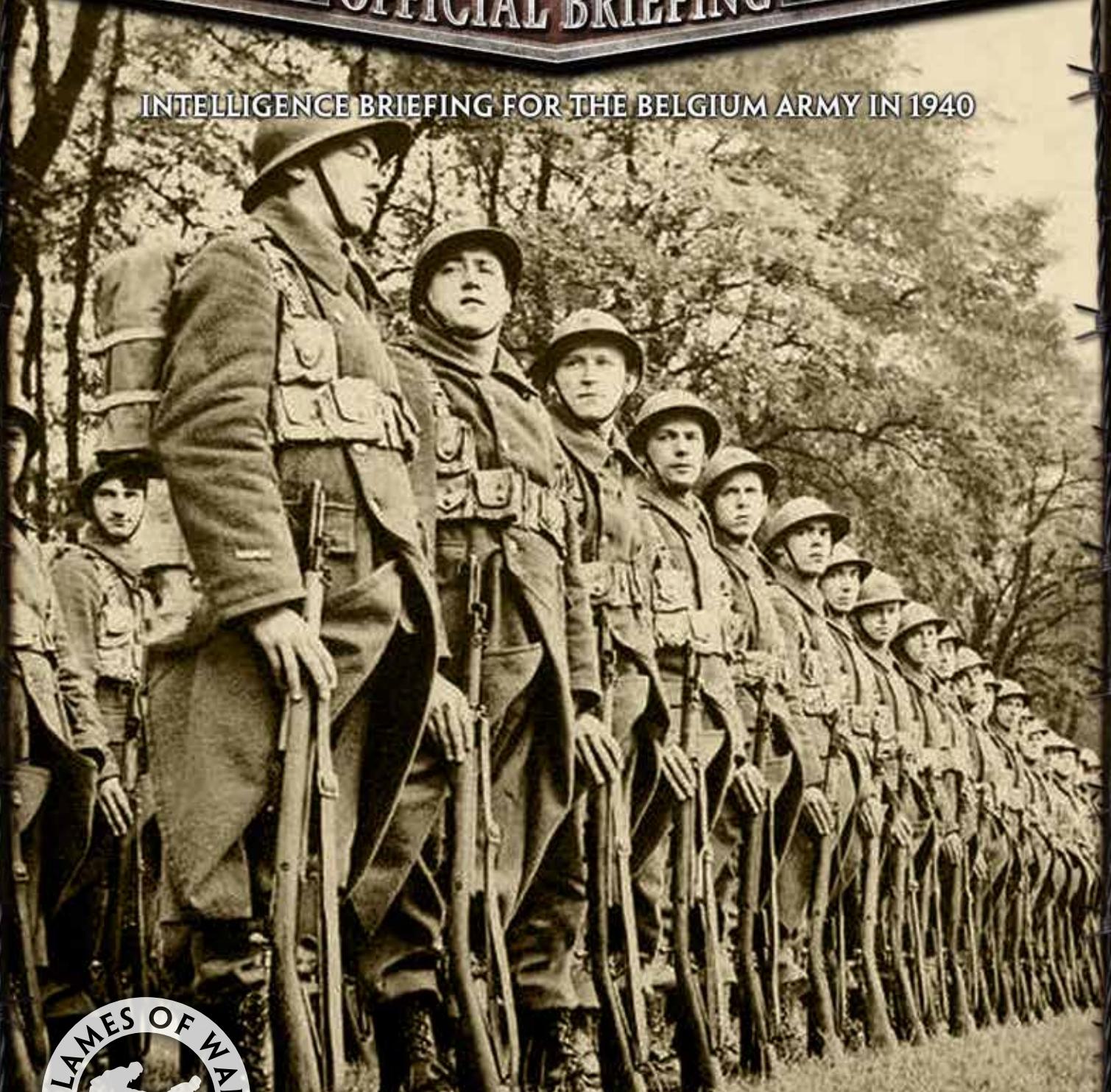


BELGIUM 1940

OFFICIAL BRIEFING

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING FOR THE BELGIUM ARMY IN 1940



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UNDER
REVIEW

The Belgian Campaign

After Germany occupied the Rhineland in March 1936, Belgium started its policy of 'Armed Independence', putting an end to the Franco-Belgian military agreement of 1920 and the agreements made in the Locarno Treaty. Minister of Foreign Affairs Paul-Henri Spaak claimed that Belgium would only benefit from staying politically independent from all other countries. Belgium would follow this policy of independence until September 1939.

The Flemish elements of the Belgian population particularly supported the severing of links with the French. The policy of 'Armed Independence' meant that 25% of the national budget was spent on the military, even though it was a time of economic recession.

To defend its neutrality, the Belgian forces started to build up its defences, such as the KW Line: anti-tank obstacles and ditches, casemates, and minefields. At the same time, adjustments and improvements were made to the fortresses around Namur, Liege and Antwerp. Unfortunately, a lot of these defensive lines would not be completed by the time the Germans crossed the Belgian border.

After mobilising the Belgian forces following the annexation of Czechoslovakia in '38 and again in '39 after the invasion of Poland, the Belgian government changed its policy of independence to one of neutrality. On the one hand, the government wondered if it should start collaborating with the French and British, to organise a strong military defence against the Germans, but on the other hand the population (with the gruesome experience of WWI still fresh in their mind) preferred to remain strictly neutral, hoping that by doing so, the country could remain out of the war.

Soon after, for a second time in a 40 year span, the country would be invaded by Germany...

MOBILISATION

Despite its neutrality, Belgium had to take defensive measures, and on 4 September 1939, the Belgian army mobilised (for a second time) 600,000 men (8% of the total Belgian population). This time the troops were kept mobilised, with severe consequences for the economy and industry.

This number (650,000 is also quoted) included many reservists who needed refresher training as well as men who had been exempted or deferred. This meant that the Belgian army was more in the 450,000 to 500,000 region in May 1940, with many of those needing extensive training being sent to Belgian recruitment centres (CRAB) in France shortly after the German invasion. (As a comparison, the Dutch army numbered approximately 230,000 and the BEF between 350,000 and 400,000)

On 10 January 1940, an ME108 made an emergency landing on Belgian soil. The passenger, Major Reinberger, tried on multiple occasions to burn a number of documents. On closer inspection by Belgian officers at the nearby command post, these documents held all the details of Fall Gelb, the codename for the invasion of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Even though the plans didn't indicate when the attack would take place, it was clear the invasion was imminent.

76MM FRC INFANTRY GUNS.



T-13B2 TANK-HUNTER.



As a result of these plans the Belgian King, Leopold III, was prepared to accept Allied troops on Belgian soil if the following conditions were agreed upon:

1. Peace negotiations were not to be started without Belgian participation.
2. Belgium's integrity (as well as its colonies) would be guaranteed after the war.
3. Financial support would be made available when Belgium needed to rebuild its country after the war.

Discreet consultations with the French and British military had resulted in the 'Dyle'-plan, in which the BEF and the French 1e, 2e and 9e Armee, would move into Belgium and take position along the river Dyle and Meuse in the event of a German attack. This means the emphasis of the defence would be on the centre of the country. Within this plan, the Belgian army would fall back gradually and take its position on this line between Antwerp and Leuven.

ORGANISATION AND EQUIPMENT

The Policy of Neutrality restricted the Belgian army severely in its equipment. It prohibited the use of "offensive arms" such as bomber planes and tanks.

For its defence, the country had to rely on its army, rather than an Air force or Navy.

The Belgian army in 1940 comprised in total 18 infantry divisions (6 Active, 6 1st Reserve and 6 2nd reserve). Most of these were part of the seven Army Corps. The Active and 1st Reserve divisions had the best equipment, while the 2nd Reserve divisions had to do with a lot less anti-tank weapons and artillery.

The Cavalry Corps incorporated 2 of the Infantry Divisions listed above, as well as a Cavalry Division. The cavalry troops were motorized or equipped with bicycles, rather than mounted troops such as were still being used by the Dutch army.

Apart from these troops, the army also included a number of light troops, such as the Border Cyclists (Cyclistes de Frontiere) and the Chasseurs Ardennais. A lot of these troops were formed into Task Groups, such as Groupement Ninitte and Groupement K (Group Keyaerts). The latter included also a Cavalry Division

As far as equipment is concerned, the Belgian army had a large array of different types of weapons: Mauser 35 (Kar98K) rifles, the FM 30 light machine gun (also known as the "Belgian BAR" and used by Active and First Reserve infantry), Maxim and Hotchkiss machineguns, and very diverse collection of 75mm, 105mm, 120mm, 155mm calibre guns (both modern and updated WWI canons) as well as some heavy 280mm railway guns.

Restricted by the policy of Neutrality, an armoured force was as good as non-existent (in total the Belgian army had about 10 ACG tanks). What was available, was a large number of self-propelled tank hunters in the form of the T13, made from a Vickers chassis (originally they were destined to transport artillery) and equipped with a FRC-47 gun and a machine-gun. The latest version of this vehicle, the T13 B3 was no longer open-topped and made up the largest number of the tank hunters (194 T13 B3 compared to 56 T13 B1 and B2's).

Also used was the light T15 tank (42 in total), a light reconnaissance vehicle, equipped with a 13.2 Hotchkiss machine-gun.*

(*the above figures were published by the CLHAM (Centre for History and Military Archeology of Liege)

PREPARATIONS

On 9 May, shortly before midnight, the Belgian GHQ issued the order of 'Stand-to'. The majority of the Belgian army was positioned along a number of defence lines.

- Firstly, there was the delaying line, following the Albert canal (where the fortress of Eben-Emael is situated) at the Belgian-Dutch border, the Meuse and also comprising the fortifications around Liege and Namur. This line was hoped to hold for three days, long enough for the French and British troops to occupy the line Antwerp-Namur-Givet.
- The 2nd Cavalry Division was positioned along the river Gete, to cover movement of Belgian units into the KW-Line. It would be joined by units withdrawing from the Ardennes.
- The 10th Infantry Division held Leuven (The British 3rd Infantry Division took over the defence of Leuven, displacing the Belgian troops).
- The 11th Infantry Division was training at Beverloo, the principal training ground for Belgian units and large enough to allow full divisional manoeuvres, while the 5th Infantry Division was located in the Halle–Ninove area.
- The main defence line (Koningshooikt – Wavre or KW Line) followed the river Dyle from Antwerp to Wavre, then roughly south to the French border.
- The last prepared defence line was situated behind the river Scheldt (or Escaut in French), and included the bridgehead Ghent, where the 16th Infantry Division was stationed.
- By settling for the Dyle Plan, the eastern part of the

country would be given up. Advance elements were positioned on frontier canals and in the provinces of Liege and Luxembourg: *Groupement K* (Group K), named after its commander General Keyaerts, was sent to the Ardennes, its main aim to delay the attackers advance in case of an invasion. It was always intended that these delays were to be the result of demolitions and obstacles, not by defensive actions of the *Chasseurs Ardennais*.

In that heavily forested part of the country, the elite *Chasseurs Ardennais* were (amongst other forward troops) covering a front of 85km on the eastern border of Belgium.

CAMPAGN SUMMARY

- Defence of the Albert Canal (10 May).
- Defensive line at the Albert Canal was broken, only about 3500 men of the 7th ID returned to the Belgian lines (11 May).
- Retirement to the KW Line: Belgian divisions from the Ardennes and the Albert canal line retired to the KW line, covered by cavalry units holding the Gete river line (12-13 May).
- The KW line (until 16 May) was being held.
- Retirement to the Scheldt: this order was given to Belgian GHQ on 16 May by General Billotte, commander of the French 1st Armee and coordinator of the Northern front. This retreat was planned in two stages, on the night of 17/18, and on the night of the 18/19 May.
- Battles at the Scheldt river.



47MM FRC MLE 31 ANTI-TANK GUN.

- Allied conference at Ypres on 21 May leads to the order for the Belgian army to retire behind the Lys river.
- Battles at the Lys river: on 24 May the new positions were behind the Leopold canal, the Derivation canal and the Lys river.
- Surrender of the Belgian army (28 May).

10 MAY

At 4am, without a declaration of war, the Luftwaffe targeted Belgian airfields, stations and communication centres. The small Belgian air force caught on the ground lost half of its planes.

One of the main targets for the German forces was the fortress of Eben-Emael, bordered on one side by the Albert Canal, on the other by an anti-tank ditch.

On 10 May 1940, at 5:25 am, 11 gliders with 55 German glider-borne troops landed on the superstructure of the fortress, surprising the local troops. Using automatic weapons, hand grenades, flame-throwers and shaped charges (which was a new weapon), they were able to knock out a number of the gun turrets and partly neutralise the fortress. Even though the fortress didn't surrender until the next day, it would no longer play any real part in the defence of the Albert canal.

At the same time of the attack on Eben-Emael, three Luftlande-Sturm assault groups attacked a number of bridges over the Albert Canal. Using similar tactics as in Eben-Emael, the Germans were able to secure the bridges at Vroenhoven and Veldwezelt. The Belgian commander responsible for the destruction of the bridges was stationed 10 km away at his headquarters in Lanaken. This HQ was bombed by the Luftwaffe, resulting in the fact that no order to demolish the bridges was given.

At Kanne the Fallschirmjagers landed between the echelons and came under heavy defensive fire, and were forced to retreat, while the bridge was blown up. The order to destroy the bridge was given by the commander at Eben-Emael, who could witness the attacks for himself, and was able to react swiftly.

At the same time, the Luftwaffe ceaselessly bombed neighbouring troops of the 7th ID, while German troops crossed the river Meuse near Maastricht.

Belgian troops offered resistance at the frontier canal, and the bridges over the Meuse were blown up.

In the Belgian provinces of Liege and Luxembourg forward troops, including the Chasseurs Ardennais (1st Chasseurs Ardennais Div) fought against armoured German detachments, and offered determined resistance, despite being attacked in the rear by Fallschirmjager troops.

GROUP KEYAERTS

On 10 May, the 3rd Coy of the 3rd Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment was manning a defensive anti-tank position in the small village of Chabrehez. Here, elements of the German 7. *Panzerdivision* would try the whole day to break through the Belgian lines, but the Chasseurs were offering stubborn resistance. At night, the Belgian troops retreated, and the German troops would only continue their advance the next day.

Erwin Rommel, in command of this division, is rumoured to have said: 'Es sind keine Menschen, sondern grune Wolfe' (These are not men, but green wolves).

At Mont Le Ban part of a motorcycle company of the 3rd Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment delayed elements of 7. *Panzerdivision* for about 2 hours.

At Martelange, just across the Belgian border, the 1. Panzer-Division was stopped for 2 hours by 4th Company of the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment, while at Strainchamps 1st platoon, 5th Coy, 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment delayed elements of 2. *Panzerdivision* from 10am until 4pm. Its T13 tank-hunters held off German tanks during this engagement.

Further south, 5th Company of the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment blocked the road from Arlon to Bastogne. Around 8am, 150 German troops landed in Fieseler Fi 156s behind them, while in the east the vanguard of 1. *Panzerdivision* approached. The German infantry was part of 'Operation Niwi' and their cutting of the telephone lines meant that not all Belgian units received the order to retire. Intense fights followed, and the company was reduced to two platoons. After continuing to fight the whole day, the Belgian troops surrendered. The delays caused significant embarrassment to Guderian's spearhead of 1. *Panzerdivision*.

British and French Command had been contacted, and Plan Dyle went into action: the French 7^e Armee moved through Belgium towards Holland, the BEF advanced towards the river Dyle between Leuven and Wavre, while the French 1^e Armee advanced towards the sector between Wavre and Namur, flanked by the 9^e and 2^e Armee which headed towards the Meuse, south of the city (French Light formations advanced further east).

Noticing the danger the troops at the Albert Canal were in, Belgian GHQ ordered the retreat towards the west, moving to the main position between Antwerp and Leuven, along the river Dyle. The 11th and 2nd ID also moved toward the same location.

5th ID moved to the north of Leuven, and the 3rd Lancers were sent towards Hannut. Further east, the 3rd ID crossed the river Meuse to its left bank.

