

British 7th Armored Division



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The 7th Armored Division began the battle near the southern end of the front. Its job in this battle was to attack, along with the 44th Infantry, against what was perceived to be the weak end of the Axis line. It was hoped that the 7th could break through the Italian infantry facing it and threaten the Axis rear while the main thrust pushed through in the north. Failing that, it was expected that the attack would pin the Axis armored reserve in the south so that they could not respond to the northern attack. The 7th was able to have some initial success but the tough Italian paratroopers of the Folgore Division proved equal to the task, stopping the drive and forcing it back. On November 4th, the still relatively fresh 7th Armored was sent to the northern part of the line to participate in the pursuit of the Axis forces as their defense crumbled. The 7th continued to flank Axis forces on the coast road, driving to the border of Libya by November 11th.