

Oak Grove

June 25, 1862 Virginia

“The officers and men all behaved coolly and bravely. To single out any particular one, would be doing injustice to the others, where all behaved so well.”

Col. William Blaisdell, 11th Massachusetts

Background

On April 4, 1862, the Army of the Potomac, led by George Brinton McClellan, advanced up the James Peninsula with the intention of capturing the Rebel capital of Richmond. Despite having a huge numerical advantage McClellan took almost seven weeks to arrive within striking distance of the city. Expecting further reinforcements from Major General Irwin McDowell’s First Corps, McClellan based his operations north of the Chickahominy River to be in a better position to meet and use McDowell’s troops when they arrived.

Although still outnumbered the Confederates were able to take the offensive on May 31 at the Battle of Seven Pines. Even though the Rebels were beaten off, the wounding of Joseph E. Johnston opened the way for Robert E. Lee to take field command of the Rebel effort. He immediately set in motion a plan to take advantage of the Union deployment.

McClellan, however, struck first, one day before Lee had planned to launch an assault incorporating Jackson’s army from the Shenandoah Valley. The Federals merely wanted to move forward and capture Old Tavern to allow them the use of the road network to the north. To facilitate this movement Hooker’s Division of Heintzelman’s Corps advanced along the Williamsburg road. The Confederates of Huger’s Division contested Hooker’s advance. Although the Federals were relatively successful the attack was called off, only to be half-heartedly renewed several hours later. By late afternoon, the Federals found themselves within five miles of Richmond. The next day Lee struck back, opening the first of the Seven Day’s Battles.

Federal losses were 67 killed, 504 wounded and 55 missing. The Confederate loss came to 441.

THE WARGAME

This scenario concentrates on the early morning phase of the action and therefore begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m.

DEPLOYMENT

The Federal artillery arrives at 8 a.m., Battery D, 1st New York at B, and Clark’s Section at C. For the Confederates, the Portsmouth Virginia Artillery arrives at 8 a.m. at A.

TERRAIN

White Oak Swamp (river line) is difficult movement, and the woods are simple movement. All works are considered light.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

Either side can win outright by gaining control of both French's Farm and Kings School House by the end of the game, otherwise the side which causes the most casualties wins.

COMMANDS:

Union - 3

Confederate – 3

SCALES:

Time – 15 minutes per turn

Units – Strengths are base roughly on 100 to 1000 man Regiments and their Experience.

The nonlinear numbers for Infantry and Cavalry can be changed to a linear numbers, by reducing the next number in the row by one, down to the last.

Map - 1" = 40 yards / Each square is 12 inches

This Scenario was developed from "*Forward the Colours!*" by George Anderson & Ryan Toews, Potomac Publications. Their scenarios books can be Purchased at the Wargames Vault:

<https://www.wargamevault.com/browse/pub/4892/Potomac-Publications?term=potomac> **Highly recommend!**

To use this scenario, you will need a copy of the "**Blücher**" rules by Sam Mustafa are available at:

<https://sammustafa.com/store/> **Also, highly recommended!**

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UNION ORDER OF BATTLE

Third Army Corps, Army of the Potomac

Second Division

BG Joseph Hooker

(2) (Inspiring & Hero)

First Brigade

BG Cuvier Grover

(2+1d6)

- 1st MA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 11th MA (6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 16th MA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II
- 2nd NH (6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1

Second "Excelsior" Brigade

BG Daniel Sickles

(3+1d6)

- 70th NY (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 71st NY (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1
- 72nd NY (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 73rd NY (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 74th NY (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1

Artillery

D 1st NY Art (6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(3) RL -/-

First Brigade, Third Division

BG John C. Robinson

(3+1d6)

- 20th IN (5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II
- 87th NY (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-
- 57th PA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-
- 63rd PA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-
- 105th PA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-

Artillery

Clark's 2nd NJ Bty (4)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) RH -/- CB

Cavalry & Mobile = CC

Impetuous = II

Counter Battery = CB

CONFEDERATE ORDER OF BATTLE

Huger's Division

MG Benjamin Huger

(2)

Second Brigade

BG William Mahone

(3+1d6)

- 6th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2) +1/- II
- 12th VA (6)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 16th VA (5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/- II
- 41st VA (5)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II
- 49th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1
- Portsmouth VA Art (5)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) RL -/-

Third Brigade

BG Ambrose R. Wright

(2+1d6)

- 3rd GA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 4th GA (5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 22nd GA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 1st LA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) +1/-
- Huger's VA Bty (5)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) SBL +1/-

Fourth Brigade

BG Lewis A. Armistead

(3+1d6) (Inspiring & Hero)

- 9th VA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 14th VA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 38th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1
- 53rd VA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1
- 57th VA (5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II
- 5th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) +1/-

Sharpshooters = SS

Repeaters = RR