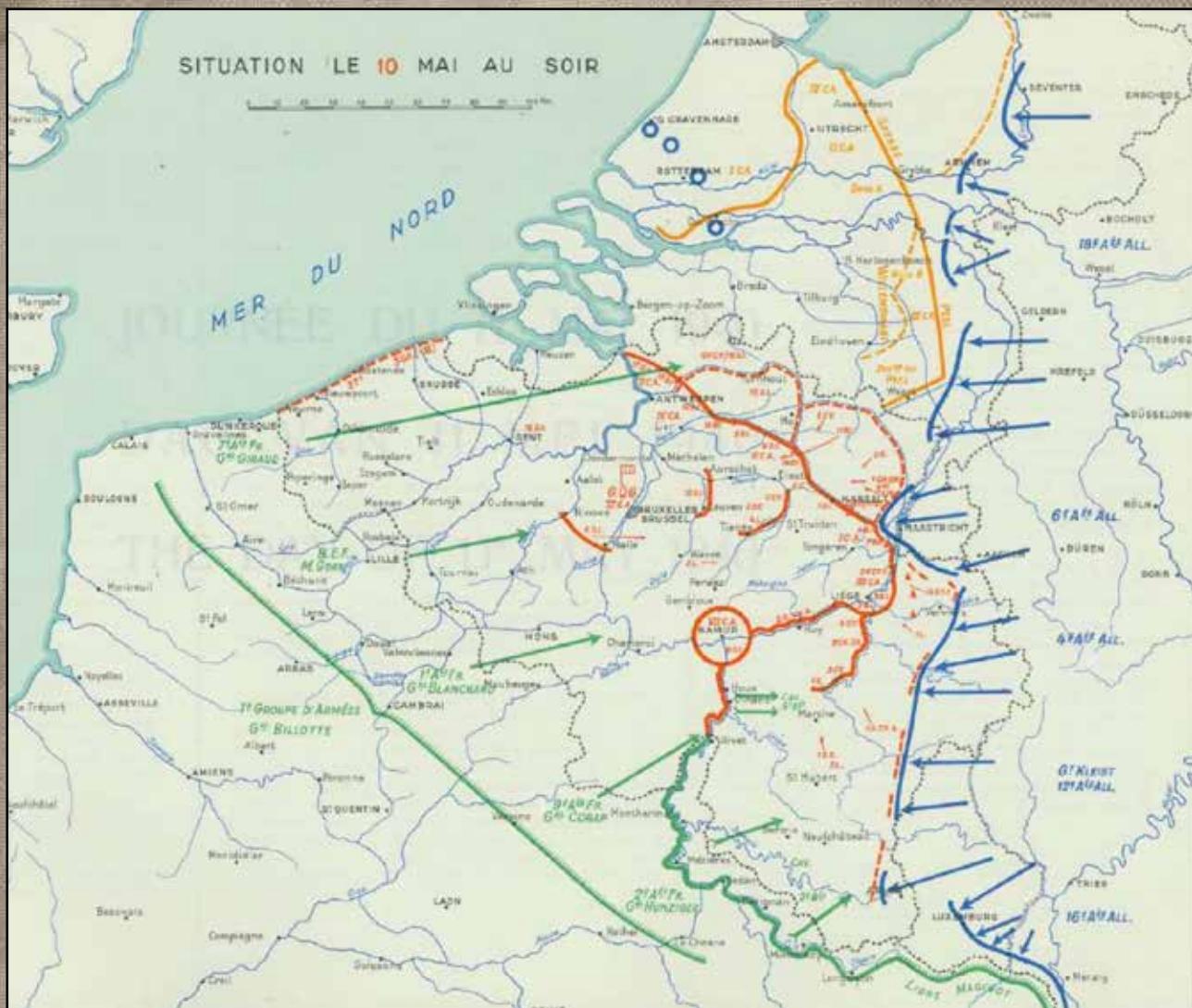
In the evening, the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais D was ordered towards the Ourthe, and troops positioned in the north of the country (2nd Guides Regiment, 1st Cyclist Regiment and 1st Chasseurs a Cheval Regiment) fell back to the Albert Canal.

Light troops that were stationed around Verviers (1st Lancer Regiment and 1st Frontier Cyclist Regiment) had moved westwards to the area around Liege.

11 MAY

German armoured detachments crossed the bridge at Veldwezelt and, followed by infantry, advanced deeper into Belgium, putting a lot of pressure on the Belgian 7th ID. Even with the help from the 4th ID and 1st CD., the situation couldn't be stabilised.

In the Belgian province of Luxembourg the Chasseurs Ardennais, together with the French Light forces, engaged the German troops.



Troops at the defensive line at the Albert Canal risked being flanked by the advancing German forces, and after two days of fighting, the Belgian commander gave the order to gradually retreat from the Albert canal towards the KW line during the night of 11 May, while being screened by a rear-guard.

The Allied forces reached their positions at the Dyle (BEF), Meuse (9^e Armee) and on the railway line between Brussels and Namur (1^e Armee).

At night, the Belgian 4th and 7th ID, as well as the 1st CD withdrew towards the area around Tienen, near Leuven.

The 1st and 14th ID took up positions behind the river Gete. Finally, the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division took position in a sector of the Namur stronghold.

When 4. Panzerdivision reached the city of Tongeren, an acceleration of the evacuation of the 2nd and 3rd ID was necessary.

TO THE K-W LINE: 12 MAY

The next two days the Belgian Army would continue to regroup its forces in the area between Antwerp and Leuven, sometimes under trying circumstances: 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division was hit by heavy bombardments, while further north III Corps was harassed by the Luftwaffe and enemy armoured troops. The German 6. Armee chased the retreating Belgian divisions as they were reaching their positions at the river Gete.

Mobile elements of the Belgian army were to hold the defensive line at the Gete while the infantry established its defensive line on the Dyle/KW line.

In the meantime Von Kleist's armoured group headed westwards towards the river Meuse at Neufchateau, followed by the 12. Armee. On the evening of 12 May, the French Cavalry Corps of the 2e Armee had withdrawn south of the river Semois, as well as the 9e Armee. At Dinant, the bridge was blown in the afternoon when German troops reached the city.

In the evening, the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division was ordered to take up position near Perwez, behind anti-tank obstacles, while the French 1^e Armee took up position.

The Allied troops were more or less reaching the agreed positions, and at night, the Belgian army entered into the general plan of the Allied forces. French General Billotte was given supreme command on this day.

13 – 14 MAY

While north of Namur, the battle lines became more organised, things weren't going as well south of the city. The armoured group of Von Kleist had succeeded in breaching the position around Sedan, capturing the city in the afternoon and establishing a foothold on the left bank. The situation became alarming for the 2e Armee.

In the area around Haelen and Tienen the Belgian cavalry

and artillery distinguished themselves during fierce fights. At night, the Belgian troops had reached their positions in the agreed deployment.

In the north, Belgian divisions took temporary positions at the Dessel-Kwaadmechelen canal. Here there was a good cooperation with the French troops of the 7^e Armee. The German 56. Infanteriedivision, which had created two bridgeheads, was attacked by Belgian infantry in cooperation with French tanks, and had to abandon these bridgeheads.

On 14 May, Belgian troops reached their positions on the line between Antwerp and Leuven:

17th & 13th ID: Fortified position of Antwerp

12th and 15th ID, with the 18th ID in reserve: Antwerp-Lier

6th, 11th, 2nd, 5th, 10th ID, and 9th ID in reserve (Lier-Leuven)

Orders were given to hold the line at all costs.

Across the border in Holland things became desperate, and the French 7^e Armee was pushed back towards Antwerp and the river Scheldt.

South of Namur the German forces increased the size of the pocket around Dinant, putting pressure on the area where the French 9^e Armee and 2^e Armee joined up. Further north,

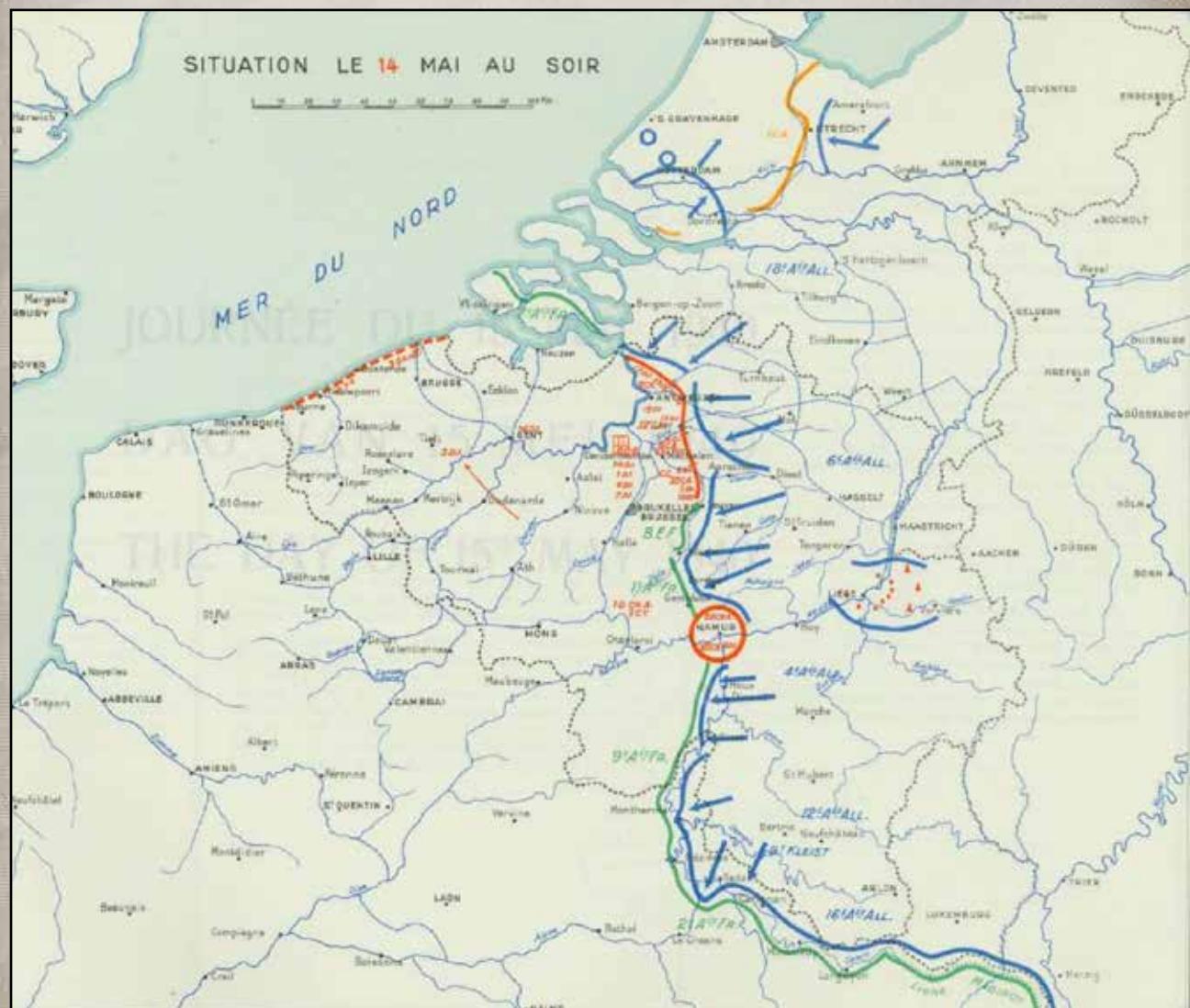
the Germans made contact on the Antwerp-Namur line. The Belgian general reserve consisted of the Cavalry Corps, 1st ID and 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division. The 3rd, 4th and remnants of the 14th ID were reorganizing in Flanders, while the 7th ID was sent to France.

5th ID: LEUVEN (K-W LINE)

All day, rear-guard units of the Belgian cavalry arrived at the KW-Line near Leuven, from where they moved further west. In the afternoon the last units of the British 15th/19th Hussars had returned from their reconnaissance missions and the Cointet-elements (a type anti-tank obstacle) were closed.

In the evening, German troops encountered and engaged the 6th Chasseurs Regiment (5th ID) and the British troops near the station of Leuven. The 7th Company (6th Chasseurs Regiment) and the British 2nd Ulster Rifles organised a counterattack. The troops kept the Germans out of the station, and retreated afterwards.

Once the French 1^e and 9^e Armee started to retreat because of the pressure of the German attack, the fortified position of Namur needed to be evacuated. Their retreat was extremely difficult, as they needed to cross the retreat direction of the French 1^e Armee. The 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Division lost



one third of its material and the 8th ID was almost entirely absorbed by the French 1^e Armee with elements only returning to the Belgian army on 23 May.

RETREAT TO THE SCHELDT: 15 MAY

In the Netherlands, the Dutch army laid down its weapons on 15 May. The French 7^e Armee retreated south and was sent to reinforce the 9th Army.

In Belgium, the British and Belgian troops continued to make contact with German units, while further south, the situation was getting worse: von Kleist armoured group drove west through the gap created previously at Sedan. The consequence was that the French 9^e Armee withdrew, in turn forcing the French 1^e Armee to turn its flank and retreat behind the river Sambre.

At night, the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces, General Billotte, decided to withdraw all Allied forces towards the west.

16 MAY

Three fortresses around Liege fall into German hands. General Gort received the order to have the BEF fall back west towards the river Scheldt, and soon after that orders came for the Belgian army to retreat. He expected a day of fighting at each of the intermediate rivers, Zenne and Dender.

General Giraud, who replaced the commander of the 9^e Armee the day before, was captured at his command post, and the 1^e Armee lost more terrain to the German 6. Armee.

On the Belgian side, IV and V Corps held their positions around Antwerp, and II and VI Corps pulled back toward the canal of Willebroeck. The 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division was guarding Aalst and the nearby river Dender and its bridges.

VII Corps moved northwest towards Ghent and the 9th and 10th ID were transferred behind the Scheldt. At the same time, the 2nd CD guarded the bridges across the Scheldt between Dendermonde and Hoboken.

The withdrawal of the Belgian forces would be done in three phases over the next two nights, during which the troops would fall back behind the canals of (from east to west) Willebroeck, Dender and Ghent-Terneuzen.

5TH ID: FIGHTS AT THE REMY-FACTORY, WIJGMAEL (NORTH OF LEUVEN):

16 – 17 MAY

In the morning of 16 May, an enemy patrol was noticed east of the Remy-factory by the 4th Chasseurs Regiment, followed by more units, including armoured vehicles, around noon. From 2:30pm onwards, German artillery started to shell the factories, followed by a German assault. Attempts to cross the river by boat were stopped by Belgian artillery.

Four more assaults were repelled by the 2nd Fusiliers Company of the 4th Chasseurs Regiment. They were told to hold positions until the next night, while other troops retreated. The company had taken 1 casualty and 2 wounded, while on German side there were (out of approximately 500-600 men) 50-60 casualties and a further 150 wounded.

17 MAY

The Germans now occupied most of the islands in Holland, which allowed the troops of the German 18. Armee to be used in Belgium. Fights erupted northeast of Antwerp and along the Willebroeck canal. Around Liege, two more forts fell.

The BEF withdrew to the west of the Brussels-Halle line. On the French side, the 9th Army was in full retreat, while the 1st Army was also pushed back and formed a line between Halle and Charleroi.

Belgian GHQ continued the withdrawal, and ordered the IV and V Corps west of the Scheldt, abandoning their positions east of Antwerp.

The 1st CD was sent to relieve the French units between Doel and Terneuzen, while the 6th and 11th ID were sent from the area around Dendermonde towards the Canal Ghent-Terneuzen.

1ST AND 2ND FRONTIER CYCLIST REGIMENT: WILLEBROEK CANAL, 17 MAY

On 17 May, both regiments had joined, and formed, together with a unit of 2nd Chasseurs and a few British units, the final rearguard at the canal of Willebroek. They had to man a front 18km long, without any artillery support or heavy weapons. All T13 tank-hunters were previously lost.

In the morning, the last Belgians crossed the canal, and between 10am and 2pm, the Cyclist regiments destroyed seven bridges.

In the afternoon, the first German troops arrived. The Cyclists tried to repel them, but at Kapelle-op-den-Bos, the enemy was able to cross the canal in rubber boats, supported by armoured vehicles and artillery.

The Belgian troops were unable to push the Germans back, and from 8pm onwards, Belgian and British units retreated, while the Cyclists remained in position until 11pm.

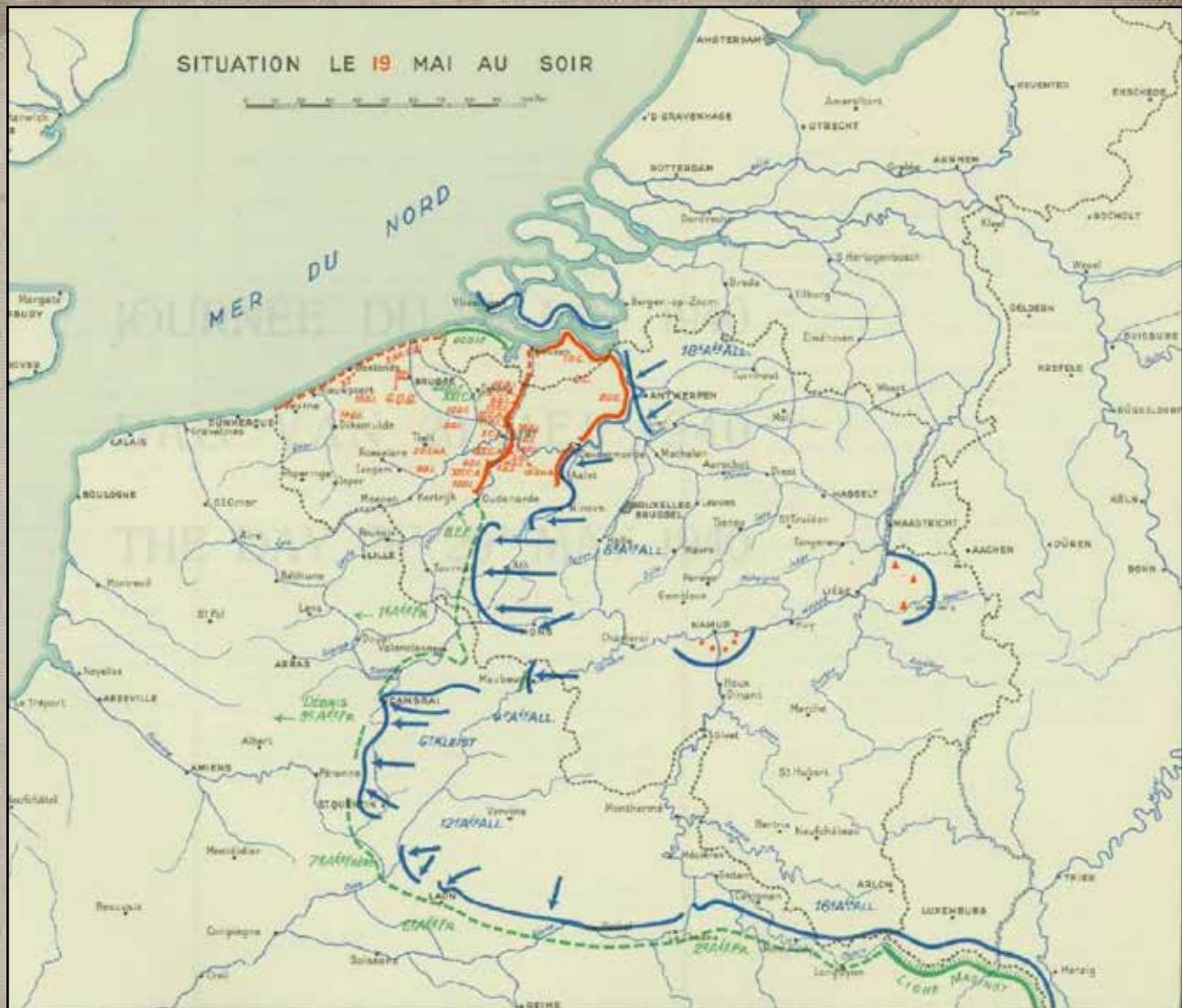
18 MAY

On the previous night, eight divisions dislodged on the frontline and started their retreat. The 13th ID was attacked by the German 208. *Infanteriedivision* and 256. *Infanteriedivision* and suffered serious casualties, while the 12th ID (though hard pressed) managed to retreat without too many difficulties.

