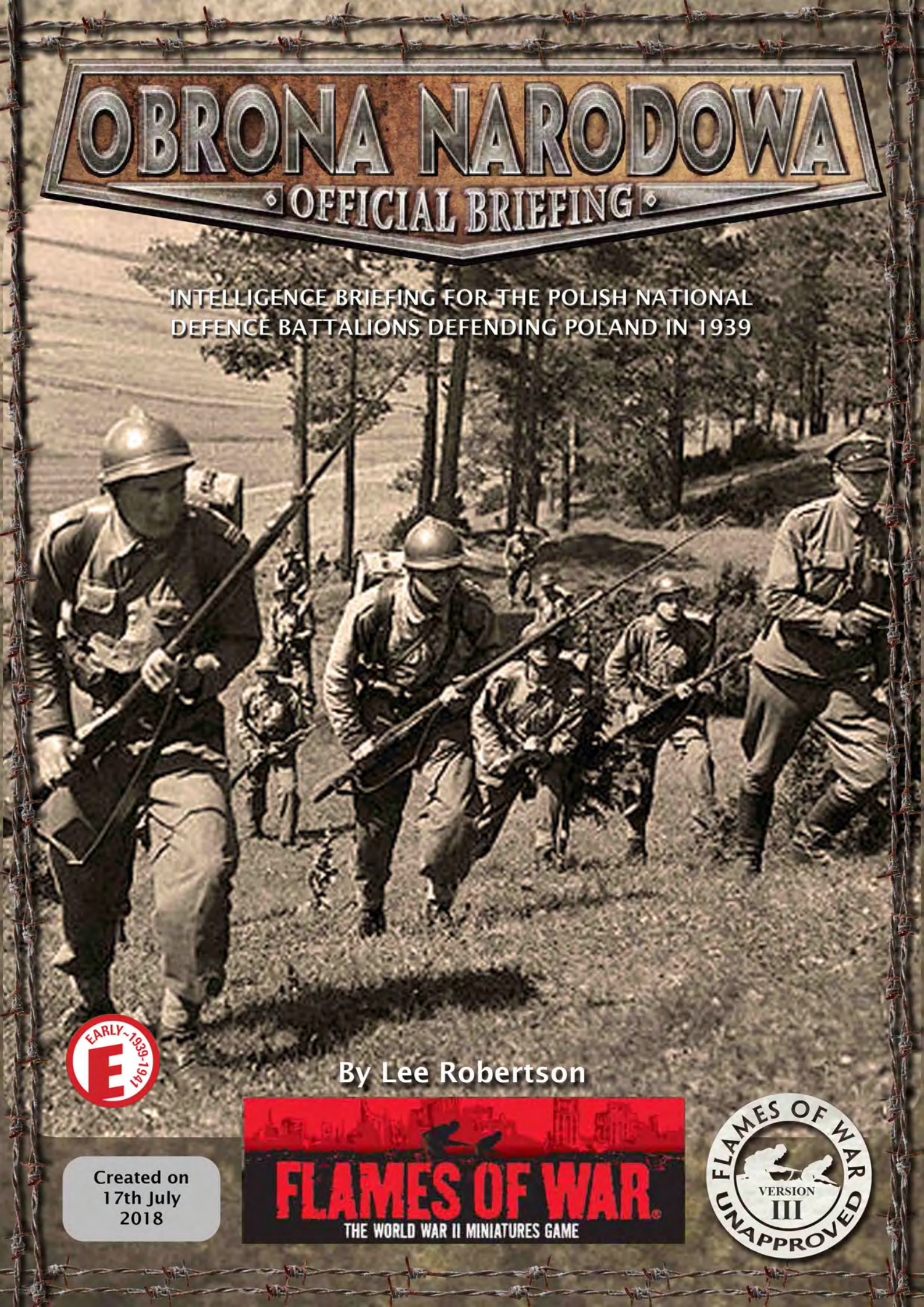


# OBRONA NARODOWA

## OFFICIAL BRIEFING

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING FOR THE POLISH NATIONAL  
DEFENCE BATTALIONS DEFENDING POLAND IN 1939



By Lee Robertson

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Obrona Narodowa was compiled from a number of Polish language sources but primarily the work of Kazimierz Pindel 'Obrona Narodowa 1937-39. This Intelligence Briefing was compiled as a non-profit supporting document for use with Flames of War v3 and has been produced as an unofficial guide with no responsibility for word or image held by Battlefront.

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# Introduction

## FLAMES OF WAR

In Flames of War you take on the role of a Company Commander manoeuvring your troops across the battlefields of WWII. This classic period of warfare is brought to life in the comfort of your own games room. Obrona Narodowa provides lists and forces for you to field all of the Polish National Defence formations that had a hand in trying to protect their reborn homeland in 1939. This Intelligence Briefing allows you to field troops chiefly from the National Defence but also drawing support from the Gorale Highlanders of the Tatras, Beskids and Karpaty, regular Infantry and Cavalry, Armour, KOP and Blue Police amongst other options as they all fought together to hold back the German, Slovak and Soviet invaders.

## WHY COLLECT A FORCE OF OBRONA NARODOWA

Every man and his dog has heard stories of how the glorious German armies steamrolled straight over the top of the antiquated, poor and badly trained forces of Poland in 1939 but the truth is somewhat more sanguine.

Polands troops were indeed antiquated with largely obsolete training methodologies but nonetheless they were highly motivated and very well trained. They repeatedly fought tooth and nail, hammering the Germans to a standstill in their assaults at the tactical level and there are few troops who achieved this as frequently as they did as those of the National Defence forces.

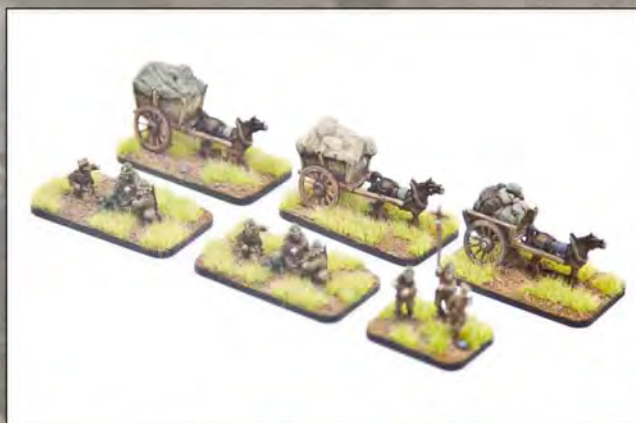
To all intents and purposes they were a civilian militia under arms that were seen as fulfilling tasks in the less dangerous sectors of the front or behind the front line but the precipitous collapse of the Polish front lines thrust these weekend warriors straight into the teeth of the Nazi tidal wave... and boy oh boy did they step up to the plate!

From the Baltic Coast in the north to the Karpaty in the south the battalions of the National Defence force had to cope with a war of manoeuvre without the ability to keep up with fast moving troops, they had to use old and out-dated weaponry without adequate stores of ammunition and in almost all cases they had to march away from hearth and home knowing that they were leaving their families to the tender mercies of the Nazi warmachine.

Despite all of this they never shirked their responsibilities and because of the ammunition situation resorted to the bayonet perhaps more than anybody else in Poland.

They constantly surprised a military hierarchy who looked down their noses at the Obrona Narodowa viewing them as little more than an experiment and repeatedly fought so hard that regular divisions fleeing the battlefields of Poland could survive to fight another day at the cost of their own blood.

You will find a great variety of forces to play with when choosing to field a National Defence Company but can you lead the National Defence to more glory or will you go meekly into the dark as you run out of ammunition and get surrounded by your lack of mobility?







# The History of the Obrona Narodowa

The National Defence (Obrona Narodowa) was a territorial military formation that existed in Poland between 1937 and 1939. It comprised a system of Brigades and Half-Brigades which were each assigned to the various District Corps Headquarters where in times of national danger they would be subordinated to specific Polish army groups based on perceived local needs.

## Establishment of the National Defence Organisation

On 9 April 1936, by special decree of President Ignacy Moscicki a National Defence Fund (Fundusz Obrony Narodowej) was authorised as a way to narrow the funding gap for Poland's massive military modernisation projects that Marshall Edward Rydz-Smigly was insisting on, provide funds for research and development of new military assets and the establishment of new formations of the armed forces for the defence of the Nation.

The response from the nation was incredible with over 1 billion złoty being raised, of which almost 40 million alone was due to personal 'gifts to the nation'. Citizens across the whole country would surrender their savings, children would donate their pocket money and in frequent cases of beneficence individuals would donate jewellery, family heirlooms, plate, utensils and anything else precious that they had sequestered within their homes.

This patriotism was not limited to ethnic Poles either. It was common for national minorities to get involved in supporting the state. In the town of Krzeszowice alone, Jews comprised 17 percent of the population but provided 36 percent of the overall money and valuables that were donated.

These collections also took place abroad with the Polish Falcons of America raising American money for the National Defence Fund, and the Poles living in Yugoslavia being another prominent example of exemplary extra-national patriotism and contribution.

Following a lengthy period of conceptualisation and discussion about requirements and potential deployment usage General Tadeusz Kutrzeba (of 'The Bzura Counteroffensive' fame) and Colonel Julian Skokowski authored a concept piece for the raising of local civilian militias of a voluntary and part time nature to be supplemented with excess reservists. These would come to be known as the National Defence or in Polish, the 'Obrona Narodowa'.

The decision to actually proceed with establishing this organisation of National Defence units was taken in December 1936, with service in the National Defence units being based on tried and tested principles of Territorial Army units, a less well trained but numerically abundant troop type that would be able to fulfil a multitude of tasks behind the front line, leaving the main force troops to be used on the front lines as intended and perhaps at a stretch also being capable of deployment right at the front alongside regular troops.

On 5 December 1936 a letter was issued from the Ministry of Military Affairs authorising the formation of a system of National Defence Battalions to support the regular army in the field.

Soon after, on 22 January 1937 the first ordinance was released by the Ministry of Military Affairs (M.S Wojsk - Ministerstwo Spraw Wojskowych), which was the supreme organ of the States administration entrusted with the peacetime management of the armed services. It set the 1 February 1937 as the date on which the 23rd Infantry Division was instructed to form the organisational infrastructure for mustering the first National Defence units, such as the regional office for Physical Education and Military Training (two independent departments that were often partnered in regards to staff and practises).

These initial formations were created mainly in the industrial centres and were carried through to completion successfully. The first hurdle had been overcome and would determine what form the subsequent organisational decisions for the Obrona Narodowa would take.

This was almost immediately followed on 26 March 1937 with the Ministry of Military Affairs issuing the actual guidelines on how to go about forming these battalions as Secret Appendix No.3 to the Order Log of the Ministry of Military Affairs stating *"In order to deepen the military preparation of the citizens of the State and increase the peaceful size of the army, I order the creation of National Defence units according to the following principles: i) National Defence Units are military formations organised on the basis of territoriality. ii) The largest organisational unit is the ON Brigade consisting of: a brigade headquarters, a reconnaissance section, batteries or an artillery platoon, 4 or more battalions; or an ON half brigade consisting of: half-brigade headquarters, a reconnaissance section, possibly an artillery platoon and 2 or 3 battalions. The brigade and half brigade are subordinated in all respects to the corps commanders in whose territory it is*



*located. The labour authority of the Ministry of Military Affairs in relation to the ON units is the head of the Department of Infantry. Ministry of Military Affairs".*

By issuing this decree the creation of ten Obrona Narodowa brigades was instigated. These were:

- i. The Warsaw (Warszawska) ON Brigade
- ii. The Upper Silesian (Górnślaska) ON Brigade
- iii. The Silesian-Cieszyn (Ślasko-Cieszyńska) ON Brigade
- iv. The Lwow (Lwowska) ON Brigade
- v. The Carpathian (Karpacka) ON Half Brigade
- vi. The Pomeranian (Pomorska) ON Brigade
- vii. The Sub-Carpathian (Podkarpacka) ON Brigade
- viii. The Volhynian (Wołyńska) ON Half-Brigade
- ix. The Naval (Morska) ON Brigade
- x. The Dziśnieńska ON Half-Brigade

Raised in eight Corps District areas, these amounted to a total of 10 Brigades and Half-Brigades comprising 38 battalions and 117 companies.

Initially the National Defence units service was performed exclusively by volunteers of Polish nationality, unrestricted reserve soldiers and the unemployed, basically all of those that were not included in the initial general conscription orders. The basic organisation was by the battalion with varying levels of manpower depending upon which model of battalion you were serving in; Types I, II, III, IV and S (there were also a series of National Defence Cavalry squadrons that were allocated to Infantry Divisions to be used as reconnaissance elements as well).

Formations of the National Defence (ND) were provided for the short term defensive activities of any given area whereby the ND would assist in the defence of their own homes and other short-term defence tasks when under favourable field conditions, principally with the reciprocal support of regular troops.

National Defence formations were equipped with a variety of uniforms and equipment, rarely modern at inception, although by 1939 many Battalions had been issued uniforms that were to a larger degree identical to the regular army with the exception of formation markings, and a chronic lack of helmets and entrenching tools.

On 7 April 1939 a root and branch reorganisation of the existing National Defence force started to take place on the issue of ordnance L. 1022/Tjn by the Department for Infantry of the Ministry of Military Affairs. This dealt with the theoretical strengths and mobilisation plans for the type I, II and III Rifle Battalions of the Obrona Narodowa.

## Ordnance L.dz 1600/ Tjn

Ordnance L.dz 1600/ Tjn was issued on 27 April 1939 which covered the reorganisation of Type I ON Battalions. The Type I's were intended to fulfil guard duties behind the front lines in Corps Military Districts No. II, III, VI and X (Lublin, Grodno, Lwow and Przemyśl respectively). It was determined that the Type I battalions were still very weak and on 1 May 1939 the Department of Infantry (of the Ministry of Military Affairs) made the decision to assign each battalion a heavy machine gun company of 12 HMGs (usually Bergmann wz.1915's) as well as each rifle platoon of the battalion receiving one LMG in order to provide a little extra clout if they were called to account.

Alongside the final reorganisation of the Type I battalions the Type II, so called 'Pomeranian' battalions were also refined under the same ordnance. Six battalions of this type, all originally formed in 1937 were reformed under this ordnance with their numerical size, equipment and arms making them almost equivalent to a regular infantry battalion. In Plan "Wschód" (The mobilisation plan for the breakout of war on the country's western borders) these battalions were assigned numbers between 81 to 86 and on mobilisation were to be the constituent parts of two reserve infantry regiments; 208th and 209th.

The National Defence Type II Battalions did not receive helmets or pistols for their officers who were instead equipped with the same rifles that their men were armed with.



Major General Tadeusz Kutrzeba



Again, under the same ordnance as the Type I and II battalions, the Type III 'Silesian' battalions were also subjected to reformation. There were nine Type III battalions all of which had been formed in 1937 with the exception of the 'Cieszyn II' battalion. Similar in aspect to the Pomeranian Type II battalions, their numerical strength, their establishment arms and equipment also made them comparable to a regular serving infantry battalion, especially given the fact they were the most completely reorganised of all ON battalions and were the only Type whose re-equipping with Polish home-produced weaponry was complete by the time the war started. They were allocated numbers between 50 to 58 and were to be the main serving elements of three reserve infantry regiments; 201st, 202nd and 203rd under the directive of Plan "Wschód".

The level of training and equipping that was provided to the Type II and III battalions gave them a perceived combat efficiency only a little below that of regular infantry battalions and as such were collected into their own regiments, a decision whose merit was proven by the service these reserve regiments provided in the September campaign.

The largest and best representative of a combined arms National Defence force was the Type IV battalions and they were also reformed under ordnance L.dz 1600/ Tjn. By the time the war started their establishment strength should have had a platoon of anti-tank guns allocated to each battalion, although this was rarely achieved, and with their manpower and support weapon strength, in theory they were the force most similar to a regular serving infantry battalion of all of the National Defence Force battalions, had their mobilisation and establishment strengths been successfully achieved before the outbreak of war.

However, just as with the Type II battalions, by the time the war started the Type IV battalions still had not been equipped with helmets or entrenching tools, many of the battalions had not received their full complement of anti-tank weaponry if at all and no pistols had been allocated, with the reserve officers being supplied with the same rifles as the soldiers under their command. Some had no light machine guns supplied such as the Kępno Battalion, whilst others had a complement of

of 27 provided, one for each section in the battalion such as the Koscian, Leszno and Rawicz battalions although these may have been drawn from old stocks of the WWI vintage Chauchat wz.15. The heavy machine guns that were allocated to the battalions would usually be one of two available types; either the retired stocks of Hotchkiss model 14 or Maxim wz.08's although it should be born in mind that the Maxim wz.08's also include within the nomenclature large supplies of the old Russian wheeled and shielded maxims and the British water cooled tripod mounted maxim as well as the actual German sled mounted ones.

Providing a measure of continuity in equipment for the troops of the Obrona Narodowa would seem to have proved to be somewhat of a tall order!

Finally, the Ordinance L.dz 1600/ Tjn also provided for the fresh formation of the Type S National Defence Battalions. It was anticipated that 12 such Type S Battalions would be established although by the time the war started only three such battalions had been formed, the Chorzow, Znin and Koronowo Battalions.

The Type S Battalions were formed to work alongside regular serving Fortress Companies and had an establishment and organisational structure that was somewhat similar. They were equipped with an abundance of HMG's and were supposed to have received anti-tank guns as well although, whilst receiving their full complement of weaponry of the same types that the regular army was issued with they never received their full complement of anti-tank guns or helmets. Sadly, the officers never received their pistols either subsequently being armed with the same weaponry as their troops.



The Poznan I National Defence Battalion on parade





## Later Phases

The second phase of the creation of the National Defence was instigated on 2 May 1939 which called for the start of the physical establishment of new National Defence Battalions and the reorganisation of existing ones with the issuing of Ordnances L.dz 1600/ Tjn. HE. and L.dz 1601/ Tjn.

With these new ordnances it was intended to increase the number of Brigades and Half-Brigades to 17 and the numbers of Battalions to 85.

In place of the organisational TO&E's for Type I, II, III & IV battalions the following organisational TO&E's were remodelled and introduced:

Brigade Headquarters (half-brigade) ON Type I  
Brigade Headquarters (half-brigade) ON Type II  
Battalion ON Type I  
Battalion ON Type II  
Battalion ON Type III  
Battalion ON Type IV  
Battalion ON Type 'S' (Fortress Garrisons. A June '39 mobilisation of 12 such battalions was planned)  
Company ON Type 'KS' (Fortress Garrison Cyclists)  
Company ON Type 'K' (Cyclists)

10 May 1939 saw the commander of Corps District Command No. VII in Poznan issue Ordinance L.dz 2398/ Tjn.Org.ON outlining the creation of ON units within Corps District No. VII. followed soon after on 31 May 1939 with Brigadier-General Kazimierz Sawicki being appointed General for Unit Affairs and Head of the National Defence Agency whilst also retaining the post of Director of the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training.

The 10 July 1939 saw a reshuffle on the administrative side of the ON infrastructure. The National Defence Department was legally separated from the M.S.Wojsk Infantry Department, and subsequently integrated into the Office for National Defence Units, a constituent branch of the National Defence Agency with the following officers chairing different verticals:

Head of the National Defence - Lieutenant Colonel Jozef Zoncyk-Bohusz  
Head of Organisational Documentation - Capt Kazimierz Gustaw Czermak  
Head of Budget - Captain Stanislaw Marian Bigo  
Head of Department - Major Tadeusz Wiktor Rozek

On 27 July 1939 the Office for Units of the Army issued Ordinance 136/ Tjn. for the formation of ON artillery platoons although sadly these measures were not immediately followed through with enough diligence. The needs of the professional armed forces had to take precedence at this time on account of the escalation of tensions across Poland's borders and Slovakia having recently become yet another hostile border.

Only three platoons of artillery pieces were released for use by the National Defence. Old world war one vintage mountain artillery pieces (65mm wz.06) that had been retired as no longer fit for frontline service. Whilst there were plenty in the depots only 3 platoons worth of cannon were released for use by the National Defence and all of these were provided to the battalions based along the southern frontier.

The Naval Brigade on the Baltic coast around Gdynia had a boost to its numbers on 28 July 1939: The Office for Units of the Army issued ordinance 182/ Tjn. for the formation of "Gdynia III" ON Battalion and the reorganisation of the "Gdynia II" ON Battalion and "Kashubian" ON Battalion into a newer Type IV organisational structure ensuring that each of the Battalions would have anti-tank and pioneer assets as well as an overall increase in numbers of boots on ground.

On the 2 August 1939 the "Dabrowa" ON Half-Brigade was ordered formed with the issue of ordinance 183/ Tjn. by the Office for Units of the Army.

The procedures by which troops of the ON would be called to the colours in an emergency were addressed more comprehensively on the 25 August 1939 by Brigadier-General Bronislaw Regulski, the Deputy to Brigadier-General T. Ksprzycki, the Minister of Military Affairs when he issued ordinance L.dz. 25/ mob.I regarding how the troops of the National Defence would be called to arms and gather together under emergency circumstances for active duty.





As a result of field trials it was determined that the command elements of the "Poznan" ON Brigade and the "Podhale" ON Brigade should be remodelled on the Type II Brigade Headquarters and in line with this ordnance L.dz. 349/ Tjn. was issued on 29 August 1939 by the Office for National Defence Units.

On the same day as the command elements of the "Poznan" and "Podhale" Brigades was ordered remodelled the Office for National Defence Units issued an order 183/ Tjn. for the formation of the National Defence Brigades in Strzelce.

