



Italian 132nd Armored Division (Ariete)



May 26, 1942

32nd
Regiment
Carrista

VIII	IX	X		
6 A 3 5 Medio 13/40 6	6 A 3 5 Medio 13/40 6	6 A 3 5 Medio 14/41 8	4 H 10 ↑ 20 mm 1 0	0 C 0 1 Truck 12
x 10	x 10	x 10	x 2	x 2

8th
Bersaglieri
Regiment

3 M 12 81 mm 3 1	6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	4 H 10 ↑ 20 mm 1 0	2 I 2* 4 M-G 1	0 C 0 1 Truck 12
x 1	x 2	x 2	x 2	x 7
5th Infantry Battalion				
2 I 2* 6 BERSAGLIERI 1	2 I 2* 4 M-G 1	6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 1 Truck 12	
x 6	x 1	x 2	x 9	
12th Infantry Battalion				
2 I 2* 6 BERSAGLIERI 1	2 I 2* 4 M-G 1	6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 1 Truck 12	
x 6	x 1	x 2	x 9	

132nd
Artillery
Regiment

20 (H) 24 75 mm 2 0	40 (H) 32 100 mm 2 0	15 A 20 90 mm 1 0	0 C 0 1 TL 37 8	5 H 8 7 Semo 75/18 8
x 4	x 2	x 4	x 10	x 3

32nd
Mixed
Engineer
Battalion

2 I 1 5 1	0 C 0 1 Truck 12
x 3	x 3

3rd
Recon
Battalion
(-)

2 H 4 2 AB-41 16
x 6

3rd
Tank
Battalion
(-)

2 H 4 3 Leggero 6 9
x 6

Operating at close to full strength in this battle, the Ariete Division was given an important role to perform. As part of the flanking move in the south, it was given the task of destroying the position at Bir Hacheim, which was not thought to be very strongly held or fortified. Instead, the Italians found themselves assaulting an old fort, greatly strengthened, and held by a reinforced brigade of Free French anchored by veteran Legionaries from the Foreign Legion. The initial attack resulted in many lost tanks and the assault stalled. With no help initially, the fort was finally taken on June 11th, with the help of many Stuka attacks and elements of the Afrika Korps.