

# THE BIG PUSH

## Big Push Demonstration and Scenario, revised 7/1/2016

### THE FIGHT FOR THIEPVAL RIDGE

By Paul Rohrbaugh

**Play Area:** Rows 7 through 16 inclusive, columns C through I (also inclusive).

**Scenario Length:** 2 turns (September 16th and 23rd). Playing time is about an hour.

#### German Set-up:

*D-10, 1-3-4 infantry battalion* (facing west).

*E-11, 1-3-4 infantry battalion* (facing west).

*E-12, 26R/180 infantry regiment* (entrenched, facing south).

*F-12, 1-3-4 infantry battalion* (facing south).

*G-12, 17R/162 infantry regiment* (entrenched, facing south).

*H-12, 18R/89 infantry regiment* (entrenched, facing south).

*G-8, 6/77 artillery* (3-2-5-6, facing south).

*I-13, 1-3-4 infantry battalion* facing south.

*I-12, 17R/75 infantry regiment* (entrenched, facing south).

*H-8, 2GR/15 infantry regiment* (mobile mode, facing south).

*I-7, 2/120 artillery* (5-3-5-9, facing south).

#### German Available Off-map:

*2/77 artillery* (3-2-5-6).

Available with DR = 1-5.

*2/150 artillery* (2-2-5-11).

Available with DR = 1-3.

*2/150 artillery* (6-4-5-11).

Available with DR = 1-2.

*XIVR Korp HQ* (supply mode).

**One infantry battalion.** Enter by a die roll.

DR = 1-5 with no restriction. DR = 6 unit may not enter enemy ZoC on turn of entry on turn 1. Enters with no restrictions on turn 2.

**2GR/77 infantry regiment.** Enter by a die roll. DR = 1-3 with no restriction. DR = 4-6 may not enter enemy ZoC on turn of entry on turn 1. Subtract 2 from the DR on turn 2 if it has not entered play on turn 1.

**Fren/2** available on turn 2 with no restrictions on a DR of 1 or 2.

*Note: German units may enter at any square along the northern edge of the playing area that is not occupied by an Allied unit.*

#### Allied Set-up:

*D-11, 36th infantry division* (reduced and facing east).

*D-12, 32nd infantry division* (reduced and facing east).

*D-13, 4-3-6 infantry brigade* (facing north).

*F-13, 3rd Canadian infantry division*

(facing north).

*G-13, 2nd Canadian infantry division*

(facing north).

*H-13, 8th infantry division* (reduced, facing north).

*I-14, 19th infantry division* (reduced, facing north).

*D-14, 2-1-6 infantry brigade* (facing north).

*E-15, X Corp HQ* (supply mode)

*E-14, 4/6 artillery* (4-3-5-11), facing north.

*G-15, 4/18 artillery* (3-2-5-6) facing north.

*H-16, III Corp HQ* (command mode), facing north.

*G-16, 4/18 artillery* (3-2-5-6) facing north.

*D-15, D tank company* (facing east).

#### Allies Available Off-map:

*4/6 artillery* (4-3-5-11). Available with DR of 1-3.

*4/60 artillery* (4-3-5-9). Available with DR of 1-5.

*Note: DR of 6 results in neither artillery unit being available.*

**Air Unit** (as per rule).

**1st Canadian infantry division** (full-strength) available on turn 2 with 3 MP at any square along western edge of playing area on a DR of 1-4.

#### Special Rules:

All rules of the game are in effect except as modified below:

1) Interdiction missions against off-map units are not possible. These units ability to affect play is determined only by the availability DR.

2) Off-map artillery units can fire upon any square/unit in the playing area.

3) Units forced to move/retreat off of the map may not re-enter the game.

4) HQs removed from the game for supporting assaults can not re-enter play.

5) When determining Command Resources, divide each individual value by 3 (rounding down) to determine how many will be available for the turn's play. For example, if the Allied player gets 2 Tank/Cavalry breakthroughs none can be used in this match.

6) Ignore the following DRMs on the Command Resource Table for this scenario.

**Allied:** 2+ objectives reached, No Germans on start-line trenches, and Attack Planning.

**German:** Holding 1 square of British start-line trench. Also, change the DR modifier for the British tank unit being broken down or disrupted to +1 for this scenario.

7) All artillery availability rolls for the turn are performed at the start of the Allied Bombardment Phase and determined by the indicated die roll ranges.

8) When both players are determining replacements on turn 1, divide the number of

replacements by 3 (rounding down) to determine how many will be available.

## Winning the Game

The Allied player is declared the victor if four of the six areas that make up the Thiepval Ridge are occupied or within an uncontested ZOC of an Allied unit.

