

# AU FIL DE L'ÉPÉE BY THE EDGE OF THE SWORD

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*"What have the French people contributed to world history? In my view, it is not the revolution of 1789, but the spirit of chivalry."* Dai Sijie.

Au fil de l'épée - By the Edge of the Sword! - is a rules system dedicated to battles of the high Middle Ages at the tactical level. This latest version of the rules of the Au fil de l'épée series can be used for all existing games of the series. Battles available are listed here: [http://www.fredbey.com/afde\\_en.html](http://www.fredbey.com/afde_en.html)

**Note on this version of the rules:** All sections that have been modified since the preceding version are indicated by a symbol † in the margin.

## 0 - GENERAL RULES

The game is designed for two players, each controlling one of the two opposing armies. However, it is possible to play solitaire or with more than two players (by distributing the banners of each side among the players).

### 0.1 - ABBREVIATIONS

Hex : Hexagon  
SP : Strength Point  
MP : Movement Point  
LOS : Line of Sight

### 0.2 - GAME SCALE

A game turn represents half an hour of real time. A hex on the map corresponds to about 200 meters. A strength point represents 100 men.

Game Scale may be modified in some scenarios in order to adapt it to the specific situation

### 0.3 - DICE

The game requires the use of two six-sided dice (referred to as d6) and one ten-sided die (referred to as d10). In the case of the latter, 0 means zero and not 10. The ten-sided die is used to resolve fire and mêlées and to make rally tests. The six-sided dice are used to determine initiative.

## 1 - LEADERS AND ARMY COMMANDERS

### 1.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF LEADERS AND ARMY COMMANDERS

Each leader possesses:

- a blazon (banner, or coat of arms) allowing identification of units belonging to his banner;
- a bonus (a die roll modifier);
- a command rating (for activation process);
- a command radius;
- a movement allowance.

Army commanders possess the same characteristics.

All of these characteristics are indicated on the counter illustrations.

### 1.2 - LEADERS AND BANNERS

A leader can command only the combat units of his own banner, which are those with the same blazon as his. The army commanders can activate not only the units of their own banner but also all units of their army that are situated within their command radius.

## 2 - COMBAT UNITS

### 2.1 - UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

The combat units are each identified by:

- a background color (nationality);
- a blazon (banner, or coat of arms), which permits identification of the leader who commands them;
- a type (weapons class);
- a combat strength expressed in SP (number of men);
- a quality (the fighting ability of the men belonging to that unit);
- a movement allowance expressed in MP.

Some units also have a symbol indicating that they have the ability to fire (their actual ranges of fire are noted on the **Fire Table**).

All of these characteristics are indicated on the counter illustrations.

### 2.2 - TYPES OF UNITS

Each unit's type has an impact on how it can be utilized effectively (see the **Mêlée Table**).

There are a number of different types of units (not all are necessarily present at each battle):

- Knights (Ch);
- Men at Arms or Sergeants (Ha);
- Light Cavalry (Cl);
- Swiss (Su);
- Pikemen (Pi);
- Light Infantry (Il);
- Militia (Mi);
- Archers (Ar);
- Crossbowmen (Ab);
- Arquebusiers (Aq);
- Artillery (At).

Ar, Ab, Aq and At units have the ability to fire. Some Cl and Il units can also fire. Any exceptions are noted in the scenarios.

The figure on the counter indicates whether the unit is on foot or mounted. Troops on foot are called infantry units, and mounted troops are called cavalry units (artillery belongs to neither type). Markers are provided in order to indicate a change from one of these states to the other. The "remonte" (remount) marker, for example, is placed on a foot unit to indicate that it has decided to mount its horses. The details of these changes are given in 8.4.

### 2.3 LEVELS OF FATIGUE AND DISORGANIZATION

As a result of mêlées or fire, units may become fatigued. Use the reverse side of the counter to indicate this state. As a result of mêlées or fire, units may also become discouraged or routed. Use markers to indicate these states.

#### 2.3.1 Levels of fatigue

Hence a unit may be:

- fresh (front of counter);
- fatigued (back of counter).

#### 2.3.2 Levels of disorganization

## COUNTER DESCRIPTION

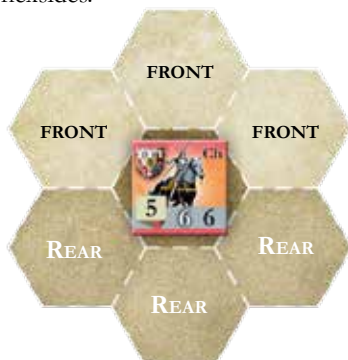


Whether fresh or fatigued, a unit may be in one of the following states:

- Valiant (no marker);
- Discouraged (“découragé” marker);
- Routed (“dérouté” marker).

### 3 - FACING

All units, except routed units, must comply with the facing rules (indicating which direction the unit is facing), which affect movement, fire and mêlées. Units must be oriented so as to face one of their six hexsides.



#### 3.1 INFANTRY AND CAVALRY

These units have three front hexes and three rear hexes.

#### 3.2 ARTILLERY

These units have one front hex and five rear hexes.

#### 3.3 - LEADERS AND ARMY COMMANDERS

Facing makes no difference to these units.

#### 3.4 - ROUTED UNITS

They have no facing, front or rear.

