

FOCUSED FIREPOWER

A WWII Wargame for Heroes

Soviet Infantry Company

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Soviet Special Rules

Medical Troops: Despite an apparent disregard for their enlisted men, the Russian army fielded a large cadre of medical troopers (however the quality of their training was often suspect). These troops could be attached to squads as the commander saw fit (although they were often kept close to the senior units rather than with the conscripted men).

Political Officers: Commonly known as Political Commissars, the Political Officers held military rank equaling that of the unit commander to whom he was attached; moreover, the commissar also had the military authority to countermand the unit commander's orders when required. As such, whether a political officer counts as a CO or NCO will depend on the unit to which they are attached. In the case of political officers attached to the Company HQ, they will hold the same rank as the Company Commander (CO), but will not count as a Company Commander themselves.

Soviet Equipment

Pistol: Tokarev Pistol

Rifle: Mosin Nagant

SMG: PPSH-41 - PPSH SMGs were in very short supply in the early years of World War II. Some men would have PPD 40s, and others would have rifles instead of their theoretical allocation. Officers would often acquire SMGs to replace or supplement their pistols.

LMG: Degtyarev Machine Gun (DP-28)

MMG: M1910 Maxim (From 1941) or SG-43 Goryunov (From 1943). Although the lighter SG-43 was an improvement on the Maxim, it was rare in service until after 1945. From 1943 Units that include an MMG may upgrade it from the M1910 Maxim to an SG-43 Goryunov for 5 points.

Soviet Infantry Company - April 1941

Special Rules: All elements are Poorly Drilled

Company Headquarters: A notably sparse unit which comprised no more than the Company Commander and his staff officers. This bears many similarities to Western and German formations, with the obvious exception of the Political Officer (Commissar) imposed on company leaders.

Company HQ	Pts: 71	UMV: 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol	
Political Officer (CO)	Pistol	
4 Riflemen	Rifle, Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Standard Radio, Pistol, and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*	Pts: 70 (14 Each)	UMV: Special
5 Medical Troopers	Medical Kits, Pistols and Hand Grenades	

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Machine Gun Platoon: The Maxim was heavy and inaccurate, but also virtually indestructible, simple to use and familiar to the troops.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 14	UMV 2
Senior Sergeant* (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Runner	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

*The officer in charge of such small platoons as this one would technically be a junior lieutenant (Mladshiy Lejtnant) but is best represented as a senior sergeant in game terms

MMG Team - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 35	UMV 2
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning Maxim MMG	

Soviet Infantry Company - April 1941

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

Rifle Platoons: A large and theoretically very capable platoon; the rifle squads could lay down a respectable amount of fire-power, and the light mortar had an impressive range.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 23	UMV 2
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Runner	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Mortar Squad	Pts: 31	UMV 2
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning 50mm RM-38 Mortar	

Conscript Squad	Pts: 22	UMV 1
11 Conscripts	Rifle	

Rifle Section - 3 per Platoon	Pts: 59	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
7 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Soviet Infantry Company - August 1941

Special Rules: All Elements are Poorly Drilled and suffer from Fractured Chain of Command.

The sheer scale of the losses in the first months of the war, as entire divisions collapsed, were surrounded or simply surrendered, and the scale of the mobilisation lead to a frantic scramble by Soviet high command to make the most of the men and the equipment they had. The disruption caused by having so many newly trained or promoted officers would have been utter chaos, even without the help of the Wehrmacht.

Mortar, medium machine guns and other weapons were removed from the company, as many officers had proved themselves unable to co-ordinate them, leaving the company with nothing more than small arms, and so entirely reliant on regimental support.

Company Headquarters: The officer in command was no doubt delighted to have another Commissar around, instead of a radio.

Company HQ	Pts: 81	UMV 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol	
2 Political Officers (CO)#	Pistol	
4 Runners	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Field Telephone, Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*	Pts: 65 (13 Each)	UMV: Special
5 Medical Troopers	Medical Kits Pistols and Hand Grenades	

1 free to join any unit he likes

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

Platoon HQ	Pts: 19	UMV 2
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Runner	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Conscript Squad	Pts: 11	UMV 1
11 Conscripts	Rifle	

Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 48	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
7 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Soviet Infantry Company - July 1942

Special Rules: All Elements are Poorly Drilled and suffer from Fractured Chain of Command.

