



OCHI! The Greek Infantry 1940-1941

A supplement for I Ain't Been Shot Mum™ and Chain of Command™ by Too Fat Lardies™

By Konstantinos Travlos

Introduction

The Organization of the Greek small units during the 1940-1941 Greek-Italian War and German Invasion of Greece, was based on the French 1918 Doctrine, which was implemented in 1924. The Infantry Company “Λόχος-Lohos” (which was also the organization of Evzones), was made up of four platoons (Διμοιρία-Demerie). The four platoons had the same organization.

Each platoon was made up of a command team of a platoon commander (a second-lieutenant or warrant-officer), NCO assistant (usually of Staff Sergeant Rank), a communication private (Diavivastis), Corporal Rifle Grenade Launcher (dekaneas oplovomvstis), and Scout private (Paratirites). The rest of the platoon was made up of three Combat Groups (Ομάδες Μάχης-Omades Mahes).

Each Combat Group was made up of a Commanding NCO (usually a Sergeant First Class), and two teams (Ημι-ομάδες/ Στοιχεία-emiomades, stehia), the LMG Team and the Riflemen Team.

The LMG Team (οπλοπολυβόλου-ορποπολιβολο), was made up of five men including a commanding corporal or Sergeant Second Class, the LMG crew of shooter and loader, and two privates in the role of support personnel. The armament of the LMG team was as follows. Two pistols, one each for the shooter and the loader of the LMG. The LMG which came in four possible types, the Chauchat 1915 LMG, with about 6000 units available, the Hotchkiss M1926 LMG, with about 6000 units available, the Hotchkiss M1922 LMG, with about 550 units available, and finally captured Breda 30, with about 2000 made available by the end of the war). The rest of the team was armed with Mannlicher-Schönauer Carbines.

The Riflemen (akrovolistes-ακροβολιστές, actually means skirmishers in Greek) Team was made up of seven men including a commanding corporal or Sergeant Second Class and five riflemen (armed mainly with Mannlicher-Schönauer, Mauser or Lebel rifles), and one private armed with a rifle grenade launcher (usually a Lebel Rifle with a VB attachment).

Support for the Company and Platoon

The company could rely on Battalion support either in the form of platoons attached from the other two companies of the Battalion (each had three infantry companies) or from the Battalion Machine Gun Company (made up of three machine gun platoons, each of two combat groups, each combat group of two machine guns and their crews, for a total of 12 medium machine guns of various types, including Hotchkiss and St. Etienne medium and heavy machine guns. The Schwarzloses were mostly used by the cavalry or in the Metaxas fortifications, as did any other heavy machine guns). Usually one machine gun platoon (four machine gun teams, each of one machine gun) would be assigned as support to each company of the Battalion, but if need be the

whole Machine Gun Company could be assigned to support one Infantry Company. At other times the Battalion commander would retain the Machine Gun Company concentrated under their direct command. A medium machine gun team included the weapon, a commanding corporal, shooter, and several loaders. While 1786 Boys 14mm anti-tank rifles were ordered, very few had been delivered and made available to the Greek infantry.

A company could also receive support designated by the Regiment to its parent Battalion. This included two pack artillery guns of the Schneider-Ducrest Canon de 65mm Montagne, Modele 1906 type, which really was more like an autocannon due to the ease of its transport, and high rate of fire (which could reach 26 shots per minute). A pack artillery 65mm gun will have a front-line crew of seven men, supported by twenty-three extra privates, taking care of the transport element and caisson elements of eleven mules.

There were also four 81mm Brad Mortars available for indirect fire support.



A Greek Combat Group in full complement, with the LMG Team to the left, and the riflemen team to the right of the photo. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Down to the level of the Platoon, the most likely support, beyond elements of the three other platoons of the company, might be one or more machine gun teams from the Battalion Machine Gun company, if part of the whole are assigned to support the platoon's parent company, or perhaps a 65mm pack artillery gun acting in infantry support role. Finally, fire missions by the 81mm Regiment Mortars might be brought to use.

There may be cases where the Company, and even the Platoon might be supported by a Cavalry Combat Group or Team (Ενωματία-Enomatia) assigned to the parent Regiment or Battalion by Division HQ. The Cavalry Combat Group is made up of the two Teams commanded by a sergeant. Each Team is made up of one corporal and five cavalrymen. One Team is the LMG Team, while the other is the Scout Team (four of the cavalry-men armed with carbines, and one with a rifle grenade Lebel).

