








## The Battle of Kasserine Pass


### Belligerents

 United States  
 United Kingdom  
 Free France

 Germany  
 Italy

### Commanders and leaders

 MG Lloyd Fredendall, US II Corps   
 LTG Kenneth Anderson, British 1<sup>st</sup> Army 

 FM Erwin Rommel, Afrika Corps  
 Gen HJ von Arnim, 5<sup>th</sup> Panzer Army

### Strength

30,000

22,000

### Casualties

Including Sidi Bou Zid: 10,000

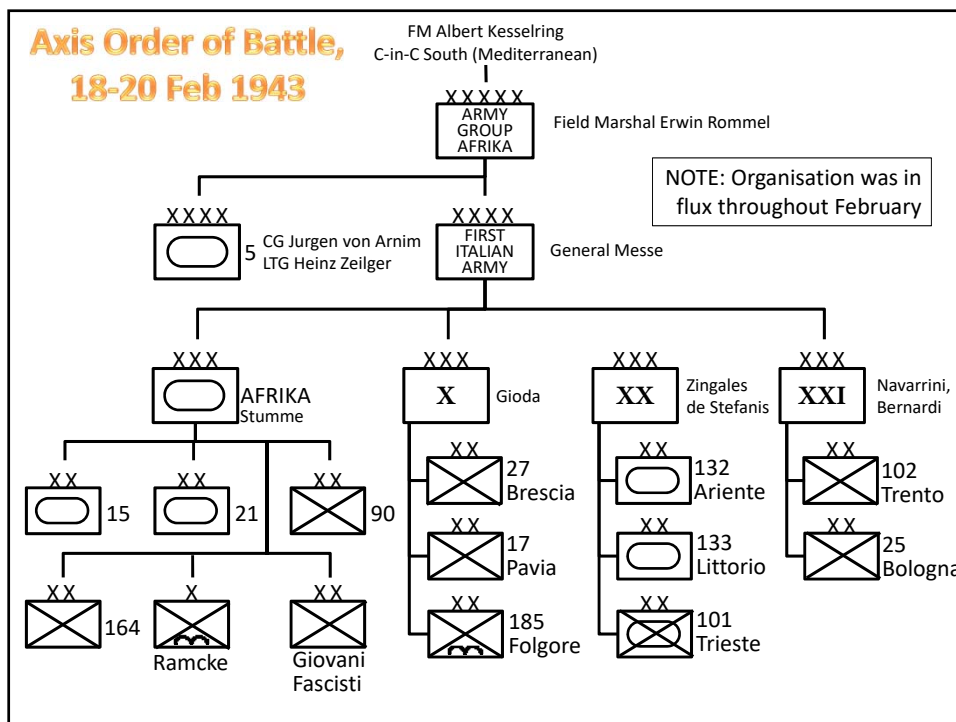
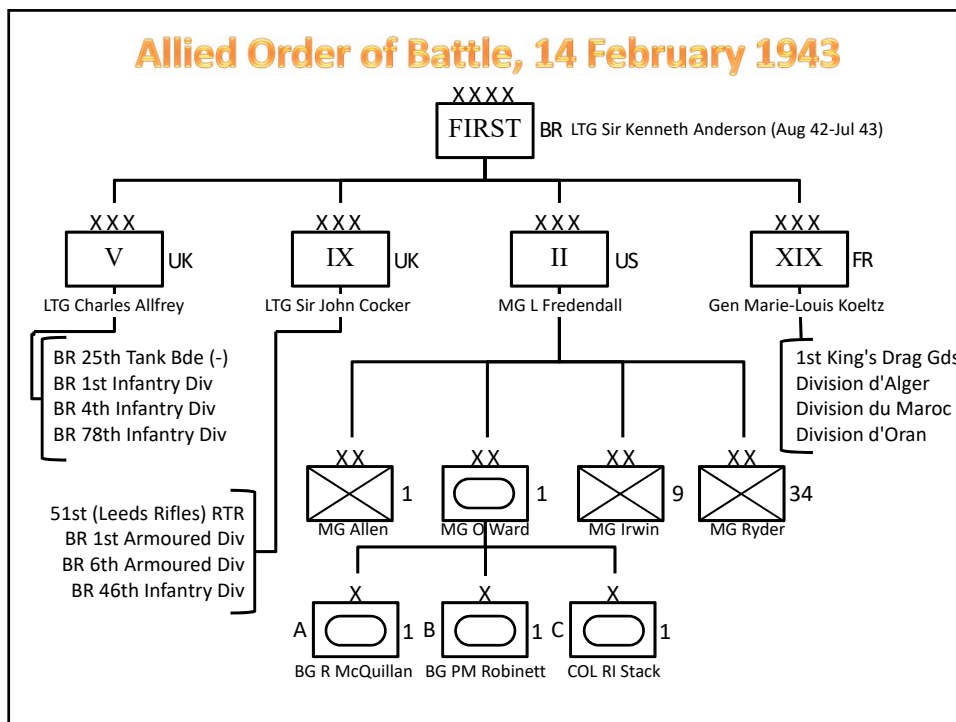
183 tanks

American:

- 300 KIA
- 3,000 WIA
- 3,000 MIA

Including Sidi Bou Zid: 2,000

34 tanks











## The Second Battle of El Alamein

### Belligerents

 UK	 Australia	 US*	 Germany
 India	 S. Africa	 NZ	 Italy
 Free France	 Free Greece		

### Commanders and leaders

 Gen Sir Harold Alexander, CinC ME	 Marshal Ettore Bastico, Axis CinC, NA
 LTG William Gott, 8 <sup>th</sup> Army, Died (8/42)	 FM Erwin Rommel, Afrika Corps
 LTG Bernard Montgomery, 8 <sup>th</sup> Army	 LTG Georg Stumme, Afrika Corps, Died

### Strength

220,000 men	116,000 men
1,029 tanks (incl M4s); 435 armoured cars	547 tanks; 193 armoured cars
750 aircraft	675 aircraft (480 serviceable)
900 field guns; 1,451 anti-tank guns	552 field guns; 496 anti-tank guns

### Casualties

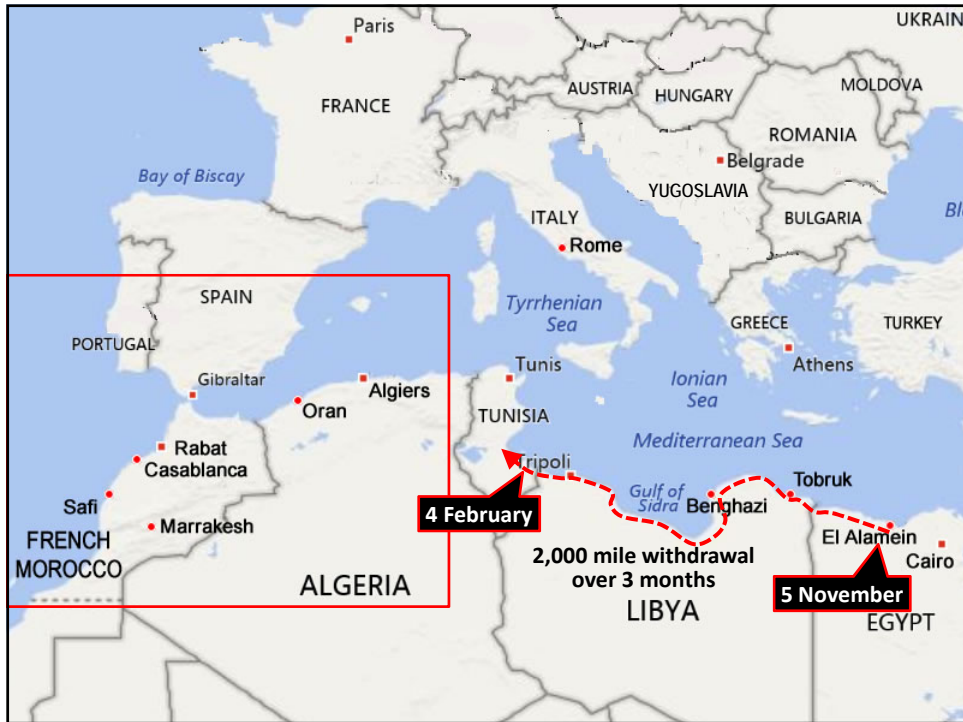
2,350 KIA; 8,950 WIA; 2,260 CIA	2,349 KIA; 5,486 WIA; 30,121 CIA
332-500 tanks; 111 guns; 97 aircraft	500 tanks; 254 guns; 84 aircraft

NOTE: \* US provided air support.


















