



**IABSM ARMY LISTS FOR POLAND FOR
THE 1939 SEPTEMBER WAR**

FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH IABSM V3

Introduction from Richard Clarke's IABSM v2 Blitzkrieg theatre supplement:

A nation reborn from the ashes of three great empires, Poland had a difficult birth being immediately embroiled in a war with her Soviet neighbour. Divisions in the ranks of the Red Army, combined with Polish aggression, saw them secure their borders, but relations with the Russians would forever be tainted by this bitter conflict.

During the twenties and thirties the Poles found themselves limited by the agrarian nature of their economy, as such their armed forces were never able to keep pace with the technological developments of their potential foes in Germany and Russia.

What is more, the success that Polish cavalry had enjoyed during the Russo-Polish War saw them elevated to a prominent position in the thoughts of their government. This undoubtedly led to a lack of investment in other branches of the services.

Poland's armoured forces were supplied with lightly armoured, under-gunned tanks and tankettes that were to prove less than effective. Her main anti-tank weapon, the Bofors 37mm anti-tank gun, was a fine weapon but Poland lacked anything like the numbers required to protect her infantry from German tanks. What is more, a shortage of automatic weapons limited the firepower of her infantry sections.

That said, the one thing that Poland and her forces did not lack was courage. Fanciful stories of Polish cavalry charging German tanks have no place in serious studies of this brief campaign, but they do serve to illustrate the bravery that was attributed at the time to the Poles. Von Rundstedt himself was prepared to praise this bravery, and so he should. The Poles did much to provide the Germans with a bloody nose time and time again, this despite their limited resources. As such the Poles in IABSM have a resilience that hopefully reflects that.

Author's Introduction:

I had been looking to model a 1939 Polish force for some time but, being someone who likes to have things handed to them on a plate, had been waiting for the v3 Blitzkrieg! theatre supplement to arrive before starting to buy figures. Until, that is, I got fed up waiting and decided to produce IABSM v3-specific lists myself.

The main impetus behind this project was the superb September 1939 campaign army lists for Flames of War that appear on the Anatoli's Game Room blog. Their author, Alexander, gave me permission to use his work as the basis for a set of IABSM lists which, combined with my own (much more limited) research, appear in this pdf.

So this pdf is a combination of Richard Clarke's v2 lists, Anatoli's extensive research, and my limited contribution. Any errors or inconsistencies are mine and mine alone.

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LINE INFANTRY COMPANY

At the outbreak of war, Poland had thirty infantry divisions divided amongst its armies. Polish riflemen fought from the first day of the campaign (with the initial clash at Westerplatte on 1st September) right up to the final capitulation on October 6th after the battle of Kock.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
One light mortar team of three men
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
One light mortar team of three men
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
One light mortar team of three men
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

BATTALION SUPPORT UNITS

Mortar Platoon from HMG Company

Two 81mm wz.31 medium mortar teams of five men each

Taczanka Platoon from HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts, five crew each

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Gun Platoon

Batteries of up to two 75mm wz.02/26 infantry guns towed by horse-drawn limbers; or can be represented on table by an FO team

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoons

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers, four crew each

Infantry Scout Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two rifle squads of twelve men each (may be mounted on horses)

Sapper Platoon

One Big Man (Level I) with supply wagon
Three engineer squads of ten men **or**
Three engineer/flamethrower squads of ten men each: two WS-1/WS-2 flamethrower teams of two men each plus six supporting infantry armed with rifles

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Heavy Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to three guns (either all 105mm or all 155mm), represented on table by an FO team

Motorised Anti-Aircraft Platoon

One 40mm Bofors wz.36 AA gun
Two lkm wz.08/15 light AA MGs
One C2P half-track and FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Mortar Platoon from Division HMG Company

Two 81mm wz.31 medium mortar teams of five men each

Taczanka Platoon from Division HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts, five crew each

Division Cavalry

Support from a squadron or platoons of Polish cavalry (may be mounted or dismounted) and their supports

Division Bicycle Troops (R)

Support from a company or platoons of dismounted Polish bicycle troops

Border Protection Corps (KOP) Company

Support from companies or platoons from the Border Protection Corps (KOP)

Air Support (Anti-Aircraft only)

Sporadic air support from PZL.P11c fighters

SPECIFIC SUPPORT (SEE NOTES)

Mountain Gun Battery

Batteries of up to four 65mm wz.06 mountain guns towed by horse-drawn limbers, or represented on table by an FO team

Reconnaissance Tank Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Five TKS tankettes

Light Tank Platoons

Support from a company or platoons of light tanks

Armoured Train

Occasional support by an Armoured Train

Notes

Polish infantry squads are armed with the Wz.98 7.92mm bolt-action rifle supported by the Wz.28 7.92mm BAR used as a light machine gun/squad support weapon, although this last was in fairly short supply. They were also much larger than the platoons of other nations, having a nominal strength of nineteen.

This raises the obvious question of how to represent a 19-man infantry platoon armed with bolt-action rifles and BAR on the table-top. Richard Clarke's original *Blitzkrieg!* Polish infantry squads have ten men, and are split into squads with BAR and squads without. He has, however, given the company HQ an extra squad. I have chosen to do things a little differently.

Firstly, I have the on-table strength of an infantry rifle squad as twelve. This is a decrease of the same proportion as used for German infantry squads.

Secondly, I have chosen not to differentiate between those squads with or without a BAR (assuming that BARs would be spread as evenly as possible throughout a force) but to penalise the firepower of the larger infantry squads by capping their Actions (and therefore firing dice) at '3' right the way through from eight to twelve men. This represents a combination of dealing with an unwieldy number of men, the reduced ROF of the BAR versus a true LMG (without semi-automatic rifles to compensate as in later war US squads), and an allowance for the

fact that a certain number of squads might be missing BARs entirely.

This seems to me to be a good compromise: especially as the large squads capped at three Actions represent units that showed no particular extra training to their contemporaries, but will effectively be braver than most as they will stick around for longer.

Those who disagree with my interpretations, above, are at liberty to field "understrength" squads of ten, subtracting one dice to any fire from a squad without a BAR.

Infantry Guns

The 75mm wz.02/26 infantry gun was nicknamed "Orthodox" by the Polish soldiers due to the fact that these were old re-chambered Russian guns left behind on Polish territory after WW1.

Mountain Infantry/Mountain Guns

Three regular infantry divisions (11th, 21st and 22nd) were partly or entirely made up of mountain-capable troops (Highland infantry in Polish usage).

Troops from these divisions may use the Mountain Gun Battery option either in addition to or in place of the Light Artillery Battery in the Division Support list.

Troops from these divisions also use the Favourable Terrain rule (2.2.6) to give them a bonus when moving in mountainous terrain.

Other Artillery

Large numbers of 75's were still in use in 1939. Some had been delivered from France to Poland in the 1920s to fight the Bolsheviks. They were known as 75mm Armata Polowa wz.1897/17. In 1939, the Polish army had 1,374 of these guns, making it by far the most numerous piece in Polish service.

The 10mm w.14/19 howitzer was produced in Czechoslovakia. About 580 pieces were used by the army, with another 13 mounted on armoured trains.

Reconnaissance Tank Platoons

Reconnaissance tank platoons are only available to the following infantry divisions/regiments:

- 4th Division (14th & 63rd Regiments)
- 8th Division (13th, 21st & 32nd Regiments)
- 10th Division (18th, 30th & 31st Regiments)
- 14th Division (55th, 57th & 58th Regiments)
- 15th Division (59th, 61st & 62nd Regiments)
- 17th Division (68th, 69th and 70th Regiments)
- 20th Division (78th, 79th & 80th Regiments)
- 25th Division (29th, 56th & 60th Regiments)
- 28th Division (15th, 36th & 72nd Regiments)
- 29th Division (41st, 76th & 81st Regiments)

Tanks & Armoured Trains

Support from tanks and armoured trains is available to infantry divisions, but care should be taken to match the right tanks or right trains to the battle being fought.

- 7TP jw tanks from 1st & 2nd Light Tank Battalions would be the most common tank supporting infantry
- 7TP jw (1939) and 7TP dw tanks from 3rd Light Tank Battalion only fought in support of infantry during the defence of Warsaw
- FT-17 tanks (111th, 112th & 113th Companies from 2nd Armoured Battalion) only fought with the infantry around Brzesc
- R-35 tanks only fought against the Germans as part of the improvised Dubno Operational Group, and against the Soviets at Krasne
- Vickers E tanks only fought as part of the 10th Motorised Cavalry Brigade and the Warsaw Armoured Motorised Brigade

BORDER PROTECTION CORPS (KOP) COMPANY

The Border Protection Corps (Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza or KOP) was formed in 1924 to protect the Polish border with the Soviet Union. In 1939, many of its original units were sent to the country's western border, leaving behind newly-formed units lacking experience and training, and without almost any heavy weaponry.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level III)

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)

Three rifle squads of twelve men each

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)

Three rifle squads of twelve men each

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)

Three rifle squads of twelve men each

BATTALION SUPPORT UNITS

Taczanka Platoon from KOP HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)

Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts

HMG Platoon from KOP HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)

Three Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each

Sapper Platoon

One Big Man (Level I) with supply wagon

Three engineer squads of ten men each

KOP Cavalry Squadron

One Big Man (Level II)

Three cavalry rifle squads, twelve men each

(may be mounted on horses)

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)

Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Reconnaissance Tank Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level II)

Five TKS tankettes

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Infantry Units

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry & their supports

Division Cavalry

Support from a squadron or platoons of Polish cavalry (may be mounted or dismounted) and their supports

Notes

The Border Protection Corps

The Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza (KOP) was the Polish Border Protection Corps. It was created in 1924 in order to secure the Polish border against the Soviet Union.

