

The Royal Netherlands Army in 2303

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History

The Royal Netherlands Army (KLa) has a long and honorable tradition of service to the Netherlands. In the Twilight War they fought bravely alongside British and German troops in Bavaria against the Warsaw Pact, while Dutch Marines were prominent in the fighting in North Norway and the Kola Peninsula. However in January 1998 the French and Belgian armies occupied the west bank of the Rhine, attacking Netherlands army units as they did so and forcing them back across the German-Dutch border. The Franco-Belgian forces then created a buffer-zone on the western bank which became little more than a free-fire zone.

Dutch forces re-grouped as best they could while guerrilla and terrorist groups sprung up to take the war to the opposition. Using their links with the Flemish population of Belgium the Dutch attacks began to take an increasing toll on the occupying forces. The Dutch government reformed and began to regain some control over its territories and further increase the tempo of resistance operations. It appeared for a time that the French would lose patience and invade the rest of the Netherlands, but the British moved troops into the Arnhem area causing the French to back down.

The Treaty of Arnhem in 2007 saw the foundation of what would be the modern Netherlands. The French withdrew from the west bank of the Rhine River, and the Netherlands would take control of German territory on the west bank of the Rhine down to the Moser River to the German border with Luxembourg. The French were to annex Belgium, which would become a Department of France. The Netherlands was then left in relative peace, able to rebuild their shattered and flooded country while also trying to bring their new German Territories under control. The ‘German territories’ became the main operational area for the Dutch Army until the early 22nd Century when the territories finally came to see themselves as a part of the Netherlands and began to integrate into Dutch society. The Netherlands settled down and threw itself into reclaiming the Dutch territories from the sea and rebuilding the German territories. By the mid-22nd Century they had largely succeeded.

The Dutch Army relegated itself to a role of defending the country, caught as it was between a powerful France and the fragmented and often unstable German states. The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC) and the newly formed 12th Air Assault Brigade were given the responsibility of operating outside of the borders of the Netherlands, and the Dutch Army began a long period of re-organization. It saw little need for a traditional large standing army with armor and artillery. Much of the Netherlands was now once more heavily populated and largely covered in urban areas which left little room for maneuver warfare. In addition the Dutch Army was trying to rid itself of the tag of being the ‘oppressor’ in the German territories.

The Army formed two wings, a professional Regular force and a much larger Conscript force. The Regular force was originally two divisions in size, but eventually fell to two brigades in size. The regular soldiers were men who had served their 24 month conscript service and had signed on to full time service. They would man formations equipped with modern, if slightly outdated equipment, and would form a rapid-reaction striking force, as well as providing instructors, officers and senior NCOs for the conscript force. The conscript force consisted of men undertaking their mandatory 24 months of service. Organized into a 3 brigade division and local battalions and brigades, the conscripts were trained to fight a defensive battle to slow an invading enemy, if over run they were to form the nucleus of a resistance movement.

As the 22nd Century came to a close, the Dutch made a political decision not to try and become a starfaring nation and to concentrate on improving the standard of living of its own citizens. The Dutch had traditionally been a trading and financial nation and they decided to continue that way, with Dutch money invested in many large merchant fleets. Many Netherlanders did decide to try their luck in the colonies, but they tended to immigrate to British, American or Bavarian territories. Dutch citizens were also to be found working for many different foundations.

Two events disturbed the equilibrium of the Dutch during the last years of the 23rd Century, and they came to culmination at the same time. The largest was the movement towards German Reunification, led by ambitious Hanoverian politicians. Hanover had long been an ally of the Netherlands, but the Dutch feared for the stability of what were once again being called the ‘German territories’. Indeed there was some resurgence of German nationalism in the territories, but it did not lead to violence.

When the newly organized German Army mobilized in their dispute against France, the Dutch Army also brought its forces to a high standard of readiness. Germany’s traditional invasion routes into France were through the Low Countries and the Dutch wanted to take no chances. As hostilities looked more likely, covert meetings between Dutch and German politicians took place at Maastricht. The Germans renounced any claim to the ‘German territories’ but asked the Dutch to be able to launch counter-attacks against French aggression through Dutch territory. Officially the Dutch refused.

