11Notes HC

Over a thousand years ago not many people were left behind and in Albion after a while large groups of people had followed master Wilkinson. He taught them that now they could not use technology to make sure their offspring would be healthy and the low number of people available it was important to keep track of everyone’s bloodlines. In order to do this he established the Church of the Second coming who kept meticulous charts of these bloodlines in their Chapter houses. People who later did not want to comply to their advice were cast out of the community. They had to join the people who wanted to be free in their choices and welcomed them with open arms. After more than a thousand years of keeping the bloodlines pure some people were starting to advocate to be more flexible and allow some choice. There was talk of a secret resistance group which had ties with the Wealders, as the outcasts were called. But Astrid’s family were still strong believers in the old system.

A man watching the girls as they swim.

Nicholas is the son of Astrid’s dad and her nurse Trudy

Later he will marry Marion as John has disappeared on the raid.

Chapter X1

“You are up early Ellie. Can’t wait to leave us all behind?” Her mother, Joan, was already wiping the sweat of her forehead. As usual she had woken up before everyone to prepare breakfast for the family and the farm hands. She was smiling while she said it. Even though it was going to break her heart when Ellie would leave them, she was also very proud of her youngest. She looked like an older version of Ellie, but a lifetime of working outside on the fields and five children had aged her prematurely, but you could still see the beautiful woman she used to be.
“Maybe you will meet Erik in the City” she said wistfully. ”He was always my favourite brother. I raised him when our parents died in the Great Storm. The others were so much older than us.”
“Oh Mum, that would be lovely. But I don’t think I can eat anything before the interview, I am too nervous. I wish it was all over and done with”. Ellie tried to get to the door, but was waylaid by her mother.” If there was a time you needed a good breakfast it is now. You need to calm those nerves. Set yourself down and start eating!”
With those words she put a plateful of pancakes topped with fruit and cream in front of her daughter followed by a large cup of herbal tea.
I went into the woods yesterday to get these special leaves. They are supposed to enhance your awareness and at the same time suppress nerves.”
Knowing that her mother was a knowledgeable herbalist, Ellie gave a deep sigh.” Alright then or I’ll never get to the mayor’s house. I bet everyone else is already on their way to the market.”
“You will both be driven there by the mayor, as he loves to take his steam car out for a spin. Will is one of the candidates as well, so his father is happy to drive you both to the market. You will get there way before the others who will all have to go on foot. I hope you are going to be nice to Will for a change. I don’t know what that poor boy did wrong for you to treat him like you do. You used to be inseparable when you were small. We always thought you would end up together.”
“Oh please, mum. When you get chosen, you don’t even know where you will end up in de City. And who knows who I will meet once I am there. Now I really have to go. Bye!”
Still chewing the last of her pancakes and gulping down her tea, Ellie grabbed her satchel with her papers and gave her mother a quick hug. She did not often get the chance to be driven somewhere. She was determined to enjoy it, even when Will was going to look at her with those puppy eyes.
“Good luck and keep calm. I am sure you will do well. We will see you at the Town hall for the announcements.”
But Ellie was already gone. Too excited to listen, hurrying to the car that was surrounded by excited villagers gaping at the mechanical wonder.Wills’ father was already sitting behind the steering wheel with Will beside him. The car was surrounded by steam.
Oh good she would have the back all to herself.
“Good morning Mister Mayor, Will, thank you for letting me come with you”, she said politely.
“No worries, if I had not offered I would never have heard the end of it from my dear son”, he answered grinning. Will sat there looking very embarrassed.
He was an only child, his mother having died when he was very young and the apple of his dads’ eye. He sometimes wondered what his father would do when he really left him to go to the City.
His main reason for trying was the idea he would be able to keep in contact with Ellie, as he had not given up hope that one day she would return his feelings.
Ever since the day she had joined him in school when they were six, he was smitten by her. And until a short time ago they spent all their free time together. After she entered the training to qualify for the City everything seemed to change for the worse. She tried to avoid him and only talked to him if it was about getting the certificate and to ask him for help with the questions.
Actually he was a bit wary about all the stories about how good and wonderful life in the City would be. No one had ever returned from there to tell them what it was really like. He was going to make sure he was chosen, so if it all was not what it promised to be he could help Ellie to get back home and then maybe…
“Come on boy, wave to the villagers! Does everyone have their goggles on?” his father shouted over the engine noise, awakening him from his hopeful thoughts.
He pulled the whistle, which emitted a terrifying shrill sound, making the people jump back and cover their ears.
He roared with laughter and poked his son in the side.“That always does the trick. Hold on to your hats my dears. Away we go.”
They set off at a good pace and Ellie started to enjoy the trip more and more as the wind blew around her head and the country side was whizzing past her.
The car normally was only taken for a ride on official village business and to deliver the post to other remote villages.
Being the owner of a car and knowing a lot about steam engines had played a large role in nominating Will’s father as the Mayor of Denby. He had set up posts all the way to Harbour city where he could top up water for his engine and recharge the batteries to heat it.
Losing his wife to the Influenza and having to look after his only child, had done nothing to suppress his enthusiasm for anything technical and his enjoyment of seeing a bit more of the world than the village and its near surroundings.
Even though he would miss the lad terribly, he was already planning to take a long journey into the Backlands if he got chosen. He had converted one of his engines to be able to use wood as well as batteries.
He had been training his nephew to take over his mail rounds and was building a second car to use for his trip. He had not talk about it with Will, in order not to give him the idea that he wanted him to go away from home. If the interview came to nothing he had already decided to take the boy with him on his travels.
Not before long they reached the bridge to the City. It was connected to a large square which was absolutely swarming with people today. It looked like a Market day. From all over the countryside people had made the trek to the bridge to deliver their offspring in order to go to the interview.
William senior, the mayor, knew a lot of people and was soon talking to other parents, while Ellie and Will stuck together and just stood silently near him, impressed with the occasion.
Nobody else from their region had made the grade to even try for the jobs, so they did not recognise anyone.
Will’s father turned and beckoned them. “Go and buy something nice to eat from the stalls and get to know some of the other kids, he said, handing them a couple of notes.

Noonan

His reputation among fellow criminals is now in tatters.One of 14 siblings, all of whose first names begin with a D, Noonan became the spokesperson for the family following death of his brother Damian, aged 37, in a motorbike accident in the Dominican Republic in 2004, followed by the murder of his brother Dessie in 2005.Dessie and Damian had worked on the door of the Hacienda in the 1980s and were then said to control the supply of drugs at the nightclub.When they died, Dominic Noonan became the boss, or at least he gave the appearance of being the head of the family.Not your usual crime boss.A cunning, intelligent individual, he admitted to being ‘thoroughly dishonest’ during his trial. He has trumpeted that he is anti-racist and has made much of being able to speak Urdu although, actually, he only knows a few phrases. And he is gay.He isn’t your usual crime boss.

Over the years, [Greater Manchester Police](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/all-about/greater-manchester-police) have found little difficulty in obtaining evidence to lock him up for everything from possessing a gun to arson and blackmail.He has spent most of his adult life behind bars.

But proving he was a predatory sex offender was another matter.In 2010, a rape charge was dropped. Shortly after he was released from a long prison sentence on licence, he was accused of raping a woman in a hotel room after celebrating his birthday but prosecutors dropped the case.In 2013, he was cleared of child rape charges after the court heard his accuser had a history of making false complaints. He had been accused of molesting the boy of 15 in a flat in Bloom Street in Manchester city centre.in 2016, he was found not guilty of engaging in a sex act in front of a minor, although he was convicted of perverting the course of justice by offering £5,000 to the boy’s family to get the charge dropped. The prosecution alleged that the boy covered his face with a poster as a ‘vulnerable’ adult man was intimidated into performing a sex act on Noonan in a bedroom, he was also convicted of arson and blackmail connected to a row over an ice cream van, and jailed for eleven years.So, while police have tried many times, it is only now that Noonan has been brought to justice for sex offences.

Noonan first came to national prominence in 2005 when his brother Dessie was stabbed to death on the Merseybank estate in [Chorlton](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/all-about/chorlton) , just days before a Channel 5 documentary about the brothers was aired.

