

Battle of Montmirail

February 11th, 1814

Introduction: After Napoleon crushed Zakhar Dmitrievich Olsufiev's small isolated corps in the Battle of Champaubert on 10 February, he found himself in the midst of Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher's widely-spread Army of Silesia. Leaving a small force in the east to watch Blücher, Napoleon turned the bulk of his army to the west in an attempt to destroy Sacken. Unaware of the size of Napoleon's army, Sacken tried to smash his way east to join Blücher.

Napoleon ordered Ricard to attack Marchais at noon. A bitter struggle for Marchais raged for two hours, with the Russians retaining control of the village. Napoleon ordered an artillery bombardment while he waited for Michel's Old Guard division to march forward from Montmirail. At 2:00 pm the emperor ordered an attack on Sacken's left flank. Four of Friant's Old Guard battalions marched west along the highway toward Haute-Épine dairy farm, supported on their right by seven squadrons of Gardes d'Honneur. At the same time, Claude-Étienne Guyot led four Guard cavalry squadrons around the Russian left flank. The combined attacks broke Sacken's first line and compelled him to send his second line into action while moving his cavalry to the left to get in contact with Yorck's Prussians

Napoleon ordered the tired soldiers of Ricard and Meunier back into the battle for Marchais. The emperor sent Marshal François Joseph Lefebvre with two battalions of Old Guard Foot Chasseurs to cut off Marchais from the north. Ricard organized a four-battalion attack from the hamlet of Pomesson in the south. Lefebvre's two battalions captured L'Épine-aux-Bois. Though the French achieved local artillery superiority, the Russians in Marchais continued to resist until 5:00 pm when they were forced to relinquish control of the village and pull back

By evening the Polish Lancers of the Guard fought their way as far west as Viels-Maisons. Sacken was nearly trapped, but Yorck's effort gave the Russians enough time and space to get away. With Vasilshikov's cavalry covering the withdrawal, the Russians headed for the Château-Thierry road as it rained. The Russian retreat through marshes and woods was guided by a line of bonfires. The artillery was saved by detailing 50 cavalrymen to help pull each gun using ropes, though eight disabled pieces were abandoned. After an all-night march, Sacken's troops reached Viffort on the main road and continued marching northward toward Château-Thierry.

Scale: Each stand represents 300 infantry, 150 cavalry or between six and twelve cannons. Ground scale is one inch equals 120 yards. Each turn is 30 minutes real time.

Players: Anywhere between 2-6 players

Terrain and Weather: The gaming table is 8 feet by 5 feet. Weather is clear and cold and it has rained recently. Urban Areas are rough ground for movement. The Urban areas grant a -2/+2 DRM advantage to defenders for fire and melee. The Wooded areas grant a -1/+1 DRM advantage to defenders for fire and melee. Only the major roads provide a movement benefit to all troop types. The minor roads provide a road bonus to infantry and count as normal movement for artillery. Artillery moving off road is at half speed. The slopes on the

battlefield were rather minor the ground being described as 'rolling'. They provide no benefit to melee. *(One could argue they're not sufficient at brigade level to block LOS, but I put them in for appearance you can decide how you want to use them.)*

Playing Time: The game starts with the 11:00 am turn, and ends at the conclusion of 6:00 pm turn, for 15 turns total.

Deployment: Units set up per the accompanying map. All French units are in column formation, except Ricard and Michel's Divisions. Ricard is in supported line, and Michel is in road column. For the Russians, Tallisin's brigades and all cavalry are in line formation. Lieven's brigades are in supported line formation.

Initiative and Leaders: An Initiative roll-off between army commanders at the beginning of each turn will determine which side moves first. For this roll Napoleon receives a +3 DRM, and Sacken has a 0 DRM. The French are considered to have won the initiative turn one. Ney is a Charismatic leader.

The Armies: All French except the Old Guard are Columnar Infantry, the Old Guard is Impulse Infantry with skirmishers so noted. All Russian and Prussian Infantry are Columnar Infantry with skirmishers so noted.

Reinforcements: Michel's Artillery Batteries enter Turn 1 limbered at Point A. Defrance's Cavalry Division may also enter Turn 1 in road column at Point A *(space permitting, otherwise they may enter on any later turn)*. Yorck's Corp enters Turn 8 at Point B in road column, the Cavalry must be in the front and all artillery must enter last.

Special Rules: The Facing to Flank and Urban Combat rules are in effect from the *Age of Eagles (AoE) Supplement* (found online).

Special Rules: Sacken's Supply Wagons: Two turns after the French first take control of the town of Marchais (if at all), Sacken may begin moving this Supply Wagons off the board at Point C. These wagons may only move three inches per turn. If any French Unit comes into contact with one of the wagons, remove it from the game. The French Player gains 1 VP per wagon captured this way. The Russian Player receives no VPs for exiting them off the board, the simply deny the French VPs.

Optional Rules: Army Losses: When the French player has lost 32 stands they have sustained heavy losses and have a -1 DRM to tactical and reserve movement die rolls. When the Russian/Prussian player has lost 27 stands they have sustained heavy losses and have a -1 DRM to tactical and reserve movement die rolls. If one side has reached heavy losses and has twice as many losses as his/her opponent the penalty to tactical and reserve movement die rolls is increased to a -2 DRM.

Victory Conditions: Use the Casualty Point Chart in the rulebook for VPs.

