



The Battle of the River Bed

A De Bellum Napoleonica Battle Report

By Terry Webb

The wind blew hot across the barren plateau that faced the line of Spanish troops who stood waiting for the command to come down to being the advance. The summer had been an extremely hot one, so the river bed was dry and afforded only a little advantage to the Spanish artillery positions on the left.

The French under the command of Marshal Glenn Duval (Glenn Little) were no easy victory, and a force to be reckoned with. The Spanish right was commanded by General Joseph Diego Gonzales Estoban (Joe Collins) , and the Spanish left by General Terriseo Jose Deval Cortes -the great, great, great Nephew of the famous Conquistador, Hernando Cortes (Terry Webb).

Then the command came down and the Spanish lines marched forward. The battle quickly developed on the Spanish left flank as the Guard lancers and Young Guard supported by a battery of horse artillery advanced upon the thinly spread Spanish troops holding the dry river bed. However the Spanish artillery began bombarding the French lancers until they were finally wiped out before they could make any headway against the Spanish positions. Seeing this greatly boosted the Spanish morale and the flank held firm, as the action shifted to the center and right flank.

The French lines slowly marched forward, ascending the plateau and heading toward the Spanish main line in the center. Then as the two lines neared each other the roar of musket volleys was heard across the field as shot and shell crashed into the two lines. The French left was still marching to the sound of the guns and would soon join the fray in full force. Slowly the Spanish worked a flank

advantage over the less numerous French, only to fail to bring anything to effect with their miserable 1 and 2 rolls. Slowly the Spanish regiments began to fall with rolls of 2 to 6.

At last the French foot artillery on their left began to take it's toll on the Spanish and troops began to fall there as well, while at the same time the Spanish light horse and French light horse clashed on the Spanish far right, and pushed and shoved each other time and again with no results for either side. Then things really began to fall apart on the Spanish left as the advantage gained by the flanking regiment was destroyed thus leveling the fire power on that side. But the Spanish artillery finally took out the French horse battery on the French left, thanks to the help of a Spanish massed grenadier battalion. The Spanish right was holding it's own so the Spanish morale once again lifted and the feeling of a Spanish victory was drawing near.

The battle in the center remained a hotly contested one and troops fell steadily on both sides, and it was soon obvious that victory was still to be had by either side. Then it was not to be believed. The Spanish light horse destroyed their French counterpart while the French foot battery took out another Spanish regiment, and another Spanish regiment fell in the center. This made it so that all three commands were whittled down to the point that each only needed one more loss to be removed from the field, and the initiative of movement was with the French.

The tension was high as the battle continued and once again the steady French troops blew away another Spanish regiment with a roll of 6 to 2, thus destroying the Spanish command on the left. But the battle wasn't over yet, and it was hoped the Spanish right could hold out or at best destroy the French command by destroying one final regiment. But the sharp shooting of the French took out yet another Spanish regiment and also destroyed the Spanish right command.

Thus the battle ended in a brilliant victory for the French, but only after a hotly contested battle, and although tired and bleeding, the French stood victorious on the arid plateau. However, this was just one battle and revenge will be wrought from the French, and they will be kicked out of Spain once and for all!

This was a great battle fought at Lord Al's in Nashville, using the new DBN rules and the beautiful 6 MM figures painted by Glenn Little.



