

Les Attaques, France, 23 May, 1940

Crossroads at Les Attaques

In scenes being enacted all over France, British forces were scrambling to stem the onrushing German attack as it pushed them back towards the Channel. In the area of Les Attaques, elements of the 1st Searchlight Regiment, supported by 3rd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, rushed to find places to set up their equipment.

British Setup

C Company were quickest on the mark, and consequently punished for their efficiency by being diverted to the eastern area. This was hardly lucky, as the Germans were expected to hit them first. Sergeant-Major Morris was none too pleased with this assignment, especially when he found that his only support was two 18-pounder artillery pieces that served in WWI, along with a smattering of Daimler armored cars. All he could get out of the flustered officers at a makeshift HQ was that he should set up and expect to see Germans from the east, northeast, or southeast, but whatever he did, he was to block the main highway by the church.

Given nothing to block the road, he ordered Blythe to commandeer a nearby civilian bus and block the road by the narrow stone bridge near the church. No sooner had he turned his back to deal with the artillerymen who were complaining about their positions, when he heard a crash and looked quickly around. The civilian bus had been rolled on its side, blocking the intersection, but not close to the bridge. He started to chastise Blythe, using harsh language, but the soldier retorted that the French driver refused to let him wreck the bus and did it himself.

Sergeant Sable pointed out to the Sergeant Major that a side dirt road looked like an easy way for Jerry to bypass their position. The Sergeant Major concurred, and had Sable take a platoon into that area and dig in to block access through that area.

Not having a clue where to best use the armored cars, he left it up to them on where to stage. He didn't give them much of a chance for survival, in their tin cans. They covered the south area, while the guns covered east and north. Sergeant-Major Morris shook his head sadly as he surveyed his poor excuse for a defense. The words *He who defends everything, defends nothing* rang in his head.

Lieutenant Swain was busy organizing a defense for the center position. His A Company had a mortar section, so he had the two 76mm mortars set up on a rise, overlooking the crossroads. They found good positions and were partially protected by a wooded area. One of the lads scrounged up a 3-ton lorry, and he had several of the men overturn it just past the stone bridge, on the main road. Sergeant Browning set up men to cover the roadblock from both sides of the road.

Swain's main worry was that intel was so bolloxed up that he didn't know if the Germans would come from the north, south, or plow through C Company and rush up from the east. The situation was so fluid that really, no one knew where the bloody Germans were anyway.

The Lieutenant decided to keep his men fairly close to the intersection. He had some Bren Carriers for support and a platoon of medium machine guns, along with an extra ATR group. He was fairly confident that his mortars would keep Jerry's head down from a distance, and he'd be able to hold until some armor was able to respond to their positions. He'd been told to expect tank support soon.

B Company was last off the boat, so they ended up setting up in the western position. Sergeant-Major Burns was pleased with this part of the goat hump, because he suspected the main German effort would be to his east, and this gave him some time to set up a decent defense.

On the other hand, what he'd been given was pretty sad indeed. While the extra machine gun platoon was welcome, the two platoons of raw recruits was not. It was like herding cats, moving that lot around, he reflected dimly.

Burns had one of the MG teams set up in the steeple of the church by the town square. He had the second MG team set up with a LOS straight north towards the bridge that crossed the swollen river. The green troops were split up and took positions on the outer perimeter. The Sergeant Major figured they'd serve well as a tripwire for any Germans, as they'd be sure to shoot at just about anything. He hoped they would shoot straight. The rest of his lads were set up in depth, but not too far from the square. If things got really bad, he'd have them collapse towards the center of town, and then he could direct them better.

The Sergeant Major had Sergeant Tummins set up on the western side of town, where he could keep an eye on troops in the cemetery and an orchard to the northwest.

German Turn 1

West Area

German

Leutnant Stahler had only moments to decide on a course of action. The men on the motorcycles revved their engines impatiently. His Kradschützenkompanie had raced across back roads, always heading west, but now received radio directions to head south towards a town called Les Attaques. He had halted his company and taken a quick look at the town from cover. As near as he could tell, the town looked quiet. He gave the advance sign to his lead MC squad, and they instantly dropped into gear, raced down the road, and crossed the bridge. Lieutenant Stahler saw that the men had seen something and veered off to the left, dismounting and quickly advancing into a building.

Lieutenant Stahler then raced across the bridge with the other two squads, dodging left and dismounting and fanning out, into brush and the nearby woods. Corporal Pollack took his cue from what Lieutenant Stahler had done, and Pollack had his men dash off to the opposite side of the road, after racing across the bridge. They took some scattered and inaccurate MG fire. So, the enemy were in the town after all.

Several British squads opened fire on Stahler's men in their building, breaking one squad but leaving the other intact. They returned fire and broke one of the British squads. The British troops routed and Stahler's men aggressively advanced into buildings.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns swore up and down. Apparently, the MG team that set up to fire directly down the road towards the bridge hadn't time to check their LOS properly. They could not see the bridge as a hedge jutted out just enough and blocked their sight. They only got a fast glimpse of the German MCs of Pollack's platoon, and fired wildly, missing everything. Burns knew this was trouble, as Jerry was in the town outskirts now. Some of his green troops did get fire off, but others folded. To be expected, he thought silently.

Center Area

British

In the Center position, Lieutenant Swain's main fear was quickly realized as Germans started flooding in from both north and south of the crossroads he was guarding. His mortars had a brief glimpse of trucks loaded with infantry coming in on the road to the north, and they took their rushed shots, missing the enemy. The trucks unloaded behind the woods, and were seen moving into wooded positions.

To Swain's south, a flood of armored cars came rushing around the bend in the road. His MGs opened up on the armored cars, trying to knock them out with To Hit rolls. They were not successful. Return fire from the Germans managed to break his MG team on the north side of the river. Those lads were in terrible trouble, as rally was going to be near impossible. Jerry managed to break one of his mortar teams as well, but they were able to leave their gun and rush to cover in foxholes, where Corporal Biggins would attempt to rally them.

One of the Brens on the road east of the crossroads began yelling on the radio that an entire German tank company was approaching. While this was, of course, impossible, it was more cause for worry. Swain began to wonder if his armor would be too late.

East Area

British

On the east end, Sergeant-Major Morris was now roundly cursing his bad luck. Jerry had decided to run all sorts of armor up from the south of his crossroads position. Morris motioned for the 18-pounder to open fire on the German light tanks that were boiling out of the wooded road area. It was at this point that he noticed the gunner was shoving a HE round into the breech. He yelled to the gun captain to use AP, but the captain shrugged and said they hadn't been given any. Some sort of rot about upper echelon, in their grand wisdom, deciding that AP rounds wouldn't be needed, he yelled back.

Morris was appalled, as this just made a bad situation worse. Ah, no matter, he said, as he watched the gunner fire and miss. Several of the armored cars then sprayed the artillery gun position and broke the gun crew. As they were hugging the ground, Morris ran to their position and tried to rally them.

He was barely aware of the scream of tortured metal as several of the light tanks ripped apart one of the Daimler tin cans. No one climbed out of the wreckage.

One of his squads, taking the initiative, rushed across the road and into a building rowhouse, trying to get close to the overturned bus and protect the position. Sergeant Sable had pulled one of his squads from their blocking position to the west. They had an ATR and were hoping to get into the fray to try and relieve the pressure on the Sergeant-Major's position. The lads were close to panicking. German tanks were coming in from everywhere.



Beginning of German Turn 2 West Area



Beginning of German Turn 2 Central Area



Beginning of German Turn 2 East Area

German Turn 2

West End Area

German

Stahler ordered more of his MC troops across the bridge. The British return fire managed to pin a number of them, so no significant gains were made.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns made a mental note to give credit to the gallant green troops who held up several German squads before they were broken and eliminated. They had no place to rout to, and Jerry cut them down mercilessly.

Central Area

German

On the north side of the river, Lieutenant Ziegler called in his 6-wheeled PSW 231s, and one roared right down the middle of the road in support, whereupon a British ATR opened up on him, punching a round right through the thin armor, but miraculously not hitting anything vital. Ziegler watched as the driver hastily drove off the road and into cover. The other PSWs took a more circuitous route and consequently had no good shots.

Sergeant Fink and his platoon unloaded to the east of the crossroads and were moving cautiously through poor cover, towards suspected British positions, but the Brits were not ready to give up

concealment. The PSW 221's and 222's slowly advanced up the road, expecting the infantry to strip concealment from the British positions. Neither seemed overly aggressive.

On the south side of the river, Sergeant Stites was not able to get his troops to make a dent in the British lines. British MGs continued to search out the weak spots on the PSWs, but the AC crews had been lucky so far. Stites was then alarmed by the report that British armor had been seen racing in behind his advance. He ordered the 37mm AT gun crews to take up immediate positions to cover the possible entry of British armor on the road to his rear. AT gun crews were scrambling to unload and push their guns to positions where they might have some cover.

Things were clearly in turmoil on the south side of the river. To top things off, one of the PSW crews became over-enthusiastic and malfunctioned their MG.

British

Lieutenant Swain was still rushing around, trying to hold things together. The mortar crew that broke was pretty messed up, but Corporal Biggins was trying hard to get them to rally. From the sounds of things, Jerry had malfunctioned one of his heavy MGs on the north side of the river too.

Swain was really hoping for armor to arrive fast.

East Area

German

On the east end, Sergeant Traub had unloaded his assault platoon and rushed into the rowhouse that was next to a large civilian bus that was rolled on its side. This was a roadblock that they needed to remove as soon as possible. Specific instructions were to get the road open fast, so that convoys of supply trucks could rush behind the advance and keep things moving. As far as Traub could tell, there was only a single squad on the other side of the street. They would use demo charges to blow the bus apart, if they could survive enemy fire.

