

**Axis Forces**  
**Operation Crusader**  
**18 November 1941**

**Panzergruppe Afrika**: General der Panzertruppen Erwin Rommel

**Afrika Korps**: Generalleutnant Ludwig Cruewell

Afrika Korps Headquarters:

Corps Staff  
575th Motorized Mapping Detachment

**Luftwaffe**:

Courier Squadron  
2(HO)14 Pz Reconnaissance Staffel

**Anti-Aircraft**:

612th Flak Battalion  
3 Batteries (12-20mm AA guns ea)

**659th Signals Regiment**:

**1st Battalion**:

1/10th (mot) Telephone Operations Company  
2/10th (mot) (later armored) Radio Company  
3/56th (mot) Telephone Interception Company  
1 Light (mot) Signals Supply Column

**2nd Battalion**:

4/10th (mot) Telephone Construction Company  
5/10th (mot) Telephone Wire Company  
6/10th (mot) Telephone Wire Company  
Afrika (mot) Propaganda Company

**German Afrikakorps**

**Flak Forces**:

606th Flak Battalion  
3 Self Propelled Flak Batteries (12-20mm AA guns ea)  
1/33rd (mot) (Luftwaffe) Flak Regiment  
1 (mixed mobility) Signals Platoon  
3 Batteries (4- 88mm guns ea)  
2 Batteries (12-20mm guns ea)  
1 Light (mot) Munitions Column  
1/18th (mot) (Luftwaffe) Flak Regiment (added later)  
1 (mixed mobility) Signals Platoon  
3 Batteries (4- 88mm guns ea)  
2 Batteries (12-20mm guns ea)  
1 Light (mot) Munitions Column

**Other Corps Forces**:

900th Pioneer Battalion  
2 (mot) Pioneer Companies (3 halftracks ea)  
1 Light (mot) Engineering Supply Column  
475th Signals Battalion  
1 (mot) Radio Company  
2 (mot) Telephone Wire Companies  
1 (mot) Telephone Company  
1 (armored) Radio Company  
1 Light (mot) Signals Supply Column

Independent Infantry Battalions:

- 3/255th Infantry Regiment
  - 3 Rifle Companies
  - 1 Heavy Company
  - 1 Panzerjäger Section (2-37mm PAK 36)
- 3/347th Infantry Regiment
  - 3 Rifle Companies
  - 1 Heavy Company
  - 1 Panzerjäger Section (2-37mm PAK 36)
- 300th Infantry Battalion (5 cos)

Army Supply Forces:

- 585th Supply Regiment
  - 619th Supply Battalion HQ (Benghazi)
  - 681st Supply Battalion HQ (Tripoli)
- 580th Water Battalion
  - 659th (mot) Salt Water Distillation Company
  - 665th (mixed mobility) Distillation Company
  - 641st, 645th, & 651st (mot) Water Transport Columns
  - 877th, & 581st (mot) Water Filtration Columns
  - 589th, & 590th (mot) Water Filtration Columns  
(added later)
  - 8th & 12th Construction Platoons
- 529th Supply Column Battalion
  - 6 Light (mot) Supply Columns
  - 534th, 535th & 536th Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
  - 1 Light (mot) POL Column
- 533rd Supply Column Battalion
  - 6 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
  - 1 Heavy (mot) POL Column
- 572nd Supply Column Battalion
  - 6 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
  - 1 Heavy (mot) POL Column
- 686th Supply Column Battalion
  - 6 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
  - 1 Heavy (mot) POL Column
- 902nd Supply Column Battalion
  - 10 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
- 909th Supply Column Battalion
  - 6 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns
  - 1 Heavy (mot) POL Column
- 148th Italian Supply Column
  - 241st, 242nd, 343rd, 244th Very Heavy Supply Columns
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
- 149th Italian Supply Column
  - 3 Heavy Supply Columns (72t)
  - 1 Heavy Supply Column (30t)
  - 1 (mot) Maintenance Platoon
- 556th Ordnance Division
  - 8 Miscellaneous Detachments in rear area cities  
(Misurata, Barce, Tripoli, Benghasi, Derna) formed during  
this period)

532nd Supply Battalion  
2 (mot) Supply Companies  
2 Munitions Detachments  
2 Laboratories  
1 (mot) Betr St. V. Detachment  
548th Instruction Battalion  
560th & 566th Army Vehicle Parks, with  
3 (mot) Maintenance Platoons & 1 transport column ea)  
122nd Vehicle Instruction Company (disbanded later)  
129th Vehicle Instruction Company (disbanded later)  
134th Vehicle Instruction Company  
4 unidentified Detachments