In July 1929 the Border Defense Corps was reorganized. Six additional regiments were created, and each brigade was attached to a part of the Polish border which was further divided into battalion areas organized around small border forts.

In turn, each of the battalions commanded several smaller strongholds and outposts organized by companies. All the rear troops (including the engineers, artillery and cavalry) formed the second line of the defence and were to be used as a mobile reserve.

After the reorganization in 1937 KOP had 3 brigade headquarters and 7 regiments. It was composed of 32 battalions of infantry and 21 squadrons of cavalry.

As the war was nearing and the crisis in Czechoslovakia exposed the Polish southern border to enemy threat, two additional regiments were created in 1939 and assigned to the "Karpaty" army along with three mountain infantry brigades.

In March 1939 KOP reached the peak of its strength. However, soon the formation started to be stripped of various units sent to the western border.

At first four infantry battalions and most of the artillery were sent to the Łódź area. Soon they were joined by the KOP cavalry

regiment. In April three additional battalions were sent to the western border and in May yet another battalion was sent to the Hel Peninsula.

Although most of the units were later reconstructed at the eastern border, their combat value was much lower. The recruits lacked experience and training and the units of KOP were deprived of almost all heavy weaponry. On August 30 the KOP was formally mobilized for war.

The Outbreak of War

On August 8 1939 Wilhelm Orlik-Rückermann became the commander of KOP. His forces were deprived of most of the reserves that were transferred to western Poland to strengthen the Polish army units stationed there.

Upon the German invasion, Korpus Ochrony Pogranicza (KOP) units took part in many battles, among them the battle of Węgierska Góra.

After the Soviet invasion on September 17th, KOP which had 25 battalions was unable to efficiently defend the eastern border against overwhelming amounts of Soviet infantry backed up by tanks.

Having been deprived of their heavy weapons the soldiers of KOP did what they could but were soon ordered by the Polish commander in chief, Edward Rydz-Śmigły, to fall back and not to engage the Soviets in open battle.

To prevent the complete destruction of his forces, Orlik-Rückermann decided to

withdraw them from the 300 kilometer long border in the area of Polesie and break through towards Warsaw and the forces of the “Independent Operational Group Polesie” under General Franciszek Kleeberg.

On September 22nd Rückermann gathered approximately 8,000 men and started his march towards Warsaw.

Constant skirmishes with the Red Army and the Fifth column brought down the morale of his men. To counter the threat of a breakdown, Orlik-Rückemann decided to start a major battle with the Red Army.

During the Battle of Szack, on September 28, his men managed to rout the Soviet 52nd Rifle Division.

On September 30 the unit crossed the Bug river and reached the village of Wytyczno, some 20 kilometers south-east of Włodawa.

The following day his unit was attacked by the Soviet 45th Rifle Division, reinforced with tanks and artillery.

After 15 hours of heavy fighting, the supplies of the Polish forces were almost depleted and Orlik-Rückemann decided to divide his unit into small groups and order them to break through to the area occupied by the Independent Operational Group Polesie on their own.

Most of the Polish forces reached their destination unopposed and with negligible losses.

Uniforms

The uniforms of KOP troops were similar to those of the regular army with one notable exception. KOP did not wear the traditional “Rogatywka” field or garrison cap, instead they had their own round caps which were called “English style” caps.



Just like all other Polish units the KOP had their headwear adorned by the Polish eagle.

KOP MOUNTAINEER COMPANY

Upon mobilisation, Poland formed three mountain/Highland brigades consisting mostly of KOP and National Guard troops.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level III)

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Three rifle squads of twelve men each

BATTALION SUPPORT UNITS

Taczanka Platoon from KOP HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts

HMG Platoon from KOP HMG Company

One Big Man (Level I)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Scout Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two rifle squads of twelve men each (may be mounted on horses)

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Sapper Platoon

One Big Man (Level I) with supply wagon
Three engineer squads of ten men each

Mountain Gun Battery

Batteries of up to four 65mm wz.06 mountain guns towed by horse-drawn limbers, or represented on table by an FO team

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Units

Support from companies or platoons of Polish mountain infantry & their supports

10th Motorised Cavalry Brigade

Support from units from the 10th Motorised Cavalry Brigade

Notes

As tensions rose between Poland and Germany the southern mountain regions of Poland were reinforced with additional KOP divisions and mountain infantry brigades to act as additional defense along the new hostile Slovakian border.

These new units were attached to the "Krakow" army and would come fight both German mountain divisions and Slovak infantry divisions.



The Polish units along the border did not fare well, and were soon after the invasion in chaotic retreat. Elements were absorbed into other Polish units fighting a delaying battle against the Germans in the mountainous regions around Krakow and the Beskides mountains. The reserve battalions fought alongside both regular Polish Mountain Infantry as well as parts of the 10th Motorized Cavalry brigade.

Favourable Terrain

Troops from these brigades use the Favourable Terrain rule (2.2.6) to give them a bonus when moving in mountainous terrain.

INDEPENDENT RECONNAISSANCE TANK COMPANY

Fifteen independent reconnaissance tank companies were divided amongst Poland's armies: see the notes as to which companies served with which units.

All vehicles crews have three Actions per activation, and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ (R)

One Big Man (Level IV)

One TKS tankette

1st Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)

Six TKS tankettes

(up to two tankettes may be upgraded with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm cannon)

2nd Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)

Six TKS tankettes

(up to two tankettes may be upgraded with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm cannon)

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)

Three armoured cars: either wz.34 armoured cars (the Big Man's vehicle may be upgraded to having a wz.34 SA 37mm gun) or wz.29 armoured cars.

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level II)

Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Infantry Gun Platoon

Batteries of up to two 75mm wz.02/26 infantry guns towed by horse-drawn limbers; or can be represented on table by an FO team

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry and their supports

Division Cavalry

Support from a squadron or platoons of Polish cavalry (may be mounted or dismounted) and their supports

Bicycle Troops (R)

Support from a company or platoons of dismounted Polish bicycle troops

Notes

The Independent Reconnaissance Tank Company

The fifteen Independent reconnaissance tank companies were numbered: 31, 32, 41, 42, 51, 52, 61, 62, 63, 71, 72, 81, 82, 91, and 92. Each contained thirteen TK or TKS tankettes.

The companies were initially assigned to the following units:

- 31 company: 25th Infantry Division
- 32 company: 1st KOP cavalry regiment
- 41 company: 30th Infantry Division (83rd Regiment)
- 42 company: Kresowa Cavalry Brigade
- 51 company: Operational Group "Bielsko" in Army Krakow
- 52 company: Operational Group "Śląsk" in Army Krakow
- 61 company: 1st Mountain Brigade (from 3-6.09.1939)
- 62 company: 20th Infantry Division (79th Regiment)
- 63 company: 8th Infantry Division
- 71 company: 14th Infantry Division, then 17th Infantry Division
- 72 company: 17th Infantry Division, then 26th Infantry Division
- 81 company: 15th Infantry Division, then Operational Group "Wschód" ('East')
- 82 company: 26th Infantry Division
- 91 company: 10th Infantry Division (detached unit #01)
- 92 company: 10 Infantry Division (detached unit #02)



Tankettes

The TK (also known as the TK-3) tankette was a Polish design produced from 1931 that was based upon an improved chassis of the British Carden Loyd tankette. The TKS was an improved model with a new hull and a more powerful engine. The armour of the TK was up to 8 mm thick (10 mm on the TKS).

In 1939, re-arming of the tankettes with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm cannon began, but only about twenty-four were completed before the outbreak of World War II.



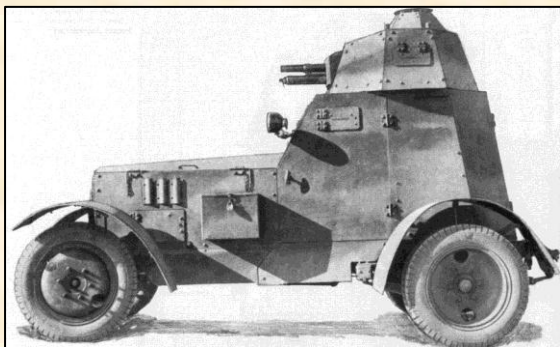
The 575 TK/TKS tankettes formed the bulk of the Polish armoured forces before the outbreak of war. They suffered heavy losses during the Invasion of Poland, often being the only armoured fighting vehicles available.

Due to their light armament of a single machine gun, they stood no chance in combat against German tanks, except the Panzer I, but their small size suited them for reconnaissance and infantry support.

Only the handful of tankettes armed with 20 mm guns had a fighting chance against the enemy tanks. In one battle, on September 18th, a 20 mm wz.38 FK armed TKS commanded by officer cadet Roman Orlik destroyed three German Panzerkampfwagen 35(t) tanks.

The wz.34 Armoured Car

The wz.34 was the standard armoured car of the Polish army in 1939.



Eight-seven of these vehicles served in various reconnaissance units, mainly attached to cavalry formations.

This vehicle had a 2-man crew, and the main armament was either a 37mm SA18 gun or a Hotchkiss wz.25 7.92 mm machinegun.

The wz.29 Armoured Car

The other Polish armoured car was the older wz.29.

All wz.29 armoured cars were attached to the Polish units in the Modlin area. These vehicles were involved in combat from

September 1st, with both reconnaissance elements of Panzerdivision Kempf and SS infantry units of the SS Deutschland regiment.



These armoured cars, despite their obsolescence, fared better than their lighter wz.34 counterparts – mainly due to their main guns which was able to destroy enemy reconnaissance vehicles.

Eventually some vehicles arrived in Lublin where they got attached to the Warsaw armoured motorized brigade, but were soon abandoned due to their inability to traverse the poor roads on which the brigade was moving.

