had grown deeply mistrustful of Napoleon's ambitions and methods, and were particularly keen to make sure that Poland did not become a theatre of war that involved major French forces. Thus an Austrian army occupied the south-eastern extremities of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, Archduke Ferdinand moved North toward Warsaw, and the Poles under Poniatowski struggled to defend their new state.

Ferdinand's mission was ambiguous. Few in Vienna probably expected him to conquer the Poles. He was to neutralize them as a threat and/or cover the Austrian rear against the Russians. But what if the Austrians, fearful of a major Russian offensive, had given Ferdinand a more sizeable army, with the express mission of conquering the Grand Duchy as swiftly as possible, and thus settling the issue? And what if Napoleon's spies had served him better in March 1809, and he had sent French forces to join the Polish/Saxon defense of Warsaw?

Napoleon's most serious problem would have been establishing a command structure. Each of the three nationalities would have wanted to take charge of Poland's defense. (And on top of this, the two highest ranking Polish commanders would not speak to each other.) Poniatowski, though only a general, would have given up his command to a French Marshal with the greatest reluctance, as the campaign was a matter of life and death for his Poles. The Saxons were led by Napoleon's least reliable and most cantankerous Marshal, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, who would have demanded the supreme command and would certainly not have taken orders from a Polish general. Bernadotte was already furious with Poniatowski for having countermanded his orders to withdraw a brigade of Saxon infantry from Poland. The French forces would have come from either Lannes' I Corps or Masséna's IV Corps — both fine commanders, but each with his own issues. Lannes had never commanded an independent army before, Masséna felt that he outranked the other Marshals, and neither man could stand Bernadotte. Of the two, Napoleon would have more likely entrusted Masséna with an independent command.

Thus the traditional French advantage over the Austrians — a more efficient command structure — will not exist in this scenario. For this battle we assume that Ferdinand's reinforced Austrians advance north against a divided and bickering French/Polish/Saxon army. The fate of Poland hangs in the balance.

Making life interesting (i.e., difficult) for the French commander:

The French army list has no army or Force commanders listed. This is because the French player must make a decision before the game regarding how he will distribute the command of his Forces. He has three choices, listed below, the third of which will affect not only his command structure but also his order of battle:

1. If Masséna gets the command, then Bernadotte is miffed:

Masséna (Good)

Bernadotte 5 / 11" Cautious commands the IX Corps

Poniatowski (V) 3 / 12" commands the Polish Corps

Carra St. Cyr 4 / 12" Cautious commands the IV Corps

2. If Bernadotte gets the command, Masséna is miffed and Poniatowski demands action:

Bernadotte (Poor)

Poniatowski (V) 4 / 12" Aggressive commands the Polish Corps

Masséna 5 / 18" commands the IV Corps

Reynier 3 / 16" commands the IX Corps

3. If Poniatowski gets the command, no French Marshal will serve under him. Napoleon sends a makeshift French corps under his ADC Jean Rapp. The Saxons, under Reynier, are hamstrung by Bernadotte's interference. (French and Saxon units marked with an asterisk (*) are not used for this option.)

Poniatowski (Good)

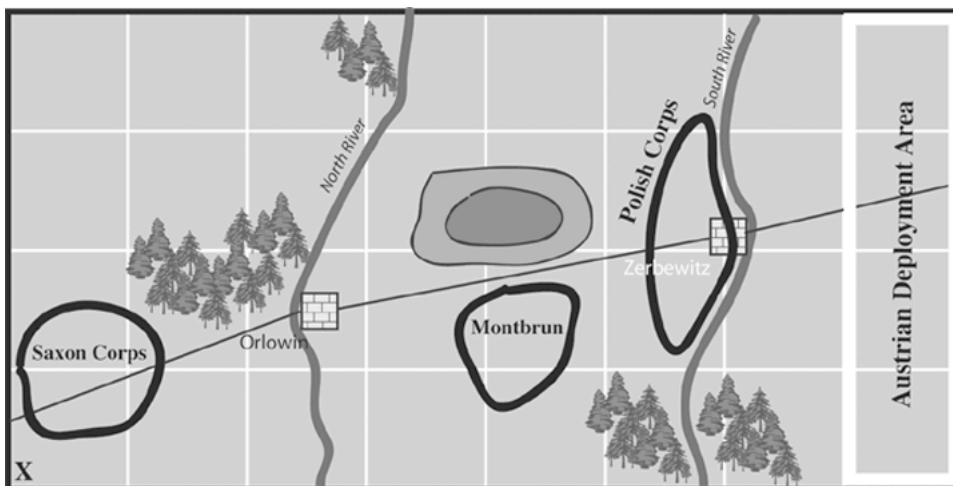
Knaiszewicz (V) 2 / 8" commands the Polish Corps

