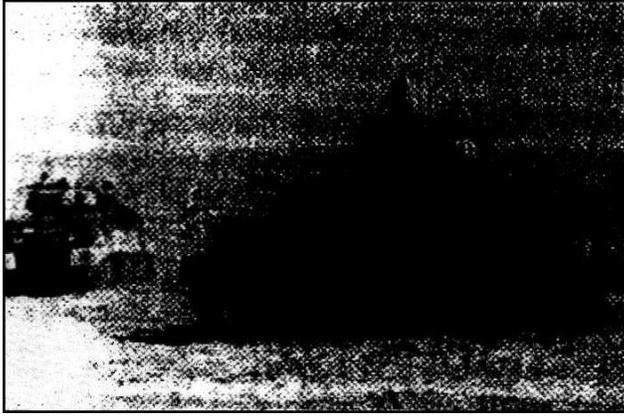


# DISENGAGEMENT UNDER FIRE



## SCENARIO KE3



**East of BIR HACHEIM, LIBYA, 27 May 1942:** Rommel's attack on the Gazala line had caught the British 4th Armoured Brigade by surprise. Initially leaguered east of Bir Hacheim, the Brigade's three regiments were slow in shaking out of their night "coils" and moving to their prepared battle positions. The 8th Hussars paid the price for their lethargy, and were engaged by nearly the entire Panzer Division 15 at their leaguer site. Although the Hussars - using their new heavily armed and armoured American-built Grant tanks - inflicted heavy losses on the advancing Germans, sheer weight of numbers nearly wiped out the British force. The Hussars withdrew, leaving Panzer Division 15 to continue its movement northward on a collision course with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. Under Lt. Col. "Pip" Roberts, the 3rd RTR was more prepared for battle than its neighbor to the south, and, taking up positions on a low ridge, they took the German division under fire at a range of 1300 yards. As with the Hussars, the Grants of 3rd RTR wrought havoc on the German force. However, the Germans had the advantage of numerical superiority: as soon as one panzer was knocked out, another moved forward and took its place. After more than an hour, the Grants were starting to run low on ammunition, and Roberts ordered a disengagement under fire - a difficult maneuver while Panzer Division 15 was still attempting to move north.

**VICTORY CONDITIONS:** The Germans win if they Exit > two times more DVP off the north edge of board(s) 27 and/or 28 than the British Exit off the east edge of board 28. Exited prisoners count towards Exit DVP for both sides; British non-inherent crews that Exit the board as Riders count as double Exit DVP for the British. Both sides must subtract one from the Exit DVP of each AFV Exited with a malfunctioned/disabled MA and/or SA (subtract two if both MA and SA are malfunctioned/disabled). Malfunctioned Guns do not count for Exit DVP purposes.

### BOARD CONFIGURATION:

26	27	28
	H2	
	H5	
	H6	

### BALANCE:

- ⦿ Remove the 8-1 Armor Leader from the German OB.
- ⚡ Delete SSR 4.



## TURN RECORD CHART

⦿ BRITISH Sets Up First	#1	2	3	4	5	6	END
⚡ GERMAN Moves First							

**Elements of B and C Squadrons, 3rd Battalion the Royal Tank Regiment, 4th Armoured Brigade** set up on/east of the hexrows that run 26A9-27AA6-27AA1 [EXC: the British may not set up on board 28]; each non-inherent crew must set up within one hex of a different wrecked Grant (a) tank, and may not be set up as a Rider: {SAN: 0}

5

4

2

**Elements of Panzer Regiment 8, Panzer Division 15 [ELR: 4]** enter from the south edge of board 26 on/between 26GG6 and 26GG10 on Turn 1; all German Personnel must enter as Passengers, and no German vehicle may expend more MP than half its printed MP allotment on Turn 1: {SAN: 2}

5

2

5

## SPECIAL RULES:

1. EC are Dry, with no wind at start. Heat Haze (F11.62) is in effect.
2. Place overlays as follows: **H6** on 27Y4-Z3; **H5** on 27M8-N7; and **H2** on 26D1-E1. Place one wrecked Grant (a) tank in each of hexes 27oZ5, 27W7, 27oQ7, 27oO9, and 26oE2 [use Lee (a) tanks for the extra Grant (a) tank wrecks needed]. The VCA of all wrecked Grant (a) tanks faces southwest, and two of them are burning (determined randomly). Place one wrecked Pz IIIG in each of hexes 26DD5 and 26Z6; the VCA of these tank wrecks face north, and one of them is burning (determined randomly).
3. The MA and SA of all Grant (a) tanks suffer from Ammunition Shortage (A19.131). All British crews may be Riders even though it is not yet 1943. Bore Sighting is NA.
4. All German APCR Depletion Numbers are decreased by one (-1).
5. All Sniper Attack dr receive a +1 drm.

**AFTERMATH:** With the loss of nearly half of his 19 Grants (and with three already sent to the rear with damaged guns), Roberts had to time his withdrawal carefully to enable his remaining tanks to escape. A further consideration were the crews of previously knocked out vehicles, which the British tankers strove to pick up as they reversed out of action. The Germans attempted to take advantage of the slow withdrawal, but the timely intervention of the nearly unscathed Stuart Squadron ended any German pursuit. In addition to the three tanks already sent to the rear, B and C Squadrons had seven Grants reach the rally point - all of which had been hit. Cyril Joly, the C Squadron commander, had twenty-five hits on his tank and all of his periscopes smashed, as well as being blinded by his own blood. That afternoon, 3rd RTR regrouped to the north with the rest of 4th Armoured Brigade - a formation that had lost nearly half of its fighting strength that day. Their losses were not without effect, however, since they severely dented the German spearpoint. This, along with other events of the day, caused a serious reevaluation of the offensive by Rommel. The coming days of combat would decide whether the British commanders could act decisively on the advantages that had been won for them, and steal a victory from the Desert Fox.