2 NZ DIV EXERCISE - "TECHNIQUE II"

2 NZ DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 1

Based on information received up to 1800 hrs 27 Sep 43.

Ref Map: 1:250,000 EGYPT and CYRENAICA Sheets 14 and 15.

All copies of this Intelligence Summary will be destroyed within twenty-four hours of receipt.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

After the fall of BRINDISI (ALEXANDRIA) on 20 Sep the enemy formations under Panzer Army ITALIEN fell back in fairly good order covering their withdrawal with mobile columns of infantry and 8.8 cm guns. By evening on 22 Sep they were established in their present line: ABUZAYR IL SHARKA (4390) - KISHM IL HISH (4489) - ALAM EL MIADIM (4483) - TALLET EL NISURA (4587) - ALAM EL SHIRRIF (4587) - MUKRIR NGO EL MAGID (5087), thence East to the road CAIRO-alexANDRIA.

The length of the line and the comparative weakness of the available forces have made it impossible for General von SCHEISS to construct a continuous line of defences. This however matters less in view of the difficulty of the going off the roads. His greatest strength is on his left, where 197 Div and 25 Mot Div cover the road and rail to VICTOR (MALTEI) and the tracks parallel to them further South. The stretch of country between TALLET EL NISURA and the road CAIRO-alexANDRIA is defended by two divisions sited to cover the principal North-South roads, but separated from each other by wide gaps where the bad going and absence of tracks make attack less likely. The infantry of 28 Lt Div holds the line from about 476877 to 494876; 333 Div extends from about 510870 to the main road. 28 Recce Unit patrols the area between 25 Mot Div and 25 Lt Div, and 28 Recce Unit that to the right of 28 Lt Div.

In the fighting for BRINDISI (ALEXANDRIA) the enemy’s casualties did not exceed 5,000, and it may be assumed that his formations are now fairly well up to strength. He evacuated almost all his heavy equipment apart from the 20 guns at BRINDISI (ALEXANDRIA) itself. Although 30 tanks were claimed knocked out, only 6 have been counted on the ground; three MkIII, one MkIV Long and one MkVI Tiger. All the tanks identified belonged to 20 Pz Div, which is believed to have been withdrawn to the ROSETTA area. The only formation now on TWELFTH ARMY front which may be expected to possess armour is 25 Mot Div, which was recently promised a battalion of tanks. It is not known whether these tanks have yet reached the Division. During the BRINDISI (ALEXANDRIA) fighting reports were received of a type of tank hitherto not encountered by us, and the descriptions given make it seem likely that the tank concerned is the Mk V Panther, an account of which is included in para 4, below.

In addition to his normal divisional armament the enemy is strong in 8.8 cm and heavy artillery. He also has no lack of mines; minefields up to 300 yds in depth cover most of the infantry positions, and the gaps between formations are protected by mine marshes for the most part unmarked.
Attached at 4pmx "A" is a sketch map to show enemy dispositions as known at 1200 hrs 27 Sep 43.

2. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE ON TWENTIETH ARMY FRONT

Strengths where given are strengths by establishments, NOT actual strengths.

(a) 25 Mot Div

- 25 MC En
- 35 PGR (three bns)
- 119 PGR (three bns)
- 25 Arty Regt (two fd btys, one mod bty)
- 25 Sigs En
- 25 Engr En
- 25 A tk En (18 x 5cm, 12 x 7.5 cm A tk guns)

Services (serial number 25)

As far as is known, this Div has NOT received the tk bn allotted to PGR Divs, but the point is not established for certain.

(b) 28 Lc Div

- 28 MC En
- 7 PGR (two bns)
- 49 PGR (two bns)
- 83 PGR (two bns)
- 25 Arty Regt (two fd btys, one mod bty)
- 25 Sigs En
- 25 Engr En
- 25 A tk En (18 x 5cm, 12 x 7.5 cm A tk guns)

1 En 46 PGR (under command 49 Gren Regt)

Services (serial number 28)

(c) 197 Div.

- 229 Recce Unit
- 321 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 332 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 437 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 229 Arty Regt (three fd btys, one mod bty)
- 229 Sigs En
- 229 Engr En
- 229 A tk En (18 x 5cm, 12 x 7.5cm A tk guns)

Services (serial number 197)

(d) 333 Div.