The 15th ID had the longest way to go and was constantly attacked by the German 56. *Infanteriedivision*. After heavy fighting the Germans were stopped at the towns of Duffel and Lier. The 15th ID crossed the Willebroeck canal, held by the 1st ID.

The 4th division of the BEF had, as planned, already retreated, which made the position of the 1st ID rather precarious as it was waiting for the 15th ID to cross the canal.

The 1st ID was attacked at several points by the German 56. *Infanteriedivision*, but they were stopped at Willebroeck and Kapelle-op-den-Bos (where two Belgian ACG tanks of the Escadron Auto-Blindees proved to be decisive).



The German 30. Infanteriedivision took the town of Het Sas, by crossing over a partially destroyed bridge.

1st ID managed to contain this threat. Further up north the German 19. Infateriedivision failed in its attempts to cross the canal at Verbrande Brug and Vilvoorde.

The fighting in Holland had now come to an end, allowing the German 18. Armee to enter Antwerp and focus on attacking the troops on the other side of the Scheldt.

Just to the south, the German 6. Armee engaged the Chasseurs Ardennais, as well as the British rear-guard, and General Gort ordered the withdrawal to the Scheldt to be completed that night. Belgian GHQ ordered the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division to cover the retreat of the 1st, 2nd and 5th and 18th ID towards the positions near Ghent, while the 12th, 13th, 15th and 17th ID fell back to positions behind the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal, protected by the Cavalry Corps.

The 8th ID and 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Division took positions on the west of the river Lys.

On the French side, the 1^e Armee was retreating. The French 9^e Armee was falling apart, chased by Von Kleist's Panzer divisions, which seem to be unstoppable. The French 7^e Armee 'Frere' and 6^e Armee were pushed forward to try and stop this breakthrough.

19 MAY

On the second night, the retreat was protected by the cavalry divisions and the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais D. German troops crossed the Scheldt river by using a tunnel that wasn't totally destroyed in the Antwerp region. Fierce battles occurred around Zwijndrecht between the German 309. Infanteriedivision and units of the Belgian cavalry.

Near Antwerp 'Tete de Flandres' was taken by the Germans with help from Stukas, followed by a counter-attack from the Belgian 2nd CD. At night, the Cavalry corps was ordered to retreat to the west bank of the canal Ghent- Terneuzen.

1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division repelled two attacks of the German 56. Infanteriedivision. The Chasseurs performed a fighting withdrawal towards the Scheldt after the German 30. Infanteriedivision also joined in. This fighting withdrawal was a fine example of a mobile unit that was well trained and well equipped.

In the east, three more fortresses around Namur and Liege fell.

The BEF withdrew behind the Scheldt, leaving the flank of the 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division exposed. They kept withstanding the attacks, falling back a few kilometres in the afternoon, and resuming the fight. At night, it withdrew and went into reserve to the VI Corps.

In France, the Germans couldn't be stopped and reached the area around Cambrai.

2ND AND 4TH LANCER REGIMENT.: ZWIJNDRECHT: 19 MAY

During the night of 18 May the 1st CD finished its deployment to cover the southern bank of the Wester Scheldt between Kallo and Terneuzen. 4th Lancer Regiment was on the frontline, while 2nd Lancer Regiment was in second line.

The enemy numbers increased all the time and the 15th ID defended Zwijndrecht, until the commander of the 2nd Squadron of the group was killed and the cyclists were bombed by the *Luftwaffe*.

They received the order to retreat at 11am, but weren't able to do this in an orderly way, because of the presence of the German troops. The cyclists were continually pushed back, all the way to the position of the 4th Lancers, who in turn were being bombed. Shortly before noon, the 4th Lancers tried to counter-attack. They quickly came to blows with the enemy, who were trying to push towards the west.

The 1st Squadron of the 4th Lancer Regiment was ordered to counterattack together with the armoured cars from the 2nd Lancers, but got severely punished for this attempt.

The situation deteriorated even further when the artillery ran out of ammunition. Shortly thereafter the Belgian troops were ordered to fall back.

20 MAY

The Belgian king informed London of the difficult position the Belgian (and Allied) troops were in, after the German forces had taken Cambrai and pushed towards Abbeville.

The reformed 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Division and 8th ID had taken positions behind the river Lys.

Lord Gort devised plans for a counterattack in the south, joined by another two French Divisions, and asked the Belgian GHQ to prolong their front, thus freeing one of the BEF divisions it needed for this attack. The Belgian 3rd ID moved south to fill the gap left by the BEF division.

Multiple engagements took place along the front at the river Dender.

That night, the German reached Abbeville, and the Allied forces were now fully encircled.

The German 208. *Infanteriedivision* tried to cross the Terneuzen canal at Zelzate and Terdonk, attacking with two regiments. They failed and 208. *Infanteriedivision* suspended all further attacks until 23 May.

The German IX Korps and XI Korps started to attack the Belgian positions south of the bridgehead Ghent. A large battle took place at Kwatrecht where the Belgian 2nd ID undertook several counterattacks on 20 and 21 May.

21 MAY

General Weygand, who replaced Commander-in-Chief Gamelin, met with General Billotte, King Leopold II and General Gort in Ypres. General Weygand proposed an attack to try and rejoin the front. The Belgian troops would have to extend their front and take over positions of the British 44th division. In case they needed to fall back, they would have to

take up positions at the Lys river. If that would fail, they had to fall back on the Yser river.

Belgian troops fought off German attacks between Terneuzen and Ghent, pushing the attackers back at Kwatrecht. In general, the Belgian positions were held.

The German 30. *Infanteriedivision* attacked the Belgian 10th ID at Zingem. The Germans managed to create two small bridgeheads which on the following morning were counterattacked by the Belgian 6th Chasseurs Regiment. The Belgians cleared the area of all German troops.

Three more fortresses fell in Namur and Liege. In the sector held by the BEF, the Germans captured Oudenaerde

5TH LINE REGIMENT.: GIJGENZEL: 20 – 21 MAY

At first light messages arrived that German reconnaissance troops had been seen nearby, and round 9am the regiment noticed the first German motorcycle combos on the road from Ghent to Aalst. A short skirmish erupted, followed by a first attack by the 3rd Battalion. Initially, the German troops made contact with the 9th Company, taking out a few Belgian machine-guns. However, the German attack was repelled, and with some artillery support, 10th Company could resist the pressure. 11th Company had to fall back and was unable to recapture its position.

In the afternoon another German attack was initiated, this time with infantry and 15 light panzers. A number of the tanks were destroyed by Belgian artillery, and the remaining panzers retreated. Attack and counterattack followed each other swiftly and eventually the German infantry succeeded in taking the Belgian positions.

In the early afternoon, reinforcements arrived, and another attack was launched, this time supported by artillery and four T13 tank-hunters.

After a long and heavy fight, the situation was reversed and round 7pm the original positions had been recaptured.

22 MAY

After reaching the French coast, the German Panzertroops started to push northwards, increasing pressure on the French defenders.

The BEF gradually retreated towards the French border. At Arras the British troops were able to regain the city, while the French reclaimed Cambrai.

The Belgian 15th ID regrouped at the coast, near Nieuwpoort, and at night V and VII Corps retreated to the Lys.

II Corps stayed in position, together with the 5th, 16th and 18th ID, as well as 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division. 1st ID was transported to Kortrijk to extend the front to the south.

23 MAY

At the western most part of the front in France, Weygand's attempt to rejoin the front failed and the German armoured troops were pushing north, narrowing the encirclement. News of this forced the Belgian GHQ to prepare for an attack from the west.

Belgian coastal cities were being bombed by the *Luftwaffe* and two more fortresses fell near Namur.

During the day, the Germans attacked Belgian positions all along the canal of Ghent-Terneuzen and multiple attempts were made to cross the canal, with heavy air support. 1st Chasseurs Ardennais D and the 5th ID had to withdraw.

At night, contact was made with the German troops near Kortrijk.

The BEF had now taken position along the Franco-Belgian frontier, extending the Maginot Line. The XVI French Army Corps, under Belgian command, was sent to take position between Gravelines and St-Omer, facing west along the canal.

At night all troops still east of the diversion canal were ordered to retreat behind that canal. The only exception was the Cavalry Corps, which remained east of the diversion canal, to observe and harass the German troops.

BATTLES AT THE LYS RIVER: 24 MAY

The next four days the Belgian army would continually fight at the river Lys.

The Germans gained control of Eeklo around noon, but a counterattack by the Belgian II Corps allowed them to capture 200 prisoners of war.

Six German divisions attacked the Belgian positions near

the city of Kortrijk. Initial attacks failed but eventually the German 30th division managed to cross the river after sustaining very high losses in men and material. German 19th division manages to cross the river at Bavikhove and Beveren.

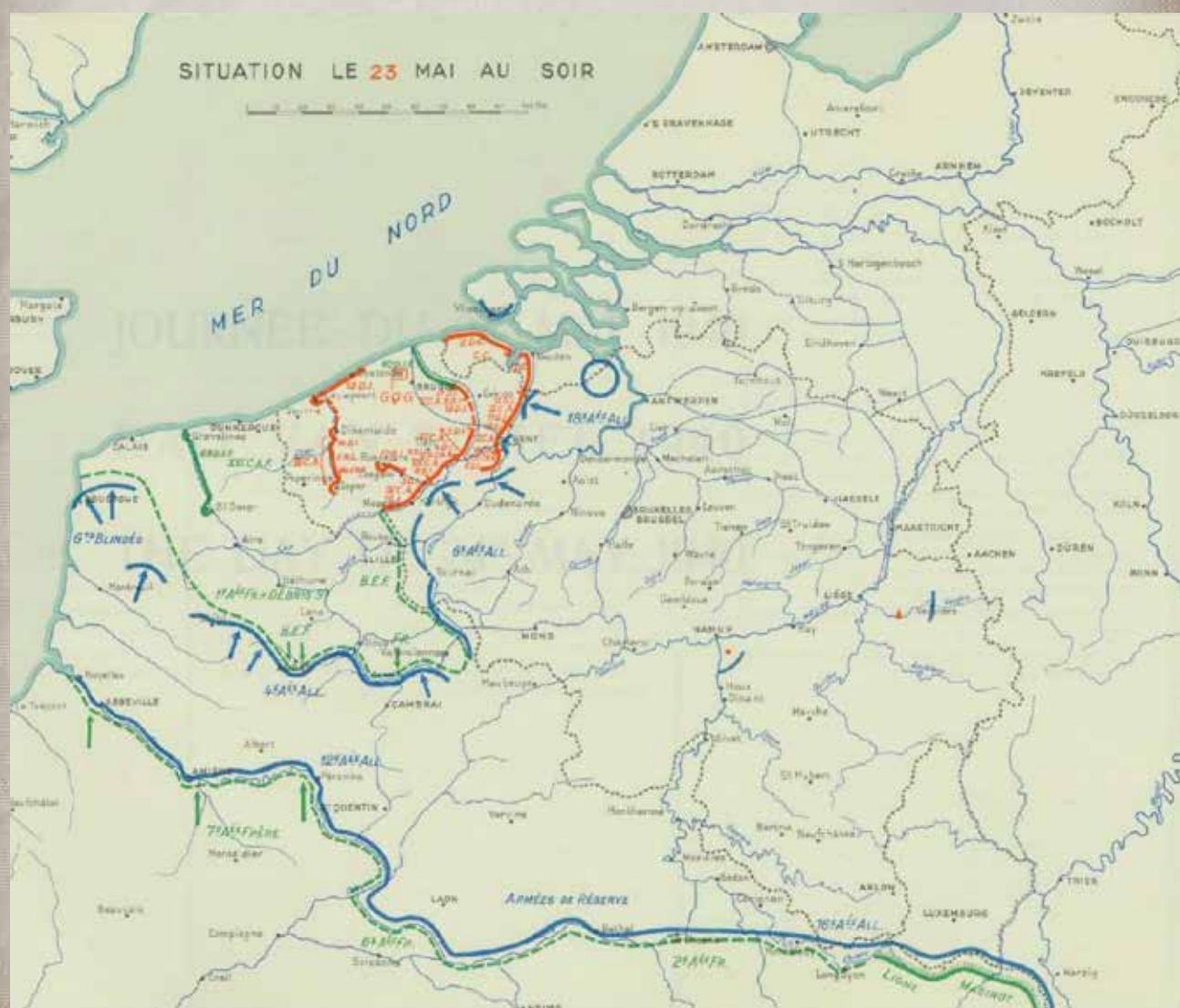
German 31. *Infanteriedivision* attacked between Kortrijk and Menin and broke through the Belgian front of the 1st division taking the town of Bissegem.

The main German attack took place around Kortrijk. four German infantry divisions (18., 14., 19. and 30.) smashed into the front of the Belgian 3rd ID. At 9pm remnants of the division retreated behind the Roulers canal, leaving a temporary breach of 9 km in the front.

Between the Kortrijk area and the Derivation canal the Germans attempted also to cross the Lys river. The German 255. *Infanteriedivision* failed completely. The German 216. *Infanteriedivision* managed to get a foothold over the river by using two regiments (348. and 396. infantry regiments), but they were quickly beaten back by the precise shooting of the Belgian artillery.

German 208. *Infanteriedivision* attacked the 12th ID at Ronsele, crossing the canal but suffering heavy casualties. The bridgehead was destroyed in a counter attack on 25 May.

Belgian positions were hit by the *Luftwaffe*. Fearing a breakthrough at the point where the Belgian and BEF troops



meet, the 2nd CD and 6th ID were sent down from the north at night and they stopped the German attempt together with the 10th ID.

Northwest of Kortrijk the 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Division were attacked, but the Belgian troops held.

All across the French front, the Germans advanced, pushing through as far as Gravelines, St Omer and Bethune.

The last fortress of Namur fell.

25 MAY

The Belgian troops were fighting along the whole frontline against an opponent determined to push through the area around Menen, west of Kortrijk. Here, the remainder of the 6th ID arrived. 1st and 3rd ID were spent, and regrouped, while I Corps took over command of the 2nd CD and the 15th ID, which was gradually sent in. At noon, they were reinforced by the British 12th Lancers.

The Germans had created two bridgeheads only separated by a narrow corridor which included the city of Kortrijk. Kortrijk was evacuated as it was endangered by encirclement. The 2nd CD was sent to this region. One of two Belgian counterattacks was successful.

King Leopold III's order of the day appealed to his troops:

“SOLDIERS:

The great battle which we were expecting has commenced.

It will be hard. We will carry it on with all our strength and with supreme energy.

It is being fought on the ground where in 1914 we stood victoriously against the invader.

SOLDIERS:

Belgium expects that you will do honour to her Flag.

OFFICERS AND MEN:

Whatever happens, my fate will be yours.

I ask of you all firmness, discipline, trust.

Our cause is just and pure.

Providence will help us.

LONG LIVE BELGIUM!”

The German 56. *Infanteriedivision* attacked positions of the 4th ID. They failed at Deinze but crossed the canal at Meigem and overran the Belgian 15th ID. This allowed the Germans to threaten the Belgian rear.

1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division moved to Vinkt to reinforce the front and pulled off a counter-attack that stopped the German advance.

Also near Nevele, all German attempts to cross the diversion canal were stopped.

South, the BEF began to fall back to the north-west, evacuating their dangerous position south-east of the river Lys.

26 MAY

The fighting along the river Lys continued, the canal was crossed at Balgerhoek. North of Izegem and Eeklo fights erupted.

German 56. *Infanteriedivision* and 225. *Infanteriedivision* attacked the positions near Vinkt. These attacks failed with Belgian T 13s being particularly effective. German 256. *Infanteriedivision* and 208. *Infanteriedivision* attacked the 17th ID at Oostwinkel. After one day of fighting they had created two bridgeheads and had broken the first echelon of this division.

The western area, along the river Yzer was defended by worn out troops. Throughout the day Belgian positions were bombed and machine-gunned by Luftwaffe planes.

By the end of the day Belgian troops were no longer behind the Lys river but were still able to keep a continuous defence line, though it was by now very thinly manned. By lack of reserves the Belgian army was now only able to perform a static defence.

Belgian high command (GHW) informed the French and British commanders of the situation the army was in: the troops were exhausted and there were hardly any reserves left. The BEF kept retreating to the north-west, leaving troops to cover the retreat to the other side of the river Lys.

The Germans, just like the day before, kept pushing on west of Menen.

At night, General Gort ordered the retreat of all troops that aren't essential towards Dunkirk. Under such unfavourable circumstances, he didn't deem it possible to carry out a request to the Belgians, to counter-attack between the Lys and Scheldt, on the flank and in the rear of the attacking German Corps.

27 MAY

On the morning of 27 May, it was clear to the Belgians that no Allied support would be coming, and the last reserves,



three weak regiments, were ordered to the front line.

