

Scenarios

Complete chronological listing of scenarios included in the game:

Scenario	Location	Date	Size	Type
Sealion	England	14 - 16 Jul 40	Large	German Invasion
Heraklion	Crete	20 - 22 May 41	Small	German Invasion
Heraklion 2	Crete	20 - 22 May 41	Small	German Invasion
Maleme	Crete	20 - 25 May 41	Large	German Invasion
Moscow	Eastern Front	15 - 23 Nov 41	Large	German Attack
Sidi Rezegh	Libya	19 - 22 Nov 41	Large	British Attack
Tobruk Corridor	Libya	27 Nov - 01 Dec 41	Large	German Attack
Layac	Philippines	02 - 06 Jan 42	Large	Japanese Attack
Singapore	South-East Asia	08 - 15 Feb 42	Medium	Japanese Attack
Ruweisat Ridge	Egypt	21 - 22 Jul 42	Small	British Attack
Stalingrad	Eastern Front	14 - 26 Sep 42	Small	German Attack
Guadalcanal	South Pacific	23 - 26 Oct 42	Small	Japanese Attack
Oran	Algeria	08 - 10 Nov 42	Large	American Invasion
Tebourba Gap	Tunisia	01 - 03 Dec 42	Medium	German Attack
Djebel El Guessa	Tunisia	06 Dec 42	Small	German Attack
Medjez El Bab	Tunisia	10 Dec 42	Small	German Attack
Longstop Hill	Tunisia	23 - 25 Dec 42	Small	Allied Attack
Faid Pass	Tunisia	30 Jan - 02 Feb 43	Medium	German Attack
Sidi Bou Zid	Tunisia	14 - 15 Feb 43	Medium	German Attack
Kasserine Pass	Tunisia	19 - 22 Feb 43	Large	German Attack
Medenine	Tunisia	06 - 07 Mar 43	Large	German Attack
Mareth Line	Tunisia	20 - 23 Mar 43	Large	British Attack
Tebaga Gap	Tunisia	26 - 27 Mar 43	Medium	British Attack
El Guettar	Tunisia	28 Mar - 01 Apr 43	Medium	American Attack
Wadi Akarit	Tunisia	06 - 07 Apr 43	Large	British Attack
Fondouk	Tunisia	08 - 10 Apr 43	Medium	Allied Attack
Syracuse	Sicily	10 - 11 Jul 43	Medium	British Invasion
Gela	Sicily	10 - 11 Jul 43	Medium	American Invasion
Palermo	Sicily	12 - 14 Jul 43	Medium	American Invasion
Primosole Bridge	Sicily	13 - 17 Jul 43	Medium	British Attack
Troina	Sicily	01 - 04 Aug 43	Medium	American Attack
Salerno	Italy	09 - 14 Sep 43	Large	American Invasion
Sangro River	Italy	30 Nov - 03 Dec 43	Large	British Attack
San Pietro	Italy	15 - 17 Dec 43	Small	American Attack
Anzio	Italy	16 - 19 Feb 44	Large	German Attack
Sword	Normandy	06 - 10 Jun 44	Medium	British Invasion
Carentan	Normandy	10 - 14 Jun 44	Medium	American Attack
Stolberg Corridor	Hurtgen Forest	13 - 18 Sep 44	Medium	American Attack
Hurtgen Forest	Hurtgen Forest	16 - 20 Nov 44	Large	American Attack
St.Vith	Ardennes	16 - 22 Dec 44	Medium	German Attack
Bastogne	Ardennes	19 - 25 Dec 44	Large	German Attack
Celles	Ardennes	23 - 26 Dec 44	Medium	German Attack

Sealion, July 14 - 16, 1940

Size Large

Type German Invasion

Axis German

Allies British

Location England

Description This is the hypothetical German invasion of England, based on actual plans. The Germans, four divisions strong, are an irresistible force, invading both out of the sky and over the beaches. The British player's only hope is to hit them hard and decisively with his armor once it becomes available.

Background:

This scenario depicts the first few days of "Sealion," the German invasion of England, and is based on actual German plans and British defensive dispositions. It covers the initial assault by 22nd Air-Landing Division (reinforced through possible battle by 7th Air Division), 17th Infantry Division, and 6th Mountain Division and the possible British reaction, Division and then by elements of 1st Armored Division.

Heraklion, May 20 - 22, 1941

Size Small

Type German Invasion

Axis German

Allies British / Greek

Location Crete

Description This scenario, taking place on Crete, has a single German parachute regiment attempting to take the airfield at Heraklion. A short, tough battle.

Background:

The Germans had underestimated Allied troop strength guarding the Heraklion airfield by half. Therefore, insufficient airborne forces had been sent to capture it.

