

ITALY



Background: Italy became a nation-state in 1861 when the regional states of the peninsula, along with Sardinia and Sicily, were united under King Victor Emmanuel II. An era of parliamentary government came to a close in the early 1920s when Benito Mussolini established a Fascist dictatorship. His disastrous alliance with Nazi Germany led to Italy's defeat in World War II. A democratic republic replaced the monarchy in 1946 and economic revival followed. Italy was a charter member of NATO and the European Economic Community (EEC). It has been at the forefront of European economic and political unification, joining the Economic and Monetary Union in 1999. Persistent problems include illegal immigration, organized crime, corruption, high unemployment, sluggish economic growth, and the low incomes and technical standards of southern Italy compared with the prosperous north.

Geography Italy: Location: Southern Europe, a peninsula extending into the central Mediterranean Sea, northeast of Tunisia. Area: total: 301,230 sq

km. note: includes Sardinia and Sicily. Area - comparative: slightly larger than Arizona. Land boundaries: total: 1,932.2 km. Border countries: Austria 430 km, France 488 km, Holy See (Vatican City) 3.2 km, San Marino 39 km, Slovenia 232 km, Switzerland 740 km. Coastline: 7,600 km. Climate: predominantly Mediterranean; Alpine in far north; hot, dry in south. Terrain: mostly rugged and mountainous; some plains, coastal lowlands. Natural resources: coal, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorospar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land. Natural hazards: regional risks include landslides, mudflows, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding; land subsidence in Venice. Environment - current issues: air pollution from industrial emissions; coastal and inland rivers polluted from industrial and agricultural effluents; acid rain damaging lakes; inadequate industrial waste treatment and disposal facilities. Geography - note: strategic location dominating central Mediterranean as well as southern sea and air approaches to Western Europe. (CIA Factbook 2006)

Military notes:

1911 Car, Armd, 4x2. Isotta-Fraschini Model 1911

1912 Car, Armd, 4x2. Autoblindata, Fiat, Mod 1912

1912 Car, Armd, 4x2. Bianchi, Autoblindata, Mod 1912

1913 Car, Armd, 4x2. Bianchi, Autoblindata, Mod 1913

1914 Car, Armd, 4x2. Autoblindata Bianchi, Mod 1914.



Remarks: Early version of the Autoblindata Bianchi, later versions removed the turret and

top portion of the crew compartment.

Mod 1914 Data: Drive, 4x2. Armor, steel. NBC Protection, individual. *Armament:* (1) LMG. Elevation & traverse, manual. Fire Control, optical. *Capacity:* Fuel, gasoline. Crew, 3-4. Engine: (1) Gasoline powered, liquid cooled, front-mounted unit. *Transmission:* Type, manual. *Suspension System:* Type, Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4. *Night Vision Devices:* n/a. *Usage:* Italy. *Manufacturer:* Bianchi.

1916 Car, Armd, 4x2. Bianchi

1916 Car, Armd, 4x2. FIAT (Russia pattern)

1916 Car, Armd, 4x2. Lancia 1Z/1M

1917 Car, Armd, 4x2. Lancia 1ZM, Mod 1917.
Also used by Czechoslovakia after 1919.

1928 Car, Armd, 4x2. Lancia 1Z, Mod 1928.



Remarks: Also used by Austria and Czechoslovakia.

1928 Car, Armd, 4x4, Tank, Wheeled, Heavy, Pavesi

1928 Car, Armd, 4x4, Tank, Wheeled, Pavesi Type D

1929 Car, Armd, 4x2. Fiat 501

1929 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x2. Fiat 604

1930 Car, Armd, 4x2. Corni-Scognamiglio (Nebio)

1930 Car, Armd, 4x4, Tank, Wheeled, Ansaldo

1930 Car, Armd, 4x4, Tank, Wheeled, Pavesi P4 Type A

1935 Car, Armd, 4x2. Lancia, IZ, Mod 1935

1935 Car, Armd, 6x4, Autoblinda Fiat-611A w/MG

1935 Car, Armd, 6x4, Autoblinda Fiat-611B w/Cannon

1937 Veh, Util, Trattore Leggero T.L. 37

1939 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AB39

1939 Veh, Util, Car, Field, Light, 4x2. Fiat 508C

1940 Car, Armd, 4x2. Autocarro Leggero Ford 8V

1940 Car, Armd, 4x2. Lancia 3R0 MNP

1940 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AB40

1940 Veh, Util, Truck, Cargo, Light, 4x2 Fiat 508C

1941 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AB41

1941 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Trattore Leggero Protetto Fiat-Spa

