

# 1565

## St. Elmo's Pay

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### Solo Play

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## Setup

1565, St Elmo's Pay can be played as a solo game, where the game takes on the role of an opposing player called a Foe. The game is played using the normal rules, except where stated in these Solo rules. It is recommended - but not required - that the player uses one of the Advanced Drafting card draw variants. The player chooses a faction for themselves and a faction for their Foe, then sets up their decks, and places their Leader as normal.

Set the Resource Dial to 'Round 1' and choose the preferred difficulty level.

Then set up the Foe as follows.

### *de Valette Foe:*

1. Jean Parisot de Valette is placed in Row 3 of Senglea.
2. Francisco Balbi di Correggio is placed in Row 2 of Senglea.
3. Galley Slaves is placed in Row 1 of Senglea.
4. The Malta deck is placed nearby.

### *Mustapha Pasha Foe:*

1. Mustafa Pasha is placed in Row 3 of Senglea.
2. Turgut's Corsairs is placed in Row 2 of Senglea.
3. Candelissa is placed in Row 1 of Senglea.
4. The Ottoman deck is placed nearby.

## Foe Turns

The player takes the first deployment turn and their turn plays as normal. After the player's turn it is the Foe's turn as follows:

- ❑ If the player just sacrificed a card, the Foe skips a turn, and play returns to the player. Otherwise:
- ❑ The Foe makes a single *Artillery* or *Range* attack (see p. 3). The *Artillery* or *Range* card is Tired and then play passes back to the player; OR
- ❑ If there are no *Artillery* or *Range* attacks available for the Foe, a card is drawn and played from the Foe's deck (see Foe Deployment below), and then play passes back to the player.

## Foe Deployment

- ✧ Reveal the top card of the Foe's deck.
- ✧ If the cost of the card is equal to or less than the Foe's Resources (i.e. its total as shown on the Resource Dial plus any resources from the Foe's Ready cards in play), that card will either be placed on the battlefield (see below) or its Event carried out.
- ✧ If that card costs more than the Foe's Resources, that card is discarded and the next card is drawn. This continues until either one card is played or until the Foe's deck is depleted, in which case:
- ✧ Play then returns to the player.

The Foe does not draw a hand of cards and cannot run out of cards. Do not shuffle the Foe's discard pile if it runs out of cards, simply turn it over to create the new deck to draw from during the next Foe Deployment and the Foe skips this turn.

In summary, draw cards until:  
Card Cost  $\leq$  Foe's Resources.

## Playing Foe Cards

**Special Note:** The Foe's cards DO NOT shift on the battlefield when gaps are created, and they DO NOT Tire unless otherwise stated in these rules.

When a Foe's card is played, the action listed on that card is taken immediately if possible (except for *Artillery/Range* Attacks, see p. 3, and End of Round abilities, see p. 4). The Foe always targets the player's *Bold*, *Artillery*, or *Range* cards with damage and destroy abilities first, otherwise the player chooses which of their cards or Frontiers to target, prioritising existing Wedges.

Any effects that remove damage from the Foe's cards, or add damage to Frontiers or the player's cards, will target the most damaged card first.

**Exception:** unless otherwise stated, the Foe ignores the following abilities:

- ✧ *Agile* and movement actions
- ✧ *Bloodlust* and self-damage actions
- ✧ *Family/Leader* and cost discounts
- ✧ *Learned/Recon/Scholarly* and card draw abilities
- ✧ *Response* abilities

## Placement Order

Place characters and units in the first available space in an existing Frontier following this order where 1 is the highest priority and 9 is the lowest:

|       |          |         |       |
|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| Row 3 | 7        | 8       | 9     |
| Row 2 | 4        | 5       | 6     |
| Row 1 | 1        | 2       | 3     |
|       | St. Elmo | Senglea | Birgu |

**Artillery/Range cards** - always place in the first available space in the same Frontier as the player's Leader, or the player's *Artillery/Range* cards, if possible, otherwise follow placement order, above.

**Exception:** *Artillery* are placed opposite the Frontier with the most enemies first, but only place opposite *Bold* or *Artillery* cards if there is no other choice.

**Bold** - always place opposite *Artillery* if possible.

**Attachments** - played into the same Frontier as the player's Leader if possible, otherwise: player's choice, but always into an existing Frontier.

**Events** - can only be played if the action can be taken at that time.

- ✧ If the drawn Event cannot be played, simply discard it and draw again.
- ✧ For card discount events, draw another card and apply the discount to the next playable card - i.e. draw until a card can be paid for AND played.
- ✧ For events with more than one action listed, the player chooses one that can be taken, if possible.

**Tactics** - played as written.

## Passing (End of Round)

After the player passes the Foe will continue its turn. In the following order it will:

- ✧ Tire each Ready *Artillery* card to use its *Artillery* ability (unless at Great Siege of Malta Objective),
- ✧ Tire each Ready *Range* card to use its *Range* ability (unless at Great Siege of Malta Objective),
- ✧ Activate End of Round abilities (see p. 4)
- ✧ Draw and play one more card,
- ✧ Move the Resource Dial one step to the next round to show the new Foe Resources total,
- ✧ Pass - the Deployment Phase is now over.