The wz.29 had a crew of four: driver, rear driver, commander-gunner and rear gunner.

The armament was made up of a 37mm SA18 gun mounted in the turret, a Hotchkiss wz.25 7.92 mm machinegun mounted 120 degrees to the rear of the turret, and another Hotchkiss machinegun mounted at the rear of the vehicle hull.

CAVALRY SQUADRON

At the outbreak of war, the Polish cavalry was reluctantly in the process of modernising through motorisation. The majority of them were, however, still mounted and, as a result were often more mobile than other Polish troops due to poor roads and their excellent cross-country abilities. The cavalry were meant to ride into contact with the enemy and then dismount to fight on foot. They were considered the elite troops of the Polish army.

Squadron HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two cavalry rifle squads of eight men each

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two cavalry rifle squads of eight men each

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two cavalry rifle squads of eight men each

Cavalry Anti-Tank Platoons

One Big Man (Level III)
Four 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Regiment Bicycle Troops (R)

Support from a company or platoons of dismounted Polish bicycle troops

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Reconnaissance Tank Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS tankettes

Armoured Car Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three wz.34 armoured cars
(the Big Man's vehicle may be upgraded to having a wz.34 SA 37mm gun)

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

HMG Platoon from HMG Squadron

One Big Man (Level II)
Four Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each

Taczanka Platoon from HMG Squadron

One Big Man (Level II)
Four Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts, five crew each

Taczanka Platoon from Brigade

One Big Man (Level I)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts

Horse Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to three 75mm wz.02/26 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers, usually represented on table by an FO team

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Companies from Brigade Rifle Battalion (not all brigades: see notes)
Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Motorised Anti-Aircraft Platoon

One 40mm Bofors wz.36 AA gun
Two lkm wz.08/15 light AA MGs
One C2P half-track and FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Units

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry & their supports

Border Protection Corps (KOP) Company

Support from companies or platoons from the Border Protection Corps (KOP)

OTHER SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Train

Occasional support by an Armoured Train

Notes

Besides wearing the common field caps, Polish cavalry was immensely attached to the French "Adrian Helmet", refusing to wear any other. This piece of equipment, along with the cavalry trousers and boots set them apart from the regular soldiers of the Polish army.

Polish cavalry may begin the game either mounted or dismounted.

In 1939 Poland had 11 cavalry brigades, and 2 motorized cavalry brigades at its disposal. They were as follows:

Krakowska
(3rd & 8th Lancers; 5th Mounted Rifles)

Kresowa
(20th & 22nd Lancers; 6th Mounted Rifles)

Mazowiecka
(7th & 11th Lancers; 1st Hussars)

Nowogrodzka
(25th, 26th & 27th Lancers; 4th Mounted Rifles)

Podlaska
(5th & 10th Lancers; 9th Mounted Rifles)

Podolska
(6th, 9th & 14th Lancers)

Pomorska
(16th & 18th Lancers; 8th Mounted Rifles)

Suwalska
(1st & 2nd Lancers; 3rd Mounted Rifles;
3rd Hussars)

Wielkopolska
(15th & 17th Lancers; 7th Mounted Rifles)

Wilenska
(4th, 13th & 23rd Lancers)

Wolynska
(12th, 19th & 21st Lancers; 2nd Mounted
Rifles)

10th Mechanised
24th Lancers; 10th Mounted Rifles

Warsaw Mechanised
1st Mounted Rifles; 2nd Hussars

Wolkowysk (never completed)
(101st, 102nd & 110th Lancers; 113th
Hussars)

The following cavalry brigades had no
integral infantry rifle battalion:
Nowogrodzka, Pomorska, Suwalska,
Wolynska, and the two mechanised
formations.

Cavalry Special Rules

As per section 11.7, the following special
rules apply to cavalry:

- Cavalry add 1D6 to movement when mounted
- It takes one Action to mount or dismount
- When charging an enemy, cavalry double the dice rolled for movement, but must begin their charge from appoint where they can feasibly make contact with the object of their charge. Close combat occurs only if

the mounted force actually makes
contact with their opponents.

- Cavalry have a +1 bonus when spotting
- Tchankas, were a weapon that was first introduced during the Russian Civil War. Then these were essentially light carts or traps with an MMG mounted facing the rear. They were devised to allow mobile firepower, and suited the cavalry rich armies of the theatre. They were only slightly updated by 1939, having purpose built light, fast carts drawn by three horses abreast. They could keep up with cavalry in nearly all situations, as such they will move in the same way.

CAVALRY ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE DYWIZJON

Some cavalry brigades included an armoured reconnaissance *dywizjon*.

All vehicles crews have three Actions per activation, and therefore a morale of three.

Diwizjon HQ (R)

One Big Man (Level IV)
One wz.34 armoured car
One air liaison officer in motorcycle sidecar

Tankette Squadron HQ (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
One TKS tankette

1st Tankette Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS tankettes

2nd Tankette Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS tankettes

Armoured Car Squadron HQ (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
One wz.34 armoured car

1st Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three wz.34 armoured cars
(the Big Man's vehicle may be upgraded to having a wz.34 SA 37mm gun)

2nd Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three wz.34 armoured cars
(the Big Man's vehicle may be upgraded to having a wz.34 SA 37mm gun)

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Cavalry from Brigade

Support from squadrons or platoons of Polish cavalry and their supports

Infantry Companies from Brigade Rifle Battalion (not all brigades)

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry and their supports

Light Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Horse Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to three 75mm wz.02/26 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers, usually represented on table by an FO team

Taczanka Platoon from Brigade

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on carts

Anti-Tank Platoon from Brigade

One Big Man (Level II)
Four 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Air Support

Support from PZL.23 Karas bombers

Notes

All units were equipped with wz.34 armoured cars except for 11th Battalion, which had wz.29 armoured cars.

The 11th, 51st, 71st, 81st and 91st Battalions were equipped with TK-3 tankettes, the rest with TKS tankettes. The 71st and 81st Battalions also had four tankettes armed with the FK 20mm cannon.

I have shown the full complement of vehicles in the main listing. As this makes the *diwizjon* very command heavy, players should feel at liberty to leave out the individual tankette and armoured car squadron commanders.

The *diwizjony* were attached to the following cavalry brigades:

- Mazowiecka: 11th
- Wolynska: 21st
- Suwalska: 31st
- Podlaska: 32nd
- Wilenska: 33rd
- Krakowska: 51st
- Kresowa: 61st
- Podolska: 62nd
- Wielkopolska: 71st
- Pomorska: 81st
- Nowogrodzka: 91st

AN INFANTRY COMPANY FROM THE 10TH (MOTORISED) CAVALRY BRIGADE

The 10th Motorised Cavalry brigade consisted of cavalry units converted to the role of motorised infantry. It was the only fully operational Polish motorised infantry unit of the 1939 campaign. The infantry element of the brigade consisted of the 10th Mounted Rifle Regiment and the 24th Uhlan Regiment, each consisting of four company-sized motorised rifle squadrons, an HMG squadron and an AT platoon. The Germans christened it the "Black Brigade" because of the black jackets worn by the Polish motorised troops.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV) in a FIAT 508 field car

HMG Platoon

Two Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each, in FIAT 508 field cars

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

Mortar Platoon from HMG Squadron

Two 81mm wz.31 medium mortar teams of five men, each in a FIAT 621 truck

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

HMG Platoon from HMG Squadron

Four Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each, in two FIAT 621 trucks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

Taczanka Platoon from HMG Squadron

Four Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on FIAT 508 field cars

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Motorcycle Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three rifle squads of eight men each, mounted on motorcycles

Reconnaissance Tank Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Five TKS tankettes
(up to half, rounded down, may be upgraded with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm canon)

Sapper Platoon

One Big Man (Level I) in FIAT 621 truck
Three engineer squads of ten men, each mounted in FIAT 621 truck

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Light Tank Platoon (121st Light Tank Co.)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Vickers Mark E Type B tanks
Two Vickers Mark E Type A tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Anti-Aircraft Platoon

One 40mm Bofors wz.36 AA gun
Two lkm wz.08/15 light AA MGs
One C2P half-track and FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Air Support

Limited or sporadic air support from PZL.23 Karas or PZL.37 Los bombers

Armoured Train

The 10th Motorised Cavalry brigade was occasionally supported by Armoured Train #51.

Notes

The 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade was assigned to "Kracow" Army. It first saw action on September 1st in the Beskides mountains, near the town of Jordanow.

For the next 13 days the brigade was under constant pressure from an aggressive enemy.

Having been tasked with covering the "Krakow" army's withdrawal by fighting a delaying action, the 10th motorized cavalry brigade fought against the German XXII Corps made up of two Panzer Divisions (2nd and 4th Leichte Division) the 3rd Mountain Division alternately. The enemy was effectively slowed down and never made more than roughly 10km of progress per day. The brigade reached Lwow on September 14th and took part in a five day battle against the German 1st Mountain division until it was ordered to withdraw across the Romanian border on September 19th

The brigade was probably the most effective Polish unit – clearly showing that a well-trained motorized unit (with a good commander) is able to achieve much more than an infantry division or cavalry brigade, especially in favorable terrain and fighting defensive battles.

Unique Uniform

The 10th was an experimental pre-war created for the evaluation of mechanized warfare tactics and doctrines. As this was a new military branch, it was decided that it could not fight either in Army nor regular Cavalry uniforms.

In the end the brigade was issued with German WW1 style M16 and Austrian M17 helmets in 1938 from the Central Ordnance Depot where these helmets had been in storage since the end of WW1. These helmets were supposedly painted in khaki like color.