The Belgians were pinned on all fronts, and continually hit by the *Luftwaffe*, suffering heavy losses. Also supplies were running low: troops were out of ammo and food. Troop movements were hindered by the flood of refugees, who had nowhere to go. Belgian troops evacuated Vinkt. German frustration was so high that 84 civilians were killed in cold blood after the Belgian troops had left.

II, V and VI Corps undertook a fighting withdrawal in the morning. Around noon, the situation in the north became critical after German troops breached the front line. The Belgian King informed General Gort that the army would have to capitulate. There was no possibility to embark the Belgian Army.

The German *18. Infanteriedivision* and *31. Infanteriedivision* created two bridgeheads over the Ypres-Komen canal in the sector of the British 5th division, enlarging the gap between the Belgian and British front, while German *14. Infanteriedivision* and *254. Infanteriedivision* attacked the Belgian 15th ID around Passendale, breaking through the front of the 4th Lancer Regiment. Passendale was lost, retaken and then lost again.

Around 5pm, after making the decision known to the French and British commanders, a Belgian envoy was sent to the Germans to inquire the conditions of a cease fire. Late that evening the envoy returned with the news the Germans

would only accept an unconditional surrender. At 11pm the King, in agreement with the Chief of General Staff, agreed to surrender. Meanwhile British troops were withdrawing to Dunkirk.

28 MAY

At 4am the cease fire on the Belgian front was sounded. However, the fort of Tancremont, near Liege, did not surrender until 29 May.

The Belgian Army, totally spent, had done all it could. The battle for Belgium was over.

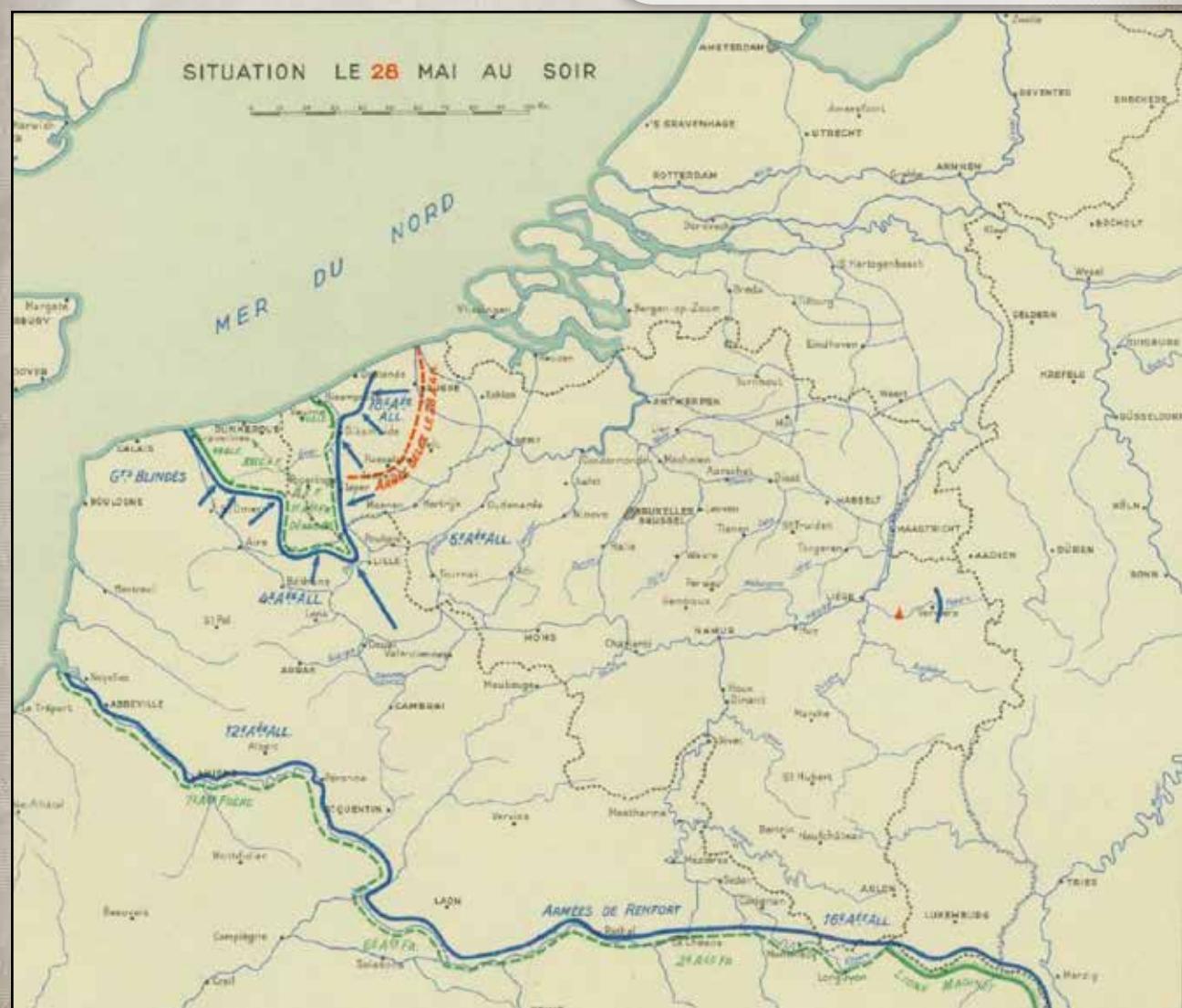
The BEF started to embark at Dunkirk, and continued to until 2 June.

SPECIAL THANKS

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Many thanks to Walter Van Opstal (<http://18daagseveldtocht.wikispaces.com/>), Jeroen Bonte and David Hollos for the images and extra information, and to my father, Pierre De Braekleir, for all the help and running around trying to find another book or document while I'm on the other side of the world.

Thanks also to John Michiels additional information and Wayne Turner for putting it all together.



BELGIAN ARMY

| | <i>Division or Corps Troops</i> | <i>Infantry Regiments</i> | <i>Divisional Units</i> |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| I Army Corps | 4th Infantry Division | 7th Line Regiment 11th Line Regiment 15th Line Regiment | 8th Artillery Regiment 4th Engineer Battalion |
| | 7th Infantry Division | 2nd Grenadier Regiment 2nd Carabineer Regiment 18th Line Regiment | 20th Artillery Regiment 6th Engineer Battalion |
| | Frontier Cyclist Battalion Limburg | | |
| II Army Corps | 6th Infantry Division | 1st Grenadier Regiment 1st Carabineer Regiment 9th Line Regiment | 6th Artillery Regiment 7th Engineer Battalion |
| | 9th Infantry Division | 8th Line Regiment 16th Line Regiment 17th Line Regiment | 4th Artillery Regiment 9th Engineer Battalion |
| III Army Corps | 3rd Infantry Division | 1st Line Regiment 12th Line Regiment 25th Line Regiment | 3rd Artillery Regiment 3rd Engineer Battalion |
| | 2nd Infantry Division | 5th Line Regiment 6th Line Regiment 28th Line Regiment | 2nd Artillery Regiment 12th Engineer Battalion |
| | 4th Cyclist Regiment 1st Lancer Regiment 1st Frontier Cyclist Regiment 2nd Frontier Cyclist Regiment | | |
| IV Army Corps | 12th Infantry Division | 2nd Line Regiment 22nd Line Regiment 23rd Line Regiment | 7th Artillery Regiment 2nd Engineer Battalion |
| | 15th Infantry Division | 31st Line Regiment 42nd Line Regiment 43rd Line Regiment | 23rd Artillery Regiment 16th Engineer Battalion |
| | 18th Infantry Division | 3rd Carabineer Regiment 39th Line Regiment | I/17th Artillery Regiment 15th Engineer Battalion |
| V Army Corps | 13th Infantry Division | 32nd Line Regiment 33rd Line Regiment 34th Line Regiment | 21st Artillery Regiment 26th Artillery Regiment 14th Engineer Battalion |
| | 17th Infantry Division | 7th Regiment Chasseurs 8th Regiment Chasseurs 9th Regiment Chasseurs | 25th Artillery Regiment 17th Engineer Battalion |
| VI Army Corps | 5th Infantry Division | 1st Regiment Chasseurs 2nd Regiment Chasseurs 4th Regiment Chasseurs | 11th Artillery Regiment 5th Engineer Battalion |
| | 10th Infantry Division | 3rd Regiment Chasseurs 5th Regiment Chasseurs 6th Regiment Chasseurs | 10th Artillery Regiment 8th Engineer Battalion |
| VII Army Corps | 1st Light Regiment 8th Infantry Division | 13th Line Regiment 19th Line Regiment 21st Line Regiment | 5th Artillery Regiment 10th Engineer Battalion |
| | 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Division | 4th Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment 5th Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment 6th Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment | 12th Artillery Regiment 19th Engineer Battalion (2 nd coy) |
| Cavalry Corps | 1st Infantry Division | 3rd Line Regiment 4th Line Regiment 24th Line Regiment | 1st Artillery Regiment 1st Engineer Battalion |
| | 14th Infantry Division | 35th Line Regiment 36th Line Regiment 38th Line Regiment | 22nd Artillery Regiment 13th Engineer Battalion |
| | 2nd Cavalry Division | 4th Lancer Regiment 2nd Cyclist Regiment 2nd Cav. Division T13 Battalion | 18th Artillery Regiment 26th Engineer Battalion |
| | Group Ninitte | 1st Cyclist Regiment 2nd Guides Regiment 1st Chasseurs a Cheval Regiment | I/ & II/19th Artillery Regiment |
| Group Keyaerts | 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Division | 1st Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment 3rd Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment | 19th Engineer Bat (1st Coy) |
| | 1st Cavalry Division | 1st Guides Regiment 2nd Lancer Regiment 3rd Cyclist Regiment 2nd Chasseurs a Cheval Regiment | I/17th Artillery Regiment IV/19th Artillery Regiment 25th Engineer Battalion |
| Reserve | Chasseurs Ardennais Motor Battalion | | 33rd Engineer Battalion |
| | 11th Infantry Division | 14th Line Regiment 20th Line Regiment 29th Line Regiment | 9th Artillery Regiment 10th Engineer Battalion |
| | 16th Infantry Division | 41st Line Regiment 44th Line Regiment | 24th Artillery Regiment 18th Engineer Battalion |

Belgian Special Rules

CENTRAL FIRE CONTROL

The Belgian Army was a great follower of French doctrine during the 1920's and 1930's and their artillery methods reflect this.

Belgian Company Command teams cannot act as spotting teams for Artillery Bombardments.

When a Belgian artillery battery that has a Staff team fires an Artillery Bombardment, any other artillery batteries with Staff teams may join it before rolling to Range In and fire as a single combined Artillery Battery.

DEFENSIVE WARFARE

The Belgian army had prepared defences along a number of lines and rivers.

Belgian platoons may re-roll failed Skill Tests to Dig-in.

'THEY'RE NOT MEN, BUT GREEN WOLVES!'

Chasseurs Ardennais were very tenacious in the defence.

When Chasseurs Ardennais platoons test their Motivation to Counterattack in assaults, you may re-roll the die and apply the re-rolled results to all Chasseurs Ardennais platoons that failed on the original roll.

HUNTERS OF THE ARDENNES

The Chasseurs Ardennais fought mainly in areas they had been training in and knew the area very well.

Chasseurs Ardennais Infantry and Man-packed Gun teams may move At the Double through Woods (see page 30 of the rulebook).



VICKERS UTILITY B TRACTOR TOWING A 47MM FRC ANTI-TANK GUN.

Infanteriecompagnie/Compagnie d'infanterie

INFANTRY COMPANY

(INFANTRY COMPANY)

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



Infanteriecompagnie/
Compagnie d'infanterie HQ

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Divisional Support Platoons must be taken from the Regular Divisional Support platoons (marked), and may be French or British Allied Platoons and unmarked platoons.

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Infanterie Platoon

INFANTRY



Infanterie Platoon

INFANTRY



Infanterie Platoon

WEAPONS PLATOONS

MACHINE-GUNS



Infanterie Machine-gun Platoon

MACHINE-GUNS



Infanterie Machine-gun Platoon

Field Fortifications

REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARTILLERY



Infanterie Gun Platoon

Infanterie Anti-tank Platoon

ANTI-TANK



Infanterie Anti-tank Platoon

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARMOUR



Cavalerie Self-propelled Anti-tank Platoon

Medium Combat Platoon

Light Combat Platoon

Deep Reconnaissance Platoon

Carrier Platoon

INFANTRY



Engineer Platoon

Bicycle Scout Platoon

Fusiliers Portés Platoon

Rifle Platoon

ARTILLERY



Light Artillery Battery

Heavy Artillery Battery

Field Battery, Royal Artillery

ANTI-TANK



Self-propelled Anti-tank Platoon

Brigade Anti-tank Platoon

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Light Anti-aircraft Platoon

French and British platoons are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.

BELGIAN INFANTRYMAN FIRING A FM30 LIGHT MACHINE-GUN ON A AA MOUNT.



MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The core of the Belgian army were the infantry divisions. The Belgians fought with great courage and determination against the invading Germans in 1940. An Infanteriecompagnie/Compagnie d'infanterie is rated as **Confident Trained**.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| RELUCTANT | CONSCRIPT |
| CONFIDENT | TRAINED |
| FEARLESS | VETERAN |

HEADQUARTERS

INFANTERIECOMPAGNIE/COMPAGNIE D'INFANTERIE HQ

HEADQUARTERS

Company HQ

25 points

A Belgian *Infanteriecompagnie* or *Compagnie d'infanterie* (Flemish and French names for an Infantry Company) are well-trained and use their limited support weapons to good effect. Divisional support can be called on to add to their firepower.

CAPITAINE

CAPITAINE

Company Command
Rifle team 2iC Command
Rifle team

COMPANY HQ

INFANTERIECOMPAGNIE/
COMPAGNIE D'INFANTERIE HQ

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTERIE PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 4 Infanterie Squads | 155 points |
| 3 Infanterie Squads | 120 points |

OPTION

- Add up to three Light Mortar teams for +15 points per team.

Belgian infantry platoons were large, 65 men in total. Every platoon had four FM30 light machine-guns and three DBT grenade launchers (light mortars). This provided ample firepower.

LIEUTENANT

SERGENT

LIEUTENANT

Command
Rifle team

Light Mortar
team

Light Mortar
team

Light Mortar
team

HQ SECTION

MORTAR SECTION

SERGENT

Rifle team Rifle team
Rifle team

SERGENT

Rifle team Rifle team
Rifle team

INFANTERIE SQUAD

INFANTERIE SQUAD

SERGENT

Rifle team Rifle team
Rifle team

SERGENT

Rifle team Rifle team
Rifle team

INFANTERIE SQUAD

INFANTERIE SQUAD

INFANTERIE PLATOON

WEAPONS PLATOONS

INFANERIE MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

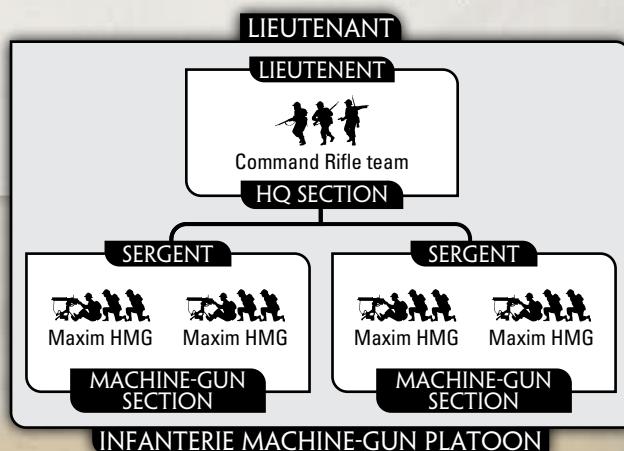
PLATOON

HQ Section with:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 2 Machine-gun Sections | 100 points |
| 1 Machine-gun Section | 55 points |

Infanterie Machine-gun Platoons may make Combat Attachments to Infanterie Platoons.

The standard heavy machine-gun in active and first reserve infantry divisions was the 7.65mm Maxim model 1908 heavy machine-gun.



BELGIAN MACHINE-GUNNERS UNLOAD THEIR MAXIM HMGS FROM A WAGON.

REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

INFANERIE GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

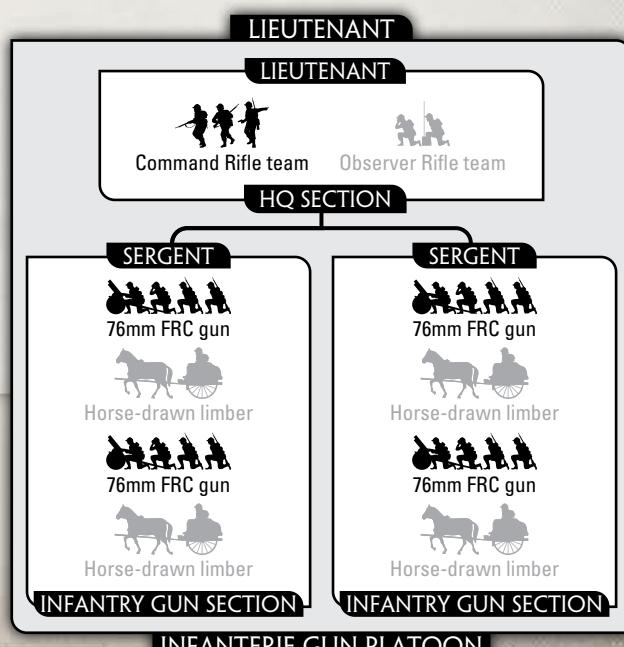
HQ Section with:

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| 4 76mm FRC | 80 points |
| 3 76mm FRC | 60 points |
| 2 76mm FRC | 40 points |

OPTIONS

- Add horse-drawn limbers for +5 points for the platoon.
- Add Observer Rifle team for +15 points.

