

COMPANY OF HUSSARS:

OPERATION AUBERGINE: AFTER ACTION REPORT

Location: Heusse	Date: August 1944 (Turn 8)
Allied Combatants: 1 st Commando (British – CO Blackadder) 2nd Artillery (British – CO Dougie Haig)	Axis Combatants: Wehrmacht Terror (Hard CPU - Red) Panzer Elite Scorched Earth (Hard CPU - Orange)

TIMELINE

00:02

2nd Artillery send out their Lieutenant to capture sectors but in the first contact of the battle he encounters a Panzer Grenadier squad and is killed.

Meanwhile to the east of the map, 1st Commando are setting up a Vickers MG nest and mortar in the graveyard overlooking the northern exit from the Axis base.

INTELLIGENCE



00:05

Most of map in Axis control. A cheeky Kettenkrad has captured the two Allied starting sectors and is chased down and destroyed by Bren carriers belonging to both Allied companies.



00:08

1st Commando rush to complete a Bofors emplacement to the north of the map to prevent Axis forces from attacking into their HQ sector with impunity.

Meanwhile in centre of map, the 2nd Artillery lose their Bren carrier to an MG squad after it engages a scout car and motorcycle

Shortly afterwards a small convoy of a Light AT half-track and two scout cars move round the west of the map



00:10

The allies have advanced both east and west although a cluster of Axis forces south of the allied starting sectors destroy the 1st commando Bren carrier



00:11

2nd Artillery call a second Lieutenant to the field, who unfortunately immediately runs into a Puma and dies.



The Puma is then engaged by the 2nd Artillery's first Stuart tank, but it moves out of range and is not pursued until after it has found and killed the nearby Captain – it is a bad day for officers in the Royal Artillery.



00:12

First tank of the battle – a Panzer IV IST attacks the 1st Commando Bofors. It is beaten off by a Stuart, the Bofors and the nearby mortar pit.



00:13

As the damaged Panzer IV reappears in the allied starting sectors, two pumas attack the 2nd Artillery field support truck to the west, as a flammenwerfer engages their infantry.



00:14

Having chased the Panzer IV around their bases for a while, the 1st Commando Stuart and PIAT sappers finally corner it and finish it off, just as another PIV IST appears and destroys the 2nd Artillery Stuart.



00:16

1st Commando deploys a Cromwell tank which immediately engages and destroys a Stug near the Allied starting sectors. As a Puma and Marder III in the centre wipe out the 1st Commandos infantry section.

A commando glider is dropped and the commandos immediately destroy a motorcycle next to them. A minute later the 1st Commandos deploy their first Tetrarch to the field.



00:19

The first Panther tank is engaged by a Stuart belonging to 2nd Artillery. Both tanks present their rears to each other in a strange display of posturing before the Panther destroys the Stuart.



00:20

The Allies just about have the upper hand in map control, but the Axis have the armour advantage.



00:21

On the western front, the 2nd Artillery quickly build a 17-pounder AT gun as the Panther attacks and destroys their Vickers nest.

Meanwhile to the eastern flank, an Axis Marder III and Stug attack the 1st Commando Bofors gun. The Marder is destroyed by the Bofors and the Stug is taken out by the Tetrarch and Cromwell rushing to assist.



Shortly afterwards the 2nd Artillery are able to deploy their first Priest to the field.



00:23

A Panther and Panzer IV IST attack the far west road where 2nd Artillery have placed a Bofors. The Panzer is destroyed and the Panther retreats from the Priest's artillery barrage.

PIAT sappers from the 1st Commando engage the Panther but it is joined by a Marder and they are wiped out.



00:26

A puma and Panther push into the graveyard to the East, flanking the 1st Commando defences there and destroying the mortar pit. They are engaged by Tetrarchs and a Cromwell. The Panther retreats to the north where it is finished off by the first Firefly on the field.



00:27

2nd Artillery also field a Firefly, which starts taking damage from sector artillery deployed where their Armoured Command truck is.

To the East, Commandos try to capture the munitions point next to the northern Axis base, but are killed in the attempt. After a couple of barrages against the flakvierlings, another attempt later succeeds, enabling a 17-pounder to be built overlooking it.



00:29

Another Panther and Stug move against our rear lines. The Panther attacks the 2nd Artillery Armour Command Truck and is then destroyed by a barrage from their Priest.

Shortly afterwards, the damaged firefly of the 2nd Artillery is destroyed by a sector artillery barrage.



00:30

Very little movement in the last ten minutes, with the Allies just about holding off the Axis pushes.

