



At The Point

in the Journal of AS

#8 & #9

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FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHALLOTTE, NC
PERMIT NO. 126

#13
CHARLES FARGO
4841 HAWKSHEAD PARK
SARASOTA FL 34241

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ARTICLES and LETTERS are encouraged from all readers of AT THE POINT. We offer a generous subscription bonus policy to the readership. Writers of letters to the editor that are published in the forum will earn 1 issue per letter. Writers of articles that are published in the Analysis or Replay columns will earn 1.5 issues per page. It is explicitly stated by the publisher that this magazine is a non-profit endeavour. As such, participants are expected to subscribe. All articles and letters to the editor are preferably received in a double-spaced, typewritten format, or in single-spaced format on DOS based computer systems. The publisher prefers such text files on 3.50" high density diskettes. Writers are informed that all outside submissions become the shared property of the publisher; your copyrights are waived to allow At The Point to publish your work without penalty.

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FOR YOUR HOLIDAY READING PLEASURE!

ENJOY!

TO ALL, HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

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AT THE POINT is published 10 issues per year by Marc Hanna, PO Box 4401, Calabash, NC 28470.

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LABOR STATUS

(WAS -2 WHEN WE FINALLY
FIGURED IT OUT)

It has been a nebulous couple of months here at ATP while we tried to figure out what had stalled the playtest process for tentative scenario designs. Dan, try as he might, was having some trouble getting a response out of the playtesters (though hats off to Mike Stachowski, our MVP! Thanks, Mike). Not surprising, really, when you consider just how fun playtesting-- I mean really playtesting-- isn't. Many of those who signed up may not have realized the effort entailed. Others did and just could not fit it into their busy hobby and personal schedules.

Those scenarios that did make it successfully through the playtesting grist (there were three or four), were then reviewed through the very exacting eyes of Messrs. Baker and Martin, and were found, for various reasons, to be lacking in some way or another. Both are making substantial efforts to redesign them, which, although perhaps necessary, resulted in a short-circuiting of the entire playtest process. Now, after several months of announcing the scenario system for ATP, I was faced with an unenviable decision: publish the revised ones without playtesting (one is in this issue), or put them through the faltering gristmill again. Ug.

The first reaction: why not bag scenarios for ATP? After all, don't the Annual, the General, the Rout Report, the ASL News, and even In Contact churn out plenty? Is it worth the headache when these other folks are doing a damn good job in the first place? Well, certainly under the current circumstances it was not worth the headache. Too much valuable time had recently been spent trying to sort out the problem; productivity was too important to me for that.

Then it hit me. Eric Baker had once pointed out that you don't really need to playtest the heck out of a scenario to make it a good one. A few playings should be enough to tell you if it is a bear or a bull. At the time, thoroughly consumed with the "playtest syndrome," I shrugged his remark off. Mistake, as anyone who has seen,

not only the quality, but the regular volume of scenarios produced by the Daggers in the Rout Report. Eric was right. This by no means refutes the Hill's practice of playtesting the heck out of scenarios (they have the resources and notoriety to mobilize a hobby wide effort). They, after all, have a lot more at stake in the success of their published scenarios than the likes of us amateurs.

Rex Martin's comments in the recent Annual "Signals" column also provided renewed impetus. Basically, he implies that good scenario design is, supremely, an acquired art, playtesting is only secondary. The outside critique is fundamental, but need not be overdone. Good words, those, and a discussion with Robert Banozic, designer of the first scenario (now modified by Kurt, but the original will eventually get printed!) ever submitted to ATP, confirmed this view. Realizing that both he and Dan Dolan have access to large clubs that like to informally play and review local designs, here was what was needed! Such groups could provide the final touches to an already good design. The screening of designs, as well as some actual design work, will be done by yours truly. After all, if I don't have the "acute appreciation of what the [ASL] system can simulate" and have "a 'feel' for what the system can be MADE to simulate," then, soon enough, the readership will lose interest in ATP. (Anyway, the world needs more scenarios that have articles and tips associated with them. This, ATP will maintain as policy.)

Luckily, that loss appears not to be the case-- so far. Circulation is reaching the 300 mark and growing weekly. Continuous arrival of meaty, well written articles by the likes of Nixon, Banozic, Bakken and Gifford help assure the interest of the readership. Kurt's acceptance of the offer to support ATP as a regular Columnist, providing readers with his saucy view of the ASL world, is a definite added plus. Keith Larson, recently recovering from an operation (get well quick, Keith!), will continue to appease the PBM\PBEMers of the game. A bientot!

FAUST

QUIBBLES AND BITS

This issue contains the last of three courtesy scenarios generously provided by Phillippe Leonard and the ASL NEWS. This one is just a sample of the twenty-one scenarios that you can get if you purchase the new SPECIAL OLDIES #1-3 series especially printed for English reading subscribers. I have seen advanced copies of these beauties and they are fanatastic-- not only for the scenarios, but the articles, special playing aids, analyses, humourous bits, and more! For availability, contact Phillippe, 28, Avenue Seghers, B-1080 Brussels, Belgium. Excellent.

Welcome Robert Banozic aboard ATP as one of the new Scenario Advisors who will provide me with much needed critiquing of the various designs on the drawing board around here. The others will be Dan Dolan, recently moved from his position as Playtest Coordinator, and Eric Baker (if he accepts, being darn busy with the real world lately-- not to mention special DAGGER projects), once the final scenarios that were generated by the old system are published. By the way, three's a charm, so if you have access to a group of good players who don't mind batting new scenario ideas around a couple of times, give me a toot. We could use your help, toot (er, too). Kurt Martin will move on to be a regular feature in ATP as "Monsieur CX." Anyone familiar with the Rout Report will recognize his pithy, humorous style. His first effort appears in this issue! Wower! Do I know how to twist arms and beg without dignity, or what????

ERRATA: THE SHORTEST WAY (AS APPEARING IN ATP#6)

ADD TO SSR #4: Partisans have MOL capability.

This should help even things up. Errata courtesy of ASL NEWS.

Fourth Annual WINDS OF WAR!
PLACE: RAMADA INN, GREENSBORO
DATES: APRIL 4-5, 1992
THEME: STALINGRAD, 1942
CONTACT: RAY WOLOSZYN,
7162 MANTLEWOOD LANE
KERNERSVILLE, NC
27284 919-996-5677

FORUM

Dear Marc,

I'm impressed, definitely impressed. In my opinion, ATP has already established itself as a quality resource in the world of ASL. I eagerly await each issue. The well-written articles by you (who I hope to someday meet), Kurt, (who I finally had the pleasure of meeting at Michicon last week), Eric (who I got back at for my worst ever hosing), Mark (ask him about the sleazy hoards of conscripted Italians), Guy (who beats me every damn time) and the rest of the grognards associated with ATP, make it an invaluable asset to the ASL community.

In regards to your request for feedback, I enjoy about anything/everything that could be done, from Series Replays to in-depth analysis, from articles on "Tricks of the Trade" to letters from fellow ASLers (there are still a few areas which can be somewhat cloudy, i.e. Bocage, various Night Rules, etc. which someone may have gotten a clarification from the ASL Staff at Avalon Hill), even a scenario every now and then (especially with the caliber of contributors that ATP has).

One last point I wish to bring up is that of support. You know better than I, the huge task (check) it is to put out ATP. (I must congratulate you not only on ATP's contents, but also the consistent on time arrival of the issues). ASLers should show their appreciation in any form possible, whether contributing articles, producing artwork, writing letters to the editor, or just merely subscribing, support is the key. It is the cornerstone for successful longevity. We subscribers have the duty to 'hound' our non-subscribing fellow ASLers to show their appreciation with a subscription. Just because a couple of local players receive ATP and can share it with the rest, it defeats the purpose-- support of ASL. \$15.00 a year is a mere pittance compared to the good ATP does for ASL. I truly believe that works such as these keep the continuing saga of ASL alive. Avalon Hill couldn't/wouldn't keep publishing new modules if it wasn't profitable to do so. The interest generated by a forum such as ATP leads to more sales of the game itself, I would

think. And as long as we keep buyin' 'em, they'll keep makin' 'em! (knock on wood!) I mean, what other game can boast eleven modules to date (8 ASL, 2 DASL & Red Barricades)? Add on the Rulebook and the British AFV Data Cards and we're talking approximately \$350 invested so far (up to COB). If ya wanna play, ya gotta pay, and just as ATP's subscription cost by no means reflects its value, ASL too, is a bargain. Compared to the hours upon hours of exhilarating fun I've had playing, ASL's price tag doesn't even enter my mind (and I'm far from a Beamer and a summer home). To give an off-beat example-- if an ASLer played the 91 module scenarios published to date (66 ASL, 18 DASL, and 7 RB) one time each, and using 5 hours per game as a standard mean, it breaks down to \$1.30 per hour! Where else can one have so much fun at so low a price. And then there's the million or so other scenarios, the historical and informative value, the aesthetic beauty of the mapboards, not to mention something you can't put a price on-- friendship. The camaraderie I have with my fellow ASLers is really the crux of the matter that makes ASL gaming so enjoyable. A scenario need not be played to experience ASL. Whether discussing tactics, sharing ideas, figuring out rules, or just rambling on about that 'game that got away', all this is part of the fun of ASL.

Speaking of rambling on, this was meant to be a letter, not a novel, so, in closing, I'd like to thank you for ATP. Vive L'ASL!

PS--Hopefully I'll be submitting some work for your approval in the not so distant future.

Ray Verbanic

That testimonial is a little Christmas gift to myself in these pages. Forgive the indulgence. We look forward to your articles, Ray. Vive L'ASL!

Dear Marc,

Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 for a year's subscription to At The Point. I have heard great things about the magazine from several sources and I look forward to receiving it. As a collector I may be

interested in getting all the back issues that I have missed but I find the rate for them a bit steep. Of course I understand that the mail costs are higher given the first class mailing, but would there be a discount for getting them all?

Anyway, I look forward to my subscription.

Anders Hench

Thank you, Anders, for your subscription. As you are new to ATP you may not well understand the reason for the high price of back issues. For the benefit of you and other new subbers, let me explain.

The price is not really associated with the cost of postage or reprinting, as much as it is with the overall pain in dealing with back issues at all.

Basically, to satisfy the back issue market, I have three options:

1. Estimate the number of people who will purchase a given issue as a back issue and print that quantity in advance. This option has high up-front inventory costs that have, unfortunately, an unmeasurable probability of being a total loss.

2. Make copies of back issues on a made to order basis. This option is labor intensive as I have no access to a copier, but must journey over ten miles each time I need back issues.

3. (I give "thanks" to Darryl Burke and the Grofaz for proposing this option) Forget about back issues and stop trying to discourage their purchase with inflated pricing! Instead, allow the readership to make copies for friends as they please.

That, unfortunately, does not cover the situation for remote players who wish them, nor does it encourage people to subscribe and keep this operation viable.

In short, Anders, sorry, but no. However, stay tuned, as I may soon succumb to the inevitable and drop the back issue prices to a level more consistent with their value. That means, however, that at some point certain issues will be discontinued permanently.

POINT REPLAY #3

SCENARIO 63: THE EASTERN GATE

JAPANESE: MARC HANNA

GURKHA: DAVE DERESINSKY

Welcome to a long delayed episode of Point Replay. It had been my intention to run a replay in every issue of ATP; however, several of those who committed to this endeavor found that their desires were larger than the incredible amount of time and effort that this kind of project entails. We still hope to get their stuff at some point; meanwhile, I dragged this game out of the archives at the request of readers who have begged repeatedly for more.

Those of you who like to follow this sort of thing will find it a lot different than previous efforts. First, reader feedback indicates that only a certain portion follow the game move by move, but nearly all will read the comments. For this reason, I decided to separate the commentary from the event listing.

Second, I personally was disappointed with dividing the first two replays into a two issue format. The pieces just didn't flow as nicely. The was little choice: the previous publishing program I used was too limited in scope-- I could not condense the event listings sufficiently to save space. The new program is much more flexible; readers should find the condensed listing easier to read and less wasteful of space.

The other space eating aspect of a replay is the tri-way commentary. Though one of the most attractive features in that it does allow each player to provide a viewpoint balanced by a neutral one, virtually an entire issue of ATP is consumed if the whole caboodle is printed at once. That is too dry for most readers, including the editor-- we need variety around here! Thus, as an experiment, this replay will feature commentary from a single individual--myself. Though also a player, I will provide as unbiased a viewpoint as I am able. This match will be used as a means to demonstrate capabilities and tactics pertinent to jungle warfare with and against the Japanese.

I would like some feedback from the readership on how they find the new format and how they like the idea of a single commentary.

PRE GAME COMMENTS:

Dave and I selected this scenario for a variety of reasons. It is one of the most uniquely enjoyable PTO scenarios available to date. The first three turns move very quickly, though jockeying for position with the cumbersome columns is one of its crucial aspects--as close to a chess game as ASL gets.

The early maneuvering quickly devolves into a very intense jungle melee, replete with smoke, Banzai charges and a frustrating loss of cohesion. The latter often leads to small local advantages in key areas which can mean the difference between (guess what) victory and defeat.

IMPORTANT NOTE: one reason this replay was on ice for so long is sheer embarrassment. Yes, we played the whole scenario through, meticulously recording events, and never noticed that we had placed the large overlay on bd. 36 BACKWARDS! It was quite a devastating discovery a couple of weeks later when I typed this into the computer. After a discussion with Dave, we decided that the net effect is slightly pro-Japanese since the hill objectives are a turn further away. Control of the central path over the stream becomes much more important in this "variant," but overall, the scenario retains much of its flavor. If you are following the game blow by blow, make the following change on the

PLACEMENT OF
OVERLAY 2 ON BD36:

FROM: 36D2-D1

TO: 36N8-N9.

Column selection, order of entry and (for the Japanese) entry hexes are critical pre-game decisions mandated by SSR3. Experience with the scenario indicates that the best bet for the Japanese is to enter everybody through the Kunai field on Board 35 and forgo the path on Board 34. The latter method leads to two possibilities: either you exit into the central field at

the four-square board junction (a couple of turns later than a Bd. 35 entry would get you there anyway), or you wind up on the slopes of hill 615 in such a position that you cannot support, nor be supported, by the other columns on the map. Since the Japanese suffer from a lack of cohesion in the first place, best to enter all the columns around 35E1 so that they can support each other to a certain extent.

Given that, the next aspect of importance to both players is column composition. Again, keep in mind that the Gurkha columns are mutually supportive (at least at the beginning), so composition is not as crucial. SSR 3 somewhat dictates the structure of the columns anyway. The Japanese, however, have a wide variety of squad types, and can choose three constructs:

1. Weak 2Nd line troops on first, followed by MMGs, -1 leaders and 8 morale squads as reinforcements.
2. A non-homogenous mixture of all types.
3. High morale troops, good leaders and MMGs up front, 2Nd line troops as reinforcements to fill in the gaps.

My preference is the latter method. The Gurkhas are tough, and can pack quite a wallop in Fire and CC. Worse, at 8 morale, they can take fire pretty well, too. 2Nd line Japanese squads are really no match for them. Also, as an alternative strategy (one I would not recommend), the Gurkha can try to form a defensive hedgehog on the corner of Bd. 37 and simply try to evade the Casualty VP condition of victory. This is difficult to do, 12 CVP is not a lot; however, if the Japanese toughs are meandering through the Bd. 34 path after entering on turn 4, the possibility becomes less remote. Finally, the initial Japanese troops must fight hard to prevent Gurkha access to the hilltop. The best troops are the best choice for this job. Lower quality troops can be fed into the gristmill with more effect against K-reduced British squads.

As you can see, Dave has chosen to deploy the maximum number of 458 squads with an eye to getting the most MMCs onto that hill. His

"killer" column will enter at 37P4 and act as the force which will pave the way for his smaller P7 column to get up the hill from the backside (along the Kunai path 37C9-37K8) This is a reasonable strategy for the Gurkha, though HS are slightly more vulnerable to fire and elimination. Perhaps he might have waited until he was nearer the hill and then deploy MMC via TC. Time will tell if this extra vulnerability will make one iota of difference as the scenario develops.

TURN 1 COMMENTS:

The first few turns involve a subtle maneuver game which is nastily critical in determining who gets the initiative for the mid-game. Kudos to the devious person who designed SSR 4! After three turns, the answers to these questions-- who forces who to disband first, what LOS will each side have and where will the initial contact occur-- will indicate the player with the edge. Though he may not realize it at the time, the other will be playing catch up for some time to come.

The Japanese have three approaches for their on board forces-- through the gaps at 37I10, F1 and C1. Call them aggressive, moderate and conservative stratagems, if you will. I rejected I10 because initial set up will reveal that as the target to the British player, who can set up for that possibility. This also leaves column one well out of position to support reinforcements. Remember that the Japanese player must keep in mind that his columns with mules cannot advance due to the mechanics of column/horse maneuver.

TURN 2 COMMENTS:

The Japanese player takes a conservative angle, allowing him to get nearer the strategic clump of woods (hereafter referred to as "the Grove") that straddles Bds. 36 and 37, where key fighting is bound to occur. In turn, the British player decides to concentrate his forces in front of the palm glade. This move makes it easier for the foe to block him. Reversing a column is a time consuming process; in effect, the British player forgoes a deep penetration along the western Kunai path. However, the advantage is that the British force

is now poised and cohesive-- an arrow prepared to slice through the first enemy column. As the Japanese player, this is a very imposing sight, and am glad that I chose to bring on the elite troops first.

TURN 3 COMMENTS:

The Japanese player notes that the British move allows him to "win" the opening. The VC demand that, at the end of Turn 3, at least a Gurkha squad is on/north of hexrow 37G. The British player cannot reverse his columns and withdraw: in effect, he must place reasonably strong forces along this row or past it!

Noting this, I move the first column aggressively and unexpectedly to F2. The Gurkha is forced to move to 37G5, prompting disbandment, allowing his other column to disband and advance forward. Remember that a column which disbands during its Mph is "frozen" until the APH, so no large penetration or attack by the Gurkha can be achieved on his turn 3. The battle initiative swings to the Japanese player. Note that pinned units are not prohibited from assembling/dismantling, something which seems to be a common misconception.

Notice how Dave advances a screen of HS to form a perimeter defense against sniper attacks. It seems that many good players use this strategy intuitively. But then, already readers can see how the dense, protective jungle forces players to disperse forces to cover possible approaches. As these scenarios develop, co-ordination becomes more and more difficult.

TURN 4 COMMENTS:

Both sides draw first blood with close range rifle/LMG fire. Note, however, that by forcing the Japanese player to fire, Dave has maintained a relatively safe path to the Grove along the far edge of the palm tree patch, and he planned ahead for this. Check out the position of those mortars: smoke shells are ready to be placed to cover the approach. The wind change early in the game is used to his favor: note how smoke will drift right along the path. Such is the mark of an excellent ASL player: one who does not forgo a clear opportunity to recapture the initiative.

Take a look at the move of the 8-0 and four 248s. Dave is not a player who is afraid to take his chances with maneuver fire. This is not foolhardy on his part: should they have survived (rather than suffering 50% casualties as they did), he may have chose to voluntarily routed the whole stack towards the hill objective. The 8-0 would have been handy rallying the stack in B6, wouldn't it? The fact that he perished is very, very fortunate for the Japanese player.

Routing forward is a valid tactic and not recommended for the faint of heart. I will use this same trick against him to devastating effect later in the scenario (and why not, he taught me, after all!). The Japanese are particularly suited for these methods since desperation morale is never a problem. In fact, a unit with '8' morale, being rallied in bonus terrain by a -1 leader, only fails if boxcars are rolled! Scary, isn't it?

At a relatively high cost in casualties due to accurate Japanese fire, the Gurkhas have neatly flanked the enemy position and control (at some points, marginally) approaches to the Grove. This is a dire situation for the Nippon and I need to take immediate steps to correct it, if possible.

Interestingly, look how spread out the British player found himself to be after two turns of contact with the enemy. Not significant of itself, the other factor is that several fragments that cannot directly support each other are evident. This is typical and possibly unavoidable in the jungle. The Japanese player is likely to find himself in the same boat soon enough.

TURN 5 COMMENTS:

Fortunately, the Japanese player can use the British smoke screen to cover his own maneuvers in an effort to seize control of the eastern approaches to the Grove. Nonetheless, a desperate assault over OG by a decent force is unavoidable if A4 is to be taken by something other than my all-too-valuable MG crews. Luckily, it works very well-- and only works because it is a Japanese assault. Something to keep in mind: no squad

is tougher but more brittle than the Japanese. The position will fall, but I lost, irretrievably, a HS equivalent in taking it. Other nationalities would have failed, but those troops would have rallied and fought again.

The fire attack by 648A prompts an assault by Fujita's platoon which still gets chewed up by the tenacious Gurkha squad. Afterwards, voluntarily breaking 648A was the correct tactic in this situation. No need to lose it on a 1:4 -1 HHCC attack which has a 27% chance of succeeding; this unit is simply too valuable to risk at this time. Its rout to K3 is totally legal, by the way, though thorough understanding of the rout rules is needed to appreciate the elegance.

The CC phase was crucial for the Japanese player. Gurkhas in hexrow G just won't be had, but the important victory in A4 (in spite of an ambush!) secures the eastern access and covers the central glade. An anxious moment for the Japanese commander, let me assure you!

Cohesion is starting to slip, so I created a couple of large, high potency stacks that anchor the right flank and should block the enemy long enough to allow the body of my regimental elements to pass to/into the north of the Grove unmolested. These stacks are vulnerable, but necessary, and I expect that the D3 troops are forfeit, but they must buy the time.

Dave boldly maneuvers in an effort to retake the initiative by moving his best stack to A5 in an effort to secure the path entrance at 36B5. Desperate to prevent it, PFF pins the 9-2 at the unfair expense of fanatic and hero creation in compensation! Nasty indeed are fanatic 648s...

He also does a fine job in positioning his troops for point blank assaults on my anchoring positions. Worse, he starts to regain some cohesion, especially in the critical Grove area. Once again, his famous characteristic of applying pressure might yet allow him to regain the edge in this hard fought scenario.

Until two seemingly unimportant events occur. First, a very lucky shot from my D3 troops break both squads manning the HMGs; units

which linked his flanks together! From this moment on, the Gurkhas will be forced to fight a battle in two localities if so dictated by the enemy; with the edge in numbers, this benefits the Japanese. Second, the calculated risk taken by breaking both of my MMG crews accomplishes two things at the expense of increased vulnerability: it allows me a shot at his units (at least the 9-2) in the open, and then, if I desire, lets me do the same trick during the NEXT RtpH and occupy hex 36D5, a position that effectively cuts off further penetration along the quickest rout to the hill. The unavoidable fact is that the Japanese will get to 36D5 first, and the readers will see the significance of this later on.

Sound like a cheesy trick, all this routing and rallying? Well, it is not foolproof: the disaster of a '12' rally attempt always lurks in the back of my mind. Blame yourself, Dave, for teaching me about these low-down tricks... This time, the initiative does not switch back from the Japanese, and Dave will find himself hard-pressed to ever seize it again during the game.

TURN 6 COMMENTS:

Fujita moves his platoon up to take a potshot at the large broken stack in K3 so it will be DM another turn, but he pays the ultimate earthly price for this little excursion.

Bang! Finally, a sniper, and it is devastating. Cardboard Mac dies (quickly, we hope) and the Gurkhas are left with a useless platoon and noone to rally them. The saving grace is that I have too few units to take real advantage of their helplessness.

The Gurkhas continue to dominate the realm of CC with those damnably famous knives of theirs. I still need 2CVP to prevent a potential fall-back strategy and won't rest easy until I get them!

Otherwise, I am a little angry with myself because of poor usage of mortar ordnance in the game, and this turn I advanced two of these pieces into nice hexes that have one small problem: dense jungle-- I can't fire the bloody things.

Dave continues to pound away at the D3 units, but cannot seem to obliterate them. Take note of his clever use of Opportunity Fire to remove the CX penalty and take AFPh shots at any of my units which expose themselves to fire defensively. He can, and does, move up leaders to provide their bonus capability in the AFPh.

His final shot with the HMGs is questionable in my view. These valuable units need to be moved up to and past the Grove where they can do some meaningful damage.

His maneuvers are, however, brilliant. See how he fears breaking very little. If he must, he expects to rout from 37B5 and A7 "forward" onto Bd. 36 around 36B2-B3. This time, I expect him to take great pains to avoid letting me invoke DM status by moving adjacent. Too bad, I've got another little Japanese surprise in store for him that should be quite demoralizing!

By this, I don't mean my voluntarily breaking and routing to D5, as I had been planning on for some time. This is demoralizing enough for him, as he clearly expected to "cut me off at the path." It's bloody, but dag-gone it! I want that last CVP. I think, at this point, I can keep him off the hill (thanks to the stream that would not normally be there since we mucked up the overlay), so let's try a few Banzai charges and watch him sweat (and my troops vanish...).

TURN 7 COMMENTS:

The first Banzai charge has two objectives: to divert fire from 36C5 away from D5, and to obtain DM on the enemy stack in B3. Anything achieved beyond that is an incredible plus. Note that I take advantage of the fact that units which Banzai (or conduct a Human Wave) need not stay in the hex they end their MPH in (even if it contains an enemy unit!). They may advance beyond and infiltrate the enemy lines.

Dave, anxious to prevent this, throws it all at Ayabe, but still fails to affect these troops with 16,12 and 12FP attacks, all modified by a -1 DRM. Pearson's last gasp finally breaks the HS, but Ayabe victoriously runs through the lines and disrupts the rallying point.

Worse, the Sniper continues to maraud the Gurkha right, breaking the last key defender there. Too bad the Nippon is not in position with a couple of units to do some mopping up. Nevertheless, 137E goes on a scamper which yields wild results; in the end, Dave prevents DM on the 648 over there, preserving good chances for self rally, but at significant expense.

Taking advantage of this unlikely diversion, the gun crew charges the enemy rear in an effort to block rout paths prior to the second Banzai planned from C1. Pinned at the last moment, but still in a good position to support the objectives of the upcoming charge.

The second charge has two objectives as well. First, eliminate a single CVP to obtain the needed 12th point to minimally satisfy the VC. Second, to block all British troops south of hexrow E from ever reaching that hilltop. In the end, 648C was an obstinate fellow, refusing to yield the second objective to the charge. The gun crew remains in position to do the blocking; that is all, but perhaps that is enough. For that we can thank 137E. The primary objective is finally achieved when the Nippon manages to win only his second CC of the match. Curiously, it seems they cannot lose on or about 37A4.

The Brits find that they start the turn with too little force to gain a position of advantage along the stream and must consolidate. One objective is elimination of Ayabe, who blocks the main route to the chosen crossing area around 36E3.

The attempted infantry overrun caused a discussion about the accessibility of Bamboo to units that are pushed back by this procedure. Dave would have preferred C3 to B4. Later, after the game, we decided that Bamboo is a legal location.

Witness that his encircling fire vs Ayabe accomplished nothing other than making it more difficult for his troops to exit the hex after any successful CC attack. Needless to say, by this time Dave had a certain bloodlust to absolutely nail Ayabe ASAP. Primly, let me say that he was somewhat disappointed with the CC results!

In 36D2, Dave has finally found a secure rallying point for his boys.

Note his trick to get Sylvester into this hex where he is most needed. Overall, his coordinative problems have been largely due to his propensity of "routing forward" into hexes that are a little too exposed to assure rallying, at least against an alert, aggressive player. Turn after turn, a Gurkha platoon, vitally needed for the push, has remained broken because of DM status.

The Gurkha commander has three turns to get it together, force the stream, and get onto that hill. Definitely an uphill battle. With the overlay reversed, readers can see the importance of getting across that stream before the enemy.

Yet, in spite of the popularized routing trick used once more, the Japanese appear weak on the north bank. Pearson is moved to what most people would consider an excellent position to block further reinforcements from the south side. Believe it or not, moving Pearson to 36D5 was the most significant error Dave makes in the entire match. He is about to receive a painful demonstration in the flexibility of Banzai charge attacks. The lesson: if you want to avoid a Banzai, don't move minimal forces into a position where a nice chain of MMC has an LOS to you! Pearson is absolutely useless there, a better move would have been occupation of 36D4 with Pearson and the fanatic 648 to interdict the crossing. Watch.

URNS 8 AND 9 COMMENTS:

The frightening thing about Banzai charges is their general flexibility. There are few requirements, and new players I meet keep trying to read more into the rules than is there! You need to have an enemy unit in LOS (yes, a dummy stack will do!). You need to have a leader and optionally, an MMC. You need to move the chain of units in the same general direction towards that enemy unit. No, you don't need to enter that enemy's hex, you don't need to converge towards that hex with the chain, and you don't need to stay in the hex for CC if you want to advance out! Banzai charges can be very suicidal (as were my last), or subtle instruments of infiltration and reinforcement. Be careful when opposing a clump of Japanese-- they may rush you. Don't give them the

chance if you aren't prepared for it! Even if you are, it's quite unnerving in a manner which is hauntingly historical. For gosh sakes, as a Japanese player, don't be afraid to use a Banzai charge to get a job done. The psychological impact is tremendous, even if it fails! The reason for this: the opponent senses what it might have done, and what another could do. Using a Banzai is like throwing the long ball in a football game, loosening up the defense for your running game. They are nothing as fragile as a Russian Human Wave, please don't get caught up in that association.

Now I have troops where I need them: a paltry squad has been reinforced by a souped up platoon. Dave reacts quickly and daringly to this unexpected development by, once again, routing forward to 36E3 with a potent stack, hoping to rally immediately and bring much needed firepower to bear across the stream. As an aside, I don't think I've ever played a scenario where both players make use of routing/rallying in such an aggressive manner.

Two Japanese leaders have, between them, killed a squad equivalent! Salutations to the samurai heroes of Nippon! By now I've probably lost six squads to accomplish the same thing at more even odds. Strange is ASL...

Dave's risky ploy to rout to the front fails to pay off and these squads are in deadly danger. A desperate effort to dash across the stream is gunned down in midstream under the watchful eye of Sgt. Hana. To many, the Gurkha position seems lost.

Those who feel that way are instructed to read on. The next few events should demonstrate to you that it can pay off to keep playing when it appears very much hopeless! The players that do are usually those that you find in the final rounds of the major tournaments; and are also those that repeatedly demonstrate an outstanding caliber of play. Anything can happen in ASL. Anything. Never give up until it is absolutely certain that you have lost, and even then, consider carefully! Witness the following chronology of events around the stream:

1. A Japanese LMG breaks.

2. An MMG with the 347 is eliminated due to unqualified use penalties.

3. The 447 with Hana goes Berserk and is later gunned down in the stream with a vengeance.

4. A 347 suffers a casualty MC.

As a result of freakish happenings, in one brief player turn I have lost over half of my defensive capacity on the north bank. Any gloating about Sgt. Hana's battleworthiness is now rendered premature, wouldn't you say? Later:

5. The fanatic 648 rallies under fire again, generating a hero-- again.

6. Another 648 self rallies.

Suddenly, a complete turn after many would have quit, the British have increased their assault capability from 5FP to 24FP and have a -2 leader and 2 heroes to help aim it. I guarantee anybody that if the Gurkha player had just one more player turn, he would have a better than even shot to win the match after all. An early resignation would have been inexcusable! The sad thing is, most earlybird resigners don't ever get the chance to realize it for themselves. If one is fortunate enough to be playing a kind but seasoned player, he might just be grabbed by the collar and lectured that it is way too early to resign, so keep playing, buster!

AFTERMATH: Unfortunately, The Gurkhas don't have an extra player turn to get the job done and must attempt a futile bayonet charge across the stream. This is my first victory over Dave, a true milestone of accomplishment for me; thereafter, it wasn't my last, either. In all fairness, this time I had a stacked deck: three previous playings of the scenario as each side, hundreds of hours of COB playtest experience (Dave, normally involved in most playtests, was touring Europe at the time of the COB effort, this was only his second time out with a PTO scenario), and a reversed overlay which definitely favors the Japanese player. The fact that it was so close is a testimony, not only to his fine gaming abilities, but to his tenacity in the face of adversity. Many of my ASL skills

were earned to his ever greater glory, and I gratefully owe him profound thanks for the lessons-- and pleasures, of our many (but now too few) battles together. Salud!

PRE-GAME

JAPANESE COLUMNS:

COLUMN 1: 10-1 GAMAN, 9-1 HANA, 2*LMG, 2*MTR (E,F), TYPE 92 INF, MULE, 3*228 (4,5,7), 2*MMG, 2*448 (P,D), 4*447 (J,B,O,F), 238M, 347K

COLUMN 2: (ENTRANCE 35E1) 9-0 FUJITA, 9-0 AYABE, 2*LMG, 2*MTR (A,B), TYPE 92 INF, MULE, 3*347 (C,U,T), 4*447 (C,G,K,D), 228 (10), 238G

COLUMN 3: (ENTRANCE 35E1) 8-0 INOUE, 8-0 OSAWA, 2*LMG, 2*MTR (C,C,D), 8*347 (M,W,Y,P,Q,V,S,I)

GURKHA COLUMNS:

COLUMN 1: (ENTRANCE 37P7) 8-1 BARKER, 8-0 COX, 3*LMG, 2*MTR (B,C), 3*648 (A,B,C), 2*458 (K,F), 8*248 (B,J,Q,L,G,F,K,D)

COLUMN 2: (ENTRANCE 37P3) 9-2 SYLVESTER, 9-1 MCNAMARA, 2*HMG, 2*LMG, 2*MTR (D,E), 2*648 (D,E), 7*458 (T,X,V,P,L,W,S), 2*248 (T,F)

NOTE: DISCUSSED PATH HEXSIDES TO BE 37P5/36A6. ALSO, SNIPER DIRECTION 1 IS ALWAYS NORTHEAST.

JAPANESE TURN 1

RALLY PHASE

001 SET-UP:

COLUMN 1

35D4-- ?G, LMG, 448P, LMG, 448D, 447J, GAMAN
35D3-- ?T, 447B, MMG *, 228(E), MMG *, 228(A), 447O, HANA
35D2-- ?I, INF, MULE, 228(F), MTR E *, 347K, 447F
35D1-- ?R, MTR F *, 238M
SNIPER-- 37K5

002 BRITISH SNIPER-- 35D6
003 WIND CHANGE 5.3 NE

PREP FIRE PHASE-- NONE

MOVEMENT PHASE/ADVANCE PHASE

004 COLUMN CX FROM 35D4 TO D8,D7,D6,D5

GURKHA TURN 1

RALLY PHASE

005 OFFBOARD SET-UP

COLUMN 1 (ON ORDER OF ENTRY)

?G, LMG, 648A, 458K, 248B, 248J
?O, LMG, 648B, LMG, 648C, MTR B *, 458R, BARKER
?D, 248Q, 248L, 248G, 248F, 248K, MTR C *, 248D, COX

COLUMN 2 (ON ORDER OF ENTRY)

?W, 248T, 248R
?X, MTR D *, 458S, 458T, 458X
?Y, HMG *, 458V, LMG, 648D, LMG, 648E, SYLVESTER
?Z, HMG *, 458P, MTR E *, 458L, 458W, MCNAMARA
006 WIND CHANGE 1,1 CHANGES!
3 WIND CHANGES FROM SE

MOVEMENT PHASE/ADVANCE PHASE

007 COLUMN 2 CX TO 37L1,M2,N2,O3
008 COLUMN 1 CX TO 37L5,M6,N5

JAPANESE TURN 2

RALLY PHASE

009 OFFBOARD SET-UP

COLUMN 2 (ON ORDER OF ENTRY AT 35E1)

?B, INF, MULE, 228(10), 447K, MTR AA*, 238G, AYABE
?J, MTR B *, 347T, LMG, 447C, LMG, 447G
?K, 447I, 347H, 347C, FUJITA
010 WIND CHANGE 6.6 GUSTS

MOVEMENT PHASE/ADVANCE PHASE

011 COLUMN 1 TO 37C1, 35C10, D9, D8
012 COLUMN 2 CX TO 35E4, E3, E2

GURKHA TURN 2

RALLY PHASE

013 WIND CHANGE 6.5 NE

MOVEMENT PHASE/ADVANCE PHASE

014 COLUMN 2 TO 37H3, I3, J2, K2
015 COLUMN 1 TO 37H4, I5, J5

JAPANESE TURN 3

RALLY PHASE

016 WIND CHANGE 6.4 NE

MOVEMENT PHASE/ADVANCE PHASE

017 COLUMN 1 CX TO 37F2, F1, E1, D0
018 COLUMN 2 TO 35E7, E6, E5

GURKHA TURN 3

RALLY PHASE

019 WIND CHANGE 1.5 NE

PREP FIRE PHASE-- NONE

MOVEMENT PHASE

020 COLUMN 2 TO 37F4, G4, H3, I3
021 BRITISH COLUMN 2 DISBANDS, REMOVE ?W, ?X, ?Y, ?Z, ITS MPH ENDS
022 JAPANESE COLUMN 1 DISBANDS, REMOVE ?Q, ?T, ?I, ?R, ALL ELEMENTS PINNED AND CX
023 COLUMN 1 TO 37I1, J1, J2
024 COLUMN 1 DISBANDS, REMOVE ?G, ?O, ?D, ITS MPH ENDS

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

025 BUILD MTR F IN 37D0
026 BUILD MTR E IN 37E1

027 BUILD MMGS IN 37F1
028 STACK IN 37F2 VS F4 8FF[1] 2,5 NMC
029 248R NMC 4,5 BKN, DM
030 248T NMC 1,1 HOB
031 HOB [-2] 1,3 149 BILLS IN F4

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

032 STACK 37F4 VS F2 1.5FF[0] 2,1 1MC
033 GAMAN 1MC 6, 1 OK
034 448P 1MC 1,6 OK
035 448D 1MC 2,1 OK, SAN
036 SAN 4 NE
037 447E 1MC 3,5 OK

ROUT PHASE

038 238R** 37F4 TO B6

ADVANCE PHASE

039 MCNAMARA, MTR E*, 458L, HMG*, 458P
3713 TO I4
040 HMG*, 458V 37H3 TO I4
041 STACK 37H3 TO H2
042 LMG, 648A, 458K 37I1 TO H1
043 248B 37I1 TO H0
044 248J 37I1 TO 35I10
045 458W 37I3 TO H3
046 248G 37J2 TO K3
047 248L 37J2 TO J3
048 MTR B*, 458R 37J1 TO K2
049 STACK 37J1 TO I1
050 STACK 37J2 TO I3
051 458X 37G4 TO G3
052 458T 37G4 TO F3
053 BILLS, 248T 37F4 TO E4
054 MTR D*, 458S 37G4 TO F4

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

055 CONCEALMENT GAIN
37I1 3,3,5 ?X ON LMG, 648C, BARKER
M 5,5,4,2 ?B ON 458V, 458P,
MCNAMARA
HEXES E4 ?F; H1 ?S; H2 ?J; H3 ?Z; I3 ?G;
K2 ?D; K3 ?M; J3 ?W; 35I10 ?Y

JAPANESE TURN 4

RALLY PHASE

056 OFFBOARD SET-UP

COLUMN 3 (IN ORDER OF ENTRY AT
35E1

?X, LMG, 347M, 347W, 347Y, INOUE
?C, LMG, 347P, 347Q, 347V
?H, MTR CC*, 347S, MTR D*, 347I, OSAWA

057 WIND CHANGE 1,2 NE
058 UNPACK INF GUN F IN 37E1, 228(7) AND
MULE T

PREP FIRE PHASE

059 MTR E 37E1 SMOKE G3 6,5 NO SMOKE
060 SAME SHOT WP 4,5 NO WP
061 STACK 37F2 VS F3 32FF[0] 2,1, 3KIA 458T
ELIM, SAN
SAN 5 NE
062 STACK 37F1 VS F4 16FF[2] 5,1 1MC
063 458S 1MC 5,3 BKN, DM
064 MTR E 37E1 THA G3 [3] 5,3 MISS, -1ACQ
065 MTR F 37D0 THA H0 [1] 2,4 HIT, -1ACQ
066 3FFP-1] 6,5 NE
067 SAME SHOT [0] 5,2 HIT, -2ACQ
068 3FFP-1] 3,5 PTC
069 248B PTC 6,3 PIN
070

MOVEMENT PHASE

071 447F 37E1 TO D2
072 COLUMN 2 TO 35D9, D8, D7

073 COLUMN 2 DETECTED, DISBANDS,
REMOVE ?B, ?J, ?K, MPH ENDS
074 COLUMN 3 CX TO 35D3, E3, E2

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

075 458T 37G3 VS F2 8FF[0] 2,1 K/2
076 RANDOM SELECTION 6,5,5,4
GAMMON WOUNDED SEVERITY=1 OK
077 448P 2MC 6,4 TO 348P-
078 448D 2MC 6,4 TO 348D-
079 447J 2MC 2,1 OK, SAN
080 SAN 3 NE
081 248B 37H0 VS D0 1FF[0] 2,5 NE
082 BUILD MTR B IN 37K2
083 BUILD MTR E, AND HMGs IN 37I4
084 BUILD MTR C IN 37I3

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE-NONE

ROUT PHASE

085 MTR D*, 458S** 37F4 TO B6

ADVANCE PHASE

086 447F 37D2 TO D3
087 447J 37F2 TO G3 CC
088 STACK 37F2 TO E3
089 447O 37F1 TO E1
089,5 STACK 32F1-E2
090 447K, MTR AA*, 238G, AYABE 35D9 TO D10
091 STACK 35D8 TO E9
092 STACK 35D7 TO E8
093 COLUMN 3 TO D4, D3, E3

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

094 HEX 37G3 AMBUSH (0/-1) 6/1
GURKHA AMBUSH
1:1 HH [-2] 4,4 447J ELJM
095 458X WITHDRAW TO 37F3
096 CONCEALMENT GAIN
HEXES 37E2 ?K; E1 ?J; 35D9 ?B; E9
?R; EB ?U

GURKHA TURN 4

RALLY PHASE

097 WIND CHANGE 6, 3 NE
098 INF F 37E1 UNLOAD FROM MULE, STILL T1
CA=3
099 248R* 37B6 SELF [0] 3,3 RALLY

PREP FIRE PHASE

100 MTR E 37I4 SMOKE F3 [2] 4,6 NO SMOKE
101 MTR C 37I3 SMOKE F4 [2] 5,4 NO SMOKE
102 ?D, MTR B 37K2 SMOKE F4 [3] 1,5 SMOKE
IN F4, ROF
103 248T 37E4 VS D3 4FF[0] 5,1 NMC
104 447F NMC 2,3 OK
105 STACK 37I4 VS D3 24FF[3] 3,2 2MC, ROF
106 447F 2MC 4,5 TO 347F-
107 HMG ROF SAME SHOT 12FF[3] 6,3 NE
108 MTR E 37I4 THA D3 [1] 4,2 MISS, -1ACQ