The standard mortar/infantry gun was the FRC 76mm. This weapon looks like something between a mortar and an infantry gun. It could provide direct and indirect fire.





INFANTERIE ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

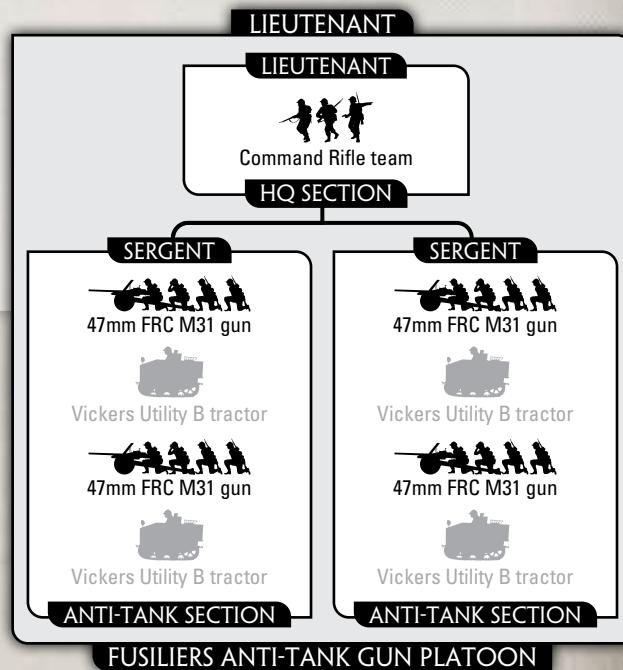
HQ Section with:

4 47mm FRC mle 31 105 points
2 47mm FRC mle 31 55 points

OPTION

- Add Vickers Utility B Tractors for +5 points for the platoon.

The Canon de 47 (47mm FRC mle 31 anti-tank gun) was an excellent weapon. Its armour penetration was good, even though the design dated from 1931. Both armour piercing and high explosive ammunition were available.



Field Fortifications

The Belgians had a number of strong forts in strategic locations in Belgium, but also relied on a number of fixed defensive lines. These lines were based on Pillboxes, mostly 200 to 700 metres apart, reinforced with barbed wire and mines. These lines, such as those on the border, and in central Belgium on the KW line, were held by infantry divisions and were designed to hold the Germans until Belgium's allies could arrive to join the battle.

FIELD FORTIFICATIONS

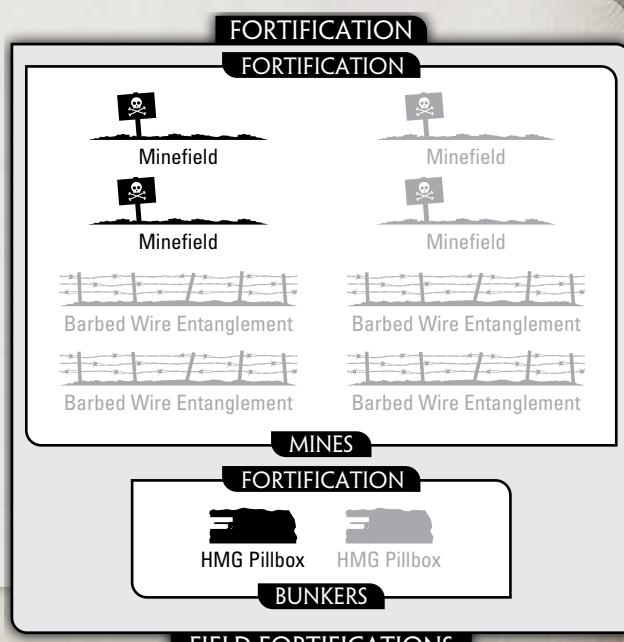
FORTIFICATIONS

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1 HMG Pillbox with: | |
| 4 Minefields | 250 points |
| 3 Minefields | 200 points |
| 2 Minefields | 150 points |

OPTIONS

- Add an additional HMG Pillbox for +50 points.
- Replace up to one HMG Pillbox with a Twin HMG Pillbox for +35 points, a 47mm Anti-tank Pillbox for +35 points, or a 60mm Anti-tank Pillbox for +230 points.
- Add Barbed Wire Entanglement for +10 points per entanglement.
- Replace up to two Barbed Wire Entanglements with Anti-tank Obstacles for +90 points per Obstacle.

A company with Field Fortifications is a Fortified Company and always uses the Prepared Positions special rule (see page 264 of the rulebook), even in missions that do not normally use this rule.



Cavaleriecompagnie/Compagnie de Cavalerie

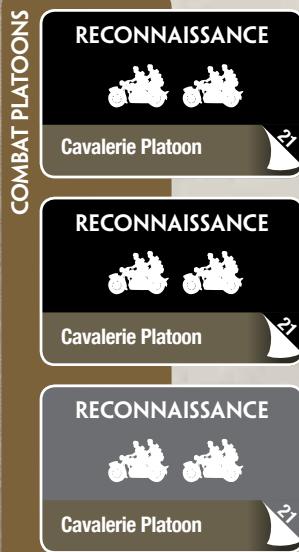
MOTORCYCLE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

(MECHANISED COMPANY)



You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Divisional Support Platoons must be taken from the Regular Divisional Support platoons (marked), and may be French or British Allied Platoons and unmarked platoons.



French and British platoons are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.



BELGIAN MOTORCYCLE TROOPS.

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The Belgian cavalry have become fully motorised mounted on motorcycles and have left the old days of the horse behind them. A Cavaleriecompagnie/Compagnie de Cavalerie is rated as **Confident Trained**.

```
graph LR; A[RELUCTANT] --> B[CONSCRIPT]; B --> C[CONFIDENT]; C --> D[TRAINED]; D --> E[FEARLESS]; E --> F[VETERAN];
```

HEADQUARTERS

CAVALERIECOMPAGNIE/COMPAGNIE DE CAVALERIE HQ

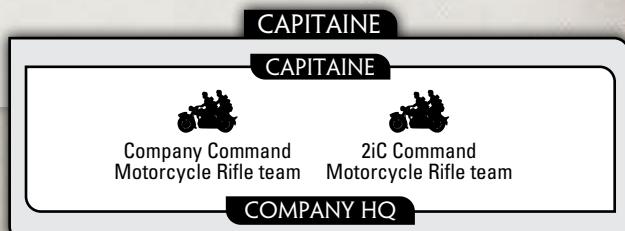
HEADQUARTERS

Company HQ

40 points

The teams of a Cavaleriecompagnie/Compagnie de Cavalerie HQ use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

Being motorised the cavalry played a crucial role in many Belgian counterattacks.



COMBAT PLATOONS

CAVALERIE PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

2 Cavalry Squads

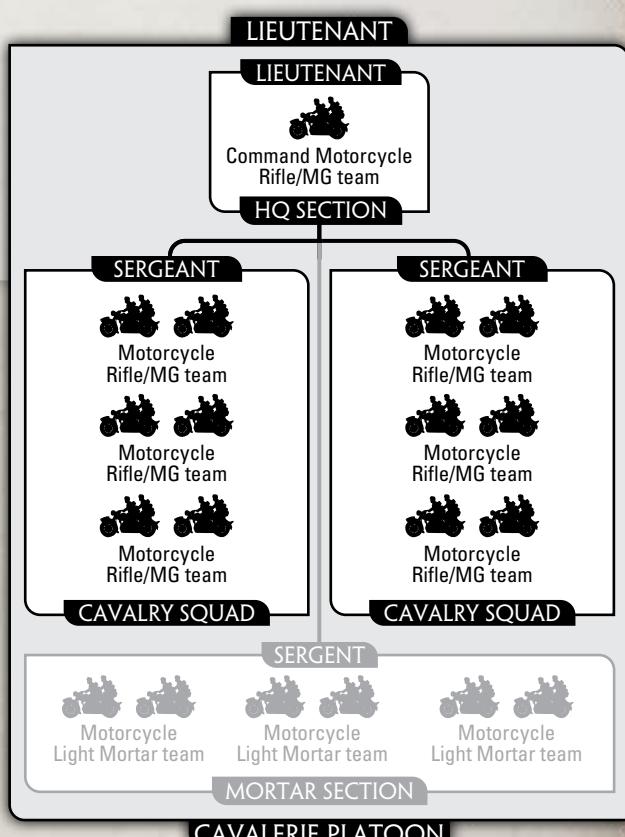
170 points

OPTION

- Add up to three Motorcycle Light Mortar teams for +25 points per team.

Cavalerie Platoons use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

The cavalry had fewer men in their platoons than the infantry, but had superior mobility provided by their motorcycles.



WEAPONS PLATOONS

CAVALRY MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

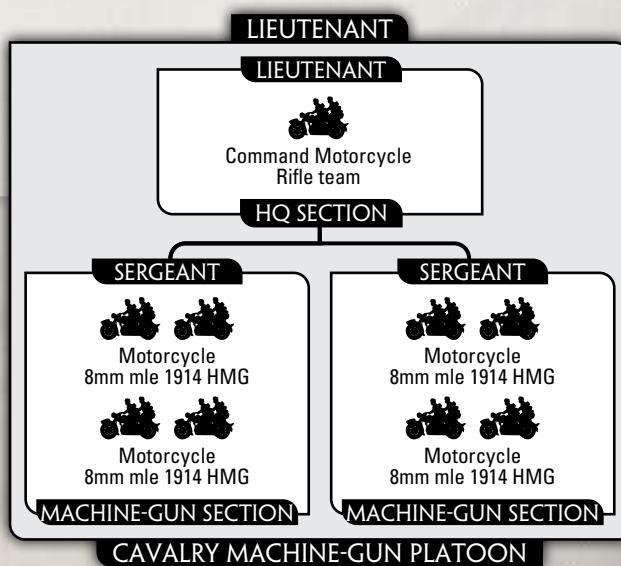
HQ Section with:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 4 Motorcycle 8mm mle 1914 HMG | 140 points |
| 2 Motorcycle 8mm mle 1914 HMG | 75 points |

Cavalerie Machine-gun Platoons use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

Cavalerie Machine-gun Platoons may make Combat Attachments to Cavalerie Platoons.

The cavalry used the 7,65mm Hotchkiss heavy machine-gun rather than the heavier Schwarzlose HMG.



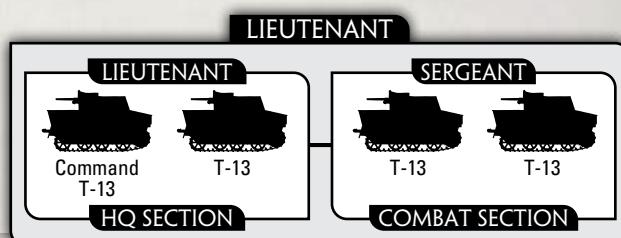
REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

CAVALERIE SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| 4 T-13B1 or B2 | 180 points |
| 3 T-13B1 or B2 | 135 points |
| 4 T-13B3 | 185 points |
| 3 T-13B3 | 140 points |

The cavalry had a number of armoured units. Self-propelled anti-tank was provided by T-13B2 and T-13B3 tank-hunters. The T-13B2 mounted a 47mm FRC anti-tank gun in a semi-open turret and hull. The T-13B3 tank-hunter improved on the design with an improved fully-armoured hull and an armoured enclosed turret.



CAVALERIE LIGHT TANK PLATOON

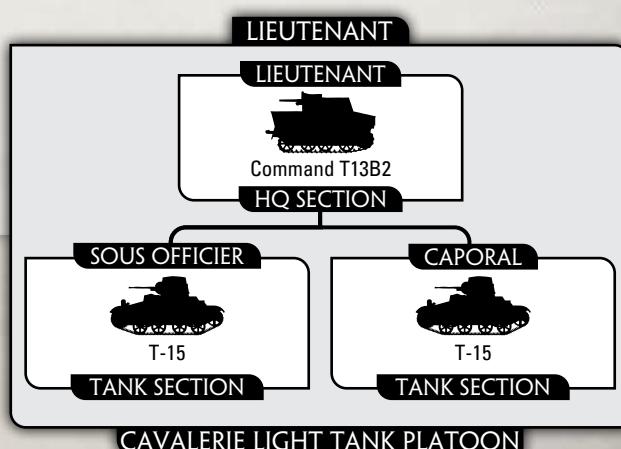
PLATOON

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1 T-13B2 and 2 T-15 | 105 points |
|---------------------|------------|

OPTION

- Replace T-13B2 tank with T-13B3 tank for +5 points for the platoon.

The light tank platoon combined a T-13B3 command tank with two T-15 light tanks. The T-13B3 added some hitting power to the platoon with its 47mm anti-tank gun.





A COLUMN OF T-15 LIGHT TANKS.

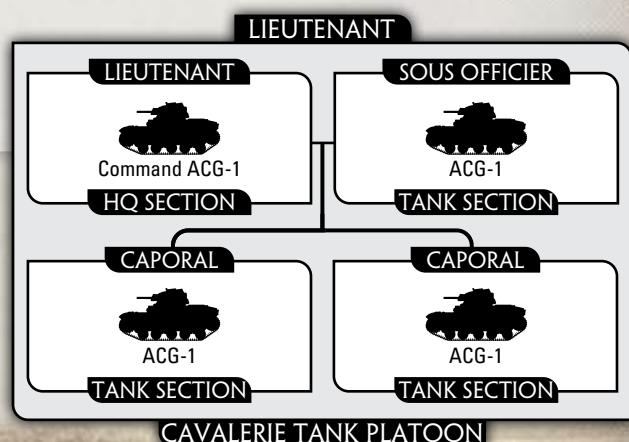
SUPPORT PLATOONS

CAVALERIE TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 4 ACG-1 | 235 points |
| 3 ACG-1 | 180 points |

The ACG-1 is the only real tank in the Belgian arsenal. Only eight were operational, but they were put to good use. This medium tank packed quite a punch carrying both a 47mm gun and a co-ax 7.5mm MG.



ACG-1 TANK.

Compagnie de Chasseurs Ardennais

LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANY

(INFANTRY COMPANY)

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



Compagnie de
Chasseurs Ardennais HQ

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Divisional Support Platoons must be taken from the Chasseurs Ardennais Divisional Support platoons (marked), and may be French or British Allied Platoons and unmarked platoons.

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Chasseurs Ardennais
Platoon

INFANTRY



Chasseurs Ardennais
Platoon

INFANTRY



Chasseurs Ardennais
Platoon

WEAPONS PLATOONS

MACHINE-GUNS



Chasseurs Machine-gun
Platoon

REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ANTI-TANK



Chasseurs Self-propelled
Anti-tank Platoon

Chasseurs Anti-tank
Platoon

ANTI-TANK



Chasseurs Self-propelled
Anti-tank Platoon

ARTILLERY



Chasseurs Infantry Gun
Platoon

RECONNAISSANCE



Chasseurs Scout
Platoon

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

ARMOUR



Light Tank Platoon

ARMOUR



- Medium Combat Platoon
- Light Combat Platoon
- Deep Reconnaissance Platoon
- Carrier Platoon

INFANTRY



Engineer Platoon

INFANTRY



- Fusiliers Portés Platoon
- Rifle Platoon

ARTILLERY



Light Artillery Battery

ARTILLERY



Light Artillery Battery

ANTI-TANK



Field Battery, Royal Artillery

ANTI-TANK



Brigade Anti-tank
Platoon

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Light Anti-aircraft
Platoon

French and British platoons
are Allies and follow the
Allies rules on page 70 of
the rulebook.

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS BICYCLE TROOPS.



MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The elite Belgian Regiment of Chasseurs Ardennais (Hunters from the Ardennes) are the best troops of the Royal Belgian Army. They are excellently trained and skilled fighters. Expert light infantrymen they fight to defend the forests of the Ardennes region. A Compagnie de Chasseurs Ardennais is rated as **Confident Veteran**.

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| RELUCTANT | CONSCRIPT |
| CONFIDENT | TRAINED |
| FEARLESS | VETERAN |

HEADQUARTERS

COMPAGNIE DE CHASSEURS ADENNAIS HQ

HEADQUARTERS

Company HQ

30 points

OPTION

- Replace all Command Rifle teams with Command Motorcycle Rifle teams for +10 points or add 3-ton truck for +5 points.

The Motorcycle teams of a Chasseurs Ardennais Compagnie HQ use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

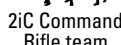
If you choose to take Motorcycle teams in your Chasseurs Ardennais Compagnie HQ, Chasseurs Ardennais Platoons, or Chasseurs Machine-gun Platoons all your Chasseurs Platoons also must be upgraded to Motorcycle teams.

CAPITAIN

CAPITAIN



Company Command Rifle team



2IC Command Rifle team



3-ton truck

COMPANY HQ

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS COMPAGNIE HQ

The Chasseurs Ardennais were created to defend the eastern border of Belgium with Germany. Originally the 10th Line Regiment, on 10 March 1933, King Albert I changed the unit's name to *Régiment des Chasseurs Ardennais*.

The Chasseurs Ardennais wear the emblem of a wild boar (an animal that is still found in the Ardennes). Their motto is "Resiste et Mords!" (Resist and bite!) The corps was expanded in March 1937, into three regiments and a bicycle battalion. 1st, 2nd and 3rd *Régiment des Chasseurs Ardennais* were located in Arlon, Bastogne and Vielsalm.

COMBAT PLATOONS

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

2 Chasseurs Squads

145 points

OPTIONS

- Replace all Rifle/MG teams with Motorcycle Rifle/MG team for +10 points per team or add 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.
- Add up to three Light Mortar teams for +20 points per team or Motorcycle Light Mortar teams for +30 points per team.

Chasseurs Ardennais Platoons with Motorcycle teams use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

With 46 men, these elite Chasseurs Ardennais Platoons are smaller than normal platoons, but comparable in size to normal French and German platoons. They still pack quite a punch.