Doctrine for the Infantry Company:

The Infantry Company was considered as able to effectively hold a front of about 400 meter, and should avoid covering a distance larger than this. Due to the lack of integrated mortar or medium machine gun elements, the Greek infantry company, if not supported by Battalion machine guns, had to rely on fire and maneuver tactics using its four platoons to attain objectives. On the attack the preference was for operation on two axis of advance, with two platoons in the first line, and two platoons in support roles. Rarely, three platoons would be sent



forward, and one kept in support. In defense either most platoons were placed in forward defense in a line along the front, or some were kept in the front, and others in preparation for counter-attacks. The four platoons of the company could be organized in echelon in a rhombus or trapezoid formation, or in double columns of two platoons forward and two right behind them.

On the attack the Company sought to gain fire superiority over the enemy, if need be concentrating the rifle grenade launchers or LMG teams of platoons in ad-hoc units for this goal. The doctrine was to deploy one LMG or Medium Machine Gun per 50 meter of target front. Depending on the width of the attack front, one, two or three platoons could be used as the fire base, while the rest were used for maneuver. Against a fortified enemy position, the company attacked in a front of 200 meters with depth of 400 meters. In defense the company should not be responsible for a front of more than 400 meters.

If Battalion machine gun elements were available, those would then either form the fire base for offensive action, or act as defensive strong points in defense.

Doctrine for the Platoon:

Advance using Sections to conduct fire and maneuver tactical movement. Platoon's placed in the first line, should conduct the necessary tactical movement to scout their front. Scouting in the Greek army by a Platoon was not considered as an independent phase, instead being considered part of the attack. Formation for the attack will be based on the frontage the platoon must cover, and how much firepower it will need to use. Usual formation is a triangle with two Combat Groups forward and one Combat Group in reserve. But it is possible to also deploy all three Combat Groups in line. Advance is done by fire and maneuver tactics. If need be the Platoon commander can concentrate the Rifle Grenade users of the Combat Groups into one ad-hoc team in order to attain a concentration of rifle grenade fire. The assault is conducted after a brief execution of suppressing fire by the LMG teams and the Rifle Grenade users. The platoon attacks with the bayonet, while LMGs teams conduct walking fire in support. The Rifle Grenade users concentrate fire on the enemy position, until the assaulting infantry reaches a secure distance, to begin the hand grenade battle. Once a position is captured, the Platoon will hold it and secure it before begging the next round of forward movement. For this goal the LMG teams take positions in order to attain crossfire. The Platoon at all stops, abrupt or planned, makes all required preparations to organize the ground it holds for defense. In defense the Platoon has a simple task, to make best use of its Combat Groups and hold the ground it has been assigned to defend.

Doctrine for the Combat Group:

The Combat Group could deploy with its two teams in column, with the LMG team usually in front, or with the two times side by side, or in echelon. Distance between the two teams was not to be more than 15 meters. It could also deploy in three echelons, again with the LMG in the first echelon. The Combat Group advanced by fire and maneuver jumps, either done by each Team in succession, by the whole combat group, or by individual man. The LMG could open fire in theory at a distance of 1000 meters, but usually did so at 600 meters. If conducting walking fire, the LMG opened fire from 300 meters. The riflemen could engage the enemy at 400 meters, while rifle grenades were launched at most from 200 meters. Fire was controlled by the Combat Group commander who designated targets and firing style, though they could give the order for fire at will. In many cases the platoon commander had to take direct control of a combat group, due to the lack of training of NCOs in initiative and direct command.

I Ain't Been Shot Mum™

Force Composition Greek Infantry Company 1924-1941

Λόχος Πεζικού (Infantry Company)

