

The Battle of Tornavento, 22nd June, 1636

The French army led by Créquy, and its allies, Savoy, Mantua, and Parma, invaded Spanish Lombardy in May 1636. The allied forces moved on both sides of the River Ticino, devastating the region of Novara. The Spanish governor was an experienced general, the marquis of Leganés, but he was short on manpower. The arrival of Gambacorta's Neapolitans and other reinforcements gave him the chance to counterattack.

By the 20th June, Leganes had moved within a few kilometres of the French camp. He knew the allies were still split, so he decided to isolate and destroy Créquy's French before the Savoyards could link up. He was spotted on the 21st. The French started digging entrenchments, and the Savoyards started a bridge to allow them to join the French. Leganes understood the need to move quickly.

On the 22nd, Gambacorta led the Spanish right flank to the attack. Supported by five pieces of artillery, his troops pushed the French infantry back. Créquy sent in a cavalry counterattack which managed to stop the advance of the Spaniards, and close the gap in his line. Gambacorta, was killed in the melee and his loss disrupted his troops, which retired back over the entrenchment.

A little later, on the left, the Spanish infantry marched towards the end of the French line. They attacked along the Panperduto ditch. Again, the Spanish troops broke into the entrenchments. Again, the intervention of the cavalry pushed the Spanish back. The battle steadily expanded to cover the entire French front. As the battle continued, Piedmontese troops began to cross the bridge into the French camp. The fight between the two armies went back and forth for many hours (perhaps up to 12 hours) under the intense summer sun.

Both sides became exhausted and the battle slowly faded. By the end of the day, the allies had held on to their positions. Leganés decided to fall back to reorganize his army. The exhausted French and Piedmontese could not pursue. Two days later they retreated across the Ticino. Although the allies claimed a victory, the invasion had failed and Lombardy remained in Spanish hands.

Estimates for the number of casualties are difficult to reconcile. Leganes initially reported 6,000 French dead, but later reduced this to 1,500! Modern estimates

suggest a figure of 3-4,000, usually with slightly more Spanish casualties. The wider conflict soon claimed the lives of Vittorio Amedeo, the Duke of Savoy, who died in 1637 and Créquy, who died in 1638. Leganes, however, lived to see the end of the conflict, eventually dying in 1655.

Total engaged	No. of 'Brigades'	Horse	Foot	Guns
French	19	2,500	11,000	12
Spanish	20*	4,500	10,000	5

* NB – Tercios count double for the purpose of calculating General Will.

Objectives:

Leganes' objective is to destroy the will of the French army. A secondary objective is to secure a route off the opposite table edge at X.

The French objective is to stop Leganes achieving any of his objectives.

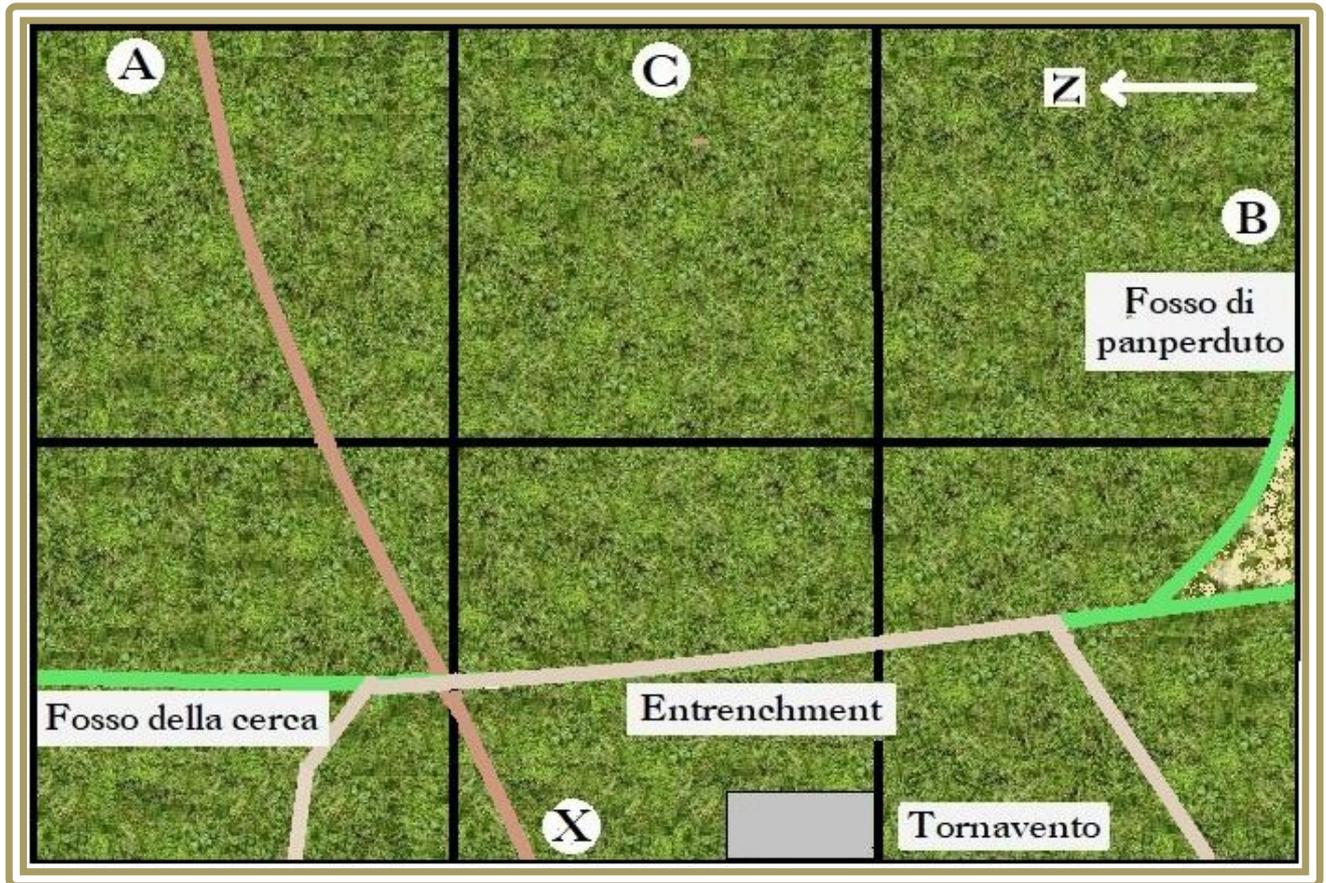
Game time Start at 8:00 am **Game length** 20 turns

