

The Battle of Caldiero

Age of Eagles Scenario
by GRW

SETTING

Date: 30 October 1805, 10:00 AM

Location: 6 miles east of Verona, Italy

Combatants: French Empire vs. Austrian Empire

History: By October 1805, Massena's French army had settled into a stalemate with his Austrian enemy, Archduke Charles. The two sides lingered on opposite banks of the Adige River, until Massena received word of Napoleon's victory at Ulm. This news encouraged the French commander to order an immediate offensive, despite being outnumbered.

When Archduke Charles learned of the catastrophe at Ulm, he made plans to withdraw his 50,000 men closer to Austrian soil, in case his forces would be required to defend Vienna from Napoleon. But Massena's sudden crossing of the Adige forced the archduke to check the French advance, offering his army time and space to withdraw safely. Thus, the two sides attacked each other in the thick fog of October 30, spread out across a wide, hilly front. Both Massena and Archduke Charles had deployed considerable forces on the far bank of the Adige River with the hope of turning their opponent's flank. Their main armies--about 25,000 and 32,000, respectively, met along main Verona road passing through the town of Caldiero.



Andre Massena

French Orders:
Capture Caldiero and the Colognola, driving the Austrians from the field.



Archduke Charles

Austrian Orders: Deliver a decisive blow to the French, buying our army time to withdraw safely to the east.

Victory points: Refer to the *Age of Eagles* 'Casualty Points Chart' to determine victory points.

Game length: 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM (16 turns, but see "Scenario Rules")

AFTERMATH

Massena divided his army into three wings: his left wing would capture the Colognola Heights, his center would take Caldiero, and his right wing would surprise the Austrians by flanking them south of the Adige River. This ambitious plan fell apart quickly, when the Austrians struck first on both wings. In the center, the French attack developed slowly, allowing the Austrians to shift reinforcements to assist in the defense of Caldiero. The indecisive battle ended with darkness, and Archduke Charles elected to withdraw from his positions. The stalemate cost both sides roughly 5,000 men. Massena then pursued the Charles through Italy.

SCENARIO RULES

1. Historically, the battle lasted the entire day. This scenario may end before the 6:00pm turn if one of the sides loses over 30% of their strength, calculated by counting the number of stands killed or captured. Loss of a division or corps commander counts as triple (3 stands). Whenever one side surpasses 30% casualties, the game automatically stops at the conclusion of the turn.
2. Thick fog covers the battlefield until 11:30am (fog lifts at the start of Turn 4). While the fog is present, shooting is limited to a range of 2".
3. To represent the hasty Austrian earthworks behind Caldiero, one brigade of Bellgarde's corps may begin the game behind earthworks, offering a +1 benefit in melee and against enemy fire.
4. CHARLES and MOLITAR are Charismatic.
5. MASSENA and CHARLES are both +1 on initiative rolls. Initiative must be rolled the first turn.

TERRAIN & WEATHER

The gaming table should be six feet long by four feet wide, laid out according to the accompanying map. Urban areas offer +2 advantages to defending units in melee and a -2 benefit when under fire. The Adige River cannot be crossed. Streams and marshes count as rough going for infantry, and may not be crossed by cavalry or artillery. The main ridgeline was quite steep, and the local fields were dotted with picturesque vineyards. All woods on the battlefield represent very light woods, which do not block line of sight or have any impact on game-play. Before noon, a heavy fog blanketed the battlefield, with effects noted above. The weather is cool and cloudy.

DEPLOYMENT

Units set up according to the accompanying map in whichever formation the commander sees fit. Batteries may begin limbered or unlimbered, and commanders must be deployed within 12 inches of their commands. MASSENA and his divisions may elect to remain off-board in reserve, if desired. Reserve units enter at point "A" when ordered forward. BRUNE's detached unit may deploy anywhere in the marshy bank of the Adige River.

CHARLES, the army commander, may deploy within 12" of any Austrian corps, along with the army artillery reserve. ARGENTAU's reserve division begins off board, and may enter at point "B" as early as 11:00am (Austrian Turn 3).

SCALE

Each infantry stand represents 360 soldiers, each cavalry stand 180 troopers, and artillery stands a battery of 8-12 guns. Ground scale is one inch to 125 yards and one complete turn represents thirty minutes of historical time.

Notes on Sources

Despite being a large, bloody affair, the Battle of Caldiero is not particularly well researched. The best source for the battle is Frederick Schneid's outstanding *Napoleon's Italian Campaigns: 1805-1815* (2002). The OOBs are taken largely from Schneid. A brief note regarding the Austrian organization--Charles reshuffled his commanders shortly before the battle, organizing his army into several ad hoc wings. For the purposes of this game, only Bellegarde is rated as a corps commander, although historically von Reuss and Simbschen functioned on a similar level. Also see Theodore A. Dodge, *Napoleon: A History of the Art of War*, Vol. II (1907), pp 252-256.

French Order of Battle

MASSENA Army of Italy

MASSENA

army ldr

Gardanne 1st Division ldr
Compere R 8/6/4 Sk light
Lenchantin R 8/6/4 Sk line
Light Foot Artillery #1

Molitar 3rd Division ldr
Launay R 8/6/4 Sk line
Herbin R 5/4/3 Sk line
Valory R 6/4/3 Sk line
Light Foot Artillery #2

Mermet Reserve Cav. Div. ldr
Lacour E 6/4/3 HC dragoons
Offenstein E 4/3/2 HC cuirassiers

Heavy Foot Artillery Reserve #6

Duhesme 4th Division ldr
Goullus R 8/6/4 Sk line
Camus R 9/7/5 Sk line
Light Foot Artillery #2

Partonneaux Reserve Division ldr
Solignac E 6/3/3 Sk grenadiers
Valentin E 6/3/2 Sk grenadiers
Guard Foot Artillery #4

d'Espagne Light Cav. Div. ldr
Debelle R 5/4/3 LC chasseurs
Maurin R 5/4/3 LC chasseurs
Light Horse Artillery #5

(detached from Verdier's 2nd Division)
Brune E 5/3/2 Sk line

Austrian Order of Battle

CHARLES Army of Italy

ARCHDUKE CHARLES

army ldr

Bellegarde Central corps ldr

Vogelsang 1st Division ldr
Wetzel R 11/8/6 line
Croll E 7/5/3 Sk grenadiers
O'Reilly E 8/6/4 LC hussars
Light Foot Artillery #1

Lindenau 2nd Division ldr
Lippa E 6/4/3 Sk grenadiers
Hohenlohe E 7/5/3 Sk grenadiers
Lorraine E 8/6/4 HC dragoons
Light Foot Artillery #2

Argentau Reserve Division ldr
Gavasini E 5/3/2 Sk grenadiers
Stipcic E 4/3/2 LC hussars

Heavy Foot Artillery Reserve #7 & 8

von Reuss Left Wing Division ldr
Kalnassy R 11/8/6 line
Kollredo E 7/5/3 Sk grenadiers
Karl E 4/3/2 LC uhls
Light Foot Artillery # 3 & 4

Nordmann Far Left Division ldr
Siegenfeld R 5/4/3 Sk light
Nordmann R 4/3/2 Sk light
Erdody E 4/3/2 LC hussars

Simbschen Right Wing Division ldr
Frimont R 5/4/3 Sk light
Kottulinski R 8/6/4 line
Soudain R 8/6/4 line
Light Foot Artillery #5 & 6

MAP & DEPLOYMENT