Drug dealer Derek McDuffus, known as Yardie Derek, had refused to sell drugs to Dessie, a notorious gangland enforcer who was addicted to crack cocaine.GMP failed in a bid to stop the Donal MacIntyre documentary, in which Dessie Noonan boasted of being behind 27 killings and Dominic said he was gay.The Noonan family first rose to notoriety after the murder of ‘White Tony’ Johnson, the leader of the [Cheetham Hill](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/all-about/cheetham-hill) Gang, who was gunned down in 1991. Desmond was charged but acquitted after a re-trial.

After the murder of Dessie, Dominic Noonan became the public face of the Noonan family and the scourge of GMP.He changed his name to Domenyk Lattlay-Fottfoy, which stands for ‘love all those that love all you - f\*\*\* off those that f\*\*\* off you’.It was his way of sticking two fingers up to authority especially when police, barristers and judges were forced to use the name.To everyone else, he was still Dominic Noonan.n 2005, he was jailed for nine-and-a-half years after a revolver and ammunition were found under the bonnet of his Jaguar when police stopped him in the north east. He was described by the judge who jailed him then as ‘a very dangerous man.’He was freed on licence in 2010 and claimed to have found God (he ostentatiously kissed the Bible when swearing the oath during his trial) but he continued to be a menace as far as the police were concerned. He started a number of dubious businesses and even had a crack at stand-up comedy. He took great delight in winding up the police, even setting up a company called GMP (Greater Manchester Postal).He was recalled to prison almost immediately after being accused of going berserk at a woman motorist who beeped at him as he crossed a Gorton road.He is said to have tapped the car with a copy of the Manchester Evening News, which featured a story about his release, and shouted: “Do you know who I am?”**Noonan, the riots, and prison**He was recalled to prison again in 2011, suspected of being a ringleader during that summer’s [riots in Manchester](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/all-about/manchester-riots) . He was captured on video talking to a looter who was carrying a large flat-screen TV on Oldham Street at the height of the riot.He must have known it was asking for trouble to be seen in the middle of the riots, a man who was out of jail on licence, who could be recalled to prison for the slightest whiff of a misdemeanour. But he enjoyed playing cat and mouse with the law.

Prison authorities struggled to cope with him. Some prison governors just didn’t want him. They knew he would either cause trouble or incite others into causing trouble.

At one stage he was housed in the ‘special intervention unit’, for troublesome prisoners, at Strangeways, together with Kiaran ‘Psycho’ Stapleton, a member of the [wider Noonan family who murdered student Anuj Bidve](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/local-news/special-report-kiaran-stapleton-guilty-1214330) in Salford, and Clifton Jeter. who committed a gruesome knife murder in Brighton before [attacking two guards at the Manchester prison](https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/strangeways-slasher-serve-extra-decade-7841216) .

While out of prison on licence in the summer of 2014, Noonan brought Manchester city centre to a standstill by climbing the city’s Big Wheel in protest at the latest efforts to recall him. It was around this time that one of Noonan’s friends, his right-hand-man for many years, saw what others had seen for a long time: that Noonan may be a predatory sex offender.

Having grown up in the same street in Whalley Range as Noonan, this man went on to become part of Noonan’s criminal network.

He watched Noonan surround himself with boys and young men. This entourage of teens turned up in force for court appearances and this man began to feel uncomfortable with what he was seeing, even telling an M.E.N. reporter as much on one occasion. The man, a father himself, confronted Noonan, and they fell out.

Describing a series of incidents which concerned him, the man told the M.E.N: “I remember this lad. He was 13. Noonan was waiting for him to come home from school. The lad sat on his knee and was told to call him Uncle Dom. He gave this other lad a fiver. He gave 50p pieces to some other lads. He bought them cornets (of ice cream).

“I remember another lad was 14 and Dom said to call him dad and he would be kissing him. I told him he shouldn’t be doing that. He was just out of prison and I told him he shouldn’t be doing that. It just wasn’t right.”

He went on: “He always wanted to get lads on their own. Back in the day, he would go off with lads but it wasn’t young lads then. We didn’t know what he was doing. It was hidden. He would always make excuses. There were always reasons. I remember once he left with a lad to get his coat. They came back 20 minutes later without the coat. Alright, this lad was old enough (to be having sex) and he didn’t seem distressed, but these things just stuck in my mind.

“I thought he was taking the p\*\*\*. He tried to turn it into a joke. I told him I was serious and he shouldn’t be doing these things. I felt uncomfortable.

Dom never had a best mate. I wouldn’t have put him down as a best mate either. His friends would fall in and fall out. Nobody would be with him long enough. Even his own brothers didn’t want him on the doors with them because they thought he was an embarrassment. They knew he preferred young lads. They knew that but just told him to keep away. They were embarassed. When Noonan changed his name to Lattlay-Fottfoy, they didn’t want him to carry on using the Noonan name.

“It started being a joke, him hanging around these lads. He would put them in these Asda George suits for £25 each. He dressed them up. A lot of these lads weren’t frightened of him and told him they didn’t want to be in these suits.”

He admitted Noonan had intimidated and bullied people - but always with ‘three or four other lads’, adding that he believed that the police had ‘over-estimated’ him.

“I defended him even when he was up the big wheel”, he went on. “I nearly got into three fights that day. They were calling him nonce. I defended him. I really didn’t know. I thought ‘why? they don’t know’. I didn’t know. I really didn’t know otherwise I would have shouted a few things up that big wheel myself.”

When he changed his mind, he said he told his children never to be on their own with Noonan.

“I told him about that and he went mad over that one,” he said.

“When things started falling into place, I thought ‘this isn’t just persecution’. I just felt very uncomfortable, him kissing lads who were 13 and 14. It was very, very uncomfortable. It was staring me in the face.”

He added: “He deserves everything he gets.”

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 | 1: Warehouse District2: Crafters' District3: Pleasure District4: Palace District5: Theatre District6: Slum District |

**1. Warehouse District**

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 | **1:** Shack**2:** Grain warehouse**3:** Shop | **Major Streets**Street 1: Vulture Street**Minor Streets**Bat Row |

**2. Crafters' District**

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 | **1:** Weaponsmith**2:** Shipwright**3:** Engraver**4:** Carpenter | **Major Streets**none**Minor Streets**Blueberry RowWindy Lane |

**3. Pleasure District**

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 | **1:** Library**2:** Animal pens**3:** Brothel**4:** Gambling hall**5:** Temple of the Gods of Strife | **Major Streets**none**Minor Streets**Leopard AvenueMule Road |

**4. Palace District**

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 | **1:** Government office**2:** Shop**3:** Graveyard**4:** Council hall**5:** Government office**6:** Government office | **Major Streets**Street 1: Maid Street**Minor Streets**Pine Avenue |

**5. Theatre District**

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 | **1:** Brothel**2:** Fountain**3:** Apartment**4:** Theatre**5:** Theatre | **6:** Museum**7:** Theatre**8:** Apartment**9:** Fountain**10:** Gallery | **Major Streets**Street 1: Lavender Street**Minor Streets**Hydra WayKnight RowWest Bat Street |

**6. Slum District**

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 | **1:** Junkyard**2:** Graveyard**3:** Shanty**4:** Shack | **5:** Brothel**6:** Shanty**7:** Well | **Major Streets**Street 1: Black Street**Minor Streets**North Chipmunk Row |

The **Parthian shot** is a [light horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_cavalry) [military tactic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_tactics) made famous in the West by the [Parthians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire), an ancient [Iranian people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_peoples). While in real or feigned [retreat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Withdrawal_%28military%29) their [horse archers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_archer) would turn their bodies back in full [gallop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_gait#Gallop) to shoot at the pursuing enemy. The maneuver required superb [equestrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equestrianism) skills, since the rider's hands were occupied by his [composite bow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composite_bow). As the [stirrup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirrup) had not been invented at the time of the Parthians, the rider relied solely on pressure from his legs to guide his horse.

You wound, like Parthians, while you fly,
And kill with a retreating eye.

— [*Samuel Butler*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Butler_%28poet%29), An Heroical Epistle of [*Hudibras*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudibras) to His Lady (1678)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_shot#cite_note-1)

In addition to the Parthians, this tactic was used by most [nomads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_nomads) of the [Eurasian steppe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_steppe), including the [Scythians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scythians), [Huns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huns), [Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_peoples), [Magyars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magyars), and [Mongols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongols), as well as armies from elsewhere such as the [Sassanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire) [clibanarii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clibanarii%22%20%5Co%20%22Clibanarii) and [cataphracts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cataphract).

