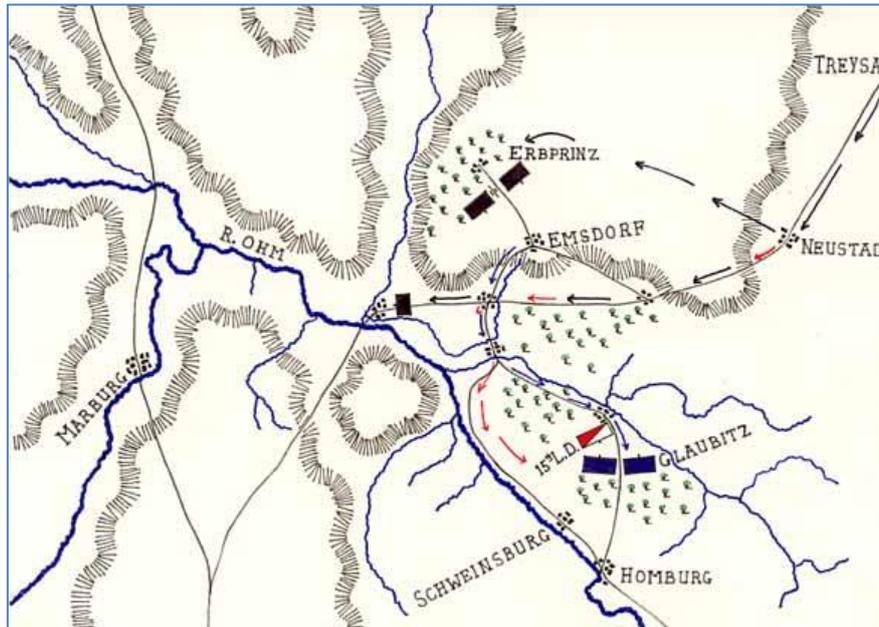


# Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.



## Summary

The Erbprinz assembled his force at Fritzlar and set off towards Marburg on 15th July 1760 in hot weather. The next day the Erbprinz arrived at Speckswinkel where he received information that Glaubenitz was in the next town, Emsdorf. The Erbprinz personally reconnoitred the enemy and found that they were about to eat their midday meal, entirely unsuspecting that there were enemy anywhere nearby.

The Erbprinz with five of his battalions and the jägers marched round the enemy in Emsdorf to Burgholz and attacked out of the woods from the rear. Glaubenitz led his men out of Emsdorf to the attack.

As soon as the firing started the 15th Light Dragoons advanced rapidly down the main road to Langenstein cutting Glaubenitz off from his base at Marburg. Finding his way blocked Glaubenitz headed across country to Niederlein further to the South, abandoning his guns in the difficult terrain on the way. As they emerged from the woods at Plausdorf the French troops were charged by the 15th Light Dragoons who captured some prisoners.

The remainder of Glaubenitz' force continued into the trees heading South. The 15th circled the wood and attacked again suffering considerable loss. The surviving French infantry headed for the next forest. The 15th formed again for the charge and Glaubenitz surrendered his men to the officer commanding the 15th, Major Erskine. 1,655 men surrendered to the 15th Light Dragoons.

# *Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.*

## **Description of Events**

On the morning of July 16 1760, the Hereditary Prince picked up [Hanoverian Freytag Jägers](#), which were on their way to him, and pushed on with his mounted troops only, to reconnoitre the French position. The prince and [Major-General Nikolaus Luckner](#), who was with him, entered the forest, but found neither picquets nor sentries. They pushed forward through the corn-fields to within 1 km of the French camp but saw neither vedettes, nor patrols, nor so much as a main-guard. Furthermore, the village of Erksdorf itself, though within less than 2 km of the camp, was not occupied. They stole back well content with what they had seen.

At 10:00 a.m., not expecting to be attacked, Glaubitz sent one battalion of [Royal Bavière Infanterie](#) towards Marburg where it would be assigned to the guard of the field-bakery, thus depleting his left wing.

