



THE SOVIETS

**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:

The Armed Forces of the Soviet Union were born during the Civil War that wracked Russia from the time of the revolution to the defeat of the White Russian forces in 1921. In this sense it was unique amongst the armies of Europe, in that it had no past traditions around which its structure had to bend. Indeed this was both a blessing and a curse, as it struggled to develop policy and strategy from a blank piece of paper. Tortsy's insistence in the worker and peasant army, Frunze with his absurd beliefs in the inability of the capitalist powers to conduct a campaign of movement, all laid foundations that were to seriously hinder the ability of the Soviets to respond when the German blitzkrieg fell upon them.

To add to these already shaky foundations, the officer purges of the 1930's were successful in finally ridding the Red Army of its last vestiges of an Imperial past, the Voyenspets, military specialists such as Tukhachevsky, who had experience of training and working in a professional army. The men that replaced them in positions of true power were the political commissars, untrained in a military sense, but who could be considered loyal to the regime.

As such the Red Army was predominantly an army of peasants, led by a command that was divided from the very highest down to company level between the military and political leaders. Its structure was faulty, as since the purges all airforce and armoured formations had been broken up as separate entities and divided amongst the infantry formations that were the basic building block of the Soviet Army.

A bleak picture indeed, excepting one thing. The Soviet Union was a dictatorship, and an effective one at that. The losses of men and materiel that she suffered during the Winter War, and then the first few months of Barbarossa were such that no democracy could have stood them. But Stalin had no parliament, in a democratic sense, to answer to. With an iron hand he discarded millions of his own men, in the knowledge that millions more stood behind them - as the Germans were to discover during the winters of 1941 and 1942.

The Red Army constantly recreated itself during the war years. New ideas were tried, new formations evolved in an attempt to minimise the terrible losses that Russian forces took. It can be stated quite categorically that had the Winter War not shown up some of the most basic flaws, which were to a greater degree addressed, that the Red Army would not have survived the summer of 1941.

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Author's Introduction:

I had been looking to model forces for the 1939 September War campaign 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.

INFANTRY COMPANY

The structure below represents a Soviet infantry company all or most of its way through the evolution from the 1935 TO&Es to the 1939 TO&E. It is big and therefore unwieldy.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level II)
One Commissar
Three 50mm mortar teams, each with two crew

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four squads, each 10 men

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four squads, each 10 men

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four squads, each 10 men

4th (MG) Platoon

Two MMG, each with five crew, with carts

To motorise the company: split the light mortars one per platoon, add five Zis-5 trucks per platoon, two more for the MMGs, and some sort of field car as an HQ.

BATTALION SUPPORT UNITS

Scout Platoon (R)

One Big Man (level II)
Two scout squads, the men each, may be mounted as cavalry

HMG Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four MMGs, each with five crew

Anti-Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Two 45mm Obr.37 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Mortar Company

Fire from up to four 82mm medium mortars, firing from off-table

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level I)
Five BA-20 armoured cars

Regimental Howitzer Company

Fire from up to four 76mm Obr.27 guns, firing from off-table

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
A standard Light, Fast or reconnaissance tank platoon.

Pioneer Platoon

Three engineer squads, each ten men
Pioneer Supply Cart

Divisional Heavy Mortar Battery

Fire from up to four 120mm Obr.38 heavy mortars, firing from off-table

Divisional Heavy Artillery Battery

Fire from up to four 122mm Obr.38 howitzers, firing from off-table

Air Support

Possible air support from Polikarpov I-15bis with MGs, bombs or rockets

Anti-Aircraft Platoon

Three 12.7mm DShK HMGs mounted on tripods for AA fire on GAZ trucks

Notes

Many of the problems of the Soviet military organization would remain obscured during the Polish campaign.

With the Poles fighting a desperate struggle against the encircling German armies, the Soviet Union made a similar “pincer” invasion on two larger fronts with an overwhelming amount of tanks, infantry, cavalry and airplanes.

