

Battle of Maloyaroslavets

Age of Eagles Scenario
by GRW, 2008

SETTING

Date: 24 October 1812, 10:00 AM

Location: 60 miles southwest of Moscow, Russia

Combatants: French Empire & allies vs. Russian Empire

History: On October 22, 1812, Russian General Kutuzov belatedly learned that Napoleon's Grande Armee had already abandoned Moscow. The French, he discovered, were marching south to Kaluga. Retreating on a southwestern route would allow the 100,000 survivors of the Grande Armee to find warmer weather and a land not yet ravaged by the brutal 1812 campaign. Hoping to cut off the French columns and force them to turn west instead of south, Kutuzov ordered 13,000 men under Dmitry Dokhturov to stop the enemy from crossing the Lutza River on the road to Kaluga.

After an all-night forced march, Dokhturov's corps arrived at the village of Maloyaroslavets at dawn on October 24. They drove a small French vanguard from the town but could not dislodge the French from their precarious bridgehead on the river bank. At 10:00am, Prince Eugene's IV Corps began to arrive in force with the intention of recapturing the strategic town.



Eugene de Beauharnais

French Orders: Expand the bridgehead by securing the heights of Maloyaroslavets.



Dmitry Dokhturov

Russian Orders: We must hold the Lutza River line until Field Marshal Kutuzov can arrive with the main army.

Victory points: Refer to the *Age of Eagles* 'Casualty Points Chart' to determine victory points. Add five points for uncontested control of Maloyaroslavets.

Game length: 10:00AM until Scenario Rule #2 is satisfied (no turn limit)

AFTERMATH

Eugene's corps launched repeated attacks up the steeply wooded slopes in front of the village, successfully recapturing the town on several occasions. As each side fed more troops into the battle, control of Maloyaroslavets changed hands eight times on October 24, 1812. Both Napoleon and Kutuzov were slow to realize the significance of the developing battle, which raged through the darkness until almost midnight. Eugene's Italian soldiers led the final charge to capture the town, but the victory was only tactical. Over 5,000 French and 7,000 Russians fell on the hills surrounding Maloyaroslavets. Later that night, Napoleon debated whether to press south or turn back toward the ravaged landscape to the west. Kutuzov's 90,000-man army positioned along the road to Kaluga made the Emperor's decision inevitable.

SCENARIO RULES

1. Generals GUILLEMINOT, PINO, LECCHI, and RAEVSKY are Charismatic.
2. There is no turn limit for this scenario, which represents the historical ferocity of the eighteen-hour, marathon battle. The scenario automatically ends when one side is able to maintain uncontested control of Maloyaroslavets for three, full, consecutive turns. Uncontested control is defined as not having an unspent enemy unit within 6" of the town.
3. Infantry may attempt to ford the river by rolling a single D6 per brigade. On a roll of 1, the unit loses one stand in the frigid, deep water and fails to cross. On a roll of 2-4, the unit fails to cross. On a roll of 5-6, the brigade completes the dangerous crossing, and is placed on the opposite bank, disordered, and may not move further that turn.
4. Both sides deploy simultaneously.
5. Eugene is +1 for initiative rolls, and Dokhturov is +0. The French start with initiative on the first turn.

TERRAIN & WEATHER

The gaming table should be six feet long by four feet wide, laid out according to the accompanying map--the terrain is very rugged. Urban areas offer +1 advantages to defending units in melee and a -1 benefit when under fire. The fortified church next to the Lutza River bridge offers +3/-2 benefits. The Lutza River may only be crossed at the bridge in column formation, unless infantry attempt to ford as noted in Rule #3. The tributary stream is rough going, but passable by infantry and cavalry. Movement along roads offers full movement benefits. The weather is cool and wet from yesterday's rain.

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. All French reinforcements enter at point "A." EUGENE arrives with BROUSSIER, ORANO, and the reserve corps artillery at 10:00am (first French turn); PINO and LECCHI arrive at 11:00am; PREYSING at 11:30am (Turn 4); GERARD at 2:00pm; and COMPANS at 2:30pm. *[Note: Napoleon and multiple corps remain 1-2 miles north, off-board]*

PLATOV enters from point "B" at 10:30am (Turn 2), while VASILCHIKOV arrives from point "C" at 11:30am (Turn 4). The remainder of RAEVSKY'S corps arrives at 12:30pm (Turn 6). KUTUZOV arrives with his heavy artillery reserve from "D" at 3:00pm, but he and his guns must remain within 6" of the southern board edge. KONOVNITZEN enters from point "C" at 4:00pm. *[Note: By late afternoon, multiple Russian corps are off-board one less than one mile south]*

SCALE

Each infantry stand represents 360 soldiers, each cavalry stand 180 troopers, and artillery stands a battery of 8-12 guns. Ground scale is compressed as one inch to 120 yards.

