

## WW2 French in Indo China and the Far East

Prior to the outbreak of WW2 France had 2 divisions of troops in Indochina, the Tonkin Division and the Cochinchina and Cambodia Division. Both were involved in fighting against the [Japanese in 1940](#) prior to Vichy France's creation and again at the end of the war.

The Tonkin Division contained 4 battalions of the [5th Foreign Regiment of the foreign legion](#), 4 regiments of Tirailleurs Tonkinois and Elements of the French Colonial Army.

The Cochinchina and Cambodia Division was involved in the French-Thai War of 1940 and in the later [Coup D'etat in French Indochina](#). This included some of the [Tirailleurs IndoChinois](#) units - the Tirailleurs Cambodians, Tirailleurs Tais and Tirailleurs Anamites, which totalled 3 Regiments and 4 battalions and also elements of the French Colonial Army.

The forces of the French Colonial Army consisted of elements of the [9th Regiment D'infanterie Coloniale](#) (9e RIC), the 3rd Regiment d'infanterie Coloniale (3e RIC), a battery of 75mm artillery and a battery of 155mm artillery from the [4e Regiment d'artillerie coloniale](#) (4e RAC), there was also some tanks and about 70 [Potex-25](#) aircraft, 4 [Farman 221](#), 6 [Potex 542](#), 12 [Morane-saulnier 406](#), 10 [Loire 130](#), 2 [CAMS 37](#), 2 [CAMS 55](#) from the airforce and 7 other sea planes from the Navy. The 9e RIC had an AA Platoon armed with [20mm Oerlikon's](#).

So about these "tanks" thanks to this [site](#) - the estimated available vehicles were 20 [FT17 armed with 37mm gun](#), 3-5 [Citroen-Kegrese P104](#), 10 [AM White 1918](#), 4-5 (my guess) [Laffy White AM 50](#) and some [Renault UE 2](#) for the artillery. Oh and a bucket load of motorcycles. There is some discussion that there may have actually been some [Panhard 178's](#) although these may have used the smaller AMX 35 turret, so were armed with a 25mm gun and a MMG, there is a good chance that 4 of these were available.

In the region there was also a separate force of indigenous Gardes Indochinois numbering about 27,000. (Militarised Police Force)

Between 1943-45 elements of [Forces Expéditionnaires Françaises d'Extrême-Orient](#) (FEFEO) [Corps Léger d'Intervention](#) were air dropped into the French Indochinese colonies. These forces recruited and trained local commandos, which then harassed and sabotaged Japanese forces.

Weirdly this site on the [Paradox Forum](#) has some great information. Which also mentions, should you wish to use something entertaining, the French also had access to 2 armoured trains.

## **Far Eastern French reinforced platoon.**

- HQ
  - 1 Lieutenant (1st or 2nd Lt) – Regular or Veteran
  - 2 Infantry Squads From
    - 0-2 Indo Chinese Battalion de marcher Inexperienced
    - 0-2 Indo Chinese Infantry Section Regular
    - 0-1 Foreign Legion Veteran Section
- Plus:
  - 0-5 Infantry Squads
    - 0-1 Foreign Legion Veteran Section
    - 0-1 Sappers-Miners Section
    - 0-2 Colonial Regular Infantry Sections
    - 0-3 Motorbike Section
    - 0-2 Cavalry Section
    - 0-5 Indo Chinese Battalion de marcher
    - 0-5 Indo Chinese Infantry section
    - Post 1943
      - 0-1 Groupe FEFE0
  - 0-1 Captain or Major
  - 0-1 Medic
  - 0-1 Forward Observer
    - Air Observer or Artillery Observer
  - 0-1 Machine Gun Team
    - Post 1943 – changes to 0-2 Machine Gun Team
  - 0-1 Mortar Team from
    - 0-1 Light Mortar
    - 0-1 Medium Mortar
  - 0-1 A/T from
    - Anytime
      - 0-1 A/T Rifle team – Reg and Vet only
      - 0-1 Light A/T Gun Team
    - Post 1941 - Vichy Delivery
      - 0-1 Medium A/T Gun Team
    - Post 1941 - American Purchases

- 0-1 Medium A/T Gun Team
- Post 1943
  - 0-1 Bazooka Team
- 0-1 Marksmen
  - Post 1943 – 0-1 Sniper Team
- Post 1941 – Purchased from America
  - 0-1 Flame Thrower Team
- 0-1 AA Gun or Field artillery
  - Anytime from
    - 0-1 Light Artillery
    - 0-1 Medium Artillery
    - 0-1 Heavy Artillery
    - 0-1 25mm Hotchkiss Anti-Aircraft guns
  - Post 1941 Purchased from America
    - 0-1 37mm M1A2 Medium Anti-Aircraft gun
- 0-2 Armoured Cars or Tanks
  - Anytime from
    - 0-1 FT 17
    - 0-2 Laffly S15TOE
    - 0-2 AMD Laffly 50 AM
  - Post 1941 – Vichy Delivery
    - 0-2 Lorraine 37L/38L
    - 0-2 Somua MCG S307
    - 0-2 AMR 33
    - 0-2 AMR 35
    - 0-2 AMD Laffly 50AM/80AM
    - 0-2 AMD Panhard 165/175/178
    - 0-2 AMC 35
    - 0-1 from
      - Somau S35
      - Renault R35/R40/D1/D2
      - Hotchkiss H35/H39
      - FCM 36.
  - Post 1941 – Purchased from America
    - 0-2 M3 white scout car
    - 0-2 M3 1/2 tracks
    - 0-1 from
      - M3 Grants
      - M3 Stuarts