## Foe's Battlefield is full

When the Foe's Battlefield is full:

- ✧ The card drawn will replace the lowest cost card in an existing Frontier on the battlefield (that is not Tired, or Artillery, or Range), as long as the card to be replaced costs less than the card drawn.
  - ✧ If there is a tie for the lowest value card on the battlefield, the player chooses which card to replace.
  - ✧ Artillery and Range cards replace lower cost and same cost cards - if there is a tie for which card to replace, they prioritise:
    - Player Leader's Frontier
    - Player Artillery/Range card's Frontier
    - Row 1 (Row 3 for Artillery)
    - Player's choice
- Artillery and Range cards cannot be replaced by higher cost cards.
- ✧ Cavalry cards will prioritise replacing cards in Row 3 if tied.
  - ✧ If the card drawn cannot replace a lower cost card, it will not be played, discard it and the Foe will not play a card at that time. Play then returns to the player.

## Artillery/Range Attacks

The Foe's cards with 'Artillery X' or 'Range X' abilities always target the player's Bold, then Artillery, then Range cards if possible. Otherwise the player chooses which of his cards are targeted, and the order in which these attacks occur.

**B.A.R.:** The Foe always targets Bold, then Artillery, then Range cards where possible.

**Exception:** If both factions are at the Great Siege of Malta Objective, the Foe will only use Range attacks if they are losing the Might battle in that card's Frontier. Compare Might values once before making the card's Range attack. If it does not make the Range attack, continue with the Foe's turn as normal. The Foe will always use Artillery attacks.

## Objectives

Play using Objectives as normal, but both factions ignore all 'when destroyed' special rules and simply move on to the next Objective.

After Objective A, each time the player (not the Foe) destroys an Objective they may draw one card.

## "Commander" ability

Any Foe cards with the "Commander" ability only ever trigger if that card's Frontier has been taken. In this case the Commander moves to a space in another Frontier (with the least total Might - player breaks ties) as their next Draw Card turn, following Placement Order, replacing the lowest cost card if necessary. The player's Commanders play as normal.

## Scoring

Win or lose, the player's total points for the game are calculated to find out how well they did:

- ✧ 1 point for each damage token the player placed on a Frontier
- ✧ 5 points for a player victory
- ✧ 5 points for each level beyond Easy
- ✧ 30 bonus points for killing the Foe's Leader

| POINTS | RATING     |
|--------|------------|
| 0-10   | KNAVE      |
| 11-20  | SOLDIER    |
| 21-30  | KNIGHT     |
| 31-40  | VASSAL     |
| 41-50  | DUKE       |
| 50-60  | KING       |
| 61+    | CONQUEROR! |

## "Solo:" abilities

When the Foe plays a card with a Solo: ability, ignore the other card abilities and immediately carry out the Solo: instructions instead.

When the player plays a card with a Solo: ability, they may choose to play the card as normal, if applicable, or use the Solo: ability effect instead, if applicable.

**Special Note:** If there is ever any uncertainty about the Foe's action the player always chooses from those available, and always prioritises existing frontiers, even if it is to the player's benefit.

## Foe Turn Summary

1. **Artillery/Range Attack** and **Tire card\***, play passes back to player. If no **Artillery/Range** available, go to 2.

\* (at Great Siege of Malta, **Range Attacks** only happen if the Foe is losing the **Might Battle** in that card's **Frontier**)

2. Draw card:
  - a. if cost  $\leq$  Foe resources, go to 3.
  - b. if cost  $>$  Foe resources, discard and repeat 2.
  - c. if Foe deck is empty, flip it, and skip Foe turn.

3.  If **Event**: resolve one action (your choice).  
 If **Army**: play card into battlefield, following placement order. If battlefield is full and no lower cost card is available, discard and go to 4.
4. Play passes back to the player.  
**Exception:** If the player already passed, the Foe attacks with each **Ready Artillery** and **Range** card and draws and plays a card, then the Phase ends.

## Foe Resource Dial

The Foe's Resources value is equal to: the Resources on the Foe's Ready cards in play added to its resource value on the Resource Dial. During the first round the Foe will have:

- 1 Resource on the Resource Dial (in Easy, Normal or Hard mode), and
- +1 Resource symbol on **Francisco Balbi** (for the Malta Foe), OR
- +1 Resource symbol on **Turgut's Corsairs** (for the Ottoman foe).

This means that on Easy, Normal, or Hard mode, the Foe effectively starts with a total of 0 resources, and will be looking for a 0 cost card to play during the first round.

The Foe cannot ever have less than 0 resources in total.

Experienced players should use one of the *Advanced Drafting Variants* on p. 4 of the main rules.

## End of Round Abilities

The Foe uses the following abilities on any of its cards at the end of each round if possible. The card is Tired if used, and the abilities are activated in the following order:

- Bold:** always used if the option to take an **Artillery** card becomes available.
- Pulverise:** always used.
- Relentless:** the Foe will play any **Relentless** card from its discard pile if available and affordable.
- Tireless:** always used, unless the Foe is at the **Great Siege of Malta Objective** and the **Tireless** card's **Frontier** has not yet been claimed.

