

CREHEN / HANNUT

Part.1

12th May 1940

Scenario written by Andy Parkes and Bob Hart Ver 1.3

Overall Situation:- FRENCH VIEW

GENERAL LANGLOIS – 3e DLM– 04:00h, 12th May 1940

The long awaited offensive by the Boche commenced at Dawn two days ago. Following reports of Germans flooding over the Belgian borders, the Allies implemented the agreed Dyle-Breda plan, intended to push forward into Belgium to link up with the Belgians and ultimately the Dutch and stop the Boche in their tracks.

To cover this advance, the French Cavalry Corps has advanced rapidly and taken up positions on the Tirlemont-Huy line.

Gen Prioux intends to delay the Boche until at least 14 May to allow the main forces behind him to link up and establish firm defensive lines.

Commander 3e DLM has deployed his forces on the line of the Petit Gette stream and forward in Hannut. The right flank is covered by 2e DLM. The Corps, has arrived with enough time to organise in depth, with the infantry forming strong points in the towns, villages and farms that cover the area.

The armour has largely deployed behind the front line, ready to counter-attack. 1e RC has been designated the Divisional Reserve. The Boche are expected soon. 12e RC, the Divisional recon unit, has deployed forward and made contact in the area of Maastricht yesterday.

The Boche have pushed hard, suffering a number of armour casualties at the hands of the Panhard 178 armoured cars of the 12e RC. The town of Tongres has been left to the Boche and a motor cycle platoon was lost in the vicinity, but 12e RC have claimed over 5 tanks destroyed, including one Pz Mk IV.

The Luftwaffe has been active in our rear but little attempt has been made on the front lines.

The Germans seem to have briefly halted their advance late yesterday but G2 believes they will resume their advance today and 3e DLM is squarely in their path. The division arrived in position at 2100hrs yesterday and has been frantically fortifying ever since. Unfortunately, there are few natural obstacles available and only a few of the absurd Belgian anti-tank obstacles to assist in making barricades.

INTENT

3e DLM has ordered 11e RDP to defend the line Ophelissen-Mailles-Orn-Hannut-Crehen in order to impose delay on the German forces to allow the main Allied effort to link up and form a firm defensive line.

GOC 3e DLM has divided the AO into 2 sectors organized in depth with infantry strong points in each town, village or farm held by the 11e RDP (Colonel des Revouy) supported by tank groups deployed on the rear, ready to counter-attack between the infantry positions.

The northern sector is defended by the 6e BLM (Colonel des Loges):