Otherwise the German player wins the game.

## Demonstration Narrative

### Turn 1

#### Weather Phase

The weather DR for the September 16th turn is 3. One is added to this DR obtaining a Drizzle weather result. The Allied Air DR is 2, so no air observation is being made. The German player rolls a 4 and also learns that his air observation planes are grounded. Both sides will be fighting somewhat blind this turn.

#### Bombardment Phase

Both players next roll to determine the number and type of their off-map artillery (**Note:** In the regular game this step does not exist as all units are in play). The British player rolls a 1 for the 4/6 Battery and a 2 for the 4/60 so both of his off-map artillery units are available. The German player rolls a 2 for the 2/77 Battery but then rolls back-to-back 6s for the two 2/150 units making them not available.

The Allied player declares 2 bombardment attacks; 10CF from the 3 batteries on the map fire at E12 and 8 CF from the 2 off-map batteries fire on H12. The British X Corp HQ is in supply mode and within range so the on-map batteries are in supply (They are considered in supply range of the 10<sup>th</sup> Division HQ).

The German player declares counter-battery missions by all 3 of his available artillery units against the British 4/6 battery in E-14. The DRs are 4 for the 6/77 battery (a miss since it is greater than the battery's Primary CF), a 6 for the 2/77 off-map battery (another miss) and a 2 for the 2/150 artillery unit with a -1 DRM (for being a heavy artillery unit) to a 1 result that is a hit. The British 4/6 battery is disrupted and will not be able to fire, reducing that attack to 6 CF. The Allied Replacements marker is placed in the 1 space of the Game Record Track for the disruption.

The Allied player now resolves his bombardment attacks. The attack on E-12, now with only 6 CF, is on the Start Trench line of the Bombardment Table with no modifications to the DR. Since this is less than the minimum 8 CF required for a

bombardment attack against a defender in this type of terrain, there is No Effect. The

attack on H-12 has 8 CF with a -2 DRM due to the 2 heavy artillery batteries that are firing at a target in clear terrain. The DR is a 4 with the -2 DRM =2, disrupting the 18R/89 regiment. The German Replacement marker is placed in the 1 space of the Record Track.

### Situation at the end of Turn 1's Bombardment Phase.



### Allied Movement Phase

The Allied player first moves D Tank Company to D-14 then to E-13 expending 5 MP, facing north. Because this is the first turn of the game for the tank unit no breakdown

DR is made. Next the Allied player moves the 2-1-6 infantry brigade in D-14 to E-13 expending 3 MP.

### Allied Command Resource Determination Phase

The Allied player rolls an 8 getting one Lifting Barrage and one 2nd Attack. These are marked on the Game Record Track using the Lifting Barrage and 2nd Attack markers.

Since the other asset's values are less than 3, none of them will be available for this scenario (but would be available in the regular

game and scenario, as well as three Lifting Barrages and three 2nd attacks).

### Allied Assault Commitment Phase

The Allied player declares the following assault attacks:

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1. 32nd Division (D-12) vs. E-12. An assault commitment DR of 4 is made, that is less than the unit's attack CF, so it is moved up to the edge of the square abutting E-12 to indicate this division "has gone over the top."
2. 4-3-6 brigade (D-13) vs. E-12. The DR is 6, so the unit fails to attack and remains where it is.
3. 2-1-6 infantry brigade and D Tank Company (E-13) vs. E-12. The DR is 4 and both units also go "over the top." *Note: The two units' CF are combined for this DR since they are stacked in the same area. Only a DR of 6 would've been a failing result.*
4. 3rd Canadian Division (F-13) vs. F-12. DR is 4, so it is able to attack.
5. 2nd Canadian Division (G-13) vs. G-12. DR is a 6 causing it to fail in committing to the assault despite its CF of 8 (I'm using the optional rule for assault commitment where any DR of 6 is a failure to commit regardless of the unit's CF).

### German Defensive Fire Phase

The German player declares and resolves the following defensive fire attacks:

1. 1-3-4 in E-11 vs. 32nd Division (D-12). There is a -1 DR modifier for the close assault attacker. DR is 7 down to 6 for a No Effect.
2. 26R/180 (E-12) with 6 CF vs. the tanks and infantry brigade in E-13. A -2 DRM (two units close assaulting) and +1 DRM (for the tank) give a net -1 DRM. A DR of 8-1 =7 causes the units to be disrupted, ending their participation in the attack (the Allied player is heard muttering "Bloody Hell!"). The Allied Replacement marker is moved to the 3 space of the Game Record Track for the 2 disrupted units.
3. The 1-3-4 in F-12 and 17R/162 in G-12 fire with 8 CF on the 3rd Canadian Division (F-13). with a -1 DRM. The DR is a 12 (confound the luck!), reduced to an 11 for No Effect.

