



November 17, 1941



When the Allied offensive began, the 15th Panzer was near Tobruk preparing for a major Axis attack on the city scheduled to occur only a few days later. As soon as Rommel realized what was happening, the 15th was sent to the front to counterattack the Allied thrust. The division was sent to Sidi Azeiz but found nobody to fight there initially. On November 20, the 15th Panzer encountered the Stuart tanks of the 4th Armored Brigade and took a heavy tool before darkness ended the engagement. 15th Panzer then headed to Sidi Rezegh where it took part in a heavy battle against the British 7th Armored Division. After destroying nearly all of the tanks of the 7th Armored, Rommel sent the 15th, along with the 21st Panzer and the Afrika Division, to finish off the Allied infantry divisions but missed them, allowing the linkup with the Tobruk garrison to be successfully completed.