

Battle of Mons (3)
23rd August, 1914
(Defence of la Bois Haut)

A Rapid Fire 1914 Scenario V1.0
By Brad Smith

Background

As the BEF fought desperately in the Mons salient on 23 August 1914 the German 33rd Brigade sought out its right flank in an effort to choke off the salient before the British could withdraw. Part of the BEF's 8th Bde, supported by XL Brigade RFA was deployed east of Mons to blunt the German pincer.

British order of battle

2nd Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers (40 figs elite test @ 20) - initial
1st Bn Gordon Highlanders (40 figs elite test @ 20) - initial
2nd Bn Royal Irish Regt - B, D & HQ Coys only (20 figs elite test @ 10) - initial
XL Brigade RFA - 6, 23 & 49 Field Btys (each 1 x 18 pdr with 4 crew and limber, Brigade has 5 gunners with 1 wagon and 1 lorry) - initial

German order of battle

I, II and III Bns 75th Inf Regt (each 40 figs regular test @ 20) with Regt CO + 2 figs - enter Turn 1
I, II and III Bns 76th Inf Regt (each 40 figs regular test @ 20) with Regt CO + 2 figs - enter Turn 1

Scenario

The game lasts 10 moves starting with German Turn 1. British troops start concealed in hasty entrenchments and in reserve fire mode. The Gordons are deployed along the Harmignies Road with the Royal Scots to their south. The Royal Irish are closer to the Mons-Havre Road. British artillery starts unlimbered on the unwooded areas of la Bois Haut and in reserve fire mode. There are no observers on table. All built up areas start undamaged.

Each German battalion enters and must stay in close order until the battalion incurs in excess of 10% casualties (ie more than 4 figures). The 75th Regt enters along the eastern edge of the table north of St Symphorien and the 76th Regt along the eastern edge south of St Symphorien. The eastern edge is treated as the German lines and the western edge as the British lines.

The elevations are not steep and as such do not act as a continuous obstacle, other than where wooded.

Victory conditions

The German objective is to cut the Hyon road as quickly as possible. The British objective is to delay the Germans as long as possible.

In addition to casualty points, the British receive 25 points for each German Turn that the Germans do not have at least 40 figures (in a non-routed unit) beyond the Hyon Road. The Germans receive 150 points if at the end of the game they have at least 40 figures (in a non-routed unit) beyond the Hyon Road. To claim victory, a side must have 300 points with a margin of not less than 50 points. Any other result is a draw.

Bibliography

“Mons 1914 - The BEF’s Tactical Triumph” - David Lomas (Osprey Campaign Series No.49) 1997.

“Mons 1914” - Jack Horsfall & Nigel Cave (Pen & Sword Books Ltd’s Battleground Europe Series) 2000.

