

# Operation Battleaxe British Escarpment Force

June 15, 1941

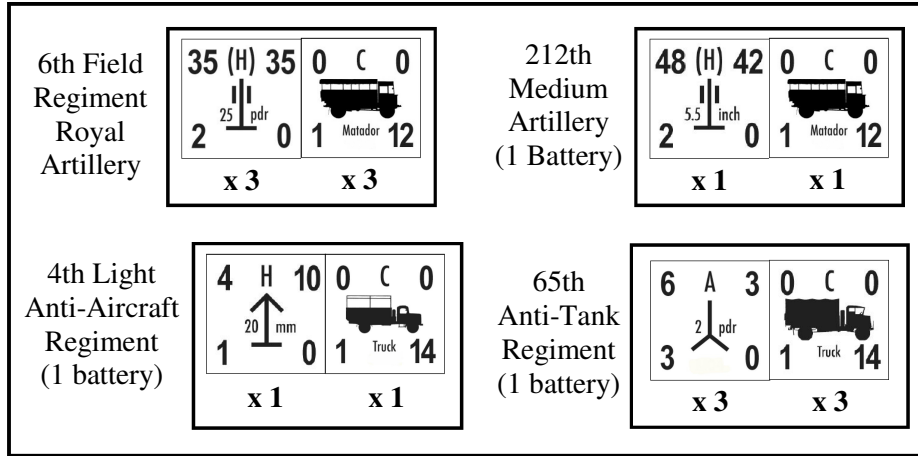
4th Armored Brigade Group

4th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment (-)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>6 A 3 8 Matilda 5</td> <td>5 H 8 8 Matilda CS 5</td> <td>5 H 8 3 A-10 CS 5</td> <td>2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 4</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> </tr> </table>	6 A 3 8 Matilda 5	5 H 8 8 Matilda CS 5	5 H 8 3 A-10 CS 5	2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11	x 4	x 1	x 1	x 1	19 Matildas detached to Coast Force Group.	A Squadron 3rd Hussars	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 4</td> </tr> </table>	2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11	x 4	
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7th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>6 A 3 8 Matilda 5</td> <td>5 H 8 8 Matilda CS 5</td> <td>5 H 8 3 A-10 CS 5</td> <td>2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 9</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> </tr> </table>	6 A 3 8 Matilda 5	5 H 8 8 Matilda CS 5	5 H 8 3 A-10 CS 5	2 I 2 2 Mk VI B 11	x 9	x 1	x 1	x 1	31st Field Artillery Regiment (-)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>35 (H) 35 2 25 pdr 0</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Matador 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 2</td> <td>x 2</td> </tr> </table>	35 (H) 35 2 25 pdr 0	0 C 0 1 Matador 12	x 2	x 2
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2nd Battalion, Royal Rifle Brigade (1 company)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2 I 2 5 RIFLE 1</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Truck 14</td> <td>2 I 2* 2 Bren 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 3</td> <td>x 3</td> <td>x 1</td> </tr> </table>	2 I 2 5 RIFLE 1	0 C 0 1 Truck 14	2 I 2* 2 Bren 10	x 3	x 3	x 1	12th Field Company Royal Indian Engineers (1 section)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1 I 1 6 1</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Truck 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> </tr> </table>	1 I 1 6 1	0 C 0 1 Truck 14	x 1	x 1		
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22nd Guards Brigade Group

3rd Coldstream Guards Infantry Battalion	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2 I 2 5 RIFLE 1</td> <td>1 I 1 6 1</td> <td>2 I 2* 4 M-G 1</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Truck 14</td> <td>3 M 8 3 76 mm 1</td> <td>2 C(I) 2* 2 Bren 10</td> <td>2 I 2* 2 Bren 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 12</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 14</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 1</td> <td>x 2</td> </tr> </table>	2 I 2 5 RIFLE 1	1 I 1 6 1	2 I 2* 4 M-G 1	0 C 0 1 Truck 14	3 M 8 3 76 mm 1	2 C(I) 2* 2 Bren 10	2 I 2* 2 Bren 10	x 12	x 1	x 1	x 14	x 1	x 1	x 2
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65th Anti-Tank Regiment (-)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>6 A 3 3 2 pdr 0</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Truck 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 5</td> <td>x 5</td> </tr> </table>	6 A 3 3 2 pdr 0	0 C 0 1 Truck 14	x 5	x 5	9th Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Battery	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4 H 10 1 20 mm 0</td> <td>0 C 0 1 Truck 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 3</td> <td>x 3</td> </tr> </table>	4 H 10 1 20 mm 0	0 C 0 1 Truck 14	x 3	x 3				
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Artillery  
Group



The job of the Escarpment Group in the early phase of Operation Battleaxe was to drive south of Halfaya pass and capture the strongpoints of Fort Capuzzo, Musaid and Sollum. The 7th RTR reached Fort Capuzzo by noon of the first day and, as in Operation Brevity, the Italians were once again forced to give up the fort. That night, the Scots Guards also pushed forward and captured an outpost at Musaid. On the second day, the reinforced British with dug-in Matildas and 25 pdrs defeated a heavy armored counterassault by the 15th Panzer designed to retake the Fort Capuzzo. Also that day, the Scots Guards again pushed forward and captured the barracks at Sollum. On the second day, the tanks of the 4th Brigade were ordered to reinforce the 7th Armored Brigade for an anticipated battle against the 5th Panzer Battalion but the rendezvous never occurred and the 4th Brigade ended the battle as a rear guard for escaping troops of the 22nd Brigade. Unfortunately, on the third day, a lack of progress by the other two thrusts and the threat of encirclement by tanks from the German 5th light Division had caused the offensive to be cancelled and a general retreat had been ordered. The successes of the Escarpment Group had been for naught.