

# French armoured forces in 1940

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## Introduction

On 10<sup>th</sup> may 1940 french armoured vehicles was distributed in 4 DCR (Divisions Cuirassees de Reserve) (Reserve Armoured Divisions), the 4<sup>th</sup> was in preparation; 4 DLM (Divisions Legeres Mecaniques) (Light Mechanized Divisions), the 4<sup>th</sup> was in preparation; 5 DLC (Divisions Legeres de Cavalerie) (Light Cavalry Divisions); 7 GRDI<sub>m</sub> (Groupes de Reconnaissance de Divisions d'Infanterie motorisee) (motorized Infantry Divisions Recon Groups); 32 autonomous BCC (Bataillons de Chars de Combat) (Battle Tanks Battalions) assigned to 8 territorial armies to support the infantry; 12 CACC (Compagnies Autonomes de Chars de Combat) (Battle Tanks Autonomous Companies).

Besides some armoured vehicles, usually the most obsolete, was displaced in the colonies.

## DCR (Divisions Cuirassees de Reserve) (Reserve Armoured Divisions)

### 1<sup>st</sup> DCR

- 28<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> BCC with 34 Char B1/bis each
- 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 H-39 each
- 5<sup>th</sup> mechanized chasseurs b<sub>tn</sub> with 2 companies on trucks, 1 motor-cyclists company, 1 platoon with 5 AMR (Auto-Mitralleuses de Reconnaissance) (Recon Armoured Cars) and 1 support weapons company on Lorraine 38L tankettes (for the shortage of those vehicles the transport was usually on half-tracks or trucks)
- 305<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 36 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG (Anti Tank Guns) towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA (Anti Aircraft) towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### 2<sup>nd</sup> DCR

- 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> BCC with 34 Char B1/bis each
- 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 H-39 each
- 17<sup>th</sup> mechanized chasseurs b<sub>tn</sub> (like the 5<sup>th</sup> b<sub>tn</sub> of the 1<sup>st</sup> DCR but without AMR platoon)
- 309<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### 3<sup>rd</sup> DCR

- 41<sup>st</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> BCC with 34 Char B1/bis each
- 42<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 H-39 each
- 16<sup>th</sup> mechanized chasseurs b<sub>tn</sub> (like the 5<sup>th</sup> b<sub>tn</sub> of the 1<sup>st</sup> DCR but without AMR platoon)
- 319<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

## **4<sup>th</sup> DCR (in preparation)**

- 46<sup>th</sup> BCC with 25 Char B1/bis
- 19<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 Char D2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35 each
- 345<sup>th</sup> CACC with 15 Char D2 (aggregated)
- 4<sup>th</sup> mechanized chasseurs btn (like the 5<sup>th</sup> btn of the 1<sup>st</sup> DCR but without AMR platoon)
- 322<sup>nd</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

## **DLM (Divisions Legeres Mecaniques) (Light Mechanized Divisions)**

### **1<sup>st</sup> DLM**

- 4<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-35
- 18<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-35
- 4<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt formed by 3 btns each with 1 armoured squadron with 23 AMR, 1 motor-cyclists squadron, 2 dragoons squadrons on Lorraine 38L tankettes and 1 support weapons squadron on wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 6<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt (recon) with 2 squadrons each with 24 AMD (Auto-Mitrailleuses de Decouvert) (Discovery Armoured Cars) Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 74<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **2<sup>nd</sup> DLM**

- 13<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-35
- 29<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-35
- 1<sup>st</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 4<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM but with Laffly S20TL instead of Lorraine 38L tankettes)
- 8<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt (recon) (like the 6<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM)
- 71<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt (like the 74<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM)
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **3<sup>rd</sup> DLM**

- 1<sup>st</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-39
- 2<sup>nd</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-39
- 11<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 1<sup>st</sup> rgt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DLM but with H-39 instead of AMR)
- 12<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt (recon) (like the 6<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM)
- 76<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt (like the 74<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM)
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **4<sup>th</sup> DLM (in preparation)**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 48 S-35 e 47 H-39
- 7<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 25 S-35 e 24 H-39
- 7<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 1<sup>st</sup> rgt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DLM but with only 2 btns and without armoured squadrons)
- 10<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt (recon) (like the 6<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLM)

# **DLC (Divisions Legeres de Cavalerie)**

## **(Light Cavalry Divisions)**

### **1<sup>st</sup> DLC**

- 1<sup>st</sup> horse chasseurs rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 19<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 4 mounted squadrons e 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 1<sup>st</sup> RAM (Regiment de Auto-Mitrailleuses) (Armoured Cars Regiment) formed by 1 squadron with 15 H-35 (instead of armoured cars), 1 suadron with 16 AMD Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 5<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt formed by 2 btns each with 1 squadron with 11 AMR, 2 motor-cycles platoons, 1 dragoons squadron and 1 support weapons squadron; the dragoons and the support weapons of the 1<sup>st</sup> btn was transported on half-tracks (usually the Citroen P-19), the dragoons and the support weapons of the 2<sup>nd</sup> btn on trucks
- 75<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **2<sup>nd</sup> DLC**

- 18<sup>th</sup> horse chasseurs rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 5<sup>th</sup> horse chasseurs rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 2<sup>nd</sup> RAM formed by 1 squadron with 15 H-35, 1 squadron with 16 AMD Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 3<sup>rd</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 5<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLC)
- 73<sup>rd</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **3<sup>rd</sup> DLC**

- 4<sup>th</sup> hussars rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 6<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 3<sup>rd</sup> RAM formed by 1 squadron with 15 H-35, 1 squadron with 16 AMD Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 5<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLC)
- 72<sup>nd</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