Rapp (V) 2 / 15" commands the IV Corps

Reynier 3 / 14" commands the IX Corps

Set-up and Reinforcement:

The Austrians set up first, wherever they like in their deployment area. Then the Polish Corps, Cavalry Corps, and Saxons set up as marked on the map. At the end of each turn, check for the arrival of the French IV Corps. Subtract the turn number just completed from the corps commander's control number. Roll one die. If the roll is *greater* than the total, the French IV enters at point X on the first pulse of the next turn. (Example: St. Cyr commands the IV Corps, with a control number of 4. At the end of Turn 1, subtract one, meaning that the player must roll greater than 3 to enter the corps next turn. Failing that, he'll have to roll greater than 2 (control number 4 minus turn 2) at the end of the next turn, and so on.)



The Scenario:

The weather is chosen at random, and variable. The ground starts hard, even if the weather starts as rain. Roll for Basic Length. The morale of both armies is "Confident." Calculate army morale as normal.

The two towns are hard cover and each has one bridge. The woods are Rough terrain. The rivers are both fordable by infantry and cavalry (and officers), as Rough terrain. The two-level hill offers a vantage point.

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Roster for the Army of Poland

Commander: _____

Weather: _____

Army's Break Point: _____

Generals Available: 2 _____

This is a Napoleonic Army of 4 Forces.

IV Corps: _____**1st Division: Legrand**

IV/1/1 (Légère) Veteran 6SP _____

IV/1/2 Veteran 6SP _____

IV/1/3 (Baden infantry) Elite 6SP _____

2nd Division: Carra St. Cyr

IV/2/1 (Légère) Veteran 7SP _____

IV/2/2 Trained 8SP _____

3rd Division: Molitor

IV/3/1 Trained 7SP _____

IV/3/2 Trained 7SP _____

4th Division: Boudet

* IV/4/1 Trained 8SP _____

Cavalry Division: Lasalle

* IV/C/1 Lasalle (Hussars & Chasseurs) Veteran 7SP _____

IV/C/2 Marulaz (Chasseurs) Elite 8SP _____

Corps Artillery:

IV: 12-pdr Foot BTY _____

IV: 6-pdr Horse BTY _____

IX (Saxon) Corps: _____**1st Division : Zezschwitz**

IX/1/1 Guard & Grenadiers Elite 6SP _____

IX/1/2 Hartitzsch/Boxberg Conscript 7SP _____

IX/1/3 Gutschmidt (Lt. Cavalry) Elite 5SP _____

2nd Division : Polenz

IX/2/1 LeCoq Conscript 5SP _____

IX/2/2 Grenadiers Veteran 4SP _____

IX/2/3 Zeschau Conscript 4SP _____

IX/2/4 Feilitzsch (Cuirassiers) Elite 5SP _____

3rd Division : Dupas

* IX/3/1 Gency (French Légère) Veteran 8SP _____

* IX/3/2 Saxon Grenadiers & Light inf Veteran 6 SP _____

Corps Artillery:

IX: 12-pdr Foot BTY _____

IX: 6-pdr Horse BTY _____

Polish Corps: _____**1st Division: Zayonchek**

P/1/1 Mielzynski Veteran 8SP _____

P/1/2 Paszkowski Veteran 7SP _____

2nd Division: Dambowski

P/2/1 Zottowski Veteran 8SP _____

P/2/2 Krasinski Veteran 8SP _____

3rd Division: Knaiziewicz

P/3/1 Chmielewski Veteran 6SP _____

Corps Cavalry:

V/C/1 Franconi (Italian Lt. Cav.) Veteran 6SP _____

Corps Artillery:

P: Polish 12-pdr Foot _____

P: Polish 6-pdr Horse _____

Cavalry Corps: Montbrun (V) 2 / 12"

1st Polish Division: Rozniecki

C/4L/1 Polish Uhlans

Elite 8SP _____

C/4L/2 Polish Uhlans

Elite 7SP _____

2nd Polish Division: Sokolnicki

C/5L/1 Polish Uhlans

Elite 7SP _____

C/5L/2 Polish Uhlans

Elite 7SP _____

3rd French Division: Jacquinot

C/7C/1 French Hussars

Elite 6SP _____

C/7C/2 French Chasseurs

Veteran 5SP _____

Corps Artillery:

C: 6-pdr Horse (Polish) ____

C: 6-pdr Horse (French) ____

Roster for the Ostarmee

Commander: Archduke Ferdinand (Poor)

Weather: _____

Army's Break Point: _____

Generals Available: 2 _____

This is a Napoleonic Army of 4 Forces.

IX Corps: Brusch 3 / 12"**Adv. Guard: Mohr**

IX/A/1 Hussars Veteran 6SP _____

IX/A/2 Vukassovich (Inf & Grenzers) Veteran 8SP _____

2nd Division: Monda

IX/2/1 Civlart Trained 8SP _____

IX/2/2 Trautenberg Trained 8SP _____

IX/2/3 Pflacher Trained 7SP _____

3rd Division: Schauroth

IX/3/1 Gebirger (Hussars) Veteran 8SP _____

IX/3/2 Speth (Cuirassiers) Elite 7SP _____

IX/3/3 Branowitzky (Grenzers) Veteran 5SP MX _____

Corps Artillery:

IX: 12-pdr Foot A _____

IX: 12-pdr Foot B _____

IX: 12-pdr Foot C _____

IX: 6-pdr Horse _____

VI Corps: Hiller 4 / 12"**Adv. Guard:**

VI/A Nordmann Veteran 8SP, SK2 MX _____

1st Division: Kottulinski

VI/1/1 Hohenfeld Trained 6SP, SK2 MX _____

2nd Division: Vincent

VI/2/1 Splényi Trained 7SP, SK2 MX _____

VI/2/2 Bianchi Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

3rd Division: Rohan

VI/3/1 IR#8 Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

VI/3/2 IR#22 Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

Corps Artillery:

VI: 12-pdr Foot _____

VI: 6-pdr Foot _____

I Corps: Bellegarde (V) 3 / 10"**1st Division: Fresnel**

I/1/1 Wintzingerode Veteran 7SP, SK1 _____

I/1/2 Vecsey (Chevauxleger) Veteran 7SP _____

2nd Division: Vogelsang

I/2/1 Reuss-Plauen Trained 7SP, SK1 _____

I/2/2 Kollowrath Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

3rd Division: Ulm

I/3/1 Rainer Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

I/3/2 Vogelsang Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

4th Division: Nostitz

I/4/1 Argenteau Trained 7SP, SK1 _____

I/4/2 Erbach Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

Corps Artillery:

I: 12-pdr Foot _____

I: 6-pdr Foot _____

II Corps: Hohenzollern 3 / 12"

Adv. Guard: Provenchères

II/A Provenchères

Veteran 7SP, SK2 MX _____

1st Division: Brady

II/1/1 Buresch

Trained 7SP, SK1 _____

II/1/2 Koller

Trained 7SP, SK1 _____

2nd Division: Weber

II/2/1 IR21 Rohan

Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

II/2/2 IR18 Stuart

Trained 6SP, SK1 _____

II/2/3 IR28 Frelich

Trained 7SP, SK1 _____

4th Division: Keinmayer

II/4/1 Kroyer (Cuirassiers)

Elite 6SP _____

II/4/2 Rottermund (Dragoons)

Veteran 6SP _____

II/4/3 Kerekes (Insurrection Hussars)

Conscript 4SP, SK2 _____

Corps Artillery:

II: 12-pdr Foot ____

II: 6-pdr Foot ____

II: 6-pdr Horse ____

Army analysis:

A slower-moving Austrian force with more infantry and artillery faces a disorganized but nimble French/Polish/Saxon force with an excellent cavalry wing.