Note the other German units cannot fire defensively since the Allied units adjacent to them did not declare they were attacking. The 2nd Canadian Division in G-13, as well as 4-3-6 brigade in D-13 could've been fired upon despite their failing commitment DRs (without the -1 DR defensive fire modifier) but the German player elected not to do so.

### Allied Assault Phase

The Allied player resolves his assault attacks as follows:

1. 32nd Division attacks the 26R/180 in E-12 with the Lifting Barrage

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support. There is a 2 column shift left for the the defender in a start trench and +1 DRM

(-1 for being 5 squares from the Allied III Corp HQ, +2 for the Lifting Barrage). The Allied has 5CFs attacking and the German defends with 6CFs.

After shifts, the combat is resolved on the -3 column. The DR is a 7 that is increased to 8 for an ASR result. The 32nd Division is already reduced, so the step loss causes it to be replaced with a 3-2-6 Brigade counter and remains in E-12 where it launched its assault from The Allied Replacement marker is put in the 5 space of the Allied record track (1 for the Step loss, another for the assault). The Lifting Barrage marker is removed from the track.

2. The 3rd Canadian Division attacks the 1-3-4 in F-12. The Canadians have 8 CFs attacking versus 3CFs defending. The attack is shifted 2 columns left to the +3 column due to the ridge. There is a +1 DRM (for the Allied III Corp HQ being 4 or less squares away).. The DR is 11, increased to 12 that renders a D2SR result. The German infantry unit is eliminated (it only has 1 step) and placed in the German replacement pile. The German Replacement marker is put on the 2 space of the German Record Track, while the Allied Replacement marker is increased to 6 (for the assault). The 3rd Canadian wins control of F-12.

The Allied player, shocked at the carnage in this first round of fighting, declines to launch a second attack despite having one available. Since any units that would attack in a secondary attack would have to use their smaller, secondary CF this may be wise. The Allied X Corps HQ is removed from play since it was used to provide supply for the assaults. The replacement DR for the HQ is a 4 causing it to return 2 turns from now (September 30th). For this match it is out of the game.

## German Bombardment Phase

The German player declares all 3 of his batteries will fire upon the 3rd Canadian Division in F-12. The Allied player can only respond with counter-battery fire with his 2 off-map heavy artillery pieces as all of the on-map batteries do not have the range to fire upon his German opponent's on-map batteries. The 2 units fire on the 2/120 battery in I7 and have a net -1 DRM (-2 DRM for the 2 heavy artillery, +1 DRM for being Out of Supply). The DR for the 4/6 battery is a 6 (sigh) which is a miss. The DR for the 4/69 Battery is a 2, that is a hit and the German 2/120 Heavy artillery unit is disrupted. The German Replacement marker is moved up to the 3 space on the Record Track.

The German player's bombardment has been undone because the remaining 5 CF from his 2 undisrupted batteries do not meet the minimum of 6 CF minimum needed for firing on a target in ridge terrain. *Gott im Himmel!*

## German Movement Phase

The German player performs the following moves:

1. 2GR/15 in H-8 (mobile mode) moves by road to F-11 expending 5 MP. It can not flip to entrenched mode as this costs 2 MP and the unit has expended all of its MP (the drizzle rain reduces all units' MP allowances by 1).
2. The DR for the 2GR/77 reinforcement unit is a 6, so that unit will not enter play this turn.
3. The DR for the off-map infantry battalion is a 4 and it enters at F-7, then moves to F-11 (5 MP). It too will remain in mobile mode as it does not have enough MP to entrench.

## German Assault and Allied Defensive Fire Phases

The German player declines to declare any assaults this turn, nor any German Command Resource DR. Therefore there will be no Allied Defensive Fire Phase.

## Turn 1 Reorganization Phase

All disrupted (and suppressed ones as well if there were any) units attempt to rally by their owning player rolling a DR of 1-3 for each one. Those that fail remain disrupted. After performing their rally DR all units save for the Allied 2-1-6 brigade in E-13 are returned to normal status.

No replacements are available to either side in this match as both sides' totals are divided by 3, dropping any fractions. This reduces both sides to less than the 4 replacement point minimum threshold. The Allied and German Replacements markers are returned to the zero space on the Game Record Track.

## Turn 2

### Weather Determination Phase

The weather DR is 2, adjusted to 3 since it is September 23rd, netting Fair weather. Both sides will have air observation for the turn and all of their units will have full MP allowances.

