



The Battle Of Kunersdorf
12 August 1759
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Kunersdorff stands out as the worst defeat suffered by Frederick the Great, and indeed the most devastating military catastrophe in Prussia until Jena-Auerstädt in 1806. From an army just over fifty thousand, Frederick emerged from the disaster with scarcely eighteen thousand remaining.

It was a battle he probably never should have fought. Saltykov's Russians had mauled Wedell's small Prussian army at Kay in late July 1759, thus opening the road to Berlin at last. Frederick tried – as he had the previous year in the Zorndorf campaign – to speed his army north to repulse the Russian threat and return to their positions facing the Austrians, all in one swift movement.

From the outset, however, things did not go his way. He failed to overtake Loudon's Austrian corps, which was marching to Saltykov's assistance. When he finally confronted the allied forces around Kunersdorf, Frederick realized that Saltykov had taken up a masterfully strong position, entrenching his men on a long ridge, protected by marshes, ponds, and woods that would break up the movements of any attacker. Nonetheless, as he had at Zorndorf, Frederick gambled that a heavy bombardment would soften up the defenders.

The barrage did have its intended effect on the Russian Observation Corps, which was holding the salient of the allied position, and the Prussian infantry assault finished them off, thus carrying one end of the allied line and capturing dozens of Russian guns. By 1:00 PM Kunersdorf looked very much like a Prussian victory.

The summer heat was infernal, the men were exhausted and thirsty, and several of his generals now advised Frederick to take his victory and sit tight, knowing that the allies would have to withdraw in the evening. But the king insisted on finishing his enemies off in one final, great push, and so he re-dressed his lines, brought up his guns, and drove his men forward again.

Through the afternoon the Prussians struggled through the heat and difficult terrain, as the allies resisted fiercely. Two of Frederick's corps commanders were gravely wounded, and the tempo of the attacks began to slacken and grow confused. Finally, as an Austrian cavalry charge broke a regiment of Prussian dragoons, who then routed into the friendly infantry behind them, the Prussians began to come apart. Frederick made several attempts to stem the flood, exposing himself to extreme danger more than once, but it was no use. "My coat is riddled with musket balls," he wrote to Finckenstein that evening, "It is my misfortune to be still alive."

The Scenario:

The weather is Sunny. Start on Turn 2. Basic Length is 8 turns.

Terrain notes:

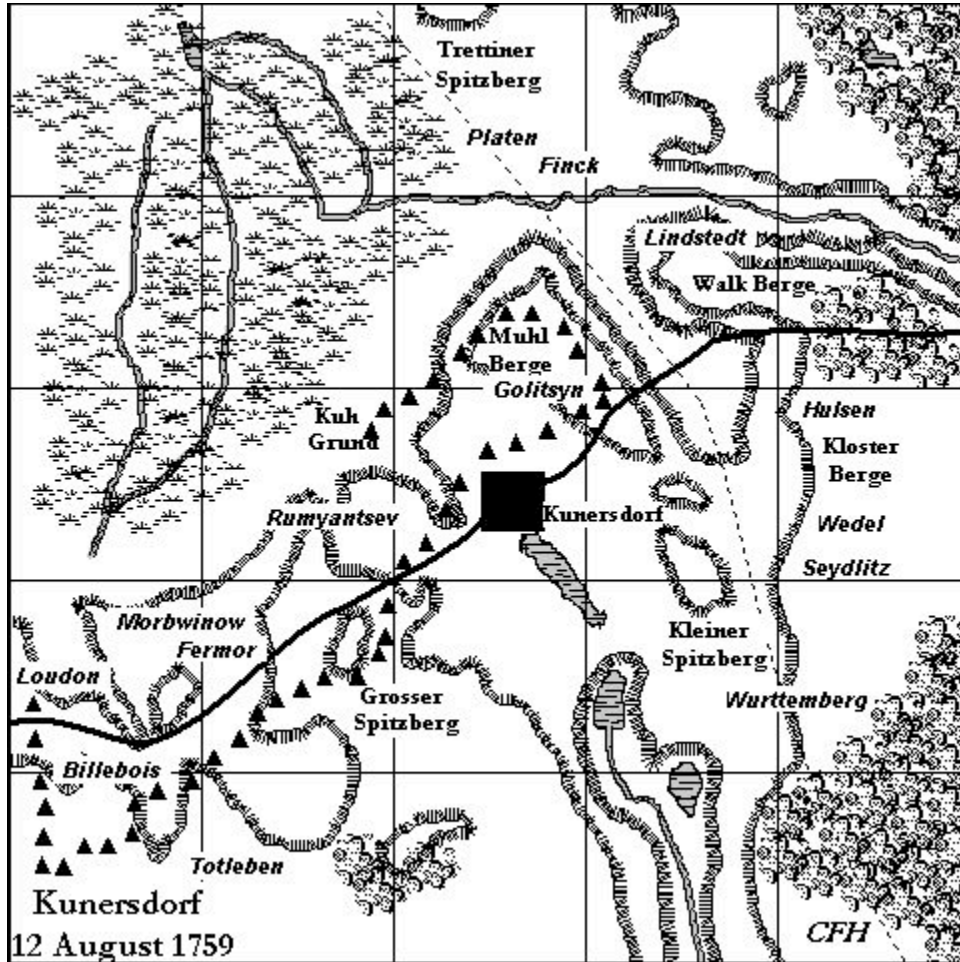
Ponds are impassable.
Streams are obstacles.
Swamps are rough terrain.
Hills cost one extra BW per elevation change.
Triangles show line of entrenchments.
Entrenchments provide limited cover (5+) for the defenders against any fire.