### 4 - ZONES OF CONTROL

There are no Zones of Control in this game.

It is not necessary for a unit to stop on contacting an enemy unit. All that is required is the payment of the extra movement costs to change facing and to leave the hex (see 8.2 and 8.3).

It is always possible, during movement or as the result of a mêlée, to enter or retreat into the front hex of an enemy unit (even when leaving the front hex of an enemy unit). There is an extra movement point cost to do so (see 8.3).

### 5 - STACKING

#### 5.1 - STACKING IN GENERAL

Stacking in a hex is limited to one unit, plus any number of leaders.

Stacking is checked only at the end of movement. It is thus possible to move through a friendly unit during movement.

A leader's counter must always be stacked with a combat unit at the end of his movement. An army commander can be stacked with any combat unit of his army, but all other leaders can only stack with a unit of their banner.

#### 5.2 SPECIFIC CASES

##### 5.2.1 Artillery and stacking

One artillery counter can stack with one infantry counter.

When artillery is stacked with infantry, its combat strength is added to that of the infantry when resolving mêlées (but only when defending). To determine the die roll modifier for unit quality, use the unit with the weaker quality of the two when defending, but use the infantry unit's quality when attacking.

##### 5.2.2 Stacking rules specific to certain battles

Some scenarios permit more than one counter to stack in a single hex. These special cases are dealt with in the specific rules for those scenarios.

*Retroactive note: As a reminder (since this was not part of the scenario information, but was instead contained in an earlier version of the rules), it is possible to stack two Militia (Mi) combat units from the same banner per hex in Bowvines (VaeVictis #45 version), and two combat units of the same type and banner -whatever their type - per hex in Las Navas de Tolosa.*

##### 5.2.3 Stacking and facing

When an unrouted unit intends to stack with another unit, it automatically assumes the facing of that unit. Two stacked units must always have the same facing.

##### 5.2.4 Stacking and movement

A combat unit intending to stack with another unit (either above or beneath it, at the player's choice) or a unit leaving a stack of two units must expend one additional movement point to do so. Once stacked, two units can move together without penalty, as if they were a single counter, as long as they remain stacked for their entire move (same starting hex, same movement path, same ending hex). They can change their stacking order freely during movement, but can't do so if they don't move.

##### 5.2.5 Effects of stacking on fire and mêlées

If two units with fire capability are stacked together, only the top unit can fire, except if one of the two units is an artillery counter (in this case, both can fire).

In mêlées, stacked units add their SPs together and use the weaker quality rating of the two units in the stack. While stacked, two units are considered as a single counter for the effects of mêlées, the effects of charges and the results of fire.

If a unit becomes stacked with another unit as a result of a mêlée and is attacked there during the same activation phase, it does not participate in the new mêlée but does suffer all the consequences of it (see 10.). When involved in retreat or advance after mêlée, two stacked units must retreat or advance together (unless prevented by the stacking limit, in the case of retreat).

Example: the player can retreat one of the two units into a hex already occupied by one other unit of the same type, leaving the other unit in place and thereby causing it to suffer one extra level of disorganization.

##### 5.2.6 Effects of stacking on discouragement and rout.

If two stacked units rout, they can rout together or they can separate, at the owner's choice.

While stacked, two units are considered as a single counter for rally attempts (a single die roll is made, using the higher quality rating of the two; see 12.3). A routed unit can stack with an unrouted unit if this does not contradict the stacking rules of the scenario. In such a case, there is no quality test by the traversed unit as normally required by 12.2.

### 6 - SEQUENCE OF PLAY

The battles in the series **By the Edge of the Sword** last for the number of turns specified in each scenario. Each game turn consists of five phases referred to as Phases A through E.

Each scenario specifies which side is the attacker and which side is the defender; this concept is important only for the activation of archers and artillery (Phase B).

*Retroactive note: in Poitiers and Formigny, the French player is the attacker. For the other battles in the series, the attacking and defending sides are noted in the scenarios.*

#### A. Command check

When checking command, the army commanders are considered as ordinary leaders of a banner. They decide only the status of units of their own banner.

The two players verify that the units of each banner are within the command radius of their leader. Units that are not within command radius are out of command for the remainder of the game turn. Place a “non commandé” (“out-of-command”) marker on them. All other units are in command for the remainder of the game turn.

Each player places “au repos” markers on units that he hopes to allow to rest during that turn (see 11.2).

#### B. Artillery and archer fire (see 9.)

If either player has archer or artillery units, he can choose to have them fire in this phase (without moving them), **if and only if they are not adjacent to enemy units.**

If present, they can fire in the following order:

- the attacking player executes his artillery fire and immediately applies the results;
- the defending player executes his artillery fire and immediately applies the results;
- the defending player executes his archer fire and immediately applies the results;
- the attacking player executes his archer fire and immediately applies the results.

*Note: Only artillery and archers can fire in this phase. All other units with fire capability - whatever their type - can't fire.*

#### C. Initiative and leader activation (see 7.)

As a general rule, the leaders of the two sides are activated alternately based on their command rating, starting from the lowest command rating and ascending to the highest. Leaders entering the game as reinforcements on a particular turn are included in this activation process on that turn. Players take turns activating their leaders when both sides have



leaders with the same command rating to activate (see the example)

*Specific cases:*

- If several leaders of the same army have the same command rating, the player who controls them chooses the order of their activation;

- If a number of leaders of both armies have the same command rating, activate them starting with the side whose army commander has the smaller bonus (if there is still a tie, start by activating the leader belonging to the attacking player), then alternate the activations between the two players, when possible (see example).

