

OC1 Fight for Aquino

Aquino, Italy May 19, 1944. On the 18th the 1st and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigades had bridges in place over the Fomre d'Aquino. By the afternoon the units had advanced near the Aquino-Pontecorvo road where they made contact with units of the German 90 Panzer Grenadier Div. On May 19 early morning fog protected the advance of the Ontario Tank Regiment and 5th Buffs from observation. At 0700 hours, heavy automatic weapons fire pouring out of Aquino's cemetery brought the Allied advance near the airstrip to a halt. Shermans from B Squadron then deployed in an attempt to locate and silence these guns. They advanced on the north side of the road under cover of a vineyard until they emerged out into the open just outside Aquino. An enemy AT Gun at the edge of the town opened up on the Canadian tanks; reacting quickly, they destroyed it with a volley of 75mm rounds. Then a Panzerturm brought the Ontarios near the airstrip under point-blank fire, three A Squadron Shermans were destroyed in seconds. The Hitler Line's man-made strongpoints proved themselves to be both extraordinarily lethal and hard to detect. German MG Panzernest "occupied steel cylinders, nicknamed crabs [that] could be inserted in pits above which their steel domes rose to a height of only 30 inches." proved deadly to the advancing 5th Buffs. No further attacks were possible and the Ontario Reg and the 5th Buffs retreated east to the cover of the 30th British Infantry Brigade as dusk fell. In all, the Ontario Tank Regiment lost 13 tanks, the Buffs suffered over 180 casualties. The same day, on the south end of the Hitler Line, the 1st Division made another unsuccessful attack. The Royal 22nd Regiment getting right up to the wire before they were stopped by fire which inflicted heavy losses. Due to the failure of these two attacks, the 1st Canadian Corps spent the next three days preparing a set piece attack, Operation Chesterfield was planned for May 23, 1944. 04/20/2025



Elements of the 5th Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) enter on turn 1 on the east edge

557	117	LMG Bren	LAT Piat
12	4	4	4

Elements of the Ontario Tank Regiment, A and B squadron enter on turn 1 on the east edge

Sher V	Sher Vo
5	5

HQ elements Ontario Tank Regiment enter on turn 1 anywhere on the east edge

658	118	MMG Vickers	118 FO	Carrier C	Carrier 2 in Mtr
1	1	1	1	2	2

Elements of 90 Pz Grenadier Div and Hitler Line fortifications set up first w/i 3 hexes of P-E3

657	117	LMG MG34	LAT Pf	Panzer Turm IV 75B	Panzer Turm I 10 CMG
4	1	1	2	1	1

Elements of 90 Pz Grenadier Div set up first w/i 3 hexes of M-I3

657	118	MMG MG34	LAT Pf	HAT pak 38 50B
2	1	1	2	1



Elements Hitler Line fortifications set up first w/i 1 hex of M-O10

Panther Turm 75A	MG Pz Nest MMG42
1	1

Elements of 90 Pz Grenadier Div set up first w/i 2 hexes of M-O6

657	118 FO	117	LMG MG34	LAT Psk	HAT pak 40 75B
3	1	1	1	1	1

Enter on Turn 3 west edge

Marder III (t)M
1

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Allies win at game end if they control all buildings east of P Row B and all hexes of the airstrip.

SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

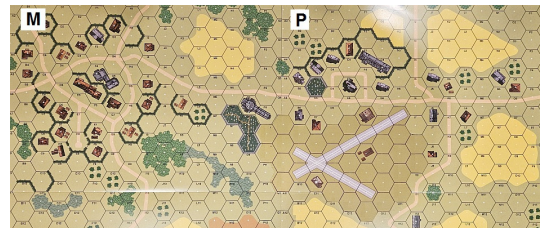
- Spotting conditions are Fog for the turns 1, 2 and 3 then Average after that.
- Crops are considered Vineyards, Orchards are considered Olive Groves.
- Place the Airstrip overlay M-P8,P7 P-C10 is a tower
- The German FO may access 81mm HE/Smoke normal
- The Commonwealth FO may access 88mm HE/Smoke plentiful ammo. The FO Arrives on board on Turn 1 or can be located anywhere off the east edge at level +20

TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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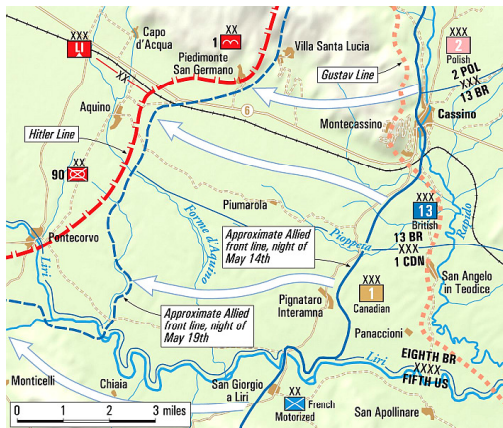
MAP LAYOUT

CH Bds M, P Only hexes ≤ 12 are in play



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OC2 Operation Chesterfield Macro Scenario



