

HOW TO BECOME A MARSHAL – LESSON TWO

By: James G. Soto and Dennis A. Spors of Marshal
Enterprises



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MARSHAL ENTERPRISES (ME)



- Publishing Napoleonic games since the mid 1970's. 25 published since 2011
 - <https://labataille.me/>
 - Listed on the ME site are all of the titles published to date
 - Any Game corrections
 - Additional Game files
 - Updates
 - News
 - Free Print and Play Games
- James Soto
 - Historical Articles
 - Public Relations and Logistics
 - Monte Mattson
 - Art works (counters and maps)
 - Game Design
 - Dennis Spors
 - Game Design



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- News
 - NEW Release scheduled for the Spring 2024
 - *La Bataille d' Eggmühl 1809*
 - Where Davout becomes a Prince
 - Archduke Karl vs Napoleon
 - Two Day battle
 - Testing scenarios right now (Facebook)
 - Day one debuted at Consim 2023
 - *La Bataille de Raszyn 1809*
 - Removed from the webpage
 - Packaged with Eggmühl



Military Theory – *On War*



Von Clausewitz

- Born in Sachsen-Anhalt, Duchy of Magdeburg
- 1806 Aide de Camp to Prince August (Prussia) at Jena-Auerstadt
- 1812 joined the Russian Imperial Army. He was at Borodino on the Czar's Staff
- 1813 Russian German Legion
- 1815 Oberst, chief of Staff III Korps for Ligny and Wavre
- Director of the Kriegsakademie until 1830
- His widow Marie (Gräfin von Bühl) edited and published his writings
- He argued that war “could not be quantified or reduced to map work, geometry, and graphs”. Clausewitz stressed the psychological and political aspects of waging war.



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Military Theory- *Traité des grandes opérations militaires* and *The Art of War*



Baron de Jomini

- Born in Payerne, Vaud, Switzerland
- Joined the French and then Swiss Army. Officer, serving in the French service (especially Marshal Ney who hired him after reading his first book)
- An active soldier, serving not only as a chief-of-staff, but also as a line officer, concurrently was a prolific author
- Jomini was present at most of the most important battles of the Napoleonic Wars including Ulm (Colonel), Jena (Napoleon's Staff), Eylau (Legion of Honor) and Spain (Ney).
- Jomini managed both to impress Napoleon and anger Berthier, before being hired by Czar Alexander. Jomini refused to participate in the invasion of France in 1814.
- This complex figure came up with the most insightful military thinking of the Nineteenth Century, and was highly influential throughout Europe and America, especially at West Point.
- Jomini is often compared to Clausewitz. However, Jomini wrote of performance in battles and campaigns while Clausewitz wrote more of the nation-state on the world stage.



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- Grand Tactics and Battles (Art of War by Baron de Jomini)
- “ The guiding principle of tactical combinations is to bring the mass of your force against a part of the opposing army”
- Often what you see in games is the attacker lines up to match the defender and both face each other in opposing parallel lines
- The result of the battle depends on
 - The nature of the order of battle
 - The battle plan
 - Initial
 - Carry out the details
 - Flexibility / adjustments
 - Who is the last with a reserve
 - Superiority of Artillery or Cavalry
 - From 1812 on the ratio of artillery to infantry is greatly increased

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- **Types of battles**
 - Defensive (favorable positions)
 - Offensive (One attacks the other's position)
 - Unexpected meeting engagements
 - Speed / Mobility (DS favorite)
- **Types of positions**
 - Open positions chosen to fight on the defensive (Auerstadt / Hassenhausen)
 - Positions naturally strong (Heights at Austerlitz or Wagram)



- Entrenched positions occupied to await the enemy (Borodino and Heilsberg)

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- **Defensive Battle (*not passive*) Thoughts**
 - How easy is it to fall on the enemy in a favorable moment?
 - Will the artillery make a dramatic impact?
 - Unobstructed line of retreat? (rout)
 - Well-protected flanks?
 - Oblige the enemy to attack the center or the flank (set up your defense for that)
- **Passive Defense vs. Aggressive Offense**
 - “If an army on the defensive waits for an attack that could come from any direction, it is forced to move by the enemy initiatives”
 - “The army taking the initiative has the greatest advantage of bringing up troops and striking a blow where he considers best”

