3RD GREEK MOUNTAIN BRIGADE OFFICIAL BRIEFING

THE 3RD GREEK MOUNTAIN BRIGADE IN ITALY, 1944



By Wayne Turner

LATE-19 AS

FLAMES OF WAR.

THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME

3RD GREEK MOUNTAIN BRIGADE

The 1st Greek Brigade was formed in Palestine in 1941. The soldiers that formed this unit were escaped Greek military personnel from Greece and Crete, and volunteer Greek overseas residents. The brigade had a total strength of 4,500 with three infantry battalions, an artillery regiment, engineer company and machine-gun company. In July 1942 the 2nd Greek Brigade was formed at Almiriya Camp in Egypt.

The 1st Greek Brigade took part in the battle of El Alamein in October-November 1942 and fought well, but due to various political struggles and disruption throughout the Greek forces in Mediterranean, the brigade was disbanded after a communist inspired mutiny in April 1944.

The most 'reliable' Greek soldiers were then formed into the 3rd Mountain Brigade under the command of Colonel Thrassivoulos Tsakalotos. The new formation consisted of three infantry battalions, a regiment of field artillery and attached support troops, approximately 3000 men. Some of the Greeks were veterans from Albania and El Alamein, but others were yet to see action.

ITALY

In August 1944 the 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade was attached to the 2nd New Zealand Division and the New Zealand commander, General Freyberg, inspected them at Taranto on

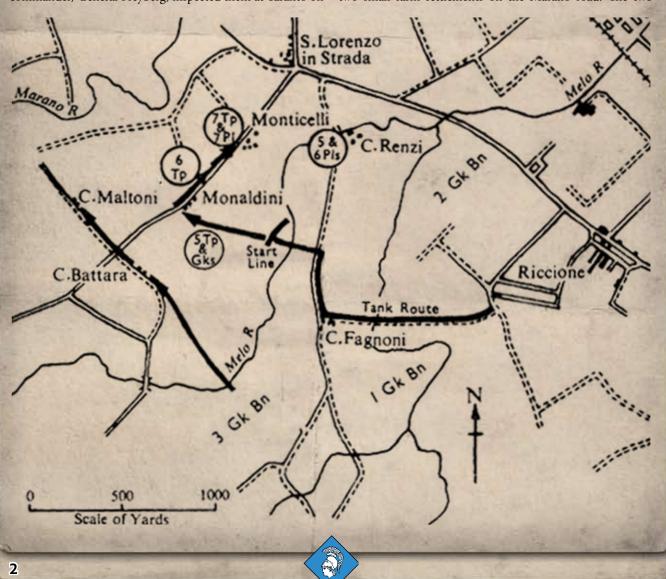
17 August and was impressed by the Greeks' bearing. The Brigade then joined the New Zealanders in an exercise to familiarise the officers with all-arms co-operation and communication.

By the September the brigade was positioned near the village of Catalica, just south of the city of Rimini. On 8 and 10 September the brigade was engaged by two strong German attacks. The Greeks held their line and pushed the Germans back, and then launched a counterattack to take Rimini.

RIMINI

The Greeks were by then attached to the 1st Canadian Division, but could expect support from their New Zealand friends who were in reserve. To provide the Greeks some armoured support B squadron, 20th New Zealand Armoured Regiment was initially attached to the Greek brigade. For the protection of the tanks the 22nd New Zealand Motor Battalion was attached. Additional firepower was given to the Greek Brigade in the form of the Canadian Saskatoon Light Infantry (SLI), with a Heavy Mortar company and a Machine-gun company supporting. The New Zealand 33 Anti-tank battery (17pdrs) was positioned behind the Greeks for the attack.

The attack began on 13 September with the Greeks attacking two small farm settlements on the Marano road. The two



settlements (Mondaldini and Monticelli) were defended by 1. Fallschirmjäger Regiment and some Ostruppen described as Turkomen (likely a Turkestani Ostlegion battalion from the 162. Infanteriedivision). The Germans were well prepared and held off the Greeks.

