

Battle of Smoliani - Vom Kriege Scenario

Date: 14 November 1812, 10:00 AM

Combatants: French Empire vs. Russian Empire

Background

Upon learning of Victor's defeat at the Battle of Czasniki, Napoleon ordered Victor to assume the offensive at once and drive Wittgenstein back. Napoleon was planning on leading his rapidly disintegrating Grande Armée to a safe haven in the west such as Minsk. In order to execute this plan, the Grande Armée's planned route of retreat had to be secured. Wittgenstein's position at Czasniki was 40 miles (64 km) north of Bobruisk, a town Napoleon needed to be secure in order for the main French army to reach Minsk.

Victor, per Napoleon's orders, was to coordinate the actions of his IX corps with the VI corps and the II corps commanded by Marshal Oudinot. However, Oudinot was delayed by a small Russian detachment at Polchavichi to the south-west and did not reach the battlefield until after dark.

French Aim: Secure the bridges over the Lukomla River and drive the Russians from the field.

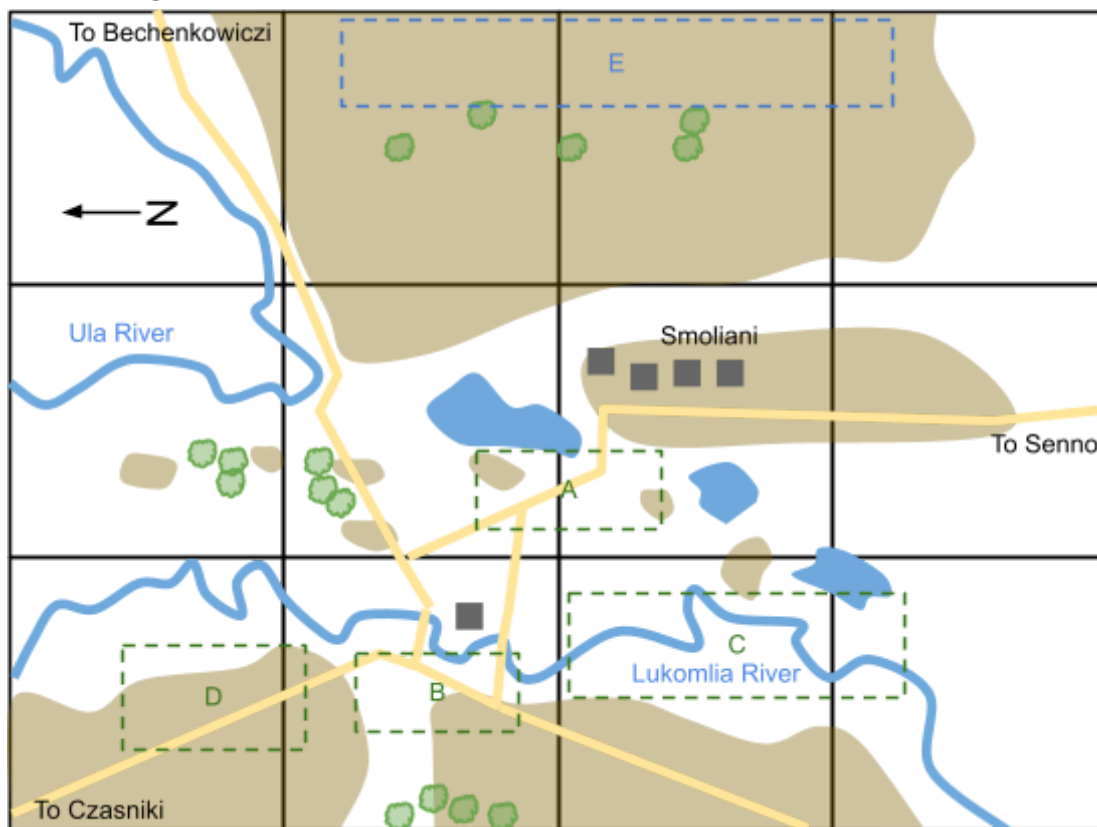
Russian Aim: Hold the bridges over the Lukomla River and capture Smolianti to deny the French a line of march to the south (Senno).

Smoliani is a major objective.

Game Length: 10 am to 5 pm (14 turns)

Scale 50: Infantry unit=600 men, Cavalry unit=200 men, Artillery unit=6 guns, 1 mm=2 m

Map (1km grid):



Terrain:

Rivers are fordable by infantry and cavalry only.