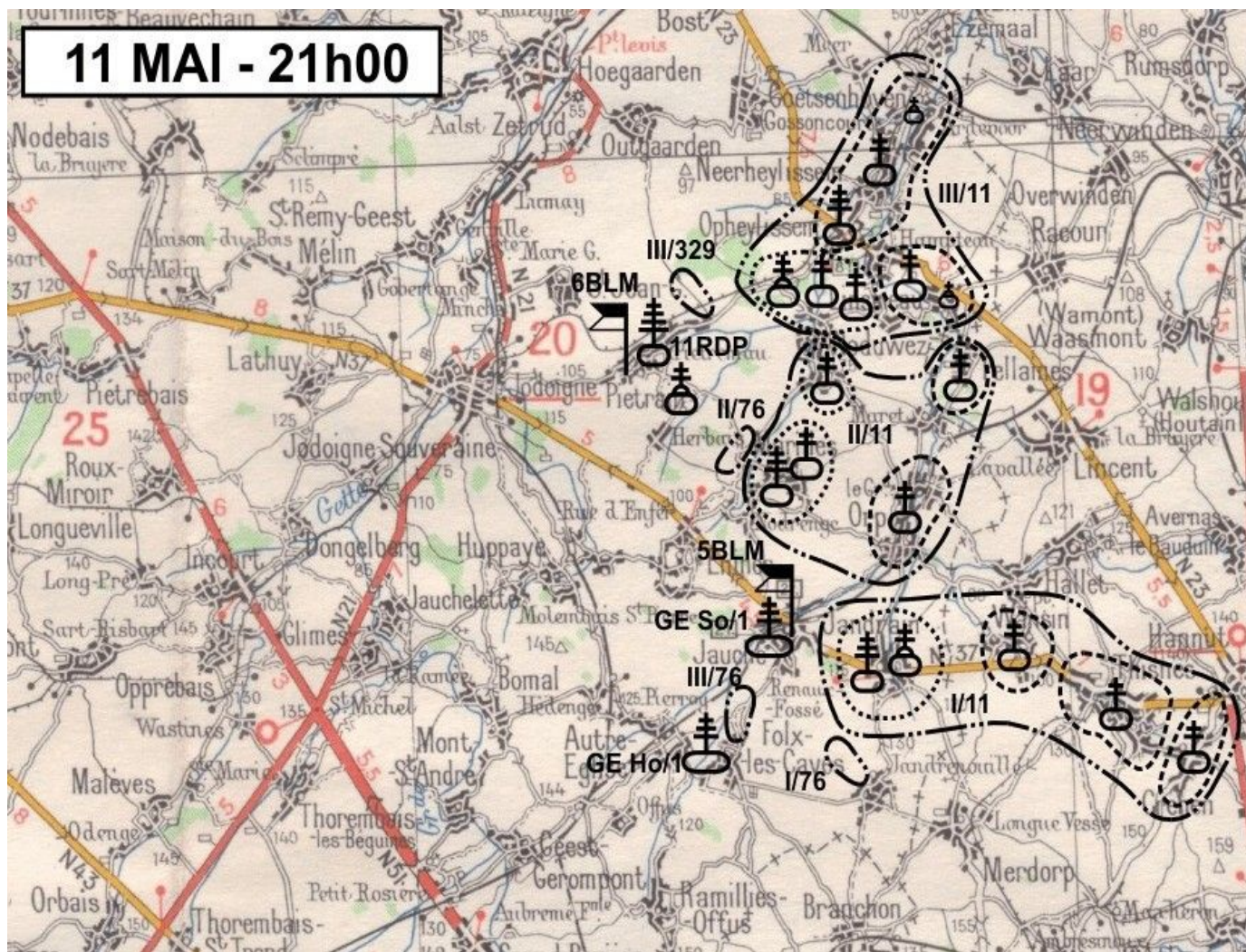
- **12e RC** (40 Panhard 178 armored cars) whose elements are currently in reconnaissance patrols
- **11e RDP(-) 2e and 3e** battalions with 44 Hotchkiss H35/39 tanks)

The southern sector is defended by the 5e BLM (General de La Font):

- **1e RC** (43 Hotchkiss H39 and 44 Somua S35)
- **2e RC** (43 Hotchkiss H39 and 44 Somua S35)
- **11e RDP** (1e infantry battalion with 22 Hotchkiss H35/39 tanks)

The first line around Hannut and Crehen is defended by the 1st battalion of the 11e RDP (I/11e RDP, Capitaine Lafargue). The 2e RC (Lieutenant-Colonel Touzet du Vigier) has the task to protect this first line with 2 Somua S35 squadrons and 2 Hotchkiss H39 squadrons.

Strategic Overview of 3e DLM



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Overall Situation:- FRENCH VIEW

Capitaine Lafargue– 1e/11eRDP– 05:00h, 12th May 1940

Orders from the Regiment have been delivered by a staff officer only a few minutes ago. You have quickly read them and realise that you have correctly anticipated most of your assigned tasks.

You note from the Situation brief that elements of 12e RC (12th Regiment of Cuirassiers' "Panhard A/C's) have closed with the Boche yesterday and you note they have reported little use of infantry. There seems to be a lot of armour, which worries you a bit. But in the strong points, you believe you will be able to withstand any armour attack, as the 12e RC have reported only a few tanks appear to have cannon. Most are only the equivalent of our own AMR35 (25mm)!

