



# Mechili



January 24-25, 1941



Briefing for Brigadier J. A. L. “Blood” Caunter, CO 4th Armoured Brigade

Objective: Secure Mechili. Prevent Italian Armoured Brigade from escaping.

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. Intelligence believes an Italian infantry regiment and a full-strength armoured brigade defends Mechili. General O'Connor wants that armoured brigade fixed in place if not completely destroyed, so the 7th has its work cut out for them.

Unfortunately, the night approach march was completely bolluxed, and the 7th Armoured is scattered across the desert for fifty miles in every direction. Your 4th Armoured Brigade has drawn the short straw – attack and hope the rest of the division will catch up quickly.

Your men are tired and the vehicles desperately need work. On the other hand, morale is sky high and the 7<sup>th</sup> is the best trained desert fighting force on the planet. Generals O'Connor and Wavell believe that another workmanlike performance might to get the “gentlemen” to pack it in.

Fun Fact - In addition to giving us the famous difficult-to-paint Caunter camouflage design, the Brigadier was the founder and first president of the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain. “Blood” is a great nickname – perhaps one of our viewers can provide that story!