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FJ Organization for Crete

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FJ Organization for Crete

by **Matt1066** » Tue Feb 04, 2020 3:48 pm

I've had a quick search on the forum but ... Do any of the PSCs or 'specials' cover this?

Whilst we're at it, any tips for camo? Current research indicates that issue of camo smock was ongoing, so some smocks would still be a green/grey colour. Is the camo splittermuster or a slightly simpler, earlier pattern?

Thanks, Matt

[The Wargames Table](#)



Matt1066

Posts: [179](#)

Joined: Mon Jun 16, 2014 11:50 pm

Contact:

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Contrarius** » Tue Feb 04, 2020 4:03 pm

A peek at the Wikipedia page for FJ shows a pic of them in camo smocks on the Greek island of Leros in 1941, while other pics from Crete show single colour jumpsuits. So, as you say yourself, it was probably an ongoing process. I suspect some companies had been issued with camo gear, but not all. Perhaps folks more knowledgable on such things will chip in their 2 pfennigs.

If you plan to play mainly early war with your FJ, I would go with the single colour jumpsuits; post 1941, then camo.



Contrarius

Posts: [346](#)

Joined: Wed Mar 28, 2018 4:35 pm

Contact:

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Matt1066** » Tue Feb 04, 2020 4:17 pm

Thanks 😊 I rather like the look of a few in camo but having painted a lot of panzergrenadiers in splittermuster I think I'll keep any camo FJs to a minimum



Matt1066

Posts: [179](#)

Joined: Mon Jun 16, 2014 11:50 pm

Contact:

Thanks, Matt

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Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **BaronVonWreckedoften** » Tue Feb 04, 2020 7:02 pm

From an old book I read at school (back in the early 1970s), I recall a lot of photos of FJs in cut-down smocks that looked like they were wearing shorts. I gather this arrangement, as well as being more light and airy than the full outfit, came into its own when relieving oneself in the field (or in the olive grove, or behind a wall/hedge.....).

No plan survives first contact with the dice.

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Seret** » Wed Feb 05, 2020 1:25 pm

BaronVonWreckedoften wrote: ↑

Tue Feb 04, 2020 7:02 pm

I recall a lot of photos of FJs in cut-down smocks that looked like they were wearing shorts. I gather this arrangement, as well as being more light and airy than the full outfit, came into its own when relieving oneself in the field (or in the olive grove, or behind a wall/hedge.....).

That's the FJs signature "knochensack" ("bonesack"). It was designed to be worn over the uniform to stop things snagging during jumps. It was basically an overall, but with short legs:

Image

They'd normally be worn with the trousers underneath, but there are some photos like this that suggest that in hot weather they sometimes weren't:



Bundesarchiv, Bild 101-166-0525-30
Foto: Weixler, Franz Peter | 2. Juni 1941

[Tiny Hordes](#)

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

BaronVonWreckedoften

Posts: 606

Joined: Wed Jan 11, 2017 12:28 pm

Contact: [...](#)



Seret

Posts: 4005

Joined: Sat Jul 05, 2014 10:45 pm

Location: Kent UK

Contact: [...](#)

by **BaronVonWreckedoften** » Wed Feb 05, 2020 2:09 pm

Thanks. I can no longer recall the name of the book, but I do remember the lower photo (the upper one didn't post properly) being in it - and the guy nearest the camera had an SAS-style black oblong over his eyes, I assumed to hide his identity as it looks like they are executing someone.

No plan survives first contact with the dice.

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Seret** » Wed Feb 05, 2020 3:06 pm

BaronVonWreckedoften wrote: ↑

Wed Feb 05, 2020 2:09 pm

it looks like they are executing someone.

Several dozen someones. Greek civilians accused of aiding the Allies:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_Kondomari.

