

# **Battlefront: WWII**

## **British & Commonwealth TO&Es v1.01**

### **15th Army Group 1943-1945**

#### **(Sicily, Italy & The Mediterranean Theatre of Operations)**

*By R Mark Davies*

These Tables of Organisation & Equipment (TO&Es) are intended to help the **Battlefront: WWII** player construct a realistic miniature force for British and 'Commonwealth' forces in The Mediterranean Theatre of Operations (MTO). They are constructed in exactly the same manner as the US, Soviet and German TO&Es provided with the **Battlefront: WWII** Rulebook. See Page 57 of the Rulebook for a guidance on how to read and use the TO&Es. Please feel free to cut and paste any part of these TO&Es to help you build your own scenarios.

#### **The 'Commonwealth' Forces In 15th Army Group**

The term 'Commonwealth' as used here is a fairly loose 'catch-all' for the alliance of nationalities that fought using largely British doctrine, tactics and equipment; who were not necessarily countries actually belonging to the British Empire/Commonwealth. In 15th Army Group this group included British, Canadian, Indian, Polish, South African, New Zealand, Greek and Palestinian (i.e. Jewish) forces at brigade strength or larger. These were also intermixed with American and a number of Free French/Moroccan, Italian and Brazilian formations, which are outside the scope of these TO&Es.

#### **So What's Different To Northwest Europe?**

To begin with, this TO&E covers a much wide time-span than the Northwest European TO&E as it covers the whole period from the July 1943 Operation Husky landings in Sicily, to the Axis capitulation in May 1945, also taking in the Leros Campaign, the Greek insurgency and Operation 'Anvil'/'Dragoon' (the invasion of the South of France) along the way. Consequently, some distinctly 'Mid-War' organisations, weapons and vehicles will be encountered – particularly in the reconnaissance formations. Indeed, due to Italy's low supply priority in 1944, some of these obsolete vehicles even survived in service until the end of the war, despite having long been considered 'obsolete'.

The biggest difference – particularly in 1944 – was the incorporation of large amounts of American vehicles into Commonwealth formations. As mentioned above, Italy was very low in priority during the Normandy Campaign (and the build-up to it). Consequently, replacement Churchill tanks were in desperately short supply and newer vehicle models such as Cromwell, Challenger and Churchill Mk V+ were non-existent. The solution was to 'pad' the regiments out with American-supplied Shermans and also to upgrade older Churchill Mk IVs with the Sherman's 75mm gun (thus creating the Churchill Mk IV (NA75) – the 'NA' referring to North Africa, where they were converted). Large numbers of American softskins were also employed.

Another problem was the lack of a 17pdr-armed tank such as the Sherman Firefly – all of which were going to Normandy. The Americans lent a hand by supplying large numbers of Sherman IIa (M4A1 76mm) which, while not as good as the Firefly, were a great improvement on the standard Sherman. They also went a step further by supplying Sherman Ib (M4 105mm) Close Support Tanks, which by the end of the war were present in every Commonwealth Sherman Squadron Headquarters in Italy. Late-model Churchills and Fireflies did eventually arrive in Italy (along with 'Funnies' such as AVREs, Kangaroos, LVTs, etc); but not until the Winter of 1944/45 and then only in relatively small numbers.

17pdr Antitank Guns were available throughout the campaign, but again not in the numbers found in Northwest Europe and consequently 6pdrs and even 2pdrs remained in the divisional Antitank Regiments (Royal Artillery) well-beyond their sell-by date (the 2pdr was considered handy for mountain warfare and river crossings). The new 6pdr and 17pdr APDS ammunition was also in extremely limited supply in Italy and consequently the weapon 'upgrades' found on the relevant unit cards should be delayed for Italian scenarios. I don't wish to impose a hard TO&E rule onto scenario designers, but my own rough rule-of-thumb would be to delay introduction of the 'upgrade' by a few months – and then only introduce it for the brigade-level Royal Artillery Antitank Batteries. Then a couple of months later, the infantry Antitank Platoons could receive it and then maybe the tanks in Spring 1945.

## So Where Do I Start?

For the absolute beginner, it is recommended that you take a look at Jim Baker's excellent Beginner's Guide on the website [www.fireandfury.com](http://www.fireandfury.com) and all Commonwealth players should take a careful study of Jim's (also excellent) British Artillery Tutorial. To ignore Commonwealth artillery (as so many do) is to ignore the most powerful aspect of Commonwealth doctrine in the latter half of World War II – do so at your peril!