## 23 October – 4 November 1942

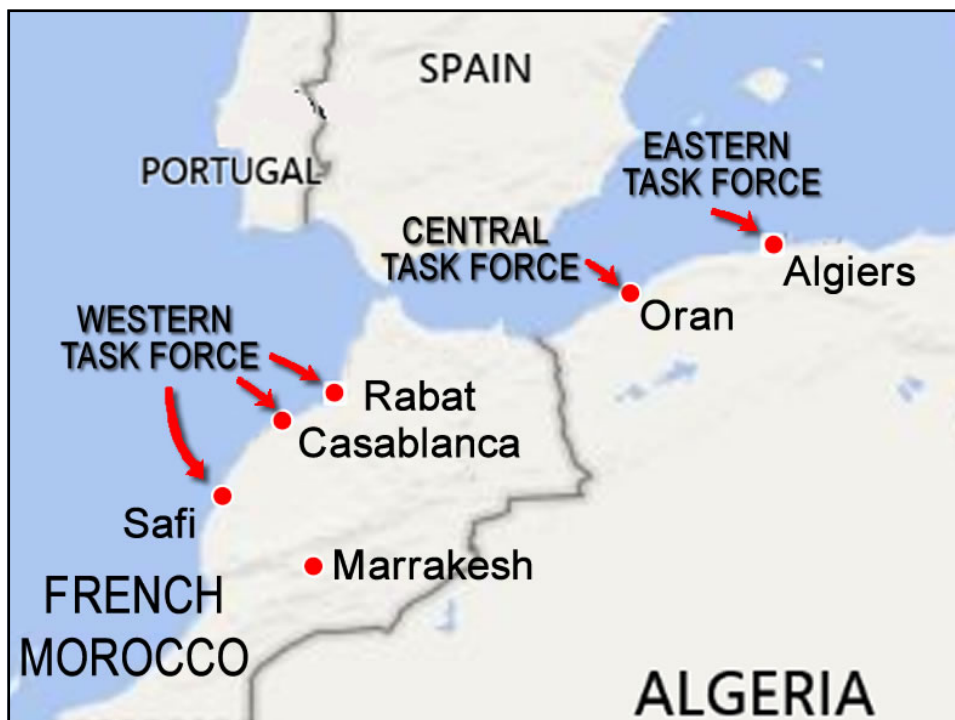
- Although General Auchinleck had won the First Battle of El Alamein in early July 1942, an impatient Churchill replaced him with LTG Montgomery in early August.
- After a stalled offensive (Alam Halfa), Rommel placed his army in a strong defensive position and was medivaced (illness).
- 23 October, 8<sup>th</sup> Army kicked off Operation Lightfoot, a two corps infantry attack to clear paths through minefields. Rommel returned 25 October.
- 1 November, Operation Supercharge followed with armor. On 2 Nov Rommel warned Hitler they would fall and told “stand or die.” Defences caved 4 November and withdrawal began.
- Over 3 months, Afrika Corps conducted successful 2,000 mile withdrawal to Tunisia despite low fuel and ammunition.







<b>Operation Torch</b>		
<b>Belligerents</b>		
 United States  UK  Free France	 Australia  Canada  Netherlands	 Vichy France  Germany (naval forces)  Italy (naval forces)
<b>Commanders and leaders</b>		
 LTG DD Eisenhower, Supreme Cdr  AoF AB Cunningham, CinC Med Fleet  MG George Patton, CG, Western TF  MG Fredendall, CG, Central TF  LTG K Anderson, CG Brit 1 <sup>st</sup> Army	 ADM Francois Darlan  General Charles Noguès, CinC NA  Captain Ernst Kals, 2 <sup>nd</sup> U-boat Flotilla	
<b>Strength</b>		
107,000 men (33k French Morocco; 39k Algiers; 35k Oran) 350 warships; 500 transports	150,000 regulars, 200,000 reservists 210 tanks; 500 aircraft; much artillery 1 battleship; 10 warships; 39 submarines	
<b>Casualties</b>		
USA: 530 KIA; 887 WIA; 52 MIA UK/Allies: 574 KIA; 756 WIA 1 Escort carrier, 4 destroyers; 10 other ships	1,346+ KIA; 1,997 WIA 1 light cruiser, 5 destroyers sunk. Submarines: France 6; Germany 8; Italy 2	