Liri Valley, Italy May 23, 1944 The Hitler Line had been under construction for many months. It ran across the Liri Valley and formed a belt of defensive installations immediately in front of the area which the Canadian Corps was to attack. The defences were well placed and deviously camouflaged, designed to funnel attacking troops into defined "kill zones" for German artillery and crew served weapons. The addition of skillfully deployed belts of barbed wire laced with AT and AP mines. The Line proved to be the most dangerous obstacle the Eighth Army faced in Italy. A ridge just behind the line provided the Germans with good artillery observation posts. An anti-tank ditch the length of the line, with occasional gaps, had been created by blowing a string of craters, but the sides of these craters had not been scarped and the ditch was more of a hindrance than a complete obstacle to tanks. The fixed defences included something new to the Allies, dismounted Pz IV and V turrets in cement casemats supported by armoured MG nests. Besides these there was the standard assortment of earth field works, foxholes, observation posts and trenches with over 1,100 Germans in the sector. The German Positions were supported by roughly 150 pcs of 105mm artillery. At 0600 hours the battle to break The Hitler Line would begin with a heavy barrage of over 780 Allied guns. Following the creeping barrage the Seaforth Highlanders of the 2nd Brigade 1st Canadian Infantry Division started their advance supported by the tanks of the North Irish Horse Tank Reg. With the dust kicked up by the shelling and the smoke from the guns visibility by 0700 was cut down to only a few meters. The Allies planned a two-phase undertaking: in the first part of the road linking Pontecorvo and Aquino was to be taken, and in the second part of the road linking Pontecorvo and Highway 6 parallel with the road in the first phase but between 1,000 and 2,000 yards to the west of it. These two pieces of 'Führer-Senger-Linie', so their capture by the 1st Division would represent a breach in the German defences back the Melfi river line. As the attack progressed it began to encounter heavy resistance with MG, AT fire and a mine-lifting detachment of the Canadian 3rd Field Company was destroyed and replaced, but the gapping was slow and costly. Radio communication between the infantry and the armour often failed. During the morning it was the Allied north flank. Allied artillery opened up on Aquino and landed 3,509 shells in just a few hard-hit infantrymen and tankers, however, the Allies were winning the Chesterfield battle. The Canadian Seaforths reported that it had taken its final objective, part of a tongue of high ground between the lateral road and the river. In total the Seaforths had suffered 879 casualties but close to a 100 men of the Seaforths and other units were taken prisoner. Throughout the later afternoon and the next morning these men defended their objective against German attacks. The 1st Fallschirmjäger Div 1st Panzerjäger. 04/20/2025

The OC Macro scenario is made up of a combination of OC scenarios 3 & 4 or 4 & 5 or 3, 4 & 5.

When combining scenarios both sides may only have up to 2 FOs in their OOB, accessing only 2 Mortar batteries each side.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Canadians win immediately if they control all +20 & +30 hill hexes north of I-E17 at anytime. The Germans win by preventing the Canadian victory conditions.

SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

1. Spotting conditions are Fog for the turn 1 then Average after that.
2. Crops are considered Vineyards, Orchards are considered Olive Groves.
3. Place open ground overlays normally on all 3 (-10) Level areas
4. The Allies receive a pre game bombardment. Prior to the start of play and after setup the Allies may place 3 x 105 mm CFF, 1 per sector, no overlap of FFE coverage on initial placement prior to accuracy. Resolve for accuracy normally but with an additional -10 accuracy drm. Each FFE attacks the 19 hexes that are within 2 hexes of its center point. Any unit that drops into Full Cover during the bombardment will begin the game in Full Cover. Any unit that breaks from the bombardment may move that turn if able. Remove the FFEs from play after resolution.
5. Canadian 648s are combat engineers. Churchill IV 57B may roll for APDS availability.
6. Prior to the start of the 12th turn and for each turn thereafter the Canadian player rolls 1d10. On a roll \geq to the number in the turn box the game ends at the end of that turn.

MAP LAYOUT

CH Bds B, M, P, J, H, I, O, N. Only hexes ≥ 11 but including 1/2 hexes are in play on B, M, P and J

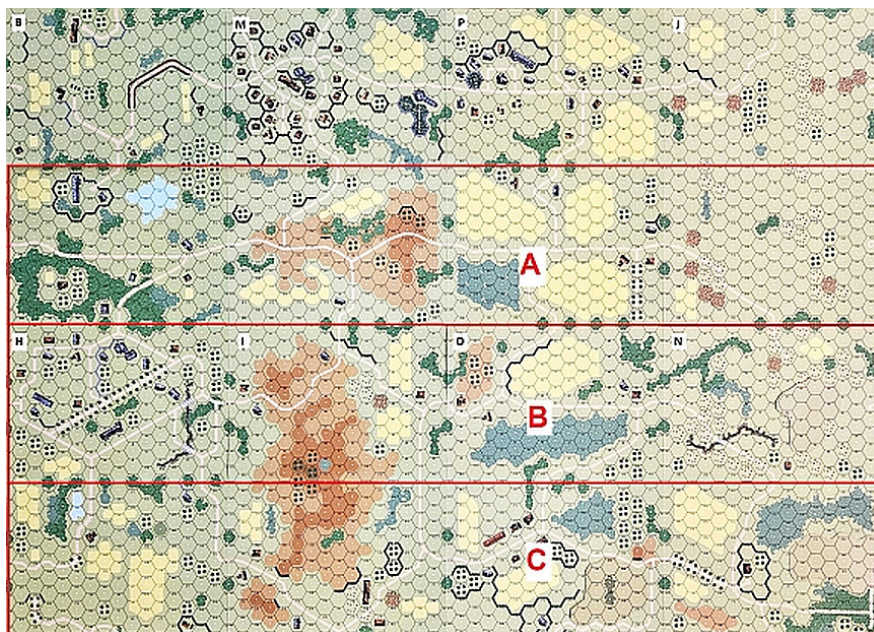
Map Sectors A, B and C are in play as per scenario combination.