The Hereditary Prince waited at Speckswinkel for his infantry to join him. His infantry had marched 11 km from Treysa through the villages of Wiera and Momberg before reaching Speckswinkel at 11:00 a.m. The Allies were only 2 km from the French right wing. Meanwhile, the Hereditary Prince had resolved to approach the French camp through the forest north of Emsdorf, thus turning the French left wing, combined with a cavalry attack on the French right wing at Erksdorf.

At 11:00 a.m., the Hereditary Prince posted [Behr Infantry](#), [Luckner's Hussars](#), the [15th Eliot's Light Horse](#), a mounted coy of [Freytag Jägers](#) and 3 guns, in a hollow near Speckswinkel, 1.5 km before Erksdorf. He placed this detachment under the command of Major-General von Luckner. The latter was instructed to attack the French right wing at Erksdorf as soon as he would hear musketry fire coming from the French left wing. Then, taking the 5 remaining battalions, together with the rest of the [Freytag Jägers](#) and 11 guns, the Hereditary Prince marched through the woods towards Emsdorf. Maybe as a stratagem, maybe because the day was very hot, the soldiers removed their coat.

At noon, after a march of 10 km, the Allies arrived unnoticed at Burgholz, only 2.5 km from the French left wing at Emsdorf. The few French outposts in the forest between Burgholz and Emsdorf were captured before they could alarm the camp. Meanwhile, the bread arrived at the camp of Glaubitz.

Around 1:15 p.m., the Allies were deployed for the attack of the French left wing. As they approached the French positions, the Allied foot clad in pale waistcoats and breeches were initially mistaken for French or Saxon troops. However, when they formed in order of battle, they put their coat back on. [Mansbach Infantry](#) was deployed on the left at the edge of the woods with 6 guns. Then came the [2nd Garde](#) formed north and northwest of Emsdorf. [Marschalk Infantry](#) along with the [Freytag Jägers](#) and 5 guns covered the road from Emsdorf to Kirchhain.

Before 2:00 p.m., the [Freytag Jägers](#) opened fire on the French positions. This was the signal for general attack. The French were completely surprised. The 2 remaining battalions of [Royal Bavière Infanterie](#) were at the bread distribution, they rushed to their arms in waistcoats. Glaubitz initially thought that it was a simple skirmish with Allied jägers which were known to have roamed in the area. [Royal Bavière Infanterie](#) formed and counter-attacked [Freytag Jägers](#) but soon realised that

# *Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.*

they were facing a much larger Allied force. Their right flank was immediately attacked by the [2nd Garde](#) whose colonel was wounded at the first discharge. The colonel of [Royal Bavière Infanterie](#), Count von Helffenberg was killed by a cannon shot but his regiment managed to retire, narrowly avoiding encirclement. It lost 300 men and all its guns in this first engagement.

During this combat, [Anhalt Infanterie](#) had formed to the south-east of Emsdorf to support [Royal Bavière Infanterie](#). The 6 Allied guns deployed with [Mansbach Infantry](#) opened on [Anhalt Infanterie](#).

Simultaneously Luckner, at the sound of the firing, marched [Behr Infantry](#) and 3 guns in the open on his right. Then came [Luckner's Hussars](#) and, on the left, the [15th Light Horse](#).

The French [Bercheny Hussards](#) tried to stop the advancing Allied cavalry but were routed. French light troops and part of [Anhalt Infanterie](#) then opened fire on the victorious Allied cavalry but they were charged in flank and rear by the [15th Light Horse](#). In this action, [Anhalt Infanterie](#) lost its 2 cannon.