Captain Dahl had tried to keep reign on his armor but the men were too eager for battle. Having destroyed one small armored car, his light armor rushed to point-blank range on the other armored cars. He glimpsed a large British field gun, but didn't know why it wasn't firing. His heavy MkIVs were at the back of the column and would have trouble getting past all the light tanks. What a mess!

British

Sergeant-Major Morris was now beside himself. He had tried to rally the artillery gun crew, but for some insane reason, they started foaming at the mouth and screaming incoherently. They'd gone berserk. He had to wonder if they were Scots, for crying out loud. Jerry was pressing hard, and now the small field was covered with light tanks, pressing forward to try and crush his position. At least he had one squad that was trying to protect the roadblock.

British Turn 2

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burn's troops were holding out fairly well and managed to pin a number of the motorcycle troops. Germans were pressing but not able to break through the line.

German

No gains were possible. The British fire was accurate and breaking advancing squads.

Central Area

British

Lieutenant Swain sensed things were stabilizing for his troops. The mortar squad was rallied, the MG half-squad on the north side of the river managed to self-rally, and his mortar teams were pinning or breaking Jerry in the woods on the north side of the river. MGs continued to rake the armored cars on the south side of the river, and had Jerry pretty much boxed in. Some infantry tried to advance through the woods and were shot up. *Now, where were the tanks*, wondered Swain.

German

Sergeant Stites and a MG team ran into a buzz saw and both broke in the hail of gunfire. They stumbled back into the safety of the woods to recover. Mortars were finding the range on Lieutenant Ziegler, and they were being pinned down. A Hero, Private Stein, was the only survivor when mortars hit his wooded position and eliminated the MG half-squad. Things were not looking good. Ziegler was getting worried.

East End

British

Sergeant-Major Morris watched in horror as the berserk artillery team rushed across the cemetery amidst withering machine gun fire and attacked a light tank. How they managed to survive the TPBF was beyond him. While they were unable to figure out how to destroy the tank, and were now locked in melee, having avoided the tank's frantic machine gun fire, Morris was sure their survival was limited. Why they had to go berserk he still couldn't figure. Freaking snake-eyes.

Off to his left, he saw the squad that was trying to guard the roadblock take vicious MG fire from a light tank that was adjacent to their building. They broke and had to rout to the other end of the building. The lads in the church were holding out, huddled down behind the stone walls and weathering the storm of fire from adjacent tanks, for now. He could see that Sergeant Sable had pulled everyone from their other blocking position and were now trying to flank the Germans. Nothing was going right.

German

Sergeant Traub had directed fire into the wooden building across the road, and watched with satisfaction as the British squad was overwhelmed with gunfire, the rounds ripping up the wooden side of the building. With a little luck, they'd have the roadblock blown up shortly.

Captain Dahl was less than satisfied with the parade of his tanks on the road. No one could knock out the last few armored cars, as the plucky Brits were holding on. Then he heard the tear of steel and saw that Lieutenant Gaus had knocked out another of the Daimlers. He could see that Lieutenant Fehrbach was trying to take out the last remaining AC. He also saw a curious sight, as a knot of British soldiers made a heroic charge through the cemetery and actually clambered up on one of his Mk1 tanks, trying to destroy it. These Britishers must have surely lost their minds.

German Turn 3

West Area

German

Lieutenant Stahler kept pushing on the east side of town. Only minor gains were made, as strong fire from the town center broke a squad. The British MG pinned another squad that again tried to run across the main road. German gunnery on the west side of town picked up, as the British holdouts in a nearby wooden building had their resolve tested and they broke. This was a strong linchpin on the west side of town. Two green squads had been laying low, maintaining strong discipline with their concealment, resisting all efforts of German squads to strip off the concealment, and essentially blocking any further advance. But the temptation was just too strong, so they opened fire with a 16-firepower attack across the narrow village street, rolled high, and managed a 1 MC against the Germans. With the aid of Sergeant Hieken, the Germans did not break.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns watched the situation unfold, and slowly shook his head. The green squads were now in a bad situation and would have to retreat. He only hoped they had time to do so.

Central Area

German

Having rallied the previous rally phase, Sergeant Stites and his MG teams were again broken by strong British gunnery. Corporal Uhl managed to direct some excellent mortar fire on a MG team that was holding their advance at bay, breaking the team. The situation still looked bad on the south side of the river. Armored cars closed to point-blank range, trying to break a MMG that was keeping them away and getting closer to TK rolls on the MG line. Uhl also had his 37mm AT guns set up for possible British armor attacks to their rear.

On the north side of the river, Lieutenant Ziegler managed to get an 81mm mortar into action, and the mortar managed to break the British MG team in a building that was blocking advance down the road. Ziegler then managed to get his two MG teams on target and broke and then eliminated a light mortar team. They were inching further down the road.

On the east side of town, Sergeant Fink managed to coordinate a rush forward of his platoon, in concert with the armored cars. They managed to strip concealment off a British squad that was holding the bend in the road, causing them to rout away to save themselves. A single Bren Carrier was now facing down four Armored Cars. Fire from a foxhole across the river did not knock out any ACs, and things now looked grim for the British in this area.

British

Lieutenant Swain was not aware of the growing disaster on the east side of town, as he couldn't see around the tree line. He was aware of the strong push of German ACs towards his last line of defense in the crossroads area, but he took heart in knowing the heavy mortars were still in action. He did not know that Corporal Biggins had taken close hits from German mortars and had broken. Biggins was able to rout to cover and would try to regain his composure while rallying the broken MG team. The one bright spot was that someone with a sniper rifle had broken one of the ACs and they were buttoned up and looked like they were retreating from the area. The damage must have been significant to the crew. Swain wondered, once again, where the armor support was.

East Area

German

Sergeant Traub waved to a squad to place a demo charge on the bus blocking the main road, and he rushed across the street to try and shoot up the British squad that was broken. Yet another squad was pushing up against the church, and also shooting at the now-broken squad inside the church. The wall of armor was crashing up against the British defenders now, but no real breakthrough. Traub heard the explosion of the demo charge but could see the bus remains were still blocking the road. Damn, he was hoping that would have been blown apart. The squad then rushed onto the bus and started the laborious process of trying for a roadblock removal.

One of the Mk I tanks rushed through the traffic jam and was able to get behind the broken British squads, thus preventing them from routing. Prisoners were taken.

British

Sergeant-Major Morris was left standing next to an ancient artillery piece that he could never hope to crew by himself. He could barely see across the cemetery as the flanking move by Sergeant Sable was blunted by the machine gun fire from many tanks. Sable and his squad broke and fled back to cover.

Morris could see that the only bright spot, if you could call it that, was the insane Scot artillery crew that were still hammering away on the German tank and screaming horrible Scottish insults. The tankers were not able to machine gun any of the crew, so the Melee continued. Morris was pretty much by himself at this point, and if he didn't want to spend the war in a German POW camp, he was going to have to extricate himself from his nearly surrounded position. He could see German supply trucks bunching up on the road, unable to cross the bridge because the bloody bus was still blocking the main road. *At least we held the bastards for a while*, he muttered to himself.

British Turn 3

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns called for a general straightening of the line. As such, most units fell back to the main road, ceding control of the northern part of town to the Germans. Some stellar shooting by the MG in the steeple and other units in buildings along the road pinned or broke some advancing Germans. Burns welcomed three light MkVIB armored vehicles. The Germans hadn't shown any AT weapons yet, so the armor was sure to stiffen the main line along the road through town.

Sergeant Tummins managed to rush down the road and intercept the broken units on the west side of town, planning on attempting to get them back into the fight. All in all, the Germans were not going to have an easy time of pushing through the small village.

German

Lieutenant Stahler's attempt to work the flank of the town came to a quick halt when he observed British armor arriving to bolster the town defense. His infantry guns were not able to get across the bridge yet.

Central Area

British

Lieutenant Swain watched with satisfaction as one of the ACs was knocked out of action by an MMG. The AC had approached to point blank range, and the MG gunner finally got in a kill shot. His mortars were holding off a trio of 6-wheelers, and had stunned one of the crew with a critical hit. Those ACs were reluctant to advance. He suspected that his MG team on the north side of the river was broken. They hadn't been firing for a while now.

Swain had no idea what was happening on the east side of the crossroads. Things had gotten quiet in that area too. He counted himself lucky that he still had both mortars and the MG teams on the south side of the river, holding off the ACs.

German

German efforts on the east side of town were looking up now. The whole troop of ACs had rushed the lone Bren Carrier. Their crew gallantly tried to knock out an AC at point blank range, and while they hit it, the rounds caromed off. They were finished off by an ATR-wielding infantryman. No crew escaped.

East Area

British

Sergeant-Major Morris now had little to command and nothing under his control. Two squads had broken and were then taken prisoner. The center of the village was gone. He managed to slip between buildings and ran right past a German light tank, on his way out of the town. No one fired at him and he was able to find one of the few squads he had left. He had no idea that Sergeant Sable was now trying to rally the sad remains of the attempted flanking maneuver. Sable had decided to gather his platoon and slip west over the small lake to try and re-establish contact with forces there. He was sure Morris had been killed or captured in the village.

No one from the British side witnessed the berserk Mad Scotsmen as they continued to tear pieces off the German tank they had assaulted. One of them jammed a heavy jacket into the exhaust pipe and suddenly the tank engine choked out. The German tankers erupted from the tank but were cut down. The Scots had eliminated the tank in close combat. They collapsed in exhaustion, losing their berserk status, but surrounded by German tanks, most of them unaware of the loss of their comrades.

German

Captain Dahl was CE though, and he had watched the horrible drama of the crazy British crew attacking one of his tanks. He was sure the tankers would prevail and was shocked to see the situation go badly for his men. *Britisher madmen*. As the tankers still had mobility, all they had to do was simply drive away from the melee, but apparently they panicked and then bailed out, only to be killed. Lieutenant Fehrbach finally managed to punch a round through the remaining Daimler, killing the AC and crew. Those ACs were surprisingly resistant.