Map sector A includes rows 11-20 including half hexes of B, M, P & J

Map sector B includes rows 1-10 including half hexes of H, I, O & N

Map sector C includes rows 11-20 including half hexes of H, I, O & N

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TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ⁹	13 ⁶	14 ¹
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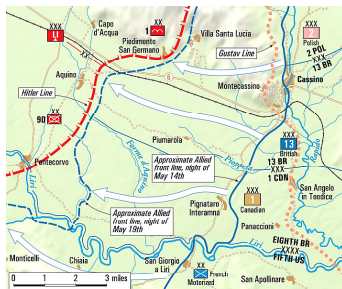
OC3 North

Liri Valley, Italy May 23, 1944

This scenario covers the Northern sector of the Canadian assault. 04/20/2025

TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 ⁹	13 ⁶	14 ¹



Setup in any German setup area

Anti Tank Trench

2

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first North, South or East w/i 5 hexes of J-G-15

657	117	LMG MG34	LAT Pf	Hedge Hog	Wire	MG PzNest MMG42	Panther Turm
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4

1

2

1

3

7

1

1

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first North, South or **West** w/i 5 hexes of J-C16

657	117	118	MMG MG42	LAT Psk	LMG MG34	Hedge Hog	Wire	HAT Pak40 75B	Weapon Pit
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4

1

1

1

1

1

4

6

1

1

FO may access 81mm OBA HE/Smoke after turn 1. May set up anywhere on the map.

118 FO

1

Elements of 1st Fallschirmjäger Div 14 Panzerjäger Co. enter on Turn 5 on the east edge at B-A15

749	117	LMG MG42	LAT Psk	LAT Pf	Marder III(t)M
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4

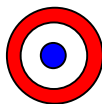
2

2

1

1

1



FO may access 88mm OBA HE/Smoke. Plentiful ammo. Enter turn 1 at +20 level on the east edge, may enter the map on any turn.

118 FO

1

ETC -2

1

Elements of the North Irish Tank Regiment enter on Turn 1 along the East edge within 3 hexes of J-Q15.

Sher V	Church IV	Church V	Church VI	Carrier 3 in Mtr
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3

2

1

2

1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of A Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter Turn 1 along the east edge within 3 hexes of J-Q15.

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Carrier 2 in Mtr	Carrier BMG 6
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7

3

3

1

3

3

1

1

1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of A Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter on Turn 7 along the east edge within 3 hexes of J-Q15.

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Sher V	Church IV
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3

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

1

ETC -1

1

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Canadians win immediately if they control all +20 Hill hexes in the sector at anytime. The Germans win by preventing the Canadians victory conditions.

SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

- Spotting conditions are Fog for the turn 1 then Average after that.
- Crops are considered Vineyards, Orchards are considered Olive Groves.
- Place open ground overlays normally on all 3 (-10) Level areas
- The Allies receive a pre game bombardment. Prior to the start of play and after setup the Allies may place 1 x 105 mm CFF. Resolve for accuracy normally but with an additional -10 accuracy drm. Each FFE attacks the 19 hexes that are within 2 hexes of its center point. Any unit that drops into Full Cover during the bombardment

will begin the game in Full Cover. Any unit that breaks from the bombardment may move that turn if able. Remove the FFE after resolution.

5. Allied 658 are combat engineers. Churchill IV 57B may roll for APDS availability.

6. Prior to the start of the 12th turn and for each turn thereafter the Canadian player rolls 1d10. On a roll \geq to the number in the turn box the game ends at the end of that turn.

MAP LAYOUT OC Map - Play in Section A

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OC4 Central

Liri Valley, Italy May 23, 1944

This scenario covers the Central sector of the Canadian assault. 04/20/2025

TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 ⁹	13 ⁶	14 ¹



Setup in any German setup area

Anti
Tank
Trench

2

FO may access 81mm
OBA HE/Smoke after
turn 1. May set up
anywhere on the map.

118 FO

1

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first
North, South or East w/i 5 hexes of N-G5

657	117	LMG MG34	LAT Pf	Hedge Hog	Wire	MG PzNest MMG42	Panther Turn
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4

1

2

1

3

7

1

1

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first
North, South or East w/i 5 hexes of O-P5

657	117	LAT Psk	LMG MG42	Hedge Hog	Wire	HAT Pak38 50B	Weapon Pit
-----	-----	------------	-------------	--------------	------	---------------------	---------------

3

1

1

1

3

4

1

1

Elements of 1st Fallschirmjäger Div 14 Panzerjäger Co. enter on Turn 5
on the east edge at H-A5

749	117	LMG MG42	LAT Psk	LAT Pf	Stug IIIg
-----	-----	-------------	------------	-----------	-----------

4

2

2

1

1

1



FO may access 88mm
OBA HE/Smoke,
Plentiful ammo. Enter
Turn 1 at +20 level on
the east edge, may
enter the map on any
turn.

118 FO

1

ETC
-1

1

Elements of the North Irish Tank Regiment enter on Turn 1 along the East edge within 3 hexes of N-Q5.

ETC -2	Sher V	Church IV	Church V	Church VI	Carrier 3 in Mtr
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1

2

2

1

1

1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of A Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter Turn 1 along the
east edge within 3 hexes of N-Q5.

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Carrier 2 in Mtr	Carrier BMG 6
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7

3

3

1

3

3

1

1

1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of A Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter on Turn 7 along the
east edge within 3 hexes of N-Q5.

