

ALBUERA 2011

Battle Plan:

Start: The Allied Army is deployed behind the village of Albuera. Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry. – the KGL is in the village, on their flank, Portuguese infantry and artillery. The Spanish Armies of Castaños and Blake are formed with the rest of the Allied line. Stewart's Division is in support. (See the attached sketch to identify the positions)

The French army enters the field. The cavalry first, followed by Godinot's Brigade, then the bulk of the French Army, Girard and St Euxebry Divisions (with his brigades under the command of Gazan and Werle. (Infantry and artillery.)

The movement on the village: Godinot's artillery is deployed while the French Cavalry supported by the infantry advance towards the village. The bulk of the French Army stops along the way and form an artillery battery while the infantry remain behind the line of artillery.

First Attack on the village of Albuera: The French advance on what would be the road parallel to the banks of the river Albuera, The column is made up Godinot's infantry and heavy artillery – ahead of them, Latour Maubourg's cavalry. There is a French cavalry charge which is met by the Allied cavalry. There is a melee. While the French artillery is preparing to fire on the village and the infantry continues to advance. The cavalry finish their skirmish and return behind their infantry. Godinot's troops attack the village and are repulsed by the KGL and the Portuguese Artillery. As the French infantry retires, the Allied Cavalry threatens them and French cavalry intervene. Short cavalry melee.

while this is taking place, the main body of Soult's Army is deployed. A small section of troops is detached to go in support of Godinot, while the rest began advancing on the flank of the Allied Line in their own Brigade columns.

Godinot continues his attacks on the village throughout the battle; the KGL is reinforced by the Portuguese infantry. (the 95th Rifles will be deployed as support too).The Village scenario will be dealt with later.

Phase 2: The flank attack.

The Allied army reacts to the French flanking movement , the Allied right wing, consisting of Blake's Spanish troops deploy into a hammer shape to engage the troops of Girard and Gazan. As the infantry deploys and gets into position, there is a cavalry charge by Latour Maubourg. And it is met by the Allied cavalry- a melee takes place-

The Spanish troops. Lardizabal's Brigade, Canarias regiment and Campo Mayor regiment are deployed. These are supported by Zayas' and Walloon Guards and Toledo Regiment.

-1st attack: The advancing French were unable to deploy all their troops, however, their attack was very strong, supported by a large mass of artillery fire. The first assault results in the Spanish troops of Zayas and Ballesteros resisting the French attack, heavy casualties on both sides, The French retire in disorder, during this attack the French general Pepin was

killed, The French regiments withdraw and reform.

The 2nd Attack: After the failure of the first French assault and as a result of the heavy casualties suffered by the first Spanish line, there is a rotation of troops, the existing line is replaced by the Toledo regiment and Royal Walloon Guards. These will face the second French assault, which is more intense than the first one. Heavy casualties on both sides. ,

Stage 3 - The British support:

(Meanwhile fighting continues in the possession of the town - The Rifle brigade is withdrawn from its position and put in reserve by the British Line. Castaños' troops take their place)

At the start of the second French attack, the British advance in support of the Spanish. Stewart's troops move forward with artillery support, (Colbourne, Houghton and Abercrombie .) Once they reach the Spanish battle line they are to take post on the right of their line.

French column attacks, Girard's units and Werle attack again, supported by French cavalry.

the first brigade of Stewart's Division under the command of Colonel Colborne, advances in a column of companies, and form line They remain exposed to the sudden attack by Latour.Maubourg's hussars and Polish lancers, who attack from the flank and maul them.

The "Bufs" regiment is annihilated and a flag captured (the scenario is prepared and practiced, the person capturing the flag has practiced it with the colour bearer. Other scenarios will also be played out such as Latham's wounds etc). The 57th is also wiped out (scenario of Colonel Inglis shouting "Die Hard, my men, Die Hard"), as well as 66 and 48 also are annihilated. Only the 31st time a form Square. The French cavalry attack has to move along the british line, riding round the blocks of men and moving on to the next one until they reach the Spanish infantry when they move to the rear of the British line and attack Beresford and his staff.

The allied cavalry counter-attack at that moment and push the French cavalry back behind the French lines, a melee takes place in the area behind the French lines, there is a large open area where the cavalry can manoeuvre and charge and melee safely away from infantry and artillery. The cavalry in this area can enjoy themselves – initiative for the cavalry commanders to practice their skills against each other.

The Fusiliers Brigade advances the moment the Allied cavalry begin their charge. They will reach the hill by the time the cavalry have left the area. The British line advances to reach the top of the hill, then are stops and fires several volleys, then they advance 5 paces, and fire again, and advance another 5 paces and fire again, and keep doing that until the French infantry begins to fall back and then abandon the area. The British Line then stops and dresses the line propely.

Meanwhile the Spanish units of Castaños and half of Blake's troops will be fighting

Godinot's troops in the centre of the Allied line. Half of Blake's troops will be firing on the French forces of Godinot Girard and Gazan.

A French column attack to the centre of the British-Spanish line on the hill will be stopped and destroyed with musketry.

The French forces then retire slowly firing and retiring, withdrawing to their start lines. At this moment the cavalry of both sides to end their melee and return to their respective sides.

The fighting in the centre of the line opposite Castaños forces and in the village starts to slow down. Godinot withdraws his men from the village (after having captured half of it). The KGL occupies in its entirety, the Portuguese infantry and artillery on their flank .

French units are withdrawn and the shots become sporadic.

The French lines are rearranged, Godinot facing the village of Albuera, and the Spanish unit of the Centre. Gazan & Girard & Werle & Latour Maubourg fall back and line up behind the French Artillery. The French Cavalry takes position behind them.

Allies: in the village the KGL with the Portuguese and Spanish units re-form their lines. the Spanish regiments in the center of the Allied deployment reform their line of battle. British units are withdrawn towards the top of the hill and then dress the line.

The allied cavalry is behind the British and Spanish lines

The shooting stops. The armies are facing each other, and in silence. It's the end of the day, the end of the battle, but both sides are ready to start up again if necessary.

The Narrator explains that the battle was not resumed the next day and the French retreated to Seville, leaving the field of Albuera in Allied hands.

RB - October 2010