Reading orders of battle and TO&Es can be a daunting prospect for the beginner – just where do you start? Well forget about tanks, halftracks, Paras and Commandos for a moment (I know it's difficult). The basic building block for the Commonwealth Armies in WWII was the Infantry Battalion (See Battlegroup (BG)-10). This could belong to an Infantry Division or an Armoured Division – it didn't make a great deal of difference in terms of organisation at battalion-level.

In the attack, a Commonwealth Infantry Battalion would typically be formed 'Two-Up'; i.e. with two of its four Infantry Companies forward and two in reserve a long way behind. This means that at the start, you need only buy and paint two Infantry Companies (see Maneuver Element (ME)-06), perhaps with the Battalion HQ element and a few Battalion Attachments such as a 6pdr Antitank Gun for each company. You can always consider the 3-inch mortars to be off-table, which saves on money and paint! For a bit of variation, the Carrier Platoon (see ME-07) is also a good investment, as it provides you with a very flexible mechanised infantry force that can be used for reconnaissance, assault, or as a fast, armoured reserve.

In terms of armoured support, the Commonwealth was very well-served by a large number of Armoured Divisions and independent Armoured/Tank Brigades and consequently, our battalion could expect the services of at least one 'Squadron' (i.e. Company) of 'Big Friends' – Shermans or Churchills (see ME-01 & ME-02). Typically one or two armoured 'Troops' (i.e. Platoons) from the squadron would be attached to each of the two leading infantry companies, so add two or four model tanks to your force. You will notice that depending on the time period, different models of tanks are available. If in doubt, the standard 75mm-armed Sherman III (M4A2 in US terms) was the most common variety of tank available in Italy.

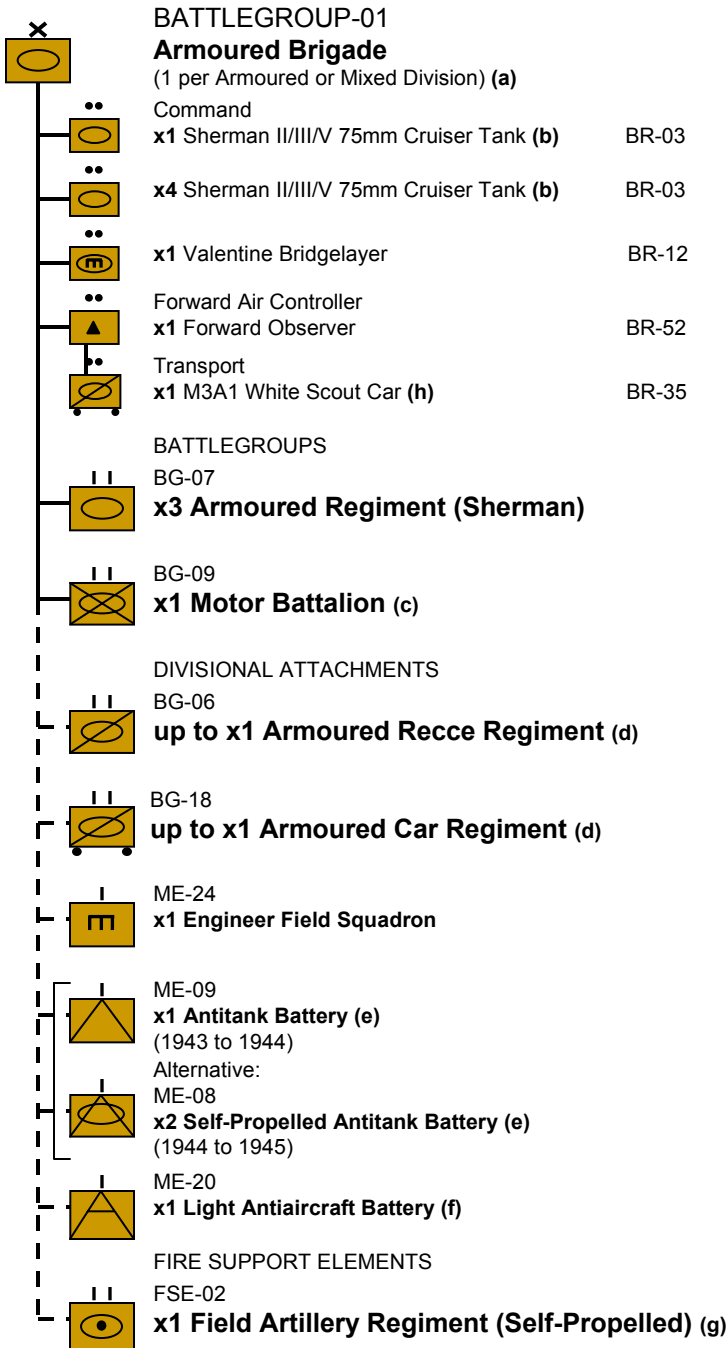
The real trump card in any Commonwealth force is its artillery support. Each infantry battalion had the services of a battery of field artillery (FSE-02 or FSE-03) and consequently had two Forward Observers (FOs) attached to it. These FOs would usually be attached to the leading two infantry companies in an attack, so paint up a pair of FOs for your force, plus a pair of Observation Post (OP) vehicles to carry them – Universal Carriers were the most common, but OP Tanks such as the Sherman OP could be used when working closely with tanks (fitted with wooden dummy guns to make them look like an ordinary tank).

