

# Operation Brevity Italian Forces

## May 15, 1941

Rommel left a light force of scattered Italian units to defend the border, with a few mobile German units to back them up. Though these Italians were mostly defeated by the Commonwealth forces, they did put up a stiff resistance in almost every case, delaying the British attack enough to allow reinforcements to be brought up and the operation halted after little more than a day.

12th Bersaglieri Battalion (+)

2   ●●● 6 BERSAGLIERI	2*   ●●● 1	2   ●●● 4 M-G	2*   ●●● 1	5 A	2	6 A	3	0 C	0	40 (H)	32	0 C	0
x 5		x 1		x 1		x 1		x 2		x 1		x 1	

Defended Halfaya Pass, mostly at the base of the high ground. Put up a stout defense for most of the day but were finally overrun, losing 130 prisoners.

Mixed Force

2   ●●● 6 BERSAGLIERI	2*   ●●● 1	2   ●●● 5	1	5 A	2	0 C	0	0 C	0	1 Truck	12
x 1		x 1		x 1		x 1					

Mixed force stationed at Sollum, mostly in the lower part of the town

5th Bersaglieri Battalion (1 company) + attached units

2   ●●● 6 BERSAGLIERI	2*   ●●● 1	6 A	3	0 C	0	20 (H)	24	0 C	0	1 Truck	12	2 75 mm	0	0 C	0	1 TL 37	8
x 3		x 1		x 1		x 1		x 1									

Stationed at Ft. Capuzzo. Fought bravely but fell to the Durham Lights, supported by Matilda tanks

II/62nd Infantry Regiment (-)

2   ●●● 5 RIFLE	2	2   ●●● 4 M-G	2*	2 H	12	6 A	3	0 C	0	2 65 mm	0	3 47 mm	0	0 C	0	1 Truck	12
x 3		x 1		x 1		x 1		x 2									

Stationed at Bir Musid

Also I/61st Regiment was stationed at Bardia with the German II/5 Panzer (see German sheet for this unit).