The following day the New Zealand support was called up to aid the Greeks. 7 and 8 Troop of the B Squadron, 20th Armoured Regiment we assigned to the Greeks and took part in the attack on Monaldini, while soon after a platoon from 22nd Motor Battalion aided the attack on Monticelli with the support of 5 and 6 Troops' Shermans. By 2000 hours the Monaldini farm had been taken, with only light casualties. The focus then turned to Monticelli, where the Greeks and New Zealanders once again attacked. The German defenders cleared out of the position as soon as the attackers approached and the farm was in Allied hands a short time later.

On 15 September the Greeks launched an assault on the Rimini airfield. The 1st Greek Battalion crossed the Marano River (in truth a stream with only a gentle flow of water) at 1000 hours, and immediately came under intense fire from German positions around the airfield. The Greeks halted to re-organise themselves for an attack. The C Squadron, 18th New Zealand Armoured Regiment replaced the 20th Armoured Regiment in the line supporting the Greeks. Air support was called in and Allied fighter/bombers attacked the western side of the airfield, and the Greeks attacked shortly afterwards.

The 1st Battalion attacked the airfield itself, the 2nd Battalion then attacked up the Route 16 road and the 3rd Battalion attacked the small village of Casalecchio. The 1st Battalion once more ran into stiff resistance from the airfield defenders. Heavy fire from airfield inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing Greeks, however support from the New Zealand tanks and infantry was better co-ordinated as one of the New Zealand officers spoke Greek. The tanks were able to fire on each house lining the south of the airfield to ensure they weren't occupied. As the Greeks and New Zealanders approached the defensive positions the came under fire from infantry, Panzerschrecks, self-propelled guns, and emplaced Panther turrets. The heavy fire pinned the Greeks just short of the airfield. Meanwhile the tanks edged around a hedgerow to avoid the anti-tank fire, but soon found themselves at the forefront of the attack.

A German self-propelled gun knocked out a Sherman, but the New Zealanders continued forward and knocked out enemy positions with high-explosives and grenades, forcing the Germans withdraw from their positions. The crew of the Panther turret abandoned it during the night.

The 2nd Battalion, on the right of the brigade, attacked up the

Route 16 road, but became separated from their supporting New Zealand tanks. The Greeks were halted by mines and heavy defensive fire from the east side of the airfield and nearby houses.

The 3rd Battalion attacked the village of Caselecchio on the left flank, supported by New Zealand tanks and infantry. The little village stood on a crossroads with a few houses and a church. The Greek infantry quickly cleared the houses, but the *Fallschirmjäger* in the church proved harder to budge. The church was finally cleared when a combined attack by Greek and New Zealand infantry and tanks finally drove the paratroopers out. However heavy machine-gun and mortar fire from the airfield halted any further advance.

The following day (16 September) the Greeks continued to mop up around the airfield, though they held most of the airfield, one Panther turret was still in operation. The 3rd Battalion advanced up the left through the hedges and ditches beyond Caselecchio until they came level with the 1st Battalion in the centre, their task was made difficult as they had to occasionally clear minefields and were under constant fire. The 2nd Greek Battalion advanced up the right flank of the airfield. Anti-tank fire was lighter than the previous day.

The following day the three battalions continued their advance. Several attempts were made to knock out the remaining Panther turret with aircraft and artillery, but it finally fell to one of the New Zealand Sherman tanks to work around the flank of the turret. It fired several anti-tank rounds into the turret before the crew were eventually persuaded to evacuate.

Once the airfield was taken the 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade turned its attention towards Rimini itself. On 18 September the 2nd and 3rd Battalions pushed on to Rimini, towards the coastal suburbs of the town. They encountered heavy resistance once again from the German *Fallschirmjäger*, but with the aid of New Zealand and Canadian support were finally able to push into the outskirts of the town on 21 September. They pushed into Rimini from the south, only to find the city abandoned by the Germans, who were forced to withdraw after the fall of Fortunato.

RETURN TO GREECE

Shortly after the fall of Rimini the brigade was sent to Greece to seize control of Athens and prevent the ELAS communists from taking control of the country after to withdrawal of the Germans.