Medical Services:

2/83rd (later 2/592nd) (mot) Medical Company  
1/705th (mot) Medical (formation of unknown type)  
5/542nd (mot) Field Hospital  
667th (mot) Field Hospital  
Tripoli Hospital  
531st Medical Park

Food Service:

317th Quartermaster Company  
1/554th (mot) Bakery Company

Other Units:

639th (mot) Field Post Office  
85th Construction Battalion  
4 Companies (no heavy weapons)  
1 (mot) Construction Transport Column  
556th Ordnance Division  
1/278th "LS" Company  
498th (mot) Military Police Detachment  
930th Telephone Operations Company

21st Panzer Division

Headquarters  
200 (mot) Mapping Detachment  
200th (mot) Communication Section  
200th Construction Section

5th Armored Regiment:

Headquarters  
1 Armored HQ Company  
1 Light Armored Platoons  
1 Regimental Band

Support Units

1 Armored Maintenance Company

1st & 2nd Battalions, each with

1 Armored HQ Company  
1 Light Armored Platoon  
1 Medium Armored Company  
3 Light Armored Companies  
Total: (as of 18 November)

35 MK II Tanks  
58 MK III Tanks  
17 MK IV Tanks

200th Schützen Regiment:

1 (mot) HQ Company  
1 (mot) Signals Platoon

- 1 Motorcycle Platoon
  - (2nd motorcycle platoon added later)
- 1 AT Platoon (3-50mm Guns)
- 1 Regimental Band
- 2nd Machine Gun Battalions:
  - (mot) Battalion HQ Company with
    - 2 Motorcycle Platoons
  - 3 (mot) Machine Gun Companies
  - 1 (mot) Support Company, with
    - 1 AT Platoon (3-37mm PAK36, 3-50mm PAK38)
    - 1 Mortar Platoon (6-81mm mortars)
  - 1 (mot) Support Company, with
    - 1 Engineering Platoon
    - 1 AT Platoon (1 28mm AT gun, 2-50mm PAK 38)
    - 1 AT Platoon (3-37mm PAK 36)
    - 1 Mortar Platoon
- 8th Machine Gun Battalion
  - 1 (mot) HQ Company, with
    - 1 Signals Platoon
    - 2 Motorcycle Platoons
  - 3 (mot) Machine Gun Companies
  - 1 (mot) Support Company, with
    - 1 AT Platoon (3-37mm PAK36, 3-50mm PAK38)
    - 1 Mortar Platoon
  - 1 (mot) Support Company
    - 1 Engineering Platoon
    - 1 AT Platoon (1 28mm AT gun, 2-50mm PAK38)
    - 1 AT Platoon (3-37mm PAK36)
    - 1 Mortar Platoon
  - 1 (mot) AT Company (9-50mm PAK 38)
- 155th Artillery Regiment:
  - 1/155th Artillery Regiment, with
    - 1 (mot) HQ Company
    - 3 (mot) Batteries (4-105mm LFH 18 ea)
  - 2/155th Artillery Regiment
    - 1 (mot) Signals Platoon
    - 1 (mot) Calibration Detachment
    - 3 Batteries (4-105mm LFH 18 ea)
  - 3/155th Artillery Regiment
    - 1 (mot) HQ Company
    - 2 (mot) Batteries (4-150mm sFH ea)
    - 1 (mot) Battery (4-100 K18 guns)
- 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion:
  - 1 (mot) Signals Platoon
  - 1 Light (mot) Armored Supply Column
  - 1 Armored Car Company (19 armored cars)
  - 1 Motorcycle Company
  - 1 (mot) Support Company, with
    - 1 Engineer Platoon
    - 1 AT Platoon (3-37mm PAK36, 2-50mm PAK38)
    - 1 Infantry Support Platoon (2-75mm leIG)
- 200th Feldersatz Battalion:
  - 4 Companies (no heavy weapons)
- 200th Pioneer Battalion
  - 3 (mot) Pioneer Companies

200th Signals Battalion:

1 Armored Radio Company  
1 Armored Signals Company  
1 Light (mot) Signals Supply Column

39th Panzerjäger Battalion

1 (mot) Signals Platoon  
3 (mot) Companies (9-50mm PAK38)

Service Forces:

3/,4/,5/,6/,7/,8/,12/200th Light (mot) Supply Columns  
1/,2/,10/,11/Heavy (mot) Supply Columns  
9/200th Heavy (mot) POL Supply Column  
1/200th (mot) Maintenance Company  
2/,3/200th (mot) Vehicle Instruction Companies  
200th (mot) Supply Company  
200th (mot) Pz. Ers. Transport Column  
200th (later 579th) (mot) "LW" Company  
589th Light Filtration Column (may have been deleted)

Food Service:

200th (mot) Bakery Company  
200th (mot) Butcher Company  
200th Divisional Quartermaster Detachment

Medical:

1/82nd & 2/200th (mot) Medical Companies  
200th (mot) Field Hospital  
1/,2/200th Ambulance Columns

Other:

309th (mot) Military Police Detachment  
735th (mot) Field Post Office

15th Panzer Division:

Headquarters

33rd (mot) Mapping Detachment

8th Panzer Regiment:

Armored Signals Platoon  
1 Light Armored Platoon  
1 Regimental Band  
1 Armored Maintenance Company

1st & 2nd Battalions, each with:

1 Armored Staff Company  
1 Medium Armored Company  
3 Light Armored Companies  
Total: (as of 18 November)

38 MK II Tanks  
76 MK III Tanks  
21 MK IV Tanks

15th Schützen Brigade:

104th & 115th Schützen Regiment:

(mot) Headquarters Company  
1 Signals Platoon  
1 Engineer Platoon  
1 Motorcycle Platoon  
1 Anti-Tank Platoon (3-50mm PAK38)  
1 Regimental Band

Attached:

1 (mot) Infantry Support Gun Section  
(2-150mm sIG & 4 75mm leIG)

1st & 2nd Battalions:

3 (mot) Infantry Companies  
1 (mot) Infantry Company  
1 (mot) Support Company  
1 Engineering Platoon  
1 AT Platoon (1 28mm AT gun, 3-37mm PAK36  
& 2-50mm PAK38)

Attached:

1 Regimental Infantry Support Gun Company  
(2-150mm SIG & 4 75mm leIG)

15th Motorcycle Battalion:

3 Motorcycle Companies  
1 Motorcycle Company  
1 (mot) Support Company  
1 Engineering Platoon  
1 AT Platoon (1 28mm AT gun, 3-37mm PAK36)  
1 AT Platoon (2-50mm PAK38)

33rd Artillery Regiment:

HQ Company  
1 (mot) HQ Company  
1st & 2nd Battalions, each had:  
1 (mot) HQ Company  
3 (mot) Batteries (4-105mm 1FH 18 ea)  
3rd Battalion, with  
1 (mot) HQ Company  
3 (mot) Batteries (4-150mm 1FH 18 ea)  
1 (mot) Observation Company

33rd Reconnaissance Battalion:

1 (mot) Signals Platoon  
1 Light (mot) Armored Supply Column  
1 Armored Car Company (10 armored cars)  
1 Motorcycle Company  
1 (mot) Support Company  
1 Engineer Platoon  
1 AT Platoon (1-28mm AT, 3-37mm PAK36, 2-50mm PAK38)

33rd Panzerjäger Battaion:

1 (mot) Signals Platoon  
3 (mot) Companies (9-50mm PAK38)

33rd (mot) Pioneer Battalion:

3 (mot) Companies  
1 Light (mot) Engineering Supply Column

78th Signals Battalion:

1 (half track) Radio Company  
1 (half track) Signals Company  
1 Light (mot) Signals Supply Column

Service Forces:

33rd Supply Battalion:

9 Light (mot) Supply Columns (one deleted later)  
2 Heavy (mot) Supply Columns  
1 (mot) Pz. Ers. Column  
3 Heavy (mot) POL Supply Columns  
3 (mot) Maintenance Companies  
33rd (mot) Supply Company  
(mot) Filtration Column (later deleted)

Food Service:

33rd (mot) Quartermaster Detachment  
33rd (mot) Bakery Company  
33rd (mot) Butcher Company

Medical:

1/,2/33rd (mot) Medical Companies  
36th (mot) Field Hospital  
1/,2/,3/Ambulance Companies

Other:

33rd (mot) Military Police Detachment  
33rd (mot) Field Post Office

Divizion z.b.V Afrika: Generalleutnant Max Sümmermann

155th Infantry Regiment

1 (mot) Regimental Staff  
3 Infantry Battalions, with  
3 Rifle Companies  
1 Heavy Company  
1 Panzerjäger Section (2-37mm PAK 36)