On the 30 August 1939 the last ordnance concerning the perfection of the National Defence was issued as L.dz. 161/ Tjn. which instructed the Poznan District Corp headquarters to reform the "Poznan I & II" National Defence Battalions into Type S battalions.

These last couple of steps in Poland's relentless progression towards a perfect militia proved to be too little too late though.

Poland had run out of time...



National Defence troops on the march...

### The "Kurpie" National Defence Battalion

The "Kurpie" National Defence battalion was a part of the "Warszawska" National Defence Brigade but fought as a part of the 18th Infantry Division. The Battalion (without its 3 Company) occupied positions in the Dylewo region. 3 Company, under Lieutenant Szewczyk, with a platoon of light machine guns and a platoon of hmg's transported on *biedka* (hand carts) was subordinated to the commander of the "Myszyniec" Task Force, Captain Wacław Smakosz taking positions in the suburbs of Myszyniec.

On 1 September 1939 at 0600, units of the German 1st Cavalry Brigade, acting as the reconnaissance element for Panzer Division "Kempf" started attacking Myszyniec. Around 1000 the Germans, supported by five armoured cars had broken through the Polish defences and proceeded to occupy parts of the city. Lieutenant Szewczyk's company was not able to withstand the German attack and left the city in a panic. The "Myszyniec" task force was compelled to withdraw to their second line of defence in Kadzidło where the Battalions other companies and headquarters were already situated. Between 1300 and 1400 Captain Smakosz launched a counterattack with the aim of taking back Myszyniec but was unsuccessful. The National Defence soldiers armed only with Lebel and Berthier rifles were already lacking ammunition, a perennial problem throughout the National Defence forces in 1939.

The "Myszyniec" Task Force was reinforced by 42nd Infantry Regiments' 7 Company and at night retook Myszyniec almost without a shot being fired. In the morning of 2 September Panzer Division "Kempf's" reconnaissance elements once again attacked quickly, pushing the troops of the "Myszyniec" Task Force out of Myszyniec,



National Defence troopers being presented with flowers

### The Invasion of Poland 1st September 1939

There was a clear division in the manner under which the battalions of Poland's National Defence were employed in September '39. On the one hand those battalions that were employed on the front line and as a constituent part of the rapidly deteriorating war of manoeuvre that Poland's armed forces were subjected to generally fared quite badly, not having the organic tools to counter-act the German avalanche.

On the other hand, when one of these battalions combat value was taken into consideration and they were assigned tasks that were in line with the guidelines set out by War Office they generally fared quite well being able to use their own local environments to their best advantage.





propelling them all the way back to their third line of defence, positioned around Ostrołęka where they were able to achieve no more gains, being forced to contest every metre gained by the Poles.

The reaction of the Polish command to the second occupation of Myszyniec was to send 2 Company, 71st Infantry Regiment under Captain Naparlinski, reinforced with two anti-tank guns to Łyse. The task of recapturing Myszyniec was assigned to them. However, their counterattack also ended in failure. As a result of significant losses, this Company retreated to Nowogród. Her soldiers were incorporated into the Lieutenant Tarczałowicz's 8 Company in Szablaku. From 0800 on 2 September the Polish National Defence troops fought from their positions near Ostrołęka and continued to fight on as they were gradually pushed back into the areas of Kadzidła and Dylewo. During the battles that took place in the area of Kadzidła, 3 Company, after running out of ammunition, was forced to launch a bayonet charge to hold the Germans back.

By noon Lieutenant Szewczyk stated that 40 percent of his company's personnel were missing. He explained that the absence of such a large percentage of his troops was because of the fact that they came from villages in the area where the Germans were seen to be conducting hostile actions. Seeing the glow of fires caused by German artillery, they went to their homes to attempt to save their families and property. Around 2000 Lieutenant Szewczyk was also seriously wounded and removed from combat.

As a result of losses reaching critical levels, 3 Company along with the battalion commander Captain Nowicki also withdrew to Nowogród. After the fleeing troops were collected and reorganised, Command was forced to amalgamate the remnants in with Lieutenant Pajka's 9 Company and directed to the final defensive line at Nowogród where they were able to oversee this section of the Narew, keeping it free from enemy interference until 8 September.

On 8 September Germany launched their offensive against the Narew Line. During the retreat of Independent Operational Group "Narew", the "Kurpie" ON Battalion remained a constituent part of the 42nd Infantry Regiment as its 4th battalion. During the retreat from the edge of the Narew River to the Bug across the Andrzejewa-Długosiodła area, the composition of the battalion was degraded through combat casualties and fatigue to the status of a single company. During the retreat, the battalion lost its combat value and played no further role in the final battles of the 42nd Infantry Regiment. The Battalion shared the fate of the remaining forces of the 18th Infantry Division, which capitulated on 13 September at Andrzejew.

During the first couple of days of the war, the "Kurpie" National Defence Battalion was used in accordance with the guidelines set out in the June 1939 instructions. The battalions task of guarding the main defensive positions did not exceed its combat capabilities until Panzerdivision "Kempf" appeared on its sector of front. The battalion did not have much chance in battle, even against the weaker forces supporting Panzerdivision "Kempf" supported as it was by armoured weapons. During the retreat, the Battalion experienced a deep moral crisis resulting from the unfavourable course of combat operations.

### **The "Mazurski II" National Defence Battalion**

The "Mazurski II" National Defence Battalion was a constituent part of the "Warszawska" National Defence Brigade and owing to the manner of deployment for these battalions, was not attacked by the Germans on 1 September. Patrols sent



The Zawiercie National Defence Battalion marching to the front



Patrols sent by the Battalion into no-mans-land did not clash with enemy patrols either. They did not however, get away from the war scot free. Their positions were targeted by German artillery and brought under heavy and accurate fire.

On 2 September 1939, a platoon of this National Defence Battalion (commanded by Second-Lieutenant Józef Jan Śliwiński) fought a fierce engagement with German reconnaissance troops in the area of the Dwkoły Forest district. In the afternoon to the foreground of the National Defence battalion, the bridge in the area of Turza Mała was destroyed and the Battalion located in this area was withdrawn to the previously established main positions further back. In the late afternoon, the Battalion counter-attacked the German infantry intrusions. On 2 September, 1 Company commander, First-Lieutenant Stelagow was killed-in-action. Command was taken over by Second-Lieutenant (Reserve) Jan Kłobukowski.

By around 1500 on 3 September, the defensive positions of the "Mazurski II" Battalion had stabilised with no more serious clashes occurring. In the afternoon however, all hell was let loose. The Battalion's positions were smothered with an intense artillery barrage supported with machine gun fire. In the evening, 2 Company of the Battalion was subordinated to Major Wacław Kuczajowski and at 2300 he received from the Divisions staff, the order to defend the intermediate line across the hills around the village of Studzieniec.

The "Mazurski II" Battalion (without Lieutenant Jan Kłobukowski's company) at 0300 on 4 September received the order to leave their positions. The order was carried out at around 0700. The Battalion followed a route through Bogurzyn, Kowalewo, Dąbrowa, Mdzewo, Strzegowo, and Unierz. During the march however, the battalion was pushed off its axis by the retreating troops of the 8th Infantry Division and ended up marching with them to Raciąż and onwards to Płock.

The company of Lieutenant J. Kłobukowski, left as a rear-guard in the area of Studzieniec came under the fire of German artillery but tenaciously clung to its positions until receiving the order to retreat. By retreating through the burning village and the railway station in Mława-Wólka and onwards through Wojnowka, Wiśniewo, Podkrajewo, Strzegowo and on to Płock, this National Defence Company was the last active guard unit of the division in contact with the enemy.

During the retreat, the troops of the 8th and 20th Infantry Divisions became irrevocably mixed up and dispersed. The fate of these units was shared by the local National Defence Battalions. After the shattering of the units in each Division many of the National Defence troops were captured by the Germans. Some however managed to reach home again. The rest of the soldiers of the Battalions of the "Warszawska"



Distributing rkm wz.28's to the "Warszawska" ON Brigade

Brigade managed to reach Warsaw and took part in the defence of the capital.

The manner of using the battalions of the "Warszawska" National Defence Brigade was highly inappropriate from the point of view of their assigned functions over their designated sections. The dispersal of the battalions throughout the entire military area practically prevented proper command. Brigade command, best knowing the combat capabilities of individual battalions, did not actually seek to influence their operations, having been routinely bypassed by Army and Divisional Commands to whom they had been subordinated. The use of battalions in an impromptu manner (shortages of supplies, lack of confidence in their combat capabilities in some commands of permanent army units) undoubtedly influenced their attitude in further combat operations.



A National Defence communications centre

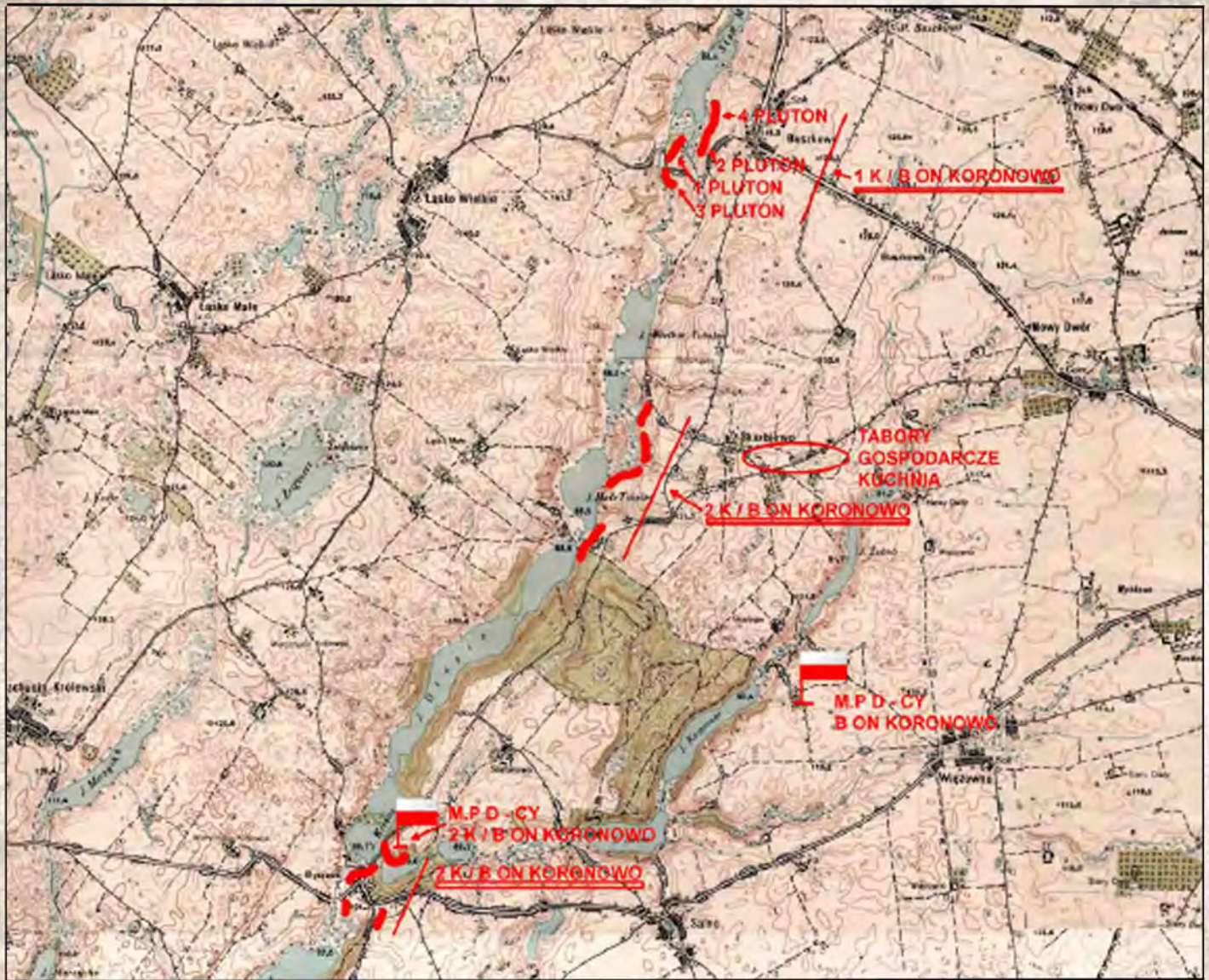




## The "Koronowa" National Defence Battalion

Army "Pomorze" had in theory eight battalions of National Defence troops at its disposal on the west bank of the Vistula, although in fact this was only actually seven. Of these seven the "Koronowa" Type 'S' National Defence Battalion was allocated to the 9th Infantry Division and were assigned to be a part of the "Koronowo" Shield Group tasked with defending a stretch of previously prepared positions around the Koronowo Lakes which practically fulfilled the function of the front gates to the town of Koronowo. They were also to conduct reconnaissance to the front of their positions.

They were tasked with guarding the left flank of the 22nd Infantry Regiment which were also in defensive positions in this area. Although suitably armed for a Type 'S' Battalion fulfilling fortress area duties, just as with other National Defence battalions they suffered from a chronic lack of appropriate ammunition for their weapons should combat engagements become protracted.



On 1 September they did not take direct part in the initial fighting because they were in the 9th Infantry Division's fortified zone and it was them that bore the full weight of initial German attention. In the direction of Koronowo, the German 2nd Motorised Division attacked. On 1 September, the infantry units of the 22nd Infantry Regiment fought the leading units of this division and then withdrew into the fortified position proper around the Koronowo Lakes under hard and constant pressure from the pursuing enemy forces.

On 2 September, the enemy again struck at the entire sector of defence from early in the morning. By 0900 fierce battles had begun to unfold right across the defensive belt of the 22nd Infantry Regiment and the "Koronowa" National Defence Battalion. The two battalions of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in the front line could not resist the impact of the German assaults and retreated to the south, into the right wing of the 15th Infantry Division leaving the "Koronowa" National Defence Battalion exposed.



With the Polish front line having been overrun by German armoured thrusts the "Koronowa" Battalion was practically all that stood in their path. Without any further external support, they fought off a succession of German waves holding back the entire German 3rd Infantry Division all day, until all supplies of ammunition for their aged French weapons was exhausted. When the ammunition had run out, the Battalion commander; Major Wrzesinski took the decision to order a bayonet charge instead of a withdrawal. Nobody considered capitulation. They smashed into the Germans, pushing them back once again and fought to the very end with only a few managing to escape the carnage. Only the wreckage of the Battalion had emerged and almost none unscathed.

The surviving remnants of the Battalion withdrew to the defensive sector of the 15th Infantry Division, where they were amalgamated into the various sub-units of the 22nd Infantry Regiment and together with them were able to participate in further fighting although the Battalion to all intents and purposes had now ceased to exist.

The rapidly deteriorating situation across the entire defensive front caused Army Command to issue retreat orders which cascaded into a constant retrograde movement until finally all troops were either crushed and dispersed or had reached Warsaw.

For as long as it existed as an organic whole the deployment and tasks asked of the "Koronowa" National Defence Battalion were in line with the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Military Affairs and it can be justifiably stated that despite the regulars collapsing all around them, the men of Koronowo held their ground refusing to yield to the last.



Koronowa Battalion 1 Company 2 Platoon  
Lieutenant Kazimierz Smierzchalski

## **The "Nakło" National Defence Battalion**

On the southern 'left' flank of Army "Pomorze's" defensive belt the responsibility for resistance was held by the 15th Infantry Division. The "Bydgoszcz" and "Nakło" National Defence Battalions were subordinated to this Divisions defensive activities.

On 1 September, no major battles were fought in this area although reconnaissance units of the German 50th Infantry Division made attempts at deeper penetrations of the Polish positions but they were successfully repelled by Polish guard units.

In the area of Nakło, offensive operations by the German 50th Infantry Division began. The enemy advanced as far as Nakło on 1 September, up to the point that the defensive sector of the "Nakło" National Defence Battalion was threatened by a group of German tanks. Since the units of the 15th Infantry divisions from Army "Pomorze" were not able to support the battalion directly due to the pressure that they themselves were under, the commander of the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division of Army "Poznań" supplied 4 Battery of the 26th Light Artillery Regiment to support them. The Battery was directed to the forest west of Wieszki where, according to orders, Colonel. (Dipl.) Brzechwa-Ajdukiewicz was to be ready for action by dawn on 2 September.

In order to secure the right wing of the 26th Infantry Division, on the night of 1-2 September, Command moved the 18th Infantry Regiment to the area of Rozstrzębowo - Szczepice - Czerwoniak - Suchoręczek.

The task of the regiment in this area was to prepare to counter-attack towards the north, in support of the "Nakło" Battalion and a part of the forces of the commander of the III Battalion of the 59th Infantry Regiment.

During the night of 1-2 September, the enemy withdrew from Nakło. Meanwhile all Polish defensive troop movements set for that night were made without issue. Reconnaissance missions conducted by the "Nakło" Battalion at about 0800 identified the presence of enemy on the canal to the south of Nakło and in the area of Lock No. 8 where the canal links with the Noteć River, as well as small groups with heavy machine guns present in the southern part of the city. The enemy who was digging in, was being harassed by Polish artillery and machine gun fire. A single German tank had also been observed. Artillery assigned to support the battalion prevented the movement of further German armour into the area of Nakło with their fire. One of the German tanks however, attempted reaching Lock no. 7, but the Polish artillery fire forced him to turn back to Nakło.

At midday on 2 September, the situation did not change much in the sector held by the "Nakło" Battalion. After closing the locks on the Noteć, the water in the canal rose, which significantly strengthened the defence of the area



The only shortcoming of the battalion's defensive capabilities was the complete lack of anti-tank weapons. The Battalion commander, Major Parczynski repeatedly requested an allocation of vital anti-tank weapons to be placed into appropriate positions in the face of the growing threat from German armour.

This sector of defence conducted by the "Nakło" National Defence Battalion was one of the most active in the area of Army "Pomorze". The Battalion was compelled to assume one of the most important defensive tasks in this area and contrary to assumptions, as it happens, it turned out that the battalion was well-trained and of such value that it proved itself to be in no way inferior to other units of the 15th Infantry Division.

After breaking the defensive line of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, on 2 September, the threat from the leading German elements of the 50th Division began to grow. The "Tur" task force, which included III Battalion 59th Infantry Regiment and the "Nakło" National Defence Battalion, withdrew simultaneously along with the troops of the 15th Infantry Division to the southern bank of the Bydgoszcz Canal and continued to defend, maintaining tactical communication with the 26th Infantry Division in the area of Żnin and Kcynia.

By 5 September the positions on the west bank of the Bydgoszcz Canal were considered untenable and with the repeated subdivision of Army "Pomorze" into a variety of task forces Army High Command in Warsaw ordered a progressive retreat back to Warsaw.

At that time, units of Army "Pomorze" left the area of Bydgoszcz via the west bank of the Vistula. The 15th Infantry Division left Bydgoszcz with the 22nd Infantry Regiment and set up new positions in the Solec Kujawski-Kobylarnia area. The "Bydgoszcz" National Defence Battalion, was to be found alongside the 61st Infantry Regiment in new positions, whilst the 22nd Infantry Regiment together with the "Nakło" National Defence Battalion defended the second line of defence in the region of Solec Kujawski.

The "Nakło" National Defence Battalion was ably led and deployed in a manner which adhered closely to the guidelines laid out by the Ministry before the war. They were well supported and were given the time necessary to manoeuvre where and when needed. The results of this was that the Battalion was able to offer an effective resistance to the Nazi invasion and were able to offer such resistance over a protracted period.

### **The "Morska" National Defence Brigade**

Similar resistance was to be found with many other National Defence battalions throughout Poland in the bloody days of September '39 although few tales can possibly come as close to the extreme valour demonstrated by the National Defence Battalions that fought with the Naval Rifle Brigades around Gdynia as a part of Coastal Land Defence. Of special mention has to be the battles on the Oksywie Kepa where 15,000 Coastal Land Defence troops dug themselves into a local hillside and forced the Germans to literally dig them back out again having to wage over 100 individual battles over a 10 day period up to 19 September. The fighting around the Baltic coastline had been reduced to three small pockets of troops when the end of resistance finally came. Two of the pockets were finally forced to lay down their arms but the final point of resistance on the Oksywie Kepa itself had to be overrun by the Germans. The commander of Coastal Land Defence; Colonel Stanislaw Dabek committed suicide and what few troops remained, out of ammunition were physically forced to lay down their arms. Kazimierz Pindel wrote: "All Coastal Land Defence forces were completely destroyed. There was no surrender at Oksywska. The struggle of the few Coastal Defence Troops in comparison to the German forces continued until their destruction by the enemy!"

Ammunition and food had been exhausted, medical supplies were non-existent and casualties had risen to over 40 percent. The highest operational casualty rates of the entire defensive war. A complete organisational breakdown had been forced upon the defenders. A whole book can be written about Poland's defence of its Baltic foothold with many complex and involved redeployments of the Polish forces so I won't go into it here. Instead I would urge you to go and read about this most fascinating of Polish battles in 1939 for yourself.

Despite what the world may think, Poland was no pushover!

Sadly a lot of the troops serving with the National Defence were murdered either on the field of battle, or most especially in prisoner of war camps where the ON's efforts to suppress German Fifth Column activities drew savage reprisals from their captors. There were a number of officers of various battalions who actually suffered the indignity of being guillotined.





# The Uniforms of the Obrona Narodowa

## Uniforms worn by the Obrona Narodowa in 1939

In theory the outfitting of soldiers of the National Defence organisations was run along the same lines as those of the regular army with the ideal kit provided being much the same as that provided to regular serving soldiers.

