

THE BELGIAN ARMY IN 1940

Belgium announced its policy of “Armed Independence” in 1936. This policy was understood to go beyond strict neutrality (which had not kept Belgium out of World War I) and was accompanied by a considerable defensive buildup. By the German invasion, the Belgian Army consisted of 650,000 active troops and another 150,000 wartime draftees which were sent to training centers in France to form replacement units for the standing army. This total of 800,000 men under arms from a nation with a population of just 8 million was a genuinely impressive mobilization of national resources.

The financial commitment to the army had been substantial as well, and in general the Belgian forces were mobile and well equipped by European standards. Four (two motorized cavalry, two semi-motorized Ardennes chasseurs) of the twenty-two active divisions in 1940 were mobile. There were almost 300 AFVs present with the force, about half machine-gun-armed light tanks and half tracked self-propelled 47mm anti-tank guns, all Belgian designed and built. The only gun-armed tanks available were sixteen Renault AMC-35 imports, rearmed with the Belgian 47mm gun.

The field army was divided into seven infantry corps, a cavalry corps, a corps-sized detachment covering the Ardennes (Group K), a coastal defense group, and a variety of army-level support troops, including a substantial force of corps and army artillery. If there was a weakness at the command level it was the lack of more than a single command echelon above corps level – nine corps-sized elements were too many to control effectively through a single army headquarters.

ORDER OF BATTLE OF THE BELGIAN ARMY, MAY 1940

Corps	Divisions	CA Regt	Frtrss Regt	Static Regt	Sep Mobile units	AA Bn	Eng Bn
I	4, 7	14	--	--	--	4	21
II	6, 9, 11	16	--	--	--	3	24
III	2, 3	15	Liege	--	--	2	23
IV	12, 15, 18	13	--	1, 9	--	7	22
V	13, 17	--	--	--	--	9	P
VI	5, 10	--	--	--	II/2 Lt Bn	10, 11	--
VII	8, 2ChA	ChA Bn	Namur	--	1Lt Regt	8	--
Cav	1, 14, 2C	19 HA (-)	--	2	Mot Cav Bde, Tank Co	1	20
Coast	16	--	--	14 Bn	2Lt Regt (-)	12	--
Grp K	1C, 1ChA	IV/19 Bn	--	--	ChA MC Bn	K	--

C = Cavalry, CA = Corps Artillery, ChA = *Chasseurs Ardennais*, HA = *Horse Artillery (motorized)*, MC = *motorcycle*, P = *Pioneer*

The Fortress regiments were not maneuver units; they manned the fixed weapons of the permanent fortresses at Liege and Namur.

BELGIAN TOE 1 INFANTRY DIVISION, 1940

There were eighteen infantry divisions in the Belgian Army in 1940: twelve regular (1st – 12th) and six activated reserve (13th -- 18th). Reserve divisions were short of much equipment and both units and stands marked in *italics* were generally not present in reserve divisions. Supply vehicles in italics are present in reserve divisions. Note that the Bicycle battalion is present only in reserve divisions.

Troop Quality: Regular (reservists Trained)

Morale: 8 (reservists 7)

DIVISION TROOPS		
Headquarter and Separate Companies	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	1 staff telephone wagon
		<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	AA Machine Gun Company	<i>1 command infantry stand</i>
		2 AA MG stands
		<i>3 light trucks</i>
	Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Battery	<i>1 command T-13 SP AT gun</i>
		2 T-13 SP AT guns
	Towed Anti-Tank Battery	<i>1 command infantry stand</i>
2 47L32 AT guns and crews		
<i>3 FMH or UT-I tractors</i>		
Bicycle Company	<i>1 bicycle command infantry stand</i>	
	<i>2 bicycle infantry stands</i>	
Engineer Battalion	Headquarters	1 command stand
	2 engineer companies, each	1 command engineer stand
		1 engineer stand
Bicycle Battalion (reserve divisions only)	Headquarters	1 bicycle command stand
	Machine Gun Company	1 command bicycle MMG stand
		2 bicycle MMG stands
	2 Bicycle Infantry Companies, each	1 bicycle command infantry stand
2 bicycle infantry stands		
3 INFANTRY REGIMENTS, EACH		
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 mounted command stand
	Headquarters Company	1 staff telephone wagon
		<i>1 supply wagon</i>
	Mortar Company	1 mounted command infantry stand
		2 76L9 infantry guns and crews (ds)
		2 limbers
	Antitank Company	1 command infantry stand
		2 47L32 AT guns and crews
		<i>3 FMH or UT-I tractors</i>
	Machine Gun Company	1 command MMG stand
2 MMG stands		
3 machine gun carts		
3 Infantry Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 command stand
	Machine Gun Company	3 MMG stands
	3 Infantry Companies, each	1 command infantry stand
2 infantry stands		

