

The Battle Of Prague
May 6, 1757
(Prelude to Kolin)
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In April 1757, Frederick again surprised the Austrians as he had prior to Lobositz and began campaigning before the combined forces of Prince Charles of Lorraine and von Browne were ready. The King invaded Bohemia in multiple columns heading for the city of Prague where the Austrians were confused, uncoordinated, and unprepared for such an early invasion before the normal campaigning season. By early May, Frederick had drawn up his forces near Prague and offered battle to the Austrian command.

Early on the morning of May 6, 1757, Frederick was advised by Schwerin that he could deploy to the left and take the Austrian force of Prince Charles in the flank. The King was somewhat sickly that day and relied on Schwerin's recommendation and allowed his troops and the left wing cavalry under Shconaich to lead an attack on the Austrian right near the town of Sterboholy. The Prussian left wing cavalry successfully engaged the combined Austrian cavalry deployed on the open plain near Sterboholy and succeeded in crushing the force when Zieten's advance guard Hussars crushed their right flank. Austrian cavalry broke and rushed back to the fortifications of Prague.

To the left of Sterboholy, von Browne assembled a large force of infantry and artillery in an attempt to stabilize the Austrian center and to unhinge Frederick's infantry deployment. Schwerin deployed his infantry forces to counter von Browne. While leading his command against the Austrians he died from artillery fire, whereby his infantry broke and fled. This successful Austrian counterattack had the unintended consequence of separating the right flank infantry from the main army of Prince Charles and a gap opened up to the right of the town of Kyge. This opportunity did not go unnoticed and a Prussian infantry attack was launched which crushed the Austrian right infantry flank and proceeded in rolling up the army during which von Brown was mortally wounded. The Austrians collapsed and headed back to Prague, covered by nearly suicidal cavalry charges by the few regiments that remained from the early morning cavalry battle.

Frederick had succeeded in attacking an Austrian army of equal size and driving it from the field. However, unlike Lobositz, his casualties were excessive (over 14,000) and his army exhausted from attacking the fortress directly. He had inflicted 13,500 casualties on the main Austrian army and bottled that force into the city. Frederick had to settle for a siege which was interrupted by news that another Austrian army led by Daun was coming to the relief of Prague.

The Scenario:

The weather is sunny.

Start on Turn 2. Basic Length is 6 turns.

Terrain notes:

The Austrian Field fortifications on the left flank were placed between the villages of Kej and Hlaupetin. These will be treated as cover with a 4+ save. Each town is represented by one base. The Roketnitzer Bach stream was not terribly deep, but was marshy and slowed any deployments across the ground. The stream requires ½ of the total movement for infantry and cavalry to cross with artillery needing all of its movement to cross.

Map Scale: 1:100

Free Deployment Rules:

Prussians any where north, north-east, or east of the dotted line (Rocketnitzer Bach).

Austrians anywhere south, south-west, or west of the dotted line.