Sergeant Traub now had to contemplate how to most efficiently handle the removal of the roadblock. He had one squad working on it, and would need more men. He wasn't sure if the British prisoners could be forced to assist, and he wasn't sure he could force them, at any rate.

Initial British resistance had been neutralized at the crossroads. It remained to be seen what surprises the British held for them around the bend.

Situation at Beginning of German Turn 4



West Area



Central Area



East Area

[Note – the British crew are barely visible beneath the panzer they destroyed, just to the left of the graveyard]

German Turn 4

West Area

German

Sergeant Hieken slowly pushed across the street to a building next to the cemetery. He had broken a large group of British squads and now moved to clear the cemetery.

Corporal Pollack ordered a squad forward into the cemetery close to the church. They took fire from the MG team in the steeple and were pinned. Private Klinge emerged from the pinned squad in an HOB roll, displaying heroic efforts and taking it on himself to urge the men forward.

The British MG crew were clearly not schooled in the proper use of their MG, and they fired again with rate, malfunctioning their MG in the process. But the British gunner had halted the German advance and kept them from entering the church...for now.

Lieutenant Stahler used hand signals to get the attention of a squad with an ATR. They began their movement to the east side of the town, where Stahler hoped their ATR could chase the British light tank away. His troops were pretty much at a standstill.

British

Sergeant-Major Morris was very pleased with the addition of the light tanks. Yes, they only had MGs, but they were helping keep the Germans at bay. He roundly cursed the steeple MG team for breaking their gun, but was sure they were too far away to hear him. He had forgotten they were 2nd line troops and likely had little or no training on that MG.

Central Area

German

Corporal Uhl kept urging his MG teams to focus on the British mortars. Those mortars had held up the German advance on the north side of the river. The British MG teams on the south side of the river were giving a bad scare to the armored cars. One was destroyed by a lucky MG burst and another had a crewman badly wounded. That AC was turning tail and leaving the field of battle on a recall. One bright note was that his MG team had broken one of the mortar teams. The other had stopped firing for some reason. They didn't know that the mortar team had malfunctioned their weapon.

Sergeant Fink was pushing up from the east side of the crossroads, and had almost met up with Lieutenant Ziegler, who was pushing in from the north side. There seemed to be one last British holdout on the north side of the river.

British

Lieutenant Swain could see desperation among his men. It seemed they were being hemmed in from all sides now. Two armored cars had been knocked out or sent packing. However, now he could see a swarm of armored cars coming up the road from the east. His assumption was that the enemy had broken through the easternmost defenses and were now pouring west into his area. He didn't know that those armored cars had come in from a different area to flank him. Sergeant Browning was busy trying to rally some lads and no one had heard anything from Corporal Biggins, from when some of the men saw Biggins crawling away in a hail of gunfire. Swain didn't know Biggins was trying to rally himself, without much luck.

The word was that reinforcement tanks had come in to their west. Swain was very disheartened.

East Area

German

Captain Dahl ordered his tank to charge the British crew that had wiped out one of his tanks. The tank tried to crush the Brits but their attack was brushed off. The Brits fired some snap shots at his tank but they missed. Lieutenant Gaus saw what Captain Dahl was doing and he ordered his tank to follow and also overrun the British crewmen. A second tank crashing through their midst was just too much, and the gallant Scotsmen broke in the attack. They were huddling amidst the carnage when yet another German tank took aim and broke them again with MG fire. The crewmen were shot to pieces.

Sergeant Traub left several half squads to try and remove the roadblock. He scouted forward with a half squad, finding and trading shots with a light mortar team in foxholes. He'd have to wait for more support.

The Germans rounded up their prisoners and German and Brit (at gunpoint) alike tried to push the overturned bus roadblock out of the way. They rolled too high on the removal attempt, even with a -1 on the labor counter, and the bus was still blocking the road. They'd get a -2 for labor the next time.

British

Sergeant-Major Morris had one hidden artillery gun and a handful of squads left. His plan was to fold back towards the center, trying to slow Jerry down, but not planning to suicidally waste his men in the process.

British Turn 4

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was heartened to see the 2nd line MG crew in the steeple repair their MG. The crew then fired down on the German squad and Hero that were skulking through the gravestones and promptly broke the squad. The Hero held fast. Two other 2nd line squads were broken by a hail of fire from several buildings. They routed back near Burns' position. He would have to run forward to try and rally them next turn. His light mortar team in the cemetery traded shots with Jerry's light mortar team. Everyone else was holding fast. Sergeant Tummins got all three of the broken squads rallied in the west by the orchard.

German

Only slow going so far, noted Lieutenant Stahler. He was still waving on the ATR gunner. Perhaps he'd be able to get his infantry guns in action soon. The British armor were causing complications. An HMG helped tip the balance on a large fire group, which broke several British squads.

Central Area

British

Corporal Biggins got himself under control, and then tried to rally the broken crew and squad in his hex. The crew completely lost it, rolling boxcars, and they fled into the woods. Sergeant Browning directed some good shots, pinning a German MG team, but the return fire was very accurate, breaking Browning. He rushed back to the building where Lieutenant Swain was, so Swain then advanced into Browning's building to try and rally a broken squad there.

Biggins was still trying to rally the broken MG team, but he managed to wave a concealed squad up from their foxholes to try and man the unbroken mortar. The other mortar was proving most troublesome, as the crew had not fixed it.

Across the river, a single squad was still holding fast, while the other squad broke under fire. The one squad laid on good shots that broke several German infantry squads. An ATR gunner got another hit on the German 6-wheeler, but didn't knock it out. Those AC boys had to be really worried.

German

Sergeant Fink weathered some really fine British shooting, and then watched as his two squads cracked and fled back further into woods. He'd have to go back and retrieve them. Lieutenant Ziegler took fire from across the river, held his men together, and returned fire which broke a British leader. They were slowly advancing. He was not pleased at the PSW 231s that were carefully staying out of range of possible ATR fire. He would have to order them to aggressively move forward.

Corporal Uhl was trying to coordinate things on the south side of the river. As such, he lost track of all his assets and several MG teams did not fire. He was waving on a single squad that was trying to flank the British mortar positions.

East Area

British

Sergeant-Major Morris was waving his survivors back to positions of cover. They'd try to back up slowly, making the German advance difficult. Sergeant Sable was also drawing the remains of his platoon west, hoping to deny German access on the side road that could let them sneak into Lieutenant Swain's area.

German

Sergeant Traub traded shots with some entrenched British troops near the second bridge on the main road. He heard a cheer from behind, and surmised that the damn bus had finally been pushed off the roadway.

While the road was clear for the supply trucks to cross the first bridge, he had no idea what was around the bend where the second bridge was. It was sure to be covered by the Brits.

German Turn 5

West Area

German

One of Sergeant Pollack's squads threw smoke grenades into the street, allowing several squads and Pollack to dash through the smoke, brave some MG fire and gain one hex of the church. Sergeant Hieken directed fire into the steeple and broke the MG crew. But an overaggressive truck rush with one of the infantry guns drew MG fire from in the village, destroying the truck and breaking the crew that had unloaded the gun in Hazardous Movement, moments before the truck was shot up. The second truck, also towing an infantry gun rushed across the bridge but was more careful and ducked behind the woods.

Lieutenant Stahler directed ATR fire on the MkVIB on the east side of the village, punching a hole in the armor but failing to destroy the vehicle.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns rallied a number of his 2nd line squads. He knew the steeple MG crew would eventually crack, and wasn't surprised when they did. There wasn't much hope in saving them. They knew it when he assigned them to the steeple, but still they went without complaining.

Center Area

German

Lieutenant Ziegler was able to direct more critical MG fire, breaking and then eliminating one of the crews for the heavy mortars. More MG fire broke the other crew. Ziegler had no idea that the crew had managed to destroy their mortar while trying to repair it. Sergeant Stites had finally rallied again, and he waved a mortar crew into position near him. The two British squads that had broken Stites two turns

in a row, now turned their guns on the mortar, but the mortar crew weathered 1MCs and then had their revenge. They fired their mortar, and over several shots with rate, they broke both the British squads. The mortar crew could hear Stites cheering their success.

Corporal Uhl had directed a flanking squad into position, but some sharp shooting by a newly rallied British crew broke them. Uhl was forced to rush up near them, for the rally attempt that would be needed.

British

Lieutenant Swain had to move up into a forward position to rally some troops, and also to direct fire. He was no longer wondering about tank reinforcements. He was wondering if any of them would survive. Across the river, he could see a squad that was all but surrounded by armored cars and advancing Germans. The other squad in that position had broken and was eliminated for failure to rout. That left one solitary squad on the north side of the river (he'd forgotten about the other squad hunkered down in a foxhole). That squad caught a German MG crew trying to move up, and cut them down with vengeance, eliminating them.

East Area

German

Sergeant Traub watched as some very good German rolls caused significant damage against the last vestiges of defense in this area. A squad with a mortar was broken, failed to rout, and threw their hands up in exasperation. Two light tanks rushed another squad caught out of cover, breaking it. Lieutenant Gaus and another tank were pushing the flank, testing the British fallback positions. A lucky shot by a Panzer IIA broke one of the British squads set up as rear guard.

Captain Dahl allowed his panzers to aggressively move forward. Things were rapidly collapsing here. With the roadblock out of the way, the supply trucks were now setting up in a parade on the road.

British

Sergeant-Major Morris no longer had control of events surrounding him. He moved along the river, waving the survivors of his command to head west and try to get with Lieutenant Swain in the center area. One of his Bren carriers was immobilized and being rushed by German tanks, and the other was driving like a madman as German shells started to close in on it. He gave the artillery gun crew the option to abandon their gun and retreat with him. The crew politely declined, thanking him for his consideration, but they preferred to stay HIP and give old Jerry an ugly surprise. Morris thanked the men and turned away quickly, so they wouldn't see the tears in his eyes.