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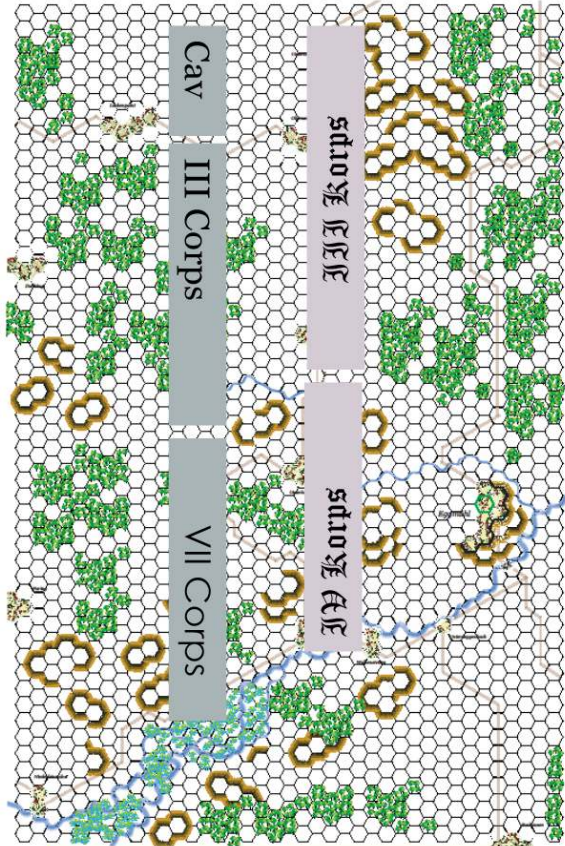


- Order of Battle as defined by Jomini (the arrangement of the forces on the battlefield)
 - Simple Parallel
 - Parallel with a crochet
 - Parallel with reinforcements on one wing or both wings
 - Oblique Order (Inferior force attacking)
- Perpendicular -becomes oblique order
- Concave (When enemy attacks the center)
- Convex (Passage of a river, false attack, - (Aspern Essling)
- Graphic Examples
 - using **Eggmühl 1809**



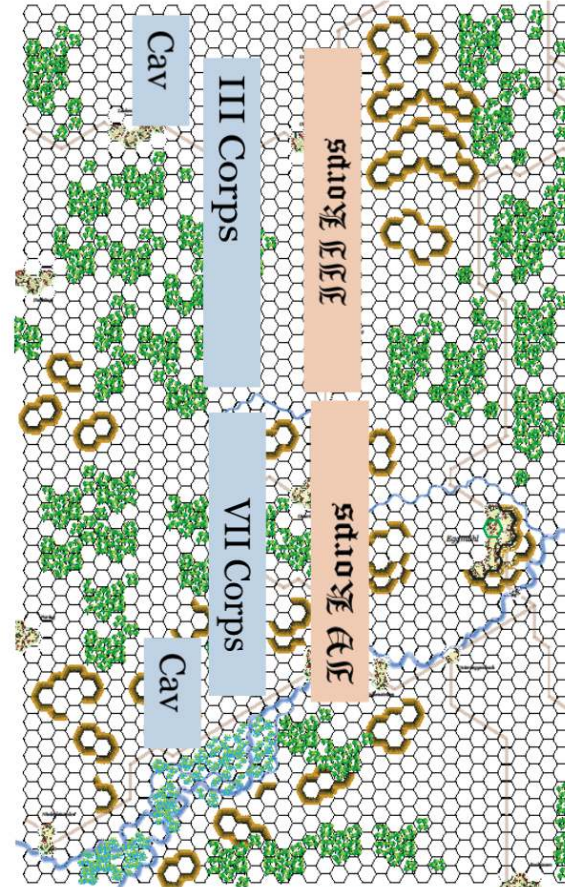
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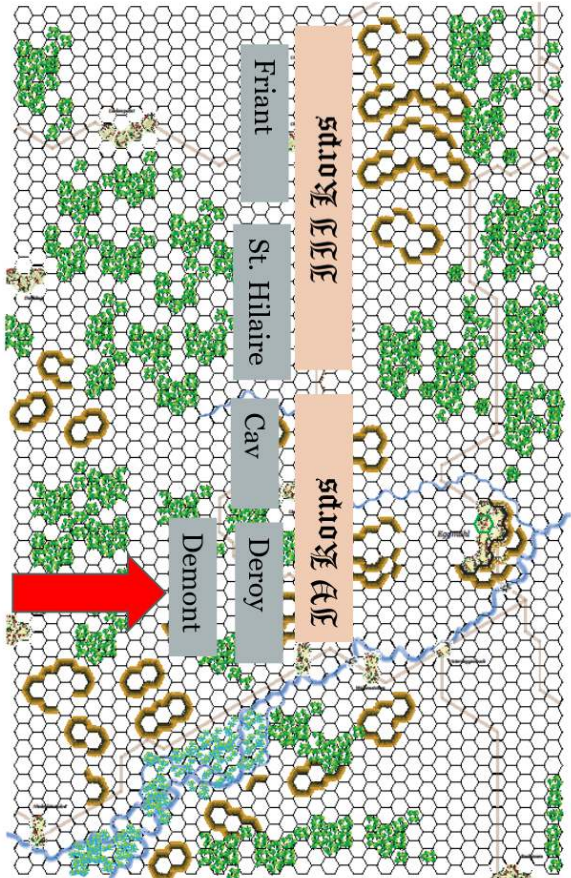


