La Bataille d’ Aspern-Essling 1809

Scenario One - Missed Opportunities Both Sides
Day One (Largely Historic)
Missed Opportunities Both Sides

La Grande Armée de l’Allemagne

Starting Locations and Order of Appearance
May 21, 1809
Start 12:00 - End 22:00

Summary

On May 21, Napoleon had thought his crossing of the swelling Donau would catch the Hapsburgs hibernating, but Karl had hoped Napoleon would start his crossing and then he could attack before the bulk of the French crossed. Both sets of expectations would not reach consummation and the bitter battle of Aspern-Essling would be joined.

The French only had three infantry divisions in and around Aspern and Essling and three cavalry divisions in the broad area between the two towns when the battle began in the afternoon. French reinforcements were scheduled to cross the Donau at Bertrand’s Lobau Island boat bridge, but the rising river and the Austrian efforts to destroy Bertrand’s boats were interrupting with the flow of troops to support the fragile French position. The French were only able to field under 30,000 men on the battlefield on May 21 facing the more than 90,000 Austrians on the Marchfeld plain.

This scenario allows either the historical Austrian set-up or allows the player to assume that Karl might want to change his initial set-up. However, if the Austrians decide to change their set-up and overall strategic plan, other delays to the cumbersome columns may arise.

The Austrian efforts to take both towns fell short on May 21 despite desperate efforts. The cavalry battles in the center area were just as dramatic, and as the sun set, the battles finally quieted down only restrained by the reduced visibility.

The French continued to cross Bertrand’s boat bridge into the night and into the next morning and the battle would continue into the next day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formation Description</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Arrive</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massena, Legrande w/ 3e Inf. Division</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Within two hexes of Aspern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lannes, Boudet w/ 2e Inf. Division</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Within two hexes of Essling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molitor w/ 1ere Inf. Division</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 hexes South of Aspern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bessieres</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ziegelwerke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Espagne w/ 3e Grosse Cav. Division</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 hexes South of elev. road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marulaz w/ Cav. of the IV Corps d’Armee</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hexes north of elev. Road and within 3 hexes of Aspern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasalle w/ 1ere Lt. Cav. Division</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 hexes South of Essling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoleon w/staff, Mamelucs &amp; Gend.</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Within two hexes of Ziegelwerke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Corps Artillery</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>14:20</td>
<td>With any IV Corps Formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Sulpice w/ 2e Grosse Cav. Division</td>
<td>14:20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cross Bridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
La Bataille d'Aspern-Essling 1809

St. Cyr w/ 4e Inf. Division  
16:20 Cross Bridge

Nansouty w/ 1ere et 12e Cuirassier Regs.  
17:20 Cross Bridge

2e et 9e Cuirassier Regs.  
17:40 Cross Bridge

Curial w/Tirailleur Chasseurs et Gren.  
18:20 Cross Bridge

Fusilier Chasseurs Reg.  
19:00 Cross Bridge

Fusilier Grenadiers Reg.  
19:20 Cross Bridge

Dorsenne w/ Chass. et Gren. a’ Pied Regs.  
20:20 Cross Bridge

Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Starting Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historique Entry Times</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dusk starts at 21:00
Leaders include their associated staffs
French cross the bridge from Lobau to Muehlauin in road march.

All French units must remain within four hexes of their starting location until 13:00 or if attacked (Feu/Melee). The attacked unit would release its division to move freely.

Scenario One - Day One (Largely Historic)

La Grande Armée de l'Allemagne

Starting Locations and Order of Appearance

May 21, 1809  
Start 13:00 - End 22:00

Bertrand Pont Tableau

Due to the construction of the bridges and the Austrian attacks on them, reinforcements were delayed.
Roll for each formation (group) listed, the turn before the historic entry time, to see if Bertrand repairs the damage and the formation arrives on time or is delayed

1  
Arrive this turn

2,3  
Arrive next turn

4  
Arrive in two turns

5  
Arrive 50% next turn and 50% the turn after

6*  
Bridge broken - roll again next turn

After 17:20 add one to the die roll

*If a 6 is rolled, the bridge is broken and there may be casualties to units attempting to cross that turn

1,2  
No Losses

3,4  
1 increment mort*

5,6  
2 increments mort*

*Roll for one regiment (cav.) or one battalion (Inf.) per turn. Austrian chooses the unit.
**Victory Conditions Scenario One and One A**

French Decisive – Hold 11, 10 or 9 hexes of Apern and 13, 12 or 11 hexes of Essling  
French Substantial – Hold 9 or 8 hexes of Apern and 10 or 9 hexes of Essling  
French Marginal - Hold 7 or 6 hexes of Apern and 8 or 7 hexes of Essling

Austrian Marginal – Hold 6 or 7 hexes of Apern and 8 or 9 hexes of Essling  
Austrian Substantial- Hold 8 or 9 hexes of Apern and 10 or 11 Essling  
Austrian Decisive – Hold all of 11 or 12 Apern and 12 or 13 Essling  
    or get 50 factors within 6 hexes of the bridge to Lobau

Any other result is a draw

Aspern has 11 town hexes with the Church  
Essling has 13 town hexes with the Granary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map layout</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>