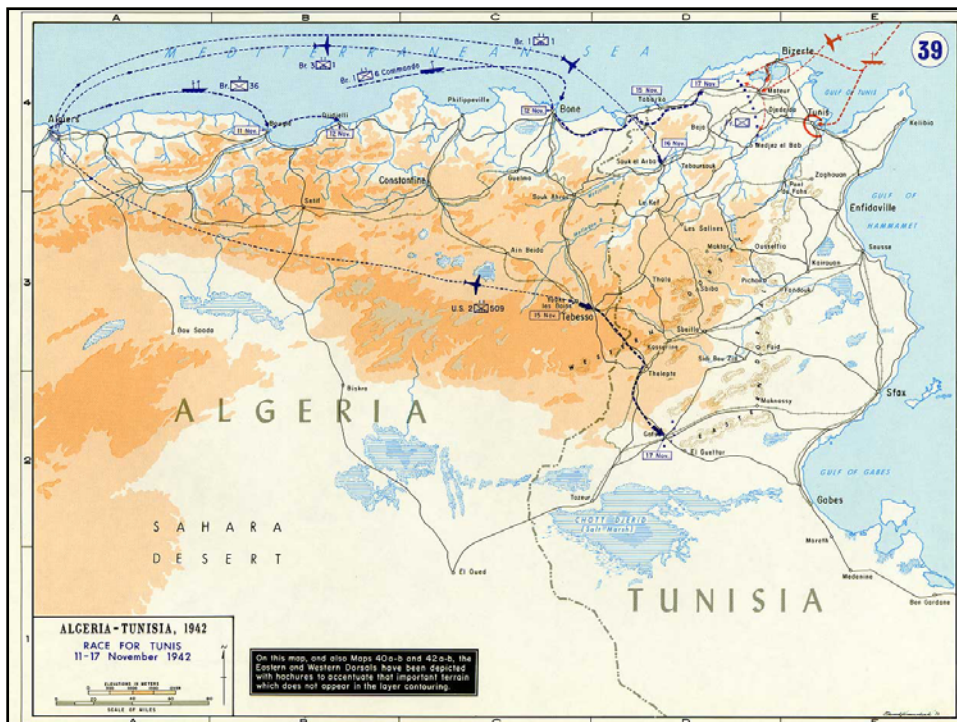


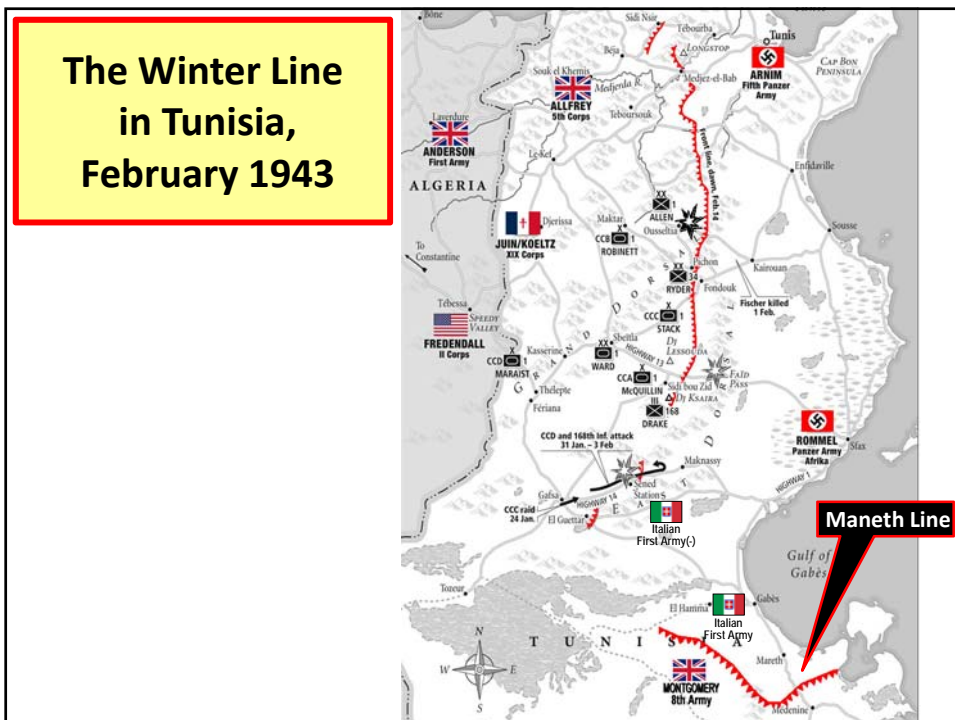
**The Race for Tunis**

- After the breakthrough at El Alamein on 6 November, the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army chased the retreating Afrika Corps for two months through Egypt and Libya to Tunisia.
- After 3 days of hard fighting against French ending 11 November, the Allies battled the Germans, Italians and General Mud from Morocco and Algeria to reach Tunis before the Afrika Corps.
  - On 6 Dec, the US 1st Armor Division lost 900 men, 18 tanks, 41 guns and 132 vehicles when a attack at Djebel el Guessa stalled in a field of mud ranged in by German 88's.
  - On 22-25 Dec, a British 6<sup>th</sup> Armor Division offensive against Djebel Almera (Longstop Hill AKA Red Hill) stalled in the rain with heavy casualties (US 1/18 Infantry, 45%; Coldstream Guards, 25%). Expecting a company, the Nazis had reinforced with an Armor Brigade.
  - On 24 Dec, Eisenhower and Anderson (UK) concluded that weather dictated an indefinite deferment (estimated to last two months).
- Throughout November and December 1942, German and Italian reinforcements ferry overnight from Sicily into Tunisia. The flow of Axis troops and equipment into Tunis and Bizerta, was gradually reduced, but a sizeable force got through.









### Battle of the Maneth Line, 16-31 March 1943











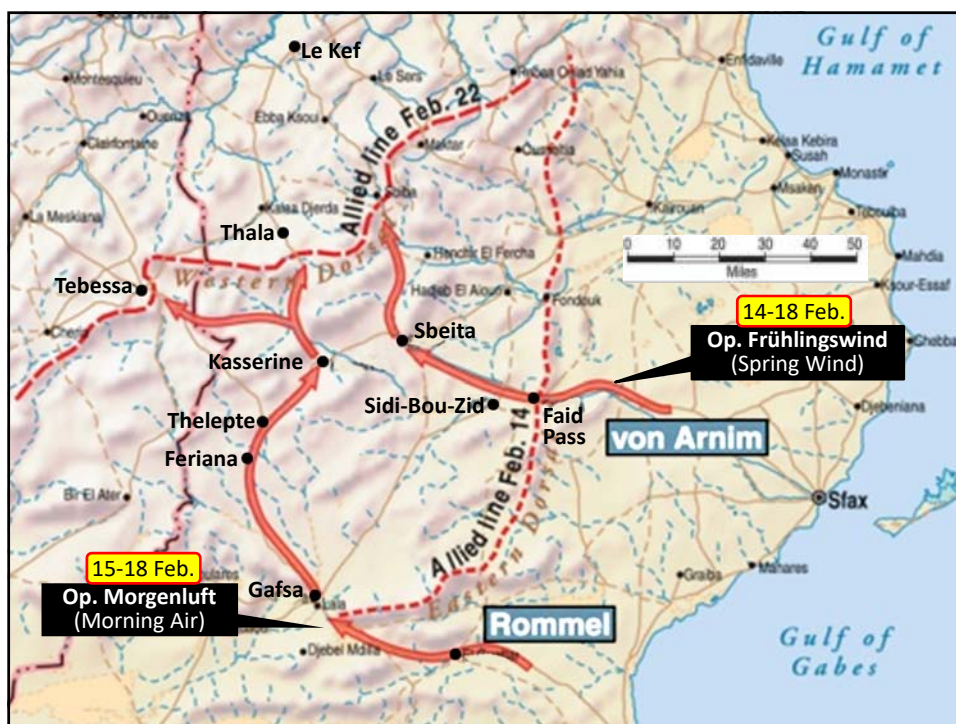
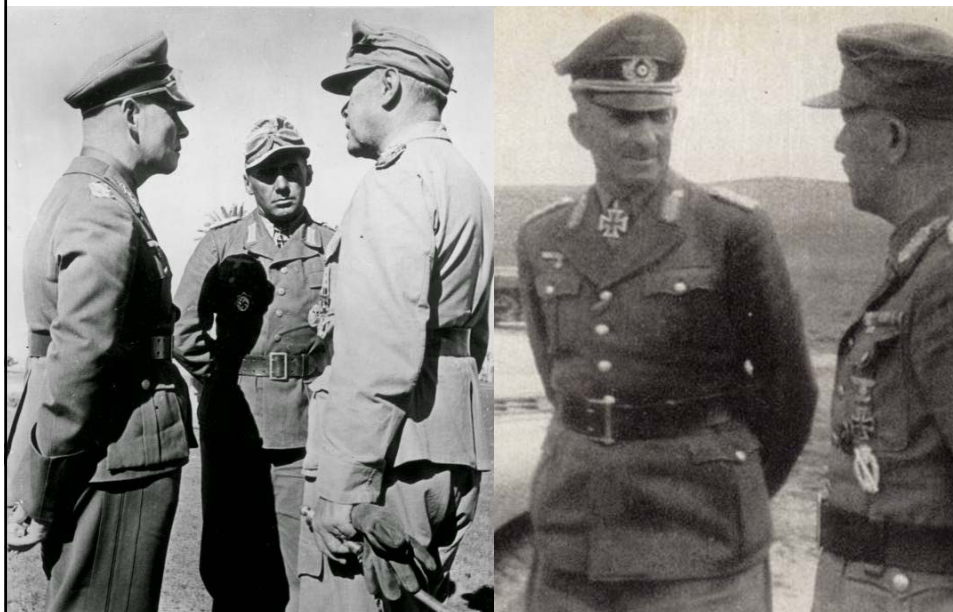


