

ITALIAN XXVI ARMY CORPS IN ALBANIA, SELECTED ORDERS OF BATTLE AND STRENGTHS, 1940 - 1941

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XXVI Corpo d'Armata, May 20th, 1940

Forces available for C.S.T.A. (Comando Superiore Truppe Albania) - XXVI Army Corps -, September 4th 1940

Distribution of the C.S.T.A. forces , September 16th, 1940

Distribution of the C.S.T.A. (XXVI Corps) forces, September 25th, 1940

XXVI Corpo d'Armata strengths of formations in battalions, October 27th, 1940

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, end of October, 1940

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, December 10th, 1940

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, March 21st, 1941

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, April 1st - 4th, 1941

XXVI Corpo di Armata, May 20th, 1940 order of battle

- divisione fanteria ' Venezia '
- divisione fanteria ' Ferrara '
- divisione fanteria ' Arezzo '
- divisione corazzata ' Centauro '
- divisione alpina ' Julia '
- corps artillery, engineers and services
- CC.RR.
- G.d.F.

XXVI Corpo di Armata, May 20th, 1940 strengths

| | Italian officers | Albanian officers | Italian NCOs & troops | Albanian NCOs & troops |
|---|---|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| ' Venezia ' Infantry Division | 281 | 62 | 5953 | 1933 |
| ' Ferrara ' Infantry Division | 242 | 56 | 5673 | 1928 |
| ' Arezzo ' Infantry Division | 300 | 65 | 5588 | 2415 |
| ' Centauro ' Armoured Division | 234 | 5 | 3129 | - |
| ' Julia ' Alpini Division | 282 | 12 | 8666 | 5 |
| Army Corps artillery | 187 | 30 | 3173 | 608 |
| Army Corps engineers | 158 | 7 | 6182 | 243 |
| Army Corps services | 425 | 99 | 7023 | 1084 |
| Total | 2445 | 336 | 53603 | 8216 |
| Army Total | 2781 Italian & Albanian officers | | 61819 Italian & Albanian NCOs & troops | |
| | | | | |
| Carabinieri Reali (Royal Military Police) | 67 | 96 | 1340 | 2870 |
| Total | 163 Italian & Albanian officers | | 4210 Italian & Albanian NCOs & troops | |
| | | | | |
| Reale Guardia di Finanza (Customs) | 35 | 58 | 932 | 897 |
| Total | 93 Italian & Albanian officers | | 1829 Italian & Albanian NCOs & troops | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 3037 Italian & Albanian officers | | 67858 Italian & Albanian NCOs & troops | |

Forces available for C.S.T.A. (Comando Superiore Truppe Albania) - XXVI Army Corps -, September 4th 1940

Higher formations

a) divisioni (Divisions)

19a div. ftr.(Infantry Division) ' Venezia ',
23a div. ftr. ' Ferrara ',
53a div. ftr. ' Arezzo ',
49a div. ftr. ' Parma ',
51a div. ftr. ' Siena ',
29a div. ftr. ' Piemonte ', 3
a div. alp.(Alpine - Mountain - Division) ' Julia ',
131a div. cor.(Armoured Division) ' Centauro '

Reinforcements

b) fanteria e cavalleria

3o rgt. gran. di Albania (3rd Albanian Grenadiers Regiment)
8a cp. bers. motoc. (8th Bersaglieri motorcyclists Company)
6o rgt. lancieri ' Aosta ' (6th Lancers Regiment ' Aosta ')
7o rgt. lancieri' Milano ' (7th Lancers Regiment ' Milano ')
19o rgt. cavalegg. ' Guide ' (19th Light Cavalry Regiment ' Guide ')

c) Milizia Fascista Albanese (M.F.A.) (Albanian Fascist Militia)

1 Legion M.F.A.

d) G.a.F. & art. da posiz.