The Parthians used the tactic to great effect in their victory over the [Roman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) general [Crassus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crassus) in the [Battle of Carrhae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Carrhae).

**Hit-and-run tactics** is a [tactical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_tactics) [doctrine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctrine) where the purpose of the [combat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat) involved is not to seize control of territory; instead, flexible noncommittal attacks are used to inflict damage on a target and immediately exit the area to avoid the enemy's defense and/or retaliation. Such [raids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raid_%28military%29) can also expose enemy defensive weaknesses and achieve a psychological effect on the enemy's [morale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morale).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-2)

Hit-and-run tactics are used in [guerrilla warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare), militant [resistance movements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resistance_movement), and [terrorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) where the enemy typically overmatches the attacking force to the point where sustained combat is to be avoided.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-3)However, the tactics can also be used as part of more conventional warfare. Examples of the latter include [commando](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commando) or other [special forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_forces) attacks or [sorties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sortie) from a besieged castle. Hit-and-run tactics were also where the lightly armed and nearly unarmored [horse archers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_archer) typical of the [Eurasian steppe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_steppe) peoples excelled. This holds especially true for such troops that were not part of a large army (such as [scouting parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconnaissance)), but it was not unusual to see them employed in such a way even as part of a major force.



## Contents

* [1Historical use](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#Historical_use)
* [2See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#See_also)
* [3References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#References)
	+ [3.1Bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#Bibliography)

## **Historical use[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hit-and-run_tactics&action=edit&section=1)**]**

The [Seljuk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Seljuq_Empire) victory over the [Byzantine Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) at the [Battle of Manzikert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Manzikert) was preceded by hit-and-run attacks of Seljuk cavalry[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-4) which threw the Byzantine army into confusion, which proved fatal once it started to retreat. Similarly, the earlier [Parthian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthia) and [Sassanid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid) Persian horse archers paved the way for their [cataphracts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cataphract)' attack that achieved the decisive victories at the [Battle of Carrhae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Carrhae) and [Battle of Edessa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Edessa). The use of hit-and-run tactics dates back even earlier to the nomadic [Scythians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scythians) of [Central Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia), who employed them against [Darius the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darius_the_Great)'s [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Empire) [Achaemenid Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) and later against [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great)'s [Macedonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedon%22%20%5Co%20%22Macedon)Empire.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-5) The Arab general [Baibars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baibars%22%20%5Co%20%22Baibars) also successfully used hit-and-run during the [battle of Ain Jalut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ain_Jalut), the first defeat of the quickly expanding Mongol Empire. Vastly outnumbered in North America, the French made effective use of hit-and-run raids during the various [French and Indian Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_and_Indian_Wars).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-6) In the [Turkish War of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_War_of_Independence), Turks fought against the Greek Army by hit-and-run tactics before a regular army was set up.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-7)

In the [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War), [Viet Cong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viet_Cong) forces used hit-and-run tactics to great effectiveness against anti-communist military forces.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-8) It has also been used in [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) by rebel forces during the [Soviet–Afghan War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet%E2%80%93Afghan_War).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-9)Various [Iraqi insurgent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_insurgency_%282011%E2%80%9313%29) groups have also used hit-and-run tactics as part of their tactics against [Iraqi security forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_security_forces) and American-led coalition forces in Iraq.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hit-and-run_tactics#cite_note-10) Improvised fighting vehicles called "[technicals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_%28vehicle%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Technical%20%28vehicle%29)" are often used in su

**rregular military** is any non-standard [military](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military) component that is distinct from a country's national armed forces. Being defined by exclusion, there is significant variance in what comes under the term. It can refer to the type of military organization, or to the type of tactics used. An irregular military organization is one which is not part of the regular army organization. Without standard military unit organization, various more general names are often used; such organizations may be called a "troop", "group", "unit", "column", "band", or "force". **Irregulars** are soldiers or warriors that are members of these organizations, or are members of special military units that employ irregular military tactics. This also applies to irregular troops, irregular infantry and irregular cavalry.

[Irregular warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_warfare) is warfare employing the tactics commonly used by irregular military organizations. This involves avoiding large-scale combat, and focusing on small, stealthy, hit and run engagements.