Each FO had direct control of his own Field Artillery Troop (i.e. a half-battery), but had access to MUCH more than that! Each lowly FO had the potential to call in every artillery piece within range – if the importance of the target (or the location being defended) was important enough. In attack, the British were the acknowledged masters of the preparatory fire plan – a single infantry battalion could have the way prepared by all three Field Regiments in the division, plus one or more AGRAs (Army Group Royal Artillery), which typically consisted of another Field Regiment, plus a Heavy Regiment and four Medium Regiments (though exact composition did vary – especially in Italy, where things were less 'standard' than in Northwest Europe). Similarly, when in defence, the FOs would register a Defensive Fire (DF) plan to sweep the likely avenues of approach with artillery fire. The bigger the enemy attack, the more artillery regiments would be allocated to the defence (provided they were not already busy).

So, now you have a good all-purpose starter force of an Infantry Battalion HQ, two Infantry Companies, Carrier Platoon, some support weapons, four tanks and two FOs. This force is very 'typical' and is great for most 'evening' scenarios. From here you can expand it by adding the remaining parts of the battalion, some brigade-level antitank or anti-aircraft guns, a Machinegun Platoon, the rest of that tank squadron (or some Churchills instead of Shermans) or some reconnaissance assets from a Recce or Armoured Car Regiment. Alternatively, you could take a completely different tack by building an entirely new force of Airborne infantry or a Motor Battalion. The choice is entirely yours.

Have fun! Please don't hesitate to ask questions on the Battlefront Forum at [www.fireandfury.com](http://www.fireandfury.com)

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 01



(a) 1st, 6th, 7th, 5th Canadian and 6th South African Armoured Divisions took part in the Italian Campaign. However, the 7th Armoured Division was transferred to NW Europe late in 1943 and the 5th Canadian Armoured Division followed it in 1945. The 1st Armoured Division was disbanded late in 1944 (though the armoured element carried on as 2nd Armoured Brigade). The only Mixed Division in Sicily & Italy was the 2nd New Zealand Division, which contained two infantry brigades and the 4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade.

(b) In 6th and 6th South African Armoured Divisions, Late 1944: May replace some or all Sherman II/III/V with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank use US-02 (76mm option)

(c) The Motor Battalion would usually be split up, providing one Motor Company to each Armoured Regiment in the brigade. However, this became more blurred from late 1944, when combined-arms battlegroups became common. In 6th South African Armoured Division, from January 1944: increase to **x2** Motor Battalions.

(d) The Armoured Recce Regiment and Armoured Car Regiment were higher-level (division or corps) assets, but frequently operated as part of the Armoured Brigade (particularly from Late 1944, when combined-arms battlegroups became the norm for the British and Commonwealth armies). These elements are not available to a Mixed Division.

