

# FRANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Although largely eluded in David Lean's film, France nonetheless encouraged and participated in the Great Arab Revolt and, to a lesser extent, in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. In 1916, Lieutenant-Colonel (and future General) Édouard Brémond was appointed head of the French military mission in Egypt and the Hijaz, with a twofold objective: to give France a foothold in the region and thus keep an eye on the coveted territories in Syria, and to help reopen the road to Mecca to Muslim pilgrims from its colonies.

Made up of Muslim officers and non-commissioned officers from the tirailleurs and spahis regiments, Lieutenant-Colonel Brémond's military mission played an active role in training the Sharif army, and also supplied rifles and two artillery batteries. In the same time, France also sent an intervention force to Suez. In April 1917, the French Palestine and Syria Detachment landed at Port Said. This small force was placed under British command, integrated into the allied army and fought during the Sinai and Palestine campaign.

The city of Damascus fell to the British and the forces of the Great Arab Revolt on 3 October 1918. French troops landed in Beirut 5 days later. In 1920, France received a mandate over Syria and Lebanon from the League of Nations. To maintain order in these territories, France set up the **Army of the Levant**, made up mainly of troops from the African Army and colonial troops.

The **Army of the Levant** fought against Kemal Atatürk's Turks during the Cilicia campaign between 1918 and 1921, against the troops of Faisal I during the Franco-Syrian war in 1920, against Sultan el-Atrache's Druze during the Druze Revolt between 1925 and 1927 and finally against the Allies during the Syrian campaign in 1941. The Army of the Levant was disbanded at the end of the Second World War when Lebanon and Syria became independent.

## FACTION RULES

<b>FURIA FRANCESE</b>	In the event of a tie, a charging group of "Trained" or "Veteran" infantrymen wins the hand-to-hand combat if it is within the command radius of one of its leaders.
<b>SKIRMISHERS</b>	A group of tirailleurs located in a building or in an area, containing an obstacle is considered to have the skill  if it is within the radius of one of its leaders.  A group of tirailleurs that is outside the command radius of one of its leaders is considered to have the skill 

CHARACTERS	COMMAND	SKILLS		
Officer	Elite		6	+ Messenger (+2 pts) or Radio operator (+4 pts) + Flag-bearer (+2 pts) + Military chaplain (+5 pts) or Nurse (+2 pts)
Non-commissioned officer	Regular		4	+ Messenger (+2 pts) + Flag bearer (+2 pts) + Nurse (+2 pts)
Nurse	-		2	-
Military chaplain	-		E-M	With the exception of the Tirailleurs and the Troupes du Levant, the groups that have a line of sight to the the military chaplain become 



INFANTRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Légionnaires	Veteran	Motivated	Light	Light 		18
<b>Meharistes</b> : légionnaires can be mounted. In this case, they treat the first area of passable terrain they cross as a road.						+ 1
Colonial infantry	Trained	Motivated	Light	Light 	-	15
Any group of colonial infantry can be "transformed" into tirailleurs:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algerians </li> <li>Moroccans </li> <li>Senegalese </li> <li>Tunisians </li> </ul>						+ 1
Any group of Algerian or Moroccan tirailleurs can benefit from the  skill.						+ 1
Any group of légionnaires, colonial infantry or tirailleurs can be equipped with a Viven-Bessières grenade launcher.						
In this case, the group obtains long-range  and long and short-range  skills.						+ 1

CAVALRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Spahis	Trained	Motivated	Light 	Light		10
Chasseurs d'Afrique	Trained	Motivated	Light 	Light		10
Donkeys	Militia	Motivated	-	-	 	1
Groups of donkeys cannot charge and fight only with one die in close combat.						

LIGHT COLLECTIVE WEAPONS	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Light machine gun	Trained	Motivated	Light  	Light 	-	15
Sniper	Trained	Motivated	Light 	Light 	  	14
MEDIUM COLLECTIVE WEAPONS	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Machine gun	Trained	Motivated	Medium 	Medium 	-	18
HEAVY COLLECTIVE WEAPONS	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Artillery	Trained	Motivated	Heavy 	Light 		17
A gun can be fitted with a shield						+ 3



WHEELED VEHICLES	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Truck	Trained	Motivated	-	-		3
ARMoured WHEELED VEHICLES	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
White TBC armoured car	Trained	Motivated	Light	Light		22
A White TBC armoured car can also use its long-range armament  which then becomes						
ARMoured TRACKED VEHICLES	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Renault FT tank	Trained	Motivated	Light	Light		20
Renault FT tank	Trained	Motivated	Light	Light		20

### SPECIAL TROOPS OF THE LEVANT

In 1922, the troops recruited locally from the various Christian and Muslim communities were given the name of **Special troops of the Levant**, divided into "auxiliary units" organised like French troops, and "auxiliaries suppletives units" made up of partisans who received a high salary.

INFANTRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Auxiliaries and auxiliaries suppletives	Trained	Hesitant	Light	Light		10
<b>Special troops from the Levant:</b> auxiliaries and auxiliaries suppletives do not benefit from the "Furia Francese".						
<b>Mounted infantry:</b> auxiliaries and auxiliaries suppletives can be mounted. In this case, they treat the first passable area crossed as a road.						+ 1

CAVALRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Tcherkesses	Trained	Motivated	Light	Light		10
Druzes	Militia	Motivated	Light	Light		9

# THEATRE OF OPERATIONS

## MIDDLE EAST 1916-1927

### RECRUITMENT: TRANSPORTING AMMUNITION

A group with the skill  can be upgraded to ammunition transport free of charge.

A group located in the same zone as a group carrying ammunition shoots with an extra die.  
If the ammunition transport is destroyed by fire, any group located in the same area is also destroyed.

### NEW SKILL

	<p><b>MOUNTAINEER</b></p>	<p>Once per activation, a group with the Mountaineer skill considers very difficult terrain (excluding buildings) to be difficult terrain.</p>
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### CAPTAIN PISANI

Mentioned several times in T.E. Lawrence's "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom", Captain Rosario Pisani took part in all the battles of the Great Arab Revolt at the head of a hundred men from North Africa, equipped with machine guns and 65 mm mountain guns.

- ◆ *Captain Pisani is a hero who can only be recruited by the French army and the Great Arab Revolt.*
- ◆ *When recruited by an army in the Great Arab Revolt, Captain Pisani can activate allied collective weapons only and can be considered as a leader by them only.*



INFANTRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Capitaine Pisani	Veteran	Motivated	-	Light	 	22

**Train of mules:** Captain Pisani treats the first passable terrain area he crosses as a road. He cannot charge and fight with a single die in close combat.

**Technician:** when Captain Pisani activates a collective weapon, his experience changes from "Regular" to "Veteran" in order to adjust his shot when ranging in and/or shooting.



## ARMENIAN LEGION

Created in 1916 to fight the Ottomans and form the nucleus of the future Armenian army, the **Oriental Legion** brought together more than 4,000 volunteers, mainly Armenians but also Syrians and Lebanese, trained in Cyprus and led by French officers. As part of the Syria and Palestine Detachment, the **Oriental Legion** distinguished itself during the Battle of Arara in 1918. Renamed the **Armenian Legion** in 1919, it then fought in the Cilicia campaign before finally being disbanded in 1920 when France decided to abandon the region.

INFANTRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Armenian Volunteers	Trained	Fanatic	Light	Light		18
<b>Indiscipline</b> : Armenian volunteers not eligible for skill 						

## COMMUNITIES

When granted a mandate by the League of Nations in 1920, France decided to rely on the specific characteristics of the various communities present in Syria and Lebanon: Maronites, Greeks, Armenians, Assyro-Chaldeans, nomadic Bedouins, Kurds, Alawites, Ismailis, Turks, Circassians, Druze...

INFANTRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Nomads	Militia	Hesitant	Light	Light		10
<b>Mounted infantry</b> : nomads can be mounted. In this case, they treat the first passable area of terrain they cross as a road.						+ 1
Local Militia	Militia	Hesitant	Light	Light		7

## 1er RÉGIMENT ÉTRANGER DE CAVALERIE

Based on the experience of legionnaires who had served in White light cavalry units during the Russian Civil War, the 1st regiment étranger de cavalerie was created in 1921 and involved from 1925 in Morocco and during the Druze revolt. It distinguished itself in particular during the battles of Messifre and Rachaya.

CAVALRY	EXPERIENCE	MORALE	LONG RANGE SHOOTING	SHORT RANGE SHOOTING	SKILLS	COSTS
Mounted Légionnaires	Veteran	Trained	Light	Light		13

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