

20TH ARMoured CORPS

It is humiliating to remain with our hands folded while others write history. It matters little who wins. To make a people great it is necessary to send them to battle even if you have to kick them in the pants. That is what I shall do.

— Il Duce Benito Mussolini, Fascist Leader

Corpo d'Armata Motocorazzato, the 20th Armoured Corps, took a leading part in nearly every battle in the North African Campaign from Gazala to Enfidaville. The core of the formation was the 132nd 'Ariete' Armoured Division, the 133rd 'Littorio' Armoured Division, and the 101st 'Trieste' Motorised Division.

Having fought in and won every major battle since their arrival, *Ariete* and *Trieste* were confident of their abilities, despite any weakness in their equipment. The arrival of new weapons, like the Semovente 75 and truck-mounted 90mm self-propelled guns, gave them a much-improved anti-tank capability that quickly showed its value in defeating British attacks against the Cauldron during the Battle of Gazala.

The newly-arrived *Littorio* Division had fought as infantry in the Spanish Civil War, then as an armoured division in Yugoslavia, and quickly learned the tricks of desert fighting under the tutelage of *Ariete*. By the time it entered combat at Gazala, it was as capable as its more experienced brethren.

The Second Battle of El Alamein shattered the Italian-German Army, and the 20th Armoured Corps along with it. After a gallant stand that held up the British pursuit long enough for the German forces to escape, the corps was reduced to a small battlegroup under the command of *Ariete*. This group then covered the retreat to the El Agheila position.

With the destruction of 20th Armoured Corps, a third armoured division, 131st 'Centauro' Armoured Division was quickly transferred to Tunisia. There it combined with the *Ariete* battlegroup to fight the American and British forces, taking part in the victories at Kasserine Pass and holding El Guettar until outflanked by the British at Wadi Akarit.

After these gallant battles, the remnants of the Italian armoured force fought on as a battlegroup in the ad hoc German Manteuffel Division until the eventual defeat of Axis forces in North Africa. Fighting bravely and strongly to the very end, the Italian forces expunged the calamity of defeat in 1940.

132^a DIVISIONE CORAZZATA 'ARIEETE'

132ND 'ARIEETE' ARMoured DIVISION
20TH ARMoured CORPS, MAY 1942
General Giuseppe De Stefanis (up to First Alamein)
General Adolfo Infante (From Second El Alamein)

132° REGGIMENTO CORAZZATO

VIII BATTAGLIONE CARRI
8th Tank Battalion (p. 22)

IX BATTAGLIONE CARRI
9th Tank Battalion

X BATTAGLIONE CARRI
10th Tank Battalion

8° REGGIMENTO BERSAGLIERI

III BATTAGLIONE BERSAGLIERI
3rd Sharpshooter Battalion (p. 24)

V BATTAGLIONE BERSAGLIERI
5th Sharpshooter Battalion

XII BATTAGLIONE BERSAGLIERI
12th Sharpshooter Battalion

132° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA

I GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA
1st Artillery Group

II GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA
2nd Artillery Group

III GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA
3rd Artillery Group

V GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA SEMOVENTE
5th SP Artillery Group (p. 23)

VI GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA SEMOVENTE
6th SP Artillery Group

DIVISIONAL TROOPS

XXXI GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA CONTRAEREA E CONTROCARRI
31st Anti-Aircraft & Anti-tank Artillery Group

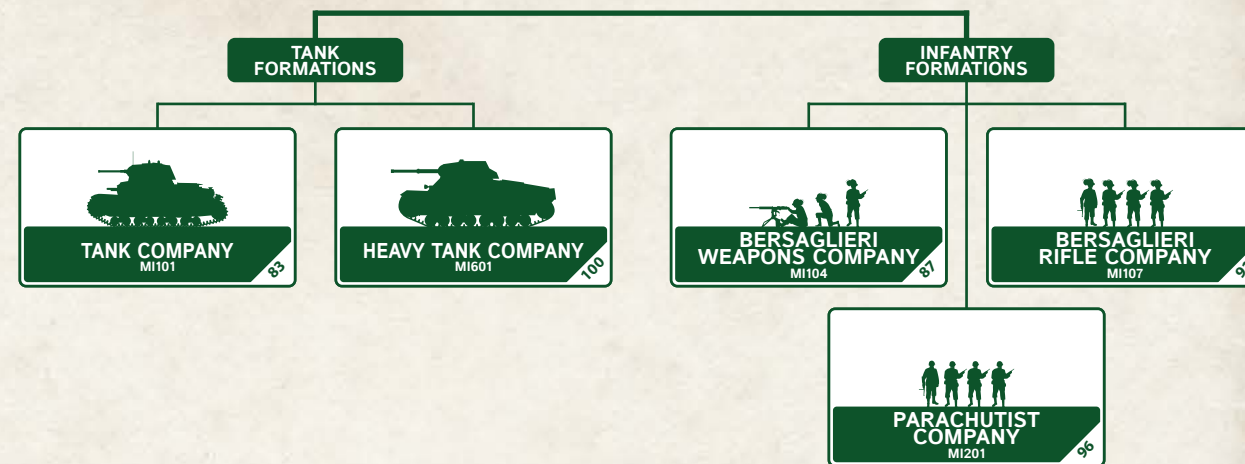
DI GRUPPO ARTIGLIERIA CONTRAEREA E CONTROCARRI
51st Anti-Aircraft & Anti-tank Artillery Group

III GRUPPO SQUADRONI CORAZZATO 'NIZZA CAVALLERIA'
3rd Armoured Squadron Group
1st 'Nice' Cavalry Regiment

III GRUPPO SQUADRONI CORAZZATO 'LANCIERI DI NOVARA'
3rd Armoured Squadron Group
5th 'Lancers of Novara' Cavalry Regiment

AVANTI FORCE

Your Force must contain at least one Formation, and may contain as many Formations as you like.



AVANTI SUPPORT UNITS

You may field one Support Unit from each box.