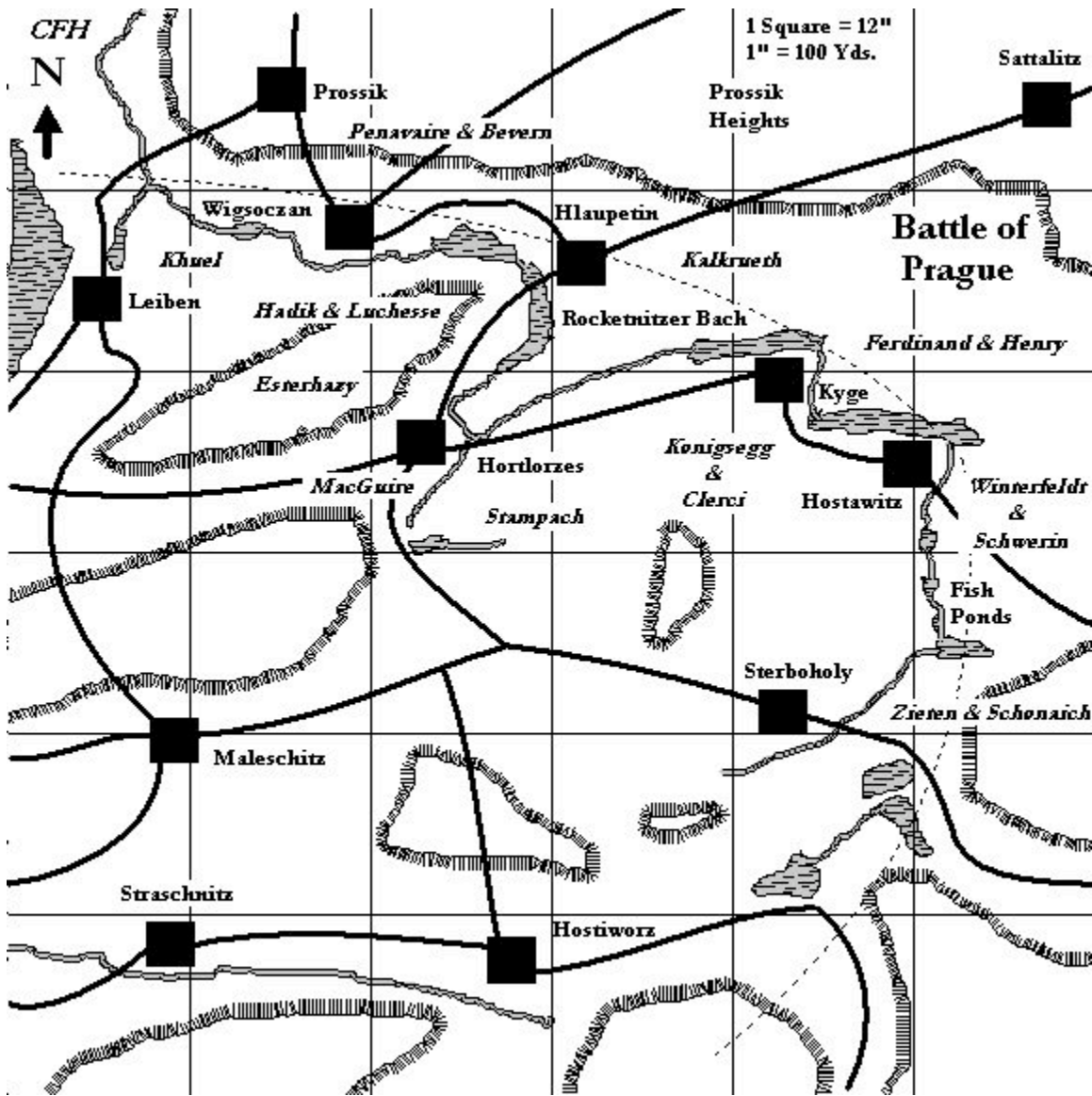
Historical Deployment Rules

See map

Special Scenario Rules

The Austrian Army had a somewhat dual command depending on contact with the Prussian army. At the beginning of the game, the Austrian forces are under the command of Prince Charles of Lorraine. On the first turn after Austrian units have been in combat or under fire, roll a die. On 4-6, Charles remains in command for that turn. On a 1-3, von Browne takes over. Repeat this each turn until Browne takes over.

The Prague Battlefield:



The Prussian Army

Commander: Frederick (Great)

Army Break Point: __11__

Advance Guard Zieten * (+1) V

3 x Hussars

1 x Dragoon

Left Wing Schonaich (-1)

2 x Cuirassiers

1 x Dragoon

Right Wing Penavaire (-2)

3 x Cuirassiers

1 x Dragoon

1st Line Winterfeldt * (+1) V

1 x Grenadier

2 x Musketeers

2nd Line Schwerin * (+1) V

1 x Grenadier

1 x Musketeer

2 x Fusiliers

1 x Heavy Artillery

Left Wing Kalkrueth (0)

1 x Grenadier

2 x Fusiliers

1 x Heavy Artillery

Right Wing Bevern * (+1) V

4 x Musketeers

1st Reserve Ferdinand (0) V

2 x Musketeers

1 x Howitzer Artillery

2nd Reserve Prince Henry * (+1) V

1 x Musketeer

1 x Heavy Artillery

The Austrian Army

Commander: Prince Charles of Lorraine

(Poor) or von Browne (Good)

Army Break Point: __11__

Left Wing Khuel (0)

3 x Musketeers

1 x Croat

1 x Heavy Artillery

Right Wing Konigsegg (0)

4 x Musketeers

1 x Heavy Artillery

2nd Line Clerci (-1)

5 x Musketeers

1 x Saxon Musketeer "in exile"

Reserve MacGuire (0) V

2 x Grenadiers

2 x Musketeers

1 x Croat

1 x Heavy Artillery

Left Wing Esterhazy (-1)

2 x Cuirassiers

1 x Dragoon

1st Line Hadik (+1) V

2 x Hussars

1 x Dragoon

2nd Line Luchesse (+2)

2 x Cuirassiers

1 x Hussar

Right Wing Stampach (0)

1 x Cuirassier (including elite cos.)

1 x Dragoon

What if:

1) Marshal Daun was within ten miles of Prague at the time and his avant-garde could have made it to the battle if the Marshal had been more aggressive about the relief of Prague. Deploy this force in reserve near Maleschitz. Change the Austrian Army Breakpoint from 11 to 16. Using this option keeps Prince Charles in charge throughout the battle.

Nadasdy * +1 (V)

5 x Hussars

1 x Saxon Chevauxlegers

3 x Grenzers

2) Frederick was ill the morning of the battle with an intestinal virus and he left many of the details to Schwerin, including the decision to launch the attack on the right flank cavalry force of the Austrian army. In this play balance, drop Frederick's rating to Good instead of Great.

3) After mobilization for the spring campaign, Frederick's army combined with Prince Moritz of Anhalt-Dessau at the old Lobositz site (which they had to avoid due to the stench of the previous year's slaughter). Assume Moritz's forces were expanded and incorporated into Frederick's army prior to the battle of Prague. This raises Frederick's Break Point from 11 to 13.

Reinforced Column Moritz von Dessau * (+1)

1 x Grenadier

3 x Musketeer

2 x Fusiliers