British Turn 5

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns moved up to rally more troops. He saw his mortar team in the cemetery broken by German gunfire. The two Mk VIB tanks took up covering positions across the town square. His MG team on the east side of town was finally broken by strong German fire, and refused to rout, hiding in their building. The Mk VIB in that area managed to break the German ATR gunner.

More British tanks came in just east of Burn's area, and he suspected they were being diverted to help out Swain in the Center Area. He hoped he could hold with what he had.

German

Lieutenant Stahler was happy to just consolidate his position in town. His ATR team was broken and no infantry guns were set up yet. Things looked like a stalemate for now. He really had no answer for the light British armor.

Central Area

British

Lieutenant Swain's situation was a roller coaster. Corporal Biggins managed to rally the remaining mortar crew, as well as a half squad for the MG that had been abandoned earlier. The crew manned the mortar again, and the half squad rushed to man the MG. Then both were shot up by Jerry, and both broke, along with Biggins, who got caught up in the fire. All routed again into the cover of the woods.

Swain traded fire with two German MG teams, but nothing came of that. He did see his one of his surviving squads on the far side of the river shoot up a German armored car. No one got out of the wreck. Small victory. Those lads were fighting like cornered lions.

German

Lieutenant Ziegler was not able to get things moving on the north side of the river. That single British squad was really blocking their advance. Sergeant Fink was busy trying to re-rally his troops, and the doggone Brits had just knocked out an armored car with an ATR. The only bright spot was that Corporal Uhl was directing a spirited attack on the British mortar positions. There was also hope that Sergeant Stites might be able to knock out that other British MG position that was wreaking havoc on the armored cars.

A troubling report for Ziegler was that British tanks were on their way to flank his troops on the south side of the river.

East Area

British

Sergeant-Major Morris was working his way towards Swain's position. Almost all the survivors were now heading west to join in the Central Area defense.

German

Captain Dahl received reports from his forward tankers that all the British Bren carriers had been eliminated. The Brits had put up a spirited blocking action, but as they turned to retreat their Bren carriers, they were shot up and destroyed. Dahl was not overly troubled that several British units had been seen fleeing west into the wooded areas. He was pleased at progress so far. Losses were very light.

Sergeant Traub was still trying to get his infantry together for a cohesive move around the bend in the main road. He was wary that the British had left unpleasant surprises behind. He urged caution to Dahl over the radio.

Situation at the start of German Turn 6

West Area



Central Area



East Area



German Turn 6

West Area

German

Heavy concentrated fire on the broken MG team on the east side of town broke them again. The way was opening up for an advance, but the British MkVIB was still a serious threat. Lieutenant Stahler managed to rally the squad with the ATR from their desperation state, and they again fired true, hitting the British light tank but failing to destroy it. On the west side, fire from Hieken's squads eliminated the broken squad hiding in their foxhole in the cemetery. Fire was traded across the town square with no visible effect. Small movements forward were made, but no breakthroughs here.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns rallied the lads and brought them back into the fight. The Germans were held up for the moment, as any further movement in the church would get a 20FP MG attack from one of the MkVIB tanks, guarding the far side of the church. Burns preferred to have Sergeant Tummins hold his position on the west side of the village.

Central Area

German

Lieutenant Ziegler ordered his 81mm mortar team to fire at the building that housed the British leadership, just across the bridge and by the roadblock. The mortar crew dropped several rounds on the building, causing the British leader to break, along with 2 squads. The third squad was pinned. Ziegler then tried to add damage with his MGs but the result was negligible. Nearby, an AC tried to break the British holdouts in the building on the north side, but missed. A second AC fired again at the British Bren carrier on the other side of the bridge, but the gun malfunctioned.

On the south side, two MG teams fired on the British half-squad that had taken out an AC and was holding up any advance towards the crossroads. This half-squad had been causing all sorts of mayhem, but on a morale check, they drew boxcars on a MC and were eliminated. The stress of battle had destroyed them.

Reports to Sergeant Stites of a leader trying to work his way across the road to attempt the rally of the two broken British squads that had broken Stites several times caused him to order the mortar team nearby to fire on the broken British squads again. Neither of them could see the road that the leader was crawling across. The mortar team already had acquisition on the building, and dropped more rounds on the hapless broken British squads. They broke and were eliminated. The noose was tightening on the south side of the river.

Further west, on the main road, 3 British A13 tanks were observed by an advance mortar team and an AT gun. It appeared the British tanks were rushing east to flank Sergeant Stites units. The AT gun crew had hastily unhooked their 37mm AT gun earlier, and now spun it to face the British tanks. In an incredible one-sided gun battle, the 37mm gunners held rate for many shots, finally knocking out one of the British tanks with a deadly turret shot. *Treffer!!!*

Sergeant Ziegler ordered the other 6-wheeler ACs to head west, as they showed no inclination to try and get closer to assist in the struggle for the crossroads.

British

Lieutenant Swain and his attending squads were broken or pinned by accurate mortar fire. It would remain to be seen if they could rally in time to save themselves. Germans were moving in quickly, now that the two MG positions on the south side were taken out. Up around the mortars, things were desperate as well. Corporal Biggins remained broken, and was forced to rout further into the woods, with Germans following close behind. The mortar position was done for.

Sergeant Browning tried to rush across the street, intent on rallying the two squads that had kept breaking the German sergeant. He made it to the middle of the road and was pinned. Then he watched as accurate mortar fire eliminated the two squads he was trying to reach. All for naught.

On the north side of the river, the last holdout squad fired on a 6-wheeler AC and shocked it with his ATR. They were not able to machine gun any of the German squads that rushed through a plowed field to get at them. The Germans flooded into the building and everyone was then locked in a wicked melee after CC rolls were unsuccessful for both sides.

East Area

German

Captain Dahl ordered his tankers to advance quickly. The first one across the next bridge took fire from another 18-pounder gun, but the gunner fired wide and the tank rushed to cover on the other side of the river. A Panzer IB rushed forward to try and pin a squad under DM, but instead caught a hull hit from Sergeant-Major Morris's squad in a nearby wooded hex, firing their ATR. The Panzer was immobilized and the DM squad scurried off to join Sergeant-Major Morris.

Dahl was frustrated, as the road was still not open. They'd have to knock out another artillery gun. The British were not giving up easily.

British

Sergeant-Major Morris had his ATR man hold fire until he had a good shot. The ATR round rang true, knocking out the transmission on the light panzer. It was immobilized. This gave Morris small satisfaction, as nothing much they'd done so far had really held up the German flood. He heard the artillery piece open up but saw the round fly wide, and the German tanker escaped across the river and to cover behind a building.

British Turn 6

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was pleased that things were somewhat stable, until accurate German fire broke the already broken crew in the steeple. He had hoped they could self-rally, but that hope was over. The light tank on the east side reported they were catching hits from an ATR and they might have to move back to cover.

German

Lieutenant Stahler watched in frustration as the ATR gunner kept getting hits but no results. Things were at a standstill around the town center. The only good thing was that the MG crew in the steeple had been eliminated.

Center Area

British

The plucky Bren carrier crew notched up another AC kill with accurate MG To Kill rolls. They kept shrugging off 20mm rounds from the remaining AC.

In absolute desperation, Lieutenant Swain and three broken squads braved Interdiction rolls and escaped from their death trap in the building they were at. They made it into the wooded road where it was hoped they all could rally. Swain was no longer in command of anything resembling a defensive position. He had no idea that Sergeant Browning had tried to escape as well, but was broken, and had to surrender to an adjacent squad.

Incredibly, Sergeant Sable arrived from the east area position, and got to work trying to rally stragglers.

The melee across the river continued on.

German

The crossroad was almost cleared. A pesky Bren carrier was holding fast, but almost all the infantry had been eliminated or captured. The remaining British units appeared to have fled into the woods. Corporal Uhl was working his way into the woods now.

East Area

British

Sergeant-Major Morris had his ATR lads take another crack at a German panzer with a leader exposed. The round missed, and the German returned fire, pinning Morris. He had to voluntarily break in order to retreat further and stay with a DM squad.

German

Captain Dahl tried to get tanks into position to take out the artillery gun. Only one panzer had a shot at them. The artillery crew had to crank their gun around in the woods, which greatly hampered their shot, and they missed their prep fire shot. The German panzer missed too, but would have a better shot in the coming turn.

Sergeant Traub received reports that the secondary road might be open past the lake, as all foxholes had been checked and cleared.

German Turn 7

West Area

German

Sergeant Hieken was ordered to attempt to flank the British group on the west end of town. The stalemate continued around the town center.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was pleased at his troops holding off the Germans. While they had a part of the church, they couldn't capitalize on this.

Center Area

German

Sergeant Stites moved squads quickly into the crossroads. There were still some enemy units hiding in the large woods, so he wasn't going to start removal attempts on the 3-ton lorry that was blocking the road yet. Corporal Uhl reported that many British units were still in the wooded area, and would pose a threat. He needed more units to clear the woods. He was unaware that several tanks, led by Lieutenant Gaus had arrived from the east area, and were pressing British stragglers towards his position.

Lieutenant Ziegler collared another squad and led them into the building where his other squads were locked in melee with a ferocious British squad. This was what was needed to tip the balance and end the melee. The British defenders were overwhelmed. The north side of the river was almost completely devoid of the enemy. One squad remained, holed up in a foxhole position near the bridge.

British

Lieutenant Swain was almost able to gather his wits about him, when suddenly more German fire came from the woods. Suffering from DM again, he led two broken squads into more woods, only to find that the woods ended and Germans were on the other side of the river. Other broken units flocked to Sergeant Sable for a rally attempt. They could hear the growl of German tank engines very close by.