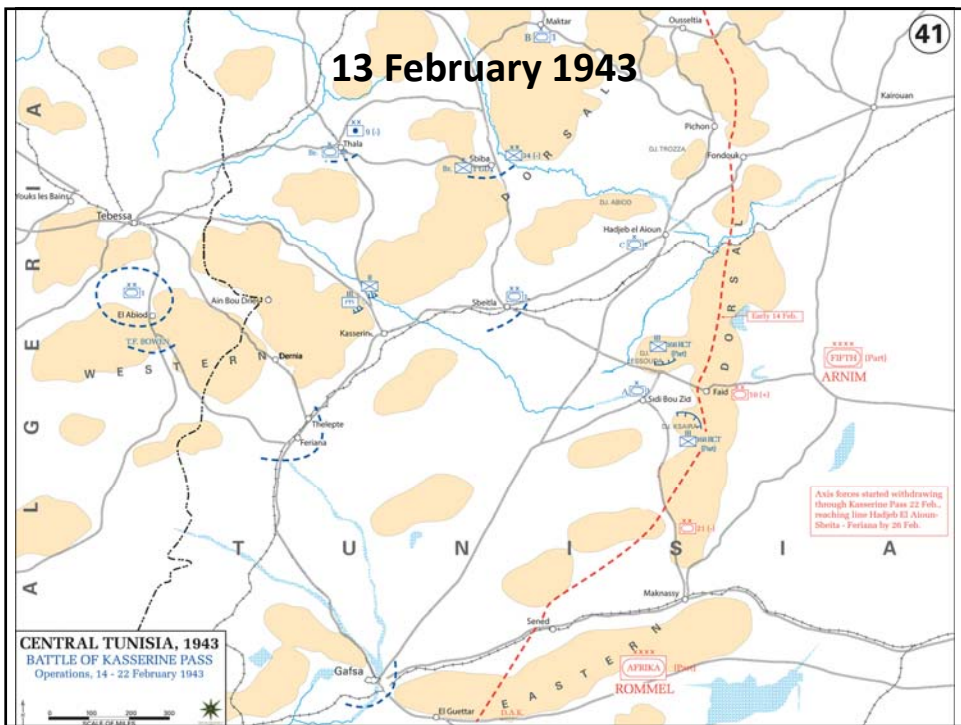


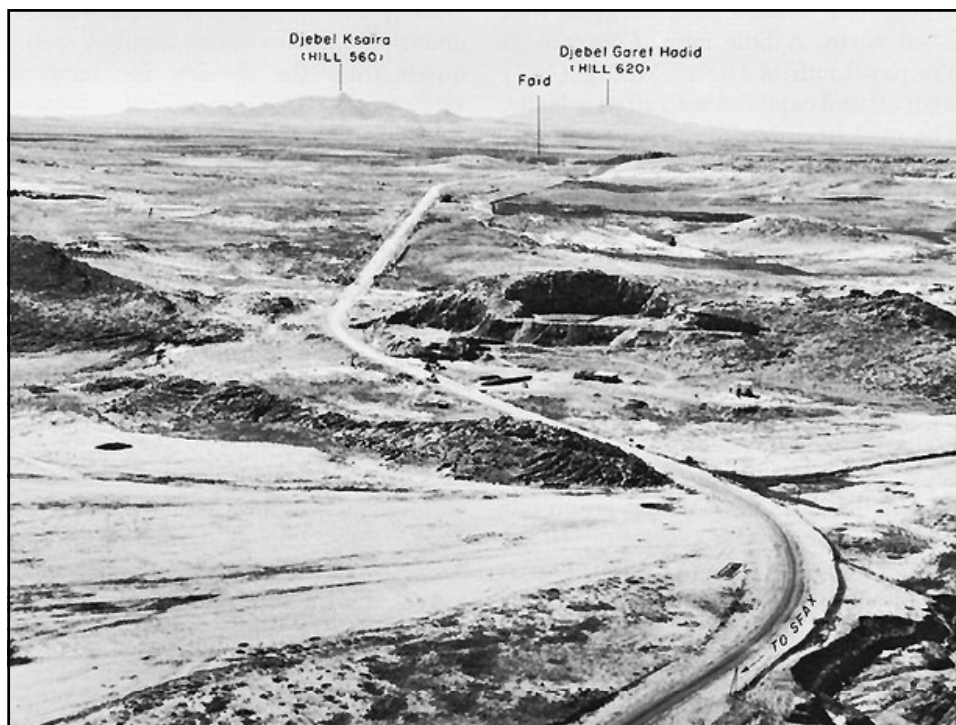
### **But that's yet to come!**

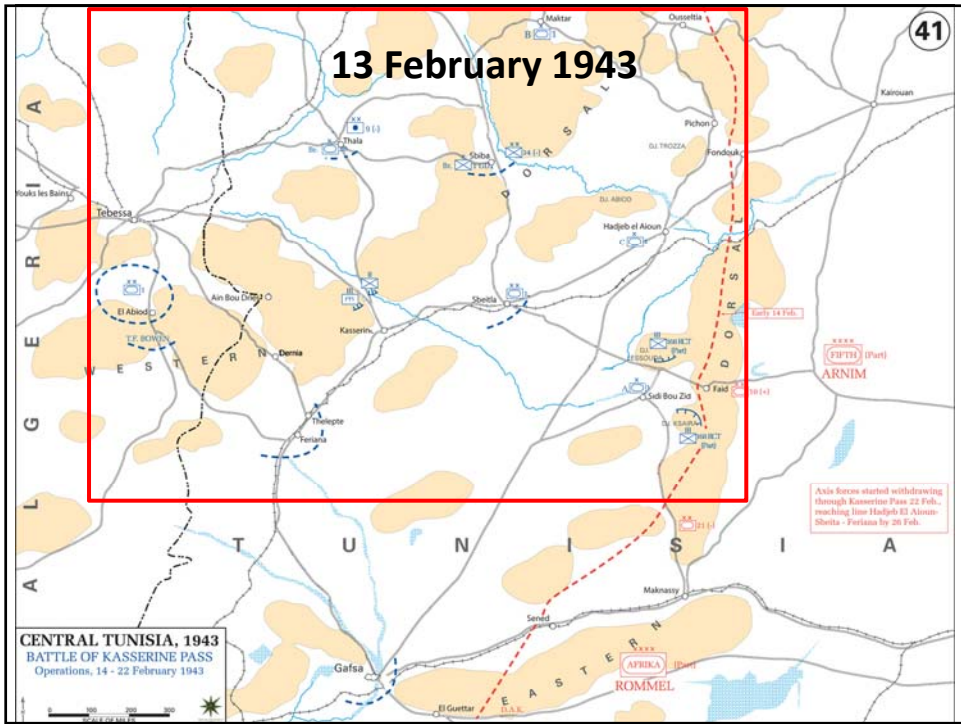
- After El Alamein, Rommel orchestrated a brilliant withdrawal over three months, cleverly manipulating Montgomery and playing on his need for security.
- He correctly assumed that the Mareth Line would challenge and check Montgomery for a bit. It did.
- During that three months, Germany poured troops and equipment to Tunisia, forming the 5<sup>th</sup> Panzer Army under Colonel General Hans-Jurgen von Arnim.
- Rommel's and von Arnim's commands were separate.
- To top it off, they hadn't interacted since captains 30 years prior, and didn't like each other then . Not a bit.