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Sher V(o)	Church IV
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3

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

1

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Canadians win if they control all +20 & +30 Hill hexes in the sector at anytime, including half hexes I-F10, H10. The Germans win by preventing the Canadian victory conditions.

SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

- Spotting conditions are Fog for the turn 1 then Average after that.
- Crops are considered Vineyards, Orchards are considered Olive Groves.
- Place open ground overlays normally on all 3 (-10) Level areas
- The Allies receive a pre game bombardment. Prior to the start of play and after setup the Allies may place 3 x 105 mm CFF. Resolve for accuracy normally but with an additional -10 accuracy drmm. Each FFE attacks the 19 hexes that are within 2

hexes of its center point. Any unit that drops into Full Cover during the bombardment will begin the game in Full Cover. Any unit that breaks from the bombardment may move that turn if able. Remove the FFE after resolution.

5. Allied 658s are combat engineers. Churchill IV 57B may roll for APDS availability.

6. . Prior to the start of the 12th turn and for each turn thereafter the Canadian player rolls 1d10. On a roll ≥ to the number in the turn box the game ends at the end of that turn.

MAP LAYOUT OC Map - Play in Section B

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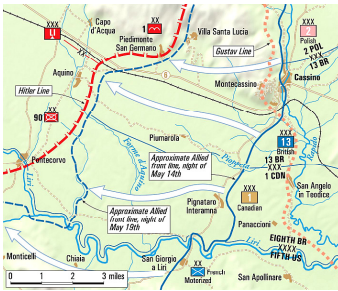
OC5 South

Liri Valley, Italy May 23, 1944

This scenario covers the Southern sector of the Canadian assault. 04/20/2025

TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 ⁹	13 ⁶	14 ¹



Setup in any German setup area

Anti
Tank
Trench

2

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first
North, South or East w/i 5 hexes of N-G15

657	117	LMG MG34	LAT Pf	Hedge Hog	Wire	MG PzNest MMG42	Panzer Turn IV
4	1	2	1	3	7	1	1

FO may access 81mm
OBA HE/Smoke after
turn 1. May set up
anywhere on the map.

118 FO

1

Elements of the 15th Pz Grenadier Div set up first
North, South or East w/i 5 hexes of O-P15

657	117	LAT Psk	LMG MG42	Hedge Hog	Wire	HAT Pak38 50B	Weapon Pit
3	1	1	1	3	4	1	1

Elements of 1st Fallschirmjäger Div 14 Panzerjäger Co. enter on Turn 5
on the east edge at H-A15

749	117	LMG MG42	LAT Psk	LAT Pf	Marder III(t)M
4	2	2	1	1	1



FO may access 88mm
OBA HE/Smoke,
Plentiful ammo. Enter
Turn 1 at +20 level on
the east edge, may
enter the map on any
turn.

118 FO

1

ETC
-2

1

Elements of the North Irish Tank Regiment enter on Turn 1 along the East edge within 3 hexes of N-Q15

Sher V(o)	Church IV	Church V	Church VI	Carrier 3 in Mtr
2	2	1	1	1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of C Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter Turn 1 along the
east edge within 3 hexes of N-Q15

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Carrier 2 in Mtr	Carrier BMG 6
7	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	1

Elements of the Seaforth Highlanders of C Co 2nd Bde 1st Canadian Inf Div enter on Turn 7 along the
east edge within 3 hexes of N-Q15

557	658	117	118	LAT Piat	LMG Bren	MMG Vickers	Sher V(o)	Church IV
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Canadians win immediately if they control all +20 Hill hexes north of I-E17 in the sector at anytime including half hexes I-F10, H10. The Germans win by preventing the Canadians victory conditions.

SPECIAL SCENARIO RULES

- Spotting conditions are Fog for the turn 1 then Average after that.
- Crops are considered Vineyards, Orchards are considered Olive Groves.
- Place open ground overlays normally on all 3 (-10) Level areas
- The Allies receive a pre game bombardment. Prior to the start of play and after setup the Allies may place 1 x 105 mm CFF. Resolve for accuracy normally but with an additional -10 accuracy drmm. Each FFE attacks the 19 hexes that are within 2

hexes of its center point. Any unit that drops into Full Cover during the bombardment will begin the game in Full Cover. Any unit that breaks from the bombardment may move that turn if able. Remove the FFE after resolution.

- Allied 658 are combat engineers. Churchill IV 57B may roll for APDS availability.
- Prior to the start of the 12th turn and for each turn thereafter the Canadian player rolls 1d10. On a roll \geq to the number in the turn box the game ends at the end of that turn.