Once the hostilities broke out the war ended quickly. Both sides claimed provocation but the German Army broke into French territory and was only just stopped on the Somme. Peace was negotiated soon afterwards. The French claimed that the Dutch had indeed allowed German units through border areas, but few observers believed it was more that French sour grapes.

The second event was the long simmering discontent of the Flemish-speaking people in France’s Belgian Department along the south-west border of the Netherlands. The Flemish believed themselves to be persecuted by the French and forced to lose their cultural identity. A nationalist movement had existed for many years, and some small scale terrorist actions had been committed. The over-reaction of the brutal French CRS police had led to even more resentment amongst the Flemish.

The Flemish independence movement had been receiving financial support from Dutch groups for many years, despite the efforts of the French secret services. Indeed the assassination of a Dutch banker in Rotterdam in 2289 had led to a distinct chill in Franco-Dutch relations. Ironically the Reunification of Germany led to an explosion of popular support for the Flemish independence that French repression could not stamp out.

When the German Army invaded France, Flanders reacted by rising up in arms against the French. Police stations were burnt and CRS units bombed and ambushed. The self-declared Flemish Army included many Dutch ‘volunteers’ and proved more than capable of taking on and defeating the French paramilitaries. Persistent rumors about the presence of Dutch Commandos and Marines have never been adequately investigated, but it seems likely that the Dutch military had been involved in the planning and execution of the Flemish War of Independence.

Whilst the initial operations of the Flemish Army had gone well, the besieged French had managed to gather enough forces to begin a counter-attack. The Flemish Army was forced out of the suburbs of Brussels in heavy fighting and a French Light Armored Division was poised to enter the fray to the West and crush the Lille Pocket. It was at this stage the Dutch government recognized the government of an Independent Flanders, and revealed the deployment of 1 Armor Brigade on its border with Flanders.

The threat of Dutch military intervention was enough for the overstretched French still fighting the Germans and they tacitly recognized the independence of Flanders and withdrew their forces to the south. Fighting continued between the Flemish Army and the Walloon Militia even after the signing of the Treaty of Waterloo, but soon petered out. The French made much of the presence of the Dutch mechanized units in the north, and added to their claims of German-Dutch co-operation.

The Treaty of Antwerp has led to close defense links with Flanders, and Dutch servicemen are in that country helping to construct that country’s military. In addition many Dutch volunteers serve in the ranks of the Flemish Army. The new German state has recently increased its rhetoric about returning all ‘German territory back to the Fatherland’. This has led to consternation in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austrovenia and France as well as the Netherlands. Pro-German agitation on the West Bank of the Rhine has resulted in a number of terrorist incidents, and discipline has been tightened in the conscript units of the region.

The last consideration for Dutch defense policy has been the Kafer War along the French Arm. Originally seen as little more than a distraction, the harsh occupation of human colonies has led to an outcry amongst the liberal Dutch. The Dutch response has been one that has surprised some European commentators with elements of the two Dutch brigades and the Commando Corps being deployed with British Commonwealth forces, acquitting themselves admirably in low intensity combat.

**Order of Battle**

National Command

Most Royal Netherlands Army forces come under the National Command, dedicated with the defense of the territory of the Netherlands. These forces are divided into two groups, maneuver and defense forces. The mobile forces are composed of regular troops and conscripts who have volunteered for professional service, while defense forces are mainly composed of conscripts.

Maneuver Brigades

The Royal Netherlands Army currently has two regular brigades on permanent stand-by, and one division of three brigades on lower levels of stand-by and requiring mobilization of reserves to bring themselves up to strength. They provide the main striking force of the Netherlands Army.

**13th Armored Brigade**

The 13th Armored is the Netherlands Army’s premier maneuver brigade. Based in Oirschot, Ede, Soesterberg and Arnhem and made up of fast, hard hitting hover equipped units, the 13th can range over the country to where it is needed most.

