



Close Files & European Order

The Field of Battle

1700-1720

Game Scenario

Lille

4 September 1708

Historical Background

On 13 August 1708 the allied army of Marlborough and Eugene moved to besiege Lille. Eugene with 53 battalions and 90 squadrons conducted the siege while Marlborough commanded a covering force of 69 battalions and 140 squadrons. On 13 August Eugene started to dig circumvallating walls around the city.

On 14 August King Louis XIV ordered the two French armies in Flanders (one under Berwick the other under Vendome and Burgundy) to march and lift the siege. at which point Berwick resigned his command, refusing to serve under Vendome.

In the late afternoon of 4 September the French encountered Marlborough's covering force. If ever there was a moment to prevent the allies from taking Lille it was that afternoon. Although not all French troops had arrived, they outnumbered Marlborough considerably, however, they thought the time of day to late to attack.

This scenario assumes that the French decided to attack. The number of units are reduced to about 35% of the historical number giving the orders of battle below. One Squadron (Sqn) of cavalry is represented by one base of two figures. One Battalion (Bn) by three or four bases of 4 figures each. The French battalions tended to be smaller than those of the Allies.

Allied Order of Battle

The Duke of Marlborough commanding

Herzog von Württemberg:

English, Hanoverians and Prussians

14 Sqns Horse, C Grade

14 Sqns Dragoons, D Grade

Count Tilly:

English, Danes, Prussians and Hanoverians

2 Bns Guards, A Grade

13 Bns Foot, C Grade

3 Field Guns

The Prince of Orange:

Dutch, including Scots in Dutch pay

2 Bns Guards, A Grade

8 Bns Foot, C Grade

2 Field Guns and 2 Battalion Guns

Count Overkirk:

Dutch and Danes

15 Sqns Horse, C Grade

8 Sqns Dragoons, D Grade



French Order of Battle

Le Duc de Vendôme commanding

Lieutenant General Dourches:

- 8 Sqns Carabiniers, B Grade
- 14 Sqns Horse, C Grade
- 12 Sqns Dragoons, D Grade

Lieutenant General Puiguiou:

- 16 Bns Foot, C Grade
- 2 Field Guns

le Chevalier de Luxembourg:

- 8 Sqns Maison du Roi, A Grade
- 24 Sqns Horse, C Grade
- 2 Field Guns

Lieutenant General de Grimaldi:

- 2 Bns Garde Française, A Grade
- 14 Bns Foot, C Grade
- 2 Field Guns



The French Regiment Navarre attacks the fortified village of Ennetieres which is defended by Danes.

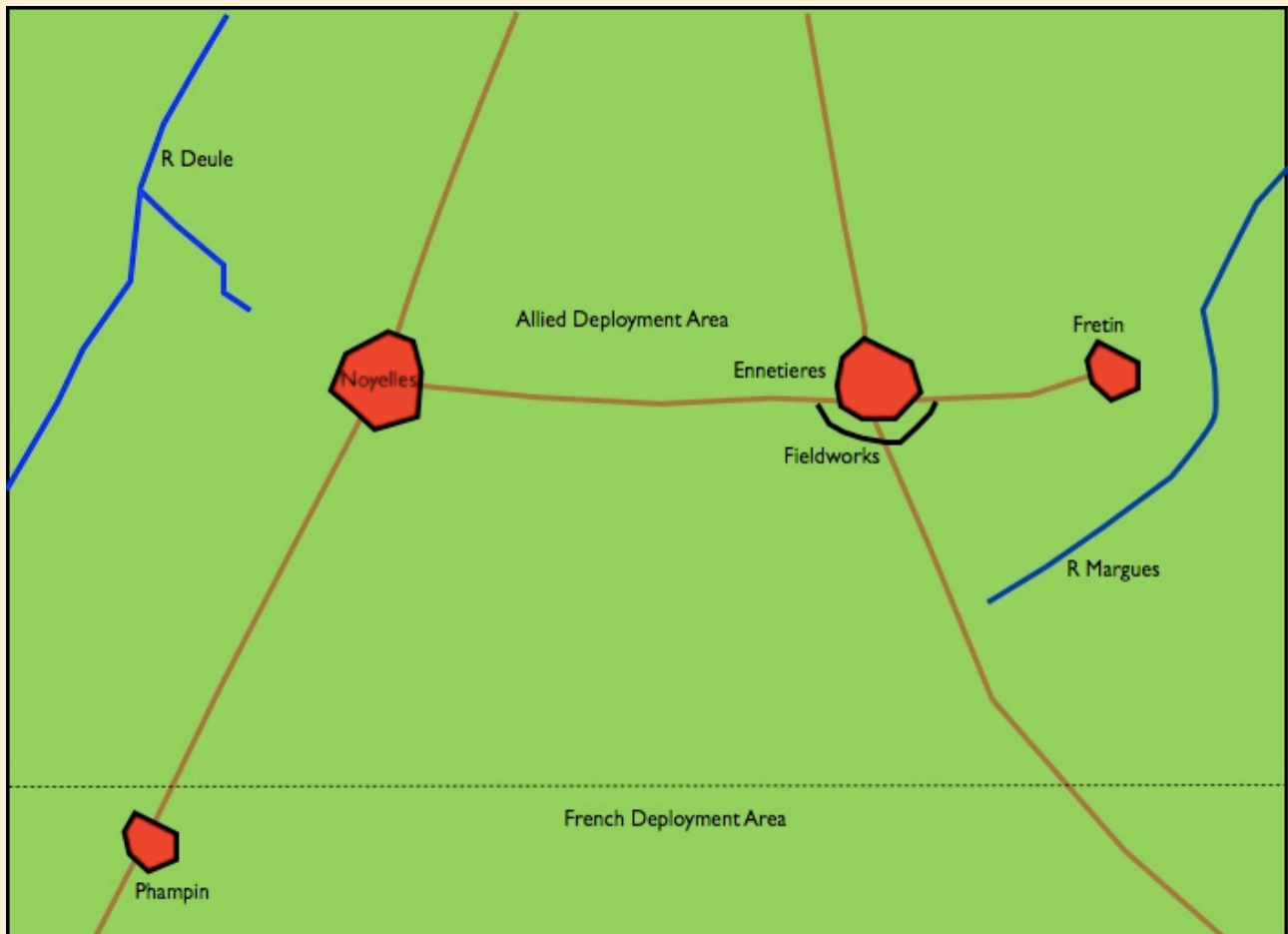
Foot may include Irish, Swiss, Bavarians and other Germans. Carabiniers and Horse may include Bavarians. Two squadrons of Dragoons may be replaced by Bavarian Hussars.



Objectives

The French objective is to break through Marlborough's covering force. The Allied objective is to hold the line.

Deployment



Marlborough deploys his troops first. They may be anywhere up to the road from Fretin to Noyelles. They may occupy the villages. Some units may be kept off table in reserve.

Once the allies are deployed the French may deploy anywhere behind the dotted line on the map (one foot in from the table edge), rear lines may initially be off table to create space.

The terrain is flat and open, however there is boggy ground in the area of the two streams.



The Dutch Blue Guard (foreground) stands firm against an attack by Bavarians, Swiss and Germans.