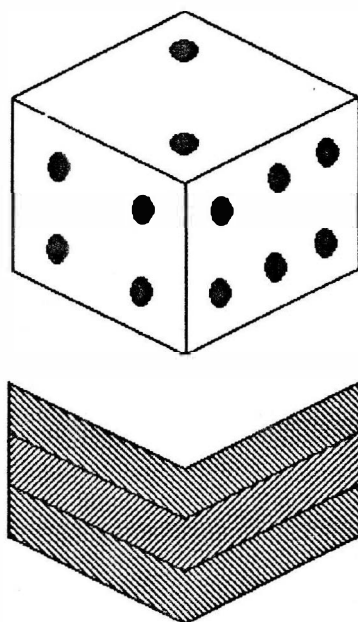


# Rank and File



**Journal of the Tunbridge Wells Wargames Society**

**Issue May 1993**

## **EDITORIAL**

**Andrew Finch**

My apologies for the delay between magazines. Work and other pressures have meant that I have not had the time to put the words of the wise back onto paper for you. Never the less I have prepared a bumper bundle for you this time, with the promise of more in the future. Keep those articles flowing and I will be happy. If anyone has access to a PC to write their articles, so much the better. So far, all the words that I receive have to be re-typed. If I can get the text on a floppy, then all I need to do is format it and print it.

You will see that the design has changed slightly. I am using different software and can now type directly into the end result. I can see what the magazine will look like as I type it.

Most, BUT NOT ALL, of you filled in a questionnaire when you re subscribed this year. Those who did not, please do so, or the finger of guilt will be pointing YOUR way when your name comes up with no data beside it in our membership list. This will be available soon (probably in June). It will NOT be given to anyone other than club members.

In the few spare seconds I have after I have put this magazine together, I will be preparing a digest of some previous Rank & File articles. I know I mentioned this

before, but the idea is now getting carried through. This will be available to new members who were not with us last year, and will also be a useful handout for the Club.

At a recent committee meeting, certain unnamed mugs foolishly volunteered to act a recruiting officers for the club. The committee believed that the numbers were stagnating (and were proved wrong at the April meeting where the Hall was literally bursting at the seams. Alan and myself actually had to use the middle back room - and its bloody cold in there). Anyway, yours truly and Tony Wyatt are the mugs. We will be deciding what action we need to take in the near future. What we will need is contact with the various schools round and about, especially those with Wargames Clubs of their own. The Junior members are asked to please contact myself or Tony with the details of the Schools you attend (name, address and school secretary's name). We will also be starting a poster campaign in local traders' shops. We have already decided on Ballards, E&M Models, & the Tonbridge Model shop. If you know of any other suitable targets, please let us know URGENTLY.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

George Gush

### January 1993

There was an average attendance of about 27 people to see a new edition of the magazine and the new Club badges handed out (these are free to all when paying their subscriptions). Incidentally, I have some back copies of Rank and File, if you want any see me soon as otherwise they will be disposed of to save space.

Games included two large 1/76th World War II actions, continuing the current dominance in the club of this scale and period; one in the back room, the other, in the Hall, being the customary Tim Freeman/Ian Foster Command Decision Game, on this occasion joined by those veteran Club members Paul Colebrooke and Kevin O'Sullivan.

Science Fiction was also strongly represented, with the Editor and others still play testing ground combat rules. (*The final test in fact, the rules being ready by the Open Day - Ed.*). Your reporter overheard Dave Cooke suggesting that "One of the optional rules should be that Chris doesn't always win !" There was also a "Full Thrust" space combat, using a black cloth !

Other games included Russell Hanson and Gabriel Copus' interesting 1:3000th World War I naval game, a convoy action using "General Quarters" rules, and a large Franco-Prussian War battle with my converted Airfix armies and "Battles of the 19th C. Rules". This was at the special request of Clive McLeod, whose first game at the club, no less than 20 years ago, was with these very figures and the earlier version of the rules !

### February 1993

There was good attendance this month, around 33 being present and more varied games in progress. As well as "Command Decision", "Full Thrust", and the Editor's "Laserzone" game, all as last month, the back room saw a large "Warhammer" fantasy game in progress, using some very interesting models, including cavalry on skeleton horses, and a rather splendid "Imperial War Wagon", as well as some flat card figures. There was also a tactical board game, "Tank Leader", set in 1943, with a most attractive map.

In the hall were a big 25mm Renaissance game using the WRG rules; this involved the sides dividing their forces between two tables to make two manageable games, linked together. The Turks won ! Another 25mm game was run by Russell Hanson and Gabriel Copus, and was a Peninsular War struggle between French and Portuguese.

Games even spilled over onto the stage this month, where Peter England was playing Ken Bulmer at Napoleonics in 15mm, using Peter's quick-play rules.

Though it was not one of our official bring-and-buy dates (these being in April and October) there were some interesting things for sale at this meeting - a very nice 25mm Medieval army belonging to Gabriel, while Ian Foster was selling some of his own-make scenery, including some hills and some splendid 15mm ACW buildings.

