



NWC Field Manual [version 1.05 – March 2026]

 [Allied Training College \(ATC\)](#)

 [Napoleonic Wargame Club \(NWC\)](#)

Hello and welcome Sir,

As you begin your journey at the NWC, this guide is designed to help you quickly adapt to the most realistic Napoleonic warfare simulations available today.

Whether your background lies in Napoleonic history, tabletop games, or other video games, the materials in this document will help you to develop your command skills step by step.

Typically, a new officer progresses through five layers of learning in the game:

- **The Theory** - Start by reading and becoming familiar with the game manual. Some players like to learn by simply playing the game. However, over time you will find that by referring to the game manual, you will begin to more comprehensively understand the game's mechanics and strategies.
- **The Field Practice** - Apply what you've learned in theory by practicing in the field. It is recommended to run a few small scenarios against AI opponents, practicing offensive manoeuvres and direct assaults.
- **Advanced Tactics: Cavalry and Artillery** - Gain a deeper understanding of the specific roles and tactics for using cavalry and artillery. Master the combined arms tactics, which are essential in Napoleonic warfare.
- **Divisional-Level Manoeuvres** - Learn to apply different tactical frameworks at the divisional level, whether you are on the offensive or defensive.
- **Operational Level Command** - Master the management of forces at the Corps and Army levels. This involves planning and executing complex manoeuvres, coordinating multiple operational units effectively.

Throughout your progression, your superiors will be available to guide you, provide assistance, and answer any questions you may have.

The Theory

There are a few articles in the below link which cover the above topics to help you with the theory. Lots to read and lots to digest but it is strongly recommended take it step by step without skipping any chapters (the same file can be found on under the name of [Intro_NapBattles](#) in the [Manuals](#) folder of the game):

 [Intro to Napoleonic Battles \(Manual PDF\)](#)

This PDF covers the following topics:

- Optional Rules
- Artillery Deployment principles and Tactics
- Cavalry Deployment principles and Tactics
- Defence in Depth
- Offensive Strategy and Tactics
- General Staff (management of forces at the Corps and Army levels)
- Rearguard Actions
- Morale factors when playing PBEM

Since publishing this PDF, two more articles have been added focusing on infantry warfare:

[The Art of Musketry: Infantry Tactics in WDS Napoleonic Warfare](#)

[The Art of Melee: Infantry Tactics in WDS Napoleonic Warfare](#)

Putting these principles into practice will come with PBEM experience but facilitate that below there are a few links to PBEM based After Action Reports with practical examples.



The Practice

In reading and listening format:

1. Campaign Waterloo, 1815

1.1 Scenario: **The Battle of Ligny (historical - no units fixed).**

 [AAR with images](#)

 [AAR Podcast](#)

- OOB analysis
- Victory criteria analysis
- Enemy defensive positions assessment
- Offensive battle plan development including a cavalry raid into the enemy flank, main attack, feint maneuver and supporting attack
- Artillery disposition
- By sector force allocation and estimated time of arrivals
- After action analysis: operational and tactical assessment of the scenario played

1.2 Scenario: **The Battle of Quatre Bras - Who Will Arrive First?**

 [AAR with images](#)

 [AAR Podcast](#)

- Extending the enemy front
- Enveloping the enemy flank
- Firepower doctrine focus
- Direct assault
- Change of plan and shift in main effort

1.3 Scenario: **The Combined Battle of Quatre Bras & Ligny**

 [AAR with images](#)

 [AAR Podcast](#)

- Terrain and Victory points assessment
- Scenario based defensive action planning
- Artillery disposition
- Corps level in depth defensive dispositions: forward line, main resistance line, key artillery positions selection
- Actual battle flow
- After action analysis

2. Campaign Jena-Auerstedt, 1806

2.1 Scenario: **15_05h_2. The Battles of Jena-Auerstedt - Large Map**

 [AAR with images](#)

 [AAR Podcast](#)

- OOB analysis
- Victory criteria analysis
- Terrain assessment, defensive position selection and ETAs to the position identified
- Delaying action planning (Jena)
- Defensive position selection and divisional sectors planning (Jena)
- Force concertation and move to contact (Auerstedt)
- After action analysis: operational and tactical assessment of the scenario played

3. Campaign Wagram, 1809

3.1 Scenario: **8H. The Battle of Wagram - Historical- Large Map**

 [AAR with images](#)

 [AAR Podcast](#)

- Designing and sustaining a static defence
- Adapting to operational surprise and original plan failure
- The psychology of fighting a losing battle

In video format, YouTube links:

4. Campaign Eckmuhl, 1809

 [#1 – Strategic Decision](#)

- Campaign background
- Strategic decision rationale

 [#2 – Delay at Landshut](#)

- OOB analysis
- Victory criteria assessment
- Terrain assessment: river crossing
- Battle plan development: grand battery set up, main attack, supporting attack.

 [#3 – Landshut Part 2](#)

- Actual flow of the battle

 [#4 – Landshut AAR](#)

- After Action Analysis

📣 #5 – [Abensberg Pt 1](#)

- OOB analysis
- Victory criteria assessment
- ETAs assessment
- Terrain assessment
- Offensive battle plan development: Phase 1: extending the enemy front, Phase 2: force concertation, Phase 3: enemy positions assault
- Actual battle flow: Phase 1

📣 #6 – [Abensberg Pt 2](#)

- Actual battle flow: Phases 2 and 3
 - After Action analysis
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5. Campaign Eylau-Friedland, 1807

📣 [Eylau-Friedland – Episode 1.](#)

- Campaign background
- Victory criteria assessment
- Rearguard action planning
- Defensive battle plan development

📣 [Eylau-Friedland – Episode 2.](#)

- Actual flow of the battle

📣 [Eylau-Friedland – Episode 3.](#)

- OOB assessment,
- Enemy defensive positions assessment
- Offensive battle plan development: flanking maneuver, deceptive maneuver and supporting attack
- By sector force allocation
- Estimated time of arrivals

📣 [Eylau-Friedland – Episode 4.](#)

- Actual flow of the battle
 - After action analysis
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Final Word

As you progress, don't hesitate to reach out to your NWC superiors, ATC officers or peers. Wish you a great and successful career at NWC! For now—off to the lecture halls!

🎓 March 2026

