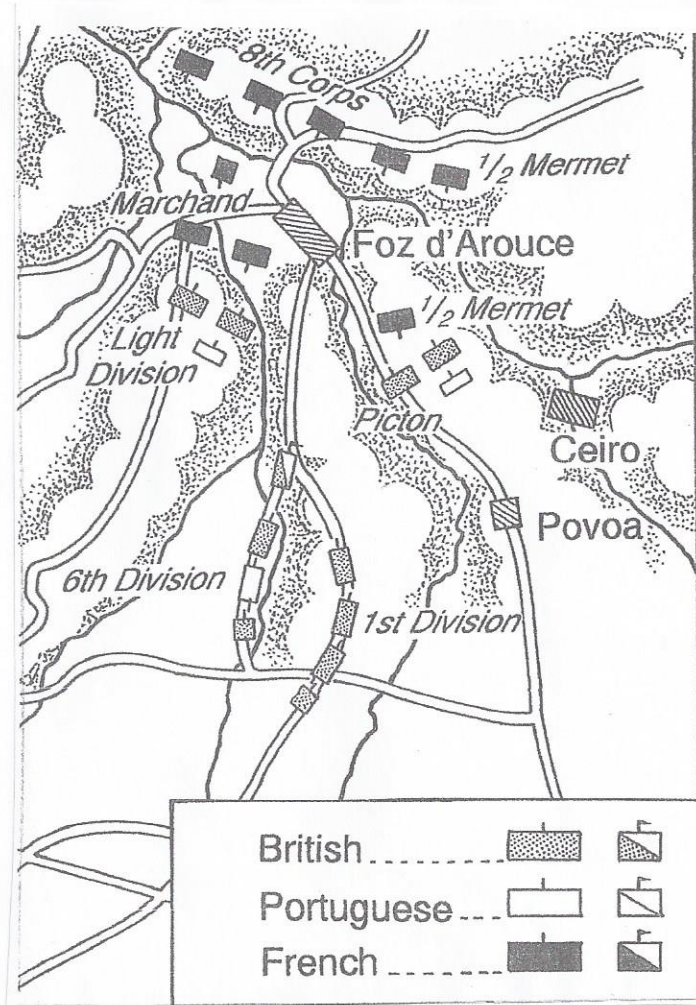


NG 13 WARGAMERS PRESENT:

FOZ D'AROUCE: 15th March 1811

The action at Foz d'Arouce took place during Massena's fighting retreat from Portugal in the Spring of 1811. Its interest lies in the way the tactical situation is almost a mirror image of Crauford's famous defensive action at the Coa River in the previous summer. This time the Light Division is on the attack and it is Marshal Ney who has been caught napping...

"In each case a rear guard was tempted to stay too long beyond an unfordable river and a narrow bridge...and nearly suffered a complete disaster." (Oman)



There is a detailed description of the action in Volume IV of Oman's History of the Peninsular War and it forms an interesting vignette in The Hardest Fight, the fourth Book in the Ties of Blood series by the organiser of today's conference, Peter Youds. Our game is inspired by both these sources – the basic tactical situation is close to the facts, but some of the characters leap from the pages of fiction. The action is set at a level somewhere between a skirmish and a small battle, with a rather more "heroic" style of play than the traditional Napoleonic Wargame. Here it is small unit tactics and the leadership of junior officers which will win the day – the gods are not (necessarily) on the side of the big battalions...

The armies are made up of hand-painted 28mm plastic and metal figures and the terrain is entirely scratch-built. The NG13 wargamers are a gang of old geezers who still enjoy playing with toy soldiers...