## THE OPEN DAY

### PAINTING COMPETITION ORGANISER' REPORT

George Gush

#### Class 1: Wargames units up to 1:300th

1st: Chris Thompson of Reigate  
2nd: Same  
3rd: Malcolm Dove of TWWS  
Number of entries 3

#### Class 2: Wargames Unit up to 15mm

1st: John Leggett of North Herts Lancers  
2nd: Les Birch of Reigate  
3rd: Ian Hopcraft of Hastings & St. Leonards  
Number of entries 15

#### Class 3: Wargames Unit over 15mm, pre 1700

1st: Rupert Worrall of Crawley  
2nd: Same  
3rd: P. Denny of SELWG  
Number of entries 4

#### Class 4: Wargames Unit over 15mm, 1700 on

1st: Tim Vaughan of Shoeburyness  
2nd: Andy Payne of Shoeburyness  
3rd: Richard Pearman of Worthing  
Number of entries 12

#### Class 5: Equipment Group over 15mm

1st: Tony Francis of Maidstone  
2nd: Richard Pearman of Worthing  
Number of entries 2

#### Class 6: Single Figure up to 54mm

1st: Mike Biddiss of MEP  
2nd: Robert Lane of BMSS Bristol  
3rd: Tim Vaughan of Shoeburyness  
Number of entries 11

#### Class 7: Single Figure over 54mm

1st: P. Denny of SELWG  
2nd: Robert Lane of BMSS Bristol  
Number of entries 2

#### Class 8: Single Military Vehicle

1st: Tim Vaughan of Shoeburyness  
2nd: Richard Pearman of Worthing  
3rd: Tony Francis of Maidstone  
Number of entries 6

#### Class 9: Fantasy or Science Fiction

1st: Mike Biddiss of MEP  
2nd: Tim Vaughan of Shoeburyness  
3rd: Amanda Stoneham of North London  
Number of entries 4

#### Class 10: Under 16 entries

1st: Richard Kinghorn  
2nd: Richard Kinghorn  
Number of entries 2

#### Class 11: Dioramas & Miscellaneous Military Entries

1st: Tim Vaughan of Shoeburyness  
2nd: P. Denny of SELWG  
3rd: Richard Pearman of Worthing  
Number of entries 6

Apart from Malcolm's success in Class 1, the Tunbridge Wells Wargames Society did not do very well at all this year, apart from myself and very few other members no-one else entered anything at all ! With some good painters in the club, we ought to be able to put up a better show than this at our own Open Day. In particular, I hope Juniors will note that any under-16 member of the TWWS who had entered ANYTHING would have been sure of a third prize - and that includes a cash voucher to be spent at any of the Trade Stands at the show. Surely this is worth the effort of bringing something along ?

Entry numbers may suggest that some re-arrangement of classes for next year might be in order, anyone who has any suggestions please forward them to me or to "Rank and File".

### **EDITOR'S MUSINGS ON THE OPEN DAY**

**Andrew Finch**

I take note of George's comments above, and would like to add my own comments on the Day. Firstly we must thank Peter England for his efforts with the organisation of the day itself. He has valiantly volunteered to carry on with this onerous duty - this club has few enough volunteers for anything as it is.

#### The venue

I will admit that I have been wondering what alternative venues there might be. I have investigated with George one other site which on paper offered better access and more space. The down-side of this was the cost, which would require us to increase the gate and or the price by up to 100% to allow us to break even, let alone make a profit on the day. At a recent committee meeting we voted to remain with the school, at least for the moment, but we will need to expand somehow.

#### The Bring & Buy

This being my little empire, I would say that we are in desperate need of a revolution. Next year we must have a better site, possibly a classroom, with more space for the "punters" to see the tables. Armies must be separated out completely, and be nowhere near the B&B main stand, a classroom again springs to mind. There must be a separate team on duty dealing with armies, and sellers must give us price bands in which to negotiate, or clearly state it is non-negotiable. We also need more staff here (see below).

#### Painting Competition

I did not see it at all this year (!). I would suggest

that we could juggle with the classes to prevent a situation where one person can win two prizes in the same class. Despite the low number of entries, perhaps we should limit entries to one item per class, if we expand the number of classes. Having periods limited to pre- and post-1700 should be changed. Could I suggest Ancient, up to Renaissance, up to 1845, up to 1914, up to 1950, "Modern", "Science Fiction", "Fantasy" (separate); in each class there be a Wargames Unit First, Wargames Unit Second, Single Figure, Equipment group (to include vehicles) and Junior prize (entries being so marked). In this way, several classes can be amalgamated, and items of similar type and era kept together. There will not be single figures for all classes, nor will there be equipment groups for all. I am not too certain how to incorporate Air and Sea in these classes, but we ought to somehow.

#### Involvement

The Open Day runs largely thanks to the activities of the few rather than the many. If we are to make next year's Open Day, our 25th Anniversary, a show to be proud of, we will need more support from more of the club members than we had this year. It is a day when we are hosts to others, and the one day when we should ALL be doing SOMETHING. To this end, we should organise an official TWWS demonstration game. We will have to see what can be done here. All we need is that everyone does something to make the day go well. For instance, why should the ones who spend all the previous evening setting up, also be the same ones who spend the day running the show, and then spend their evening putting everything back in place for the school.



## **TWWS TACTICAL PRECEPTS - AN OCCASIONAL SERIES**

**"Go on, charge ! What's wrong with being slaughtered ?"**

(Graham Charles)

### **WEAPONS OF THE (NEAR) FUTURE**

**Andrew Finch, courtesy of Alan Butler**

During our recent development work of the SF rules mentioned elsewhere in the Journal, Alan gave me a couple of copies of articles from "Jane's Defence Weekly" and "Defense Electronics". In two separate articles, the development of various weapons which are otherwise normally only encountered in SF fiction was reported.

The US Army is developing a non-lethal weapon for its infantry, known as a Dazer. These are termed to be weapons "that incapacitate enemy soldiers without necessarily inflicting harmful long-term health effects." The technology is also being tested for use against vehicles and other defence systems. The intention is to overcome potential threats by electronic and other means before they can be used aggressively. The development is expected to be completed by the end of the decade.

Another popular SF item, the powered armour, is also being examined. The idea here is to have a suit which protects the soldier from all threats, including

ABC weapons. The suit being tested is modular, being able to be selected for particular requirements without carrying unwanted items. It should protect the wearer against "ballistic, flame/thermal, chemical/biological, surveillance, directed energy, acoustic and environmental hazards". The headset will be designed to enhance the soldier's own senses and interface with his M16A2-mounted thermal sight. Ultimately the system should also provide the soldier with "global positioning information, mapping, compass, and messages." The suit will probably be an exoskeleton in which the soldier rides, rather than something he must carry, though many items are being tested in miniaturised form.