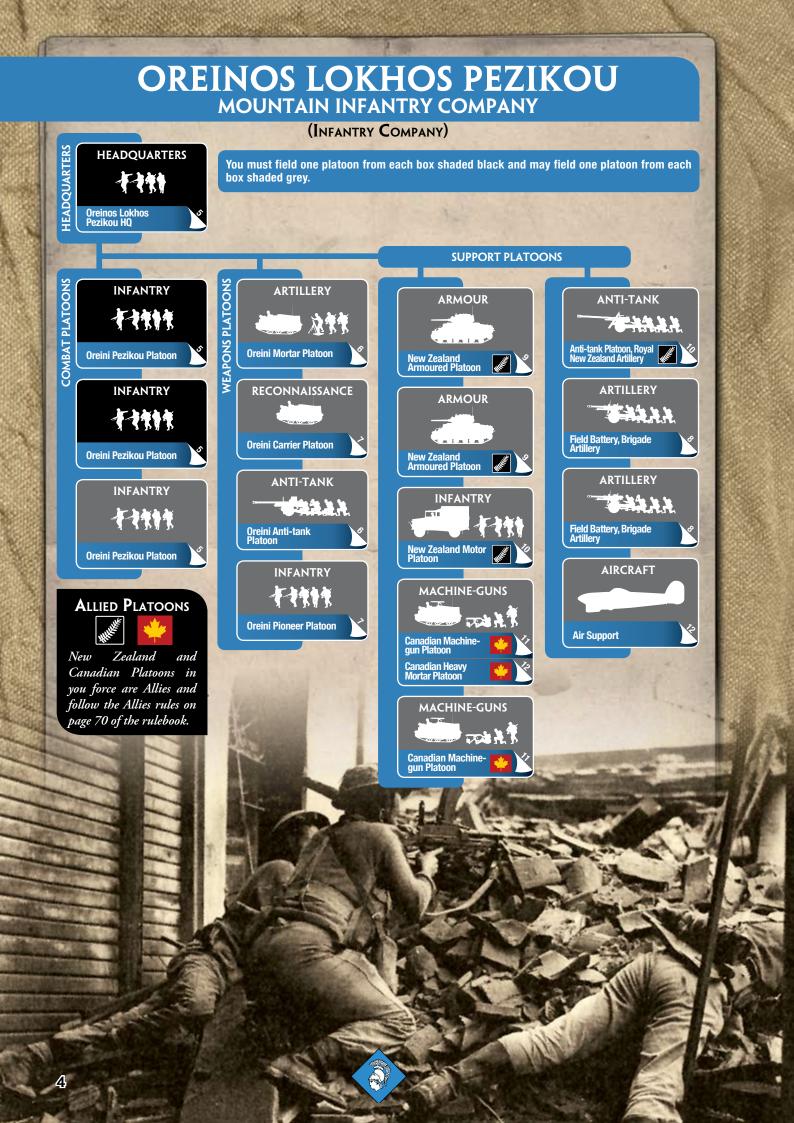
After fighting in the Greek Civil War the 3rd Greek Mountain brigade went on to form the basis of today's regular Greek army.

GREEK SPECIAL RULES

The Greek forces in Italy were trained and organised along British lines and use the following British Special Rules: *Night Attack; Advance Under Darkness; Eight-gun Batteries; Rounds*

on the Ground; and Mike Target, found in the Flames Of War rulebook.

Additional Greek special rules can be found on page 13 of this PDF.



MOTIVATION AND SKILL

New Zealand commander, General Freyberg, inspected the Greeks at Taranto on 17 August 1944 and was impressed by the Greeks' bearing. The 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade was later highly praised for its fighting spirit. A Greek Oreinos Lokhos Pezikou is rated as Fearless Trained.



HEADQUARTERS

OREINOS LOKHOS PEZIKOU HQ

HEADQUARTERS

Company HQ

30 points

OPTIONS

- Add Jeep or Troop Carrier for +5 points.
- Add up to three Sniper teams for +50 points per team.