The drop itself was disastrous. The battalion which had been set to capture the airfield, landing among the Black Watch and the Australians, was destroyed within 20 minutes. In the west, 1 Parachute Regiment was repelled by the Greeks and a company of the York's and Lancs as it attempted to enter the walled city of Heraklion.

For three days, the German paratroopers fought valiantly to achieve their objectives. But by the evening of the 22nd, 1450 of the 2000 men who had landed in the Heraklion area were already dead.

Heraklion 2, May 20 - 22, 1941

Size Small

Type German Invasion

Axis German

Allies British / Greek

Location Crete

Description As originally conceived, the German invasion of Crete was to have included a seaborne element in addition to the airborne assault. This scenario represents what might have happened at Heraklion had the plan succeeded.

Background:

As originally conceived, the German invasion of Crete was to have included a seaborne element in addition to the airborne assault. This amphibious force, however, was turned back by the British navy and the German paratroopers were forced to go it alone.

This scenario represents what might have happened at Heraklion had the plan succeeded. Thus, augmenting the inadequate airborne force are "a battalion of mountain troops together with heavy weapons and several hundred parachutists for whom there had been no space in the aircraft." (The preceding quote is from "The Struggle for Crete" by I.M.G. Stewart, a well-written and highly recommended volume.)

This amphibious force will hit the beaches at 2 am of the 21st. In addition to providing the German player with a sporting chance in this battle, this scenario also illustrates just how easy it is to create plausible what-ifs using the included scenario editor.

Maleme, May 20 - 25, 1941

Size Large

Type German Invasion

Axis German

Allies British / Greek

Location Crete

Description A spectacular paratroop by the German 7th Parachute Division highlights this scenario depicting the invasion of Crete. A big map gives you plenty of options in deciding where to drop your troops. Capture the airfield quickly to make way for the airlanding of the 5th Mountain Division.

Background:

On May 20, 1941, after the Germans had overrun Yugoslavia and Greece, Hitler called upon his entire elite airborne force to launch a daring assault on the island of Crete. The immediate goal of the assault was to capture the island's three usable airfields, the main one being near Maleme. The capture of this vital airfield was entrusted to the elite Sturm Regiment.

Confusion and lack of coordination among the Germans, as well as stiff opposition on Hill 107 and a counterattack by some British infantry tanks which momentarily spread panic among the lightly-armed paratroopers, conspired to keep the airfield out of German hands throughout the first day.

The story was much the same in the Prison Valley where 3 Parachute Regiment had landed in its attempt to capture Suda and Canea. Poor communications hampered the efforts of both sides. But the German assault here was contained and soon in grave peril. At this stage of the battle a determined counterattack by Allied forces could have, and should have, resulted in the failure of the German assault. But poor leadership and ever-faulty communications prohibited the Allies from exploiting their opportunity. Instead, the New Zealanders holding Hill 107 withdrew leaving the airfield in grateful German hands. By late afternoon, the first of the troop-carrying Junkers began landing the 5th Mountain Division to relieve the outnumbered and beleaguered paratroopers, spelling the beginning of the end for Allied forces on Crete.

Moscow, November 15 - 23, 1941

Size Large

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies Russian

Location Eastern Front

Description In late 1941 the German army launches one last offensive to try and take the Russian capital of Moscow. As the Germans push forward, the Russians desperately try and stall and German advance on the city at all costs.

Sidi Rezegh, November 19 - 22, 1941

Size Large

Type British Attack

Axis German

Allies British

Location Libya

Description A wide-ranging, wide-open battle played out on a huge map features plenty of offensive opportunities for each side. This is classic armored warfare in the desert.

Tobruk Corridor, November 27 - December 1, 1941

Size Large

Type German Attack

Axis German / Italian

Allies British

Location Libya

Description This is a continuation of the battle started in the "Sidi Rezegh" scenario. This time British armor is poised to intercept the advancing 15th Panzer Division. An aggressive German can strike at the heart of the British position very quickly.

Layac, January 2 - 6, 1942

Size Large

Type Japanese Attack

Axis Japanese

Allies American / Filipino

Location Philippines

Description By the first week of January Allied forces had nearly completed their withdrawal into Bataan. The 11th and 21st Filipino Divisions were then charged with holding off the Japanese advance to allow more time to prepare the final defenses in Bataan.

Singapore, February 8 - 15, 1942

Size Medium

Type Japanese Attack

Axis Japanese

Allies British Commonwealth

Location South-East Asia

Description Having driven the British army from the mainland, the Japanese prepare to take the island of Singapore. Although the British have a numerical advantage, their troops are overstretched and the defenses are in shambles following in the wake of the defeat on the mainland.

Ruweisat Ridge, July 21 - 22, 1942

Size Small

Type British Attack

Axis German / Italian

Allies British

Location Egypt

Description With two British armored brigades in support, Indian and New Zealand infantry attempt to drive a wedge into the center of a German-Italian position. Minefields, AT guns and German armor are featured on the defense.

