

## The Battle of Schmutzenfeld

### The Story So Far . . .

The small but prosperous Duchy of Arberg was ruled for many years by the hereditary Duke, August von Herz, who proved himself to be a wise and bold ruler by guiding his little domain through the turmoil of the mid-century wars without suffering any serious damage to either the property or lives of his subjects. After surviving many battles at the head of the Duchy's small (but very professional) army, the elderly Duke has finally succumbed to the inevitable and passed on (supposedly the victim of the unfortunate combination of a very old keg of wine, and a very young mistress).

The land, wealth, and small (but very professional) army of the Duchy were handed over to Duke August's twin sons, Johann and Joseph, in equal portions, as indicated by the old Duke's will. His instructions to do so, along with his admonition to his duplicate offspring to rule "as he had taught them, by word and by example, for the good of the Arbergian people" were read aloud in the streets after his passing, so that all the people of the Duchy would know that it had been his will, and the transition would go smoothly. This transition was to be assisted by the Duke's trusted advisors and ministers, who would help the two young men gain a steady grip on the reins of power. The most important of these, Duke August's chief minister Count Otto von Spitzenstuck, would spend 6 months with each of the new little courts to get things off to a good start, beginning with Johann, the elder twin.

Neither of the sons, however, were reconciled to his decision. Both felt that they had somehow been shortchanged. No sooner had the last echoes of the funeral ceremonies faded than Johann began to adopt a very imperious and condescending attitude towards his brother, and became quite disrespectful of the venerable Count Otto. Some unpleasant scenes resulted, in which it became clear that Johann had every intention of claiming, as the older twin, the sole rulership of the entire Duchy, and of using his half of the Arberg army to enforce it. This would allow him pass on an intact Duchy to his own son, Frederick, when the time came.

When it became clear that his strenuous opposition to this plan would not only fail, but would put him in jeopardy, Count Otto fled the court of Johann and took refuge with Joseph. Joseph immediately announced his intention to oppose his brother's scheme, but far from trying to preserve the letter and intent of his father's will, he desired to secure the entire Duchy for himself. With the help of the embittered Count Otto, he declared that, in fact, *he* was the older twin (an entirely plausible claim, since no records were kept, and all the witnesses of the double birth were either deceased, or conveniently "missing") and therefore rightful ruler of Arberg. With the redoubtable Count at his side to bolster his credibility, he took the field with his half of the small (but very professional) army to block his brother's aggression.

Meanwhile, Johann and the young Frederick had mustered their half of the small (but very professional) army at the castle of Herzenstein. Not content with a force that merely matched the strength of his brother's, and taking into account the possibility that he might actually have to force a conclusion by might of arms, Johann negotiated the loan of a couple of infantry brigades from the neighboring principality of Scharfenstein for a future consideration (which didn't make Frederick very happy, considering the size of the Duke of Scharfenstein's daughter) and marched

on Joseph's capital city of Herzberg. A few miles short of the town, their cavalry advanced guard found Joseph's forces deployed to meet them across a valley known as Schmutzenfeld. It was there that the fate of the bisected Duchy would be decided.

### **Army of the Duchy of West Arberg**

Commander: Duke Joseph von Herz/ Count Otto von Spitzenstuck

Cavalry:	Herzberg Grenadiers a Cheval	Veteran
	Einpferdstadt Dragoons	Veteran

Infantry:	Brigade von Spitzenstuck	Line
	Brigade von Herz	Line
	Arberg Grenadiers	Elite

Artillery:	1 Heavy Battery	
	2 Light Batteries	
	1 Howitzer Battery	

### **Army of the Duchy of East Arberg**

Commander: Duke Johann von Herz/ Frederick von Herz

Cavalry:	Herzenstein Grenadiers a Cheval	Veteran
	Arberg Dragoons	Veteran

Infantry:	Brigade von Herz	Line
	Brigade von Ketzner	Line
	Brigade von Helmond	Line
	Brigade von Scharf	Conscript
	Brigade von Stein	Conscript

Artillery:	1 Heavy Battery	
	1 Medium Battery	
	1 Light Battery	