





Assault on Tobruk

April 14, 1941







5th Panzer Regiment

Mixed Panzer Battalion



2 A 2	8 A 3	8 A 3	5 H 8
			
3 PzKw II F 8	3 PzKw III G 8	6 PzKw III G 8	5 PzKw IV 8
x 3	x 2	x 1	x 1

The drive across the desert had taken a toll on the machines. Many tanks were broken down and unavailable until repairs could be made.



8th Machine Gun Battalion

4 I 4	3 I 2	3 M 12	5 A 2	2 H 12	0 C 0
					
4 HMG 1	10 I 1	3 81 mm 1	3 37 mm 0	2 75 mm 0	1 Truck 12
x 9	x 3	x 1	x 3	x 1	x 4


3/75th Artillery Regiment

40 (H) 32	0 C 0
	
2 105 mm 0	1 SdKfz 8 10
x 1	x 1

I/18th Flak Regiment

15 A 20	0 C 0
	
1 88 mm 0	1 SdKfz 8 10
x 2	x 2

605th Panzer Jager Battalion (1 platoon)

8 A 3

3 PzJg 47 6
x 1

The first probe had actually occurred on the 11th involving elements of the 5th Panzer Battalion and the 8th Machine Gun Battalion. The probe was stopped by mines, anti-tank guns, and an anti-tank ditch the Italians had started when they held the port but had neglected to tell the Germans about. A second more serious attack was sent forward on April 14 with additional units added. The tanks got ahead of the infantry and the tough Aussies punished both groups. Almost half the attacking tanks were lost and the machine gun battalion was almost completely destroyed. The idea that the Allies would be disorganized, demoralized, without heavy equipment, and composed of green troops unwilling to face tanks was quickly dispelled.