

By Greg Moore gregpanzerblitz.com May, 2010 The objective for the 90th Light in this operation was to swing the farthest to the south of all units in the attack and end up far in the rear of the Allies. The division would then swing north and disrupt supplies and reinforcements heading for the battle zone at the front. In order to accomplish this, the entire division needed to be motorized. Unfortunately, because of a severe shortage of motor transport, two entire regiments were left behind (see 15th Rifle Brigade). To help make up for this shortfall, the battalion sized Sonderverband 288 was attached.

During the early part of the battle, the 90th Light encountered and scattered the British 7th Motorized Brigade and then surprised and scattered the Headquarters group of the 7th Armored Division, capturing its commanders and disrupting its command and control for the next two days. After capturing several supply bases, the division was then forced back to the southwest by the 4th Armored Brigade. As the battle continued to develop, the 90th was then sent to help reduce the fort at Bir Hacheim. The division continued to be in the thick of the fight, accompanying the 15th Panzer for the attack on the Knightsbridge Box and the advance on Tobruk.