

The Reisswitz Wargame 1820-1850

Cartographic considerations



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Origins of Prussian Tactical Wargaming

- 1812 Reisswitz senior Wargame donated to the royal princes
- 1824 **Reisswitz jun.:** ruleset presented to the head of staff and the crown prince
- 1827 Reisswitz jun. suicide
- 1828 **enhanced ruleset** by Berlin officers
- 1830++ **Selling** by General Staff
- 1860++ Tschischwitz, Verdy, Meckel...



Basic ideas: *The fog of War*

- 2 Parties red and blue
- Umpire with assistants
- **Reduced Topographical maps 1:8.000**
- Rule set for napoleonic tactics
- Real time move 2 Minutes
- Written Orders
- Hidden moves
- Randomness by Dice
- Evaluation of losses & Achieved goals
- War gaming not part of education at the war academy
- Leisure time of officers
- Early war gaming officer clubs

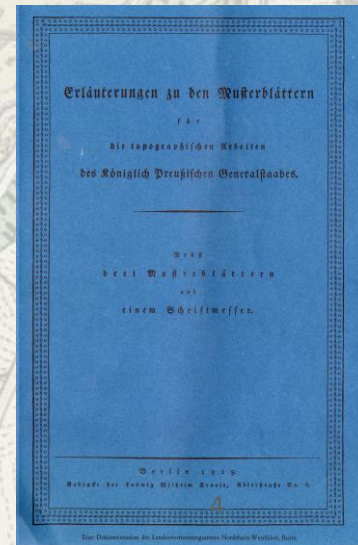
Anleitung
zur
Darstellung militairischer Manöver
mit dem
Apparat des Kriegs - Spieles
von
E. von Rejswitz,

Premier - Lieutenant in der Königlich Preussischen Garde - Artillerie.

Berlin, 1824.

The Prussian General Staff 1818++

- Reformed Army 1808++
- 1810 war academy
- Gen. Müffling, head of staff 1818++
- Trigonometrical office
- Topographical office
- Map Archive
 - Plankammer in the Royal Palace Berlin
- Topographical survey by junior officers
- Support of wargaming 1824++
- Controlling marketing of the game 1830++
- Successor war games 1850++



Confidentiality of maps

- Latest topographical maps of Prussia
- Theatre of war
- Semi-public war gaming
 - Prussian officers
 - Foreign officers (saxon, Austrian, minor German states, ...)
 - Military public
- Selected foreign areas:
 - Leipzig, Culm, Dresden, Prag



