

# Operation Brevity Italian Forces

## May 15, 1941

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

12th  
Bersaglieri  
Battalion  
(+)

2   ●●● 2*	2   ●●● 2*	5 A 2	6 A 3	0 C 0	40 (H) 32	0 C 0
6 BERSAGLIERI 1	4 M-G 1	3 37 mm 0	3 47 mm 0	1 Truck 12	2 100 mm 0	1 TL 37 8
x 5	x 1	x 1	x 1	x 2	x 1	x 1

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

Mixed  
Force

2   ●●● 2*	2   ●●● 1	5 A 2	0 C 0
6 BERSAGLIERI 1	5 M-G 1	3 37 mm 0	1 Truck 12
x 1	x 1	x 1	x 1

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

5th  
Bersaglieri  
Battalion  
(1 company)  
+ attached  
units

2   ●●● 2*	6 A 3	0 C 0	20 (H) 24	0 C 0
6 BERSAGLIERI 1	3 47 mm 0	1 Truck 12	2 75 mm 0	1 TL 37 8
x 3	x 1	x 1	x 1	x 1

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

II/62nd  
Infantry  
Regiment  
(-)

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

Stationed at Bir Musid

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