However, this order of activation may be modified by the concept of **initiative**. Each player rolls two d6 and adds the bonus of his army commander. They then compare the results:

• **C.1 If the results are equal:** neither player has the initiative. The leaders of the two armies are activated normally, alternating activations, in ascending order of their command ratings;

• **C.2 If the difference is between 1 and 3:** the player with the higher result obtains the initiative and immediately activates one of his leaders of his choice. Then return to activation in ascending order of command ratings. (The leader who was activated first can't be activated a second time);

• **C.3 If the difference is between 4 and 7:** the player with the higher result obtains the initiative and activates one of his leaders of his choice. Then he chooses any enemy leader (even the army commander), which its owner must activate immediately. Then return to activation in ascending order of command ratings. (The leaders activated first can't be activated a second time);

• **C.4 If the difference is 8 or more:** the player with the higher result obtains the initiative and activates one of his leaders of his choice. Then he chooses any enemy leader (even the army commander), which its owner must activate immediately, and one other enemy leader (even the army commander), which can't activate at all during the turn. Place an "inactif" ("inactive") marker on this leader. Then return to activation in ascending order of command ratings. (The leaders activated first can't be activated a second time).

#### D. Movement and combat

(see 8., 9. and 10)

The players proceed to activate their leaders alternately in the order determined in Phase C. An active leader's units can move and engage in combat. When all leaders have been activated, the movement and combat phase is over. For each activated leader, the owning player (called the active player, while his opponent is called the inactive player) proceeds in the following manner:

• **D.1** Movement of the leader and of his in-command units within the limit of their movement allowance, and determination of charges.

• **D.2** Ranged Fire by units of the active

player which have the capability to fire and are not adjacent to an enemy unit.

• **D.3** Declaration of mêlées against adjacent enemy units.

• **D.4** Resolution of mêlées in the order desired by the active player, but starting with charges; resolve each mêlée in the following sequence (see the detailed sequence in 10.5):

1. Defensive fire by units of the inactive player that have fire capability, targeting an enemy unit that is attacking them by mêlée.

2. Offensive fire by units of the active player that have fire capability, targeting an enemy unit that they are attacking by mêlée.

3. Mêlée.

The effects of each of these three steps are applied immediately.

• **D.5** Movement by non-commanded units, if desired, up to half of their movement allowance (rounded up) in the direction of their leader. They can't engage in fire or mêlée (see 7.4).

**E. Rally** (see 11. and 12.)

Fatigued units that have neither moved, fired nor engaged in mêlée, and have not been the target of fire or mêlée, can be turned over to their normal side. These units are identified by the "au repos" markers which were placed on them during Phase A and which would have been removed during the turn if any event had occurred which would cancel them (see 11.2).

Then:

- Discouraged and routed units make rally tests;

- Routed units that failed their rally test make a rout move;

- The turn is then over, and the turn marker is advanced one box.

### Example for Phases C. and D

#### Battle of Bouvines

(Swords of Sovereignty), Turn 3.

Command was checked during Phase A. Then a die is rolled to determine who has the initiative. The French player rolls 2d6 and gets a 9, and then adds 3 for Philippe II's bonus, for a total of 12. The Coalition player rolls 2d6 and gets a 2, and then adds 2 for Otton IV's bonus, for a total of 4. The difference between the two results is 8, and this falls under case C.4., with the French player gaining the initiative.

Therefore the French player may activate a leader of his choice immediately. He chooses Pierre de Courtenay and may move and engage in combat with all the units of that leader's banner in accordance with the rules (see the abilities of in-command and out-of-command units in 7). The French player then designates Otton IV as the leader whom the opposing player will have to activate next and Hugues de Boves as the leader who can't be activated during the current turn (place the "chef inactif" ["inactive leader"] marker on Hugues de Boves). The player in charge of the Coalition's army therefore activates Otton IV and may move and engage in combat in accordance with the rules, with all the units of his banner and with those of his army (whether or not they belong to Otton IV's banner) that are within

## 7 - COMMAND

### 7.1 - COMMAND IN GENERAL

A leader can move only when he is activated. The leader must end his movement stacked with a unit of his banner (or of his army if he is an army commander).

If all units of his banner have been eliminated, a leader—unless he is the army commander—is removed from the game:

- If his last unit was eliminated by mêlée, the leader is captured;

- If his last unit was eliminated by fire, the leader is captured if the unit is surrounded; otherwise he is killed (see 7.5).

If he leaves the map with the last unit of his banner, he is considered safe and sound (neither captured nor killed), even if that unit was routed.

*Exception: when an army commander activates a unit which does not belong to his banner and which is stacked with a leader, then that leader must move with the unit in question. Thus it can happen that a leader may move twice in a turn. However, if the army commander is stacked with a unit of another leader's banner, and that leader activates that unit for firing, mêlée, rallying, or placing an "au repos" marker on it, he cannot move that unit.*

### 7.2 - COMMAND OF UNITS

A combat unit is in command for the entire game turn if during the command check in Phase A it is located within the command radius of the leader of its banner. For example, a command radius of five hexes means that there can be more no than four hexes between the unit and its leader (do not count the hex the leader is in). This radius is never affected by the presence of enemy units or by any type of terrain.