In addition to the helmets, officers, NCO's, tank crews and motorcycle infantry wore black leather trenchcoats, earning them the nickname of the "Schwarze Brigade" or "Black Brigade" by the Germans in 1939.

Note that as the 10th Motorized cavalry brigade, as the name might suggest, were a transformed cavalry unit, the officers kept some of the cavalry ranks such as "Rotmistrz" which equals the rank of "Captain". A Rotmistrz commanded a "Swadron" which in cavalry terms meant a company-sized formation.

INFANTRY COMPANY FROM THE WARSAW ARMoured MOTORISED BRIGADE

The Warsaw Armoured Motorised Brigade was still forming as war broke out. Its core infantry element came from the 1st Regiment of Mounted Rifles and the 1st Rifle Regiment; its core armoured element was from the 11th Recce Tank Company (TKS tankettes) and the 12th Light Tank Company (Vickers E tanks).

First in action on September 8th 1939 as part of Army Lublin, the brigade absorbed various other units as time went on before being largely destroyed at Tomaszow Lubelski.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV) in a FIAT 508 field car

HMG Platoon

Two Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each, in FIAT 508 field cars

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

Mortar Platoon from HMG Squadron

Two 81mm wz.31 medium mortar teams of five men, each in a FIAT 621 truck

HMG Platoon from HMG Squadron

Four Ckm wz.30 HMG, five crew each, in two FIAT 621 trucks

Taczanka Platoon from HMG Squadron

Four Ckm wz.30 HMG mounted as taczankas on FIAT 508 field cars

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III) in a FIAT 508 field car
One anti-tank rifle team of two men
Two motorised rifle squads of eight men each
Two FIAT 621 trucks

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Motorcycle Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three rifle squads of eight men each, mounted on motorcycles

Reconnaissance Tank Platoons (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS tankettes
(up to half, rounded down, may be upgraded with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm cannon)

Sapper Platoon

One Big Man (Level I) with supply wagon
Three engineer/flamethrower squads of two WS-1/WS-2 flamethrower teams of two men each plus six supporting infantry armed with rifles

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Light Tank Platoons (12th Light Tank Co.)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Vickers Mark E Type B tanks
Two Vickers Mark E Type A tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Anti-Aircraft Platoon

One 40mm Bofors wz.36 AA gun
Two lkm wz.08/15 light AA MGs
One C2P half-track and FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Motorised Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry and their supports

Air Support (Anti-Aircraft only)

Sporadic air support from PZL.P7a fighters

Remnant Light Tank Platoon

(from 1st Light Tank battalion, available from 13th September 1939 onwards)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 7TP jw tanks

Notes

When the war broke out, the Warsaw Armoured Motorized Brigade was still forming, being in Polish C-in-C's reserve.

Nevertheless, on September 1st 1939, the Brigade left the barracks in Warsaw went from being in the reserve of the C-i-C to being attached to the "Lublin" army.

Soon after rendezvous with their new army they made first contact with the enemy on September 8th when the brigade was tasked to delay the German advance and cover the retreat of Polish forces.

Over the course of time, it absorbed remains of other Polish armoured units like the 1st Light tank battalion with 7TPjw tanks and the 11th Armoured Battalion with tankettes.

On September 10th the brigade's position was attacked by the German 4th and 14th Infantry Divisions. The Poles defended themselves for three days and then counterattacked forcing the Germans to retreat back towards the Wisła river.

However, the Polish counteroffensive was halted by the Polish army headquarters and the brigade began its withdrawal south towards Lwów.

On September 16th the brigade, together with other Polish units, was surrounded in the area of Tomaszów Lubelski where it fought the largest tank battle of the campaign and where it was ultimately destroyed.

Tomaszów Lubelski

The Polish forces decided to attack the town of Tomaszów-Lubelski. The offensive was carried out in the morning of September 17th by the Warsaw Armoured Motorized Brigade, which managed to catch the German XXII Corps by surprise.

However, the Germans quickly organized a defense and the Polish attack failed resulting in the brigade losing half of the equipment.

On September 19th, another Polish attack failed. One day later, after fierce fighting resulting in the destruction of most of its equipment, the brigade commander of what remained of the "Lublin" army decided to surrender.

The Commander of the Warsaw armoured motorized brigade, Colonel Stefan Rowecki, ordered the destruction of the remaining heavy equipment and all soldiers to try to break through the German encirclement on their own.

Hundreds of the brigade's soldiers managed to escape to Hungary and later to Great Britain, where they joined the Polish 1st Armoured Division of General Stanisław Maczek.

THE 1ST & 2ND LIGHT TANK BATTALIONS

Companies from the 1st and 2nd Light Tank Battalions use 7TP jw tanks. Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)
One 7TP jw tank
One C7P recovery vehicle

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP jw tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP jw tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP jw tanks

Company Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three rifle squads of eight men each,
mounted on motorcycles

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Reconnaissance Tank Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Motorised Anti-Aircraft MG Platoon

Four lkm wz. 08/15 or rkm wz.28 LMGs
Five FIAT 508 field cars as transport

Motorised Artillery Battery and /or Light Gun Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all
75mm or all 100mm), represented on
table by an FO team

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of
Polish infantry and their supports

Notes

1st Light Tank Battalion

The 1st Light Tank Battalion fought in the ranks of the Prusy Army as part of the strategic reserve force of the Polish Army. It entered combat on September 4, 1939 and fought with distinction in a variety of roles, mostly as a mobile reserve and for covering the withdrawal.

It fought in a number of battles, most notably in the battles of Przedbórz, Sulejów, Inowódz, Odrzywół and Drzewica. On September 8 it managed to stop the German advance on the centre of the Polish forces, but the following day it got separated from the main force and had to be withdrawn to the rear.

Part of the battalion was destroyed in the Battle of Głowaczów, while the remainder managed to break through to the other side of Wisła river on the 13th where it joined the "Lublin" army and Col. Stefan Rowecki's Warsaw Armoured Motorised Brigade. As part of that unit, the battalion took part in the Battle of Józefów and formed part of the spearhead of the Polish units trying to break through to Lwów and the Romanian Bridgehead.

After the Battle of Tomaszów Lubelski, on September 21, 1939, the remaining tanks were destroyed by their crews and the unit surrendered to the Germans.

2nd Light Tank Battalion

The 2nd Light Tank Battalion was attached to the Piotrków Operational Group of the "Łódź" army. It entered combat on

September 4th near the river of Prudka, at Bełchatów. The following day it was ordered to lead the Polish counter-assault on Piotrków-Trybunalski, but the attack failed and the unit suffered heavy losses.

The battalion was then rallied and withdrawn to Warsaw and then to Brześć, where it shielded the mobilization of the Polish 60th Infantry Division. On September 15th it took part in the two-day long battle at Włodawa, but suffered heavy losses due to air bombardment and was once again withdrawn south.

The remaining tanks had to be destroyed by the crews due to lack of fuel and on September 17th, after the Soviet Union joined Germany in her war against Poland, the crews and the staff of the unit crossed the border into Romania.



The 7TP Tank

The 7TP was the Polish development of the British Vickers 6-ton Mark E tank license. Compared to the Vickers, the main new features of 7TP were: a better, more reliable and powerful diesel engine, a 37 mm anti-tank gun, thicker armour (17 mm instead of 13 mm on the front), modified ventilation, the Gundlach tank periscope, and a radio.

About 132 tanks were produced between 1935 and the outbreak of the war, plus four iron prototypes. The designation 7TP meant "7 Tonne, Polish" (in reality its weight increased to 9 tonnes after the initial prototype).

Like its British predecessor, the 7TP was initially produced in two variants: twin turret version armed with 2 Ckm wz.30 machine guns, and a single turret version, armed with 37 mm Bofors wz. 37 gun. After initial tests, it became clear that the twin-turret variant was obsolete and lacked firepower, so it was abandoned in favour of the more modern single turret design.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II most of the twin turret tanks were converted to single turret versions and only 24 twin-turret 7TP tanks remained in Polish service (as opposed to roughly 108 of the other type). It is to be noted that twin and single turret variants had no specific designations. In some modern books they are unofficially designated "7TP dw." and "7TP jw." (Polish abbreviations for *dwuwieżowy* - dual turreted; *jednowieżowy* -single turreted).

At the outbreak of the war Poland had two full tank battalions, designated 1st and 2nd Light Tank Battalions, equipped with 7TP jw tanks.

A third incomplete battalion got equipped with improved 7TP tanks delivered after the outbreak of the war, and took part in the defence of Warsaw.

The C7P Recovery Vehicle

The C7P was an artillery tractor based on a 7TP tank chassis. Production began in 1935 and about 150 were completed.



C7P tractors were used for towing 220mm wz.32 Skoda heavy mortars, and also acted as recovery vehicles for light tank companies. The C7P was also used by some engineer units.

3RD LIGHT TANK BATTALION (WARSAW CITY DEFENCE HQ)

A single tank battalion equipped with a single company of 7TP (1939) and a single company of 7TP dw tanks formed part of the Warsaw city defence HQ. Tank crews from this unit have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

5TH COMPANY

5th Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)
One 7TP jw (1939) tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP jw (1939) tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP jw (1939) tanks

2ND COMPANY

2nd Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)
One 7TP dw tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP dw tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Five 7TP dw tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Three horse-drawn limbers as tows

Anti-Aircraft MG Platoon

Four lkm wz. 08/15 or rkm wz.28 LMGs
Five FIAT 508 field cars as transport

Light Gun Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Air Support (Anti-Aircraft only)

Sporadic air support from PZL.P7a fighters

Infantry Scout Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Four scout squads of eight men each
One anti-tank rifle team of two men

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry and their supports

Warsaw Armoured Motorised Brigade

Support from companies or platoons of infantry or motorcycle troops from the Warsaw Armoured Motorised Brigade

Notes

3rd Light Tank Battalion

As war broke out, a delivery of eleven new, improved 7TP arrived in Warsaw, intended for the 10th Motorized Cavalry brigade. Unfortunately for the 10th, these tanks remained in Warsaw for the city's defence and were attached to the city defence HQ.

