

## **A Resistant Roosters Guide:**

### **USMC Rifle Company Organization 1941 - 1945**

The Marine Infantry Battalion Type 'D' was the formation in use at the start of the Pacific war in late 1941. The Rifle Squad underwent a constant series of amendments as the war progressed, each resulting in more manpower with more firepower.

The original Rifle Squad (9 men in strength) was commanded by a Corporal with two scouts, an Automatic Rifleman and five men, one of whom was assistant leader. The Automatic Rifleman carried the BAR, the Corporal, a .45 cal SMG, and all others were armed with rifles. The three Rifle Squads in a Platoon were supported by a fourth, an Automatic Rifle Squad. This unit had two BARs, two reserve gunners, two riflemen, a leader and scout all with rifles. The 1943 ('E' Series) reorganizations resulted in a Platoon of three Squads, each with a Sergeant, Corporal, two Automatic Riflemen and eight riflemen. *SMG are not referred to in any official descriptions after 1942.* The BAR allocation was an improvement over both the Army model and the 'D' Series Squads. The new squad could be deployed as two equal halves, each with an NCO and BAR. At least two of the riflemen would have been assistants to the BAR gunners. The (rather large) Platoon HQ consisted of a Lieutenant, Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Guide, three messengers and a Demolition Corporal. The Lieutenant and Platoon Sergeant adopted carbines when available, and the remainder were armed with rifles.

The Weapons Platoon consisted of a Mortar Section serving two 60 mm weapons and a Machine Gun Section with two M1919 Browning LMGs. With the 1943 ('E' Series) reorganization the Mortar Section was increased to three 60 mm tubes and the Machine Gun Section to three LMGs.

Company HQ provided command and admin support, a Captain and 1st Lieutenant commanding. The exact allocation of Bazookas is not clear, but the Regiment possessed sufficient numbers to be allocated one per Rifle Platoon. these would be issued at the direction of the Company Commander.

#### **1941-1942 'D' Series Rifle Company (6 Officers, 177 men)**

- Company HQ (2 Officers, 27 men)
- Weapons Platoon:
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 3 men)
  - Mortar Section (11 men)
  - Machine Gun Section (13 men)
- Three (3) Rifle Platoons:
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 6 men)
  - Automatic Rifle Squad (8 men)
  - Three (3) Rifle Squads(9 men each)

#### **1943 'E' Series Rifle Company (6 Officers, 190 men)**

- Company HQ (2 Officers, 26 men)
- Weapons Platoon:
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 3 men)
  - Mortar Section (16 men)
  - Machine Gun Section (19 men)
- Three (3) Rifle Platoons:
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 6 men)
  - Three (3) Rifle Squads(12 men each)

Throughout the Pacific Campaign, the Marine Corps constantly reviewed and, using lessons learned in combat, adjusted its structure. The 'F' Series was the last major step in organization during the campaign; the 'G' Series was not finalized until the post-war period.

1944 marked the change from Squad to Fire Team as the basic tool of the Marines. The Fire Team was lead by a Corporal and consisted of an Automatic Rifleman with BAR and two riflemen. One of the two rifleman acted as assistant to the gunner. Three Fire Teams were led by a Squad Sergeant with a Carbine. Three (3) Squads served under the Platoon HQ. Additionally, each Squad has access to a flamethrower and a demolition kit. Each Platoon could call upon a Bazooka from the company HQ.

The 'F' Series integrated the Machine Gun Platoons into each Rifle Company. The LMG Platoon now served six M1919A4 Browning light machine guns in three Sections. Each Platoon held six heavy M1917 Browning machine guns in reserve, to replace or supplement the lighter weapons as required.

The three tube 60 mm mortar Section was commanded by a Lieutenant and aided by a Sergeant.

**1944 'F' Series Rifle Company** (7 Officers, 240 men)

- Company HQ (2 Officers, 31 men)
- Mortar Section (1 Officer, 19 men)
- Light Machine Gun Platoon
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 5 men)
  - Three (3) Machine Gun Sections (17 men each)
- Three (3) Rifle Platoons
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 6)
  - Three (3) Rifle Squads (13 men each)

**1945 'G' Series Rifle Company** (7 Officers, 235 men)

- Company HQ (2 Officers, 29 men)
- Mortar Section (1 Officer, 19 men)
- Light Machine Gun Platoon
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 5 men)
  - Three (3) Machine Gun Sections (17 men each)
- Three Rifle Platoons
  - Platoon HQ (1 Officer, 5)
  - Three (3) Rifle Squads (13 men each)

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**Resistant Roosters**

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