

TAC NEWS

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Adapting Leichte Divisionen to *Micro Armour*[®]: *The Game* - WWII

I have included "Micro Armour" TO&Es for the component parts of the Light Divisions detailed in the January - February 2006 Tac News. There is a stunning array of these, but this only reinforces the idea of the Light Divisions as "experimental" units. They will, however, allow you to run scenarios that include them. Use the same "Cohesion" range as that for other 1939 German formations.

Notes on Supply Units and "Columns"

The Wehrmacht generally used a system of supply based on 15-Ton and 30-Ton "Columns". These columns were made up of trucks, cars, halftracks, tractors, or wagons equaling the stipulated carrying capacity. In *Micro Armour*[®]: *The Game* - WWII, these columns can be simulated using the following procedure:

1. After establishing the capacity of the column, work out just how many vehicles you will need (and of what type) to provide this, based on the vehicles carrying capacity.

Example: A 15T column might require 5x 3T trucks, 8x 2T trucks, 6x 2.5T trucks, or 15x 1T trucks.

2. Next, you should divide the total number of vehicles by three. This is how many truck "Stands" you will need to represent this column on the gaming table. (always round UP!)

Example: 2x 3T Truck Stands, 3x 2T Stands, 2x 2.5T Stands, or 5x 1T Stands.

Variations

P.O.L. columns can use either ordinary trucks or Fuel Browsers. Maintenance columns may use wreckers. Medical columns may use trucks or ambulances with "Medical" markings, etc. Wagons generally came in 500 or 1000 pound capacity so you will need 2-4 wagons per Ton.

Example: 30x .5T Wagons (or 10x .5T wagon stands) for a 15T column.

1st Light Division

One glance at the *Micro Armour*[®]: *The Game* TO&E table below reveals that this formation ignores the basic tactical principle "Unity of Command". The Tank battalion contains no integral Infantry component. Therefore the Division Commander must co-ordinate his actions with those of the units subordinate to the Motorized Brigade Commander. This begs the question: "Once bullets begin to fly, who is in command?" Does the Division Commander place the Tank Battalion under the Brigade Commander, or does he co-ordinate the actions of the Tank Battalion and the Infantry Battalions himself, bypassing the Brigade Headquarters completely? Is the Division HQ to perform merely administrative functions? If so, why is there a Brigade HQ as well? Is the Brigade HQ's function purely administrative? If not, isn't this, then, nothing more than a reinforced Brigade and not a division at all? The whole thing is a tactical and administrative nightmare! Small wonder the division performed so poorly in action.

Division HQ:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 30T Supply Column	Anti-Tank Co:	3x 37mm ATG/Truck
Motorized Inf Co:	3x Infantry/Truck, 1x Infantry Support/Truck	Anti-Aircraft Co:	3x Truck/LMG or 3x 20mm AAG/Truck
Mot Infantry Hvy Co:	2x Infantry Support/Truck, 1x 8cm Mortar(3)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck	Light Engineer Co:	3x Engineer Infantry/Truck
Motorcycle Co:	3x Mcycle Infantry, 1x Mcycle Support	Motorized Battalion :	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Motorized Co, 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column
Recon Heavy Co:	1x 75mm IG(1)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck	Motorcycle Bttn:	1x Mcycle Infantry (HQ), 3x Mcycle Co, 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column
Light Tank Co:	3x Pz.35T, 1x Pz.IIA/F	Recon Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 2x Armored Car Co, 1x Mcycle Co, 1x Recon Heavy Co, 1x Mcycle Inf[R], 1x Communications Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column
Heavy Tank Co:	3x Pz.IVA/E, 1x Pz.IIA/F		
Infantry Gun Co:	3x 75mm IG/Truck(1) or 1x 75mm IG(3)/Truck, 1x 150mm sIG/Truck		

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Tank Bttn:	1x Pz.IBef (HQ), 1x Heavy Tank Co, 3x Light Tank Co, 1x Maintenance Truck, 1x Supply Truck	Supply/ Maintenance Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 6x15T Supply Column, 2x 15T P.O.L. Column, 3x Infantry/Truck 3x 15T Maintenance Column
Anti-Tank Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Anti-Tank Co, 1x Anti-Aircraft Co, 1x Communications Truck	Motorized Regiment:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 3x Motorized Bttn, 1x Infantry Gun Co, 1x 15T Supply Column
Artillery Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 2x 105mm leFH.18(2)/Truck, 1x Communications/Maintenance Truck	Artillery Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Artillery Bttn, 1x 15T Ammo/Supply Column
Signals Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column 6x Communications Halftrack	Motorized Inf Brigade:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Motorized Rgt, 1x Motorcycle Bttn, 1x Recon Bttn
Engineer Bttn:	1x Engineer (HQ)/Truck, 2x Light Engineer Co, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Engineer Supply Col.	1st Light Division:	1x Division HQ, 1x Tank Bttn, 1x Motorized Inf Brigade, 1x Artillery Rgt, 1x Anti-Tank Bttn, 1x Signals Bttn, 1x Engineer Bttn, 1x Medical Bttn, 1x Supply/Maintenance Bttn, 1x Rations & Administration Column
Medical Bttn:	2x Inf/Medical Truck, 3x Field Ambulance		
Rations & Admin Column:	4x Inf/Truck, 1x 30T Supply Column		

