

Marching Eagles - Marengo AAR - Part 2

Turn 7 - General de Division Despinoy now arrived with the 4e & 5e Demi-Brigades. This was Napoleon's reserve. They were quickly marched up towards Porte Rosse.

Fiorella's 4e Division is seen below attacking the rear of the Austrian army.



The Austrians suffered heavy losses this turn. Hurried counter attacks against Fiorella's 4e Division were mauled, the Austrian Lancers (Meszaros Uhlan Regt 1) disintegrated as they charged into the 7e & 13e Hussar Regiments and finally the isolated infantry battalions in square South of Grole broke up and surrendered. Porte Rosse finally fell to the French with the remaining Austrian infantry fleeing down the road towards Peschiera.

Turn 8 - Although Monte Medolano and its fortified position was isolated, the Austrian guns continued to fire on the French cavalry moving around the Mount. The 3 battalions of French Grenadiers advanced slowly on Monte Medolano due to the limited Command Points available.

To my surprise Solferino was abandoned by the Austrians and General de Division Laharpe moved in the Light Infantry of the 1er Division to take over the area. 2 Austrian infantry battalions were now isolated North of Barche di Solferino.



Turn 9 - Fiorella's 4e Division now moved into the contested area of S.Cassiano and the Grenadiers launched an assault on Monte Medolano. The Austrian artillery in the fortified position at Monte Medolano mauled the French Grenadiers moving on their position. Without a flanking unit to take out the artillery, a frontal assault was always going to be costly.



Turn 10 - The Austrian front line was now cut off and isolated by the French.



The French now held S.Cassiano and had reached a 'Minor Win' Victory status. I moved elements of the 5e & 6e Infanterie Divisions to help the Grenadiers take Monte Medolano. Infantry of the 1er & 2e Division cleared the road North of Porte Rosse and were ready to advance on Peschiera to cut off the Austrian army line of communication. A further assault on Madonna della Scoperta began by Despinoy's 4e & 5e Ligne Demi-Brigades. The Austrian army had been all but defeated by 13.00 hours on 5th August and those units not trapped by the French advance began to retreat to the North. The 39e & 85e Ligne Demi-Brigades of Fiorella's 4e Division launched an attack on the villages of Scarnadore and Cavriana.

Turn 12 - 13.30 hours. The Austrian blocking force at Madonna della Scoperta were now surrounded just as the Austrian relief force of General-Major Bajalich (5,000 men) started to arrive from Peschiera. However, the French army was reaching exhaustion with its morale down at 31%. Napoleon knew there would be little effort from his men to chase the defeated Austrian army. The key now to achieving a 'Major Victory' status was to force the surrender of those Austrian units trapped in the pocket formed by his army.

Numerous Austrian units began to surrender and a detachment of Hussars from Bajalich's relief force overran the forward French foot artillery battery. As 8 infantry battalions appeared from the North (Bajalich's force) it became difficult for the forward elements of the French army to hold them back. Cavriana was still held by a battalion of Grenadiers and a foot artillery battery. They were holding out on the hope that Bajalich's force would break through to their position and relieve them.



Turn 13 - 14.00 hours - Monte Medolano fell to the French. The remaining fortified position near Solferino was surrounded and an Austrian surrender was expected any hour now. Bajalich's relief force realised the futility of its efforts and retired orderly to Peschiera rallying as many fleeing Austrians as they could. The battle was effectively over now although skirmishes would continue until dusk.

Napoleon had won a great victory. :)

