

NORTH AFRICA

MID-WAR FORCES

MATILDA ARMoured SQUADRON IN AFRICA 1942

This supplement adds:

- **Matilda Armoured Squadron**
to British forces in *North Africa*.

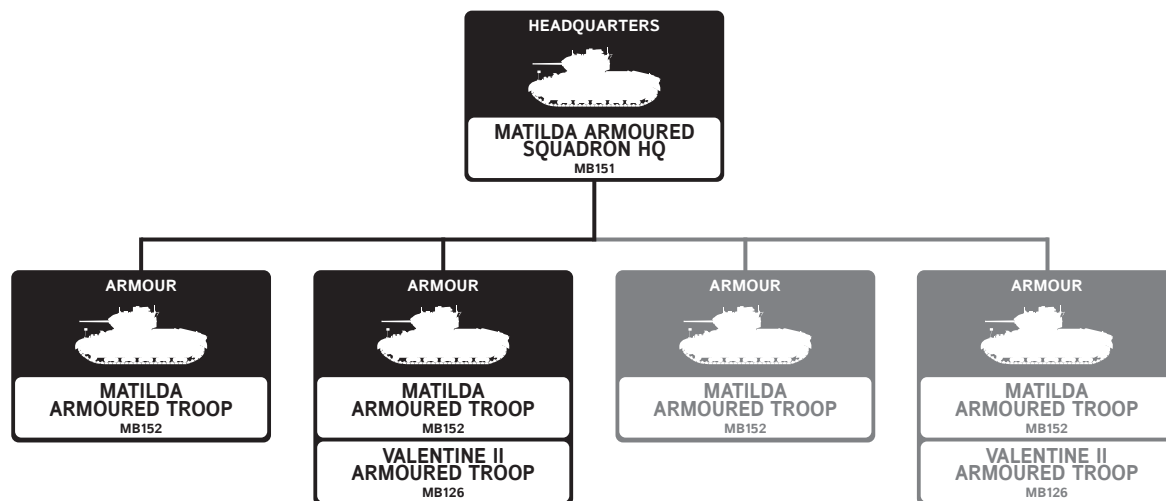
You may field compulsory Combat Units (with a black box in the Formation Diagram) from a Matilda Armoured Squadron as Support Units in a British Force from *North Africa*.



MATILDA ARMoured SQUADRON

INFANTRY TANK FORMATION

You must field the Formation HQ and one Combat Unit from each black box.
You may also field one Combat Unit from each grey box.



You may field a Combat Unit from a black box as a Support Unit for your Force.

MATILDAS IN AFRICA

1ST ARMY TANK BRIGADE

The 42nd & 44th Royal Tank Regiments, part of the 1st Army Tank Brigade, were heavily involved in the battles of 1941 and early 1942.

The 1st Army Tank Brigade experienced a pivotal and difficult year in 1942, transitioning from high-intensity armoured combat in Libya to a retreat into Egypt and eventually reforming into a new unit. Equipped with a mix of Matilda II and Valentine infantry tanks, the brigade was primarily used to support infantry divisions in defensive "boxes" or breakthrough operations.

The brigade's major engagements in 1942 started with the conquest of Bardia (December 1941 – January 1942) following Operation Crusader. The brigade supported the 2nd South African Division in the capture of the coastal stronghold at Bardia, marking one of its last major early-war successes.

The brigade's most significant and costly engagement of the year was the Battle of Gazala (May – June 1942). During the battle its regiments were attached piecemeal to the 1st South African and 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisions. Elements of the brigade were committed to harassment attacks as Rommel's Panzers outflanked the British line. Some units were stationed near the 50th Division's critical defensive box during the heavy German assault on the 150th Brigade Box.

After the Gazala line collapsed, the remaining tanks retreated toward Tobruk and eventually across the Egyptian border to the El Alamein line at Mersa Matruh in June 1942.

While the brigade was severely depleted, its remaining elements participated in the desperate defense that finally halted Rommel's advance at the First Battle of El Alamein in July 1942.

8TH ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

The 8th Royal Tank Regiment (8 RTR) was also equipped with Matildas during the mid-campaign period before transitioning to newer Valentine models.