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French Order of Battle

French Army Napoleon +3 XXXX	Napoleon ADC XX	Napoleon Mortier Imperial Gd XXX	Mortier Friant (C) 1st OG XX	Friant Cambronne OG 8/-/3 Sk X	Friant Petit OG 8/-/3 Sk X	Friant (8) Med OG I	Friant (8) Med OG I
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Cambornne – 1st & 2nd Chasseurs a' Pied

Petit – 1st and 2nd Grenadiers a' Pied

Mortier Michel 2nd OG XX	Michel 1st Bde E 7/5/3 Sk X	Michel 2nd Bde E 6/4/2 Sk X	Michel (8) Med OG I	Michel (8) Med OG I	Napoleon Nansouty Imperial Cav XXX	Nansouty Colbert E 8/5/3 HC X
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1st Bde – Flanquerer Chasseurs and Grenadiers, Velities of Florence, Velities of Turin
Colbert – 2nd Eclairer Regiment, 2nd Cheveau-leger Lancer

2nd Bde – Fusiliers Chasseurs and Grenadiers

Nansouty Lefebvre 2nd Cav XX	Lefebvre Lt Regts OG 9/-/4 LC X	Lefebvre Hvy Regts OG 15/-/7 HC X	Lefebvre (6) Med E I	Nansouty Laferriere 3rd Cav XX	Laferriere Lion E 8/5/3 HC X	Laferriere Letort E 6/4/2 HC X	Laferriere (6) Med E I
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Light Regts – Chasseurs a' Cheval, Polish Lancers
Lion – YG Chasseurs a' Cheval, YG Guard Dragoons

Heavy Regts – Grenadiers a' Cheval, Empress Dragoons, Gendarmes d' Elite
Letort – YG Horse Grenadiers

Ney Meunier 1st YG XX	Meunier 1st Bde E 7/5/3 Sk X	Meunier 2nd Bde E 7/5/3 Sk X	Meunier (8) Med E I	Meunier (8) Med E I	Napoleon Ney (C) Young Guard XXX	Ney Curial 2nd YG XX	Curial 1st Bde R 9/7/5 Sk X	Curial (8) Med E I
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1st Bde – 1st and 2nd Voltiguer Regiments

2nd Bde – 3rd and 4th Voltiguer Regiments

Curial's 1st Bde – 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Voltiguer Regiments

Ney Defrance Cav Div XX	Defrance 1st Bde R 6/5/3 LC X	Napoleon Ricard R 10/8/5 X
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1st Bde – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Gardes d' Honneur Regiments, 10th Hussars

Ricard – Remnants of 5 Legere Regiments, and 9 Ligne Regiments

French		Russians		Prussians	
Infantry	62	Infantry	48	Infantry	26
Cavalry	44	Cavalry	26	Cavalry	8
Artillery	8	Artillery	8	Artillery	2
Total	26,800	Total	19,900	Total	9,400

Allied Order of Battle

Russian Army Sacken 0 XXXX	Sacken Tallsin VI Corp XXX	Sacken (12) Med R 	Sacken (12) Med R 	Sacken (12) Med R 	Tallsin Scherbatov 7th Div XX	Scherbatov Kritschnikov R 4/3/2 	Scherbatov Augustov R 4/3/2 	Scherbatov Dietrich R 4/3/2 Sk
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Kritschnikov – Moscow & Pskov Regiments

Augustov – Libau & Sophia Regiments

Dietrich – 11th & 36th Jagers

Tallsin Bernodessov 18th Div XX	Bernodessov Blagovenzenko R 4/3/2 	Bernodessov Heidenreich R 4/3/2 	Bernodessov Metcherinov R 4/3/2 Sk 	Sacken Lieven XI Corp XXX	Lieven (12) Med R 	Lieven (12) Med R 	Lieven (12) Med R
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Blagovenzenko – Dneiper & Vladimir Regiments

Heidenreich – Kostroma & Tambov

Metcherinov – 28th & 32nd Jagers

Lieven Sass 10th Div XX	Sass Sokolovsky R 4/3/2 	Sass Achlestischev R 4/3/2 Sk 	Sass Selivanov R 4/3/2 	Lieven Stavitsky 27th Div XX	Stavitsky Lewandowsky R 4/3/2 	Stavitsky Alexejev R 4/3/2 	Stavitsky Kalogruivoff R 4/3/2 Sk
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Sokolovsky – Jaroslav, Kursk & Bieloserk Regiments
Lewandowsky – Odessa & Vilna Regiments

Achlestischev – 8th & 39th Jager
Alexejev – Simbrisk & Tarnopol Regiments

Selivanov – Kamchatka & Okhotsk Regiments
Kalogruivoff – 49th & 50th Jagers

Sacken Vasilshikov Cav Corp XXX	Vasilshikov (12) Med R 	Vasilshikov (12) Med R 	Vasilshikov Lanskoi 2nd Hussar XX	Lanskoi Waddolski E 5/3/2 LC 	Lanskoi D. Vasilshikov R 5/4/3 LC
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Waddolski – Akhtyrsk & Mariopol Hussars

D. Vasilshikov – Alexandria & White Russia Hussars

Vasilshikov Pandschul. 3rd Dragoon XX	Pandschul. Ushakov R 5/4/3 HC 	Pandschul. Umanez R 5/4/3 HC 	Pandschul. Karpov II C 6/5/4 IrLC 	Sacken Wagons 	Sacken Wagons 	Sacken Wagons
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Ushakov – Kurland & Smolensk Dragoons

Umanez – Kiburn & Tver Dragoons

Karpov II - Cossacks

(None) Yorck I Corp XXX	Yorck Jurgass R 8/6/4 LC 	Yorck (8) Med R 	Yorck (8) Med R 	Yorck Pirch 1st Brigade XX	Pirch 1st/1st Bde E 9/6/4 Sk 	Pirch 2nd/1st Bde R 9/7/5 Sk
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Jurgass – Hussars

1st/1st Bde – Four Grenadier Battalions

2nd/1st Bde – 5th & 13th Silesian Landwehr

Yorck von Horn 7th Brigade XX	Pirch 1st/7th Bde R 8/6/4 Sk
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