

**French Infantry Divisions
10 May 1940**

Division Headquarters

3 Infantry Regiments, each with:¹

Staff Company

- Staff Section
- Signals Platoon
- Motorcycle Platoon
- Pioneer Platoon (no heavy weapons)

Anti-Tank Company

- Command Platoon
- Mortar Section (2 81mm mortars)
- 2 Anti-Tank Platoons (3 25mm AT guns ea)

3 Infantry Battalions

- 1 Battalion Headquarters
- 1 Battalion Headquarters Platoon
- 1 Communications Section
- 3 Rifle Companies (1 60mm mortar & 12 LMGs ea)
- 1 Heavy Weapons Company
 - 4 Machine Gun Platoons (4 HMGs ea)
 - 1 Mortar Platoon (2 81mm mortars)
 - 1 Anti-Tank Platoon (2 25mm AT guns)

Anti-Tank Company

- 6 LMGs & 12 25mm AT guns (horse drawn with 3 chenillettes)

Reconnaissance Group:

Group Headquarters

- Staff Company
- Signals Platoon

Cavalry Squadron

- HQ Platoon (
- 4 Cavalry Platoons (2 LMGs ea)
- 1 Heavy Machine Gun Section (2 heavy machine guns)
- 1 Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Section (2 HMGs)
- 1 Mortar Section (6 81mm mortars)
- 1 Anti-Tank Section (2 25mm AT guns)

Motorcycle Squadron (total 65 motorcycles)

- HQ Platoon
- 1 Mortar Section (2 81mm mortars)
- 4 Motorcycle Platoons (4 LMGs ea)

Weapons Squadron

- HQ Platoon
- 2 Machine Gun Platoons (4 medium machine guns)
- 1 Anti-Tank Platoon (2-25mm AT guns)
- 1 Infantry Support Gun Platoon (1 37mm & 1 25mm gun)

Artillery:

Division Artillery HQ

- 1 Staff Company
- 1 Signals Platoon

¹ In some of the divisions one, and sometimes two regiments, would be replaced by demi-brigades organized from independent battalions of *chasseurs à pied* or light infantry.

Field Gun Regiment
 Regimental HQ
 Battery HQ and Service Section
 Observer Section
 Communications Section
 3 Artillery Groups, each with:
 3 Batteries (4 75mm guns & 1 LMG)
 Anti-Tank Battery (6 47mm guns & 1 LMG)²

Howitzer Regiment
 Regimental HQ
 Battery HQ and Service Section
 Observer Section
 Communications Section
 2 Artillery Group, each with:
 3 Batteries (4 guns & 1 LMGs)³
 1 Muniton Supply Column

Division Support Units

1 (mot) Radio Company
 1 (partially motorized) Telephone Company
 1 Veterinary Company
 1 Division Train
 1 Supply Battalion
 1 (mot) supply Company
 1 Horse Drawn Muniton Column
 1 (mot) Muniton Column
 1 Supply Battalion
 1 Horse Drawn Supply Column
 1 (mot) Supply Column
 1 Intendence Group
 1 Medical Section
 1 Ambulance Section
 1 Military Police Section
 2 Engineer Companies⁴

Standard divisional weapons allocation:

² The anti-tank batteries were organized with a variety of guns. These ranged from 25mm guns, 37mm guns, 47mm guns, and older 75mm guns. The anti-tank equipment issued to the French divisions was very, very inconsistent and there were substantial shortages of all types of anti-tank equipment. Many divisions were mobilized with 75mm guns, which were steadily replaced by the superior 47mm gun through the German invasion.

³ The howitzer regiment contained two groups. The mixture of these groups varied. Generally one was a 155mm group and often both were, however, 105mm groups were found in several divisions.

⁴ These two companies were originally organized into a battalion, but those battalions were disbanded on 11/16/39 throughout the French army and the companies became independent.

158 HMGs, 24, 81mm mortars, 29 medium mortars, 108 light mortars, 58 AT guns, 36 75mm guns, 12 105mm light howitzers & 12 155mm heavy howitzers.

Note:

There are some minor differences between the German intelligence documents and what is shown in the État-Major's work. These are probably more of a greater level of attention in the German documents to weaponry and a greater attention in the French to unit structure.

The État-Major indicated two engineering companies, while the German documents indicate that one is a construction unit. It is possible that these two companies had distinct functional differences and the Germans recognized that, where the French did not think it worth mentioning.

État-Major de l'Armée de Terre, Service Historique, Guerre 1939-1945, Les Grandes Unités Françaises Historiques Succincts, 1967, Paris, Imprimerie Nationale.

Records of Headquarters, German Army High Command, National Archives Microcopy No. T-78, Roll 444, American Historical Association Committee for the Study of War Documents, Washington, DC., 1960

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