ARTILLERY REGIMENT			
	Headquarters	1 command stand	
		1 car	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	Mortar Battery	<i>1 mounted command infantry stand</i>	
		<i>3 7cm spigot mortar stands (ds)</i>	
		<i>3 wagons</i>	
3 Light Artillery Battalions (2 in reserve divisions), each	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	3 Firing Batteries, each		1 mounted command infantry stand
			1 75L27 field gun and crew (ds)
		1 limber	
Howitzer Battalion	Headquarters	<i>1 mounted command observation stand</i>	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	3 Firing Batteries, each		<i>1 mounted command infantry stand</i>
			<i>1 105L22 howitzer and crew (ds)</i>
		<i>1 limber</i>	

BELGIAN TOE 2

CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS DIVISION, 1940

There were two Chasseurs Ardennais divisions (1st, 2nd) organized as shown below. There were several differences in their internal units.

1. **Bicycles:** In the 1st Division, all three battalions of the three *chasseur* regiments were bicycle-mounted. In the second division only the first battalion in each regiment had bicycles.
2. **Regimental Troops:** In the 1st Division, each chasseur regiment had a self-propelled anti-tank company and a motorcycle company. (The 2nd *Chasseur* Regiment had two self-propelled anti-tank companies and a motorcycle company.) In the 2nd Division each chasseur regiment has a small towed antitank company and mortar company which we show as a combined heavy weapons company.
3. **Artillery:** The artillery in each division was provided by the 20th Artillery Regiment. The regimental headquarters was split to make two smaller command post detachments. The 1st Division had I (field gun) and III (howitzer) battalions while the 2nd Division had II (field gun) and IV (howitzer) battalions.

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

DIVISION TROOPS		
Headquarter and Separate Companies	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	1 staff radio truck
		1 AA MG stand (ds)
		1 medium truck
		<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	Engineer Company	1 command engineer stand
		1 engineer stand
		1 medium truck
3 CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS REGIMENTS, EACH		
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	1 staff radio truck
		<i>1 supply truck</i>
	SP AT Company (1 st Div)	1 command T-13 SP AT gun
		1 T-13 SP AT gun
	Motorcycle Company (1 st Division)	1 motorcycle command infantry stand
		2 motorcycle infantry stands
		1 recon T-15 tank
	Heavy Weapons Company (2 nd Div)	1 command infantry stand
		1 47L32 AT gun and crew
		2 light trucks
		1 76L9 infantry gun and crew (ds)
1 medium truck		
1-3 Bicycle Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 bicycle command stand
	Machine Gun Platoon	1 bicycle MMG stand
	3 rifle companies, each	1 command bicycle infantry stand
2 bicycle infantry stands		
0-2 Infantry	Headquarters	1 command stand

Battalions, each	Machine Gun Platoon	1 bicycle MMG stand
	3 rifle companies, each	1 command infantry stand
		2 infantry stands
ARTILLERY REGIMENT		
	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
Light Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
	2 Firing Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
1 75L24 mountain gun and crew (ds)		
1 truck		
Howitzer Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
	Composite Firing Battery	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
		1 105L22 howitzer and crew (ds)
		1 medium truck

BELGIAN TOE 3 CAVALRY DIVISION, 1940

There were two cavalry divisions (1st, 2nd) organized as shown below.

1. Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Guns: The three motorcycle regiments of the 2nd Cavalry Division had not received their T-13 SP AT guns.

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

DIVISION TROOPS		
Headquarter and Separate Companies	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	1 staff radio truck
		1 AA MG stand (ds)
		1 medium truck
		<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	Bicycle Reconnaissance Company	1 bicycle command infantry stand
		2 bicycle recon infantry stands
	Anti-Aircraft Company	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
		2 AAMG stands (ds)
		2 medium trucks
	Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Company	1 command T-13 SP AT gun
		2 T-13 SP AT guns
Towed Anti-Tank Company	1 command infantry stand	
	2 47L32 AT guns and crews	
	3 FMH or UT-C tractors	
Engineer Battalion	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	2 Engineer Companies	1 command engineer stand
		1 engineer stand
		1 medium truck
3 MOTORCYCLE REGIMENTS, EACH		
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	1 T-13 SP AT gun
		1 recon T-15 tank
		<i>1 supply truck</i>
	1 medium truck	
2 Motorcycle Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 motorcycle command stand
	3 rifle companies, each	1 motorcycle command infantry stand
		2 motorcycle infantry stands
BICYCLE REGIMENT		
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Company	2 47L32 AT guns and crews
		2 FMH or UT-C tractors
	1 recon T-15 tank	

		<i>1 supply truck</i>
		1 medium truck
2 Motorcycle Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 bicycle command stand
	3 rifle companies, each	1 bicycle command infantry stand
		2 bicycle infantry stands
ARTILLERY REGIMENT		
	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
2 Light Artillery Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
	3 Firing Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
1 75L27 field gun and crew (ds)		
		1 truck

BELGIAN TOE 4

MOTORIZED CAVALRY BRIGADE, 1940

There were only a single motorized cavalry brigade in 1940, which formed part of the Cavalry Corps. The army's only separate tank company was attached to the cavalry corps and so is shown here as an attachment, although it could be attached to the cavalry divisions instead.