East Area

German units now pressed hard against the British artillery gun. A tank fired at the artillerymen, but they held fire, expecting either an armored overrun attack or infantry to rush their position. Germans rushed them from the nearby woods, and they fired, breaking the German attack. Then more Germans rushed them, firing from covered positions in an adjacent building. They fired with intensive fire but their round missed. Sergeant Traub, leading this attack, directed fire that broke the artillery crewmen, who then fled back into the cover of the woods behind them.

Captain Dahl ordered his tanks to rush past the artillery gun, and several of them leapfrogged past several broken British units, cutting off their avenue of escape. As the British units were under guns from both sides of the river, and suffering from DM as well, they were eliminated for failure to rout. Dahl was well satisfied. All British resistance for the Eastern Area had ceased to exist.

British

Completely exhausted and stunned by the audacity of the German armor, which flashed past their positions and came at them from the rear, Sergeant-Major Morris put it to the men. Surrender or be slaughtered in some unknown French woods. Resolute as always, the men left it to their Sergeant-

Major to decide. Morris was unable to justify any further slaughter, and he led his survivors into captivity.

All resistance in the East Area was over. Still, Morris and his men did hold up the German advance for precious time.

British Turn 7

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns held the town center and traded shots with the Germans. They did a little damage but nothing much changed. Sergeant Tummins got in some good shots against the Germans who were trying to flank his position, breaking several of them. The flanking move was halted for now.

More MkVIB tanks appeared to their south, and those tanks rushed off to the east. Apparently, things were really desperate if all the tanks were heading east.

German

Lieutenant Stahler was not pleased. Things were too static. They were unable to advance and unable to slow down the British armor that raced to the east.

Center Area

British

Sergeant Sable was mostly in command now, as Lieutenant Swain was batted around in the woods by German fire, and unable to rally. Sable put a half squad and a squad back in action. These units would try to stabilize some sort of defense in the woods.

German

Sergeant Stites moved several MG teams in to try and take out the last British squad on the north side of the river. Lieutenant Ziegler was moving his men into position on the north side to bring encircling fire on the enemy squad.

East Area

British

The artillery gun crew was pursued into the woods, broken, and then eliminated for failure to rout. The last vestige of defense was done.

German

Sergeant Traub oversaw the demise of the artillery crew. Now it was just a matter of pressing west to keep the pressure on the British.

Turn 8 Overview



West Area



Central Area



East Area

German Turn 8

West Area

German

Strong British fire in the square broke a squad in the church and mortally wounded the Hero Klinge. That was a blow to morale. Stahler's ATR gunner was broken by machine gun fire from the light tank. The German position was starting to look shaky.

British

Good gunnery strengthened the village square defense. Jerry was slowly being pushed back.

Central Area

German

Lieutenant Ziegler directed strong fire at an entrenched British squad that was holding LOS down the north road and also blocking passage for the wooded road on the south side of the river. The squad was broken, and then eliminated for failure to rout when an AC drove up next to it and a German squad in foxholes behind it had them surrounded.

The Hero Private Stein led a push against the entrenched squad near the bridge, and several MG teams rushed into a building adjacent to that position. Stein hoped that with a little luck, they could dig the British squad out of their foxholes. They now had the Brits well and truly encircled.

German trucks and armored vehicles rushed up the main road on the north side.

British

Sergeant Sable and Corporal Biggins were trying to organize some sort of defense in the woods when a German tank drove up next to them and opened fire. They were pinned and a broken unit with them had to rout away. Another squad was pinned and Lieutenant Swain, still unable to rally, again melted into the forest with his two broken squads.

British Turn 8

West Area

British

Fire was traded back and forth, and another German squad was broken near the square and had to retreat. The Sergeant-Major was pleased.

German

Lieutenant Stahler noted no real change. His ATR squad broke again, when fired on by the British tank. Things were looking bad.

Central Area

British

Lieutenant Swain finally got his senses back, and rallied the squads with him. They advanced on the German tank in the wooded road, planning to attack it, but fire from the tank pinned most of the troops. Newly formed Hero Private Burnett led the charge and a squad followed. No one got the better of each other, so the tank and the lads were locked in melee.

Right after an exchange of gunfire in the nearby woods, Sergeant Sable heard loud yelling and screaming. It appeared that one of his squads that fired on Germans in a foxhole had gone berserk. Those lads would undoubtedly charge the Germans in the foxhole in their next MPh.

German

Heavy fire, led by Hero Private Stein broke the last squad in their foxholes north of the river. They were encircled and grudgingly surrendered. On the south side of the river, Sergeant Stites could tell that a serious fight was brewing in the woods east of the crossroads. He would have to gather his men and assault the woods quickly.

German Turn 9

West Area

German

Lieutenant Stahler ordered rallied squads forward in an attempt to strengthen the church area. Fire on the British tanks was not effective.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns watched cautiously as the Germans advanced, giving his men more opportunities to break them.

Area between West and Central

German

British armor had moved up, planning to flank the Central Area, but were held up by a lone AT gun on the road and a mortar team in a wooded area. Several of the MkVIB light tanks moved up to engage, but the mortar landed a lucky shot and knocked one of them out. The other raked the mortar team's truck, turning it into wreckage.

British

Initial British movement was to push fast towards the Central Area, but after one of the A13 tanks lost a wicked gun duel with a lone 37mm AT gun, the British armor were now thinking of consolidating a defensive position just east of the town. There had been no word coming from the command that was defending the Central Area. It was thought they might have been overrun by now, so charging further east might be a moot point.

Central Area

German

The Panzer IIA that was close assaulted decided to get away quickly, so they drove out of the melee and positioned themselves further west on the wooded road. More tanks came flooding up from the East Area, along with some infantry. Sergeant Stites rushed into a foxhole position to try and bolster a lone squad there that was facing a berserk British squad, screaming vile epithets and taunting the German squad mercilessly. The situation in the woods was very fluid.

The heavy Panzer MkIV tanks arrived at the roadblock near the crossroads, and would attempt to blast it with their short 75mm cannon. If that didn't work, then the infantry would have to try and push the wreckage of the lorry clear.

British

Lieutenant Swain managed to rally himself, and got a squad rallied with him. No sooner had he done this, when a blast of MG fire came from across the river, breaking him and the squad once more. Swain was having a hard time of it.

British Turn 9

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was heartened by some good shooting by his squads in the village as they managed to break a squad and pin another. This was short lived as his green troops on the east side of the village took MG fire, one breaking and one pinned.

German

Lieutenant Stahler continued directing his ATR squad with fire on the British light tank. No effect. He did hear some concentrated firing in town. It appeared his men were still holding fast in the church. An artillery round flashed over the village, and this was an indicator that Sergeant Huber had contacted the battery assigned them. Perhaps some artillery in town would shake up the British a bit.

Area between West and Central Areas

British

After shredding up a German truck, the crew of a Mk VIB saw they had LOS to the lone AT gun blocking the road. They fired, getting all MGs properly on target, which broke the AT gun crew and set their truck on fire. After seeing this, the other Mk VIB in their troop rushed around the wooded area and took on the mortar team at point blank range. Their fire went wide, but the mortar crew had nothing to fire back at them – they were too close.

German

With the AT gun crew broken, further advance up the road would now be difficult for the Germans. It was hoped that the British would hold back instead of trying to push up the road. Most of the German armor was still blocked around the crossroads in the Central Area.

Central Area

British

Swain, Sable, Biggins, and Hero Burnett were now boxed in, surrounded along the wooded road. There were only a handful of squads left. The berserk squad had charged into a German buzz saw, as a leader and MG had reinforced the hex in the previous turn. TPBF was too much for them. They were eliminated in a hail of MG fire.

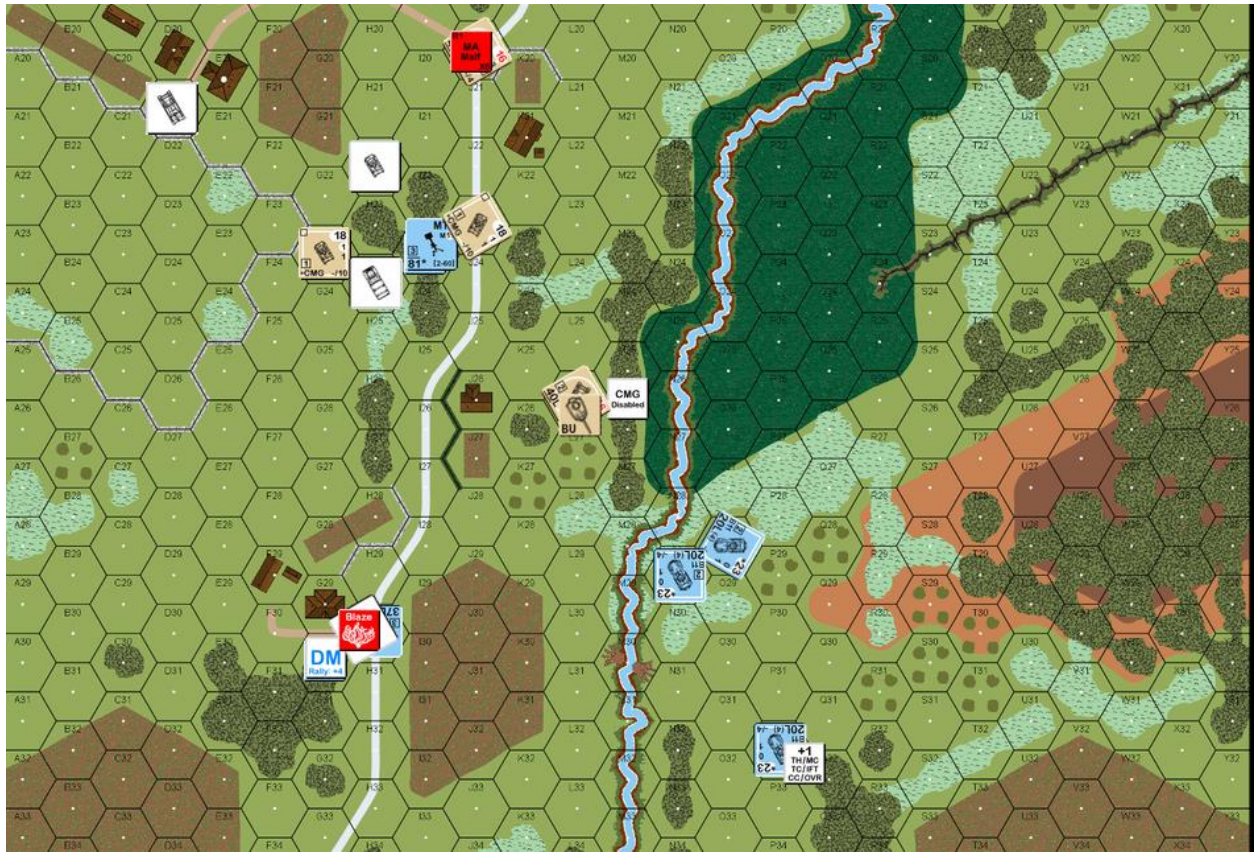
German

Infantry squads were carefully pressing into the woods towards the British. Corporal Fuchs wondered why they just didn't surrender. The British were in a hopeless position.