LIEUTENANT

LIEUTENANT

Command Rifle/MG team

HQ SECTION

SERGEANT

Rifle/MG team

Rifle/MG team

Rifle/MG team



3-ton truck

SERGEANT

Rifle/MG team

Rifle/MG team

Rifle/MG team



3-ton truck

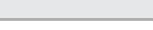
CHASSEURS SQUAD

SERGEANT

Light Mortar team

Light Mortar team

Light Mortar team



3-ton truck

MORTAR SECTION

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS PLATOON

WEAPONS PLATOONS

CHASSEURS MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

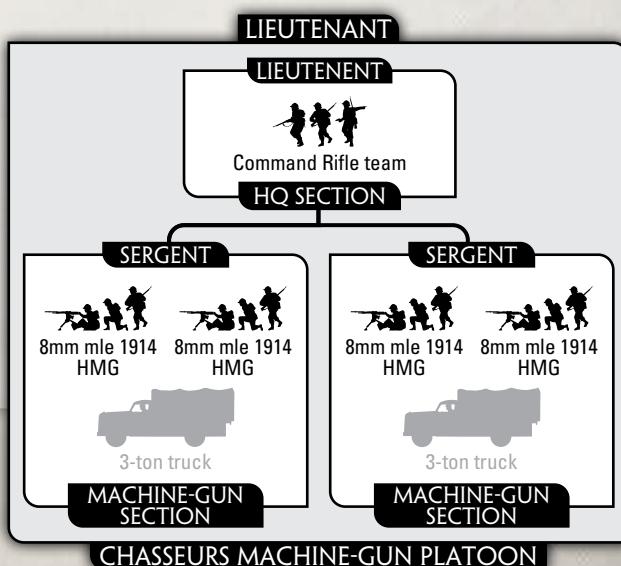
HQ Section with:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 4 8mm mle 1914 HMG | 130 points |
| 2 8mm mle 1914 HMG | 70 points |

OPTION

- Replace all Rifle teams with Motorcycle Rifle teams and 8mm mle 1914 HMG teams with Motorcycle HMG teams for +10 points per team or add 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

Chasseurs Machine-gun Platoons with Motorcycle teams use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.



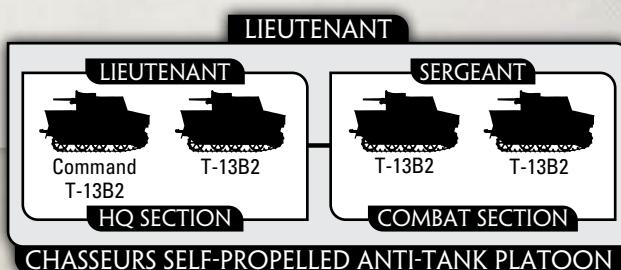
REGIMENTAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

CHASSEURS SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

| | |
|----------|------------|
| 4 T-13B2 | 235 points |
| 3 T-13B2 | 175 points |

The T-13 tank-hunter mounted a 47mm FRC gun and a FM30 machine-gun mounted in a half-open turret on a Vickers chassis. This provided the Belgians with a good anti-tank weapon. Unfortunately they often had to be misused due to the lack of real tanks.



CHASSEURS ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

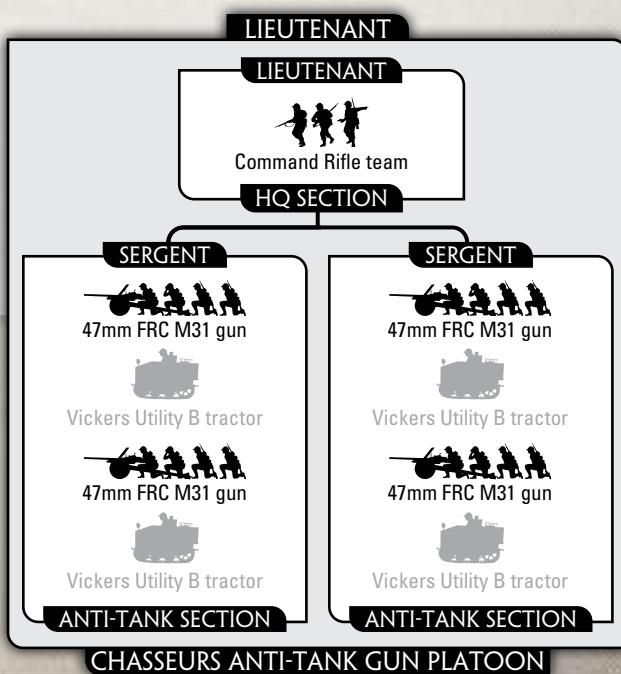
| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 4 47mm FRC mle 31 | 135 points |
| 2 47mm FRC mle 31 | 75 points |

OPTION

- Add Vickers Utility B Tractors for +5 points for the platoon.

The *Chasseurs Ardennais* also had towed anti-tank guns in the form of the 47mm FRC mle 1931 gun. These excellent guns are equal to any similar weapons in the German or Allied arsenals.

In the hands of the *Chasseurs Ardennais* they can lay a devastating trap for any unsuspecting enemy tanks.





CHASSEURS INFANTRY GUN PLATOON

PLATOON

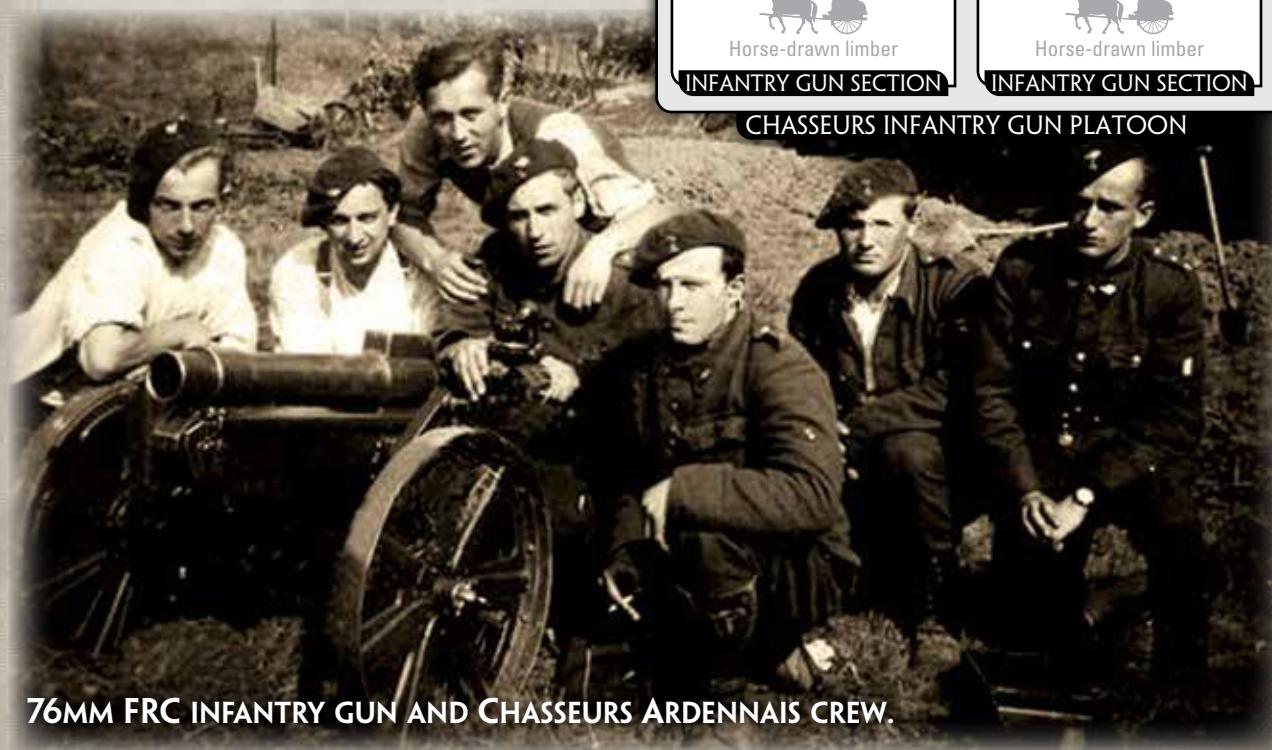
HQ Section with:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 4 76mm FRC | 105 points |
| 3 76mm FRC | 80 points |
| 2 76mm FRC | 55 points |

OPTIONS

- Add horse-drawn limbers for +5 points for the platoon.
- Add Observer Rifle team for +15 points.

The 76mm FRC infantry gun fills the duel role of indirect mortar and as a direct fire gun.



76MM FRC INFANTRY GUN AND CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS CREW.

CHASSEURS SCOUT PLATOON

PLATOON

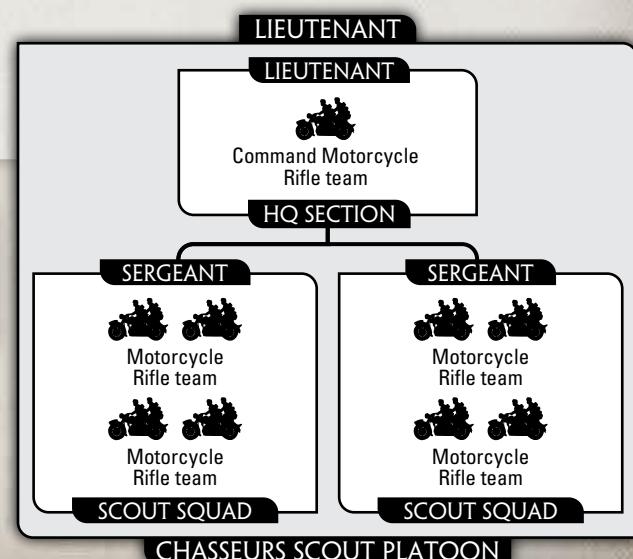
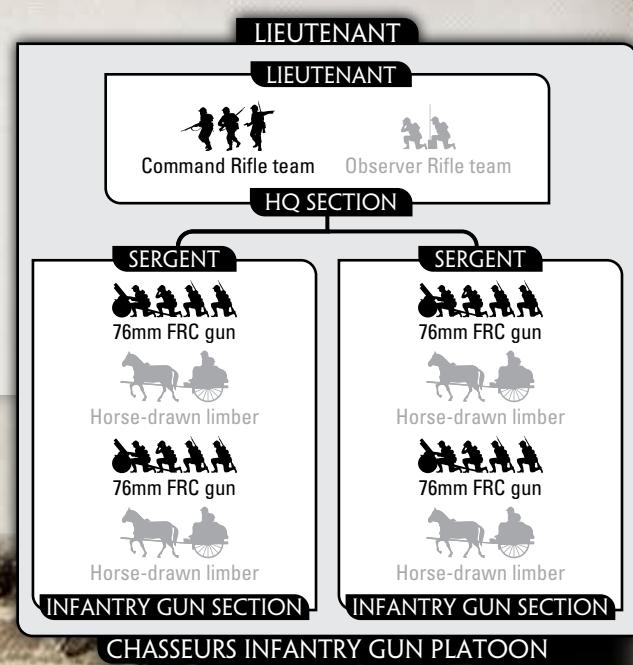
HQ Section with:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| 2 Scout Squads | 130 points |
|----------------|------------|

Chasseurs Scout Platoons use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.

Chasseurs Scout Platoons are also Reconnaissance Platoons when dismounted.

The motorcycle scouts are ideal for keeping tabs on the enemy movements as they move into Belgium. They can locate and expose the enemy so the defending Chasseurs Ardennais can bring their firepower to bear.



Divisional Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

Belgian Regular Divisional Support platoons are rated as **Confident Trained**.

Belgian Chasseurs Ardennais Divisional Support platoons are rated as **Confident Veteran**.

REGULAR DIVISION

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| RELUCTANT | CONSCRIPT |
| CONFIDENT | TRAINED |
| FEARLESS | VETERAN |

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS DIVISION

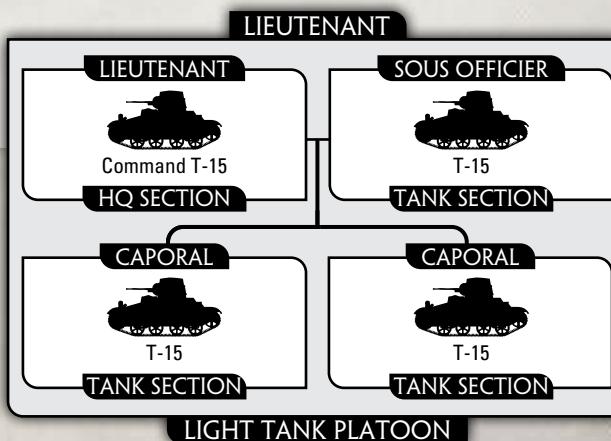
| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| RELUCTANT | CONSCRIPT |
| CONFIDENT | TRAINED |
| FEARLESS | VETERAN |

LIGHT TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

| | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| 4 T-15 | 125 points | - |
| 3 T-15 | 95 points | - |

The T-15 light tank uses the same chassis as the British Mark VI light tank but with a different armament. The primary armament of the T-15 tank was the 13.2 mm Hotchkiss machine gun and a FM30 machine-gun on a anti-aircraft mount. The T-15 light tank served with both Cavalry Divisions.

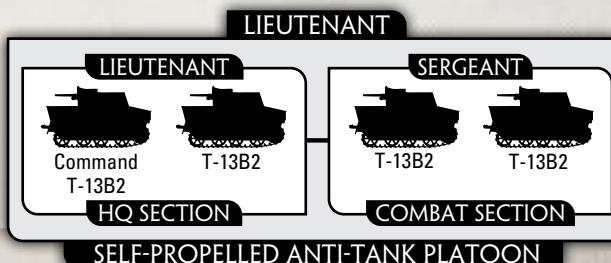


SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| 4 T-13B2 | 180 points | - |
| 3 T-13B2 | 135 points | - |
| 4 T-13B3 | 185 points | - |
| 3 T-13B3 | 140 points | - |

The T-13B2 mounted the 47mm FRC in a semi-open turret. These vehicles were designed as tank-hunters, but often found themselves being used in the tank role.



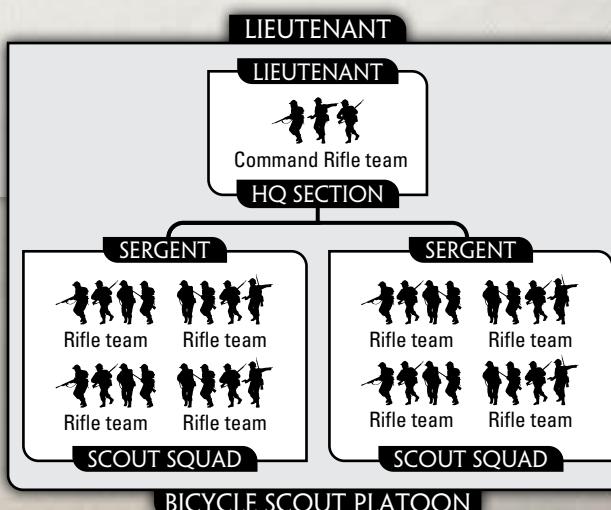
BICYCLE SCOUT PLATOON

PLATOON

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| HQ Section with: | | |
| 2 Bicycle Scout Squads | 155 points | - |
| 1 Bicycle Scout Squads | 85 points | - |

Bicycle Scout Platoons are Reconnaissance Platoons.

The infantry divisions reconnaissance troops were mounted on bicycles to help get them to and from the enemy's front, but they would dismount fully reconnoitre the enemy positions.





ENGINEER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

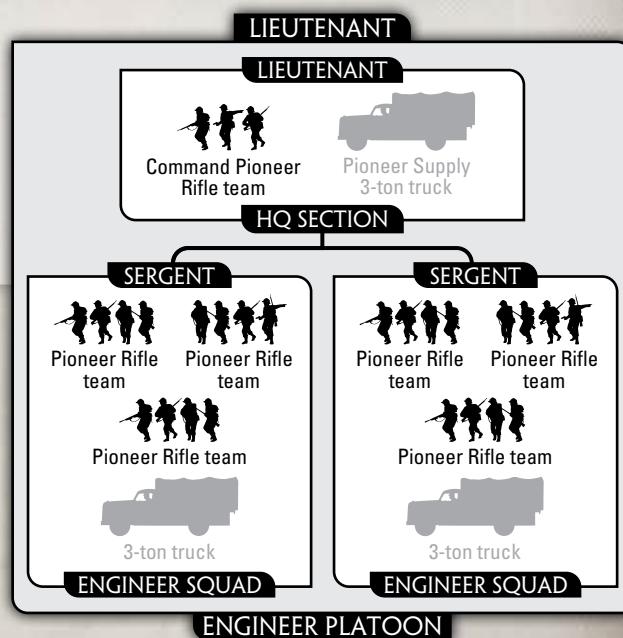
2 Engineer Squads

110 points 145 points

OPTIONS

- Add 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.
- Add a Pioneer Supply 3-ton truck for +25 points.

Each Belgian division has a battalion of engineers. In the Ardennes their main mission was demolition work. These engineers were supported by *Chasseurs Ardennais* Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. Once completed the divisions and their engineers retreat northwards to the Maas River and join the main body of the Belgian army at the Dyle river.