The Greek *Oreinos Lokhos Pezikou* (mountain company infantry) commander may only have a limited selection of Greek support platoons to support his brave Greek soldiers, but he can always rely on the support of his Allies.



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COMBAT PLATOONS

OREINI PEZIKOU PLATOON

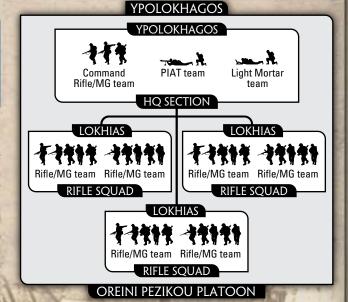
PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Rifle Squads 170 points 2 Rifle Squads 130 points

The *Oreini Pezikou* (mountain infantry) Platoons have been formed from the most political reliable and dedicated men. Among them are old hands, veterans from the beginning of the war in Albania, Greece and Crete, as well as those who had already serve alongside the British in North Africa, and new recruits escaped from occupied Greece and volunteered from around the world.

They have been trained and equipped in the best of British tactics and weapons, and are prepared to fight in Italy, as once the Italians had invaded Greek soil. Revenge is sweet!



WEAPONS PLATOONS

OREINI MORTAR PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

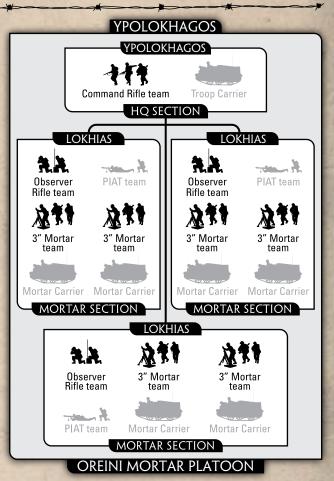
3 Mortar Sections	150 points
2 Mortar Sections	105 points
1 Mortar Section	50 points

OPTIONS

- Add PIAT teams for +15 points per team.
- Add Troop and Mortar Carriers to the platoon for +5 points for the platoon.

The battalion's mortar platoon offers ready mobile indirect fire for suppressing enemy strong points and concealing the company's movement.

Equipped with British 3" mortars the Greeks can call down fire whenever needed.



OREINI ANTI-TANK PLATOON

PLATOON

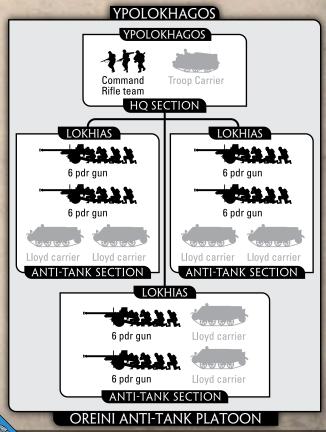
HQ Section with:

3 Anti-tank Sections 170 points
2 Anti-tank Sections 115 points
1 Anti-tank Section 60 points

OPTION

 Add Troop and Lloyd Carriers to the platoon for +5 points for the platoon.

The Battalion's anti-tank assets are precious, but give the Greeks some handy defence against enemy armoured attacks.



OREINI CARRIER PLATOON

PLATOON

1 Carrier Patrol

80 points

OPTIONS

- Arm any or all Universal Carriers with an extra hullmounted MG for +5 points per carrier or 0.5" MG for +10 points per carrier.
- Replace up to to one extra hull-mounted MG with a PIAT anti-tank projector at no cost.

A Oreini Carrier Platoon is a Reconnaissance Platoon.

YPOLOKHAGOS

YPOLOKHAGOS







Universal Universal Carrier Carrier

CARRIER PATROL

OREINI CARRIER PLATOON

With less available Carrier Patrols than British units the Greeks have to spread their recce resources thinly.

OREINI PIONEER PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

2 Assault Squads

75 points

OPTIONS

- Add 15 cwt truck and Jeeps with trailers to the platoon for +5 points.
- Replace 15 cwt truck with an M5 half-track for +5 points.

Each battalion has its own platoon of pioneers and sappers. The pioneers receive additional training in the specialist areas of field fortifications and obstacles. They have proven their worth time and time again in Africa and Italy, clearing the way for infantry assaults against the German's defences.