Compared to what the Germans had been fighting for the past 17 days, the Soviets mostly encountered stripped down units of Border Protection Corp and remnants of shattered Polish brigades and divisions trying to reorganize into new defensive positions and operational groups.

When the vast Soviet armies crashed over the border, there was little that could stop them. After all, the Poles had signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, and had all the time viewed Germany as the main threat and likely aggressor. No-one suspected a pact between the Soviet and German

governments, the Soviet invasion came as a complete surprise and shock.

Whatever plans the Poles had of a last line of defence along the so called “Romanian Bridgehead”, where they were supposed to reorganize and defend in the mountainous region until French and British support arrived, became obsolete with the Soviet invasion.

What remained for the Polish units now was to fight their way past Soviet and German armies to escape into Hungary and Romania to avoid captivity and be able to reform what troops they had left in France.

The Soviet propaganda during and after the war maintained its stance about the “Liberation march of 1939”. The actual amount Soviet Union losses during the Polish campaign are disputed.

The BA-20 Armoured Car

The BA-20 armored car was developed in 1934 for use by HQ staffs, reconnaissance and communications units. It was derived

from the civilian GAZ-M1 car, which was itself a modified version of a Ford design, produced by the Nizhny Novgorod-based vehicle manufacturer GAZ. Full production of the BA-20 started in 1935.



In common with most armored cars derived from cars, the BA-20 was largely road bound. The lack of all-wheel drive, high ground pressure, and low power prevented it from moving cross-country except on very firm ground. The armor was too thin to stop anything other than fragments or small-arms fire, and the 7.62 mm machinegun was not adequate to penetrate other scout vehicles.

DShK Heavy Machine Gun

The DShK was a 12.7mm caliber heavy machinegun developed during the 30's and improved with a belt feeding mechanism in 1938. It served as machine-gun support in the Red Army next to the Maksim 1910 machinegun. DShK were also mounted on tripods and GAZ trucks for use as AA machineguns.

Later in the war the Red Army would mount DShK machineguns in the cupolas of heavy Soviet tanks.

120mm Mortars

The Soviet Obr. 1938 120mm mortar was the first modern 120 mm mortar produced by any country in great quantity, entering production in 1939. It was a copy of the Mortier Brandt de 120mm mle 1935.

The Red Army made significant use of its heavy caliber by treating it as an artillery piece in World War II in addition to using it as regimental high angle fire support.

Polikarpov I-15bis

The Polikarpov 1-15bis made up the backbone of the Soviet air force during the invasion of Poland.



The plane was a double decked airplane, and the primary armament was either 4 7.62mm machineguns or two 12.7mm machineguns. The secondary armament was made up of either 100kg of bombs, or six RS38 rockets.

The rockets suffered from extremely poor accuracy, tests showed a 1.1% accuracy when fired at a distance of 500 meters. The high-explosive rocket also needed to score a direct hit in order to damage even lightly armoured vehicles.

CAVALRY SQUADRON

The Soviet Union invaded Poland with 12 cavalry divisions, distributed among the Belorussian and Ukrainian fronts. All cavalry may start the game mounted or dismounted.

Cavalry Squadron HQ

One Big Man (Level II)
One Commissar

1st Cavalry Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three squads, each 10 cavalry

2nd Cavalry Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three squads, each 10 cavalry

3rd Cavalry Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three squads, each 10 cavalry

4th Cavalry Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three squads, each 10 cavalry

Cavalry Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Four 45mm Obr.37 anti-tank guns towed by horse-drawn limbers

Regimental Artillery Battery

Fire from up to three 76mm Obr.02 or Obr.36 guns, firing from off-table

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Divisional Artillery Battery

Fire from up to four 76mm Obr.36 guns, firing from off-table

Divisional Heavy Artillery Battery

Fire from up to four 122mm Obr.38 howitzers, firing from off-table

REGIMENT SUPPORT UNITS

Cavalry HMG Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four MMGs, five crew, each mounted on a taczanka cart

Anti-Aircraft Platoon

Three trucks with a single DShK 12.7mm HMG mounted on tripod for AA use

Cavalry Howitzer Platoon

Fire from up to three 76mm Obr.27 howitzers, firing from off-table

Light or Fast Tank Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
A standard Light or Fast tank platoon.

