

Möckern 16 October 1813: a scenario for Blücher.

Background

On 16 October 1813 Napoleon's army stood at bay in the city of Leipzig, surrounded by advancing Allied armies. Napoleon's plan for the day was to strip his northern flank to reinforce an attack by his troops facing Schwarzenberg's Army of Bohemia to the South. He ordered Marmont to take his VI Corps out of its entrenchments north of Leipzig and set off southward. However, after Marmont had abandoned his position and was approaching Leipzig, Blücher's Army of Silesia appeared from the North. On his own authority Marmont halted his retreat and took up a defensive position before the city, with his left flank resting on the village of Möckern. Thanks to Blücher's aggressive advance, Napoleon would now have fewer troops at his disposal against Schwarzenberg. Moreover, his northern flank was significantly at risk from Blücher's advancing army.

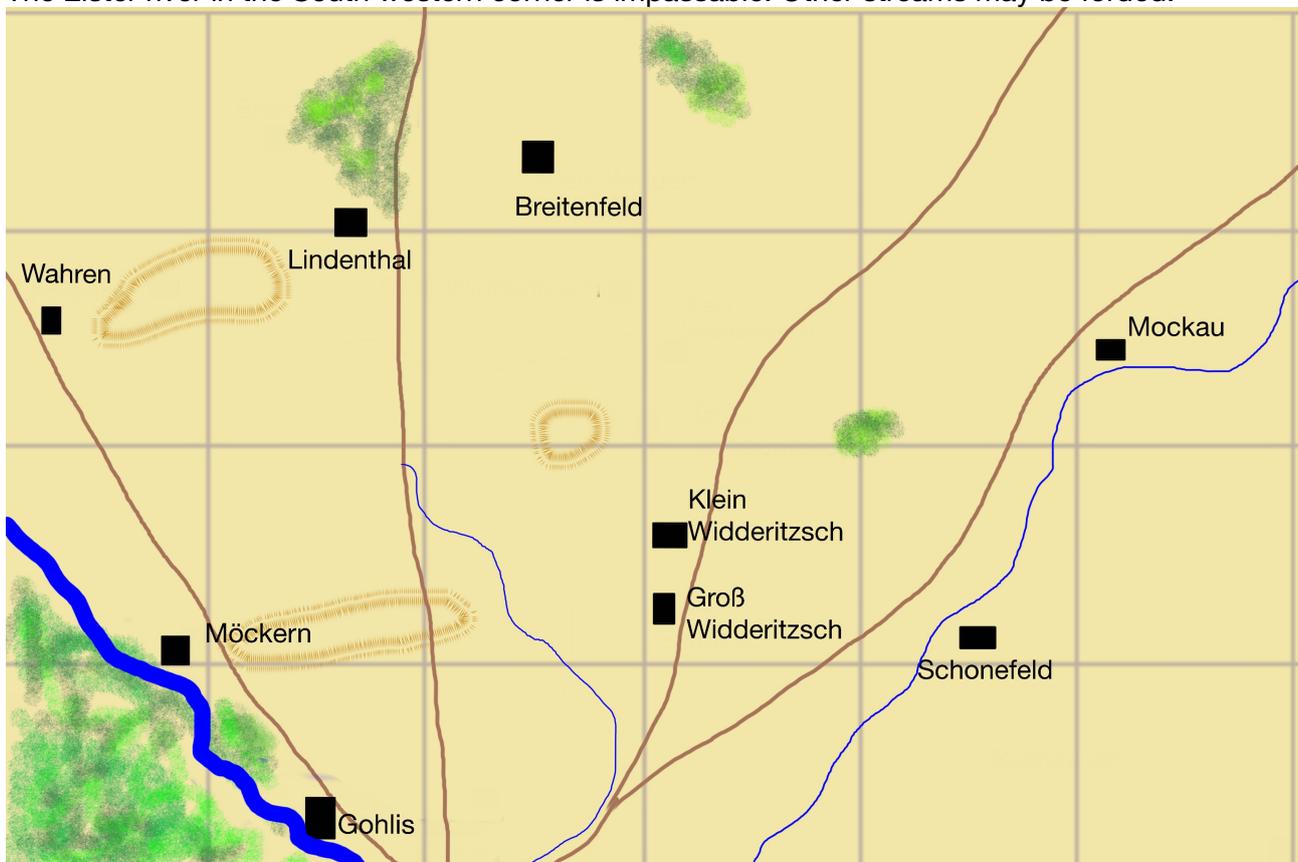
Fortunately for Napoleon, Blücher did not take full advantage of his opportunity on 16 October. Blücher believed that significant French forces were approaching from the North East and he feared an assault on his left flank. He spent most of the battle on that side of the field and he held back much of his army in anticipation of an enemy attack that didn't happen. The burden of the day's fighting consequently fell most heavily on Yorck's First Corps.

The game begins just as Marmont has taken position at Möckern and Yorck's Advance Guard approaches the village. Both sides will have access to the troops that took part in the critical fighting on the day.

The Map

1 map square is 2BW per side.

The Elster river in the South western corner is impassable. Other streams may be forded.



Deployment

The French set up first. The Allies set up second and take the first turn.

Game length

The game lasts 24 turns or until one side is demoralised.

MO allocation

Both players receive 2 MO dice per turn.

Reinforcements

The reinforcement rule in the Blücher rulebook has been adjusted in two ways for this scenario.