You have established the Battalion HQ in Jandrain and distributed the 4e Sqn (heavy Weapons) among the companies. Currently you have 1e Sqn (1st Squadron) on the far right in Crehen, less a platoon sent forward into Hannut. You are concerned that the company appears to have lost contact with the platoon during the night. You are pleased that 5e BLM (5th Light Mechanised Brigade) has placed 3e/2e RC (Regiment Cuirassier "H39") in support of the company as you believe it a bit under strength. In Hannut itself is a unit of Belgian Jagers (2nd Jager de paar)who have set up a anti tank point with T13 and T15 tanks. There is a large influx of refugees crossing your front and passing your lines which makes forward motion difficult, these include units of Belgians withdrawing to the rear towards Jauche.

2e/11e RDP (11th Mounted Dragoon Regt) with 4e/2e RC holds the centre in Thisnes while 3e/11eRDP with 13e/11eRDP holds the left in Wansin.
The remainder of 2eRC is to the south, in reserve.

Your men have found two of those Belgian "Cointet" anti-tank obstacles (Belgian Gates) and 1e/11eRDP has managed to make improvised barricades from them.

You have walked the local area before dusk yesterday and ordered withdrawal routes to be identified. To prevent confusion, you have ordered 1e/11eRDP, if forced out of Crehen, to withdraw on Thisnes to the NW, 2e/11eRDP to withdraw on Wansin.

Artillery support will be provided by I/76e RA and III/76e RA and elements of Corps arty III/329e RA . You have issued orders regarding their priorities of fire.

French Briefing

I/11e RDP (3e DLM)

1e/11e RDP Crehen, 06:00hrs 12th May.

You look out over the dawning light in front of your positions. Soon, you hope to be among the first to engage the Boche. You have trained for this all your life and today will prove your courage and that of your men. Looking briefly at your map and identifying where you have placed men on the ground, you are reasonably happy. You are worried about the missing platoon you were ordered to send forward to Hannut. This has left your line rather thin.

However, you are happy with being given the whole of I/76eRA in direct support, as well as the mortars. And having the tanks of 3e/2eRC to help out has been a great morale boost for the men.

You just wish you had some anti-tank guns in the area. The two improvised obstacles should hinder the Boche enough to enable a devastating barrage to do some serious damage. But even one anti-tank gun would improve the odds.

Groupings – see attached graphic.

French Deployment, Notes & Special Rules

Deployment and Reinforcement

Turn 1 08:00 Hrs Start of scenario. Germans move first.

All French units must start hidden in and around the village of Crehen.

You can place two improvised road blocks, which constitutes a linear obstacle (hard cover), impassable to vehicles. It takes one engineering action to remove.

Turn 13 11:00 Hrs End of Scenario

Discipline Rating

All MEs are Trained.

Off board Artillery

Support comes from the 76th Artillery Regt. You are allowed one pre registered fire mission which can be called in by coloured flares, no roll needed, must designate a point on the board.

Air Support (Optional)

Random the British and French had missions to stop 4th Panzer; use any available aircraft once per game on successful roll for air support. Possibilities are Spitfire, Hurricane, Blenheim, Fairy Battles, MS 406 or a LeO 451.

Transport

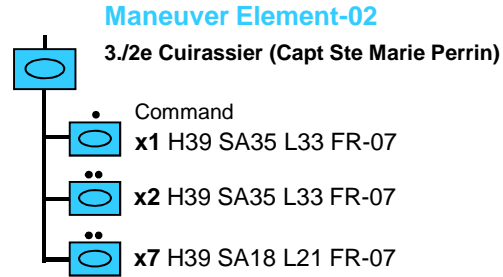
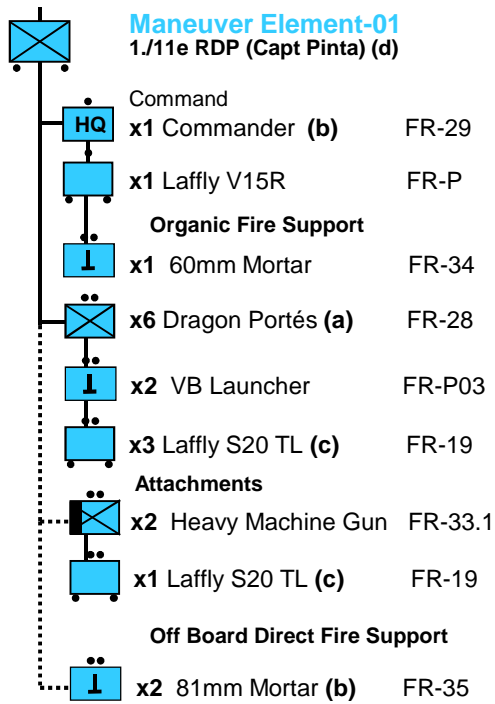
Nil

Hidden Unit Status

All units start hidden, Infantry can start in improved positions, tanks can start hull down.