- 0-1 Transport Vehicle or Tow per Infantry or artillery unit.
  - Anytime
    - General Purpose Trucks,
    - Cars and Light Utility Trucks,
    - UNIC/Citroen-Kegresse Half Track,
    - Renault EU Cheillette,
    - Laffly Heavy Tractors,
    - Laffly S15 and V15
  - Post 1941 - Vichy Delivery
    - Lorraine 37L,
    - Berliet VUDB Carrier,
    - Lorraine 38L,
    - Laffly S20TL 6 Wheeled Truck,
  - Post 1941 - Purchased from America
    - M3 ½ Tracks
    - Dodge ¾ ton truck
    - Jeep
    - 1 ½ ton truck
    - 2 ½ ton truck

Units are as defined from various Warlord Bolt Action books. Some units for the Indochina theatre will be represented by proxy units – e.g. the Senegalese Battalion de Marche Section will be used for Indo Chinese Infantry section. The references used are –

- AoFAA - Armies of France and the Allies
- CoWD - Campaign of the Western Desert
- AoUS - Armies of the United States

## Units

- HEAD QUARTERS
  - Officers - P11 AoFAA
  - Medic - P11 AoFAA
  - Forward Observer - P11 AoFAA
- INFANTRY
  - Colonial Regular Infantry Section –Dragons Portes/Chasseurs Portes - P14 AoFAA

- Foreign Legion Veteran Infantry Section - P14 AoFAA
- FEFE0 – Groupe Franc/SES/GIA veteran Infantry Section - P14 AoFAA
- Indo Chinese Battalion de marcher – Inexperienced Infantry Section - P13 AoFAA
- Indo Chinese Infantry section – Senegalese Bataillon De Marche Section – P228 CoWD
- Sappers-Miniers – P229 CoWD
- Motorbike Section - P16 AoFAA
- Cavalry Section - P16 AoFAA
- Machine Gun Team - P16 AoFAA
- Boys Anti-Tank Rifle Team - P17 AoFAA
- Sniper Team - P17 AoFAA
- Light Mortar Team - P18 AoFAA
- Medium Mortar Team - P18 AoFAA
- Flamethrower Team M2-2 – P28 AoUS
- Bazooka Team – P28 AoUS
- Field Artillery
  - Light Artillery – P19 AoFAA
  - Medium Artillery – P19 AoFAA
  - Heavy Artillery – P19 AoFAA
- Anti – Tank Guns
  - Light Anti-Tank Gun – P19 AoFAA
  - Medium Anti-Tank Gun – P20 AoFAA
  - 37mm Anti-Tank Gun M3 – P33 AoUS
  - 3-Inch Anti-Tank Gun M5 – P34 AoUS
- Anti – Aircraft Guns
  - 25mm Hotchkiss Anti-Aircraft guns – P20 AoFAA
  - 37mm M1A2 Medium Anti-Aircraft gun – P33 AoUS
- Armoured Cars or Tanks
  - Renault FT – P21 AoFAA
  - AMD Laffly 50 am – P28 AoFAA
  - AMD Panhard 165/175 – P28 AoFAA
  - AMD Panhard 178 – P27 AoFAA
  - AMD Laffly 80am – P27 AoFAA
  - AMD Laffly S15TOE – P27 AoFAA
  - Lorraine 38L – P30 AoFAA
  - Berliet VUDB Carrier – P30 AoFAA
  - Somua MCG S307 – P31 AoFAA

- AMR 33 and AMR 35 – P27 AoFAA
- AMD Panhard 178 – P21 AoFAA
- AMC 35 – P24 AoFAA
- Somau S35 – P24 AoFAA
- Renault R35, R39 and R40 – P22 AoFAA
- Renault D1 – P21 AoFAA
- Renault D2 – P21 AoFAA
- Hotchkiss H35/H38 and H39 – P23 AoFAA
- FCM 36 – P23 AoFAA
- M3 Stuart light Tank – P35 AoUS
- M3A1 Stuart light Tank – P36 AoUS
- M3A1 Satan Flamethrower – P36 AoUS
- M3 Lee – P37 AoUS
- M3 75mm (T12) GMC – P42 AoUS
- M6 GMC – P42 AoUS
- M3 White Scout Car – P48 AoUS
- M13 MGMC – P45 AoUS
- M4 Mortar Carrier – P45 AoUS
- M3 75mm (T30) HMC – P45 AoUS
- M8 Scott – P44 AoUS
- M7 Priest – P44 AoUS
- M3 105mm HMC – P45 AoUS
- Transport / Tows
  - General Purpose Trucks – P30 AoFAA
  - Cars and Light Utility Trucks – P30 AoFAA
  - UNIC/Citroen-Kegresse Half Track – P30 AoFAA
  - Renault EU Cheillette – P31 AoFAA
  - Lorraine 37L – P31 AoFAA
  - Laffly Heavy Tractors – P31 AoFAA
  - Laffly S15 and V15 – P31 AoFAA
  - M3 White Scout Car – P48 AoUS
  - M3 ½ Track- P50 AoUS
  - Jeep – P50 AoUS
  - Dodge ¾ ton truck – P50 AoUS
  - 1 ½ ton truck – P51 AoUS
  - 2 ½ ton truck – P51 AoUS