The reality was somewhat more sobering however, with the Brigades frequently, and more especially on establishment being issued with a mixture of older pre-1936 military uniform items and whatever else was available. As time went by and war approached however replacement of these older uniforms for the newer post 1936 model became more accelerated. Because of this it is very difficult to produce a perfect impression of what uniforms the National Defence wore in September '39 because the very nature of the organisation dictated that it was so mixed up. Because of this I will seek to present a cross section of the more commonly seen uniform items across the widest possible selection of National Defence organisations. Even though uniform items were largely similar between the National Defence and regular army there were still small differences between them however, even with the most modern uniforms.

### Headwear

All Polish armed forces of the II Republic were issued with various versions of the 'Rogatywka' field cap with a red and white cord. A simple design that was cheap to mass produce and comfortable to wear, this was one of the easiest items of clothing with which to provide a look of uniformity across an armed body of men... the only downside of course is that they weren't very efficient at stopping bullets which is something many of the unfortunate National Defence troopers found to their cost in September '39.

The National Defence forces were also issued with old World War 1 era French Adrian helmets when these battalions were established. Having been retired from almost all branches of service apart from the Cavalry who clung hold of theirs tenaciously there were plenty of these in the depots to go around. The first battalions established were provided with these and many clung hold of theirs throughout the periods of remodelling and upgrading that their battalions went through resulting in many of these helmets seeing action once again.

These were eventually replaced by the more modern wz.31 and wz.36 helmets as war approached although roll out was slow and the newer Type IV battalions especially, never received a supply being forced to wear nothing but field caps during combat. Mainly seen in the Pomeranian Type II and the Silesian

Type III battalions their presence was never widespread although when they were present they almost certainly saved lives!



Polish Rogatywka wz.37 field cap



Polish Adrian Helmet wz.26



Polish wz.31 Helmet



## Upper Body

Over the two years that the Polish National Defence forces of the Second Republic were in existence a variety of uniformed items over a variety of years and across a variety of models was scraped together to outfit these formations notwithstanding the difference between garrison and field uniforms. Too much in fact to provide a truly accurate perspective on how these formations appeared at any given time and as such all that we will do here is take a brief look at the type of field uniform clothing that could have been worn by any number of battalions at the time of the German invasion in 1939.

It goes without saying that some battalions at some locations, especially to the east and south east of Poland would have been outfitted with older and more worn out versions of what is being presented here.

A standard 'kurtka sukienna' (cotton jacket) was issued to all troops and was suitable for year round use being loose fitting. A denim jacket that was weather proofed would also be issued for use in bad weather .

Originally these would have been from retired stocks of the pre-1936 uniform stockpiles and would probably have been the wz.19 versions that were modelled on German WW1 jackets. These would have been used until worn out and then gradually replaced by more modern versions. The older versions would have been more like blouses that were put on by pulling over the head and then done up with a short central column of three buttons running down a short way from the neck.

The more modern wz.1936 model jacket would have been issued as war approached to those battalions that were deemed to be of high enough combat efficiency to warrant being made as comfortable as possible in new equipment. The new wz.36 jackets were actually jackets in the traditional sense as well, with four pockets standing proud of the jacket body and a column of seven buttons that ran from collar to groin but for wargaming purposes there is practically no differences that one would notice.

Their cotton greatcoats (Plaszcz) were identical to those used by the regular infantry regiments troopers and would have been worn rolled across the chest, over the shoulder and tied together with the other end just above the belt on the hip.

Of a very simple design they were done up with a column of buttons that once more ran from neck to groin and were provided to the troops to be worn in periods of inclement weather such as the winter of 1938.

It was common practise to provide troopers with a scarf to help prevent the jacket, which were manufactured from a pretty rugged denim, from chafing the skin of the neck whilst the soldier was on active duty.



Kurtka Sukienna wz.36



Kurtka Sukienna wz.36 button designs



Plaszcz wz.36 Greatcoats



## Lower Body

Trousers of the Polish army of the II Republic between the wars can get somewhat confusing as every man and his dog seemed to have a different design.

The earlier wz.19 model uniforms had different designs for cavalry and infantry, divided again between officers and serving men.

As long as the Leg Wrap puttees (Sukiennymi Owijaczami) were in use the legs of the trousers had different manner of lace ups and ties below the knees. The higher the rank, the more the trousers ballooned above the knee.

By the time of 1936 almost the entire inventory of Polish military wear had been remodelled and reissued with perhaps the most important element for the lower body being the remodelling of the puttees into much shorter versions with buckles facilitating the redesign of the trousers into almost straight cut legs, slightly widened above the knee for the NCO's and once more ballooned above the knees for the officers uniforms.

The wz.23 wraps were of French design and 212cm long by 7cm wide and were frankly a nightmare for the troops to use. Slow to put on, they chafed the calves terribly when marching. However with the start of the binding beginning inside the top of the boots and ending up just under the knee there was no chance of stray materials finding their way inside a soldiers boot at all!

These long wraps were formally retired from army use in 1937 to be replaced by the newer, shorter and easier to use wz.37 wraps which only tied around the ankles providing significant freedom of movement in the trouser department but owing to the fact that the Obrona Narodowa was issued older stockpiled equipment from depots around the country the older trouser designs and the archaic wz.23 canvas wraps were kept in service by these troops.

As with most other items of clothing, by the time the war started those Obrona Narodowa formations that were deemed of high enough combat value or those that had had enough care and attention lavished upon them were more than likely to have had their old stores of these trousers and wrap around puttees replaced with modern wz.36 uniform items.

The newer trousers were straight cut and made of a new knaki coloured denim with cotton lining. The greatest interest here for us is that they were introduced for privates and NCO's of all arms of service excluding Cavalry and Gendarmerie although Ensign Cadets who served as platoon commanders were also issued them.



Spodnie wz.36 trousers



Sukiennymi Owijaczami wz. 23



## Boots, Belts and Ammo Pouches

Polish wz.31 army boots were of an ankle height hobnailed variety that were pretty current in most armies of the interbellum period across Europe.

The boots were made of smooth leather that was blackened, although as war approached it wasn't unusual to see boots that were still in their original brown colouring. The toe of the boot was moulded to shape and unsewn with a broad low heel providing stability for the ankle and leg. The boots went up to ankle level with the tongue of the boot following suit and a small ear at the back to help pull the boot onto the foot properly. The leather thickness was up to about 4mm depending on which part of the boot and which model was being worn; belt or pin. The heel and toe of the boot was stiffened with the heel being raised by 22mm and the sides of the boot cut straight to follow the line of the foot

The Polish wz.31 leather belt was a mass produced leather belt issued to all soldiers with slight variations depending on the rank that was wearing it.

It was made of natural coloured leather and fastened with a single pin buckle that was sewn directly and permanently onto the body of the belt on the reverse side.

The belt itself was made in two lengths; 110cm and 120cm although both were 4.5cm wide. The second version of the belt carried extra attachments to hang ceremonial weapons off such as an officers sabre.

At the end of the belt there were eight pin holes with the last one being only 10cm from the end of the belt itself.

The Ładownica Skórzane wz.22 ammunition pouches were manufactured from natural leather with each unit having three chambers. Each unit was affixed to the belt by two straps rivetted to the back wall of the chambers with the central chamber having a metal ring of a 3mm gauge, to be attached to the canvas webbing that the soldier would be issued with.

The chambers were each accessed from the top by loosening the chambers front strap from a brass pin located underneath the chamber. Each chamber was able to carry four clips of five rounds each for the rifle issued to each soldier.

Whilst regular serving soldiers would be issued with two of these units, one for each side of the body, those soldiers serving in 'telephone patrols' in the communications units of the armed forces would only be issued with a single one which would be hung above the left hip on the belt.



Polish wz.31 hobnailed army boots



Polish wz.31 leather belt



Ładownica skórzane wz.22 ammunition pouches



## Bags and Bottles

There were two main chlebak brzenentowy's (canvas bread bags) in service with the Polish army by the time war broke out between Poland and the Third Reich and it is a safe bet that the forces of the Obrona Narodowa were using both of them.

The older wz.26 versions were smaller than the wz.33 models although both were made out of textiles and both were for carrying food and non essential items.

The older 1926 version was either worn attached to the main belt or else had a long strap attached and was worn suspended over the shoulder. The long strap was made of denim and was adjustable in length ending with metal carabiners which were used in the metal eyelets fastened to the top of the bread bag at either end. Next to the stitching of these metal rings were riveted short straps with metal hooks on the ends from which the bag could be suspended from the soldiers belt. This bag had no internal divisions.

The 1933 version of the bread bag, as seen in the image to the right was made from a linen fabric, so being lighter than the older 1926 version and had three short canvas straps at the top of the bag that all terminated in buckles with metal hooks for attaching the bag to the soldiers main belt. However, to the metal eyelets could also be attached a canvas carrying strap that ended in carabiners on both ends.

Inside the middle of the bread bag two pockets were sewn onto the back panel. It was planned that a total weight of about 900g should be carried and in the left section a mess tin, a canteen and a small linen bag with a tool (spoon and fork) and a metal cup, a towel, soap, salt in a bag, cigarettes in a metal box and 4 grenades (2 defensive and 2 offensive) was to be carried whilst bread was to be carried on the right side and a bit behind.

The carry strap was assumed to be slung over the left shoulder and onto the right side of the body.

The Manierka Aluminiowa wz.31 canteen had a capacity of 1 litre, it was smooth, concave on one side and had a cap with a stopper at the top. The stopper was attached to a flask with a chain with the chain holder attached to the neck of the flask.

The canteen was fastened onto a haversack using a steel carabiner attached to a leather backpack, the carrier also had a long leather, clipped belt for carrying flasks over the shoulder on the right side of the body to help secure it closer to the body so that it didnt disrupt the soldier when moving.

The design of the canteen was a direct result of the flaws found with the previous wz26 version such as not being able to stand it up as it had a rounded bottom.



The Chlebak Brezentowy wz.33 canvas bread bag



Manierka Aluminiowa wz.31 water bottle



## Uniform Markings

The political situation that Poland faced in the 1930's and the accelerating manner in which the security of her borders was declining meant that the Polish military were seeking every more effective means of protection whilst only having 1/8 the budget of Germany's available, let alone that of the Soviet Union.

One measure that was chosen was to make damned sure that as little information was passed to the enemy as possible with regards to what formations were doing what and more importantly where they were doing it.

In line with this all uniform markings and insignia were ordered stripped from uniforms in times of war so that information would be that much harder to come by for the enemy!

There were a number of exceptions to this ruling however and in some cases this refers especially to the formations of the Obrona Narodowa of September '39.

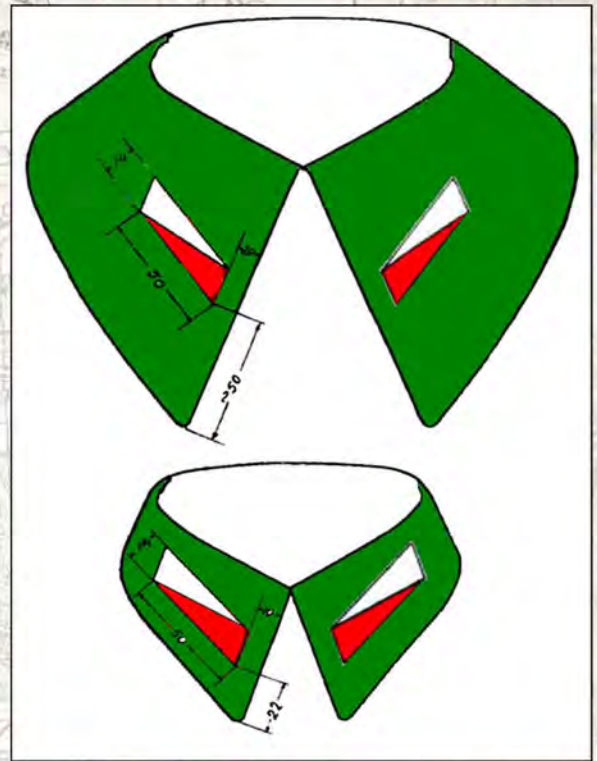
The Obrona Narodowa were allowed to carry a bitonal trapezoid bar on the collars of their greatcoats and jackets to indicate who they were. The dimensions of these bars for each item of clothing is shown in the top image whilst the photo immediately below that actually shows a National Defence parade with troops dressed in their 'kurtka sukienna's' showing very clearly the collar bars of white over red indicating that they are serving members of the National Defence.

The Morska Brigade, situated around Gdynia on the coast was an especial exception to this ruling with the Brigades first commander Colonel Sas-Hoszowski having successfully lobbied for his men to have the right to wear the same naval anchor as that worn by the two Naval Rifle Battalions (to be expanded into regiments by the time the war began).

The third image down on the left shows an officer of the 2nd Naval Rifles Regiment in 1939 showing how the anchor was worn on a greatcoat and although this is a regular serving officer we are looking at, the position that the anchor would take on a uniform of a National Defence trooper would be exactly the same except that it would be positioned below the trapezoid bar instead.

The image to the right of the officers photograph shows one of the anchor pins that would in fact have been affixed to someones uniform in 1939.

Other than rank insignia the final image on this page shows probably the most universal icon that was allowed, and in fact expected to be present on all uniforms; the Polish crowned eagle! On the older Adrian helmets that still had not had their eagles removed, the badge would have been metal, and may even have remained white but on the ubiquitous 'rogatywka' the eagle badge would have been sewn from white thread on a linen background then affixed to the cap itself.







## Weapons used by the Obrona Narodowa

If Poland's National Defence forces struggled to maintain a sense of uniformity with their clothing and equipment there is a justifiable argument for the state of the National Defence's weaponry to be a near catastrophe!

In an era of mass unemployment, a crippled economy straddled with a borderline famine and mass workforce demonstrations Poland just could not attract enough inward investment into the country to level the playing field and because of these facts was practically forced to rely on whatever weaponry they could drag back out of mothballs.

The Obrona Narodowa was seen as an experiment at best and a potentially expensive inconvenience at worst and as such there was never the budget available to help develop the National Defence into what it could have been. However, that being said there was no shortage of individuals who were determined to make this experiment work, and make it work they did.

They begged, borrowed and stole whatever stores of equipment, arms and armaments that they could lay their hands on and by the time the war came they had managed to raise and equip 83 battalions of troops amounting to almost 12 percent of the total armed forces that Poland was able to put into the field in September '39.

Once again, it is difficult to put together an exhaustive list of all of the weapons that the National Defence used in 1939 in a publication of this nature and as such we will concentrate more on providing a well rounded snapshot of the older types of arms any given battalion had access to.

### Personal Armaments

#### 8mm rifle wz.1895 "Mannlicher"

The Mannlicher M1895 was a bolt-action rifle, designed by Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher, a Czech builder of firearms, that used a refined version of his revolutionary straight-pull action bolt, much like the Mannlicher M1890 carbine.



The first varieties of rifles were adapted to the Werndl 11 mm ammunition. Later constructions, from the 1888 model onwards, were adapted to an 8 mm cartridge. The Mannlicher Rifle wz.1895 was an improvement on the design of 1888 and 1890. There were also models adapted to the 7.92 mm Mauser ammunition.

Most of the rifles held were converted into carbines by shortening the barrel and by the time the war started they were largely in the hands of the cavalry and state police although certain National Defence formations were forced to rely on stores of them to equip their troops. In 1939, there were about 21,000 pieces of this weapon available in Poland.

The M1895 was unusual in employing a straight-pull bolt action, as opposed to the more common rotating bolt-handle of other rifles. It combined a two lug rotating bolt head, similar in construction to that found on a Mauser rifle with a pair of helical grooves cut in the bolt body to turn the back and forth movement of the bolt handle and body into the rotational movement of the bolt head. The extractor performed both the usual function, and also had a tail attached which interfaced with slots on the cam surfaces of the bolt head to prevent the bolt head from rotating as a result of the striker's spring pressure once it has been unlocked.



### 8mm rifle wz. 1886/93 "Lebel"

After the end of World War I, the Poles had a diverse collection of rifles from all armies. They had about 24 types of rifles and about 22 types of carbines, including the French Lebel wz.1886, which were purchased in large numbers during the battles against the Bolsheviks. It was one of the most basic rifle designs at the turn of the 20th century. It was the last to be equipped with a tube magazine, but was also the first to use small-caliber smokeless powder cartridges and was also the first to shoot with ogival cartridges.



During World War I, Lebel's rifles equipped the Polish Army in France (the Blue Army) . They were also one of the types of rifles used by the Polish Army in 1918-1921 (Polish designation Lebel wz.1886 ). In 1938, there were still 148,000 pieces of this rifle in warehouses and depots around the country. In 1939, Lebel wz.86/93 was used to equip some units of the National Defense and even after the fall of Poland the weapon again found its way to arming the Polish Army troops in France in 1940.

Between the years 1935-1939 about 10,000 rifles wz. 1886 were rebuilt by shortening the barrel and magazine into the Carbines wz. 1886 93R35.

The Mle 1886 rifle was an individual repetitive weapon. Four-stroke lock, sliding and rotating. Locking with two bolts (the third auxiliary bolt was the castle handle). Supply was from a fixed, tubular magazine with a capacity of 8 rounds. The sights were composed of a triangular bow and a curved sight. The weapon was equipped with a quadrate bayonet fixed with the help of a handle.

### 8mm rifle wz.1916 "Berthier"

After the end of World War I, Poland's diverse collection of rifles from all armies included the French Berthier wz.1916, which they bought together with the Lebel. It was a weapon more modern than Lebel, but still had many disadvantages.



Lebel's rifle had soon become obsolete. The biggest drawback was the tubular magazine inherited from Mle 1884 rifle . It was loaded with individual rounds (the rifles created simultaneously with Lebel had mostly box magazines), which reduced the rate of fire. An even greater disadvantage was the inability to use cartridges with ogival projectiles (the sharp end of the projectile struck when firing at the primer, which threatened to fire the cartridge in the magazine). That's why in 1890 the first weapon with a box magazine was introduced. It was a Mle.1890 carbine designed by M. Berthier. It was a weapon with a lock modeled on earlier French constructions but with a new magazine loaded with three-cartridges. Continual upgrades followed but all were not enough to make the rifle keep up with current standards of the day.

Modernisation of the Mle.1916 was soon carried out. This time the changes were more serious. The largest was the provision of a new magazine with a capacity of 5 rounds, which increased the rate of fire. Along with the new rifle, a new Mle 1892 M16 carbine was introduced. After the war, Berthier's rifles and carbines together with the soldiers of the Blue Army were also sent to Poland (Polish designation: Berthier, model 1890, model 1892, 15 and 16).



## Section and Platoon Support Armaments

### Rkm 7,92mm wz. 15 "Chauchat"

In 1916, the French introduced a new type of weapon for the infantry - a hand-operated machine gun, which allowed for fire superiority over the enemy. It was a weapon developed before the war and put into production in 1915 as the Fusil-Mitrailleur Mle 15, developed by FM Chauchat. In the Polish Army, it was to be found throughout General J. Haller's forces in the Blue Army.



Rkm "Chauchat" could shoot single rounds or continuous fire. It used the long recoil of the barrel, during which automatic reloading took place. The rifle was supplied from a 20-round magazine, just as with the Polish box magazine for the wz.28 "Browning". For this purpose, the weapon was rechambered from the original caliber of 8mm to 7.92mm. This Rkm did not have a high rate of fire, but thanks to that it was characterised by a long working life. Unfortunately, the complicated construction made it difficult to dismantle and clean the weapon and caused frequent jamming.

Rkm "Chauchat" was the basic light support weapon of Polish infantry and cavalry until 1931, when it was replaced with the Rkm wz.28 "Browning". At that time, there were still 1,870 rkms in stock. By the outbreak of World War II, only a small number of them were still to be found equipping the National Defense Battalions.

### Rkm 7,92mm wz. 1915 "Bergmann"

Rkm 7,92mm wz.15 "Bergmann" was a modification of the 1902 model, known in the west as LMG15 or MG15 nA. It was originally cooled with water, but in order to reduce the weight, water cooling was replaced with a perforated metal cover.



Rkm was introduced to the German army in 1916 on the Italian front due to a significant increase in the demand for light infantry and airborne offensive weapons although Bergman's rkm was not as good as lkm 08/15 Maxima. The Bergmann wz.15 was introduced to the Polish Army in 1921. At the end of the 1930s though it was already obsolete and was mostly handed over to the State Police around 715 pieces, some pieces could still be found with the Obrona Narodowa.



### Lkm 7,92mm wz. 08/15 "Maxim"

The German light machine gun MG 08/15 was a lighter variant of MG-08, or 7.92mm wz. 08 "Maxim". The main changes concerned replacing the rear with a wooden butt with a pistol grip, reducing the radiator and the castle chamber, and placing it on a light bipod. Water was still needed for cooling however. Servicing the Lkm was as complicated as the wz.08 however. This weapon was developed in 1915 to equip the German army with a light offensive weapon with high firepower.



In the 1930s, they were supplanted by lighter Rkm's, but they still had a higher rate of fire and greater accuracy over distance. A number of examples survived in the German army until the Second World War, most especially with the 3rd line divisions and the Grenzwachte regiments on the border.

In the Polish Army the Lkm 7.92mm wz. 08/15 "Maxim" was used from 1918. The highest operational units achieved with this type of weapon was 7775 copies. By September 1939, only 5,700 pieces were still usable and were to be found mainly in artillery units, sappers and the National Defense battalions, the Border Protection Corps still had 80 equipping their battalions and there were at least six in use by the defenders of Westerplatte.