G.a.F. units
Twenty 75/27-906 positional batteries, two 105/28 positional batteries, four 149/12 positional batteries, six 139/45 positional batteries.

e) Genio

com. 26a raggr. genio (HQ 26th Engineer Group)
1 btg. marconisti speciale (Special Wireless Battalion)
III btg. teleferisti
IX btg. minatori (Miners Battalion 3 companies : 16th, 31st & 32nd)
XVIII btg. pont. per ponti legg. d' equipaggio con i rep. carreggiatti (Light Pontoon Battalion 2 companies)
7a cp, idrici con parco autocaregg. (Waterworks Company with Vehicle Park)
5a cp. anticendi (Firefighters Company 3 sections)
16a, 17a, 18a & 19a passerelle n. 1 senza mezzi di transp. (No 1 Bridging Units without their own means of transport)
22a, 23a, 34a & 35a colombaie mob. (Mobile Field Pidgeon Units)
1 pl. mecc. - elettr.(Electrical-Mechanical Engineers platoon)

f) Unita terr. mobili (Mobile Territorial Units)

com. 58o rgt. t. m. (Headquarters 58th Mobile Territorial Regiment)
236th, 237th, 238th, 240th, 313th and 330th btg. t. m. (Mobile Territorial Battalions)

g) Presidio (Security) Units

com. 15o et 16o btg. pres. (Headquarters 15th & 16th Presidio Battalions)
3a, 4a, 31a, 32a, 47a, 48a, 49a, 50a, 83a, 84a, 225a & 226a cp. presid. (Presidio Companies)
328a & 329a presid. alpine (Alpini Presidio Companies)
3a cp. presid. granatieri (Grenadier Presidio Company)

h) Unità lavoratori (Labour Units)

157a - 168a cp. lavoratori (Labour Companies)

Army services

i) Sanità (Medical)

18a sez. disinfezione (Disinfection Section)
1a sez. bonifica per gassati (Gas Disinfection Section)
21a amb. odontoiatr. (Dentist Ambulance)
osped. da campo (Field Hospitals - four provided for each infantry division and two for the armoured division ?)
1o magazz. spec. di sanità (Special Medical Depot)

j) Commissariato (Supply)

95a sez. sussist. (Supply Section)
sez. panettieri con forni Weiss (Bakery Sections with ' W ' ovens - one for the army corps -)
158a sez. panett. con forni carr. mod. 1897 (Bakery Section with mobile mod. 1897 ovens)
179a & 180a sez. panett. senza forni mobili (Bakery Sections without mobile ovens)
1o magazz. spec. viveri ed avena (Special Depot for Food & Fodder ?)
1o magazz. spec. f.p. e l.
1o magazz. spec. V. e E.

k) Artiglieria (Artillery)

magazz. spec. di artiglieria (Special Artillery Depot)

l) Genio (Engineer)

magazz. spec. del genio (Special Engineer Depot)

m) Chimico (Chemical)

26o magazz. chimico speciale (Special Chemical Depot)

n) Veterinario (Veterinary)

123a infermeria quadrupeddi (Animal Hospital)
magazz. spec. veter. e mascalcia (Special Veterinary & Mascalcia - ? - Depot)

o) Transport

26o rep. carreggio (Road Unit) : with the 126a sez. - minus one section assigned to XXVI Army Corps -, parco sp. q. carr. e bard. - parco spec. autom. (Special vehicles Park)
com. 6o autoraggr. (Headquarters 6th Vehicle Group)
2o & 19o rep. soccorso stradale (Road Aid Units)
16o autogr. pesante (Heavy Vehicles Group)
com. con 16o off. di autogruppo (Heavy Vehicles Group Repair Workshop ?)

40o autorep. pes. (Heavy Vehicles Unit): 409a, 410a, 581a & 582a com. aut. pes. (Heavy Vehicles Companies)
 162o autorep. pes. (Heavy Vehicles Unit): 1170a, 1171a, 1397a & 1398a aut. p. (Heavy Vehicles Platoons ?)
 320o autorep. pes. (Heavy Vehicles Unit): 229a, 363a, 364a & 1195a com. (Heavy Vehicles Companies ?)
 1 autograppo leggero (Light Vehicles Group)
 com. con off. di autogr. (Light Vehicles Group Repair Workshop)
 2o autorep. legg. (Light Vehicles Unit - four sections -)
 95o autorep. legg. (Light Vehicles Unit - four sections -)
 110o autorep. legg. (Light Vehicles Unit - four sections -)
 105o autorep. legg. (Light Vehicles Unit - three sections :- 62a, 63a & 64a - & 614a autosez. autobus - Bus Section)
 3a, 12a & 13a sez. autobotti
 30a, 36a & 39a sez. autoambulanze (Ambulance Sections)
 201a & 202a autosez. pes. attrezzate per trasp. quadrup. (Heavy Sections equipped for transporting animals)