Stalingrad, September 14 - 26, 1942

Size Small

Type German Attack

Axis German / Croatian

Allies Russian

Location Eastern Front

Description In the fall of 1942 the German war machine arrives at the gates of Stalingrad. As the Germans prepare to attack, the Russians inside the city prepare to fight to the last. If the Russians can hold out long enough more troops can be brought across the Volga River to reinforce their positions.

Guadalcanal, October 23 - 26, 1942

Size Small

Type Japanese Attack

Axis Japanese

Allies American

Location South Pacific

Description After two failed attempts to retake the island the Japanese reinforce their troops for a third attack. Unfortunately the jungle causes problems as it takes its toll on the Japanese causing their offensive to become uncoordinated.

Oran, November 8 - 10, 1942

Size Large

Type American Invasion

Axis French

Allies American

Location Algeria

Description An American amphibious landing in French-occupied Algeria featuring wide-ranging maneuver possibilities and a French armored counterattack.

Tebourba Gap, December 1 - 3, 1942

Size Medium

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American / British

Location Tunisia

Description A three-pronged German attack on an over-extended British-American position in Tunisia. This fluid, wide-open situation has plenty of armored action, including the appearance of some American Shermans on the second day. The first in a series of 3 related battles, including "Djebel El Guessa" and "Medjez El Bab".

Djebel El Guessa, December 6, 1942

Size Small

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Tunisia

Description A small German infantry-armor attack on an American-occupied hill position. A perfect scenario for beginners and those wanting a quick-playing game. The second in a trilogy of related battles starting with "Tebourba Gap" and culminating with "Medjez El Bab".

Medjez El Bab, December 10, 1942

Size Small

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American / French

Location Tunisia

Description Another interesting three-pronged German attack on a precarious Allied position. Lots of options for the armor of both sides. This battle takes place on the same ground just 4 days after "Djebel El Guessa".

Longstop Hill, December 23 - 25, 1942

Size Small

Type Allied Attack

Axis German

Allies American / British / French

Location Tunisia

Description A small, tense battle for possession of a key position in the Medjez El Bab-Tebourba Gap area features interesting attack opportunities for each side.

Faid Pass, January 30 - February 2, 1943

Size Medium

Type German Attack

Axis German / Italian

Allies American / French

Location Tunisia

Description Preliminary German attack into the Sidi Bou Zid region that culminates in the Kasserine Pass battle later in the month. An interesting multi-pronged German attack.

Sidi Bou Zid, February 14 - 15, 1943

Size Medium

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Tunisia

Description Following their success during the Faid Pass engagement, the Germans maintain the initiative by attacking Sidi Bou Zid. The Americans, committing their forces piece-meal, will be hard-pressed to stop them.

Kasserine Pass, February 19 - 22, 1943

Size Large
Type German Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies American / British / French
Location Tunisia
Description Played on a huge map, this battle features an Axis attempt to penetrate an American hasty defense and then exploit in the face of mounting resistance.

Medenine, March 6 - 7, 1943

Size Large
Type German Attack
Axis German
Allies British
Location Tunisia
Description Prior to the Battle of Mareth, Rommel launches a spoiling attack against a well-prepared British position. This is Rommel's last battle in Africa.

Mareth Line, March 20 - 23, 1943

Size Large
Type British Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies British
Location Tunisia
Description The British must breach a well-fortified German defensive line. Wadi, anti-tank ditches and minefields will hamper British efforts.

Tebaga Gap, March 26 - 27, 1943

Size Medium
Type British Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies British
Location Tunisia
Description The British must open a gap through a German line and then turn the armor loose.

El Guettar, March 28 - April 1, 1943

Size Medium
Type American Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies American
Location Tunisia
Description General Patton's attempt to break through a tough Axis line. Inexperienced troops will hamper the American effort, which includes the commitment of armor following the initial infantry assault.

Wadi Akarit, April 6 - 7, 1943

Size Large
Type British Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies British
Location Tunisia
Description Once again, as at Mareth, the British try to punch a hole in a German wadi defense.

Fondouk, April 8 - 10, 1943

Size Medium
Type Allied Attack
Axis German / Italian
Allies American / British
Location Tunisia
Description Joint American/British operation to pierce an Axis delaying force in Tunisia.

Syracuse, July 10 - 11, 1943

Size Medium
Type British Invasion
Axis German / Italian
Allies British
Location Sicily
Description In real life, the British (except the airborne element) enjoyed a cakewalk into Syracuse. In our scenario, the Italians won't surrender (*as much*) and we've added every unengaged Axis formation between Syracuse and Catania to oppose the British landings. Largely fictitious, but entirely plausible.