2nd Light Division

At least this formation doesn't suffer from tactical schizophrenia, like its predecessor. But it still has many of the same problems. In order for the Tank Battalion to function effectively, there must be infantry present. This means that it must either be broken up into individual companies or assigned to one of the Infantry Regiments. This must either dilute its effectiveness or create a lop-sided command structure. The problem again becomes, "What is the mission of this formation?" It hasn't enough infantry to take and hold ground like a standard infantry division, and it hasn't enough firepower for use as a Panzer Division.

Division HQ:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 30T Supply Column	Anti-Tank Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 3x Anti-Tank Co, 1x Anti-Aircraft Co, 1x Communication Truck
Motorized Inf Co:	3x Infantry/Truck, 1x Inf Support/Truck	Artillery Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 2x 105mm leFH.18(2)/Truck, 1x Comm./Maintenance Truck
Motor Inf Hvy Co:	2x Inf Support/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck, 2x 75mm IG(1), 1x 37mm ATG/Truck	Engineer Bttn:	1x Engineer (HQ)/Truck, 2x Light Engineer Co, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Engineer Supply Col.
Motorcycle Co:	3x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x Mcycle Support[R]	Medical Bttn:	2x Inf/Medical Truck, 3x Field Ambulance
Recon Heavy Co:	1x 75mm IG(1)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck	Rations & Admin Column:	4x Inf/Truck, 1x 30T Supply Column
Armored Car Co:	4x Kfz.13[R], 3x SdKfz.222[R]	Supply/ Maintenance Bn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 6x 15T Supply Column, 2x 15T P.O.L. Column, 3x 15T Maintenance Column, 3x Inf/Truck
Light Tank Co:	2x Pz.I, 2x Pz.IIF	Motorized Rgt:	1x Inf (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Motorized Bttn, 1x Comm. Halftrack, 1x 15T Supply Column
Anti-Tank Co:	3x 37mm ATG/Truck	Recon Rgt:	1x Inf (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Comm. Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 1x Recon Bttn, 1x Armored Car Bttn
Anti-Aircraft Co:	3x Truck/LMG or 3x 20mm AAG/Truck	Artillery Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Artillery Bttn, 1x 15T Ammo/Supply Column
Light Engineer Co:	3x Engineer Infantry/Truck	Division:	1x Division HQ, 2x Motorized Rgt, 1x Recon Rgt, 1x Artillery Rgt, 1x Anti-Tank Bttn, 1x Tank Bttn, 1x Signal Co, 1x Engineer Bttn, 1x Medical Bttn, 1x Supply/Maintenance Bttn, 1x Rations & Administration Column
Signal Co:	3x Communications Truck		
Motorized Battalion:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Motorized Co, 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column		
Recon Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Mcycle Co, 1x Recon Heavy Co, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x Communication Truck, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column		
Armoured Car Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 4x Armored Car Co, 1x Comm. Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x 15T Supply Column		
Tank Bttn:	1x Pz.IBef (HQ), 4x Light Tank Co, 1x Maintenance Truck, 1x Supply Truck		

3rd Light Division

This is the strongest of these formations. Its tank Bttn, equipped with Skoda LTVz.38s, packs quite a punch. But it is still a camel (a horse designed by a committee), and continues to be ill equipped for either the Panzer Division or Infantry Division role.

