

CHAIN OF COMMAND



BRITISH - FAR EAST, 1941

THE RIFLE PLATOON

The force outlined here is designed specifically for the first contact with the Japanese Empire in December 1941 in both Malaya and Hong Kong. It is under equipped, in many respects and the garrison troops were of varying quality.

Most Indian, Australian and British units count as Regular, with Canadian units in Hong Kong counting as Green as do the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force and the Straights Settlement volunteer Force. Only the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in Malaya count as Elite.

PLATOON FORCE RATING:

Elite: +2
Regular: -2
Green: -6

Command Dice: 5

| PLATOON HEADQUARTERS | |
|--|--------------|
| Lieutenant, <i>Senior Leader</i> , with pistol | |
| Sergeant, <i>Senior Leader</i> , with SMG | |
| 2" MORTAR TEAM | |
| 2" mortar with two crew | |
| BOYS AT RIFLE TEAM | |
| Boys AT rifle with two crew | |
| SECTIONS ONE TO THREE | |
| Corporal, <i>Junior Leader</i> , with SMG | |
| LMG TEAM | RIFLE TEAM |
| Bren gun with three crew | Six riflemen |

Volunteer units in Hong Kong and Singapore will replace all Bren guns with Lewis guns. These weapons fire with 5D6. Canadian units in Hong Kong will replace the Bren in the third section with a Lewis gun.

The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and the Australians in Singapore benefit from being rated as Stubborn.

| BRITISH SUPPORT LIST | |
|---|--|
| LIST ONE | |
| Medical Orderly | |
| Engineer Mine Clearance <i>Team</i> , 3 men | |
| Engineer Wire Cutting <i>Team</i> , 3 men | |
| Engineer Demolition <i>Team</i> , 3 men | |
| Adjutant | |
| Minefield | |
| Barbed Wire | |
| Car, no crew | |
| Entrenchments for one <i>Team</i> | |
| LIST TWO | |
| Roadblock | |
| Boys AT rifle <i>Team</i>, 2 men | |
| 2" mortar <i>Team</i> , 2 men | |
| Roadblock | |
| India Pattern Light Tank with <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| LIST THREE | |
| Engineer Flamethrower <i>Team</i> , 3 men | |
| Sniper <i>Team</i> | |
| Drinks cabinet | |
| Universal or India Pattern Carrier with <i>Team</i> and <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| Lanchester Armoured Car with <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| HKVDC Armoured Car | |
| LIST FOUR | |
| Engineer <i>Section</i> with <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| Regular Infantry <i>Section</i> with <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| Forward Observer and 3" mortar battery | |
| 40mm Bofors Gun, 5 crew with <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| Regular Vickers MMG on tripod mount, 5 crew | |
| 2 pounder Anti-Tank gun with five crew and <i>Junior Leader</i> | |
| LIST FIVE | |
| Recce <i>Section</i> of two Universal Carriers, 4 crew each. One <i>Junior Leader</i> | |

The support options listed in **blue bold** are only available in Malaya. Options in **green** may only be selected for Hong Kong.

SUPPORT OPTIONS

Most of the support options on the list will be self-explanatory and their qualities covered by the National Arsenal Table. All tanks and armoured cars come with a *Junior Leader*. Transport only vehicles, such as the car are simply vehicles which come with no crew. Remember, you will need to allocate men to drive these.

2" MORTAR TEAM

The 2" mortar has only three rounds of High Explosive ammunition, the rest being all smoke rounds. It has no theoretical minimum range, but at under 12" the crew would normally use their rifles for reasons of their own safety. However, if using a 2" mortar to fire on a target under 12" roll a D6 for each hit achieved. On a roll of 3 to 6, the shrapnel from the round has hit the target *Unit*, the enemy will dice for the Hit Effect as normal. On a roll of 1 or 2, the shrapnel from the round has hit the mortar *Team*, they must roll for the Hit Effect on Table 6.

DRINKS CABINET

This may seem fanciful as a support option, but those reading first-hand accounts of the exploits of the volunteer forces cannot be impressed by the lifting effect of the odd snifter during the fighting. A Senior Leader rallying men may use the drinks cabinet option to remove one additional point of Shock over and above the number of Initiatives he has used. Roll a D6 each time he elects to do this. On a roll of 1 or 2 he may not use this option again. This support option is only available for Volunteer forces.

SINGLE UNIVERSAL OR INDIA PATTERN CARRIER

This has a crew of three men armed with a Bren gun OR Boys anti-tank rifle and a *Junior Leader*.

UNIVERSAL CARRIER RECONNAISSANCE SECTION

Two Universal carriers commanded by a single *Junior Leader*. These have a three man crew in each armed with a Bren, a Boys Anti-Tank rifle or a 2" mortar.

3" MORTARS WITH FOO

With just two mortars present in the battalion, a British mortar bombardment covers a square area 10" by 10" with the aiming point at the centre.

HKVDC FORD ARMoured CAR

The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps armoured cars had been introduced to the Corps as early as 1933 and were to provide the only armoured support larger than carriers. These come with crew but with no commander and activate on a roll of 1 as an uncommanded vehicle unless the British allocate one of their infantry Leaders to take command of the vehicle. They are only available in Hong Kong.

STUBBORN TROOPS

This is a new rating in Chain of Command. Stubborn troops in Close Combat ignore any Shock inflicted **during combat**, i.e. they do not ignore Shock inflicted prior to combat.

THE BRITISH ARSENAL TABLE

The Arsenal Table below covers a wide range of British support options. For infantry weapons and some armoured vehicle armament see Table Four, *The Master Arsenal Table*. The British use the national characteristics listed in the main rules.

| BRITISH ARSENAL TABLE | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------|------|---------|--------------------------------|
| ARMoured VEHICLES | | | | | |
| VEHICLE | ARMOUR | A.P. | H.E. | SPEED | NOTES |
| India Pattern Light Tank | 2 | - | MG | Fast | Single machine gun only, small |
| Lanchester Armoured Car | 2 | 1 | HMG | Wheeled | Twin HMG and MMG plus Hull MG |
| Universal Carrier | 2 | - | - | Fast | Low profile, small |
| HKVDC Ford Armoured Car | 1 | - | MG | Wheeled | Two machine guns |
| ANTI-TANK GUNS | | | | | |
| ANTI-TANK WEAPONS | A.P. | | H.E. | | |
| 2 Pounder Anti-Tank gun | 5 | | 1 | | |
| Boys AT rifle | 3 | | 1 | | |