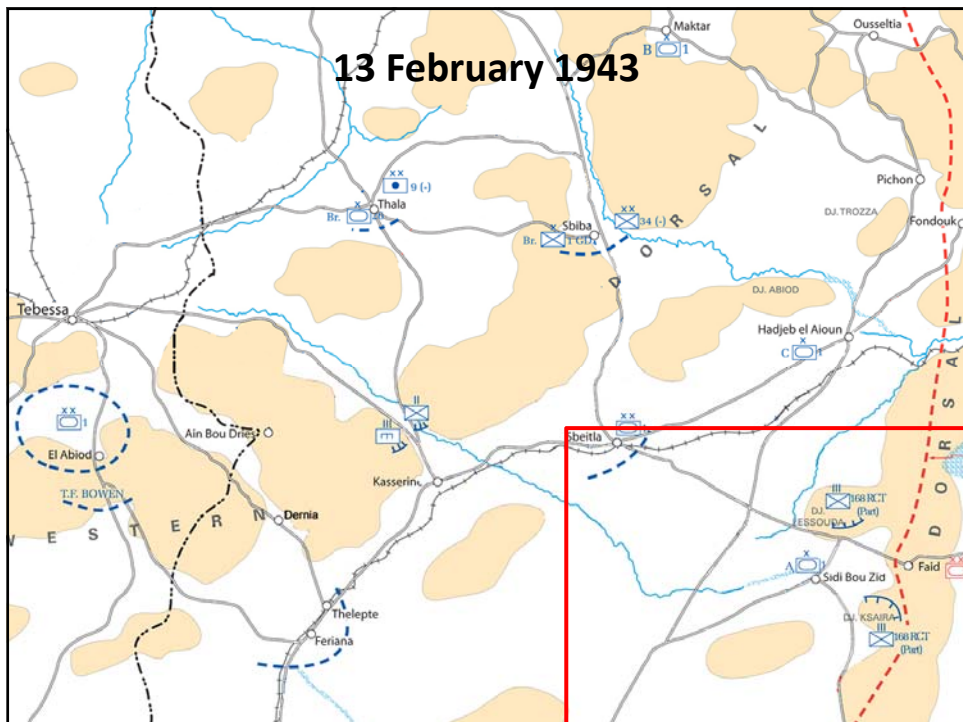
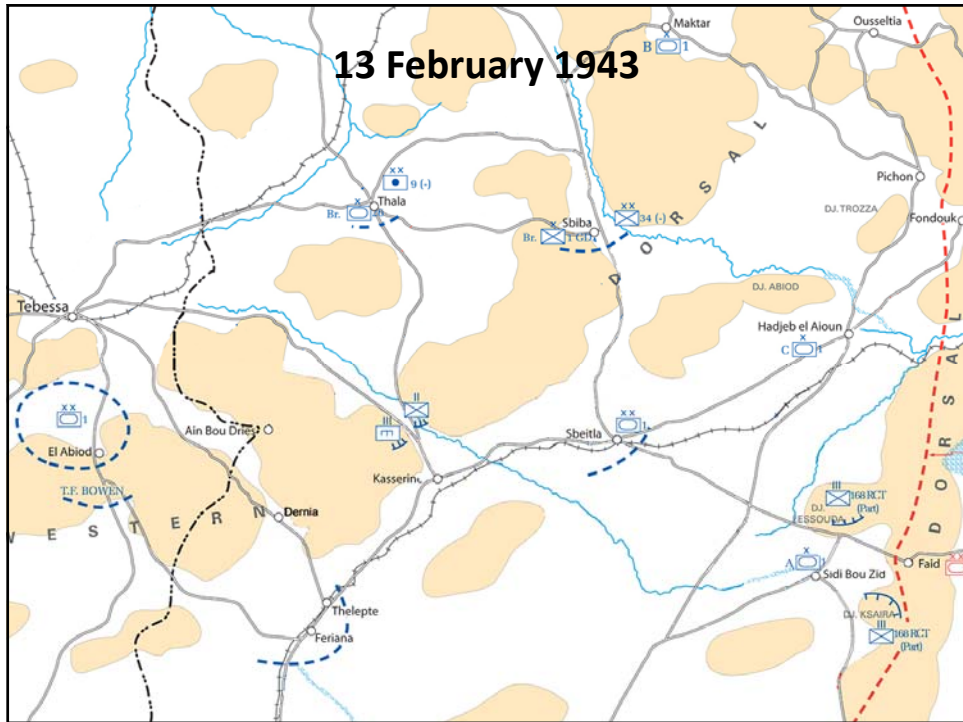
### Smiling Albert's Cunning Plan