MAP LAYOUT OC Map - Play in Section C

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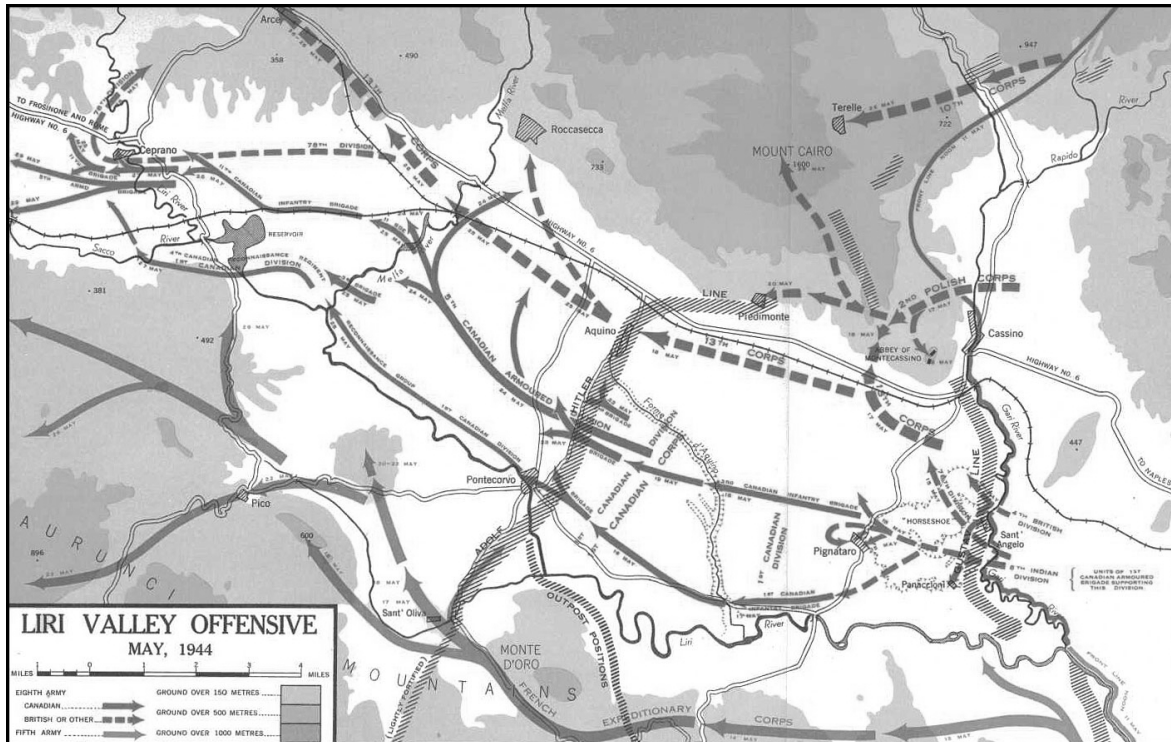
Operation Chesterfield - 1st Canadian Corp in the Liri Valley May 23-24, 1944

By the beginning of 1944, the Allied advance in Italy had stalled. A combined American-British force had landed at Anzio in late January in hopes of bypassing the German defences in central Italy and push onto Rome. German forces contained the landing, tying up a large number of Allied forces in the bridgehead. The advances from the south had slowed down as well. To move on Rome, Allied forces needed to advance up the Liri Valley as it was the only break in the mountains of the Italian interior. The entrance of the valley was guarded by the town of Cassino with a monastery dominating the heights above the town. Several rounds of heavy fighting in February and March had failed to dislodge the German defenders, who had dug into the bombed-out monastery.

It became clear that a more co-ordinated and powerful offensive effort was needed to push the Germans back. An all-out offensive by the 8th Army directed west of Cassino was planned. While Cassino was encircled, most of the 8th Army, including Canadian units in Italy, would strike into the Liri Valley and push toward Rome. The 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, part of XIII Corps, supported the 8th Indian Division. Behind the XIII Corps, the 1st Canadian Corps, comprised of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, the 5th Canadian Armoured Division, and the 25th British Tank Brigade, was positioned to pass through successful attacks or come into battle if needed. It was near impossible to conceal from the Germans the massive shift of troops to the west of Cassino. Allied planners anticipated that the Germans knew the next Allied offensive would be directed at the Liri Valley so to keep them uncertain about the timing, a deception plan was hatched. The plan was designed to trick the Germans into believing that an amphibious assault was to be made on 15th May, north of Rome at Civitavecchia. The 1st Canadian Corps was chosen to be the "landing force" for this mission. Dummy signal traffic, air reconnaissance, and bombing near Civitavecchia was used as deception measures. A camouflage program was used to conceal vehicle movement and all travel was carried out under the cover of darkness. The deception measures had worked well as the Germans believed that the coming frontal attack through the Liri Valley was a diversion.

German Fortified Lines in Italy

Three fortified lines barred the avenue of approach to Rome through the Liri Valley. The first of these was the Gustav Line. Its strongest sector was anchored on Cassino and followed the course of the Rapido-Garigliano River southwards to the sea. The river's eastern bank was protected by a thick and continuous network of wire and minefields. The Germans sighted weapons across the whole of the fortified zone allowing them to sweep it with fire. Deep shelters were built to protect the defenders from air and artillery bombardment.



The second line, the Adolf Hitler Line, was designed as a fall-back position for the Gustav Line. It crossed the Liri Valley from Mount Cairo to Pontecorvo and then south through Sant'Oliva to the Gulf of Gaeta. The line was made of a barrier of concrete and steel structures designed as anti-tank strongpoints. Many of these miniature fortresses were flanked by anti-tank guns. Anti-tank ditches blocked the approaches and a near continuous belt of wire stretched from Aquino to Sant'Oliva. The Hitler Line's man-made strongpoints proved themselves to be both extraordinarily lethal and hard to detect. One of the reasons, in particular the Hitler Line, was so tough to breach was the use of *panzertürme* by the German forces. These were the 75mm Panther and Mark IV tank turrets that were placed in dug out concrete casements and used as a stationary weapon that could pivot 360° with ease. They were hard to see, easy to camouflage and very difficult to take out. In addition to the turrets enemy machine guns (MG Panzerne) "occupied steel cylinders...nicknamed crabs that could be inserted in pits above which their steel domes rose to a height of only 30 inches."