Some Axis infantry attack a point to the east of the centre (as can be seen) but are blown up when they open fire on a Commando explosive device there.



A Panzer IV IST and Stug attack 2nd Artillery's Field Support truck and with no armour to stop them, their commander sends the Command Tank on a suicide mission to buy enough time for a Cromwell to be fielded. He then uses another Priest barrage to destroy the Panzer and a passing Armoured Car.

The Cromwell forces the Stug to retreat but is then destroyed by a Panther



00:35

A 17-pounder placed in the centre of the map by 1st Commandos is lost when it is flanked by two panthers while the commander is engaged elsewhere (mostly having two Tetrarchs chase down and destroy a Panzer IV to the west).



00:36

The Axis armour continues to run rampant through our bases – a Marder III destroys the damaged 2nd Artillery Armour Command Truck, while one of the Panthers attacks the 1st Commando HQ truck. The Panther is driven off but not before running over their Captain. It really is a bad day to be an Officer in the British army.

As the Panther withdraws, an Ostwind appears to continue the attack and the Panzer Elite take the opportunity to place Sector Artillery barrages on the 1st Commando HQ sector



00:38

The Allies panic as a King Tiger with Panther support rolls up towards their base sectors. 2nd Artillery barrage the tank as 1st Commandos throw their Cromwell and Firefly at it, while repairing the damaged tetrarchs. The Cromwell and Firefly are destroyed and while 2nd Artillery infantry keep the King Tiger busy, the Tetrarchs engage the Panther, losing one Tetrarch but destroying the Panther.

Commandos with a stolen Panzershrek engage the King Tiger which pulls back to the south.



00:40

The losses to the Allied armour have allowed the Axis to gain some ground and the King Tiger is still prowling around the west of the map.

The sector artillery continues to prove a problem, as first a 2nd Artillery 17-pounder and then a Tetrarch in the 1st Commando HQ sector are lost to it.

Axis armour continues to push into the Allied lines but is just about held off.



00:44

The still damaged King Tiger moves round to a position dangerously close to a 2nd Artillery 17-pounder, but it is only when it moves into the open to engage another target does it fall victim to the AT emplacement.



00:46

A damaged Panther moves round the flank of the 1st Commando defences, where it is joined by a second Panther. They badly damage a Firefly but a second appears just in time to defeat them.



00:50

The allies have managed to regain their lost ground and the loss of their heavy armour has obviously depleted the Axis resources, as they start sending Pumas and Marder III tanks onto the field instead of heavier tanks. This enables the Allies to consolidate their positions.



00:53

1st Commandos built a Bofors gun overlooking an exit from the Axis base. A Commando glider drops down shortly afterwards behind enemy lines but the entire squad is wiped out when an explosive device they plant on an observation post unaccountably explodes.



00:58

A firefly belonging to 2nd Artillery racks up an impressive array of kills – a Marder, two panthers and another Marder, although it is badly damaged.



00:59

The Commandos push to recapture the point north of the Axis base. They succeed but are almost destroyed by a sector artillery barrage.

Only one man (Cpl “Tufty” McBride; still holding the valuable panzershrek) survives to escape back to friendly territory.



01:00

The Allies now clearly dominate the battlefield and just need to prevent further Axis pushes while they prepare for the final attack.



01:06

The 1st Commandos add a 25-pounder to their eastern position, which starts shelling the Axis base.

Meanwhile the valiant 2nd Artillery firefly claims another Panther kill before succumbing to yet another Panther. Axis Panthers continue to slip out of their base and claim the Allied tanks, including a 2nd Artillery Cromwell and a 1st Commando Tetrarch.



01:07

The 2nd Artillery defensive line shows they are determined not to let the Axis tanks break through again.

Slightly ahead of this position they place a 17-pounder at either end of a stretch of road, creating a nice kill zone.



01:10

The constant Axis armour pushes have delayed the Allied attack, but the Axis cannot recover from this now.



The Commando “light brigade” engage and destroy a Marder III – the veteran Cpl “Tufty” McBride and his trusty panzershrek now in a bren carrier are supported up by the two Tetrarchs.



01:14

The 1st Commandos gather their forces to the north of the Axis base and continue to send artillery strikes against it.



01:16

The 2nd Artillery start moving their armour up to the western Axis exit point.



01:19

The 2nd Artillery unleash a destructive barrage against the Axis base as the Allies prepare to advance into the base.



01:22

After a final barrage the Allies sweep into the Axis bases, destroying their structures and finally destroying the HQ buildings. Victory is theirs.