## Company and Battalion Support Armaments

### Ckm 7.92mm wz.08 "Maxim"

In 1883 Hiram Stevens Maxim constructed the world's first machine gun. It operated on the principle of a short barrel recess. In 1887 he delivered the first three pieces for the British army. However, it was not until 1891 that machine guns were introduced into line units. In other countries, the introduction of machine guns took another ten years. Maxim's guns were very complicated and production was expensive, but he did well on the battlefield. The Ckm was an automatic weapon with a short stop recoil of the barrel. It allowed for single round firing and was cooled with water. A cylindrical radiator surrounded the barrel and was connected to the castle chamber. The tank contained 4 liters of liquid. Produced in many versions, the most well known ones were the wz.08 (German sled mounted), wz.1910 (Russian wheeled and shielded) and the wz.09 (British Vickers).

### Ckm 7,92mm wz.08 (German)



The German version of the Maxim was the most popular variant of this weapon in the world and the basic German HMG during World War I. Production took place at Spandau and at the DWM plant (Deutsche Waffen und Munitions Fabriken) in Berlin. The weapon was placed on a heavy, four-legged sledge base. In Poland, it was also used on anti-aircraft pintels and on biedkis (hand carts). In 1936, there were about 5964 pieces of this weapon, but from 1938, they were withdrawn from front line units of infantry and cavalry. By September 1939, they still remained part of the reserve divisions and National Defence battalions, anti-aircraft companies and some cavalry units,

### Ckm 7,92mm wz. 1910/28 (Russian)



After the First World War, Poland took over 2,900 ckm wz.1905, 1910 and 1919 of Russian production. It was the basic Russian and Soviet weapon during both world wars. Some of them were exchanged with Finland, Estonia and Romania, and the remaining copies of wz.1910 was converted into 7.92mm caliber to be able to use Mauser's bullets, the castle was changed to from the German version 1908. The reengineered weapons were marked in the Polish Army by the designation wz.1910-1928. In 1936, 1,853 pieces were owned, of which 1,325 remained on the Sokołów bases; two-wheeled bases with a pipe tail and a flat protective shield.



## Ckm 7.92mm wz. 14 and wz. 25 "Hotchkiss"



Ckm 8mm Mle 14 Hotchkiss was the basic equipment of the French army in both world wars. It was also the basic weapon of French armored cars in the First World War. The structure was based on the 1897 and 1900 patterns.

It was an air-cooled weapon with a heavy and fixed barrel. The corrugation of the barrel in the rear part was intended to increase the cooling. The weapon worked on the principle of using the energy of gunpowder gases discharged through a side hole in the barrel. The ammunition supply was provided by a rigid metal tapes holding 30 rounds or with flexible belts of about 250-300 rounds. The construction was relatively simple and the rifle was highly reliable.



In the Polish Army Ckm 7.92mm wz.14 "Hotchkiss" had been in use since 1919. It had been converted to 7.72mm Mauser caliber in the 1930s. Originally adapted to the Lebel round.

At the beginning of the 1920s, Poland possessed many types of HMG. In 1924, a decision was taken to harmonise these types of weapon. The choice fell on the French Hotchkiss, which had many supporters due to the air cooling function and the simplicity of construction. Then a batch of 1000 copies wz.25, which was a direct continuation of wz.14 were obtained.

The weapons supplied were adjusted to a 7.92mm caliber and had a shortened barrel. The tests showed many defects in the weapons, including overheating of the barrel while firing with mauser's cartridges, unstable structure of the base and pintel and a lack of a handle for transferring a hot weapon.



The Polish Army bought a total of 1,249 Ckm wz.25. On the basis of the three-legged support weapon role they were used until 1934. They were also used in armored vehicles where they were replaced with the Ckm-y wz.14 in Renault FT-17 tanks, Armoured Car wz.28/34 (60 items), wz.29 (10 items), TKS and TK3 tankettes (around 570 pieces) and Vickers E. twin turreted tanks.

In 1936, 2,620 pieces were held, mainly on a heavy three-leg basis. In 1939, only small amounts of this weapon were still in use, mainly in the National Defence battalions and as equipment for TK and TKS armored vehicles.



## Granatnik wz. 36 grenade launcher

The Granatnik wz.36 was a Polish grenade launcher designed originally in 1927 as "wz. 30" and later modified in 1936. It entered service in 1936 becoming the standard grenade launcher of the Polish Army.

The wz.36 had a maximum range of 800 meters. It fired a 46 mm shell, weighing 0.76 kg. About 3,850 of these 46 mm mortars were produced by 1939. Typically 81 such mortars were distributed to each Polish infantry division—three per company.



The Granatnik wz.36 was an ingenious weapon. Unlike ordinary mortars of the era, the firing angle was fixed at 45 degrees and the range was regulated not by raising or lowering the barrel but by limiting the volume of a gas chamber. The unrifled 46 mm barrel was attached to a flat base equipped with a bubble level and stabilised by a folding bipod. On top of the barrel was an exhaust pipe, equipped with a valve and attached to the bottom of the barrel. By turning the valve, soldiers operating the mortar could limit the size of combustion chamber beneath the grenade, setting the muzzle velocity and thus the firing range at between 100 and 800 metres. The mortar was equipped with a frame sight and a muzzle sight, as well as a firing trigger located at the base of the barrel.

In comparison to other light mortars of the period such as the German 5cm Granatwerfer 36 or the Soviet RM-38, the Polish mortar was less accurate and the grenades used had a smaller warhead, however it was lighter and easier to handle and assemble. Also, thanks to the firing mechanism the weapon could be preloaded and fired immediately upon sighting a target.

Pre-war tests proved the weapon reliable and durable. During one stress test the weapon was fired 850 times at a high rate of fire without requiring cleaning or cooling. However, due to the complexity of the design, field repairs were significantly more difficult than with conventional mortars.

The first batch of 850 was delivered to the armed forces by the end of July 1937. Another batch of 1,500 followed the next year. Overall, some 3850 were delivered to the army (397 of wz.30 and 3453 of wz.36 types), which allowed the creation of either a separate light mortar section of three mortars in every infantry company, or arming every infantry platoon with at least one grenade launcher.

Thankfully for the Obroba Narodowa, a healthy supply also found their way into the battalions which sorely needed some thing of an explosive nature!



## 81mm moździerz wz.31

The Polish Army was armed after the First World War with the German 81mm mortar wz.16 and the French wz.16. From 1926, the old mortars started to be replaced with a newer weapon produced by the British company Stokes Gun Co. to the tune of 600 mortars wz.18.



At the same time, Poland started their own development work on an 81mm mortar. Serial production of the wz.1928 mortar took place at the Avia Precision Machinery Plant in Warsaw. After the production of 700 pieces, the government claimed that production had to be discontinued in 1931 due to defective lifting mechanisms and bipods. The real reason however, was the financial claims of the French in connection with the infringement of patent rights for the production of mortar ammunition. A license was purchased from the French company Brandt and in 1932 mass production was started again at the plants of the Association of Polish Mechanics from America in Pruszków. By the outbreak of the war 900 mortars wz. 18/31 had been produced. The new French mortars proved to be an improved version of Stokes mortar.

The weapon consisted of a barrel with a lock, bipod legs and a base. Four threaded legs served for aiming. Thrown projectiles had a weight of 3.2 kg and 6.5 kg. Stabilisation of flight was achieved with the help of four fins on the heavy grenades. There were three types of grenades: fragmentation, smoke and incendiary. The mortar had a fixed firing pin at the end of the tube, which allowed the operator to shoot up to 20 shots per minute. It also had a trigger mechanism with a cord.



The 81mm mortar was a simple and rugged weapon used by infantry and cavalry. It could provide direct support to the fighting units in all sorts of terrain, blitzing the enemy's vital force and fire centres. After dismantling the weapon into its three constituent pieces, each of them could be carried by one soldier. Special trolleys were used in the cavalry. By 1938 there were 899 mortars wz.18/31, 595 pieces of the wz.28 and 648 pieces of the wz.18. Fortunately by the time the war started at least some of these had started to find their way into the inventories of the National Defence.





# Obrona Narodowa Special Rules

## Fight for Little Poland

In the mid 1930's it was recognised that Poland was falling behind its hostile neighbours in arms development and it was decided that a massive boost to the numbers of the armed forces was needed.

It was recognised early on that a potentially huge pool of manpower was available from all of the unemployed, retired, reserve and working class, politically reliable Poles throughout the newly formed Second Republic.

These troops were envisioned remaining in and fighting for their own localities (Little Poland) with the help of professional troops. They were not structured or provided with the arms to be able to wage war outside of their home areas.

The realities of war caused considerable problems with these troops frequently being forced away from their homes and compelled to fight elsewhere. Crisis of confidence were commonplace but just as frequent was the occurrence of extreme heroism in the face of the enemy.

The inevitable results of this were somewhat erratic performances on the field of battle.

To represent the erratic motivation of the National Defence troops before the start of Turn 1 a die is rolled for your army on the table given below and the result is applied for the whole battle. This does not include allied troop types.

### 1D6 Roll Motivation

1	Reluctant
2	Reluctant
3	Confident
4	Confident
5	Fearless
6	Fearless



## Make Every Shot Count!!!

In the middle of 1939 the British Army sent a Military Mission to Poland to assist in the planning for Poland's defence in case of hostile action by Nazi Germany. Alarm bells rang when it was determined that within the whole of the country there was only enough munitions to wage war for a period of three months.

The most obvious result of this catastrophic news was that the formations of the Obrona Narodowa were not furnished with an abundance of arms and munitions. Not nearly enough to train the troops effectively, let alone wage war, an ongoing problem which had disastrous consequences once hostilities began.

Different formations were frequently left without enough ammunition to fight effectively and that was when the correct ammunition had been allocated to match a formation's weaponry in the first place.

More often than not the Poles of the Obrona Narodowa would have to find a last minute solution, rely on the bayonet or else fall back leaving a gaping hole in the front line.

To represent this potential problem in a game of Flames of War at the start of each game turn a 1D6 is rolled. If the result is a 1 then there is a possibility of one or more troop choices reaching the end of their ammunition and no further firing is possible.

1D6 is rolled for each ON troop choice under your command and if the result is a 1-2 then that unit runs out of ammunition.

If the Company has an ammunition wagon present with the HQ then every turn following the turn in which the ammunition runs out 1D6 is rolled and on a result of 5,6 the ammunition has been restored and no further rolls in the battle need to be taken for this unit. Only one roll per turn is permissible for each troop choice.

If the unit that runs out of ammunition actually has a supply wagon accompanying it then each turn 1D6 is rolled and on a result of 3+ the ammunition has been restored and no further tests need to be taken for this unit.

Once a wagon has successfully restored the ammunition for a unit then the wagon is removed from play having exhausted its stores and may not be used again.

## Medic Patrols

All Polish military formations of 1939 were provided with medical facilities but the National Defence was expected to sustain more casualties than their regular line infantry brothers owing to their endemic lack of equipment, especially where helmets and entrenching tools are concerned. Because of this a small medic patrol was provided at company level and tasked with staying close to the troops and providing as much assistance as possible. A job they did without fear and right up until arms were laid down.

Despite being a troop choice in the Company Command structure the Medic Patrols are considered Independent Teams. As non-combatants they cannot shoot and do not fight in assaults. If assaulted a medic team will break off at the earliest opportunity.

Although each company has the assistance of a medic patrol once the bullets start flying they usually receive far more patients than they can adequately cope with. Because of this each turn during the Shooting Step, a Medic Patrol can treat one destroyed team that was destroyed within 3"/8cm of the them. On a roll of 4+ the wounded are successfully cared for, patched up and returned to the line.

If a Medic Patrol is killed by weapon fire immediately roll 1D6 and if the roll is 3+ the team treats its wounded successfully and they carry on as normal. If the team is killed as a result of assault they are not able to have the time to treat wounded and are eliminated.





## Pułkownik Stanisław Jan Kalabiński



In November 1918, Kalabinski joined the Polish Army and became the commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officers School. In April 1919 he was transferred to the line regiments to take over command of one of the battalions of the 3rd Legions Infantry Regiment. By 10 September 1920 he was made commander of the 24th Infantry Regiment, which he performed until 1930. By then he had completed courses for regimental and senior level commanders in the Infantry Training Center in Rembertów. On 16 March 1927, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel (Pułkownik). In 1930 he became the commander of the KOP "Grodno" Brigade, and in 1936 he was made the commander of the 30th Poleski Infantry Division in Kobryn.

In August 1939 he was appointed commander of the 55th Infantry Division (Reserve) and commanded it in the September Campaign as a part of Operational Group "Śląsk", Army "Kraków" gaining much credit. Commanding the division in a combat trail that led from Mikołów in Upper Silesia all the way to Tomaszów Lubelski. On 19 September 1939 in the area of the town of Ulów the 55th Reserve Infantry Division was one of the few who refused to lay down their arms and after ordering his remaining forces to break through the Nazi chokehold he collected a group of about 300 men and personally led a breakout. After a fierce battle, he broke through the surrounding German troops, and ordered the soldiers to disperse.

Colonel S. Kalabiński escaped captivity and then secretly reached Warsaw, where he was arrested and deported to the IXC ofl in Rothenburg. The following year, he was transferred to the Buchenwald extermination camp. Eventually he was sent to prison in Radom. In this city, in August 1941, he was murdered by the Germans. Colonel S. Kalabiński was awarded the Silver Cross of the Order of Virtuti Militari, the Golden Cross of VM (posthumously), the Cross of Independence, Order of the Rebirth of Poland of the 4th Class, Cross of Valor (4 times) and the Golden Cross of Merit.

## Characteristics

Colonel S. Kalabiński is a Warrior and a Higher Command Rifle Team. He may join any Company replacing the company command rifle team base and is rated as Fearless Veteran. He is armed as his men are, with rifle and bayonet. He has a range of 16"/40cm with a RoF 1 and no penalty for moving. An Anti-Tank rating of 2 and Firepower rating of 5+

Colonel S. Kalabiński may join any Obrona Narodowa Company for +40pts

### No Surrender!

Colonel S. Kalabiński was not a man to give up. He believed to his core that Poland would never be defeated. A fact he proved by fixing his own bayonet and leading his men from the front straight down the Nazi throat.

Any Polish base within 24"/60cm of Kalabiński hits on a roll of 3+ in assault combats if they are the ones launching the assault.

### Never Say Die!

Colonel S. Kalabiński's refusal to let the surrounding conflagration affect his own morale or the morale of those around him. His iron will inspired those around him into believing that they would live to fight another day... and more importantly save Poland!

Any National Defence platoon within 16"/40cm of Kalabiński pass all Motivation Tests on 3+





## Major Franciszek Piotrowiak



Born on 2 September 1891 in the city of Parzeczewo, near Radom. Early in life he joined the 72nd Infantry Regiment when it was still known as the 145th Regiment.

The 145th saw heavy fighting during the Russo-Polish War between 1918-1920. As a 2nd Lieutenant he was awarded the Virtuti Militari 5th Class whilst fighting in the Kiev offensive and the hard fought retrograde movements pursued by Budyonny's Cavalry Army culminating in the struggle for Brody. He was awarded the Krzyżem Walecznych after being promoted to Captain and participating in the desperate fights for Warsaw in late 1920 and the 'Miracle on the Vistula'

At the age of 31 he married his 24 year old bride; Maria-Helena Przewozniczek on 3 April 1924. He carried on serving with the newly retitled 72nd Infantry Regiment in Radom until he was called to take command of a National Defence conscript battalion on the Baltic Coast. A duplicate of his marriage certificate was required by the military authorities to facilitate his relocation to Gdynia with the notary signing the duplicate with the date 3 April 1938

The start of September '39 saw him attempting to organise his newly raised Type IV National Defence battalion; the "Gdynia III" National Defence Battalion. The worst equipped and the worst trained of the National Defence battalions in the forces of Coastal Land Defence Piotrowiak encountered acute problems when attempting to requisition weapons from the Coastal Land Defence depots... so bad in fact that he brazenly announced that he would shoot anybody who stood in the way of his men being armed!

Throughout the September campaign he struggled to equip his men even to the point of sending scythe armed volunteers to fight in woodland night attacks. However by the time the Battalion ceased to exist he had achieved the arming of all but one platoon, had equipped a scout section with bicycles, had collected and stored 5 tons of food in Mosty (although this was soon lost to the Germans) had set up a field bakery to feed refugees and subsequently seen thousands of them out of the combat zone and back to safety and still managed to repeatedly smash German attacks! After the September Campaign no more has come to light of the further history of this hero of Poland.

## Characteristics

Major Franciszek Piotrowiak is a Warrior and a Higher Command Rifle Team. He may join any National Defence Company as an additional base to the company command team and is rated as Fearless Veteran. He is armed as his men are, with rifle and bayonet. He has a range of 16"/40cm with a RoF 1 and no penalty for moving. An Anti-Tank rating of 2 and Firepower rating of 6+

Major Franciszek Piotrowiak may join any Obrona Narodowa Company for +50pts

### Tactical Acumen

Major Piotrowiak was personally brave and had an accurate sense of tactical strengths and weaknesses. He understood how the landscape could be used to maximum benefit of his own men and to the detriment of all enemies of Poland.

Once all deployments are completed at the start of a battle, Major Piotrowiak may choose to withdraw one platoon from the field and redeploy in a new position.

### The Red Reapers

Major Piotrowiak was a master at making sure his men were prepared and equipped for battle, even going so far as to employ a company armed with scythes in defence of Gdynia when there were no rifles available for them to use.

Any National Defence platoon that fails an ammunition roll will hit on a roll of 3+ in assault combats as they produce a mix of weird and wonderful bladed weapons





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ I

(Type I National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

## HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

38

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Type I National Defence Battalions were created to fulfil security tasks behind the front line, deal with fifth column subversive activities and provide boots on the ground in areas that were seen as quiet and away from trouble.

COMBAT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

BATTALION SUPPORT PLATOONS

## MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
Machine Gun Platoon

44

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Policja Panstwowa  
Infantry Platoon

47

## INFANTRY



Piechota Company

49

## ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

## INFANTRY



Podhale Mountain  
Infantry Company

52

## ARTILLERY



Mountain Artillery  
Battery

53

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

51

## INFANTRY



Kawaleria Zmotory-  
zowana Company

56

## ANTI-TANK



Zmotoryzowany  
Anti Tank Gun Platoon

57

## ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

## FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62



Divisional Support Pla-  
toons are counted as  
Allied Platoons and are  
not subject to the  
Obrona Narodowa spe-  
cial rules, and instead  
only follow the stand-  
ard Polish special rules  
as given in the rulebook



# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ II

(Type II National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

## HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

38

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Well trained and well equipped the Pomeranian Type II Battalions had been around from the start of the National Defence. When war started they were deemed good enough to be collected into their own reserve regiments supporting the regulars.

COMBAT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

WEAPONS PLATOONS

## MORTARS

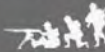


Obrona Narodowa  
Granatnik Section

33

BATTALION SUPPORT PLATOONS

## MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
HMG Support Platoon

44

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

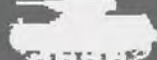
## INFANTRY



Policja Państwowa  
Infantry Platoon

47

## ARMOUR



Czołgów Platoon

58

## ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

## INFANTRY



Piechota Company

49

## INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

51

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT



AA MG Platoon

60

Anti-Aircraft Platoon

60

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

## INFANTRY



Dismounted Kawaleria  
Company

55

## ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

## ANTI-TANK



Piechota Anti-tank  
Platoon

56

## FORTIFICATIONS



Light Bunkers

61

## FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ III

(Type III National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

38

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Well trained and well equipped the Silesian Type III Battalions had also been around from the start of the National Defence. When war started they were deemed good enough to be assigned key defensive responsibilities supporting the regulars troops

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

WEAPONS PLATOONS

MORTARS



Obrona Narodowa  
Granatnik Section

43

BATTALION SUPPORT PLATOONS

MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
HMG Support Platoon

44

RECONNAISSANCE



Obrona Narodowa  
Scout Platoon

46

INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Pioneer Section

45

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Policja Panstwowa  
Infantry Platoon

47

ARMOUR



Policja Panstwowa  
Armoured Car Platoon

48

ANTI-TANK



Piechota Anti-tank  
Platoon

49

INFANTRY



Piechota Company

49

INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

51

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Anti-Aircraft Platoon

60

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

INFANTRY



Dismounted Kawaleria  
Company

55

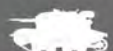
ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

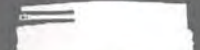
ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

FORTIFICATIONS



Light Bunkers

61

FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ IV

(Type IV National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

## HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

38

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Conceived too late to have reached the final stage of their development before war started, they nonetheless provided a serious contribution to the regular armies line of battle. Erratic in their performances and undersupplied, they suffered accordingly

COMBAT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

WEAPONS PLATOONS

## MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
Machine Gun Platoon

43

BATTALION SUPPORT PLATOONS

## RECONNAISSANCE



Obrona Narodowa  
Scout Platoon

46

## MORTARS



Obrona Narodowa  
Mortar Team

45

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Pioneer Section

45

## ANTI-TANK



Obrona Narodowa  
Anti-tank Platoon

46

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Policja Panstwowa  
Infantry Platoon

47

## ARMOUR



Policja Panstwowa  
Armoured Car Platoon

48

## INFANTRY



Piechota Company

49

## ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

## INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

51

## INFANTRY



Podhale Mountain  
Infantry Company

52

## ARTILLERY



Podhale Mountain  
Artillery Battery

53

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

## INFANTRY



Dismounted Kawaleria  
Company

55

## INFANTRY



Kawaleria Zmotory-  
zowana Company

56

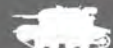
## ANTI-TANK



Zmotoryzowany  
Anti Tank Gun Platoon

57

## ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

## ARMOUR



Czołgów Platoon

58

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT



AA MG Platoon

60

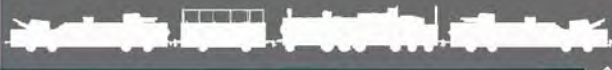
Anti-Aircraft Platoon

60



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook

## ARMoured TRAIN



Pociąg Pancerny

59





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ S

(Type 'S' National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

## HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

38

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

Originally Type IV battalions, only three of the projected 15 were converted to Type 'S' when war started. Designed for Fortress Area garrisoning they were equipped with a serious allocation of heavy support weapons... and made the Nazis suffer for it too!

