



# Counter-Attack at Arras



The **Counterattack at Arras** occurred on **May 21, 1940**, during the Battle of France in World War II. It was a British and French counteroffensive aimed at halting the rapid German advance during the **Blitzkrieg**.

Launched by British forces (the 1st Army Tank Brigade and elements of the 50th Infantry Division) and supported by French infantry, the attack targeted German positions around Arras, where **General Erwin Rommel's 7th Panzer Division** was advancing. The Allies hoped to disrupt German momentum and relieve pressure on retreating Allied forces.

The counterattack initially achieved surprise, with British Matilda tanks proving highly effective against German anti-tank weapons. However, the Germans quickly regrouped, bringing in heavy artillery and air support to repel the attack. The Allies were eventually forced to withdraw due to superior German numbers and coordination.



General Howitzer summarizes the battle's impact:

*The counterattack didn't win the day, but it sure kicked sand in the Germans' gears and bought the time we needed to pull our boys out at Dunkirk. It was a hard lesson in early tank warfare—fast and mean, but still full of cracks if you knew where to hit.*

## Background

### 6 VP's



#### Card Balance:

Allies – 6

Axis – 5

#### Complexity:

3

#### Conditions:

Countryside



**Location:**

France

**Year:**

1940

**Theater:**

Western Front

**Campaign:**

Battle of France

**Codename:**

Operation Frankforce

**Summary:**

This scenario has a set of hills on one flank, and a row of forests on the other flank, with a three-hex town in the center. It is around these obstacles that the battle ensues.

**Objectives:**

Six VP's, so strategy comes into play; not just tactics.

**Battlefield:**

Countryside with the three-hex town of Arras in the center.

**Troops:**

Allies, 6 Infantry, 5 Armor, 1 Artillery;



Axis, 9 Infantry, 6 Armor, 1 Artillery



#### Allied Strategy:

1. Axis is very close to Agny, and may secure it quickly. So use your flanks to provide more lucrative avenues of attack. The ridgeline of trees on your left flank give your infantry, and especially your armor great cover to attack the enemy. On your right flank, secure it with both infantry and armor. Don't leave infantry behind.
2. Move your artillery forward one row to have better hit strength on the entire town of Arras.



#### Axis Strategy:

1. Your Axis forces begin the scenario very close to Agny. Seize control of the town so that the enemy will have to pay dearly to gain it.
2. There is a path between the forest on your right flank. Seize the town at the end of it, to challenge any forces which may attempt to come through the pass. And as the cards allow, use it yourself to attack the enemy armor at the end of that pass.
3. Move your artillery forward at least one row to gain more dominance in the center section.
4. Remember that as Axis in this scenario, blitz rules are in effect, so you can use a Recon card to call in an airstrike against adjacent units. This is most useful in the beginning when the Allied forces are still lined up against the back border. The Axis



airpower only drops one dice per hex, but since it is a six VP game, this kind of softening up of the enemy in the beginning can pay dividends later on.

20

BR - Arras



Allies Won



Axis Won

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