



2ND NEW ZEALAND DIVISION



Veterans of Greece, Crete, and North Africa, the New Zealand Division (nicknamed Kiwis) reorganised itself based on lessons learned from the desert campaign a few years earlier. Top on their priority list was to form their own armoured brigade.

Due to their disastrous experiences with British armoured support in North Africa, the Kiwis converted their 4th Infantry Brigade into the 4th Armoured Brigade to better support their infantry. This helped make the New Zealand Division a tight-knit and mobile fighting unit.

However, Italy proved to be vastly different from the North African battlefields. Mobility and armour were slaves to Italy's weather and terrain, making infantry and artillery the main actors in the battles to come.

THE SANGRO RIVER

The New Zealand Division returned to the front in late 1943, and met up with the rest of the British Eighth Army at the Sangro River. The Germans had fortified the river, which became known as the Reinhard Line. It was the last of the German defences before the formidable Gustav Line at Cassino.

On 28 November, the Kiwis and the 8th Indian Division launched their attack. The two divisions slowly pushed forward as the weather had turned the roads to muck and the rivers to torrents. Though progress was made against an ever-stiffening German defence, it was quickly becoming clear what sort of fight lay ahead. After crossing the Sangro River, the Kiwis were pulled from the front for a rest.

CASSINO

The New Zealand Division returned to the fighting at Cassino in February 1944. Here, together with the 4th Indian Division, they formed a New Zealand Corps assigned to the

US Fifth Army. They took over positions of the American 34th and 36th Infantry Divisions, both of which had been exhausted taking the approaches to the town and hills above.

The New Zealanders launched two frontal assaults on the town directly into the heart of the German defence in an attempt to capture the Cassino colosseum. This building was the key to reach Route 6, which in turn was the key to breakthrough to Rome.

The first assault, spearheaded by the 28th (Maori) Battalion, gained the Allies the Cassino train station but no further progress could be made as the armour had difficulty moving up to support the attack.

The second assault into the town itself fared no better as the rubble from the massive preliminary bombardment provided extra cover for the defenders and again deprived the armour the manoeuvrability they needed to support the infantry.

Following these attacks the New Zealanders kept in contact with the Germans by patrolling aggressively, until the middle of April. At that point, they were pulled off the line once again to rest and prepare for the next major offensive against the Gustav Line.