MOVEMENT PHASE

109 458X 37F3 SMOKE E3 4 NE
110 LMG 37E3 VS 458X 4FFP-1] 2,1 K/2, 2RFP
SAN 5 NE
111 458X TO 248A 2MC 5,3 DKN, DM
112 458W 37H3 SMOKE G4 1 SMOKE IN
G4
113 458W 37H3 TO G5
114 STACK 37H2 TO F5
115 347F- 37D3 VS STACK 3FF[1] 1,3 NMC
116 9-2 NMC 3,2 OK
117 648E NMC 5,3 OK
118 648D NMC 6,2 OK
119 STACK 37F5 SMOKE E5 5,6 FAILED
120 DROP MTR C 37I3
121 STACK 37I3 CX TO E5
122

123 GAMAN-, 348P-, LMG, 348D- VS STACK
8FF[0] 1,2 ROF, K/2, 1RFP, SAN
124 SAN 4 NE
125 RANDOM SELECTION 4,3,2,4,4 COX
WIND SEV 6 ELJM; 248K & 248F ELJM
248Q 2MC 6,2 BKN, DM
126 248D 2MC 3,1 OK, SAN
127 SAN 6 NE
128 BILLS 37E4 TO B3
129 248R 37B6 TO 36B6
130 STACK 37I1 TO H4
131 248L 37J3 CX TO J4 PIN
132 ?M, 248G 37K3 TO H3
133 ?Y, 248J 35I10 TO 37I3
134 248B 37H0 TO I2
135

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

136 STACK 37E3 VS F3 12FF[0] 2,1 K/3, SAN
137 SAN 4 NE
138 248A** ELJM
139 347F- 37D3 VS E4 3FF[0] 6,1 PTC
140 248T PTC 5,5 PIN
141 MTR F 37D0 DISMANTLES

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

142 PLACE DRIFTING SMOKE 37E5, D5, C6
143 STACK 37F4 VS D3 10FF[2] 2,4 NMC
144 347F- NMC 6,4 TO 237F
145 STACK 37H4 VS E3 10FF[3] 1,4 NMC
146 GAMAN- NMC 2,4 OK
147 348P- NMC 5,3 OK
148 348D- NMC 2,1 OK, SAN
149 SAN 3 NE

ROUT PHASE

150 248Q** 37E5 TO B6

ADVANCE PHASE

151 BILLS 37B3 TO A4
152 248R 36B6 TO 37A4
153 248D CX 37E5 TO D4
154 STACK 37F5 TO E5
155 ?M, 248G 37H3 TO G3
156 458W 37G5 TO G4
157 STACK 37H4 TO G5
158 ?S, LMG, 648A 37H1 TO H0
159 ?F, 458K 37H1 TO G2
160 STACK 37I4 TO I5

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

161 GAIN CONCEALMENT
HEXES 37I2 ?J; 37A4 ?I

JAPANESE TURN 5

RALLY PHASE

162 WIND CHANGE 2,3 NE
163 INF F 37E1 UNPACKED, REMOVE T1
164 238M, 238G 37D0 RECOMBINE TO 448Y

PREP FIRE PHASE

165 MTR E 37E1 THA G3 [3] 6,6 BKN
166 INF F 37E1 THA (INDIRECT) G2 5,1 MISS,
-1ACQ

MOVEMENT PHASE

167 237F CX 37D3 TO C5,
168 248D CX 37D4 VS 237F 4FF[2] 5,2 NE,
1RFP
169 GAMAN-, LMG, 348D- 37E3 TO D3
170 248T 37E4 VS GAMAN-, 348D- 4FFP-1] 5,2
NMC, 2RFP
GAMAN- NMC 4,2 OK
171 348D- NMC 5,4 PIN
172 348P- 37E3 TO D3
173 2RFP VS 348P- [1] 2,6 NE
174 248T 37E4 SFF VS 348P- 2FFP-1] 5,5 NE
175

176 458W 37G4 VS 348P- 4FP[1] 2,3 NMC
 177 348P- NMC 6,2 PIN
 178 447B 37E2 TO E3 AM
 179 STACK 37E2 TO D2
 180 STACK 37E5 VS STACK 16FP[2] 6,2 NMC
 181 HANA NMC 1,3 OK
 182 228(4) NMC 1,6 OK
 183 228(5) NMC 5,2 OK
 184 STACK 37D2 TO B3
 185 ?J, 4470 37E1 TO F1 AM
 186 447K 37D0 CX TO A3
 187 STACK 37A4 VS 447K CX 6FP[3] 4,5
 1MC, 2RFP
 188 447K CX 1MC 5,5 TO 347K-
 189 DROP MTR AA* IN 37D0
 190 STACK 37D0 TO A3
 191 2RFP VS STACK [-2] 5,2 NMC
 192 AYABE NMC 2,3 OK
 193 448Y NMC 3,1 OK
 194 STACK 37A3 SFF VS STACK 3FP[3] 4,2 2MC
 195 AYABE 2MC 2,3 OK
 196 448Y 2MC 6,2 TO 338Y-
 197 STACK 35D9 CX TO 37A2
 189 MTR B*, 347T 35E9 CX TO B10
 190 LMG, 648A 37I0 VS 347T 5FP[0] 3,2
 1MC, 2RFP
 191 347T CX 1MC 5,1 PIN
 192 FUJITA, 347H, 347C 35E8 TO H9
 193 LMG, 648A SFF VS FUJITA, 347H, 347C
 8FP[1] 3,1 2MC, SAN, 4RFP
 194 SAN 3 NE
 195 FUJITA 2MC 6,2 WND SEVERITY 1 OK
 196 347H 2MC 6,3 TO 237H-
 197 347C 2MC 4,2 TO 237C-
 198 COLUMN 3 TO 35D7, D6, D5
 199 447I 35E8 CX TO D10
 199.5 STACK 35E9 CX TO 37C1

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

200 240D CX 37D4 VS D3 2FP[1] 3,6 NE
 201 STACK 37I5 VS E3 24(4) 5,6 NE
 202 MTR E 37I5 THA E3 [3] 4,6 MISS, -1ACQ
 203 STACK 37G5 VS D3 16FP[4] 1,4 ROF,
 1MC
 204 GAMAN- NMC 3,6 WND SEVERITY [1] 4
 ELIM
 205 348P- 1MC 3,3 OK
 206 348D- 1MC 5,1 OK

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

207 37C5 VS D4 2FP[2] 6,2 NE
 208 37B3 VS A4 4FP[1] 5,5 NE
 209 37E3 VS G4 2FP[1] 3,3 NE
 210 37D3 VS D4 5FP[2] 1,2 1MC, SAN
 211 SAN 2 EFFECT 4,2 TO F7 THEN D7
 212 RANDOM SELECTION 5,4,2,2 PIN 347M,
 COLUMN DISBANDS, REMOVE ?X, ?C, ?H,
 213 248D 1MC 6,4 BKN, DM
 214 STACKS 37A2 AND A3 VS A4 7FP [3] 6,3 NE
 215 STACK 35H9 VS H10 4FP[2] 6,6 NE

ROUT PHASE

216 248T VOL BKN 37E4 TO E5 LC
 217 248D 37D4 TO E5 LC
 218 648A VOL BKN 37H0 TO K3

ADVANCE PHASE

219 237F CX 37C5 TO B5 DM UNITS IN B6
 220 STACK 35H9 TO I10
 221 ?J, 4470 37F1 TO G2 CC
 222 MTR C** 347K 37E1 TO F1
 223 447B 37E3 TO D3
 224 TRANSFER MTR F* FROM 348Y- TO 347K-
 37A3
 225 348Y- 37A3 TO A4 CC
 226 AYABE, MTR F*, CX, 347K 36A8 TO B7
 227 STACK 37B3 TO B4 CX
 228 STACK 37C1 TO B1
 229 447I 37D0 TO C1
 230 347W, 347Y 35D7 TO D8
 231 347V 35D6 TO C7
 232 STACK 35D6 TO D7
 232.5 STACK 35D5 TO D6

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

233 HEX 37G2 AMBUSH 2/3 NO
 AMBUSH
 JAPANESE 1:1 [-1] 6,5 NE
 GURKHA 1:1 3,3 4470 ELIM
 234 HEX 37A4 AMBUSH 6/1 GURKHA
 AMBUSH
 GURKHA 1:1 [-2] 6,5 NE
 JAPANESE 1:1 [0] 4,2 DILLS, 248R ELIM
 235 CONCEALMENT
 HEXES 36B7 ?C; 36A7 ?J; 37A2 ?H; B5 ?P;
 B1 ?X; C1 ?L; 35B10 2 ?S;
 D6, ?V; D7 ?D; 37B4 ?N

GURKHA TURN 5

RALLY PHASE

236 WIND CHANGE 1,6 NE
 237 MTR F 37F1 REPAIR 4 NE
 238 ?Y, 248J 37I3 RECOVER MTR C 5 OK
 239 458S 37B6 SELF [4] 3,3 NE
 240 248T 37E5 [2] 5,3 NE, KEEP DM
 248D [2] 1,4 RALLY

PREP FIRE PHASE

241 FLIP SMOKE IN 37F4, REMOVE DISP
 SMOKE IN C6

MOVEMENT PHASE

242 248D 37E5 TO C5
 243 STACK 37E5 TO C6
 244 237F 37B5 VS STACK 4FP [1] 3,5 NE
 2RFP
 245 LMG, 648D STOP IN C6
 246 SYLVESTER, LMG, 648E TO B6
 OVERSTACK
 247 237F 37B5 SFF VS SYLVESTER, 648E
 2FP[0] 3,3 COWER, NE, 1RFP
 248 SYLVESTER, LMG, 648E 37B6 CX TO
 A6
 249 348Y 37A4 VS SYLVESTER, 648E 3FP[2]
 5,5 COWER, NE
 250 237T 37B5 FPF VS SYLVESTER, 648E
 2FP[2] 1,4 1MC
 251 SYLVESTER 1MC 3,5 PIN
 252 648E 1MC 1,1 HOB 6,2 HERO,
 FANATIC, PLACE 149 PEARSON
 253 LMG, 648B, BARKER 37G5 TO C6
 254 2RFP VS 648B, BARKER [1] 1,6 NE
 255 458W 37G4 TO E5
 256 LMG, 648C 37G4 TO E5 SMOKE IN E5
 6 NE
 257 ?M, 248G 37G3 AM F3
 258 347K 37F1 VS ?M, 248G 1,5[1] 4,4
 COWER, NE
 259 ?Y, MTR C, 248J 37I3 AM H9
 260 458K 37G2 TO G3
 261 INF F 37E1 THA (INDIRECT) 458K CA
 DIR 4, [4] 6,4 MISS, -1ACQ
 262 SAME SHOT INTENSIVE [2] 4,4 MISS,
 -2 ACQ
 263 458K 37G3 TO F3 SMOKE HEX F3 5 NE
 264 ?D, MTR, 458R 37K2 TO J1 SMOKE I1
 5 NE
 265 ?J, 248B 37I2 AM H1
 266 MCNAMARA, HMG, 458V, HMG, 458P
 37I5 TO I4
 267 STACK 37D3 VS I4 9FP[3] 4,1 NMC
 267.5 MCNAMARA 1MC 6,3 PIN
 268 458V NMC 5,6 BKN, DM
 269 458P NMC 5,4 BKN, DM
 270 248L 37J4 AM I4

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

271 STACK 37B4 VS C5 16FP[2] 1,3 2MC,
 ROF
 272 248D 2MC 1,3 OK SAN
 273 SAN 4 NE
 274 SAME SHOT 16FP[2] 4,3 1MC
 275 248D 1MC 6,1 PIN

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

276 STACK 37C6 VS B5 18FP[1] 5,1 2MC
 277 237F 2MC 2,4 BKN, DM
 278 248D PIN 37C5 VS B4 1FP[1] 2,4 NE
 279 STACK 37A6 VS A4 5FP[2] 5,3 NE
 280 STACK 37F3 VS F1 2FP[1] 5,4 NE

ROUT PHASE

281 248T** 37E5 TO C7
 282 MTR D*, 458S** 37B6 TO C7
 283 248G** 37B6 TO 36B4
 284 MCNAMARA VOL BKN, STACK IN 37I4
 DROPS HMGs TO K3
 285 237F 37B5 ELIM
 286 228(4), 228(5) VOL BKN 37B4
 REPLACE WITH 127(5)** AND
 127(6)** WITH HANA TO A4

ADVANCE PHASE

287 STACK 37J1 TO K2
 288 BARKER 37C6 TO C7
 289 STACK 37C6 TO B5
 290 ?J, 248B 37H1 TO I2
 291 LMG, 648E(0), PEARSON 36A5 TO B4
 292 458K 37F3 TO E3
 293 ?M, 248G 37F3 TO E4
 294 LMG, 648C 37E5 TO D4
 295 458W 37E5 TO D5
 296 MTR E, 458L 37I5 TO I4
 297 ?Y, MTR C, 248J 37H4 TO G4

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

298 CONCEALMENT
 HEXES 36B4 ?E; 37B5 ?Z; C5 ?K; C7 ?B; D5
 ?T

JAPANESE TURN 6

RALLY PHASE

299 WIND CHANGE 2,6 NE
 300 MTR C 37F1 REPAIR 6 ELIM
 301 458L 37I4 RECOVER HMG 3 OK
 302 248L 37I4 RECOVER HMG 6 NE
 303 127(6) 37A1 [-2] 5,3 RALLY
 127(5) 6,4 RALLY
 304 458S 37C7 [2] 3,1 RALLY
 248T [2] 2,1 NE
 305 MCNAMARA 37K3 [4] 5,5 NE

PREP FIRE PHASE

306 HANA, HMGs 37A4 VS A6 8FP[0] 2,5 ROF,
 1MC
 307 SYLVESTER 1MC 3,6 BKN, DM
 308 SAME SHOT 8FP[0] 3,6 PTC NE
 309 STACK 37D3 VS E3 28FP[2] 5,4 NMC
 310 458K NMC 2,4 OK

MOVEMENT PHASE

311 ?C, MTR F*, 347K-36B7 TO C6 PLACE
 ?T ON AYABE
 312 348Y-36A7 TO B6
 313 STACK 37B5 VS 348Y- 16[1] 2,2 SAN,
 3MC, 8RFP
 314 SAN 4 NE
 315 348Y- 3MC 6,5 TO 237J
 316 237J 36B6 TO C6
 317 STACK 36A9 TO C8
 318 ?X, LMG, 447G 37B1 TO A4
 319 ?I, LMG, 447C 37B1 T 36B7
 320 ?T, AYABE 36B7 TO C7
 321 347K 37F1 AM F2
 322 447I 37C1 TO A4
 323 PUSH INF F 37E1 TO F1 [4] 2,6 OK CA 4
 324 237C- 37I10 AM 37I1
 325 458R 37K2 VS 237C- 4FP[1] 3,6 NE
 2RFP

326 FUJITA- 3510 AM 3711
 327 2RFP [-1] 3,1 1MC, SAN
 328 SAN 6 NE
 329 FUJITA- 1MC 5,1 OK
 330 458R 37K2 SFF VS FUJITA- 2FPF[-1] 2,4
 NMC
 331 FUJITA- NMC 1,6 OK
 332 248B 3712 VS FUJITA- 4FPF[-1] 1,4 1MC
 333 FUJITA- 1MC 6,3 WND SEVERITY 5 ELIM
 237C LLTC[-1] 1,2 OK, SAN
 SAN 6 NE
 334 237H 3510 TO H10
 335 MTR B 37K2 THA[-1] 3,6 MISS, -1 ACQ
 336 237H 3510 TO H1
 337 2RFP [-2] 5,4 NE
 338 248B 3712 9FF VS 237H 2FPF[-2] 5,4 NE
 339 STACK 35B10 TO 36C8
 340 347W 35D8 TO 35D10 PICK UP
 341 MTR AA* 2 OK
 342 347Y 35D8 TO D10
 343 STACK 35D7 TO 35C10
 344 347V CX 35C7 TO 36A10
 345 STACK 35D6 TO A9

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

346 STACK 37D4 VS D3 16FP[0] 2,3 3MC
 347 447B 3MC 3,5 TO 347B-
 348 348P 3MC 4,5 TO 23B0
 349 348D- 3MC 1,4 PIN
 350 458K 37E3 VS D3 8FP[0] 3,1 2MC, SAN
 351 SAN 1 EFFECT 3,2 TO 27M4 THEN K3
 352 RANDOM SELECTION 5,5,4,3
 MCNAMARA ELIM, SUB DR 6 NE, STACK
 DM
 353 648A** LLMC[1] 2,1 OK
 354 458V** LLMC[1] 3,2 OK
 355 458P** LLMC[1] 3,3 OK
 356 347B- 2MC 6,5 TO 137J
 357 2380 2MC 2,2 OK
 358 348D- 2MC 3,2 OK
 359 248G 37E4 VS D3 4FP[0] 3,3 NMC
 360 137J NMC 1,2 OK SAN
 361 SAN 5 NE
 362 2380 NMC 1,5 OK
 363 348D- NMC 3,4 OK
 364 MTR C 37G4 THA D3 [2] 5,3 MISS, -1 ACQ
 365 STACK 37H4 VS D3 11FP[4] 2,2 SAN, 1MC,
 ROF
 366 SAN 5 NE
 367 137J 1MC 4,2 PIN
 368 2380 1MC 4,5 BKN, DM
 369 348D- 1MC 5,3 TO 23B1, PIN
 370 HMG ROF VS D3 6FP[4] 2,1 NMC ROF
 371 137J NMC 1,2 OK, SAN
 372 SAN 6 NE
 373 2380** 2,3 OK
 374 2381 3,1 OK
 375 SAME SHOT 6FP[4] 4,6 NE

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

376 STACK 3711 VS K2 2FP[0] 6,1 NE
 377 STACK 37F2 VS E3 3FP[2] 1,4 PTC
 378 458K PTC 2,2 NE, SAN
 379 SAN 6 NE
 380 ?X, LMG, 447G 37A4 VS A6 3FP[0] 5,2
 NE

ROUT PHASE

381 LMG, 2380** 37D3 TO B3
 382 SYLVESTER** 37A6 TO C7
 383 458V** 37K3 TO M4
 384 458P** 37K3 TO K5
 385 LMG, 648A** 37K3 TO L4

ADVANCE PHASE

386 ?S, MTR B*, 347T 36C8 TO D8
 387 STACK 36C6 TO C5 DM ON 36B4
 388 ?X, LMG, 447G 36A7 TO B6
 389 ?I, LMG, 447C 36B7 TO B6, USE ?X
 390 STACK 35D10 TO 37D1
 391 STACK 35C10 TO 37C1
 392 347V CX 36A10 TO A9
 393 STACK 35A9 TO A10

394 447I 37A9 TO A4
 395 347K 37F2 TO E3 CC
 396 237H 3711 TO I2 CC
 397 237C 3711 TO J0

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

398 HEX 3711 AMBUSH [1F-1] 4,1
 GURKHA AMBUSH
 GURKHA 1:1 HH [2] 5,2 237H ELIM
 248B WITHDRAW TO I3

399 HEX 37E3 AMBUSH (1F-1) 1,4 NO
 AMBUSH
 JAPANESE 1:1 HH [-1] 4,6 NE
 GURKHA 1:1 HH [-1] 3,3 347K ELIM
 400 CONCEALMENT
 HEXES 37F1 ?; A2 ?; A4 ?G

GURKHA TURN 6

RALLY PHASE

401 WIND CHANGE 2,6 NE
 402 DROP MTR E 3714
 403 248L 37H RECOVER HMG 1 OK
 404 648A** 37L4 [4] 2,3 NE
 405 SYLVESTER 37C7 [2] 5,1 RALLY
 406 248T 37C7 [-3] 4,1 RALLY

PREP FIRE PHASE

407 REMOVE SMOKE 37F4, E5, D5
 408 MTR B 37K2 THA J0 [0] 2,3 HIT, ROF,
 -1 ACQ
 409 3FP [-1] 5,1 NMC
 410 237C NMC 5,4 TO 137A
 411 SAME SHOT [-1] 3,3 HIT, -2 ACQ
 412 3FP [-1] 4,6 NE
 413 458R 37K2 VS J0 4FP[2] 2,2 SAN, NMC
 414 SAN 6 NE
 425 137A NMC 1,3 OK
 426 458K 37E3 VS D3 8FP[0] 2,6 NMC
 427 137J NMC 4,1 OK
 428 2381 1MC 6,3 BKN, DM
 429 248G 37E4 VS D3 4FP[0] 1,4 1MC
 430 137J 1MC 3,5 BKN, DM
 431 2381** 1MC 3,1 OK
 432 STACK 37D4 VS D3 16FP[0] 5,3 1MC
 433 137J** 1MC 6,5 ELIM
 434 2381** 1MC 3,2 OK
 435 MTR C 37G4 VS D3 THA [1] 5,3 MISS,
 -2 ACQ
 436 LMG, 648E(0) 36D4 AND LMG, 648D 37B5
 OP FIRE REMOVE CX
 437 STACK 37H4 VS D3 16FP [4] 3,2 1MC,
 ROF
 438 2381** 1MC 6,4 ELIM

MOVEMENT PHASE

439 648B 37B5 SMOKE A5 3 NE TO C5
 440 BARKER, MTR D*, 458S 37C7 TO B5
 441 STACK 36B6 VS BARKER, 458S 12FP[1]
 2,5 1MC, 6 RFP
 442 BARKER 1MC 5,5 BKN, DM
 443 458S 1MC 3,5 BKN, DM
 444 ?K, 248D 37C5 AM C4
 445 248B 3713 TO I4 RECOVER MTR E 3
 OK TO H4
 446 458W CX 37D5 TO A7
 447 STACK 37A4 VS 458W 12[0] 4,1 2MC
 6 RFP
 448 458W 2MC 2,6 BKN, DM
 449 SYLVESTER, 248T 37C7 TO A7
 450 6RFP [1] 6,2 NE
 451 STACK 37A4 SFF VS SYLVESTER, 248T
 6[0] 1,5 1MC
 452 SYLVESTER 1MC 3,2 OK
 453 248T 1MC 1,4 OK
 454 SYLVESTER, 248T 37A4 TO 36B4
 455 STACK 36C5 VS SYLVESTER, 248T 19FP[1]
 5,1 1MC
 456 SYLVESTER 1MC 2,5 OK
 457 248T 1,4 OK
 458 ?E, PEARSON 36B4 AM C4

