

OF THE TALE OF THE GREAT BATTLE OF Gieselhoering 1ST May 1809.

The great Napoleon beat them again though they managed to get away in good order...



The set up:



The plans

As the French took their time to attack the Austrians had a bit of leeway to strengthen some villages (thing à la Hougomont). The French wanted to push them from the right in and away from their exit towards Straubing, ideally. The attack is in the shape of an inverted L. the short branch facing the semi marshy river



“Kleine Laber”. Actually Lannes corps deployed there did strictly nothing, just pinning about 1.5 times his strength in front. About mid game an Austrian light division deemed to start off table started to enter, called by Charles to stem the mess on his left.

The French started with a moderate attack from their right with part of Davout elite corps. They had a hard time with the numerous Jaeger in the woods and he had to put another division to unlock the thing. On the left towards the defended crest, through the town came Vandamme with the Württemberg troops and a bit of Confederates taken from Rouyer's division plus Molitor from Massena's corps. This attack took something like 14 turns to really push the Austrians from their crest with the final decisive help of Nansouty cuirassiers. Lannes' show on the right. Actually for the picture as many would not be seen from the Austrian side.





Vandamme arrives





the raging fight on the right in the woods and broken ground.



French gend batteries playing on the villages.



just before the decisive arrival of the cuirassiers, pushing the whitecoats (and brown and grey...) away, best part of two divisions running.



...and that's when I forgot to take pictures, or they were not good! Charles succeeded in giving disengaging orders, Napoleon was initially busy organising his grand batteries (the horse one started to play on the retiring Kaiserlicks).



Austrian casualties: 1200 horse, 15000 infantry. 54 guns
Of which about one third will be recovered as they withdrew from the field but rather in good order about 4 hours before the night.
French 1500 horse, 6000 infantry, 4 guns. Half will be back.