The tanks were organized into an (incomplete) 3rd Light tank battalion. The battalion was made up of two companies of tanks: a company of eleven improved 7TP tanks (5th Company, commanded by Captain Stanisław Grąbczewski); and a company of eleven 7TP dw tanks that had been designated for training (2nd Company, commanded by Captain Feliks Michałkowski.



Six of the 7TP dws were from the Armoured Weapons' Training Centre in Modlin, and six from the 3rd Armoured Battalion (one remained a reserve and a prototype was also taken for parts).

The new and improved tanks had no specifications that would distinguish them from other 7TP tanks, and would after the war often be designated as '9TP' tanks. The tanks were manufactured in 1939, and will therefore be called '7TP jw (1939)' tanks in these OOBs.

The improved version of the 7TP tank was first manufactured as a prototype in 1938 in order to act as a filler between the design and production of future light (10TP) and medium (14TP) cruiser tank models that were never realised due to the outbreak of the war.

The improved 7TP tanks featured several upgrades: wider tracks, a lighter and more reliable engine, the reduced weight allowed for improvement of the armour thickness which reached 40mm in places on the frontal armour and the turret.

Furthermore the rear engine area was shielded by metal covers for added protection. The total production of these improved 7TP tanks only reached thirteen, including two prototypes.

The Defence of Warsaw

A platoon of the 2nd Company entered action on 7 September, performing a reconnaissance towards Radzymin, Tłuszcz and Łochów.

On 9 September, both companies helped the infantry to repel an assault on Warsaw by the 4th Panzer Division. In street fighting in the Ochota W district, 42 German tanks were lost in total.

On next day a platoon of the 5th Company supported a Polish counter-attack in the Wola district, and one 7TP was damaged.

During the night of 10/11 September, both companies along with a motorized infantry company were sent on a reconnaissance to Wawrzyszew W (a northern suburb of Warsaw). A forward platoon of twin-turret 7TP surprised a German platoon from the 36th Panzer Regiment resting on a roadside near a cemetery in Wawrzyszew, along with some motorized infantry.

After a short combat, three German tanks were captured, and hauled away. Most if not all were PzKpfw Is, and unfortunately there is no record of whether any of the captured tanks were used by the Polish. According to one account, a fourth tank was also destroyed and three trucks were captured.

The Poles also re-captured a transport column carrying Polish machine guns and ammunition, and liberated several dozens of POWs. The tanks next patrolled the area, with two being slightly damaged as a result of some skirmishes with infantry.

On 12 September, all the tanks supported Polish troops attacking Okęcie W airfield and Służewiec W horse racing circuit. In several skirmishes seven tanks (mostly twin-turret) out of the 21 used were lost, and Captain Michałkowski was injured and taken prisoner.

According to reports, one "medium" tank was captured, with several cars and a liaison aircraft destroyed (an Fi 156 Storch had its tail crushed by a twin-turret 7TP)

After the unsuccessful Okęcie raid, both companies were joined into one.

On 15 September, a platoon patrolling near Babice W met tanks of the 4th Panzer Division and captured one of them along with its crew. One 7TP was destroyed by friendly fire (it ran over a Polish mine in front of a barricade: the crew survived).

On 18 September, the company supported Polish troops in the Wola district, trying to make contact with remaining units of Army Poznań coming into Warsaw.

The twin-turret tank platoon commanded by Lieutenant Sempoliński helped to capture Nowy Chrzanów (west of Warsaw), but most of Lieutenant Kraskowski's platoon of single-turret tanks was destroyed around Wolska street by PzKpfw 35(t) tanks from the German 1st Leichte Division.

After this, the remaining tanks were kept mainly as a reserve, and were used to support troop repelling the German assault near Warszawa Zachodnia (Western railway station) on 26 September. 7TP tanks were finally halted by artillery, and only six tanks were left after this action.

On the next day, besieged Warsaw surrendered.

12TH & 121ST LIGHT TANK COMPANIES

Two individual tank companies that were attached to Poland's only two motorised brigades. Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level IV)
One Vickers Mark E Type B tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Three Vickers Mark E Type B tanks
Two Vickers Mark E Type A tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Three Vickers Mark E Type B tanks
Two Vickers Mark E Type A tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level III)
Three Vickers Mark E Type B tanks
Two Vickers Mark E Type A tanks

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Motorcycle Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Three rifle squads of eight men each,
mounted on motorcycles

Reconnaissance Tank Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level III)
Five TKS tankettes
(up to half, rounded down, may be
upgraded with Nkm wz.38 FK 20mm
canon)

Motorised Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Four FIAT 508 field cars as transport/tows

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of
Polish motorised (zmotoryzowanej)
infantry and their supports

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of
Polish motorised (zmotoryzowanej)
infantry and their supports

Motorised Artillery Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all
75mm or all 100mm), represented on
table by an FO team

Air Support (Anti-Aircraft only)

Sporadic air support from PZL.P11c
fighters

Notes

12th & 121st Light Tank Companies

During the mobilization in August 1939, Polish Vickers tanks were organized into two light tank companies attached to Poland's only two motorized brigades.

The 11th Armoured Battalion formed the 121st Light Tank Company attached to the 10th motorized cavalry brigade (10BK).

The 2nd Armoured Battalion formed the 12th Light Tank Company attached to the Warsaw Armoured-Motorized Brigade (WBP-M).

A light tank company had 16 tanks of which 10-11 should be single turret and 5-6 twin-turret ones. It consisted of the commander's troop with a single command tank, and three platoons with 5 tanks each. Most probably the platoons were mixed so each one consisted of three single-turret and two twin-turret tanks.



There is some doubt as to the number of tanks in the 121st company, because Major Franciszek Skibiński, the Chief of the 10.BK Staff, claimed in his writings, that the company had only about 7-8 tanks, while Colonel Stanisław Maczek,

the 10.BK Commander wrote: "seems, it was only 9" in his memoirs.

However, according to official numbers, it should be equipped with all 16 tanks. A lesser number would contradict with reports of battles of the company, considering the number of losses.

Vickers Type E Tank

On 14 September 1931, Poland bought 38 Vickers Mark E twin-turret (Type A) tanks, with spare parts and a manufacturing licence. In 1934, 22 of them were rebuilt into the single-turret (Type B) variant.

Although various combinations of armaments were tried during the pre-war years, the final versions used in 1939 were armed as follows:

- the single-turret Type B tanks were armed with a 47mm Vickers QF gun combined with a co-axial Polish water-cooled 7.92mm wz.30 machine gun
- the twin-turret Type A tanks were armed with two Polish water-cooled 7.92mm wz.30 machine guns

Note that only command tanks were fitted with radios, so tanks from the 12th and 121st Light Tank Companies will operate on a one card per tank basis.

12st Light Tank Company

The 121st Light Tank Company (commander: Lieutenant Stanisław Rączkowski) was initially fighting with the 10th motorized cavalry brigade (10BK) in delaying actions in the Beskides

mountains against elements of two German armoured divisions.

Due to the scarcity of armoured forces, the 121st Company was initially kept mainly as a reserve and, along with two companies of tankettes, it was used as a "fire brigade", used to plug threatened parts of the frontline.

On September 3, the Polish tanks, attacking along the Krzeczów – Skomielna road, twice repelled infantry from the 2nd Panzer Division which were attacking the flank of the 10th Mounted Rifle Regiment.

On September 4th the company, along with the 101st Reconnaissance Tank Company, supported an assault of the 24th Lancer Regiment at Kasina Wielka.

It also helped to repel the elements of the 4th Light Division and the 3rd Mountain Division, with the Germans losing three tanks and two armoured cars. Polish forces stopped the enemy advance that day: losing two Vickers tanks and few tankettes.

Over the next few days, the company fought daily battles, losing another tank on September 6th at Trzciana near Wiśnicz.

On the 8th, during a night march, the company's tanks, forming a rear guard, ran out of fuel and had to halt near Przyłek: the 10th motorized cavalry brigade had lost its only "real" tank support.

The Brigade commander, Colonel Stanisław Maczek, described it this way in his memoirs:

"In my thoughts I'm sending warm gratitude to this brave company: for saving the day at Naprawa, for outstanding participation in the assault at Kasina, for doubling and tripling its presence on the Brigade's eastern flank, for supporting our morale with their presence; for not shirking from the hardest tasks, despite being told that they are driving only old, training junk".



The 121st company found some fuel at last (reportedly some improvised mixture of kerosene and metholated spirit), and continued the fight together with the Polish 6th infantry division and later with the 21st Mountain Division.

They fought the German 45th Infantry division and the German 2nd Panzer Division up until September 18th.

Their commanding officer, Captain Rączkowski was injured and commanded the fight from a field car, lying on stretchers. The company had three tanks and about 20 men left at that time.

12th Light Tank Company

Meanwhile, the 12th Light Tank company fought its last battle alongside the Warsaw armoured motorized brigade at Tomaszów Lubelski. The Brigade absorbed

numerous Polish units on the way, including 7TP tanks from the 1st Light Tank Battalion and many tankettes.

The town and nearby villages were held by the German 11th Motor Rifle Regiment, a tank company of the 33rd Battalion (part of the 4th Light Division), and, later, elements of the 2nd Panzer Division.

The first assault took place on the 18th in the morning. Eight remaining Vickers tanks, along with tankettes of the 11th Company, supported the attack of the motorized 1st Mounted Rifle Regiment, from the north-west of the town (other Polish units were attacking from the west).