Order of Battle

French IX Corps - Victor (L1/2CP)	Units (25 Inf, 10 Cav, 9 Art)
12th Division - Partouneaux 1st Brigade - Billard (L1/2CP) 2nd Brigade - Blamont (L1/4CP) 26th Division - Daendels Berg Brigade - Damas (L1/2CP) Baden Brigade - Count von Hochberg (L1/2CP) 28th Division - Girard Polish Brigade - Ouviller (L2/3CP) Saxon Brigade - de Villiers (L2/3CP) 3rd Heavy Cavalry Division - Doumerc (L1/3CP) Light Cavalry Division - Fournier (L1/3CP)	4 LTsk 7 LNsk, 2 LA 4 LNsk, 1 FA 1 LTsk, 2 LNsk, 1 LA 3 eLNsk, 1 FA 4 LNsk, 1 LA 2 LC, 3 Cu, 2 HA 2 LC, 2 LA, 1 gLC, 1 HA

Russian Army - Wittgenstein (L1/2CP)	Units (29 Inf, 12 Cav, 9 Art)
Vanguard - Prince Jachwill 1st Line (L0/2CP) Cavalry (L0/2CP) Infantry - Harpe (L0/3CP) Right Wing - Steinheil 1st Line - Sazonov (L0/2CP) 2nd Line - Adadourov (L0/2CP) Left Wing - Berg 1st Line -Bibikov (L0/3CP) 2nd Line - Lukov (L0/2CP)	2 LTsk, 2 HC, 1 HA 2 IC, 2 LC, 1 HC, 1 HA 2 LTsk, 4 LN, 2 cLN, 1 FA, 1 LA 1 LTsk, 4 LN, 3 cLN, 2 FA 3 LN, 2 HC 1 LTsk, 4 LN, 2 eHC, 1 FA, 1 LA 2 LN, 1 cLN, 1 HC, 1 LA

LN=Line infantry, LT=Light infantry, HC=Heavy Cavalry, LC=Light cavalry
 FA=Foot artillery, LA=Light artillery, HA=Horse artillery
 e=Elite, c=Conscript, i=Irregular, default is Regular

Deployment

Russians:

Jachwill 1st Line sets up in A
 Jachwill Infantry and Cavalry sets up in B
 Wittgenstein and Steinheil sets up in C
 Berg sets up in D

French:

Victor sets up in E

Sources

Napoleon's Russian Campaign of 1812 - Edward Foord
<https://www.napoleon-series.org/> -1812. Russian Campaign on the Left Wing of the Grande Armée, Thierry Legrand
 Napoleonic Wars Data Book - Digby Smith
 Napoleon's Invasion of Russia - Nafziger

Russian Programmed Opponent

The following table lists suggested command order options for each Russian command.

Command	Condition	Suggested Command Order Options
Prince Jachwill, Line 1	Starting	Defend gap between large lake and Smoliani
Prince Jachwill, Line 1	If outflanked and unsupported	Retire until flank protected
Prince Jachwill, Line 1	If suffering significant hits	Defend bridge approaches
Prince Jachwill, Infantry	Starting	Reserve Defend bridges from behind river
Prince Jachwill, Infantry	If French attack Line 1	Partial Support Line 1
Prince Jachwill, Cavalry	Starting	Reserve
Prince Jachwill, Cavalry	If French cavalry threaten right flank	Partial Advance to counter threat
Prince Jachwill, Cavalry	If one or both bridges taken	Attack bridges
Right Wing, Sazanov	Starting	Reserve Partial Advance to Smoliani Partial Advance to ridge south of Smoliani
Right Wing, Sazanov	If French attack Smoliani	Supported Attack on Smoliani
Right Wing, Sazanov	If French attack Smoliani and ridge to south	Attack on Smoliani and ridge
Right Wing, Adadourov	Starting	Reserve
Right Wing, Adadourov	If French cavalry threaten right flank	Cavalry Advance to counter threat
Right Wing, Adadourov	If Sazanov takes Smoliani or ridge	Support Sazanov
Right Wing, Adadourov	If Sazanov needs support	Support Sazanov
Left Wing, Bibikov	Starting	Defend Lukmolia River Partial Advance to hill between wooded areas Full Advance to hill between wooded areas
Left Wing, Lukov	Starting	Reserve
Left Wing, Lukov	If one or both bridges taken	Supported Attack on bridges