[Tiny Hordes](#)

Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Captain Reid** » Wed Feb 05, 2020 6:11 pm

The FJ jumped into Crete in the same uniforms they'd worn in Norway. These proved a bit hot so after the first day, many took to adopting the 'baby gro' look as seen in the pictures above. There are quite a few pictures of camouflage pattern ones in Nasse's *Fallschirmjager in Crete*. Interestingly, whether wearing camouflaged smocks or plain, most seem to have worn plain helmet covers. The camouflage smocks don't seem to have been dedicated to a particular unit. Men from 1./FJR1, 2/Fallsch. San. 7, 13./LL-Sturm-Rgt are all shown with camouflage smocks alongside comrades in plain ones.

As for their TO&E on Crete, it's well detailed in the excellent *The German Fallschirmtruppe 1936-41. Its Genesis and Employment in the First Campaigns of the Wehrmacht* by Golla.

Glider troops had ten men per glider and on Crete what was probably a disproportionate number of SLs (not as many as one per glider but most gliders had either an officer or high ranking NCO aboard). Gliders had little room for gear and so the ten men had a MG34 and 4-5 SMGs between them. The gliders were specifically equipped for a rapid *coup de main* at the Heraklion airfield, hence the large number of automatics. Many glider troops armed themselves with rifles in the days after landing.

Parachuting troops in their squads of 12 had two MG34s per squad and 4 SMGs per squad. Some men jumped with SMGs but not all men equipped with one chose to do so.

Obviously, most parachuting squads went into action not only well under strength due to the scattered drop and landing under fire, but without full equipment as so many drop canisters were lost or fell into enemy hands.

Posts: 606

Joined: Wed Jan 11, 2017 12:28 pm

Contact: [...](#)



Seret

Posts: 4005

Joined: Sat Jul 05, 2014 10:45 pm

Location: Kent UK

Contact: [...](#)



Captain Reid

Posts: 612

Joined: Mon Apr 04, 2016 7:49 am

Location: Shrewsbury and Peebles

Contact: [...](#)

The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change. - Greta Thunberg

[The Saindoux Campaign](#), French & Indian War blog

[Cerro Manteca](#), Peninsular War blog.



Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Matt1066** » Thu Feb 06, 2020 6:02 pm



Matt1066

Posts: [179](#)

Joined: Mon Jun 16, 2014 11:50 pm

Contact: [...](#)

Thanks for that, very interesting indeed 😊

So, at *full strength*, the platoon might look something like:

Senior Leader with SMG (or 2 SLs?)

Three 12 man squads each comprising:

JL with SMG

LMG Team:

MG34 (two men)

One SMG

Two Rifles

LMG Team:

MG34 (two men)

Two SMGs

Two Rifles

EDIT: I rather like the idea of rules for scattered drops (e.g. in KgvL) and may be smaller games to retrieve canisters before the campaign gets going?

Thanks, Matt

[The Wargames Table](#)



Re: FJ Organization for Crete

by **Captain Reid** » Thu Feb 06, 2020 6:26 pm



Captain Reid

Posts: [612](#)

Joined: Mon Apr 04, 2016 7:49 am

Location: Shrewsbury and Peebles

Contact: [...](#)

SL with pistol or SMG (officer)

SL with SMG (senior nco)

ATR Team (3 men - technically one an NCO with a SMG but in game terms maybe just a three man team)

Light Mortar Team (4 men - again, technically one an nco with a SMG but ditto)

Three squads:

JL with SMG

Team One:

two man LMG team

one man with MP40

two men with rifles

Team two:

two man LMG team
two men with SMG
two men with rifles

Everyone jumped with a pistol and grenades. MGs and rifles were always in canisters. SMGs could be in canisters but many men elected to jump with them (probably from previous experience)

We did some Crete games using these rosters that include drop and glider rules (which I'd simplify a bit in light of the 40 Handbook, but they worked pretty well). I'd consider not making the paras elite - but on the other hand in our games they weren't overpowered due to lack of gear and scattering and losses in the drops.

The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change. - Greta Thunberg

[The Saindoux Campaign](#), French & Indian War blog

[Cerro Manteca](#), Peninsular War blog.



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