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

459 137A 37J0 VS K2 1FP[0] 2,3 PTC
 460 458R PTC 6,4 PIN
 461 STACK 37D1 VS D4 6[4] 5,2 NE
 462 INF F 37F1 ATH F4 [2] 6,1 -1 ACQ
 463 STACK 36C5 VS B4 5FP[2] 5,4 NE

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

464 STACK 36B4 VS C5 18FP[0] 1,6 ROF,
 2MC
 465 237J 2MC 3,6 BKN, DM
 466 347K- 2MC 6,5 TO 137E
 467 SAME SHOT 4FP[0] 3,1 1MC, SAN
 468 SAN 1 EFFECT 4,4 TO O5 THEN M4
 469 458V** TO 248M**
 470 237J** 1MC 2,4 OK
 471 137E 1MC 4,3 BKN, DM
 LMG, 648D 37D5 VS 36B6 8FP[2] 5,1
 NMC
 472 447G NMC 1,5 OK
 473 447C NMC 2,2 OK

ROUT PHASE

474 248Q** 36B4 TO B3
 475 BARKER**, 458S** 37B5 TO 36B3
 476 458W** 37A7 TO B4 TO B3
 OVERSTACK
 177 STACK 36C5 TO C7
 478 447G IN 36B6 VOL BKN TO LMG, 237I,
 237H TO 36D5
 479 447I IN 36A7 VOL BKN TO 237A, 237E,
 W/HANA TO 36D5

ADVANCE PHASE

480 ?K, 248D 37C4 TO D3 CC
 481 458K 37E3 TO B3
 482 LMG, 648C 37D4 TO C4
 483 248G 37E4 TO D4
 484 248T 36D4 TO B5
 485 STACK 36B4 TO C5
 486 ?E, PEARSON 36C6 TO B5 CX
 487 LMG, 648D 37B5 TO A6
 488 LMG, 648B 37C5 TO B5
 489 MTR E, 248D 37H4 TO G5
 490 STACK 3714 TO H4

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

491 HEX 37B3 AMBUSH [-2/0] 1,1 NO
 AMBUSH
 GURKHA 1:1 HH [-5] 4,5 ELIM
 492 CONCEALMENT
 HEXES 37G4 ?; 37G5 ?; 37H4 ?D, 37C4
 ?W

JAPANESE TURN 7

RALLY PHASE

493 WIND CHANGE 1,2 NE
 494 458K 37D3 RECOVER LMG 4 OK
 495 248D IN 37B3 RECOVER LMG [2] 2 OK
 496 237J** 36C7 [-1] 4,6 TO 137M*
 137E** [-1] 3,4 RALLY
 497 237E** 36D4 [-2] 3,3 RALLY
 237A** 4,6 RALLY
 237H** 1,4 RALLY
 237H** 5,6 TO 137D**
 497.1 BARKER** 37B3 5,6 NE
 497.2 INF A, 22B(10) 36C8 UNPACK TI

PREP FIRE PHASE

497.3 STACK 37A7 VS A4 8FP[0] 6,4 NE
 497.4 STACK 36D5 VS C5 12FP[1] 5,5 NE

MOVEMENT PHASE

498 BANZAI STACKS 36D6, 36C7 TO C6, B5

499 STACKS 36B5, A5 AND 37B5 VS STACK
B5 30FP9[1] 4.1 K/A
500 447C TO 237N 4MC 4.4 BKN, DM
501 SAME SHOT SFF 15FP[1] 3.5 NMC
502 237N** NMC 2.4 OK
503 STACK 36C5 VS STACK C6 16FP[1] 5.5 1MC
504 AYABE 1MC 6.2 OK
505 137E 1MC 6.1 OK
506 STACK 36C6 TO C5
507 STACK 36C6 SFF VS STACK 12FP [-1] 6.3
1MC
508 AYABE 1MC 3.3 OK
509 137E 1MC 1.2 OK, SAN
510 SAN 2 EFFECT 6.1 TO 35C8 THEN 37C1
511 RANDOM SELECTION 2.5, 4.1 PIN LMG,
347M
512 STACK 36C6 FFF VS STACK 12FP [-1]
2MC
513 AYABE 2MC 2.6 OK
514 137E 2MC 1.6 OK
515 PEARSON 36D4 VS STACK 2FP[1] 2.2
NMC, SAN
516 SAN 1 EFFECT 2.5 TO 35M9 THEN 37K2
517 458R BKN, DM
518 AYABE NMC 3.6 OK
519 137E NMC 6.4 BKN, DM
520 137A CX 37J0 TO J2
521 STACK 37H4 VS 137A 16FP[0] 6.6 HMG
BROKEN
522 RANDOM SELECTION 2.5 BREAK HMG
W/ 248L
523 137A 37J2 TO K3
524 MTR E 37G5 THA 137A [0] 5.5 MISS, -1ACQ
525 STACK 37H4 SFF VS 137A 6FP[0] 5.5
BREAK HMG
526 MTR C 37G4 THA 137A [1] 1.1 CH, ROF,
-1ACQ
527 12FP[-2] 5.6 NMC
528 137A NMC 1.3 OK
529 SAME SHOT [0] 2.2 HIT, ROF, SAN, -2ACQ
530 SAN 4 NE
531 3FP[-1] 2.4 NMC
532 137A NMC 1.1 HOB [4] 1.5 BERSERK
533 137A(b) 37K3 TO K2
534 228(7) CX 37F1 TO E5
535 248G 37D4 VS 228(7) 4FP[-1] 4.2 1MC
536 228(7) 1MC 3.4 PIN
537 BANZAI STACKS 37D1, C1 TO D2, C2
538 STACK 37D3 VS STACK D2 12FP[-1] 3.5 1MC
539 347Y 1MC 2.1 OK, SAN
540 SAN 4 NE
541 347W 1MC 3.2 OK
542 STACK 37D3 SFF VS D2 6FP[-1] 6.3 NE,
LMG ELIM
543 BANZAI STACKS TO D3, C3
544 458K 37D3 FFF VS STACK D3 6FP[-1]
6.3 458K BKN, DM
545 248G 37D4 SFF VS STACK D3 2FP[-1]
6.2 NE
546 LMG, 648C 37C4 SPRAY VS STACKS
C3/D3 8FP[-1/1] 5.5 NE
547 LMG, 648C 37C4 SFF VS STACK D3
1.2 KIA
548 RANDOM SELECTION 6.5 347Y ELIM,
347W TO 237W
549 BANZAI STACK 37C3 TO C4
550 LMG, 648C FFF VS STACK C4 12FP[1]
2.2 2MC, SAN
551 SAN 3 NE
552 INOUE 2MC 4.3 OK
553 347Q 2MC 2.4 OK
554 347P 2MC 6.6 TO 126C BKN, DM
555 SAME SHOT 12FP[1] 1.5 1MC
556 INOUE 5.5 WND SEVERITY 2 FLIP
557 347Q 1MC 4.5 TO 237Q-
558 126C** 1MC 2.3 OK
559 ?L 37A2 AM B2
559.5 STACK 35A10 TO 36C8
?S, MTR B*, 347T 36D8 TO C7

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

560 LMG, 248D 37B3 VS B2 2FP[0] 1.5 PTC
561 347V PTC 5.6 PIN
562 MTR C 37G4 THA E5 [1] 6.5 MISS, -1ACQ
563 PEARSON 36D4 VS D5 1FP[2] 6.6 NE

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

564 137A 37K2 VS K2 1.5FP[0] 1.5 NE
565 237W- 37D3 VS D3 3FP[0] 4.4 NE
566 STACK 37C4 VS C4 3FP[2] 2.3 PTC
567 648C PTC 6.5 PIN

ROUT PHASE

568 126C IN 37C4 ELIM,
569 137E 36C5 TO C7
570 237N 35D5 TO C7
571 137D 36D5 TO E6 LC
572 648C VOL BKN 37C4 TO C7
573 458R DROP MTR B 37K2 TO L.D
574 458K 37D3 TO H2

ADVANCE PHASE

575 AYABE 36C5 TO C4 DM STACK IN D3
576 STACK 36D5 TO E5
577 OSAWA 36C8 TO C7
578 STACK 36C8 TO D8
579 237Q 37C4 TRANSFER LMG TO INOUE-
ADVANCE TO B3 CC
580 237W 37D3 DROP MTR AA;
ADVANCE TO D4 CC
581 STACK 36A7 TO B6
582 ?S, MTR B*, 347T 36C7 TO C6

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

583 HEX 37D4 AMBUSH [2-1] 4.3
GURKHA AMBUSH
GURKHA 1:1 HH CC [-2] 4.2 237W ELIM
248G WITHDRAW TO 37D5
548 HEX 37D3 AMBUSH [2-1] 1.3 NO
AMBUSH
JAPANESE 1:1 HH CC [-1] 3.2 248D ELIM,
DROP LMG
GURKHA 1:1 HH CC [-1] 5.4 NE
CONCEALMENT HEXES 36C7 ?N; D8 ?X;
37B3 ?U; B2 ?J; C1 ?C

GURKHA TURN 7

RALLY PHASE

549 WIND CHANGE 5.2 NE
550 237Q- 37B3 RECOVER LMG [2] OK
551 648A* 37L4 [0] 1.6 RALLY
552 BARKER 36B3 [4] 4.5 DM RETAINED
553 INF A UNLOADS IN 36C8, TL CA 5
554 137M 36C7 [-1] 1.4 RALLY
137E [-1] 1.5 RALLY
237N [-1] 4.5 RALLY
555 137D 36D6 RETAIN DM
556 237A, 237I 36E5 RECOMBINE TO 447F
557 REPAIR HMGs 37H4 3.3 BOTH FIXED

PREP FIRE PHASE

557 248G 37D5 VS E5 4FP[0] 4.4 NE
558 STACK 37H4 VS E5 16FP[2] 1.5 ROF,
ENCIRCLED, 1MC
559 228(7) 1MC 1.5 OK
560 SAME SHOT HMG ROF 12FP[2] 6.3 NE
561 MTR E 37G5 THA C3 5.3 MISS, -1 ACQ
562 MTR C 37G4 VS E5 [0] 5.4 MISS, -2ACQ
563 PEARSON 36D4 OP FIRE, REMOVE CX

MOVEMENT PHASE

564 STACK IN 36C5 DECLARE INF OVR VS C4
[2] 2.2 OK, SAN
565 SAN 3 NE
566 STACK 36C5 TO C4, AYABE TO B1
567 648D 36A5 DECLARE INF OVR VS C4
[2] 3.4 NE, MPH ENDS
568 248T 36B4 TO C5
569 347T 36C6 VS 248T 6FP[1] 4.3 PTC
570 248T PTC 5.1 OK
571 248T 36C5 TO C4
572 LMG, 648B 37B5 TO 36A5

573 648B DECLARE INF OVR VS C4 [2] 3.6 NE,
MPH ENDS
574 LMG, 648A 37L4 STRAY 5.4 NE TO K3
575 137A 37K2 VS 648A 2FP[1] 2.5 NE
575.5 SAME SHOT SFF 1FP[1] 3.6 NE

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

576 37E5 VS D4 4FP[3] 4.5 NE
577 STACK 36E5 VS D4 16FP[0] 2.6 1MC
578 PEARSON 1MC 6.2 OK

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

579 37A6 VS B4 18FP[2] 3.3 2MC
580 AYABE 2MC 2.1 OK, SAN
581 SAN 6 NE
582 STACK 36C4 VS B4 11FP[0] 2.5 1MC,
ENCIRCLED
583 AYABE 1MC 1.3 OK
584 PEARSON 36D4 VS E5 2FP[-1] 5.5 NE
585 LMG, 648A 37K3 VS K2 9FP[0] 2.2 SAN,
3MC
586 SAN 1 EFFECT 3.6 TO 35P7 THEN 37L0
458R* TO 248A**
587 137A(b) 3MC 3.6 ELIM

ROUT PHASE

588 BARKER**, MTR D*, 458S**,
458W** 37D3 TO D2
589 248A** 35L10 TO M10
590 248T VOL BKN 36C4 TO D2 WITH
SYLVESTER
591 248Q** 36B3 TO B2
592 137D** 36D6 TO F5
593 237E, 447F 36D5 VOL BKN 447F TO
237F, LMG, 237M; STACK TO 36F5

ADVANCE PHASE

594 LMG, 648A 37K3 TO J3
595 LMG, 648D 36A5 TO B4 CC
596 LMG, 648B 36A5 TO A4
597 248G 37D5 TO D6
598 PEARSON 36D4 TO D5
599 STACK 37H4 TO G4
600 MTR C, 248J 37G4 TO F3

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

601 HEX 36B4 AMBUSH [0-1] 4.1
JAPANESE AMBUSH
JAPANESE 1:6 HH CC [-2] 2.4 648D TO
338D
GURKHA 3:1 HH CC [0] 6.4 WND
SEVERITY 4 FLIP AYABE
602 CONCEALMENT HEXES 37D5 ?C; 36D2
SYLVESTER ?Q

JAPANESE TURN 8

RALLY PHASE

603 WIND CHANGE 4.5 NE
604 INF A 36C8 UNPACKED, REMOVE TL
605 137M, 137E 36C7 RECOMBINE TO 347W
606 137D 36F5 [-2] 2.2 RALLY
237F [-2] 5.4 RALLY
237M [-2] 2.1 RALLY
237E [-2] 6.6 ELIM
607 BARKER 36D2 [1] 5.2 RALLY
248T [1] 4.1 RALLY
458S [1] 4.4 NE, KEEP DM
OVERSTACKED
458W [1] 5.1 RALLY

PREP FIRE PHASE-- NONE

MOVEMENT PHASE

608 BANZAI STACKS IN 37C6, 37B5, PLUS
OSAWA, MTR F*, 347W IN 37C7
STACK 37C6 DECLARE INF OVR VS D5, TC
IS NA; TO D5

STACK 37B6, OSAWA, MTR F*, 347W TO C5
 609 PEARSON TO 37C5
 610 BANZAI STACKS D5 TO E5, C5 TO D5
 611 PEARSON 36C5 VS STACK D5 2FP[0] 2.5 NE
 612 BANZAI STACKS E5 TO F4, D5 TO E5
 613 STACK 36F5 AM G5
 614 LMG, 237N 36C7 AM C6
 615 PEARSON 36C4 VS 237N 2FP[1] 1,3 PTC, SAN
 616 SAN 4 NE
 617 237N PTC 2,1 OK, SAN
 618 SAN 4 NE
 619 STACK 36D8 AM E9
 620 228(7) 37E5 AM D5
 621 INOUE 37C4 DROP LMG TO E3
 622 STACK 37C1 TO A3
 623 LMG, 237Q- 37B3 TO C4
 624 MTR C THA 237Q- [0] 6,6 BKN
 625 LMG, 237Q 37C4 TO C5
 626 ?J, 347V 37B2 TO 36B7

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

627 37G4 VS E3 16FP[3] 5.3 PTC NE
 628 MTR E 37G5 THA E3 4,4 MISS, -1 ACQ

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

629 237N 37C6 VS C5 2FP[2] 1,2 SAN, NMC
 630 SAN 6 NE
 631 PEARSON NMC 5,3 OK
 632 228(7) 37D5 VS D7 1FP[2] 3,4 NE

ROUT PHASE

633 648E(0) VOL BKN 36C4 TO E3
 634 SYLVESTER, 458S** 36D3 TO E3

ADVANCE PHASE

635 228(7) 37D5 TO C6 DM 640C
 636 LMG, 237Q- 37C5 TO B5
 637 INOUE 37E3 TO F3 CC
 638 STACK 36A8 TO A7
 639 STACK 36B7 TO B6
 640 LMG, 237N 36C6 TO D5
 641 137D 36G5 TO F5
 642 STACK 36G5 TO G4
 643 STACK 36F4 TO G4
 644 STACK 36E5 TO F4
 645 STACK 36E9 TO F8

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

646 HEX 37F3
 JAPANESE 1:2 HH CC [-1] 3,4 249J ELIM
 DROP MTR C**
 GURKHA 2:1 HH CC [-1] 1,2 ELIM
 647 HEX 36B4
 JAPANESE 1:4 HH CC [-1] 4,3 NE
 GURKHA 3:1 HH CC [-1] 2,1 ELIM
 648 CONCEALMENT HEX 36F5 ?G

GURKHA TURN 8

RALLY PHASE

649 WIND CHANGE 5,1 NE
 650 237M, 237F 36G4 RECOMBINE 447F
 651 MMG 36F4 TRANSFER TO 347W FROM 127(G)
 652 248Q 36B2 [0] 3,3 RALLY
 653 648E(0) 36E3 [1] 5,4 NE
 458S [1] 6,4 NE

PREP FIRE PHASE- NONE

MOVEMENT PHASE

654 STACK 37G4 TO E5
 655 STACK 37G5 TO E5
 656 STACK CX 36D2 TO G1
 657 STACK 36G4 VS G1 9FP[1] 1,1 3KIA, ROF

658 BARKER, 458W, 248T ELIM
 659 PEARSON 36C5 TO D3
 660 338D 36B4 TO D3
 661 LMG, 648B 37A4 TO B4
 662 STACK 37B5 VS 648B 4FP[1] 4,2 PTC
 663 648B PTC 3,2 OK
 664 STACK 37B5 SFF VS 648B 2FP[1] 1,3 NMC
 665 648B NMC 4,3 OK
 666 LMG, 648B 36B4 TO C5
 667 LMG 36D5 VS 648B 4FP[1] 1,5 ROF, PTC
 668 648B PTC 2,5 OK
 669 LMG ROF VS 648B 4FP[1] 4,3 NE
 670 248Q 36B2 TO D2
 671 SYLVESTER 36E3 AM D3

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE

672 LMG 36D5 VS C5 2FP[2] 1,1 COWER, NMC
 673 648B NMC 4,5 BKN, DM
 674 LMG 36G4 VS E3 2FP[1] 6,5 BKN, DM IN E3
 675 STACK 36F4 VS E3 12FP[2] 1,2 SAN, ROF, 2MC
 676 SAN 6 NE
 677 648E(0)** 2MC 6,1 OK
 678 458S** 2MC 2,5 TO 248J**
 679 SAME SHOT ROF 8FP[2] 5,6 BROKE MMG
 680 RANDOM SELECTION 4,1 MMG WITH 347W ELIM
 681 228(7) 37C6 VS C7 4FP[2] 5,3 NE

ADVANCING FIRE PHASE

682 STACK 36D3 VS G4 2FP[-1] 1,4 1MC
 683 HANA 1MC 2,5 OK
 684 447F 1MC 1,1 HOB [4] 2,5 BERSERK
 685 347T 1MC 6,6 TO 137F**

ROUT PHASE

686 648C 37C7 TO E8
 687 248J 36E3 TO F1
 688 648D 36C5 TO D2

ADVANCE PHASE

689 STACK 36D3 TO E3
 690 248Q 36D2 TO E3
 691 ?G, 248G 37D5 TO C6 CC
 692 STACK 37E5 TO D5
 693 LMG, 648A 37J3 TO J2

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

694 HEX 37C6 AMBUSH [-2/-1] 2, 6
 GURKHA AMBUSH
 GURKHA 1:1 HH CC [-2] 2,3 228(7) ELIM
 ?G, 248G WITHDRAW TO B6
 695 CONCEALMENT HEXES 37D5 ?Q: 37J2 2?