COMBAT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

40

## MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
Machine Gun Platoon

42

## MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
Machine Gun Platoon

42

BATTALION SUPPORT PLATOONS

## MORTARS



Obrona Narodowa  
Mortar Platoon

44

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Pioneer Section

45

## ANTI-TANK



Obrona Narodowa  
Anti-tank Platoon

46

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

51

## INFANTRY



Piechota Company

49

## ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

## INFANTRY



Podhale Mountain  
Infantry Company

53

## INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

## INFANTRY



Policja Panstwowa  
Infantry Platoon

57

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT



AA MG Platoon  
Anti-Aircraft Platoon

60

60

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## FORTIFICATIONS



Heavy Bunker

61

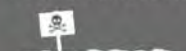
## FORTIFICATIONS



Light Bunkers

61

## FORTIFICATIONS



Minefields

63

## FORTIFICATIONS



Barbed Wire

62

## FORTIFICATIONS



Barbed Wire

62

## FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62

## FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ KS

(Type KS National Defence Infantry Company)

HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

39

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

The Type KS Companies were never designed to be complete battalions and instead were designed as single companies to complement the garrisons of fortress areas but with the mobility to relocate heavy support quickly where necessary

COMBAT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Platoon

47

MACHINE-GUNS



Obrona Narodowa  
Machine Gun Platoon

47

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrony  
Pogranicza Company

57

INFANTRY



Piechota Company

69

ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

ANTI-AIRCRAFT



Anti-Aircraft Platoon

60

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

INFANTRY



Dismounted Kawaleria  
Company

55

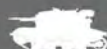
ANTI-TANK



Piechoty Anti-Tank  
Gun Platoon

57

ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

FORTIFICATIONS



Heavy Bunker

67

FORTIFICATIONS



Light Bunkers

67

FORTIFICATIONS



Minefields

62

FORTIFICATIONS



Barbed Wire

62

FORTIFICATIONS



Barbed Wire

62

FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62

FORTIFICATIONS



Trench Lines

62



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook





# Kompania Obrony Narodowej Typ K

(Type 'K' National Defence Infantry Company)

You must field one platoon from each box shaded black and may field one platoon from each box shaded grey.

The Type K Companies were never designed to be complete battalions and instead were designed as single companies to provide extra manpower for the garrisons of fortress areas but with the mobility to relocate quickly wherever and whenever necessary

HEADQUARTERS

## HEADQUARTERS



Obrona Narodowa  
Infantry Company HQ

39

COMBAT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Cyclist Platoon

41

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Cyclist Platoon

41

## INFANTRY



Obrona Narodowa  
Cyclist Platoon

41



Divisional Support Platoons are counted as Allied Platoons and are not subject to the Obrona Narodowa special rules, and instead only follow the standard Polish special rules as given in the rulebook

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

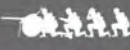
## INFANTRY



Piechota Company

46

## ANTI-TANK



Piechota Anti-tank  
Platoon

46

## ARTILLERY



Field Gun Artillery  
Battery

50

## INFANTRY



Korpus Ochrany  
Pogranicza Company

51

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

## INFANTRY



Mounted Kawaleria  
Company

54

## INFANTRY



Dismounted Kawaleria  
Company

55

## ARMOUR



Reconnaissance  
Tank Platoon

57

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT



AA MG Platoon

60



## Skill & Motivation

Despite the fact that all Polish National Defence troops are rated as Conscript, the Motivation of the Obrona Narodowa troops and their officers & NCO's needs to be determined before the game begins.

Before turn one begins roll a die and consult the 'Fight for Little Poland' table to determine the motivation value of your company for the game ahead.

CONSCRIPT

TRAINED

VETERAN

## Headquarters

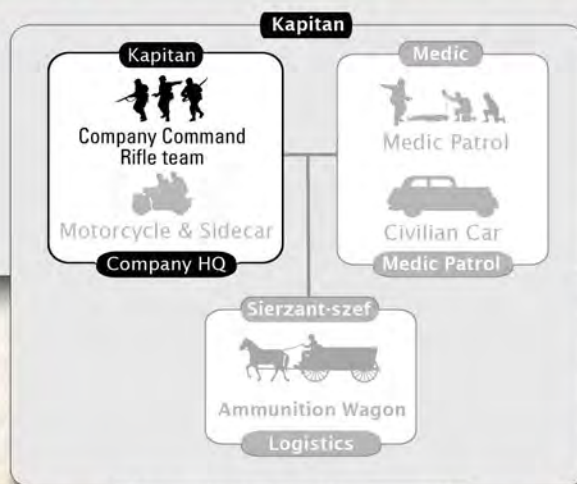
### Headquarters (Typ I)

Company HQ 10 points

#### Options:

- Add a Medic Patrol for +5 pts
- Add a Civilian Car for +5 pts
- Add a Motorcycle & Sidecar for +5pts
- Add an Ammunition Supply Cart for +10 pts

Despite Polish National Defence Battalion commanders all being regular serving officers, the majority of remaining officers and NCO's were reservists who had been called back to the colours, to help protect home and hearth, Little Poland, against the expected aggression of Nazi Germany and her allies.



Obrona Narodowa Company HQ

### Headquarters (Typ II, III, IV & S)

Company HQ 10 points

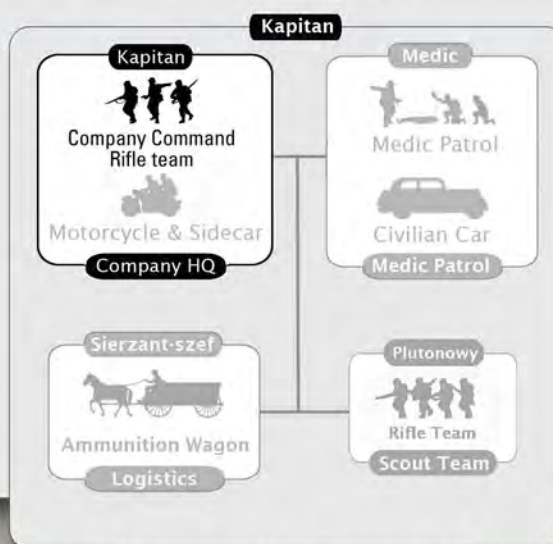
#### Options:

- Add a Motorcycle & Sidecar for +5pts
- Add a Medic Patrol for +5 pts
- Add a Civilian Car for +5 pts
- Add an Ammunition Supply Cart for +10 pts
- Add a Scout Team on bicycles for +7 pts

#### Additional Type S Options:

- Mount all choices on bicycles for +15 pts

Type 'S' ON company HQ's cannot take motor vehicles  
Scout Teams count as Reconnaissance



Obrona Narodowa Company HQ

Despite the fact that the reorganisations that the National Defence progressively moved these organisations towards peak efficiency there was a certain contempt and lack of trust that the senior serving officers viewed these organisations with and because of this the battalion level headquarters were all but removed from the decision making processes which it could be argued was largely responsible for the lack of understanding in the Polish military hierarchy of how to employ these battalions to greatest effect and in fact having them poorly deployed and pulled out of areas where they were capable of fighting at their best.



## Skill & Motivation

Despite the fact that all Polish National Defence troops are rated as Conscript, the Motivation of the Obrona Narodowa troops and their officers & NCO's needs to be determined before the game begins.

Before turn one begins roll a die and consult the 'Fight for Little Poland' table to determine the motivation value of your company for the game ahead.

CONSCRIPT

TRAINED

VETERAN

## Headquarters

### Headquarters (Typ K & KS)

Company HQ 10 points

#### Options:

- Add a Medic Patrol for +5 pts

All troops are mounted on bicycles

Kapitan

Kapitan

Company Command  
Rifle team  
Company HQ

Medic

Medic Patrol  
Medic Patrol

Obrona Narodowa Company HQ



The photograph shows Captain Szczepanski, the commanding officer of 1 Company, "Czersk" National Defence Battalion which was a Type II Pomeranian battalion.

This photograph was taken just a week or so before the war started, as the battalion was mobilising and moving to its assembly areas.

The "Czersk" National Defence Battalion was to serve with Operational Group "Czersk" defending the Chojnice Sector.

On 1 September at 0600 German artillery opened a heavy fire on the Battalions positions soon followed by sustained and repeated infantry assaults.

Despite the fact that all regular army support were leaving their positions by 1500 the National Defence troops were the only ones still clinging hold of their ground with the burden of defence for the whole sector resting solely on their shoulders.

Losses were serious, including the death of Captain Szczepanski and the wounding of all other officers. At 1700 the Battalion received orders to fall back. Second-Lieutenant Kalinowski, who had now taken over command gave the order to retreat. Manpower for the Battalion was down to 50 percent with 1 Company being able to field only 20 able bodied men.

To make matters worse when the company reached a rear area homestead German fifth columnists pounced killing Kalinowski and at least another 12 of 1 Company's men.



# Combat Platoons

## ON Infantry Platoon (Typ I, II & III)

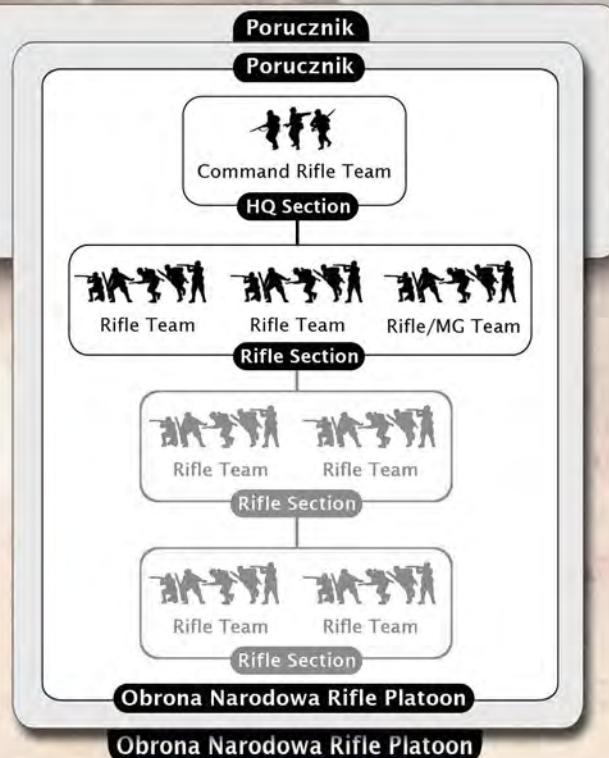
### HQ Section with:

- 1 Rifle Section 37pts
- 2 Rifle Sections 51pts
- 3 Rifle Sections 81pts

Type I, II and III Obrona Narodowa battalions were outfitted with rifle platoons that each had a light machine gun of some description given to the first section.

Typically they were not equipped with an abundance of support weaponry, instead their purpose was purely to provide extra manpower to the more capable regular serving armed forces.

The main function for a lot of these troops however was to give support by providing a security presence in order to deter the activities of subversive elements such as the German Fifth Column that were active all along the western borders.



## ON Infantry Platoon (Typ IV & S)

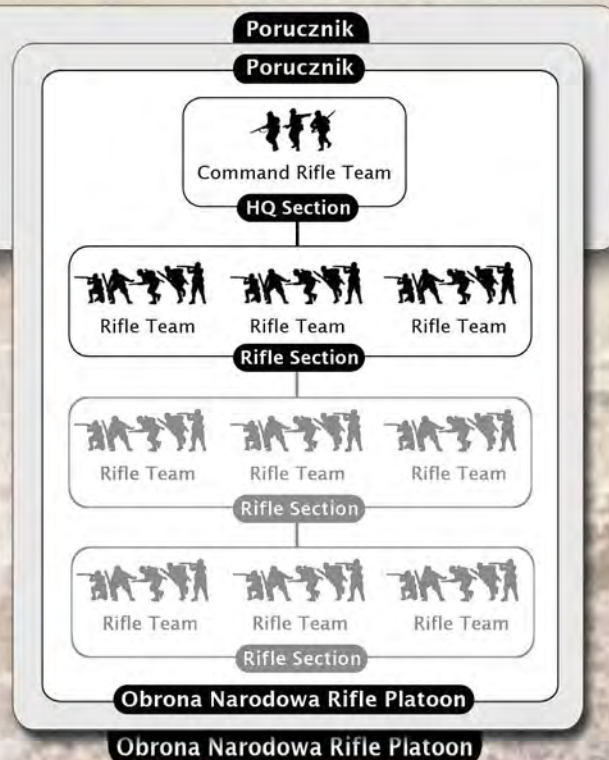
### HQ Section with:

- 1 Rifle Section 35pts
- 2 Rifle Sections 65pts
- 3 Rifle Sections 95pts

The Type IV and Type S battalion infantry platoons of the ON were the largest of the organisation as a whole.

Before the war the soldiers of the Obrona Narodowa were brought together for training only around once a month with the battalions frequently gathering under strength. The thoroughness with which the Battalions were prepared for war was therefore always considered suspect.

Despite all of these setbacks the Obrona Narodowa were often able to give a good account of themselves dishing out plenty of bloody noses to the Nazi aggressors and even being known to fight to the last man!



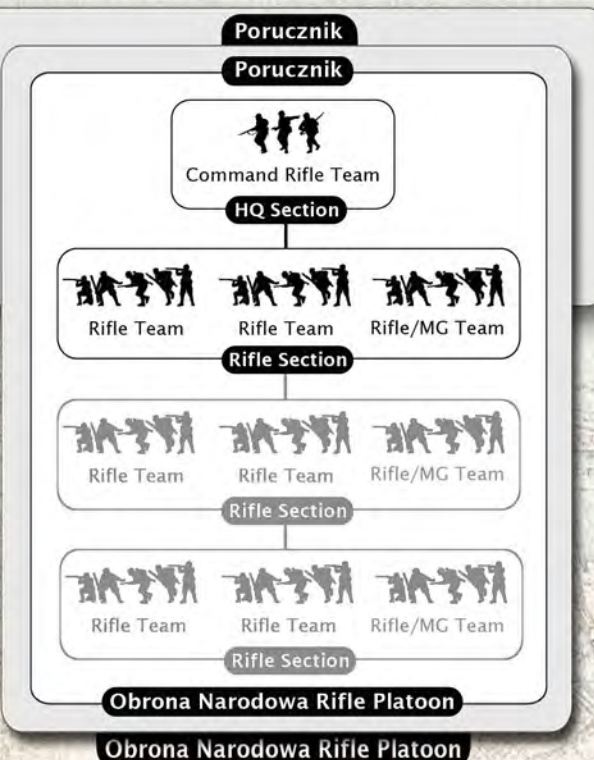


## ON Infantry Platoon (Typ K & KS)

### HQ Section with:

- 1 Rifle Section 37pts
- 2 Rifle Sections 69pts
- 3 Rifle Sections 100pts

All troops are mounted on bicycles



Obrona Narodowa Rifle Platoon

The Infantry Platoons of the Type K and Type KS National Defence Companies were outfitted exactly as were those in the Type IV and Type S battalions with the exception that they were provided with a single LMG for each section and also supplied with bicycles in keeping with their perceived duties of being able to reach anywhere within a Fortress Sector that they were serving as a part of as quickly as possible.

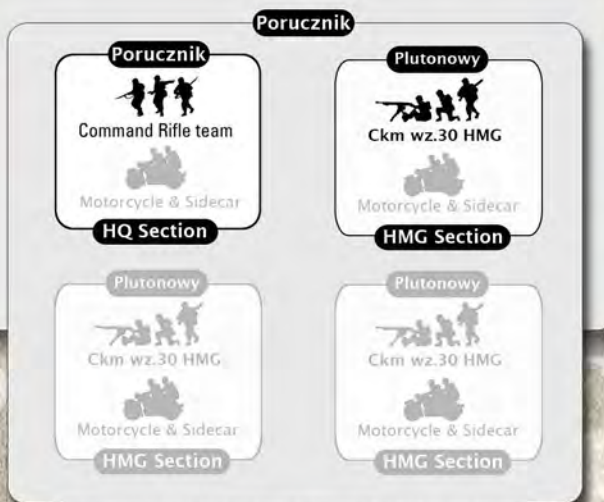
## HMG Platoon (Typ KS)

### HQ Section with:

- 1x HMG Section 40pts
- 2x HMG Sections 70pts
- 3x HMG Sections 100pts

### Options:

- Mount all sections on Motorcycles & Sidecars for +15 pts



Typ KS Obrona Narodowa HMG Platoon

As the Typ KS Companies were seen as having to be as mobile as possible within any Fortress Sector they were assigned to it was deemed necessary to provide the troops using HMGs with an extra facility to help them get around the battlefield so each of the Type KS HMG platoons was provided with four Sokol 1000 motorcycle sidecars to help them get around.



## HMG Platoon (Type S)

HQ Section with:	
1x HMG Section	40pts
2x HMG Sections	70pts
3x HMG Sections	100pts

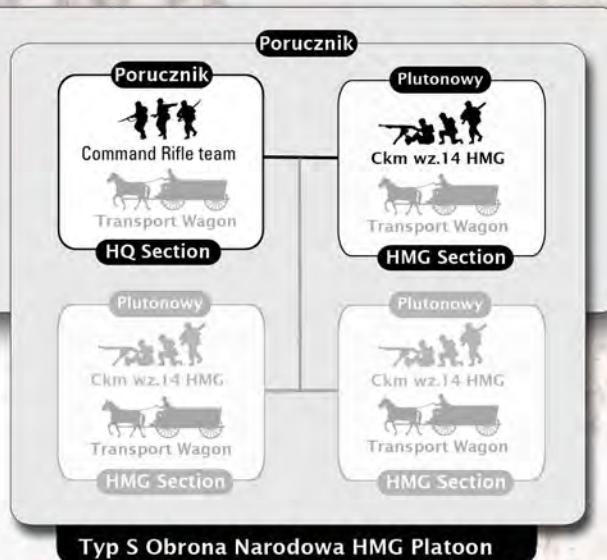
### Options:

- Add Transport Wagon for the Platoon for +10 pts

The Typ S National Defence battalions were established to serve alongside Fortress garrisons in areas that were designated as Fortified Sectors which had permanent, heavy and light field positions built.

The fortified sectors along Poland's borders had been identified as areas where German attacks were likely to be focussed, sustained and heavy and as such had

had significant attention given to their defence. Because of this there was seen to be a need to bolster the numbers of troops garrisoning these strong points leaving regular army units free to conduct manoeuvre against the enemy. On account of this a number of National Defence battalions were designated as being reorganised into Type S battalions. By the time the war started only three battalions had finished this remodelling and their armaments, and perhaps more importantly the provision of such were of a much higher standard than that of many other National Defence formations. Unlike other types of battalion the Type S surrendered a number of their rifle platoons, replacing them with heavy machine gun platoons to an equal number of rifle platoons.



The photograph shows 1 "Przemyśl" Company of the Type I "Przemyśl" National Defence Battalion. Established in mid 1937 as a part of the Podkarpacka Half-Brigade in the spring of 1939 it was remodelled into a Type I battalion.

In the September '39 campaign the Battalion fought as a part of 3rd Mountain Brigade, a part of Army "Karpaty" facing off against the forces of Germany and Slovakia along the Beskid Mountains, in the region of Szczawne near the Łupkowski Pass. On 9 September, the Battalion was withdrawn behind the San River to the Olszanica-Stefkowa line, where on 10 September they fought against the motorised "Wintergerst" pursuit force from the German 1st Mountain Division. The broken battalion withdrew eastwards, a part of the battalion towards Stanisławów, and the rest to the region of Turki nad Stryj. The various units were then amalgamated into the II Battalion 3rd Podhale Rifle Regiment, where they fought against the German 57th Infantry Division. Part of the repeatedly broken sub-units of the "Przemyśl" Battalion were included in the improvised "Krechowiec" Battalion under the command of Second-Lieutenant (res.) Piotr Nowak, defending the Stanisławów region.



# Weapons Platoons

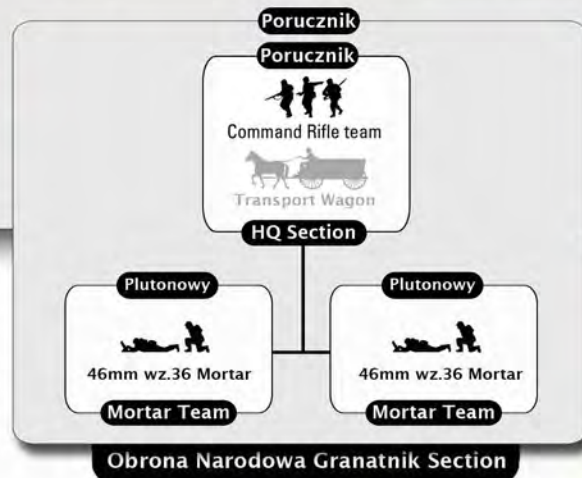
## Granatnik Section (Type II & III)

HQ Section with 2x 46mm wz.36 Granatnik Teams 20pts

### Options:

- Add Transport Wagon for the Team for +5 pts

The Polish 46mm wz.36 Granatnik was technically a grenade launcher as opposed to a mortar. Revolutionary when it was designed the range was controlled by a control which regulated gas in the chamber. Slightly lighter than Europe's other light mortars it was however slightly less accurate.