I am now pleased to introduce the first of a series of articles by George on an interesting subject not otherwise touched on very often. The original is in an introduction and 4 parts, and will be available afterwards as a separate booklet.

### **LESSER ARMIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN 1/76TH SCALE**

**George Gush**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

I am definitely not an expert in this field, but spent some time recently working out how to represent the armies of some of the smaller powers involved in the Second World War, and thought the results so far might save a bit of time for others wishing, for example, to include Rumanians or Hungarians in their Russian front battles, or to refight the Polish campaign of 1939. What follows is aimed at the wargamer who wants a reasonable tabletop representation in 1/76th scale, and definitely not at the expert or historian.

I have made no attempt to provide details of formations or orders of battle, as for this information the wargamer could consult the various published sets of army lists for World War II, or those available for particular formations from Mark Bevis (see below). In

fact, I feel lists need to be used with caution when it comes to setting up a game, especially in the case of the Poles; you could come up with a perfectly historical armour-heavy formation, yet in practice many or most of the Polish tanks did not get into action and there was little tank-versus-tank fighting in the Polish Campaign. Thus a historical as opposed to a might-have-been refight should find the Poles primarily dependent on infantry, cavalry and artillery.

My notes have reached a length which suggests that they will spread over several issues, so rather than keep anyone who may be interested waiting for details of suppliers mentioned or books consulted, I shall break with convention and include these references at the start instead of at the end.

Cromwell Models: Progress House, 39 Kirkpatrick St., GLASGOW, G40 3RZ

Milicast: PO Box 711, GLASGOW, G41 2HX

Model Transport: 18, Bevan Way, Aylesham, Near Canterbury, Kent, CT3 3DN

Model Figures and Hobbies: 4 Lower Balloo Rd., Groomsport, Co. Down, BT19 2LU, Northern Ireland

Raventhorpe Miniatures: 2 Bygot Lane, Cherry Burton, BEVERLEY, North Humberside, NE65 0BJ

Red Star Models: J. A. Spain, 2 Gote Lane, Ringmer, E. Sussex, BN8 5HP

#### **Suppliers referred to:**

B&B Miniatures: 37 The Queensway, Hall Rd., HULL, HU6 9BH

Mark Bevis (Army lists): 4 Randal St., BURNLEY, Lancs, BB10 1SR

BW Models: 5 Brinkburn Place, AMBLE, Northumberland, NE65 0BJ

Dixon Miniatures: Spring Grove Mills, Linthwaite, HUDDERSFIELD, W. Yorks, HD7 5QG

S&S Models: 22 Briar Close, BURNHAM ON SEA, Somerset, TA8 1HU

Scotia Models: 32 West Hemming St., LETHAM, Angus, DD8 2PU

Skytrex Ltd: 28 Brook St., Wymeswold, Loughborough, Leicestershire

Wargames Foundry: 4A Parkyn Rd., Daybrook, Nottingham, NG5 6BG

#### Main books used:

(Those indicated \* contain coloured pictures of weapons, vehicles or uniforms).

Abbot, P., and Thomas, N.; Germany's Eastern Front Allies; Osprey \*

Axworthy, M., and Serbanescu, H.; The Romanian Army of World War 2; Osprey \*

Chamberlain, P., and Gander T.; World War Two Fact Files; McDonald and Janes

Anti-aircraft Guns

Light and Medium Field Artillery

Machine Guns

Mortars and Rockets

Anti-tank Weapons

Doyle, H. C., and Kliment, C. K.; Czechoslovak Armoured Fighting Vehicles 1918 - 1945; Bellona

Funken, L. and F.; Arms and Uniforms; The Second World War; Ward Locke \*

Green, W.; War Planes of the Second World War; MacDonald

Kannik, P.; Military Uniforms of the World in Colour; Blandford \*

Knotel, R. and H., and Sieg, H.; Uniforms of the World; Arms and Armour Press

Mollo, A.; Army Uniforms of World War Two; Blandford \*

Mollo, A.; The Armed Forces of World War Two; Orbis \*

Piekalkiewicz, J.; The Cavalry of World War Two; Orbis

Vanderveen, B. H.; The Observers Army Vehicles Directory: To 1940; Warne

Vanderveen, B. H.; The Observers Army Vehicles Directory: W.W.II; Warne

White, B.T.; Tanks and other AFVs of the Blitzkrieg Era, 1939-41; Blandford \*

Zaloga, S.J.; Blitzkrieg: Armour, Camouflage and Markings, 1939-1940; Arms and Armour Press \*

Zaloga, S.Z.; The Polish Army 1939-45; Osprey \*

Zaloga, S.Z., and Grandsen, J.; The Eastern Front: Armour Camouflage and Markings 1941-1945; Arms and Armour Press \*

## LESSER ARMIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN 1/76TH SCALE

### PART ONE: THE POLISH ARMY OF 1939

George Gush

#### UNIFORMS AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Like most armies other than the British and American, the Polish troops of 1939 wore a tunic rather than a waist length blouse. Most of the infantry had a new Polish-designed steel helmet of very modern, slightly American appearance, and wore their trousers gathered at the ankle by a short anklet, as with British battledress. Troops of other branches, and probably some infantry too, tended to wear an earlier style of dress, with a French-style "Adrian" steel helmet (the one with the ridge down the middle worn by the French in the First World War and in 1939-40), and trousers tucked into long puttees wound round the leg up to just below the knee. The main alternative to the steel helmet was the traditional "*czapka*", a peaked cap with an overlapping flat top shaped like a square or diamond with one corner to the front; there was a dress version with a leather peak and stiff top, sometimes worn in action by officers, and a more soft and floppy active service version with a cloth peak. There was also a side-cap similar to the British forage-cap - one of the useful items worn in some form by nearly all armies of the period, so very handy if you are trying to make figures of one nation represent another.