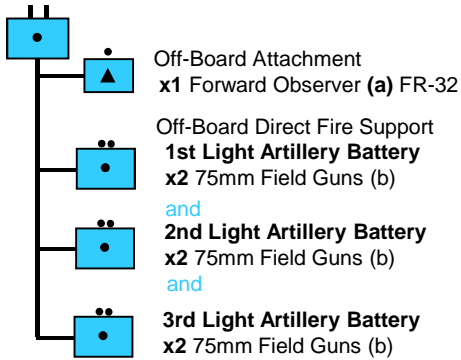
French Manoeuvre Elements

Crehen

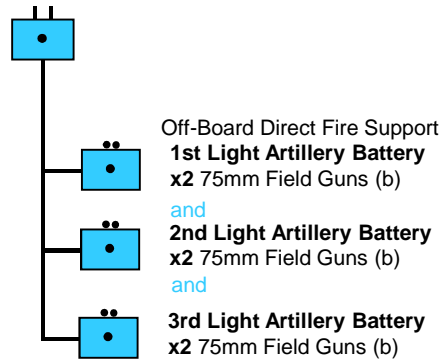


- (a) One Platoon is located in Hannut itself and is not included in the above figures.
- (b) Treat Cmdr as a FOO for purposes of calling fire for mortars.
- (c) When troops are mounted all vehicles class as having a A/A MG fitted.
- (d) You can lay x2 scattered minefields.

**Off board Direct Fire Support
I/76e RA**



**Off board General Fire Support
I/71e RA 2eDLM**



- (a) The forward observer is located off table to the West on high ground, but his position is such he can see the Western edge of Crehen and thus can call fire on targets west of the main road running North/South, and the higher ground to the East.
- (b) Large template. Indirect Fire weapon rating: **(Yes Large template, due to ROF)**
-1 vs. V, 0 vs. T, G, sV

		OBSERVER	LEVEL OF SUPPORT	Organic Fire Support	Direct Fire Support	General Fire Support
French	Forward Observer			4 or more	5 or more	7 or more
	Commander			5 or more	6 or more	---
	Troops			6 or more	---	---

35th Panzer Regt “KG Eberbach” 4th Panzer Division

Situation

(Hauptman von Jugenfeld) II/Pz Regt 35, 04:00 hours 12th May 1940 Somewhere in Belgium!

And you thought that you would enjoy finally being out of barracks and back at the war! Fool, you think to yourself! You are frustrated by the delays caused by the problems of refuelling late last night. French forces have been nipping at your forces all yesterday and who would have thought those Verdammnt Panhard armoured cars could carry such a powerful weapon. Already the Regiment has lost 5 tanks, including one of the precious Mk IV.

Division has informed Regiment that Hannut is now secure, as the early warning platoon stationed there has been dispersed. While everything is still confused it appears they were from a French Dismounted Dragoon unit (3rd), which means their division, what the French call a DLM, should be nearby, there are also scattered retreating Belgian units blocking the roads, which the Luftwaffe have been shooting up ahead of you. You have read the Divisional commanders orders.

4th Panzer Divisional Commander's Intent.

35 Pz Regt is to clear the line Hannut-Cheren-Thisnes to allow follow-on forces to exploit.

Pz Regt 35

Phase one – II/35 Pz Regt is to clear line Hannut-Crehen

Phase two – I/35 Pz Regt by pass and advance West to clear Thisnes

Phase 3 – Pz Regt 35 is to pass through and exploit to Malves

You are pleased that Regiment has given the task to your Abteilung but when you look at what else they have given you to do the job, you are a bit concerned. You have the two Leichte Koys, armed mainly with Pz I and Pz II.