JAPANESE TURN 9

RALLY PHASE

696 WIND CHANGE 2,2 NE
 697 137F 36G4 [-2] 5,3 RALLY
 698 648E(0) 36E3 [1] 6,5 NE
 699 338D 36E3 TRANSFER LMG TO 248Q

PREP FIRE PHASE

700 STACK 36F4 VS E3 8FP[2] 2,4 NMC, ROF
 701 SYLVESTER NMC 6,2 OK
 702 PEARSON NMC 3,3 OK
 703 248Q NMC 5,2 OK
 704 338D NMC 1,6 OK
 705 648E(0) NMC 1,1 HOB [-1] 1,6 HERO, RALLIES! ADD HALL
 706 SAME SHOT MMG ROF 4FP[2] 3,5 NE
 707 STACK 37B5 VS B6 4FP[2] 4,5 NE

MOVEMENT PHASE

708 STACK 36F5 TO G5
 709 STACK 36F8 TO G8 CX
 710 447F(0) 36G4 TO F3
 711 STACK [EXC 338D] 36E3 VS 447F 24FP [-6] 5,5 447F ELIM
 712 RANDOM SW DEST 2 LMG** ELIM
 713 STACK 36G4 TO G5
 714 STACK 36D5 AM E5
 715 STACK [EXC 338D] VS 237N 6FP[-5] 2,2 2KIA, SAN
 716 SAN 6 NE
 717 237N ELIM, RANDOM SW DEST 5 OK
 718 STACK 36B6 TO D5
 719 LMG, 347M 36A7 TO C6

DEFENSIVE FIRE PHASE, ADVANCING FIRE PHASE, ROUT PHASE- NONE

ADVANCE PHASE

720 LMG, 347M 36C5 TO D5
 721 127(G) 36F4 TRANSFER MMG TO 347W
 722 STACK 37G5 TO G4
 723 27(G) 36F4 TO G5
 724 STACK 36G8 TO G7
 725 LMG, 237Q 37B5 TO A6

CLOSE COMBAT PHASE

726 CONCEALMENT HEXES 36G5 ?P, 36D5 ?J

GURKHA TURN 9

RALLY PHASE

727 WIND CHANGE 4,1 NE
 728 648B 36D2 [0] 1,6 RALLY
 729 137D, 137F 36G4 RECOMBINE 347H

MOVEMENT PHASE

730 PEARSON 36E3 TO F3 CREST 1
 731 HALL 36E3 TO F3 CREST 1
 732 STACK E3 AM F3
 733 STACK G4 VS F3 6FP[-2] 4,2 2MC
 734 SYLVESTER 2MC 4,4 BKN, DM
 735 338D 2MC 2,5 BKN, DM
 736 248Q 2MC 6,3 BKN, DM
 737 648E 2MC 5,6 BKN DM
 738 LMG, 604B 36D3 TO E4
 739 STACK F4 VS E4 16FP[-2] 2,5 3MC, ROF
 740 648B 5,3 BKN, DM
 741 GURKHA PLAYER RESIGNS



POINT CROSSFIRE

Crux Of Calais

Robert Banozic: British

Mark Nixon: German

BRITISH PLAYER:

One of my favorite features in the '89 ASL ANNUAL is "A Question of Balance", in which Howard Sylvester and Eugene Murrell claim "To The Square" (ASL Scenario #9) is unbalanced. The peculiar part of it, though, is that they completely disagree on which side is favored. I think it would be interesting to see other such divergent opinions in the hobby press about particular scenarios.

So, when I recently discovered (through Philippe Leonard's ASL NEWS) that "Stand Fast The Guards" is widely considered by many, and not just by me, to be extremely pro-German, and since I had reason to believe from playtest proceedings that Mark Nixon bore some responsibility for this, I challenged him to explain his reasoning in ATP. Well, it turns out I was misinformed. Mark, like most everyone else, agrees the scenario is pro-German. However, he suggested we compare notes on other scenarios, and I readily accepted. We settled upon "The Crux of Calais". and the result of this collaboration is now before you.

Mark and I would like to produce more of these joint scenario analyses for ATP, although it seems more often than not we agree on play balance of published scenarios. Still, we believe a comparison featuring different approaches and playing styles might be of interest, and hope you agree. And, of course, input from ATP readers will be encouraged, be it contrary opinions, suggestions of additional scenarios for discussion (tell us your "worst nightmare" scenario; maybe we can shed some light upon it for you) or whatever! So, without further comment, I leave you to a consideration of our discourse on "The Crux of Calais". You be the judge, and let us know what you think!

CRUX OF CALAIS

BRITISH PERSPECTIVE

RATING: 50%-50%

ADVANTAGES: BRIDGES, ATGs.

The British have two advantages in particular: (i) There are only 3 bridges, and the Germans have to get across at least one of them in order to have a chance at winning; and (ii) the OQF 2-pounder ATGs. The British defense can obviously focus on the chokepoints created by the Germans' need to make a bridge crossing. The 2-pounders are excellent ATGs in their own context (i.e. 1939-41), and are capable of taking out any of the German AFVs in this scenario.

DISADVANTAGE: AFVs

The British armor, however, probably has more value if it simply survives the scenario intact (note the VC) than if it actually tries to kill Germans. And survival for the thin-skinned British AFVs is highly questionable, given the potent AFV's available to the German.

BRITISH SET-UP

I want to make it clear that I do not believe that this scenario is "pro-British". However, I differ with Mark in that I would argue that the Brits do have an equal chance at victory. Set forth here is a defense strategy which, in my opinion, offers the British player the best prospects for success in this scenario.

F4	8-0, 2 squads, MMG, ATR
F4/1	1 squad, ATR
F3/1	1 squad D6/2 40L ATG, crew HIP
C7/1	1 squad
X6/1	1 squad, LMG
X6	1 squad, LMG
Y6/2	1 squad, ATR V5 1 squad, 51mm MTR
Y7	7-0
EE5/5	76mm MTR, crew HIP
M8	9-1, 2 squads, HMG, LMG
N9/1	1 squad
O10/1	1 squad
N9/1	40L ATG, crew HIP

Although Mark is likely to concentrate on driving the spearhead of his attack across only one bridge, and almost certainly will not try to force more than two, I begin without knowing precisely where his attack will fall. Indeed, his decision is likely to be significantly influenced by my own set-up. Thus, my Brits must cover all three approaches. The most isolated bridge, from the British point of

view, and the most likely target for the Germans in my view, is the easternmost bridge at 23H4. This bridge is the most inviting target for the Germans because it is both on a flank and because building 23E4, a key to its defense, is close to the German set-up area. Therefore, this portion of the British defense warrants allocation of a small plurality of the British forces: 5 squads, the MMG, 2 ATRs, the 8-0, and a 40L ATG with crew. Because the hexes immediately north of the E6-H4 road are obscured by smoke (see SSR 3) the British on this flank are compelled to defend from buildings 23E4 and D7.

I would put two squads, the 8-0, the MMG and an ATR in hex F4 at level 0, a squad with another ATR on level 1, and a squad on level 1 of 23F3. Dispersing the force a bit in this manner offers some protection against smoke or avsingle devastating attack in a particular hex or location. The 40L ATG and crew set up HIP in 23D6/2 where it has a good view down the road and across the bridge. The fifth squad goes in 23C7 on level 1. From there it should later advance to R6, level 1, if H4 turns out to be the focus of Mark's attack.

The western bridge is guarded by two squads, each with an LMG split between levels of 23X6. Another squad with an ATR is on level 2 in Y6, and the 7-0 goes in Y7, level 0. The 51mm MTR and a squad go in 23V5 from which they might be able to use air bursts to good effect if any Germans take up positions in 23R4, U3 or W2. V5 offers no protection against incoming fire, but there are few good places for that mortar, and these guys won't be hanging around there long if Mark's troops do come this way.

The center bridge is defended by the remaining squads, SWs and ATG. I like to set up two squads, the HMG, an LMG, and the 9-1 in 23M8, where they should give German infantry second thoughts about moving on the road from 23O7-Y2, thus also covering the approach to the western bridge. In addition, this FG is then well placed to move toward either flank, if necessitated by German actions. Finally, this position receives good cover from the smoke drifting just south of it. Another squad goes in each of the level 1 locations of hexes 23N9 and O10, from which they can protect

the 40L and crew setting up using HIP in 23N9/1. This ATG can then cover both 23P8 and X4, at least one of which the German armor will have to move through if it tries to force either bridge P7 or X3, respectively. An interesting variation is to set up the 40L in 23M8/2, with the 9-1's FG on level 1, or perhaps with the 9-1's group placed in N9.

This leaves only the 76mm MTR (and crew) and the British AFVs to be positioned. The MTR is handicapped due to its six-hex minimum range (always check the ordinance notes). An intriguing possibility is to set up the MTR with HIP in E5, with a Spotter on the second level of F4. Note that as long as the MTR is out of LOS of a GO enemy unit, even if it fires (i.e., using Spotted Fire), it remains HIP (A12.34 is therefore incorrect when applied to Spotted Fire; the A12.121 Concealment Loss/Gain Table is correct. See also the Squad Leader Clinic from The General, Vol. 26 #1). This position offers a relatively good field of fire, and this technique can really rattle an opponent who is neither experienced with - nor expecting Spotted Fire. However, I believe that the Spotted Fire penalties are too limiting to use effectively in this scenario, so I prefer to set up this Gun using HIP in 23EE5/5, where it can cover the western bridge, and has a decent LOS to the hexgrain from 23R4-W2 (where the Germans might pile up to pound on the exposed mortar team at 23V5). This MTR isn't a bad anti-tank weapon, either - it will hurt any of the German AFVs with a TK, DR < 5.

The British AFVs are a fairly unusual and ineffective lot. I've left these until last because it doesn't really matter where they set up, as long as they are dispersed and stay out of the LOS of the Panzers on Turn 1. Since I don't know where Mark will attack, I will spread the AFVs around, and when I see where he is concentrating, I will move these AFVs as far from that point as is prudent. I don't want to go toe-to-toe with the Panzers. But if they do break through and there's no place to hide, I'll use my speed to try to swamp at least one, using Bounding Fire from PB range at the Rear Target Facing. I might as well try to take one down with me. On the other hand, if my ATGs and/or ATRs succeed in neutralizing most

of the German tanks, I might take advantage of specific opportunities to go after the German infantry with the Mk VIs. The SC can also be useful to cut rout paths (it's fast enough to get anywhere you might want to go, including on Board 20) or to OVR broken infantry in the open. And I'll keep my AFVs BU unless I need to use the road MP rate - there's no point letting them get taken out by Snipers.

Guns at the ready, we await the German onslaught.

CRUX OF CALAIS GERMAN PERSPECTIVE

RATING: 75% German
ADVANTAGES: FIREPOWER, INITIAL PREP FIRE, SCHWERPUNKT, SMOKE, GAME LENGTH, AFVs.

I can't believe the British weren't given some dummy ? in this scenario to hamper my initial Prep Fire. Robert has done a decent enough job of trying to hide as much as he can, but he has to leave some troops exposed to prevent me from charging across the bridges on turn #1. A rough count of ROF adjusted FP looks to be about 222 German vs. 136 British. Since I will send about 85% of my strength directly at one bridge, my FP advantage at the schwerpunkt will be about 197 to roughly 50, a true Killer ratio. Even stone buildings can't stop 20 and 30 FP attacks forever. So I won't just rush across a bridge, but will pound with my FP, and when the assault does kick off, will lay in as much smoke as possible and flood across with infantry and tanks against a weakened enemy. Once I secure a bridge and am into the buildings north of the canal, the British lack the strength to push me back.

DISADVANTAGES: BRIDGE CROSSING, THIN ARMOR.

I anticipate heavy losses during the actual crossing. To expect otherwise would be delusion. The British concentrate their fire on the three choke points, and I won't be able to wait till it is all suppressed before I send the orders for the assault to commence. My tanks are no universal cure-all either, for, despite their excellent offensive punch, they are a bit lame in the armor game. The enemy possess 16 weapons which can knock-out my panzers, in addition to CC and Reaction Fire. Despite

the relatively low TK# of much of this fire, the Shocks, stuns, immobilizations and even deliberate immobilizations from those ATRs, will force me to concentrate fire on the enemy SW units. To this end, my infantry have been ordered to fire on targets in this priority: ATG, HMG, ATR, 9-1, MMG, 76mmMTR, 50mmMTR, LMG, infantry.

GERMAN SET-UP:

The bridge I choose to hit will depend much upon how the British deploy. As Robert mentioned, H4 is the most attractive because it can be hammered from C9/2Nd, D9/2Nd, P9/2Nd and then from the 23K4 to J1 buildings once the rest of the infantry have advanced. With the tanks added in, building 23 F3 defenders will be mauled. Indeed, this is usually the best building to go after, and maybe I should do so here. The only drawback is that once I reach 2UH4 itself, any broken units I suffer will never be able to rout back to my lines, because from H4 they see enemy units in 23Y6 and X6 2Nd level positions. Men broken in 23G5 would not see these due to the smoke in H5 and W6, but from here I would have to rout to 23G6 anyway, unless the British were clever enough to start a HS in that location.

In any case, I find the attack on H4 quite mundane, and would rather discuss the more elaborate assault upon X3, where I feel my overwhelming FP will carry the day just as well. Here is my set-up for the attack on the defense Robert picked:

MKIII- DD9/4/CE, CC9/4/CE,
Y10/4/CE, Q10/3 D4/J/CE
MKIV-- R9/3/CE
BB9 8-0, 3 squads
AA10 7-0, 3 squads
Z7.2 8-1, 2 squads, HMG, MMG
OY10 9-1, 3 squads, MMG, 2 LMG
X9 8-0, 3 squads, 3 LMG
W10 2 squads
Q10 1 squad

The attack opens with an s9 shot at 23T4 from the MKIV; any TH DR less than 10 yields smoke in the hex, although I hope to roll less than 9 in order to have more smoke in future turns. Note that the hedge does not affect the Area Target Type shot. If successfully landed, this shot and its drifting smoke will obviously lessen the threat from the British 9-1 and HMG FG, allowing me to concentrate on the

enemy in building Y7. Next come shots from the MKIII's in DD9 and CC9 on the 23Y6 2Nd level ATR outpost, featuring two 8+3 MG shots, (notice that the BMGs also fire, as insurance against an untimely roll of boxcars, as this leaves a 41% chance it will be the BMG, and not the CMG which breaks, allowing for the 16% chance that both break). Even the MA's fire, as any hit here will bring a 4 EVEN attack, with plenty of ROF potential. My B11 MA's will eventually breakdown, but I won't try to repair them unless the CMG is kaput. Next the Z7 MG firebase unleashes a 16+2 at 23Y6 if still in GO, or otherwise at X6. Luck with ROF will continue to shoot-up these targets until broken, and then, could I be this lucky, move on to hit the 51mmMtr position at V5 with 6-1 or 12-1, whatever is still firing. I'd like to move forward with the 9-1 platoon, but I bet I will be firing it instead, most likely at X6, for I should hope the Y6 ATR boys are down by this point. Finally, I'd also like to move forward with the MKIII in Y10, even if only to 23Y1 to provide cover for the 9-1 platoon when it advances, but if GO squads still exist in Y6/X6, this tank, too, will whip on them.

The other dozen squads move forward in MPH to A41, Z2, X1, W2, V2 and armored assault to 23P3. Probably the only tank move is the armored assault MKIII continuing on to P4, which is where the squad will advance, to nail down the P8, 9, 10 choke point. Finally, the forgotten man in 20D9 defends the H4 crossing point, exactly twelve hexes from it with one of those horrendously devious LOS we ASL players are known to love. He hits I4 with the CMGs 8 FP, and additional 1 FP from the BMG at long range, and, once -2 acquisition is gained, a 50% chance of scoring a critical hit on any infantry braving the hex PFFAM and FFMO, which would be resolved as an 8-2 on the IFT. Now, I can't claim all will go as I'd have it, but assuming these moves were to work, I would be able to fire AFPH with 12 FP from AA3 and Z2, 8 FP from X1 and 4 FP from W2 and V2. This might finish off someone left in building Y7, or, at least, knock off the 51mmMTR squad in V5. If I have been reasonably successful, and also if smoke did land in T4, I will end my turn by advancing out onto the W3-Z3 road with single squads in most cases, but with large stacks in X2

and Y1 if not subject to significant enemy Prep Fire. I will also button-up every place where CE status would no longer be helpful. Notice that my D4 outpost is so far from the rest of my troops, that he will never be subjected to any Sniper attack.

One potential weakness in setting-up an ATG in the N9 region, is that a spreading fire DR might place a flame in V5 or W5. Should one or both of these turn into a blaze, the LOS from that ATG becomes very poor indeed. I would normally expect to see an ATG in building Y7, although Robert is correct that stationing it in N9 does make it a much more difficult matter for me to knock it out. I would also expect the British to normally have someone in reserve inside building Y7, for if I do get lucky and break the four squads (requiring luck, but entirely possible on Turn #1), there is no-one for the British to APH out to the front of the building to deny it to me on Turn #2; they would have to rely upon long range fire from the east, and yet that might be effectively screened by my sD smoke. Notice that the right amount of smoke hindrance along the orchard road, placing N9 out of LOS, will allow my broken troops in X3 to rout to building Y7, once secure. The Rout Phase, in this case, allows safe crossing, and I may even intentionally break X3/X4 units to get them across the canal safe and sound quickly.

My attack has tried to capitalize on weaknesses in the British defense of building 23Y7. The V5 squad, if he breaks, will drop the 51mmMTR and rout to V6, to wonder how he will ever rally and get back to V5 to reclaim the weapon. If I do get lucky and break all four squads on my initial turn, someone must rally from DM status on the British turn #1 in order to advance forward to enforce some caution on my turn #2 MPH. Consider how much better it would have been to retain a 4-5-7 in Y7 to gain concealment after set-up, and then advance out to X6 concealed to deter my turn #2 moves! For that matter, one of the four squads defending P7 could have been committed for this reserve; four squads at P7 is overkill in my book. They certainly aren't needed there at set-up. Another option would have been to start some of the central British force west of

the P row, such as in Q9 or S9/2. That could have precluded my MKIII and squad in P4 from throwing a lock on the P row choke point. As it is, though, the added fire from Z3 and AA3 will stop or slow British efforts to move across this bottleneck. No doubt the enemy will try to lay sD smoke to cover the area, and will be wishing that 51mmMTR were in the region to also try its s7 potential.

Remember that infantry cannot lay smoke in the three upwind hexes during a mild breeze, so that option is out. I would like to mention a few choice spots where I anticipate seeing those pesky British APV's. My favorite is a MkVIB in Y7/4 TCA/6, which covers Y6 and X6 with 20FP, and 8FP SFP. Sure makes the attack on this building tougher! The other MkVIB in F4 and the MkVIC in E5 help nail down G5 and entice MKIII's towards the 40L in D6, and even the Daimler is quite safe in L8 while covering P8.

CONTINUING ATTACK

The 76mmMTR is going to catch me by surprise on its initial shot; its 6 FP attack doesn't scare me but, as Robert said, it can hurt my tanks. Once sighted in EE5, it will distract me a bit, but a little 16+1 attention from 20Z7 should silence the tube. Notice this mortar cannot fire SMOKE in 1940. I expect my FP to control building Y7, and start working on the enemy HMG position as soon as any smoke I've placed clears, especially once I move the big machineguns to Z2/1st. I will blast away all targets and begin assault moving and advancing across the bridge on turn #2. To draw out the ATG, I have begun with a MKIII exposed in 20Y10, and done all I could to suppress enemy light antitank fire in my initial Prep. Should this fail to reveal the 40L, I will toss a MKIII across the bridge, fully expecting to lose this tank, but to also find the ATG in the process and create a bit of wreck cover in X2/X3/X4 or W6, which will hopefully be a burning wreck: a blazing hulk on the bridge itself would be incredibly wonderful! Once located, the 40L becomes my #1 target, and will allow me to identify the best spot for another round of s9 from the MKIV, cooperating with an ample supply of such shells, in my dreams at least. If that ATG maintained ROF on my initial MKIII thrust, the

rest of the tanks hide from it while the infantry take it out over the next few turns. But if the gun lost ROF, all tanks rush across the bridge immediately, as only one Intensive Fire shot is available to the gun, since I won't overrun it in a building at this point, anyway. Once my MKIII's can romp on the northern shore, the threat of their 20 FP Overruns will help discourage any British free-wheeling thoughts, and also force their AFV's further from my bridgehead.

The enemy immediately before me on the north side of the canal simply cannot withstand my FP; the British in the N9 environs cannot throw out enough of their own FP to overcome the range, smoke/ vehicle/ bridge/ orchard hindrance and TEM and my wealth of squads; and even any reinforcements which manage to come at me will, themselves, be chewed. I expect to cross with enough squad equivalents that the British will have to counterattack, and this they are not equipped to do. This, in fact, is why I rate the scenario heavily pro-German; the British will be forced to come at me, and when that happens, they have, basically, already lost. On those occasions when I cross a bit short of squad equivalents against an enemy who pulls away from me, I will still have plenty of time, about 5-6 turns, to chase them down on the north bank with my superior FP and AFV's, freed now to work on the foe without the restraint of that bridge crossing. My 2JD4 tank leaves its outpost and makes the crossing in two movement phases, and, overall, the British might win one out of four encounters, usually occurring when the 40L commands impressive ROF and I experience poor luck with the s9 and sD rolls.

BRITISH RESPONSE

At first glance, Mark's carefully planned attack sure seems to make a shambles out of my defense. But wait a minute. It's true that if everything goes right for the attacker, and everything goes wrong for the defender, the attacker will win. That's the way it works in real life, and that's the way it works in ASL. However, as Mark acknowledges, that's probably a bit much for him to expect.

For example, I believe that it is reasonable to hope that the ATR outpost at 23Y6 will weather the FP from the MkIIIs; their 8+3 shots

aren't too frightening, and their MAs have to get a hit - not at all a sure thing - before even trying a 4 FP attack. In fact, the chance of Mark getting a hit resulting in at least a MC on the first MA shot for each (6.9%) is less than the chance of malfunctioning the MA (8.3%). And, if the outpost also manages to withstand the fire it draws from Z7, Mark's timetable could begin to crumble. On the other hand, even if the ATR guys succumb to Z7, it's not unlikely that at least one of the two squads at X6 will still be standing after the PPh. At least, that's what I'm hoping.

Mark seems to disagree with my decision to keep two squads up front at X6. The main reason for this is statistics. Three squads, instead of two, up front in building Y7 increase by 50% the chances that somebody will be able to fire in self-defense after German Prep; or at least it will force more German units to fire to try to break them all. As Mark admits, he doesn't expect to have any units which will dash across the bridge on turn 1 anyway. If the front line squads in this building go down too easily, I very well might see Germans across the canal on Turn 1. Mark's suggestion that some Brits be redeployed to reinforce the west is an excellent idea, if you happen to know that the Germans will attack X3. But if the attack instead falls in the east, these units would then have to cross the same P8-9-10 chokepoint to bolster the defense.