Gela, July 10 - 11, 1943

Size Medium
Type American Invasion
Axis German / Italian
Allies American
Location Sicily
Description This battle starts with a first turn night paradrop along with a simultaneous amphibious landing. Further amphibious landings occur throughout the game. Facing this invasion is a good Italian division and the Herman Goering Division.
Background:
The Allied planners had decided on the Gela area as the main focus of the American invasion of Sicily. From here the Americans could capture vital airfields and guard the flank of the British landing to the east. The invasion would be preceded by the paradrop of a combat team of the 82nd Airborne. Their mission was to occupy key defensive terrain to block any enemy movement toward the landing beaches. The town of Niscemi was selected as the target of the drop.
The inexperienced pilots, shaken by enemy AA fire and high winds caused the landings to be dispersed over a huge area. However, small groups of paratroopers still managed to come together to harass enemy movements and to capture vital points, including Piano Lupo, one of the Airborne's main objectives. Like the airborne drop, the amphibious landings were hampered less by the enemy than by inexperience. Men were lost and in places widely scattered. But once ashore, the infantry advanced rapidly, up to 7 miles inland on the first day.
After several hours of confusion, the Germans and Italians counterattacked. The Italians were defeated before Gela by the commandos of Force X, and the over-rated Herman Goering Division, with its new Tiger tanks, failed miserably to make an impression on the now dug-in paratroopers and infantrymen. The next day brought a greater effort. Italian and German tanks attacked along both the Ponte Olivo and Niscemi roads and forced the American defenders to withdraw back to Piano Lupo. A valiant stand by a vastly outnumbered and outgunned group of paratroopers on Biazzì Ridge held the entire vulnerable right flank of the beachhead while the timely arrival of tanks and naval gunfire finally stopped the enemy just when victory seemed to be within his grasp.

Palermo, July 12 - 14, 1943

Size Medium
Type American Invasion
Axis German / Italian
Allies American
Location Sicily
Description This is a hypothetical invasion of Sicily near Palermo based on actual early invasion plans. This is a tough fight due to a big map dominated by rugged terrain.
Background:
"Plan 141" was among the initial Allied plans for the invasion of Sicily. Its aim was the quick capture of ports and airfields and to ensure an uncoordinated Axis response. It called for British amphibious and

airborne landings near Syracuse, followed 2 days later by an American landing in the Palermo area and on D+3 an additional British landing in the east to capture Catania.

This scenario focuses on the Palermo area of the invasion by the U.S. 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions. Arriving late in the battle from landings off-map to the west (in the vicinity of Alcamo) is CCA/2nd Armored Division. The Axis defense is provided primarily by the Italian Aosta Division and elements of 15 Panzer Grenadier Division.

Primosole Bridge, July 13 - 17, 1943

Size Medium

Type British Attack

Axis German

Allies British

Location Sicily

Description This is sort of a Sicilian version of "A Bridge Too Far." The British use both glider and amphibious landings to clear the way for an armored thrust into the Catania plain to capture the bridge at Primosole.

Background:

The Plimosole Bridge was the key to the capture of the vital port city of Catania. The collapse of the Italian defenses left the city virtually defenseless and Montgomery was determined to secure the Catania plain before the defense had time to regroup.

The plan was for the 1st Parachute Brigade to drop near Primosole Bridge. At the same time a small force of commandos would land by sea and capture the Malati Bridge. These forces were to hold the bridges while 50th Division and 4th Armored Brigade captured Carlentini and Lentini, then raced north across the bridges and then on to Catania.

Montgomery's timetable was thrown off almost immediately by stubborn resistance around Mt. Pancali. The German defenders in the area had been reinforced by a regiment of paratroopers and they held off the British all of the first day.

Landing on the night of the 13th and fighting their way through scattered defenders, the commandos captured the Malati Bridge and held it against tremendous odds until the first British unit crossed at 5 pm of the 14th.

Meanwhile, the 1st Parachute Brigade drop went about as well as the other airborne operations in Sicily. Of almost 1900 men dropped that night, only 300 landed at or near Plimosole Bridge. Others landed anywhere up to 20 miles away. Still, the paratroopers, hampered by an ever-increasing number of burdensome Italian prisoners, captured the bridge and held it for 16 hours. With no sign of the expected relieving forces from the south, the paratroopers were finally forced to abandon the bridge under the intense pressure of German counterattacks.

An hour afterward, the first units of the relieving force arrived and an attack to retake the bridge was planned for the following day. The first two attacks merely resulted in carnage, but a third forced the fanatical German defenders to withdraw. But, newly reinforced, the retreating Germans neatly set up what was to become the eastern anchor of the Etna line.

The British had their bridge, but there would be no rapid advance to Catania.