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level I)
Five BA-6, BA-10 or BA-20 armoured cars (must be all the same type)

Air Support

Possible air support from Polikarpov I-15bis with MGs, bombs or rockets

Notes

The Soviet Union invaded Poland with 12 cavalry divisions, distributed among the Byelorussian and Ukrainian front.

Fast moving, these huge formations made good progress even where the roads were of poor quality, and as the Soviet Union was severely lacking proper motorized infantry in big enough numbers to make a difference – the cavalry offered a mobile infantry force that could keep up with the tank divisions and brigades.

The Red Army cavalry was recruited mostly from the Cossacks and Kalmyks – peoples who spent their lives in the saddle. The soldiers in the cavalry units were trained to fight as infantry.

The small steppe horses used could move sixty miles in a night, in snow, mud or any other landscape, where tanks and trucks were useless. Mounted troops could travel over the worst terrain and were good at dispersal and concealment.

Cavalry was invaluable under conditions of fluid fighting.

Organisation & Armament

There is some question as to how many individual squads there were in each platoon: two, three or four. I have decided upon three squads per platoon, largely based on the fact that Nafziger states that there is one officer and three NCOs per platoon.

Nafziger also states that each squadron had eight LMGs available as light support weapons. Given that there are twelve

squads in a squadron, it follows that at least four cavalry squads, or one per platoon, will have no LMG and thus lose one dice when firing.

76mm Guns

The 76.2 mm model 1902 gun was a Russian light field gun used in the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, Russian Civil War and a number of interwar armed conflicts with participants from the former Russian Empire (Soviet Union, Poland, Finland, Estonia, etc.). Modernized versions of this gun were employed at the early stage of World War II.

M1902 divisional guns were the mainstay of Russian Empire artillery and were accepted well by the army. Their characteristics were at the same level with similar 75-mm French and German guns.

Poland and the Soviet Union modernized their M1902 guns after the end of World War I. Polish designers made their minor enhancements in 1926, resulting in the wz. 02/26 gun, which was re-chambered for firing 75 mm shells used by the most numerous Polish field gun, the Canon de 75 modèle 1897. However, Poland also retained some of the guns in the original 76 mm caliber to use existing stocks of 76 mm ammunition. The Soviet Union continued mass production of M1902 gun until 1931 when it was replaced by its enhanced M1902/30 variant.

The 76mm Obr.36 was a gun capable of firing both indirect fire as well as delivering devastating anti-tank support.

LIGHT TANK COMPANY

The Soviet Union invaded Poland with over 4,700 tanks: almost twice the number of their German allies. Light tank companies were equipped with a variety of T-26 tank variants.

Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level II)
One T-26 tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four T-26 tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four T-26 tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four T-26 tanks

4th Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four T-26 tanks

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Five T-37 or four T-38 amphibious tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Infantry

Support from companies or platoons of Soviet motorised infantry and their supports

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three or five BA-6 or BA-10 armoured cars (one type per platoon)

Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Two 45mm Obr.37 anti-tank guns towed by Zis-5 trucks

Heavy Mortar Platoon

Batteries of up to four Obr.1938 120mm heavy mortars, firing from off-table.

Air Support

Possible air support from Polikarpov I-15bis with MGs, bombs or rockets

Notes

Variants of T-26 Tank

The Soviet T-26 tanks were just like the Polish 7TP tank based upon the British Vickers tank model. The Soviet Union bought fifteen Vickers 6-ton tanks from the UK in the early 30's and based dozens of different versions of the T-26 on this design.

Variants used in Poland included:

T-26 Obr.31 A1: two turrets, one DT 7.26mm MG in each turret. 10-15mm of armour.

