

# CHAIN OF COMMAND



## FINLAND 1939

### THE INFANTRY PLATOON

The Finnish Infantry Platoon is one based on influences from Germany, Sweden and Imperial Russia. A great emphasis is placed on fire and movement in among the heavily wooded border regions.

The same structure can be used for a Jääkäri platoon but these are rated as Elite.

#### PLATOON FORCE RATING:

Regular: +0

Elite Jääkäri : +7

**Command Dice:** 5, 6 for Elite

#### PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

Vanrikki, *Senior Leader*, with pistol  
Kersantti, *Senior Leader*, with rifle

#### SECTIONS ONE & FOUR

Alikersantti, *Junior Leader*, with rifle

##### RIFLE TEAM

Four riflemen

##### SMG TEAM

One man with SMG  
Four riflemen

#### SECTIONS TWO & THREE

Alikersantti, *Junior Leader*, with rifle

##### LMG TEAM

Lahti-Saloranta LMG  
with two crew  
One rifleman

##### RIFLE TEAM

Three riflemen

### PATROL PHASE SPECIAL RULE

During the Patrol Phase the Finns may move their Patrol Markers freely. They are not obliged to keep within 12", or any other distance, of other friendly Patrol Markers.

#### FINNISH SUPPORT LIST

##### LIST ONE

Satchel Charge  
One Molotov Cocktail per Section  
Medical Orderly  
Engineer Mine Clearance *Team*, 3 men  
Engineer Wire Cutting *Team*, 3 men  
Engineer Demolition *Team*, 3 men  
Minefield  
Barbed Wire  
Runner  
Entrenchments for one *Team*  
Additional SMG to allocate as desired  
Two captured SVT-38 semi-automatic rifles

##### LIST TWO

Roadblock  
AT defence *Team*, 3 men  
Captured DP-28 LMG  
One Chain of Command Dice

##### LIST THREE

25 PstK/37 25mm AT gun with 5 crew and a *Junior Leader*  
Maxim M/32 33 MMG with five crew  
Sniper *Team*  
Pre-Game barrage  
Boys AT rifle *Team*, 5 men, three with rifles

##### LIST FOUR

37 PstK 36 Bofors 37mm anti-tank gun with 5 crew and *Junior Leader*  
Captured Soviet 45mm anti-tank gun with 5 crew and *Junior Leader*  
Regular Rifle section with *Junior Leader*  
Vickers Armstrong with *Junior Leader*

##### LIST FIVE

Forward Observer Team with 81mm mortar battery off-table.

## FINNISH NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

### SYÖKSYEN ETEENPÄIN!

Finnish infantry was trained to close with the enemy when under fire with series of un-synchronised surges. As the section gave supporting fire the individual soldiers would surge forward zig-zagging from cover to cover one or two at a time making it harder for the enemy to pick off targets. In a land covered with forest this was an effective tactic.

When a Leader is attached to Finnish Section or Team and uses two Command Initiatives he may order his men to surge forward. The Section or Team will fire with half the dice, move 1D6 inches and assume a Tactical stance, in that order.

### RYNNÄKKÖÖN!

The Finnish Army adopted the attack orientated doctrine very early (much influenced by the pre-war German tactics) and the infantry attack was to close within assault range of the enemy and then, by using suppressive fire and grenades, sections would charge in to enemy positions where SMG's, grenades and brute force would win the day.

To reflect this, when a *Leader* attached to a *Team* or *Squad* uses two Command Initiatives, he may lead a charge against any enemy within 12" preceded by a hail of grenades. Roll 1D6, subtracting 1 if the enemy is in light cover, 2 if in hard cover. On a roll of 1 or 2, one hand grenade has hit the target unit; on 3 or 4, two grenades hit; on 5 or 6, three grenades hit the target. Roll for the effect of these and the *Team* or *Squad* may then move with up to 3D6 to try to initiate *Close Combat*.

Most of the support options on the list will be self-explanatory and their qualities covered by the National Arsenal Table.

#### THE LAHTI-SALORANTA LMG

This box fed LMG has a twenty-round bottom fed magazine has a firepower rating of 4.

#### SACHEL CHARGE & MOLOTOV COCKTAILS

The satchel charge is shown on Table Seven, *Hand-Held Anti-Tank Weapons* as are Molotov cocktails which are listed there as Petrol Bombs. Unless issued to a specific Anti-Tank *Team* or *Section*, the satchel charge may be used once by any *Section* on the table when commanded by the *Senior Leader* commanding the platoon who is, we assume, carrying it with him up to that point.

How the charge works is detailed in Section 9.3.4, *Tank Hunters*.

#### CAPTURED WEAPONS

A number of captured Soviet weapons are listed. Whilst the 45mm anti-tank gun comes with a crew, the small arms must all be issued

to specific Teams which must find the manpower to crew them.

#### RUNNER

Runners operate like an Adjutant, they are not represented on the table, but are used to call men forward to deploy onto the table. However, every time a runner is used to deploy troops roll a d6: a result of 1 or 2 means that the runner has successfully deployed the unit onto the table but has then either been diverted or killed and cannot be used again. There is no limit on the number of runners a Platoon can have.

#### ANTI-TANK DEFENCE TEAM

These small ad-hoc "bomber" units were used all over the front and the number of men and weaponry varied but the idea was the same. An AT-defence Team of three men is armed with one SMG, two rifles and a blinding device which is counted as a smoke grenade. They also have one Satchel Charges and two Molotov Cocktails.

## THE FINNISH ARSENAL TABLE

The Arsenal Table below covers a wide range of Finnish support options. For Finnish infantry weapons see Table Four, *The Master Arsenal Table*.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The Boys Anti-Tank rifles were a gift from Great Britain which only reached the front in January 1940. The L39 Anti-Tank rifle was a very rare weapon, only two seeing service at the front and hose only in the final days of the war.

The French 25mm anti-tank gun, the 25 PstK/37 25mm weapon were also only issued at the very end of the war and only around twenty were used.

The Vickers Armstrong Mk B tank was the basis for the Soviet T-26. The Finns had up-gunned it, adding the Bofors 37mm gun with German gun sights. However, they were a rarity on the battlefield, fighting in only one action during the entire war.

FINNISH ARSENAL TABLE					
VEHICLE	ARMOUR	A.P.	H.E.	SPEED	NOTES
Vickers Armstrong Mk B	3	5	3	Average	No Hull MG
ANTI-TANK GUNS					
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS	A.P.		H.E.		
37 PstK/36 Bofors 37mm	5		3		
25 PstK/37 SA-L 25mm	3		2		
45 PstK/32 45mm	5		4		
14mm Boys Anti-Tank Rifle	3		1		
20mm L-39 AT Rifle	3		1		



## CREDIT

My thanks to Ville Savin of Finland whose assistance in compiling this list and the notes on Finnish tactics was invaluable.