

## Grand Campaign – Der Weltkrieg – Centenary

GT2: 6 – 9 August 1914 (August 2).

### General Situation

As the Germans had been prepared to act quickly at Liege, the French planned a rapid strike into Alsace. Elsewhere the process of mobilisation followed its timetable.

As in the West, vast forces were being called to the colours in the East and also in the Balkans where Serbia was the target of Austria-Hungary. There the Austrian 2<sup>nd</sup> Army was taking up positions north of the Sava and Danube Rivers. However, this show of strength near Belgrade concealed anxieties in the Austrian leadership. Surely this force was needed to stand against the Russians in Galicia. How had Conrad been permitted to concentrate three Armies against a minor power while the Russian steamroller was stoking up its engine? The Germans were appalled when they heard of this deployment.



Figure 1: Approximate Mobilisation Zones on the Serbian Front.

## The Western Front

As the Germans waited for their heavy artillery to reach the front there was a deadlock at Liege. The Germans were prudently unwilling to allow their infantry to waste themselves on attacks against intact fortifications.

While the Germans exhibited patience at Liege, this did not prevent their advanced forces from dominating the Ardennes. German cavalry had roamed forward as far as Huy (5-3.2008) and Wellin (5-3.2011). Luxembourg had shown no resistance to the passage of German troops. French cavalry had hardly contested these movements. They remained on watch on the west bank of the Meuse where they were joined by Belgian cavalry who helped complete the cordon up to Namur.



Figure 2: The German Cavalry Strikes towards Nancy, 7 August 1914.

The first substantial combat of the conflict occurred on 7 August when the Germans sent a large force of cavalry drawn from several divisions towards Nancy. This aggressive combat group was looking for trouble and the unprepared French 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division was overrun at Mazerulles (5-3.2417).

France had better news on 9 August when it was announced that the 14<sup>th</sup> Division had liberated Mulhouse. The Germans had scarcely opposed this move. The French 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division had also gained sight of the Rhine near Hirtzfelden some distance to the north (5-3.2922).

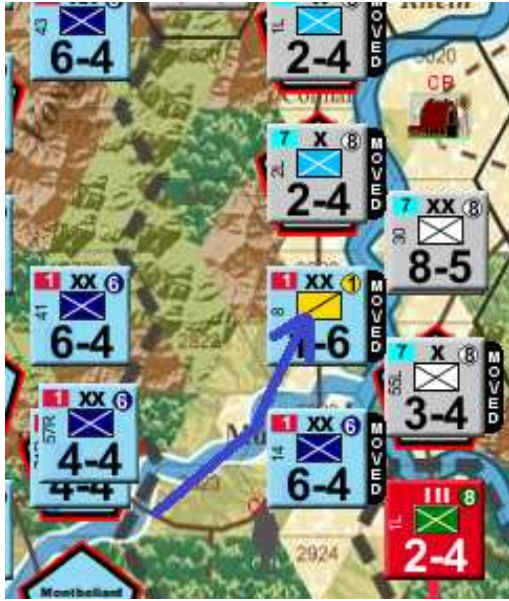


Figure 3: The French Gain Mulhouse, 9 August 1914.

#### DM Situation – August 1914

Nation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Month	Total	Morale
Germany	-	30*						30	30	Good *Mulhouse Lost
Austria-Hungary	-	-						-	-	Good
Central Powers	-	30						30	30	
France	-	2						2	2	Good
Great Britain	-	-						-	-	Good
Russia	-	-						-	-	Good
Belgium	-	-						-	-	N/A
Serbia	-	-						-	-	N/A
Entente	-	2						2	2	

#### Player Comments

CP: Continued slow mobilization on the WF allows me to move more divisions up towards Liege and also into the Ardennes. My cavalry is now all fully active in the west and I take opportunity to screen south of Liege and along the Ardennes whilst seizing an opportunity to attack French cavalry south of Metz. Mulhouse will fall to French advances as they will effectively mobilize a division in the vicinity of Belfort this turn - there is nothing that can be done. Also, my siege artillery continues to crawl slowly forward. It will come into action against Liege next turn. Nowhere else sees any completed mobilization yet.

*AP: The capture of Mulhouse was expected. Apart from the screen on the Meuse, French cavalry are staying under the protection of the infantry.*