Despite heavy fighting, the attack failed. Four Vickers tanks and eight tankettes were lost.

After dark, the Polish forces attacked once again. After fierce fighting, the Polish achieved minimal success, but only one Vickers was left.

On the next day, the Poles, supported by the last Vickers and seven 7TP tanks, attempted another night assault. It too failed, and only one 7TP survived.

The Brigade capitulated on 20 September, after the last breakthrough attempt.

21ST LIGHT TANK BATTALION

A single tank battalion equipped with Renault R-35 tanks. Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level III)
One Renault R-35 tank
One C7P recovery vehicle

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Renault R-35 tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Renault R-35 tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Renault R-35 tanks

4th Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Renault R-35 tanks

Motorcycle Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three rifle squads of eight men each,
mounted on motorcycles

HMG Section

One Big Man (Level II)
Three Ckm.wz.30 HMG teams (5 crew
each)

BATTALION SUPPORT UNITS

Sapper Platoon

Three engineer squads of ten men each
mounted in a variety of vehicles.

Possible vehicles are:

- Laffly field cars
- 3t Berliet CBA (4x2) trucks
- 2t Praga RV (6x4) trucks
- Chevrolet (4x2) trucks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Anti-Aircraft MG Platoon

Four lkm wz. 08/15 or rkm wz.28 LMGs
Five FIAT 508 field cars as transport

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of
Polish infantry and their supports

Notes

21st Light Tank Battalion

In 1938 the Polish Army bought two R-35 tanks for testing. After a series of tests it was found that the design was completely unreliable and the Poles decided to buy the French SOMUA S35 tanks instead, a proposal that was later refused by the French government.



As the threat of war became apparent and the production rate of the new Polish 7TP tank was insufficient, it was decided to buy a hundred R-35 tanks as an emergency measure in April 1939. The first fifty (other sources lower the number to 49) arrived in Poland in July 1939, along with three Hotchkiss H-35 tanks bought for testing.

Most were put into service with the Łuck based 12th Armoured Battalion. During the Invasion of Poland, 45 tanks formed the core of the newly created 21st Light Tank Battalion that was part of the general reserve of the Commander in Chief and organized in French pattern.

The unit was meant to defend the Romanian Bridgehead, but was divided after the Soviet invasion of Poland of 17 September when those plans became obsolete. Thirty-four tanks were withdrawn to Romania, while the remaining tanks were pressed into service with the improvised Dubno Operational Group which was created on September 16th and made up of several remnant formations of cavalry and infantry.

The Dubno group fought against the Germans at the battle of Kamionka Strumiłowa.

Polish R-35 Tanks also took part in the battle of Krasne against the Soviet invaders. Furthermore, six tanks were attached to the 10th Motorized Cavalry Brigade which fought along the southern Polish border.

The second shipment of R-35 did not reach Poland prior to the outbreak of World War II and was redirected to Syria in October.

2ND ARMoured BATTALION (COMPANIES 111, 112 & 113)

A single tank battalion equipped with FT-17 tanks. Although their morale remains at three, tank crews from this unit only have two Actions, representing how slow and obsolete the FT-17s were.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level III) in FIAT 508 field car or in a motorcycle sidecar

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level II) in motorcycle sidecar
Three FT-17 tanks armed with 37mm gun
Two FT-17 tanks armed with MGs

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II) in motorcycle sidecar
Three FT-17 tanks armed with 37mm gun
Two FT-17 tanks armed with MGs

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level II) in motorcycle sidecar
Three FT-17 tanks armed with 37mm gun
Two FT-17 tanks armed with MGs

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Infantry Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Three 37mm wz.36 anti-tank guns
Three horse-drawn limbers as tows

Motorcycle Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three rifle squads of eight men each, mounted on motorcycles

Light Gun Battery

Batteries of up to four guns (either all 75mm or all 100mm), represented on table by an FO team

Infantry Companies

Support from companies or platoons of Polish infantry and their supports

Infantry Gun Platoon

Batteries of up to two 75mm wz.02/26 infantry guns towed by horse-drawn limbers; or can be represented on table by an FO team

Notes

2nd Armoured Battalion

At the outbreak of the war Poland had 102 old FT-17 tanks; their combat capability was very limited, since they were obsolete and extremely slow by modern standards.

However, in September 1939, the 2nd armoured battalion formed three light tank companies (numbered: 111, 112, 113), equipped with Renault FT-17 tanks. Their mobilization was finished on September 6th 1939, and then they were transported towards Brzesc.

Due to bombardment of the railroad the 111th light tank company was unloaded near the town of Łuków on September 9th. During the next few days the company was trying to withdraw to the east, suffering from lack of fuel and lack of contact with friendly units (two tanks were destroyed by a reconnaissance unit belonging to the German Panzerdivision "Kempf". The remaining tanks were captured on September 16th.

The 112th and 113th light tank companies were more fortunate and arrived at Brzesc citadel/fortress upon the banks of the Bug river. There they were deployed in defensive positions expecting the German attack.

The Germans attacked Brzesc with the 3rd and 10th Panzer Divisions on September 14th

Twelve FT-17 tanks of the 113th company, deployed in allotment gardens to the

north of the Citadel in Brzesc, and were destroyed fighting against the German 2nd battalion of the 8th tank regiment. Enemy tanks, however, did not manage to cross the northern Citadel gate, which had been blocked by the FT-17 tanks belonging to the 112th company.

On September 15th the enemy assaults on the citadel were repelled, with a help of the 112th company's tanks, which were firing from covered positions within the fortress itself.

On the 16th, after a daylong combat, the Polish units abandoned the citadel. A breakout with the remaining tanks failed, so they were left behind.

Command

The FT-17 tank company commander and platoon commanders did not ride in FT-17 tanks. Instead officers used field cars and motorcycles with sidecars .

One can only assume this had something to do with the painfully slow speed of FT-17 tanks making them unsuitable for command vehicles.

Armament

I can find no record of the proportion of FT-17s that in 1939 were armed with guns as opposed to MGs.

The Polish certainly started off with the 3:2 ratio used in the lists, but that was when they first acquired the FT-17s back in 1919.

RATING YOUR POLISH FORCE

As per the notes to the Line Infantry listing, the stats below take into account the use of the BAR as opposed to a true light machine gun as a squad support weapon and the fact that some squads might be missing their BAR entirely.

With the above already taken into consideration, however, any squad that can be absolutely defined as having no BAR will have one dice subtracted from any fire.

Infantry Types/Actions	0	1	2	3	4
Line Infantry Squad	1, 2, 3	4, 5	6, 7	8, 9, 10, 11, 12	~
Mountain Infantry Squad	1, 2	3	4, 5	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	11, 12
Motorised/Motorcycle Squad	1, 2	3	4, 5	6, 7, 8	~
KOP Infantry/Sapper Squad	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 6	7, 8, 9	10, 11, 12	~
Line Cavalry Squad	1, 2	3	4, 5	6, 7, 8	
KOP Cavalry Squad	1, 2, 3	4	5, 6	7, 8	~

Polish anti-tank weapon crews have three Actions.

Most Polish vehicle crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Anti-Tank Weapons	0-4"	4-8"	8-12"	12-16"	16-24"
Infantry Squad	1	~	~	~	~
Wz.35 7.92mm AT Rifle	5	5	4	4	3
MMG/HMG	3	3	3	2	2

The Wz.35 ATR listed above takes one Action to re-load, so with its three Actions may only fire one aimed shot and one snap shot per turn. If a double is rolled when firing, the team has just one round remaining i.e. can take only one more shot before being out of ammunition for the rest of the game.

The wz.35 Anti-tank Rifle

The wz.35 anti-tank rifle was the main anti-tank weapon of an infantry or cavalry platoon. Each infantry company and cavalry squadron was to be equipped with three rifles, each operated by a team of two soldiers. The weapon was successively introduced to units, but remained a top secret. Teams were trained in secret military facilities just before the German invasion, beginning in July 1939, and had to swear an oath to preserve the secret.

The first tests showed that the new weapon was capable of penetrating a 15 mm steel plate at a distance of 300 meters with similar results against angled steel plate. Uniquely, compared to other armour-piercing designs, the wz.35 round instead of using tungsten or a similar hard metal for the core used lead - as with a standard ball, but with a steel jacket. The penetration was not made by punching the core through the armour but from the

impact of the bullet flattening against the plate, transferring kinetic energy to the metal. The key to success for this technique was a very high bullet velocity. The result was that the bullet was punching a spall, about 20 mm in diameter, a size larger than the actual calibre of the rifle itself. The fragment would then ricochet inside of an armoured vehicle, possibly damaging the engine or maiming/killing the crew

7,610 rifles were to be delivered to the Polish Army by the end of 1939. It is uncertain how many rifles were actually produced, but it is often estimated that there were more than 6,500 delivered by September 1939.

Adding Big Men

The force guidelines show you what the basic number and level of Big Men you should have with any force. As a general guideline, you should have one Big Man available for each front line fighting platoon and their direct supports. Artillery used in a direct fire, anti-tank role could be given a Big Man.

Stacking the Deck

One card should be present for each Platoon as well as any Company Headquarters and attached Platoons and on- or off-table support units. One *Polish Blinds* card will also be present, as will one card for each Big Man and FOO.

All anti-tank weapons apart from integral anti-tank rifles, should have one card per weapon whether man-ported, self-propelled or mounted on a vehicle.

Other cards that may be present are as follows:

Heroic Leader: will usually be present for Polish forces

Reconnaissance Bonus Move: will apply to all cavalry, reconnaissance and scout units. These have been marked (R) in the lists.

