



# British 7th Armored Division

## May 26, 1942

1st Armored Brigade (-)

1st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters

2 I 2*	0 C 0	3 M 8	6 A 3	2 I 2*	2 C(I) 2*	2 I 2*
RIFLE	Truck	76 mm	2 pdr	M-G	Bren	Bren
6 1 1 14	3 1 3 0	4 1 2 10	2 10	2 10		
x 6	x 6	x 1	x 4	x 3	x 8	x 2

104th Royal Horse Artillery

35 (H) 35	0 C 0
25 pdr	Matador
2 0 1 12	
x 4	x 4

Battery, 15th Light AA Regiment

8 H 12	0 C 0
40 mm	Truck
2 0 1 14	
x 2	x 2

The 1st Armored Brigade did not arrive in the area until the 1st week of June. By then, tank losses were so severe in the battle that the tanks and crews of the 1st RTR, 6th RTR, and 4th Hussars regiments were stripped from the brigade and sent out to other brigades as replacements.

4th Armored Brigade

8th Hussars Tank Regiment

5 A 5	8 A 8	2 I 4
Honey	Grant	Humber SC
4 12	6 8	3 15
x 5	x 5	x 1

3rd Royal Tank Regiment

5 A 5	8 A 8	2 I 4
Honey	Grant	Humber SC
4 12	6 8	3 15
x 5	x 5	x 1

5th Royal Tank Regiment

5 A 5	8 A 8	2 I 4
Honey	Grant	Humber SC
4 12	6 8	3 15
x 5	x 5	x 1

Anti-Tank Battery

9 A 5	0 C 0
6 pdr	Truck
2 0 1 14	
x 4	x 4

1st Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps

2 I 2*	0 C 0	3 M 8	6 A 3	2 I 2*	2 C(I) 2*	2 I 2*
RIFLE	Truck	76 mm	2 pdr	M-G	Bren	Bren
6 1 1 14	3 1 3 0	4 1 2 10	2 10	2 10		
x 6	x 6	x 1	x 4	x 3	x 8	x 2

1st Royal Horse Artillery

35 (H) 35	0 C 0
25 pdr	Matador
2 0 1 12	
x 4	x 4

Battery, 15th Light AA Regiment

8 H 12	0 C 0
40 mm	Truck
2 0 1 14	
x 2	x 2

7th  
Motor  
Brigade

2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2 6</td> <td>1 RIFLE</td> <td>2*</td> <td>0 C</td> <td>0</td> <td>3 M</td> <td>8</td> <td>6 A</td> <td>3</td> <td>2 4</td> <td>1 M-G</td> <td>2 2</td> <td>C(I) Bren</td> <td>2*</td> <td>2 2</td> <td>1 Bren</td> <td>2*</td> <td>10</td> <td>2 2</td> <td>1 Bren</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>x 6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>x 6</td> <td></td> <td>x 1</td> <td></td> <td>x 4</td> <td></td> <td>x 3</td> <td></td> <td>x 8</td> <td></td> <td>x 2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	2 6	1 RIFLE	2*	0 C	0	3 M	8	6 A	3	2 4	1 M-G	2 2	C(I) Bren	2*	2 2	1 Bren	2*	10	2 2	1 Bren	10	x 6			x 6		x 1		x 4		x 3		x 8		x 2							
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4th  
Field  
Engineer  
Squadron

3	1	2	0 C	0
10	1	1	Truck	14
x 4			x 4	

11th  
Hussars  
Recon  
Regiment

2	1	4	2	1	4
3	Humber SC	15	3	Humber SC	15
x 6			x 1		

The 7th Armored was outfitted with the best America could produce at this time, with a mix of Stuart and Grant tanks. Unfortunately only one tank brigade was available for this battle. The initial speed and surprise of the Axis offensive so surprised the 7th Armored that its headquarters was overrun on the morning of the 27th, with the commander General Messervy captured, and the 7th Motor Brigade scattered. The 4th Armored Brigade went into action to try to stem the tide but the 8th Hussars and 3rd RTR tank regiments were caught unprepared and shattered by the panzers. The 4th Armored Brigade continued to fight the Germans in the Cauldron but by the middle of June, it was down to less than 30 tanks. When the order to retreat came, the "brigade" continued to skirmish with the advancing Axis forces, buying enough time for the 50th Infantry Division and other units to escape. By July, the 7th Armored was back to the El Alamein fall back position where it was rebuilt with new tanks.