Division HQ:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 30T Supply Column	Anti-Tank Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Anti-Tank Co, 1x Anti-Aircraft Co, 1x Communications Truck
Motorized Inf Co:	3x Infantry/Truck, 1x Infantry Support/Truck	Artillery Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 2x 105mm leFH.18(2)/Truck, 1x Comm/Maintenance Truck
Mot Infantry Hvy Co:	2x Infantry Support/Truck, 1x 8cm Mortar(3)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck	Engineer Bttn:	1x Engineer (HQ)/Truck, 2x Light Engineer Co, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Engineer Supply Col.
Motorcycle Co(A):	3x Mcycle Infantry, 1x Mcycle Support	Medical Bttn:	2x Inf/Medical Truck, 3x Field Ambulance
Motorcycle Co(B):	3x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x Mcycle Support[R]	Rations & Admin Column:	4x Infantry/Truck, 1x 30T Supply Col.
Armored Car Co:	4x Kfz.13[R], 3x SdKfz.222[R]	Supply/Maintenance Bn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 6x 15T Supply Column, 2x 15T P.O.L. Column, 3x Infantry/Truck, 3x 15T Maintenance Column
Recon Heavy Co:	1x 75mm IG(1)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck	Motorized Rgt(A):	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Motorized Bttn, 1x Infantry Gun Co, 1x 15T Supply Column
Infantry Gun Co:	3x 75mm IG/Truck(1) or 1x 75mm IG(3)/Truck, 1x 150mm sIG/Truck	Motorized Rgt(B):	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Motorized Bttn, 1x Mcycle Bttn, 1x Infantry Gun Co, 1x 15T Supply Col
Light Tank Co:	3x Pz.38T, 1x Pz.IIF	Recon Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 2x Recon Bttn
Anti-Tank Co:	3x 37mm ATG/Truck	Artillery Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Artillery Bttn, 1x 15T Ammo/Supply Column
Anti-Aircraft Co:	3x Truck/LMG or 3x 20mm AAG/Truck	Division:	1x Division HQ, 1x Motorized Rgt(A), 1x Motorized Rgt(B), 1x Recon Rgt, 1x Artillery Rgt, 1x Tank Bttn, 1x Anti-Tank Bttn, 1x Signal Co, 1x Engineer Bttn, 1x Medical Bttn, 1x Supply/Maintenance Bttn, 1x Rations & Administration Column
Light Engineer Co:	3x Engineer Infantry/Truck		
Signal Co:	3x Communications Truck		
Motorized Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Motorized Co, 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column		
Motorcycle Bttn:	1x Mcycle Infantry (HQ), 3x Mcycle Co(A), 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column		
Tank Bttn:	1x Pz.IBef (HQ), 4x Light Tank Co, 1x Maintenance Truck, 1x Supply Truck		
Recon Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Co(B), 2x Armored Car Co, 1x Recon Heavy Co, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x Comm. Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column		

4th Light Division

This is by far, the weakest of the four divisions. Its Tank Bttn has barely enough vehicles to field four understrength companies and its Motorized Rgts lack even the 150mm sIGs integral to an organic Infantry Gun Co. In fact, it is far too lightly armed for use as anything but a re-enforced Motorized Cavalry Brigade attached to an Infantry Corps.

Division HQ:	1x Infantry(GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 30T Supply Column	Signal Co:	3x Communications Truck
Motorized Inf Co:	3x Infantry/Truck, 1x Infantry Support/Truck	Motorized Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Motorized Co, 1x Motor Inf Hvy Co, 1x 15T Supply Column
Motor Inf Hvy Co:	2x Infantry Support/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck, 2x 75mm IG(1), 1x 37mm ATG/Truck	Recon Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Mcycle Co, 1x Recon Heavy Co, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column
Motorcycle Co:	3x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x Mcycle Support[R]	Armored Car Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 4x Armored Car Co, 1x Comm. Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x 15T Supply Col.
Recon Heavy Co:	1x 75mm IG(1)/Truck, 1x 37mm ATG/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck	Tank Bttn:	1x Pz.IBef(HQ), 4x Light Tank Co, 1x Maintenance Truck, 1x Supply Truck
Armored Car Co:	4x Kfz.13[R], 3x SdKfz.222[R]	Anti-Tank Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 3x Anti-Tank Co, 1x Anti-Aircraft Co, 1x Communications Truck
Light Tank Co:	2x Pz.IIF, 1x Pz.I		
Anti-Tank Co:	3x 37mm ATG/Truck		
Anti-Aircraft Co:	3x Truck/LMG or 3x 20mm AAG/Truck		
Light Engineer Co:	3x Engineer Infantry/Truck		