Simple Parallel

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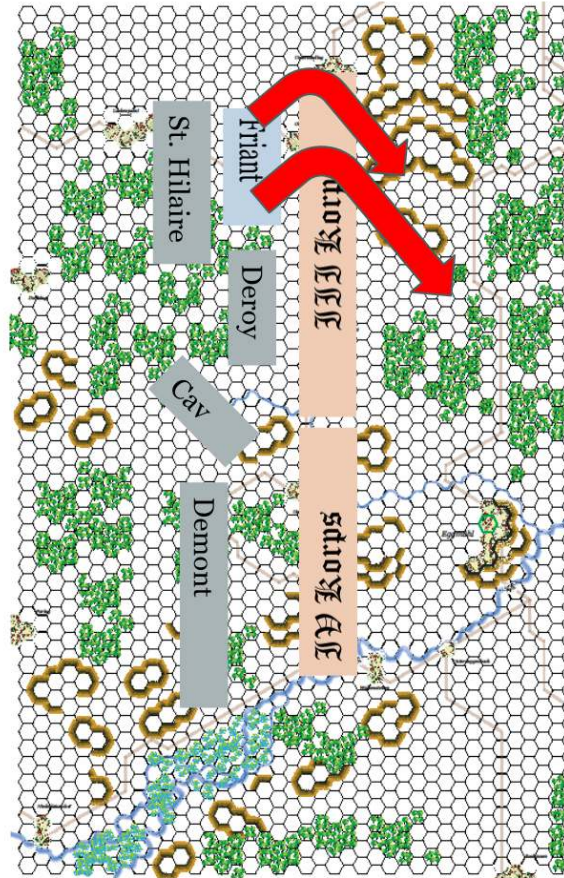


Parallel w/ Crochet

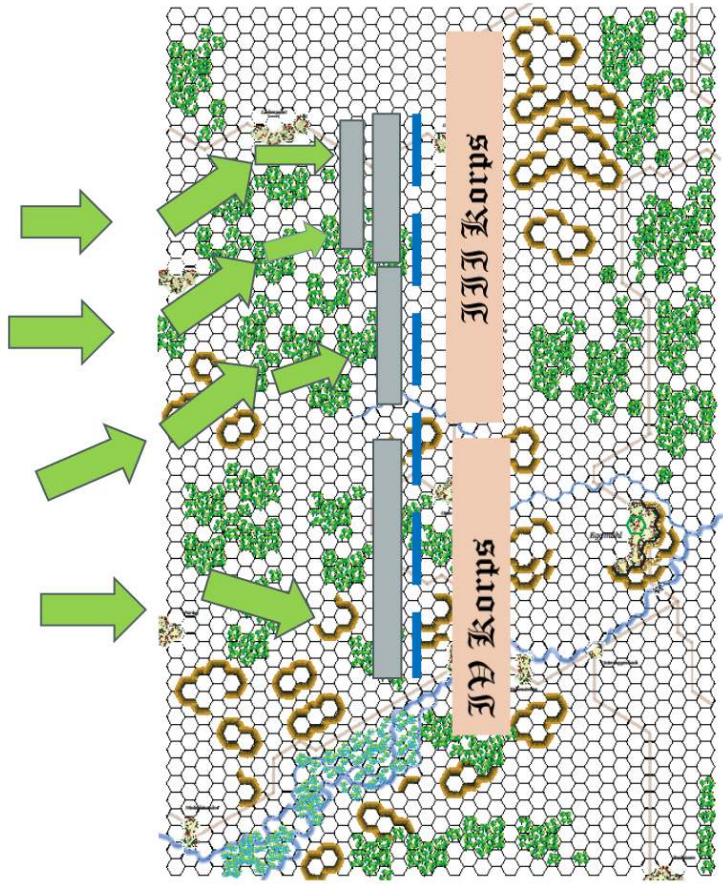


Parallel with reinforced Wing(s)