There were one or two branches which wore their own special uniform. One example was the Polish mechanised brigades, whose infantry wore German steel helmets of World War I type (similar to Second

World War ones, which you could get away with in this scale, but somewhat larger and deeper), and could have black leather overcoats and black German-style high boots. Another was the troops of the Mountain Divisions, who wore a long khaki cape (often over the left shoulder) and a wide-brimmed felt hat described as not unlike a British steel helmet in shape (i.e. with a low rounded crown), with an eagle feather on the left hand side. Tank crews, should you wish to represent them, wore a black leather coat and either a leather helmet or a black beret. The three Light Cavalry or "*Szwalezer*" regiments wore British-style peak caps with round tops rather than the square-topped "*czapka*".

All of the uniforms were khaki - a greener shade than that of the British army of the time, and some sources call it grey-green. Helmets were painted matt olive drab. The equipment worn consisted of brown leather waist-belt with leather pouches on it; the remaining braces and straps being either the same, or khaki canvas webbing; packs and haversacks were of lightish khaki canvas; a greyish-khaki rolled blanket was worn around the backpack, horseshoe-fashion. Boots were black, and calf-high for cavalry, officers and mechanised troops, low for others. harness, saddles etc., were brown leather, and cavalry carried a rolled grey or khaki blanket in front and a cylindrical canvas sack on the back of the saddle, which could be on a blanket of similar colour.

## ARM OF SERVICE DISTINCTIONS

Arm of service was distinguished by a large coloured patch on each side of the front of the collar, decorated with a zigzag white line near the bottom of the patch. These were not supposed to be worn in combat, but if you want to include them to make your models more interesting, colours were:

Infantry	Dark Blue
Artillery	Dark Green
Engineers & Signals	Black
Armour	a triangular pennant shape, upper half black, shaped by a lance pennant, with two tails.*

\* These seem to have corresponded to the regiment's actual lance pennant (Lances having been officially dropped as a combat weapon by 1939, but seem to have been carried in some regiments, and look very colourful). They are listed at the end of this section.

## BADGES

In this scale there is little point in going through all the indications of rank, but you may need to be able to distinguish your officers and NCOs.

Symbols of rank were borne on the shoulder-straps, and also on the front of the *czapka* (below the polish eagle worn on the upper front of the cap, which was in white or grey for other ranks, silver for officers). Corporals had one to three silver bars worn across the shoulder-strap and horizontally, one above the other, on the cap. Sergeants had a silver-edged strap with a single chevron across it, point outwards, the chevron also appearing on the cap front. Officers wore silver stars instead - one or two for lieutenants and three for a captain. A major had one star and two silver bars. Senior officers had two white bands round the *czapka*, just below the top, junior officers a single white band.

## MODELS AVAILABLE

### TROOPS

If you want to use plastic figures, there are no actual poles, but First World War French can serve for those wearing the earlier uniform and "Adrian" helmet; German figures in helmets can be used for mechanised troops, and Japanese or Italian troops in helmets would do for those with the new helmet but still in puttees. Japanese caps can be carved into a reasonable Polish sidecap. Afrika Korps sets provide some men with baggy trousers and cap that can be similarly converted.

In these articles I am thinking mainly in terms of lead figures, and here the range available is much better. Again French figures can be used, and 1940 French are produced by Ravenshorpe, Wargames Foundry, BW Models, and Scotia Micromodels. Most of the Ravenshorpe ones have separate heads, and heads available include, as well as the "Adrian"

helmet, heads with sidecap, *czapka*, and Polish helmet. Ravenshorpe also have what they call a "Universal" range of separate-headed figures, mainly in shirtsleeves and long trousers, covering gun crews, field telephone and other useful figures, several of which with suitable heads could be used for Poles.

Actual Polish figures include:

- Those by Wargames Foundry (officer, a rifleman with Polish helmet, trousers tucked into anklets and full pack, another similar rifleman in *czapka*, a LMG and crew and light mortar and crew).
- Those by Ravenshorpe (officer, two riflemen and a poor prone open-handed figure in puttees, another rifleman and a standing open-handed figure in trousers and anklets). These figures take the separate heads mentioned above, and there is also a head in British helmet which might be useful for mountain troops' hat. The open-handed figures can be used as gun crew or given separate weapons.
- Those by BW models. This is the old "Miltra" range produced originally by "Bish" Iszwaszko. They do no actual Polish infantry, but French infantry and gunners who can be used, Polish gun and machine-gun crews, and some splendid Polish cavalry, both mounted, and dismounted in a prone position. These are cavalry in "Adrian" helmet and *Szwolzer* light cavalry in peak cap, armed with lance and sabre, rifle, LMG, anti-tank rifle and even Browning MMG carried on a packhorse.
- Those by Scotia Models in their "Warsquad" series. These are very lively figures. They comprise eight different riflemen, a grenade-thrower, LMG gunner, Anti-tank rifle man, and officer. All are in Polish steel helmet, and all but the anti-tank rifleman (who has puttees) wear anklets.

The Ravenshorpe figures are the largest; the BW ones the smallest; the Wargame Foundry and Scotia one intermediate in size. BW and Ravenshorpe don't go together well in the same unit, but all other combinations are all right. BW mix well with most 20mm plastic figures.