YPOLOKHAGOS

YPOLOKHAGOS



15cwt truck

Rifle team

HQ SECTION



ASSAULT SQUAD

Command Pioneer

Rifle team

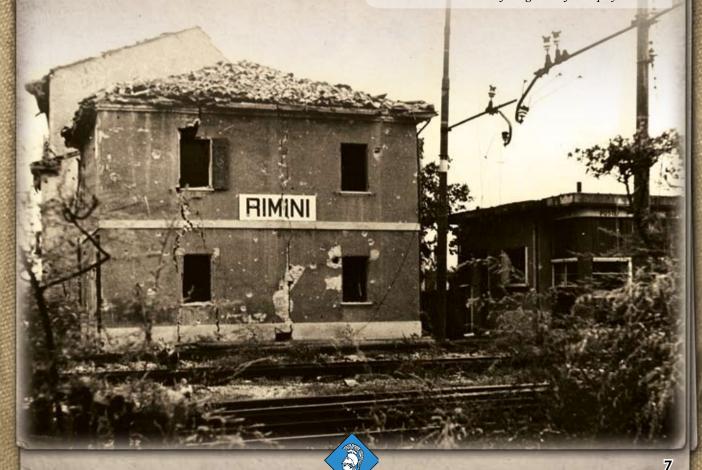
Pioneer Rifle team

Jeep with trailer

ASSAULT SQUAD

OREINI PIONEER PLATOON

You may replace up to one Pioneer Rifle team with a Flamethrower team at the start of the game before deployment.



BRIGADE SUPPORT PLATOONS

FIELD BATTERY, BRIGADE ARTILLERY

PLATOON

HQ Troop with:

Two Gun Troops with a total of:

8 OQF 25 pdr

280 points

One Gun Troop with a total of:

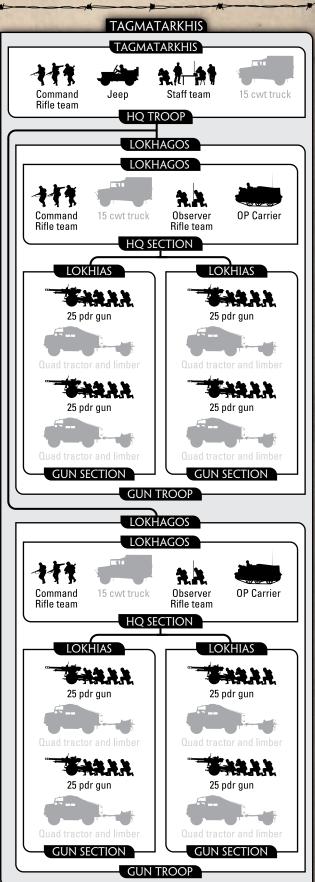
4 OQF 25 pdr 165 points 2 OQF 25 pdr 95 points

OPTIONS

- Add 15 cwt trucks and Quad tractors for +5 points per Gun Troop.
- Replace the HQ Troop jeep with a White scout car for +5 points.

Although a Field Battery, Brigade Artillery is a single Support choice, each Gun Troop operates as a separate platoon with its own Command team. The Command team and Staff team of the HQ Troop must be attached to a Gun Troop from its battery at the start of the game before deployment, see the British Artillery special rules on page 248 of the rulebook.

The 3rd Greek Mountain brigade is supported by a regiment of artillery equipped with the British 25 pdr guns. The Greeks can always call on their own guns when the toughest enemy positions need to be cleared.



FIELD BATTERY, BRIGADE ARTILLERY

NEW ZEALAND SUPPORT

In August 1944 the 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade was attached to the 2nd New Zealand Division. While fighting for Rimini the Greeks could expect support from their New Zealand friends who were in reserve. All New Zealand Support platoons are rated **Confident Veterans.**

New Zealand Platoons use the normal British special rules found in the Flames Of War rulebook and the New Zealand special rule below. New Zealand Platoons are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.



NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL RULES

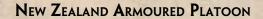
4 BY 2 AND NO. 8 WIRE

New Zealand is a small remote country and its soldiers had to learn to make do or do without while they were growing up. As they say in New Zealand, they could make anything with a bit of 4 by 2 timber and some No. 8 fencing wire! This independence carried over to their military operations. Everyone was told the

plan before each attack, and if an officer was killed, there would always be someone to work out what to do now.

New Zealand Platoons use the German Mission Tactics special rule (see page 242 of the rulebook).

SUBALTERN



PLATOON

WARE THE PERSON NAMED IN

3 Sherman III

270 points

OPTION

 Arm all Sherman tanks with AA MG for +5 points for the platoon or arm any or all Sherman tanks with a .50 cal AA MG for +5 points per tank.

Troops from both the 20 and 18 Armoured Regiments fought with the Greeks during the fighting for Rimini Airfield.

To provide the Greeks some armoured support B squadron, 20th New Zealand Armoured Regiment, was initially attached to the Greek brigade on 13 September 1944. On 15 September C Squadron, 18th New Zealand Armoured Regiment, replaced the 20th Armoured Regiment in the line supporting the Greeks

SUBALTERN

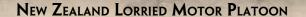
Command Sherman
HQ TANK

SERGEANT
Sherman
TANK



NEW ZEALAND ARMOURED PLATOON

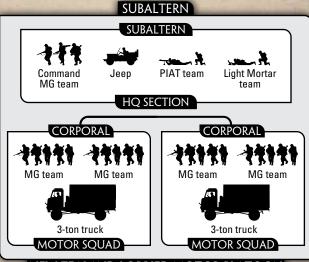






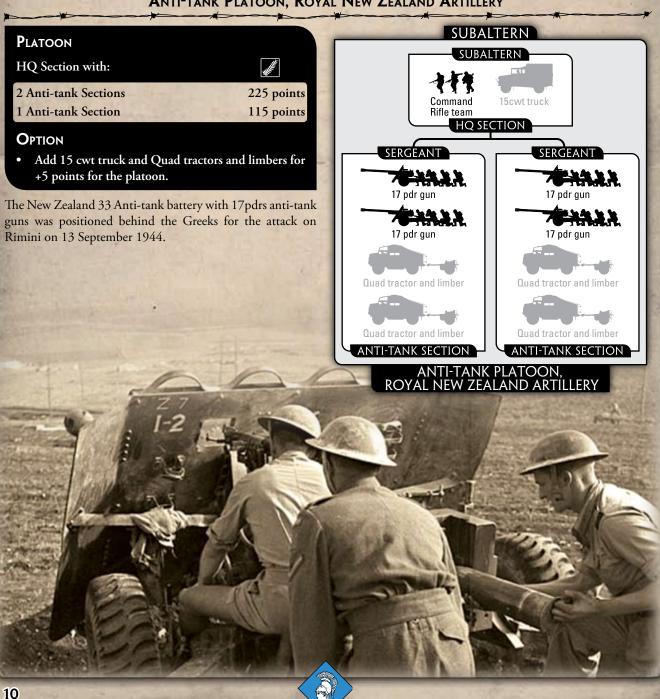
For the protection of the New Zealand tanks the 22nd New Zealand Motor Battalion fought in direct support of the Greeks during the fighting for Rimini Airfield.

A platoon from 22nd Motor Battalion aided the Greek attack on Monticelli with the support of 5 and 6 Troops' Sherman tanks from B Squadron, 20th New Zealand Armoured Regiment.



NEW ZEALAND LORRIED MOTOR PLATOON

ANTI-TANK PLATOON, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY



CANADIAN SUPPORT

The Greeks were attached to the 1st Canadian Division during the attack on Rimini. Additional firepower was given to the Greek Brigade in the form of the Canadian Saskatoon Light Infantry, with a Heavy Mortar company and Machine-gun company supporting. All Canadian Support platoons are rated **Confident Veterans.**

Canadian Platoons use the normal British special rules found in the Flames Of War rulebook, except British Bulldog and the Canadian special rules below. Canadian Platoons are Allies and follow the Allies rules on page 70 of the rulebook.



