

SERBIAN ARMY OF WORLD WAR 1

This is a Bolt Action army list for the Serbian army in the early period of World War One, before they reformed on the Salonika front.

The Serbian army of this period was experienced due to the Balkan wars, if not properly recovered and reequipped. It was organised into '1st Ban' (aged 21-31), '2nd Ban' (32-37), and '3rd Ban' (38-45). There was also territorial force for garrison duty and irregular Chetnik detachments.

These forces were organised into three armies and the Uzice group in Western Serbia. The First and Second armies had four divisions each, the others somewhat weaker.

A '1st Ban' division had 4 regiments each of 4 battalions. A battalion had 1112 men in 4 companies and a MG company. Plus attached cavalry regiment and 36 guns. A '2nd Ban' division had three regiments. Only 'first line' divisions had modern rifles and full uniform.

For Bolt Action the organisational focus is on the reinforced platoon. A platoon at full establishment had around 60 men in four 15 man sections.

HEADQUARTERS UNITS

OFFICER

Porucnik (Lieutenant) 90pts (Veteran), 75pts (Regular), 60pts (Inexperienced).

Potporucnik (2nd Lieutenant) 65pts (Veteran), 50pts (Regular), 35pts (Inexperienced).

with up to two riflemen at 13pts (Veteran) 10pts (Regular) or 8pts (inexperienced).

MEDIC

Medic 30pts (Veteran) with up to two men at 8pts each.

ARTILLERY OBSERVER

In 1914 the Serbian army had no doctrine for indirect fire.

INFANTRY

Each 1st Ban platoon had four sections, typically armed with the 7mm Mauser rifle.

NCO and 7 men with rifles (veteran 104pts, regular 80pts, inexperienced 64pts)

Up to 7 additional men with rifles (Veteran 13pts) (Regular 10pts), (Inexperienced 8pts)



MACHINE GUN TEAM

Each battalion had a machine gun company that could be allocated.

1 MMG, fixed, team weapon with 3 men (Veteran 65pts) (Regular 50pts) (Inexperienced 35pts)



CAVALRY

Divisional cavalry units were made up of reservists mounted on their own horses that were generally imported.

NCO and 5 men with cavalry carbines (Regular 72pts) (inexperienced 54pts). Up to 6 additional men at 12pts (regular) or 9pts (Inexperienced).

ARTILLERY

The main field gun was the 75mm QF Schneider-Creusot.

Light field gun, fixed, team, HE (D6) with team of 3. (Regular 50pts).



FURTHER READING

Osprey MAA356: Armies in the Balkans (Thomas)
Armies of the Balkan States (Battery Press)
Serbia's Great War (Mitrovic)