	French	Austrian
Inf SPs	132	160
Cav SPs	71	44
Hvy Art	3	6
Lt Art	5	6

Labels for "The Whitecoats are Coming"

(Labels for the French/Polish/Saxon officers will have to be hand-made, based on the French command choices.)

Ferdinand (Poor)

IX: Brusch 3 / 12"

IX/A/1 Hussars
IX/A/2 Vukassovich (Inf & Grenzers) SK2
IX/2/1 Civlart SK1
IX/2/2 Trautenberg SK1
IX/2/3 Pflacher SK1
IX/3/1 Gebirger (Hussars)
IX/3/2 Speth (Cuirassiers)
IX/3/3 Branowatzky (Grenzers) SK2 MX

IX: 12-pdr Foot A

IX: 12-pdr Foot B

IX: 12-pdr Foot C

IX: 6-pdr Horse

VI: Hiller 4 / 12"

VI/A Nordmann SK2 MX
VI/1/1 Hohenfeld SK2 MX
VI/2/1 Splényi SK2 MX
VI/2/2 Bianchi SK1
VI/3/1 IR#8 SK1
VI/3/2 IR#22 SK1

VI: 12-pdr Foot

VI: 6-pdr Foot

I: Bellegarde (V) 3 / 10"

I/1/1 Wintzingerode SK1
I/1/2 Vecsey (Chevauxleger)
I/2/1 Reuss-Plauen SK1
I/2/2 Kollowrath SK1
I/3/1 Rainer SK1
I/3/2 Vogelsang SK1
I/4/1 Argenteau SK1
I/4/2 Erbach SK1

I: 12-pdr Foot

I: 6-pdr Foot

II: Hohenzollern 3 / 12"

II/A Provençères SK2 MX
II/1/1 Buresch SK1
II/1/2 Koller SK1
II/2/1 IR21 Rohan SK1
II/2/2 IR18 Stuart SK1
II/2/3 IR28 Frelich SK1
II/4/1 Kroyer (Cuirassiers)
II/4/2 Rottermund (Dragoons)
II/4/3 Kerekes (Insurrection Hussars) SK2

II: 12-pdr Foot

II: 6-pdr Foot

II: 6-pdr Horse

IV/1/1 (Légère) SK2
IV/1/2 SK2
IV/1/3 (Baden infantry) SK1
IV/2/1 (Légère) SK2
IV/2/2 SK2
IV/3/1 SK2
IV/3/2 SK2
* IV/4/1 SK2
* IV/C/1 Lasalle (Hussars & Chasseurs)
IV/C/2 Marulaz (Chasseurs)
IV: 12-pdr Foot
IV: 6-pdr Horse

IX/1/1 Guard & Grenadiers SK1
IX/1/2 Hartitzsch/Boxberg SK1
IX/1/3 Gutschmidt (Lt. Cavalry)
IX/2/1 LeCoq SK1
IX/2/2 Grenadiers
IX/2/3 Zeschau SK1
IX/2/4 Feilitzsch (Cuirassiers)
* IX/3/1 Gency (French Légère) SK2
* IX/3/2 Saxon Grenadiers & Light inf SK1
IX: 12-pdr Foot
IX: 6-pdr Horse

P/1/1 Mielzynski SK2
P/1/2 Paszkowski SK2
P/2/1 Zottowski SK2
P/2/2 Krasinski SK2
P/3/1 Chmielewski SK2
V/C/1 Franconi (Italian Lt. Cav.)
P: Polish 12-pdr Foot
P: Polish 6-pdr Horse

Cav: Montbrun (V) 2 / 12"

C/4L/1 Polish Uhlans
C/4L/2 Polish Uhlans
C/5L/1 Polish Uhlans
C/5L/2 Polish Uhlans
C/7C/1 French Hussars
C/7C/2 French Chasseurs
C: 6-pdr Horse (Polish)
C: 6-pdr Horse (French)