

COMPANY OF HUSSARS:

OPERATION AUBERGINE: AFTER ACTION REPORT

Location: L'Epinay-le-Comte	Date: August 1944 (Turn 8 – follow on)
Allied Combatants: 1 st Commando (British – CO Blackadder) 2 nd Artillery (British – CO Dougie Haig)	Axis Combatants: Wehrmacht Blitzkrieg (Hard CPU - Orange) Panzer Elite Scorched Earth (Hard CPU - Red)

TIMELINE

00:02

Following on their momentum from the hard-fought but impressive victory at Heusse, the 1st Commando and 2nd Artillery companies push forwards to take control of the sector. First contact is the 1st Commando recon section, who encounter and destroy a kettenkrad to the north-east.

Shortly after this their Lieutenant encounters a pioneer squad in the graveyard to the south, but forces them to retreat by fighting from cover.

00:05

The initial pushes from the Allied forces meet little resistance and progress is good, although small squads of Axis infantry move north in the far eastern and western areas of the battlefield.

In the west, the 2nd Artillery bren carrier chases down some Panzer grenadiers.

INTELLIGENCE



00:08

The 1st Commandos reinforce their front line to the east, with a Vickers MG nest, a mortar emplacement and an infantry section in the barn. Their first victim is a motorcycle leaving the Axis base.



00:10

Map control remains roughly even at this stage in the battle. Both Allied companies have deployed Field Support trucks and produced their first unit of sappers followed by their Captains.

Both are setting up heavier defences in expectation of the Axis armour that will start appearing at any time now.



The 2nd Artillery produce the first tank of the battle, a Stuart light tank.



00:11

The 1st Commandos have constructed a 17-pounder AT gun on the east flank, which destroys a Mortar half-track as it wanders into range to engage an infantry section.

Meanwhile to the west, the 2nd Artillery have opted to construct a Bofors gun first.



00:13

While the 17-pounder to the east struggles to hit a Flammenwerfer, missing four times in a row, the 2nd Artillery Bofors to the west is almost destroyed by Axis infantry that manage to get closer than its minimum range and hit it with HMG and panzershrek fire. The Bofors is rescued by a Bren carrier and infantry section, but the already damaged Bren is lost to the HMG crew before forcing them to retreat.



To the north the 1st Commandos deploy their first Tetrarch glider-born tank, while the 2nd Artillery deploys a very early Armour Command truck.



00:14

As an Axis mortar team bombards the 1st Commando defences from their base, the first Puma of the battle makes its way out of the base to the west. The mortar team is destroyed by the 1st Commando Stuart tank.



00:15

The 2nd Artillery produce their first tank from the Armour Command truck – a Cromwell medium tank.



00:17

The Puma wipes out the 1st Commando recon section in the centre of the map before moving over to the west. It engages the 2nd Artillery infantry then is badly damaged by their Stuart and Cromwell tanks. However they move back, allowing it to crawl off only to be destroyed when it comes in range of the 1st Commando Bofors that has been built in the centre of the map.

Meanwhile a panzershrek-armed Grenadier squad has moved up the centre and opens fire on first the 2nd Artillery HQ truck and then a nearby 17-pounder AT gun. The 1st Commandos assist by dropping a Commando glider nearby that chases them off. As the 1st Commandos deploy their own Armour Command truck, the first Axis Stug enters the battle.



00:18

The Stug moves to the west where it engages the 2nd Artillery tanks. Despite them both presenting their rear armour to it, they badly damage it and the Cromwell finishes it off as it tries manoeuvring away.



00:19

The first 2nd Artillery Priest arrives on the battlefield.



00:20

The Allies have continued to push forwards and now have the slight advantage in control of the battlefield.

The Axis have still to field armour in any numbers and there are no sign of any Panthers or other heavy tanks.



00:21

The 1st Commandos deploy their first Firefly of the battle to the east.



00:23

The British troops to the eastern flank watch in amazement as a nebelwerfer team move out of the Axis base and run their weapon right up to the Vickers MG nest, where they are unsurprisingly cut down, leaving a nice little toy for the 1st Commandos to play with.



00:25

On the western flank, an Ostwind appears but before it can do much damage it is intercepted by two 2nd Artillery Cromwell tanks. They destroy it as a Walking Stuka casually saunters past the battle.

The Stuka (having enjoyed the excursion to the west) heads back to bombard the eastern flank before retreating back into the Axis base.



00:27

The same stuka reappears shortly afterwards with a Marder III and a Puma, heading to the western flank.

