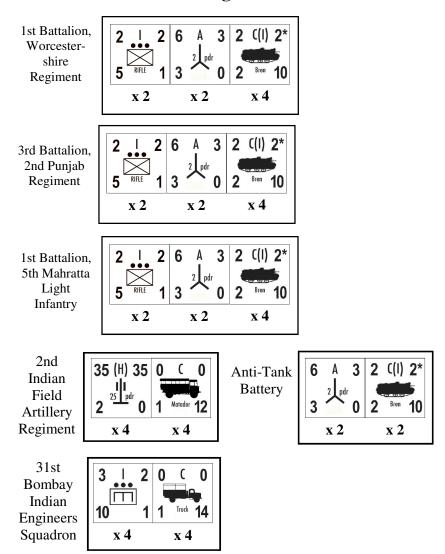
Indian 3rd Motorized Brigade



The Indian 3rd Motorized Brigade (operating under control of the 7th Armored) provided an early nasty surprise to the attacking Axis forces in the Battle of Gazala. As far as the Germans knew, the box at Bir Hacheim was the southernmost point in the Allied lines. As the Axis forces were flanking it to the south, they ran smack into the 3rd Brigade dug in about 4 miles south east of Bir Hacheim. The 3rd Brigade not only held up the advance for a critical three hours but also claimed 56 German tanks destroyed, with the 2nd Artillery claiming 46 of them. The small brigade was not able to stop Rommel's best divisions, however, and was virtually destroyed.