Troina, August 1 - 4, 1943

Size Medium

Type American Attack

Axis German / Italian

Allies American

Location Sicily

Description The Americans approached Troina thinking it undefended. But not only is it defended, it is defended by crack German units in some of the best defensive terrain in Sicily. As the American, time is on your side. You can afford to be thorough, but it'll be bloody.

Background:

By the middle of the summer, the Germans were conducting a skilful fighting withdrawal across the rugged country of central Sicily. Their movements had taken on a familiar pattern. They would create strong-points in the mountains and defend them until the enemy forced them out in time-consuming and costly attacks. It was in this environment that the U.S. 1st Infantry Division approached the town of Troina.

American commanders believed the position to be only lightly held, by-passed in favor of positions further east. No one had detected 15 Panzer Division's abrupt halt at Troina. Sensing no immediate danger, only a single regiment (the 29th, temporarily assigned to 1st Division) was committed to take the town.

Instead of the expected easy capture, the 39th ran into powerful German defenses in some of the toughest terrain in all of Sicily. ("I think there is a hell of a lot of stuff there," one officer would note.). Statements from POWs indicated that Troina was to be "held at all costs." These revelations preceded 5 days of intense fighting resulting in heavy casualties on both sides.

It was not until the 6th that the 1st Division would occupy Troina, and only then after an orderly German withdrawal to defensive positions further to the east.

Salerno, September 9 - 14, 1943

Size Large

Type American Invasion

Axis German

Allies American

Location Italy

Description This is the American part of the amphibious invasion of Italy. Even excluding the British, there are still a lot of units (2 U.S. divisions, plus a parachute regiment facing 3 understrength German divisions) and a big map to maneuver on.

Background:

The landing on the Italian mainland at Salerno was more fiercely contested than the landings in Sicily. In particular, machine-gun fire from Paestum offered some initial difficulties and German artillery fire damaged landing craft and dispersed the boats. Moreover, small groups of infantry and tanks counterattacked throughout the first day of the invasion, but these attacks were uncoordinated and broken up by American artillery fire.

After the initial resistance subsided, a lull ensued in which the American commanders thought perhaps the Germans had withdrawn. But they were far from withdrawing.

In advancing on Eboli, the Americans found the Tobacco Factory occupied by Germans of the 16th Panzer Division. In the center, enemy resistance blunted attempts to take Persano and Ponte Sale. And on the 12th, the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division attacked the Americans at Altavilla, forcing them off the dominating heights.

The German counterattack began on the 13th. The Germans took Altavilla and routed the Americans from the Tobacco Factory and the Sele-Calore corridor about Persano. The situation had become so desperate that the German commander assumed the Allies to be evacuating their beachhead. He stepped up his attacks to prevent their escape. But instead of evacuating their beachhead, the Americans reinforced their positions with tanks and tank destroyers, shortened their over-extended front and an airborne reinforcement on the night of the 13th provided much-needed moral support.

In the end, the Germans could not crack the American beachhead. But it was a near run thing.

Sangro River, November 30 - December 3, 1943

Size Large

Type British Attack

Axis German

Allies British

Location Italy

Description A British assault through very rugged terrain. The terrain and weather will combine to slow you down more than the Germans will. Virtually non-existent at the start, an almost constant flow of reinforcements give the German a respectable defense with which to thwart Monty's "lightning thrust."

Background:

Montgomery's original plan for 5th Corps' offensive to crack the Bernhardt Line called for the seizure of the dominant Li Colli Ridge to be used as a springboard for an armored advance up the Adriatic coast to Pescara (12-15 miles north of Ortona). The Corps' New Zealand division would operate on the left flank and, supported by an armored brigade, would strike for Guardiagrele, San Martino and Chieti.

As it turned out, this plan was spoiled by heavy rains which ruined the crossing points built by engineers over the treacherous Sangro.

As a precaution, Montgomery revised his plan to limit the advance no further north than Lanciano until new secure bridges could be built. The 8th Indian Division began the attack by capturing Mozzagrogna during the early morning hours of the 28th. They were ousted by a counter-attack later in the day. But by the time the 78th Division's tanks had crossed the river, the town was back in their possession and by the morning of the 29th tanks and infantry of the 78th succeeded in clearing Santa Maria.

From there, the British tanks attacked toward Fossacesia along the lateral road and reached the sea on the 30th. Heavy artillery and air attacks pounded the hapless German 65th Infantry Division. By the 1st of December, Rocca was in British hands and the New Zealanders were in a position to take Castelfrentano. The Bernhardt Line had been permanently ruptured. Although German reinforcements arrived on the battlefield throughout the time of the fighting, the situation on Li Colli Ridge was beyond repair.

