

# Hellvetic Ranks

This is my interpretation of Hellvetic Ranks, based primarily on how I think the Hellvetics would arrange things, and what seems to make the most sense given their size and role.

Rank for Hellvetics in Katharsys is more a measure of what roles they can fulfill rather than their actual military pay grade and rank. So we need to fill in some details.

## Enlisted Ranks

First, enlisted ranks progress to Rank 3 and stop there. Within Rank 3, an enlisted Hellvetic could continue to climb in pay grade and responsibilities. But they cannot move into any of the command roles (Subaltern, Field Officer, Corps Commander) or the specialty roles of Special Detachment and Infiltrator, which can only be filled by warrant officers.

The Hellvetic army operates under the principle that because in many cases their soldiers operate in small groups, particularly when outside Hellvetic territory, specialist roles should only be performed by those who have shown themselves capable of both technical competence and leadership. This is why, for example, a Sentinel (who wears a Heavy Duty Harness and is a force to be reckoned with in battle) must be at least a Sergeant in rank.

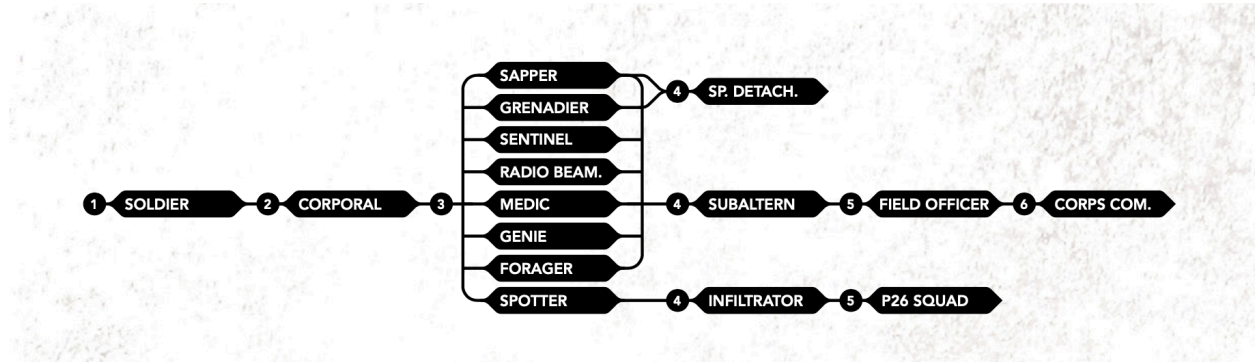
Note that I am using American army ranks rather than Swiss army ranks (e.g., Captain instead of Haputmann) because this whole thing is complicated enough without having to learn a bunch of German words.

## Warrant Officers

All warrant officers must work their way up through the ranks until they are given the opportunity to test for either a warrant or a commission, depending on their capabilities. Special Detachment, Infiltrator, and P26 Squad operatives are all warrant officers; they bear heavy responsibilities and must operate independently for long stretches of time, but they do not manage large numbers of soldiers or large operations. There are three Warrant officer pay grades, WO1, WO2, and WO3, and they determine who is in command if multiple warrant officers are engaged in an operation together. That said, because they are highly trained, highly-motivated specialists who have all had to endure a lot just to reach their positions, they are much less concerned with rank in general than the rest of the Hellvetic army.

# Commissioned Officers

Commissioned officers move from Subaltern to Field Officer to Corps Commander as they take on larger responsibilities. While the warrant officers are specialists, commissioned officers are generalists. Their primary duty is to ensure the proper training of those under their command, deploy them appropriately, and lead them in battle when necessary. They are held to a very high standard of behavior and are expected to serve as moral guideposts for the Hellvetic army.



## Putting It All Together

### Rank 1

**Private → Private First Class** — Not eligible for any specialties, this is the most numerous chunk of the Hellvetic army by far. PFC is attained by being in service for a period of 18-24 months and demonstrating expected competence. A character gets a shot at becoming a Corporal once they have served as a PFC for at least 24 months, if they demonstrate above average skills, motivation, and leadership potential. There is no shame in being a career PFC in the Hellvetic army, which understands that not everyone wants to climb in rank.

### Rank 2

**Corporal** is the first NCO rank and they are usually assigned as Team Leaders, in charge of a group of 3-6 soldiers, sometimes operating independently, sometimes as part of a larger force.

### Rank 3

This is the realm of the Sergeants: **Sergeant → SFC → FSG → SGM** – Note that of the specialties, the Grenadier is the most common, and in most non-specialty units the ranking NCO will be a Grenadier (e.g. SSG for a Squad, First Sergeant for a Company).

## **Rank 4**

### **Warrant Officers**

To be given a warrant and assigned to a Special Detachment or Infiltrator role, an NCO must go through the rigorous six-month Warrant Officer Course, which has a 40% washout rate. It is physically and emotionally grueling, and when candidates finish the selection process they are bound with their small cadre of classmates for life. After sufficient time in grade, and evidence of exceptional competence, a WO1 will be promoted to WO2, and again to WO3 if they are capable over time. When not on special missions, Warrant Officers perform a variety of training roles that take them far and wide. To outsiders Warrant Officers are simply highly-skilled NCOs responsible for administering advanced training.

### **Junior Officers**

Upon commissioning, junior officers first serve in Rank 4 (Subaltern) as Lieutenants, who are in charge usually of either a detachment (anything bigger than a squad and smaller than a platoon) or a platoon (three squads, usually ~30 soldiers). If they put in sufficient time in grade and are worthy of promotion, they become Captains, who usually command companies (3-4 platoons).

## **Rank 5**

### **Warrant Officers**

A very small number of extremely capable WO2 Warrant Officers of unimpeachable moral courage and devotion to the Alpine Fortress are invited to an exceptionally challenging test. They are not told what the test is for, only that it is very dangerous, and rarely even deadly. Those who pass the test are assigned to a P26 Squad, the existence of which are known to very few Hellvetics.

### **Staff & Field Officers**

Sufficiently capable Captains are eventually promoted to Major, then if selected, to Lieutenant Colonel. Those roles are often staff positions, in which these officers assist planning efforts at the division and corps level, and learn operational and strategic planning. Many of them fill specialized roles managing logistics, manufacturing, medical, and so on. The best of them reach the rank of Colonel, and are given the responsibility for commanding an entire brigade. They report directly to a Corps Commander.

## **Rank 6**

**Corps Commander** – There are only four of these in the entire Hellvetic army, one for each Corps. Their responsibilities are vast, as is their power.