The Battle Of Rossbach
5 November, 1757
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Frederick had to abandon the siege of Prague after being defeated at Kolin. Charles of Lorraine's army emerged from the city to unite with Daun's relieving army, making an enormous force of Austrians. After a lengthy pause to re-organize, the whitecoats slowly invaded Silesia. Meanwhile Cumberland's Hanoverian Army of Observation cowered at Stade, declared neutral by the Convention of Kloster-Zevern. A second French army under Soubise with Austrian and Imperial troops under Saxe-Hildburghausen threatened Saxony. To complete this litany of woe a Russian army was operating against the Prussians in the North.

Frederick marched to Saxony, seeking to attack the Franco-Imperial army but Soubise & Hildburghausen avoided battle while the Austrians slowly moved into Silesia, capturing the fortresses of Breslau and Schweidnitz. An Austrian light column under Haddick occupied Berlin and extorted 225,000 thalers and two dozen pairs of gloves for Maria Theresa before fleeing from troops sent by Frederick. It is said that all the gloves were left-handed. Once this affair was over, Frederick concentrated his troops and returned to Saxony looking for a fight.

Soubise wanted to fall back into the mountains but Saxe-Hildburghausen demanded they not run from an army half their size. Frederick came upon them and was impressed by both the strength of the Allied position and the size of their force. Instead of attacking he deployed and observed them. This so emboldened Hildburghausen that he proposed a flank attack on the Prussians for the next day. Soubise acquiesced.

The ponderous Allied army began their flank march in full view of the enemy – aping the move that had lost Kolin for Frederick. Observing this from the attic of a tall building in Rossbach, the King decided to ambush the Allies. His army struck camp and disappeared behind the Janus Hill, with the cavalry and Forcade's 2nd line leading the way. The Allies assumed that he was retreating due to their threat against his supply lines and continued the march. At 3:15 PM Prussian artillery unlimbered atop Janus Hill. Seydlitz deployed his troopers across the path of the advanced Allied cavalry. Serried ranks of Prussian infantry appeared behind the guns.

Seydlitz charged at 3:30 and soon defeated the Allied cavalry. The Prussian infantry rolled forward in oblique order while some French infantry deployed to face them. A short firefight ended when Seydlitz and his cavalry appeared from south of Tagerweben and fell on the right rear of the Allied infantry. A panic rout ensued, with only the Swiss Planta and Diesbach regiments forming square and falling back in good order. It was over in less than two hours. The Allies lost at least 3,000 casualties and 5,000 prisoners; the Prussians lost 550 troops. It was a great boost to Prussian/Hanoverian morale and a blow to the French and their allies. Meanwhile George II repudiated Kloster-Zevern and determined to stay in the war. Frederick headed back to Silesia to end the grim year 1757 with a miraculous recovery via his great victory at Leuthen.

The Scenario: The weather is sunny. The game starts on Turn 3. Basic Length is 7 turns.
Terrain notes: the ground between the two streams on the west side of the table is swampy.
Map Scale: 1:150

Special Scenario Rules: All troops of the Allied 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th columns (except the cavalry of the 1st column) are in marching formation (MF). The 5th and 6th columns may not move on the first turn. The Prussians automatically win the initiative on the very first pulse. After that, determine it as usual. The Allies win a minor victory by not being broken at the end of the day. If they have not reached their break point count it as a substantial victory. If they break the Prussians count it as a major victory and a minor miracle. The Prussians win a major morale victory if the ratio of allied broken units to Prussian broken units is 5:1 or more.

Prussian Army: 145 points
Army break point: 5
Frederick II (Great) (7 RI, 5 HC, 2 HA, 4 officers)

1st Line Infantry, Moritz von Anhalt-Dessau (+1)* V
Itzenplitz Guard Brigade   **RI 8sp**
     IR 6 Guard Grenadiers, IR 15 Guard, Kremzow grenadier battalion
Retzow Musketeer Brigade   **RI 7sp**
     IR 19 Markgraf Karl, IR 36 Meyerlink
Grenadier Brigade   **RI 8sp**
     Heyden, Wedell, Lubath grenadier battalions (3 btn)
Geist Musketeer Brigade   **RI 7sp**
     IR 13 Itzenplitz, IR 23 Forcade
Oldenburg Musketeer Brigade   **RI 7sp**
     IR 9 Jung-Kliest, IR 5 Alt-Brausschweig

2nd Line, Forcade (0)
Grabow Grenadier Brigade   **RI 8sp**
     Bornstadt, Jung-Billerbeck grenadier battalions, IR 21 Hulsen (1 battalion)
Usseburg Musketeer Brigade   **RI 7sp**
     IR 1 Winterfeldt, IR 24 Goltz
Heavy Artillery   **HA 2sp**
Heavy Artillery   **HA 2sp**

Cavalry Wing, Seydlitz (+1)* V
Dragoon Brigade   **HC 7sp**
     DR 3 Meinicke, DR 4 Czettritz
Guard du Corps Brigade   **HC 8sp**
     CR 3 Lieb, CR 13 Guard du Corps (8 sqdn)
Cuirassier Brigade   **HC 8sp**
     CR 7 Driesen, CR 8 Seydlitz
Cuirassier Brigade   **HC 8sp**
     CR 10 Gendarmes (5 sqdn)
Hussar Brigade   **HC 6sp**
     HR 1 Szekely, HR 7 Seydlitz 2 squadrons (12 sqdn)