8 RTR had a tumultuous and physically demanding 1942, transitioning from the "Queen of the Desert" Matilda II to faster Valentine tanks as the frontline role of infantry tanks evolved. Operating under the 23rd Armoured Brigade, the unit's engagements were defined by desperate counter-attacks and heavy losses during the Axis advance into Egypt.

8 RTR's major engagements in 1942 started with the Battle of Gazala (May–June 1942) where they were heavily involved in the defensive actions against Rommel's *Panzerarmee Afrika*. During the retreat to the Alamein Line, the regiment fought numerous rearguard actions.

On 22 July 1942, the regiment participated in a disastrous charge during Operation Splendour (part of the larger First Battle of El Alamein). They attacked across the Ruweisat

Ridge without adequate reconnaissance or infantry support. The 23rd Armoured Brigade, including 8 RTR, lost nearly 100 tanks in a single morning to German anti-tank screens. By October, the 8 RTR was again in action (during the Second Battle of El Alamein), supporting XXX Corps and the 9th Australian Division. Their role was primarily to provide close support for infantry clearing minefields and securing ridges like Miteiriya Ridge during the opening phases of the battle.

By the Second Battle of El Alamein, the 8 RTR had largely replaced its Matildas with the Valentine tank. While both were slow infantry tanks, the Valentine was more mechanically reliable and lower-profile.

By November 1942, after the breakthrough at El Alamein, the regiment was largely exhausted. They handed over their remaining tanks to other units and were briefly withdrawn to the Nile Delta for reorganisation and refitting.

MATILDA ARMoured SQUADRON HQ



1x Matilda (2 pdr)
2x Matilda CS (3 inch)
1x Matilda (2 pdr)

22 POINTS

6 POINTS

Infantry Tank Squadrons of the Royal Tank Regiment are equipped with slow but heavily-armoured 'I' Tanks. Unlike cruiser tanks that operated within fast-moving armoured divisions, Matilda infantry tanks were concentrated in specific Royal Tank Regiments (RTR) assigned to heavy infantry support roles.

MOTIVATION
CONFIDENT 4+
Infantry Tank
Counterattack 3+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+

• TANK FORMATION •



IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR
FRONT **7**
SIDE & REAR **6**
TOP **2**

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
8"/20CM	10"/25CM	12"/30CM	12"/30CM	3+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Matilda (2 pdr)	24"/60CM	2	1	7	4+	No HE
Matilda CS (3-inch)	32"/80CM	ARTILLERY		2	4+	Smoke Bombardment
or Direct Fire	16"/40CM	2	1	5	3+	Smoke
Matilda & CS (MG)	16"/40CM	3	3	2	6	

MATILDA ARMoured TROOP



3x Matilda (2 pdr)

18 POINTS

Find the Matilda on
battlefrontgroup.com



BR053
MATILDA II

MOTIVATION
CONFIDENT 4+
Infantry Tank
Counterattack 3+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+

• TANK UNIT •



IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR
FRONT **7**
SIDE & REAR **6**
TOP **2**

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
8"/20CM	10"/25CM	12"/30CM	12"/30CM	3+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Matilda (2 pdr)	24"/60CM	2	1	7	4+	No HE
Matilda (MG)	16"/40CM	3	3	2	6	

VALENTINE II ARMoured TROOP



3x Valentine II (2 pdr)

11 POINTS

The Valentine was designed as a cheaper alternative to the old Matilda infantry tank. Weighing in at just 17 tonnes, it was faster and almost as heavily armoured, though it retained the same light 2 pdr gun. Its biggest improvement was its mechanical reliability. The Valentines of 23 Armoured Brigade crossed North Africa on their own tracks, fighting all the way.

MOTIVATION
CONFIDENT 4+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+

• TANK UNIT •



IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR
FRONT **6**
SIDE & REAR **6**
TOP **1**

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
8"/20CM	10"/25CM	14"/35CM	16"/40CM	3+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Valentine II (2 pdr)	24"/60CM	2	1	7	4+	No HE, Overworked
Valentine II (MG)	16"/40CM	3	3	2	6	