



MARENGO

Date: 14 June 1800

DRAFT

History: First Consul Bonaparte marched the Army of the Reserve through Switzerland and cut the Austrian army of Melas off from Austria. Counting his chickens before they hatched, Bonaparte assumed the enemy would run for it and focused on sealing every possible enemy escape route. Melas instead concentrated his army at the fortress/depot of Alessandria and determined to fight his way out over the French army.

The aggressive French upset his plans by capturing Marengo village the night before, forcing the Austrians to make repeated attacks the next day to clear the town and the difficult Fontanone Creek line. Ott's column marched through Castel Ceriolo and enveloped the French right. Losses were heavy on both sides. The outnumbered French were finally evicted from the village on the third assault and sent eastwards in disorder. The 70 year old Melas was badly bruised when his horse was shot from under him as Marengo fell. He retired to the fortress and left the pursuit of the French to Zach, his less capable and unfortunate chief of staff.

As the French fell back, Desaix appeared with the remainder of his corps and organized a counter-attack. Marmont's artillery barrage prepared the way. Desaix was shot dead as the assault hit; Kellermann's cavalry struck the Austrian column in the flank. The front of the Austrian column gave way, the rest of the ragged French line leaped forward and the exhausted Austrians collapsed in bloody ruin. The French lost around 6,000 troops, the Austrians 6,000 killed and wounded and some 8,000 taken prisoner (including Zach) along with 40 guns and 15 flags. Bonaparte had dodged a bullet in this battle. It almost ended his career. Instead it put a crown on his head. It was a near-run thing.

Scenario by Vincent Tsao

AUSTRIAN ORDER OF BATTLE

Baron Michael von Melas, C-in-C (WIA)

(Division Hadik MW)

- 3 Trnd Cav Bde Pilati
- 7 Trnd SM Bdes Bellegarde & St Julien

1 SA

(Division Kaim)

- 5 Trnd SM Bdes Briey & La Marseille
- 6 2S Trnd SM Bdes Knesevich & Frimont

1 SA

(Right Column O'Reilly)

- 4 3S Trnd SM O'Reilly light infantry
- 2 Trnd Cav O'Reilly cavalry

(Grenadier Division Morzin)

- 4 A Vet SM Bde Weidenfeld
- 5 A Vet SM Bde Lattermann

1 SA

(Cavalry Division Elsnitz)

- 4 Trnd Cav Bde Nobili
- (5 Trnd Cav Bde Nimitsch)

MajGen Peter Ott, Left Column

(Division Schellenberg)

- 6 2S Trnd SM Bdes Retz & Gottscheim
- 5 Trnd SM Bde Sticher

1 SA

(Division Vogelsang)

- 4 Trnd SM Division Vogelsang

1 SA

*Total: 46 infantry, 9 cavalry, 5 artillery
@ 500 men / 18 guns per base*

Anywhere.

Within 6" of Marengo, W of Fontanone.

"

Within 3" of Pedrabona.

"

6"-9" N of La Stortigliona, W of Fontanone.

Enter Turn 1 at A.

"
(Sent to Aqui)

Enter Turn 2 at A.

"
"
"
"
"

Victory Conditions: Victory is determined by how many points each side has at game end. The following objectives are worth 1 point each:

Marengo and the fork in the road 11 inches west of point B.

The Austrians get 1 point if Bonaparte becomes a casualty.

Either side scores 1 point if at game end they have lost half or fewer bases (destroyed or fled) than the enemy.

If any side has more points than the enemy they win. Otherwise the game is tied.

The reasoning is that if the Austrians just take Marengo, they are still in the same poor strategic position: the French are blocking their route home. They must drive the French back in disorder (take the crossroads) or cripple them while taking Marengo.

Game Length: 9 x 90-minute turns (0900-2100).

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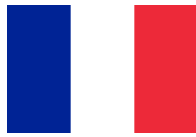
SCENARIO RULES

1. The Fontanone creek is impassable to artillery except at the bridges and fords. It is lined with woods below La Barbotta, which are Difficult Terrain and block line of sight as usual.
2. Vineyards are Crops (give cover to infantry in fire and assault, block line of sight but are not difficult terrain for movement).
3. Generals who become casualties are not replaced.
4. Austrian artillery bases represent 18 guns each, since most were light 3 lb guns.
5. The dotted roads are Trails. They do not increase the speed of troops moving on them but do allow columns and limbered guns to negate the movement penalty for crossing the streams.
6. French deploy first.
7. Austrians move first.

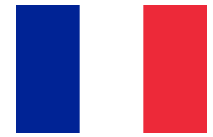
CAMPAIGN/SCENARIO OPTIONS

What if: Melas does not send Nimitsch's cavalry brigade to Acqui. Deploy with Nobili.

What if: count Desaix's reinforcements that arrive on Turn 6 as Aggressive, since they are fresh and everyone else is tired.



**FRENCH
ORDER OF BATTLE
Army of the Reserve**



**General Claude Victor-Perrin
(Corps Victor)**

- 4 S Trnd SM Division Gardanne (-)
- 3 S Trnd SM Detachment Dampierre (Gardanne)
- (Division Chambarlhac) (MIA)
- 4 3S Trnd SM Bde Dohl
- 7 S Trnd SM Bde O.Rivaud

Anywhere.

Within 6" of Marengo.
La Stortigliona.

Within 6" of Marengo.

**General Jean Lannes (Corps Lannes)
(Division Watrin)**

- 4 S Trnd SM Bdes Mahler & Mainony
- 6 S Trnd SM Bde Gency
- 1 SA

Anywhere.

Within 6" of fork in road (objective).

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- 2 A Vet Cav Bde Kellermann (+)
- 2 A Trnd Cav Bdes Duvigneau (-) & Champeaux

Within 6" of Marengo.

Within 6" of fork in road (objective).

- 2 A Vet SM Consular Guard Grenadiers
- 1 A Vet Cav Consular Guard Cavalry

Enter Turn 1 at B.

"

First Consul Napoleon Bonaparte (C-in-C)

Enter Turn 2 at B.

- (Corps Desaix)
- 7 2S Trnd SM Division Monnier

"

**General Louis Desaix (Corps Desaix) (KIA)
(Division Boudet)**

Enter Turn 6 at B.

- 4 3S Trnd SM Bde Musnier
- 7 S Trnd SM Bde Guenard
- 1 SA

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"

"

- 2 Trnd Cav Bde J.Rivaud

Enter Turn 6 at C.

Total: 48 infantry, 7 cavalry, 2 artillery
@ 500 men / 12 guns per base

SCENARIO NOTES

2 players: 2.5 hours?

The Austrians must pry the French from the Fontanone line within the first 4 turns or so and make good speed towards the fork in the road. Will Ott's column bolster the frontal attack on Marengo, or directly attack the French right, or make a deep thrust against the French rear?

The French must delay as long as possible without getting too badly cut up, then fall back to meet up with Desaix for the counterattack.

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