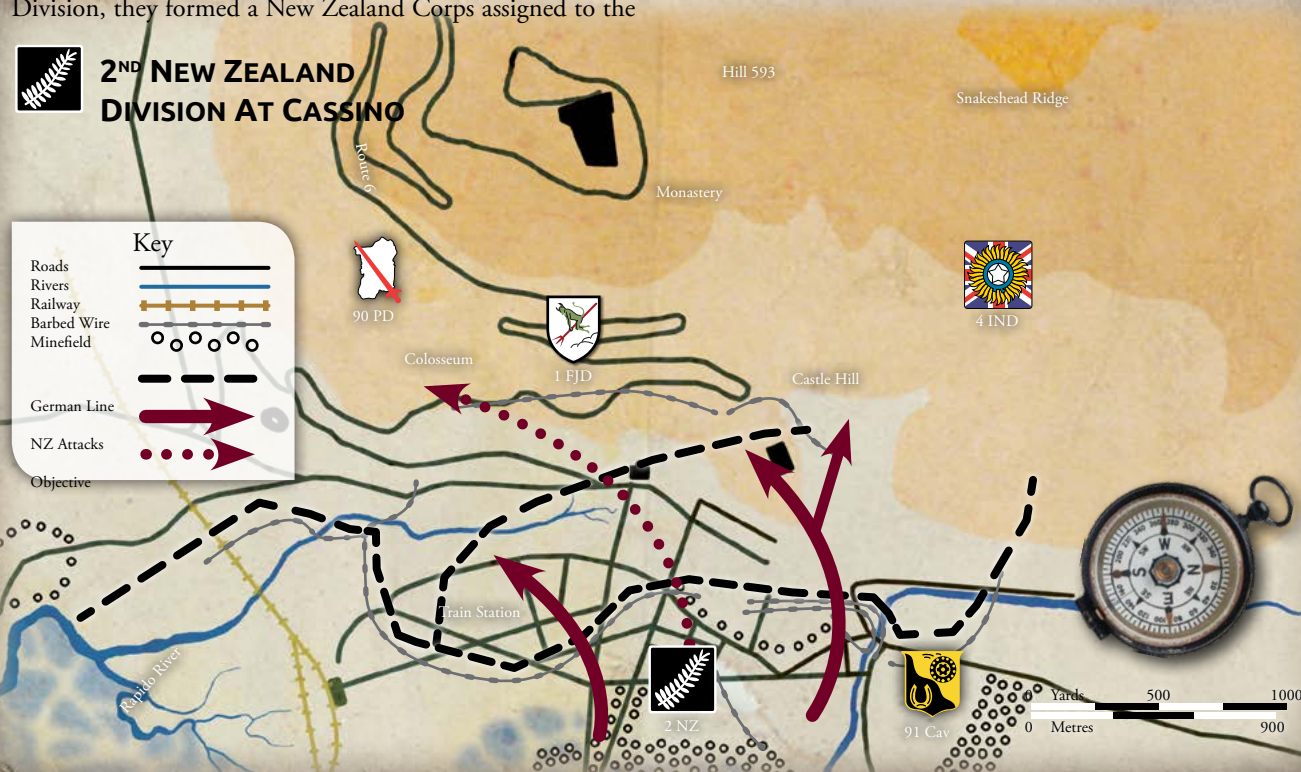
ROAD TO SUCCESS

On 11 May the Allies launched Operation Diadem. The French attack in the Aurunci Mountains outflanked the Gustav Line and soon the Germans were in full retreat to their next defensive line.

The 2nd New Zealand Division became a mobile division, following up the breakout through the German lines. They raced north, smashing through hastily-built German roadblocks all the way to Florence where the division supported the Canadian Corps helping to crack the Gothic Line.



2ND NEW ZEALAND DIVISION AT CASSINO



NEW ZEALAND COMMAND CARDS

New Zealand Formations and Units use all the normal British rules found in *Liberation of Italy*. In addition, they can use a variety of different command cards to field various Formations and Units.

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DESERT VETERANS

The infantry of the New Zealand Division are vastly experienced. The New Zealanders have seen action in the desert, playing a major role in the victory at El Alamein and the pursuit of the Axis forces to Tunisia.

Rifle Platoons, Italy Motor Platoons, 3-inch Mortar Platoons, Vickers Machine-gun Platoons, 6 pdr Anti-tank Platoons, Italy Rifle Company HQ, or Italy Motor Company HQ in this Formation have a Rally rating of 3+ for +1 point per Unit.

MOTIVATION	
CONFIDENT	4+
Bulldog Counterattack	3+
Desert Veterans Rally	3+

British, Build, Formation (Italy Rifle Company, Italy Motor Company), Title

0 POINTS

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NEW ZEALAND SHERMAN ARMoured SQUADRON

The 4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade was composed of three armoured regiments organised along British lines, although with fewer tanks.

Your Force includes New Zealand Sherman Armoured Squadrons, which are Formations containing:

- 1 Italy Sherman Armoured Squadron HQ (LB301)
- 1-3 Italy Sherman Armoured Troop (LB302) with either 3x Sherman (75mm) or 2x Sherman (75mm), 1x Firefly (17 pdr)
- 1 Italy Sherman Armoured Troop (LB302) with either 3x Sherman (75mm) or 2x Sherman (75mm), 1x Firefly (17 pdr) or Firefly Armoured Troop (LB138)
- 0-1 Stuart Recce Patrol (LB106)

Sherman Units in this Formation have a Remount of 3+. You cannot field a Firefly Armoured Troop if your Formation contains any Italy Sherman Armoured Troops including Firefly tanks.

MOTIVATION	
Desert Veterans Remount	3+

British, Build, Formation (Italy Sherman Armoured Squadron), Title

3 POINTS

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28TH MĀORI BATTALION

THE 28TH (MĀORI) BATTALION

The 28th (Māori) Battalion was raised in 1940 from the native Māori tribes of New Zealand. The battalion saw combat in Greece, Crete, and North Africa where they demonstrated their reputation as fierce warriors. Now in Italy, the Māori Battalion and the rest of the 2nd New Zealand Division found themselves looking straight into the town of Cassino.

On the night of 17 February 1944, the Māori Battalion launched an attack against the Cassino railway station. The fighting was fierce, but they fought their way to the station. However, the Germans counter-attacked with a pair of assault guns and lacking their own armoured support, the battalion was forced to withdraw.

MĀORI

MĀORI BATTALION

The Māori often performed a haka or war dance within earshot of the enemy before launching an attack. This, combined with their fearsome reputation, would have their foes quaking in their boots.

The Italy Rifle Company HQ and Rifle Platoon Units in this Formation lose Bulldog, their Motivation becomes Fearless, and they gain the Haka rule for +2 points per Rifle Platoon and +1 point for the HQ.

MOTIVATION	
FEARLESS	3+

Haka: Enemy Units must re-roll their first successful Motivation Test to Counterattack an Infantry Unit in this Formation.

A Force using the Māori title may also use the 2nd New Zealand Division title.

British, Build, Formation (Italy Rifle Company), Title

0 POINTS

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