The Allied player rolls for his off-map assets. The DR for the 4/60 artillery battery is a 4. It is needed elsewhere and is not available for turn 2. The DR for the 4/6 heavy artillery is a 1 so its guns are indeed trained towards the Germans along this sector. Finally the Allied player rolls for the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division and gets another 1. It will be available, with 3 MP to expend.

The German player rolls for his off-map assets. Again only the 2/77 artillery battery is made available (he rolls a 1 for that unit, but his luck is not good with the others) and even worse the DR for the Frenztz/2 infantry regiment is a 4; so it not available. All is not lost, however, as the DR for the 2GR/77 is a 3, lowered to 1 (-2 DRM since it didn't appear last turn) so this regiment will appear in the German player's movement phase

## Allied Bombardment Phase

The Allied player announces the following bombardment attacks:

1. The 4/6 off-map artillery battery and the 3-2-5-6 4/18 battery in G-16 fire (7 CF combined) on E-12.
2. The artillery batteries in E-14 and G-15 (7 CF) fire on H-12.

The German announces he is firing counter-battery on E-14 again from the 2/120 battery in I-7 and the 2/77 off-map battery. Both units will have a -1 DRM (for air observation) while the 2/50 will have an additional -1 DRM for being a heavy artillery. The DR for the 2/77 Battery is a 6, modified to a 5; that is a miss (since it is greater than the unit's CF of 2). The DR for the 2/120 is also a 6, but this is lowered to 4 and is a hit.

*(Note: Players may want to treat any unmodified DR result of 6 as a miss as a play-balance handicap).*

A disruption marker is placed on the British 4/6 artillery unit. The Allied Replacement marker is placed in the 1 space of the Record Track. The Allied bombardment on G-12 is no longer possible as there is not enough CFs to meet the minimum for affecting Ridge terrain.

The Allied player resolves his other bombardment on H-12. The 7 CF use the 2nd Trench row of the table with a -1 DRM (-1 for air observation, -1 for a heavy artillery unit, +1 for being unsupplied as the III HQ is in Command Mode). The DR is 2 modified to 1 (the lowest it can go). The 18R/89 infantry regiment is marked with a Suppressed marker.

The Allied player now performs an Air Bombardment mission. Since it is fair weather the RFC is flying! He places the air unit with the Bombardment side up on F-11. The 2D6 roll is a 6 so the attack will be resolved on the 12 column of the Ridge terrain row. There is a -2 DRM (-1 for air observation and -1 for a stacked target). The DR is a 3, modified to a 1. The German player suffers a step loss and chooses to disrupt the infantry battalion. The British player decides to keep his air unit in F-11 and flips it to its Interdiction

side. The German Replacements marker is put in the 1 space of his Record Track.

### Allied Movement Phase

The Allied player performs the following moves:

1. The disrupted 2-1-6 brigade in E-13 moves to D-14.
2. The 4-3-6 infantry brigade in D-13 moves to E-14 then to E-13, facing north (5 MP expended).
3. The 32nd Division in D-12 moves out of the line to C-12 to make way for the Canadians (its shattered survivors are getting some relief).
4. 1st Canadian infantry division arrives in C-13 and moves to D-12.

### Allied Command Resource Determination Phase

The Allied player rolls another 9. Yet again the Allied player will receive a Lifting Barrage and one 2nd Attack. Since all of the other listed assets are less than 3 none of them will be available for the upcoming combats (but again, these would be available the regular game and scenario).

### Allied Assault Commitment

The Allied player announces the following assaults:

1. 36th Division (D-11) vs. E-11. The DR is a 4 so they go over the top.
2. 1st Canadian Division (D-12) vs. E-12. The DR is a 1, so they are committed.
3. 4-3-6 infantry brigade and D Tank company (E-13) vs. E-12. The DR is a 3 so they go in.
4. 3rd Canadian Division (F-12) vs. F-11. The DR is another 4, so they are going over the top as well.
5. 2nd Canadian Division (G-13) vs. G-12. The DR is yet another 4 (this must be the Canuck's lucky number!) and yelling at the top of their lungs they launch themselves towards the German trenches.
6. 8th Division (H-13) vs. H-12. The DR is a 6 so this unit will not close the assault.