Distribution of the C.S.T.A. forces , September 16th, 1940

Forces in Albania were distributed to three different ' fronts ': Epirus, Macedonia (or Korce) and - later on - Yugoslavia.

a) Epirus

Alpini Division ' Julia '. All ready, elements of Army Corps engineers.

Vojussa - Dhrino Raggruppamento: ' Ferrara ' & ' Centauro ' Divisions ready, one Albanian CC.NN Legion, three 149/13 groups, one 105/28 group, two 149/35 positional batteries and (eventually) one CC.NN Battalion from ' Siena '.

Raggruppamento del litorale (Coastal Group): 3rd Grenadier Regiment, two Cavalry Regiments (' Aosta ' & ' Milano '), one 75/13 group from ' Parma ', one 105/28 group & elements of Army Corps engineers.

b) Macedonia (Korce)

' Parma ' Infantry Division (minus one 75/13 group) reinforced with: one cavalry regiment or group, one motorized machine-gun battalion, one L tank company, one motorcyclists company, one mobile CC.RR battalion, one 100/17 group of ' Venezia ', one 105/28 group, two positional artillery batteries & elements of Army Corps engineers.

Distribution of the C.S.T.A. (XXVI Corps) forces, September 25th, 1940

Epirus

- Divisione alpina ' Julia ' all complete with army corps engineer elements

- Raggrupamento (Group) Vojussa - Dhrino

divisione ' Ferrara ' e ' Centauro ': all complete

1 legione cc.nn. albanesi (Albanian Camicie Nere Legion)

2 gruppi da 149/13 (149/13 groups)

1 gruppo da 105/28 (105/28 group)

2 btr. da posiz. da 149/35 (149/35 positional batteries)

1 btg. cc.nn. div. ' Siena ' eventually (Camicie Nere battalion of the ' Siena ' Division)

- Raggruppamento del litorale (Coastal Group)

3o rgt. granatieri (Grenadier Regiment)
 2 rgt. cavalleria (' Aosta ' e ' Milano ') (Cavalry Regiments)
 1 gruppo 75/13 della div. ' Parma ' (75/13 group)
 1 gruppo 105/28 (105/28 group)
 elementi del genio CA (army corps engineer elements)

- For operations against Macedonia (Korca)

div. ' Parma ' (- 1 gr. 75/13) reinforced with:
 1 reggimento o 1 gruppo di cavalleria (one regiment or one cavalry group)
 1 bgt. mtr. autocarrato (lorried machine gun battalion)
 1 cp. carri L (L tank company)
 1 cp. motociclisti (motorcyclists company)
 1 bgt. mobile CC.RR. (Carabinieri Reali mobile battalion)
 1 gr.100/17 della div. ' Venezia ' (100/17 group of the ' Venezia ' Division)
 1 gruppo da105/28 (105/28 group)
 2 btr. da posizione (positional artillery batteries)
 elementi genio C.A. (army corps engineer elements)

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, October 22nd, 1940

div. ' Parma ' : - minus one 75/13 group -, reinforced by : 1 bgt. mtr. autocarrato (lorried machine-gun battalion), 1 cp. carri ' L ' (' L ' tank company), 1 cp. motociclisti (motorcyclists company), 1 bgt. mobile CC.RR. (mobile CC.RR battalion), 1 gr. 100/17 della div. ' Venezia ' (100/17 group of the ' Venezia ' Division), 1 gr. 105/28 (105/28 group), 2 btr. da posizione da 149/35 (149/35 positional batteries), compagnia chimica di C.A. (army corps chemical company), formazioni volontarie albanesi (Albanian volunteer units - 400 to 450 men -), genio (engineers).