## HMG Platoon (Typ IV)

HQ Section with:  
1x HMG Section 40pts  
2x HMG Sections 70pts  
3x HMG Sections 100pts

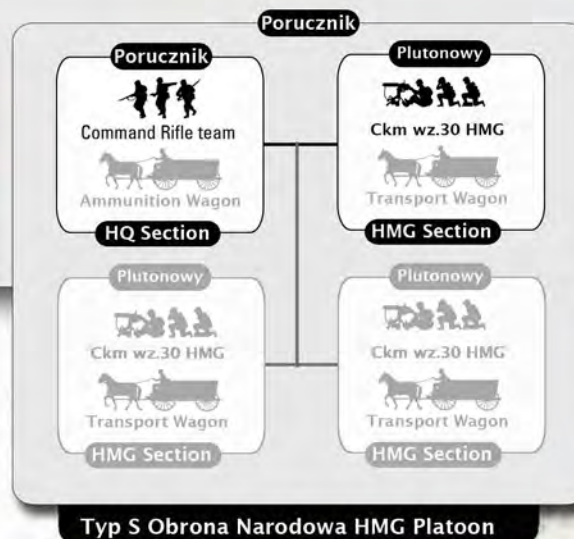
### Options:

- Add Transport Wagon for the Platoon for +10 pts

The Type IV National Defence Battalions were the latest of the formats to be introduced to the National Defence forces of Poland. Had they have been able to receive all of their establishment equipment they would have represented the most well rounded of the National Defence forces that would have been most like a regular serving infantry battalion.

Unfortunately by the time the war began the Type IV battalions were missing a whole raft of equipment.

One area that Poland was relatively well catered for however was in the area of heavy machine guns and whilst the more modern Browning wz.31 hmg's made their way to the Infantry and the Border Defence Corps, the National Defence was still left with an appreciable amount of Hotchkiss wz.14 and wz.25's, the Maxim wz.08 of both German and Russian versions and a number of aging British maxims as well.





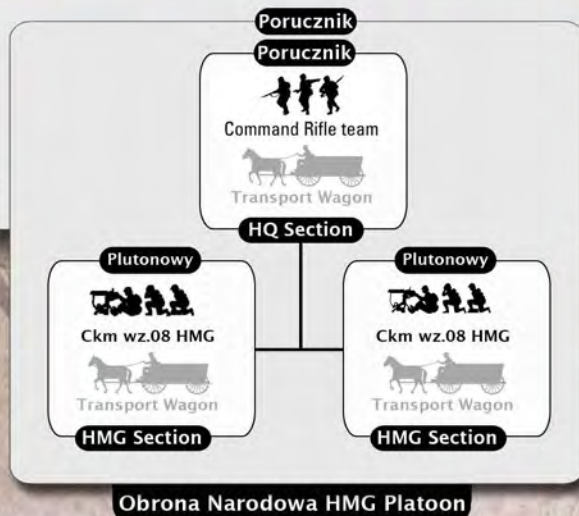
# Battalion Support Platoons

## HMG Platoon (Typ I)

HQ Section with 2x HMG Sections 50pts

### Options:

- Add Transport Wagons for the platoon for +10 pts



As the Type I National Defence battalions were not seen as fulfilling duties any further than rear area security presence and as their main opponents were assumed to be little more than fifth columnists and subversive elements heavy support was not deemed as being important to the successful completion of their responsibilities.

They were thus provided with nothing more than a single platoon of only two heavy machine guns for each battalion and as they were in least need of heavy support this will most likely have been the most worn out weapons in the national inventory, such as the Maxim wz.08's or the oldest Hotchkiss wz.14's.

## HMG Support Platoon (Typ II & III)

HQ Section with:

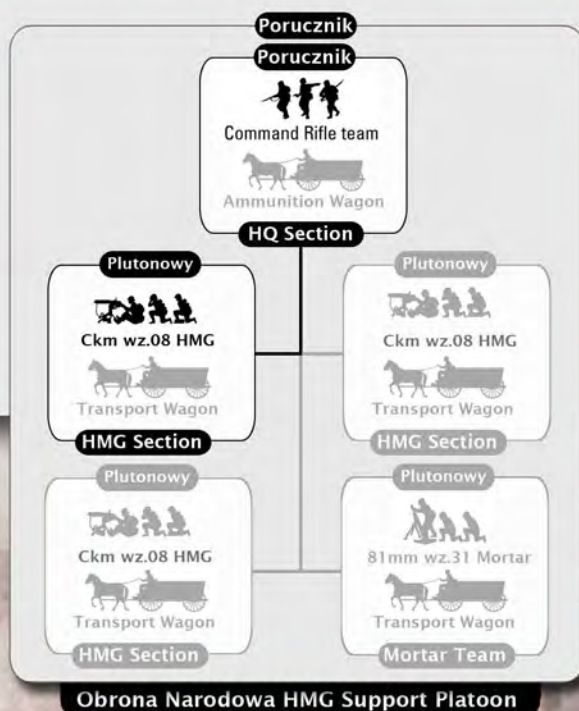
1x HMG Sections	30pts
1x HMG Section & 1x Mortar Section	55pts
2x HMG Sections	50pts
2x HMG Sections & 1x Mortar Section	80pts
3x HMG Sections	70pts
3x HMG Sections & 1x Mortar Sections	105pts

### Options:

- Add Ammunition Wagon for +15 pts
- Add Transport Wagons for the platoon for +15 pts

The Type II and III National Defence battalions had their heavy machine guns held at battalion level and combined the platoon with the mortar provision that was allocated to each of the battalions.

The HMG's provided to the Type II and III battalions were usually of the Maxim variety although as war approached a very few of them were provided with the license produced Browning wz.31's





## Mortar Team (Typ IV)

HQ Section with 1x 81mm Mortar Team 30pts

### Options:

- Add Transport Wagon for the Team for +5 pts

Whilst some formations were supplied with the lighter 46mm wz.36 Granatnik only one heavier 81mm wz.31 mortar was able to be supplied to almost all other Battalion types.

In the absence of an abundance of other artillery support the 81mm wz.31 mortar provided a highly mobile and very convenient form of artillery to support them.



## Mortar Platoon (Type S)

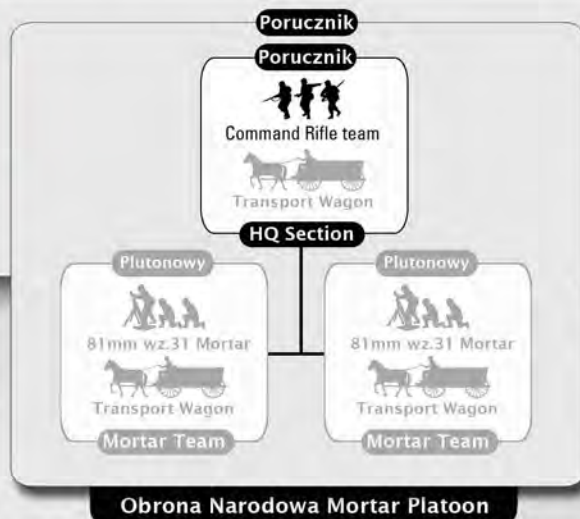
HQ Section with:  
1x 81mm wz.31 Mortar Team 35pts  
2x 81mm wz.31 Mortar Team 60pts

### Options:

- Add Transport Wagon for the platoon for +10 pts

The only type of National Defence battalion that was provided with more than a single medium mortar was the three Type S battalions; Chorzów, Koronowa and Znin.

Due to the fact that they were perceived as participating in heavy fighting it was expected that the more heavy support that they could be provided with the better.



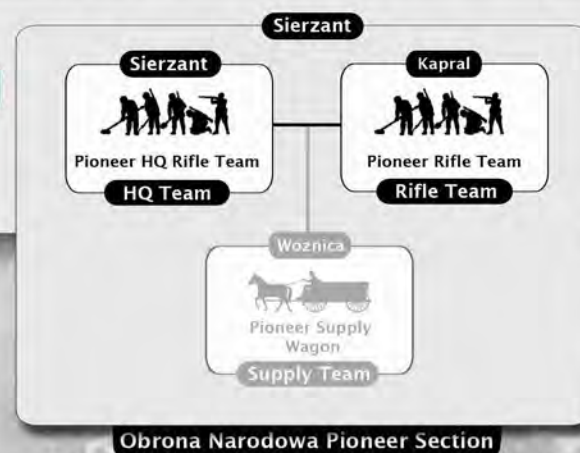
## Pioneer Section (Typ III, IV & S)

Pioneer HQ Rifle Team with 1x Pioneer Rifle Team 22pts

### Options:

- Add Pioneer Supply Wagon for +15 pts

It was expected that the tactical responsibilities of the Type III, IV and S Battalions would be considerably more difficult than many of the other battalions. Because of this each battalion was furnished with a single Pioneer section that was tasked with destroying bridges, creating obstacles and generally making their opponents lives as difficult as possible.





## Anti Tank Gun Platoon (Typ IV & S)

HQ Section with 1x AT Gun Sections	40pts
2x AT Gun Sections	70pts
3x AT Gun Sections	100pts

### Option:

- Add Horse Limbers and a Transport Wagon to the platoon for +10 pts

Anti-tank guns were in short supply in the interbellum for Poland so only a single platoon was supposedly available for each Obrona Narodowa Battalion, and even then only for the larger type IV and S's.

Unfortunately, even though a full platoon was supposed to be supplied when the Obrona Narodowa was called to arms a lot of reallocation of munitions had already happened with the result being that often a battalion would have no heavier assets being supplied at all, or else only a single anti tank gun.

The AP rounds supplied with these guns would penetrate 20mm of hardened steel armour at a kilometre and over 40mm at 300 yards making it more than a match for every vehicle the Germans fielded.



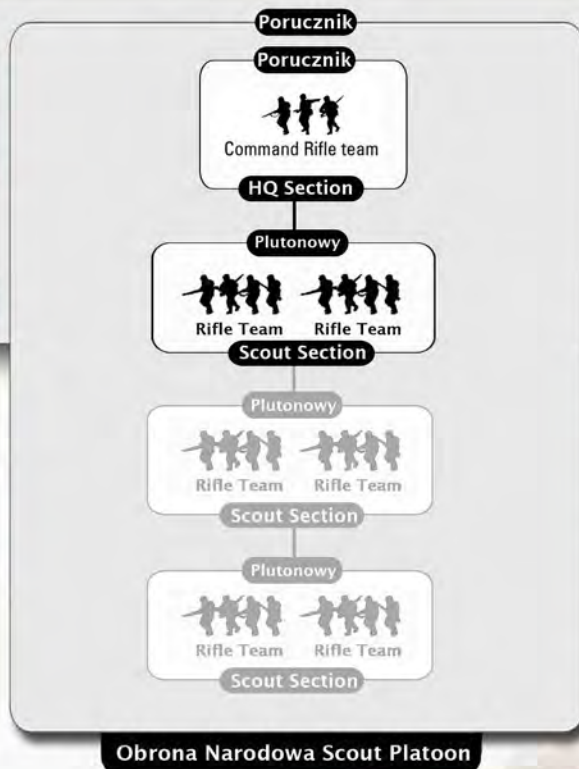
## Scout Platoon (Typ III & IV)

HQ Section with 1x Scout Section	25pts
2x Scout Sections	35pts
3x Scout Sections	45pts

### Option:

- Mount all troops on bicycles for +10 pts

*Obrona Narodowa Scout Platoons are Reconnaissance Platoons*



The largest of the Obrona Narodowa Battalions, the Type III and the Type IV were provided with dedicated reconnaissance platoons in order that the officers of the ON battalions could avoid being surprised by the enemy and perhaps lay ambushes of their own.



# Divisional Support Platoons

## Policja Panstwowa Skill & Motivation

The Polish State Police were formed by Marshall Pilsudski to address the multiple internal subversive elements that were present in the newly reborn state. Only ethnic poles whose political loyalty was assured were recruited into this organisation and they waged an aggressive war against Polands enemies within her own borders. Following the Polish collapse many of the 'Blue Police' were separated from the rest of the armed forces and murdered for being anti communist or else taking too rigorous a role in hunting down the States enemies.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN



When fighting against German 5th Columnists or other troops classified as Guerillas, the skill rating of the Policja Panstwowa Infantry Platoon is rated as **Fearless Trained** whilst the skill rating of the Policja Panstwowa Armoured Car platoon is rated as **Confident Trained**.

## Policja Panstwowa Infantry Platoon

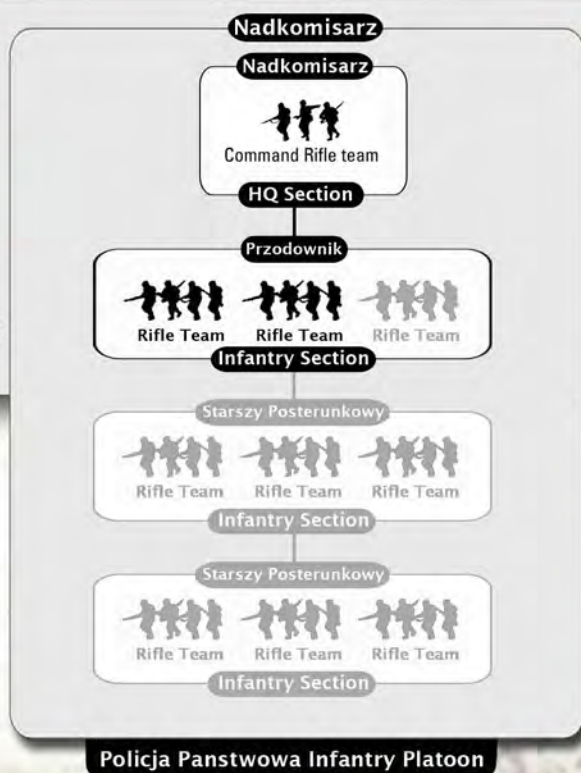
State Police Command Rifle Team with	
1x State Police Rifle Section	25pts
2x State Police Rifle Sections	35pts
3x State Police Rifle Sections	45pts

### Options:

- Add a Rifle base to each section up to a maximum of three bases for +10 pts for each expanded section.

The Blue Police were to be found in almost every area that the Polish fought their enemies, both internally and externally. Different areas had vastly differing amounts of manpower available but wherever they were to be found they fought hard.

At the end of the September Campaign, the Blue Police suffered the hardest, being frequently separated from other troops they were taken prisoner alongside, and summarily executed for actions against fifth columnists or else being rabidly opposed to the advance of Communism.





## Policja Panstwowa Armoured Car Platoon

Command Armoured Car (37mm Cannon) with	30pts
1x Armoured Car (Hotchkiss wz.25)	50pts
2x Armoured Cars (Hotchkiss wz.25)	70pts

In the '30's the heads of the army decided that their old Peugeot armoured cars that had been purchased just after the Polish-Bolshevik war in the twenties were no longer fit for front line duties and were sold off to the Blue Police to use.

They still saw combat in '39 when a platoon took part in an assault against a fifth columnist held mine in Silesia succeeding in taking the compound for the loss of one car and its crew.



When the German Army crossed the Polish border at dawn of 1 September 1939, and started the 'battle of the border' against the Polish main forces, the German Freikorps, a well equipped "fifth column", consisting of local German Nazis and saboteurs trained in Germany, attempted at capturing some targets behind the front line.

One of them was a power plant in Chorzów, defended by a poorly equipped Obrona Narodowa company. Blue Police Peugeots supported the defenders in the morning, managing to repel the aggressors. Later that day, one of the Police cars tried to get into the "Michał" coal mine in Michałkowice near Chorzów, to support Polish Police and infantry against a strong sabotage group of Sonderformation Ebbinghaus.

It was burned out with hand grenades, whilst trying to break open a closed gate. The crew, along with the vehicle commander Captain Walenty Fojkis, bailed out, all suffering injuries.

The coal mine itself later temporarily returned to Polish hands, with the German commander SS-Obersturmbannführer Wilhelm Pisarski was killed, before the Wehrmacht arrived.





## Piechota Skill & Motivation

On the outbreak of hostilities with Germany the Polish State could call on 30 Divisions of Infantry. Just under a million men under arms. Thoroughly trained, comprehensively indoctrinated and highly motivated these men were at least the equal of any armies infantry. Unfortunately only half had been mobilised by the start of the war. Only a quarter had reached positions to repel Nazi advances.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

### Piechota Company

3 Piechota Platoons and 1 HMG Platoon	640pts
3 Piechota Platoons	555pts
2 Piechota Platoons and 1 HMG Platoon	455pts
2 Piechota Platoons	370 pts
1 Piechota Platoon and 1 HMG Platoon	270 pts
1 Piechota Platoon	185 pts

#### Option:

- Add AT Rifle Teams for +20pts per team
- Add 46mm Granatnik Teams for +15pts per team



Despite what recorded history has led us to believe, the Polish infantryman was a well trained and well motivated individual who was under no illusion as to the costs of failure to defend their state from foreign attack.

The Polish Rifle Company was an unusually strong, if a little unwieldy, formation fielding 232 officers and men, weighing in at over twice the size of their German opponents.

Each platoon has three 19 man sections each with a wz.28 rkm light machine gun (A Browning Automatic Rifle which was produced under license, one of the few licenses that the State honoured). The main firepower of the company comes from its riflemen however, with each man being equipped with a Mauser Karabin wz.98a, which was actually the same weapon that equipped the majority of their German opponents.

Each company was also equipped with three 7.92mm Anti Tank Rifles. Top secret, these Tungsten Cored ammunition firing weapons were capable of piercing almost all German armoured vehicles fielded at the start of the war.

To provide a little extra support the company was also supplied with a platoon of three wz.36 46mm Granatnik mortars (actually grenade launchers) which were usually assigned as one per platoon.

The company would often be allocated a platoon of wz.30 HMG's for a bit of heavy support from the Battalion support assets.

#### Kapitan

##### Kapitan



#### Piechota Platoon

##### Porucznik



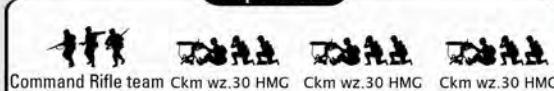
#### Piechota Platoon

##### Porucznik



#### Piechota Platoon

##### Podporucznik



#### Machine Gun Platoon

### Piechota Company

Piechoty and Machine Gun Platoons from a Piechoty Company operate as separate platoons, each with their own command team. Although it's platoons operate separately for all other purposes, a Piechoty Company deploys all at the same time as a single platoon. For example, this means that you treat the entire Piechoty Company as a single platoon when calculating the number of platoons held in Ambush or Reserve.



## Field Gun Artillery Battery

HQ Section with:  
2x 75mm wz.1897  
4x 75mm wz.1897

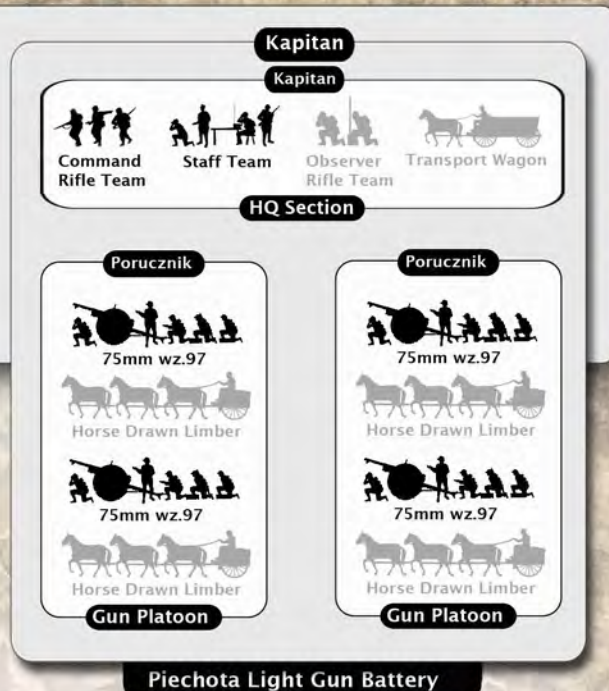
135pts  
235pts

### Options:

- Add Observer Rifle Team for +15 pts
- Add Transport Wagon and Horse Drawn Limbers for the entire battery for +5 pts

The famous 'soixante-quinze' was one of the most prolific field pieces in Polish service when the Germans and Slovaks invaded in September '39.

Almost 1400 of these pieces saw service in this campaign, with its combination of reliability, ease of use, and quick firing facility, this was one of the infantrymans best friends on the battlefield.



Although there were provisions of AP rounds supplied to batteries it was found that normal HE rounds were sufficient to destroy most armoured vehicles of the time. However in the September Campaign the Polish artillery formations almost universally employed timed fuses on their shells and not impact fuses making the anti-armour capabilities somewhat redundant... not that it wasn't attempted!

75 mm wz.1897 guns were the mainstay of the Light Artillery Regiments in Infantry Divisions. 30 regular divisions had a full Light Artillery Regiment, existing during a peacetime, corresponding with the division's number (Nos. 1-30). A further 9 reserve divisions, mobilised during the war, had incomplete artillery regiments due to problems with mobilisation and transport of units (some detachments meant for artillery regiments of reserve divisions eventually fought with other units). Typical regiments had 24 guns, in two battalions, with the third battalion equipped with 100 mm howitzers. Only 10 regiments had newer a organisation, with 12 guns and 24 howitzers. Each battalion had three four-gun batteries.



Wz.1897 guns also comprised the armament of 8 battalions of C-in-C reserve, with 12 guns each (Nos. 41, 48, 50, 58, 59, 64, 67, 81). 150 guns 75 mm (including some wz.02/26) remained in the general reserve, part of them supplementing combat units or ended up being used in combat with a collection of improvised units.



## Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza Skill & Motivation

The Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza (KOP) was Poland's 'Border Protection Corps'. They were responsible for guarding Poland's borders from hostile intent, be that from Ukrainian insurgents, invasion by Fascists and Communists or even smugglers. They were, initially only recruited from politically reliable and full ethnic Poles, they fought hard in '39 despite being stripped of much of their heavy weaponry. They are rated **Fearless/Trained**.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	<b>TRAINED</b>
<b>FEARLESS</b>	VETERAN

### KOP Rifle Company

Company with:	
1x KOP Platoon	160pts
2x KOP Platoons	320pts
3x KOP Platoons	480pts

• If a KOP Rifle Company is chosen alongside Podhale Rifles then the KOP Rifle Company count as 'Mountaineers' as described in the main rule book.

• KOP Rifle Companies are subject to the 'Multi Part Platoons' rules as described in the main rule book.

In the minds of the Poles who lived through the years of the Polish 2nd Republic the borders were almost unilaterally protected by the men of the Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza, the KOP. Almost 30,000 men were in the ranks of the KOP by the time war broke out with a regional station situated every 40km on Poland's borders and an outpost every 7-10km.



They were formed in 1924 as a result of the State Police's inability to control the avalanche of violence and smuggling on Poland's eastern borders.

Full mobilisation orders for the KOP were only issued on 31 August by which time some of their strongest assets had already been removed to the western borders leaving little to defend the east.

The KOP still gave a good account of itself in the September campaign. Having been stripped down to only 25 battalions in the East, General Wilhelm Orlik-Ruckerman was unable to offer any effective resistance but his column still managed to make their mark on the campaign being present at a number of major battles, including two of the largest, against the invading Soviets at Szack which they won with a bayonet charge and Wytyczno where, after 9 hours fighting Orlik-Ruckerman eventually gave the order 'every man for himself' as ammunition was almost spent and troops were approaching exhaustion.

#### Kapitan

##### Kapitan

##### Command Rifle team



#### KOP Rifle Platoon

##### Porucznik

##### Command Rifle team



#### KOP Rifle Platoon

##### Porucznik

##### Command Rifle team



#### KOP Rifle Platoon

### KOP Rifle Company





## Podhale Mountain Infantry Skill & Motivation

Hailing from the Carpathian and Tatra areas of Southern Poland the Podhale regiments wore a very distinctive uniform including a 3/4 length cloak and a traditional Gorale hat. They were extremely well trained and were considered one of Poland's elite formations. They fought tooth and nail to hold back the Nazi avalanche. Had they achieved full mobilisation the results of the fighting in the Tatras may very well have been different.

RELUCTANT

CONSCRIPT

CONFIDENT

TRAINED

FEARLESS

VETERAN

### Podhale Rifles Company

3 Podhale Platoons and 1 HMG Platoon	775pts
3 Podhale Platoons	675pts
2 Podhale Platoons and 1 HMG Platoon	550pts
2 Podhale Platoons	450 pts
1 Podhale Platoon and 1 HMG Platoon	325 pts
1 Podhale Platoon	225 pts

#### Options:

- Add AT Rifle Teams for +20pts per team
- Add 46mm Granatnik Teams for +15pts per team

The Podhale Rifles Company is subject to the 'Multi Part Platoons Rule.

Podhale Rifles are rated as **Fearless/Veteran** and are 'Mountaineers' as described on page 61 of the Rule Book



Podhale Rifles is the traditional name by which the mountain infantry of Poland's armed forces are known. They were formed from the Gorale clans of the Karpаты in the wake of the First World War and became one of Poland's elite fighting forces.

Not fully mobilised when war began, the 22nd Mountain Division was overrun in its assembly areas whilst the 21st Mountain Division was struggling, putting up stiff resistance and fighting its way back from the border whilst being overtaken by German forces along both of its flanks. It managed to win the battles of Krzywocka and Mogilany eventually escaping to the eastern side of the San river where it was almost immediately engaged in a three day long battle where it was finally destroyed by surrounding German troops, losing its commander, Brigadier Jozef Kustron leading a bayonet charge in the process.

The 49th Hutsul rifles are another Polish mountain infantry regiment famous for its actions in 1939. Against the SS-Standarte Germania regiment on the night of 15 September a silent bayonet charge was ordered on a resting battalion of the SS which were subsequently annihilated and lost all of their artillery train and logistics column to boot. All officers and NCO's of SS-Standarte Germania, by decree of Hitler himself, were never again permitted to lead men into

#### Kapitan

##### Kapitan



#### Piechoty Platoon

##### Porucznik



#### Piechoty Platoon

##### Porucznik



#### Piechoty Platoon

##### Podporucznik



#### Machine Gun Platoon

### Podhale Rifles Company



## Mountain Artillery Battery

HQ Section with  
4x 65mm wz.06 195pts  
2x 65mm wz.06 115pts

### Options:

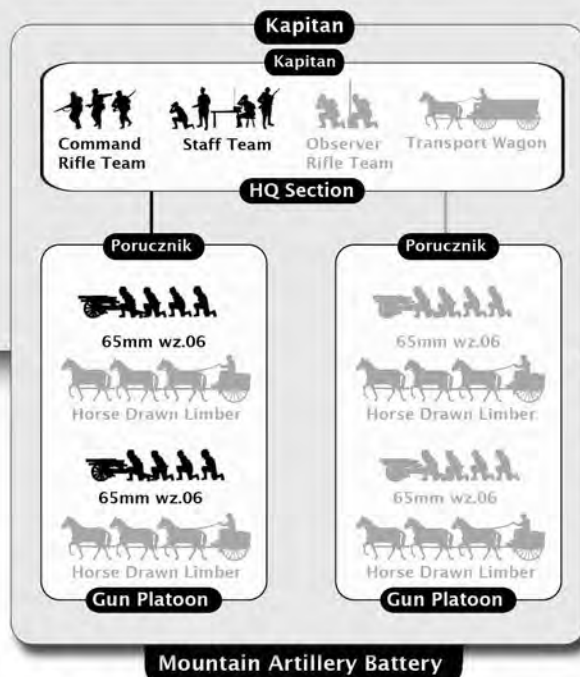
- Add Observer Rifle Team for +15 pts
- Add Transport Wagon and Horse Drawn Limbers for the entire battery for +10 pts

Poland had 24 vintage French mountain guns in its depots. Old and worn out, they were not really taken seriously as a military asset until 1939 when the developing threat on the Slovakian border made a reappraisal of these assets inevitable.

Right up until the 17th September 1939 it was still planned to provide 6 batteries of 4 guns each to the Karpaty and Podkarpackie formations although only three gun platoons were ultimately provided to the National Defence forces in these areas.

The 151st and 152nd Mountain Artillery Batteries served with the 1st Mountain Brigade. The 151st provided the artillery support for the Zywiec ON Battalion around Wysoka and the Ludwik heights as they fought with the 10th Cavalry Brigade holding back a tidal wave of Nazis.

At least one battery survived to cross the Hungarian border although it is not clear whether this was the 151st, 152nd or the 153rd which was with the 2nd Mountain Brigades forces.

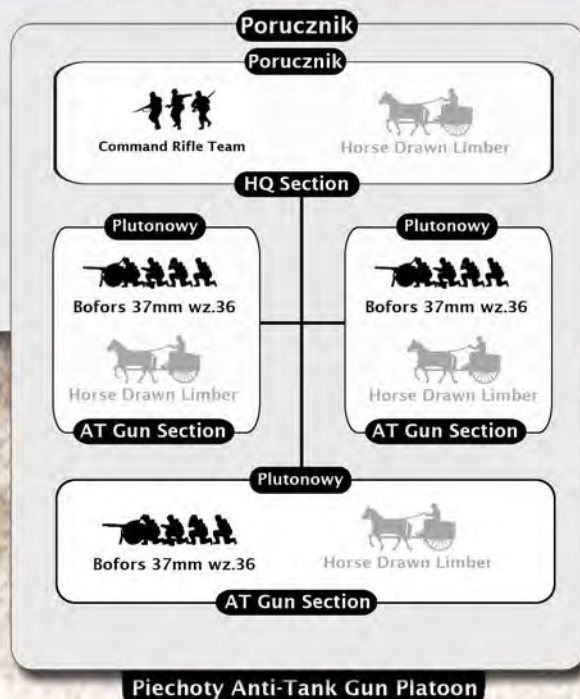


## Piechoty Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

HQ Section with:  
3x AT Gun Sections 90pts

### Options:

- Add horse drawn limbers for no cost



Piechoty Anti-Tank Gun Platoon



## Kawaleria Skill & Motivation

The Cavalry regiments had always been considered the elite of the Polish armed forces with the generally accepted maxim stating that it took three years to turn a man with a horse into a useful military asset.

When war began on 1st September it was the Volhynian Cavalry Brigade that won one of the first major battles of WW2 halting 3 entire German divisions for two days. These troops were highly mobile, highly aggressive and highly skilled.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

### Mounted Kawaleria Company

HQ Section with:

1x Kawaleria Platoon  
2x Kawaleria Platoons  
3x Kawaleria Platoons

180pts

310pts

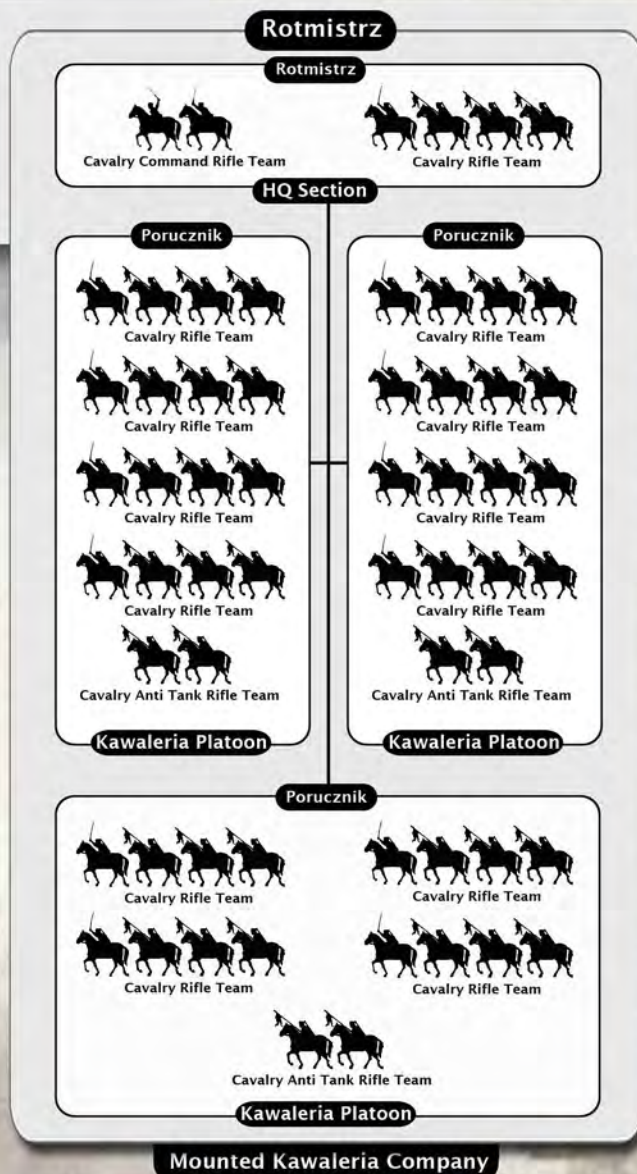
440pts

The Polish army considered horse mounted infantry to be absolutely indispensable in their country with its poor transport infrastructure and poor road networks. Operational studies were intensively undertaken in the thirties and it was found that cavalry had an appreciable advantage over forces that were road bound supposedly handing the tactical advantage to Poland's horse mounted infantry.

The Lance had been retired as a front line weapon in 1936 and in fact by 1939 only 1 in 9 cavalymen were issued a lance. Although officially retired a few were still carried into combat where they made their mark, along with the Polish sabres.

Polish cavalry gave an almost uniformly solid performance in '39, including one of the first allied victories of the war at Mokra where a single Brigade of 4000 men halted three German divisions of about 40,000 men and machines in their tracks for two days!

A Mounted Kawaleria Company and any other Cavalry teams in the force may elect to dismount before the start of the game, sending their horses to the rear and out of play for the rest of the game.





## Dismounted Kawaleria Company

HQ Section with:

1x Kawaleria Platoon  
2x Kawaleria Platoons  
3x Kawaleria Platoons

135pts

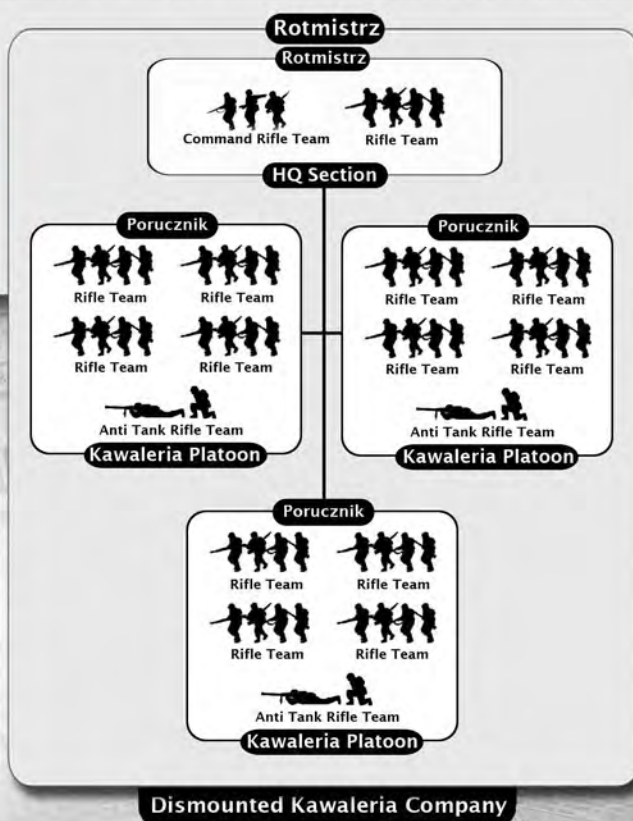
235pts

335pts

The role of the cavalry riding down their enemies with sabre and lance was, by 1939 all but a thing of the past. Romantic but largely impractical. Instead the cavalry troops would use their horses to move quickly around the battlefield and dismount to fight, and would do so with modern weaponry.

Polish cavalry platoons were tiny in comparison to the platoons of the Polish infantry with each platoon comprising the same number of troops that a single Polish infantry section contained. 18 to 20 men. However, despite a paucity of numbers, each platoon was armed with the wz.28 Browning Automatic Rifle and the world class wz.35 'Ur' anti-materiel rifle. This amounted to three times the allocation of weaponry of a normal infantry platoon.

The quality of the troops training, combined with the firepower that each platoon was capable of laying down on an enemy made them an extremely resolute and aggressive opponent that proved time and time again very difficult to overcome!





## Kawaleria Zmotoryzowana Skill & Motivation

Despite their distaste for motorised transport, the Pulk Kawalerii Zmotoryzowanej (pronounced poowk kah-vahl-ear-ee zmot-orr-ez-oh-vahn-eh-ya) remained an elite cavalry force.

A Kawaleria Zmotoryzowana company is always rated **Fearless Veteran**

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN

### Kawaleria Zmotoryzowana Company

HQ Section with:

1x Kawaleria Platoon	150pts
2x Kawaleria Platoons	270pts
3x Kawaleria Platoons	390pts

#### Options:

- Add Ckm wz.30 HMG teams with Polski-Fiat 508 field cars for 35 pts per weapon
- Replace all Polski-Fiat 508 field cars with a single Polski-Fiat 621L truck at no cost
- Replace all Polski-Fiat 621L trucks with PZInz 222 half tracks for +5 points for the company

The decision to give up their horses in exchange for motorised vehicles was not an easy one for those in charge of the 10th Mounted Rifles and the 24th Uhan regiments, given how entrenched Polish opinion on the importance of horse mounted troops was but exchange them they did!

The 10th Cavalry Brigade was converted into a Motorised Cavalry Brigade in 1936 and following successful trials a second Motorised Brigade, the Warsaw Armoured-Motorised Brigade was formed in 1939.

The decision was vindicated however with the availability of massed motor transport enabling the brigade to redeploy its assets in response to developing situations whenever and wherever was required, and at speed.

Rotmistrz	
<b>Rotmistrz</b>  Command Rifle/MG team  Polski-Fiat 508 field car <b>HQ Section</b>	<b>Porucznik</b>  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Anti Tank Rifle Team  Polski-Fiat 621L Truck  Polski-Fiat 621L Truck <b>Kawalerii Platoon</b>
Plutonowy	
<b>Plutonowy</b>  Ckm wz.30 HMG  Ckm wz.30 HMG  Polski-Fiat 508 field car  Polski-Fiat 508 field car <b>Machine Gun Section</b>	<b>Porucznik</b>  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Rifle/MG Team  Anti Tank Rifle Team  Polski-Fiat 621L Truck  Polski-Fiat 621L Truck <b>Kawalerii Platoon</b>
Kawaleria Zmotoryzowana Company	





## Zmotoryzowany Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

HQ Section with:  
2x AT Gun Sections  
3x AT Gun Sections

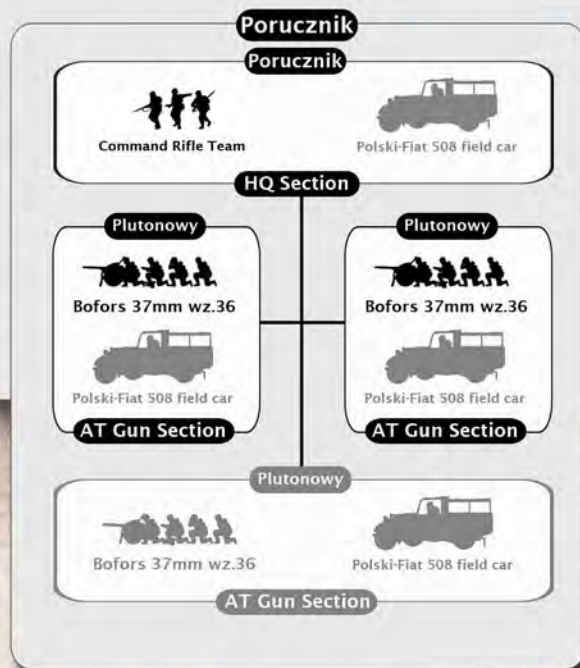
95pts  
130pts

### Options:

- Add Polski Fiat 508 field cars for +5 points for the platoon
- Replace all Polski Fiat 508 field cars with PZInz 222 half tracks for +5 points for the whole platoon

Each motorised cavalry regiment had its own platoon of three vehicle towed Bofors 37mm wz.36 anti tank guns. An excellent piece of hardware for the time proving more than capable of destroying any German vehicle on the field. The Brigade itself would also be furnished with a whole anti-tank battalion of two companies for a total of a further six platoons. Colonel Maczek deployed the 10th Cavalry Brigades anti-tank

assets to good effect at the start of the war to support the hard pressed Obrona Narodowa and KOP fighting in the Karpaty enabling them to stop repeated German assaults dead in their tracks massively frustrating enemy ambitions.



## Reconnaissance Tank Platoon

3x TKS Tankettes  
4x TKS Tankettes  
5x TKS Tankettes

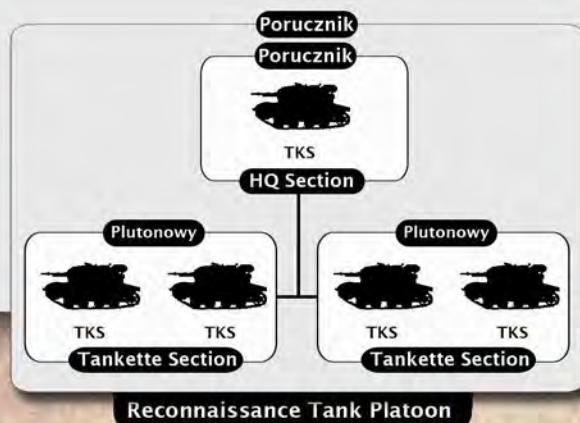
60pts  
80pts  
100pts

### Options:

- Replace up to half (rounding down) of the TKS Tankettes with TKS 20mm FKA tankettes for +5 points per tankette

An armoured battalion was attached to each cavalry brigade at the start of the war. Reconnaissance Tank platoons are rated as **Fearless Trained**

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN



Despite their name, Reconnaissance Tank Platoons are not Reconnaissance Platoons



Labelled 'Cockroaches' by the Germans the TK series of tankettes if handled properly could prove to be a hard hitting and decisive asset.

Krzyz Walenczych recipient Roman Orlik with a 20mm Cannon armed TKS destroyed 10 German armoured vehicles in 2 days in 1939 whilst the 101st Independent Reconnaissance Tank Company defeated a German attack at Albigowa which was rolling back the 10th Cavalry Brigades reconnaissance battalion.



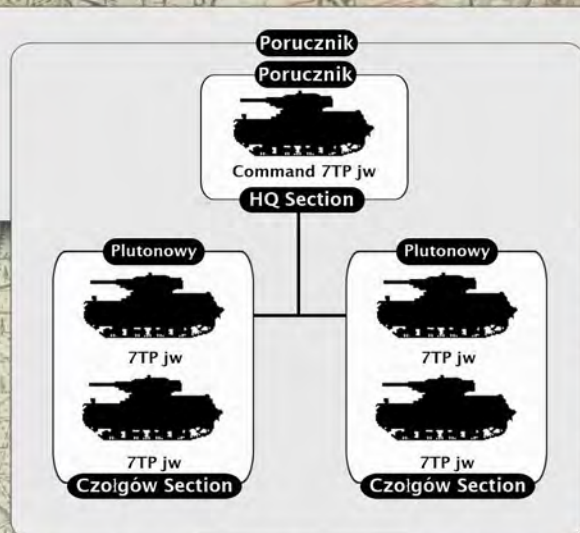
## Czołgów Platoon

3x 7TP jw	146pts
4x 7TP jw	195pts
5x 7TP jw	245pts

The tankers of a **Czołgów** platoon (pronounced kom-pah-nee-ah chow-goov) are well trained and committed to the freedom of their country.