* [Auxiliaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliaries) - foreign or allied troops supplementing the regular army, organized from provincial or tribal regions. In the [Imperial Roman army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Roman_army), it became common to maintain a number of auxiliaries about equal to the [legionaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legionaries).
* [Levies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conscription#Medieval_levies) - [feudal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudal) peasants and freemen liable to be called up for short-term military duty.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_military#cite_note-3)
* [Privateer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privateer) - a "for-profit" private person or ship authorized and sponsored by a government by [letters of marque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letters_of_marque) to attack foreign vessels during wartime and to [destroy or disrupt logistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commerce_raiding) of the enemy during "peacetime", often on the open sea by attacking its merchant shipping, rather than engaging its combatants or enforcing a blockade against them.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_military#cite_note-4)
* [Revolutionary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary) — someone part of a [revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolution), whether military or not.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_military#cite_note-5)
* [Guerrilla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare) — someone who uses unconventional military tactics. The term tends to refer to groups engaged in open conflict, rather than [underground resistance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resistance_during_World_War_II). It was coined during the [Peninsula War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peninsula_War) in Spain against France.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_military#cite_note-6)
* [Franc-tireur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franc-tireur) — French irregular forces during the [Franco-Prussian War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franco-Prussian_War). The term is also used in international legal cases as a synonym for [unprivileged combatant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unprivileged_combatant)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_military#cite_note-7) (for example the [Hostages Trial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostages_Trial) [1947—1948]).
* [Militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia) — military force composed of ordinary citizens.
* [Ordenanças](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordenan%C3%A7as) - The Portuguese territorial militia system from the 16th century to the 19th century. It also served as local defense force and as the mobilization system that provided conscripts for the first and second lines of the Army.
* [Partisan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partisan_%28military%29) — In the 20th century, someone part of a [resistance movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resistance_movement). In the 18th and 19th century, a local conventional military force using irregular tactics. Often used to refer to resistance movements against the [Axis Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_Powers) during the [Second World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_World_War).
* [Freedom fighter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_fighter) — A type of irregular military in which the main cause, in their or their supporters' view, is freedom for themselves or others.
* [Paramilitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramilitary) — Non-regular Armed Force with a claim to official status.
* [Terrorist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) — An irregular military that targets [civilians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilians) and other [non-combatants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-combatants) to gain political leverage. The term is almost always used pejoratively and is, like the term "freedom fighter", very subjective.
* [False flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_flag) or pseudo-operations — Troops of one side dressing like troops of another side to eliminate or discredit the latter and its support, such as members of the [Panzer Brigade 150](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panzer_Brigade_150), commanded by [Waffen-SS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waffen-SS) [commando](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commando) [Otto Skorzeny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Skorzeny) in [Operation Greif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Greif) during the [Battle of the Bulge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Bulge) in [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) and [Selous Scouts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selous_Scouts) of the [Rhodesian Bush War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodesian_Bush_War).
* [Insurgent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency) — An alternate term for a member of an irregular military that tends to refer to members of underground groups such as the [Iraqi Insurgency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_insurgency_%282003%E2%80%9311%29), rather than larger rebel organizations like the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Armed_Forces_of_Colombia).
* [Mercenary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercenary) or "soldier of fortune" — Someone who is generally not a national in a standing army or not otherwise an inherently-invested party to an armed conflict who becomes involved in an armed conflict for monetary motives or for private gain. Mercenaries are often explicitly hired to fight or provide manpower or expertise in exchange for money; material wealth or, less commonly, political power. Mercenaries are often experienced combatants or former regular soldiers who decided to sell their combat experience, skill or manpower to interested parties or to the highest bidder in an armed conflict. Famous historic examples of "professional" or organized (often "career") mercenaries include the Italian [*condottieri*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Condottieri), or "contractors," leaders of "free agent" mercenary armies that provided their armies to the various [Italian city-states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_city-states) and the [Papal states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_states) during the [Late Middle Ages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Middle_Ages) and [Renaissance Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance_Italy) in exchange for profit, land or power. However, not all soldiers deemed to be "mercenaries" are "professional" or "career" mercenaries, and many mercenaries may be simply opportunists or persons with no prior combat experience. Whether a combatant is truly a "mercenary" may be a matter of controversy or degree, as financial and national interests often overlap, and most standing regular armies also provide their soldier
* s a counterpoint to European developments in the strategic art, the [Mongol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire) Emperor [Genghis Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genghis_Khan) provides a useful example. Genghis' successes, and those of his successors, were based on manoeuvre and terror. The main focus of Genghis' strategic assault was the psychology of the opposing population. By steady and meticulous implementation of this strategy, Genghis and his descendants were able to conquer most of [Eurasia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasia). The building blocks of Genghis' army and his strategy were his tribal [levies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudal_levies) of [mounted archers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mounted_archery), [scorched earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorched_earth)-style methods, and, equally essential, the vast horse-herds of Mongolia.
* Each archer had at least one extra horse – there was an average five horses per man – thus the entire army could move with astounding rapidity. Moreover, since horse milk and horse blood were the staples of the Mongolian diet, Genghis' horse-herds functioned not just as his means of movement but as his logistical sustainment. All other necessities would be foraged and plundered. Khan's marauders also brought with them mobile shelters, concubines, butchers, and cooks. Through maneuver and continuous assault, [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia), [Arab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) and [Eastern European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_European) armies could be stressed until they collapsed, and were then annihilated in pursuit and encirclement.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-25)
* Compared to the armies of Genghis, nearly all other armies were cumbersome and relatively static. It was not until well into the 20th century that any army was able to match the speed of deployment of Genghis' armies. When confronted with a fortified city, the Mongol imperatives of maneuver and speed required that it be quickly subdued. Here the terror engendered by the bloody reputation of the Mongolians helped to intimidate and subdue.
* So too did primitive [biological warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological_warfare). A [trebuchet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebuchet) or other type of [ballista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballista) weapon would be used to launch dead animals and corpses into a besieged city, spreading disease and death, such as the Black Plague. If a particular town or city displeased the Mongolian Khan, everyone in the city would be killed to set an example for all other cities. This was early [psychological warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_warfare).
* To refer to the nine strategic principles outlined above, the Mongol strategy was directed toward an objective (that *[schwerpunkt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schwerpunkt%22%20%5Co%20%22Schwerpunkt)* (main focus) being the morale and mental state of the opposing population) achieved through the offensive; this offensive was itself characterized by concentration of force, maneuver, surprise, and simplicity.
* The [Battle of Austerlitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz) was a perfect example of this maneuver. Napoleon withdrew from a strong position to draw his opponent forward and tempt him into a flank attack, weakening his center. This allowed the French army to split the allied army and gain victory.
* Napoleon used two primary strategies for the approach to battle. His "Manoeuvre De Derrière" (*move onto the rear*) was intended to place the French Army across the enemy's [lines of communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_of_communication). This forced the opponent to either march to battle with Napoleon or attempt to find an escape route around the army. By placing his army into the rear, his opponent's supplies and communications would be cut. This had a negative effect on enemy morale. Once joined, the battle would be one in which his opponent could not afford defeat. This also allowed Napoleon to select multiple battle angles into a battle site. Initially, the lack of force concentration helped with foraging for food and sought to confuse the enemy as to his real location and intentions.
* The "indirect" approach into battle also allowed Napoleon to disrupt the linear formations used by the allied armies. As the battle progressed, the enemy committed their reserves to stabilize the situation, Napoleon would suddenly release the [flanking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flanking_maneuver) formation to attack the enemy. His opponents, being suddenly confronted with a new threat and with little reserves, had no choice but to weaken the area closest to the flanking formation and draw up a battle line at a right angle in an attempt to stop this new threat. Once this had occurred, Napoleon would mass his reserves at the hinge of that right angle and launch a heavy attack to break the lines. The rupture in the enemy lines allowed Napoleon's cavalry to flank both lines and roll them up leaving his opponent no choice but to surrender or flee.

## **Battle[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=8)**]**



Napoleon with his troops on the eve of battle. Painting by [Louis-François, Baron Lejeune](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Fran%C3%A7ois%2C_Baron_Lejeune)

The battle began with the French army outnumbered. Napoleon had some 72,000 men and 157 guns for the impending battle, with about 7,000 troops under [Davout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Nicolas_Davout) still far to the south in the direction of Vienna.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-napoleon-29)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-nicholls910-30)The Allies had about 85,000 soldiers, seventy percent of them Russian, and 318 guns.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-napoleon-29)

At first, Napoleon was not totally confident of victory. In a letter written to Minister of Foreign Affairs [Talleyrand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Maurice_de_Talleyrand-P%C3%A9rigord), Napoleon requested Talleyrand not tell anyone about the upcoming battle because he did not want to disturb Empress [Joséphine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9phine_de_Beauharnais%22%20%5Co%20%22Jos%C3%A9phine%20de%20Beauharnais). According to Frederick C. Schneid, the French Emperor's chief worry was how he could explain to Joséphine a French defeat.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-schneid137-31)

### Battlefield[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=9)]

The battle took place about six miles (ten kilometers) southeast of the town of [Brno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brno), between that town and Austerlitz ([Czech](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): [*Slavkov u Brna*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavkov_u_Brna)) in what is now the Czech Republic. The northern part of the battlefield was dominated by the 700-foot (210-meter) Santon Hill and the 880-foot (270-meter) [Zuran (Žuráň)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%BDur%C3%A1%C5%88%22%20%5Co%20%22%C5%BDur%C3%A1%C5%88) Hill, both overlooking the vital [Olomouc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olomouc)/Brno road, which was on an east/west axis. To the west of these two hills was the village of [Bellowitz (Bedřichovice)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bed%C5%99ichovice%22%20%5Co%20%22Bed%C5%99ichovice), and between them the Bosenitz (Roketnice) stream went south to link up with the Goldbach (Říčka) stream, the latter flowing by the villages of [Kobelnitz (Kobylnice)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobylnice_%28Brno-Country_District%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Kobylnice%20%28Brno-Country%20District%29), [Sokolnitz (Sokolnice)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokolnice%22%20%5Co%20%22Sokolnice), and [Telnitz (Telnice)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telnice_%28Brno-Country_District%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Telnice%20%28Brno-Country%20District%29).

The centrepiece of the entire area was the [Pratzen (Prace)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prace%2C_Czech_Republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Prace%2C%20Czech%20Republic) Heights, a gently sloping hill about 35 to 40 feet (10 to 12 meters) in height. An aide noted that Napoleon repeatedly told his marshals, "Gentlemen, examine this ground carefully, it is going to be a battlefield; you will have a part to play upon it."[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-quote-32)

### Allied plans and dispositions[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=10)]



Allied (red) and French (blue) deployments at 1800 hours on 1 December 1805

An Allied council met on 1 December to discuss proposals for the battle. Most of the Allied strategists had two fundamental ideas in mind: making contact with the enemy and securing the southern flank that held the communication line to Vienna. Although the Tsar and his immediate entourage pushed hard for a battle, Emperor Francis of Austria was more cautious and, as mentioned, he was seconded by Kutuzov, the Commander-in-chief of the Russians and the Allied troops.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-emperor-33) The pressure to fight from the Russian nobles and the Austrian commanders, however, was too strong, and the Allies adopted the plan of the Austrian Chief-of-Staff, [Franz von Weyrother](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_von_Weyrother).[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-emperor-33) This called for a main drive against the French right flank, which the Allies noticed was lightly guarded, and diversionary attacks against the French left. The Allies deployed most of their troops into four columns that would attack the French right. The [Russian Imperial Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Imperial_Guard) was held in reserve while Russian troops under [Bagration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyotr_Bagration%22%20%5Co%20%22Pyotr%20Bagration) guarded the Allied right. The Russian Tsar rudely stripped the authority of Commander-in-chief M. I. Kutuzov and gave it to Franz von Weyrother. In the battle, Kutuzov could only command the IV Corps of the Allied army, although he was still the *de facto* commander because the Tsar was afraid to take over in case his favoured plan failed.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23)