CANADIAN SPECIAL RULES

A Canadian Armoured Platoon uses all of the British special rules, except for British Bulldog. They also use the following special rules listed below.

ASSAULT TROOPS

The Canadians have maintained their enviable reputation as aggressive assault troops, unwilling to be stopped by enemy fire, no matter how heavy.

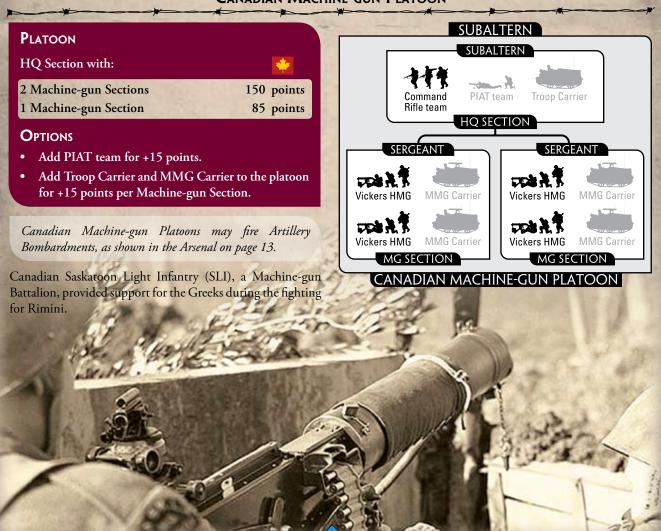
A Canadian Armoured Platoon does not use the British Bulldog special rule. Instead any Canadian Platoon that is Pinned Down my re-roll failed Motivation Tests to rally from being Pinned Down or to remount vehicles after being Bailed Out.

WOODSMEN

Although Canada has been settled for centuries, it was not until the Nineteenth Century that its population underwent significant growth and it remains a largely rural country. Canadian soldiers are typically a little more independent (and unruly) than British soldiers.

A Canadian Platoon uses the German Mission Tactics special rule (See page 242 of the rulebook).

CANADIAN MACHINE-GUN PLATOON



CANADIAN HEAVY MORTAR PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:



2 Mortar Sections 1 Mortar Section 165 points 90 points

OPTIONS

- Add PIAT team for +15 points.
- Add Troop Carrier and Lloyd Carriers for +5 points for the platoon.

The Heavy Mortars of the Saskatoon Light Infantry (SLI) provided support for the Greeks during the fighting for Rimini.

The 4.2" mortars' plunging fire makes them of great value among the steep hills of Italy. Because the mortar bombs fall with little warning, the Germans hate the heavy mortars more than any other weapon.

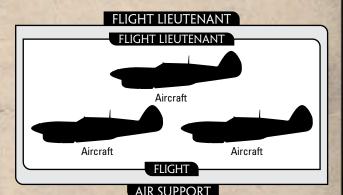
Command Observer Rifle team Troop Carrier Troop Carrier Rifle team HQ SECTION SERGEANT 4.2" Mortar team 4.2" Mortar team Lloyd carrier Lloyd carrier MORTAR SECTION SERGEANT Lloyd carrier Lloyd carrier MORTAR SECTION

CANADIAN HEAVY MORTAR PLATOON

AIR SUPPORT

LIMITED AIR SUPPORT Kittyhawk or Spitfire 130 points SPORADIC AIR SUPPORT Kittyhawk or Spitfire 95 points

The Royal Air Force provided the Eighth Army with air cover, hitting enemy targets whenever they could, although perhaps not as often as the soldiers on the ground would have hoped for!





GREEK SPECIAL RULES

The Greek forces in Italy were trained and organised along British lines and use the following British Special Rules: Night Attack; Advance Under Darkness; Eight-gun or Twelve-gun Batteries; and Mike Target, found on pages 246 to 248 of the Flames Of War rulebook.

Additionally Greek platoons use the following special rules.

MOUNTAINEERS

Mountain fighting was nothing outside the ordinary for the typical Greek soldier who was accustomed to the mountainous terrain of Greece.

All Greek Infantry and Man-packed Gun teams are Mountaineers (see page 61 of the rulebook).

