



Burma Campaign 1942, « The Great Retreat ».

The first Burma campaign began on the same day as the attack of Pearl Harbor, when Japanese troops of the XVth Army landed on the coast of Thailand in order to protect the rear of the XXVth Army which invaded Malaya. Crossing the mountains and jungle of the Tennasserim area, Japanese captured then the British airfields on the south of Burma. The British Army, at that time was composed of two weak divisions which could not stop the Japanese assault. After the capture of Moulmein and the lost battles of Bilin river and Sittang bridge, the withdrawal of British troops never stopped. Rangoon was captured on the 9th of March 1942. Chinese nationalist troops, more numerous than the British did not succeed to stop the Japanese at Toungoo. And the Japanese advance continued inexorably in Central Burma in spite of the bravery of British soldiers and particularly the tankists of the 7th Armoured Brigade, which had already known the war in the Libyan desert. Yenangyaung oilfields were destroyed before their capture by the Japanese then the rest of the British troops crossed the Irrawady river to pursue its withdrawal towards India. The crossing of the Chindwin river was the last battle of the Burcorps (Burma Corps), but it was at the cost of all heavy weapons and in particular the last tanks. British soldiers under the command of General Slim reached India in rags, starved and almost all sick with malaria. They had covered more than 1,600 km, most of the time accross jungle and always fighting against Japanese. After recovery they will be the core of the XIVth British Army which will drive the Japanese out of Burma in 1944-45.

This campaign, composed with 15 scenarios, recalls the battles of the first Burma campaign which was known, for the British, as “the Great Retreat”.

Jdrommel.





Campaign Notes

Expansions needed with the base game:

- Terrain Pack,
- Pacific Theater
- Mediterranean Theater
- Equipment Pack
- Winter Wars.
- Air Pack (only optional)

This campaign is played in the chronological order of the scenarios with no advanced rules.
This 15 scenarios campaign can be divided in five sub-campaigns :

- Invasion – Scenarios 1 to 3 ;
- Beginning of the Great Retreat – Scenarios 4 to 6 ;
- Battle of Rangoon – Scenarios 7 to 9 ;
- Battle of Central Burma – Scenarios 10 to 12 ;
- Retreat to India – Scenarios 13 to 15.

Chronological order of the scenarios :

- 1) Prachuap Khiri Khan – 08/12/1941 (n°13205)
- 2) Chumphon – 08/12/1941 (n°13788)
- 3) Tavoy Airfield – 19/01/1942 (n°13886)

- 4) Battle of Moulmein - 30/01/1942 (n°13686)
- 5) Battle of the Bilin river – 18/02/1942 (n°13647)
- 6) Sittang bridge – 22/02/1942 (n°13655)

- 7) Battle of Payagyi – 05/03/1942 (n°13637)
- 8) Battle of Hlegu – 06/03/1942 (n°13641)
- 9) Taukkian Roadblock - 07/03/1942 (n°13673)

- 10) Battle of Toungoo – 24/03/1942 (n°13697)
- 11) Shwedaung – 30/03/1942 (n°13703)
- 12) Yenangyaung – 19/04/1942 (n°13700)

- 13) Battle of Kyaukse – 28/04/1942 (n°13897)
- 14) Battle of Monywa – 02/05/1942 (n°13709)
- 15) Battle of Shwegyin – 03/05/1942 (n° 6992)



Who wins Burma Campaign 1942, « The Great Retreat » ?

In accordance with history, Japanese had won the campaign since they occupied all Burma and drove back the British army to India. But in the campaign, each scenario is well-balanced to give a chance to win to the two players. The winner will be the one who implements the better strategy (or who have the best fortune with dices).

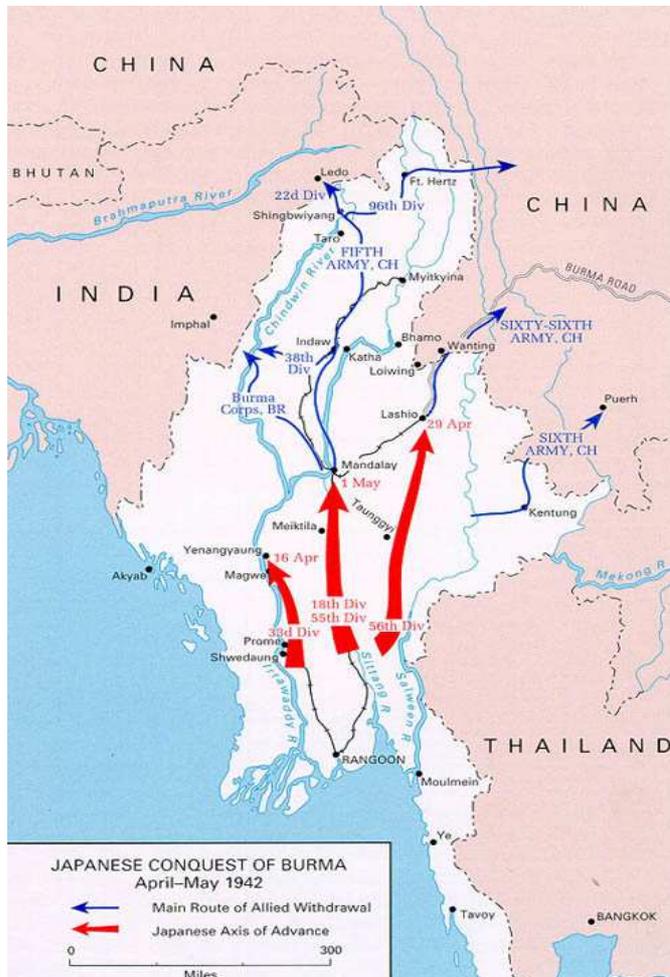
Counting up the Victory points:

- 1 VP by full ENY unit destroyed,
- 1 VP by scenario won,
- 1 additional VP by medal token gained.

Victory Points Counter Sheet (potential points in brackets)

SCENARIO	ALLIES	AXE
Prachuap Khiri Khan	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Chumphon	(5+1)	(5+1+1)
Tavoy Airfield	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Battle of Moulmein	(6+1+ ?)	(6+1)
Battle of the Bilin river	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Sittang bridge	(6+1)	(6+ 1)
Battle of Payagyi	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
Battle of Hlegu	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
Taukkian roadblock	(6+1+ ?)	(6+1)
Battle of Toungoo	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Shwedaung	(6+1+ ?)	(6+1)
Yenangyaung	(6+1+ ?)	(6+1)
Battle of Kyaukse	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Battle of Monywa	(6+1+1)	(6+1+1)
Battle of Shwegyin	(6+1+ ?)	(6+1)
Total	(107 + ?)	VP (111) VP

Operation map



Bibliography

- La campagne de Birmanie – Pierre Lesouef
- La Seconde Guerre mondiale au jour le jour
- Magazine 2e Guerre mondiale n°34 - Shwegyin
- Wikipedia - Battle of Prachuap Khiri Khan
- Wikipedia - Japanese invasion of Thailand
- Wikipedia - Sittang Bridge
- Wikipedia - Battle of Pegu

