

CHAIN OF COMMAND



Australian forces in North Africa 1940-1942

THE RIFLE PLATOON

The Australian Rifle platoon in the desert generally followed the British doctrines but fielded eleven men to a section. Fielding an eclectic mix of material sourced from the UK and USA as well as captured Italian hardware, across the campaign they developed a reputation for making do with what they had. Australian units in North Africa count as Regular troops.

Lists given are for North Africa 1940 with some options available only in 1941 or 1942 (Syria)

PLATOON FORCE RATING:

Regular: 0

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 and one rifleman	Six riflemen

AUSTRALIAN 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 or light truck, 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	
2 pounder AT gun, 5 crew with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
25mm Hotchkiss (1 pdr), 5 crew with <i>JL</i>	
LIST THREE	
Marmon Herrington MK I with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
Sniper <i>Team</i>	
Universal Carrier with <i>Team</i> and <i>Junior Leader</i>	
Mark VIB 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	
Captured Italian 11/39 with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
Captured Italian 47/32 AT Gun, 5 crew with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
Renault R35 with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
LIST FIVE	
A12 Matilda Mk II with <i>Junior Leader</i> (1942)	
Captured Italian 13/40 with <i>Junior Leader</i>	
M3 Stuart with <i>Junior Leader</i> (Sept 1941)	
Recce <i>Section</i> of two Universal Carriers, three crew each. One <i>Junior Leader</i>	
A15 Crusader Mk II with <i>JL</i> (Sept 1941)	

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 and the captured Italian tanks fire with a firepower factor of 8 to represent the enhanced firepower.

CAPTURED ITALIAN TANKS AND GUNS

Due to a lack of ammunition and parts, any captured equipment that fires a main gun in two consecutive phases must roll d6. On 5+ the main gun is out of ammo.

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 Australian mortar bombardment covers a square area 10" by 10" with the aiming point at the centre.

THE ARSENAL TABLE

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

AUSTRALIAN 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
/ 1 μ 0 1 0 5 5 L 0 1 P 0 1 Q	4	5		Slow	Twin turret aD hull mount gun, captured
R35	5	3	3	Slow	/ 0 1 1 0 1 P aD σΨ 1 PP
Captured Italian 13/40	5	6	3	Average	Twin hull MG
A12 Matilda II (1942)	7	5	1	Slow	No Hull MG
M3 Stuart (Sept 1941)	4	5	3	Fast	Hull and co-axial MG,
A15 Crusader Mk II (1942)	5	5	1	Average	
Marmon Herrington Mk I	2	-	MGs	Wheeled	
Rolls Royce Armoured Car	2	3	MG	Wheeled	No Hull MG
Universal Carrier	2	-	-	Fast	Low profile, small
ANTI-TANK GUNS					
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS	A.P.			H.E.	
1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 mm Anti-Tank gun					
2 Pounder Anti-Tank gun	5			1	
Boys AT rifle	3			1	
Captured 47/32 Anti-Tank gun	6			4	