T-26 Obr.31 A5: two turrets, one DT 7.26mm MG in left turret; one 37mm Hotchkiss anti-tank gun in right turret. 10-15mm of armour.

T-26 Obr.33: (most common variety) one cylindrical turret with 45mm anti-tank gun and co-axial MG, plus an AA MG mounted on top. Improved front armour of 20mm.

T-26 Obr.38 and Obr.39: one conical turret with 45mm anti-tank gun and coaxial MG. Improved front armour of 20mm.

KhT-26 (aka OT-26): flamethrower tank, where the main gun was replaced by a KS-24 flamethrower

Composition of Light Tank Companies

The Company HQ tank should be an Obr.33, Obr.38, or Obr.39 tank.

Obsolete platoons can consist of four Obr.31 A5 tanks, or two Obr.31 A5 tanks and two Obr.31 A1 tanks.

More modern platoons can consist of four Obr.33 tanks, or three Obr.33 tanks and one OT-26 flamethrower tank.

The most modern platoons consist of four Obr.38 or Obr.39 tanks.

Some companies would also field platoons of four OT-26 flamethrower tanks.

Note that only tanks intended for company commanders were fitted with radios, so T-26 tanks will operate on a one card per tank basis.



Use in the September War

During the invasion of Poland the Soviet Union attacked with 878 T-26 tanks from the Byelorussian Front, and 797 T-26 tanks from the Ukrainian front.

The T-26, although packing a good main gun, was lacking in the quality department which would be proved during the Polish campaign. While only 17 of these tanks were destroyed by the enemy, 302 T-26 tanks broke down of mechanical problems: a *Vehicle Breakdown* card therefore applies whenever T-26 tanks are fielded.

FAST TANK COMPANY

The Soviet employed “Fast tanks” or “Cavalry tanks” in their own companies. These were mainly made up of BT-5 and BT-7 tanks.

Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level II)
One BT-5 or BT-7 tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four BT-2, BT-5 or BT-7 tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four BT-2, BT-5 or BT-7 tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four BT-2, BT-5 or BT-7 tanks

4th Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four BT-2, BT-5 or BT-7 tanks

4th (Artillery) Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Four BT-7A tanks

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Five T-37 or four T-38 amphibious tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Infantry

Support from companies or platoons of Soviet motorised infantry and their supports

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three or five BA-6 or BA-10 armoured cars (one type per platoon)

Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Two 45mm Obr.37 anti-tank guns towed by Zis-5 trucks

Heavy Mortar Platoon

Batteries of up to four Obr.1938 120mm heavy mortars, firing from off-table.

Air Support

Possible air support from Polikarpov I-15bis with MGs, bombs or rockets

Notes

The BT- Tanks

The Soviets had already tested their BT-tanks against the Japanese in the Soviet-Japanese border war of 1932-1939, culminating in the battle of Khalkin Gol where Soviet BT-tanks showed their worth and where both machines and tank crews earned the respect of their adversaries.



Prior to the outbreak of the Polish-Soviet hostilities, the Soviet Union had produced (in all versions) 610 BT-2 tanks, 1,884 BT-5 tanks and 4,613 BT-7 tanks. An estimated 1,617 BT-7 tanks, and 400 BT-2 or BT-5 tanks took part in the invasion of Poland.

BT-tanks were able to travel at 53km/h on tracks and 70km/h if the tracks were removed and the wheels were used instead (this tactic proved impractical and was never employed in battle).

The BT-7A

The BT-7A was the artillery version of the BT-7 tank series. It had the same turret as the T-28 tank.

154 BT-7A artillery tanks were produced between 1936 and 1938, fitted with a larger turret and a short barreled 76 mm

KT-type gun, 50 rounds of ammunition (40 in a tank with a portable radio).

Up to one platoon in a Fast Tank Company may be equipped with BT-7A tanks.

The T-37 and T-38 Amphibious Tanks

During the invasion of Poland, 113 T-37 and T-38 tanks were used as reconnaissance vehicles, primarily attached to the armoured forces, but some were also attached to the infantry divisions.

