Tunisia OOA Revised

By Paul Dallas

Actually, V Corps HQ didn't activate at Algiers until 22nd November. There are a few errors in the Tunisia OB and arrival times.

Missing units:

British:
3 Inf Bde (part of 1st Inf Div)
56th Inf Div (consisting of: 167 Inf Bde, 169 Inf Bde, 56th Div Art, Organic Truck)
1/Buffs (part of 8 Arm Bde, see notes)
NZ:
2nd NZ Div Cavalry

Surplus units:

Allies:
XIII Corps HQ (this remained in Tripolitania, leaving 8th Army in Nov 42)
1 Greek Bde (this did not enter Tunisia, but went to Syria)
4 NZ Bde (this was refitting and reorganising in UK after taking heavy casualties in 1942)
161 Ind Bde (this was detached from 4th Ind Div in Jan 43, and did not enter Tunisia)

Minor errors:

British:
24 Inf Bde should be 24 Gds Inf Bde
New India Horse should be North Irish Horse
NIH should be part of 25 Tank Bde, not 4th Ind Div
Prov C should be 142 RAC

German:
86 Inf Reg should be 86 PG Reg
10 Arm Recon Bn should be 10 Motorcycle Bn (until March 43)
2-8 Pz Bn should enter with 15Pz Div (2-5 Pz Bn was redesignated 2-8 Pz Bn and transferred to 15 Pz Div on 17 Jan 42
1-5 Pz Bn should be in dead pile (recreated from Grun Pz Bn in Tunis 15 Jan 43)
2-5 Pz Bn should not be in dead pile. (190 Pz Bn was redesignated 2-5 Pz Bn on 6 Feb 43)
125, 382 and 433 Inf reg should all be PG Reg
155, 200 and 361 Inf reg should be PG (or Shutzen) Reg

Notes:

1. 1/Buffs were the motor infantry of 8 Arm Bde. The Motor bns of other British Arm Bdes are depicted separately, so 1/Buffs should have a unit for consistency.

2. NZ Corps was not really a Corps HQ, but an extended Div HQ. However, for game purposes, it needs to have supply throw.

3. 125 PG Reg was disbanded and the Afrika Reg was formed from it in Feb 43

4. Many of the arrival times do not match. Some appear to be the time the unit reached Algiers, others reflect the date it reached the front.

Arrival Times:

British:

V Corps HQ: reached Algiers 22-Nov not 19-Nov
6th Arm Div: reached Algiers 22-Nov not 15 Nov.
1st Inf Div: reached Algiers 9-Mar and Tunisia on 25-Mar, not 22-Mar.
4th Inf Div: reached Algiers 22-Mar and Tunisia 5-Apr, not 22-Mar.
46th Inf Div: reached Algiers between 3-Jan and 17-Jan
54 Hvy Art: reached Algiers mid-Feb, not Nov.
56 Hvy Art: reached Algiers mid-Feb, not Nov.
56th Inf Div: entered Tunisia (from Tripolitania) 19-Apr (169 Inf Bde, 56th Div Art and Org truck) (Entry E)
167 Inf Bde (56th Inf Div): entered Tunisia 26-Apr (Entry E)

The 8th Army did not arrive all at once, but at various times through Feb and early Mar. The order of arrival is given below.

8th Army:

7th Arm Div: 10-Feb
2nd NZ Div: ?-Feb
51st Inf Div: 17-Feb
201 Gds Bde: 28-Feb
50th Inf Div: 5-Mar (and withdrawn 27-Apr-43)
1st Arm Div: 13-Mar
4th Ind Div: 16-Mar

Even with variable arrival times the entry of the divisions should be staggered, with 50th and 4th Ind arriving later than the rest as an explicit delay was placed on them.

Sources:

Joslen: Order of Battle 1939-45
Nafziger: Order of Battle of the Panzer Divs
Playfair: War in the Med (British Official History).
plus some other minor sources.