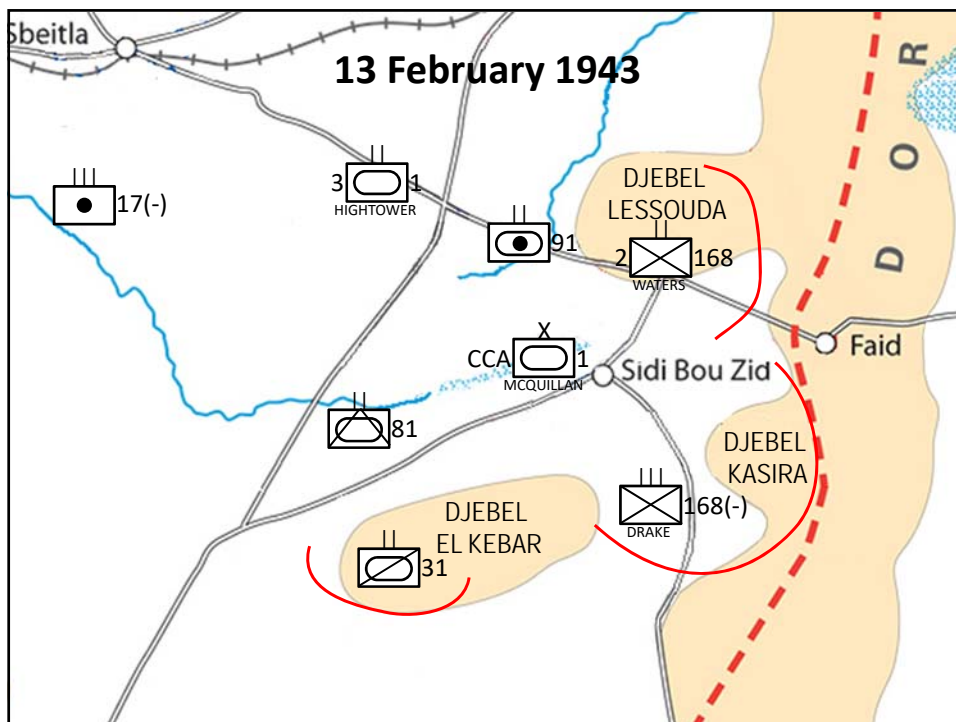








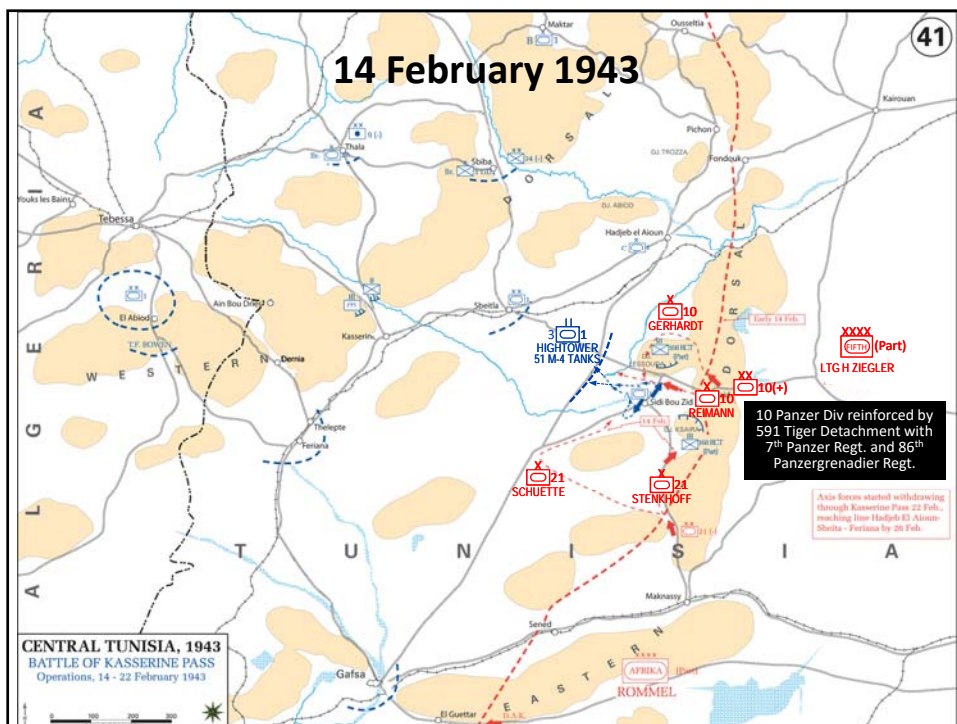










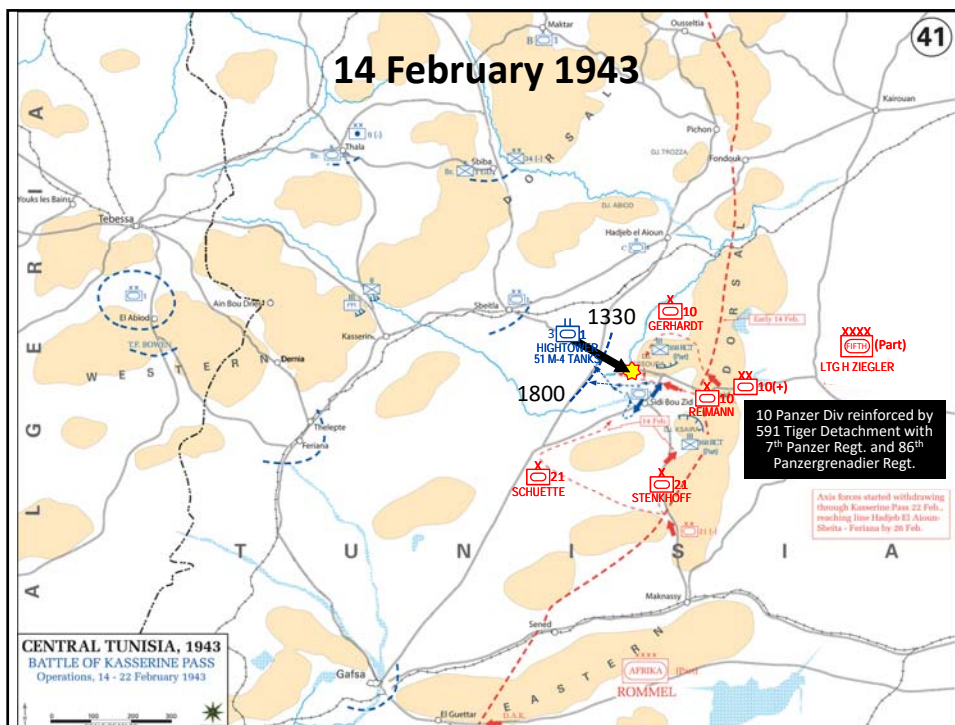




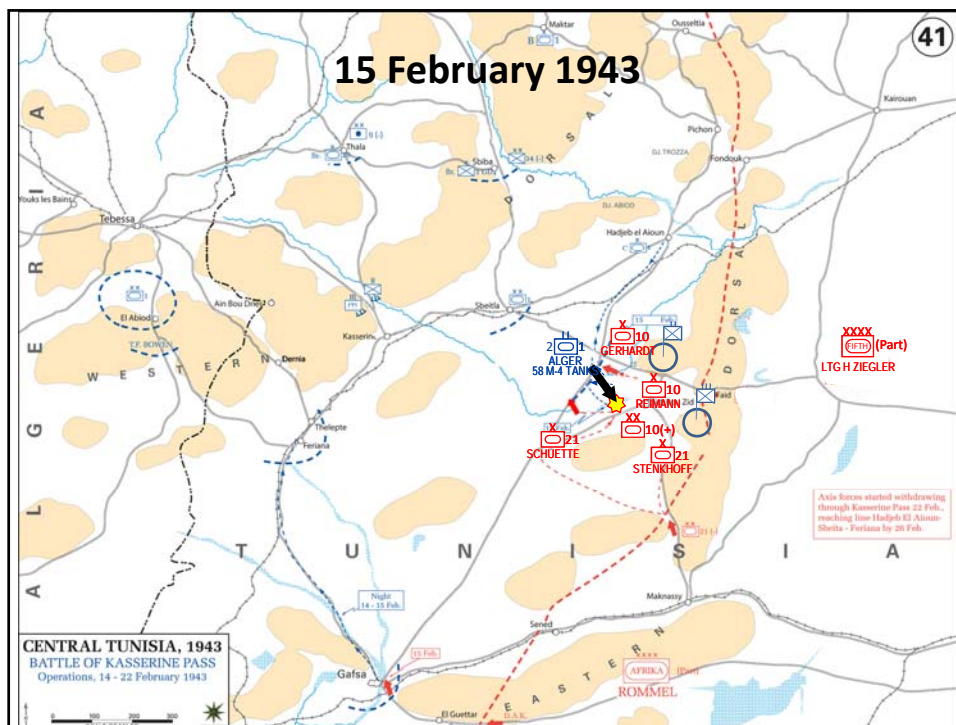