### **4<sup>th</sup> DLC**

- 8<sup>th</sup> dragoons rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 31<sup>st</sup> dragoons rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 4<sup>th</sup> RAM formed by 1 squadron with 15 H-35, 1 squadron with 16 AMD Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 14<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 5<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLC)
- 77<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

## **5<sup>th</sup> DLC**

- 11<sup>th</sup> cuirassiers rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 12<sup>th</sup> horse chasseurs rgt with 4 mounted squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron on trucks
- 5<sup>th</sup> RAM formed by 1 squadron with 15 H-39, 1 squadron with 16 AMD Panhard P-178 and 2 motor-cyclists squadrons
- 15<sup>th</sup> motorized dragoons rgt (like the 5<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DLC)
- 78<sup>th</sup> artillery rgt with 24 75mm field guns and 12 105mm field guns or howitzers towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 8 47mm ATG towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks
- 1 battery with 6 25mm AA towed by wheeled vehicles or half-tracks

## **DIm (Divisions de Infanterie motorisee) (motorized Infantry Divisions)**

### **1<sup>st</sup> DIm**

- 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm formed by 1 squadron with 15 AMD Panhard P-178, 1 squadron with 15 AMC (Auto-Mitrailleuses de Combattement) (Battle Armoured Cars) Schneider P-16, 2 motorcyclists squadrons and 1 support weapons squadron
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup> motorized infantry rgts each formed by 3 btns + support weapons
- 15<sup>th</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt with 12 105mm field guns or howitzers and 12 155mm field guns or howitzers
- 215<sup>th</sup> motorized artillery rgt with 36 75mm field guns
- 3 GTP (Groupes de Transport de Personnel) (Personnel Transport Groups) each with 160-200 trucks, 160-200 buses and some Renault UE tankettes to transport/to tow soldiers and weapons of the DIm

### **3<sup>rd</sup> DIm**

- 6<sup>th</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 51<sup>st</sup>, 67<sup>th</sup>, 91<sup>st</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 42<sup>nd</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 242<sup>nd</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- No GTP

### **5<sup>th</sup> DIm**

- 1<sup>st</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 8<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 129<sup>th</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 11<sup>th</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 211<sup>th</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- Maybe no GTP

### **9<sup>th</sup> DIm**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm but with 15 H-39 instead of AMC Schneider P-16)
- 13<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, 131<sup>st</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 30<sup>th</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 230<sup>th</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 2 GTP

## **12<sup>th</sup> DIm**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 8<sup>th</sup> motorized zouaves rgt, 106<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 25<sup>th</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 225<sup>th</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- Maybe no GTP

## **15<sup>th</sup> DIm**

- 4<sup>th</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm but with 15 AMD Laffly White instead of AMD Panhard P-178)
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 134<sup>th</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 1<sup>st</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 201<sup>st</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 3 GTP

## **25<sup>th</sup> DIm**

- 5<sup>th</sup> GRDIm (like the 7<sup>th</sup> GRDIm of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm but with 15 H-35 instead of AMC Schneider P-16)
- 38<sup>th</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 121<sup>st</sup> motorized infantry rgts (like the rgts of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 16<sup>th</sup> motorized heavy artillery rgt (like the 15<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 216<sup>th</sup> motorized artillery rgt (like the 215<sup>th</sup> rgt of the 1<sup>st</sup> DIm)
- 3 GTP

Theoretically all the DIm's personnel had to be motorized but when the battle began many units didn't have sufficient wheeled vehicles and half-tracks so a lot of horses was used yet.

The 25mm anti tank gun was often towed by Renault UE tankettes; the btns of the DIm had a lot of those tracked vehicles used also to transport munitions and infantry mortars.

Sometimes the standard gun of the infantry btn, the 25mm ATG, was replaced by the old 37mm infantry gun (used during the WWI)

## **BCC (Bataillons de Chars de Combat) (Battle Tank Battalions)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 4<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 FCM-36
- 5<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 6<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 7<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 FCM-36
- 9<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 10<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 11<sup>th</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 12<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 13<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 H-35
- 16<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 17<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 18<sup>th</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 20<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 21<sup>st</sup> BCC with 45 R-35

- 22<sup>nd</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 23<sup>rd</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 29<sup>th</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 30<sup>th</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 31<sup>st</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 32<sup>nd</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 33<sup>rd</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 34<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 35<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 36<sup>th</sup> BCC with 63 FT-17
- 38<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 H-35
- 39<sup>th</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 40<sup>th</sup> BCC with 30 R-40 and 15 R-35
- 43<sup>rd</sup> BCC with 45 R-35
- 48<sup>th</sup> BCC with 29 R-40 and 16 R-35
- 51<sup>st</sup> BCC with 6 Char 2C

## **CACC (Compagnies Autonomes de Chars de Combat) (Combat Tanks Autonomous Companies)**

- 342<sup>nd</sup> CACC with 15 H-39
- 343<sup>rd</sup> CACC with 10 FT-17
- 344<sup>th</sup> CACC with 10 FT-17
- 345<sup>th</sup> CACC with 15 Char D2 (aggregated to the 4<sup>o</sup> DCR)
- 346<sup>th</sup> CACC with 15 Char D2
- 347<sup>th</sup> CACC with 11 Char B1/bis
- 348<sup>th</sup> CACC with 11 Char B1/bis
- 349<sup>th</sup> CACC with 11 Char B1/bis
- 350<sup>th</sup> CACC with 10 FT-17
- 351<sup>st</sup> CACC with 15 H-39
- 352<sup>nd</sup> CACC with 11 Char B1/bis
- 353<sup>rd</sup> CACC with 11 Char B1/bis