## HEAVY WEAPONS AND TRANSPORT

### ANTI-TANK:

The Poles used an anti-tank rifle which looked like an ordinary rifle with a very long barrel; plastic figures can have the rifle cut off and a pin stuck in for the barrel. For lead figures, Ravenshorpe make a separate Polish anti-tank rifle. The antitank rifle was a platoon weapon. They also used Bofors 37mm antitank guns, and again Ravenshorpe make these.

### MACHINE GUNS:

The squad light machine gun (LMG) was the American Browning Auto Rifle (BAR). Again these looked very like an ordinary rifle, so a card or plastic block glued under a normal rifle as a magazine, and a

fusewire bipod, will convert a plastic rifleman. Alternatively, you could convert an American figure with a BAR; the helmet is nearly right. For lead figures you can get separate BARs from BW Models, B&B Miniatures and Raventhorpe.

Medium machine-guns included the French air-cooled Hotchkiss, and the belt-fed and water-cooled American Browning and German Maxim (the latter of World War I vintage).

The Hotchkiss was very similar to the Japanese World War 2 type 92 medium machine gun, which has been produced in plastic by Atlantic and I think other makers. It was actually a development of the Hotchkiss and would represent it well. In lead, Hotchkiss machine guns with French teams, which can be used for Poles are produced by BW Models, and the Japanese gun by Raventhorpe.

The Browning medium machine gun was rather like the British Vickers, except for having a smooth instead of ribbed water-jacket for the barrel. Both Raventhorpe and BW Models produce Browning MMGs. The Browning can also be represented by a Vickers model, which is made by all the producers of 1/76th plastic or lead figures (lead ones can have the barrel ribbing filed off; plastic ones don't always show it anyway).

The Maxim is produced in lead by B&B Miniatures, with a W.W.I Turkish crew who would easily convert to Poles, and may be available in plastic W.W.I German sets.

#### ANTI-AIRCRAFT

The easiest Polish weapon to use is the familiar 40mm Bofors AA gun, made in plastic by Airfix and I think currently available again. I believe someone does a lead one too. The Browning MMG mentioned above was also used on a single-pillar AA mounting which I have seen mounted on a truck. There was also the Madsen Model 1937 20mm AA cannon. This was a belt-fed air-cooled gun around the size of a German 2cm FLAK, usually mounted on a small circular platform with four supports projecting along the ground in the shape of a cross. It wouldn't be hard to scratch-build, especially as none-one would be likely to know if you'd got it right or not!

#### MORTARS:

Like the majority of armies, the Poles used the French-designed Brandt type available in lead from Raventhorpe and BW Models and in some plastic sets. They also had a light 46mm mortar corresponding to the British 2 inch mortar, and this presumably is that represented by Wargames Foundry in the light mortar and crew set mentioned above. If so, it isn't very accurate and a stickler for accuracy might want to stick a second tube above the first, about midway down the barrel; this should be the same diameter as the barrel and about one-third the length. In this small scale, however, few of us would bother.

#### ARTILLERY:

A major weapon was the First World War French "*soixante-quinze*" 75mm field gun, I think mainly in the horse-drawn form with cart wheels, though the Poles may have had some pneumatic-tyred ones too. BW Models make this in lead in both forms, and make a Polish crew in *czapka* and Polish limber-riders and artillery officer. Raventhorpe have recently introduced the 75 in their range also, available with limber and horse team.

Polish mountain troops had a 75mm Mountain gun, carried by pack horses, and Raventhorpe make a Skoda mountain gun of this calibre which may be the right gun and would certainly do. Other guns included W.W.I specimens such as the Russian model 02/26 75mm gun (used to support cavalry) and the German 105 howitzer of that period. BW make a W.W.I Krupp field gun which might thus be used for Poles.

#### TRANSPORT:

Most of this would be horse-drawn wagons, and BW Models actually produce a Polish military wagon in lead. There were Polski-Fiat trucks which could be represented by the Russian Ford-based trucks used in W.W.II (these are made in resin by Red Star and in lead by Skytrex) or indeed any old-fashioned 1920s/1930s type truck. The Lledo diecasts often seen in toy shops include quite suitable vehicles, needing to be repainted from civilian livery, though they are somewhat overscale. Polski-Fiat also produced the 4x2 Fiat 508 field car, which was not only used as a staff car, but also for towing anti-tank guns and carrying machine guns. It is available from Skytrex.

The Poles also had French Citroen-Kegresse unarmoured half tracks, plus similar home-built half-tracks, including an ambulance. A French half-track used to be available in resin, but I can't find it now - can anyone help? The TK tankette (below) existed in a gun-towing version, which could be simulated quite well by fitting a canvas tilt-cover over the top of the normal model. There was also a fully-tracked heavy gun tractor, based on the Vickers 6 Tonner tank chassis, which was also used as a recovery vehicle (see sketch). For scratch-building this, tracks from a T26 or 71P tank could be used (see below). A small tracked trailer (again sketched) could be towed behind tankettes, either for carrying supplies or troops.

Finally, I can't resist mentioning the dog-drawn two wheel telephone cable reel used by Polish signals, which would make an interesting little model.

#### FIGHTING VEHICLES:

Like the Russians, the Poles supported their cavalry with MMGs mounted on light horse-drawn wagons, and BW Models have an excellent model of one of these "*taczanka*" in lead, with Hotchkiss gun, crew and "*troika*" three-horse team.

Some cavalry units were partly motorised, and these could include the Browning MMG mounted on a motorcycle and sidecar. Given that details of motorbikes don't show much in 1/76th scale, the German motorcycles and combinations produced by



Skytrex and Raventhorpe could be used, the MG 34 being replaced with something like a Browning (e.g. a small length of cocktail stick).

