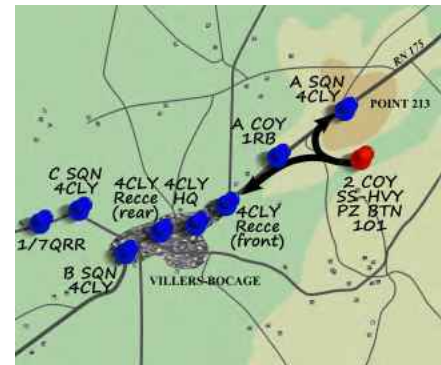


“Tiger Blitz” The Battle of Villers-Bocage

The Battle of Villers-Bocage took place during the Second World War on 13 June 1944, one week after the Allies landed in Normandy to begin the liberation of German-occupied France. The battle was the result of a British attempt to improve their position by exploiting a temporary vulnerability in the German defenses to the west of the city of Caen. After one day of fighting in and around the small town of Villers-Bocage and a second defending a position outside the town, the British force retired largely intact.

Under the command of Brigadier William "Loony" Hinde, the 22nd Armoured Brigade group reached Villers-Bocage without serious incident, but as its lead elements moved beyond the town on the morning of 13 June they were ambushed by Tiger I tanks of the 101st SS Heavy Panzer Battalion.



In fewer than 15 minutes numerous tanks, anti-tank guns and transport vehicles fell victim to the German force, the vast majority being destroyed by SS-Obersturmführer Tiger Tank Ace Michael Wittmann. With reinforcements arriving the Germans then launched an assault on the town. Although this was repelled, after six hours Hinde decided to withdraw his force to a more defensible position outside Villers-Bocage.



Objectives & Victory Conditions

British victory depends on the 7th Armored Division's capacity to achieve a breakthrough [i.e. hold Villers Bocage and Hill 213] without suffering undue losses. The breakthrough move was bold and had the potential to expose the flank and encircle Panzer Lehr but more importantly force the German's to move in daylight, highly vulnerable to allied air attack.

The British achieve a **major victory** if they:

- Secure positions [hold victory markers] at Hill 213 and town at the end of turn 10
- Disable [heavily damage] or destroy, at least 4 Tigers
- Destroy Whittman's Tiger

The British achieve a **minor victory** if they:

- Hold the two town victory markers by the end of turn 10
- Destroy or disable at least 3 Tiger tanks
- Disable Whittman's Tiger

German strategic victory requires containing the British breakthrough and forcing a withdrawal. However, a German propaganda victory is also necessary. V1 flying bombs were about to be launched at England and the prowess of Germany's superior tanks, the Panther and Tiger, were essential for troop morale. Tank Aces such as Michael Wittman, [photograph taken prior to DDay], had to demonstrate German superiority maintaining morale



Therefore the **Germans Achieve Victory** if they:

- Prevent the British from holding Hill 213 and the Villers-Bocage Town, or
- Destroy a total of 15 Armored vehicles by the end of turn 8

Order of Battle

Elements of the 7th Armored Division

Montgomery's Famous "Desert Rats" the 7th Armored Division enjoyed the reputation of being one of the British Empire's elite armored formations. Their fighting reputation and performance did not transpose into the Normandy Campaign, where at Villers Bocage they paid a very high price for their un-scouted, cavalier advance straight into ambush.

British order of battle includes elements from the following regiments:

- 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade [Motorized Infantry],
- 4th County of London Yeomanry [Cromwell, Sherman and Stuart Tanks],
- 11th Hussars [Daimler Armored Cars], and
- 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment [Infantry and Anti-tank guns].

British Setup:

| Division 1 | Division 2 | |
|--|---|---|
| 4th COLY & 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, A Squadron | 4th COLY HQ & 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment | Starting Cards Mass Confusion [rounds 1 - 5] |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 Squad Bases• 11 Regular Infantry• 6 Elites Infantry• 1 Officer• 1 Mortar• 2 Machine Gun | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 Squad Bases• 13 Regular Infantry• 1 Officer• 1 Mortar• 2 Machine Gun• 2 6pdr Antitank Gun | Strategy Decks Morale I British Reinforcements |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Sherman Firefly*• 1 Cromwell Tank*• 3 Universal Carriers• 3 M3A1 Halftracks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Sherman Firefly*• 1 Sherman M4A1• 2 Cromwell Tank• 2 M5 Stuart Tank*• 3 Universal Carriers• 1 Daimler Scout Car* | Deployment Zone Division 1 deploys on any green hex on Map 22B all vehicles facing Northwest. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Anti-tank• 1 Medic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Anti-tank• 1 Medic• 1 Engineer | Division 2 deploys anywhere on Map 7A & 26B. |
| * See Special Rules | | |