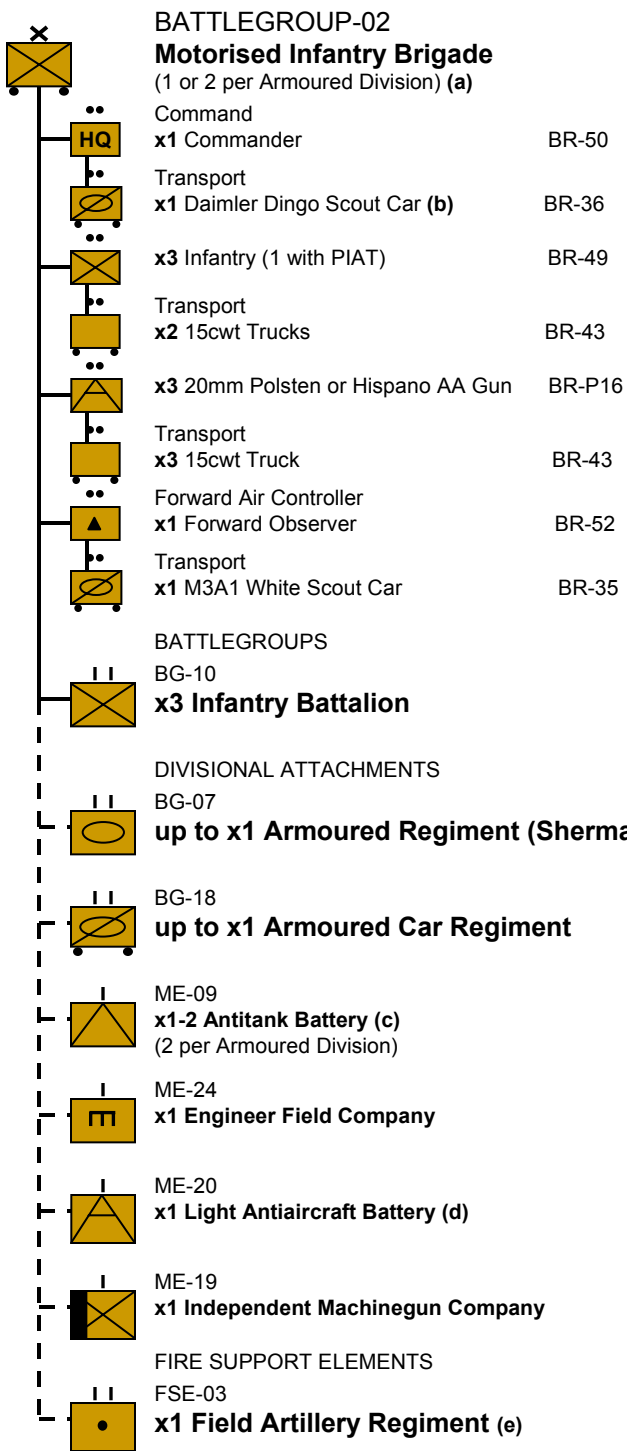
(e) In 1943, the divisional Antitank Regiment had three batteries, each of three towed troops (mostly 17pdrs in the Armoured Divisions). As M10 self-propelled antitank guns began to be adopted, the Antitank Regiment in each armoured division was reorganised in 1944 as two towed batteries and two self-propelled batteries.

(f) As the Luftwaffe threat receded, it was most unusual to attach antiaircraft batteries directly to the 'teeth' brigades towards the end of the war.

(g) The Field Artillery Regiment would allocate one battery as direct support to each Armoured Regiment. Therefore, each Armoured Regiment will be accompanied by **x2** FOs. The Field Artillery Regiment would be towed in a Mixed Division.

(h) FAC's transport may be exchanged for:  
 Sherman OP Tank BR-30  
 Crusader OP Tank BR-36

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 02



(a) The distinction between the Infantry and the Armoured Brigades of an armoured division became very blurred from late 1944. Infantry battalions and armoured regiments were regularly swapped between the two as the mission demanded. Although the Infantry Brigades of Armoured Divisions were designated as 'Motorised', there was not really any great difference by this stage of the war, as even the Infantry Divisions contained a considerable quantity of motor transport.

(b) Commander's transport may be replaced with:

M3A1 White Scout Car	BR-35
Humber Scout Car	BR-38
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier	BR-34
Universal Carrier (no MG)	BR-31
Jeep (no MG)	BR-42
Humber Light Recce Car Mk II/III	BR-71

Or in Canadian brigades with:

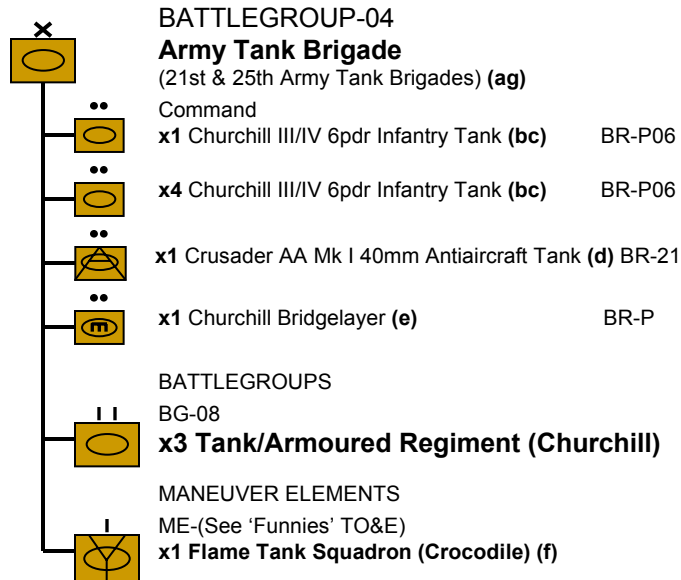
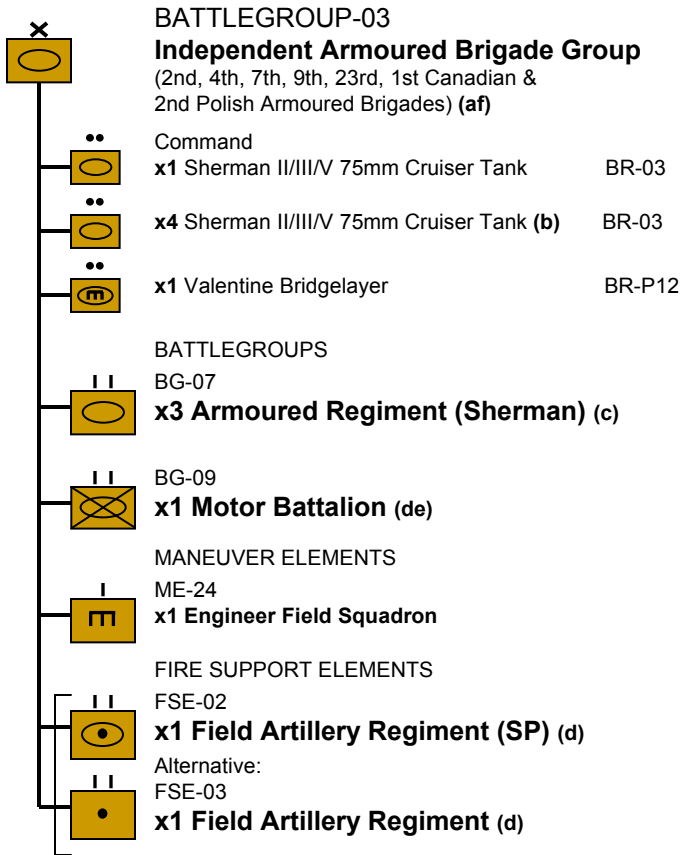
Lynx Scout Car	CA-P01
C15TA Armoured Truck	CA-P02
Otter Light Recce Car	CA-P04

(c) If the division contains only one Motorised Infantry Brigade, both towed Antitank Batteries will be attached to it, otherwise they will be shared out – one to each brigade.

(d) As the Luftwaffe threat receded, it was most unusual to attach antiaircraft batteries directly to the 'teeth' brigades towards the end of the war.

(e) The Field Artillery Regiment would allocate one battery as direct support to each Infantry Battalion. Therefore, each Infantry Battalion will be accompanied by x2 FOs. However, if the division possessed two Motorised Infantry Brigades, the Field Regiment would then have to support twice as many units. In which case, halve the number of available FOs and designate all Call-For-Fire rolls higher than battery as General Fire Support.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 03-04



(a) 23rd Armoured Brigade was transferred to Greece late in 1944. 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade was transferred to NW Europe in 1945. 2nd Armoured Brigade became independent when 1st Armoured Division was disbanded in 1944. 9th Armoured Brigade was re-equipped in the Winter of 1944/45 with Sherman/Ram/Priest Kangaroos, Sherman DD Amphibious Tanks and LVTs.

(b) In 2nd & 7th Armoured Brigades in 1945: May replace up to **x3** tanks with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank use US-02 (76mm option)

(c) In 7th Armoured Brigade, 1945: Replace **x2** Armoured Regiment (Sherman) with:  
**x2 BG-04 Armoured/Tank Regiment (Churchill)**

(d) While most independent Armoured Brigades contained supporting elements such as a Motor Battalion or a Field Artillery Regiment, it was by no means universal. The historical picture is made even more confusing by Motor Battalions and artillery being regularly transferred between brigades.

(e) The Motor Battalion frequently operated as separate companies – each Motor Company being attached to a different armoured regiment within the brigade.

(f) After the North African Campaign, the independent Armoured and Army Tank Brigades hardly ever fought as unified brigades as illustrated here. They existed solely to provide direct support to the infantry divisions and would therefore be frequently broken up. Typically one armoured/tank regiment would be attached to an infantry brigade, with one squadron attached to each infantry battalion within the brigade.

(a) The Army Tank Brigades were redesignated as Armoured Brigades late in 1944. However, the designation 'Tanks' continued in common usage until the end of the war. 25th Army Tank Brigade however, was converted at this time to specialist armour; becoming 25th Armoured Engineer Brigade.