LIGHT ARTILLERY BATTERY

PLATOON

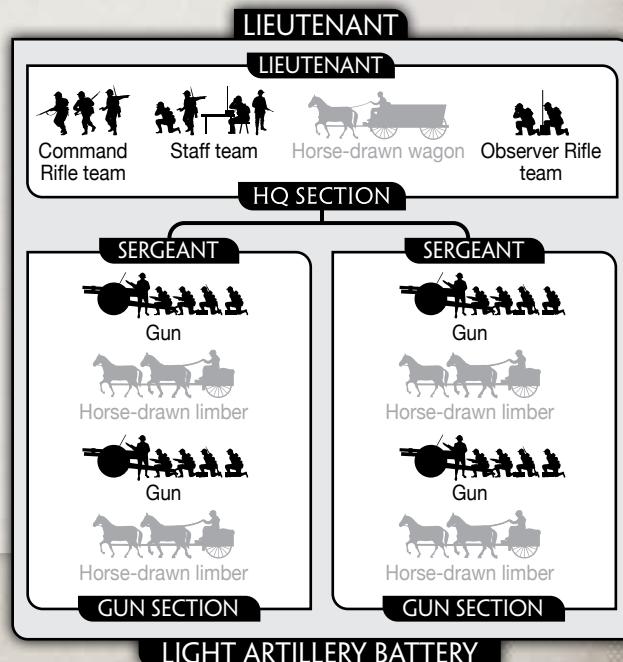
HQ Section with:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| 4 Canon de 75 mle 1934 | - | 210 points |
| 2 Canon de 75 mle 1934 | - | 115 points |
| 4 Canon de 75 mle 1897 | 225 points | - |
| 2 Canon de 75 mle 1897 | 120 points | - |
| 4 Canon de 75 TR | 165 points | - |
| 2 Canon de 75 TR | 90 points | - |

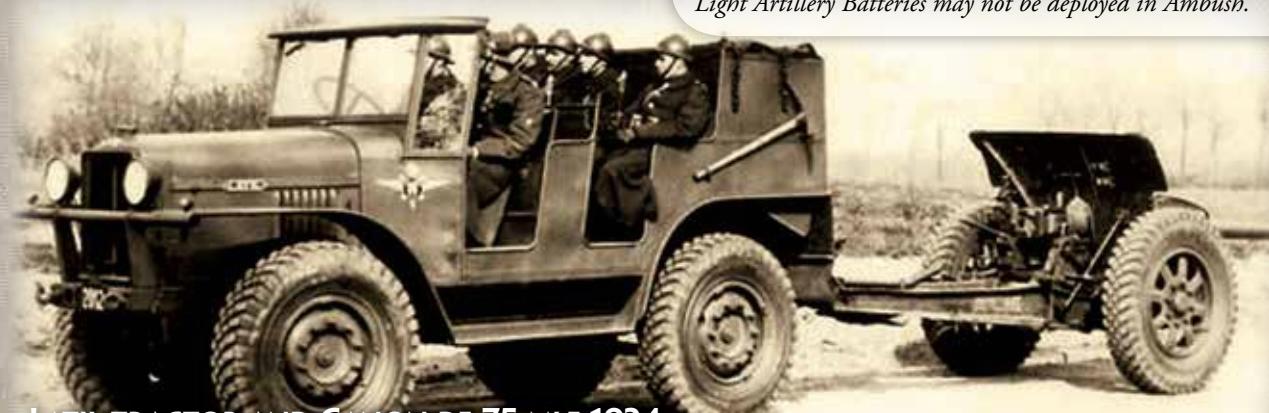
OPTIONS

- Add horse-drawn wagon and limbers for +5 points for the battery.
- Replace horse-drawn wagon and limbers with 3-ton trucks or Latil tractors for +5 points for the battery.

The main field guns of the Belgian army are the Swedish Bofors Canon de 75 mle 1934. However, French Canon de 75 mle 1897 (75mm mle 1897) and German Canon de 75 TR (75/27) guns were also used.



Light Artillery Batteries may not be deployed in Ambush.



LATIL TRACTOR AND CANON DE 75 MLE 1934

HEAVY ARTILLERY BATTERY

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

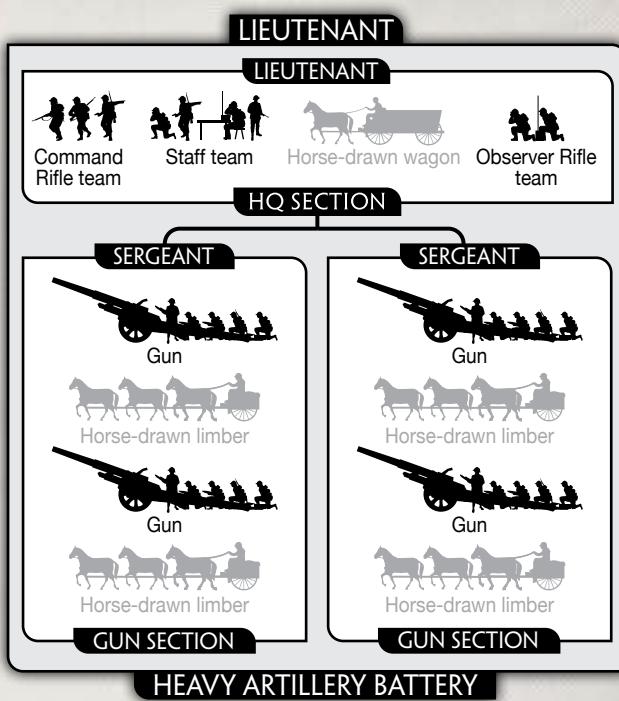


| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| 4 Obusier de 105 GP | 225 points | - |
| 2 Obusier de 105 GP | 120 points | - |
| 4 Obusier de 6" | - | 370 points |
| 2 Obusier de 6" | - | 195 points |
| 4 Canon de 105 mle 1913 | 245 points | - |
| 2 Canon de 105 mle 1913 | 130 points | - |
| 4 Canon de 120 mle 1931 | 355 points | - |
| 2 Canon de 120 mle 1931 | 185 points | - |
| 4 Obusier de 155 mle 1917 | 320 points | - |
| 2 Obusier de 155 mle 1917 | 165 points | - |

OPTIONS

- Add Horse-drawn wagon and limbers for +5 points for the battery.
- Replace horse-drawn wagon and limbers with 3-ton trucks, or Latil tractors for +5 points for the battery.

The Belgian heavy artillery comes in an even greater variety, from French, German and British howitzers (obrusier) to locally made guns (canon).



Heavy Artillery Batteries may not be deployed in Ambush.

LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

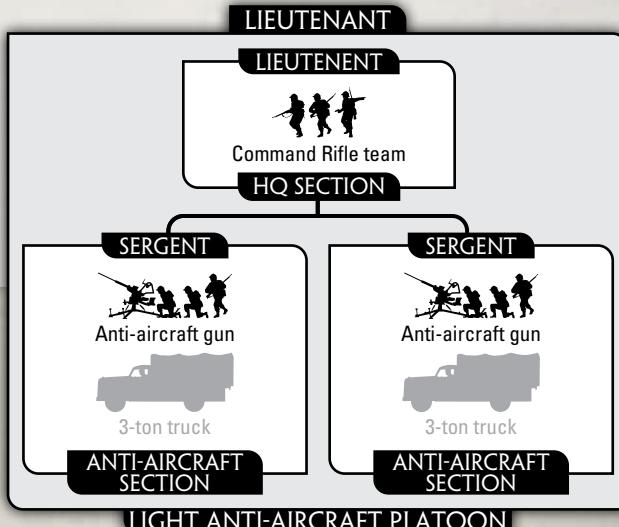


| | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 20mm Madsen | 45 points | 60 points |
| 2 40mm Bofors | 65 points | 85 points |

OPTION

- Add 3-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

In the field the Belgian had light 20mm Madsen anti-aircraft guns and medium 40mm Bofors guns to protect them from Luftwaffe ground-attack aircraft.



French Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The Escadron de Combat (pronounced es-ka-drohn de kohn-ba) is the armoured force of a Division Légère Mécanique (DLM) or Light Mechanised Division. The cavalrymen of an Escadron de Combat are rated as **Confident Trained**.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| RELUCTANT | CONSCRIPT |
| CONFIDENT | TRAINED |
| FEARLESS | VETERAN |

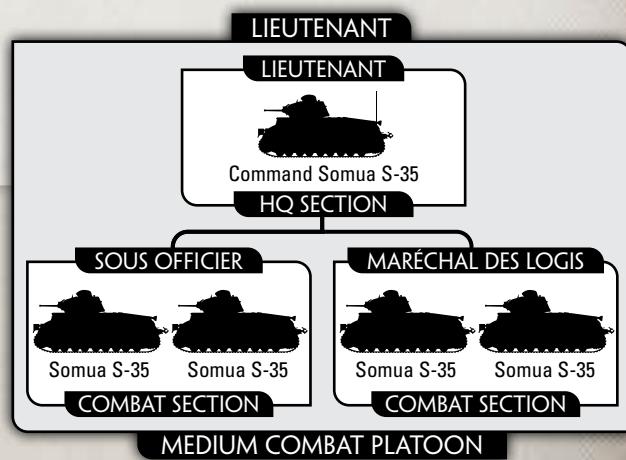
MEDIUM COMBAT PLATOON

PLATOON

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 5 Somua S-35 | 520 points |
| 4 Somua S-35 | 415 points |
| 3 Somua S-35 | 310 points |

The Somua S-35 (pronounced saw-mwa) is considered by many to be the premier medium tank of the thirties with a classic combination of speed, range, armament and armour.

As a result of the battles at Hannut and Gembloux where Somua tanks inflicted heavy losses on German tanks, Panzer units were given orders to take on Hotchkiss tanks but to avoid long-range engagements with the dangerous S-35.

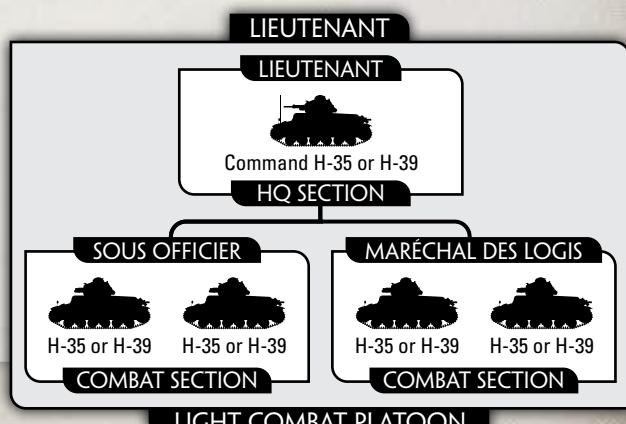


LIGHT COMBAT PLATOON

PLATOON

| | |
|---|------------|
| 5 Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (1 long and 4 short guns) | 250 point |
| 4 Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (1 long and 3 short guns) | 205 points |
| 3 Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (1 long and 2 short guns) | 160 points |
| 3 Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (3 long guns) | 205 points |

Of France's light mechanised divisions, the first two were equipped with the Hotchkiss H-35 light tank, while the third used the re-engined and updated H-39. After years of preparation, the divisions were at full strength for the battles in Belgium in May. There were five tanks in each platoon, and the platoon commander's tanks were armed with the long 37mm SA-38 gun.



FUSILIERS PORTÉS PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Fusiliers Squads
2 Fusiliers Squads

165 points
120 points

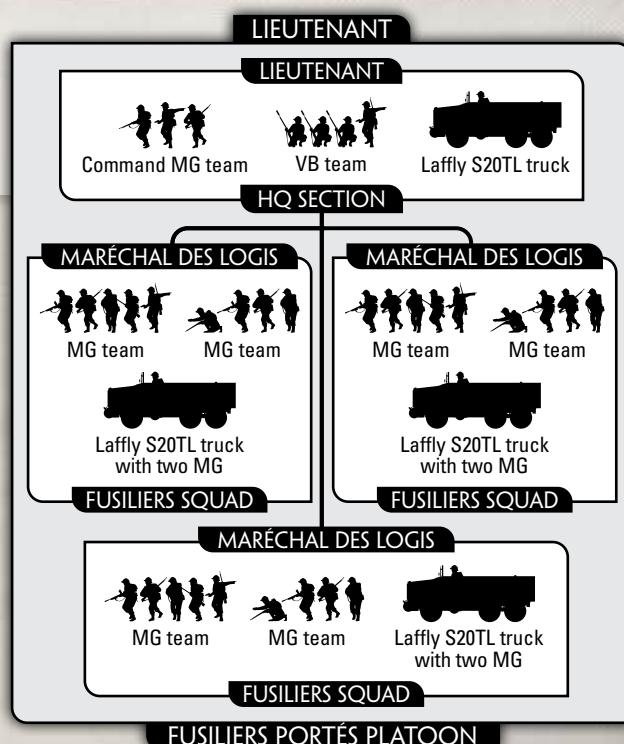
Like Germany, the majority of France's infantry marched with horse-drawn guns in support. However, the mechanised divisions were superbly equipped with specialised trucks and armoured vehicles for almost every role imaginable. For the *Fusiliers Portés*, the vehicle is the Laffly S20TL VDP (*Voiture de Dragons Portés* or Truck-borne Dragoon Vehicle) truck.

The well-equipped *Fusiliers Portés* have twice the firepower of a normal infantry platoon with each squad having two Châtellerault FM 24/29 light machine-guns instead of one. The fusiliers mount their light machine-guns on anti-aircraft mounts on their squad's S20TL truck to protect them from marauding German aircraft while on the march.

TRENCH WARFARE

French troops are trained for trench warfare. Their operational plan is to make a short deliberate advance under cover of massed artillery fire, then fortify their position to hold it while the artillery comes up to repeat the process. While the advance is slow, it is sure and will eventually result in the defeat of the enemy.

French Infantry and Gun teams attempting to Dig In succeed on a roll of 3+.



DEEP RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

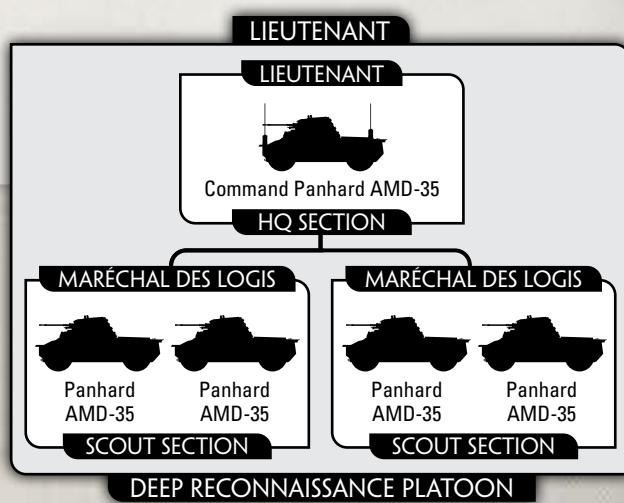
PLATOON

5 Panhard AMD-35
4 Panhard AMD-35
3 Panhard AMD-35

165 points
135 points
105 points

Deep Reconnaissance Platoons are Reconnaissance Platoons.

The French designed their *Automitrailleuse de Découverte* (AMD), Deep Reconnaissance Armoured Cars, to advance far ahead of their division to locate the enemy and report their movements. As they were expected to operate with little support apart from their own motorcyclists, the AMD needed to be capable of defending itself. The Panhard AMD modèle 1935 has a two-man turret armed with the excellent 25mm SA-35 gun, a shortened version of the towed 25mm SA-34 anti-tank gun that fires higher-powered ammunition to maintain its performance. The AMD-35 has two drivers, one facing forward and the other backwards, allowing it to



reverse out of an ambush. Its reliability, its ability to travel 186 miles (300km) on a tank of fuel, and its near-silent operation help make it one of the best armoured cars in service at the start of the war.

British Support

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The bulk of the British 3rd Division is made up of Regular Army units, and these were the units deployed on the flanks and available to support the Belgians at Leuven. Regular Platoons are rated as **Confident Veteran**.



RIFLE PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Rifle Squads
2 Rifle Squads

 **REGULAR**

185 points
145 points

The British 3rd Division fought alongside the Belgians around the city of Leuven in mid-May 1940. A number of Regular battalion were on the flanks near the Belgians.

The rifle squads (or sections as they are termed in the British Army) are eight men strong, with a corporal, Bren gunner, and six riflemen. The Lee Enfield Mk III rifle they use is much the same weapon as their fathers were armed with at the end of the Great War, but the first-rate Bren light machine-gun has replaced the old Lewis gun. Two new weapons that would be unfamiliar to their fathers are the 2" light mortar and the Boys anti-tank rifle.

SUBALTERN OR PLATOON SERGEANT MAJOR

SUBALTERN OR PLATOON SERGEANT MAJOR



HQ SECTION

CORPORAL



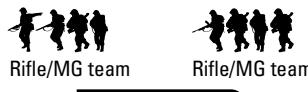
RIFLE SQUAD

CORPORAL



RIFLE SQUAD

CORPORAL



RIFLE SQUAD

RIFLE PLATOON

CARRIER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Carrier Patrols
2 Carrier Patrols
1 Carrier Patrol

 **REGULAR**

300 points
200 points
100 points

OPTION

- Arm up to one Bren Gun Carrier per Carrier Patrol with a Boys anti-tank rifle for +5 points per carrier.

Carrier Patrols operate as separate platoons, each with their own command team.

Carrier Patrols are Reconnaissance Platoons.

Each infantry battalion has a carrier platoon of three patrols. Each patrol has three Bren Gun Carriers, each crewed by an NCO, a driver/mechanic and a rifleman. The carriers are armed with a Bren light machine-gun, with one carrier in each patrol armed with a Boys anti-tank rifle as well.