Wittman's Tigers, XLVII SS Panzer Corp and Panzer Lehr

Transferred direct from the Eastern front the 101st heavy panzer battalion fielded 45 Panzer VI Tiger tanks at full strength. However, the battalion was badly mauled by air attacks near Versailles reduced down to 17 tanks. Arriving at the front and sheltering in an orchard overnight further air attacks and mechanical breakdowns further reduced the strength of the 101st down to only 5 operational tanks. This was the only reserve available to protect the exposed flank of the Panzer Lehr Division.

Wittman's Tiger Company is supported by a platoon Panzer Grenadiers XLVII SS Panzer Corp plus two Sdfkz 251 Halftracks.

Panzer Lehr was probably the best equipped Panzer forces in Europe. An elite force, crewed by veterans and Panzer instructors, Lehr was equipped with the latest Panzer IV [Ausf G] and Panther tanks. They dispatched around twenty five Panzer IV to the Villers-Bocage area where a majority of tanks ran into a

screen of anti-tank fire. Despite these delays, four panzer IV Tanks entered Villers-Bocage from the south. This force begins the game off table entering the scenario at turn 5. Panzer Lehr elements are listed in the reinforcements section.

German Setup

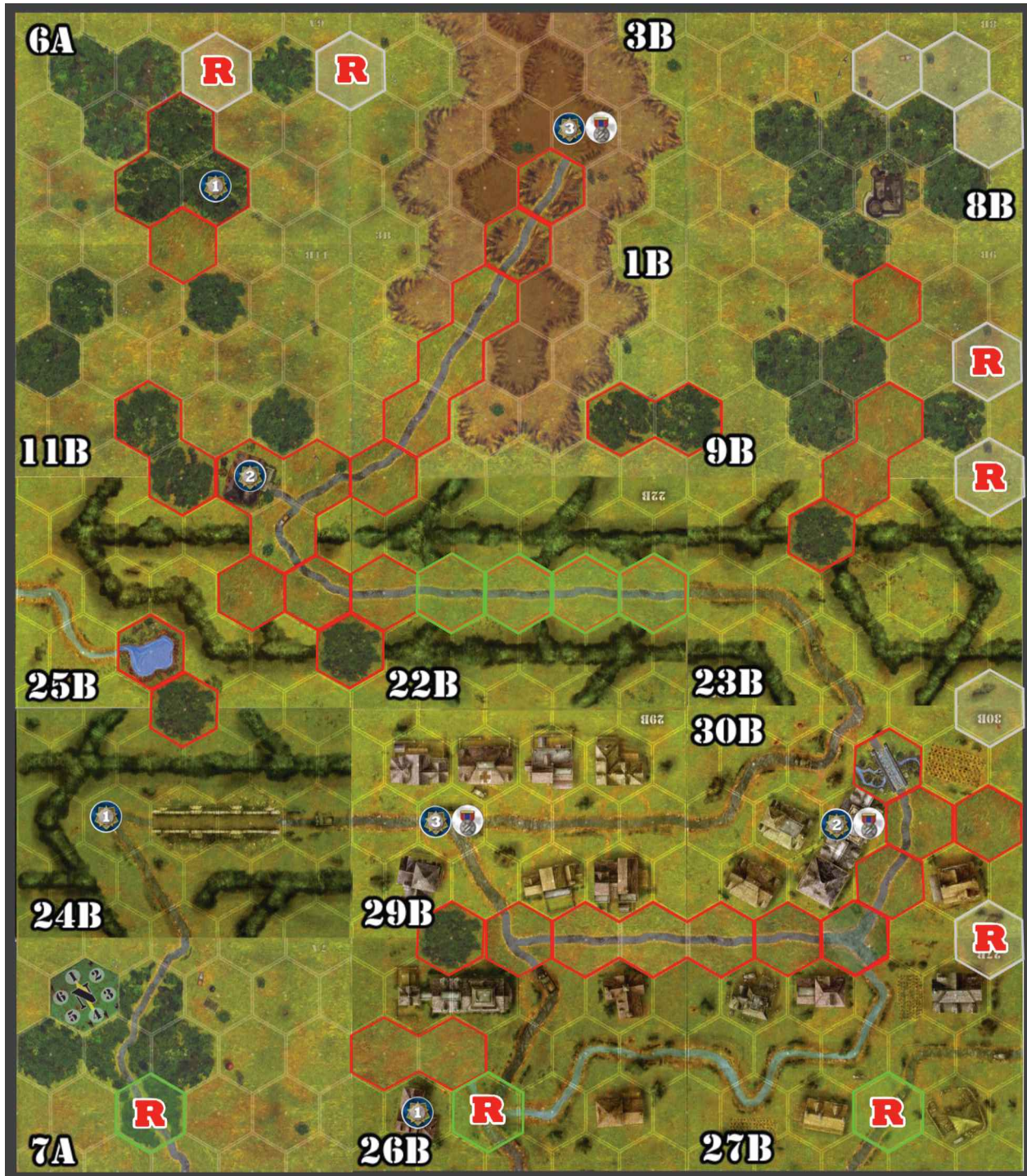
| Division 1 | Division 2 | |
|--|---|--|
| Schwere SS-Panzer-Abteilung 101, 2nd Cmpny [Whittman's Tigers] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Tiger 1 Tanks Whittman's Tiger 1 234/2 Puma* <p>* See Special Rules</p> | XLVII SS Panzer Corp Element 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Squad Bases 8 Regular Infantry 5 Elite Infantry 1 Officer 1 Mortar 2 Machine Gun 2 Sdkfz 251 Halftracks 1 Anti-tank 1 Medic | Starting Cards Tank Ace Elite Tank Crew Strategy Decks Artillery I Deployment Zone Any grey hex on Maps 8B, 9B or 30B Wittman's Tiger on either grey hex on Map 30B. |