Seeing this, the entire French force abandoned its camp and retired through the woods in their rear towards Langenstein. Here they rallied but [Luckner's Hussars](#) and [Behr Infantry](#) hurried on beyond them to bar their way over the Ohm to westward, while the [15th Light Horse](#), pressing on along their flank, stationed itself across the road to Amöneburg, and charging full upon them headed them back from that side. With some difficulty the French repelled the attack, and turning about to south-eastward made for a wood not far away, hoping to pass through it and so to escape to the south. The Allied infantry could not keep pace with the pursuit after it reached Langenstein.

On arriving at the southern edge of the wood, the French found every outlet blocked by the prince's mounted irregulars. Perforce they turned back through the wood again and emerged on to the open ground on its western side, trusting that some marshy ground, which lay in the way of the prince's cavalry, would secure them from further pursuit.

The French had not marched over the plain for more than 1,5 km before [Luckner's Hussars](#) and the [15th Light Horse](#) were upon them again. For the second time, the 15th Light Horse crashed single-handed into the midst of them, cutting them down by scores and capturing an entire battalion.

With great difficulty the remnant of the French beat back their pursuers and continued the retreat: half of them had been killed or captured, or had dropped down unable to march farther, but the rest struggled gallantly on. Reaching an open wood they again halted and formed for action. The Hereditary Prince, still close at their heels with his cavalry, thereupon surrounded them and summoned them to surrender.

At 7:00 p.m., Major-General Glaubitz, despairing of further resistance in the exhausted state of his troops, was obliged to yield.

So ended the action. The French camp had been surprised at noon and the last fragment of their force capitulated at 7:00 p.m., having striven manfully but in vain to shake off the implacable enemy that had hunted them for nearly 30 km. The French prisoners were conducted to Ziegenhain.

*Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.*

## **Outcome**

On the Allied side, Colonel Freytag and M. Derenthal, Ferdinand's aide-de-camp, were wounded and M. Normand, Behr's aide-de-camp, killed. Overall, the Allies lost 162 killed, 152 wounded and 6 missing. Of these, 125 men and 116 horses belonged to the [15th Light Horse](#). In fact, it was the 15th Light Horse who did most of the fighting. The other Allied regiments engaged did not lose 20 men apiece. The 2 other Allied cavalry units, though they did excellent work in heading back the enemy, never came to close quarters. [Luckner's Hussars](#) did not lose a man nor a horse, and of the mounted irregulars but 23 men and horses were killed or wounded. The Allies captured 9 pairs of colours, 5 artillery pieces and a howitzer.

The French lost 7 officers (including Count Hessenberg and Muschinski) and more than 500 men killed, 34 officers and 577 men wounded, 300 men missing. Furthermore a large number had been taken prisoners: 177 officers and 2,482 privates, including Major-General Glaubitz and Prince of Anhalt. The French also lost 1,000 horses, 9 colours and 5 guns and a howitzer.

Despite this tactical success, due to the stubborn resistance of the French detachment until 7:00 p.m., the Allies were unable to fulfil their objective: the destruction of the French field-bakery at Marburg.

# Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.