The T-37 was based upon the Vickers-Armstrong Amphibious Tank Model 1931. The T-37 was produced between 1933-36, a total of 2,636 vehicles were made.

The vehicle was armed with a single DT 7.62mm machinegun. The T-37 had a speed of 40km/h while driving on land and 6km/h in amphibious mode.



Just like the T-37 the T-38 was an amphibious tank, with very little armour protection and only armed with a single DT- 7.62mm Machinegun.

Later versions of the vehicle received the 20mm ShVAK auto cannon, improving the anti tank capability of the T-38.

MEDIUM TANK COMPANY

The T-28 was a Soviet medium tank, and one of the “landships” that the Soviet Union developed during the interwar years.

Their crews have three Actions and therefore a morale of three.

Company HQ

One Big Man (Level II)
One T-28 tank

1st Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three T-28 tanks

2nd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three T-28 tanks

3rd Platoon

One Big Man (Level I)
Three T-28 tanks

BRIGADE SUPPORT UNITS

Armoured Reconnaissance Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Five T-37 or four T-38 amphibious tanks

DIVISION SUPPORT UNITS

Motorised Infantry

Support from companies or platoons of Soviet motorised infantry and their supports

Armoured Car Platoon (R)

One Big Man (Level II)
Three or five BA-6 or BA-10 armoured cars (one type per platoon)

Anti-Tank Gun Platoon

One Big Man (Level II)
Two 45mm Obr.37 anti-tank guns towed by Zis-5 trucks

Heavy Mortar Platoon

Batteries of up to four Obr.1938 120mm heavy mortars, firing from off-table.

Air Support

Possible air support from Polikarpov I-15bis with MGs, bombs or rockets

Notes

The T-28 Tank

The T-28 was a Soviet medium tank, and one of the “landships” that the Soviet Union developed during the interwar years.



The T-28 had one main turret, and two smaller MG turrets at the front. The T-28 got its baptism of fire during the invasion of Poland where 203 vehicles were included in the Soviet attack force.

The front armour was 30mm at its thickest points at the front of the vehicle, some 20mm at the sides and 10-15mm at the top.

The T-28 would see more fighting against the Finns in the Winter War, where the armour was found insufficient and increased to 50mm.

BA-6 Armoured Car

The BA-6 shared the same turret as the T-26 light tank. A few had the turret of the BT-3 tank instead. The BA-6 had a periscope in the turret roof for the commander.

The vehicle had two machineguns, one coaxial and one hull mounted. Older vehicles had the 37mm Obr.31 gun while new models were equipped with the 45mm Obr.32 gun which offered a much better anti-tank capability.

BA-10 Armoured Car

The next armoured car to be developed in the BA series was the BA-10. It featured better armour and an improved anti-tank gun: the 45mm Obr.34.

Both the BA-6 and BA-10 armoured cars had a crew of four.



BA-6 Armoured Car



BA-10 Armoured Car

RATING YOUR SOVIET FORCE

To quote Richard Clarke in the IABSM v2 Blitzkrieg theatre supplement: "Soviet units in 1939 and 1940 were more homogenous, as such they have been represented as one option".

Infantry Types/Actions	0	1	2	3	4
Line Infantry	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 6	7, 8, 9	10	~
Cavalry	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 6	7, 8, 9	10	~

Soviet anti-tank weapon crews have three Actions.

Most Soviet 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	2	~	~	~	~
MMG/HMG	3	3	3	2	~

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 will be included in the pack for each Big Man, Commissar and Platoon present, as well as any support weapons or off table support the force may have. Anti-tank guns are represented by one card per weapon, with the player choosing the order in which they fire.

Tanks will always operate on one card per tank, reflecting the lack of any sort of radio net.

Artillery support will never operate with a dedicated artillery spotter, so will have to

be called in and controlled by the most senior Big Man present on the table.

Other cards that may be present are as follows:

Air Support: will sometimes be present for any Soviet force in Poland.

