British 22nd Guards Brigade



The 22nd Guards Brigade were the center column in the attack. They were ordered to clear the top of Halfaya Pass and to take Fort Capuzzo. After that they were to exploit northwards. Truck transport was borrowed from the 4th Indian Division.

The Scotts Guards and half the Matildas successfully cleared the top of Halfaya Pass (afterwards known as Hellfire Pass) but lost 7 Matildas to Italian gunners before the infantry overran the position.

The Durham Lights and the rest of the Matildas captured Fort Capuzza from the Italians after a difficult fight and advanced forward but the infantry soon lost contact with their tanks and were counterattacked by 2nd Battalion of the 5th Panzer Regiment, resulting in heavy casualties. The survivors retreated back to Halfaya Pass after losing Fort Capuzza to the Germans.

The Coldstream Guards were held in reserve and did not see any significant action.

By Greg Moore gregpanzerblitz.com May, 2009