### German Defensive Fire Phase

To the rhythmic sound of their machine gun's "tock-tock-tock-tock" the German's defensive fire breaks out as follows:

1. Infantry battalions in D-10 and E-11 vs. the 36th Division (D-11). The 6 CF fire with a -1 DRM (for close assaulting attacker). The DR is a 6, modified to a 5 which is a one step loss. The British Division is removed and replaced by a 4-3-6 Brigade. The British Replacement marker is moved to the 2 space of the Record Track.
2. 26R/180 (E-12) fire upon the tanks and infantry in E-13. The 6 CF fire with a -1

DRM (-2 for 2 units close assaulting and tank's +1 DRM, so a net -1 DRM). The DR is a  $10 - 1 = 9$  for a miss. The Devil Machines are coming!

3. 2GR/15 in F-11 vs. the 3rd Canadian (F-12). The 3 CF fire with no DRM (-1 for Assaulting Infantry offset by +1 for Interdicted). The DR is a 3 causing a step loss for the hard-charging Canadians. The unit is flipped over to its reduced side and the Allied Replacement marker is put into the 3 space of the Record Track.
4. 17R/162 in G-12 fire upon the 2nd Canadian (G-13). The 5 CF also fire with a -1 DRM but the German player rolls a 10 modified to a 9 which is a miss (No Effect).
5. The final German defensive fire is by the infantry battalion in I-13 and 17R/75 regiment in I-12 vs. the 8th Division. Even though this British unit didn't go "over the top", it still tried to attack and so is an eligible target for defensive fire. There is no DRM, and the German's DR of 10 with 6 CF is another miss.

### Allied Close Assault Resolution Phase

The Allied player resolves his close assault attacks as follows:

1. 36th Division (down to a Brigade) has a net +1 Combat differential vs. the German battalion in E-11. This is lowered to the -1 column for the Ridge terrain. A -1 DRM applies since the Allied HQ is more than 5 areas away. The DR is a 9, modified to an 8 causing an engaged result. Both units remain locked in combat and are marked with an Engaged marker with the Allied side facing up.
2. 1st Canadian, the 4-3-6 infantry brigade and D Tank Company, vs. the 26R/180 infantry regiment. The net combat differential is +9 CF and so the 5+ CF column is initially used. This is lowered to the +3 column due to terrain but a +1 DRM applies (+2 for 3 attacking units, +1 for a flank attack, -2 for no supply HQ support). The DR is a 5 modified to 6 (*good thing, that!*) that causes a Counter-attack result. The German player elects to take on the infantry and tanks coming from E-13.
3. The counter-attack is resolved on the -3 column (the net CF is -1, shifted to -3 for the terrain in E-13). There is no DRM and the DR is a 9; attacker retreat. The 26R/180 unit retreats to E-11 where it will stack and be faced in the same direction as the German infantry battalion already there. The Allied player

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elects to have the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian advance and gain control of the ridge square.

4. The 3rd Canadian (now reduced) vs. the 2GR/15 and the disrupted battalion (both in mobile mode and Interdicted by the British air unit). The net combat differential is +2 but this is reduced to +0 for the terrain and no DRM applies (+1 for defender being interdicted, +1 for a disrupted defender and -2 for no supply). The DR is a 9, causing a counter-attack result.
5. The 2GR/15 has to counter-attack since it is normal status, but the disrupted battalion cannot. The net CF differential is +1 but this is lowered to -1 due to the ridge terrain. The German has a -1 DRM (for being interdicted). The DR is a 6, modified to a 5 which causes an attacker step loss. The 2GR/15 is replaced by an infantry battalion (2-1-6) in mobile mode and then both German units retreat to F-10. The German regiment counter is placed in the replacement pile and his Replacements marker moved up to the 2 space. The 3rd Canadian division advances and gains control of F-11. The British air interdiction unit is removed from the map.
6. 2nd Canadian division attacks the 17R/162 regiment with the lifting barrage. The net +3 CF differential is lowered to +1 due to the ridge terrain. No DRM applies (-2 for no supply HQ support and the +2 for the Lifting Barrage cancel out). The DR is a 10 = Defender Retreat (*the British player gasps a huge sigh of relief!*). The 17R/162 regiment retreats to G-11 and the Canucks advance and gain control of their 4th square of the ridge. Victory is in our grasp exclaim the dispatches back to the Allied High Command!

The Allied Replacement marker is moved up to the 7 space on the Record Track for the 4 assaults that just took place. Again the Allied player declines to launch a 2nd attack with any of his units, not wishing to further risk the troops that have carried him this far towards victory. The Allied III Corps HQ is not removed from the map since it was not used to provide supply to any of the assaults.

### German Bombardment Phase

The German player directs all 3 of his batteries that can fire upon F-11. The Allied player has his 1 off-map battery (his on-map ones are out of range) to again fire counter- battery upon the 6/77 unit in G-8.