361st Infantry Regiment

1 (mixed mobility) Staff Company  
2 Battalions, each with  
3 Companies (4-28mm AT guns)  
1 Company (2-28mm AT guns)  
1 Light (horse drawn) Supply Column  
361st Artillery Battalion, with  
1 Signals Platoon  
1 Calibration Detachment  
3 Batteries, each with 4-105mm LFH 18)  
1/613th Flak Battalion (12-20mm flak guns)

580th Mixed Reconnaissance Company

1 Infantry Platoon (2-28mm AT)  
1 Armored Car Platoon (& 6-37mm PAK 36)  
1 AT Platoon (3-50mm PAK 38)  
1 Self Propelled Flak Platoon (4-20mm)

605th Panzerjäger Battalion

1 (mot) Signals Platoon  
3 Self Propelled Companies (9-50mm PAK 38 ea)

288th Verband: (formed 12/7/41)

288th Motorized Headquarters Company  
1 Engineer Platoon  
1 Armored Car Platoon  
288th (mot) Signals Company  
1/288 (mot) Brandenburg School Regiment  
2/288th (mot) Mountain Infantry Company  
3/288th (mot) Infantry Company  
4/288th (mot) Infantry Company  
5/288th (mot) Panzerjäger Company  
1 Self Propelled Platoon (3 sturmgeschütz)  
1 (mot) AT Company (2-50mm PAK38, 6-37mm PAK36)  
6/288th (mot) Flak Battalion (12-20mm AA guns)  
7/288th (mot) Pioneer Company  
288th Light (mot) Supply Column  
288th (mot) Medical Company  
288th (mot) Maintenance Platoon  
288th (mot) Laboratory Detachment

**XXI Corps:** Generale di Corpo d'Armata Enea Narvarrini  
104th (German) Artillery Brigade: Major General Boettcher

221st Artillery Regiment:

1 (mot) Signals Platoon  
2/115th Artillery Regiment  
1 (mot) HQ Company  
3 (mot) Batteries, each with  
3-210mm Mrs 18 howitzers  
1 Light (mot) Munitions Column (48t)  
1/612th (mot) Flak Battery (12-20mm AA guns)  
408th Artillery Battalion  
1 (mot) HQ Company  
3 (mot) Batteries, each with  
4-100mm K18 guns  
1 Light (mot) Munitions Column (20t)  
902nd (mot) Artillery Battery  
3-170mm on Mrs. Carriages  
11th Artillery Battalion Staff  
1 (mot) Staff Company  
1 (mot) Sound Locating Company  
1 (mot) Flash Locating Company  
721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th & 725th Astronomical  
Measuring Detachments  
526th Light (mot) "Vo" Column  
(no artillery guns assigned)  
363rd Coastal Defense Battery (6 French 155mm guns)  
364th Coastal Defense Battery (6 French 155mm guns)

25th "Bologna" (Semi-motorized) Division: Generale di Divisione Gloria

39th Bologna Infantry Regiment  
40th Bologna Infantry Regiment  
10th Volturmo Artillery Regiment  
135th Mixed Motor Transport Section  
66th Surgical Unit  
96th Field Hospital  
528th Field Hospital  
308th Field Ambulance Unit  
34th Field Bakery  
73rd CCRR Section

102nd "Trento" (Motorized) Division: Generale di Divisione Stampioni

61st Sicilia Infantry Regiment  
62nd Sicilia Infantry Regiment  
7th Bersaglieri Regiment  
8th Bersaglieri Battalion  
10th Bersaglieri Battalion  
11th Bersaglieri Battalion  
46th Trento (motorized) Artillery Regiment  
96th Signal Company  
161st Mining Company  
512st Medical Section  
57th Field Hospital  
897th Field Hospital  
22nd Motor Transport Section  
297th Motor Transport Section  
9th Mixed Motor Transport Section  
37th Heavy Motor Transport Section