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Artillery Bttn:	1x Inf (HQ)/Truck, 2x 105mm leFH.18(2)/Truck, 1x Communications/Maintenance Truck	Recon Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 1x Recon Bttn, 1x Armored Car Bttn, 1x Communications Truck
Engineer Bttn:	1x Engineer (HQ)/Truck, 2x Light Engineer Co, 1x Bridging Truck, 1x 15T Engineer Supply Col.	Artillery Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Artillery Bttn, 1x 15T Ammo/Supply Column
Medical Bttn:	2x Inf/Medical Truck, 3x Field Ambulance		
Rations & Admin Column:	4x Inf/Truck, 1x 30T Supply Column	Division:	1x Division Headquarters, 2x Motorized Rgt, 1x Recon Rgt, 1x Artillery Rgt, 1x Tank Bttn, 1x Anti-Tank Bttn, 1x Signal Co, 1x Engineer Bttn, 1x Medical Bttn, 1x Supply/Maintenance Bttn, 1x Rations & Administration Column
Supply/ Maintenance Bn:	1x Infantry(HQ)/Truck, 6x 15T Supply Column, 2x 15T P.O.L. Column, 3x Infantry/Truck, 3x 15T Maintenance Column,		
Motorized Rgt:	1x Infantry (GHQ)/Truck, 2x Motorized Bttn, 1x Mcycle Infantry, 1x Comm. Truck, 1x 15T Supply Column		

Conclusions

The most fascinating thing about the Light Divisions used in the Polish campaign of 1939 is the striking similarity between them and the final form of the Panzer Division that was "planned" for use beginning in 1946, had the war lasted that long, but never actually took the field. (To view this unit's TO&E, check out "www.gHQonline.com". First click on "Military Models", then "Free Rules", "Country Histories", and "Germany" in that order.) The difference, of course, is that the 1946 Panzer Divisions were organized as "Fire Brigade" assets, used to contain Allied breakthroughs as part of a primarily "defensive" tactical doctrine.

Whether these units would have been successful is a matter of conjecture, but they were certainly never expected to take part in any strategic offensive. The Light Divisions of 1939 were supposed to serve Hitler's aggressive military doctrine, one in which defensive operations were viewed as no more than a means of consolidating gains before continuing the offensive. The Wehrmacht's Light Divisions were ill organized and equipped to perform this sort of role.

By way of contrast, here is a TO&E chart of the Polish 10th Mechanized Brigade. This unit, by comparison has a robust "combined arms" structure possessing both greater flexibility and versatility than its German counterpart, the Light Division.

Polish 10th Mechanized Brigade

Motor Co:	3x Infantry/Truck, 0-1x MMG/Car	Artillery Bttn:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Car, 2x 105mm wz.13(2)/Tractor or 2x 100mm wz.14/19(2)/Tractor
Motor Squadron:	2x Infantry[R]/Truck, 1x Infantry[R]/Car	Anti-Aircraft Battery:	1x 40mm wz.36 "Bofors" AA/Tractor
Tankette Squadron:	2x TKS (MG)[R], 1x TKS (20mm)[R]	Recon "Group":	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 1x Motor Sqd, 1x Tankette Sqd, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R], 1x MMG[R]/Car, 1x Engineer[R]/Truck, 1x 37mm wz.36 "Bofors" ATG[R]/Car,
MG/Support Co:	3x MMG/Truck, 1x Engineer/Truck, 1x 81mm wz.31 Mortar(1)/Truck, 1x 37mm wz.36 "Bofors" ATG/Car, 1x Mcycle Infantry[R]	Brigade:	1x Infantry(GHQ)/Truck, 2x Motorized Rgt, 1x Artillery Bttn, 0-1x Anti-Aircraft Battery, 1x Recon "Group"
Motorized Rgt:	1x Infantry (HQ)/Truck, 4x Motor Co, 1x Machinegun/Support Co		

Brigade Support Assets

1x Minelaying Co:	@2x Engineer/Truck (Mines)
1x Construction Co:	@3x Engineer/Truck (Bridge), 1x Engineer/Truck (Pontoon Bridge)
1x Engineer Recon Platoon:	@1x Engineer[R]/Car
2x Anti-Tank Co:	@2x 37mm wz.36 "Bofors" ATG/Car
1x Light Tank Co:	@2x 7TPdw, 2x 7TPjw
1x Armored Car Sqd:	@2x wz.34 Armored Car[R], 1x wz.29 Armored Car[R]
1x Recon Tank Co:	@2x TKS (MG)[R], 1x TKS (20mm)[R]

Notes:

1. The Recon "Group" is not a real unit. It is made up of various assets within the Brigade.
2. The "Car" listed above is either the Polski-Fiat PF.508 or the PzInz.302 Prime Mover.
3. "Support Assets" would be attached from "Army", in this case "Army Krakow".
4. The 81mm wz.31 Mortar is actually a French "Brandt" Mle. 27/31 either imported or built on license.
5. You may use the Italian 100mm "Armata" Obise (GHQ's IT20) to represent the Polish 100mm wz.14/19.
6. There is some evidence that the Brigade Artillery Bttn may have been a "mixed" unit consisting of one battery of 75mm "Armata Polowa" wz.97s and one of 100mm wz.14/19s.