The mortar team at V5 will try to smoke AA3, messing up the German's AFPh attack. If they get ROF or don't have smoke, they'll get their chance to use air bursts against W2, with their Inherent FP directed at wherever it might do the most good. The 76mm MTR is another story, though, and Mark might find it to be a little scarier than he expects; with a 6-1 against W2, 6 FP on V2 and the W3-Y3 road, and a good ROF (I can dream, too), this piece has the potential to do serious damage to his infantry if Mark should unknowingly present a juicy target. Otherwise, it can remain HIP until some of those big stacks or AFVs move in front of its sights. When this MTR does fire and reveal itself, I expect that its presence will dissuade Mark from advancing substantial forces onto the W3-Y3 road. If I am lucky and retain its concealment, Mark might

have to work awhile to put a stop to that mortar fire. And he probably won't try to cross the bridge until he does that.

With the first British player turn 1 can begin to react to Mark's attack. Everyone in Y6 and X6 moves to Y7 if they haven't already routed there. The MMCs which can do so will advance back to X6/Y6 in the APH and try to hold back the German tide for another turn. They will continue to rotate like this in each of my player turns as long as they are ambulatory. If the mortar team at V5 is still on duty, it will drop the light mortar and move through V6, under cover of smoke, to W7, from where it will later advance into building Y7. If the situation in the building gets as bad as Mark expects (and eventually it might, but not, I hope, on Turn 1) or if LOS from my ATG is threatened with being blocked by smoke, someone is going to have to volunteer to make the supreme sacrifice. Despite what I said before about keeping them out of harm's way, the tankers get nominated. There just isn't anybody else. Assuming that I can manage it without moving into the LOS of the German tanks, one of the Mk VIs that I have parked in the backfield could be moved to BB6/6 or EE6/6 - or maybe one to each hex, if really necessary. They probably won't last long, but should deter a German bridge crossing for a turn or two, and will certainly draw some heat from building Y7. This will also give any broken units in Y7 more time to come around. If one or two of the Panzers have malfunctioned their MA firing at stone buildings, these tanks might actually be around for awhile. And since each Mk VI could get several TK rolls against any German tanks that move up to greet them before the Germans get a reasonable shot themselves, even with my low TK's I have a decent chance to bag one of the German AFVs as a bonus.

The FG at M8 (which could have moved east if H4 had been threatened) moves to N9 if the Pzkw IV had smoke, later to advance to level 1 (so as not to inadvertently draw fire to the ATG). From there it covers X4 (and can always return to level 0 if it should need to see out to X2). The 8-0 in F4 says "Go west, young man!", and everyone in that building takes his advice. The 8-0's own FG, joined by the squad from C7, can be in O10 by the end

of Turn 3, thanks to the help from the leader. The squad that started in N9 joins his buddy at O10 (but on a different level) and together they begin the effort to break down the squad at P4 (it's a close shave because of the smoke in O6, but there's a clear LOS from O10-P4). The large force assembling in N9/O10 can be organized to interdict X4 or X2 with less FP from N9 and/or to suppress the Germans at P4 from O10, as the situation requires. With two ATRs eventually in this area, even the German tank will be threatened. Ultimately, some or all of these units will try to get across the P8-9-10 chokepoint - maybe as early as Turn 4.

When Mark's first AFV does charge across the bridge, I've got to hope for ROF with the ATG and to maintain concealment. There's just nothing else to be done about it. The risk of a Blaze spreading to the orchard road, blocking my ATGs LOS, is an acceptable one, I believe. The Final Spreading Fire DR for V5 is a '10' or more, and for W6, an '11'. Although it is not improbable that a Blaze will eventually appear here, hopefully this will not occur during the first several turns of the game. And if the worst does develop, and a Blaze should start in one or both of these hexes, the ATG at N9 still has a decent LOS to X2 (only +1 Hindrance from Q8). The burning wreck Mark would like to see on X3 isn't going to happen-- after all the ATG doesn't have a decent shot to X3. A blaze on the orchard road will marginally diminish the effectiveness of the Gun, but will not eliminate it as a serious threat to the Panzers.

I am a bit surprised that Mark would expect an ATG in Building Y7. It's a safe bet that one is covering H4, and if the other is in the west, the bridge at P7 would be pretty naked, given my dispositions. Imagine the debacle if all the German tanks should stroll across P7 on Turn 1 without an ATG to present serious opposition; the Brits would probably be well advised to concede right then and there, before further embarrassment. Any German who really anticipated this British set-up might be tempted to strike in the center - where my ATG is waiting for him. That would be OK by me.

The only real quarrel that I have with Mark's strategy is that he opts to have many of his tanks CE. He's going to be doing a lot of dice rolling, and I wouldn't risk losing one of those Panzers to a Sniper. They're just too valuable. I'm also not sure I'd take all of those relatively low-yield MA shots with B11, either. Those are VPs, after all, and anyhow should be preserved to knock out the British armor.

With reasonable luck, I think that the Brits should be able to interdict X4 (or to a lesser degree, X2) with sufficient strength to deter a German crossing until at least Turn 5 - or cause unacceptable losses if the big push comes before then. This should afford the British enough time to reinforce the western flank before the Germans cross in strength. It may not guarantee a British win, but it should give them a fighting chance.

GERMAN RESPONSE

I would like to finish by addressing a number of points covered by Robert, only viewed from the German perspective. These I have numbered in the sequence they are mentioned in his "British Response" section.

1. The Z3Y6 ATR outpost will escape my two MKIII shots without taking at least a NMC only about 40% of the time, thanks, in part, to my decision to fire the MA CE in order to maximize the probability of attaining a hit. They hit with a "4" or less on their first shots, "5" or less with ROF and "6" or less once doubly acquired. They might enjoy an occasional CH/Multiple Hit, and the MG's register at least a NMC on a roll of "5" or less. Robert is correct that I don't really want to breakdown the MA, and that is why the MG's fire first. But if they fail to break the ATR squad, the MA won't hesitate to open up, for that ATR and squad can hurt me more than breaking a 37L would cause me alarm. These tanks have four or more chances to roll a 4 or 5 and possibly break the 4-5-7, and I'll try that attack every time.

2. I'm still not afraid of the 76mmMTR. The 6 FP attack makes it just one more piece in the enemy arsenal to be dispatched, and certainly not the most intimidating piece at that. Once revealed I

might pull tanks into AA2/BB2 and pummel it without fear of retaliation as I would be under its effective range. The mortar will fall early.

3. Robert's decision to move armor out into the open at BB6 and EE6, or anywhere for that matter, surprises me, as my MKIII's will maul the British AFV's. Even my SW's can kill these critters. Notice that my eight MG's enjoy better Tk#'s vs. British tanks than that armor has against my panzers, and my ROF advantage both with MG's and 37L's is outstanding.

4. Notice that all British plans for defenders in O10 and N9/1st are largely foiled by the orchard road; this building does not provide terribly effective shots on the X3 bridge area.

5. The 8-0 group will have a hard time reaching O10 by turn #3 due to long range fire from 20Z7/2Nd. This firebase controls the road from 23H6-E8 with a 2-3 shot should anyone try to cross during MPH.

6. Robert is certainly cavalier in his dismissal of fire spreading to the orchard road! There is 66% chance at least one flame will spread to V5/W5 by the end of turn #2, and don't forget that even once a flame exists in a location, additional flames can spread there and subsequently also roll to spread into a blaze. Since orchard flame becomes a blaze on any DR of "9" or higher, my book makes that the extremely rare scenario in which fire does not burn the orchard road in Crux of Calais. [Note that the drifting smoke could disappear should the wind level increase/decrease, but any wind direction change would aid the German cause.]

7. It is just an interesting tidbit to note that the chance of the ATG hitting and harming a moving tank at X2 is about 15%, as it would require a DR of "4" or less to hit.

8. We would have to see practically nothing defending the bridge at P7 to expect the German to go for it. Of course the British would love to see the German make for that bridge; that would at least convince me to give the British a 50% chance to win the encounter. But if the infantry try to cross at P7 they have no decent jump-off point, cannot even threaten a crossing until turn #2, and will be

subjected to fire from both flanks (Y6, X6, F3 and F4 2Nd levels), as well as their front. German broken have no place to rally which cannot be hit by enemy fire and any British AFV driven into their rear will provide a major headache thanks to the open LOS around the area bounded by the hedge; that enemy AFV could deny rout to a lot of broken units. As for getting the tanks across the canal, that is normally not really much of a problem even in a direct assault on one of the 40L defended bridges. One of the problems with *Crux of Calais* is that it is a valid enough tactic to simply throw all six tanks across a bridge immediately, on the first turn of the game. Any British player shocked into an early surrender by such a move may as well avoid the scenario in the future, as the move is a good one and will be repeated, despite it not being the attack I have chosen to illustrate on this particular outing.

9. CE tanks are a matter of taste and style, I suppose. I want them CE to enhance their offensive punch via added hits. I prefer to try to kill the enemy rather than spare my MA and hide from his sniper, especially in a situation like this, facing only slim enemy firepower against my overwhelming strength. I choose to view my tanks as offensive weapons which I might use to reduce the enemy, more than as victory points I might coyly hide and sneak across the canal to help satisfy a VC I should have no problem attaining in any case.

CONCLUSION

Were you expecting mud slinging and name-calling? We hope this is only the beginning of a concerted effort to present opposing viewpoints of the many ASL scenarios. No way, of course, will we be able to cover every scenario, so send in your votes, to either one of us, for the scenarios you'd most like to see explored. We'll step onto the firing line and take a shot at whatever the majority want to read. Please feel free to contact:

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PANZER GEGEN PANZER

Part Two: Hit to Kill

Bruce Bakken

Reprise

Part One of this article introduced to the reader the concept of the Tank Engagement, and asserted that the tank's primary task on the battlefield is to destroy the enemy's tanks. The article further stated in somewhat vague terms that "the objective of a successful tank battle at the individual level becomes that of increasing one's own odds while reducing the opponent's", without really getting into the specifics of how this might be accomplished.

Since a tank is characterized by its three principles -- namely Mobility, Firepower, and Protection -- it became expedient to divide the article into parts roughly correlating with each of these principles as they relate to winning the Engagement. Thus, Part One dealt with Mobility and how to best take advantage of a tank's movement options. Part Two, then, will explore the second principle of the tank: Firepower.

A tank's firepower provides the means by which it can destroy an enemy tank. Each tank is armed with an inherent Gun, which is categorized by sub-type (D1.3). Each MA Caliber Size (C2.21) is assigned a Basic TK# (C7.1) depending upon the ammunition used, which is further modified by various factors and then subtracted from the target's applicable AF to receive a Final TK# (C7.11) needed to destroy the target.

Tank combat in ASL is a two-step process: "C3.1... First the firer must determine if he has hit the target; if he has, he must then determine the effect(s), if any, of that hit." It is through this "two-step process" that the player can most directly influence "one's own odds" so Part Two will concentrate upon the To Hit Process (C3.), and the various To Kill Tables (C7.) as they relate to winning the Engagement.

Before proceeding further, however, it may be well to review in greater detail the concept of the "tank

Engagement", so this will be discussed first. Again, the reader is reminded that only Chapters A-D are covered here, and that Optional Rules or SSR are not considered unless specifically mentioned. Even though some points mentioned herein may well apply to various combat situations, the main concern is with tank-versus-tank encounters and how to defeat the enemy armor.

Engagement

Recall from Part One that a tank was said to have Engaged the enemy when it could apply To Hit Case N (Acquired Target; C6.5) to its next shot, and that a full Engagement takes place when opposing tanks have Acquired (and thus Engaged) each other. The term "Engagement" is a convention used to describe the situation in which this mutual Acquisition occurs, and as such provides a convenient means of reference for this event. Thus, the phrase "winning the Engagement" could be alternately expressed as "destroying the enemy when both you and he have Acquired one another", but this of course is rather cumbersome. It becomes much simpler to use a single understood term, and to build the discussion around it.

Yet the term "Engagement" is much more than a mere convention, because implicit in its definition is the understanding that if the first shot fails you will try a second shot, and possibly more, until the target is destroyed. Indeed, the whole purpose of placing an Acquired counter on a target is so you might benefit from a favorable DRM on your next shot. Furthermore, if you destroy the target with the first shot (or conversely, if the enemy destroys you with his first shot), then there is no need to worry about the matter at any rate.

But suppose your first shot misses. No problem, you just plunk an Acquired counter on the target and expect to get a better crack at it next time. Suppose further that your opponent fires at you and likewise misses, thereby placing an Acquired counter on you. Now there is serious trouble afoot. you have suddenly become a target yourself, with every expectation that, if given a chance, the enemy is going to "take another crack" at you.

This is just the sort of situation that this article is intended to address, and destroying the enemy in this case is what is meant by "winning the Engagement". It will be assumed for the remainder of Part Two that you will seek to Engage the enemy armor at every opportunity.

Of course there are many factors to be considered in winning the Engagement. A side's odds may differ drastically from situation to situation, and will largely influence the course of action at any given moment.

The various modifiers which affect an Engagement will be discussed shortly. For the moment, however, we will assume that the odds remain equal for both sides, in which case it becomes more a matter of timing. From this can be established certain principles which might be referred to as the "Rules of Engagement":

1. Take the first shot. This is intended to be literal. It stands to reason that the side shooting first will have the first opportunity to destroy the enemy. Such a shot may occur during Bounding First Fire, or as a fleeting Defensive First Fire shot, and may not result in an Engagement per se. Nevertheless, there is a distinct advantage to be gained by shooting first. By remaining alert and actively seeking that first shot, you may present yourself with additional opportunities, such as a shot at the enemy's side or rear facing. Furthermore, the side shooting first will usually, benefit from Rule #2.

2. Take the first shot of the Engagement. This could also be stated as "Take the first shot that benefits from a Case N DRM." Disregarding ROF and Intensive Fire for the moment, the side benefitting from Case N receives a considerable advantage. First, at the very least Case N will negate Case I (Buttoned Up; C5.9). Second, both protagonists will likely be stationary, and few Positive modifiers will apply (the exceptions probably being TEM or LOS Hindrances). What will usually result is a "straight" shot, or even a negative modifier, which is enough to make any but the most invulnerable tanker somewhat nervous at any but extreme ranges.

At close range, a hit may become as "automatic" as it will ever get.

3. Take more shots than the enemy. This may, but does not have to, include using Intensive Fire, which will be discussed later. Similar to Rule #1 in that the more shots you take, the more chances you give yourself to destroy the enemy. A so-called "realist" might point out that more shots means more likelihood of a Gun malfunction, but consider that the odds of this occurring are usually identical to that of obtaining a CH. Think positive!

It can be seen that these three Rules of Engagement are primarily defensive in nature, and this is not difficult to understand. Because the game is played in phases, one side will be moving while the other side sits, watches, and waits. By striving to achieve all three of the Rules, you will quickly find that your first shot (Rule #1) will likely occur during your DFPh (A.15); that your first shot of the Engagement (Rule #2) will occur during the ensuing PFPh; and that by following rules #1 and #2 throughout the scenario you will accumulate more shots than your opponent.

By taking the first shot in the DFPh, you leave yourself the option of attempting to escape during the next Player Turn or taking the next shot "with odds". If you miss with the second shot, you can then consider using Intensive Fire. If the enemy survives your Player Turn, however, the advantage reverts to him and all you can do is hold your breath and hope for the best. It is the rare Engagement which lasts more than a Player Turn or two. Luck is the imponderable element in tank warfare (a topic which will be discussed more fully in Part Four), so one side is bound to destroy the enemy after a couple tries. All else remaining equal, the Rules of Engagement are intended to bestow an advantage upon the firer who follows them.

To Hit...

Once you have decided to Engage the enemy, your next decision involves which Target Type to use. Only two choices are available: you can either use the Vehicle Target Type (C3.31), or the Area Target Type (C3.33). The Vehicle Target Type is the most obvious, and is assumed

barring a declaration to the contrary (C.9).

However, at certain points in the battle you may find yourself facing a formidable AFV which your MA has little or no chance of destroying. If such an enemy has you trapped, and the odds of escaping make it seem likely that you will be destroyed in the attempt, you may decide that you might as well go down in a "blaze of glory". Knowing full well that your Gun can not destroy the enemy under normal circumstances, what do you do?

Well, you could fire using the Vehicle Target Type and hope for a CH (C3.7), an unlikely occurrence not to be relied upon. Or, you could fire HE using the Area Target Type. The odds of a CH remain the same, but a normal hit gives you one more chance to destroy the enemy, resolved as per C1.55. Applicable DRM may still make a kill rather unlikely, but you may Immobilize the enemy, or shock him (which in itself may result in his elimination; C7.4). Also bear in mind that if his crew are CE they will be more Vulnerable to a General Collateral Attack (A.14B) when using the Area Target Type than with normal HE Equivalency (C8.31) using AP shot.

Since TEM apply to the resolution of an attack on the Area Target Type, if the enemy occupies protective terrain then even this option may be of little use to you. Overall, the circumstances in which you will choose the Area over the Vehicle Target Type are probably pretty limited. Your best bet would likely be to attempt an escape if you find yourself in an unfavorable position to Engage the enemy. Be aware of your options, though. If desperate situations call for desperate measures, consider using the Area Target Type as a last resort.

At any rate, the C3 To Hit Table will have a direct bearing upon the Range at which you Engage the enemy. The table itself is divided into six-hex increments, with the Basic TH# in each column decreasing as the Range increases. Obviously, the closer you are to the target, the better are your odds of hitting it. Notice also that there are two Basic TH# listed for each Range, one black and one red. Basically, your nationality will determine which color you will use (A25), though this sometimes varies with

the date of the action. The discrepancy between the black TH# and red TH# means that the side which must use the red TH# will probably attempt to get fairly close to the target to insure a rough parity. This is one reason that most Engagements will usually take place within twelve-hex range.

These Basic TH# are modified by the C4 Gun & Ammo TH Modifications to reach a Modified TH#. The C4 Modifiers may further influence your decision of what Range to open the Engagement. For instance, if your MA has an "L" or "LL" Gun Type, you may want to keep the enemy at a longer range in order to take advantage of your gun's "standoff" capability, somewhat analogous to a boxer with a longer reach keeping his opponent at an optimum distance. Most ASL mapboards are so arranged that typical LOS will not exceed beyond twelve hexes, so chances are you would not be able to take advantage of these modifiers. If an open expanse does exist, or if any dominant hills in the area afford excellent LOS, you may wish to Engage at the longer Ranges. (This is one reason the Panther is so lethal at extreme ranges -- besides its high Basic TK#, of course.)

Conversely, the TH# for "*" Guns, or for smaller calibers, tends to decrease more rapidly as the range increases. The modifier for small caliber may be offset by the "L" modifiers discussed above, but generally such a tank will likely prefer to Engage at shorter ranges. Notice that the modifiers for a Gun less-than or equal-to 40mm are cumulative (C4.2).

Finally, the Basic TH# is modified drastically if APDS/APCR is used. The application of Special Ammunition will be discussed in a future issue, but is mentioned here simply to avoid an oversight.

Any player interested in an excellent experience on the effects of Range, red- versus- black TH!, and C4 Modifiers should play "Counterattack At Sidi Bou Zid" More than any other, this scenario will help you develop a real "feel" for the C3 To Hit Table.

The Modified TH# thus reached is then modified by various Firer and Target Based DRM. One of the ways an attacker can directly "increase his odds" is via the C5 Firer-Based

To Hit DRM. For the most part the firer can control which of these DRM will be applicable to a given shot. What follows next, then, is an analysis of some of the C5 DRM which most commonly affect the outcome of a TH DR during an armored Engagement. For convenience's sake, they will be presented in the order they appear on the table.

Case A; Fire Outside CA. This is fairly self-explanatory: "C5.11 All Guns use Case A to fire at targets outside their current CA when changing their CA for a shot in that phase." Ideally, you would rather not have to change CA when firing. This is not always possible, of course, but since you as a player can usually see where your opponent's units are located (the omniscient player syndrome), you can place the CA of your MA to face the direction of the greatest threat.

Note as well that "the Case A DRM is doubled if the firer is in woods/building/rubble..Furthermore, once such a Gun.. fires from woods/building/ rubble it may continue to fire during that phase from that hex only inside its current CA." These factors alone present a strong argument against placing your tank in such restricting terrain. The benefit gained from TEM may be offset to a large degree by these penalties, not to mention the initial hazard of Bogging to enter the terrain in the first place. As always, the circumstances will determine your willingness to accept these difficulties.

Also remember that a Gun may change its CA without firing at the end of any fire phase in which it is still able to fire without using Intensive Fire (C3.22). This tactic may prove useful in avoiding the doubled-Case A DRM for woods/building/ rubble, though if VCA is changed in this manner while in such terrain (D2.11) you would still have to pass a Bog DR.

Finally, a vehicle in Bypass which changes TCA to or through a side Target Facing must add +1 to the Case A DRM (C2.321). In addition, a "TCA based on a bypass side Target Facing... must pay appropriate Case A (C5.1) penalties For firing within this enlarged CA...", unless the target is Acquired (Engaged). This is an important consideration in using VBM that was touched upon in Part One.

The simplest way to avoid Case A is to position your tank in such a way that the enemy cannot possibly avoid your field of fire, bearing in mind that is precisely what the enemy is likely going to try to do.

Case B; Fire In AFPh. Case B applies to all "Guns firing during the AFPh which did not enter their current hex during that Player Turn..." It is not very likely that a firer will use Case B by itself during an Engagement. Usually such a Gun would instead fire during the PFPh, since waiting until the AFPh allows the enemy to intervene with fire during the DFPh.

Of course, it may be that the enemy was destroyed during Prep Fire and that no decent targets remain, perhaps being concealed or outside of the firer's CA. You might want to sit tight and await developments rather than move during the MPh, particularly if you occupy an excellent tactical position.