XXVI Corpo d'Armata strengths of formations in battalions, October 27th, 1940

| Divisions | Battalions | Batteries | Tanks | Cavalry | Independent Cavalry Troops | Mortar Battalions | Machine-gun Battalions |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 49th ' Parma ' | 10 | 16 (5 heavy) | 10 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 29th ' Piemonte ' | 7 | 8 | | | | 1 | |
| 19th ' Venezia ' | 7 | 12 | | 1 regiment | | 1 | |
| 53rd ' Arezzo ' | 7 | 11 | | | | 1 | |
| TOTAL | 31 | 47 (5 heavy) | 10 | | 1 | 4 | 1 |

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, end of October, 1940

D.f. ' Piemonte '
D.f. ' Parma ' (minus one 75/13 gruppo)
CI btg. mitraglieri
IV / 19o artiglieria ' Venezia ' da 100/17
I / 26o artiglieria di C.A. da 105/28
269a & 270a btr. da posizione del 13o artiglieria G.A.F.
IX btg. genio minatori
btg. mobile carabinieri
31a cp. carri leggeri
8a cp. motociclisti del 5o bersaglieri
26a cp. chimica

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, December 10th, 1940

a) Army Corps troops and services

- 1 cp. del IX btg. mtr. somaggiato (one company of the IX Machine gun Battalion)
- IX btg. misto genio (IX Mixed Engineer Battalion)
- gr. art. alp. ' Val Chisone ' (Mountain Artillery Group : 47a to 50a btr. - batteries -)
- 10o btg. cc.nn. (cc.nn. battalion)
- 164o btg. cc.nn.
- I btg. R.G.F. (battalion custom guards)
- III btg. R.G.F.
- 26a cp. chimica (chemical company)
- 1a cp. gr. mob. CC.RR./A (company of the mobile CC.RR. group)
- 2a cp. gr. mob. CC.RR./A
- 388a sez. CC.RR. (CC.RR. Section)

b) Divisione fanteria (Infantry Division) ' Piemonte '

- 3o rgt. fanteria (Infantry Regiment):
 - I & III btg. (Battalion; about 400 men, 20 light machine guns, 1 machine gun and four 45mm mortars)
 - II btg. to the III Corpo d' Armata - Army Corps - (about 300 men)
 - btr. acc. (infantry gun company; 3 guns)
- 4o rgt. fanteria:
 - I btg. (about 400 men, 20 light machine guns, 3 machine guns, two 45mm mortars)
 - III btg. to the III Corpo d' Armata - Army Corps - (about 300 men)
 - one battalion arriving
- 24o rgt. artiglieria (artillery regiment):
 - I gr. - group - (three 100/17 batteries to the III Corpo d' Armata)
 - II gr. to the 11a Armata - Army - (75/13)
 - III gr. (three 75/13 batteries)
 - one 20mm section to the III Corpo d' Armata

c) Divisione fanteria ' Parma '

- 49o rgt. fanteria (Infantry Regiment):
 - II btg. (Battalion; about 600 men, 17 light machine guns, 4 machine guns and nine 45mm mortars)
 - III btg. to the III Corpo d' Armata - Army Corps - (about 400 men)
 - one battalion arriving
 - btr. accompagnamento (infantry gun company; 3 guns, but no animals)

- 50o rgt. fanteria :
 - I btg. (about 700 men, 14 light machine guns, 3 machine guns, one 45mm mortar)
 - II btg. (about 700 men, 4 light machine guns, 1 machine gun, three 45mm mortars)
 - one battalion arriving
 - btr. accompagnamento (infantry gun company; 3 guns, but no animals)
- 49o rgt. artiglieria (artillery regiment, one 100/17 battery & one 75/13 battery; II gr. to the 11a Armata)
- II btg. mortai (mortar battalion, 8 mortars)
- 49a cp. cannoni da 47/32 (47/32 cannon company, 2 cannons)
- CIX btg. cc.nn. (cc.nn. battalion, to ' Tridentina ')
- 88a & 89a sez. CC.RR. (CC.RR. sections)
- 49a cp. artieri (technicians company)
- 49a cp. mista colleg. (mixed collegamenti company, missing most of its materials)
- 62a sez. san. (medical section, semi-efficient)
- 29a, 31o & 130o ospedale da campo (field hospitals, 31st inefficient)
- 53o nucleo chirurgico (operating theatre unit ?)
- 85a sez. sussistenza (supply section)