In all other cases, a combat unit is considered out of command.

*Otton IV's command range of 5 hexes, because he is the army commander.*

*Then the normal order of activations is resumed, determined by the command ratings of the leaders. There are three leaders left with a command rating of 1, Robert II, Frère Guérin and Ferrand. Since there are leaders from both sides, the side which goes first is the one whose army commander has the smaller bonus: that of Otton IV's Coalition. The Coalition player therefore activates Ferrand. Then the French player activates Robert II and Frère Guérin in any order he desires. Then go on to the three remaining leaders with a command rating of 2 that are still available: Eudes III, Renaud de Dammartin and Guillaume Longue-Epée. Since there are leaders from both sides, the side which goes first is the one whose army commander has the smaller bonus: that of Otton IV's Coalition. The Coalition player may therefore freely choose between Renaud and Guillaume; for example, he decides to activate Guillaume first. Then the French player activates Eudes III, as the leaders of the two sides are activated alternately. Next, the Coalition player activates Renaud. The turn ends after the activation of the only leader with a command rating of 4, Philippe II. The French player may move and engage in combat in accordance with the rules, with all the units of his banner and with those of his army (whether or not they belong to Richard's banner) that are within Philippe II's command range of 5 hexes, because he is the army commander.*

#### Activation:

• When a leader is activated (see 6.C), all units of his banner can undertake actions. They undertake different actions depending on whether they are in command or not (see 7.3 and 7.4);

• When an army commander is activated, all units of his banner and all units of his army that are within his command radius can undertake actions. They undertake different actions depending on whether they are in command or not (see 7.3 and 7.4).

• It is therefore possible for combat units to undertake actions twice in a turn, once during the activation of their leader and once during that of their army commander;

• A unit that is out of command can't undertake the actions permitted to a unit that is in command, even if it is within the command radius of the army commander. However, in the latter case it can undertake a second time those actions permitted to out-of-command units (see 7.4).

*Clarification: During his activation, a leader can activate all the units within his radius of command, before his own movement.*

### 7.3 - IN-COMMAND UNITS

During the activation of its leader (or of its army commander if the unit is within his command radius), an in-command combat unit can, during Phase D, undertake actions in the following order:

- move up to the limit of its movement allowance;
- fire, if it has the capability and is not adjacent to an enemy unit;
- Execute offensive fire and initiate mêlée, if it is adjacent to an enemy unit.

Units entering play as reinforcements are always in command for their first activation.

### 7.4 - OUT-OF-COMMAND UNITS



During the activation of its leader, an out-of-command unit can do one of the following:

- move up to half of its movement allowance (rounded up) toward the leader of its banner (not its army commander, unless the unit belongs to his banner). The unit must end its movement closer to its leader than it was at the beginning;

- not move at all.

A unit that is out of command can't fire or initiate mêlée (Phases B. and D.). However, it can execute defensive fire if it is attacked by mêlée, and it can defend itself normally.

### 7.5 - CAPTURE, WOUNDING AND DEATH OF LEADERS

As a result of fire or mêlée, a leader can be captured, wounded or killed (see results on the **Fire and Mêlée Tables**).

The status of the unit with which the leader is stacked can also have an effect:

- if the unit with which a leader is stacked is destroyed as a result of mêlée, the

leader is immediately captured by the enemy unit which caused its elimination;

• if the unit with which a leader is stacked is destroyed as a result of fire, the leader is immediately placed with the nearest unit of his banner (or the nearest unit of his army, for an army commander). If the unit with which he is stacked is surrounded, he is captured. If there are no more units of his banner left in play, he is considered killed (see 7.1);

• if the unit with which a leader is stacked routs, the leader accompanies it in its rout movement. He can't leave the unit until his next activation;

• if a routed unit, accompanied by a leader, is eliminated because rout movement is not possible, and the unit is completely surrounded, the leader is automatically captured.

*Clarification: When a unit with which a leader is stacked routs off the map and is therefore eliminated, the leader in question is placed on the nearest unit of his banner (or, for an army commander, on the nearest unit of his side, if his banner has been entirely destroyed). If there is no such unit available, the leader is removed from play and is considered safe and sound (neither killed nor captured). The same procedure is applied to a leader stacked with a unit that is eliminated due to being unable to retreat, except when the unit is completely surrounded. If a captured leader exits the map because the unit which captured him has routed off the map, he is considered permanently captured and does not return to the game. Finally, if there are several leaders in a stack, the player checks their status individually.*

#### 7.5.1 Capture:

A captured leader is stacked under the enemy unit that captured him. He can't leave that unit. The leader can be freed only if that enemy unit is eliminated later by a friendly unit (reversing the process). If a leader (other than the army commander) is freed after his banner has been completely destroyed, he is removed from play and considered safe and sound (neither killed nor captured).

#### 7.5.2 Wounding:

Place a "chef blessé" ("leader wounded") marker on the counter. The leader's new abilities are listed on the marker and are applied immediately. A further wound will cause the death of the leader in question.