Although the situation was still dire from 1941, with, the war industries safely relocated Eastwards, and lend-lease, the supply and training situation had improved; to merely dreadful Officers were still inexperienced, and losses unsustainable high.

Company Headquarters

Company HQ	Pts: 81	UMV 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol	
2 Political Officers (CO)#	Pistol	
4 Runners	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Field Telephone, Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*	Pts: 65 (13 Each)	UMV 5
5 Medical Troopers	Medical Kits Pistols and Hand Grenades	

1 free to join any unit he likes

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Light Mortar Platoon: Mirrored on the German Mortar Platoon of the period, it did not suffer from many of the problems that beset their enemies. The Russian 50mm had a considerably longer range, and in an Ideal world would have had some transport other than its crew.

Light Mortar Command Squad	Pts: 14	UMV 2
Senior Sergeant (NCO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
2 Runners	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Light Mortar Squads - 4 per Platoon	Pts: 19	UMV 2
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning 50mm Mortar	

Horse Limbered Ammo Section	Pts: 17	UMV 2
4 Riflemen	Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning Horse and Cart	

Soviet Infantry Company - July 1942

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

The Rifle Platoon was hit hard by the shortages. The inclusion of the sniper section was further evidence that the Red Army was more interested in stalling the German advance and disrupting the enemy's command structure than holding ground.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 19	UMV 2
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Runner	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Conscript Squad	Pts: 11	UMV 1
11 Conscripts	Rifle	

Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 48	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
7 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Sniper Team: The sniper rifles issued to platoons were intended to be used by sharp shooters within squads, but most commanders organised these men into a small sniper element capable of advancing into position through stealth.

Sniper Team	Pts: 24	UMV 1
Corporal (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
2 Snipers	Sniper Rifles and Hand Grenades	

Soviet Infantry Company - Spring 1943

By 1943, the Red Army had been thoroughly reformed, and was becoming increasingly experienced and professional at all levels. The Company commissars were reduced, and radios were once again supplied to most companies, although their quality was still suspect. The huge losses of the early war only now lead to a relative shortage of manpower, so the attrition rate of units in combat made it difficult to maintain them at full strength.

Company Headquarters: The paired officers show an increasing focus on the training of officers, and ensuring a continuity of command.

Medical Troops: All through the war, the medical detachment was the one support element that never left the company orbit, showing it must have some use, either for morale purposes, or on casualty rates.

Company HQ	Pts: 85	UMV 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Political Officer (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
2 Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Field Radio, Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*	Pts: 75 (15 Each)	UMV: Special
5 Medical Troopers	Medical Kits Pistols and Hand Grenades	

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Mortar Platoon: The little 50mm remained in service, despite its small calibre. Manpower shortages mean the platoon had to provide its own transport.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 10	UMV 1
Senior Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Light Mortar Squads - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 25	UMV 2
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning 50mm mortar	

Machine Gun Squad: Although equipped with a horse and cart, this squad has been pared to the bone, as is typical at this point, with the gunners expected to provide their own transport, dedicated logistics troops being a rare luxury. Although the lighter SG-43 was an improvement on the Maxim, it was rare in service until after 1945.

Machine Gun Squad	Pts: 40	UMV 2
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle, Hand Grenades, Horse and Cart	
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning Maxim MMG	
Options:		
- The Maxim MMG may be upgraded to a SG-43 Goryunov MMG for +5pts.		

Soviet Infantry Company - Spring 1943

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

The Rifle Platoon was now without its conscripts, who had either died or survived the terrors of combat to become fully-fledged troopers in their own right. The sniper section remained as Red Army had seen its effectiveness against the Germans. The biggest change however has the inclusion of Heavy Rifle Squads - fielding 2 LMGs to greatly increase the platoon's firepower.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 27	UMV 2
Lieutenant (CO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
2 Runners	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Light Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 60	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
5 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Heavy Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 70	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
3 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
2x Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Sniper Team	Pts: 20	UMV 1
2 Snipers	Sniper Rifles and Hand Grenades	

Guards Rifle Company - Spring 1943

Special Rules: All elements are Hardened Veterans.

'Guards' was a Tsarist title for the best units in the Army, who viewed them selves as better than mere riflemen. A unit that performed especially well in an important battle would be granted the Guards title, and they would be the first to receive new equipment and re-enforcements.

