

# Battle of Fontaniva

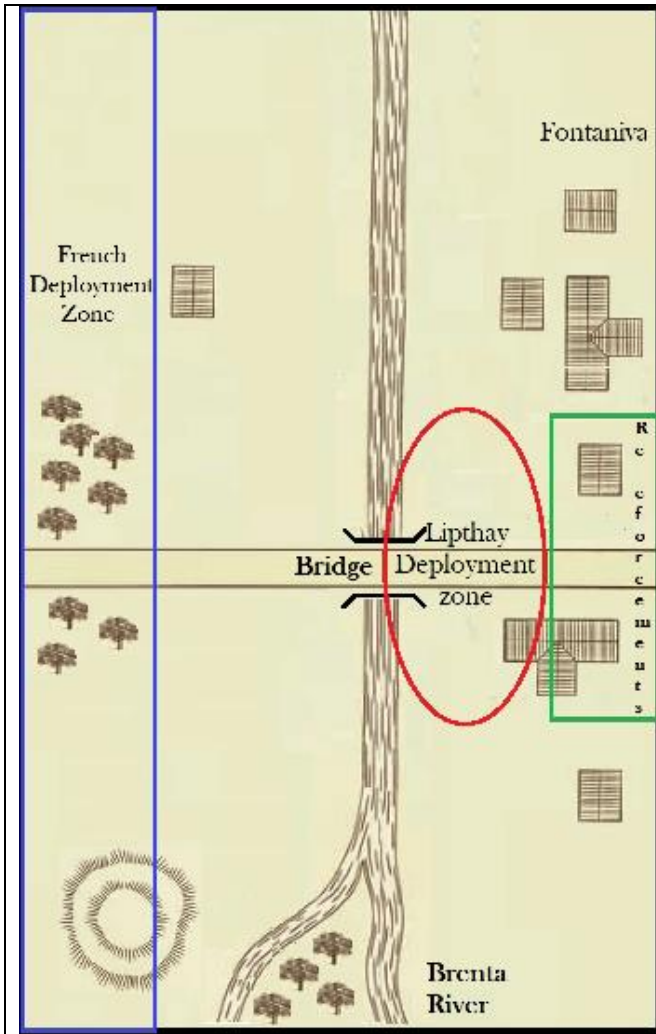
Bonaparte accompanied Augereau's division as it advanced north-east from Vicenza to Bassano. Masséna took a more southerly road with the intension of crossing the Brenta at Fontaniva and rolling up the east side of the Brenta in a flanking manoeuvre, but when he arrived the Austrians were already there.

General-Major Anton Liphthay received reports of Masséna forces approaching late on 5 November. Liphthay pulled his troops back to the east side of the river. And sent word to Alvinczi that they were about to engage the French. This set the stage for the battle, which began on 6 November.

<p><b>The table</b></p> <p>The game was played on our 6-foot x 4-foot table set up as shown on the following map.</p> <p><b>The armies</b></p> <p>We decided to represent the armies in a simple manner – making minimal use of extra rules and without adding too many troop types or elites. This was because we wanted to complete the battle in an evening, and partly because some of our players were new to the game and explaining a lot of rules would slow play down a considerable amount.</p> <p>Our battalions are organised into units 24 figures for both the Austrian and the French – with one battalion representing approximately 2000 real world troops on the table.</p>	<p>All infantry has the standard smoothbore musket of the day.</p> <p>All cavalry firearms are part of their close fighting equipment and are otherwise ignored.</p> <p>Artillery and Horse Artillery are standard smoothbore weapons.</p> <p>Both sides commanders were given a rating of 8 throughout – though note that French infantry columns are rated as 'reliable', earning an additional command bonus.</p> <p>No commander special rules were used for the reasons already stated.</p>
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## Order of Battle

<p><b>The Austrian Forces</b> (Approx. 8000 men including re-enforcements)</p> <p><b>Holding the Bridge</b> <b>General-Major Anton Liphthay De Kisfalud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Commander Liphthay</li> <li>• Infantry Regt Nr. 4 (2000men) (std 24 models)</li> <li>• Infantry Regt Nr. 51 (2000men) (std 24 models)</li> <li>• 1 Artillery Battery</li> </ul> <p><b>Re-enforcements</b> <b>Arrive turn 3</b> From Brigade: Chobinin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infantry Regt Nr. 24 (2000men) (std 24 models)</li> </ul> <p><b>Arrive turn 4</b> From Brigade: Brabeck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infantry Regt Nr. 36 (2000men) (std 24 models)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The French Forces</b> (Approx. 9500 men including 1 Regt Cavalry)</p> <p><b>Division Andre Messena</b></p> <p><b>First Brigade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Ménard</li> <li>• Line Infantry 19<sup>th</sup> Regt (1800men) (Std 24 models)</li> </ul> <p><b>Second Brigade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Rampon</li> <li>• Line Infantry 85<sup>th</sup> Regt (1800men) (std 24 models)</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Brigade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Vial</li> <li>• Line Infantry 93<sup>rd</sup> Regt (1800men) (std 24 models)</li> </ul> <p><b>Forth Brigade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Pijon</li> <li>• Line Infantry 18<sup>th</sup> Regt (1800men) (std 24 models)</li> </ul> <p><b>Fifth Brigade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brigade Leclerc</li> <li>• Line Infantry 39<sup>th</sup> Regt (1800men) (std 24 models)</li> <li>• 1 Regt light Cavalry (std 12 models each)</li> </ul>
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### Dispositions.

The French army can deploy anywhere along their table edge upto 12" onto the table as shown by the blue box on the accompanying map.

The Initial Austrian force of Lipthay's brigade is deployed East of the Fontaniva bridge marked on the map by a red ellipse. When the Austrian re=enforcements arrive, they will come on through the Town of Fontaniva as shown by a green box on the accompanying map.

### Objectives.

The French must get as many units as possible over the bridge before the end of play that evening – which we shall consider also the end of the daylight and therefore the natural time for both sides to cease fighting.

### Victory Conditions.

If the French get at least half of their units across the bridge, they will be considered to have won. If the French fail to achieve this, they will have lost. The degree of loss or victory is the proportion of troops that successfully crossed the bridge. Some consideration will be given as to the likelihood of intact units escaping at the end of the evening. If the Austrians manage to successfully repel the French army then they will be considered to have gained the field and held the bridge.

### Aftermath

At 7 a.m. Masséna attacked Lipthay's brigade at Fontaniva. From morning until 6 p.m., the French mounted as many as ten assaults on the Habsburg general's four battalions, with heavy losses on both sides. Splényi Infantry Regiment Nr. 51 gallantly defended the river crossing, losing 9 officers and 657 men out of 2,000 soldiers during the fighting before they were replaced in line by Infantry Regiment Nr. 4. Lipthay was Injured when his wounded horse fell on him, But the General-major resolutely remained at his post. In the afternoon, Provera reinforced him with troops from the brigades of Generals-major Anton Schübirtz von Chobinin and Adolf Brabeck as the Austrians successfully held their ground against the French attacks.