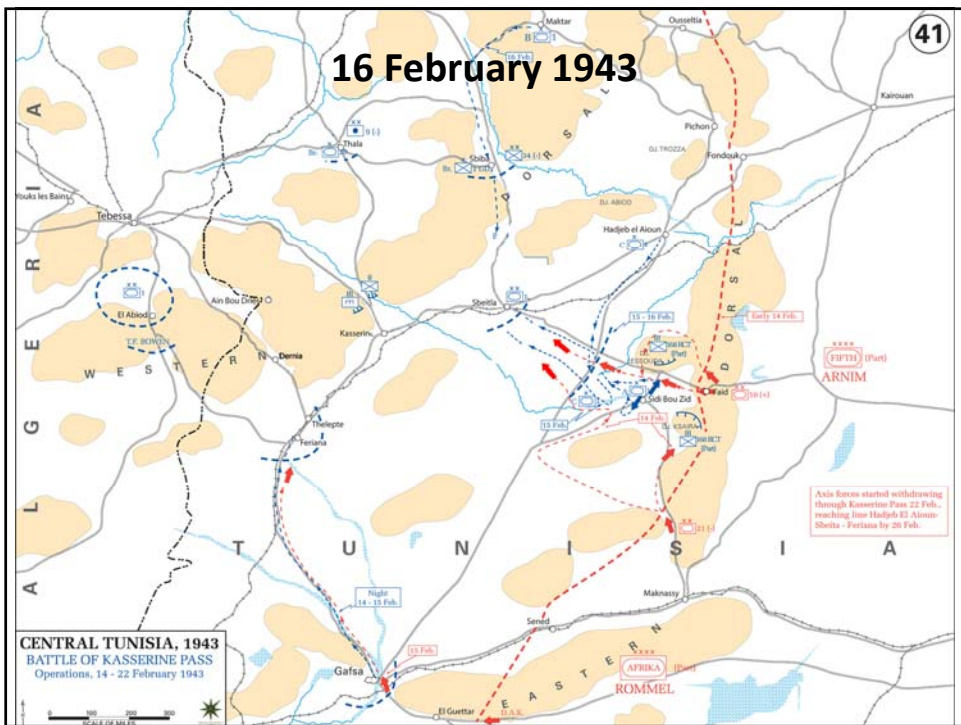




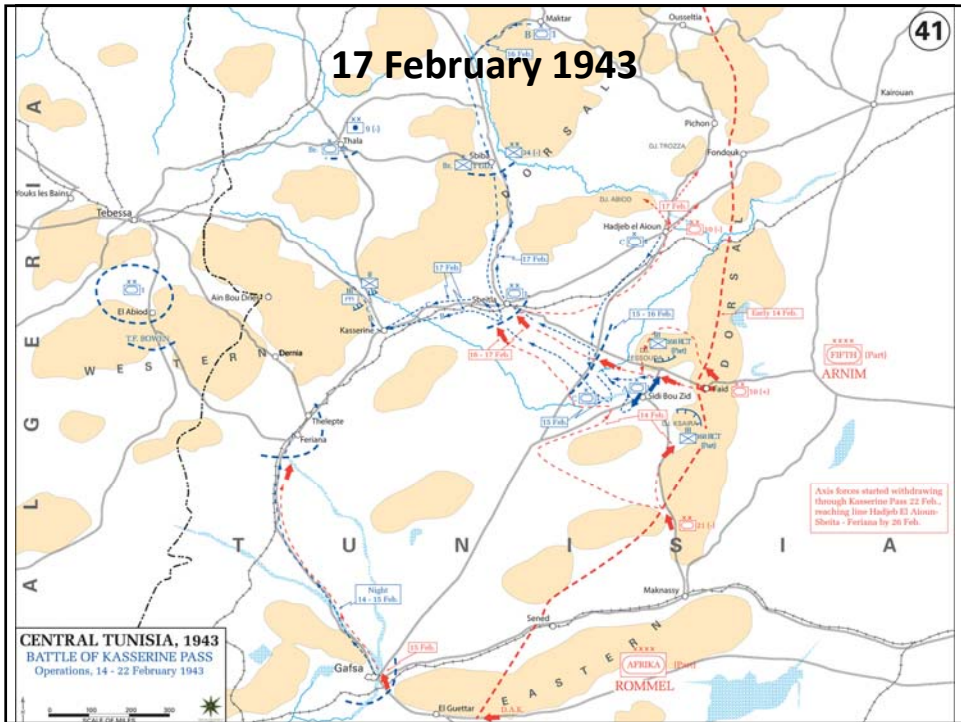






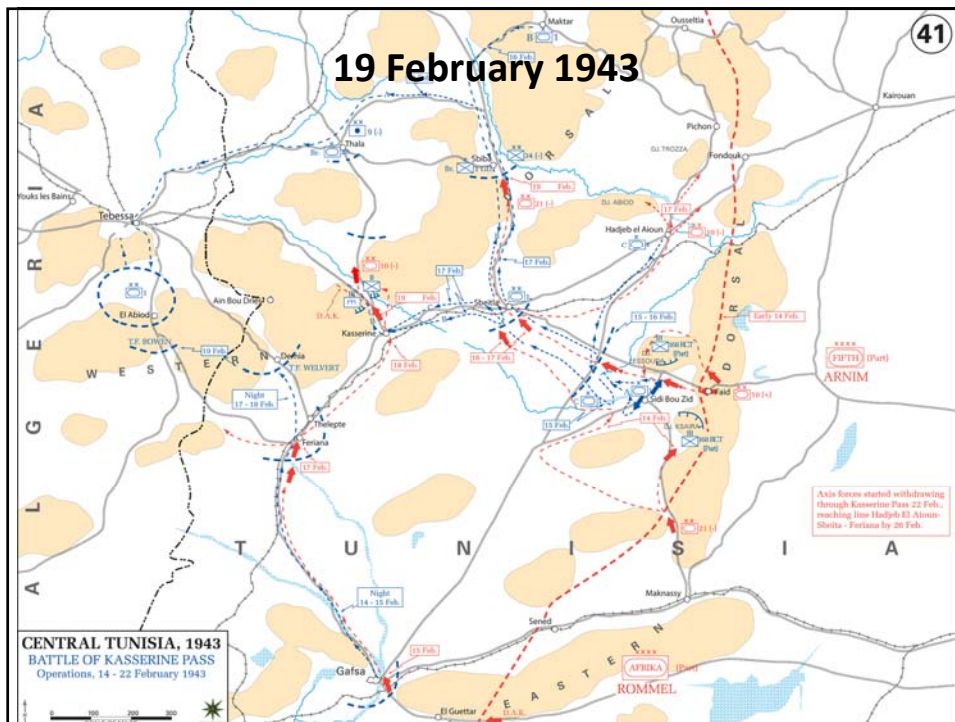
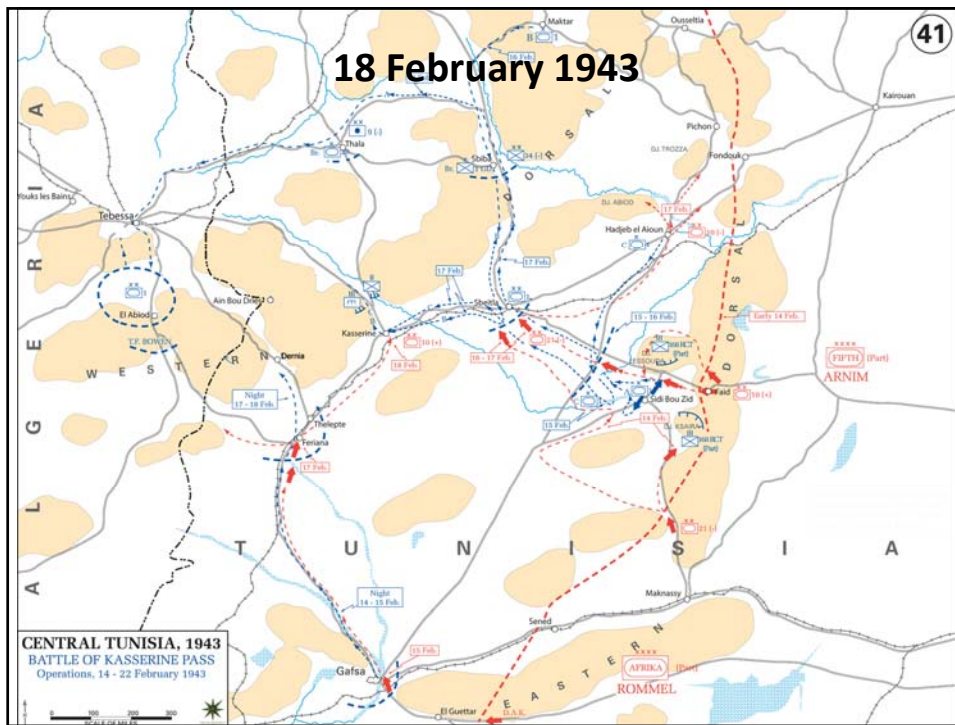