68th Field Bakery  
 160th CCRR Section  
10th "Pavia" (Motorized) Divisioni: Generale di divisione Franceschini  
 57th Abruzzi Infantry Regiment  
 58th Abruzzi Infantry Regiment  
 20th Piave Artillery Regiment  
 10th Mortar Battalion  
 10th Anti-Tank Company  
 10th Engineer Battalion  
     10th Signal Company  
     9th Pionieer Company  
     42nd Pionieer Company  
 108th Motorcyclcke Bersaglieri Company  
 Squadron L6 Tanks  
 117th Medical Section  
     816th Field Hospital  
     817th Field Hospital  
     65th Surgical Unit  
 186th Heavy Motor Transport Section  
 236th Mixed Autoreparto  
 127th Bakery Section  
 31st CCRR Section  
 32nd CCRR Section  
27th "Bresica" (semi-motorized) Division: Generale di divisione Zambon  
 19th Bresica Infantry Regiment  
 20th Bresica Infantry Regiment  
 55th Artillery Regiment  
 27th Mixed Engineer Battalion  
 34th Medical Section  
     35th Surgical Unit  
     95th Field Hospital  
 328th Motor Transport Section  
 34th Supply Section  
 127th CCRR Section  
55th "Savona" Infantry Division: Generale di divisione de Giorgis  
 15th Savona Infantry Regiment  
 16th Savona Infantry Regiment  
 12th Sila Artillery Regiment  
 55th Engineer Battalion

**XX Army Corps of Maneuver:** General di Corpo di Armata  
 Gastone Gambarà

Corps Troops:

12 Batteries with  
     36-105mm guns)  
     84 French 149mm guns  
     12 -120mm naval guns  
 unknown reconnaissance unit  
132nd "Ariete" Armored Division: Generale di divisione Barlotta  
 132nd Armored Regiment  
     7th Battalion (M.13/40 tanks)  
     8th Battalion (M.13/40 tanks)  
     9th Battalion (M.13/40 tanks)  
     1 Battery (20/35 anti-tank guns)

8th Bersaglieri Regiment  
     12th Motorized Bersaglieri Battalion, with  
         1 Motorized Headquarters Company  
         2 Motorized Bersaglieri Companies  
         1 Motorized AT Company (8-47mm guns)  
     5th Motorized Bersaglieri Battalion, with  
         1 Motorized Headquarters Company  
         2 Motorized Bersaglieri Companies  
         1 Motorized AT Company (8-47mm guns)  
         1 Motorcycle Company  
 3rd Heavy Weapons Battalion, with  
     1 Motorized HQ Company  
     1 Motorized Machine Gun Company  
     1 Motorized AA Company (20mm Guns)  
     1 Motorized Mortar Company (81mm Mortars)  
 1 Motorized Anti-Tank Battalion, with  
     1 Motorized Headquarters Company  
     2 Motorized AT Companies (8-47mm/32 Guns)  
 132nd Artillery Regiment  
     1 Motorized AA Battalion, with  
         1 Motorized AA Company (20mm Guns)  
         1 Motorized AA Company (90mm/53 Guns)  
     1 Gruppo with 3 motorized batteries 75/18 guns  
     1 Gruppo with 2 motorized batteries 105/28 guns  
     1 Gruppo with 2 motorized batteries 90/53 guns  
101st "Trieste" (Semi-motorized) Division: Generale di divisione Piazzoni  
 65th Valtellina Infantry Regiment  
 66th Valtellina Infantry Regiment  
 9th Bersaglieri Regiment  
     28th Bersaglieri Battalion  
     30th Bersaglieri Battalion  
     32nd Bersaglieri Battalion  
 21st Po (motorized) Artillery Regiment  
     1 Gruppo with 3 Batteries (100/17 guns)  
     1 Gruppo with 3 Batteries (75/27 guns)  
     1 Gruppo with 3 Batteries (75/27 guns)  
     146th AA Battery (20mm)  
     411th AA Battery (20mm)  
 101st Anti-Tank Battalion  
 28th Engineer Company (Buastatori)  
 90th Medical Section  
     16th Surgical Unit  
     65th Field Hospital  
     214th Field Hospital  
     242nd Field Hospital  
 80th Heavy Motor Transport Section  
 176th Supply Section  
 22nd CCRR Section

Note: The Division z.b.V.Afrika, later known as the 90th Light Division, was not formed until sometime after the end of December. All the constituent elements, except the 288th Verband were present at the beginning of the campaign. The 288th Verband was not organized until around 7 December 1941. Pitt does not reflect these differences in his organization.

Pitt, B., The Crucible of War, Western Desert 1941, London, Jonathan Cape.

The American Historical Association for the Study of War Documents and the National Archives and Records Service (National Archives Microcopy No. T-78, Roll 404.).

Madej, W.,V., Italian Army Order of Battle, 1939-1943, Allentown, PA 1981

US Gov't, Notes on Emeny Army Identifications, Italy, October 1941

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