



Italian 17th Infantry Division (*Pavia*)

November 17, 1941

27th
Infantry
Regiment

3 M 12 81 mm 3 1	2 H 12 65 mm 2 0	0 C 0 Wagon 1 3	6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 Truck 1 12	Infantry Battalion x 3	2 I 2 RIFLE 5 1	2 I 2* M-G 4 1
x 1	x 2	x 2	x 1	x 1		x 9	x 2

28th
Infantry
Regiment

3 M 12 81 mm 3 1	2 H 12 65 mm 2 0	0 C 0 Wagon 1 3	6 A 3 47 mm 3 0	0 C 0 Truck 1 12	Infantry Battalion x 3	2 I 2 RIFLE 5 1	2 I 2* M-G 4 1
x 1	x 2	x 2	x 1	x 1		x 9	x 2

26th
Artillery
Regiment

20 (H) 24 75 mm 2 0	4 H 10 20 mm 1 0	0 C 0 Wagon 1 3
x 3	x 2	x 5

18th
Mixed
Engineer
Battalion

2 I 1 5 1
x 3

5th Light
Tank
Battalion
(attached)

2 H 4 3 Leggero 6 9
x 6

6th
Aosta
Battalion
(attached)

2 I 2* M-G 4 1
x 9

At the beginning of Operation Crusader, the Pavia Division was serving in the Axis lines surrounding Tobruk. When the 70th Division made their first breakout attempt, Pavia was sent in to counterattack the British tank and infantry forces. After heavy fighting, the Allied thrust was temporarily halted. The weak Pavia division could not hold forever and was finally forced aside and forced to retreat. During the general Axis withdrawal, Pavia fought a stubborn rear defense action at El Adem before being finally overwhelmed. Most of the division did, however, escape and live to fight another day.