

More on Italian First Contact

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consimpress in Beda Fomm, Game Support

I think more can be stated around the game mechanics and restrictions surrounding Italian Opening Moves (section 16.0) regarding the timing of first contact being established. The rules as written focus on the perspective of the Italian player initiating first contact during their own Movement Phase of the second Game Turn. I believe those mechanics are fairly easy to follow and understand, and this is the most likely scenario of how first contact will be established during play.

However, what if the Italians are first contacted during the British Player Turn of Game Turn One? What then?

First, let's take a step back and ponder the typical scenario: First contact is initiated during the Italian Player Turn and Movement Phase.

That means the restrictions will be lifted once the Italian Player turn is complete; so that during the upcoming British Player Turn, the Italians will be free to engage in artillery barrage, anti-tank fire, and have their eligible artillery units provide defensive support.

However, should the British Player initiate first contact during their Player Turn and Movement Phase, the following restrictions still apply for the Italians during the British Player Turn currently in progress.

- Italians can not conduct artillery barrage
- Italians can not conduct antitank fire
- Italians can not provide defensive artillery support

Again, this follows the limitations placed on all Italian units until the restrictions have lifted, reflecting the disorganized and surprised state that befell the Italians at time of first contact. Keep in mind case 16.32, Lifting Restrictions, these rules no longer apply once the **next Player turn** commences. The good news for the Italian player is that since the British player triggered contact during their Player Turn, the limitations on movement and combat are considered removed for the next Italian Player Turn.

Translation: The British player needs to seriously ponder whether they want to trigger initial contact during their player turn, because if they do, the Italians will be "good to go" during their upcoming player turn.

What would you do as the British player? Do you initiate contact during your Player Turn of Game Turn One, or do you hold back and allow the situation to develop further so that initial contact is initiated during the Italian Player Turn and Movement Phase of Game Turn Two?

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