

CHAIN OF COMMAND



BRITISH IN NORTH AFRICA 1940-41

THE RIFLE PLATOON

The British Rifle platoon of 1940 was well equipped but, with just eight men to a section, short of manpower when compared to both their allies and enemy. In April 1940 the War Office issued instructions for an increase in strength to eleven men per section, but it is unlikely that this change was implemented by the following month when the Phony War came to an end.

All British and Empire units in North Africa count as Regular troops.

PLATOON FORCE RATING:

Regular: -1

Command Dice: 5

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS	
Lieutenant, <i>Senior Leader</i> , with pistol	
Sergeant, <i>Senior Leader</i> , with SMG	
2" MORTAR TEAM	
2" mortar with two crew	
BOYS AT RIFLE TEAM	
Boys AT rifle with two crew	

SECTIONS ONE TO THREE	
Corporal, <i>Junior Leader</i> , with Thompson SMG or rifle	
LMG TEAM	RIFLE TEAM
Bren gun with three crew	Six riflemen

BRITISH SUPPORT LIST

LIST ONE

Medical Orderly
Engineer Mine Clearance <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Engineer Wire Cutting <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Engineer Demolition <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Adjutant
Minefield
Roadblock
Barbed Wire
Car, no crew
Entrenchments for one <i>Team</i>

LIST TWO

Boys AT rifle <i>Team</i> , 2 men
2" mortar <i>Team</i> , 2 men
Pre-Game Barrage

LIST THREE

Engineer Flamethrower <i>Team</i> , 3 men
Sniper <i>Team</i>
Morris CS9 Armoured Car with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Marmon Herrington MK I with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Rolls Royce Armoured Car with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Universal Carrier with <i>Team</i> and <i>Junior Leader</i>
Mark VI tank with <i>Junior Leader</i>

LIST FOUR

Engineer <i>Section</i> with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Regular Infantry <i>Section</i> with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Forward Observer and 3" mortar battery
40mm Bofors Gun, 5 crew with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Regular Vickers MMG on tripod mount, 5 crew
A9 with <i>Junior Leader</i>
A10 with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Marmon Herrington MK II or III with <i>Junior Leader</i>
37mm Bofors Anti-Tank gun with five crew and <i>Junior Leader</i>
2 pounder Anti-Tank gun with five crew and <i>Junior Leader</i>

LIST FIVE

A12 Matilda Mk II with <i>Junior Leader</i>
A13 with <i>Junior Leader</i>
A15 Crusader Mk I with <i>Junior Leader</i>
Recce <i>Section</i> of two Universal Carriers, three crew each. One <i>Junior Leader</i>
Valentine Mk II with <i>Junior Leader</i>

Most of the support options on the list will be self-explanatory and their qualities covered by the National Arsenal Table. All tanks and armoured cars come with a *Junior Leader*. Transport only vehicles, such as the car are simply vehicles which come with no crew. Remember, you will need to allocate men to drive these.

2" MORTAR TEAM

The 2" mortar has only three rounds of High Explosive ammunition, the rest being all smoke rounds. It has no theoretical minimum range, but at under 12" the crew would normally use their rifles for reasons of their own safety. However, if using a 2" mortar to fire on a target under 12" roll a D6 for each hit achieved. On a roll of 3 to 6, the shrapnel from the round has hit the target *Unit*, the enemy will dice for the Hit Effect as normal. On a roll of 1 or 2, the shrapnel from the round has hit the mortar *Team*, they must roll for the Hit Effect on Table 6.

TWIN MACHINE GUNS

The twin machine guns on the Mark VI tank fire with a firepower factor of 8 to represent the enhanced firepower.

SINGLE UNIVERSAL CARRIER

This has a crew of three men armed with a Bren gun OR Boys anti-tank rifle and a *Junior Leader*.

UNIVERSAL CARRIER RECONNAISSANCE SECTION

Two Universal carriers commanded by a single *Junior Leader*. These have a three man crew in each armed with a Bren, a Boys Anti-Tank rifle or a 2" mortar.

3" MORTARS WITH FOO

With just two mortars present in the battalion, a British mortar bombardment covers a square area 10" by 10" with the aiming point at the centre.

THE BRITISH ARSENAL TABLE

The Arsenal Table below covers a wide range of British support options. For infantry weapons and some armoured vehicle armament see Table Four, *The Master Arsenal Table*. The British use the national characteristics listed in the main rules.

BRITISH ARSENAL TABLE					
ARMoured VEHICLES					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Mk VI a or b	3	1	HMG	Fast	Twin machine gun, No Hull MG, small
Mk VIc	3	1	HMG	Fast	HMG with co-axial MMG, No Hull MG, Small
A9	3	5	1	Average	
A10	4	5	1	Slow	
A13	3	5	1	Fast	
A12 Matilda II	7	5	1	Slow	No Hull MG
Valentine II	6	5	1	Slow	No Hull MG
A15 Crusader Mk I	5	5	1	Average	
Marmon Herrington Mk I	2	-	MGs	Wheeled	
Marmon Herrington Mk II	2	3	MG	Wheeled	
Rolls Royce Armoured Car	2	3	MG	Wheeled	No Hull MG
Morris CS9 Armoured Car	1	3	MG	Wheeled	No Hull MG
Universal Carrier	2	-	-	Fast	Low profile, small
ANTI-TANK GUNS					
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS	A.P.			H.E.	
37mm Anti-Tank gun	5			3	
2 Pounder Anti-Tank gun	5			1	
Boys AT rifle	3			1	