#### 7.5.3 Death:

Immediately remove the leader's counter from the game.

### 7.6 - LEADER AND ARMY COMMANDER REPLACEMENT

Replacement of leaders takes place immediately. Proceed as follows:

• when a leader is wounded, place a "chef blessé" ("leader wounded") marker (with a movement allowance and a command radius lower than they were originally) on his counter.

• when a leader is killed, use the reverse side of the counter as a replacement for the leader. The replacement leader is im-

mediately placed on any unit of the banner. If all units of the banner have been eliminated, the replacement leader does not enter the game.



• when a leader is captured, use a generic leader replacement marker with the same movement allowance and a lower command radius than the captured leader, taken from the reserve counters (the original captured leader is placed with the enemy unit that took him prisoner), and place it immediately on any unit of the banner.

• if a replacement leader is killed or captured, an identical counter replaces him (simply record the victory points and reuse the counter already in place).



• when an army commander is killed or captured, proceed as above to replace him as commander of his banner only. The friendly leader with the highest command rating takes his place as the army commander (to indicate his new status, place the replacement army commander marker on that leader). From this point on, the new army commander has all the capabilities of an army commander in terms of commanding combat units.

*Clarification: When a replacement leader enters the game after the death or capture of a leader, he will not have the same command rating as the original leader. He must be activated immediately after the currently activated leader has completed his Phase D. (except, of course, when the leader he is replacing has already been activated).*

## 8 - MOVEMENT

### 8.1 - MOVEMENT IN GENERAL

An active leader and the combat units that he commands can move all or part of their movement allowance. Entering a hex costs the moving unit a specific number of movement points (MPs). The costs of terrain are given on the **Terrain Chart**. Movement points are not cumulative from one turn to another. Movement of one unit must be completed before starting that of another unit. Movement can only be made through one of a unit's three front hexes (artillery, however, has only one front hex and can only move through it).

*Exception: this restriction does not apply to leader counters and routed units.*

Units only need to be in compliance with the stacking rules at the end of movement (no illegal stacking at the end of movement). So long as the stacking limit is obeyed, a move of one hex, without changing facing, is always allowed, no matter what the terrain cost is, unless that kind of terrain is prohibited to that unit type (i.e., unless the **Terrain Chart** lists it as "NA").

### 8.2 - CHANGE OF FACING

A unit can change its facing at the beginning, during, or at the end of movement at the cost of one movement point per hexside. A change of facing within a

hex is considered movement under the rules (especially with reference to the fire rules).

A change of facing in the front hex of an enemy combat unit costs two movement points per hexside.

*Reminder: Leaders and routed units have no facing.*

### 8.3 - DISENGAGEMENT AND RETREAT

A unit or a leader located in one of the front hexes of an enemy unit must spend one extra movement point to leave the hex, in addition to any cost for changing facing if necessary.

A unit can always, whether adjacent to an enemy unit or not, retreat one hex (i.e., move into one of its rear hexes) while retaining its original facing. It must obey the stacking limit but can ignore the terrain cost unless that kind of terrain is prohibited to that unit type (i.e., unless the Terrain Chart lists it as “NA”). This movement costs the unit’s entire movement allowance.

### 8.4 - MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING

**Before movement**, a player can change his infantry into cavalry (“remount”) or his cavalry into infantry (“dismount”) by using the “remonte” and “démonte” markers provided for this purpose. In each battle the players have a fixed limit on the number of markers to use for mounting and dismounting. Mounting or dismounting costs two movement points. Newly mounted or dismounted units can then spend the remaining movement points of their new movement allowance.

Discouraged units can mount or dismount, but routed units can’t.

*Clarification: Mounting and dismounting are not allowed if the unit is adjacent to an enemy unit*

## 9 - FIRES

### 9.1 - FIRE IN GENERAL

Fire is never obligatory.



Only those units with a fire capability and not routed can fire through their front hexes.

A unit can be the target of only one fire attack per activation. Different types of units are not allowed to combine their fire against the same target.

If two units with fire capability are stacked together (see 5.2), only the top unit can fire.

Fire occurs in **Phase B. (Artillery and archer fire)** and in **Phase D. (Movement and combat)**. As a result, some units may be able to fire several times in a turn.

**Fire in Phases B. and D.2:**

Fire is not allowed if the firer is adjacent to any enemy unit or to its target.

*Exception: A unit can fire at an adjacent enemy unit in one of its front hexes if mêlée with that unit is not possible; i.e., if it is across a hexside which prohibits mêlée (a river, wall or gate), or if the specific rules prohibit mêlée against adjacent enemy units in the front hexes of the fi-*

*rer (Example: Al-Nasir’s banner in Las Navas de Tolosa).*

**Fire in Phase D.4 (Offensive and defensive fire):**

Fire is not allowed unless the firer is adjacent to its target.

Offensive fire is reserved for units which will initiate a mêlée, or are stacked with a unit which will initiate a mêlée, and defensive fire is reserved for units which will be the target of an enemy mêlée. Hence an artillery unit—which is not allowed to initiate a mêlée—can only engage in offensive fire if it is stacked with an infantry unit which will initiate a mêlée.