1941 Veh, Cmd, AB41 Posto Commando Mobile

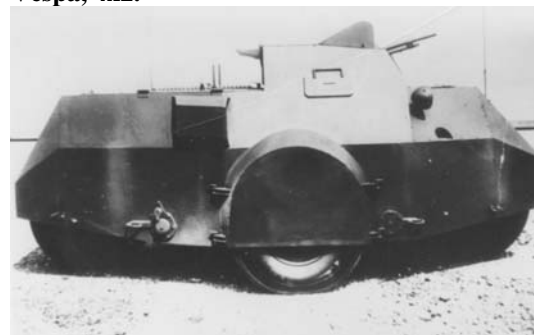
1942 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AB42

1942 Veh, Recce, Camionetta Desertica Mod 42

1942 Veh, Recce, Camionetta SPA 42 Sahariana (4x4)

1942 Veh, Recce, Car, Scout, 4x4, Lince

1942 Veh, Recce, Autoblindata Caproni-Vespa, 4x2.



Data: *Armament:* (1) 8mm Fiat machine gun. Elevation, manual. Crew/Passengers, 2. *Engine:*

Type, gasoline, 82 hp. Mfr, Vespa. No of Cyls, 8. Location, rear. *Transmission:* Type, manual. *Suspension:* Steering, front wheel. No of wheels, 4. *Performance:* Speed/Land, 53 mph (86 km/h). Drive, 4x2. *Remarks:* Developed by Caproni (the aircraft company), and presented for testing in early 1942, the machine never went into series production. *Usage:* Italian Army, test vehicle only. *Manufacturer:* Caproni-Vespa.

1943 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AB43

1943 Car, Armd, 4x4, L'Autoblinda AS43

1943 Veh, Recce, Camionetta Desertica Mod 43

1943 Carr, Wpns. Breda-Ansaldo Type 102 SPG, 6x4

1943 Carr, Wpns, AB41 46/32 SU

1944 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x4, Fiat/Spa Dovunque 35, Protetto

1944 Carr, Wpns, Semovente Da 20mm Auto-carro Fiat 626

1950 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Light Armored Car.



Remarks: (see US for vehicle details).

1952 Veh, Util, Truck, ¼-ton, 4x4, AR52

1957 Veh, Util, Alfa-Romeo AR51, ¼-ton 4x4

1959 Veh, Util, Alfa-Romeo AR59, ¼-ton 4x4

1974 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Fiat 6614 CM.

Remarks: 15 vehicles were supplied to Peru.

1975 Veh, Util, Trk, Util, ¾-ton, 4x4, Fiat 1107 AD

1976 Veh, Recce, Cheeta, Lamborghini / Tele-dyne, 4x4.

1977 Car, Armd, 4x4, Fiat 6616A. At least 15 vehicles were supplied to Peru.

1982 Car, Armd, 4x4, ASA Guardian Mk 1/II

1983 Veh, Recce, Oto Melara R 2.5 Gorgona

1983 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. OTO Melara R3 Capraia

1984 Veh, Recce, Iveco-Fiat AVL 6634 (4x4)

1984 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Fiat 6633H

1984 Veh, Util, Veh, Util, Lamborghini LM-002

1986 Car, Armd, 4x4, Ferrari F333E

1986 Car, Armd, 6x6. Iveco-Fiat AVH 6636

1987 Car, Armd, 8x8. Centauro

1988 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Iveco-Fiat Puma (4x4 & 6x6)

199x Car, Armd, 8x8. Centauro 105mm.

Remarks: Italy delivered 14 of these cars to Spain in 2001.

2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Casspir.

Remarks: South Africa supplied two Casspir APCs to Italy in 2003 for Italian use in Africa on UN missions.