



48 Royal Marine Commando

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When the news of the 21. Panzer counter-attack crackled across the radio, the faces of the operator and nearby rifle team grew grim. Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Moulton knew the graveness of the situation. Having suffered over 50% casualties during the landing and initial assault of Langrune-sur-Mer, LT COL Moulton and his 48 Royal Marine Commandos were directly in the path of the surging German assault.

A day earlier, the 48th RM Commandos hit Juno beach along side the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The 48th Commandos were tasked with assaulting the strongpoint at Langrune-sur-Mer and then linking up with the 41 Commandos thus sealing the gap between Juno and Sword beach.



The beach landing was devastating as the Commandos lost 2 LCIs to mines and underwater obstacles. The men on the transports had no chance drowning under the weight of their heavy gear. Once on the beach, LT COL Moulton's unit continued to take casualties from machine guns, mortars and sniper fire. LT COL Moulton's and his men persevered and made their way

to Langrune-sur-Mer. Joined by Centaurs from the 3rd Battery, 2nd RMASG they attempted to breach the walls at Langrune only to be thwarted by stubborn German resistance.

M10s from the 3rd AT Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery and Shermans from 10th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Fort Garry Horse) were brought forward to destroy the wall surrounding the fortification. After several hours of shelling and fierce hand-to-hand fighting, the 48 Commandos took their objective. With Langrune-sur-Mer under control, LT COL Moulton ordered his men to prepare defenses to meet the German 21 Panzer attack.



It is now mid-afternoon, June 7th, 1944. Even though they are beaten and battered, LT COL Moulton and his men must hold Langrune-sur-Mer. To allow the 21. Panzer to drive a wedge between Sword and Juno beaches would jeopardize the entire invasion. British heart will be tested against German steel and **failure is not an option.**