Defensive fire by a unit can only target an enemy unit which will initiate a mêlée against it; the target must be an enemy unit in one of the firer’s front hexes.

### 9.2 - LINE OF SIGHT

Firing requires the existence of a line of sight (LOS) between firer and target. The line of sight is checked from the center of the firing hex to the center of the target hex. It can be blocked by some types of terrain (see the **Terrain Chart**) or by other units (friendly or enemy). A hexside of a hex containing either blocking terrain or a unit does not in itself block a line of sight. It is always possible to fire into a hex of blocking terrain, but not through such a hex.

Ignore the obstacle when determining LOS, if:

- the firer and the target are both at a higher level than the obstacle;
- the firer is at a higher level than the target and the obstacle, and the obstacle is halfway between the firer and the target, or closer to the firer;
- the target is at a higher level than the firer and the obstacle, and the obstacle is halfway between the firer and the target or closer to the target.

*Special case: Archers have the ability to fire over other units (friendly or enemy). Thus only terrain can block fire by archers.*

### 9.3 - FIRE PROCEDURE

Fire, in whatever phase, is executed as follows:

- select the target unit;
- select units which will fire at that target

### FIRE RANGE



(it is possible to combine fire by units of the same type, see 9.1, activated at the same time. Use the range of the unit that is farthest from the target);

- check the line of sight;
- roll 1d10 and resolve the fire using the **Fire Table**, applying the modifiers indicated (for all units if several are firing at the same time—for example, if three units are firing at a single target, and one of those units has moved, that unit’s movement suffices to cause a -1 die roll modifier);

- apply the results to the target unit.

The maximum ranges for fire are shown on the **Fire Table**.

*Special cases:*

- An artillery unit only suffers the results of enemy fire if it is alone in a hex. Otherwise, only the unit with which the artillery unit is stacked suffers the results of fire;

- But an artillery unit stacked with another unit does suffer the results of fire if the firer is an artillery unit;

- An artillery unit which suffers a “Rout” result is automatically eliminated;

- Mounted archers and crossbowmen can fire. They incur a fire malus (i.e., a penalty), as shown on the Fire Table. If the scenario allows them to dismount, they no longer suffer the fire malus when they are dismounted

## 10 - MÊLÉES

### 10.1 - MÊLÉES IN GENERAL

Mêlée is never obligatory.

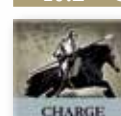


A mêlée can occur where opposing units are in contact with each other. Only routed units, out-of-command units and artillery units are unable to initiate mêlée (however, they can defend themselves when attacked).

A unit can be attacked by mêlée only once during the activation of an enemy leader (Phase D), but pursuits (see 10.9) are not subject to this restriction.

*Note: if it defends itself successfully, a routed unit could conceivably capture an enemy leader*

### 10.2 - CHARGES



A charge is a special kind of mêlée carried out by mounted units of the types Ch and Ha only, provided they are in command and are not routed.

*Clarification: Ch and Ha on foot can’t charge, nor can Cl or mounted Ab or mounted Ar.*

The charging unit must move at least one hex, and it can’t expend more than four movement points. The target of the charge is designated during Phase D.1 (movement). To indicate this, “Charge” markers are placed on the charging unit and the unit being charged.

If a cavalry unit is already in contact with the enemy, then it can’t charge but can still initiate a normal mêlée.

If a unit passes through a friendly unit during its charge movement, the friendly unit is immediately routed (see 12.2).

A unit must charge in a straight line.

There must already be an enemy unit directly ahead of its **central front hex** at the start of its movement (i.e., it can't change its facing before charging), and the target of its charge must be in its central front hex when the charge is resolved. When charging, a unit is not required (unlike other friendly units) to attack enemy units located in its other front hexes.

Charges are resolved individually, and no other attacking unit can participate in the same combat with a charging unit unless it is also charging that same defender.

Charges provide a special die roll modifier in **mêlée** (see the **Mêlée Table**).

A cavalry unit that doesn't charge can still initiate a **mêlée** normally, but without benefiting from a modifier linked to charging.

### 10.3 - REACTION CHARGES

Whether it is in command or not, an unrouted cavalry unit of type Ch or Ha that is the target of a charge (even during Elan or Dispersion, see 10.9), can attempt a reaction charge just before the charge is resolved (phase D.4). The reaction charge is allowed only if the unit is being charged through one of its three front hexes.

To execute a reaction charge, the player rolls a d10: if the score is less than or equal to the quality of the unit, then the reaction charge succeeds and all the die roll modifiers for charging are disregarded when the attacker resolves the **mêlée**. The defender must change facing so that its central front hex faces the unit that is the target of its reaction charge. The attacker can't cancel his charge when faced with a successful reaction charge by the defender.