- 333 Recce Unit
- 679 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 680 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 681 Gren Regt (three bns)
- 333 Arty Regt (three fd, one mod bty)
- 333 Sigs En
- 333 Engr En
- 333 A tk En (18 x 5cm, 12 x 7.5cm A tk guns)

Services (serial number 333).

(e) 21 AA Div.

Believed to have some twelve tps of 8.8 cm DP guns apart from the 8.8cnm guns reserved for AA defence of rear areas.
(f) **Army Arm.**

1. **ITALIAN Arty Regt** (3 bty of 18 cm guns, one bty of 17 cm guns, one bty of 21 cm hows).
2. **ITALIAN Arty Regt** (as 1 Regt)
3. **ITALIAN Arty Regt** (as 1 Regt).

3. **ESTIMATED ENEMY STRENGTH ON TWELFTH ARMY FRONT - 26 SEP 43.**
   (Fighting Ihs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formation</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>4 tk guns</th>
<th>Fd Gns</th>
<th>Mod &amp; Hy Gns</th>
<th>2.5cm Guns</th>
<th>Tks</th>
<th>Armd Cs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Mot Div</td>
<td>11000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Lt Div</td>
<td>11000</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197 Div</td>
<td>14000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333 Div</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 AA Div</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Arty</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60000</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **THE MARK V PANTHER TANK**

- **Length overall**: 22’ 7½”
- **Width overall**: 11’ 3½”
- **Height overall**: 9’ 6½”

**Armour**
- Front nose plate: 75mm at 80°
- Driver’s front plate: 85mm at 70°
- Front turret: 100 mm vertical
- Hull sides: 45mm vertical
- Superstructure sides: 45mm at 40°
- Turret sides: 45mm at 25°
- Roof: 17mm
- Floor: 17mm

**Armament**
- One 7.5 cm high velocity super-long barreled gun unlike any previously known 7.5cm equipment.
- One co-axial M3

**Suspension**
- Interlaced suspension of a type developed from that of the Tiger.

**Speed**
- Maximum speed at least 30 mph.

**Weight**
- 43-45 tons.

The design of the Panther is based on the Russian T34, particularly in the matter of streamlining, although the turret of the Panther represents no advance in design over the MkIII and the MkIV. Nevertheless the arrangement of the armour of the Panther is a considerable improvement on that of all previous German tank designs. The performance of the gun purely in terms of penetration may be an improvement upon that of the 8.8cm KwK 36 although the effectiveness of the lighter projectile will be less.


5. **ENEMY MORALE**

The morale of the prisoners taken on TWELFTH ARMY front has varied considerably as between the different formations. During the battle at EBIDSI (ALEPHRA) prisoners were taken from 20 Pz Div, 28 Lt Div and 333 Div. Of these the four poorest specimens were the last. 333 Div, which has been on garrison
duty since the beginning of the war, appears to have been a
collecting centre for men unable to stand the rigours of operat-
ions in RUSSIA or LIBYA. Many of the prisoners from it were
physically G3, overage and undersize men made up fifty percent
of the 3000 PW from this Division, and many of them frankly
expressed satisfaction at the prospect of a quiet life on British
rations. Nevertheless, these men put up a stubborn opposition
to us so long as their line was unbroken, and it would be danger-
cous to assume that even a third class German formation will crack
except under a resolute attack.

Only 10 PW were taken from 20 Pz Div and 34 from 28 Lt Div.
They may be grouped together for consideration of morale. Only
one of these prisoners (an officer) could be described as a
fanatical Nazi. The rest, apart from three or four who had only
been waiting for a chance to surrender, struck the interrogating
officer as good soldiers who were genuinely sorry to be captured.
They accept the Nazi story that the "Anglo-Americans" and the
Bolsheviks had been planning the destruction of GERMANY ever
since 1933 and they believe that GERMANY has no choice but to
fight on to save herself from annihilation. Some of them
admitted that they could not see how GERMANY could win the war
now; such defeatist views do not seem greatly to affect their
efficiency as soldiers.

\[Signature\]

Colonel
General Staff
2 New Zealand Division.
Sketch of area covered by INF Bde
Exercise as laid out in Technique II
Night 29/30 Sep 43.