

LEBANESE DRAMA

SCENARIO ASL TAC 44 Translated by Coastal Fortress Gaming Group



VICTORY CONDITIONS: The Vichy French player wins as soon as he has exited 22 Good Order VPoff the southern board edge, if he has accumulated more CVP than the Commonwealth player.

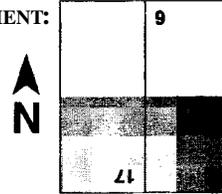
North of MARYJAYOUN, LEBANON, 15 June 1941:

Foreseen to be a military parade, the invasion of Lebanon by Commonwealth and Free French troops became a persistent battle. Not in the least neutral and passive, the Vichy forces prepared to counter-attack after their initial surprise. On 10 June, the Australians advancing on Beirut seized Marjayoun. This city became one of the Vichy objectives, as they were seeking to cut the communication lines of their adversaries. Some R35s of 6th African Armored Regiment (RCA), the 2nd Battalion of 29th Algerian Infantry Regiment (RTA), and some artillery formed up on the 14th, in preparation for a counter-attack the next morning. The northern approach to the city, Balate Ridge, was held by the English of the First Cavalry Division, who had just swapped their horses for trucks. The French attack began around 1400, when the 7th Company of 2nd Battalion of 19th RTA advanced on the ridge and the 5th Company moved on the left in the valley. The tanks of Captain Bellegarde came under withering artillery and antitank fire and had to withdraw. But the Greys retreated in the face of the Algerian skirmishers despite receiving the reinforcement of the Yeomanry and their machineguns. The portees abandoned the position when the R35s returned in force. The 5th Company then took the foot of the ridge in order to participate directly in its assault, supported by artillery.

BOARD PLACEMENT:

BALANCE:

- ⊙ Add another R35 to the 6th RCA
- ⊙ Replace the MMG with a HMG in the allied OB



Only hexrows A-Q on board 17 and Q-GG on board 9 are playable

- ⊙ Setup is sequential, see the OB below.



Elements of the 171st Light Antiaircraft Battery setup first on board 9 on/south of hexrow V (see SSR3).

Elements of A Squadron, Royal Scots Greys, and of B Squadron, Staffordshire Yeomanry, and the Machinegun Troop [ELR:2] (see SSR2) set up third on/south of hexrows V on board 9 and Lon board 17 {SAN: 4}.

Troop of the 6th Australian Cavalry Regiment enter on Turn 1 on the south edge (see SSR2).

Elements of the 2nd Battalion of 5th Australian Infantry Regiment [ELR:3] enter on turn 4 along the south edge of board 17 (see SSR2).

Elements of the 5th and 6th Companies of the 2nd Battalion of 29th RTA [ELR:3] setup second on board 9 on/north of hexrow T {SAN: 3}.

Elements of the 6th RCA enter on/after Turn 2 on the north edge of Board 9.

enter on Turn 1 on the north edge:

Scenario Design: Philippe Naud and Jean-Luc Béchenec '93

SSR:

1. EC are Dry with no wind at start. Kindling is NA. Woods are considered Olive Groves. These Olive Groves are not Inherent Terrain and follow the outlines of the terrain replaced. These hexes are still considered Woods for RtpH and RPh purposes only. Grain is Open Ground. Roads do not exist.
2. Commonwealth 4-5-8/2-4-8 and SMC have an ELR of 3. All other British units have an ELR of 2. The Carriers contain 2-4-8 HS (D6.82).
3. The 40L AA Guns cannot be setup HIP but can be setup Concealed and Emplaced.
4. The Vichy French receives a 70-mm module (HE and Smoke) directed by an off-board observer secretly placed at Level 4 along the north edge of Board 9 before the Commonwealth setup. Its first Battery Access attempt is automatically successful - remove a black chit from its Draw Pile.

AFTERMATH: Well led by several energetic officers, the French infantry pushed back the English cavalry, who revealed themselves to be mediocre infantry. The carriers which brought reinforcements into the Debbine Valley clashed with the Algerian Skirmishers. They retreated and regrouped along with a company of Australian infantry under Lieutenant Mayberry, and took position north of the village of Debbine around 1730. Despite the absence of cooperation between the 2nd Battalion and the tanks, the ridge was taken by the French by 1900. The Greys and the Yeomanry withdrew in disorder and abandoned its prisoners. The 7th Company continued its advance and chased the Australians out of Debbine. But it was too late to hope to take Marjayoun before nightfall. For their part, the Anglo-Australian forces finally evacuated the city in favor of a position further south. The Vichy forces occupied their objective the next morning, but despite this first success, the French counter-offensive lacked drive and would not go much further.