*Clarification: In a situation where several enemy units are charging it, a unit which attempts a reaction charge must choose a single enemy unit to be the target of the reaction charge. If the latter is successful, only the die roll modifiers linked to the charge of that enemy unit will be disregarded.*

### 10.4 - DETERMINATION OF MÊLÉES

During each leader's activation phase (Phase D.), the active player, after movement, determination of targets of any charges, and ranged fire (i.e., fire on

## Example of charge, élan and dispersion:

### Battle of Guinegatte (The Truce or the Sword), Turn 3.

*The banner of Philippe de Crevecoeur (French) is activated and faces units from Maximillian's banner (Burgundians).*

• **Phase D1.** *The French player makes his moves and decides on his charges.*

*The Ch unit Crevecoeur (3 6 6) and Crevecoeur advances from 2020 into 2019, 2018 and 2017*

*The Ha unit Du Bellay (3 6 6) makes a charge move from 2120 into 2119 and 2117 to attack the enemy Ar Picard unit (5 4 4) in 2116 (place one Charge marker astride on the two counters). The charge move is legal because the unit moved at least one hex in a straight line (into its front central hex) and did not expend more than 4 MP (see 10.2);*

• **Phase D2.** *No action is taken. The active player's units do not have the ability to fire;*

• **Phase D3.** *The mêlée resulting from the charge is declared;*

• **Phase D4.**  
**Defensive Fire.** *The Ar unit has the ability to fire and can therefore execute defensive fire. The Burgundian player rolls a d10 and gets a 4; he has to apply a +1 (unit of more than 4 strength points). Thus the final result is obtained by shifting one column to the right on the Fire Table (specific rules of Guinegatte battle). The fire has then no effect.*

**Offensive Fire.** *No action is taken. The active player's unit does not have the ability to fire.*

**Mêlée.** *Resolution of the charge. Note: All charges must be resolved before any other mêlées (see 10.5). The unit that is the target of the charge is neither a Ch nor an Ha, so it can not attempt a reaction charge (see 10.3). The French player rolls a d10 and gets a 6, which he must adjust by 0 (modifier for the odds ratio, in this case is 1 to 2), +1 (modifier for unit type, Ha vs. Ar), +1 (modifier for unit quality)*

*and +3 for a charge against a unit's front hex. The final result is 11, which translates to D+R for the defender (see the Mêlée Table). The Burgundian player places a «découragée» marker on his Ar, that retreats into hex 2115. The Ha unit must occupy hex 2116 and may change its facing if desired, but the French player opts not to do so and retains his unit's original facing (see 10.8);*

**Elan.** *Since the initial charge resulted in an advance after mêlée without fatigue, the French player must execute an Elan (see 10.9) against the Ar unit which is again in his victorious Ha unit's front central hex. This Elan is resolved immediately. The Ar unit's defensive fire again produces no effect. The Coalition player rolls a d10 and gets a 7, which he must adjust by 0 (modifier for odds ratio, which in this case is 1 to 2), +1 (modifier for unit type, Ha vs. Ar), +1 (modifier for unit quality), +2 because the defender is discouraged and +3 for a charge against a unit's front hex. The final result is 14 (the modifiers are limited up to the limit of + or - 7), which translates to Dr+R for the defender (see the Mêlée Table). The Ar unit is therefore routed (the French player places a Déroute marker on it) and retreats two hexes into hex 2114 and the 2113 (because of the Dr result), and then it retreats another hex into 2112 (because of the R result). The Ha unit must advance one hex into hex 2115. The French player chooses to reface it toward 2214, so as to face the Ch Gentilshommes unit in 2214, facing 2215;*

**Dispersion.** *Dispersion is not obligatory (see 10.9), but the French player chooses to do it. There is no defensive or offensive fire. The Burgundian being attacked through one of his three front hexes may not try for a reaction charge as it is a foot Ch unit (see 10.3). The French player rolls a d10 and gets a 0 which he must adjust by +1 (modifier for odds ratio, which in this case is 1 to 1), 0 (modifier for unit type, Ha vs. Ch), 0 (modifier for unit quality) and +3 for a charge against a unit's front hex. The final result is 4 and means no effect (see Melee table), both units staying in place. The pursuit phase ends. The Ha unit is slipped to its reverse side because it is automatically fatigued (see 10.9).*



non-adjacent targets), decides on the mêlées which he wishes to initiate. The active player is called the attacker, and the inactive player is called the defender. An attacking unit can only initiate a mêlée through one or more of its three front hexes. If it chooses to initiate a mêlée, it must attack all enemy units situated in its front hexes, with the exception of those already being attacked by other friendly units in the same Phase D activation.

Several units can attack a single enemy unit, and conversely one unit can attack several enemy units.

The attacker must declare all mêlées before resolving them:

- he places a “Mêlée” marker on each enemy unit that he must attack in the current activation, except for those that already have a “Charge” marker.

- once declared, each mêlée must be resolved. A mêlée can’t be cancelled because of the results of other mêlées during the same Phase D activation. Special case: in the case of charges, at the end of the process of pursuit – élan – dispersion (see 10.9) it can happen that a designated attacker no longer has any defenders in its front hexes. In such a case, that attack is cancelled.

However, it is permissible for the attacker to modify the allocation of units participating in mêlées (but not charges) at any time, on condition that all the defenders marked with a “Mêlée” marker are attacked in the current Phase D activation.

#### 10.5 - SEQUENCE OF STEPS IN A MÊLÉE

Each mêlée is resolved, and its results applied, in the order desired by the attacker, but he must resolve all charges before resolving the other mêlées. He removes the “Charge” or “Mêlée” marker from the defending unit after each combat.

