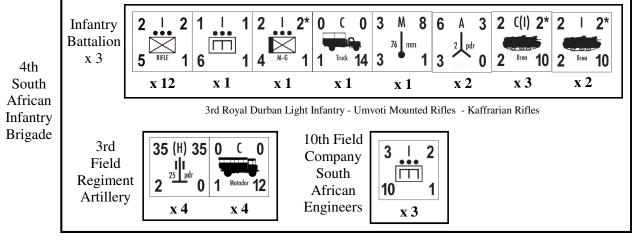
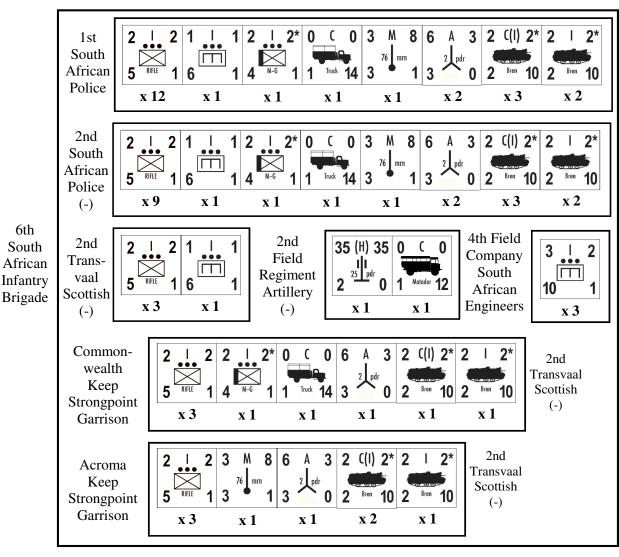
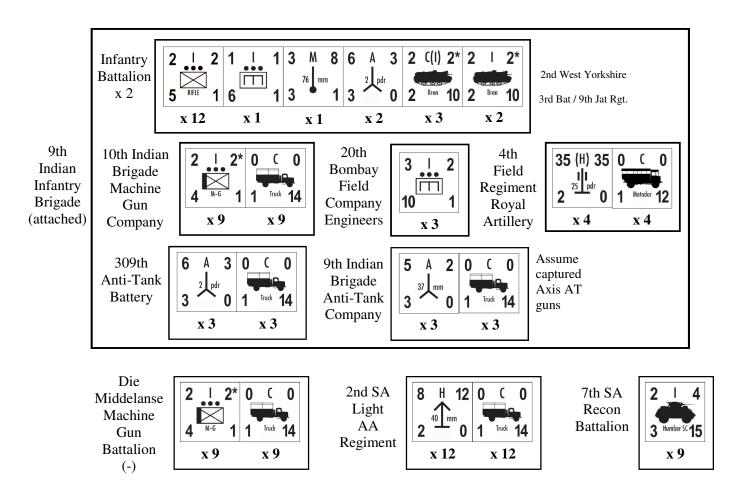


2nd South African Infantry Division





By Greg Moore gregpanzerblitz.com May, 2010



The 2nd South African Division was deployed in the partially stripped defenses of Tobruk at the start of this battle. Their job was to defend Tobruk, if necessary, and act as a strategic reserve and rally point if some disaster occurred at the front. When the front was finally broken in the middle of June, a decision was made not to defend Tobruk. However, under pressure from Churchill, the Allies decided to once again leave a garrison trapped in the port city. This time, however, the defenses had been stripped for the Gazala line and the position was not strong enough to resist the strong Axis advance. On June 20, 30,000 Allied troops in Tobruk surrendered, including all of this division, except for the 3rd Infantry Brigade and 1st Field Regiment Artillery, which were both absent at the time. These surviving formations were attached to the 1st South African Division while the 2nd South African Infantry Division ceased to exist.