(b) Some earlier marks of Churchill were retained for use as headquarters, escort and OP tanks. These tanks may therefore be replaced by:  
 Churchill I 2pdr/3-inch Infantry Tank BR-P52  
 Churchill II 2pdr Infantry Tank BR-P53

(c) In 1944 only: Some or all tanks may be replaced by:  
 Sherman II 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-03

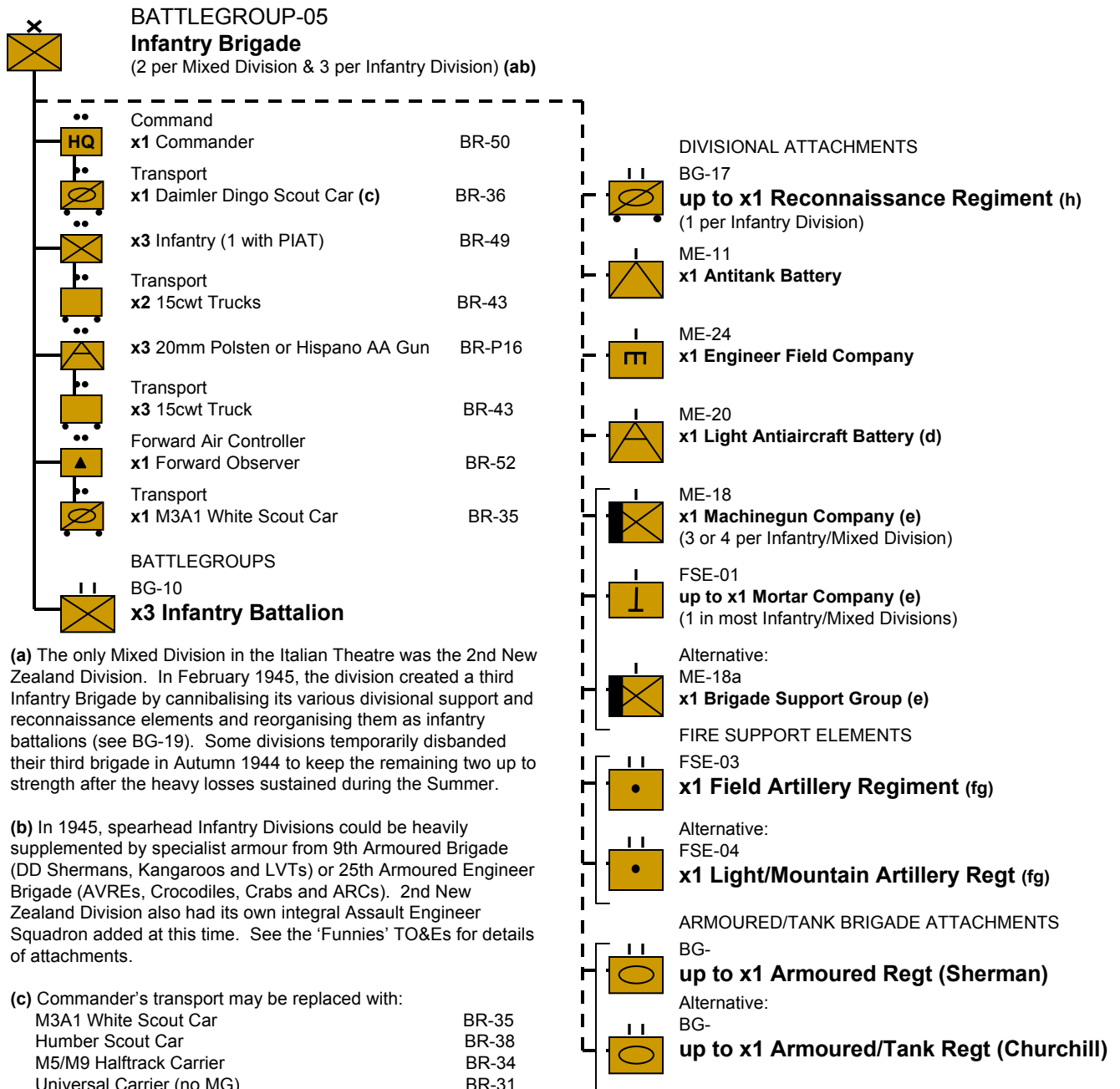
(d) Autumn 1944: AA Tank withdrawn.

(e) Churchill Bridgelay only available in 1945.

(f) Autumn 1944: Flame Tank Squadron added to 21st Army Tank Brigade.

(g) After the North African Campaign, the independent Armoured and Army Tank Brigades hardly ever fought as unified brigades as illustrated here. They existed solely to provide direct support to the infantry divisions and would therefore be frequently broken up. Typically one armoured/tank regiment would be attached to an infantry brigade, with one squadron attached to each infantry battalion within the brigade.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 05



(a) The only Mixed Division in the Italian Theatre was the 2nd New Zealand Division. In February 1945, the division created a third Infantry Brigade by cannibalising its various divisional support and reconnaissance elements and reorganising them as infantry battalions (see BG-19). Some divisions temporarily disbanded their third brigade in Autumn 1944 to keep the remaining two up to strength after the heavy losses sustained during the Summer.

