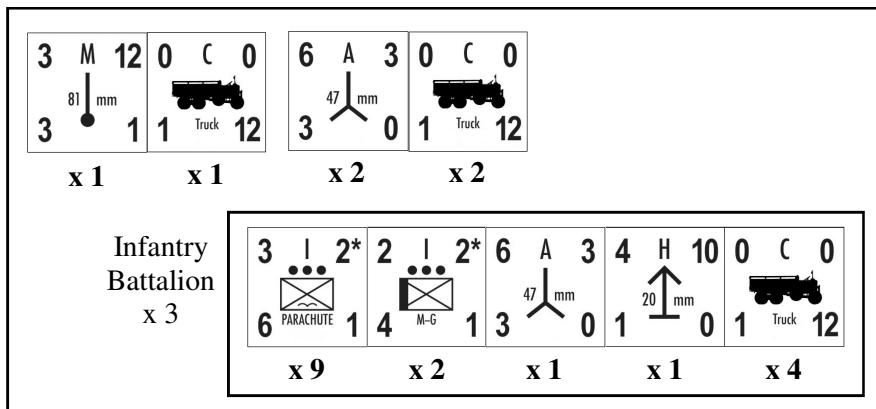




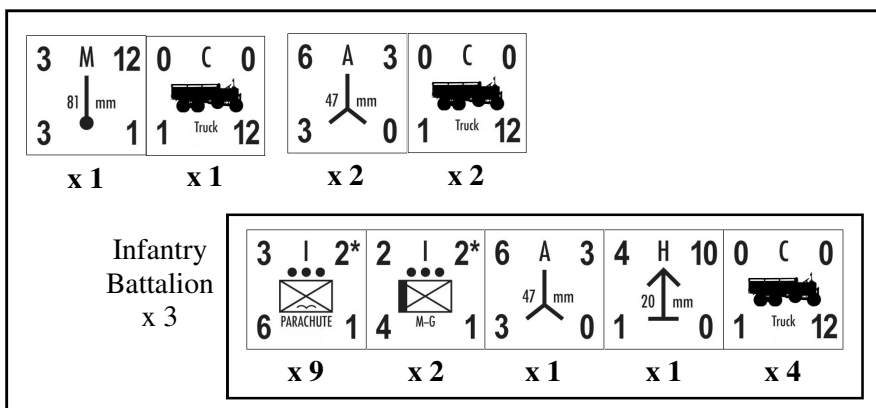
# Italian 185th Infantry Division (*Folgore*)

October, 1942

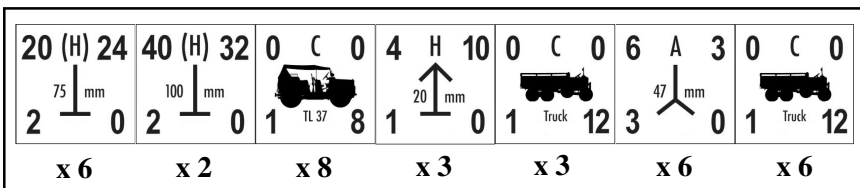
186th  
Infantry  
Regiment



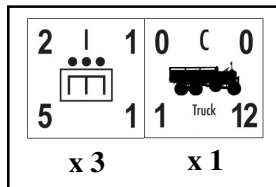
187th  
Infantry  
Regiment



1st  
Artillery  
Regiment



8th  
Mixed  
Engineer  
Battalion



The Folgore Division was an elite paratrooper force for Italy which had trained hard for the invasion of Malta. When the operation was finally canceled in April of 1941, the division was sent to North Africa to fight in the desert. At El Alamein, it helped anchor the southern end of the line and was hit hard by the 7th Armored Division and two infantry divisions. The tough paratroopers blunted the attack and then launched a vicious counterattack of their own which recaptured most of the lost ground. The paratroopers fought until they were out of ammunition, at which time they were forced to surrender most of the division, but without their hands raised and without leaving their weapons. Those that did escape were reorganized into the Folgore Parachute Battalion and continued to fight until the fall of Tunisia.