Only your 8. Kompanie has any real punch. However, Befehl ist Befehl and you have attached the “Erkunder” zug (Terrain Reconnaissance platoon) to the 6th Kompanie and sent them off to clear the route to Crehen. The rest of your force is available to attack Crehen.

However, you note, looking at the villages and farms you are passing, that it would take little effort for infantry to turn these little places into real problems. Oh, for some infantry!

Orders:

Mission :-II/Pz Regt 35 is to clear the axis Hannut-Crehen to allow its use by follow on forces and then to advance West to capture Thisnes and Wansin.

Priority of effort is the Hannut-Crehen axis

Order of march

6th Kompanie with attachments

5th Kompanie

8th Kompanie

Battalion HQ will move behind 6th Kompanie.

Luftwaffe effort is being concentrated on the French rear so minimal air support is available.

(No artillery support is yet available as you have outstripped the artillery columns.

German Deployment, Notes & Special Rules

Deployment and Reinforcement

Turn 1 08:00 Hrs Start of scenario.

Germans move first, 6th leichte Kompanie enters board from Hannut (Pt A) along the main road running NE / SW through Crehen.

Turn 3 08:30 Hrs 5th leichte kompanie enters from Hannut (Pt A or C)

Turn 5 09:00 Hrs 8th Kompanie is released (Pt A or C).

Turn 13 11:00 Hrs End of scenario

Discipline Rating

All MEs are Experienced.

Off board Artillery

As the advance has been so rapid your artillery assets are still trying to cross the Meuse and thus no assets are available as yet.

Air Support

The air assets are from a squadron of JU-87 (2-3 models) on call. You may call an airstrike of consisting of 2-3 JU-87B (GE-104) multiple times during the game except turn 1. However, there must be a three turn delay after each call to represent the turn around of squadrons. **E.G you place successful call on turn 2 and A/C arrive on board at designated point on turn 5.**

Transport

All transport must be placed on table, soft skin vehicles class towards casualties but not for manoeuvre element size.

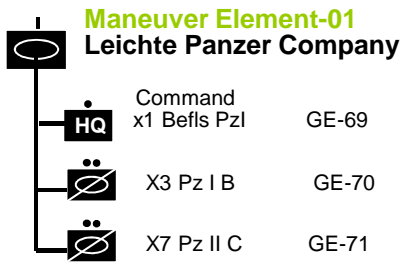
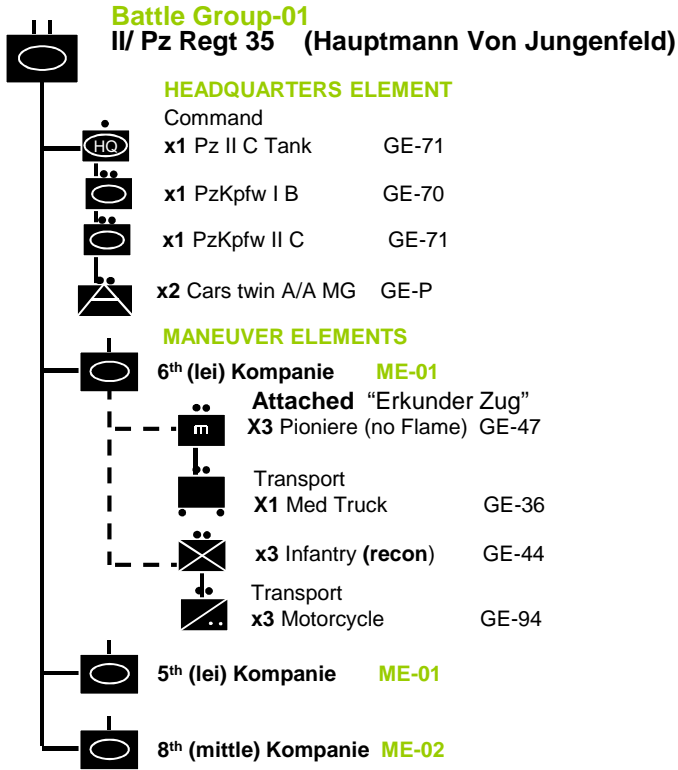
Hidden Unit Status

No German units start the game hidden.