Making of topographical maps 1815-1850

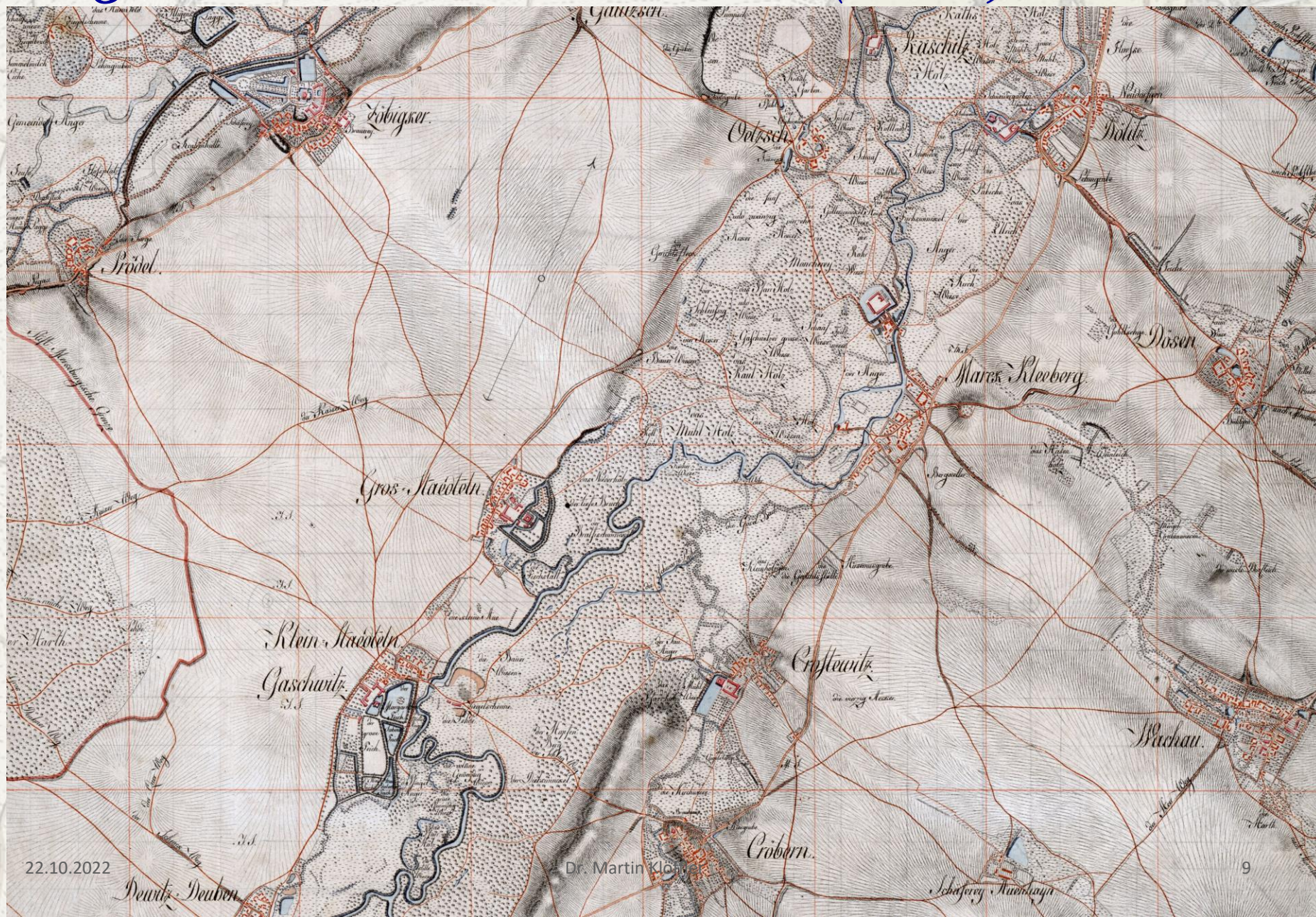
- Triangulation
- Topographical survey draft: surveyors table about 1:5.000
- Reducing & Assembling to manuscript map 1:25.000
- Reducing & Assembling & engraving „Generalkarte“ 1:86.4000
- Military use only



Meilenblätter and Felden map

- Saxon **Meilenblätter** handed to Prussia 1814
 - Berliner Exemplar
- Covering **saxony** in it's borders before 1814
- **Leipzig** major battle field 1813
- 80 sheets
- Scale **1:12.000**
- **Felden**, Prussian Staff
- Copy by rescaling to **1:8.000** in 1828
- Keeping orientation
- New cut of sheets
- Engraving
- **Printing**
- Dissemination by Prussian General Staff 1830++