The following units making up the 13th Armored Brigade:

1. 11th Armored Battalion (Huzaren van Sytzama)
2. 56th Armored Battalion (Huzaren van Sytzama)
3. 17th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Regiment Chassé)
4. 12th Artillery Battalion
5. 13th Engineer Company
6. 102nd Recon Battalion (Regiment van Boreel)
7. 25th Air Defense Battalion
8. 13th Combat Support Battalion
9. 101st Combat Walker Battalion (Guard Regiment Fusiliers Princess Irene)

The unit is equipped with the Cavalier Mk4 hover tank in its armored battalions, and Fusilier variants in its infantry and support units. The 101st Walker Bn is equipped with the Bowman Walker system, and has operated with the British 1st (Guards) Armored Brigade Group on Beta Canum Venaticorum. A squadron from the 102nd Reconnaissance Bn is also operating on BCV, with the British 7th Armored Brigade, the famed “Desert Rats”. Artillery is mainly towed howitzer systems, as The Netherlands is heavily populated.

**12th Air Assault Brigade**

The 12th Air Assault Brigade is The Netherlands Army Quick Reaction Force and, along with the Royal Netherlands Marine Corp, one of the units the country uses in its international military commitments. With its ability to operate deep in hostile territory and capability to move quickly, the 12th is a force multiplier.

The following units make up the 12th Air Assault Brigade:

1. 11 AASLT Battalion (Guard Regiment Grenadiers)
2. 12 AASLT Battalion (Regiment Van Heutsz)
3. 13 AASLT Battalion (Regiment Stoottroepen Prince Bernhardt)
4. 14 AASLT Battalion (Guard Regiment Jagers)
5. 12 Logistics Battalion
6. 12 Artillery Battalion
7. 12 Engineer Company
8. 12 Recce Battalion (Regiment Stoottroepen Prince Bernhardt)
9. 12 Air Defense company
10. 12 Combat Support Battalion

The 12th Assault Bn has just recently deployed to Beowulf to replace the British 7th Bn, Parachute Regiment to bolster the forces of the 6th Assault Brigade there. The 12th Recce is due to rotate to BCV to replace the 101st Walker Bn.

**Korps Commandotroepen**

The Korps Commandotroepen, or KCT is the prime special operations Force of the Netherlands armed forces. They are the only strategic Special Operations units in the Army, although the Special Boat Service of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps has a similar capability.

108 Cdo Bn (Commando battalion) has a dual role company that is both an operational and training company. It doesn’t train men for the Special Forces, but develops off world operational doctrine and is busy training some of its men for zero G, hostile environment and space installation work with the help of Whiskey Co, Royal Marines. Units from 104 Cdo Co, part of 108 Cdo Bn, have operated in the French arm and are said to support Dutch operations there.

101 Cdo Bn operates military assistance teams involved in training the Flemish military. These teams are also believed to be operating as counterintelligence units against French saboteurs and agents provocateurs as well.

105 Intelligence Company is a new addition to the KCT, the Dutch military having added ISTAR capabilities after reviewing After Action reports on the Kafer War.

The following units make up the KCT:

1. 101 Commando Battalion
2. 108 Commando Battalion
3. 105 Intelligence Company (ISTAR)
4. 109 Long Range Recce Company
5. 110 Long Range Recce Company
6. Commando Logistics Group
7. 104 Commando Battalion (Reserves)

**1st Infantry Division (7th December)**

The 1st Division is the mobilization element of the maneuver forces, being able to reinforce the standing professional forces at relatively short notice. The Division's support elements are 40% manned in peacetime, while the three mechanized brigades are 60% manned. Reservists are able to bring these units up to full strength in around 60 hours. Divisional assets include a reconnaissance battalion, a divisional artillery group, an engineering group, an air defense battalion as well as supply and service units. The 101st Intelligence Battalion is a new addition to the division, having been added after the Dutch military reviewed the After Action reports of the Kafer war.