Map Scale: 1:100

Free Deployment Rules:

Prussians deploy to the right of the dotted line.
Russians deploy inside the works along the ridge.
Austrians deploy on road at left side of map.

The Kunersdorf Battlefield:



Prussian free deployment:

Prussian

- 4 x Grenadier Brigade (48)
- 5 x Musketeer Brigade (50)
- 4 x Fusilier Brigade (36)
- 3 x Cuirassier Brigade (33)
- 3 x Dragoon Brigade (30)
- 4 x Hussar Brigade (40)
- 4 x Heavy Artillery (32)
- 1 x Horse Artillery (10)

Total: 279 points

Allied free deployment:

Russian

- 3 x Grenadier Brigade (33)
- 14 x Musketeer Brigade (126)
- 1 x Horse Grenadier Brigade (10)
- 1 x Cuirassier Brigade (10)
- 1 x Dragoon Brigade (7)
- 3 x Hussar Brigade (15)
- 3 x Cossack Brigade (9)
- 5 x Heavy Artillery (30)
- 4 x Howitzer Artillery (40)

Austrian

- 3 x Musketeer Brigade (24)
- 1 x Croat Brigade (5)
- 1 x Dragoon Brigade (9)
- 1 x Cheveauxleger Brigade (7)
- 1 x Hussar Brigade (6)
- 1 x Heavy Artillery (8)

Total: 339 points

Historical Deployment:

The Prussian Army
Commander: Frederick (Great)
Army Break Point: 10

Lindstedt (+1)
 2 x Grenadier Brigade

Wurttemberg (0)
 2 x Cuirassier Brigade
 1 x Hussar Brigade

Seydlitz *(+1)
 1 x Dragoon Brigade
 2 x Hussar Brigade
 1 x Horse Artillery

Wedel *(+1)
 1 x Grenadier Brigade
 3 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Fusilier Brigade
 2 x Heavy Artillery

Hülsen (+1)
 1 x Grenadier Brigade
 2 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Fusilier Brigade
 2 x Heavy Artillery

Platen *(+1)
 1 x Cuirassier Brigade
 2 x Dragoon Brigade
 1 x Hussar Brigade

Finck (0)
 2 x Fusilier Brigade

For Prussian Play Balance, Add:
 2 x Heavy Artillery units
 3 x Musketeer units
 1 x Hussar unit

The Allied Army
Commander: Saltykov (Average)
Army Break Point: 15

Russian:
Totleben (0)
 2 x Hussar Brigade
 3 x Cossack Brigade

Golitsyn (-1)
 1 x Grenadier Brigade
 3 x Musketeer Brigade
 4 x Howitzer Artillery
 2 x Heavy Artillery

Fermor (0) V
 4 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Heavy Artillery

Billebois (0)
 1 x Grenadier Brigade
 4 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Heavy Artillery

Rumyantsev (+1)V
 1 x Grenadier Brigade
 3 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Heavy Artillery

Morbwinow (-1)
 1 x Horse Grenadier Brigade
 1 x Cuirassier Brigade
 1 x Dragoon Brigade
 1 x Hussar Brigade

Austrian:
Loudon *(+2) V
 1 x Hussar Brigade
 1 x Dragoon Brigade
 1 x Cheveauxleger Brigade
 3 x Musketeer Brigade
 1 x Croat Brigade
 1 x Heavy Artillery

For Russian Play Balance, Change:
 Rumyantsev *(+1)V

