

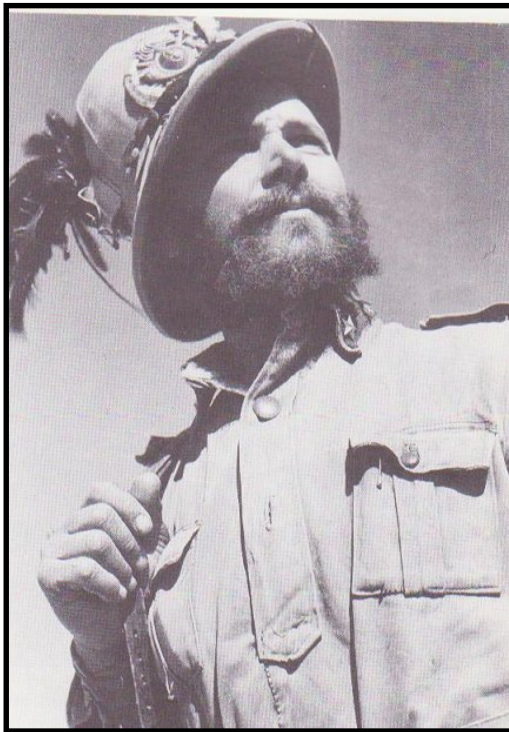


Jeremey Harder Italian Compagnia Bersaglieri Hellfire and Back



'Ariete' Armored Division at Point 175
8th Bersaglieri Regiment
132 Armored Regiment

This Flames of War Bersaglieri Company represents units from the 8th Bersaglieri Regiment and 132 Armored Regiment of the 'Ariete' Armored Division, involved in fighting at Point 175 in November 1941 during the Battle of Sidi Rezegh.



Late in the afternoon on 29 November 1941, the garrison of Point 175 – 21 New Zealand Battalion – was expecting the arrival of a relief force from 1 South Africa Brigade. The New Zealand force had fought off two attacks by 21 Panzer and the combination of wishful thinking and a confused day of fighting combined to produce an unusual opportunity for a force from the Ariete Armored Division.

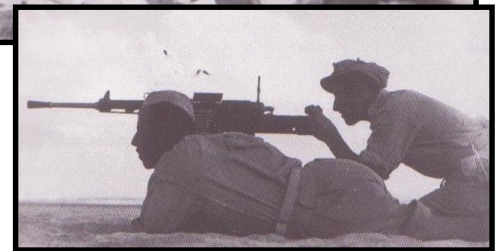
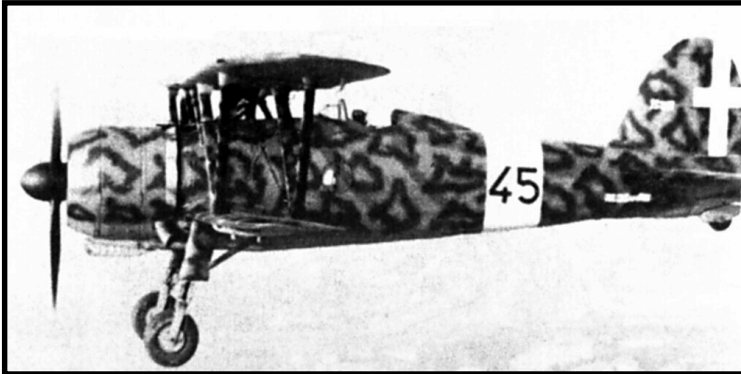




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A column of armor and soft-skinned vehicles was reported headed toward the New Zealanders who mistook the lead armored vehicles for South African Marmon-Harrington armored cars. Too late and after abandoning defensive positions to greet the incoming column did the New Zealanders recognize that the column was a mixed force of Italian tanks and Bersaglieri. The Italians for their part, probably assumed the 21 Panzer was in possession of the position, however, they reacted quicker than the New Zealanders and captured a vital position and 200 prisoners at almost no cost.



Andrew, Stephen and Philip Jowett. *The Italian Army 1940-45 (2) Africa 1940-43*. Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2001.

Walker, Ian W. *Iron Hulls, Iron Hearts: Mussolini's Elite Armored Divisions in North Africa*. The Crowood Press, 2003.



In mid-2006, my employer provided me the opportunity to travel to Egypt. One of the first places visited was the El Alamein Museum west of Alexandria. The museum had a number of static displays of Axis and Allied equipment, as well as unique items on loan from the British Museum.



It was here at the museum that I acquired the basing materials for my Bersaglieri Company.

Yes, I smuggled a tub of sand around Egypt for 16 days with the sole purpose of using it to base Flames of War armies.

