

# “An Argan Tug of War”




## British Somaliland — August 12th, 1940

The Italian conquest of British Somaliland in August 1940 would represent Italy’s only successful country conquest during the entire war. Only in British Somaliland would Italian arms fully defeat the British and take control of the desired territory. The primary aim of the seizure of British Somaliland was to protect the rear of the Italian positions in Ethiopia. Initially the Italians encountered no resistance as they launched a three pronged attack. But as they moved towards Tug Argan pass, British opposition and difficult terrain would arrest their forward progress towards the coastal city of Berbera. Italian General De Simone led the center attack on the British defenses at the Tug Argan pass. On August 12th, General De Simone would send his central column supported by armor and consisting of colonial troops up the main road into the pass. Defending this sector were the men of the 1st Northern Rhodesian Regiment and King’s 2nd Rifle Regiment.

**VICTORY CONDITIONS:** The Italians win at game end by controlling Hexes X5, X6, X7 and Y7. Any other result is a British victory.

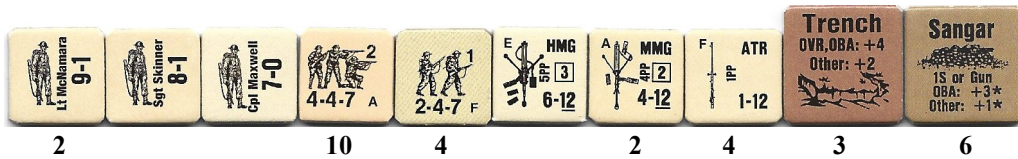


Italian Player moves First	 1	2	3	4	5	6
British Player sets up First						

Board LFT 8



Elements of 1st Northern Rhodesia Regiment (ELR 4) (SAN 4) (Set up: on any Level 3 Hill Hexes)



Elements of XV Brigata Coloniale & 322 Compagnia Carri M (ELR 3) (SAN 3) (Set up: enter Turn 1 on West Edge having used half of their MP between Hexes A1 & U1)



### Special Rules/Notes:

1. EC are Dry with no Wind at start. Light Dust (F11.71) is in effect.
2. Bore Sighting (C6.4) is N.A. Kindling ( B25.11) is N.A.
3. Concealment (A12) is N.A. at game start. Following Turn 1, Concealment is gained as normal.
4. Rhodesians are treated as 1st Line and do not Cover (A7.9). Rhodesians ELR to 4-3-6's.

**Aftermath:** The British units fought hard and managed to slow the Italian advance up the center. Despite a lack of anti-tank and artillery support, the 1st Northern Rhodesian and 2nd King’s Rifle Regiments would hold the Tug Argan pass until the 15th of August. On the 15th of August, British General Godwin-Austen would order the forces at Tug Argan to fall back in a general retreat to Berbera. The British decision to evacuate Berbera would bring an end to the campaign and give the Italians control of British Somaliland. It would be a short-lived success as South African units would land at Berbera only seven months later to reestablish British control of British Somaliland.