Vehicle Breakdown: will apply to FT-17 and Vickers E tanks

Bugle Call: bonus move that applies to all cavalry units

Rapid Deployment: will apply if the main body of the force is either cavalry or motorised

Rally: may be present

POLISH ARMOURY

AFVs

Vehicle	Armour	Weapon	Strike	Speed	Notes
7TP dw tank	2	MMG	~	~	
7TP jw tank	2	37mm	5	~	
7TP jw (1939) tank	3	37mm	5	~	
FT-17 tank with Gun	3	37mm	3	Slow	
FT-17 tank with MG	3	MMG	~	Slow	
Vickers Mark E Type A tank	2	MMG	~	~	
Vickers Mark E Type B tank	2	47mm	5	~	
Renault R-35 tank	5	37mm	3	Slow	
TK-3/TKS tankette	2	MMG	~	Fast	
TKS tankette with 20mm	2	20mm	4	Fast	
wz.29 armoured car	2	37mm	3	Wheels	
wz.34 armoured car	2	MMG	~	Wheels	
Up-gunned wz.34 arm. car	2	37mm	3	Wheels	

Anti-Tank Guns

Weapon	Strike
37mm wz.36 anti-tank gun	5

A Note on Polish Tank Guns

The 37mm gun with a Strike of 3 is the French short-barrelled semi-automatic gun Puteaux SA-18 known to the Poles as the wz.18. Its main purpose was to fight infantry and MG nests and, as such, had a low velocity and flat trajectory making it less efficient at punching through armour. Its Strike factor is taken from *Battle for Liberation*.

The 37mm gun with a Strike of 5 is the Bofors 37mm anti-tank gun made in Sweden. As an anti-tank gun, the Poles knew it as the wz.36, mounted in a 7TP it was known as the wz.37. The v2 *Blitzkrieg*

supplement gives it a Strike of 4, here upgraded for v3 to a Strike of 5.

The 47mm gun with a Strike of 5 in the Vickers E Type B tanks is the Vickers QF gun. Again, the v2 *Blitzkrieg* supplement gives it a Strike of 4, here upgraded for v3 to a Strike of 5.

The TKS tankette's 20mm cannon is the Polish-produced Nkm wz.38 FK autocannon. The v2 *Blitzkrieg* supplement gives it a Strike of 3, here upgraded for v3 to a Strike of 4.

Radio Net

Only units using the Polish 7TP tanks had radios fitted to each individual tank: they will operate on a radio net with one card per platoon.

Units using TKS tankettes; wz.29 and wz.34 armoured cars; Vickers E, R-35 or FT-17 tanks only have radios in the command tanks or in the motorcycle combinations that their commanders ride in. They will therefore operate without a radio net on a one card per tank basis.

wz.36 46mm light mortar

The Granatnik wz.36 was an ingenious weapon. Unlike ordinary mortars of the epoch, 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 (110 to 870 yards).

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 epoch such as the German 5 cm 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 loaded beforehand and fired immediately upon reaching the designated firing position.

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

Ammunition: The wz.36 mortar only fires HE, it has no smoke round.

Minimum Range: The wz.36 mortar has no minimum range. If the enemy are that close then it is assumed that the crew can do an equal amount of damage with their rifles.

Maximum Range: The wz.36 mortar has a maximum range of 130”.

Aiming: In order to fire the wz.36 mortar needs to be within 6” of a point from where a direct line of sight can be traced to the target or target area. This represents the ability of the mortar to fire from cover while one of its team moves forward to observe the fall of shot. It will only hit a target on a roll of a 6, or 5 or 6 if the target is in direct line of sight and in the open. Any hits will cause one point of Shock on the target unit. The wz.36 mortar may never use rapid fire.

wz.31 81mm medium mortar

The wz.31 mortar was based on the Brandt-Stokes variant of the 3" British Stokes trench mortar from WW1.

Minimum Range: The 3" mortar has a minimum range of 36".

If the mortar platoon is deployed on-table with the enemy at close quarters they may form impromptu rifle sections with their crews divided up as the player wishes. They fire as a rifle section with no LMG.

Maximum Range: The 3" mortar has a maximum range (if you have an incredibly large table) of 360", or twenty foot.

Firing: The 3" mortar fires once in a turn as covered in section 9 of the rules, either at pre-registered points or opportunity fire.

If the mortar platoon is on-table then the Indirect Fire Support table is ignored and the mortars will begin firing on their next card after the FOO has called in the fire.

The 3" mortar may fire H.E. or Smoke rounds.

For effect the 3" mortar uses the "under 85mm" line on the Bombardment Effect Table in section 9.3.2 of the main rules.

Polish "Off-Table" Artillery

The units below would usually be represented on-table by an FO team. Information about their composition is included for completeness, especially as

there were many instances where field artillery was used in a direct fire role against enemy tanks. If used in a direct fire role, Polish field artillery have three Actions per activation.

Light Gun Battery:

Four 75mm wz.1897 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers.

Light Howitzer Battery:

Four 100mm wz.14/19 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers.

Heavy Artillery Battery:

Three 105mm wz.29 or 155mm wz.17 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers.

Horse Artillery Battery:

Four 75mm wz.02/26 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers.

Motorised Artillery Battery:

Four 75mm wz.1897 guns or four 100mm wz.14/19 howitzers towed by FIAT 621 trucks or C4P artillery half-tracks.

Mountain Gun Battery:

Four 65mm wz.06 guns towed by horse-drawn limbers.

Optional Rule: Horse Artillery

As an optional rule, horse artillery may unlimber without paying the usual one Action cost to do so provided that this is the last thing that they do on their activation.

Off Table Artillery Availability

3" Mortars: Auto

Other Assets: -/6/5

POLISH AIR SUPPORT

Polish troops can benefit from two types of air support: anti-aircraft fighters or ground-attack bombers.

Anti-Aircraft Fighters

If the anti-aircraft air support card is in the pack and dealt, the player rolls a D6. On a roll of '6', anti-aircraft air support is present and will remain so for the rest of that turn.

Any enemy aircraft that subsequently appear that turn must get through the Polish anti-aircraft air support before making any sort of ground attack. Use the rules in section 10.1.1. Anti-Aircraft Fire, modified as per the below dependent on which type of fighter is present.

Polish Anti-Aircraft Air Support/PZL.P7a Fighters

Production of the PZL.P7a started in 1932. By 1939 it was largely obsolete when matched up against modern German fighters. The fighter was being gradually replaced by the slightly more modern P11a fighter, but as war broke out the old planes were scrambled together and sent into the air to face off against the Luftwaffe.



The P7a fighters were used in three squadrons, each with 10 aircraft. The 123rd Squadron acted as a Pursuit Brigade, deployed around Warsaw, while 151st and the 162nd Squadrons were assigned to land armies.

Although the P.7a had better manoeuvrability than their German opponents, and could operate from short fields (150 m to start, even rough ones), almost all the German aircraft were faster than the P7a. Furthermore, the Polish aircraft and their engines were worn out from intensive service use.

Their armament was also insufficient - only two Vickers machine guns, which had a tendency to jam.

For the purposes of IABSM, this type of air support should be treated like anti-aircraft fire (see section 10.1.1 of the v3 rulebook), with a +2 modifier to the initial 2D6 roll.

Polish Anti-Aircraft Air Support/PZL.P11c Fighters

On September 1st 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, the combat units of the Polish Air Force contained one hundred and nine PZL P.11cs, twenty P.11as and thirty P.7as. A further forty-three P.11c aircraft were in reserve or undergoing repairs.

The P.11 was used in 12 squadrons, each with ten aircraft (two squadrons constituted a group, in Polish: *dywizjon*). Two groups (four squadrons) were in the



Pursuit Brigade deployed around Warsaw, the rest were assigned to Armies. All of them took part in the defence of Poland, and had been deployed to remote airfields, so they were not bombed by the Germans.

In combat, not only were the German Messerschmitt Bf109 and Bf110 fighters faster and better armed than the P.11 (only a third of P.11c were armed with four machine guns, the rest had only two; even fewer had a radio) but most German bombers were too. Since the P.11 fighters had seen years of intensive use before the war, their maximum speed was even lower than the theoretical 375 km/h.

Another serious deficiency was their small numbers, which meant that missions involving groups larger than about twenty aircraft were rarely undertaken and reserve machines were practically unavailable.

On the other hand, the Polish fighter had better manoeuvrability and because of their design, had much better vision from the cockpit than the German aircraft. The P.11 had a strong construction, good rate of climb and could takeoff and land on short fields, even rough ones. Its construction was very durable and could

dive at up to 600 km/h without risk of the wings being pulled off.

Despite the German superiority, the P.11 managed to shoot down a considerable number of German aircraft, including fighters, but suffered heavy losses as well. The exact numbers are not fully verified. A total of 285 German aircraft were lost according to Luftwaffe records, with at least 110 victories credited to the P.11. The Polish cost was the the loss of 100 of their P.11 planes.

For the purposes of IABSM, this type of air support should be treated like anti-aircraft fire (see section 10.1.1 of the v3 rulebook), with a +3 modifier to the initial 2D6 roll.

Ground-Attack Bombers

Use the standard rules for air support counting both the PZL.37 and PZL.23 bombers as Level Bombers.

The Polish air force was not destroyed on the airfields on the September 1st 1939. Most aircraft had been were redeployed to secret airfields a few days prior to the invasion and the Luftwaffe primarily bombed empty airfields obscured by early morning mist.