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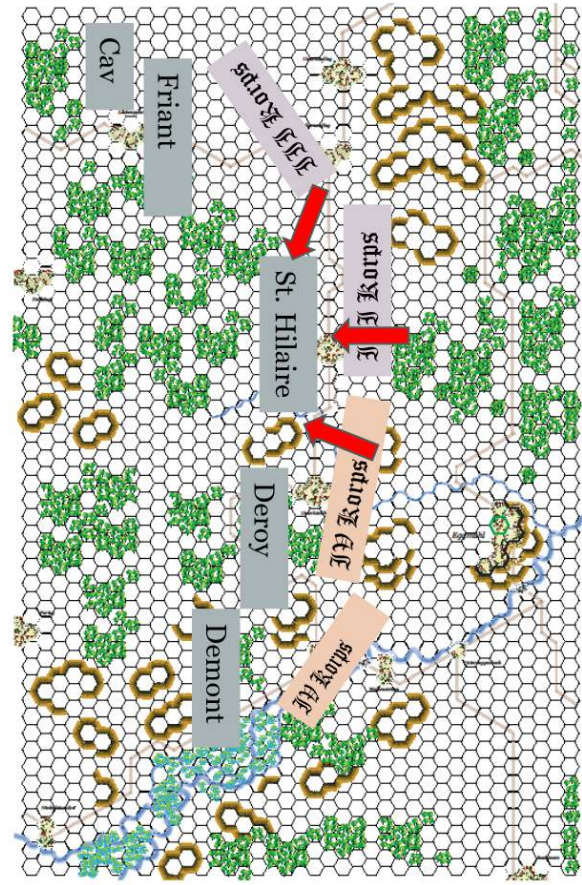


Oblique Order

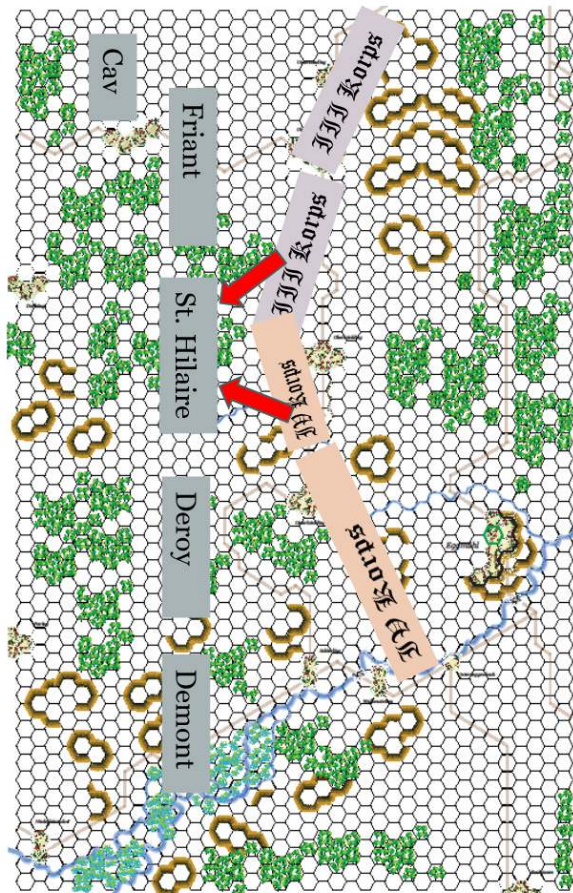


Perpendicular-becomes Oblique Order

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Concave Defense



Convex Defense

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Things to Avoid

- Committing troops before all your army is on the field
- Committing troops as soon as they enter the map
- No Reserve – everything on the line, map edge to map edge
- Fighting with everything at once*
- Not knowing when to disengage and reform your army.
- Not having options
- Lack of Patience – LB is a game of attrition and mathematics

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- Next Time
 - Examine the second day of Eggmühl 1809.
 - Possibilities for Attack and Defense using these theories
 - Examine Raszyn and the strategies for both sides
 - Timed Moves – what is behind this?



Sometimes the Die are Against You



- In 1807, Napoleon had just signed a peace treaty which ended the war between the French Empire and Imperial Russia. To celebrate the occasion, he ordered his Chief-of-Staff Louis-Alexandre Berthier to arrange a luncheon and a rabbit hunt
- On the day of the lunch, over 1000 rabbits were released from cages situated on the edge of a grassy field. Napoleon and his companions were armed and ready to follow in pursuit of the rabbits which, it was assumed, would panic and run for freedom. But that's not what happened!
- The confused bunnies formed a frenzied, fluffy army and headed straight for Napoleon. He was quickly overpowered – the rabbits gathered at his feet, climbed up his legs, gnawed at his gold-embroidered jacket, and hopped onto his head and shoulders. Napoleon could not position his gun to shoot them and his attempts to hit them away with his riding crop were futile. Finally, his officers were able to drive enough of them off him with their crops, whips and sticks to give Napoleon enough time to retreat to his velvet-seated carriage. The bunnies followed in hot pursuit, swarming into his carriage and continuing their onslaught. Finally, as the carriage began to move off, the rabbits dispersed, and Napoleon lived to fight another battle.
- So, what had sent these rabbits hopping mad? Turns out Berthier had made a critical mistake. Instead of gathering wild rabbits, which would have indeed turned to flee, he had acquired the rabbits from farms, and farmed rabbits know that seeing humans mean they are about to get fed. So to them, the sight of the emperor simply meant suppertime!