d) Divisione alpina (Alpine - i.e. Mountain Division) ' Tridentina '

- 5o rgt. alpini (alpini regiment)
 - btg. (battalions) Edolo, Tirano & Morbengo. (missing about 20 officers, 800 men, 14 light machine guns, 20 machine guns, seven 45mm mortars, two 81mm mortars and the 49a cp. - company - alpina salmerie)
- 6o rgt. alpini (alpini regiment)
 - btg. (battalions) Vestone & Verona. (missing 16 officers, 675 men, 11 light machine guns, 11 machine guns, nine 45mm mortars, the btg. Verona salmerie and 300 mules of btg. Vestone)
- 2o rgt. art. alp. (alpine - i.e. mountain - artillery regiment):
 - gr. - group - Vicenza with 2 batteries (missing 6 officers, 675 men & 500 mules)
 - gr. Bergamo with 3 batteries
- gr. art. alp. (alpine - i.e. mountain - artillery group): 2 batteries; missing 3 officers, 180 men, four 75/13 howitzers and machine guns
- cp. artieri (technicians company)
- cp.mista collegamenti (mixed collegamenti company)
- sez. fotoelettricisti (photo-electricians section)
- 5a, 6a & 305a sez. san. (medical sections, 5th inefficient)
- 618a to 622a ospedali da campo (field hospitals)
- 110a sez. sussistenza (supply section)

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, March 21st, 1941

- Corps troops
 - IX btg. mtr. som.
 - Btg. alp. ' V. Leogra ' & ' Monrosa ' (alpine battalions)
 - X & XCIII btg. cc.nn.
 - II btg. CC.RR. (CC.RR. battalion)
 - I & II btg. G.F. (G.a.F. battalions)
 - Gr. a. alp. ' V. Chisone ' & ' V. Orco ' (alpine artillery groups)
 - 230a btr. da 149/35 (battery)
- D. alp. ' Tridentina ' (2a)
 - 6o rgt. alp. (btg. Verona, Vestone & V. Chiese)
 - 2o rgt. a. (artillery regiment; gr. Bergamo & Vicenza)

- D.f. ' Piemonte ' (29a)
 - 3o, 4o rgt. f. (infantry regiments)
 - 24o rgt. a. (artillery regiment)
 - 166a leg. cc.nn. (cc.nn. legion; btg. CLXVI - CLXVII)
- D.f. ' Parma ' (49a)
 - 49o, 50o rgt. f. (infantry regiments)
 - 49o rgt. a. (artillery regiment)
 - 109a leg. cc.nn. (cc.nn. legion; btg. CIX - CXVI)

XXVI Corpo d'Armata, April 1st - 4th, 1941

- D. f. ' Parma ' (with btg. sciatori ' Monte Rosa ')
- D. f. ' Piemonte '
- D. alp. ' Tridentina ' (reinforced with btg. ' Val Leogra ')
- I & II btg. Guardia di Finanza
- reinforced with 1 btr. 149/35 & 1 gr. 105/32.