## The Game

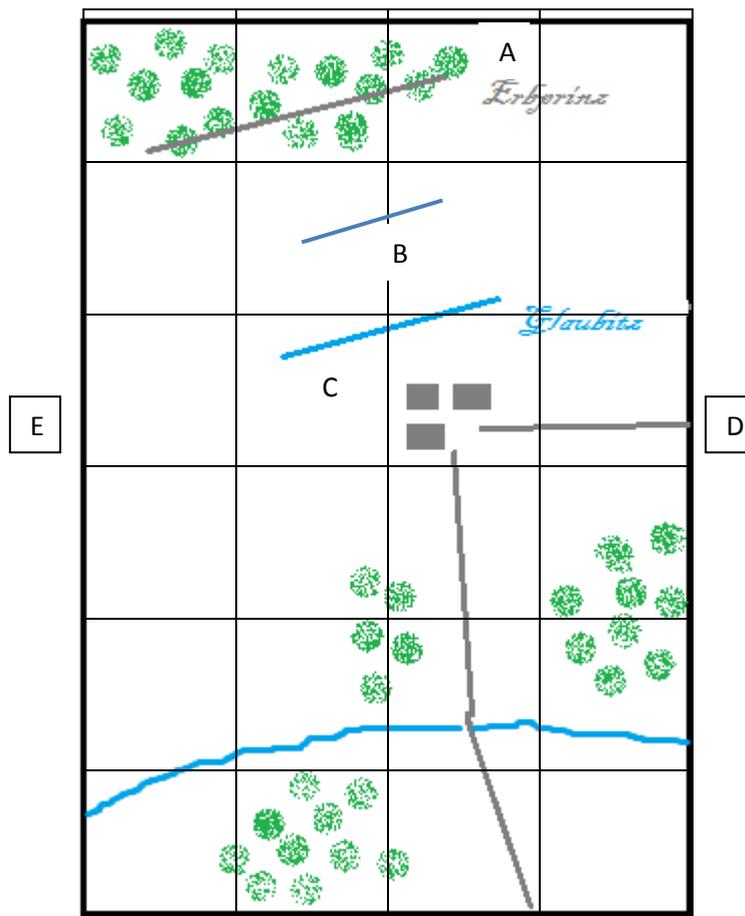
Red, playing the Erbprinz's forces will deploy in a wood on one side of the table. Blue, playing the unfortunate General Glaubitz will be deployed, Royal Bavarie to the front with Anhalt 12 inches to the rear in column facing the short table edge, with their camp, baggage and the village of Emsdorf to their immediate rear in the center of the table.

Red moves first.

Except for Royal Bavarie, Blue must dice for control of his troops. Each turn roll 1D6 for each unit, on turn 1 Blue must score 5 or 6 to gain control of the unit as it scurries about collecting weapons and ammunition and reforming to face the enemy. Each subsequent turn the number required to control the unit is reduced by 1. A unit not under control is may not move and is treated as inferior for all shooting and melee.

On turn 4 from D, Luckner arrives with his hussars the Light Inf whilst at E the 15<sup>th</sup> L.H. arrive.

Red plays with "Britannic" mods, Blue with Reichesarmee.



# Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.

## Allied Order of Battle

Commander-in-chief: [Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, Hereditary Prince of Brunswick](#) seconded by Major-General Behr and M. de Bischausen

Summary: approx. 1,290 horse, 3,740 foot and 18 guns

Infantry

Bgde 1: Behr

[Hanoverian Marschalk](#) (1 bn) (1 unit)

[Hessian 2nd Garde](#) (2 bns) (1 unit)

Bgde 2 Bischausen

[Hessian Mansbach](#) (2 bns) (1 unit)

2 batteries, Med Guns.

Bgde 2 Luckner (Dashing)

[Hanoverian Behr](#) (1 bn) (1 unit)

[Hanoverian Luckner's Hussars](#) (4 sqns) (1 unit)

[Hanoverian Freytag Jägers](#) (2 foot coys and 2 mounted coys) (1 unit, small)

Independent Bgde

[British 15th Elliot's Light Horse](#) (3 sqns) (1 unit, small)



# Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.

## French Order of Battle

Commander-in-chief: Major-General Christian Baron von Glaubitz

Summary: 990 hussars, 4,200 foot and 6 guns

Infantry

Brigade 1

[Royal Bavière](#) (3 bns)

(2 units, at B)

[Anhalt](#) (3 bns)

(2 units, at C)

Light troops

(between C and Town)

Brigade 2

[Bercheny Hussards](#) (6 sqns)

(1 unit, large)

[Chasseurs-à-pied d'Origny](#) (1 bn of approx. 450 men)

(1 unit, small)