Situation at German Turn 10



West Area



Area between West and Central Area



Central Area

German Turn 10

West Area

German

Lieutenant Stahler's ATR squad hit the MkVIB in the turret and the shot rang true. The light tank was set on fire. British fire in the village broke Corporal Pollack, but yet another British squad was broken and routed to safety. Artillery fire was amazingly accurate, but not effective.

British

With yet another green squad broken, and with one he was trying to rally in his hex, Sergeant-Major Burns had his hands full. A pall of greasy smoke rose up from the east end of the village, probably signaling the end of his armor support there. Things were slowly starting to collapse. He figured some of that armor that kept racing by might need to stop off here.

Area between West and Central Area

German

A MkVIB light tank moved to point blank range and easily broke the mortar team. They were barely able to rout this time but were running out of places to hide.

British

The British armor were now starting to line up in a blocking position. Further advance east was likely a waste of time.

Central Area

German

German squads advanced carefully towards the remnants of the British blocking force, trapped in the woods. Several units and leaders were eliminated for failure to rout and they went into captivity. As the Panzer IVs had not been able to blow apart the roadblock, a large group of soldiers and prisoners moved in to push the roadblock out of the way.

British

Lieutenant Swain was so shaken by events that he remained broken, and as such, was taken into captivity. The words "For you, the war is over" rang in his ears as he was led off at gunpoint, along with several broken squads and crews. He no longer cared.

Corporal Biggins, Hero Burnett, and a single squad were now completely surrounded. They knew there was no escape, but it appeared they would go down swinging.

British Turn 10

West Area

British

Sergeant Tummins saw German troops trying to flank their position. His lads had been holding Jerry at bay all this time, so they fired true, breaking the two squads but not breaking the leader and his Hero. This small success was then offset when a German MG opened fire from a first-floor perch and broke Tummins and a squad. The Germans melted into the woods to rally, and Tummins and the broken squad dashed back into the village to rally.

Artillery dropped around the church again, but the 2nd line MG gunners held fast. Unfortunately, a round struck the Mk VIB light tank on the other side of the church, shocking them. It remained to be seen if they would recover. Sergeant-Major Burns did not like the turn of events.

German

A British sniper took a shot at Lieutenant Stahler but pinned the squad with him instead. It was a close call.

Area between the West and Central Area

British

One of the remaining 2 Mk VIB light tanks charged across the open field, using a grouping of farm buildings as cover, and then skidded around the building corner to take a point-blank shot at a German AC that was hiding behind the farm. The AC failed in their attempt to swing around and face the British light tank, but the British tankers fired wide, just missing the AC. As this was happening, the AC crew had desperately cranked their turret to face the light tank and when they fired, with multiple hits, the British tank was blown up and erupted in flames.

Further mayhem ensued when the other Mk VIB again fired point blank at the mortar crew in the woods. The crew pulled snake eyes and a hero was generated, much to the dismay of the British tankers.

German

The AC was certainly lucky by getting multiple hits on the adjacent British light tank. It was taking too long for armor to come up in support of the forward elements. The 6-wheeler ACs were now taking shots from a A13 tank which was blocking a ford across the swollen river. Time was running out.

Central Area

British

Corporal Biggins, Hero Burnett, and a single squad made a last stand on the wooded road. They were still blocking the road nicely. They fired at Sergeant Stites in a last defiant act, but their fire had no effect. They were cut down from all sides. No one would know of their self-sacrifice in the lonely French woods.

German

Corporal Fuchs called out to the British troops, hunkered down in the woods, to surrender, as they were surrounded. Gunfire from the Brits drowned out his attempts. Sergeant Stites gave the command and the troops opened fire on the defiant British troops. It was over in seconds. No survivors. Corporal Fuchs quietly asked his Sergeant why the British would not surrender. He was truly astounded. Sergeant Stites had no answer to that question.

A cry came from the crossroads. The roadblock had been removed. But was there time to open the road through Les Attaques?

German Turn 11

West Area

German

Sergeant Huber decided to drop smoke on the village square, he kept battery access, and drew a black chit. The Accuracy Roll was right on target. The smoke completely obscured the square and Corporal Pollack's men rushed through the church. Other squads dashed into adjoining buildings, shrugging off return fire in the smoke. The motorcycle troops then close assaulted the enemy tanks in the village, finishing them both off in wild action.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was surprised by the smoke, expecting the Germans to bring more artillery fire. Smoke was the worst thing that could happen though. His men fired at glimpses of figures in the smoke, but he was sure they didn't hit anything. Explosions in the area of the two tanks did not bode well. He was sure the tanks could not protect themselves.

Area between West and Central Area

German

Two ACs rushed the British armor around the small woods, where the mortar team was being savaged. One was blasted apart at point-blank range by an A13, firing desperately at the onrushing AC. The other AC rushed up against the light Mk VIB, taking glancing shots while missing with their own shots. Both were glaring at each other while reloading. Things did not look good for the AC though.

British

Prior to being rushed by the German AC, the Mk VIB was able to break the mortar crew and wound the hero that had emerged from the morale check. The mortar crew was eliminated as they couldn't rout to safety. Hero Private Streich then charged the Mk VIB in close combat but was cut down by accurate MG fire from the tank.

The A13 near the ford brought accurate gunnery on a 6-wheeler and knocked that AFV out.

Central Area

German

The trucks were moving in the convoy. They were rumbling through the crossroads, but there wasn't much time left for them to get through Les Attaques. All units were rushing west.

British

Additional armor was expected in the next turn, but there was no telling where they would arrive.

British Turn 11

West Area

British

The smoke was quite problematic. Sergeant-Major Burns directed fire as best he could. Suddenly heavy fire ripped through the building he was in. Burns was wounded and a squad broken. The rest were pinned. In all the confusion, no one was sure where the fire came from, but it had immediate effect.

German

The smoke was heavy, but several squads managed to get strong fire into a building, with some apparent effect. The infantry gun fired down the street and into the heavy smoke, getting an improbable hit on a building with the British MG team, but the round did no damage.

Area between the West and Central Area

British

The A13 tanks forming up the block in this area re-positioned themselves, expecting an onslaught of German troops and tanks. The Mk VIB that was face-to-face with the AC missed their shot, but luckily for them, an A13 further behind it fired a shot, the round just missing the Mk VIB and tearing into the AC, knocking it out.

German

The 6-wheeler watched as the round from an A13 tank whizzed past them, just barely missing despite having acquired them. The gunner let loose a shot at the British tank, striking it in the turret ring with a critical hit and setting off the ammunition inside. The A13, already prone to catching fire, erupted into a blazing wreck.

Central Area

British

Having gotten lost on the way to Les Attaques, Captain Sparks lead his troop of one A13 and two A9 heavy howitzer tanks into what he thought was the village. Instead, they'd turned right instead of going straight, somewhere back in the countryside, and now they were driving straight into the hornets' nest itself, where all the German units were staging through for a run into Les Attaques.

A German 37mm AT gun hit them point-blank but the round caromed off. He ordered full speed and his driver reacted, but then a hot ATR round ripped through the side turret, and Sparks and his crew were shocked. The tank ground to a halt.

The two tanks behind them rushed through the gauntlet and past his shocked tank. The first tank was ambushed by infantry that rushed out to attack it as it drove through the narrow street. They were lucky and brushed off the feeble attempt to stop them. As they approached a Y intersection, the driver called out, asking left or right. Right was the order and they turned, coming face-to-face with a long column of German trucks. The gunner opened fire and destroyed the lead truck. The second A9 ground past them and crushed the destroyed truck, firing at the next truck in line, but missing.

German

Total chaos and pandemonium broke out as British tanks suddenly appeared to block the truck convoy. Most of the heavier tanks had already passed this area and only light armor was available to address the

British tanks. The truck drivers were terrified, as tank rounds tore apart the first truck and screamed past the second one.

