

## Polish Home Army (AK) 1944



Estimates of the Polish Home Army's (AK) 1944 strength range between 200,000 and 600,000. The latter number made the Home Army not only Poland's largest underground resistance movement but, along with Soviet and Yugoslav partisans, one of Europe's largest World War II underground movements

The basic organizational unit was the platoon, numbering 35–50 people. Arms were sometimes purchased on the black market from German soldiers or their allies, or stolen from German supply depots or transports. Efforts to capture weapons from the Germans also proved highly successful. Raids were conducted on trains carrying equipment to the front, as well as on guardhouses and gendarmerie posts.

Sometimes weapons were taken from individual German soldiers accosted in the street. During the Warsaw Uprising, the Home Army even managed to capture several German armoured vehicles, most notably a Jagdpanzer 38 Hetzer light tank destroyer renamed Chwat and an armoured troop transport Sdkfz 251 renamed Grey Wolf.

In addition, two Panthers, a Tiger, a Panzer IV, and some armoured cars were also captured. The

AK also constructed a few examples of their own armoured transports, including Kubus, a converted 3-ton Chevorlet truck.

Arms were clandestinely manufactured by the Home Army in its own secret workshops, and by Home Army members working in German armaments factories. In this way the Home Army was able to procure submachine guns (copies of British Stens, indigenous *Błyskawicas* and *KIS*), pistols (*Vis*), flamethrowers, explosive devices, road mines, and *Filipinka* and *Sidolówka* hand grenades. Hundreds of people were involved in the manufacturing effort. The Home Army did not produce its own ammunition but relied on supplies stolen by Polish workers from German-run factories.

The final source of supply was Allied air drops, which was the only way to obtain more exotic, highly useful equipment such as plastic explosives and antitank weapons such as the British PIAT. During the war, 485 air-drop missions from the West (about half of them flown by Polish airmen) delivered some 600 tons of supplies for the Polish resistance. Besides equipment, the planes also parachuted in highly qualified instructors, 316 of whom were inserted into Poland during the war.

The AK didn't have many machine-guns at its disposal and those they did have were organised into heavy machine-gun platoons. There were many submachine-guns available as well, but these were largely reserved for the assault troops.

### Polish Home Army Platoon

**Regular: +2**

**Command Dice: 5**

| Platoon Headquarters                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lieutenant, Senior Leader, with Pistol, or Platoon Sergeant, Senior Leader with SMG |
| Sections One to Four                                                                |
| Corporal Junior Leader with SMG                                                     |
| 10 riflemen                                                                         |

## Polish Home Army (AK) Characteristics:

**Hard Fighters:** The Polish Home Army (AK) proved to be excellent fighters in built up areas and often defeated superior numbers and better trained adversaries. To replicate this Polish Home Army soldiers fighting in close combat are classed as aggressive. And add 1D6 for every three men.

| Rifle Platoon Support List                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| List One                                                                                                                      |
| Medical Orderly                                                                                                               |
| Barricades (Roadblock)                                                                                                        |
| Entrancements for a half section                                                                                              |
| SMGs (may replace two rifle armed soldiers with SMGs in one squad only)                                                       |
| Satchel Charge or similar                                                                                                     |
| Adjutant                                                                                                                      |
| List Two                                                                                                                      |
| Road minefield                                                                                                                |
| Underground tunnel entrance                                                                                                   |
| Panzerfaust (one per squad)                                                                                                   |
| RM-38 50mm light mortar (2 crew)                                                                                              |
| Bren Gun Team with 3 crew                                                                                                     |
| List Three                                                                                                                    |
| Marksman Team, 2-man team                                                                                                     |
| K pattern Flamethrower Team, 4 men                                                                                            |
| Captured SdKfz 251 (Grey Wolf) no weapons                                                                                     |
| Tank Killer Team, 3 men                                                                                                       |
| MG42 Team with 3 crew                                                                                                         |
| List Four                                                                                                                     |
| Senior Leader                                                                                                                 |
| PIAT Team, 2 men                                                                                                              |
| Captured German MG 08/15 Maxim MMG on tripod Team with, 5 crew and Junior Leader                                              |
| SMG Assault Squad (1 x Junior Leader and 6 x Riflemen armed with SMG/Assault Rifles)                                          |
| List Five                                                                                                                     |
| Regular Rifle Squad (1 <sup>st</sup> Polish Army) 1 Junior Leader armed with SMG, one Degtyaryov LMG (2 crew) and 7 riflemen) |
| Armoured fighting vehicle – Kubus                                                                                             |
| List Six                                                                                                                      |
| Captured Pak 38 anti-tank gun, 5 crew and Junior Leader                                                                       |
| List Seven                                                                                                                    |

| Captured Hetzer with Junior Leader (Chwat)           |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| List Eight                                           |
| Capture Panther with Junior Leader ('Pudel'/'Magda') |

**Underground tunnel entrance:** Throughout the Warsaw uprising the Polish Home Army (AK) were able to move undetected from one building to another using underground tunnels and the sewer system. To replicate this tactic, if you chose an underground tunnel entrance you may place an additional JoP on the bottom floor of a building (of your choice).

The placement of the JoP is to be done at the end of the Patrol Phase and after all other JoPs have been placed by both sides. It can be placed in any building on the table, must be 12 inches from the nearest enemy marker and if captured or overrun it does not cause a Force Morale roll.

**K pattern Flamethrower:** The K-pattern flamethrower appeared a successful weapon, considering its primitive design and conditions of manufacturing. Its main flaw was that the air pressure decreased during operation, and so successive bursts had a progressively shorter range.

For this reason, the first shot will have a range of 12 inches and the next two will have a range of 9 inches.

A flamethrower section consisted of 4 soldiers: a commander, a gunner carrying the flamethrower and two carriers of fuel cans and spare air bottles.

**Armoured fighting vehicle – Kubus: Kubuś** (Little Jacob") is a Polish improvised fighting vehicle used by the Home Army in the Warsaw Uprising during World War II. The single vehicle was built in secret to function as an armoured car and armoured personnel carrier for assaults by the Home Army, where it suffered damage and was abandoned after two weeks of service.

The armoured car could carry between eight and twelve soldiers, and was armed with a Soviet-built DP-27 machine gun,