



Meiktila (the reconquest of Burma) – 1945.

After the successful defensive battles of Imphal and Kohima, General Slim, commander of the 14th British Army, wanted to destroy the majority of Japanese troops in Burma. He realized that most of the Japanese had withdrawn beyond of the Irrawaddi River and he had to change his battle plan. This one was based on deception and surprise: let think to the Japanese that Mandalay was the objective of his offensive when he sent his main force, the 17th Indian Division under the command of General Cowan, towards Meiktila in the south. The Japanese, surprised by this manoeuver and the fall of Meiktila, tried to recapture the city but the British, with a strong defense and some reinforcements by air lift, succeeded to hold the city. With this victory at Meiktila, the 14th Army carried on the reconquest of Burma towards Rangoon, driving back the Japanese weaken troops definitively.

This campaign with 12 scenarios tells about the battles of the British Army in Burma under the command of General Slim and more particularly of the 17th Indian Division in charge of the capture of Meiktila.

Jdrommel.



Campaign notes

Expansions needed to play with the base game:

- One "Terrain Pack" expansion;
- One "Pacific Theater" expansion;
- One "Mediterranean Theater" expansion;
- One "Equipment Pack" expansion for some figures of Snipers and Materials.

Gaming

This campaign is simply played in the chronological order of the scenarios. There are no advanced rules. This campaign with 12 scenarios could be divided in 4 sub-campaigns:

- To the Irrawaddi River – Scenarios 1 to 3
- Advance to Meiktila – Scenarios 4 to 6
- Cleaning the area – Scenarios 7 to 9

The Japanese counter-attack – Scenarios 10 to 12.

Chronological order of the scenarios:

1) To the Irrawaddi River

- 17471 – Back to Monywa – 20/01/1945
- 17467 – Kyauk Myaung bridgehead – 30/01/1945
- 17474 – Crossing the Irrawaddi – 14/02/1945

2) Advance to Meiktila

- 17479 – Battle of Oyin – 22/02/1945
- 17506 – Battle of Mile Stone 8 – 27/02/1945
- 17598 – Capture of Meiktila – 01/03/1945

3) Cleaning the area

- 17616 – Battle of Ywadan – 05/03/1945
- 17629 – Clearing Wetlet – 08/03/1945
- 17651 – Battle of Leindaw – 10/03/1945

4) The Japanese counter-attack

- 17669 – Japanese infiltration on the airfield – 15/03/1945
- 17724 – Battle of Shawbyugan – 18/03/1945
- 17715 – Main attack on the airfield – 24 mars 1945



Who wins the battle of Meiktila ?

In accordance with History, the British Army in Burma won the battle by the reconquest of most of the territories of Burma during this operation. The British generals kept the initiative during the whole battle, even in the difficult times around Meiktila. As usual, in the jungle fight, the Japanese troops had showed their courage and their contempt of the death. However, each scenario is well-balanced to give a chance to win to the two players. The winner will be the one who implements the best 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 (available VP).

<i>SCENARIO</i>	<i>ALLIES</i>	<i>AXE</i>
Back to Monywa	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
Kyauk Myaung bridgehead	(6+1)	(6+1)
Crossing the Irrawaddi	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
To the Irrawaddi River		
Battle of Oyin	(6+1)	(6+1)
Battle of Mile Stone 8	(6+1)	(6+1)
Capture of Meiktila	(6+1+1)	(6+1)
Advance to Meiktila		
Battle of Ywadan	(6+1)	(6+1)
Clearing Wetlet	(7+1)	(7+1)
Battle of Leindaw	(6+1)	(6+1)
Cleaning the area		
Japanese infiltration on the airfield	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
Battle of Shawbyugan	(6+2+1)	(6+1)
Main attack on the airfield	(6+1)	(6+1+1)
The Japanese counter-attack		
Total	(90)	(87)

Bibliography

- Meiktila 1945 – Osprey publishing.