(b) In 1945, spearhead Infantry Divisions could be heavily supplemented by specialist armour from 9th Armoured Brigade (DD Shermans, Kangaroos and LVTs) or 25th Armoured Engineer Brigade (AVREs, Crocodiles, Crabs and ARCs). 2nd New Zealand Division also had its own integral Assault Engineer Squadron added at this time. See the 'Funnies' TO&Es for details of attachments.

(c) Commander's transport may be replaced with:

M3A1 White Scout Car	BR-35
Humber Scout Car	BR-38
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier	BR-34
Universal Carrier (no MG)	BR-31
Jeep (no MG)	BR-42
Humber Light Recce Car Mk II/III	BR-71

Or in Canadian brigades with:

Lynx Scout Car	CA-P01
C15TA Armoured Truck	CA-P02
Otter Light Recce Car	CA-P04

(d) As the Luftwaffe threat receded, it was most unusual to attach antiaircraft batteries directly to the 'teeth' brigades towards the end of the war.

(e) Most Commonwealth Infantry Divisions had a Divisional MG Battalion of **x3** MG Companies (ME-18) and **x1** Mortar Company (FSE-01). However, 56th & 2nd New Zealand Divisions had **x4** MG Companies and no Mortar Company. Other divisions meanwhile, instead possessed Brigade Support Groups (ME-18a) of mixed MMGs and mortars. 5th Division was uniquely fortunate in having BOTH an MG Battalion AND Brigade Support Groups. 1st Canadian Division, on the other hand, had Independent MG Companies organised as for an Armoured Division (ME-19).

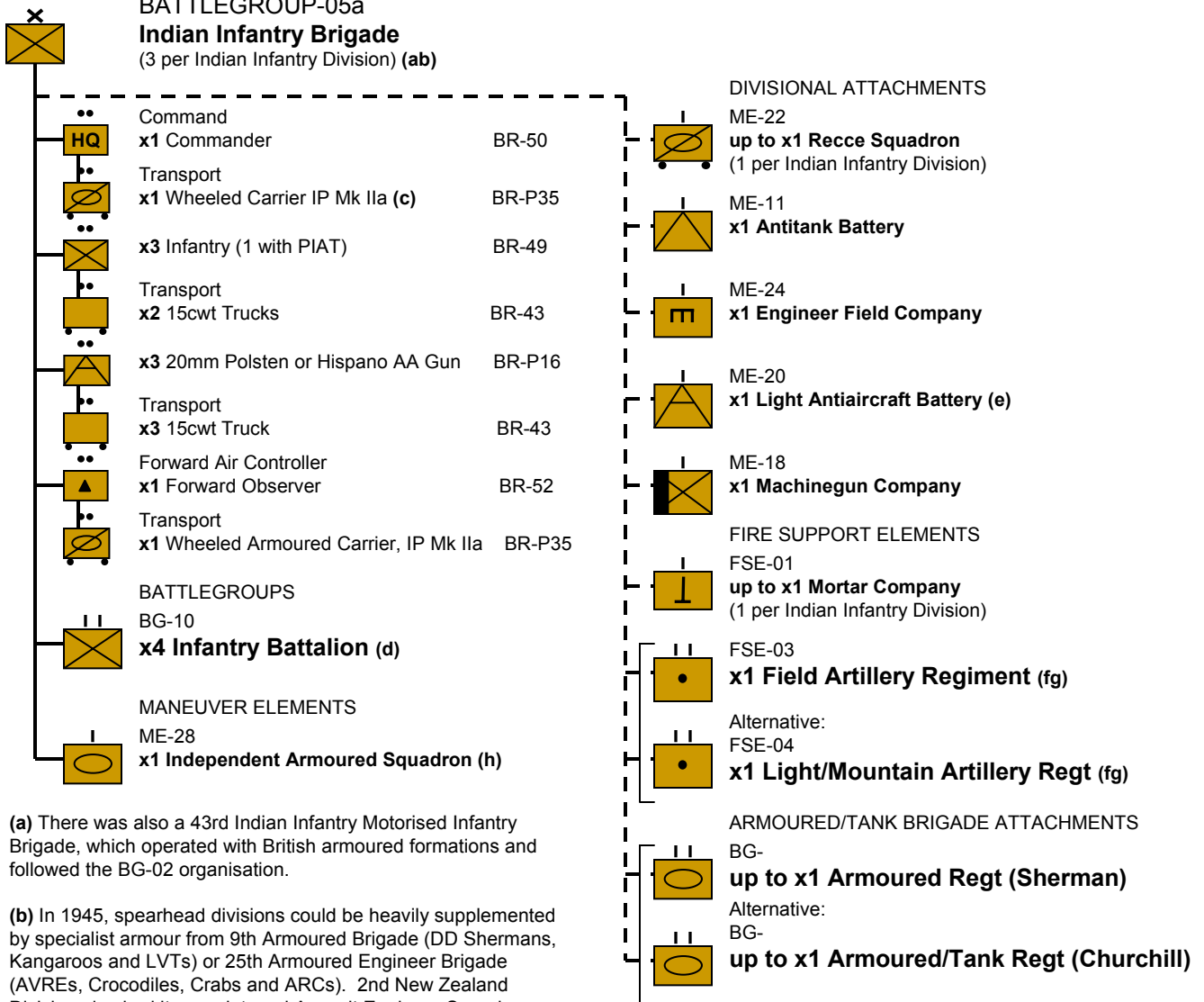
(f) The Field Artillery Regiment would allocate one battery as direct support to each Infantry Battalion. Therefore, each Infantry Battalion will be accompanied by **x2** FOs