	Διοίκησης Λόχου (Company Command) One Big Man Level III or IV	Battalion Support Platoon Options																							
	Διμοιρία (Platoon) I One Big Man Level II or III Three Combat Groups of 10 men each (each includes a LMG)	Ομάδα Μάχης Πολυβόλων (Machine Gun Team) One Big Man Level II or III Two Saint Etienne or Hotchkiss MMGs each with five Crew																							
	Διμοιρία (Platoon) II One Big Man Level II or III Three Combat Groups of 10 men each (each includes a LMG)	Regimental Support Platoon Options																							
		Ουλαμός Όλμων (81mm Brad Mortar Platoon) Two 81mm Brad Mortar Teams. Represented on the table by FO																							
	Διμοιρία (Platoon) III One Big Man Level II or III Three Combat Groups of 10 men each (each includes a LMG)	Ουλαμός Ορειβατικού Πυροβολικού (Pack Artillery Platoon) Two 65mm Schneider-Ducrest with six men crew each Can be transported disassembled on four-six mule teams, one per gun. Can be represented on the table or by FO																							
	Διμοιρία (Platoon) IV One Big Man Level II or III Three Combat Groups of 10 men each (each includes a LMG)	Divisional Support Platoon Options																							
	Additional Big Men Each Greek Platoon should roll 1D6. On a roll of 6 add one Level I Big Man	Ενωμοτία Ιππικού (Cavalry Combat Group) One Big Man Level I Ten men, may be mounted on horses (includes LMG Team) Cavalry Trait																							
Cards The Following Bonus Cards are available to a Greek Infantry Company <i>Machine Gun Bonus Card+</i> <i>Rally Card</i> <i>Heroic Leader Card</i> <i>Bulge Call*</i> <i>Reconnaissance*</i> <i>+If at least two Machine Gun Teams are present</i> <i>*If Cavalry Combat Group is present</i>		Ουλαμός Ορειβατικού Πυροβολικού (Mountain Artillery Platoon) Two 75mm Schneider-Danglis Pieces represented by FO																							
		<table><tr><th colspan="6">Units Actions</th></tr><tr><th>Troops/Dice</th><th>0</th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th></tr><tr><th>Regular Troops</th><td>1,2,3</td><td>4,5</td><td>6,7</td><td>8,9,10</td><td></td></tr></table>						Units Actions						Troops/Dice	0	1	2	3	4	Regular Troops	1,2,3	4,5	6,7	8,9,10	
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Note: Above Infantry Company is best used to represent Greek forces in Epirus in 1940. Units serving in the Metaxa forts were different in armament and organization.

Weapon	Weapon Strike	Anti-Tank Weapons			
65mm Regimental Pack Artillery Gun	3				
75mm Mountain Divisional Gun	6				
Infantry Anti-Tank Weapons	0-4"	4-8"	8-12"	12-16"	16-24"
Infantry Squad	2				
MMG	3	3	2	2	1

Chain of Command™



Greece 1940

Greek Infantry Platoon (Διμοιρία Πεζικού)		Infantry Platoon Support List
Platoon Force Rating :-2		List One
Command Dice : 5		Medical Orderly
Platoon Headquarters		Adjutant
Ypolohagos (Second Lieutenant), Senior Leader, with Pistol		Barbed Wire
VB Rifle Grande Command		Roadblocks
Dekaneas (Corporal) Junior Leader, armed Rifle Grenade Launcher		Sniper Team
Combat Groups (Squads) one to three		Entrenchments for one Team (up to five)
Lohias (Sergeant First Class), Junior Leader, with Rifle		List Two
LMG Team	Riflemen Team	Forward Observer for 81mm Brad Mortar Platoon (two Mortars)
Chauchat or Hotchkiss, or Breda LMG Two Crew Three Riflemen	Six Riflemen One VB Rifle Grenade Launcher with one Crew	Machine Gun Team, one MMG on Tripod Mount, five crew (maximum of four)
		List Three
		Cavalry Combat Group with Junior Leader. Two Teams, one of LMG Team with two crew, and three troopers with carbines, one of five men with carbines
		Regular Infantry Combat Group with Junior Leader
		List Four
		Engineer Mine Clearance Team, 3 men
		Engineer Wire Cutting Team, 3 men
		Schneider-Durceat 65mm Cannon Team, one 65mm Pack Artillery Gun with five crew and one Junior Leader (only one)
		List Five
		Pre-Game Barrage
		Boys 14mm Anti-tank Rifle Team with two crew (only one)

May be Aggressive Troops (roll a 1d6 before the game, on a 1-2 the Infantry Platoon is Aggressive)

LMG Types: Chauchat, Breda are Magazine Fed, Hotchkiss can be Magazine or Belt Fed.

National Characteristics Rules

- 1) **Mountaineers.** The Greek Army was organized to maximize its ability to fight in the mountainous border zones of the country. This ranged from Divisional Organization, down to Platoon operation. The Greek Infantry Platoon Treats Really Heavy Terrain as Heavy Going.
- 2) **VB Rifle Grenades!** Greek Doctrine, like the French Doctrine it was based on stressed the concentrated use of Platoon Rifle Grenade Launchers (VB) in order to gain fire superiority over the opponent. Like the French, the Greek player may combine the four Rifle Grande Launchers available to the Platoon in a single ad-hoc team under the command of the Corporal Rifle Grenade Launcher, Junior Officer. Thus organized all four weapons may fire when the Team is activated on a Command Dice roll of 1, or when activated by the Junior Leader using one Command Initiative.

Greek Infantry Platoon Arsenal Table 1940

Anti-Tank Weapons	A.P	H.E
Boys 14mm Anti-Tank Rifle	3	1
Schneider-Durceat 65mm Pack Artillery Gun	3	5



Aerial Greek Infantry, Evzones here, charging with the bayonet in a staged photograph, Source: Wikimedia Commons

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