Notes on Sources

The Battle of Maloyaroslavets is noted by many historians as a key turning point in Napoleon's 1812 campaign. Had the Emperor advanced on the town with greater speed, he may have been able to move his army to Kaluga. By mid-afternoon both Napoleon and Kutuzov had arrived on the field with considerable reinforcements, but neither commander participated directly in the battle, or committed the bulk of their armies. Many liberties have been taken in designing the OOBs and approximating brigade strength. The map is taken from *Alison's Atlas* and cross-referenced with a Google Map view of the area to ensure the proper ground scale. See Nigel Nicolson, *Napoleon 1812* (1985); Richard K. Riehn, *1812: Napoleon's Russia Campaign*; Adam Zamoyski, *Moscow 1812* (2004); George F. Nazgier, *Napoleon's Invasion of Russia* (1988).

French Order of Battle
EUGÈNE
 IV CORPS & Elements of the I CORPS

EUGENE corps ldr

Guilleminot 13th Division ldr
 Huard R 6/4/3 Sk line
 Tissot R 8/6/4 Sk line
 Light Foot Artillery #1

Broussier 14th Division ldr
 De Sivray R 8/6/4 Sk line
 Almeras R 8/6/4 Sk line
 Light Foot Artillery #2

Pino 15th Division ldr
 Fontana R 6/4/2 Sk line
 Guillaume R 7/5/3 Sk line
 Dombrowski R 5/3/2 Sk line

Lecchi Italian Guard Div. ldr
 Lecchi E 5/3/- Sk grenadiers
 Triaire E 4/2/- HC dragoons

Heavy Foot Artillery Reserve #3-5

Ornano div ldr
 Guyon R -/4/2 LC chasseurs
 Villata R -/5/2 LC chasseurs

Preysing (BAVARIAN) div ldr
 Seydewitz R -/3/- LC chevauxleger
 Preysing R 4/3/- LC chevauxleger

FROM DAVOUT'S I CORPS

Gerard 3rd Division ldr
 Desailly E 4/-/2 Sk light
 Leclerc R 6/4/3 Sk line
 Light Foot Artillery #6

Compans 5th Division ldr
 Duppelin E 5/3/2 Sk light
 Teste R 5/4/3 Sk line

Russian Order of Battle
DOKHTUROV
 VI CORPS & VII CORPS

DOKHTUROV VI Corps ldr

Kaptsevich 7th Division ldr
 Liapounov R 6/5/3 line
 Balem R 6/5/3 line
 Balla R 5/3/2 Sk jägers
 Heavy Foot Artillery #1 & 2

Lichatcheff 24th Division ldr
 Tschoulski R 6/5/3 line
 Denisieff R 6/5/3 line
 Vouitch R 4/3/2 Sk jägers
 Light Foot Artillery #3 & 4

Platov div ldr
 Ataman C 7/6/4 LC cossacks
 Ilowaiski C 7/6/4 LC cossacks
 Zhirov C 7/6/4 LC cossacks
 Light Horse Artillery #5

KUTUZOV army ldr
 Heavy Foot Artillery Reserve #10-14

RAEVSKY VII Corps ldr

Vasilchikov 12th Division ldr
 Rylieff R 6/5/3 line
 Pantzerbieter R 6/5/3 line
 Heavy Foot Artillery #6 & 7

Paskevich 24th Division ldr
 Liebert R 6/5/3 line
 Samoini R 6/5/3 line
 Gogel R 5/4/3 Sk jägers
 Light Foot Artillery #8 & 9

FROM TUCHKOV'S III CORPS

Konovnitzin 3rd Division ldr
 Tuchkov III R 6/5/3 line
 Voeikov R 6/5/3 line
 Chakoffski R 6/5/3 Sk jägers

MAP & DEPLOYMENT

