



Saint-Martin and Bull Bridge



- After the Allied breakout from Normandy (Operation Cobra, late July 1944), U.S. forces rapidly advanced across northern France. As they pursued retreating German forces, small but fierce battles flared up at key defensive points.

- **Battle Overview:**

In early August 1944, elements of the U.S. Army (likely from Patton's Third Army) encountered stiff German resistance at **St. Martin** and the nearby **Bull Bridge**, vital crossings over local waterways.

The Germans, using hastily organized rear-guard units, attempted to delay the American advance by holding these positions. Fighting involved close-quarters combat, sniper fire, artillery strikes, and quick assaults to seize the bridge intact before the Germans could demolish it.



- **Outcome:**

U.S. forces ultimately **captured St. Martin and secured Bull Bridge**, helping to maintain the momentum of the Allied advance toward the Seine River.

German forces were forced into further retreat, suffering losses in men and equipment.

- **Significance:**

Though a relatively small engagement compared to larger battles like Falaise, holding key river crossings like Bull Bridge was **critical** for sustaining the speed of the Allied liberation of France.

General Howitzer's observation:

We took St. Martin and locked down Bull Bridge—small on the map, but damned vital. Every bridge we held kept our boys rolling toward the Seine and sent the Germans running with their tails between their legs, bleeding men and steel all the way.

5 VP's

Card Balance:

Allies – 5

Axis – 5

Complexity:

3

Conditions:

Countryside

**Context:**

Historical

Location:

France

Year:

1944

Theater:

Western

Campaign:

Operation Cobra

Codename:**Summary:****Objectives:**

5 VP's, plus the temporary Allied Objectives of city of St. Martin and Bull Bridge

Battlefield:

Countryside with forests and hedgerows, and a small river in the corner with Bull Bridge crossing it.

Troops:



Allies – 8 Infantry, 4 Armor

Axis – 6 Infantry, 3 Armor, 2 Artillery

Allied Strategy:

1. Big picture strategy is that you can put the pressure on the enemy by both attacking units, and pushing towards the Bull Bridge medal objective. This is only a 5 medal game, so there is not a lot of time for deep strategy. You mainly just have to get into good attacking positions, and take out the enemy.
2. The Axis have two Artillery units and a Mortar Infantry unit. This means they have a lot of range for their attacks. It may be best to hunker down in hedgerows and on hills and wait for the enemy to attack you. Use your Armor to attack the enemy Infantry while you wait.

Axis Strategy

1. Big picture strategy is that you need to defend the town of St. Martin and the Bull Bridge. Historically, the bridge was completely undefended, so you need to get some forces near there to protect it from enemy capture.
2. You have an Infantry Mortar unit. With it you can ignore terrain restrictions and attack anything that comes near you with a range of 3,2,1,1. Use it to defend the town of St. Martin.
3. Defensive Response: the enemy has more Armor and Infantry than you, so stay in your protective stance, in your hedgerows and the sandbagged town. Let them come to you, and then attack them from a safe position. This should even things out a bit. Your Armor needs to spread itself out across all three sectors of the battlefield to be prepared for wherever the enemy may try to attack.

Battle Reports



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Allies Won



Axis Won

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