



## **BURON 07 June 1944**

**By Doug Eaglesham**

June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 showed the return of Western Allies back on European soil since being forced off during the fall of France in 1940 to the Nazi Regime. The United States, Britain and Canadians were the major contributors to the landings on Normandy Beach with the Canadians meeting the majority of their objectives on the first day. The assault on Juno Beach was spearheaded by two assault brigades of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division and after the

beach head was consolidated, the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, which was in reserve, was brought forward to take up the advance and by nightfall, the advance guard of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade, the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, accompanied by the 27<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, the Sherbrooke Fusilier, had taken up position around Villons-les-Buissons.

The next day, the advance continued, meeting light opposition and by mid day, the town of Buron was secured, after which, C company along with the main vanguard, moved towards Authie. A Company had moved towards Gruchy in the Southeast while B and D companies stayed in Buron. The Sherbrookes then deployed in between Authie and Buron while their recon tanks, Stuart MkV's attached to the vanguard were stationed more closer to Franqueville. Because of this advance, the SF and NNSH had outrun their artillery support from the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment as well as naval support from a supporting British warship, but this was due to radio failure.

### **Situation**

Following the North Nova Scotia Highlander's advance into Buron and surrounding villages, a Kampfgruppe of the 12.SS Panzer Division "Hitlerjugend" led by Standartenführer Kurt Meyer is assembling nearby in Abbey d'Ardenne. At 1500 on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1944, the attack against the Canadians began.

### **Weather (Optional)**

Historically, weather was clear.

### **Battlefield**

BUA: all BUA are classed as Hard Cover

Watercourse: Stream

Vegetation: Woods and Groves

Fields: various fields surround the area but is mainly open with little in the way of cover, such as hedges.

### **Historical Outcome- German Victory**

By the time the battle had ended, both sides had taken heavy losses. The Canadians had put up a valiant defense, but due to constant German artillery barrages and the onslaught of the assault, the Canadians were forced to pull out of Buron and its surrounding area. German losses were not clear nor precise, yet the Canadians lost 242 men, 84 were fatal, 128 were taken prisoners and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers had lost an estimated 21 tanks with 7 damaged. Canadian tankers claimed to have destroyed or damaged 31 German tanks.

## Canadian Forces

Mission: Hold. Prevent the German forces from retaking the towns of Authie, Gruchy and Buron

Historical Units

Troop Quality: All are Regular, Morale: 8

## Initial Troops

**North Nova Scotia Highlanders,** 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division

Headquarters with:

1 Command Stand

1 Half track

A, B, C & D Companies, each with:

1 infantry command stand (integral PIAT)

2 infantry stands (integral PIAT)

11<sup>th</sup> Pl/ C Coy, Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (MG):

1 MMG

1 Universal Carrier

Support Company, with:

1 6pdr ATG

1 3 inch Mortar

2 Universal Carriers

**27<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers), 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade:**

Headquarters, with:

1 Sherman V (75)

1 Crusader II AA

Recon Squadron:

2 Recon Stuart MkV

3 Squadrons, each with:

1 Command Sherman V (75)

2 Sherman V (75)

1 Sherman Firefly Vc (17pdr)

## Reinforcements- Optional

**14<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (arrives after turn 4- Off Board Artillery)**

34<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup> Batteries, each with:

2x 105mm Priest

**Naval Support (Off Board Artillery, after Turn 6 with 1 Fire mission every 2 turns)**

British Light Cruiser HMS Belfast w/ 16" guns

**L Troop, 105<sup>th</sup> Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery:**

1 M10 (3")

## Notes:

The 14<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment and its escort, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti tank with its M10's, had come under mortar bombardment while moving forward to support the NNSH, but by the time they were able to get under way again, the NNSH and others had already abandoned Buron. The Naval support from the HMS Belfast was lost prior to the German counter attack due to radio failure and when it was finally reestablished Buron and surrounding area had been lost.

If the Reinforcements are used, the 34<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battery is classed as 'Dedicated' to the Infantry Regiment and Batteries 66 and 81 are 'Supporting'. All three Batteries use the 'British Artillery Rule' as per 18.1.1.2 on page 55. Naval Artillery is 'Supporting' to the Infantry Regiment. The M10 of L Troop is under the command of the Infantry Battalion and deploys with C Coy, NNSH.

## **German Forces**

Mission: Counter attack. Retake the town's of Authie, Gruchy and Buron.

Historical Units

Troop Quality: Veteran, Morale: 9

## **Initial Troops**

### **Kampfgruppe Meyer, 12. SS Panzer Division "Hitlerjugend"**

Headquarters, with:

1 Command Stand

1 car or motorcycle

3. Battalion, 25. SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment, with:

1 Command Stand

1 car

9, 10, 11 Companies, each with:

1 PanzerGrenadier Command stand (integral Panzerfaust)

2 PanzerGrenadier stands (integral Panzerfaust)

1 Weapons stand

12. Company, with:

1 Pak 40 75mm ATG

1 75mm Infantry Gun

1 80mm Mortar

1 Sd Kfz 11

1 Sd Kfz 10

3. Ptn/ 13. company:

1x 150mm sIG

1 Sd Kfz 11

14. Company (Flak):

2 Sd Kfz 10/ 20mm Flak

### **2. Battalion, 12. SS Panzer Regiment, with:**

Headquarters, with:

1 Command Panzer IV H

5. & 6. Companies, each with:

1 Command Panzer IV H

3 Panzer IV H

### **3. Battalion, 12. SS Artillery Regiment (off board)**

9. Battalion with

1x 150mm Field Gun

10. Battalion with

1x 100mm K 18

### **Notes:**

The 13 and 14 companies of the infantry battalion are both under the commands of the Kampfgruppe HQ and the Infantry Battalion HQ. The 10<sup>th</sup> Artillery Battalion is 'Dedicated' to the infantry battalion while the 9<sup>th</sup> is 'Supporting'.