First, the reinforcement factor against each group represents the number of dice to throw when testing to arrive each turn. If the sum of the dice rolled is less than or equal to the current turn number, the group arrives.

Second, all the units which enter at the same entry point are considered to be marching in a column, one behind another. You may only test for one group of units per entry point per turn and must follow the order of march set out below. Thus, you cannot start rolling for the Prussian Group 2 reinforcements at the Wahren Road entry point until Group 1 has arrived successfully on the table.

Reinforcements are otherwise subject to the reinforcement rules as written, including the right to retain reserve status where applicable.

French

Marmont

French morale level is 6.

Units that start the game in urban areas may be set up in garrison.

Set up on the table, in or within 8BW of the village of Möckern:

VI Corps Marmont (vigorous)

20/VI (Compans)

1/20/VI 6 sk French Marine Infantry*

2/20/VI 5 sh c French Provisional Line Infantry

21/VI (Lagrange)

1/21/VI 6 sk French veteran Light Infantry

2/21/VI 6 sk + French Marine Infantry

22/VI (Frederichs)

1/22/VI 5 sh c French Provisional Line Infantry

2/22/VI 6 sk - French Veteran Line Infantry

5C/VI 5 French Light Cavalry

25C/VI 5 Württemberg Light Cavalry

VI 544322 Heavy Artillery

VI 544322 Artillery

Set up within 6BW of the village of Klein Wiggeritzsch:

4H/IV 6 French Light Cavalry

6C/III 5 French Light Cavalry

Set up with one infantry unit in each of Klein and Groß Widderritzsch and the cavalry within 3BW of Klein Widderritzsch:

27/VIII (Dąbrowski)

1/27/VIII 5 sk a Polish Infantry

2/27/VIII 5 sk Polish Infantry

C/27/VIII 6 Polish Light Cavalry

Reinforcements

Entry point on the northern table edge, on the road towards Klein Widderritzsch:

9/III (Delmas) (reinforcement factor 3)

1/9/III 6 sk a French Line Infantry

2/9/III 6 sk - French Line Infantry

3/9/III 6 sk a French Line Infantry*

4/9/III 6 sk - French Line Infantry*

*These two units will arrive behind the first two and must go straight into reserve. If/when enemy movement obliges the French player to reveal these units, they must be removed from the table: the Allies had mistaken a column of French wagons for fighting troops.

Allies

Blücher#

Allied morale level is 7.

Set up on the table, within 4BW of the village of Wahren:

1P Yorck (hero)

Advance Guard (Katzler)

1/AG/1P 7 sk sh st - Prussian Grenadiers

2/AG/1P 6 - Prussian Silesian Landwehr

Cav/AG/1P 6 Prussian Light Cavalry

Reinforcements

Entry point on the Western table edge, on the road towards Wahren:

Group 1 (reinforcement factor 1)

1 Brigade (Steinmetz)

1/1/1P 7 sk sh st - Prussian Grenadiers

2/1/1P 6 - Prussian Silesian Landwehr

2 Brigade (Mecklenburg-Strelitz)

1/2/1P 6 sk a Prussian Line Infantry

Group 2 (reinforcement factor 2)

7 Brigade (Horn)

1/7/1P 6 sk a - Prussian Line Infantry

2/7/1P 6 - Prussian Silesian Landwehr

8 Brigade (Hünerbein)

1/8/1P 6 a Prussian Reserve Infantry

Group 3 (reinforcement factor 3)

Corps cavalry (Jürgaß)

1/C/1P 6 Prussian Light Cavalry

2/C/1P 5 Prussian Landwehr Cavalry

1P 544322 Heavy Artillery

Entry point on the northern table edge, on the road toward Lindenthal:

Group 1 (reinforcement factor 2)

Langeron

1RC Cavalry Corps (Korff)

1/RC 6 Russian Light Cavalry

2/RC 5 Russian Cossack Cavalry

X Corps (Kaptzevich)

8/X (Ourousov)

1/8/X 6 st a Russian Line Infantry

22/X (Tourchaninov)

1/22/X 6 st a + Russian Line Infantry

X 544322 Heavy artillery

X 544322 Heavy artillery

Group 2 (reinforcement factor 2)

IX Corps (Olsouviev)

9/IX (Udom)

1/9/IX 6 st a - Russian Line Infantry

2/9/IX 6 st - Russian Line Infantry

15/IX (Kornilov)

1/15/IX 6 st a Russian Line Infantry

IX 544322 Heavy artillery

Sk = skirmish; St = steadfast; sh = shock; c = conscript; a = attached artillery; + and - = over- and under-strength.

Victory Conditions

Victory goes to the side that reduces enemy morale to zero.

The village of Möckern contains a special objective. If it is in Coalition possession in a French status phase, the game ends immediately with a Coalition victory. (NB not Coalition status phase. This means that if the French lose Möckern in a Coalition turn but retake it in their own next turn, the game will not end.)

* *Marmont's Corps included several regiments of Naval Artillerymen or Marine Infantry, transferred from coastal garrisons to make up losses from the Russian campaign. These troops performed well in battle. Their dark blue greatcoats and red epaulettes confused the Prussians, who*

mistook them for Sailors of the French Imperial Guard. Because of this confusion, several Prussian accounts mistakenly reported fighting the Imperial Guard at Möckern.

The Allied player receives no game benefits for the presence of Blücher because he was preoccupied by the perceived threat to his left rear. The effective field commander for most of the day was Yorck.