Original Saxon Meilenblatt (1800) 1:12.000



22.10.2022

Dr. Martin Klein

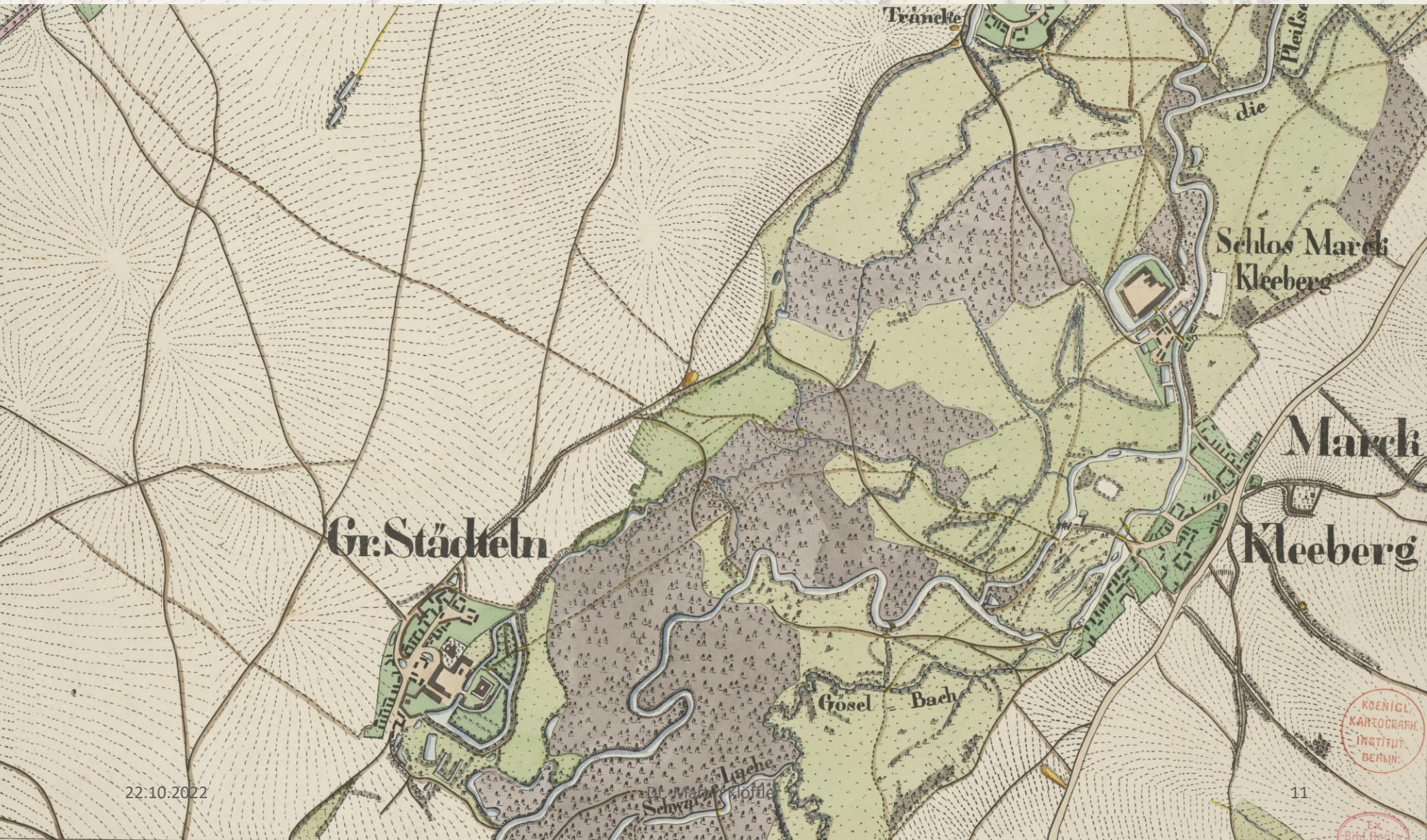
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Scaling the wargaming maps

- Why odd Scale 1:8000?
- A matter of **suitabe size** of token (pion)
 - Section Infantry battalion in line:
 - 400 men, 3 ranks deep
- Approx. 160 paces frontal length = **120 m**
- **15 mm** on map



