

## Barrosa (Chiclana), March 5, 1811

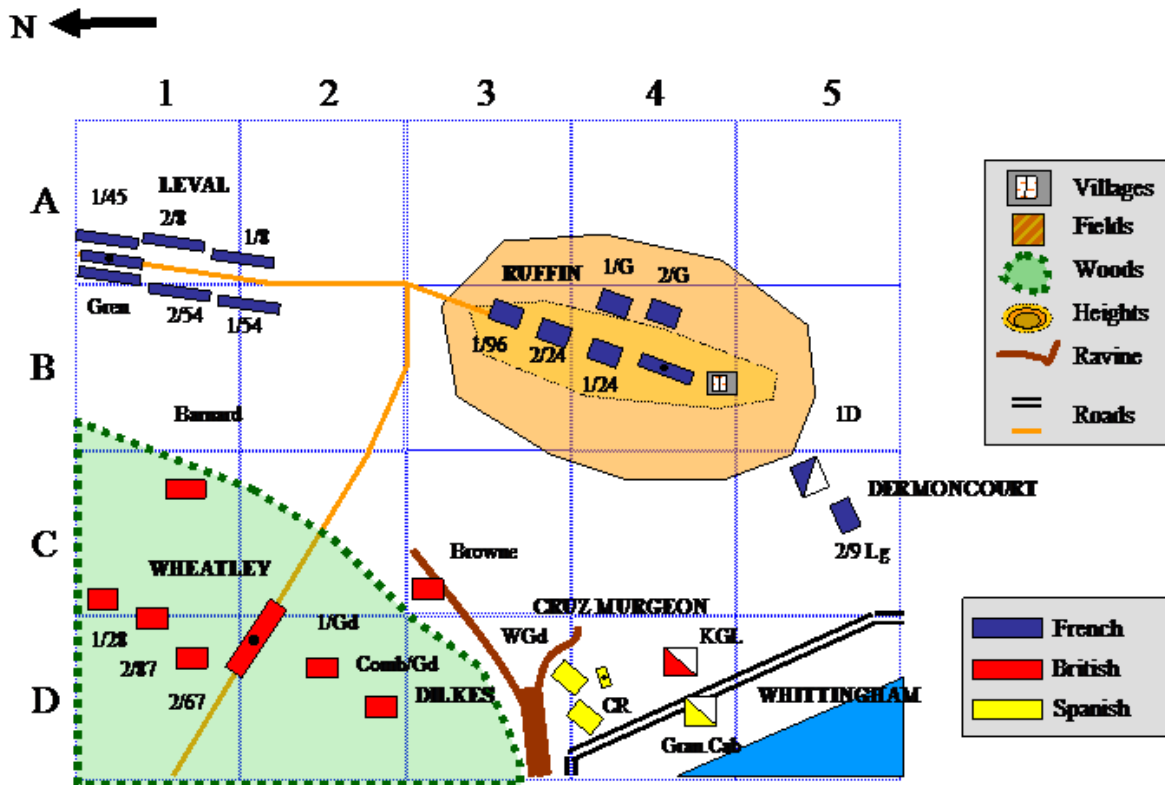
Cádiz had been invested by the French in January 1810 by a 25,000-strong French army commanded by Victor, but in March of 1811 a reduction in the besieging army gave its Anglo-Spanish garrison an opportunity to lift the siege. Their plan was to ship an expeditionary force 100 km south along the coast from Cádiz so as to launch an attack against Victor from inland.

The force comprised 4,000 British under Graham, 8,000 men of two Spanish divisions led by Lardizabal and the Prince of Anglona, four squadrons of cavalry under Col. Samuel Ford Whittingham - an English officer serving with the Spanish army - 1,000 infantry from Gibraltar and 1,600 Spaniards from an irregular force led by Beguines. The overall command was given to Lapeña, the senior officer at Cádiz. After several chaotic night marches, Lapeña diverted from his original intention and decided to march by the coast road towards Cádiz. Victor prepared a trap in the plain between the town of Chiclana and Barrosa Hill (known now as the Loma de Sancti-Petri). Using one division under Villatte to block the road into Cádiz, Victor kept two divisions under Leval and Ruffin out-of-sight in readiness to make a surprise flank attack that fell on the single Anglo-Portuguese rearguard division under the command of Sir Thomas Graham.

Following a fierce battle on two fronts, the British succeeded in routing the attacking French forces. Although some Spanish units also participated in the fight, Lapeña does not support his ally and thus prevented a smashing French defeat. The French were able to regroup and reoccupy their siege lines so the Graham's tactical victory proved to have little strategic effect and the siege remained until finally being lifted on 24 August 1812.

### Bibliography

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The terrain is open. The ravine and the woods are rough terrain.