The Poles used the following tanks:

Polish TK tankette: There were at least 470 of these, and they seem to have been the main Polish vehicle to see action in 1939. BW Models do one of these diminutive machine gun-armed vehicles in lead. There was a version with a 20mm cannon instead of the machine-gun, easily represented by adding a large hemispherical mantlet (perhaps of Milliput ?) to the MG position, and a larger gun barrel overhanging the front of the vehicle. There is a picture of this in White, "Tanks of the Blitzkrieg era" (see bibliography).

Polish 7TP light tank: 170 were in service by 1939, and this can be obtained as a plastic kit from Red Star Models. This, I think, is the type with a 37mm Bofors. There was an earlier version with twin machine-gun turrets which could be quite well represented by the Russian T26A, which, like the 7TP was a direct development from the Vickers 6 Tonner (below). The T26 is available in lead from Skytrex and in resin from Red Star, though the Polish tank had thick water-jacketed barrels rather than the thin air-cooled ones.

French W.W.I Renault FT: They had 67 of these, but I don't know if they saw action in 1939. Matchbox make a plastic kit of a Char-B and a Renault FT together and I believe Skytrex are to make a lead one.

British Vickers 6 Tonner: They had 50 of these; Skytrex or Red Star's Russian T26A and T26B would be reasonably close. Some were presumably the twin-turret version, since the Poles chose this configuration for the first 7TPs, and could likewise be represented by the T26A. Gun-armed six-tonners had a round, slightly conical turret which would be quite easy to scratch-build and mount on the hull of a T26B or C model.

French Renault R-35: Poland received 70 of these shortly before the outbreak of war, but they were kept in reserve and never saw action. Should you wish to use them in a "might-have-been" scenario, the R-35 is available in lead from Model Figures and Hobbies, and, I believe, Skytrex, and in resin from Cromwell and Milicast.

Armoured Cars: There were 90, of several types. Some of these were Austins, and I suspect the Cromwell W.W.I Austin-Putilov armoured car might

be right for these. The Polish WZ34 and WZ29 armoured cars both look as if they would be fairly easy to scratch-build from card or plastic card (see sketch). The former is illustrated in "Tanks of the Blitzkrieg era"; the latter in Zaloga "Blitzkrieg".

Armoured trains: The Poles had ten of them and they did get into action, one of them helping to repel an attack by the 4th Panzer Division. There is a colour picture in Zaloga, "Blitzkrieg".

AFV Colours: By 1939, Polish AFVs (including armoured trains) should have been in a new three colour camouflage of very dark brown, sand and light olive green, in large wavy, broadly horizontal patches. The patches, being applied by spray gun, were soft edged. The Renault R-35s remained in their French paint, which was apparently plain dark green overall.

Armour Markings: These were almost certainly painted out on the outbreak of war, but if you want to make your models a little more interesting, armoured trains carried a small red plate with a Polish white eagle on it; 7TPs had one, two or three vertical white bars on each side of the upper hull, to indicate company, and the company commander added a horizontal bar beneath them, while a few units had their own signs. Pre-war, Polish AFVs had a national marking, of either a shield or a flag in red and white on the side, but this doesn't seem to have been used in 1939 (see drawings).

#### AIRCRAFT:

(For those who, like me, use 1/72nd plastic kits for air support in their land battles). The major types used in 1939 have been available as plastic kits, though I don't know about their current availability. These were:

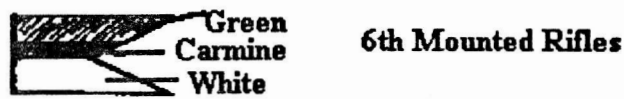
PZL 11c Fighter	Kit by Revell
PZL Karas Light Bomber	Kit by Heller
PZL 37 Los Bomber	Polish ZTS kit

Polish aircraft seem to have been mainly finished in overall dark green with light blue undersurfaces, and carried the national insignia of red and white quartered squares above and below the wings. The Polish airforce survived the initial attack on their airfields and, although greatly outmatched, inflicted considerable losses.

Polish Cavalry: Pennants and collar patches:

Regiment	Top	Centre	Bottom
<b>Light</b>			
1st & 2nd	Silver	Carmine	Silver
3rd Light	Silver	Yellow	Silver
<b>Lancers</b>			
1st	Carmine	-	White
2nd	White	-	Dark Blue
3rd	Yellow	-	White
4th	Light Blue	-	White
5th	Red-Brown	-	White
6th	Light Blue	White	Light Blue
7th	Diagonally divided, white and dark blue (see drawing)		
8th	Dark Yellow	-	Dark Yellow
9th	Carmine	White, carmine	White
10th	Carmine	White, dark blue	White
11th	Carmine	White	Carmine
12th	Carmine	Dark blue	Carmine
13th	Pink	Light blue	Pink
14th	Yellow	White	Yellow
15th	White	-	Red
16th	Dark blue	Red	White
17th	White	Red	Yellow
18th	White	Red	Light Blue
19th	Diagonally divided, dark blue and white		
20th	Carmine	White, dark blue	Carmine
21st	Light Blue	Yellowish-white	Light Blue
22nd	Diagonally divided, white and carmine		
23rd	Orange	White, orange	White
24th	White	Yellow	White
25th	White	Light Blue	Red
26th	Pink	Light blue	White
27th	Yellow	White, dark blue	White
<b>Mounted Rifles</b>			
1st	Green	-	Carmine
2nd	Green	Light Blue	Carmine
3rd	Green	Yellow	Carmine
4th	Green	White	Carmine
5th	Green	White	Carmine
6th	Green	Carmine	White
7th	Green	Yellow	White
8th	Green	Light Blue	White
9th	Green	Carmine	Yellow
10th	Green	White	Yellow
<b>Horse Artillery</b>	Black	-	Red
<b>Transport Corps</b>	Light blue	Carmine	Light Blue