Allied army: 204 points
Breakpoint: 9
Prince de Saxe-Hildburghausen (Poor) (French 11 RI, 4 HC, 2 HA, 6 officers)
                       (Empire 3 RI, 1 II, 3 HC, 1 LC, 1 IC, 1 HA, 5 officers)
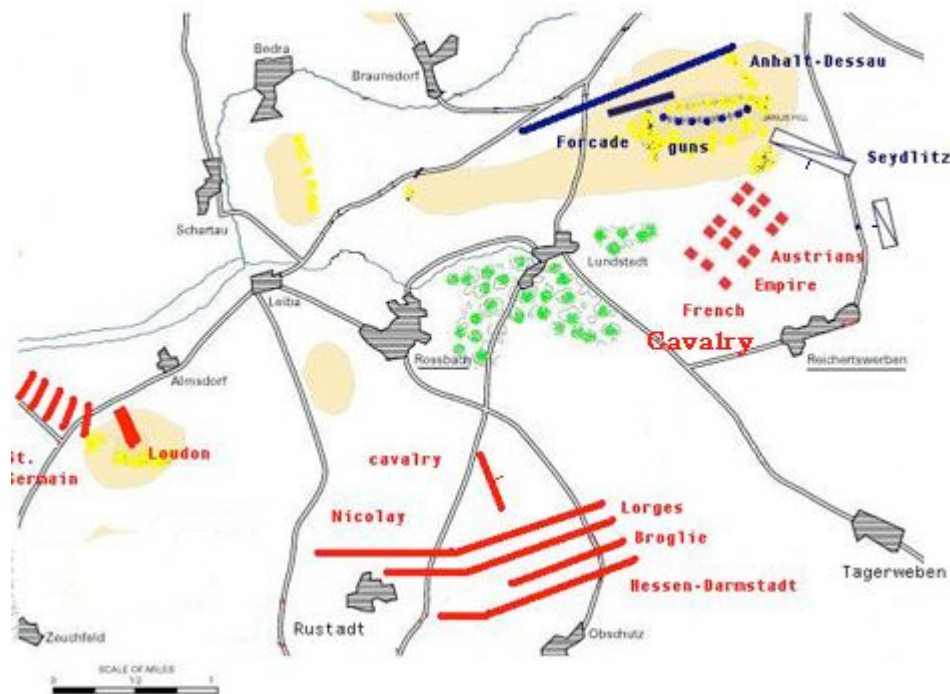**Cavalry Wing Prince Soubise (-2)**
Austrian Cuirassier Brigade   **HC 7sp**
Brettlach Cuirassiers (7 sqdn)
Austrian Cuirassier Brigade   **HC 7sp**
Trautsmandorff Cuirassiers (7 sqdn)
Kreis Cuirassier Brigade   **HC 5sp**
Kreis Cuirassier Regt Pfal, Hohenzollern, & Bayreuth
Kreis Dragoon Brigade   **LC 4sp**
Kreis Dragoon Regt Wurttemberg & Anspach, Austrian Carabinier Companies

D'Milly French Cavalry Brigade   HC 6sp
    Penthievre, Saluces, Lameth, Lusignan, Escars

1st Column Nicolaï (-1)V
Rougrave French Cavalry Brigade   HC 6sp
    La Reine, Bousset, Fitz-James (6 sqdn)
Bourbon French Cavalry Brigade   HC 6sp
    Bourbon, Beauvilliers, Rougrave, Montcalm (8 sqdn)
Piedmont French Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Piemont
St. Chamont French Infantry Brigade   RI 5sp
    St. Chamont, Brissac
Planta Swiss Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Planta, Reding
Royal Rousillon French-German Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Deux-Ponts, Royal Rousillon 1 battalion (3 btn)
Heavy artillery   HA 2sp
Heavy artillery   HA 2sp

2nd Column Lorges (-1)
Mailly French Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Mailly
Castellas Swiss Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Castellas, Salis
Wittemer Swiss Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    Wittemer, Diesbach

3rd Column Broglie (0)V
Poitou French Infantry Brigade   RI 5sp
    Poitou, Provence
Rohan-Montbazon French Infantry brigade   RI 5sp
    Rohan-Montbazon, Beauvoisis

4th Column Hessen-Darmstadt (0)V
Drachsdorf Kreis Infantry Brigade   RI 5sp
Kreis Blau Wurzburg, *Kreis* Hessen-Darmstadt
Barel Kreis Infantry Brigade   RI 4sp
Kreis Barel, *Kreis* Kur-Trier
Ferentheil Kreis Infantry Brigade   RI 4sp
Kreis Cronegk & Ferentheil
Heavy artillery   HA 2sp

5th Column Saint Germain (+1)V
Conde French Cavalry Brigade   HC 6sp
    Conde, Bezons, St. Jal, Poly, Grammont
Conde French Infantry Brigade   RI 5sp
    Conde, Touraine
La Marine French Infantry Brigade   RI 6sp
    La Marine

6th Column Loudon (+2)*V
Austrian Hussar Brigade (? Sqdn)   IC 5sp
Austrian Grenz Brigade (2 btn)   II 5sp

Liberties have been taken with the command structures of both armies. Field Marshal Keith was the Prussian second in command, but he is considered to be part of Frederick's Great status rather than having him represented on the table. Saxe-Hildburghausen and Soubise were co-commanders of the Allied army, even though the French (as the OB makes clear) contributed the lion's share of the troops. But Soubise deferred to his colleague on this day. The Allied flank march was Saxe-Hildburghausen's brainstorm. Soubise was involved with the opening cavalry fight so I've put him in charge of them though I've not aware of one person who actually had this role.

What if: this scenario is fairly heavily weighted against the Allies. I suggest the more experienced players take the Allies, though if the Prussians don't hustle the Allies can deploy and be fairly dangerous. If you want to balance the scenario, say the Allied CO is average rather than poor thought that begs the question of how they got into this position in the first place. You could also allow the 5th and 6th columns to move freely on the first turn. Last, you can roll dice for the very first pulse to see if the Allies respond sooner to the Prussian threat.

The Field of Rossbach: