

The Battle for Cassino March 15-19, 1944

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S&T 71



Turn One 15 March 1200 Hours

The Allies begin with 12 Artillery points which may be saved from turn to turn if not used. Additionally, there are 12 Air Strike Points. These are used cautiously to hit the German units in Cassino. There are no headquarters units on the map yet so I assume that there is no spotter and thus no line of sight. These strikes will be unobserved, which carries a penalty. Two units are pinned as a result of the preparation fire. Fortunately, there is no collateral damage.

The 25th New Zealand moves in to attack the enemy panzers. A platoon of StG's are deployed near the jail. These are attacked by two companies of the 25th New Zealand. As a result, the panzers are destroyed. Then Company C attacks the Italian Tank platoon on the northern side of Cassino. This is only 2-1 but the Allies get lucky and destroy all of the hapless tanks.



The Axis forces collect two artillery points which are saved for later. Then the pinned markers are removed. The German player does not expend any supplies. Thus the units move at half speed. The engineer company in the southern side of Cassino moves away from the attack and toward the center of the city, occupying a strategically located intersection. The Axis commander tries to set up as much delaying positions as possible.

Turn Two 15 March, 1944 1800 Hours

It is now a night turn, which has its own implications. The Allies add 10 artillery points for a total of 22 points. The 25th New Zealand marches along Road 6 into contact with German units defending the northern side of the town. The 2/1 Engineer Company is hit and suffers a step loss as it retreats. The spotting

ability is limited to three hexes as opposed to the usual 20.

The 4th Essex Battalion enters Cassino near the convent. Then the unit moves through the city toward the north and engages the German 1/1 Engineer Co. The battle is quite costly. Essex Co. D suffers two step losses and the German Engineers lose two steps and retreat.

Then, the 26th New Zealand Battalion enters from the south. Moving through the main street it falls on elements of the 1/3 Fallshirmjaeger. The German force puts up a stiff resistance and another bloody firefight erupts. Both sides suffer two step losses before the German paratroopers retreat.

The Axis has now stockpiled 4 Artillery fire points. Then the German commander orders the machinegun



Next, the 26th New Zealand Battalion attacks the 4/1/3 Fallshirmjaeger Co. Both sides absorb a step loss and the Germans retreat.

The Axis gains 3 more artillery for a total of 7 Points. The German commander moves the machinegun battalion into the Continental Hotel. The both the 1/3 Fallshirmjaeger Battalion and the 11/3 FJ Battalion launch counterattacks. These attacks are repulsed by the Allies.

Turn Four
16 March 0600 Hours

The Allies obtain 8 more artillery fire points for a total of 40 points. Additionally there are 6 points of air strikes available. The Gurkhas march up the mountains toward Cassino Abbey. This is tough

battalion to re-deploy from the Railroad Station to the Baron's Palace. The unit does not expend supply and uses only half its movement allowance. The other forces in the city fall back out of contact.

The 4th Essex Battalion launches an attack in the center of the city. Both sides occupy a building. The fighting inflicts a step loss on both sides, but the German Engineer units disintegrates.

Turn Three

16 March 0000 Hours
(midnight)

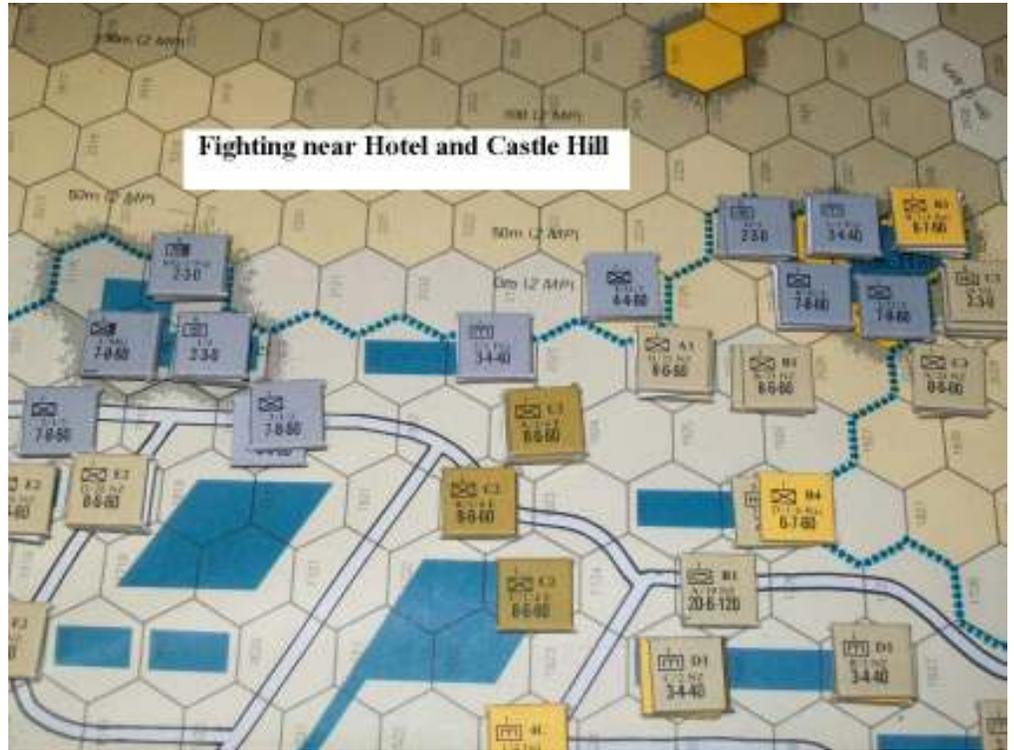
The Allies obtain 10 Artillery points for a total of 32 points stored. The Gurkhas enter and outflank the city and manage to seize Hill 165. Two companies of the 1/6 Rajputana Battalion enter on the eastern side of the city. The 25th New Zealand Battalion has taken over a large building on the northern side of the city Cassino. From here, they attack the 8/11/3 Fallshirmjaeger Co. This unit suffers a loss and retreats.



terrain and slow going. Meanwhile, the New Zealand units try to gain control of the city, pressing on toward the Continental Hotel and the position at Castle Hill.

The 26th New Zealand Battalion attacks the 2/1/3 Fallschirmjager Co. south of the hotel. This assault expends the last of the battalion's supply. Unfortunately, the Allies' attack is repulsed and the New Zealanders lose a step.

Next, the 4th Essex Battalion attacks the 2/1 Engineer Co. This has mixed results and both sides suffer casualties. The Germans retreat into the building to the rear. The Essex HQ is now out of supply too.



Then the 25th New Zealand Battalion attacks the German 11/3 FJ near Castle Hill. This is extremely messy and both sides suffer heavy losses before the German paratroopers fall back.

The 24th New Zealand is making an attack on Castle Hill. The first round of this assault is repulsed. To the rear, the 1/6 Rajputana has success against the engineers. Both sides suffer losses but the Axis troops retreat.



The Axis player receives 4 more artillery points for a total of 11 points. The 1/1 Fallschirmjaeger enters along the trail north of Cassino Abbey. These are the first of the German reinforcements. The troops march in on the eastern side of the Abbey. Meanwhile a

second battalion of reinforcements enters. The 111/4 Fallschirmjaeger marches toward Hill 519.

In Cassino, the 1/3 Battalion falls back toward the Continental Hotel. The other battalion entangled at Castle Hill cannot maneuver

much. An Axis assault is launched at Castle Hill. The 5/11/3 launches a desperate assault and it is repulsed. The Axis retreat leaves Castle Hill in Allied control.

**Turn Five
16 March 1200 Hours Noon**

The Allies gain 8 more artillery (48 pts.) and 6 air strike points. The Allies' Air Force barrages the German battalion on Abbey Hill inflicting a step loss and collateral damage. The Germans suffer a step loss and the road is turned to ruins. The Gurkhas are also pinned.



Then the Allied commander calls for artillery support. The bombardment results in a number of step losses and it successfully pins several of the German paratroopers. There is no collateral damage. The Allies have only 3 artillery points remaining. They burned a lot of supply there.

The 24th New Zealand Battalion attacks the German 11/3 Battalion and forces it to retreat toward the west. Then the 25th New Zealand attacks another section of the 11/3 closer to the hotel. Both sides incur heavy casualties but the 8/11/3 is eliminated.

Fighting near the Continental Hotel has mixed results. Overall the Germans maintain a decent position there. The 26th New Zealand has suffered a lot of casualties.

The Germans gain four more artillery points (15). The German commander calls in artillery against the 26th New Zealand near the Continental Hotel. This pins some of the units.

Then the forces fall back toward the hotel. An attack against the 25th New Zealand is repulsed and the Germans suffer heavy losses. The 11/3 Battalion HQ is destroyed. Assaults near the hotel proceed, but yield poor results. The defensive position is strongly held by the German machinegun battalion though.

**Turn Six
16 March 1800 Hours (night)**

The Allies obtain 6 artillery points (9 pts.) The 24th New Zealand marches (slowly) to the winding road that leads to Abbey Hill. Meanwhile the 25th and 26th New Zealand Battalions and the 4th Essex Battalion continue to invest the Continental Hotel.

The 25th New Zealand attacks to the east of the hotel. This is repulsed and both sides suffer combat losses. Then the 4th Essex Battalion attacks on the 25th NZ Battalion's left flank. This is a bloody exchange but the German paratroopers retreat.

The 26th New Zealand assaults the machinegun battalion in the hotel. This does not go so well. The Allies are repulsed and suffer some casualties.

The Germans receive 5 more artillery points. (15 points). Two bombardments take out a New Zealand step and pin one of the units on the western side of the hotel. The 1/3

Fallschirmjaeger Battalion tries a counterattack against the 4th Essex Battalion but the assault is turned back. The German reinforcements are taking positions along the southern side of Abbey Hill. The attacks near the hotel have



mixed results but the Allies have been weakened significantly.

Turn Seven
17 March 0000 Hours
(Midnight)

The Allies pick up 8 artillery points (total 17). Then these bombard the hotel. This pins one position and eliminates the rest of the 2/1/3 Co. The attacks at the Continental Hotel are intense. Both sides suffer heavy losses, but the Germans still hold the hotel.

The Germans gain 5 artillery points (10). The German commander orders his artillery to bombard the Allies outside of the hotel. One unit is pinned, while another is pinned and there is collateral damage. Another Allied force is pinned as a result and the Germans in the hotel are also hit with a step loss.

The German machinegun battalion assaults the Allies at the hotel. There are heavy casualties here.



Turn Eight

17 March 0600 Hours

The Allies collect 6 Air Strike points and 6 Artillery points (13). Two artillery barrages are aimed at the hotel and this knocks out a couple of German steps. The air strike flies against Abbey Hill. Those units are pinned and there is further collateral damage.

The 4th Essex Battalion and New Zealand Armour knocks out what is left of two companies of the 1/3 Battalion. The rest of the attacks merely exchange losses. The German position is beginning to fail

though. It should be noted that armoured units must stay on roads in this game. Even then, ruined hexes prevent further movement.

Meanwhile the 24th New Zealand is slowly climbing Abbey Hill. In the process they knock out a German observation unit that was carelessly left unguarded.

The Axis player add 5 artillery points (5). The German units at the Continental Hotel are locked into an assault with no supply. They suffer heavy losses as a result and retreat into over-stacked positions, losing even more steps. On Abbey Hill there is a small counterattack against the 24th New Zealand. This doesn't cause any damage and the German fallshirmjaegers suffer some casualties.



Turn Nine

17 March 1200 Hours (noon)

The Allies add 6 artillery points (13) and 6 air strike points. The artillery is launched and manages to knock out a step or two and to pin some of the German units. Then an air strike is aimed against the paratroopers defending Abbey Hill. This inflicts another casualty on the Germans.

The New Zealanders and the British 4th Essex Battalion focus on prying the remaining Germans out of the hotel. The assault here is repulsed. The New Zealand troops suffer some casualties. There is no attack against the German formations defending the Abbey. In other places the engineers are still clearing



away rubble to free the armour.

The Germans receive 5 artillery points (5). One bombardment is launched.

This pins some of the British units near the hotel. The forces inside try to assault their way out. The German machinegun battalion is out of supply

though. These lose a step and remain holed up in the hotel building.

Turn Ten
17 March 1800 Hours (night)

The Allies add 6 artillery points (13). An artillery barrage is pointed at the remaining German units in the hotel. The assaults at the hotel manage to take out one step of the machinegun battalion. Another attack just north of the hotel eliminates two more steps of paratroopers. The going is rather slow. There is no fighting in the area near the Abbey.

The Germans get 5 artillery points (5). The artillery fire pins some of the Allies near the hotel. Then the machinegun battalion attempts a breakout. It is completely destroyed or captured in the effort. The Continental Hotel finally falls to the Allies.

Turn 11
18 March 0000 (midnight)

The Allies add 6 artillery points (9). Artillery fire against the paratroopers on Abbey Hill pins them down. The 4/6 Rajputana Battalion arrives from the east. This formation heads northward toward Abbey Hill.

The 26th New Zealand Battalion secures the Continental Hotel. Then the 4th Essex Battalion attacks a remaining company from the German machinegun battalion. The enemy suffers heavy casualties and retreats. The 25th New Zealand assaults the 7/11/3. This German unit disintegrates in place.



The German 5/11/3 Co. is sitting on the road to Abbey Hill. It finds itself there due to prior retreats. The A Co. of the 19th New Zealand attacks and the German paratroopers do not have a chance. These are eliminated and captured.

The Germans gain 5 artillery points. These are used to fire on the Allies ascending Abbey Hill. As a result, the Gurkhas suffer some casualties. Just north of the hotel, the 2nd MG CO. is destroyed after making an unsupplied assault against the 4th Essex.



Turn 13
18 March 1200 Hours

The Allies collect 8 artillery points (10) and 6 air strike points. The artillery fire aims at the paratroopers on Abbey Hill. A step is knocked out and one unit is pinned. The Gurkhas will attack soon. Maybe not; the air strike causes collateral damage. This upsets the Gurkhas' attack plan.

The 4/6 Rajputana and the 4th Essex continue uphill. The 24th New Zealand Battalion launches an attack against the southeastern part of the hill. There are mixed results.

Turn 12
18 March 0600 Hours

The Allies receive 8 artillery points (12) and 6 air strike points. These are quickly expended. The air strike pins one of the paratrooper units on Abbey Hill. The artillery fire knocks out 2 more enemy steps.

The 4/6 Rajputana Battalion continues its trek up toward the Abbey. The 4th Essex is closely following. Meanwhile the 25th New Zealand reorganizes itself just north of the Continental Hotel. The 26th New Zealand Battalion garrisons the hotel itself.

The Germans obtain 5 artillery points. These are used to fire on the Gurkhas. This is successful and knocks out another step. (Note: Gurkhas have a column shift bonus when

assaulting at night.) The paratroopers continue building road blocks along the route to the Abbey. This will keep the Allies armoured units out of the battle.

The Germans add 5 artillery points which is expended to return fire on the 24th New Zealand Battalion. The Allies suffer a step loss. The 11/4 counterattacks the





24th New Zealand and both sides suffer casualties. The Allies fall back.

**Turn 14
18 March 1800 Hours (night)**

The Allies add 6 artillery points (6). Allied artillery manages to pin the Germans on the southeastern corner of the hill. Meanwhile, the 1/48 Engineer Co. removes one of the roadblocks on the winding road that the Germans have left for them. This will allow the armour to advance somewhat. The Gurkhas plan a night attack. The attacks do not go so

well, and the Allies lose some strength.

The Germans receive 5 artillery points and expend it on some of the nearby enemy units. The artillery bombardment pins one of the Gurkhas' positions and the other unit retreats after absorbing some casualties.

The 1/1 Fallschirmjaeger Battalion assaults the Gurkhas. This attack is repulsed and the German paratroopers lose a step besides.

**Turn 15
19 March 0000 Hours midnight**

The Allies add 6 artillery points. (6). The Gurkhas assault the 2/1/1 Fallschirmjaeger Co. which is vulnerable after losing its flank in the artillery fire. The Allies continue to move forces toward the Abbey.

The German artillery fires and takes one step out of the Gurkhas. This fails to dislodge the unit though. The paratroopers launch an assault against the 1/9 Gurkha Battalion. The



assault goes well and Co. A loses a step.

**Turn 16
19 March 0600 hours**

The Allies receive 8 artillery points. All of it is expended in piecemeal volleys. There is no air support available now. The Allied commander decides to begin winding things down. The Gurkhas are waiting for more supply. All lines of supply are attenuated. There are no attacks.

The Germans use 5 artillery points against the Allies. The Gurkhas suffer another

loss due to the artillery barrage. The rest of the German bombardment has no effect. Then the German commander launches an assault along the southern side of Abbey Hill. This results in several casualty exchanges.

**Turn 17
19 March 1200 Hours**

The Allies use their 8 artillery points to pin some of the German forces. Most of the Allies' headquarters are out of supply so they do not want to fight at this point. (Assaults at $\frac{1}{4}$ strength. I don't think so.)

Efforts to disengage are successful.

The Germans spray the Allies with artillery barrage. The Germans are also low on supply and forgo the opportunity to fight. They will await resupply.

The Allies have not gained anything significant as far as clearing the Abbey of the German forces. The fallshirmjaeger battalions are just too strong and the terrain too harsh. That precludes an Allied Decisive Victory. The 25th New Zealand has secured the Continental Hotel, so the Germans cannot

gain a Decisive victory either. A tactical victory is won by the Germans if the Allies have lost at least 72 steps, otherwise it is an Allied Tactical Victory. The Allies barely squeak by and manage an Allied Tactical Victory. The capture of Abbey Hill will have to wait until May.

