



Capturing the Crossing



Operation Epsom was a British offensive launched from June 26 to 30, 1944, during the Battle of Normandy in World War II. The goal was to outflank the German defenses near Caen and seize the city. The British Second Army, led by General Sir Miles Dempsey, advanced across the Odon River despite fierce resistance from German Panzer divisions.

The operation achieved significant territorial gains but fell short of capturing Caen due to strong German counterattacks. Though not a complete success, Operation Epsom weakened German forces, forcing them to commit reserves and delaying their ability to launch counteroffensives. This helped set the stage for future Allied advances in Normandy.

6 VP's



Card Balance:

Allies - 6

Axis - 5

Complexity: 3

Conditions:

Countryside



Context:

Historical

Location:

France

Year:

1944



Theater:

Western Front

Campaign:

The Battle for Caen

Codename:

Operation Epsom

Summary:

Objectives:

6 VP's, and a territorial objective medal for the Allies

Terrain:

Countryside with forests, hills, some villages and the Odon River.

Troops:

Allies - 9 Infantry, 5 Armor, 1 Artillery

Axis - 8 Infantry, 4 Armor, 1 Artillery



Allied Strategy:

1. Your left flank is strong. Your right flank is weak. The center section is more balanced. You have a bit more firepower, but the enemy has well protected Infantry in hedgerows.



You will need to take up secure positions in the woods facing the enemy and begin to degrade their defensive positions before you launch a frontal attack.

2. Your artillery in the left corner should be moved forward into the nearby town to increase its effectiveness.
3. Be aware that an armor battle from your position at L3 to j6 is likely to be lost due to the fact that the enemy Armor is sandbagged. You will need to bring in your additional Armor at i2 into the fray to even out the battle.



Axis Strategy:

1. The Odon River presents a mobility challenge for the armor units behind it, forcing them to angle to the left flank or cross the bridge before they can engage the enemy in the center or right flanks. You will need to get them mobile as soon as you can.
2. The enemy has you at a disadvantage with slightly more Infantry and Armor, and one additional card, thus increasing their responsiveness. You will need to compensate with strategic care and precision, and not waste resources on ill-conceived attacks.
3. Your right flank is weak. Your left flank is strong. The center section is a little more balanced. Allies have a bit more firepower, but your sandbagged infantry will be hard to dislodge.

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