Company Headquarters: The paired officers show an increasing focus on the training of officers, and ensuring a continuity of command.

Medical Troops: All through the war, the medical detachment was the one support element that never left the company orbat, showing it must have some use, either for morale purposes, or on casualty rates.

Company HQ	Pts: 97	UMV 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Political Officer (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
2 Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Field Radio, Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*	Pts: 85 (17 Each)	UMV: Special
5 Medical Troopers	Medical Kits Pistols and Hand Grenades	

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Mortar Platoon: The little 50mm remained in service, despite its small calibre. Manpower shortages mean the platoon had to provide its own transport.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 12	UMV 1
Senior Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	

Light Mortar Squads - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 31	UMV 2
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning 50mm Mortar	

Machine Gun Squad: Although equipped with a horse and cart , this squad has been pared to the bone, as is typical at this point, with the gunners expected to provide their own transport, dedicated logistics troops being a rare luxury.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 12	UMV 1
Senior Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	

Machine Gun Squad	Pts: 48	UMV 2
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle, Hand Grenades, Horse and Cart	
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning Maxim MMG	
Options:		
- The Maxim MMG may be upgraded to a SG-43 Goryunov MMG for +5pts.		

Guards Rifle Company - Spring 1943

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

The Rifle Platoon was now without its conscripts, who had either died or survived the terrors of combat to become fully-fledged troopers in their own right. The sniper section remained as Red Army had seen its effectiveness against the Germans. The biggest change however has the inclusion of Heavy Rifle Squads - fielding 2 LMGs to greatly increase the platoon's firepower.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 33	UMV 2
Lieutenant (CO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
2 Runners	Rifle and Hand Grenades	

Light Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 78	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
5 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Heavy Rifle Section - 2 per Platoon	Pts: 88	UMV 1
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
3 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
2x Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

Sniper Team	Pts: 24	UMV 1
2 Snipers	Sniper Rifles and Hand Grenades	

Reduced Strength Companies - 1944

Special Rules: All elements are Hardened Veterans.

This alternate, slimmed down orbat is typical of those units unable to maintain full strength formations. Several were issued, as the nation was unable to support the vast numbers of units at full strength.

Company Headquarters: The command unit was led by a senior officer and supported by a junior rank. Only one Commissar was attached at this point, and the two NCOs were armed with the Pah-Pah-Shah heavy sub machinegun.

Company HQ	Pts: 97	UMV 3
Captain (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Political Officer (CO)	Pistol and Hand Grenades	
2 Rifleman	SMG and Hand Grenades	
Radio Operator	Field Radio, Pistol and Hand Grenades	
Medical Detachment*		
5 Medical Troopers	Pts: 85 (17 Each)	UMV: Special
	Medical Kits Pistols and Hand Grenades	

* Specialists may be attached to sections as desired, increasing the UMV of the section by +1pt.

Machine Gun Squad: Now the only support elements left in the company.

Machine Gun Squad	Pts: 43	UMV 2
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle, Hand Grenades, horse and cart	
Gunner & 2 Loaders	Pistol, Rifles, Hand Grenades, Manning Maxim MMG	
Options:		
- The Maxim MMG may be upgraded to a SG-43 Goryunov MMG for +5pts.		

Rifle Platoon - 3 per Company

The Rifle Platoon was now without it's conscripts, who had either died or survived the terrors of combat to become fully-fledged troopers in their own right. The sniper section remained as Red Army had seen its effectiveness against the Germans. The biggest change however has the inclusion of Heavy Rifle Squads - fielding 2 LMGs to greatly increase the platoon's fire-power.

Platoon HQ	Pts: 17	UMV 1
Lieutenant (CO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	

Light Rifle Section - 3 per Platoon	Pts: 92	UMV 2
Sergeant (NCO)	SMG and Hand Grenades	
8 Riflemen	Rifle and Hand Grenades	
Gunner & Loader	Pistol, Rifle, Hand Grenades, Manning 7.62mm Degtyarev	

December 1944 Rifle Company

There was a substantial re-organisation of the rifle division planned over the winter of 1944, which saw the elimination of the 50mm mortar, a large increase in the number of Maxims, increased mechanisation, and assorted other changes. However, details are unclear, and it seems that very few units had converted to the new ORBATs before the end of the war, so this orbat will not be covered further, unless we decide to write a post WW2 expansion to the orbats, and can find some sources to use!

