

P40 HEAVY TANK

DEVELOPMENT

Even before they had entered the war in 1940, the Italian army recognised that it would need a new, heavier tank to keep up with foreign designs. At 26 tonnes, the new tank was planned to be twice as heavy as the M13/40 medium tank about to enter service. Faced with numerous specification changes and no suitable engine, Fiat Ansaldo, the company that designed all Italian tanks, took until late 1942 to complete the prototype.

The new P40 heavy tank matched any tank on the drawing boards in 1941 and was similar to the latest medium tanks in service in late 1942—the M4 Sherman, T-34 and Panzer IV tanks.

Still, with nothing better in sight, full-scale production of the new heavy tank began in early 1943. Unfortunately the SPA engine factory in Turin had been bombed, and this combined with a shortage of electrical parts and optics, meant that only 22 tanks had been completed when Italy surrendered in September 1943, although parts for at least another 48 tanks had been produced.

COMBAT SERVICE

With victory in sight at El Alamein, a small pre-production batch of P40 heavy tanks joined the armoured divisions in the desert.

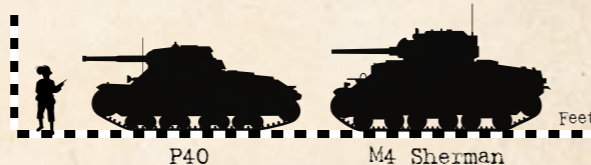
The first companies of P40 heavy tanks arrived in Africa just in time for the pivotal Second Battle of El Alamein. These were split up to support the medium tanks as they counterattacked the British armoured divisions. More of these tanks fought in the Tunisian campaign where they allowed the Italian carristi to take on US and British tankers on equal terms for the first time.

DESIGN FEATURES

Despite its heavy tank label, the P40 is a conventional medium tank. Its 50mm-thick armour and 75mm gun match that of other participants and far outstrips the 30mm armour and 47mm guns of the older Italian medium tanks. With its powerful new motor, it is considerably faster as well.

The P40 is the most powerful tank in the Italian arsenal. It will face anything the Allies can field and win.

Range 32"/80cm, Anti-tank 10, Elite



P40 in German service, 1944.



CARRI PESANTE PLATOON (HEAVY TANK PLATOON)

Experienced tank crews were assigned to the newly-formed heavy tank battalions.

Carri Pesante Platoons are rated as: **Elite**

REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Any Italian company may replace all of its Carri Platoons with Carri Pesante Platoons. If it is a Compagnia Carri, it must also purchase the tank in the Company HQ as a P40 heavy tank for 95 points.

PLATOON

- 4 P40 385 points
- 3 P40 290 points

OPTIONS

Arm any or all tanks with an AA MG for +5 points per tank.

Equip all P40 tanks with Improved Armour for +5 points per tank.

Name	Mobility	Front	Armour			Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top		
P40	Standard Tank	5	4	1		Co-ax MG, Limited vision, Unreliable.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower		
75/34 gun	32"/80cm	2	10	3+		

P40 SPECIFICATIONS



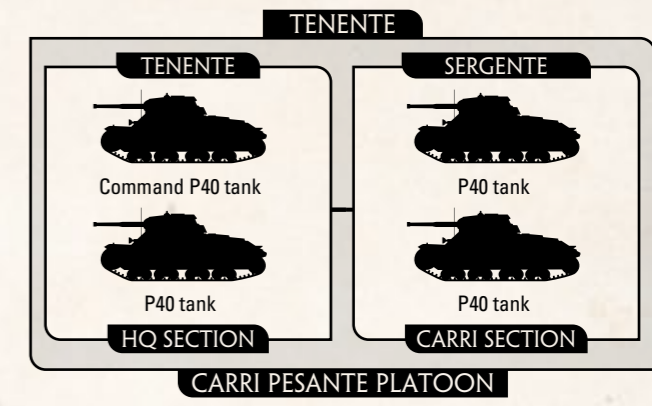
Designation: Carro Pesante P40
 Crew: 4 (cdr/gnr, ldr, rdo, dvr)
 Weight: 57,320lb/26,000kg
 Length: 19'/5.80m
 Height: 8'3"/2.52m
 Width: 9'1"/2.8m
 Armament: 1x 75/34 gun
 1x 8mm Breda modello 38 machine-gun
 Ammunition Stowage: 65x 75mm, 800x 8mm
 Armour Thickness: 20mm to 50mm
 Engine: Fiat-SPA 342 V12 petrol,
 1525cu in/25 litre, 330hp
 Maximum Speed: 25mph/40km/h
 Road Radius: 93 miles/150km



IN GERMAN SERVICE

When Italy surrendered, the Germans seized the P40 heavy tanks and ordered another 75. Due to the engine shortage, half of the total were to be delivered without engines. These were mounted in the Gothic Line as bunkers in 1944. The rest were issued to the SS for anti-partisan work.

HEAVY TANK PLATOON



CARRI PESANTE PLATOON

In common with all Italian tanks, the P40 heavy tank needs to be used aggressively. While its gun and armour are comparable to the other countries' medium tanks, the numbers available are often small.

Your M4/41 medium tanks charge the enemy while the heavy tanks engage them from the front. If the range is too great for effective shooting, the heavy tanks should manoeuvre forward shooting on the move, to engage the enemy with destructive fire.