### French plans and dispositions[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=11)]



French [cuirassiers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuirassier) taking position

Napoleon was hoping that the Allied forces would attack, and to encourage them, he deliberately weakened his right flank.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-flank-34) On 28 November Napoleon met with his marshals at Imperial Headquarters, who informed him of their qualms about the forthcoming battle. He shrugged off their suggestion of retreat.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont-Barnes_48-35)

Napoleon's plan envisaged that the Allies would throw many troops to envelop his right flank in order to cut the French communication line from [Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23) As a result, the Allies' centre and left flank would be exposed and become vulnerable.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-barnes19-36) To encourage them to do so, Napoleon abandoned the strategic position on the Pratzen Heights, faking the weakness of his forces and his own caution.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont-Barnes_48-35)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-barnes19-36) Meanwhile, Napoleon's main force was to be concealed in a dead ground opposite the Heights.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-chandler413-37) According to the plan, the French troops would attack and recapture the Pratzen Heights, then from the Heights they would launch a decisive assault to the center of the Allied army, cripple them, and encircle them from the rear.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-barnes19-36)

If the Russian force leaves the Pratzen Heights in order to go to the right side, they will certainly be defeated.

— Napoleon

The massive thrust through the Allied centre was conducted by 16,000 troops of [Soult's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Jean_de_Dieu_Soult) IV Corps. IV Corps' position was cloaked by dense mist during the early stage of the battle; in fact how long the mist lasted was vital to Napoleon's plan: Soult's troops would become uncovered if the mist dissipated too soon, but if it lingered too long, Napoleon would be unable to determine when the Allied troops had evacuated Pratzen Heights, preventing him from timing his attack properly.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-barnes21-38)

Meanwhile, to support his weak right flank, Napoleon ordered Davout's [III Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/III_Corps_%28Grande_Arm%C3%A9e%29) to force march all the way from Vienna and join General [Legrand's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Legrand) men, who held the extreme southern flank that would bear the heaviest part of the Allied attack. Davout's soldiers had 48 hours to march 110 km (68 mi). Their arrival was crucial in determining the success of the French plan. Indeed, the arrangement of Napoleon on the right flank was very risky as the French had only minimal troops garrisoning there. However, Napoleon was able to use such a risky plan because Davout—the commander of III Corps—was one of Napoleon's best marshals, because the right flank's position was protected by a complicated system of streams and lakes,[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23) and because the French had already settled upon a secondary line of retreat through [Brunn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brno%22%20%5Co%20%22Brno).[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-chandler412-39) The [Imperial Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Imperial_Guard) and [Bernadotte's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_XIV_John_of_Sweden) I Corps were held in reserve while the V Corps under [Lannes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Lannes%22%20%5Co%20%22Jean%20Lannes) guarded the northern sector of the battlefield, where the new communication line was located.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23)

By 1 December 1805, the French troops had been shifted in accordance with the Allied movement southward, as Napoleon expected.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-barnes19-36)

### Battle begins[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=12)]

The battle began at about 8 a.m. with the first allied lines attacking the village of Telnitz, which was defended by the 3rd Line Regiment. This sector of the battlefield witnessed heavy fighting in this early action as several ferocious Allied charges evicted the French from the town and forced them onto the other side of the Goldbach. The first men of Davout's corps arrived at this time and threw the Allies out of Telnitz before they too were attacked by [hussars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussar) and re-abandoned the town. Additional Allied attacks out of Telnitz were checked by French artillery.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-attacks-40)



Capture of a French regiment's eagle by the cavalry of the Russian guard, by [Bogdan Willewalde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bogdan_Willewalde) (1884)

Allied columns started pouring against the French right, but not at the desired speed, so the French were mostly successful in curbing the attacks. Actually, the Allied deployments were mistaken and poorly timed: cavalry detachments under [Liechtenstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_I_Josef%2C_Prince_of_Liechtenstein) on the Allied left flank had to be placed in the right flank and in the process they ran into and slowed down part of the second column of infantry that was advancing towards the French right.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont-Barnes_48-35)At the time, the planners thought this slowing was disastrous, but later on it helped the Allies. Meanwhile, the leading elements of the second column were attacking the village of Sokolnitz, which was defended by the 26th Light Regiment and the [*Tirailleurs*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tirailleur), French [skirmishers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skirmisher). Initial Allied assaults proved unsuccessful and [General Langeron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Alexandre_Andrault_de_Langeron) ordered the bombardment of the village. This deadly barrage forced the French out, and at about the same time, the third column attacked the castle of Sokolnitz. The French, however, counterattacked and regained the village, only to be thrown out again. Conflict in this area ended temporarily when [Friant's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Friant) division (part of III Corps) retook the village. Sokolnitz was perhaps the most fought over area in the battlefield and would change hands several times as the day progressed.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont_49-41)

While the allied troops attacked the French right flank, Kutuzov's IV Corp stopped at the Pratzen Heights and stayed still. Just like Napoleon, Kutuzov realized the importance of Pratzen and decided to protect the position. But the young Tsar did not, so he expelled the IV Corp from the Heights. This act quickly pushed the Allied army into her grave.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23)

### "One sharp blow and the war is over"[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=13)]



The decisive attacks on the Allied center by [St. Hilaire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Vincent-Joseph_Le_Blond_de_Saint-Hilaire) and [Vandamme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominique_Vandamme%22%20%5Co%20%22Dominique%20Vandamme) split the Allied army in two and left the French in a golden strategic position to win the battle.

At about 8:45 a.m., satisfied at the weakness in the enemy centre, Napoleon asked Soult how long it would take for his men to reach the Pratzen Heights, to which the Marshal replied, "Less than twenty minutes, sire." About 15 minutes later, Napoleon ordered the attack, adding, "One sharp blow and the war is over."[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-over-42)

A dense fog helped to cloud the advance of [St. Hilaire's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Vincent-Joseph_Le_Blond_de_Saint-Hilaire) French division, but as they went up the slope the legendary 'Sun of Austerlitz' ripped the mist apart and encouraged them forward.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont_49-41) Russian soldiers and commanders on top of the heights were stunned to see so many French troops coming towards them.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-stunned-43) Allied commanders moved some of the delayed detachments of the fourth column into this bitter struggle. Over an hour of fighting destroyed much of this unit. The other men from the second column, mostly inexperienced Austrians, also participated in the struggle and swung the numbers against one of the best fighting forces in the French army, eventually forcing them to withdraw down the slopes. However, gripped by desperation, St. Hilaire's men struck hard once more and bayoneted the Allies out of the heights. To the north, [General Vandamme's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominique_Vandamme) division attacked an area called Staré Vinohrady ("Old Vineyards") and, through talented skirmishing and deadly volleys, broke several Allied battalions.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-sun-44)

The battle had firmly turned in France's favour, but it was far from over. Napoleon ordered Bernadotte's I Corps to support Vandamme's left and moved his own command center from Žuráň Hill to St. Anthony's Chapel on the Pratzen Heights. The difficult position of the Allies was confirmed by the decision to send in the [Russian Imperial Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Imperial_Guard); [Grand Duke Constantine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duke_Constantine_Pavlovich_of_Russia), Tsar Alexander's brother, commanded the Guard and counterattacked in Vandamme's section of the field, forcing a bloody effort and the only loss of a French standard in the battle (a battalion of the 4th Line Regiment was defeated). Sensing trouble, Napoleon ordered his own heavy Guard cavalry forward. These men pulverized their Russian counterparts, but with both sides pouring in large masses of cavalry, no victory was clear.

The Russians had a numerical advantage but soon the tide swung as [Drouet's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Baptiste_Drouet%2C_Comte_d%27Erlon%22%20%5Co%20%22Jean-Baptiste%20Drouet%2C%20Comte%20d%27Erlon) Division, the 2nd of Bernadotte's I Corps, deployed on the flank of the action and allowed French cavalry to seek refuge behind their lines. The [horse artillery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_artillery) of the Guard also inflicted heavy casualties on the Russian cavalry and fusiliers. The Russians broke and many died as they were pursued by the reinvigorated French cavalry for about a quarter of a mile.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-broke-45) The casualties of the Russians in Pratzen included Kutuzov, who was severely wounded, and his son-in-law [Ferdinand von Tiesenhausen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_von_Tiesenhausen) who was killed.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-lvq10-23)

### Endgame[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=14)]

I was... under fierce and continuous canister fire... Many soldiers, now incessantly engaged in battle from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., had no cartridges left. I could do nothing but retreat...