The Division's assets are scattered throughout the Netherlands and often operate independently under the direct authority of the National Command.

Direct reporting units to 1st Infantry Division are as follows:

1. 101st Reconnaissance Battalion (Hussars van Boreel)
2. 101st Artillery Group
3. 101st Engineer Regiment
4. 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment
5. 101st Support Group
6. 101st Intelligence Battalion (ISTAR)

**11th Mechanized Brigade**

11th Mechanized Brigade is representative of the army's second line mechanized formations. Organizationally it has one armored battalion, two mechanized infantry battalions and a range of support units. The brigade’s component units are at 60% strength, with most officers and senior NCOs coming from the professional forces. The equipment of the brigade is slightly behind that of the first line forces, the current hovertank being the Cavalier Mk2 and the current APC the Fusilier. The Brigade is stationed in the Southern Netherlands.

Component units of the brigade are:

1. 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion (Hussars van Boreel)
2. 59th Armored Battalion (Hussars Prince van Oranje)
3. 12th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Guard Regiment Jagers)
4. 132nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Regiment West Rhineland)
5. 11th Engineer Company
6. 12th Artillery Battalion
7. 12th Brigade Support Group

**13th Infantry Brigade**

The 13th is a mixed formation, having 1 armored battalion, 1 mechanized infantry battalion and 1 motorized infantry battalion, the motorized battalion useful in the heavily populated northern part of the country. This brigade is stationed in the Northern Netherlands.

Component units of the brigade are:

1. 13th Reconnaissance Battalion (Hussars van Sytzama)
2. 49th Armored Battalion (Hussars Prince Alexander)
3. 17th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Regiment Chassé)
4. 142nd Motorized Infantry Battalion (Regiment Johan Willem Friso)
5. 13th Artillery Battalion
6. 13th Engineer Company
7. 13th Brigade Support Group

**43rd Mechanized Brigade**

This brigade is stationed in the central Netherlands.

Component units of the brigade are:

1. 43rd Reconnaissance Battalion (Hussars van Boreel)
2. 42nd Armored Battalion (Hussars Prince van Oranje)
3. 41st Mechanized Battalion (Regiment Max Steiner)
4. 47th Mechanized Battalion ('Regiment Menno Van Coehoorn)
5. 43rd Artillery Battalion
6. 43rd Engineer Company
7. 43rd Brigade Support Group

**Defense Forces**

While the maneuver and special operation forces are all professional soldiers, the bulk of the Dutch army is made up of conscripts serving a 24 month obligation. These brigades supply both the needed manpower to bring the 1st Infantry Division to full strength and local defense forces.

The army conscript forces are organized into 11 Infantry Brigades, each organized in one of the countries provinces and named after it. The Infantry Brigades have between one and three infantry battalions (six in the West Rhine), an artillery battalion, mechanized battalion (one recce company, one infantry company, and one armored company.) There are also a number of security companies of reservists who are mobilized during wartime to guard key installations.

It is the role of these brigades to slow and tie down any invader in the cities of the Netherlands and make him vulnerable to a counter-attack from the mobile forces. These units are 80% formed from conscript soldiers undertaking their 24 month period of national service. However it’s expected that in their defensive role these troops will perform excellently.

**Character Generation**

If players want to generate Dutch Army characters, here is how to go about it.

A player’s first turning point is at 2 years and does not count towards the player’s turning point count. This simulates the 24 month conscription.

Use the Ground Military skill set with the following exceptions:

Cbt Rifleman-2, Hvy Weapons-1, Melee-1, Ground Vehicle-1

After conscription, the player can choose to become a professional soldier. Continue character generation as written.

For KCT characters, use the following:

Initial Skills: Combat Rifleman - 3, Heavy Weapons - 2, Melee - 2, Parachute-2, Hover Vehicle - 1, Stealth - 1, Tactics – 1, Demolitions-1, Survival-1, Forward Observer-1, and First Aid-1

Primary Skills: Combat Skills, Ground Vehicle, Hover Vehicle, Stealth, General Skills.