Instead of attempting to restore the line, they prepared to delay the British along the line San Vito-Castelfrentano while a new defensive position was prepared further north. At this point, Montgomery, ever worried about the Sangro bridges in his rear, called a halt. On the 1st, he ordered no units to pass the San Vito-Lanciano line until the Sangro bridges could be made storm- and flood-proof.

Much fighting awaited 5th Corps. Fighting the Orsogna area would continue until the 15th of December and Ortona would not be entered until the end of the year.

Our Sangro bridges are indeed flood-proof, so we're sticking with the original scope of Monty's plan.

San Pietro, December 15 - 17, 1943

Size Small

Type American Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Italy

Description Unbeknowst to the attacking Americans, the San Pietro area is held stubbornly by the 29th Panzergrenadier Division. The ensuing struggle for the town results in one of the most bitter fights in southern Italy.

Background:

San Pietro and its nearby mountains dominated the main approach route of the U.S. 5th Army on its way to Casino. The Allied commanders believed this area to be only lightly defended. The Germans had, however, determined to hold San Pietro and this decision resulted in one of the most bitter fights in southern Italy.

The first U.S. attack, beginning on the 7th, failed with heavy losses, particularly among the 1st Italian Motorized Group. After this failure, a second attack was planned for the 15th. This time the Americans would employ armor despite the unfavorable conditions.

The three main objectives of this effort were San Pietro, Monte Lungo, and San Vittore.

The attack on Monte Sammucro toward San Vittore quickly stalled in the rugged terrain and an infantry-armor attack on San Pietro from the east was easily repulsed. (Of 16 Sherman tanks used in this attack, only 4 returned). The attack from the west by the 143rd infantry on Mt. Lungo, however, took the defenders by surprise and ousted the reconnaissance battalion of the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division from their foxholes. The Italian Motorized Group mopped up.

With Mt. Lungo lost, the San Pietro defenders were now in danger of being cut off. The Germans ordered a withdrawal and by the morning of the 17th, San Pietro was in American hands.

Anzio, February 16 - 19, 1944

Size Large

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American / British

Location Italy

Description This is the German offensive to destroy the Allied beachhead. The Germans have 4 divisions on the line with a panzergrenadier division and a panzer division in reserve. The Allies have 2 divisions on the line and an armored division in reserve. Soft Ground will inhibit the armored operations of both sides.

Background:

The Fuhrer was calling the shots at Anzio. His orders for the decisive attack to destroy the Allied beachhead was to attack on an extremely narrow front with an unrealistic concentration of artillery fire, and an insistence that his highly valued Lehr Infantry Regiment be used to make the main effort despite its lack of combat experience (it would perform "disgracefully").

The main fury of the opening assault fell on the 45th Infantry Division sector along the main road. The commitment of local reserves initially contained the German advance, but by the middle of the day of the 17th a dangerous gap, 2 miles wide and a mile deep, had been driven into the centre of the division. This advance carried all the way to the final beachhead defensive line just north of the Padiglione Woods. But the line held.

On the third day, the Germans committed their reserve divisions, the 29th Panzer Grenadier and the 26th Panzer. The renewed attack threatened to annihilate the U.S. 179th Infantry, but at the last moment as they were on the verge of total victory, the Germans shifted their attack to the comparatively untouched 180th, who gave as good as they got. By the end of the 18th, the Germans were aware that their offensive had failed, and Allied counterattacks on the 19th began pushing them back.

The British 1st Infantry Division is severely under strength due to previous days' fighting but played a crucial role in the final defense of the beachhead.

Soft Ground will inhibit the armored operations of both sides.

Sword, June 6 - 10, 1944

Size Medium

Type British Invasion

Axis German

Allies British

Location Normandy

Description The British on D-Day and beyond. Drop the 6th Airborne Division to secure the Orne bridges, then land the 3rd Infantry Division on the beaches and see if you can take Caen.

Background:

After a night-time airborne assault on the Orne bridges, the British 3rd Division, coming ashore at Sword Beach, prepared to assault inland to first relieve the tenacious paratroopers and then to capture Caen, the key to the left flank of the Allied D-Day invasion.

Expecting resistance only from the 716th Infantry Division, a German static coastal defense unit, the British soon found themselves embroiled with the unexpected 21st Panzer Division which had moved into the midst of the British assault areas some time prior to D-Day.

The first serious resistance encountered by 3rd Division, though, had nothing to do with the 21st Panzer, but another unexpected obstacle, the formidable German fortress, code-named "Hillman." The British would fight into the evening to clear the concrete bunkers and minefields, committing an ever-increasing number of tanks and men that should have been driving to Caen in the process.

The British became aware of the 21st Panzer first by 185th Brigade at the Periers Ridge and then by the King's Shropshire Light Infantry just north of Caen in the Lebissey Wood. Heavy small arms fire and the sudden appearance of tanks in the area compelled the KSLI to pull back. It was the closest the British would get to Caen until mid-July.