— Lieutenant General Przhebishevsky[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-46)



By 1400 hours, the Allied army had been dangerously separated. Napoleon now had the option to strike at one of the wings, and he chose the Allied left since other enemy sectors had already been cleared or were conducting fighting retreats.

Meanwhile, the northernmost part of the battlefield was also witnessing heavy fighting. [Prince Liechtenstein's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_I_Josef%2C_Prince_of_Liechtenstein) heavy cavalry began to assault [Kellerman's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_%C3%89tienne_de_Kellermann) lighter cavalry forces after eventually arriving at the correct position in the field. The fighting initially went well for the French, but Kellerman's forces took cover behind General Caffarelli's infantry division once it became clear Russian numbers were too great. Caffarelli's men halted the Russian assaults and permitted [Murat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachim_Murat) to send two cuirassier divisions (one commanded by [d'Hautpoul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Joseph_Ange_d%27Hautpoul%22%20%5Co%20%22Jean-Joseph%20Ange%20d%27Hautpoul) and the other one by [Nansouty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tienne_Marie_Antoine_Champion_de_Nansouty%22%20%5Co%20%22%C3%89tienne%20Marie%20Antoine%20Champion%20de%20Nansouty)) into the fray to finish off the Russian cavalry for good. The ensuing mêlée was bitter and long, but the French ultimately prevailed. Lannes then led his V Corps against [Bagration's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyotr_Bagration%22%20%5Co%20%22Pyotr%20Bagration) men and after hard fighting managed to drive the skilled Russian commander off the field. He wanted to pursue, but Murat, who was in control of this sector in the battlefield, was against the idea.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont-Barnes_52-47)

Napoleon's focus now shifted towards the southern end of the battlefield where the French and the Allies were still fighting over Sokolnitz and Telnitz. In an effective double-pronged assault, St. Hilaire's division and part of Davout's III Corps smashed through the enemy at Sokolnitz, which persuaded the commanders of the first two columns, Generals [Kienmayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_von_Kienmayer%22%20%5Co%20%22Michael%20von%20Kienmayer) and [Langeron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Alexandre_Andrault_de_Langeron%22%20%5Co%20%22Louis%20Alexandre%20Andrault%20de%20Langeron), to flee as fast as they could. [Buxhowden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Wilhelm_von_Buxhoeveden%22%20%5Co%20%22Friedrich%20Wilhelm%20von%20Buxhoeveden), the commander of the Allied left and the man responsible for leading the attack, was completely drunk and fled as well. Kienmayer covered his withdrawal with the O'Reilly light cavalry, who gallantly managed to defeat five of six French cavalry regiments before they too had to retreat.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-Fisher_Fremont-Barnes_52-47)

General panic now seized the Allied army and it abandoned the field in all possible directions. A famous episode occurred during this retreat: Russian forces that had been defeated by the French right withdrew south towards Vienna via the Satschan frozen ponds. French artillery pounded towards the men, and the ice was broken due to the bombardment. The men drowned in the cold ponds, dozens of Russian artillery pieces going down with them. Estimates of how many guns were captured differ: there may have been as few as 38 or more than 100. Sources also differ about casualties, with figures ranging between 200 and 2,000 dead. Many drowning Russians were saved by their victorious foes.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-casualties-3)[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-48) However, local evidence, only later made public, suggests that Napoleon's account of the catastrophe may have been totally invented; on his instructions the lakes were drained a few days after the battle and the corpses of only two or three men, with some 150 horses, were found.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-49)

## **Military and political results[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=15)**]**

Allied casualties stood at about 36,000 out of an army of 89,000, which represented about 38% of their effective forces. The French lost around 9,000 out of an army of 66,000, or about 13% of their forces. The Allies also lost some 180 guns and about 50 standards. The great victory was met by sheer amazement and delirium in Paris, where just days earlier the nation had been teetering on the brink of financial collapse. Napoleon wrote to [Josephine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9phine_de_Beauharnais), "I have beaten the Austro-Russian army commanded by the two emperors. I am a little weary....I embrace you."[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-josephine-50) Tsar Alexander perhaps best summed up the harsh times for the Allies by stating, "We are babies in the hands of a giant."[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-giant-51) After hearing the news of Austerlitz, William Pitt referred to a map of Europe, "Roll up that map; it will not be wanted these ten years."[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-52)

France and Austria signed a truce on 4 December and the [Treaty of Pressburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Pressburg_%281805%29) 22 days later took the latter out of the war. Austria agreed to recognize French territory captured by the treaties of [Campo Formio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Campo_Formio) (1797) and [Lunéville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Lun%C3%A9ville%22%20%5Co%20%22Treaty%20of%20Lun%C3%A9ville) (1801), cede land to Bavaria, [Wurttemberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_W%C3%BCrttemberg#The_Kingdom_of_W%C3%BCrttemberg_(1806%E2%80%931918)), and [Baden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Baden), which were Napoleon's German allies, and pay 40 million francs in war indemnities, and [Venice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venice) was given to the [Kingdom of Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_%28Napoleonic%29). It was a harsh end for Austria, but certainly not a catastrophic peace. The Russian army was allowed to withdraw to home territory and the French ensconced themselves in Southern Germany. The Holy Roman Empire was effectively wiped out, 1806 being seen as its final year. Napoleon created the [Confederation of the Rhine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederation_of_the_Rhine), a string of German states meant to serve as a buffer between France and Prussia. Prussia saw these and other moves as an affront to its status as the main power of Central Europe and it went to war with France in 1806.

## **Rewards[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Austerlitz&action=edit&section=16)**]**

Napoleon's words to his troops after the battle were full of praise: *Soldats! Je suis content de vous* (English: Soldiers! I am pleased with you).[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-nap01-53) The Emperor provided two million golden francs to the higher officers and 200 francs to each soldier, with large pensions for the widows of the fallen. Orphaned children were adopted by Napoleon personally and were allowed to add "Napoleon" to their baptismal and family names.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-soldats-54) This battle is one of four for which Napoleon never awarded a [victory title](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_title), the others being Marengo, Jena, and Friedland.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz#cite_note-55)

One of these strategies was shown in the battle between Greek city states and Persia. The [Battle of Thermopylae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Thermopylae) in which the Greek forces were outnumbered stood as a good military strategy. The Greek allied forces ultimately lost the battle, but the training, use of armor, and location allowed them to defeat many Persian troops before losing. In the end, the Greek alliance lost the battle but not the war as a result of that strategy which continued on to the battle of Plataea. The [Battle of Plataea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Plataea) in 479 BC resulted in a victory for the Greeks against Persia, which exemplified that military strategy was extremely beneficial to defeating a numerous enemy.

Early strategies included the strategy of annihilation, exhaustion, [attrition warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attrition_warfare), [scorched earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorched_earth) action, [blockade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blockade), [guerrilla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla) campaign, [deception](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deception) and [feint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feint). Ingenuity and adeptness were limited only by imagination, accord, and technology. Strategists continually exploited ever-advancing technology. The word "strategy" itself derives from the [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) "στρατηγία" (*strategia*), "office of general, command, generalship",[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-21) in turn from "στρατηγός" (*strategos*), "leader or commander of an army, general",[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-22) a [compound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compound_%28linguistics%29) of "στρατός" (*stratos*), "army, host" + "ἀγός" (*agos*), "leader, chief",[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-23) in turn from "ἄγω" (*ago*), "to lead".[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-24) No evidence exists of it being used in a modern sense in Ancient Greek, but we find it in [Byzantine documents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategikon_of_Maurice) from the 6th century onwards, and most notably in the work attributed to Emperor [Leo VI the Wise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_VI_the_Wise) of [Byzantium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire).

