

The Battle of Poltava 1709



A Great Northern War Battle, presented by the Wyre Forest Wargames club (wfgamers.org.uk) and the Roll a One Blog (rollaone.com).



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The Battle of Poltava in 1709 was a disaster for Sweden and the key turning point in the Great Northern War (1700-1721). King Charles XII of Sweden had initiated the Russian Campaign in 1707 with the objective of Marching towards Moscow and defeat Tsar Peter and end the war. However, a series of unfortunate events, including the famous scorched earth tactics, the worst winter in memory and the ambush at Lesnaya in 1708, would lead to a heavily decimated Swedish army marching towards a numerically superior Russian Force in Ukraine 450 miles from Moscow.

The Swedish Gå-På tactics had succeeded against higher odds than these in the past - like the great Victory at Narva in 1700. Was it really a foregone conclusion or could the Swedes have won?