# Polish Army Cavalry Collar-patches / Lance pennants



## Armour Unit Symbols:



White Buffalo in  
white circle on 7TP



Blue griffon on TK tankette  
of Pomeranian Cavalry Bde

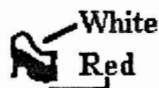
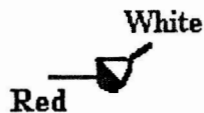


Red disc with 2 quarters missing  
10th Cavalry Bde (on trucks)



White cougar: on 7TP

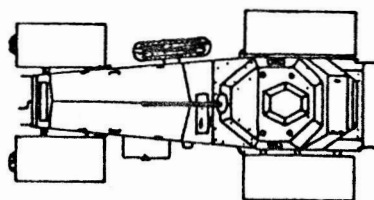
## National signs:



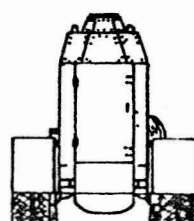
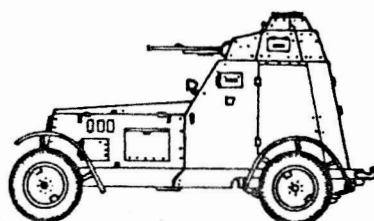
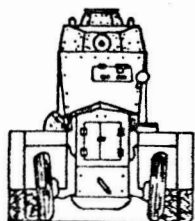


# POLAND

4 x 2 drive  
Armament:  
1 x 37mm gun  
OR  
1 MG

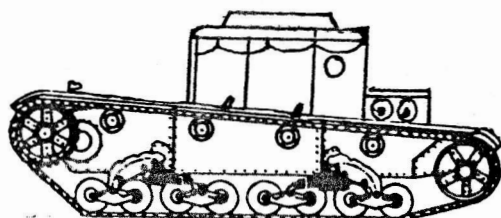


1/76  
Scale



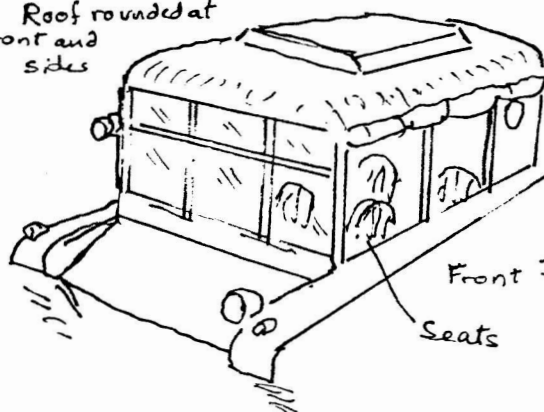
Wz 34 Armoured Car

POLISH TTP  
GUN TRACTOR  
[also towed  
trailer for tank  
recovery]



Side View 1/76th Scale

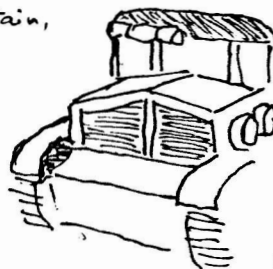
Roof rounded at  
front and  
sides



Front 3/4 view

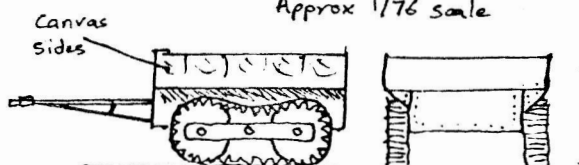
Seats

Canvas side curtain,  
rolled up  
Forward cab  
sides open



Rear 3/4 view  
showing engine  
compartment  
and radiator

Trailer for Polish  
Tankette  
Approx 1/76 scale



## WINTER OFFENSIVE

*The following documents were found in the frozen site of this battle. They are a testament to the aims of the two combatants.*

**To: 49th Army Comrade Commanders  
From: STAVKO: Marshal Redheshkov**

**Comrades !**

Today the People's Armies will launch our Great Counter Attack against the Fascist Invaders and their Puppet Allies, to liberate our Beloved Rodina, and smash the Tyrant's War Machine a Crushing Reverse !

That is probably sufficient as a plan, but I will take the opportunity to sketch in one or two further details: please read them carefully, or you will face a People's Trial followed by Immediate Execution.

We will attack the South route, from Table B. Only light forces will screen the North route, with off-table artillery in support. I will command these forces, to leave you free for the Main Offensive !

The Main Offensive has only one priority -

**MOMENTUM !** We will deal to the Fascists the blow that they dealt the decadent French Imperialists in 1940 - Blitzkrieg !

Thus, if you encounter defences, flow round them. If you encounter attractive tactical opportunities, ignore them. Drive for their supply and their munitions dumps, boldly and resolutely !

If we can reach these dumps the fascists will be paralysed - no other opportunities must deflect us. We will have reserve troops following your spear-head attacks, who will deal with by-passed fascist formations and strong-points. You must lead our assault with intelligence, to avoid needless loss, but with great speed and determination !

Liaison with one another and with me is essential, and where practical with Comrade Generals commanding partisans and other Soviet Peoples' Forces. Wherever attacks have to be embarked upon, seek to combine your attack with those of friendly forces to surround and outnumber the Fascists.

I will command the Reserve Corps, which will neutralise by-passed Fascist units, and will be available to reinforce our successes: units will be passed to your control wherever required.

I will also control the Air Force. This will invariably be sent to the assistance of the Comrade Commander showing the greatest successes. Any Comrade Commander becoming slowed down or outmanoeuvred by the Fascists can expect no air support, no reinforcements and no glory.

FORWARD ! And remember the Immortal Words of the Commander of the Moscow Shock Army in 1941 -

**From: General von Klotz  
To: High Command, Berlin**

**Mein Fuhrer !**

You will be gratified to learn that I have emerged unscathed from my bunker with my boots as shiny as ever, in spite of everything Ivan could throw at us. You can be proud of your troops, fighting against the Red hordes, inspired by thoughts of your genius in starting this war to cleanse the East of the Communists. I am confident that final victory will be ours by about 1950, or 1960 at the latest, and that the English will finally reject the Capitalist Warmonger Churchill and turn to the Glorious German People as allies against the Eastern barbarism.

