



Scenario 16: Australian Briefing

You are Captain H.S. Conkey, commanding B Company of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion, part of 19th Australian Infantry Brigade. It is around 1300hrs on 21st January 1941, and you are in the middle of the assault on Tobruk!

The brigade has crossed the Italian perimeter and thrust straight for Tobruk itself. Its objective is the ridge overlooking the harbour. The 2/4th is the centre battalion, and has been tasked with moving to, and then through, the Italian strongpoint called Fort Solaro. The need for speed has been emphasised: allow the Italians to recover from the shock of the assault and accompanying artillery barrage, and things could get very rough indeed.

You have just crossed the Bardia to El Adem road. Up ahead of you is the El Gubbi airfield from which the battalion has started to take heavy fire from both MGs and artillery. Colonel Dougherty has ordered you to take your company forward and clear the airfield of all Italian opposition.

Map & Terrain

You are deep in the heart of the Italian defences having just crossed the plain formed by the perimeter and the Bardia and El Adem roads. In front of you is the El Gubbi airfield from where you have been receiving some fire. The rest of the battlefield is obscured by smoke and dust, but you know that Fort Solaro is somewhere to the north-west, and that there are probably Italians between you and it. What more do you need to know?

Initial Deployment

Your troops enter the table from anywhere along the eastern table edge. They enter the table under Blinds, being able to enter up to three available Blinds each time the Australian Blinds card appears. You have one Blind per platoon available, with two False Blinds.

Objectives & Victory Conditions

Your objective is to move off the western edge of the table, leaving no opposition behind you.

Notes

You are supposed to have some armoured support from 7RTR. Co-ordination with the tanks has proved very difficult, however, and you have been forced to begin your advance without them. You are hoping that they will turn up at some time in the very near future!

Captain Conkey's Company from 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion

Company HQ

Captain H.S. Conkey*

1 x (captured) motorcycle

2 x Boys Anti-Tank Rifle (2 crew)

1st Platoon

Lieutenant Mackenzie*

1 x Boys Anti-Tank Rifle (2 crew)

4 x Rifle Section (8 men each)



2nd Platoon

Lieutenant J.S. Copland*

1 x Boys Anti-Tank Rifle (2 crew)

4 x Rifle Section (8 men each)

3rd Platoon

Lieutenant Wright*

1 x (captured) Motorcycle

1 x Boys Anti-Tank Rifle (2 crew)

4 x Rifle Section (8 men each)

Anti-Tank Troop (from 3rd Royal Horse Artillery)

2 x Bofors 37mm Anti-Tank Guns plus tows (4 crew each)

Possible Reinforcements

Tank Troop (from 7th Royal Tank Regiment)

2 x Matilda II

Off-Table Artillery

You have access to four fire missions from four 25-pounders.

Troops/Dice	0	1	2	3	4
Australians	1, 2	3	4	5, 6, 7	8
Your men count as Elite troops in Close Combat					

Infantry AT	0-4"	4-8"	8-12"	12-16"	16-24"
Infantry Section	2	-	-	-	-
Boys Anti-Tank Rifle	3	2	2	1	-
MMG	3	3	2	2	1

Vehicle	AC	Weapon	Speed
Matilda Tank	9	5	Slow

Weapon	Strike
Bofors 37mm ATG	4