Case B will probably be used most often when a vehicle changes its CA in lieu of firing as per C3.22, in which case the Case B DRM may actually be less than the appropriate Case A DRM would have been. Keep in mind, however, that a vehicle may only fire once during the AFPh, may not use Intensive Fire, and that Case B is increased to +3 for a firer in woods/ building/ rubble (thus providing another reason for not occupying such terrain.)

Case C; Bounding Fire. Case C applies to a vehicle which has entered a new hex during the MPh, but does not fire until the AFPh. Case C is based upon Case B and the vehicle's Turret Type (D1.3), and is the usual situation in which Case B will apply.

It can be seen that using Bounding Fire involves moving into the enemy's LOS (since it may be presumed that you would Prep Fire otherwise), and that the enemy could fire at you in the meantime during the DFPh. Thus, it would seem that Bounding Fire breaks the Rules of Engagement discussed previously, since the enemy would get the first shot (Rule #1), and the enemy would get the first shot using Case N (Rule #2). Indeed, it appears the enemy holds all the advantages in this case and that

Bounding Fire should rarely, if ever, be used.

As a generalization this might do, if the only factors involved were your tank and a lone enemy in open terrain. Since many factors come into play during a typical battle, you may find it advantageous to try to work your way into a favorable position in order to destroy the enemy before an Engagement even occurs.

For instance, it may happen that the enemy is already Engaged with a different friendly unit. By moving another tank into this enemy's LOS, you offer him the rather unpleasant prospect of becoming the target of two different attackers. Or perhaps the enemy currently occupies restrictive terrain (woods/ building/ rubble), thus enabling you to maneuver around him and confronting him with an excessive Case A DRM should he choose to fire. In any case, should the enemy fire and miss, and should you fire in the ensuing APPh (Case C) and miss, the enemy would gain the advantage.

If your tank is so formidable as to be virtually invulnerable, then you may have no reservations about moving right up to the enemy and allowing him that first shot. This should be regarded as the exception rather than the norm, because at the very least you should be wary of a Deliberate Immobilization attempt. As always, the situation will dictate your course of action. Bounding Fire is generally not the ideal way to open the Engagement, but should be considered as a means of destroying the enemy before any Engagement can develop. This is especially true if the enemy's DFPh TH DRM would be greater than your APPh TH DRM.

If you wish to fire without risking the prospect of an Engagement, you may fire during the MPh using Bounding First Fire (D3.3). Unless you have a continuous LOS for three or less MP during that Player Turn, the DRM for Bounding First Fire would be the same as waiting until the APPh to fire. Thus, there is no great disadvantage to firing during the MPh unless Restricted Aim (Case C1) or Limited Aim (Case C2) applies.

Since a target cannot become Acquired during Bounding First Fire (D6.55), this is more of a "hit-and-run" tactic, intended to

destroy the target in passing than to become involved in a full-fledged Engagement. Especially if your MA has a chance against the enemy armor, but your armor could not possibly withstand a blow from the enemy's gun, you would try to hit the enemy and then get back under cover.

This is all fine and well provided the enemy obliges you by sitting lamely and letting you shoot. Unfortunately, you subject yourself to possible Defensive First Fire with every MP expenditure. On the plus side, you can declare a Gun Duel (C2.2401) and possibly preempt the enemy's Defensive First Fire. The side with the lowest C5 and Acquisition DRM will be able to fire first, so if you are planning to use Bounding First Fire, choose a route that will allow you to win any potential Gun Duels. (This rule is a potentially daunting one to sort out, but the time spent studying it may prove useful later during the heat of combat.)

It is not actually necessary to stop before firing during the MPh. You can use Motion Fire (Case C4; C5.35), a tactic favored by the Russians more for its psychological effect than with any great expectation of causing real damage. The psychological effect is lost in ASL, but the inherent inaccuracy of such fire remains, that being the appropriate Case C DRM with a doubling of the lower dr. This is indeed the proverbial "long shot", and would only be considered by a Motion vehicle during Defensive Fire, or when you want to retain every available MP during the MPh and yet want to take a crack at the enemy on the way by.

The final thing to consider about Bounding First Fire is that once any vehicular weapon fires, its other weapons may fire in the phase only from that same hex (D3.51). Take care not to inadvertently fire a MG during the MPh and thus restrict your MA to firing from that hex.

Case F; Intensive Fire. Once you have exhausted your normal ROF, you may take one additional shot as Intensive Fire (C5.6). Intensive Fire entails a risk for the firer in that the B# of the Gun is reduced by two (as per A.11). you also suffer a loss of accuracy by adding a +2 DRM to the TH DR. Therefore, Intensive Fire is a

calculated risk at best, since a "12" DR will result in a Recalled tank.

Since Case N can apply to an Intensive Fire attack, at least the +2 DRM of Case F can be reduced or negated. Further, Intensive Fire can be used to place an Acquired counter, or to flip an already existing Acquired counter to its -2 side.

Yet it still comes down to that reduced B#, and this should be your determining factor in deciding whether or not to use Intensive Fire. You should generally hold off using this option until the Engagement is well under way, when the enemy has a good chance of hitting you should it survive your initial fire. Untimely or excessive use of Intensive fire can only lead to grief.

Case G; Deliberate Immobilization Attempt. "Often an AFV target's AF is so formidable that it makes a kill by certain Guns unlikely if not impossible." Even if this were not the case, you may decide at certain times that an Immobile enemy is as good as a dead one (particularly if he must exit units to win), and so may attempt to Immobilize him using Case C (C5.7).

To try Deliberate Immobilization, you must have a Basic TK# greater than the target's lowest hull AF, and you must score a hull hit at no more than six hex range. A kill is not possible using Case G, but you may force the crew to leave its vehicle (D5.5).

As Acquisition does not apply to a Deliberate Immobilization attempt, the +5 DRM may make such a hit a tough proposition. Since Case C is always voluntary, it becomes a tactical decision made on the spot.

Case I; Buttoned Up. The pros and cons of remaining CE or BU will be discussed more fully in Part Three. For now just keep in mind that firing while BU incurs a +1 DRM, and keeps your commander out of pesky small-arms and sniper fire.

Of the three C5 DRM not mentioned thus far, one (Case H; Captured Gun) does not occur under normal circumstances; another (Case E; Firing Within Hex) comes into effect only under special conditions; and the last (Case D; Pinned Firer) does not affect a CT

AFV as such (see A7.82). That leaves only a few miscellaneous DRM, listed as "other". Of these, the penalty for overstacking (A5.12) should be avoided whenever possible. If your CE crew should happen to become Stunned (D5.34), you will have to pay the price in the form of a +1 DRM for the remainder of the scenario. The rest either do not apply to armor or have been touched upon previously.

These conclude the discussion of the C5 DRM for our purposes, but one very important To Hit DRM remains to be considered. Even though it is treated as a Target-Based DRM, its application depends solely on the firer, and its use forms the basis for the concept of the Engagement. This is of course the modifier for Acquired Target, Case N (C6.5).

Whenever a Gun fires at a Known unit, it may place a 1/2" -1 Acquired counter on its target, which then applies as a TH DRM for subsequent shots at that target. The target will remain Acquired as long as certain conditions are maintained, these being listed in C6.5. Most of these conditions are dependent on the firer, since the only way the target can shake off an Acquired counter is by leaving the firer's LOS as per C6.15.

It should be fairly easy for the firer to maintain its target Acquisition. Of the Firer-based conditions which cause loss of Acquisition, the only one the firer has no control over is having the Gun malfunction. As long as the firer does not leave its present Location or change its CA without firing at the Acquired target, loss of Acquisition should not be a worry. Remember, however, that the same restrictions apply to the firer's CMG. Perhaps the most careless loss of Acquisition occurs when the tank's CMG attacks or Interdicts a different target.

The Acquired counter remains on the target for as long as it remains in LOS. Thus, if the enemy moves out of your Gun's CA but is still Acquired, Case N would reduce or even negate the applicable Case A DRM for changing CA when firing. Notice also that if the enemy succeeds in leaving your LOS, the Acquired counter remains in the last in-LOS Location occupied by that target. The Acquired counter would then apply to any other Known

unit which subsequently entered that Location.

These same principles also apply to Area Acquisition, that is when firing using the Area Target Type. The most important difference between a 1/2" Acquired counter and a 5/8" Acquired counter is that Area Acquisition applies only to the target hex, and may not follow the target when it leaves that hex. This in is not a great concern during an armored Engagement, since the circumstances in which you will prefer the Area over the Vehicle Target Type are probably very limited.

Area Acquisition will most likely affect an Engagement when used against an empty hex. Since "a Gun can fire on a hex not containing a Known enemy unit..." when using the Area Target Type (C6.521), and since you as a player can see where the enemy units are located, you could place Area Acquisition in those hexes the enemy must traverse in order to Engage you. If the enemy entered one of these Acquired hexes, you could then transfer (C6.52) that Area Acquisition DRM to the Vehicle Target Type when announcing the shot. If nothing else, you may influence the route the enemy will take by covering the terrain choke points with Area Acquisition. The only down side to this tactic (and it is a serious enough one) is the risk of Gun malfunction while firing at an empty hex. What is advised here is not indiscriminate firing, but rather a carefully crafted target selection plan.

... Perchance To Kill.

Scoring a hit is only half the battle, as it were, because then you must make a TK DR in order to destroy the AFV. The means available to "increasing one's odds" are somewhat limited during this TK process, but there are ways that you can optimize your chances.

First you must consult the appropriate TK Table for the ammunition type used in order to find the Basic TK# for your Gun's caliber size. Since AP and HE are the two ammunition types most commonly available to all nationalities, these are the only two that will be looked at here. Special Ammunition (C8.) will be discussed in a future issue.

There is really little choice in deciding to use AP or HE when using the Vehicle Target Type. The HE Basic TK# for a given caliber lags far behind the AP TK# for the same Gun, so it serves no practical purpose to try to defeat armor using HE if AP is available.

On the other hand, you may be confronted with an enemy AFV that is invulnerable to your AP shot in its current facing. The decision involving Vehicle/Area Target Type has already been expounded upon, but if such an enemy is CE then another option presents itself: Fire on the Vehicle Target Type using HE.

Of course you cannot hope for a kill in this case, but you just might blast that CE crew with a Specific Collateral Attack (A.14A). Since a Collateral Attack uses that ammunition type's IFT FP, even the smallest caliber has a chance to Stun the enemy.

The Basic TK# is then modified by various factors to reach a Modified TK#, which is subtracted from the AFV's appropriate AF to reach a Final TK#. To destroy the target, you must make a DR less than this Final TK#. There are four possible modifications to the Basic TK#, but only three that apply to Direct Fire from a tank, and only two that the firer has any control over.

The first one we will look at is the fourth on the list, Case D (Range Effects). No great mathematical formula is required to use the range chart: simply look in the correct row for the caliber size you are using and cross-index that with the range to the target to find the TK modification that applies. Notice that the smaller calibers tend to fall off more rapidly at longer ranges, while benefitting from a better modifier at very close range.

This range factor, combined with the TH modification for range, will generally dictate that Engagements will take place within twelve hexes for smaller calibers, and up to eighteen or more for larger calibers (terrain permitting). Engagements at one- or two-hex range can be lethal, but are correspondingly more rare because of the difficulty of getting that close and surviving.

At what range you decide to open the Engagement should be influenced by the range modifications that apply to both the enemy's and to your MA. A certain amount of "hex counting" may be required to find the optimum distance, but a -1 on either the TH or TK table can make a difference. If you are constantly aware of the range, you will not frustrate yourself with any "surprise" modifications which may tip the balance against you.

Of course, the easiest way to increase one's TK odds is by striking the enemy weakest AF. This should be self-evident, if not always easy to achieve: The lower his AF, the greater your Final TK# and consequently the greater your odds. This is further enhanced by TK Case A, which adds a +1 to the Basic TK# for any hit scored on the rear target facing.

Since the enemy is not likely to be charitable enough to present an inferior facing, it is up to you to maneuver yourself into a favorable position to strike his side or rear. Conversely, you would want to position your tank in such a way as to make it difficult for the enemy to approach you from any direction but the front.

An examination of D3.2 (Target Facing) is very important here. Note that the "Target Facing is determined... depending on which target hexside is crossed by the firing unit's LOS", not on the target's VCA as you might expect. Thus, you may be in for a nasty surprise the first time you discover that an expected side hit actually strikes the front. Almost ironically, the front Target Facing is the largest of the three since a LOS which runs exactly along a hexspine uses the Target Facing least favorable to the attacker. Through judicious use of terrain it should not prove too difficult to maintain a front Target Facing toward the enemy most of the time. Not surprisingly, then, most kills will occur from the front, and historically this was the case as well.

Note that Target Facing is determined differently for a vehicle in Bypass (D2.32), where it is based upon where the fire originated rather than on the hexside crossed. Keep this in mind when using VEM. No surprises!

Finally, keep alert for any Underbelly Hit opportunities (D4.3). As the enemy crosses a wall/bocage or exits a stream/gully, any ordnance within six hexes and with LOS to the specified vertex, will score an Underbelly Hit with any hit that would normally be a turret hit. An Underbelly Hit uses the Aerial AF for that AFV, with a corresponding increase in your TK odds.

From the points raised thus far in Parts One and Two of this article, it would seem that the successful tank commander adopts a primarily defensive posture during an armored battle. In fact, by following the Rules of Engagement and through judicious use of mobility, a tank tends to behave much like a hunter stalking its prey. This analogy of a hunter is a credible one. Depending upon the game being hunted, the hunter will either wait quietly for his quarry to cross his path, or he may try to flush the prey out from cover. Either way, a good hunter uses stealth to approach and surprise his victim. Likewise, the successful tank commander waits for the enemy to move into his sights, or carefully moves into an advantageous position to destroy the target.

Conservative play is the byword here, since the DEFENDER will likely hold the initial advantage during a tank Engagement. When the enemy moves into LOS, the DEFENDER may choose to Engage at that time, or make a Motion Attempt (see Part One) and escape in the next Player Turn. Whatever the case, allow the enemy to make the first mistake while you wait to take immediate advantage. Above all, patience may be the virtue which most distinguishes the successful tank commander. This is not to say that a tank commander should be cautious to the point of timidity, however. Rather, great prudence should be exercised when venturing out into the battlefield. Far from being an invincible hunter, you are also being hunted by an enemy who is likely to use the same stalking techniques as you use. Destroying the enemy is your primary objective, but your very survival may depend upon how well you tend to the third principle of the tank, and the subject of Part Three of this article: Protection.

PUTTING NAILS IN THE IRON COFFINS

Ronald Berger

The name of this superb simulation (I do not even call it a game any more) is (Advanced) Squad Leader; not Tank Leader, not Artillery Leader, not Squadron Leader. The grunt, ground pounder, PBI (poor bloody infantry) is the master of the battlefield! Now please remember that I am a ground pounder from a long line of non-coms! And, as such, I have my own personal prejudices. Here I have put together some of my tactics on how to strike fear into the hearts of any panzer leader who dares to advance with or without infantry in close support.

Close Combat Tactics

The first principle to remember when stalking a vehicle is that you need some type of cover, this may be LOS hindrance (LV, Smoke 5/8 in. or 1/2 in., Brush, Grain, Orchard, wrecks, or intervening vehicles be they glider, jeep truck or AFV), or a TEM. This will help you maintain concealment as well as increase your chances for survival to effect the CC.

Try to approach the AFV from an aspect that will require the TCA, or better yet the VCA, to be changed at least one hex spine. This tactic greatly increases the chance for your survival to get into CC and hence destroy the vehicle. If you can, attack with several INF units from multiple directions.

The next most important thing to maintain when hunting an AFV is to have at least one unit in your stack with concealment. Also remember that if the AFV is concealed and in open ground it loses '?' as soon as you have LOS to it, or when it is in concealment terrain and changes TCA or VCA. Also, if the VCA is changed in a building, rubble or in woods a bog DR must be made. The failure of this gives you another modifier for an immobile vehicle. The advantage of concealment is that this gives you a -2 DRM to the ambush roll AND the ability to ambush no matter what the terrain. (This is tantamount to creating street fighting advantage anywhere on the board; a very powerful tool in the hands of a

bold sergeant!). If the AFV does not have MANNED, USABLE, and FUNCTIONAL MGs you get another -1DRM. Sorry, non-remote control AA MGs do not count if your enemy is BU, but the BMG does, even though it can not be used in CC.

Speaking of sergeants, the next most important thing to have available is a SMC. Preferably an 8-1 or better who can help your troops pass PAATCs. His help does not end there! His modifier adds (subtracts actually) to the ambush dr; a hero is considered stealthy to boot! Any SMC, but only one SMC per MMC in sequential attack, will add +1 to the CCV of that MMC which he has combined with to attack the AFV. The leader/hero modifier is also a DRM during the resolution of the CC attack.

Regardless of whether or not you have ambushed the AFV you get to attack first, even if your enemy has infantry in the hex-- even if the AFV is not manned! Again, a very important point since dead units do not attack back, and who likes the 16fp from the German NbW on the IFT and/or MG fire power on the CC ratio table! Keep in mind here that the SN# on the back of the AFV is also the maximum DR for an effect in CC (exempli gratia, a SN7 in 1944 that rolls an 8 or above in CC has NO effect!) and that all units in the hex (even infantry friendly to the tank) are effected by the 16fp.

Open topped AFVs and CE AFVs (remember that there is no use of the NbW when the AFV is CE for smoke OR CC HE EQUIV) are truly a joy to attack due to the DRMs on your CCV roll! Opposing infantry in a hex adds a +2DRM to the CCV; you would be well advised to attempt to neutralize them before attacking the AFV! This can be accomplished in many different ways prior to CC, or by attacking them first in CC with AMBUSH and taking the risk of AFV return fire before you attempt to kill the AFV. The foregoing choice will weigh heavily on your final CCV and DRMs.

Use of Conventional and Not So Conventional LATWs

The most widely available LATW for the squad leader when playing DYO is the MOL. This wonderful weapon can be purchased for EVERY infantry unit (SMC, Sqd, 1/2 Sqd, and crew) by spending only ONE point extra

per MMC. A MOL does not need a TH DR. There are no visibility modifiers to the TK nor any effect on the TK for CX. The motion of the AFV adds a +2DRM to the TK#, while OT AFV and CE CT AFVs have a +2 and +1 DRM (noncumulative) respectively. Height advantage and rear target aspect will give you further favorable modifiers. As of this writing there is no penalty for use of the MOL in the AFPh either, though this appears to be a subject of discussion amongst some of the recognized experts in the rules.

Aside from AFV destruction, the MOL can be used against soft vehicles, infantry and in the aid of kindling. If you have a scenario where intentional kindling is forbidden (something of which Faust approves) you could attack burnable terrain with a MOL plus IFP and get around this restriction! [Yes gentle reader, I am indeed a slimeball! Just ask Earl Ryan or any one of my opponents who have faced me on GENIE or PTF]. With the good publisher's permission I hope to regularly inform you of the MANY dastardly and esoteric applications of the rules and tactics that I regularly attempt to use. Please note that MANY of these tactics are not original, I have been in the ASL AIT school of hard knocks for many years both in ASL tournaments and in campaign games.

BAZ, PIAT, ATR, PSK, PF are also weapons that can kill AFVs. But do not forget the application of the HEAT IFE and IFP of these weapons when you have infantry targets! In some cases you can choose which INF unit is effected. The most effective use of these weapons is on the attack, rather than as static opposition, since you can maneuver to fire upon a chosen aspect of the AFV within range. The AFV will most likely not be in motion. (Although making a motion dr is one way to change VCA freely and is an effective method of modifying DRs for the TK of MOL, the placement of DCs, and the TH for other LATWs.) On a particularly well armored AFV, do not discount the chance for intentional immobilization, by getting a hull hit with a +5DRM, especially when you have a leader to modify the TH DR and/or the target is +1 or +2 TH for size.

My personal favorite LATW, even though it is not classified as such, is the MTR. Many mortars have

a 3 RoF and even the biggest, best armed, and best armored AFVs (save the PzKw Maus) get only a +1 IFT DRM. When firing on OT vehicles and/or those whose AFs are all below 4 you get additional -1 modifiers! My favorite story centers on a Macro game at the 1989 origins in Los Angeles where Earl Ryan used 2 81mm MTRs to first immobilize and then caused bail out of the crews of 3 PzJg Elephants (actually Ferdinands). The crews were then nailed by subsequent MTR fire. There was no way to penetrate the frontal armor of these units; the armor commander thought that they were impregnable. The overall commander had even ordered this individual to "watch out for an ambush! There are mortars on board!" Even SW mortars can take out AFVs.

Many of you think it is glorious to be riding across the steppes with you turret turning left and right, with a dust plume coming from the tracks of the MKIIIs and IVs, rolling across opposition. Just give me my 10 brave men with a bottle of petrol that has WP and rocks inside and a rag to light in the mouth of the neck! I always take particular joy in gunning down the crews as they scramble to leave their iron coffins after a KIA.

ANNOUNCING:

THE ROUT REPORT!

NOT THAT IT'S NEWS TO ALL OF YOU, BUT OTHERS: HEY, YOU NEED TO GET THE WORD!

THE ROUT REPORT is published by DAGGER, a suitable acronym for "Detroit Area Gamers Gunning, thEn Routing" or some such (it varies depending on their mood). Each action packed issue contains scenarios, tourney news, humorous bits and more. Kurt Martin set-up shop a year ago and has now gone intergalactical! Subs are \$9 a year and worth it. Contact him at 514 Gardenia, Royal Oak, MI 48067.

Monsieur CX

KURT MARTIN

Shanghaied into writing a column! To what is ATP coming? Resorting to common blackmail and arm-twisting in the name of supporting the hobby. Well, I suppose I should make the best of it. And I think I'll start by taking on a subject near and dear to my heart, and to yours as well, I imagine. The Wacky World of Scenarios!