SUBALTERN

SUBALTERN



CARRIER PATROL

SERGEANT



CARRIER PATROL

SERGEANT



CARRIER PATROL

CARRIER PLATOON

BRIGADE ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Hotchkiss 25mm

 REGULAR

70 points

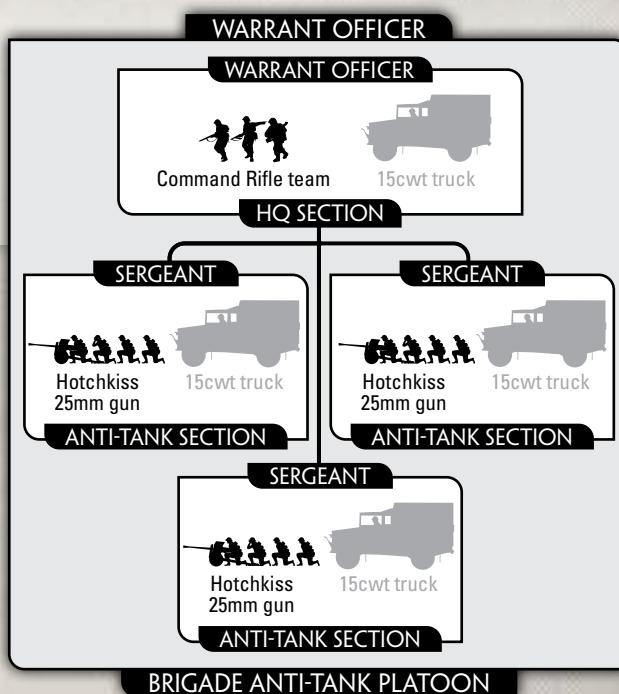
OPTION

- Add 15 cwt trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

Before the war there was debate about who would man the anti-tank guns, the infantry or the artillery. In the end, they ended up under Royal Artillery control. The invasion of Poland made the infantry rethink their ideas and request their own anti-tank guns.

By this time, all available 2 pdr anti-tank guns were needed by the artillery anti-tank regiments, so the infantry purchased Hotchkiss 25mm SA-34 anti-tank guns from the French instead. These guns were so light that they were carried on the back of the 15 cwt trucks rather than towed behind them. These equipped the brigade anti-tank company of three anti-tank platoons. An anti-tank platoon would be attached to each battalion, and assigned to the sector most vulnerable to tanks and most in need of anti-armour support.

Although the gunners had little time to familiarise themselves with these weapons, they held the Hotchkiss guns in high regard as an effective weapon.



FIELD BATTERY, ROYAL ARTILLERY

PLATOON

HQ Troop and:

3 Gun Troops with:

12 QF 18/25 pdr

 REGULAR

875 points

2 Gun Troops with:

8 QF 18/25 pdr

590 points

1 Gun Troop with:

4 QF 18/25 pdr

300 points

2 QF 18/25 pdr

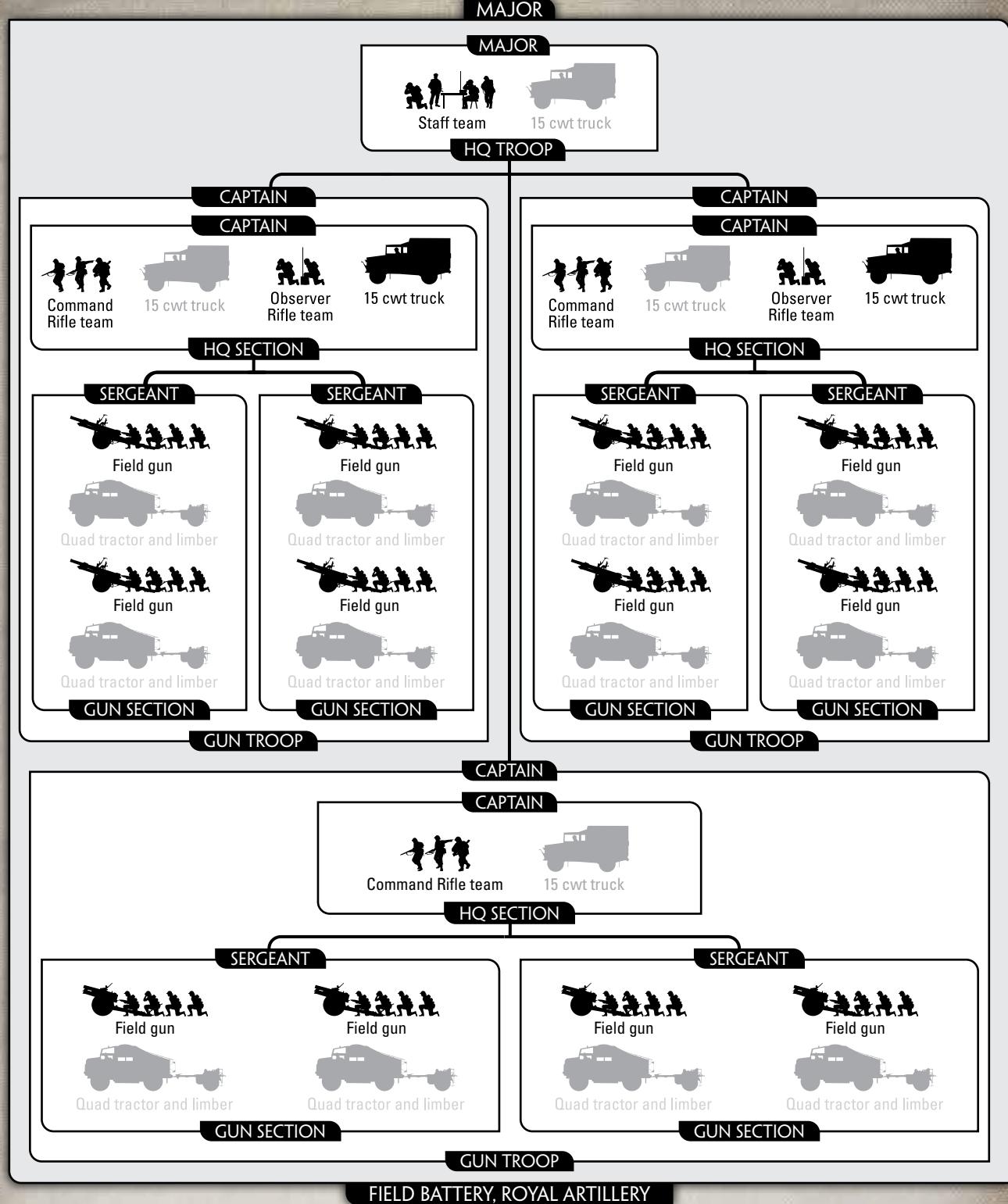
160 points

OPTIONS

- Add 15 cwt trucks and Quad tractors for +5 points per Gun Troop.
- Replace all 15 cwt trucks carrying Observer Rifle teams with OP Scout Carriers for +5 points per carrier.

Field Batteries, Royal Artillery may not be deployed in Ambush.

Batteries of the Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery fought in support of the BEF throughout their brief campaign in Belgium and France in 1940. In the delaying actions during the withdrawal to Dunkirk, gunners were often forced to fire over open sights at German reconnaissance troops and Panthers trying to cut off the retreating British troops. When they did, they gave a good account of themselves.



Although a Field Battery, Royal Artillery is a single Support choice, each Gun Troop operates as a separate platoon with its own Command team. The Staff team is an Independent team.

Although they count as separate platoons for all other purposes, a Field Battery, Royal Artillery deploys as a single platoon, all at the same time. For example, all three Gun Troops are treated as a single platoon when calculating the number of platoons held in Reserve.

Note: The third Gun Troop does not have an Observer team. If the battery has OQF 4.5" howitzers, they will be from this troop and do not have an Observer team.

Belgian Arsenal

TANK TEAMS

| Name Weapon | Mobility Range | Front ROF | Armour Side Anti-tank | Top Firepower | Equipment and Notes |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| TANKS | | | | | |
| T-13B1 or B2 47mm FRC Mle 31 gun | Half-tracked 24"/60cm | 1 3 | 1 6 | 0 4+ | AA MG. |
| T-13B3 47mm FRC Mle 31 gun | Half-tracked 24"/60cm | 1 3 | 1 6 | 1 4+ | AA MG. |
| T-15 13.2mm Hotchkiss MG | Half-tracked 16"/40cm | 1 3 | 1 3 | 1 5+ | AA MG. |
| ACG-1 47mm FRC Mle 31 gun | Standard Tank 24"/60cm | 2 3 | 2 6 | 1 4+ | Co-ax MG. |

ARMoured CARS

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Panhard AMD-35 25mm SA-34 gun | Wheeled 16"/40cm | 1 2 | 1 6 | 0 5+ | Co-ax MG, Limited vision. No HE. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|

FRENCH TANKS

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------------------------|
| Somua S-35 47mm SA-35 gun | Standard Tank 24"/60cm | 4 2 | 3 6 | 1 4+ | Co-ax MG. One-man turret. |
| Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (long gun) 37mm SA-38 gun | Standard Tank 24"/60cm | 3 2 | 3 5 | 1 4+ | Co-ax MG. One-man turret. |
| Hotchkiss H-35 or H-39 (short gun) 37mm SA-18 gun | Standard Tank 16"/40cm | 3 2 | 3 4 | 1 4+ | Co-ax MG. One-man turret. |

BRITISH RECONNAISSANCE

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------|
| Bren Gun Carrier With Boys anti-tank rifle | Half-tracked 16"/40cm | 0 2 | 0 4 | 0 5+ | Hull MG. Hull-mounted. |
|---|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------|

VEHICLE MACHINE-GUNS

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------|---|---|---|------------------------------|
| Vehicle MG | 16"/40cm | 3 | 2 | 6 | ROF 1 if other weapons fire. |
|------------|----------|---|---|---|------------------------------|

INFANTRY TEAMS

| Team | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|-------------------------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Rifle team | 16"/40cm | 1 | 2 | 6 | |
| Rifle/MG team | 16"/40cm | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| MG team | 16"/40cm | 3 | 2 | 6 | ROF 2 when pinned down. |
| Light Mortar team (DBT) | 16"/40cm | 1 | 1 | 4+ | Can fire over friendly teams. |
| VB team | 8"/20cm | 2 | 1 | 4+ | Can fire over friendly teams. |
| Staff team | 16"/40cm | 1 | 2 | 6 | Moves as a Heavy Gun team. |

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 3.

GUN TEAMS

| Weapon | Mobility | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Maxim HMG | Man-packed | 24"/60cm | 6 | 2 | 6 | ROF 3 when pinned down or moving. |
| Hotchkiss HMG | Man-packed | 24"/60cm | 6 | 2 | 6 | ROF 3 when pinned down or moving. |
| 76mm FRC mle 32 gun Firing Bombardment | Man-packed | 24"/60cm 40"/100cm | 2 - | 1 2 | 3+ 6 | Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| 20mm Madsen gun | Light | 16"/40cm | 4 | 5 | 5+ | Anti-aircraft |
| 40mm Bofors mle 36 gun | Immobile | 24"/60cm | 4 | 6 | 4+ | Anti-aircraft, Turntable. |
| 47mm FRC mle 31 gun | Light | 24"/60cm | 3 | 6 | 4+ | Gun shield. |
| Canon de 75 mle 1934 Firing bombardments | Heavy | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 2 - | 7 3 | 3+ 6 | Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| Canon de 75 mle 1897 Firing bombardments | Heavy | 24"/60cm 64"/160cm | 2 - | 8 3 | 3+ 6 | Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| Canon de 75 TR Firing bombardments | Heavy | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 2 - | 7 3 | 3+ 6 | Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| Canon de 105 mle 1913 Firing bombardments | Immobile | 24"/60cm 80"/200cm | 1 - | 9 4 | 2+ 4+ | Gun shield. |
| Obusier de 105 GP Firing bombardments | Immobile | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 1 - | 9 4 | 2+ 4+ | Breakthrough gun, Gun shield. |
| Canon de 120 mle 1931 Firing bombardments | Heavy | 32"/80cm 88"/220cm | 1 - | 12 4 | 2+ 3+ | Breakthrough gun. |
| Obusier de 6" Firing bombardments | Immobile | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 1 - | 9 5 | 1+ 2+ | Bunker buster. |
| Obusier de 155 mle 1917 Firing bombardments | Immobile | 16"/40cm 72"/180cm | 1 - | 10 5 | 1+ 2+ | Bunker buster, Gun shield. |

BRITISH GUNS

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|---|
| Hotchkiss 25mm gun | Light | 16"/40cm | 3 | 6 | 5+ | Gun shield, No HE. |
| OQF 18/25 pdr gun Firing bombardments | Heavy | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 2 - | 8 4 | 3+ 5+ | Gun shield, Smoke, Turntable. Smoke bombardment. |

BUNKERS

| | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|------------------------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| HMG Pillbox | 24"/60cm | 6 | 2 | 6 | ROF 3 when pinned down. |
| Twin HMG Pillbox | 24"/60cm | 12 | 2 | 6 | ROF 6 when pinned down. |
| 47mm Anti-tank Pillbox | 24"/60cm | 3 | 6 | 4+ | |
| 60mm Anti-tank Pillbox | 32"/80cm | 3 | 10 | 4+ | |

TRANSPORT TEAMS

| Vehicle | Mobility | Armour | | | Equipment and Notes | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------|------|-----|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Front | Side | Top | | | |
| TRUCKS | | | | | | | |
| GMC mle 1937 truck | | | | | | | |
| Laffly S20TL VDP | Wheeled | - | - | - | Two optional passenger-fired AA MG. | | |
| 15cwt truck | Wheeled | - | - | - | | | |
| Horse-drawn wagon | Wagon | - | - | - | | | |
| LIMBERS | | | | | | | |
| Vickers Utility B tractor | Half-tracked | - | - | - | | | |
| Latil tractor | Wheeled | - | - | - | | | |
| Quad tractor | Wheeled | - | - | - | | | |
| Horse-drawn limber | Wagon | - | - | - | | | |

Modelling the Belgians

Belgian infantry and gun crews can be represented in *Flames Of War* by using the French, as they were using very similar uniforms and helmets.

Chasseurs Ardennais are a bit harder, as you will most likely want to have models wearing the typical *Chasseurs Ardennais* beret. You could convert them yourself using heads of British commandos wearing berets. In reality, the Chasseurs berets were quite a bit bigger, but in 15mm could easily get away with this.

PLATOONS USED FOR BELGIANS:

FR400 Fusiliers Motocyclistes Squad

FR701 French Company HQ (with greatcoats)

FR741 Compagnie de Tirailleurs HQ (without greatcoats)

FR702 Fusiliers Platoon (with greatcoats)

FR742 Tirailleurs Platoon (without greatcoats)

FR704 MG platoon (with greatcoats)

FR744 Tirailleurs MG platoon (without greatcoats)

FRO100 French Artillery Group (with greatcoats)

FRO110 French Artillery Group (without greatcoats)

OPTIONAL MODELLING

If you are a modeller and like converting, you might like to model your Belgian light machine-gunners with US BAR gunners. For the DBT grenade launcher you could use the Japanese light mortar, but improvising with the French 60mm mortar (FR701 or FR741) and some simple knife work will also work.

The normal Belgian heavy machine-guns were also different, with them using the Maxim 08 machine-gun. This can be modelled by using the US Browning M1917 machine-gun from (from US755 in Greatcoats). If you'd like to model either of these options some minor conversion work could be made to merge French crew with this gun.

Check out www.FlamesOfWar.com website for a future, more detailed, modelling article.

BELGIAN UNIFORM COLOURS

| Item | Colour | Paint |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Uniform and greatcoat | Khaki Drab | Green Brown |
| Boots and leather leggings | Black | Black |
| Webbing and ammo pouches | Leather | Leather Brown |
| Bread bag, canvas items | Khaki | Khaki |
| Mess tin and gasmask container | Khaki Green | British Olive Drab (Russian Uniform) |
| Helmets | Olive Drab | US Olive Drab (Brown Violet) |
| Chasseurs Ardennais Beret | Green | Camo Green |
| Field guns & Vehicles | Olive Drab | US Olive Drab (Brown Violet) |

BELGIAN TROOPS



DBT GRENADE LAUNCHER



Above and right: Chasseurs Ardennais uniforms worn by reenactors and on display in a museum.

GUNS AND VEHICLES

| Dutch Name | Foreign Name | Suitable Model | Model to Use |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| T-13B1 | - | Light Mk VI B/C* | BR002 |
| T-13B2 | - | Light Mk VI B/C* | BR002 |
| T-13B3 | - | Light Mk VI B/C* | BR002 |
| T-15 | - | - | - |
| ACG-1 | AMC-35 | AMR-35 | FR011 |
| 20mm Madsen gun | - | 20mm Oerlikon gun | BR181 |
| 40mm Bofors mle 36 gun | 40mm Bofors gun | 40mm Bofors gun | BSO505 |
| 47mm FRC mle 31 gun | - | TAC 47mm Schneider (wheels on trail) | RO510 |
| 76mm FRC mle 32 gun | - | Type 92 70mm (no shield) | JP560 |
| Canon de 75 mle 1934 | 75mm Bofors model 1934 | OQF 25 pdr gun | - |
| Canon de 75 mle 1897 | 75mm mle 1897 | 75mm mle 1897 | FRO505 |
| Canon de 75 TR | Krupp 7.5cm K05 | Italian 75/27 | ISO505 |
| Canon de 105 mle 1913 | 105mm L mle 1913 S | Italian 105/28 | IT590 |
| Obusier de 105 GP | Krupp 10.5cm leFH16 | - | - |
| Canon de 120 mle 1931 | - | 122mm A19 gun | SBX18 |
| Obusier de 6" | - | 155mm C mle 1917 S (no shield) | FRO507 |
| Obusier de 155 mle 1917 | 155mm C mle 1917 S | 155mm C mle 1917 S | FRO507 |
| GMC mle 1937 truck | - | Opel Blitz truck | GE431 |
| Vickers Utility B tractor | - | - | - |
| Latil tractor | - | TL-37 tractor | IT271 |



CANON DE 75 MLE 1934



20MM MADSEN GUN



CANON DE 105 MLE 1913



OBUSIER DE 105 GP



GMC MLE 1937 TRUCK



T-13B3 TANK-HUNTER



47MM FRC MLE 31 GUN