Polish air defences concentrated on air cover over Warsaw as the prime objective which enabled the Luftwaffe air superiority to disrupt mobilization in large



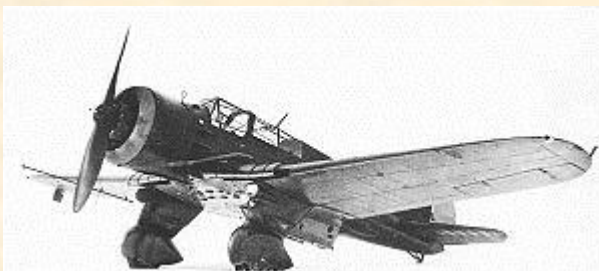
parts of the country. The Polish military high command also requested low-level bomber raids on advancing German columns that proved to be very wasteful in planes but did disrupt some German movement, most notably 16th Armoured Corps near Częstochowa and Radomsko.

On September 1st, Poland had eighty-six PZL.37 Łoś medium bombers in total, but less than a half of those were used in combat.

The thirty-six PZL.37's were divided into four bomber squadrons of a single Bomber Brigade; the 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th squadrons (two squadrons with nine aircraft each, constituted a group, in Polish: *dywizjon*. The PZL.37 were in groups X and XV).

Fifty PZL.37s were in the reserve XX group, training units or in repairs. Since the PZL.37 Łoś had only been available for few months when the war broke out they were not fully ready. For instance the extra internal fuel tanks were not in service, thus the maximum range of the bomber quoted in specifications was in practice not achievable.

The rest of the Bomber Brigade aircraft were PZL.23 Karaś light bombers. Around 120 participated in the campaign.



POLISH ARMoured TRAINS

Polish Armoured trains operated to a set configuration.

Out in front of the train were three draisines: individual, self-propelled railcars. These carried an FT-17 tank and two TK-3 or TKS tankettes.

If the tanks and tankettes weren't available for any reason, the trains could use Tatra draisines instead. These were no more than a steel box on a railcar armed with a single MMG.

The main body of the train started with an empty flatcar equipped only with a lookout and a brake. His job was to stop the train before it could run into any danger.

Next up was the first of the fighting cars: either a heavy artillery car usually armed with one wz.02/06 75mm light artillery gun and one wz.14/19 100mm howitzer; or a light artillery car usually carrying two wz.02/06 75mm light artillery guns. Both heavy and light artillery cars also carried a varying number of machine guns.

Then came an assault car with dismountable machine guns and a platoon of infantry.

Next there was the locomotive together with an armoured coal-carrying tender. The commander's station was on top of the engine.

Then there was another artillery car, heavy or light, another flatcar with lookout and brake; and finally another

three individual, self-propelled railcars with another FT-17 and two more tankettes on board.

The Trains

There were ten armoured trains in service at the start of the war.

Their configurations, where known, are given below. Obviously, as above, where it says something like "two flatcars" it should be taken to mean one at each end of the train.

#11 Danuta

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars
- Two heavy artillery wagons (each with eight MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender
- Optional: four salvaged 75mm field guns mounted on the flatcars and manned by the train's crew

#12 Poznancyk

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars
- Two heavy artillery wagons (each with eight MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#13 General Sosnkowski

- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two Tatra armoured draisines

- Two flatcars
- Two light artillery wagons (each with four MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#14 Paderewski

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars
- Two heavy artillery wagons (each with four MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#15 Smierc

- Two Tatra armoured draisines
- Two artillery wagons each carrying only one 75mm gun (and two MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#51 Piewszy Marszalek

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars, one carrying a 40mm Bofors AA gun (might have been on a third flatcar)
- Two light artillery wagons (each with six MMGs, of which two were co-axial, and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#52 Pilsudczyk

No info

#53 Smialy

No info

#54 Grozny

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars
- One light artillery wagon (with eight MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One heavy artillery wagon (with four MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

#55 Batosz Glowacki

- Four TKS tankettes
- Two FT-17 tanks
- Two flatcars, one carrying a 40mm Bofors AA gun (might have been on a third flatcar)
- Two artillery wagons each carrying only one 75mm gun (and four MMGs and one AA MMG)
- One assault car (with four MMGs)
- Ti3 Locomotive & tender

RULES FOR USING ARMoured TRAINS

(Based on the rules that appear within TFL's excellent Triumph of Will early 20thC supplement)

Configuring a Train

Each element of the train (wagon, carriage or engine) has an armour value and a strength.

These are as follows:

Element	Armour	Strength
Draisine	3	4
Flatcar	3	4
Artillery Car	4	6
Assault Car	4	5
Locomotive	5	6

Each element has three Actions per activation. Apart from the locomotive (that uses all its Actions to move at whatever speed has been set, see below), elements may use their activations to spot or to fire.

Movement

The armoured trains may move up to 5dAv in distance, but only on undamaged railway tracks. The train may accelerate or decelerate by 1dAv per turn.

Note that unless the train must move unless it can decelerate down to zero dAv movement, and that this may cause it to crash.

Firing from a Train

The train, or any infantry or weapon crews on the train, may only fire effectively when it is stationary.

Firing at a Train

Troops firing at a train may specify which part of the train they are firing at only if the train is stationary and if the fire is direct or observed. Otherwise a dice should be thrown to determine where any damage is done, with an equal chance per element.

Roll to hit as normal using the rules for fire versus vehicles, applying the following special rules:

- Each hit will reduce an element's strength by one point. Once an element reaches zero points, it should be considered destroyed and will block the track.
- Destroyed elements may be uncoupled. This takes one turn stationary under normal circumstances. If under fire, there is only a 50% chance the decoupling attempt will be successful.
- Shock taken by an element affects that element as usual, but applies only to the element that has received the Shock, not to the train as a whole. However, the Shock applies to all squads and weapon teams (i.e. both MMGs and artillery) within that element. Should any squads or weapon teams dismount, then any Shock on the element they dismount from should be evenly distributed amongst the element and the dismounting units.
- The "Hit Tables" shown opposite should be used.

HITS ON ARTILLERY CARS	
If the hits are equal (including no hits and no saves), roll below	
1-2	The artillery car takes one point of Shock
3-4	The artillery car must engage the firer in a firefight on its next activation
5-6	No effect
If one net hit, take one point of Shock, and lose one Action next activation	
1-2	One machine gun is KO'd
3-4	Damage to the running gear: the whole train is at -1 pip for movement from now on
5-6	Turret hit: one turret is now at -1 on subsequent rolls due to damage to gun sights
If two net hits, take two points of Shock, and lose two Actions next activation	
1-2	One machine gun is KO'd
3-4	Serious damage to the running gear: the whole train is at -2 pips for movement from now on
5-6	One main gun is now out of action for the rest of the game
If three net hits or more, take Shock equal to net hits, lose all Actions next activation, and roll once on the 'Two Net Hits' table, above	

HITS ON ASSAULT CARS	
If the hits are equal (including no hits and no saves), roll below	
1-2	The assault car takes one point of Shock
3-4	The assault car must engage the firer in a firefight on its next activation
5-6	No effect
If one net hit, take one point of Shock, and lose one Action next activation	
1-2	One machine gun is KO'd
3-4	Damage to the running gear: the whole train is at -1 pip for movement from now on
5-6	1D3 hits on the platoon within the assault car
If two net hits, take two points of Shock, and lose two Actions next activation	
1-2	One machine gun is KO'd
3-4	Serious damage to the running gear: the whole train is at -2 pips for movement from now on
5-6	1D6 hits on the platoon within the assault car
If three net hits or more, take Shock equal to net hits, lose all Actions next activation, and roll once on the 'Two Net Hits' table, above	

Draisines

Draisines should be treated like tanks that only run on railway tracks.

Flatcars

Fire on empty flatcars only reduces the element's strength. There are no additional effects.

If firing on flatcars with troops on them, roll 1D6. On a roll of 1 or 2, the fire affects only the flatcar. On a roll of 3 to 6, the fire affects the troops: calculate the effects as usual.

The Locomotive

Fire on the locomotive will reduce its strength as normal.

There is, however, also the chance of a critical hit. Roll 2D6: on a double, consult the table below:

Roll	Effect
Double 1	Track damaged. The train may no longer advance/retreat. Roll to see which, even chance.
Double 2	Boiler damage. Lose one available speed dice.
Double 3	Serious boiler damage. Lose two available speed dice.
Double 4	Serious boiler damage. Lose two available speed dice.
Double 5	Brakes damaged! Roll a D6. On a 1-3, make one more move then the train must stop for 1D6 turns. On a 4-6, the train cannot reduce speed for 1D6 turns.
Double 6	Boom! Engine blows up in spectacular fashion. Apply collateral damage (8.3)

Close Combat

Close combat may only be instigated with the train if it is moving at less than the speed available to the attackers.

Compare the number of troops attacking with the number of troops within the attacked element. Troops within the train do not count cover, but add half the remaining strength of the element to represent the state of the cover (round up). Empty closed elements may use this half strength to represent the fact that they are simply difficult to break into.

Combat results as per usual, but with an empty closed carriage a result that reduces the carriages strength to zero allows the attacker the option of either

having broken into the carriage or destroyed it.

Empty open carriages that have no troops on them are captured immediately. Holding them for two consecutive turns allows the attackers to destroy them if they wish.

The train may not instigate close combat itself!

Crashing!

The train may choose to collide with an obstacle on the tracks, or may have to hit something because it cannot decelerate in time.

Any guns or vehicles hit by the train are destroyed immediately, although infantry will always jump clear. If the train hits anything with an armour class, the element hitting the object will immediately take a strike with dice equal to the armour class of whatever it hit e.g. the train hits a tank with AC4, it takes a hit as if from a gun 4.

Dismounting

The infantry, Big Men and MMGs may dismount from the train if it is stationary or moving at less than 3", taking one Action dice to do so.

Once dismounted, they will operate under their own cards, until then they will activate on the Armoured Train card.