Осн!

When Mussolini demanded that the Greeks submit to Italian occupation, Ioannis Metaxas' reply was short and to the point: 'Ochi!' or 'No!'. This defiance continues in Italy.

COME AND GET THEM! When the Persians demanded that the Greeks lay down their weapons and submit to their rule, King Leonidas famously responded, 'Come and get them!' Though two millennia have passed since then, the Greek answer to Italy's ultimatum was

A Greek platoon may Charge into Combat and Consolidate without having a Platoon Command team, and if it does so,

identical. If the Germans wanted the Greeks to lay down

their arms, they would have to come and get them!

the Assaulting teams do not need to be or remain In Command.

When Greek platoons test their Motivation to Counterattack in assaults, you may re-roll the die and apply the re-rolled result to all Greek platoons that failed on the original roll.



ARSENAL

TANK TEAMS

Name Weapon	Mobility <i>Range</i>	Front ROF	Armour Side <i>Anti-tank</i>	Top Firepower	Equipment and Notes
Tanks			-		TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA
Sherman III M3 75mm gun	Standard Tank 32"/80cm	6 2	4 10	1 3+	Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Tow hook. Semi-indirect fire, Smoke.
RECONNAISSANCE					
Universal Carrier With PIAT anti-tank projector	Half-tracked 8"/20cm	0 1	0 10	0 5+	Hull MG. Hull-mounted
With .5" MG	16"/40cm	3	4	5+	Hull-mounted
Indian Pattern Carrier With .5" MG	Jeep 16"/40cm	0 3	0 4	0 5+	Hull MG. Hull-mounted
VEHICLE MACHINE-GUN	15				
Vehicle MG	16"/40cm	3	2	6	ROF 1 if other weapons fire.
.50 cal Vehicle MG	16"/40cm	3	4	5+	ROF 1 if other weapons fire.

GUN TEAMS

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Vickers HMG	Man-packed	24"/60cm	6	2	6	ROF 3 when pinned down or moving.
Firing bombardments		40"/100cm	-			
ML 3" Mk II Mortar	Man-packed	24"/60cm	2	2	3+	Smoke, Minimum range 8"/20cm.
Firing bombardments		40"/100cm		2	6	Smoke bombardment.
ML 4.2" mortar	Light	48"/120cm	- 35	3	4+	Smoke bombardment.
OQF 6 pdr gun	Medium	24"/60cm	3	10	4+	Gun shield.
OQF 17 pdr gun	Immobile	32"/80cm	2	13	3+	Gun shield, No HE.
OQF 25 pdr gun	Heavy	24"/60cm	2	9	3+	Gun shield, Smoke, Turntable.
Firing bombardments		80"/200cm		4	5+	Smoke bombardment.

INFANTRY TEAMS

Team	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Rifle team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	
Rifle/MG team	16"/40cm	2	2	6	
MG team	16"/40cm	3	2	6	ROF 2 when pinned down.
Light Mortar team	16"/40cm	1	1	4+	Smoke, Can fire over friendly teams.
PIAT team	8"/20cm	1	10	5+	Tank Assault 4.
Staff team			cannot shoot		Moves as a Heavy Gun team.

Additional Training and Equipment

Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 3.

TRANSPORT TEAMS

Vehicle	Mobility	Front	Side	Top	Equipment and Notes
Jeep	Jeep	-	-	-	
CMP, Bedford or Morris 15-cwt or 3-ton truck	Wheeled	- 13	3	-	
Quad or Morris AA tractor	Wheeled	-	-	-	
Troop, OP, Mortar. Lloyd Carrier	Half-tracked	0	0	0	
MMG Carriers	Half-tracked	0	0	0	HMG Carrier, Passenger-fired hull MG.
White scout car	Jeep	1	0	0	A STATE OF THE STA
OP Carrier	Half-tracked	0	0	0	

AIRCRAFT

Aircraft	Weapon	To Hit	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes	
Kittyhawk	MG	3+	6	5+		
	Bombs	4+	5	1+		
Spitfire	MG	3+	7	5+		
	Bombs	4.	5	2+		