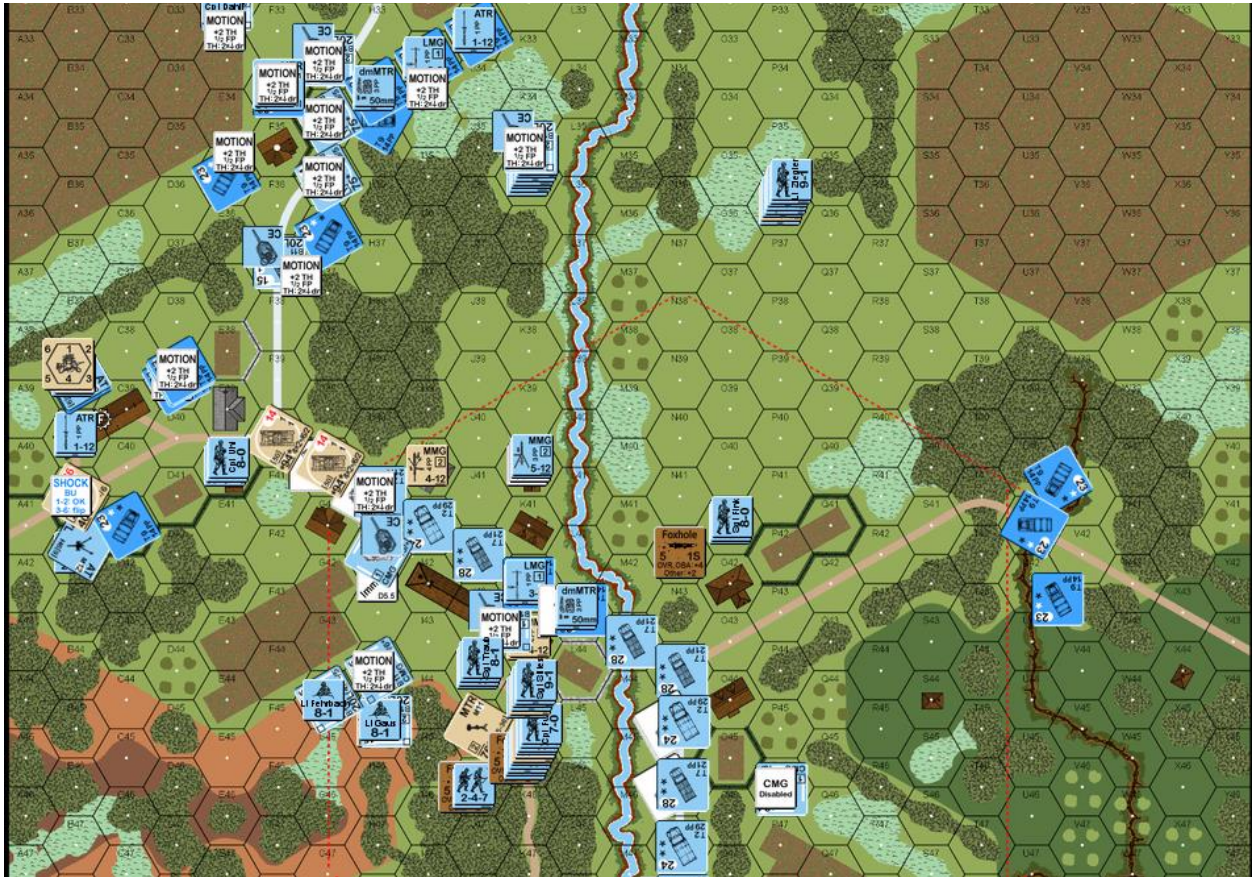
Situation at the beginning of German Turn 12



West Area



Area between West and Central Areas



Central Area

German Turn 12

West Area

German

Hero Private Brenner was left trying to push the flanking maneuver on the west side of the village. Despite breaking some of the resolute British squads and pinning others, the British fired back and broke just about everyone, leaving a wounded Brenner and a half squad in the dubious cover of the orchard.

In the village, under cover of the smoke, the German squads moved to close combat, killing off the MG team that held them up from the beginning. As the smoke faded off, their position was still tenuous, as British survivors would get good point-blank shots at them. Lieutenant Stahler's squad threw smoke grenades into the street and assaulted the green troops holding down the east end of the village. They were broken and routed away, allowing Stahler to take control of the east end. The west end was still held by the British.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was having his wounds dressed as the Germans flooded across the square of the village. He wasn't sure now if he'd be able to get enough squads back into action to contest the village.

Area between West and Central Areas

German

Armored cars tried to rush the British tanks, hoping to get close enough for their light guns to make a difference. The British light MG tank got off a lucky shot that immobilized a Panzer IIA, but then the German tank responded with a kill shot, setting the Mk VIB on fire. Another AC rushed forward and was knocked out by the A13 tanks nearby. Captain Dahl aggressively rushed through a hail of tank shells and took up a position behind several wrecks. His shot missed. He hoped to survive through the British Prep Fire phase. He took heart in the fact that the two Panzer MkIV tanks had made it through the traffic jam and were about to make their presence felt.

British

It was give and take, as British armor took out some of the rushing German tanks and lost their light tank in the process. The blocking position was still holding. Only a few more turns were left.

Central Area

German

All was wild pandemonium. The German AT gun that had stunned Captain Sparks' tank was spun wildly to bring it to bear on the tank. The gunner fired off a round that fortunately struck the tank in the side, setting it ablaze. Captain Sparks had paid dearly for his earlier misdirection. Several light tanks swarmed around the remaining two A9 CS tanks. One tank was struck in the flank at point-blank range with a critical hit and caught fire immediately. The other resisted all attempts from the lighter panzers.

Unfortunately for the British tanks, a large number of German troops were rushing west, and had been delayed when clearing British soldiers from the woods. This placed them right at the location where the British tanks now stood. German infantrymen clambered onto the last British tank and moments later it, too, was a blazing wreck. Captain Sparks' command had been wiped out to a man.

British

Captain Sparks' tankers fought bravely and desperately, turning their turrets to bring them to bear on first the armor and then the infantry, but it was a one-sided affair. The last A9 CS tank was blazing away after several attacks by determined German infantry.

British Turn 12

West Area

British

Some British fire broke an advancing squad, who then suffered interdiction and was reduced to half a squad. Sergeant-Major Burns continued to rally his men and order them back into the buildings around the square. Sergeant Tummins' lone squad on the west side of town kept the Jerries at bay. The road through the village was still covered.

German

Lieutenant Stahler cleared the east side of the village, but was out of place to do much to clear the town. Corporal Pollack was trying to keep the square covered, but British squads in a row house were proving to be very difficult to dig out.

Area between West and Central Areas

British

A lucky hit on one of the German Panzer Mk IV's shocked the crew. With a little more luck, they'd be out of action soon. Another tank traded ineffectual shots with a Panzer IIA. One tank was pulled back to block the road into the village.

German

The British tanks were holding on quite effectively. The road was blocked and the trucks were waiting to try and make a run through town. Time was now critical.

German Turn 13

West Area

Germans

Long range MG fire finally broke the last squad on the west side of the village. Sergeant Hieken and his men moved in to try and secure the west side. The square was still not secured though. A sniper activation zeroed in on Lieutenant Stahler and he was killed, resulting in his loyal squad broken at the sight of his demise. Several trucks managed to get into the east side of the village, but not enough to complete the mission yet. They would have to survive a serious gauntlet of fire to exit.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns was still trying to rally broken troops that rushed back to his rally point. He was no longer able to properly provide combat direction. He hadn't heard from Sergeant Tummins and feared the worst. Tummins, in fact, was locked in melee with Corporal Pollack and a squad.

Area between West and Central Area

Germans

Captain Dahl gave the order to close fast with all the British armor. He watched in dismay as one of his heavy Panzer Mk IV tanks, shocked on the previous turn, was turned into a wreck. The crew must have been really messed up from the shock result. Dahl then ordered his driver to start up and rush forward, but the A13 that he traded shots with the previous turn, fired and the shell tore into his tank. The crew, those still alive, bailed out with him. Their fight was pretty much over.

Dahl didn't see the other Panzer Mk IV open fire and set the A13 on fire that was guarding the east edge of the village.

British

There were 3 British tanks left on the field, and one was staring down a light tank and trading shots. The commander had every reason to expect his next shot would be successful. The Germans were running out of tanks.

British Turn 13

West Area

British

British fire was mostly ineffective. Sergeant Tummins fought heroically but was overwhelmed and killed in close combat. Sergeant-Major Burns had little left to fight with. Most of his command were now broken. He was the last leader left. His men still had eyes on the square though.

Germans

Sergeant Hieken had now broken or routed the survivors on the west side of Les Attaques. The infantry guns were finally being put to use. The British were still gamely holding on to part of the square.

Area between the West and Central Area

British

One A13 tank won their duel with the German panzer. The other tank commander turned his tank around to head for the group of trucks on the east side of the village. As he was doing this, and looking forward to blowing up Jerry's supply column, a hot round of 37mm slammed into the rear of their turret. His crew were immediately shocked as hot metal shards ripped through the tank interior. He knew he was bleeding and assumed the rest of his lads were too. As he was about to give orders to try and start up again, a second round hit them again, with more spalling ripping amongst them. This was it, their morale was broken, and the only thought was for survival. The crew successfully bailed out and the tank was turned into a wreck. The commander now was left with the thought that maybe he shouldn't have tried to turn and attack the trucks. He then passed out from loss of blood.

Germans

The 37mm AT gun crew had re-acquired their gun after being broken earlier. They were a gutsy bunch, having dueled with and destroyed an A13 earlier before MG fire broke them. They had to brave the flames from the burning truck that was near their gun, but they manned the gun. The gun commander was shocked to see an A13 turning to head towards the village. He knew that a number of supply trucks had blown past them on the road, so he surmised the British were turning to try and destroy the supply column. Two shots with rate wrecked the tank and caused the crew to bail out. There were still 2 British tanks lurking though.

German Turn 14

West Area

Germans

Corporal Pollack knew he had to open the road for the truck column. In order to do so, he had to block and or restrict several British squads in a building that overlooked the square, as the trucks had to pass there. He gave hand signals and one of the squads in the same rowhouse as the British threw smoke to block the LOS of the Brits. Then that squad assault moved into the smoke and adjacent to the Brits, focusing their fire on the advancing squad. The British squads had no choice but to fire at the Germans in the smoke. Their fire was ineffective.

The first set of trucks came barreling through the village, swerving around wrecks and driving as fast and reckless as they could. On the west side of the village, shots rang out. The British had deduced the importance of the trucks and were firing long range on the road. The first truck made it, but the second truck was hit by snake eyes from residual fire, and it was destroyed. Rations in that truck were spilled all over the roadway.