The German side was hampered as well by indecision. It wasn't until mid-afternoon that a battle group of the 21st Panzer could come together to launch a counterattack. This dangerous if belated, move was checked at the Periers Ridge where the Brits had established an AT defense. Still, German infantry managed to penetrate all the way to the coast at Lion Sur Mer. The appearance of further glider landings in their rear convinced them to withdraw.

The D-Day counterattack was over and each side, German and British, had missed their only opportunities for a quick decision to the battle for Caen.

Carentan, June 10 - 14, 1944

Size Medium

Type American Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Normandy

Description The American 101st Airborne Division's attempt to capture Carentan. Fighting through hedgerows and swamps, it is hard enough to take the city, but the real challenge will be to hold your gains against the counterattack of the 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division.

Background:

Always of the utmost importance, by the 9th of June it had become absolutely critical that the two American beachheads in Normandy be joined into a single cohesive whole. This was vital in order to facilitate the massing of supplies and reinforcements and to prepare for the inevitable full-scale German counterattacks that were sure to come. Priority was therefore given to the 101st Airborne Division ("The Screaming Eagles") to capture the city of Carentan, located at the base of the Cotentin peninsula.

After struggling across the causeway and fighting through swamps and hedgerows, the 101st, finding resistance heavy and the going slow, set about to envelop the city. Once forces had been massed, a pre-dawn assault on the 12th proceeded by heavy concentrations of naval and artillery gunfire entered the city only to find that the German defenders had escaped the trap undetected on the 11th and had set up a new defensive line to the southwest. The 101st was unable to penetrate this line.

After the fall of Carentan, the Germans planned to counter attack with the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. It landed on the 13th, but the 101st, now reinforced by tanks and armored infantry from the 2nd Armored Division, threw the enemy back with heavy losses. Thus, Carentan was captured and held.

Stolberg Corridor, September 13 - 18, 1944

Size Medium

Type American Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Hurtgen Forest

Description The prelude to the Hurtgen Forest battle. The U.S. 3rd Armored Division must breach the Scharnhorst and Schill lines to dominate the relatively open country in the "corridor." As in the Hurtgen Forest battle, Soft Ground will keep your armor road-bound.

Background:

US 3rd Armored Division was close to breaching the West Wall (the Schamhorst and Schill lines) to enter Germany near Aachen. 9th Infantry Division supported the armored thrust on the right while the 1st Infantry Division covered the left. With the arrival of the fresh 12th Volks Grenadier Division, the Germans struck back on the 17th.

Although from the German point of view, the counterattack was a disappointment, the rapid American movement was halted and the battle became a positional slugging match for the next few days.

Soft Ground is in effect for the entire scenario.

Hurtgen Forest, November 16 - 20, 1944

Size Large

Type American Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Hurtgen Forest

Description Three U.S. divisions, including the Big Red One reinforced by CCB/3rd Armored, go up against 4 hastily-assembled German divisions. Soft Ground dictates that your tanks attack along the roads in the "corridor." Keep your infantry and armor together as much as possible.

Background:

VII Corps' new main effort against the West Wall - what General Bradley believed might have been "the last big offensive necessary to bring Germany to her knees"- was led by a reinforced 1st Infantry Division with CCB/3rd Armored attached. Rugged terrain, bad weather and the tenacity of the German defenders, both in the forest and in the pillboxes of the "corridor," conspired to make the Americans pay dearly for every yard of ground.

The main effort of the 1st Division's attack centered on the town of Hamich and Hill 232, the key positions guarding the exit to the Stolberg Corridor. Heavy defensive fire and local counterattacks weakened American efforts. But with massive artillery support, the division finally took and held the town despite a concerted counterattack on the 19th by the newly-committed 47th Volks Grenadier Division and a combat team of the 116th Panzer.

While this hard-won, if belated, victory allowed the American tanks some freedom of movement, with the right of CCB achieved its objectives easily, the armor soon found itself without its expected infantry support on the left. The 414th Infantry Regiment, charged with supporting the armor in the corridor, got hung up on the Donnerberg, a strongpoint atop Hill 287. This left the American tanks dangerously exposed and, despite repeated attacks, it was not until the night of the 18th that the last of the Donnerberg's defenders finally surrendered.

St.Vith, December 16 - 22, 1944

Size Medium

Type German Attack

Axis German

Allies American

Location Ardennes

Description The opening days of the Battle of the Bulge. The German 18th and 62nd VG Divisions must smash the American defenses and pave the way for the commitment of German armor. It's a daring and risky attack hampered by soft ground and American armored reinforcements.

Background:

One of the short-term objectives of the German's Ardennes offensive was to capture the St. Vith road hub. This task fell primarily to the 18th Volks Grenadier Division supported by the 62nd and the strong armored force of the Fuhrer Begleit Brigade. Opposing this effort was the green U.S. 106th Infantry Division and the widely scattered 4th Cavalry Group.