Armoured Bonus Move: always present for any force of Soviet tanks, as they often outstripped their accompanying infantry.

Recce Bonus: present for the relevant troops type.

Hesitant Troops: will occasionally be present for a Soviet force in Poland.

Poor Fire Discipline: may be present for a Soviet force in Poland.

Heroic Leader: may be present.

Human Wave: may be present for Soviet troops at this time.

Vehicle Breakdown: always present for T-26 tanks, may be present for other vehicles as well.

Commissars

Commissars may be rated as either Level I or Level II political officers.

When their card is dealt, they may do one of the following:

- They may rally any unit within 4", removing one or two points of Shock depending on their level
- They may be moved to join any unit in their force, whatever the distance involved

Commissars accompanying a force with potentially hesitant troops will automatically be moved to join any platoon that is affected by the *Hesitant Troops* card. Place the Commissar's figure next to that of the platoon's most senior Big Man.

If the platoon is again affected by the *Hesitant Troops* card whilst the Commissar remains next to the platoon's most senior Big Man, then the Commissar will execute the platoon's most senior Big Man as a revisionist, back-sliding, traitor to the cause.

SOVIET ARMOURY

AFVs

Vehicle	Armour	Weapon	Strike	Speed	Notes
T-26 Obr.31 A1	2	MGs		Slow	VB
T-26 Obr.31 A5	2	37mm	3	Slow	VB
T-26 Obr.33	3	45mm	7	Average	VB
T-26 Obr.38 or 39	3	45mm	7	Average	VB
OT-26/Kht-26	3	Flamethrower		Average	VB
BT-2	2	37mm	3	Fast	
BT-5	2	45mm	7	Fast	
BT-7	3	45mm	7	Fast	
BT-7A	4	76mm	4	Fast	
T-28	4	76mm	4	Average	VB
T-37	2	MG		Average	AM
T-38	2	MG		Average	AM
T-38 with ShVAK 20mm	2	20mm AC	3	Average	
BA-6 Armoured Car	2	MG		Wheeled	
BA-10 Armoured Car	2	MG		Wheeled	
BA-20 Armoured Car	2	MG		Wheeled	

Notes:

VB: Vehicle Breakdown card applies

AM: Amphibious

Anti-Tank Guns

Weapon	Strike
45mm L46	7

Air Support from Polikarpov I-15bis Bombers

Polikarpovs may offer air support in the form of strafing machine guns, bombs or rockets.

If using bombs, then the usual rules apply.

If using rockets against vehicles, then ignore anything except a direct hit. If a direct hit occurs, then rather than the

usual critical hit leading to the vehicle's destruction, make a direct fire hit using a strike value of 4.

The 50mm Light Mortar

The infantryman's own artillery battery, the 50mm mortar provides close support which can be relied upon.

Ammunition

The 50mm mortar only fires HE, it has no smoke round.

Roll a D6-1 at the start of the game for each 50mm mortar team. The resulting number is its EDNA rating at the start of the game. Each time the mortar team fires any roll of 6 will reduce this rating. When a mortar falls to a rating of zero they are out of ammunition.

Minimum Range:

The 50mm 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 50mm mortar has a maximum range of 120".

Aiming

In order to fire the 50mm 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.

The 82mm 82-PM-37 Medium Mortar

The 82mm Soviet mortar is the battalion commander's weapon of choice.

Minimum Range

The 82mm mortar has a minimum range of 12". If mortars are 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 82mm mortar has a maximum range of 465", nearly forty foot, so it may hit anything on the table.

Firing

The 82mm 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 most senior Big Man present has called in the fire.

The 8cm mortar may fire H.E. or Smoke rounds.

The 120mm HM 38 Heavy Mortar

The Soviet 120mm mortar was the original and much copied model which provides fast and accurate fire support.

Due its minimum range of 76" it will always be deployed off-table.

The 120mm mortar may fire H.E. or Smoke rounds.

Off Table Artillery Availability

3" Mortars: -/5/4

Other Assets: -/5