It's come to my attention recently that there are a heck of a lot of scenarios out there; more than 100 "official" ones running around with scads of home brews and "wanna be's". Now there are many things that need to be said in public about these scenarios, (and I hope that eventually all of them come up for discussion) but for now let me address just these few: historical accuracy, playability and balance.

Historical accuracy in ASL scenarios can be a tricky thing. Often the units in question, especially partisan and Japanese units, kept no records or were wiped out in the action or some time thereafter. For example, how much is really known about the action represented in Sylvan Death? A scenario I wrote this year, In The Samurai Tradition, features Japanese paratroopers, all of whom were killed in the action the scenario describes. Thus all accounts of the battle were written by the surviving Americans. There are sure to be exaggerations and other skewed reporting. But in any case, in reading the action descriptions and Aftermaths (a great and popular hobby all to itself) it becomes clear that, generally speaking, a lot of research goes into making scenarios historical.

Even where information is sketchy, the standard has been for scenarios to feature a fair and concise reportage on the action as it happened, with lots of details and frequent mention of units and even particular individuals. In some cases, such as with Soldiers of Destruction, this is of no major consequence. (In fact we could say that this is as close to a DYO as an "official" scenario has yet come.) But detailed action reports make the scenarios more interesting and also set a standard for efforts of scenario designers. (Doing your

homework is clearly a pre-requisite to having a scenario taken seriously. Indeed, tournaments that showcase a-historical or fictional scenarios get their share of jeers.)

A close look at the ASL modules released to date shows another interesting way concessions are made to history and balance. An important goal with each module is achieving a good range of scenarios, to avoid the dreaded sameness that would come with eight Italian scenarios that all looked and played the same. This can sometimes mean that a mediocre or unbalanced scenario can find its way into the box by virtue of the type of action it represents. (It has been suggested that Kokoda Trail made it into Code of George Bush because of its scenario type, straight jungle fight, even though it was known to strongly favor the Japanese.)

And with play it becomes clear that some scenarios sacrifice playability for their historical nature (with some saying that this describes any night scenario). Are Turning The Tables and Gavin's Gamble more hassle than they're worth? Enough players have been scared away by the rules for dunes, assault boats, anti-aircraft and smoke screens to place these two near the top of the "Rarely Played" list, despite the attractiveness of the actions. This is simply the downside of a comprehensive game played by busy people, and no real fault of the scenarios themselves. On the other hand, we have The Globus Raid. I'm sure that someone has played this respectful recreation of a partisan attack, but I don't know him.

Some other scenarios have the correct ingredients for easy fun and accuracy but are out of balance to a serious degree. All of us have run into the "occasional" "official" scenario that simply wouldn't behave, even after multiple playings. Just looking at Mr. Nixon's Oktoberfest lists reveals goodies such as Slamming the Door and Red Packets, scenarios so out of balance that will require some major surgery before they approach 50-50. This can be a big disappointment to a couple of guys sitting down, hoping for a chess-like close match or at least an interesting fight. Oops. And multi-

ple playings won't reveal the secret that balances them, either.

Of course, with the relative wealth of published scenarios in the world, it's easy to see that most players don't have the time to play each of them (or even each of those that interest them) multiple times. Yet, this is often what is required to reveal a scenario's quirks and potentials. Some players, myself among them, would argue that while multiple playings of a scenario represent a unique gaming challenge, as attacks and defenses are developed and honed, it is least like the challenges faced by the actual combatants, and thus less honorable. But hey, I don't begrudge you guys for your fun with Guards Counterattack. I don't. Really. I'm sure it's just as fascinating the 10th time.

One criticism of Mishcon/Suchar designs is their frequent inclusion of one or two "super" units, such as '10-3's or King Tigers, around which the scenarios tend to revolve. The fate of these pieces is often closely tied to that of the owning player. On the other hand, a bulky piece like Monastery Hill has the benefit of lots of infantry, whose many DR during a game tend to level the playing field. In general, no single swing of luck will affect enough of them to throw the advantage one way or another, at least until it comes to crunch time near the end.

Gary Fortenberry of Texas has begun a survey of sorts to discover which scenarios people think are unbalanced and how they think they could be "fixed." For most players' enjoyment, I'm willing to venture that any decent mixture of accuracy, playability and balance will suffice, since anyone crazy enough to do this job, excuse me, play this game, will be interested in a variety of situations, be willing to put up with at least a few mighty obscure rules and be unfazed by a completely unlikely-looking victory condition. But when any one of these, particularly playability and balance, gets out of line in a published ASL scenario, it's not so clear that Binky's going to be a happy camper. After all, we had to pay to get into this game, didn't we?

Notes on this issue's scenario: Long in process and controversial by nature, it's The First Waltz, an

ATP original. While a great deal has been written about the Arras counterattack (which was spear-headed by British Matildas during the German hosing of the Allies in the spring of 1940), it's a bit harder getting information detailed enough to form an exact order of battle for each side. But with this done, there was the question of how this scenario was going to faithfully (and interestingly) recreate an action that saw slow-moving tanks rumbling through scattered defenders. At only 8 turns, with both OB's dominated by guns and AFV, playability is not a problem, since on the whole there will be few enough attacks to calculate and a limited number of units to move. But the emphasis on guns and armor is exactly what makes scenarios like this hard to balance. They can easily become a game of dice, since hits and misses have consequences greater than merely passing or failing MC. They are what we often refer to as "fragile" scenarios; ones that often swing hard to one side or another with a single DR. Since the VC in Waltz are based on exiting AFV, those immobilization and TK rolls are pivotal. Give it a try! (Special note: Despite the similarities, this scenario was initially designed without knowledge of the old SL scenario Ad Hoc At Beaurains, which was written about the same action and which it closely resembles. Word has it that Ad Hoc is being reviewed for possible inclusion in next year's Annual.)

TACTICS OF ITALIAN BROTHERS

ERIC BAKER

Italian Brothers is one of the best received scenarios that our little gang here in Motown have come up with. Used as a scenario at the 1990 ASL Oktoberfest "Invitational" single elimination tournament, it fulfills the criteria I consider most crucial to a "tourney" scenario: it is well balanced. The fact that it also possesses the other two crucial qualities is icing on the cake. By this, I refer to its presentation of both sides with viable options (no "best way" strategy), and its excitement, ensured by the fluid situation it

simulates. These three characteristics give the scenario a high replay potential. That said, I'm going to give a couple of pertinent tactical tips and strategies for each side.

NATIONALISTS: (The Italian Italians, for all unschooled in the Spanish Civil War)

Your first order of business is to protect building 6N4. If this falls (which it should NOT), you immediately lose. It also makes an excellent firebase for attacking 6K1 and 6K4. Use it.

That said, your decisions get harder. The use of the AFVs depends on how they fared through the first PFP. Statistically speaking, you'll lose one AFV for every six shots fired from an MG. Because you must remain in the enemy LOS for a PFP and a DFP on turn one, expect to lose at least one vehicle. Each are worth 5 CVP, so while pretty lousy, they can figure prominently in the VC if lost. Most people use them to cover building 17P2 or reinforce the drive onto Bd. 6. The first keeps the tanks safest; parked in hexes P0 to P4, they are immune to fire until the Republican reaches the hedgeline at row N. Reinforced by a platoon in P2, they should be able to keep the Republicans at bay.

Of course, the use of your infantry is what will win the game for you. Generally, you'll have to take three of the buildings to win; the CVP for losing AFVs will give the enemy more points than you will generally gain. Given that you can hold P2 with a minimum of effort, you need to target two of the three remaining victory buildings. I prefer 6K1 and 6K4. They are easily isolated by a position in level one of 6M6. All three building hexes are also in LOS of 6N4.

I'll generally split my forces as follows: all surviving AFVs park around 17P2; enter four 346 squads and a 7-0 at 17P2 as well. Advance three of these (concealed) to the hedge line, with the reserves at 17P2. Put two 346s and a 347 in 6P9. The remainder move into 6N4 and prepare to assault K1 and K4.

REPUBLICANS:

Your forces are tougher than your opponents, with better leadership and a Fearless Leader (Der

Commissar), so it may be tempting to charge ahead and count on routing those rotten 6 morale Italians with ease. Don't give in to the temptation. You are actually outnumbered (18 to 14) and are facing those AFVs. While they are feeble, your automatic weapons with B11 aren't that great either. It'll be a race to see what you kill first: enemy tanks or your own MGs. Of course, you should take all the shots you can at the AFVs on the first turn. They are just too valuable to let run away unscathed.

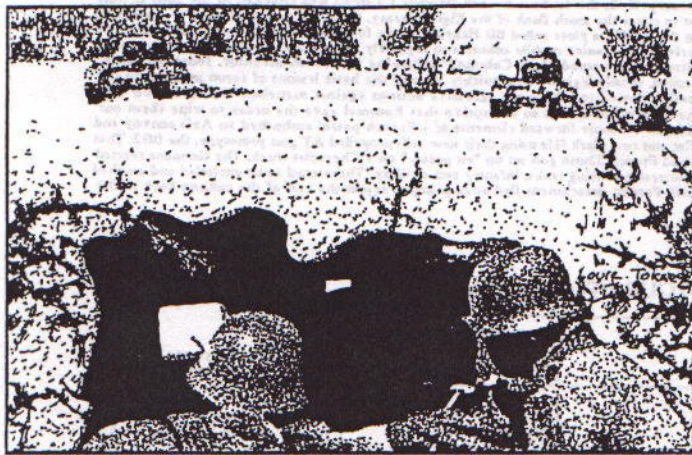
Your first turn choices can hinge on what happens to the tanks. You should set up giving three MGs to two squads, stacking both leaders with them. I5 is the obvious spot. The other squads are placed in I4 and I3. If an AFV is knocked out during Prep, consider pushing these forward to row L. This puts them in normal range of the hedge line, ready to take on the Fascists who enter there. Backed up by MGs, they have a good chance to seize the hedges in following turns. If you're just not willing to take the 2-2 shots from the remaining AFV(s), simply shift these squads west to support the assault on 6K3. Turn two will see the rest of the forces on Bd 17 shift to Bd 6; if you're not going for 17P2, there is little reason to stay on Bd. 17.

On Bd. 6, I like to set up three 437s, both LMGs and a 9-1 in C10, three squads, with commissar, in C5, and two 437s in B5. Assuming that you're not going for P2, you have two objectives. First: turn K8 into a deathtrap. Get to K9, CX and concealed, by the end of turn one. Reinforced by the Bd 17 troops, you should be able to beat back all attacks. Second: occupy K1. This building and its surrounding woods offer the best terrain in the area. With the Commissar to rally your troops, you should be able to hold out until the K8 forces can bring pressure from the center.

The middle and end game will probably see a ferocious battle between K1 and K8, as the Italian attempts to wrest K1 from the foe, while keeping K4, and the Republican moves west after securing K8 to interdict the forces from N4 (K7 is the crucial hex in this regard). As I said in the beginning, there are numerous options for each side in this scenario, so your playings may not look anything like what I've laid out. Whatever the case, enjoy!

THE FIRST WALL

ASL SCENARIO ATP1



WAILLY, BELGIUM, May 21, 1940: The Blitzkrieg was in full swing, with German armor cutting through the Allied defenses in Belgium, racing for the English Channel. The defenders were disorganized, disagreeing even about how and where to fight. At last the British organized a counterattack, designed to buy time for a proper defense. Coordination with a French armored unit failed, but 50th Division's "Frankforce" moved off to hit Rommel's hard-driving 7th Panzer Division in the flank. The 6th and 8th Durham Light Infantry were footsore, poorly led and ill-equipped. The 4th and 7th RTR's Matilda tanks were run down, had no small arms and were festooned with the gear and belongings of the semi-nomadic tankers. In addition, "Frankforce" got a late start, never received their promised air support and lost almost a third of their AFV to breakdowns. Despite this, the attack soon racked up impressive gains against the surprised Germans. Off on the left flank, the 7th RTR had run miles out in front of the DLI and lost their commander, but threatened to cut Rommel's strung-out division in half.

VICTORY CONDITIONS: The British win immediately when they exit five tanks off the south edge, including ≥ 2 Matilda I's.

BOARD CONFIGURATION:

BALANCE:

✚ Exit six tanks, including ≥ 2 Matilda I's.

⊙ German 105's enter on Turn 3.



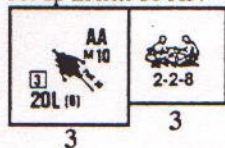
18		
	91	71

TURN RECORD CHART

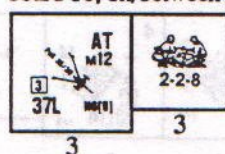
✚ GERMAN Sets Up First	⊙ 1*	2	3*	4	5	6	7	8	END
⊙ BRITISH Moves First									

Elements of the 7th Panzer Division [ELR 4]: {SAN 3}

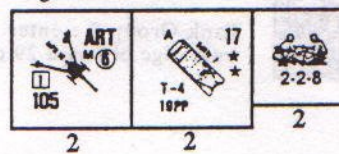
Division AA units, set up in hex 18 X5:



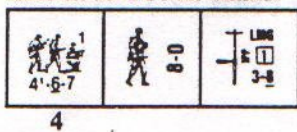
Units of the 42nd AT Art Bn, set up on board 16, on/between hexrows Z and DD



Units of 78th Art Reg, enter on S edge on Turn 2:



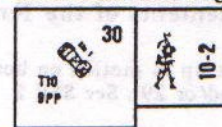
Elements of 7th Rifle Regt, enter on 18 GG6 on Turn 1:



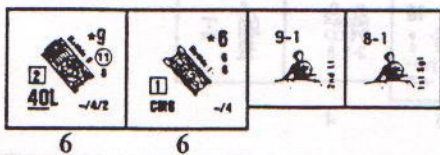
Elements of 7th Panzer, enter on 17 I10 on Turn 3:



C.O., 7th Panzer Division, enter on 18 GG6 according to SSR 6:



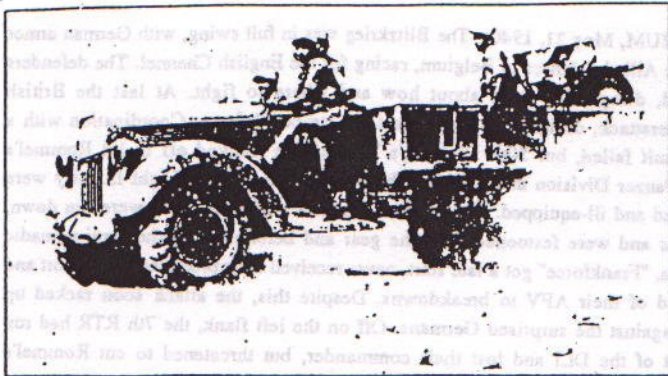
Elements of the 7th Royal Tank Regiment, 1st Tank Brigade [ELR 3] enter N edge of board 16 on Turn 1: {SAN 0}



SPECIAL RULES:

- EC are moderate with with no wind at start.
- All British MP are considered printed in red.
- All British crews use (1)-0-6 counters when on foot.
- Any German original TK DR of 4 that does not Shock, Immobilize or destroy a British AFV places a Flame counter on that tank. There can be only one Flame per tank. Flame has no effect on the vehicle's abilities but may become a Blaze in each subsequent APH (treat as a wood building), destroying the AFV. The crew must then immediately Abandon the tank, but without a CS roll.
- No guns may set up HIP. The 37L guns have no special ammo. The German AA guns may not fire without an unwounded 10-2 leader on foot in their location.
- The German 10-2 leader may enter with a reinforcement dr < the number of the current turn.

Aftermath: In addition to overrunning scattered infantry, the 7th RTR's Matildas blasted a number of AT guns and tanks; the German guns useless against the heavy British armor. But Rommel himself rushed back from the head of the division to deal with the threat. Gathering a section of AA guns on a hill overlooking the British advance, Rommel directed them to maintain a steady rain of fire, the stream of shells igniting some of the gear strapped to the hulls of the tanks. Lacking real direction and losing tanks to this and other opposition, the Matildas' drive began to run out of steam. Finally, most of the survivors headed back to the north. Rommel's aide had been killed at his side, and two Matildas had penetrated miles into the 7th Division's rear before a section of 88 flak guns finally knocked them out. And while it exhausted the brigade's tank strength, the attack did slow the previously headlong German advance. But this was not to be the last British encounter with Rommel or the 88's, nor had the Germans seen the last of the redoubtable Matildas.



March 14, 1942 between Bir El Tengeder and Bir El Harmani about 100 km to the west of Bir Hakeim, Lybia. In February 1942, the 1st Free French Brigade (1 BFL) was attached to the 30th British Army Corps and was sent to cover the south flank of the Eighth Army, far in the desert, at what seemed to be the most desolate place in the world; a place called Bir Hakeim. While fortifications were built around the new position, orders were received to organize mobile columns to regularly investigate the large no man's land to the west. These light patrols were named "Jock Columns" following its British inventor, Jonathan "Jock" Campbell. The French troops, mostly légionnaires, quickly learned the basic lessons of recon missions in the desert and were eventually allowed to take more aggressive actions against surprised enemy forces. The hindrance created by the Jock columns was so disruptive that Rommel gave the order to wipe them out whenever possible. On March 14, some forward elements of a French patrol ambushed an Axis convoy and destroyed two Ansaldo Fiat and two Mark IIIa using their new self-propelled AT gun prototype, the BB3. That gun was simply the standard French 75mm gun set up "en portée" on a Chevrolet truck. The Germans crashed by launching a strong counterattack using tanks, infantry and artillery. Threatened to be encircled and crushed by 155mm shells, the small French detachment fled attempting to rejoin the rest of the column back to the west.

VICTORY CONDITIONS : The German player wins at the end of the game if he has gained more casualty DVP than the Free French player but the German player loses instantly if forced to break the pursuit (see SSR 7)

BOARD CONFIGURATION :

27	26
29	28

BALANCE :

- ☛ Exchange one German 9-1 armor leader for a 9-2
- ☉ Exchange one German 9-1 armor leader for a 8-1

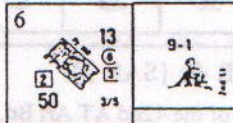
TURN RECORD CHART

German moves first ☛	1 ☛	2 ☛	3	4	5	6	7	END
Free French sets up first ☉								

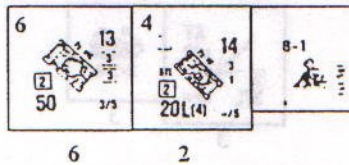


DAK Panzer elements { SAN : 0 }

Tank Group 1 : enter on turn 1 on West edge of board 27 with only half of their MP

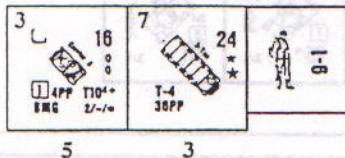


Tank Group 2 : enter on turn 2 on west edge of board 29 (see SSR 4)

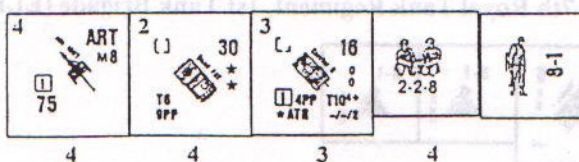


Elements of the 1ère BFL (1st Free French Brigade) [ELR : 4] { SAN : 2 }

set up in motion on board(s) 27 and/or 29. See SSR 2



set up west of row Q on board 26. See SSR 3.



SSR :

1. EC are moderate with no wind at start.
2. Each of the 3-ton trucks carries an inherent crew and a 75mm ART gun (canon de 75 Mle 1897. See British ordnance notes) "en portée" facing the rear VCA. The crew of the truck becomes CS7 for the inherent crew. The 75 guns "en portée" may fire from the trucks but may not use bounding (first) fire nor moving fire. Normal ROF and ammo is retained. These guns may not be unloaded from the trucks.
3. The 'on board' 75mm ART guns (not the ones "en portée") have no AP ammo. These guns may not set up in tow. You might use a US 75mm ART gun to represent the 4th gun counter.
4. All Panzer IIIs are the H-type. Ignore armor factors of the G-type and replace by adhoc H-armor factors.
5. Any Free French units may exit through the east edge without being counted as casualties only if these units are all exiting on the same player turn.
6. Whenever a vehicle enters a new hex, it must chance a bog DR for the entire MPH. The Bog DR is handled by the opposite player just as if Mud/deep snow were in effect (EXC: the Mud/deep snow DRM is not used).
7. Each time a tank group suffers a recalled/imobilized/destroyed tank, a NTC must be made for that group based on the highest crew morale of that group. If failed, the entire group is recalled (but not counted as casualties). When both groups are recalled, the pursuit is broken.

AFTERMATH:

Two groups of German tanks chased the fleeing French vehicles. When they appeared in the sights of the artillery battery of the Jock column several kilometers farther to the west, the commanding officer, Cpt Quirot ordered to fire smoke in front of the attackers to protect the flight of the unit. As soon as the smoke barrage was laid, the guns were set in tow and the whole column tried to escape. At that moment, an artillery tractor ran straight into the feck-feck (soft sand) and got bogged. The crew promptly set up the gun back in position and prepared to fight while another tractor trying to help also got stuck in the sand. The German tanks were approaching, the range being less than 1 km. Suddenly, a solid shot came from behind the French crew and hit the first panzer; a BB3 AT truck had decided to stand fast! The artillery gun also fired and scored a critical hit on another German tank that erupted in flames. Demoralized the other tanks turned back and abandoned the pursuit. The two tractors were then safely recovered as the Free French were very short in vehicles.