### Middle Ages[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Military_strategy&action=edit&section=6)]

#### Genghis Khan and the Mongols**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Military_strategy&action=edit&section=7)**]**



Mongol Empire in 1227 at Genghis Khan's death

As a counterpoint to European developments in the strategic art, the [Mongol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire) Emperor [Genghis Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genghis_Khan) provides a useful example. Genghis' successes, and those of his successors, were based on manoeuvre and terror. The main focus of Genghis' strategic assault was the psychology of the opposing population. By steady and meticulous implementation of this strategy, Genghis and his descendants were able to conquer most of [Eurasia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasia). The building blocks of Genghis' army and his strategy were his tribal [levies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudal_levies) of [mounted archers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mounted_archery), [scorched earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorched_earth)-style methods, and, equally essential, the vast horse-herds of Mongolia.

Each archer had at least one extra horse – there was an average five horses per man – thus the entire army could move with astounding rapidity. Moreover, since horse milk and horse blood were the staples of the Mongolian diet, Genghis' horse-herds functioned not just as his means of movement but as his logistical sustainment. All other necessities would be foraged and plundered. Khan's marauders also brought with them mobile shelters, concubines, butchers, and cooks. Through maneuver and continuous assault, [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia), [Arab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) and [Eastern European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_European) armies could be stressed until they collapsed, and were then annihilated in pursuit and encirclement.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strategy#cite_note-25)

Compared to the armies of Genghis, nearly all other armies were cumbersome and relatively static. It was not until well into the 20th century that any army was able to match the speed of deployment of Genghis' armies. When confronted with a fortified city, the Mongol imperatives of maneuver and speed required that it be quickly subdued. Here the terror engendered by the bloody reputation of the Mongolians helped to intimidate and subdue.

So too did primitive [biological warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological_warfare). A [trebuchet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebuchet) or other type of [ballista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballista) weapon would be used to launch dead animals and corpses into a besieged city, spreading disease and death, such as the Black Plague. If a particular town or city displeased the Mongolian Khan, everyone in the city would be killed to set an example for all other cities. This was early [psychological warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_warfare).

To refer to the nine strategic principles outlined above, the Mongol strategy was directed toward an objective (that *[schwerpunkt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schwerpunkt%22%20%5Co%20%22Schwerpunkt)* (main focus) being the morale and mental state of the opposing population) achieved through the offensive; this offensive was itself characterized by concentration of force, maneuver, surprise, and simplicity.

## **Equipment[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Medieval_warfare&action=edit&section=7)**]**

*Main article:*[*List of medieval weapons*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medieval_weapons)



Armors of 15th century from Poland

A Varlet or Squire carrying a Halberd with a thick Blade; and Archer, in Fighting Dress, drawing the String of his Crossbow with a double-handled Winch.--From the Miniatures of the "Jouvencel", and the "Chroniques" of Froissart, Manuscripts of the Fifteenth Century (Imperial Library of Paris).

**Weapons** Medieval weapons consisted of many different types of ranged and hand-held objects:

* Melee
	+ [Battleaxe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battleaxe)
		- [Horseman's pick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horseman%27s_pick)
	+ Blades
		- [Arming Sword](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arming_Sword)
		- [Dagger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dagger)
		- [Knife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knife)
		- [Longsword](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longsword)
		- [Messer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messer_%28weapon%29)
	+ Blunt weapons
		- [Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_%28weapon%29)
		- [Mace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mace_%28bludgeon%29)
		- [War Hammer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Hammer)
	+ [Polearm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polearm)
		- [Halberd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halberd)
		- [Lance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lance)
		- [Military fork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_fork), the weaponized [Pitchfork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitchfork)
		- [Pollaxe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollaxe_%28polearm%29)
		- [Spear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spear)
* Ranged
	+ [Bow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bow_and_arrow)
	+ [Longbow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_longbow)
	+ [Crossbow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crossbow)
	+ [Throwing axe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Throwing_axe)
	+ [Throwing spear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spear) and [Javelin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javelin_%28weapon%29)
	+ [Sling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sling_%28weapon%29)

**Armour**

* [Body armour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Components_of_medieval_armour)
	+ [Leather](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boiled_leather)
	+ [Fabric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gambeson)
	+ [Chainmail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chainmail)
	+ [Brigandine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigandine)
	+ [Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_armour)
* [Shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shield)
* [Helmet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_helmet)

**Artillery and Siege engine**

* [Battering rams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battering_rams)
* [Catapult](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catapult)
* [Trebuchet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebuchet)
* [Ballista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballista)
* [Siege tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_tower)

**Animals**

* [Camels in warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camel_cavalry)
* [Dogs in warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogs_in_warfare#History)
* [Horses in warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horses_in_warfare) and [Horses in the Middle Ages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horses_in_the_Middle_Ages)
* [War elephant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_elephant)
* [War pigs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_pigs)

## **Deployment and order of battle[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Lepanto&action=edit&section=2)**]**

*See*[*Battle of Lepanto order of battle*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto_order_of_battle)*for a detailed list of ships and commanders involved in the battle.*



Order of battle of the two fleets, with an allegory of the three powers of the Holy League in the foreground, fresco by [Giorgio Vasari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_Vasari) (1572, [Sala Regia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sala_Regia_%28Vatican%29)).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-24)

The Christian fleet consisted of 206 galleys and six galleasses (large new galleys, developed by the Venetians, that carried substantial [artillery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_artillery)) and was commanded by Spanish Adm. John of Austria, the [illegitimate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegitimate%22%20%5Co%20%22Illegitimate)son of [Emperor Charles V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_Charles_V) and half-brother of King Philip II of Spain, supported by the Spanish commanders Don [Luis de Requesens y Zúñiga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luis_de_Requesens_y_Z%C3%BA%C3%B1iga) and Don [Álvaro de Bazán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81lvaro_de_Baz%C3%A1n), and Genoan commander [Gianandrea Doria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Andrea_Doria%22%20%5Co%20%22Giovanni%20Andrea%20Doria).[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-25)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens67-26) The Republic of Venice contributed 109 galleys and six galleasses, 49 galleys came from the Spanish Empire (including 26 from the Kingdom of Naples, the Kingdom of Sicily and other Italian territories), 27 galleys of the [Genoese fleet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genoese_navy), seven galleys from the Papal States, five galleys from the [Order of Saint Stephen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Saint_Stephen) and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, three galleys each from the Duchy of Savoy and the Knights of Malta and some privately owned galleys in Spanish service. This fleet of the Christian alliance was manned by 40,000 sailors and oarsmen. In addition, it carried approximately 20,000[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-27)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-28) fighting troops: 7,000 [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain%22%20%5Co%20%22Spain)regular infantry of excellent quality,[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-29) 7,000 Germans,[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Setton-30) 6,000 Italian mercenaries in Spanish pay, all good troops,[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Setton-30) in addition to 5,000 professional Venetian soldiers.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-31) Also, Venetian oarsmen were mainly free citizens and able to bear arms, adding to the fighting power of their ship, whereas convicts were used to row many of the galleys in other Holy League squadrons.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Guilmartin_222-225-32) Free oarsmen were generally acknowledged to be superior, but were gradually replaced in all galley fleets (including those of Venice from 1549) during the 16th century by cheaper slaves, convicts and prisoners-of-war owing to rapidly rising costs.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-33)



Depiction of the [Ottoman Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy), detail from the painting by Tommaso Dolabella (1632)

[Ali Pasha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%BCezzinzade_Ali_Pasha), the Ottoman admiral (*[Kapudan-i Derya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kapudan-i_Derya%22%20%5Co%20%22Kapudan-i%20Derya)*), supported by the corsairs [Mehmed Siroco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehmed_Siroco) (natively Mehmed Şuluk) of [Alexandria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria) and [Uluç Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulu%C3%A7_Ali_Reis%22%20%5Co%20%22Ulu%C3%A7%20Ali%20Reis), commanded an Ottoman force of 222 war galleys, 56 [galliots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galiot) and some smaller vessels. The Turks had skilled and experienced crews of sailors but were significantly deficient in their elite corps of [Janissaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janissary). The number of oarsmen was about 37,000, virtually all of them slaves,[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-34) many of them Christians who had been captured in previous conquests and engagements.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Guilmartin_222-225-32) The Ottoman galleys were manned by 13,000 experienced sailors—generally drawn from the maritime nations of the Ottoman Empire—mainly [Berbers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_people), [Greeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greeks), [Syrians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria) and [Egyptians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptians)—and 34,000 soldiers.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens63-35)

An advantage for the Christians was the numerical superiority in guns and cannon aboard their ships, as well as the superior quality of the Spanish infantry.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens67-26) It is estimated that the Christians had 1,815 guns, while the Turks had only 750 with insufficient ammunition.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Geoffrey_Parker_87-88-9) The Christians embarked with their much improved [arquebusier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arquebusier) and [musketeer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musketeer) forces, while the Ottomans trusted in their greatly feared [composite bowmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composite_bow).[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-36)

The Christian fleet started from Messina on 16 September, crossing the Adriatic and creeping along the coast, arriving at the group of rocky islets lying just north of the opening of the Gulf of Corinth on 6 October. Serious conflict had broken out between Venetian and Spanish soldiers, and Venier enraged Don Juan by hanging a Spanish soldier for impudence.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens103-37) Despite bad weather, the Christian ships sailed south and, on 6 October, reached the port of [Sami, Cephalonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sami%2C_Cephalonia) (then also called Val d'Alessandria), where they remained for a while.

