

V8 THE PRICE OF ARROGANCE

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HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

LOCATION: Villers-Bocage, Normandy, France.

DATE: 13 June 1944.

COMMENTARY: British attempts to capture the strategically important road junction at the village of Villers-Bocage early in the Normandy campaign foundered in a bloody and fiery shambles due to the timely arrival of a handful of German tanks under Obersturmfuehrer Michael Wittmann's command. However Wittmann's very success was dangerously intoxicating. After withdrawing to refuel and re-ammunition, his forces created yet more carnage around hill 213 before attacking a mixed British force holding the village. Four tanks under Wittman's command entered Villers-Bocage without infantry support that afternoon, but this was not the place where the Germans firepower and tactical elan would count for much.

The British had taken up defensive positions, but were short of infantry after the slaughter on Hill 213; a troop of tanks under Lieutenant Cotton and a 6 pdr anti tank gun were all that stood between Wittmann's tanks and another German victory. Positioning his scratch forces to try and catch the heavily armoured Tigers in the flank, a tense duel began in the narrow streets....

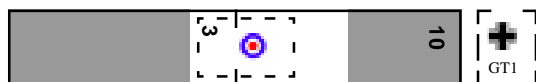
Carrying an umbrella because of occasional downpours, Cotton directed the defence on foot and kept a blanket soaked in gasoline handy to set fire to any abandoned panzers. Wittmann, passing the wrecks of some earlier victims of his shooting, unwittingly led his forces into a trap; his own Tiger went first, hit in the flank by the 6-pounder set up in an alleyway only a matter of yards away. Wittmann and his crew baled out unharmed. Another Tiger fell victim to Sergeant Bramall's Firefly - which cleared the line of sight through a building with HE before putting an AP round into the panzer's side. The PzKfw IVH succumbed to Corporal Horne's Cromwell, which drove out behind it after missing with its first (flank) shot. The last Tiger started up and moved away just as Cotton was about to light the gasoline he had thrown over what he had assumed was an abandoned tank. Corporal Horne, however despatched it with a side shot. Due to the absence of British Infantry all the surviving Panzer crewmen escaped, but despite the French Fire brigade trying to put out the fires Cotton's gasoline prevented the Germans from later salvaging their wrecked tanks. Fierce fighting around the town led the British to throw away their success, and they abandoned Villers-Bocage later that day in the face of mounting German opposition.



TURN RECORD CHART

BRITISH Sets Up First	1 ⁺	2	3	4	5	6	7	END
GERMAN Moves First								

THE BATTLEFIELD AND CONDITIONS



Only hexrows A-E on board 3 and Q-GG on board 10 are playable.

EC are Wet with No Wind at start.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The German player must eliminate all the British AFV and render the AT Gun unusable by EITHER eliminating/breaking the crew or otherwise making the gun incapable of functioning - i.e. destruction, damage or malfunction - by game end. A gun malfunction by the British also renders it unusable. If the gun has not been revealed by the start of Game Turn 5 it is considered destroyed for the purpose of this rule.

SCENARIO SPECIFIC RULES

1 Bore sighting is NA.

2 Place burnt out wrecks in Locations 10U7, 10W6, 10X5 and 10BB6.

Elements of 101 Schwere SS Panzer Abteilung and Panzer Lehr Division enter in column on any eastern edge road hex.

BALANCE: increase the game length to 8 turns.

ELR: -
SAN: 0

Elements of B Squadron, 4th County of London Yeomanry, 22nd Armoured Brigade and 1/7 Queens Regiment, 131st Queen's Brigade, 7th Armoured Division set up anywhere on mapboard 10 west of hex row Z inclusive.

BALANCE: reduce the game length to 6 turns or add a 8-1 Armour Leader.

ELR: -
SAN: 0