White Phosphorous (W.P.)

W.P. was a special kind of ammo that combines the effects of a smokescreen with an attack. When using WP, apply a -1 modifier to the attack factor and resolve the attack normally. Then place a "dissipating" smoke screen in the area of the attack (only lasts for one turn and only effects spotting by -1 level and attacks through it by -1).

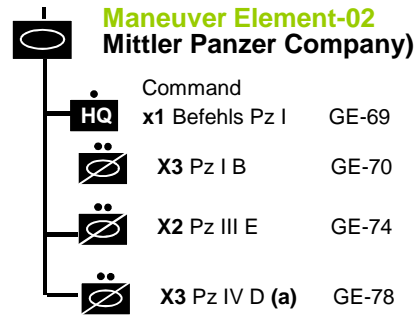
German Manoeuvre Elements



25% = 3

50% = 6

75% = 8



(a) W.P. issued to Pz IV only. Must state before firing see briefing.

25% = 2

50% = 5

75% = 7

Winning Conditions

French Decisive Victory: (2VP) - French **still hold Crehen I.E. no enemy units within 3” of point X and hold at least two of the four closest BUS** by game end and cause more than 50% casualties on the Germans overall (I.E. 21 casualties or more over the whole BG). Stops the German attack in its tracks. Any French Survivors can automatically withdraw Westwards (Point B) and reinforce the troops in Thisnes, add troops to scenario 2 if playing as campaign.

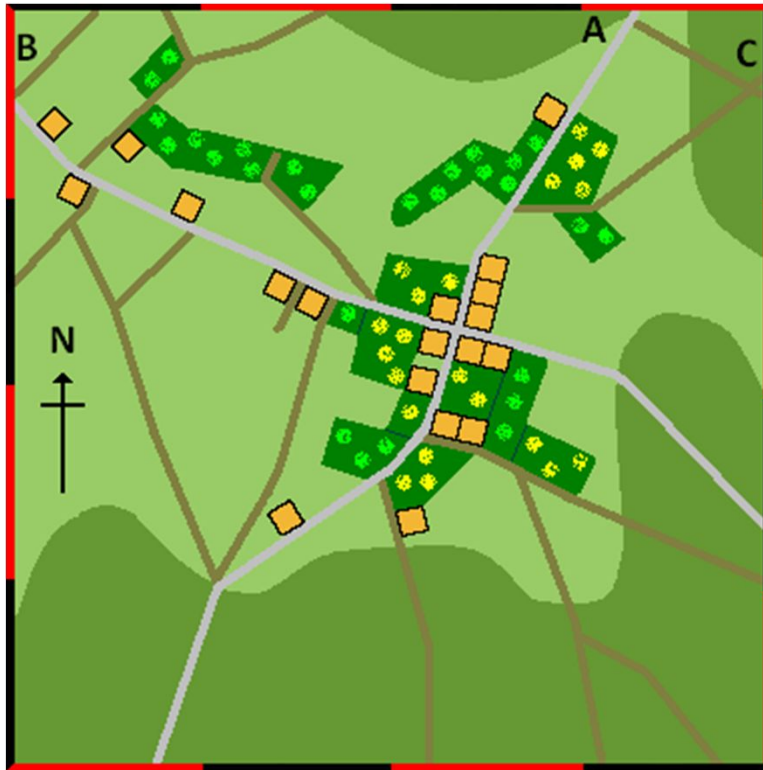
French Marginal victory: (1 VP) - Two or more German ME's have more than 50% casualties, They do not have enough strength to push the initiative. Any French Survivors that exit board at point "B" can be used in second scenario but all troops start disordered do not get +1 for no casualties.

Anything else is a German victory. Move to scenario 2. No French troops can be used to reinforce the second scenario.

References:-

<http://www.tanaka-world.net>

<http://www.atf40.fr>



Terrain:- The village is a mix of rows of houses with hedge enclosed gardens and small apple orchards.

Map is 4'x4', North is to the Top. Crehen itself is situated in a valley. The brown lines are rough tracks where as the grey are paved roads.