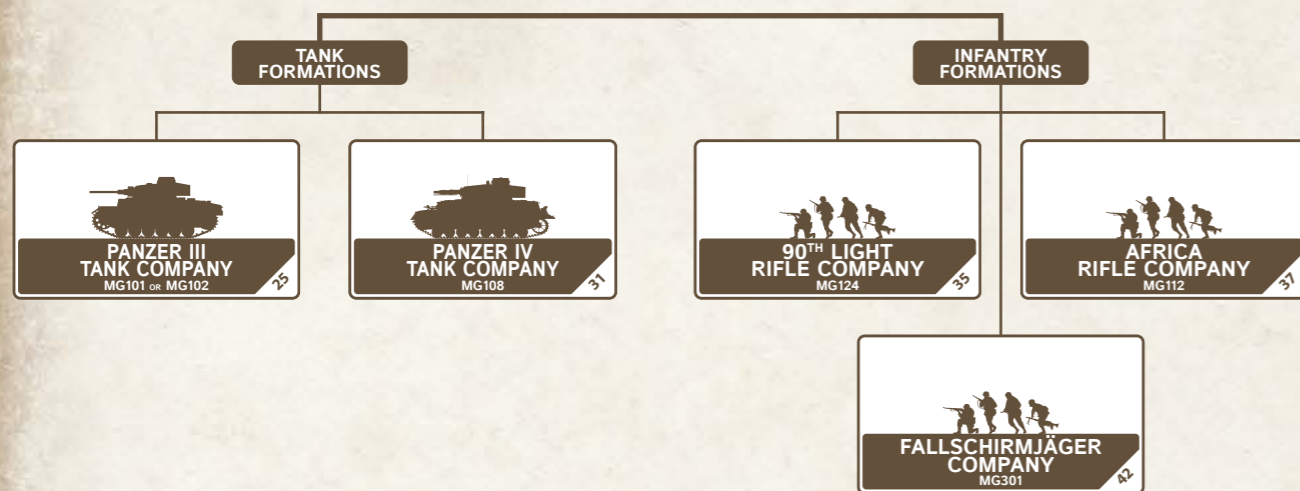




# AFRIKA KORPS FORCE

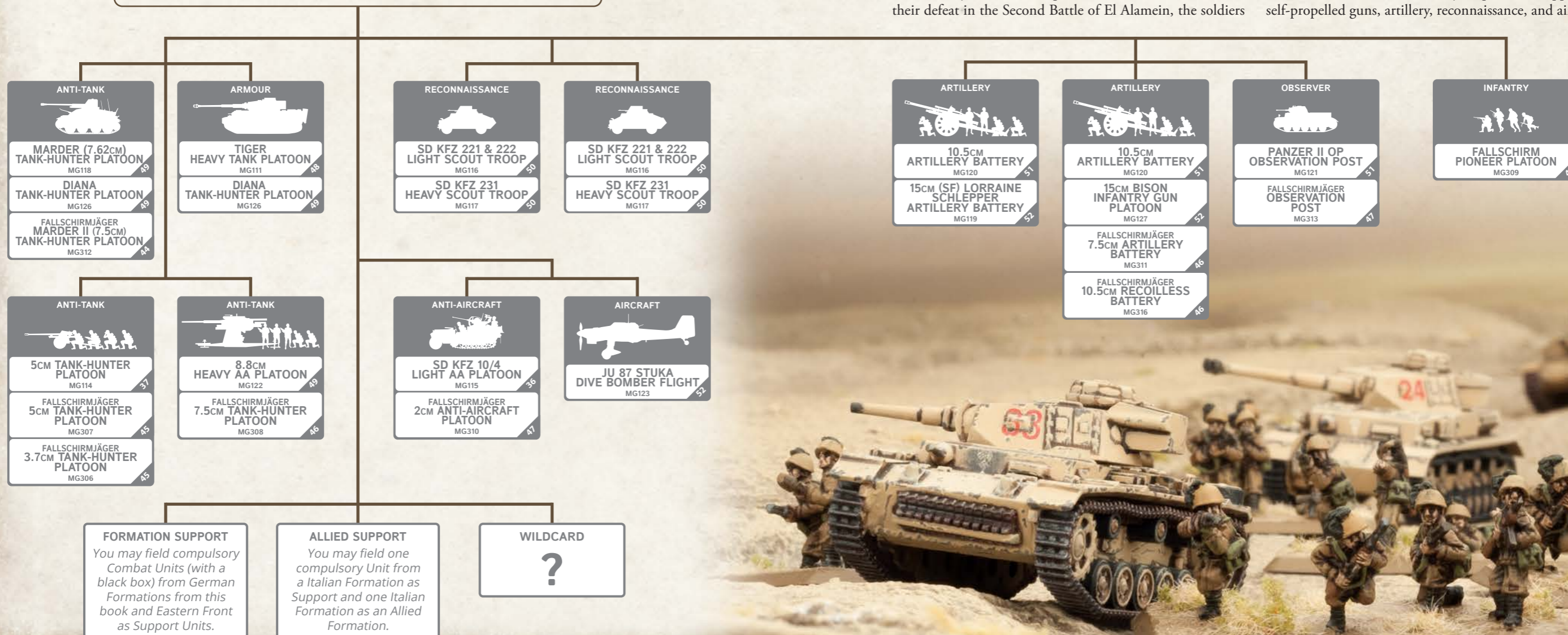


Your Force must contain at least one Formation, and may contain as many Formations as you like.



## AFRIKA KORPS SUPPORT UNITS

You may field one Support Unit from each box.



# ROMMEL'S AFRIKA KORPS

There exists a real danger that our friend Rommel is becoming a kind of magical or bogey-man to our troops, who are talking far too much about him. He is by no means a superman, although he is undoubtedly very energetic and able.

— British General Claude Auchinleck on Generalfeldmarschall Erwin Rommel

Under the leadership of Generalfeldmarschall Erwin Rommel, the *Deutsches Afrika Korps* (or *DAK*) trounced the British Eighth Army time and time again. The 'Desert Fox', as he became known, gained an almost mythical status as a military genius to both friend and foe alike.

Rommel owed his success to a combination of his own experience and hard-driving nature, and the superb troops he commanded. Serving as a *Leutnant* in the First World War, Rommel showed an aggressive style that led to spectacular victories over forces much stronger than his own. This style served him well in North Africa over twenty years later, when he commanded *Panzer Armee Afrika* (Africa Tank Army) against the numerically superior Eighth Army.

