














Italian 132nd Armored Division (*Ariete*) March, 1941



32nd
Regiment
Carrista

I	II	III	VII
2 2 	2 2 	2 2 	6 A 3 
2 Leggero 3 8	2 Leggero 3 8	2 Leggero 3 8	3 Medio 13/40 6
x 8	x 8	x 8	x 8


8th
Bersaglieri
Regiment

6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 	Motorcycle Battalion x 1	5 A 2 37 mm 3 0	2 2* 	2 2* 	0 C 0 	
x 4	x 4		x 1	x 9	x 2	x 12	
			Infantry Battalion x 2	5 A 2 37 mm 3 0	2 2* 	2 2* 	0 C 0 
				x 1	x 6	x 2	x 9

132nd
Artillery
Regiment

20 (H) 24 75 mm 2 0	40 (H) 32 100 mm 2 0	0 C 0 	4 H 10 20 mm 1 0	0 C 0 
x 4	x 2	x 6	x 6	x 6

Anti-Tank
Battalion

6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 
x 4	x 4

In 1941, Italy decided to deploy one of its few armored divisions to North Africa. Pieces of the division (mainly tank battalions) had been sent previously to North Africa but now the entire division was deployed. The Ariete division began unloading in January and was available for Rommel's offensive in April. At this point, Ariete contained one regiment of tanks with most being obsolete light tanks. As the campaign developed, the Ariete Division received more and better tanks, although they were never the equal of what Britain was bringing to the fight. Despite its shortcomings, the division was a very valuable mobile tank division in Rommel's force and proved itself many times in the campaign.