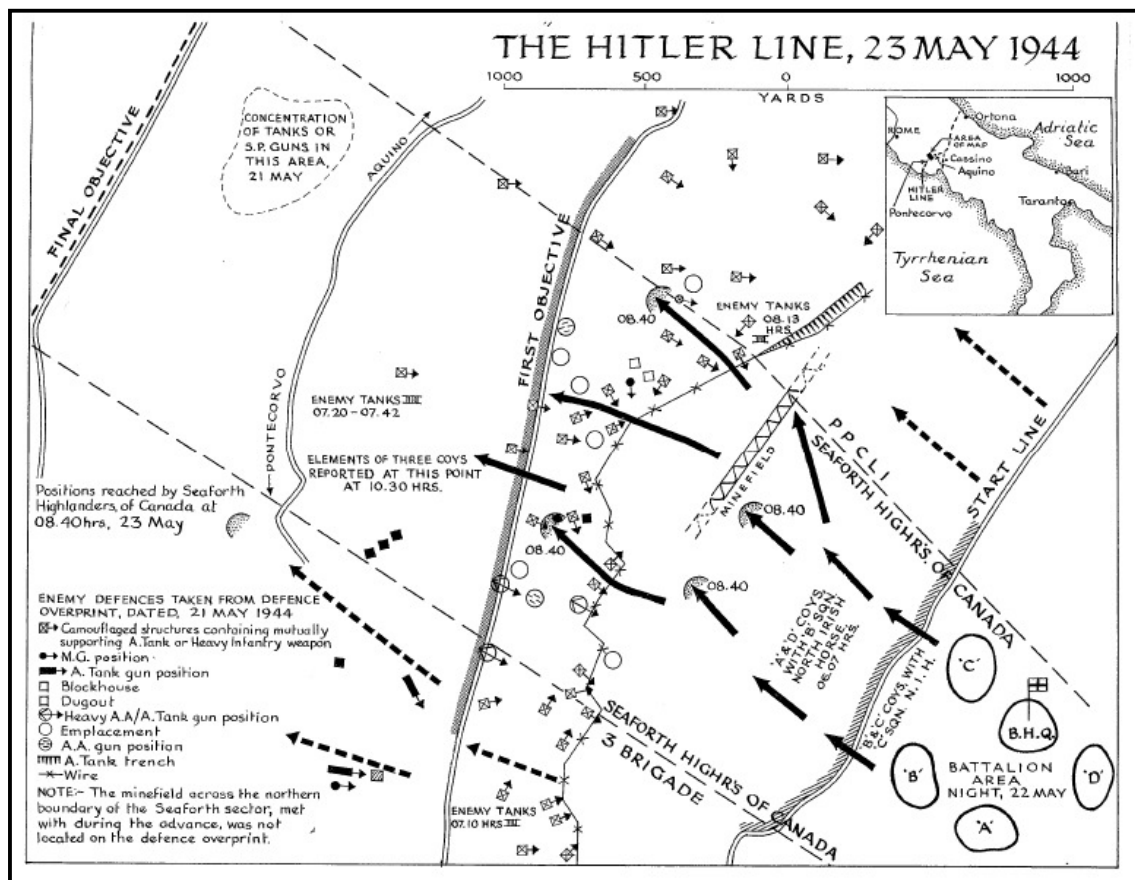
The third defensive position, the Caesar Line, was south of Rome. The Allied bridgehead at Anzio threatened the Hitler Line and thus this line was created. The western end of the Caesar Line was designed to block the gap between the Alban Hills and the Prenestini Mountains at the head of the Liri Valley.

The Eighth Army was tasked with breaking through the Gustav and Hitler Lines and then to advance along the valley toward Valmontone. On 11th May at 11pm, the XIII Corps led the assault on the Gustav Line. A large bombardment preceded the infantry advance over the Gari River and bridging began around 12am. The 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade supported the 8th Indian Infantry Division, which attacked the line near Sant'Angelo. The 12th Canadian Armoured Regiment (The Three Rivers Regiment) covered the Indians passage across the river with high explosive and machine-gun fire. The 11th Canadian Armoured Regiment (The Ontario Regiment) and the 14th Canadian Armoured Regiment (The Calgary Regiment) awaited the completion of the bridges so they could take up the advance. By 8:30am on the morning of 12th May, the first Bridge across the Gari was completed, just south of Sant'Angelo. Another bridge was finished shortly after allowing more Canadian armour to support the advance.

On 13th May a difficult fight was fought to expand the XIII Corps bridgehead. At midday, following a bombardment the Ontario Regiment tanks supported a Gurkha battalion attacking Sant'Angelo, which fell after an hour of challenging fighting. Later that afternoon, Panaccioni fell to a combined assault by Canadian armour and Indian infantry. On 14th May, the Three Rivers Regiment supported an Indian assault to cut the Cassino-Pignataro road. At noon on the 15th the road was taken and Pignataro fell that night. The breaking of the Gustav Line on the Indian front was a success, much like the rest of the advance. The collapse of the enemy's right flank forced a withdrawal to the Hitler Line. The XIII Corps went into reserve, giving the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade a much-needed period of rest.

This phase of the battle brought the 1st Canadian Corps into the fight for the Liri Valley. At first light on 16th May they took over positions from the 8th Indian Division. The 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade took over the line from Pignataro south to the Liri and that evening the 3rd Brigade moved north of Pignataro to form the divisional right flank. On the morning of the 17th both brigades attacked across the Cassino-Pignataro road. They met continual resistance throughout the day, but by nightfall they had fought forward several kilometers to the Forme d'Aquino stream. The advances triggered a German withdrawal along the whole of the Liri Valley front. On the 18th the 1st and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigades advanced and by the afternoon they were near the Aquino-Pontecorvo road and made contact with the Germans. On the 19th, troops of the 78th Division, supported by tanks of the Ontario Regiment tanks, hoping to take advantage of the enemy's disorganization, attacked at Aquino but took heavy losses. The same day the 1st Division made an unsuccessful attempt to pierce the Line further south.