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

BRIGADE TROOPS			
Headquarters and Headquarters Company	Headquarters	1 command stand	
		1 car	
	Headquarters Company	1 staff telephone wagon	
		Tank Company (attached)	1 command ACG-1 tank
	1 ACG-1 tank		
2 MOTORIZED CAVALRY REGIMENTS, EACH			
Regimental Troops	Headquarters	1 command stand	
		1 car	
	Headquarters Company	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>	
		Motorcycle Company	1 motorcycle command infantry stand
			2 motorcycle infantry stands
	Antitank Company	1 command infantry stand	
			2 47L32 AT guns and crews
		3 FMH or UT-C tractors	
2 Motorized Cavalry Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 command stand	
		1 car	
	3 Cavalry Squadrons, each	1 command infantry stand	
			2 infantry stands
			3 light trucks

BELGIAN TOE 5

CORPS ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1940

There were four "standard" corps artillery regiments in 1940 (13th, 14th, 15th, 16th), as well as two *Chasseurs Ardennais* regiments (19th and 20th). The 20th provided divisional artillery for the two *Chasseurs Ardennais* divisions while the 19th was to serve as corps artillery for Group K. Instead, the bulk of the regiment provided corps artillery for the cavalry corps, only one battalion (IV) serving with Group K.

The organization below is for the four standard regiments. The 19th regiment is shown separately.

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

CORPS ARTILLERY REGIMENT		
Headquarters and Headquarters Company	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	Spigot Mortar Battery <i>(only present in 16th Regiment)</i>	1 mounted command infantry stand
3 MVD70 spigot mortars and crews (ds)		
3 wagons		
2 Howitzer Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	3 Firing Batteries, each	1 mounted command infantry stand
		1 105L22 howitzer and crew (ds)
1 Medium Cannon Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	3 Firing Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
		1 120L37 gun and crew (ds)
3 Heavy Howitzer Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>
	3 Firing Batteries, each	1 mounted command infantry stand
		1 155L30 howitzer and crew (ds)
		1 limber

19th CHASSEURS ARDENNAIS ARTILLERY REGIMENT		
	Headquarters	1 command stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
2 Light Artillery Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
	2 Firing Batteries, each	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
	1 75L24 mountain gun and crew (ds)	
2 Howitzer Battalions, each	Headquarters	1 command observation stand
		1 car

	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply truck</i>
	Composite Firing Battery	1 command infantry stand
		1 light truck
		1 105L22 howitzer and crew (ds)
		1 medium truck

BELGIAN TOE 6

SEPARATE ARMY ARTILLERY, 1940

There were five regiments of army-level artillery (1st – 5th), each containing several battalions of 150mm or larger guns or howitzers. All battalions in the 1st through 4th regiments were twelve-gun (three battery) units, distinguished only by the type of weapon in the battalion and whether the battalion used motor or animal traction.

The IV Battalion of 3rd Artillery Regiment was equipped with 70mm van Deuren spigot mortars (MVD 70).

The 5th Regiment controlled the heaviest guns in the army. The I Battalion controlled heavy coastal defense guns while the second controlled a variety of WW I-era railway guns. These are not covered by the game.

The listing below indicates the type of gun used to equip each battalion of each regiment. Motorized battalions are in italics and underlined. The other battalions are horse-drawn.

Regt	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	<i><u>155L30</u></i> <i><u>M-17</u></i>	150L43	155L30 M-24	--	--	--
2	<i><u>220L10</u></i>	<i><u>220L10</u></i>	<i><u>220L10</u></i>	--	--	--
3	<i><u>155L30</u></i> <i><u>M-17</u></i>	<i><u>155L30</u></i> <i><u>M-17</u></i>	<i><u>155L30</u></i> <i><u>M-17</u></i>	<i><u>MVD</u></i> <i><u>70</u></i>	--	--
4	<i><u>150L17</u></i>	150L17	150L17	150L17	152L13	152L13

Troop Quality: Regular

Morale: 8

ARMY ARTILLERY			
Motorized Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand 1 car	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>	
	3 Firing Batteries, each		1 command infantry stand 1 light truck 1 gun or howitzer and crew (ds) 1 medium truck
Horse-Drawn Artillery Battalion	Headquarters	1 mounted command observation stand	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 supply wagon</i>	
	3 Firing Batteries, each		1 mounted command infantry stand 1 gun or howitzer and crew (ds) 1 limber
Spigot Mortar Battalion	Headquarters	1 command observation stand 1 car	
	Headquarters Battery	<i>1 medium supply truck</i>	
	3 Firing Batteries, each		1 command infantry stand 1 light truck 3 MVD70 spigot mortars and crews (ds) 3 medium trucks