The German storm broke on the 16th of December and two forward regiments of the 106th. Occupying positions along the wooded ridge of the Schnee Eifel, were all but completely encircled before they knew what hit them.

While the 424th fell back to the Our River, where reinforcements from the 9th Armored Division bolstered the position, the rapid withdrawal of the 4th Cavalry Group in the north sealed the fate of the now trapped 422nd and 423rd regiments.

Constant communications problems and other command deficiencies prevented a coordinated response and by the 19th the two regiments, surrounded and now under full- scale attack, surrendered en masse.

Meanwhile, elements of the 7th and 9th Armored Divisions had strengthened the shattered 106th Division's positions around St. Vith.

For some time, the Germans had been consolidating their gains and they moved their forces into position for an all-out assault on the 21st. By the end of the day, the Germans held much of St. Vith and on the 23rd; the Americans ordered a general withdrawal, relinquishing their "fortified goose-egg" to the enemy. Soft Ground is in effect for the entire scenario.

Bastogne, December 19 - 25, 1944

Size Large
Type German Attack
Axis German
Allies American
Location Ardennes
Description American forward positions are about to be overrun by 2nd Panzer Division, Panzer Lehr and 26th Volksgrenadier Division. These American outposts, although doomed, can hopefully buy some time for the 101st Airborne Division to form up some semblance of a defense and then await the arrival of the 4th Armored to save them.

Background:

The German's Ardennes offensive was behind schedule. A breakthrough in the 5th Panzer Army sector had been achieved in 3 days instead of 1. But by the 18th of December the roads were relatively open to the important communications hub of Bastogne and to Meuse river crossings beyond.

Scraping together any uncommitted units they could find, the Americans set about to delay the German advance until the 101st Airborne could be brought to defend Bastogne.

The lead German elements ran into contact with these detachments on the night of 18/19. Though disorganized and quickly cut off, these outposts succeeded in delaying the Germans until the 101st was deployed around the city. Together, the Airborne and armored elements held off German attacking throughout the next few days. Then, finding little defense in the area, Germans began filtering around to the north and south of the city. Heavy attacks on 22-23 December put the now cut off defenders in dire circumstances, but they refused to surrender ("Nuts!" was how General McAuliffe would put it when asked).

Meanwhile, 4th Armored Division was fighting its way north up the Arlon road toward Bastogne. With the 101st fending off German attacks in the north, 4th Armored fought through the German 5th Parachute Division and portions of the 26th Volks Grenadier and finally entered the beleaguered city on the 25th, ending the siege of Bastogne and setting the stage for Patton's counterattack from the south.

With the fall of the Donnerberg, the night of the 19th saw the 104th Infantry Division clearing the Eischweiler woods and opening the way for a renewed effort on the left flank of the attack.

Meanwhile, as this action in the corridor was taking place, deep in the forest, the green 4th Infantry Division measured gains in mere yards of dark and bloody ground. Overall, American gains were disappointing. After four days of fighting, it had become obvious that extra weight would be required in the VII Corps sector if a penetration was to be made.

Soft Ground is in effect for the entire scenario.

Celles, December 23 - 26, 1944

Size Medium
Type German Attack
Axis German
Allies American
Location Ardennes
Description This is the furthest extent of the German offensive in the Ardennes. Initially, the two German panzer divisions will have a relatively easy time making headway, but the arrival of the U.S. 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels") will make their gains hard to hold.

Background:

After a couple days of fighting and then awaiting fuel, 2nd Panzer Division, on Hitler's orders, had bypassed Bastogne and by the 23rd was within striking distance of Dinant and the crossing of the Meuse.

Mounting serious attacks on the 23rd, lead elements of the division - Kampfgruppe's Bohm and Cochenhausen - cleared the area in front of the division's main body and continued their advance all the way to Foy-Notre Dame. The rest of the division exploited these gains to Jamelle.

Meanwhile, Panzer Lehr was fighting for control of Rochefort. The American defenders fought off repeated attacks until withdrawing, without pursuit, on the day of the 24th.

Also on the 24th, the U.S. 2nd Armored Division attacked south, cutting off the 2nd Panzer's advance elements. This caused the Germans to commit the 9th Panzer, which joined the fray on the 26th.

2nd Armored launched a major attack on the 26th, completely isolating Kampfgruppe's Bohm and Cochenhausen. With the help of air support, an attack by 2 Panzer was repulsed and both Panzer Lehr and 2nd Panzer, under incessant air and artillery attack, were unable to break through. 9th Panzer, after making headway through Humain and Havrenne, was stopped at Buissonville. The isolated German units were in a hopeless position after launching a successful counter attack.