**French.** Army Moral 28 ; Break point 9  
12 Battalions/1 Regiments/2 Batteries  
**C-i-C** Victor (-/-)

**1st Division** Ruffin (-/¶)

**1st Brigade** Barrois (-1/-)

1/24th Line Reg R/E/SK2

2/24th Line Reg R/A/SK1

**2nd Brigade** Chaudron (-/-)

1/Grenadiers V/E/SK2

2/Grenadiers V/E/SK2

1/96th Line Reg R/A/SK1

2/6th Foot Artillery Foot/3 cannons/ Medium/ 1 How

**2nd Division** Leval (+1/-)

**1st Brigade** Meunier (+1/\*)

1/54th Line Reg R/E/SK2

2/54th Line Reg R/A/SK1

3/Elite (Gren+Volt) V/E/SK2

**2nd Brigade** Laplane (-/-)

1/8th Line Reg R/E/SK2

2/8th Line Reg R/A/SK1

1/45th Line Reg R/A/SK1

2/8th Foot Artillery Foot/2 cannons/ Medium

**Dragoons** Dermoncourt (+1/-)

1st Dragoon Reg R/E/Sh/Pu

2/9th Leg Reg R/E/SK2

**British.** Army Moral 34 Break point 11

13 Battalions/2 Regiments/3 Batteries

**C-i-C** Graham (-/\*)

**1st Brigade** Dilkes (-1/¶)

2/1st Guards V/E/SK2/Gd

Combined Guards V/E/SK2/Gd

2/95th (2co) 2 SK bases

Browne Flankers R/E/SK2

**Spanish** Cruz Murgeon(-/-)

4/Guardias Walonas R/E/SK1

Milicia de Ciudad Real S/A/SK1

Bateria (2 light guns) Foot /1 cannon/Medium

**2nd Brigade** Wheatley (+1/\*)

1/28th R/E/SK2

2/67th R/E/SK2

2/87th R/E/SK2

Barnard Flankers V/I/SK3 +

Battery1 Foot /2 cannons/Medium

Battery2 Foot /3 cannons/Medium

**Cavalry** Whittingham (+1/\*)

Hussars KGL (2 sq) R/E/Pu

Granaderos a Caballo (3 sq) S/A

### ***Reinforcements***

**Columna** Beguines (-1/-)

Valencia U/A/SK2

Cantabria U/A/SK1

Reina U/A/SK1

Sigüenza S/A/SK1

**Baggage units** Several wagon models representing the Spanish baggage of the beach road.

### ***Notes***

All French units are on the table. The duration of the game is 16 Turns. British are the first side. There are not geographical objectives.

### ***The wavering Lapeña (Scenario rule)***

According to Oman, Lapeña did not support the British during the battle and only the Cruz Murgeon's brigade, entrusted to Graham, fought along his allied. However, according other accounts (Fortescue, Arteche) the Begines's brigade did participate in the fight against the Dermoncourt's outflanking force, so that brigade is included as Reinforcements.

To simulate the Lapeña's wavering efforts, the Reinforcement arrival test (p. 91) is carried out with an additional -1 modifier. The Reinforcements will arrive deployed at the C3 end road.

### ***The irregular flankers (Scenario rule)***

In the actual battle, part of the Barnard's flankers (4 coys. of 3/95th Rifles) and 2 coys. from the 20th Portuguese fought in skirmish order to cover the deployment of the Wheatley's brigade. Meanwhile, the remaining Barnard elements (2 coys. of the 47th Foot) acted as supporters for the British artillery. To simulate this behaviour:

(a) All the light elements of the Wheatley brigade (Barnard's Flankers and the 2 coys. of the 20th Portuguese) have been amalgamated into a single large unit, made Irregular as per the 'Creating Irregular Units' Optional Rule (p 74), and whose statistics are V/I/SK3 (+)

(b) This unit will use the 'Half Battalion Deployed' Optional Rule (p 74) slightly modified: the unit may break off four (instead two) bases as SK bases, to enhance skirmishers for other friendly regular infantry, while retaining two (instead four) bases to function as a small unit.

(c) The four skirmish bases will be used as Irregulars fighting in line when necessary. However, a gap of until 1/2 BW will be allowed between adjacent bases to increase the front of the unit.

(d) The SK power of the Wheatley's brigade will be not marked with SK bases.

### ***The real British OOB (Optional)***

During the confusion of the British countermarch towards the Barrosa Hill, some British units ended in the wrong brigade. To simulate that and also to research the use of units smaller than 4 bases in Lasalle, change the British infantry OOB to:

**1st Brigade** Dilkes (-1/¶)

2/1st Guards V/E/SK2/Gd

2/3rd Guards V/E/SK1/Gd (2 bases)

1/2 2/67th R/E/SK1 (2 bases)

2/95th (2co) 2 SK bases

**2nd Brigade** Wheatley (+1/\*)

1/28th R/E/SK2

2/Coldstream Guards V/E/SK1/Gd (2 bases)

1/2 2/67th R/E/SK1 (2 bases)

2/87th R/E/SK2

Barnard Flankers V/E/SK3 (V/I/SK3) +





**BRITISH/SPANISH ARMY**

C-i-C Graham (-/*)	1st Brigade Dilkes (-1/¶)	Spanish Cruz Murgeon (-/-)	2nd Brigade Wheatley (+1/*)	Cavalry Whittingham (+1/*)	Columna Beguines (-1/-)
	1st Brig	1st Brig	2nd Brig	Cav	Reinf
2/1st Guards V/E/SK2/Gd	Comb Guards V/E/SK2/Gd	2/95th (2co) 2 SK bases	Browne Flank R/E/SK2	4/Gd Walonas R/E/SK1	Ciudad Real S/A/SK1
1st Brig	1st Brig	1st Brig	1st Brig	1st Brig	1st Brig
1/28th R/E/SK2	2/67th R/E/SK2	2/87th R/E/SK2	Barnard Flank V/I/SK3 (+)		
2nd Brig	2nd Brig	2nd Brig	2nd Brig Rifles/Light		
Battery 1 FA M	Battery 1 FA M	Battery 2 FA M	Battery 2 FA M	Battery 2 FA M	Bateria FA L
2nd Brig	2nd Brig	2nd Brig	2nd Brig	2nd Brig	Spanish
Hussars KGL R/E/Pu	Gran Caballo S/A	Valencia U/A/SK2	Cantabria U/A/SK1	Reina U/A/SK1	Siguenza S/A/SK1
Cav	Cav	Reinf	Reinf	Reinf	Reinf
Barnard Skirimishers V/I/SK3	Barnard Supporters R/E/SK3				
2nd Brig Rifles/Portug	2nd Brig Light				