A **Czołgów Platoon** is rated as **Fearless Trained**

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	TRAINED
FEARLESS	VETERAN



Czołgów Platoon

According to the 1936-1942 plan, the Polish Army hoped to create eight battalions of light tanks. The first four prototypes released in 1934 were sent to the III Battalion stationed in Warsaw. In less than six months it had received 14 more tanks, and the 4 pre-series machines were given to the XI Training Battalion training center at Modlin. In 1938, this unit took part in the first exercises at Volyn.

On 1 September 1939, the I Battalion of Light Tanks was part of Army "Prusy" with 49 7TPs. They were heading to Wrocław, but immediately deployed in the direction of Toruń, later being placed under General R. Drescher. On the 6 September the first clash with German tanks ended as a draw. The morning of 7 September the battalion supported the 13th Infantry Division, but were spread into separate units of the division.

At the battle along the River Dzhevichke some managed to knock out three German tanks for the loss of two, whilst 2 Company claimed seven kills against three losses. Later on II Battalion began to gradually fall back to the rear, whilst still trying to support the infantry. By 9-12 September, the main force of 24 tanks, consisting of a third company and individual platoons of the I and II Tank Battalions, took part in the defence of the Vistula and Pilica rivers. Seven tanks under the command of Captain Gursky, supporting the 44th Infantry Regiment, managed to knock out and even capture a dozen German tanks and vehicles, but due to the lack of fuel, they had to be destroyed prior to retreat. Six other 7TPs of 2 Company were lost crossing the Vistula.

The third company departed on 13 September from Garwolin-Ryki and joined Army "Lublin". They were sent to the Warsaw Armoured-Motorised Brigade, taking part in the first battle of Jozefów. By the morning of 18 September Captain Kossobudzsky was ordered to support the remaining 22 tanks from the 3 Company of the 1st



Infantry Regiment and wrecked six tanks, four armoured cars and eight other vehicles. After a 14 hour battle, the Poles were still holding the perimeter, but were being compromised by the lack of fuel, spare parts, and crew exhaustion. By the morning of 19 September the retreat was ordered with only seven 7TP, one Vickers Mk.E and four TKS left. The last coordinated attack was made in the area of Roguzhno with 5 7TP's lost, and the remaining two destroyed by their crew on 20 September before being abandoned. The II Battalion also had 49 tanks and took part in many actions, the last being evacuated into Romania.



# Armoured Trains

## Armoured Train Skill & Motivation

By the time the war started most of Poland's armoured trains had been retired. She could still call on the Legionowo and Niepolomice Armoured Train Battalions with ten upgraded steel beasts. Whilst the names had been retired the weaponry of these trains was very much up to date and these assets provided vital and in some cases battle winning support to the troops on the front line. Train crews are well trained and dedicated and as such are rated **Fearless Trained**

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
CONFIDENT	<b>TRAINED</b>
<b>FEARLESS</b>	VETERAN

### Kapitan

#### Kapitan



Artillery Car

Assault Wagon

Command Locomotive

Artillery Car

#### Sierżant

Command FT-17  
with SA 37mm



TKS



TKS

Armoured Rail  
Car Platoon

#### Porucznik



Command Rifle team



Rifle Team



Rifle Team



Rifle Team



Rifle Team



Rifle Team



Rifle Team

Assault Platoon

#### Sierżant

Command FT-17  
with SA 37mm



TKS



TKS

Armoured Rail  
Car Platoon

### Armoured Train

## Armoured Train (Typ IV)

Locomotive, Assault Car & Assault Platoon  
with 2x Light Artillery Cars 685pts

### Option:

Add up to two Armoured Railcar Platoons for  
+70pts per platoon

*An Armoured Train can only be taken in an Obrona  
Narodowa Company if your army includes either a  
Piechoty Infantry Company or a Podhale Mountain  
Infantry Company*

### Armoured Train

## Armoured Train



The only National Defence formations that had the benefit of direct support from Polish Armoured Trains were the battalions in the Karpaty fighting alongside the 10th Motorised Cavalry Brigade and Podhale Mountain Troops, those fighting along the Baltic Coast which received support from the improvised armoured train 'Smok Kaszuba', very briefly those emplaced along the Narew line and there were a couple of slapped together improvised trains within Warsaw city limits. All of the other trains were detailed to support areas where the hard pressed regular army was having such a difficult time in stemming the Nazi tide.



## Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Platoon

HQ Section with:

4x lkm wz.08/15 machine guns

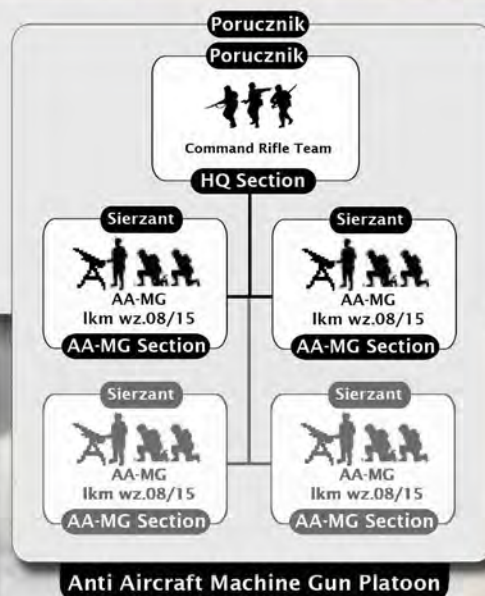
60pts

2x lkm wz.08/15 machine guns

30pts

### Options:

- The entire platoon may be mounted in:  
1x Horse drawn cart per section for free  
1x Polski Fiat 508/III Laziks per section for 10pts



As the front lines started to collapse and the Polish began to move back eastwards all cohesion between military formations began to breakdown. One area that the military formations suffered was where air defence was concerned. Because of this a number of more forward thinking Polish

Commanders made the decision to assemble platoons armed with whatever heavy machine guns they could scrape together assembling them into ad-hoc air defence platoons. The most commonly available heavy machine gun was the older World War 1 vintage wz.08/15 Maxim although across Poland there were also many wz.31 Browning heavy machine guns that found dutiful employment in air defence especially around Modlin and Warsaw.

## Type A Anti-Aircraft Battery

HQ Section with:

4x Anti-Aircraft Platoons

240pts

3x Anti-Aircraft Platoons

180pts

2x Anti-Aircraft Platoons

120pts

1x Anti-Aircraft Platoons

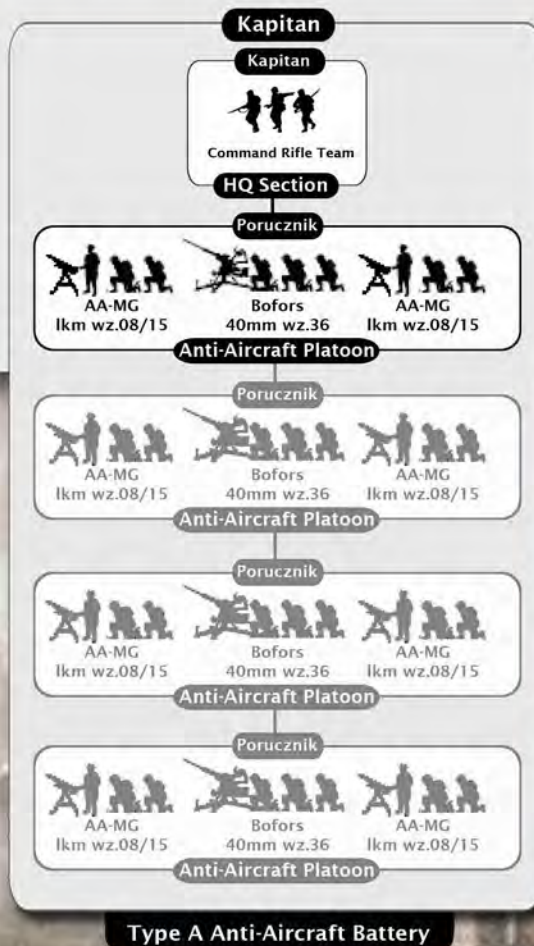
60pts

### Options:

- Add: 2x C2P Artillery Tractors per platoon for 5pts
- Add: 1x Fiat 508/III Lazik to the HQ Section for free

Each of the type "A" batteries consisted of four platoons. The platoon was armed with a Bofors 40mm wz.36 and two light machine guns (usually wz.31 Brownings) and was equipped with two C2P tractors and an N2 radio vehicle. In some batteries instead of the HMG's were HMGs on Fiat 508/518's. In addition, the battery had one radio station N1 and 34 cars. The supply of ammunition was of 4 units of fire for each of the four guns. A fire unit was calculated at 200 cartridges. The full establishment of a battery comprised 6 officers and 163 non-commissioned officers and privates.

According to the mobilisation plan "W", all batteries were to be mobilised on alarm notification, as a part of the 'brown' group. Battery formation started on 24 August. Individual batteries were to be ready for combat within 24-44 hours from mobilisation.





# Fortifications

## Heavy Bunker (Type S & KS)

Heavy Bunker with:  
 1x 75mm wz.87 100pts  
 1x 75mm wz.02/26 & 1x wz.31 HMG 120pts  
 1x 75mm wz.02/26 & 2x wz.31 HMG's 140pts  
 (one embrasure per wall of the bunker)

### Options:

- Add Minefield for +50 pts
- Add Trench Line for +5 pts
- Add Barbed Wire Entanglement for +10 pts



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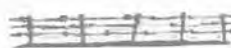
Porucznik



Heavy Bunker



Minefields



Barbed Wire



Trench Lines

Bunker

Heavy Bunker

Polands heavy bunkers were all designed to fit into the landscape and work in harmony with a plethora of other defensive features constructed in any given Fortification Zone. Acute analysis of landscape and materials had been conducted before the construction of these Fortress areas and the Germans themselves conceded that had the Polish defensive lines been completed in time they would likely have presented a considerable obstacle to the Wehrmacht

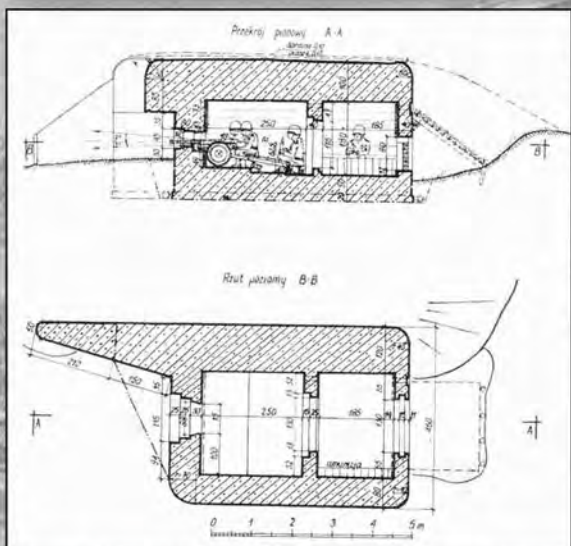
## Light Bunkers (Type II, III, S & KS)

1x Light Bunker 65 pts  
 2x Light Bunkers 80 pts

Each bunker is armed with 1x wz.31 HMG

### Options:

- Add Minefield for +50 pts
- Add Trench Line for +5 pts each
- Add Barbed Wire Entanglement for +10 pts
- Replace 1x wz.31 for 1x Bofors 37mm for 25pts



Porucznik

Porucznik



Light Bunker



Light Bunker



Trench Lines



Trench Lines



Barbed Wire



Minefields

Bunker

Light Bunkers

Whilst Polands heavy bunkers were designed to be central strongpoints of each of the Fortified Zones along the borders the light bunkers were a lot more common and provided heavy machine guns and anti tank guns with some much needed protection on the front line. Its worth noting that in the Battle of Wizna it took the Germans an entire day to destroy two advanced light bunkers before they could even approach the main defensive lines. They were designed to soak up an enormous amount of punishment whilst still allowing their own crews to fire back.



## Trench Lines (Type I, II, III, S & KS)

3x Trench Lines	15 pts
6x Trench Lines	30 pts

### Options:

- Add up to two log bunkers for 40pts each

Log Bunkers count as 'nests'



## Fortifications

### Fortifications



Trench Lines



Trench Lines



Trench Lines



Trench Lines



Trench Lines



Trench Lines

### Trenches

## Trench Lines

An infantrymans best friend! In almost all cases whenever the troops of the National Defence were mobilised and sent to occupy their positions a considerable amount of work will already have been conducted in the preparation of trench lines that would serve to help protect the troops at the start of war.

## Barbed Wire Entanglements

(Type I, II, III, S & KS)

2x Barbed Wire Entanglements	20 pts
4x Barbed Wire Entanglements	40 pts
6x Barbed Wire Entanglements	60 pts

Having first found their use in the Spanish-American war at the Siege of Santiago barbed wire has been a continued presence on the battlefields of the world since then, and whilst every nation has designed ways in which massive fields of barbed wire can be crossed or circumvented the reality is that for their cost they provide some of the greatest value in being able to restrict the movements of the enemy in the battle zone. Poland would typically combine barbed wire fences with their trench lines to help protect their troops from a closing enemy.

## Fortifications

### Fortifications



Barbed Wire



Barbed Wire



Barbed Wire



Barbed Wire



Barbed Wire



Barbed Wire

### Barbed Wire

## Barbed Wire Entanglements

## Minefields

(Type II, III, S & KS)

1x Minefield	50 pts
2x Minefields	100 pts



## Fortifications

### Fortifications



Minefields



Minefields

### Mines

## Minefields

Polish use of minefields was usually in conjunction with very heavily designed Fortress Zones whereby the use of minefields and barbed wire entanglements would serve to funnel the enemy into moving down channels where they could be easily targetted and then cut to pieces by heavy artillery coverage that in theory should have been available. The other use was for Sappers to lay ad-hoc minefields to slow the advance of the enemy making their lives more difficult.





# Polish Obrona Narodowa Arsenal

## Infantry Teams

Team	Range	ROF	Anti-Tank	Firepower	Notes
Rifle team	16"/40cm	1	2	6+	
Rifle/MG team	16"/40cm	2	2	6+	
Policja Panstwowe team	16"/40cm	2	2	6+	
Granatnik 46mm Light Mortar team	16"/40cm	2	2	4+	Can fire over friendly teams
Pioneer Rifle team	16"/40cm	1	2	6+	Tank Assault 2
Staff team	16"/40cm	1	2	6+	Moves as a heavy gun team

## Gun Teams

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-Tank	Firepower	Notes
Ckm wz.14/25 Hotchkiss HMG	Man Packed	24"/60cm	5	2	6+	RoF2 when pinned down
Ckm wz.08 'Maxim' HMG	Man Packed	24"/60cm	6	2	6+	RoF3 when pinned down
81mm wz.31 Mortar <i>Bombardment</i>	Man Packed	24"/60cm	2	2	3+	Smoke, min range 8"/20cm
		40"/100cm	-	2	6+	Smoke Bombardment
65mm wz.06 Mountain Gun <i>Bombardment</i>	Medium	24"/60cm	2	6	3+	Smoke
		64"/160cm	-	3	6+	Smoke Bombardment

## Transport Teams

Vehicle	Mobility	Front	Side	Top	Notes & Equipment
Horse Drawn Artillery Limber	Wagon	-	-	-	
Horse Drawn Wagon	Wagon	-	-	-	
Horse Drawn Pioneer Wagon	Wagon	-	-	-	
Civilian Car	Wheeled	-	-	-	
Sokol 1000 motorcycle & sidecar	Jeep	-	-	-	Optional Passenger Fired HMG





## Armoured Vehicle Teams

Name Weapon	Mobility Range	Front ROF	Side Anti-Tank	Top Firepower	Equipment & Notes
Peugeot Armoured Car 37mm Puteaux SA18 Gun	Wheeled 16"/40cm	0 2	0 4	0 4+	Unreliable Hull Mounted
Peugeot Armoured Car Ckm wz.14/25 Hotchkiss HMG	Wheeled 24"/60cm	0 5	0 2	0 6+	Unreliable Hull Mounted

## Fortifications

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-Tank	Firepower	Equipment & Notes
<b>Heavy Bunkers</b>						
75mm wz.02/26 field gun	Immobile	24"/60cm	2	8	3+	
Ckm wz.31 Browning HMG	Immobile	24"/60cm	6	2	6+	RoF3 when pinned down
<b>Light Bunkers</b>						
Ckm wz.31 Browning HMG	Immobile	24"/60cm	6	2	6+	RoF3 when pinned down
37mm wz.36 anti-tank gun	Immobile	24"/60cm	2	6	4+	
<b>Log Bunkers</b>						
Ckm wz.31 Browning HMG	Immobile	24"/60cm	6	2	6+	RoF3 when pinned down, count as nests



# Modelling the Obrona Narodowa



The Polish National Defence Battalions are easily represented in Flames of War if the modeller is prepared to spend a little time gathering his resources from a variety of different manufacturers. It also depends somewhat on what period of the Obrona Narodowa's existence that the modeller wants to concentrate on. The earlier uniforms take a little more work whereas the later uniforms are relatively easy to source.

## INFANTRY PLATOONS

The later uniforms were typically worn without access to helmets so all that would be necessary would be to source miniatures in the 'Rogatywka Field Cap'. True North Miniatures produce a line of Polish infantry with packs just wearing the field caps so these could be used. True North Miniature is carried by Old Glory UK  
<http://www.oldgloryuk.com/polish/48/179/451/461>

The earlier uniforms with their funky 1920's look require a little more effort to pull together but luckily there is a manufacturer out there that carry a line of miniatures that can be used to produce them.

Peter Pigs Spanish Civil War Carlist Requetes are dressed in a uniform that is almost identical to the uniforms worn by the early National Defence troops and those that were given the dregs from the depots before war broke out. They will need to have their heads which are all wearing berets snipped off and replaced but fortunately Peter Pig also carry a range of heads which includes French Adrian Helmets which were the helmets first worn by the National Defence and retained by some battalions past the outbreak of the war.

The SCW Carlist Requetes will cover almost all of your infantry but the support weapons need to be converted from Peter Pigs WW2 French Motorised Troops.  
<http://www.peterpig.co.uk/index.html>



Polish Obrona Narodowa Colour Chart

	Basecoat	Highlight	Extra Steps
Uniform & Puttees	Brown Violet (V887)	Green/Brown (V879)	Filter for NATO camo vehicles (AK Interactive)
Helmet	Russian Green (V894)	50/50 + Brown Violet (V887)	Filter for NATO camo vehicles (AK Interactive)
Boots	Black (V950)	Tire Black (Life Color)	
Ammo Pouches & Belt	Chocolate Brown (V872)	Flat Earth (V983)	
Canvas Bags & Webbing	English Uniform (V922)	Khaki (V988)	
Rifle Body	German Camo Med. Brown (V826)	Orange Brown (V981)	
Rifle Strap	Khaki Grey (V880)	50/50 + Ivory (918)	
Metal Parts	Steel (Molten Metals)		
Polish Eagle	Ivory (V918)		





One of the interesting things about the Obrona Narodowa is the fact that they have a very low level of mobility and so there isn't much requirement to source a plethora of weird and wonderful machines. They do have a few vital elements however but fortunately these can be easily sourced and do not require any great leap in talent to knock up into an acceptable level for presentation.

## OBRONA NARODOWA VEHICLES

The majority of vehicle requirements in the National Defence Battalions are held in the Company Headquarters elements. They are the only part of the Polish Army that is allowed to use Civilian Cars as a part of their structure.

The Civilian Car that I chose to use was easily accessible and of a reasonable cost. It is a Peter Pig Citroen from the WW2 French vehicle range. All metal and at a very acceptable cost of £4  
<http://www.peterpig.co.uk/ww2french.html>



There are quite a healthy allocation of vehicles that were handed over to National Defence battalions. They had both Sokol 600 and 1000's with and without sidecars. Battlefront do Polish motorcycles which are a good reproduction of the actual motorcycle but at the cost against requirement and given the conversion requirements of the riders I sought out another option. Luckily the True North range has Polish Cavalry on motorcycles which is ironic as the Polish Cavalry regiments only ever had a provision of a single motorcycle BUT thankfully because they are wearing Adrian helmets and come in a selection of Sokols with and without sidecars they prove to be a perfect fit for the Polish National Defence companies.



<http://www.oldgloryuk.com/polish/48/180/460/470>

To help the National Defence get around the battlefield they had State permission to requisition a whole raft of different horse drawn wagons and carts from wherever they could get them. Because they potentially had access to wagons and carts from anybody they could get them from it essentially gives you free license to use whichever wagons that suit your purposes. I chose to choose a selection of horse drawn wagons with spoked wheels and baggage loads that are carried by Museum Miniatures.



<https://www.museumminiatures.co.uk/equipment/carts-wagons.html>

The last real curio for the National Defence companies is the old French mountain guns that were taken out of mothballs and dusted off for the National Defence troops in the Karpaty. Battlefront sells Gebirgsjager 7.5cm GebK15 guns which are an ideal fit, although if you want to slam dunk the funk you can drill holes through the gun trails to make them perfect!



<https://www.flamesofwar.com/Default.aspx?tabid=117&ProductID=4702>