WWII-MTO-Italy

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ITALIAN CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW, 1943-1945

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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German Army Group B deployed into Italy on 8 Sep 1943 in response to the announcement on 8 Sep 1943 of that nation's surrender to the Allies. The headquarters control element had previously been established at Munich, Germany, in anticipation of the Italian defection. With Field Marshal Erwin Rommel commanding, the following major units and headquarters comprised this force: II Panzer Corps, LI Mountain Corps, LXXXVII Corps, 1st SS Panzer Division, 24th Panzer Division, 44th, 65th, 76th, 94th and 305th Infantry Divisions. Some of the units had entered Italy weeks before the surrender and were already concentrated in the northern part of the country.

German forces in southern Italy, many of which had recently been evacuated from Sicily, had been organized into the Tenth Army in 1943 and fell under Rommel's command. The Tenth Army, commanded by General Heinrich von Vietinghoff, comprised the following units: LXXVI Panzer Corps, which included the 26th and 29th Panzer Grenadier Divisions; XIV Corps, which included the Hermann Goering Division, the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division and the 16th Panzer Division; XI Flieger Corps, which included the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division and the 2nd Parachute Division; and the separate 1st Parachute Division.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, commanding general of all German Army forces in the Mediterranean theater, also controlled the already-present Luftflotte 2 (Second Air Force), which did not receive any additional support for the Italian situation in Sep 1943. See:

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