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US para M1918 MGs

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Re: US para M1918 MGs

by [Fettster](#) » Mon Dec 22, 2014 8:00 pm

I did some more research and I managed to find a copy of TO&E 7-37 for August 1944 ([http://ablecompany502pir.org/files/TO_E ... t_1944.pdf](http://ablecompany502pir.org/files/TO_E...t_1944.pdf)). I want to model a D-Day platoon and as far as I can make out this just gathers the amendments to the Feb 42 organisation. The 16 December 44 revision adds the third squad but is not of interest to me.

This gives:

Platoon HQ (6 men)

1 1st Lt (pltn commander, carbine)

1 Technical Sgt (pltn sgt, rifle)

1 SSgt (pltn guide, carbine)

2 Pvt (messengers, rifle)

1 Pvt (radio operator, rifle)

Additionally also assigned to platoon hq is the bazooka and a M1C sniper rifle.

2 Squads(12 men), each

1 SSgt (sqd leader, rifle)

1 Sgt (assistant squad leader, rifle, also noted as demolition non-commissioned office which means I assume he carried the 'demolition equipment, set no, 5, individual' as these are issued 1 per squad)

1 pvt (gunner, carbine)

1 pvt (asst gunner, carbine)

1 pvt (ammo bearer, carbine)

7 pvt (riflemen, rifle)

Additional 2 30 M1919A4 MG and corresponding tripods are listed with the note 'one for optional use as directed'.

1 Mortar Squad



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1 Sgt (sqd leader, carbine)
1 pvt (gunner, carbine)
1 pvt (asst gunner, carbine)
3 pvt)ammo bearers, cabine)
Additionally, (and surprisingly!) 1 Mortar, 60mm is listed.

This document does not list a weapons platoon, just three platoons and a platoon hq (2 Officers, 20 enlisted), for a total strength of 5 officers and 125 enlisted. Interestingly the only SMGs listed are 6 at Company HQ, while in the 42 list there are 4 per platoon (1 HQ, 1 per squad, including mtr).

So how do we model this in CoC.

I think I would do the following, allowing them to hold on to their SMGs, and assuming 1 of the Pltn HQ Sgts would be with the train just to stop too much command and the M1C is not worried about:

PLATOON HQ

Lt, Snr Ldr, Carbine

Pltn Sgt, Snr Ldr, MSG

1 RO, Rifle (I use this guy as permanently moving with the officer and acts when the officer does)

Bazooka Team, 2 men (I am assuming these are the messengers)

SQUADS ONE AND TWO

Sgt, Jnr Ldr, SMG

LMG Team

M1919A5 Squad MMG, with 3 Crew with carbines

Assault Team

8 Paras with Rifles (including 1 Sgt)

MORTAR SQUAD

Sgt, Jnr Ldr, SMG

60mm Mortar, with 5 crew with carbines

They would be elite, with 6 command dice and count as aggressive.

M1919A4 Squad MMG: I think the .30 cal with only 3 crew counting as a full MMG a bit too powerful, and there is no point in then taking the support options so I think it should count as a belt fed LMG. Although a more stable point of firer the smaller crew will put a break on fire with a reduced ability to observe, provide ammo and change barrels against a five man support team.

Extra Sgts: Additionally, if immediately post D-Day when there would have been the extra sgts, if a squad (not mortar) loses its leader it can promote a rifleman to sgt once per game. Counting as a junior leader with 1 command initiative. He will then count as a leader if killed.

Platoon rating would still be +1 as in the rule book according to the CoCulator. Without playtesting I am not sure if the extra sgts rule would make a difference, but counting them as half leaders for 'points value' would increase the platoon to +2 which seem about fair

Support options would be:

List 1

Medical Orderly

Adjutant (not D-Day landings, to reflect disjointed leadership and difficulty in Daytting force together)

Jeep

BARs for each squad (not D-Day landing but paras certainly seemed to acquire them, adds 1 BAR to each squad, can form a team of a BAR and 2 crew and a rifleman from the assault section, or transfer 1 rifleman to the LMG section to man the BAR along with the LMG in a single fire team)

Engineer Team (Mine, Wire or Demo)

Demo charge (max 1 per rifle section, must be carried by extra sgt)

Issue second .30 Cal. to 1 squad (Take 3 rifleman and equip with M1919A4

Squad MMG forming either a third team, or a 6 man Airborne Assault by joining the existing squad MG

List 2

Bazooka Team

Airborne Assault (D-Day, Garden, Varsity, same as Pre game bombardment to reflect confusion of defenders)

List 3

Engineer Flamethrower Team

Sniper Team

60mm Mortar team, 5 crew

List 4

60mm mortar squad, 5 crew plus junior leader

FO and 81mm mortar battery

0.30 MMG on Tripod with 5 crew (from weapons platoon/company?, count as full MMG to reflect fuller crew and extra ammo etc carried)

List 5

57mm AT gun with 5 crew and junior leader

List 6

Regular Para Squad

I know the intention of counting support as regular, but with paras who were trained to fight as they landed with who they met, should the above pure para options count as elite, and if so should they count as a higher support level?

Additional support would be as per normal lists and would not be subject to above rule if used.

Last edited by [Fettster](#) on Mon Dec 22, 2014 8:23 pm, edited 1 time in total.

Kind Regards

Leigh

Re: US para M1918 MGs

by [Emilio](#) » Tue Dec 23, 2014 12:09 am

I like it. Good work Leigh.



CENTRO CULTURAL ESCALA

<https://sites.google.com/site/centroculturalescal/Home>**Re: US para M1918 MGs**by **hedgehobbit** » Tue Dec 23, 2014 8:10 pm

Three men crews seemed to be the standard in squad level M1919A4s. Well, three crewmen and a squad leader/asst. squad leader. This is how the US armored infantry squads worked*. The M1917 normally had a four man crew and the M1919A6 actually only used a two-man crew. Again, this goes back to the debate as to whether or not ammunition bearers should be considered crew or riflemen. I prefer the latter but I think I'm in the minority in this respect.

Great detail on US MG usage is found in FM 23-55 starting with page 57.

<https://archive.org/details/FM23-55>

*It could be argued from FM 17-71 that the LMGs in the LMG squad of the US armored rifle platoon only have two-man crews.

Re: US para M1918 MGsby **lebedo** » Mon Dec 27, 2021 1:53 pm

From what I remember, there was a post where Richard explained that Hmg and Mmg crews from support list had no leaders so that they are not too powerful. Also another post, or the same, explained that only the platoon mmg or lmg could split between crews and riflemen. Others were voluntarily only crews.

Re: US para M1918 MGsby **DougM** » Wed Dec 29, 2021 6:49 pm

A couple of notes on the list that Leigh has proposed. It generally looks good for the core platoon. But I would be cautious about making all US Airborne elite. I believe the intention was to increasingly restrict this to small specific units. A red dice would be more appropriate.

In the support list - BAR for each squad for only List 1? Seems a bargain, compared say to extra VB ammunition in the French lists which is List 1 for 1 man...

<https://aleadodysey.blogspot.com/>

Re: US para M1918 MGsby **Truscott Trotter** » Wed Dec 29, 2021 10:06 pm

Yeah I read it as 1 pt for 1 BAR for 1 asquad

Emilio

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