The Puma is met by another and after a brief engagement with the 2nd Artillery Stuart tank, they are shelled by the Priest, with one being destroyed.



00:29

The 2nd Artillery company build a 25-pounder emplacement which then opens fire on a group of Axis infantry nearby. The infantry move out of range before the shells arrive though.

To the centre of the map, Pumas and Scout cars engage the Allies without success. Two 1st Commando tetrarchs claim a puma then engage and destroy a Marder III

To the eastern flank, the captured nebelwerfer is put to use bombarding the Axis base. Although it does little real damage it makes a very satisfying noise.



00:30

With the 2nd Artillery forces moving slowly down the western side of the battlefield, the Axis forces are still boxed in to the south and are unable to break the Allied defensive line.

It is clear that the Allies dominate the battlefield and that victory is only a matter of time.

The Axis place sector artillery on the 2nd Artillery 25-pounder, but it does little damage and the lack of Axis resources means it is not really used after this, to the relief of the Allies.



00:32

2nd Artillery tanks repel an Axis incursion to the south west, but lose their Stuart tank to a panzershrek-armed squad in the process.

Their armour continues to push forward, while their Captain is caught in the open and killed by a roaming Puma.



00:35

Another attack by Axis forces to the west (this time infantry) is repulsed by the 2nd Artillery Cromwell tanks. A passing 1st Commando Bren carrier can be seen. The Commando PIAT squad within it are heading off on a mission to deploy radio triangulation devices.



00:36

The Commandos in the Bren carrier reach the back of the Axis base and deploy the final beacon, then drive back to friendly lines through both Axis bases.

Shortly after this the first StuH appears on the battlefield. It engages 2nd Artillery infantry then moves to the east to engage the 1st Commando forces, where it is destroyed by their 17-pounder AT gun.



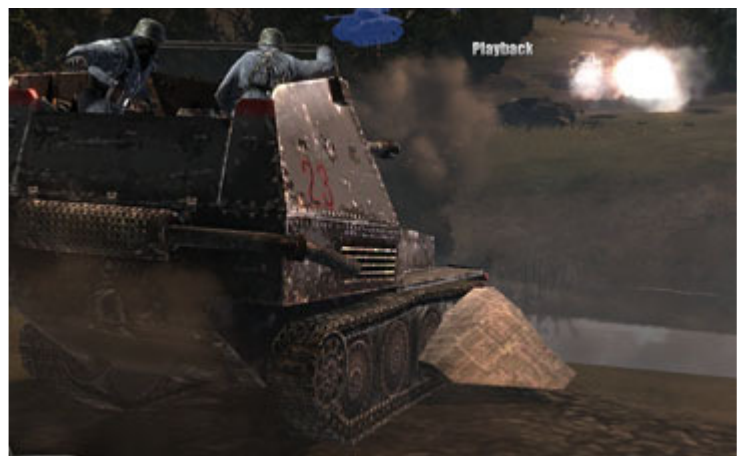
00:40

The Axis forces have failed to hold their territory and are now almost down to their base sectors, as the Allies build up their forces ready for the final push.



The 1st Commandos carelessly lose a Tetrarch after failing to retreat it when it comes under fire from a Marder III in the Axis base.

They pull back the second Tetrarch ...



... as a well timed 2nd Artillery Priest barrage strikes the Marder, destroying it and damaging nearby buildings.



00:41

The 2nd Artillery commander makes a request for the Commando Bren carrier to head back through the Axis base so that they can gain the line of sight needed to launch artillery barrages on the area. The Commandos oblige and the ferocious barrage commences.



00:42

With the barrage still going on in the background, the 1st Commando 17-pounder comes under panzershrek attack after two squads of Axis infantry occupy the nearby barn.

They are attacked by a nearby Firefly and the 17-pounder itself, but with the cover of the barn the situation looks dangerous for the AT gun.

The cheeky Axis troops convert the building into a forward HQ, but it doesn't last long when the "borrowed" nebelwerfer fires at it, destroying the barn and the troops within.



00:45

The small 2nd Artillery tank force moves into the western entrance to the Axis base, as their artillery continue to barrage the Axis structures.



00:46

Soon afterwards the 1st Commando armour pushes south from the eastern flank, quickly destroying the Axis buildings and defences.



00:46

The 1st Commando assault force destroys the Wehrmacht HQ building.



00:47

The 2nd Artillery force moves in to destroy the Panzer Elite HQ building, finishing it off with another artillery barrage.

Another victory for the Allied forces and with it the sector falls into their hands.