| Scenario Details | |
|---|--|
| Rounds: 10 | Starting Initiative: German |
| Actions per Nation: Rounds 1-4: British 4, German 2, Rounds 5-10: 3 Actions per Nation | |
| Special Rules: | |
| 1. Armored Cars: The Puma and Daimler Cars have effective road bonus 1/3 <i>Road Movement</i> . 2. Hull-down: Tanks receive + 2 defense dice for hull down defensive positions [i.e. bridges, défilé approaches to crests and sunken roads between bocage Maps 24B, 23B & 22B]. 3. Partial Hedgerow: hexes are passable to vehicles but offer same cover to infantry. 4. Hedgerow Joins: Hedgerows are continuous joining boards 25B and 22B. 5. Flank and Rear Attacks: Tanks and anti-tank weapons receive one re-roll when attacking a tank's flank, two re-rolls when attacking a tank's rear-side. This rule does not apply to Armored Cars, Bren Carriers and Halftracks 6. Wittman's Tiger: The "Tank Ace" and "Elite Tank Crew" cards apply only to Wittman's Tiger Tank. 7. Cromwell's: +1 to forward <i>Movement</i> , pay -4 for turning 180 degrees, -4 when reversing 8. Stuart Tanks: Are M5s with a <i>Movement</i> value of 7. 9. Fireflies: Sherman Fireflies have a <i>Range</i> of 8 and <i>Attack</i> of 12 against vehicles. 10. River on Maps 26B, 27B is counted as road. | |
| British Reinforcements | German Reinforcements |
| Turn 5: Entering from any of the green hexes on the southern edge of the Map board during the Action Phase. 4th COLY C Squadron <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Sherman M4A1 Tanks 1 Sherman Firefly | Turn 4: Beginning of <i>Status Phase</i> placed on any of the grey hexes marked "R" Panzer Lehr Regiment 130 XLVII SS Panzer Corp Element 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Squad Bases |

- 2 M5 Stuart Tanks

- 8 Regular Infantry
- 5 Elite Infantry
- 1 Officer
- 1 Machine Gun

- 4 Sdkfz 251 Halftracks
- 3 x Panzer IV
- 1 x Jagdpanzer IV



Villers-Bocage and Hill 213