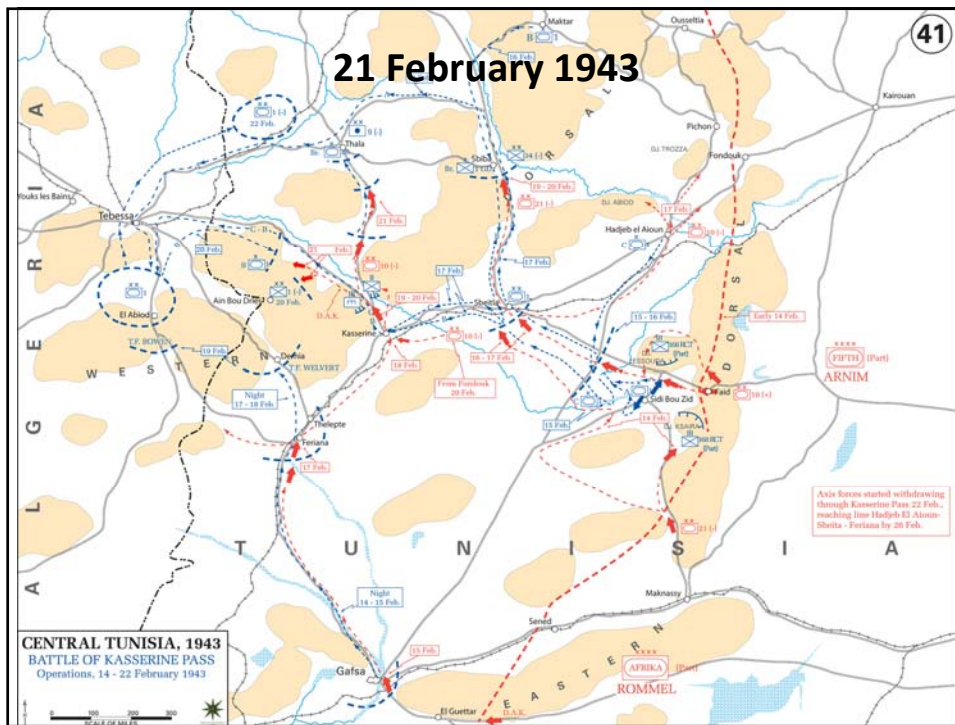
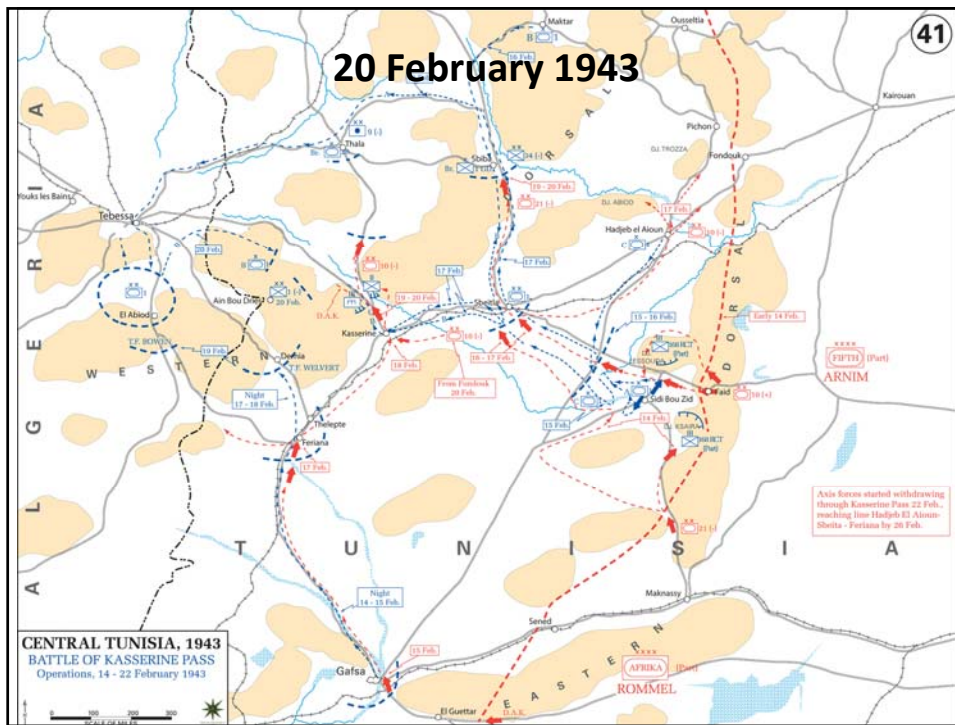


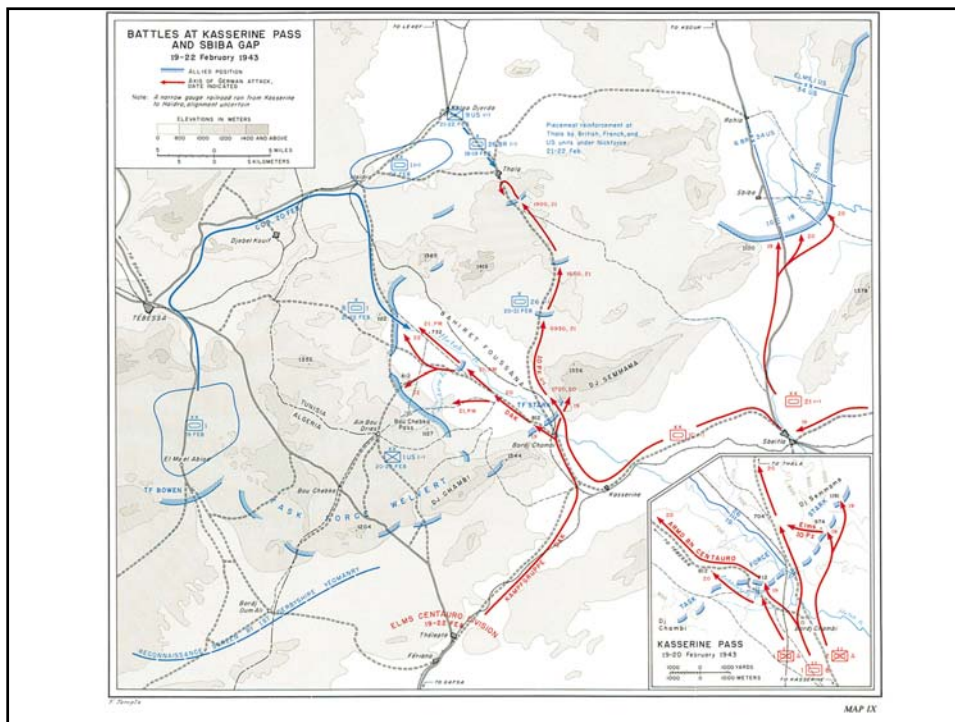
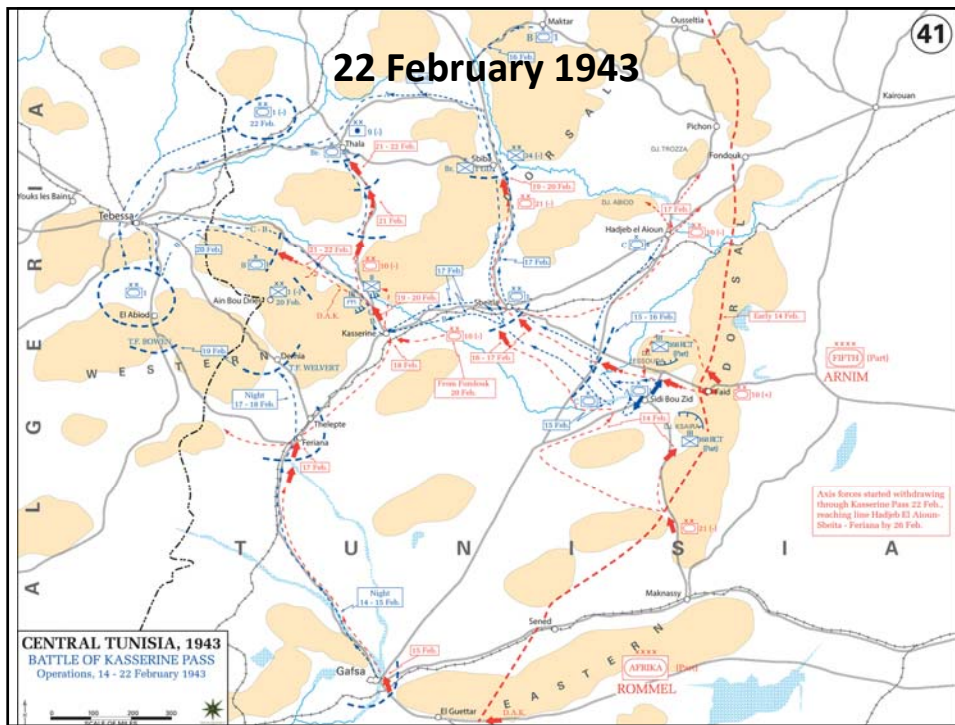












### Kasserine Quotables

- “Never were so few commanded by so many from so far away.” (Anonymous GI, Tunisia)
- “Resupply was to become the single most difficult problem facing the Allies during the Tunisian campaign.” 38
- “Victory in the next war will depend on execution, not plans.” (Patton to Eisenhower, 1926)
- “Where there is fear of failure, there will be failure.” (George S. Patton)
- “Audacity, audacity, always audacity.” (GS Patton)