The demise of that truck did not slow the following trucks, and three more weathered the residual fire and exited off the map. The Germans now had 4 trucks off the exit point.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns had, indeed, deduced that the German supply trucks were the main focus of the German attack through this village. He ordered his two squads that had LOS to the road to fire everything they had on each truck that came into their sight. It was a long shot, because they were firing at long range and at moving targets. One truck made it through, but then a ragged cheer rose up from the men as a second truck was torn up and crashed. *A small victory*, thought Burns.

Area between the West and Central Area

Germans

With two British tanks left on the field that posed a threat to the truck column, the light tanks had no choice but to rush the enemy tankers and hope to survive point blank fire. A 6-wheeler AC rushed past the one A13, trying for a rear shot. The A13 swung its fast turret around and then fired, getting multiple hits and setting the AC on fire. Two Panzer IIAs now rushed up next to the A13, firing away, but their shots missed.

The last Mk IV roared towards the other A13, the one that had just blown up a light panzer. The Mk IV declared their shot and the British tanker roared back **Gun Duel**. They had the modifiers, due to their fast turret rate, and they fired, but missed. The Mk IV fired and tore a gaping hole in the front of the A13. There were no survivors.

As trucks with infantry and trucks with supplies rushed past the scene of carnage, a Hero, Private Stein, led a ragged band of troops in a rush up the road and into the woods next to the last A13, that was now engrossed in trying to survive against two panzers adjacent to it. Stein had been running these guys in the dust of the trucks and panzers, ever since their battles at the crossroads. Now they had their chance at the British tank. Stein's men all passed their PAATC and everyone charged the British tank. The tank had no chance, was close assaulted, and was burning in no time. All the British armor had been sacrificed.

British

The British tankers knew what was going to happen and braced themselves. Jerry was going to rush them with everything. They had a pretty good idea what was going to happen, and yet they held their ground. The one A13 blew up a 6-wheeler but then they were mobbed by two more panzers that appeared more than eager to die. They fired but missed. They'd get the Germans the next time for sure. And then the German infantry were scrambling all over their tank. They hadn't expected that, and the end came quickly and violently.

The last A13 never saw what happened to the other. They were frantically turning their turret to address the German monster that rushed them from the side. They had focused on another tank, blown it up, and now this new threat came at them fast. They declared a gun duel, knowing they had the advantage, but the gunner rushed the shot and missed. The German shell crashed into their hull and a deathly silence ensued. The crew were all dead or badly wounded and the tank was knocked out.

British Turn 14

West Area

British

Sergeant-Major Burns tried to direct fire but in his wounded state he was not successful. The Germans now had the village, pending a swirling melee between two of his squads and two of the Germans. Other German squads fired well on his holdout, breaking his squads and pinning him.

Germans

Some MG fire from upper floors broke or eliminated scattered British squads. Corporal Pollack directed fire at one of the last British strongholds, breaking or pinning everyone there. More fire from other squads broke a British squad holed up in foxholes. It seemed that the last British survivors were starting to fold.

Area between West and Central Area

British

With the last British tanks destroyed, there was no more resistance east of the village.

Germans

The exhausted tankers were just happy to have survived their charge into the British tank defense. Some had made it and many of their comrades had not. They waved thanks to Hero Stein and his band of tank hunters. If they hadn't come along when they did, the outcome might have been very different.

German Turn 15

West Area

German

Heavy German MG fire broke all the squads hiding out with Sergeant-Major Burns. Another nearby squad was pinned. The British now had their hands tied. Truck after truck raced through the village, until all remaining trucks in the supply column had exited. Thirteen trucks made it, when only 8 minimum were needed for the victory conditions. The German advance would be supplied and continue unabated in the flood of invasion towards Calais.

British

Sergeant-Major Burns ordered his broken squads to surrender. There was no point in further resistance. He then passed out and later awoke in a German medical station, his wounds being properly treated.

Tragically, the two squads locked in melee with the Germans in the building on the village square did not realize that the battle had been lost. Another squad was eliminated in the melee before the German squads convinced the surviving British squad that the war was over for them.

Game ended on German Turn 15 per victory conditions.

Aftermath



West Area – Road cleared, and supply trucks exited already.



Area between West and Central Areas

German Assessment

German infantry losses were very light. They did have significant losses among their armored cars, both 4-wheel and 6-wheel versions. There were also many losses of the Panzer IIA light tanks and one of the heavy Mk IV tanks.

The initial resistance in the East Area was enough to slow things down considerably. German infantry had trouble removing the first roadblock, and when demo charges didn't seem to be enough, manpower in the form of lots of infantry finally cleared the blockage. The tight terrain in that area also helped to slow things down.

The Central crossroads was extremely problematic. It was difficult getting enough units onto the board and into firing positions. The holdup here was significant as well. Adding to the German's woes was strong fire from British ATR positions. By trying to avoid the gully on the north side of the river, the Germans had to split their forces and come in on both roads. This caused problems with coordinating firepower.

On the south side of the river, several AT guns had to be unloaded and designated to cover a possible attack from the rear by British armor. While there was a good chance (randomly decided by die roll) that this wouldn't happen, the possibility existed and had to be addressed. As it turned out, the worst case did happen, and British armor arrived in time to disrupt the truck column, just as they were starting to gain speed on their rush west, as the roadblock had been cleared shortly before.

Only the fortuitous happenstance of many infantry units arriving in that area at the same time that the British armor started to run amok against the trucks, saved the day for the Germans and allowed the rush west to continue.

Other British armor set up a solid blocking position after the crossroads in the Center. German armor had to struggle through a traffic jam to try and rush the British armor. They paid dearly for this, but the trade in attrition did not favor the British, and the British armor blockage was wiped out.

The West Area village attack in Les Attaques actually turned out to be the critical part of the whole battle. The motorcycle units were able to take advantage of a hasty British defensive setup and gain early positions on the north edge of the village. But, due to scarce terrain and a large number of barbed wire fences, it was hard for the German troops to advance. Time and again they were broken, faded back, rallied, and then advanced again.

Flanking maneuvers to both west and east of the village were held up, either by light British armor on the east side or by a strong infantry position on the west side. German fire was breaking and eliminating the forward British positions, but the strong main positions of the British were holding along the road, and that was where they needed to be pushed away.

Finally, some troops managed to slip into part of the church, but couldn't advance any further, as massed British fire on the other side of the village square would have cut them to pieces. At this point, artillery fire was called in on the square, but wasn't knocking any of the British positions down.

Smoke was called on the square, and this was the moment that the German troops could move up and start to cut away at the British defense. Both light tanks were overwhelmed in the smoke, and the church was taken.

Still, the British positions were fending off attacks, and time was now running out for the Germans. Some additional bold pushes and advances were finally able to push most of the British units away from the road through the village, but not all of them. British fire was directed against the supply trucks as they tried to rush through the village, and ended up destroying one, but three others made it through the residual fire.

Only on the German 15th and last turn were the motorcycle troops able to break, pin, melee, or contain the last few British units that could have fired on the road. The trucks raced through and victory conditions were attained, ending the game.

It was that close.

British Assessment

In the East Area position, the British setup was pretty good, although the two artillery pieces were largely ineffective. If not for the one crew going berserk and taking out a German panzer, they would have scored zero kills. The delay was enough though, as the truck convoy had trouble getting on the map and were forced to wait several turns while infantry had to clear the roadblock.

British troops that were cutting off the secondary road near the lake had to try to flank the German rush onto the board, but seeing that was a disaster, those troops fell back towards the Center Area, and joined in the defense there. This forced all the trucks to stay on the main road, and contributed largely to the traffic jam problems and difficulty the Germans had in getting their tanks and infantry into support attacks in the Center area.

The British positions in the center were mainly set close to the roadblock near the crossroads. This actually worked well, as the woods became a strong blocking position, and the Germans had trouble bringing enough fire to bear on the north-side of the river defensive positions.

As British armor began to trickle into the battle, most came in on the west and central entrance areas. This was fine, as some went to the village to help block the German motorcycle advance and the rest set up blocking positions just east of the village. These positions turned out to be quite difficult to break, and only by swarming the British tanks were the Germans able to open a corridor.

The last British tanks to enter came in randomly in the worst possible place for the Germans. They crashed right into the German truck column. Were it not for the one German AT gun in position, along with an ATR, the British tanks would have plowed right through the truck convoy, unabated.

Accidental timing is what turned the tables on the attacking tanks. The German infantry had finally mopped up the last of the British resistance in the woods, and were now rushing west, trying to keep up with the tanks and trucks. They had fallen behind, but were right at the bottleneck when the British tanks appeared and began trying to slaughter the trucks. The infantry fell on the British tanks and wiped them completely out in close combat. Otherwise, there may not have been enough trucks in the convoy for the German to win.

In the west area, the British setup was in depth. There were a few forward positions, and troops on both flanks to prevent maneuver in those directions, and then the main line of defense was right along the road and covering the church. The Germans took advantage of a LOS hindrance to rush across the bridge on the north and into the town. The British MG team that thought they had a clear shot down the center of the road to the north bridge actually had that blocked by the end of a hedge. This let the Germans into the village, but once there, they had the worst time advancing.

Strong British fire broke their advances and caused them to rout away, losing time by rallying in the next rally phase. But the defense was a brittle one. Once the 2nd line green troops were broken, it was extremely difficult to rally them. That they held out as long as they did was simply because the Germans were not able to put together really strong firepower attacks against the buildings the British squads were occupying.

That the British troops were still putting fire on the main road on Turn 14, and even managed to destroy one of the supply trucks, was a testament to the success of their fallback defense.

This was a very close battle, with the Germans securing victory on their last turn. The randomness of some events really contributed to the uncertainty of things during the conflict, and forced both players to adjust to what might happen as well as what was happening.