Special scenario rules:

Heat exhaustion - As the day progressed, both sides suffered from lack of water and the increasing heat.

At the start of each hour, starting with the 1.00 PM turn roll a D6. On a roll of 1 – 3 nothing happens; on a 4 – all raw troops gain a level of disorder; on a 5 – all raw and trained units gain a level of disorder; and on a 6 all units gain a level of disorder.

Optional Savoyard entry – The duke of Savoy appeared to hesitate to cross the bridge to support his French ally. Remove his card from the command deck. At the start of each hour, starting with the 10.00 AM turn, roll a D6. On a roll of 4 – 6 add Vittorio Amadeo's command card to the deck.



The table for this battle is 6' x 4'. Each square is 2' x 2'

Notes on the terrain

1. The Entrenchment that surrounds Tornavento is considered to be a fortification (p.27).
2. The Fosso della cerca and the Fosso di panperduto are both linear obstacles. The latter is a larger obstacle and area to the south is considered difficult ground.
3. Tornavento is a two-template sized hamlet.

Spanish Army: Marquis de Leganes

First line					
Left		Centre		Right	
<u>Del Monte</u>		<u>De Mortara</u>		<u>Gambacorta (Hero)</u>	
Borromeo IR	T	Tercio Gil de Haes	V	Gambacorta CR	V
Del Monte IR	T	Tercio Boccapianola	T	Del Fiesco CR	T
Lener IR	T	Tercio Caracena	T	Manrique CR	T

Second line					
Left		Centre		Right	
<u>Losada</u>		<u>Spinola-Doria</u>		<u>Sotelo</u>	
Florenzia CR	T	Ayala CR	T	Tercio Lombardia	V
Giron DR	T	Guasco CR	T	Tercio d'Este	T
Giron DR	T	Vormes CR	T	Artillery	T

Deploys:

Right - Enters in column at A from Turn 1.

Left - Enters in column at B from Turn 3. Following the Panperduto during its first turn.

Centre - Enters at C from Turn 4.

This army moves first. Start the battle on the first Spanish Wing card.

For the first turn, discard any French cards up to the first Spanish card.

French Army: Marechal de Créquy

First line					
Left		Centre		Right	
<u>Plessis-Praslin</u>		<u>Clerambault</u>		<u>de Florinville</u>	
Maugiron IR	V	Sault IR	V	Aiguebonne IR	T
De Bonne IR	T	Lyonnais IR	T	Pierregourde IR	R
Torcy IR	T	Le Ferron IR	T	<i>Florinville (inf det)</i>	T
Henrichemont IR	R	Roquefeuil IR	R	<i>Roure (inf det)</i>	T
<i>Infantry guns</i>	T	<i>D'Ornano (inf det)</i>	T	<i>Infantry guns</i>	T
		<i>Infantry guns</i>	T		

Second line					
Left		Centre		Right	
<u>Clerambault</u>		<u>Courvoux</u>		<u>Halincourt</u>	
Nerestang CR	T	Disimieux CR	T	Halincourt CR	V
Vallevoire CR	T	Venterol CR	T	<i>Falet DR</i>	T
<i>Bouillac DR</i>	T				

Savoyard troops - <u>Duke Vittorio Amadeo</u>					
Chamblay IR	V	Cevennes IR	T	Senantes IR	R
		Fleury CR	T		

Deploys:

First line - Behind the entrenchments

Second line - Behind the first line