By the time of the Battle of Gazala in mid-1942, the *Afrika Korps*, the German armoured component of *Panzer Armee Afrika*, had been fighting in the desert for over a year and was made up of battle-hardened veterans who had won almost every battle and expected to win more. Even after their defeat in the Second Battle of El Alamein, the soldiers

of the *Afrika Korps* had faith that Rommel would reverse the situation and lead them to victory once again.

Despite being made up of whatever bits and pieces Rommel could wrangle from a High Command focussed on the much bigger battles of the Eastern Front, the *Afrika Korps* grew to be a powerful combat force. Starting with just 5. *Leichte Division* (5<sup>th</sup> Light Division), Rommel built the *Afrika Korps* up to include 15. *Panzer Division*, 21. *Panzer Division* (a much strengthened 5. *Leichte Division*), and 90. *Leichte Afrika Division* (90<sup>th</sup> Light Africa Division, a motorised infantry division). *Panzer Armee Afrika* also included 164. *Leichte Afrika Division*, the *Ramcke* Parachute Brigade, two Italian armoured divisions, and six Italian infantry divisions.

Each panzer division fielded a regiment of Panzer III and Panzer IV tanks and a regiment of infantry reorganised with fewer men and extra anti-tank guns for the fighting in Africa. The light Africa divisions had three infantry regiments, but no tanks. All had a wide variety of powerful support from self-propelled guns, artillery, reconnaissance, and aircraft.

