

# Battle of Noordhorn (1581)

## briefing Spanish army

This battle took place on 30 September 1581 just to the west of Noordhorn on a field that today is still called Norritsveld after the English commander of the Dutch army.

### *Prelude*

In 1580, the Dutch stadholder of Groningen, George van Lalaing, Count of Rennenberg, had shifted his allegiance from the Dutch to the Spanish side, also known as the treason of Rennenberg. It opened a new front to the Dutch Republic and forced it to dispatch forces to the north. In July 1581, however, Rennenberg died and was replaced by the Spaniard Francisco Verdugo. When he arrived in Groningen with reinforcements the situation changed once more. After pressure from the Frisians the Dutch finally send an army to the north. Verdugo positioned himself at Noordhorn and induced the Dutch into an attack.

### *Situation*

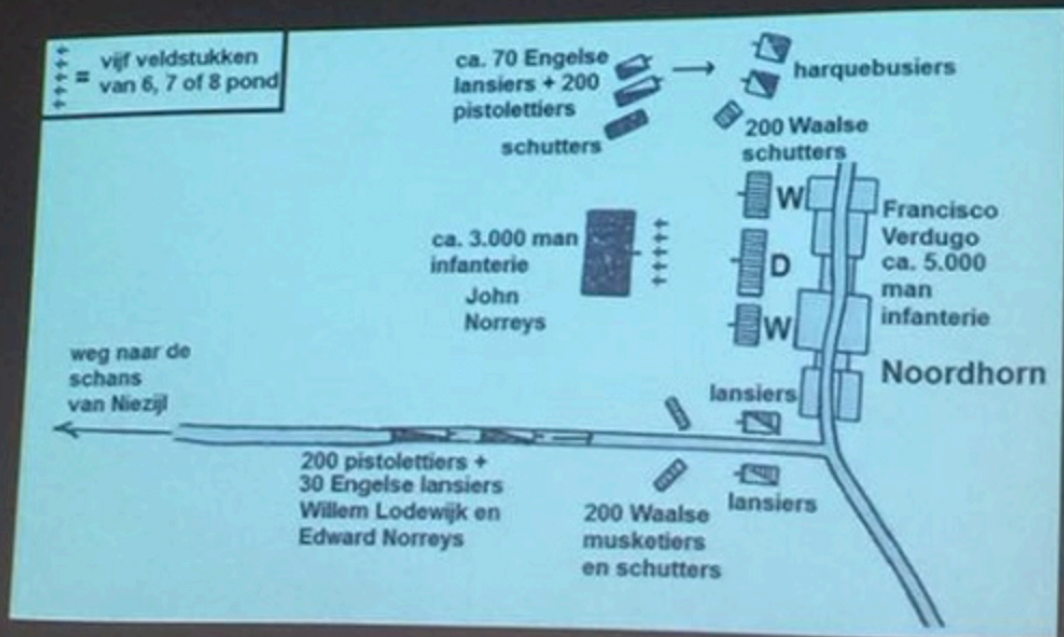
The ground in the north of the Netherlands is open and flat. Just a few metres of height differences characterise the mostly agricultural terrain. Today drainage is near perfect. For 1581 it is described as boggy and rough.



Noordhorn, Westerkwartier, Groningen, Nederland (53.26721 6.39105)

The Spanish army is headed by the Fransisco Verdugo. He may well have been the only spaniard as the army was mostly composed of German Landsknecht and Wallonian mercenaries.

# Schets van de beide slagordes naar J.W. Wijn



## Victory conditions

Hold back the Dutch and stop their advance on Groningen

## Army Control Dice: 9D6

Verdugo's army was very much a mercenary army like any other of the time.

Avant-garde			
Commander: de Villers			
Coup d'oeil: capable (4D6)			
Special rules: n.a.			
Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	KEYWORDS
Wallonian mounted arquebusiers	100 (2x2 bases)	Arquebus, lightly armoured, unarmored horses	HERGULETIERS MERCENARY
Wallonian mounted arquebusiers	100 (2x2 bases)	Arquebus, lightly armoured, unarmored horses	HERGULETIERS MERCENARY
Wallonian shot	200 (2 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY

Bataille			
Commander: Fransisco Verdugo			
Coup d'oeil: capable (4D6)			
Special rules: n.a.			
Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	REMARKS
Landsknecht pikemen	1000 (3 blocks)	Pike, frontrank 3/4 plate armour	CUADRO DE GENTE (±30x30) MERCENARY
Landsknecht shot	500 (3 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY
Wallonian pikemen	750 (2 blocks)	Pike, frontrank 3/4 plate armour	CUADRO DE GENTE (±30x30) MERCENARY
Wallonian pikemen	750 (2 blocks)	Pike, frontrank 3/4 plate armour	CUADRO DE GENTE (±30x30) MERCENARY

## Bataille

Commander: Fransisco Verdugo

Coup d'oeil: capable (4D6)

Special rules: n.a.

Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	REMARKS
Wallonian shot	500 (3 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY
Wallonian shot	500 (3 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY

## Arrière-garde

Commander: Alonso Mendo

Coup d'oeil: capable (4D6)

Special rules: n.a.

Unit	Size (men)	WEAPON	KEYWORDS
Spanish lancers	50 (2 bases)	Lance, 3/4 plate armour, unarmored horses	CABALLOS LIGEROS MERCENARY
Spanish lancers	50 (2 bases)	Lance, 3/4 plate armour, unarmored horses	CABALLOS LIGEROS MERCENARY
Wallonian shot	200 (2 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY
Wallonian shot	200 (2 bases)	Arquebus	6 to 8 ranks MERCENARY