

THE TEBOURBA ENGAGEMENT

EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF TEBOURBA, TUNESIA, 27 November 1942:

Tebourba, a nondescript town, but a critical point in either attacking or defending Tunis came in Allied possession a few hours before daylight on 27 November. Resistance was negligible: Axis forces had been withdrawn earlier towards Djedeida and across the Medjerda River, a withdrawal which seemed to portend a general retreat to thicken the screen around Bizerte and Tunis. It was a decision of Nehring, the commander of the Axis forces in Tunisia, later to be condemned by Kesselring. The 1st Bn, East Surrey Regt, reinforced by US Armored units, organised a perimeter defense east of the town early that day. Late in the morning one of its patrols towards Djedeida, the next town on the road to Tunis, was driven back. Shortly thereafter, two enemy columns of tanks and Fallschirmjäger assailed the northeastern and eastern sectors of the town.

VICTORY CONDITIONS:

The Germans win immediately upon exiting ≥ 20 VP of the west edge (at least 8 Exit VP must be non-crew infantry). No VP are granted to the German player for Allied prisoners.

MAPBOARD

CONFIGURATION:

	35
	7



Only Hexrows R-GG are playable.

BALANCE:

German: Exchange the M3 MT in the Allied reinforcements for a M3 GMC ht.

Allied: Exchange the 8-0 in the Allied Reinforcements for a 9-1.

TURN RECORD CHART:

ALLIED sets up first	G	1	2	A	3	4	5	6	7	END
GERMAN moves first										

ALLIES:

Elements of 1st Bn, East Surrey Regt, 11th Bde, supported by elements of 2nd Bn, 13th Armored Regt (US) and C Cy, 701st TD Bn (US) [ELR 3]: set up on / west of hexrow X north of the river {SAN 4}

4-5-7	2-2-8	9-1	8-0	MMG	LMG	ATR	MTR 51*	AT 2pdr OQF 40L	13 M3 MT 37LL	20 M3 GMC 75
6									(US)	(US)

Reinforcements enter on turn 3 along the west edge, north of the river:

4-5-7	8-0	LMG	13 M3 MT 37LL
2			(US)

GERMANS:

Elements of 3rd Bn, 5th Parachute Regt and 190th Pz Regt [ELR 4]: enter on turn 1 along the east edge, north of the river {SAN 3}

5-4-8	9-2	8-1	8-0	dm MMG	LMG	ATR	14 PzKpfW IVF2 75L	13 PzKpfW IIIL 50L
8					2		2	2

SPECIAL RULES:

1. EC are dry with no wind at start. Kindling is NA.
2. All Orchards are Olive Groves (F13.5). All Marsh is Brush. All Buildings are stone, except 35Z2, AA4 and Y10, which are Huts (G5) representing Arab huts made of mud and straw. The Medjerda river is Deep with a slow current to the east.
3. Bore Sighting is NA.
4. Use of the IIFT as found in the 1989 ASL Annual is recommended.

AFTERMATH: Around the outskirts of town, particularly in the cover of the olive groves, the battle became a series of sharp encounters as confused as combat can be. One German tank succeeded in piercing the Allied screen, but it remained there for just a brief period... In the evening the Germans were slowly pushed eastward. They broke off action at darkness and retired towards Djedeida, taking along a few British prisoners and four of their damaged tanks, but leaving ten others behind. The Allied force had been hurt severely as well. The results of the fighting near Tebourba on 27 November left each adversary inclined to begin a new stage in his plan of operations. Nehring prepared for more steeped in an aggressive defense. The Allies reorganised and regrouped for the next phase of their attack towards Tunis: the taking of Djedeida and its important airfield.