

The Battle Of Paltzig (Kay)
July 23, 1759
by Chuck Hamack and Erik Engling

The campaigning season started late for Frederick in 1759 but he was able to amass a sizable army of nearly 130,000 troops for the upcoming conflict. The Austrians and Russians were converging on Silesia and he was forced to dispatch various smaller forces to observe and/or block their possible convergence. Facing the Russians Frederick originally had General Dohna in command but was unimpressed with his management and sacked him in July. The king replaced him with a new commander in General Wedell who had never led an independent command. Frederick pressed him to attack the Russians wherever he found them while Frederick spent his time demonstrating against Daun's lethargic Austrians.

On July 23rd the Russian General Saltykov managed to get his army around the rear of Wedell's Prussians and deployed on a series of hills facing east over a swampy valley of the Eichmuhlen-Fliess stream near the village of Paltzig. Wedell reacted awkwardly and sent his troops in piecemeal against the Russian position. Between the ponds and terrain, the Prussians were bunched together and massacred by hastily entrenched guns. These piecemeal attacks by the Prussian forces of Manteuffel, Hulsen and Wobersnow were all defeated in turn with the latter general falling mortally wounded upon the Russian line. The battle ended with Wedell's command completely wrecked and retreating from the field. The Russians did not pursue vigorously, allowing the remnants to retreat. Frederick reprimanded Wedell for his poor performance.

The Scenario:

The weather is sunny. Start on Turn 1. Basic Length is 8 turns.

Terrain notes:

The four villages on the map are each represented by one town block. The Eichmuhlen-Fliess stream is a considerable obstacle and requires that any cavalry or infantry unit must spend the entire turn movement to cross under and is treated as vulnerable until it has crossed. Artillery is unable to cross the stream or swampy area. The pond located in the Eichmulen-Fliess stream is impassable.

Map Scale: 1:100

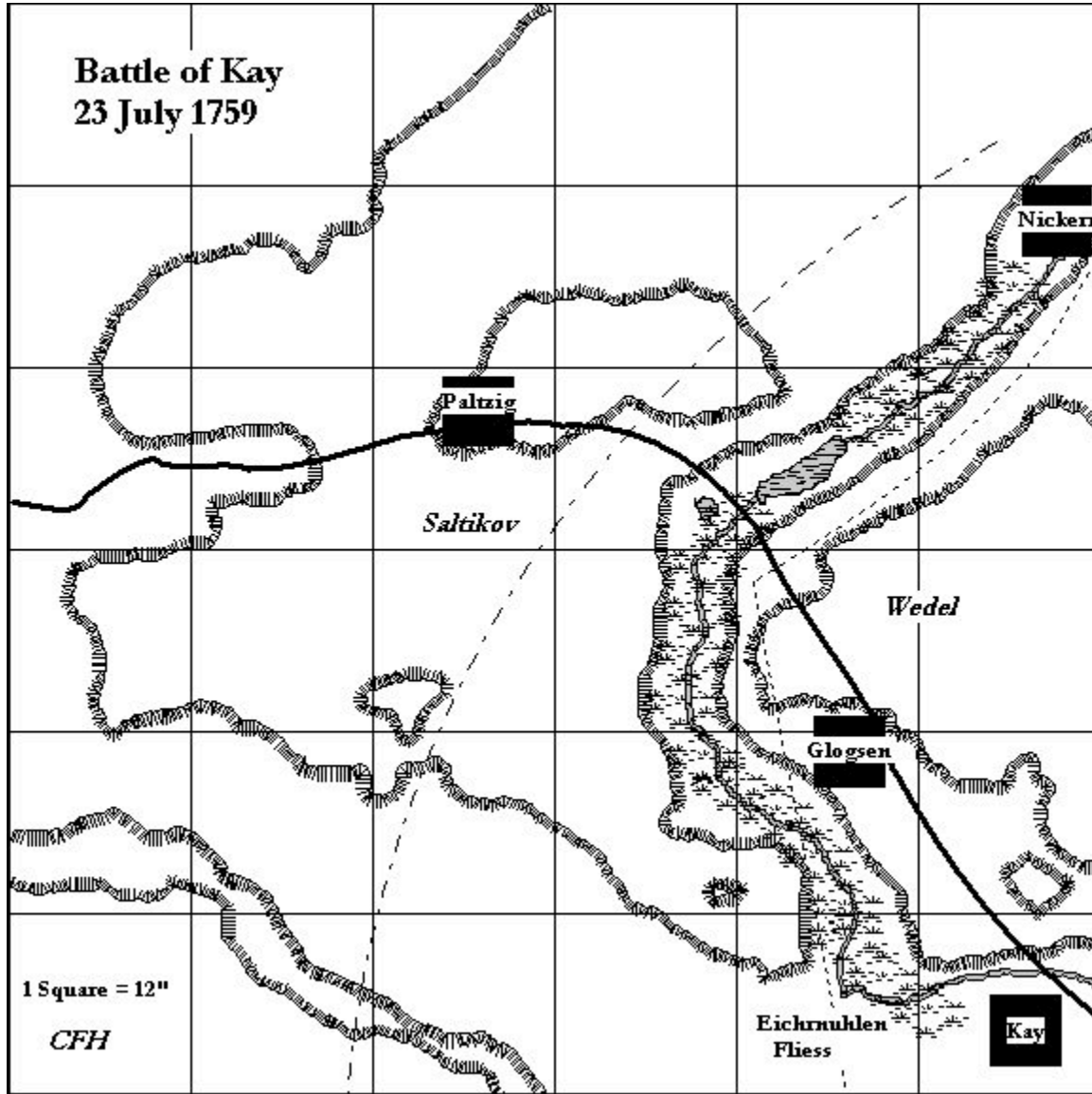
Historical & Free Deployment Rules:

Prussians to the right the dotted line & Austrians to the left dashed line.

Special Scenario Rules:

At deployment Russian artillery may be given hasty works which will provide a 5+ cover save to fire and assault. Artillery movement removes the works.

The Paltzig (Kay) Battlefield:



The Prussian Army**Commander: Wedell (Poor)****Army Break Point: 6****General Normann (+1) V**

1 x Dragoon

1 x Hussar

General Manteuffel (+1)

1 x Musketeer

1 x Heavy Artillery

General Hulsen (+1) V

2 x Musketeers

1 x Fusilier

1 x Heavy Artillery

General Wobersnow (+1) V

2 x Grenadiers

1 x Musketeer

1 x Heavy Artillery

General Kanitz (+1)

2 x Musketeer

2 x Hussar

General Schorlemer (0)

2 x Cuirassiers

Free Deployment:

2 x Grenadiers (24)

6 x Musketeers (60)

1 x Fusilier (9)

2 x Cuirassiers (22)

1 x Dragoon (10)

3 x Hussar (30)

3 x Heavy Artillery (24)

Total Free Deployment: (179)**The Russian Army****Commander: Saltykov (Average)****Army Break Point: 9****General Fermor (0) V**

2 x Grenadiers

5 x Musketeers

1 x Heavy Artillery

General Galitzin (-1)

1 x Grenadier (Observation Corps)

3 x Musketeers (Observation Corps)

1 x Heavy Artillery

General Totleben (0)

1 x Horse Grenadiers (rated as Cuirassier)

1 x Hussars

2 x Cossacks

General Demitu (0)

2 x Cuirassiers

1 x Horse Grenadier (rated as Cuirassier)

General Villebois (-1)

5 x Musketeers

1 x Heavy Artillery

Free Deployment:

3 x Grenadiers (33)

13 x Musketeers (117)

2 x Cuirassiers (20)

2 x Horse Grenadiers (20)

1 x Hussar (5)

2 x Cossacks (6)

3 x Heavy Artillery (18)

Total Free Deployment: (219)

What if?

Wedell's Commission

Frederick had lost confidence in Dohna and promoted Wedell to an independent command that was far beyond his abilities. In this scenario option, replace Wedell with Dohna who will have the following rating: **Dohna (Average)**

Henry to Command

It is quite possible that Prince Henry could have taken command of this sector rather than the newly elevated Wedell. In this option, place Prince Henry in command and add a portion of his forces to the Prussian army. Wedell resumes his role as force officer and has been given command of elements of Henry's forces operating near the Schmottseiffen camp in Silesia that could have been present at Paltzig (Kay).

Prince Henry (Great)

New Break Point total: 9

General Wedell * (+1) V

1 x Grenadier
3 x Musketeer
2 x Fusiliers
1 x Heavy Artillery

More Russians included

As typical with the Russian army of the period, tremendous attention was paid to guarding the baggage trains and food stores that accompanied the force. Thus at Paltzig a sizeable force was detached watching the lager. Assume these units were attached to their parent formations and that the wagon train was left unguarded as there was no Prussian threat at all.

Add 2 Musketeers units (Observation Corps) to Galitzin's force

Add 1 Musketeer each to Fermor's force and Villebois' elements

Add 1 Dragoon unit to Demitu's cavalry force

These additions will raise Saltykov's Break Point total: 11

True Command

Wedell was not fit for independent command and continued blindly down the road of launching assaults at the Russian forces that he encountered at Paltzig (Kay). In this option, ignore the special rule about control tests being "Attack!" and allow Wedell to command his force more sensibly. Raise his army command rating to **Average**.