Due to the failure of these attacks, the 1st Canadian Corps spent the next three days preparing for Operation Chesterfield. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade was brought up from divisional reserve and placed on the right of the 3rd Brigade. On 20th May, an intense preliminary artillery bombardment began to target known enemy strongpoints and lasted three days. During this preliminary phase Canadian patrols probed forward to reconnoitre tank routes and take prisoners. An advance south of the Pignataro-Pontecorvo road by the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards on the night of 20th/21st May and a determined thrust on the 22nd by the 1st Brigade with the 48th Highlanders, opposite Pontecorvo, met strong resistance. This result convinced the Canadian commander to not put another brigade in this area for the attack.



23 May: Breaking The Hitler Line

Operation Chesterfield was to be executed in two main phases. To begin the offensive, the 1st Division, supported by the 25th British Tank Brigade, was to break through the Hitler Line and secure the high ground beyond. Through the gap the 5th Armoured Division, in the second phase, would drive forward to seize crossings over the River Melfa and push on towards Ceprano. At 5am on 23rd May the bombardment of the Allied guns increased and an hour later the assaulting battalions crossed the start line. Behind a protective barrage the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigades moved forward. By mid-morning, at the cost of very heavy casualties, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, attacking on the left, had fought their way through to their first objective on the Aquino-Pontecorvo road. On the right Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) were unable to move. The enemy fire was so intense that supporting armour or anti-tank guns could not reach either of the attacking battalions. In the afternoon, the forward companies of the Seaforths were attacked by enemy tanks. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, attempting to pass through the PPCLI was also pinned down and suffered heavy casualties.

The 3rd Brigade was more successful on the left flank. Within an hour of the opening of the assault, the Carleton and York Regiment had cleared the way for the advancing squadrons of the 51st Royal Tank Regiment. The Carleton and Yorks were joined by the West Nova Scotia Regiment, pushed forward as part of the second phase of the divisional attack. Due to their success the 3rd Brigade was reinforced soon after noon by two squadrons of the Three Rivers Regiment and the Royal 22nd Regiment. Just before 5pm, the second major attack began behind an artillery barrage. The objectives were quickly taken by the infantry and a breach in the Hitler Line was secured. Meanwhile, on the left, along the north bank of the Liri, the 1st Brigade and the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, although not participating in the main attack, moved ahead slowly. By daylight on the 24th they had driven the enemy from Pontecorvo.

25 May: Pursuit to the Melfa

The second phase of Operation Chesterfield saw the 5th Canadian Armoured Brigade driving toward the Melfa River. The 9th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Dragoons) and the Irish Regiment of Canada secured a position midway between Aquino and the Melfa. The main striking force, the 2nd Canadian Armoured Regiment (Lord Strathcona's Horse) and the Westminster Regiment (Motor), moved toward the Melfa. The German retreat was beginning to turn into a rout. As infantry retreated across the river, German artillery and armour were employed to stall the advance but their losses were heavy. The Westminsters were able to establish a bridgehead on the far side of the river.

At midnight on the 25th, a special composite force from the 5th Armoured Division, consisting of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, the Carleton and York Regiment, and supporting armour from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Three Rivers Regiment, had reached the confluence of the Liri and Melfa rivers. At first light on the 25th, this group succeeded in establishing a second bridgehead across the Melfa downstream from the Westminsters. Later that same morning the Irish Regiment of Canada attacked across the river to reinforce the Westminsters, and by midday the 5th Division bridgehead was firmly established.

During the afternoon of the 25th, the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade passed through the Armoured Division's bridgehead to pursue the retreating Germans. On the morning of the 27th the brigade reached Ceprano and the Liri. Only one boat was to be found intact and the Perth Regiment used it to ferry parties across the river and secure the town.

27 May: The Pursuit Across the Melfa

Engineers struggled to bridge the Liri, forcing the 78th Division, of the XIII Corps, and the 5th Division to use the same bridge to pursue the Germans. By the afternoon of the 29th, both brigades of the 5th Armoured Division were near Frosinone. That night the Perths took Pofi despite intense shellfire and sniping from the hilltop town. Early next morning they entered Arnara. The relief of the 5th Division was conducted so as to not slow down the advance. On the afternoon of the 30th, the 2nd Brigade relieved the 11th, and next day the Loyal Edmonton Regiment entered Frosinone unopposed.

The end of May also brought the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade a very brief rest after three weeks of fighting. While the Three Rivers Regiment had continued to support the 1st Canadian Division as far as the Melfa, in the XIII Corps sector the remaining units of the brigade had assisted the 78th Division's pursuit up Highway No. 6 to Ceprano. By 29th May all three regiments had been withdrawn to refit.

31 May: The End of The Battle for Rome

From Frosinone, the 1st Division advanced along the axis of Highway No. 6 for three more days, against rapidly decreasing resistance. On 4th June, the 1st Canadian Corps was withdrawn into Army Reserve. The same day Allied troops entered Rome, the first Axis capital to fall. The 1st Canadian Corps had broken through a formidable position and had advanced sixty four kilometres while inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The total casualties of Canadian troops in Italy during the month of May totaled 3,742 with 717 dead. German Retreat

With the German Army retreating to the Gothic Line, the units of 1st Canadian Corps would be withdrawn to the area of Piedimonte Matese. Here they would spend the next two months as the Eighth Army reserve, training and taking on reinforcements for their earlier casualties. Much of the time was spent in sports competitions and training exercises getting ready for their move to the Adriatic sector in August of 1944.

