



British 7th Armored Division

June 15, 1941

7th Armored Brigade

2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment	<table border="1"> <tr><td>6 A 3</td><td>6 A 3</td><td>6 A 3</td><td>5 H 8</td><td>2 I 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 2</td><td colspan="2">x 3</td><td colspan="1">x 5</td></tr> </table>	6 A 3	6 A 3	6 A 3	5 H 8	2 I 4						2	8	3	10	5	x 2		x 3		x 5	6th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment	<table border="1"> <tr><td>6 A 3</td><td>2 I 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 12</td></tr> </table>	6 A 3	2 I 4			4	9	x 12	
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38th Light AA Battalion (1 troop)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>4 H 10</td><td>0 C 0</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 1</td></tr> </table>	4 H 10	0 C 0			1	14	x 1		4th Field Engineer Squadron (1 troop)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3 I 2</td><td>0 C 0</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 1</td></tr> </table>	3 I 2	0 C 0			10	14	x 1		11th Hussars Recon Battalion	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2 A 1</td><td>2 I 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 6</td></tr> </table>	2 A 1	2 I 4			2	10	x 6			
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7th Support Group

1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2 I 2</td><td>3 M 8</td><td>0 C 0</td><td>2 I 2*</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 9</td><td colspan="2">x 1</td></tr> </table>	2 I 2	3 M 8	0 C 0	2 I 2*					5	1	1	14	x 9		x 1		4th Royal Horse Artillery	<table border="1"> <tr><td>35 (H) 35</td><td>0 C 0</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">x 3</td></tr> </table>	35 (H) 35	0 C 0			2	12	x 3			
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The 7th Armored Division had been resting in the rear since losing most of its tanks in Operation Compass back in February. The tanks from Tiger Convoy had been used to build the division back up but it was still understrength. Instead of two tank brigades, it had only one with a second brigade built around a couple of rifle battalions and some artillery. The 6th RTR was entirely equipped with the new Crusader tank. The initial job of the 7th Armored was to penetrate into the rear of the Axis lines and attempt to locate and destroy the German panzers, believed to be located at Hafid Ridge. The division reached the ridge by morning on the first day but was repulsed by a screen of anti-tank guns. After attempting to flank the position and once more being punished by anti-tank guns, the 7th ended the day with half of its tank strength already gone. After another day of skirmishing with German tanks and more losses, the 7th headed back for the wire to lick its wounds.

Most of the Crusaders were lost on the first day, either due to enemy action, mines, or breakdown. The new tank had proved to be mechanically unreliable and only a minor improvement over the existing cruiser tanks, although improved versions would continue to serve in the desert for another year and a half.