Early on 7 October they sailed toward the [Gulf of Patras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Patras), where they encountered the Ottoman fleet. While neither fleet had immediate strategic resources or objectives in the gulf, both chose to engage. The Ottoman fleet had an express order from the [Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selim_II) to fight, and John of Austria found it necessary to attack in order to maintain the integrity of the expedition in the face of personal and political disagreements within the Holy League.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-38) On the morning of 7 October, after the decision to offer battle was made, the Christian fleet formed up in four divisions in a north-south line:

* At the northern end, closest to the coast, was the Left Division of 53 galleys, mainly Venetian, led by [Agostino Barbarigo (admiral)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agostino_Barbarigo_%28admiral%29), with [Marco Querini](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Marco_Querini&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Antonio da Canale](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Antonio_da_Canale&action=edit&redlink=1) in support.
* The Centre Division consisted of 62 galleys under John of Austria himself in his [*Real*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_%28galley%29), along with [Marcantonio Colonna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcantonio_Colonna) commanding the papal flagship, Venier commanding the Venetian flagship, [Paolo Giordano I Orsini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paolo_Giordano_I_Orsini) and Pietro Giustiniani, prior of Messina, commanding the flagship of the [Knights of Malta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_of_Malta).
* The Right Division to the south consisted of another 53 galleys under the Genoese [Giovanni Andrea Doria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Andrea_Doria), great-nephew of admiral [Andrea Doria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Doria).
* A Reserve Division was stationed behind (that is, to the west of) the main fleet, to lend support wherever it might be needed, commanded by [Álvaro de Bazán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81lvaro_de_Baz%C3%A1n%2C_1st_Marquis_of_Santa_Cruz).



*One of the Venetian Galleasses at Lepanto* (1851 drawing, after a 1570s painting).

Two galleasses, which had side-mounted cannon, were positioned in front of each main division for the purpose, according to [Miguel de Cervantes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_de_Cervantes) (who served on the galley *Marquesa* during the battle), of preventing the Turks from sneaking in small boats and sapping, sabotaging or boarding the Christian vessels. This reserve division consisted of 38 galleys—30 behind the Centre Division and four behind each wing. A scouting group was formed, from two Right Wing and six Reserve Division galleys. As the Christian fleet was slowly turning around [Point Scropha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Scropha), Doria's Right Division, at the offshore side, was delayed at the start of the battle and the Right's galleasses did not get into position.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]

The Ottoman fleet consisted of 57 galleys and two galliots on its right under Mehmed Siroco, 61 galleys and 32 galliots in the center under Ali Pasha in the *Sultana* and about 63 galleys and 30 galliots in the south offshore under [Uluç Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulu%C3%A7_Ali%22%20%5Co%20%22Ulu%C3%A7%20Ali). A small reserve consisted of eight galleys, 22 galliots and 64 [fustas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fusta%22%20%5Co%20%22Fusta), behind the center body. Ali Pasha is supposed to have told his Christian galley slaves, "If I win the battle, I promise you your liberty. If the day is yours, then God has given it to you." John of Austria, more laconically, warned his crew, "There is no paradise for cowards."[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens64-39)

## **Battle[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_Lepanto&action=edit&section=3)**]**

The lookout on the *Real* sighted the Turkish van at dawn of 7 October. Don Juan called a council of war and decided to offer battle. He travelled through his fleet in a swift sailing vessel, exhorting his officers and men to do their utmost. The Sacrament was administered to all, the galley slaves were freed from their chains, and the standard of the Holy League was raised to the truck of the flagship.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens103-37)



Plan of the Battle (formation of the fleets just before contact)[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-40)

The wind was at first against the Christians, and it was feared that the Turks would be able to make contact before a line of battle could be formed. But around noon, shortly before contact, the wind shifted to favour the Christians, enabling most of the squadrons to reach their assigned position before contact. Four galeasses stationed in front of the Christian battle line opened fire at close quarters at the foremost Turkish galleys, confusing their battle array in the crucial moment of contact. Around noon, first contact was made between the squadrons of Barbarigo's and Sirocco, close to the northern shore of the Gulf. Barbarigo had attempted to stay so close to the shore as to prevent Sirocco from surrounding him, but Sirocco, knowing the depth of the waters, managed to still insert galleys between Barbarigo's line and the coast. In the ensuing mêlée, the ships came so close to each other as to form an almost continuous platform of hand-to-hand fighting in which both leaders were killed. The Christian galley slaves freed from the Turkish ships were supplied with arms and joined in the fighting, turning the battle in favour of the Christian side.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens104-41)

Fresco in the Vatican's [Gallery of Maps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gallery_of_Maps)

Meanwhile, the centers clashed with such force that Ali Pasha's galley drove into the *Real* as far as the fourth rowing bench, and hand-to-hand fighting commenced around the two flagships, between the Spanish tercio infantry and the Turkish janissaries. When the *Real* was nearly taken, Colonna came alongside with the bow of his galley and mounted a counter-attack. With the help of Colonna, the Turks were pushed off the *Real* and the Turkish flagship was boarded and swept. The entire crew of Ali Pasha's flagship was killed, including Ali Pasha himself. The banner of the Holy League was hoisted on the captured ship, breaking the morale of the Turkish galleys nearby. After two hours of fighting, the Turks were beaten left and center, although fighting continued for another two hours.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens105-42) A flag taken at Lepanto by the [Knights of Saint Stephen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Saint_Stephen), said to be the standard of the Turkish commander, is still on display, in the Church of the seat of the Order in [Pisa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pisa).[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-43)

On the Christian right, the situation was different, as Doria continued sailing towards the south instead of taking his assigned position. He would explain his conduct after the battle by saying that he was trying to prevent an enveloping maneuver by the Turkish left. But Doria's captains were enraged, interpreting their commander's signals as a sign of treachery. When Doria had opened a wide gap with the Christian center, [Uluç Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulu%C3%A7_Ali%22%20%5Co%20%22Ulu%C3%A7%20Ali) swung around and fell on Colonna's southern flank, with Doria too far away to interfere. Ali attacked a group of some fifteen galleys around the flagship of the Knights of Malta, threatening to break into the Christian center and still turn the tide of the battle. This was prevented by the arrival of the reserve squadron of [Santa Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81lvaro_de_Baz%C3%A1n%2C_1st_Marquis_of_Santa_Cruz). Uluç Ali was forced to retreat, escaping the battle with the captured flag of the Knights of Malta.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-FOOTNOTEDavis200994-44)

Isolated fighting continued until the evening. Even after the battle had clearly turned against the Turks, groups of janissaries kept fighting to the last. It is said that at some point the Janissaries ran out of weapons and started throwing oranges and lemons at their Christian adversaries, leading to awkward scenes of laughter among the general misery of battle.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Geoffrey_Parker_87-88-9) At the end of the battle, the Christians had taken 117 galleys and 20 galliots, and sunk or destroyed some 50 other ships. Around ten thousand Turks were taken prisoner, and many thousands of Christian slaves were rescued. The Christian side suffered around 7,500 deaths, the Turkish side about 30,000.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto#cite_note-Stevens107-45)