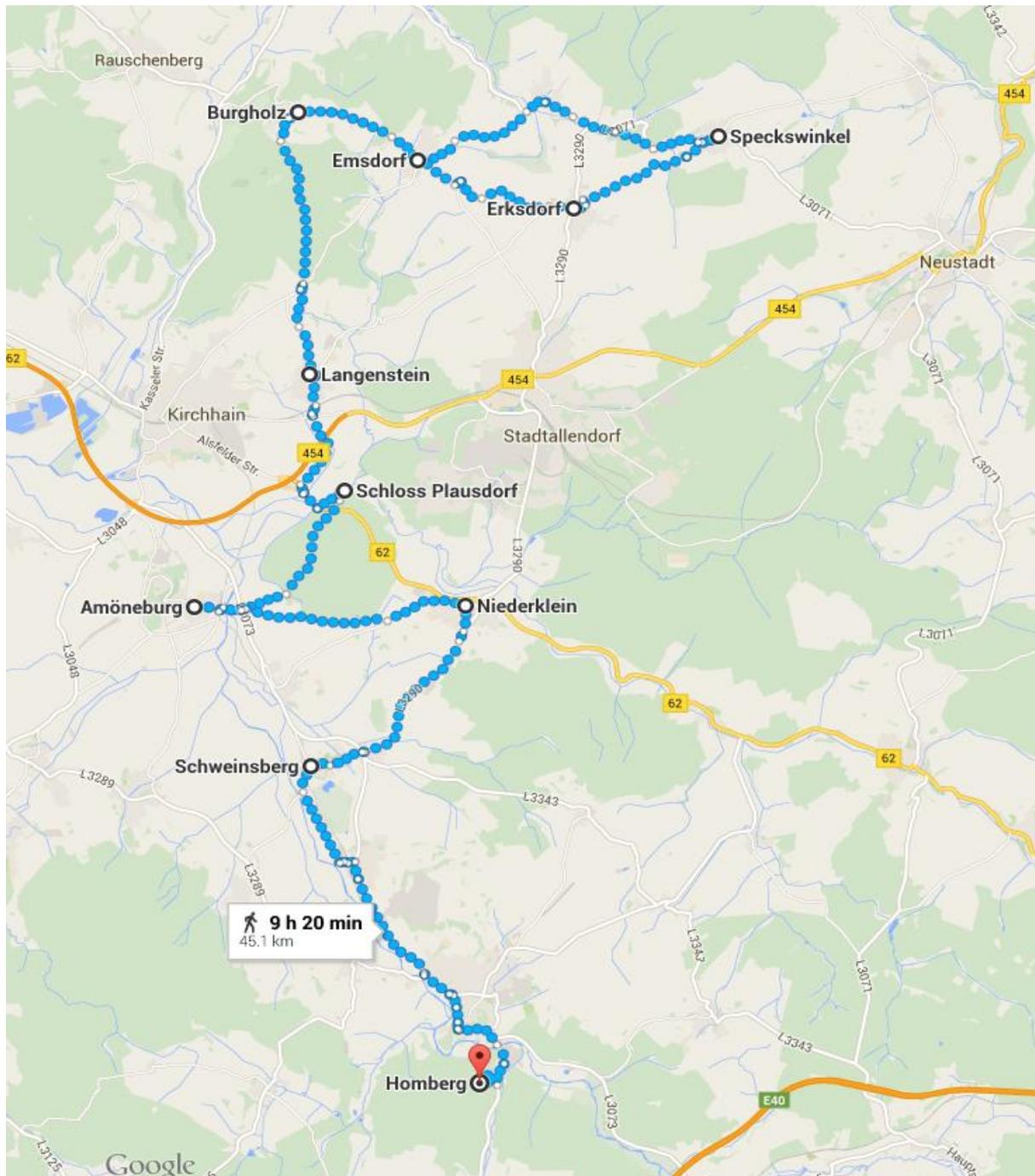
*a small unit of volunteer attached to Bercheny Hussards*

1 battery

French Troops



# Emsdorf, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1760.



A map of the area today, showing places mentioned in the text and the approximate marching times!