



Derna Airfield



January 24-25, 1941



Capt. Honnor of C Co.

Briefing for Lieut-Colonel T.S. Louch, CO 2/11th Australian Battalion

Objective: Secure Derna Airfield & Buildings.

Additional details at kickoff.

Today is day 47 of our astonishingly successful 5-day raid against the Italian 10th Army in Egypt and Libya. The Italian line has its left anchored on the coast at Derna, and its right at Mechili in the desert.

Your battalion has been given the job of taking Derna airfield. You've got the Divisional Cavalry squadron and some other assets attached, but this isn't going to be easy! It's the battalion's first action, but the boys are ready and morale is sky high. Generals O'Connor and Wavell believe that another workmanlike performance might to get the "gentlemen" to pack it in.

Fun Fact – C Company CO Captain Hyacinth Ralph Honner, who preferred to be known as "Ralph", became one of Australia's best-known officers of the Second World War. Think Dick Winters. Learn more at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/official-histories-rolls-unit-diaries>