All needed unit markers and Data Cards are available at <http://www.atsonthetable.com/>

CREDIT TO THE FOLLOWING

<https://liri-valley.project44.ca/>

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/OpSumm/OpSumm-9.html>

<https://warhistory.org/@msw/article/panzerturms-the-gothic-line>

<https://codenames.info/operation/chesterfield-ii/>

<https://www.ontrmuseum.ca/tankmuseum/acquino-battle/>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Operation_Chesterfield&wprov=rarw1

Charles Comfort – Panzerturm



BATTLEFIELD WALKAROUND

v1.0 by Todd Larsen 4/20/2025

Operation Chesterfield: Liri Valley May 1944

The Operation Chesterfield map covers the area around the Hitler line between Aquino and Pontecorvo Italy. The map includes standard ATS terrain and some Mediterranean terrain including vineyards and olive gardens.

All information and rules provided here apply to all Operation Chesterfield scenarios.

1.0 ELEVATIONS

Elevations range from Level -10 in sunken roads to +30 on several Hill hexes.

2.0 TERRAIN FEATURES

Brush (H-D11)
Clear Level +0 (H-J8)
Cliff (M-N13)
Cemetery (P-C5)
Hedge (J-B4-C4)
Hill +10(I-H4)
Masonry Bridge (N-E8)
Masonry House (H-D2)
Masonry Building Large (H-H7)
Olive Grove (J-H5)
Olive Grove Road (H-F6)
Pond (H-F11)
Ravine (H-N4)
Shell holes (I-K4)
Steeple (M-O6)
Sunken Road (B-L4)
Unpaved road (H-G9)
Vineyard (O-I3)
Wall (K-G4-H3)
Wood House (H-G14)
Wood House Large (O-E14)
Wood House Rubble (J-E12)
Woods (O-E2)

2.1 SPECIAL TERRAIN NOTES

– normal ATS rules except where modified below.

Multiple buildings in hex - treat as 1 location, no rooftop

Masonry Bridge - N-E8. 1 lane masonry bridge at Level +0 and is Level +5 blocking terrain. Units under the bridge receive +1 drm for direct and indirect fire. LOS through under the bridge is obscuring terrain.

Airstrip Overlay – treat as paved road with additional -1drm. The single hex building with a square stairwell is a Tower.

Olive Grove – Treat as an Orchard, but with +1 terrain drm and 2x entry costs. Obs terrain for ALL LOS, no blind hexes.

Inf 2 MP
Fully & Half Tracked 2 MP
Wheeled 2 MP

Olive Grove Road - Any Level LOS along the road art and does not touch the Olive Grove art, do not apply Olive Grove terrain mod.

Vineyard – unlike crops there is no terrain mod, entire hex is Level +5 obscuring terrain.

Inf 2 MP

Fully & Half Tracked 2 MP

Wheeled 6 MP

AT Trench - treat as a normal AT Trench except it can be entered by a tracked AFV using **ALL** of its MF. exit cost is 1+COT

Wire - treat as wire normally, in addition every wire hex contains either 3 AP mine factors or 3 AT mine factors.

Roll 1d10 on entry

1-7 contains AP mines

8-0 contains AT mines

Procedure

- Enter wire, check for mine type, check for IM if applicable, resolve

3.0 SCENARIO SPECIAL RULES

3.1 Armored Cupolas - 3 VP per cupola

Pantherturn
Panzerturn IV
Panzerturn I
MG Panzernest

3.11 Treat these as normal AFV turrets using the AFV Cards provided. All Cupolas are +1 size which affects the HPT. A Cupola is **ONLY** hit if the TURRET aspect is struck on the HLT following a hit obtained on the HPT. The size modifier is not used when rolling on the HLT. Flank aspect does not affect HPT. Heavy Weapon for spotting.

3.12 A Cupola may be placed in any terrain except in a LD, swamp, water obstacle of any type, building (including cellar, rooftop etc), **Rubble is OK**, paved road, elevated road, sunken road, railroad or bridge. A Cupola may not be placed in an emplacement. It is eligible for Hidden setup in the same manner as an H weapon and is revealed in the same manner as well. A Cupola does not affect LOS but it's terrain may.

3.13 Melee vs a Cupola is treated in the same manner as attacking a stationary, close top AFV.

3.14 A Cupola is manned by an inherent crew that may never bail out. No other unit may enter or set up in a Cupola. A Cupola is not subject to any ETC/leadership drm. Suppression affects apply normally to a successful HLT hit. An F-kill is an automatic K-Kill. Cupolas never leave wrecks/burning wrecks; remove the counter from play in the event of a K-KILL.

3.15 An MG Panzernest's armament is an inherent 8-14 MMG that may not be removed. The MG Panzernest has a fixed, unchangeable covered arc once placed

4.0 Scenario 5 Rules - Macro scenario.

Scenario 5 is a combination of 2,3 and 4 with some modifications. Victory Conditions are those given in Scenario 5.

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Overlays

- the three overlays for the -10 elevation areas only fit 1 way
- cut these around the replacement elevation shape, where the color changes
- the air strip should be cut at the edge of the color, consider it is covering hedges and trees at the edge
- have a look at where they are going, cut accordingly
- print at 100 %