I attach a copy of the map with which I was presented on taking up my command. As you will see, the campaign took place on two completely separate fronts, the Northern (marked N1 to N3 on the map), and the Southern (marked S1 to S3), the German base area alone being common to both. Between these fronts lies an impenetrable morass known as the Glosny Marshes where only subhuman creatures known as Partisans can survive, drinking the swamp water and eating the tundra.

The Russian Fourth Army was advancing from the East, dividing its forces between the two fronts on tables A and B. From the map it is at once apparent that their best line of advance was on the Southern Front, which has three East-West roads compared to one on the Northern, and where the Orel river becomes a mere stream on S2 and much less of an obstacle than the broad river on N2. Fast road movement was vital to them to avoid being bogged down by the snow which lay heavily everywhere off the roads.

I immediately decided to appoint my most experienced subordinate to command the Southern Front with two thirds of the troops immediately available to me. I was shocked to discover how inadequate my forces were, but I allotted the Southern Front all the heavy artillery (a solitary battery) and both 88mm guns. A further complication was that we were outflanked by Red Forces which had broken through in both the North and the South and which might arrive anywhere at any moment in unknown strength.

As if my burden was not already great enough, I had to arrange for the protection of our airfield on N3 and of four supply dumps on the four front tables 2 and 3. Reinforcements had been promised me, but I did not know their composition or time of arrival. But things could have been worse - it might have been raining ! At least there were no civilian inhabitants of the hovels and ruined towns where the peasants are said to normally live. I understand the Gestapo had carried out a survey asking them what part they wished to play in the New Order and they had all asked to be permitted to work in the mines and factories of the Fatherland.

With forces quite inadequate to stem the Red

2TANFVJ NEI  
2AY 878XI !

Hordes I knew were approaching, we were completely overstretched from the start and had to rely upon the reinforcements to provide a reserve. So far as stemming the Fourth Army offensive was concerned, I intended to hold a main line behind the Orel river with an outpost line on N1 and S1 to impose delay and provide time for the engineers to blow the river bridges. I then discovered that I had not even been provided with engineers and had to form, train and equip a unit of my own which, when the offensive began, instead of being in position at the bridges was still in the base area.

The battle, when it began, produced no real surprises. Ivan made his main attack on the Southern Front, Partisans emerged all smelly from the marshes to attack S3, blocking the road through Sarika and preventing the engineers reaching any of the bridges. I ordered my local commander to make an immediate counter-attack and, aided by the few reinforcements who had by then arrived, he successfully did so, clearing the road and recapturing the ammunition dump which the enemy destroyed. Whether this was intentional or not remains a mystery. Partisans were seen removing the charges from shells to make fires to cook their tundra. Others were seen eating the cordite. Their behaviour was no worse than that of their other comrades who shelled hospitals, drank oil from street lamps and generally behaved in the barbarous fashion you would expect from such a sub-human species. When they captured our dump of propaganda leaflets only decency prevents me from telling you what they did with your portrait. The moral tone of our troops remained superior. Some of them even formed an official moral circle - I saw it myself.

Flank attacks came in on S3, against the airfield on N3 and the Soviet Navy appeared in boats on the Okal river and Lake Vala. Many iron crosses were awarded, not least to the officers commanding the outpost positions on S1 and in front of Potreyn on N2 (where the only successful bridge demolition took place). They fought to the last man, but they were bypassed by the main enemy forces which broke through at Blit on S2 in spite of a gallant resistance by our best troops and all the guns. The enemy made little progress beyond the Okal river on the Northern front, but a mass of Red tanks erupted into the flank of N3 and threatened to overrun the airfield. At the last moment a transport aircraft brought in parachute troops who formed a perimeter to protect the airfield and joined by a trickle of reinforcements the enemy was held, the local commander, his morale fortified by presents of wine, receiving the Knights Cross with Cabbage Leaves for his outstanding heroism.

It was at this point that I emerged from my bunker and drove in the special Mercedes you gave me for my birthday to carry out an investiture at the airfield, but when I discovered you had already sent an aircraft with a load of medals I returned to my bunker. The Mercedes, you will be relieved to know, did not even get dusty and when a Russian aircraft appeared I shook my fist at the pilot who promptly fled.

The Luftwaffe made a good start, blitzing the enemy advance, but increasingly it had to concentrate on strafing the enemy attacking the airfield and, like

the troops, was gradually overwhelmed by the enemy numbers. The flak batteries did great execution amongst the enemy aircraft, my personal 88 (with a hand-picked crew) doing particularly well.

The battle, Mein Fuhrer, was lost before it began. However the troops were deployed our resources were inadequate for the task in hand. The reinforcements were mostly sub-standard men and tanks. Only two Tiger tanks belatedly appeared. Reinforcements arrived in dribs and drabs and had to be fed piecemeal into the battle. We received none of the heavy support guns and tank-hunters you promised us. Towed artillery appeared but was forbidden to for from the base area where it might have done some good.

Amidst the gathering darkness the courage and tenacity of the troops shone like a beacon of hope for the future. We are all looking forward to our Spring Offensive when we shall show Ivan what a properly constituted German Army can do.

Victory is ours !

E. von Klotz

General

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1993

2nd May

6th June (Painting Competition)

4th July

29th July COMMITTEE MEETING

1st August

5th September

3rd October (Bring & Buy)

7th November

5th December (Painting Competition, AGM)

### 1994

2nd January

6th February

20th February OPEN DAY

6th March

3rd April