Felden map (1828): manuscript 1:8000



Felden map: Printed or public version



Elementary infantry tactics 1824

The 1812 regulations

*Ein Bataillon mit rechts oder links
um, u. in Sectionen aufgeschlossen.*

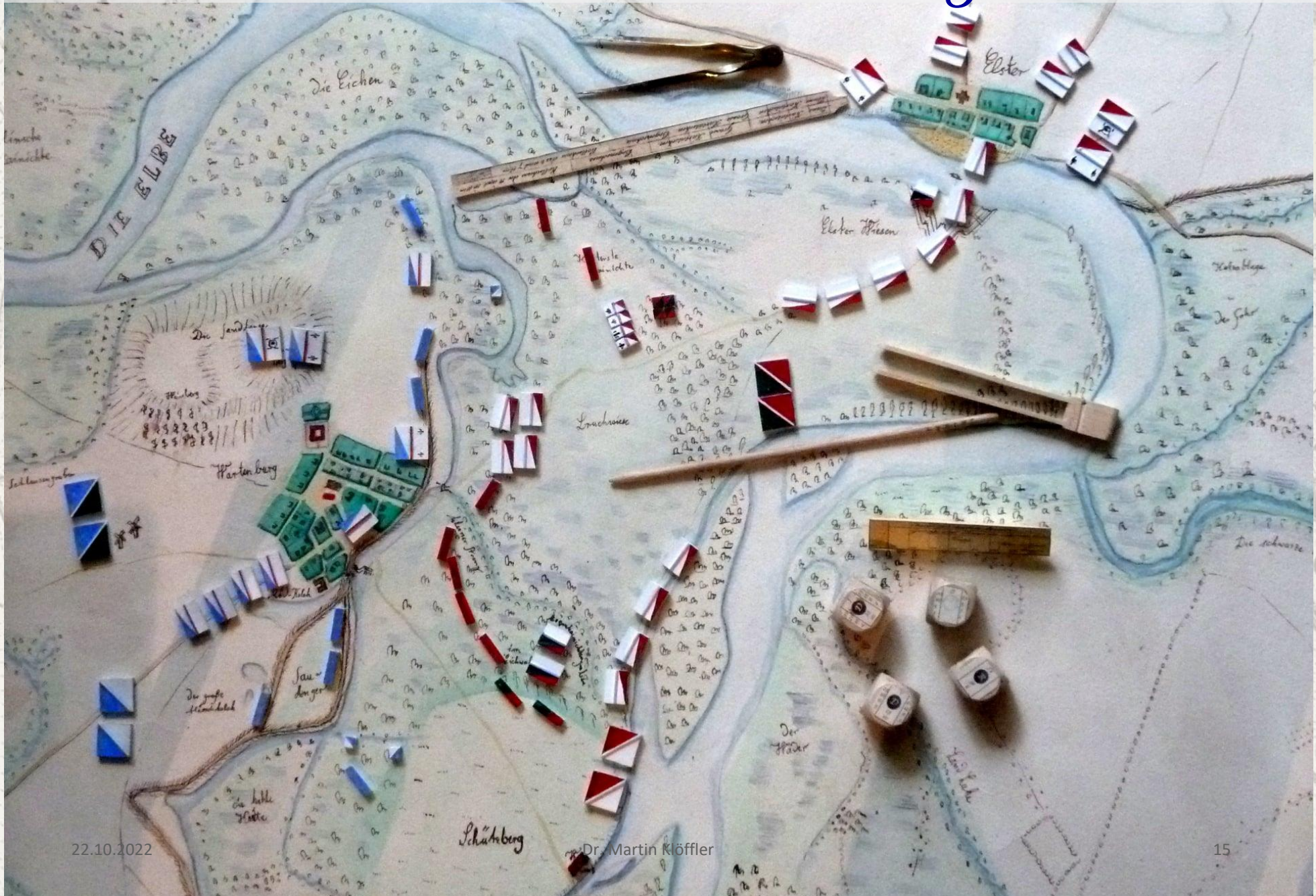


Ein Batt. in Sectionen aufgeschlossen



- Smallest tactical units
 - Battalion
 - Squadron
 - Battery
- Closed order of infantry
 - Line
 - Column
 - Square
- Deployed order for Skirmishing
 - 3rd rank

Reconstruction: Wartenburg 1813



Reconstruction: Gaming in the war academy



- 1 Umpire
- 1 assistant
- 1 minute writer
- 3-4 officers for red and blue party

Lessons to be learned

- Decision making
- Fog of war
- Tactical skills
- Considering ground

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Thank you for attention



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