A mêlée is resolved as follows:

- specify the attacking and defending units;

- each defending unit with fire capability executes defensive fire against one unit attacking it in that mêlée;

- each attacking unit with fire capability can execute offensive fire (not obligatory) against one unit which it is attacking in mêlée;

- determine the die roll modifiers linked to terrain (see the **Terrain Chart**) with reference to the hex containing the defender. Take the combination most advantageous for the defender where there are several attackers and one defender, or several defenders and one attacker;

- determine the die roll modifier linked to the strength ratio (the odds ratio). Always round the strength ratio in favour of the defender (see the **Mêlée Table**);

- determine the die roll modifier linked to the types of units engaging in mêlée (see the **Mêlée Table**);

- determine the die roll modifier linked to the quality of units engaging in mêlée (see the **Mêlée Table**);

- determine any other die roll modifiers (see the list on the **Mêlée Table**).

#### 10.6 - RESULTS OF MÊLÉES

Results are listed on the **Mêlée Table**.

The results are applied immediately after each mêlée and in the order of effects indicated on the **Mêlée Table**. Results are obtained by rolling a d10 and adding or subtracting the modifiers noted on the **Tables**.

*Special case: an artillery unit which incurs a result of “Retreat” or “Rout” is automatically eliminated.*

#### 10.7 - RETREAT AFTER MÊLÉE

The result of a mêlée may require the defenders or attackers to retreat one hex (an R result on the **Mêlée Table**). Passing through a friendly unit during this retreat is not allowed. When this is not possible (because of the stacking limit or a map edge, for example) the defender can remain in position and replace the retreat by suffering an additional level of disorganization.

*Examples: if the unit was valiant, it becomes discouraged. If it was already discouraged, it becomes routed. If it was already routed, it is eliminated.*

When retreating, a unit can change its facing by one hexside. There is no required direction of retreat in the chaos of battle, and therefore a unit can retreat into any available hex (it is even possible to retreat forward). However, a unit which retreats into one of its front hexes loses an additional level of disorganization as a penalty.

‡ *Special case for artillery: an Art unit cannot retreat after combat. An R result eliminates it automatically.*

#### 10.8 - ADVANCE AFTER MÊLÉE

‡ The Melee table shows the cases when the advance attacker advance after melee is mandatory and the defender advance possible, but not mandatory (exceptions: see 12.1). If several units are participating in a mêlée, the player chooses which of his units will advance.

Advance after mêlée must obey the stacking limit.

A leader can advance after combat only if the unit with which he is stacked also advances.

A unit that advances after mêlée can freely change its facing.

*Exception: a cavalry unit that charges can only change its facing one hexside when advancing after mêlée.*

#### 10.9 - PURSUIT, ÉLAN AND DISPERSION

After a charge, pursuit may lead to as many as two additional charges.

- If the charging unit was not already fatigued at the start, and if the initial charge results in an advance after mêlée without “fatigue” for the attacking unit, the latter must execute an **Élan**: it must advance into the vacated hex, while changing facing by one hexside if desired, and execute a new charge against the unit currently in its central front hex.

- If the result of the Élan involves a new advance after mêlée without “fatigue”

for the attacking unit, the latter can choose to execute a **Dispersion**: it must advance again into the vacated hex, while changing facing by one hexside if desired, and then it may choose to execute a new charge against the unit currently in its central front hex. Whatever the result of its charge, the attacking unit which executed the Dispersion suffers a “fatigue” result in addition to the results of the charge, and the pursuit ends.

Élan and Dispersion are completely separate mêlées, with their own potential defensive and offensive fire phases (see **6.D.3 and D.4**).

*Special cases:*

- *Élan and Dispersion do not take place if there is not an enemy unit in the central front hex of the charging unit;*

- *if, when charged, the unit being attacked has to remain in place and suffer the loss of an additional level of disorganization (10.7), then there is no pursuit (or no Dispersion if this occurs after an Élan);*

- *if a defending unit is attacked by a charge, and is still in contact with the attacking units after the result of the charge and the pursuit have been determined, it can be attacked again in Élan or Dispersion;*

- *if a defending unit which must be attacked in mêlée is attacked via Élan or Dispersion before the intended attack can take place, the initially intended mêlée does not occur, in compliance with 10.1.*

### 11 - FATIGUE



Due to fire or mêlée, a unit may suffer a change of status from “fresh” (front of the counter) to “fatigued” (back of the counter). The counter is turned over to indicate this change of status. A fatigued unit which suffers a further “fatigued” result remains fatigued with no additional effect.

#### 11.1 - EFFECTS OF FATIGUE

The effects of fatigue are indicated by the new characteristics of the unit which are printed on the back of its counter.

#### 11.2 - RESTING UNITS



To be placed “au repos” (“resting”), a unit can be in command or out of command (see 7.2). To rest a unit, the player places an “au repos” marker it at the beginning of the turn, during Phase A. A player can place as many units as he wishes “au repos” during the same turn. He can place discouraged units “au repos”, but not routed units (they must first be rallied).

In order for a unit to regain its “fresh” status, it must remain “au repos” for an entire game turn. To do this:

- it must not be adjacent to an enemy unit either at the beginning or at the end of a turn. An enemy unit which moves into contact with it only momentarily during the turn has no effect. Clarification: when determining whether a unit can be placed “au repos”, note that two opposing