## Set Up

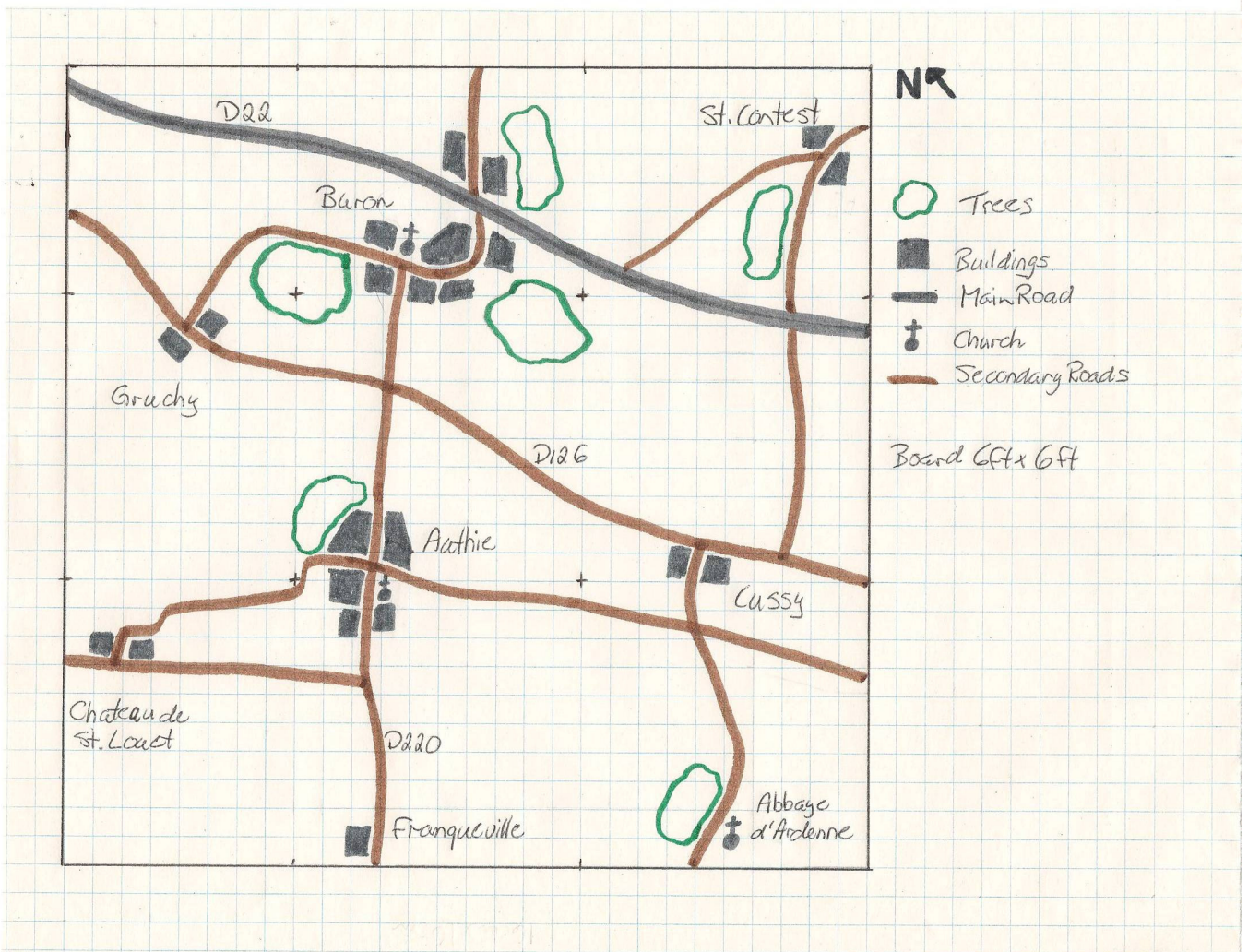
Canadian Player deploys first: NNSH Command and B & D Coys deploy within 6" of Buron. A Coy deploys within 6" of Gruchy. C Coy, NNSH Support Coy, CH of O (MG) within 6" of Authie. The SF recon, 2 Stuart MkV tanks, deploy close to or around Franqueville to the south. The Sherbrooke's are deployed in between Buron, Gruchy and Authie.

German Player deployment: KP Meyer Command is deployed at the Abbaye d'Ardennes. The Pz Gren battalion deploys within 14" of the Abbaye with Panzer company 5 & 6 deploying on each flank of the infantry.

## Victory Conditions

Victory goes to the player than holds the majority of the towns Authie, Gruchy and Buron. Players may also wish to use the 'Mission Victory' rule 48.1, page 106 of main rulebook.

**Note:** This scenario was originally from GHQ's WWII Canadian Supplement. I have modified it from theirs, as well as research from various books and internet sites to get as much information as possible to make it an enjoyable historical battle.



3086

Franqueville

Abbaye d'Ardenne

Cussy

Authi

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N

C

3086

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