Glossary

accompagnamento: accompanying (i.e. escort; in infantry gun companies)
 alpina: alpine (i.e. mountain)
 anticendi: firefighters
 armata: army
 artiere (plural artieri): technician
 artiglieria: artillery
 autoambulanze: ambulance
 autobus: bus
 autocarrato: lorried
 autocarro: lorry
 autogrupo: vehicles group
 autosezione: vehicles section
 battaglione: battalion
 bonifica: disinfection
 campo: field
 cannoni (plural cannoni): cannon
 carro (plural carri): tank
 cavalleria: cavalry
 cinematografista (plural cinematografisti): cinematographer
 colombaie: field pigeon units
 comando: command - HQ
 commissariato: supply
 compagnia: company
 con : with
 contraereo (plural contraerei): A.A.
 corazzata: armoured
 corpo (plural corpi): corps
 difesa: defence
 divisione (plural divisioni): division
 e: and
 elementi: elements
 equipaggio: equipment
 fanteria: infantry
 formazioni: formations

forni: ovens
fotoelettricisti: photoelectricians (Note: some of the fotoelettricisti were manning anti-aircraft searchlights)
gassati Gas
genio: engineers
granatieri: grenadiers
gruppo: group
idrici: waterworks
infermeria: hospital
lancieri: lancers
lavoratori: labour
leggero: light
marconisti: signalsmen
meno: without
mezzi; means
minatori: miners (sappers ?)
misto (female mista): mixed
mitraglieri: machine guns
mortai: mortars
ospedale: hospital
panettieri: bakery
parco: park
passerelle: bridges (pontoon ?)
pesante: heavy
plotone: platoon
pompiero (plural pompieri): fire-fighter
ponti: bridges
pontieri: bridge-layers
quadrupeddi: quadrupeds (animals)
radio: wireless
raggruppamento: group
reggimento: regiment
rinforzato: reinforced
sanita: medical
senza: without
soccorso: aid
speciale: special
stradale: road
telegrafisti: telegraphists
unita: unit
veterinario: veterinary
volontari: volunteers

Abbreviations :

acc.: accompanying - i.e. infantry gun -
alb.: Albanian
alp.: alpine (i.e. mountain)
amb.: ambulance
art.: artillery
autoc.: lorried
autom.: automobile (car / vehicle)
autoraggr.: autoraggruppamento (vehicle group)
autorep.: autoreparto (vehicle unit)
autosez.: vehicle section
bers.: bersaglieri
btg.: battaglione (battalion)

btr.: batteria (battery)
 C.A.: corpo d'armata (army corps)
 carr.: tank
 cav.: cavalleria (cavalry)
 cavallegg. : light cavalry
 CC.NN.: Camicie Nere (Blackshirts)
 CC.RR. Carabinieri Reali (Royal Military Police)
 colleg.: collegamento
 com.: commando (command).
 cor. / cr.: corazzata (armoured)
 cp.: compagnia (company)
 C.S.T.A.: Comando Superiore Truppe Albania (High Command for Troops in Albania)
 D. / div.: divisione (division)
 elettr.: elettrico (electrical)
 f. / ftr: fanteria (infantry)
 G.a.F.: Guardia alla Frontiera (Border Guard)
 Gran.: granatieri (grenadiers)
 legg.: leggero (light)
 m.: mobile
 magazz.: depot
 mecc.: meccanico (mechanical)
 M.F.A.: Milizia Fascista Albanese (Albanian Fascist Militia)
 min.: minatore (miner - sapper ? -)
 mtr.: machine gun
 mob.: mobile
 mod.: modello (model)
 mot.: motorised
 motoc.: motorcyclists / motorcycle
 mtr.: mitralliatrice (machine gun)
 O.A.: Osservazione Aerea (Air Observation)
 odontoiatr.: dentist
 off.: repair workshop ?
 osped.: ospedale (hospital)
 pes.: pesante (heavy)
 pl.: platoon.
 pont.: bridge
 posiz.: posizione (position / positional, i.e. static)
 Pres. / pres. / prsid.: Presidio (area, security)
 Q.G.: Headquarters
 quadrup.: quadrupedi (quadrupeds- i.e. animals)
 raggr.: raggruppamento (group)
 rep.: reparto (unit ?)
 R.G.F.: Regia Guardia di Finanza (Royal Custom Guards)
 rgt.: regiment
 san.: medical
 sez.: sezione (section)
 sq.: squadron
 sussist.: supply
 terr. / t.: territoriale (territorial)
 trasport.: trasporto (transportation)
 veter.: veterinary
 zapp.: sapper ?

SOURCE :

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