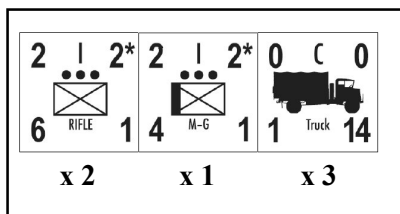


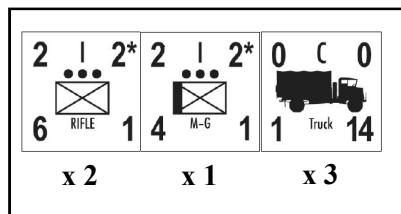


Royal Netherlands Mot. Inf. Brigade September, 1944

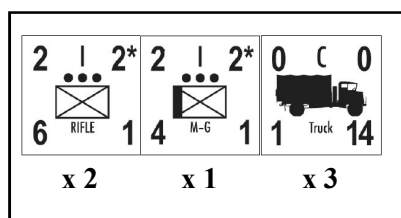
1st
Netherlands
Motorized
Fighting
Group



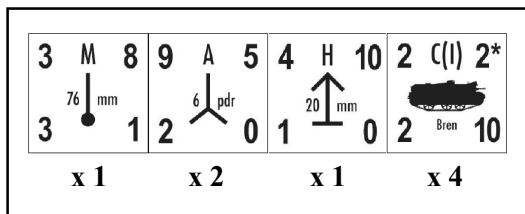
2nd
Netherlands
Motorized
Fighting
Group



3rd
Netherlands
Motorized
Fighting
Group

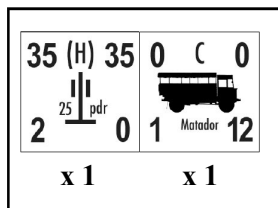


Mixed
group

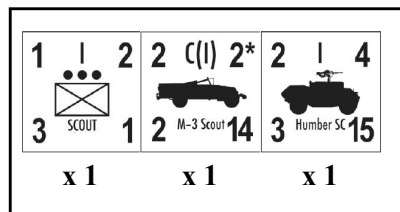


These represent assets spread out among the 3 fighting groups.

1st
Netherlands
Field
Artillery
Battery



1st
Netherlands
Recon
Squadron



The Princess Irene Brigade was formed from Dutch soldiers who had fled Holland after their country had fallen to the Germans in 1940 and also included patriotic Dutch volunteers from around the world. Unfortunately, recruiting more soldiers for this unit was always a challenge as many military-minded Dutch had already enlisted early in the war into the American and Canadian armies, plus a sizable contingent of the Dutch Navy was serving with the Allies in the Pacific and also drawing potential recruits away. In addition, the Germans still controlled most or all of Holland up until the final surrender in May. As a result, this “brigade” was never larger than a slightly enhanced battalion and was chronically under-strength.

The brigade entered the continent for active service at the same time as the Belgian Brigade in early August, 1944. The Princess Irene’s were placed under the 1st Canadian Army as it advanced up the coast and were later transferred to the British XXX Corps for Operation Market-Garden. The brigade entered its native Holland on September 20th, on day 4 of the operation, and fought in several small engagements, as well as serving liaison duty with the civilian population. After Market-Garden, the brigade spent the rest of the war in Holland, forming the basis for the newly rebuilt Dutch army when the war ended.