(g) Some brigades in Italy were trained for mountain warfare and had access to specialist mountain artillery when required – particularly in the case of the 3rd Greek (Mountain) Independent Infantry Brigade Group, which fought in Italy in 1945. Light artillery was also useful to the regular infantry divisions for assault river crossings and other amphibious operations, as it could be easily manhandled/dismantled and fitted into a variety of vehicles and landing craft and carried across light foot bridges or across difficult terrain.

(h) In 2nd New Zealand Division, replace the Recce Regiment with:

**BG-19**  
**up to x1 Cavalry Regiment**  
 (1 per Mixed Division)

# 15th Army Group - Commonwealth Battlegroups 05a



(a) There was also a 43rd Indian Infantry Motorised Infantry Brigade, which operated with British armoured formations and followed the BG-02 organisation.

(b) In 1945, spearhead divisions could be heavily supplemented by specialist armour from 9th Armoured Brigade (DD Shermans, Kangaroos and LVTs) or 25th Armoured Engineer Brigade (AVREs, Crocodiles, Crabs and ARCs). 2nd New Zealand Division also had its own integral Assault Engineer Squadron added at this time. See the 'Funnies' TO&Es for details of attachments.

(c) Commander's transport may be replaced with:

M3A1 White Scout Car	BR-35
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier	BR-34
Universal Carrier (no MG)	BR-31
Jeep (no MG)	BR-42

(d) Indian Brigades in Italy contained x1 British Battalion, x1 Gurkha Battalion and x2 Indian Battalions. The exception was 43rd Motorised Infantry Brigade which was entirely composed of Gurkha battalions. See note (a).

(e) As the Luftwaffe threat receded, it was most unusual to attach antiaircraft batteries directly to the 'teeth' brigades towards the end of the war.

(f) The Field Artillery Regiment would allocate one battery as direct support to each Infantry Battalion. Therefore, each Infantry Battalion will be accompanied by x2 FOs

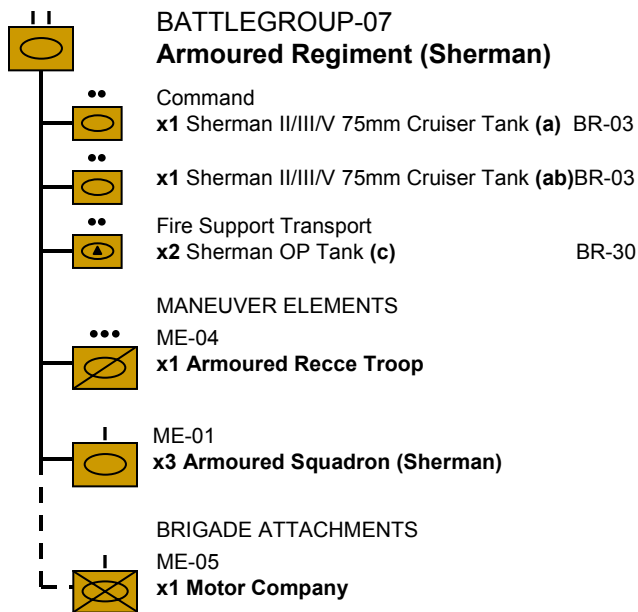
(g) Some brigades (including at least one Indian Brigade) in Italy were trained for mountain warfare and had access to specialist mountain artillery when required. Light artillery was also useful to the regular infantry divisions for assault river crossings and other amphibious operations, as it could be easily manhandled or dismantled and fitted into a variety of vehicles and landing craft and carried across light foot bridges or across difficult terrain.

(h) Independent Armoured Squadron available only to brigades of 4th Indian Division.

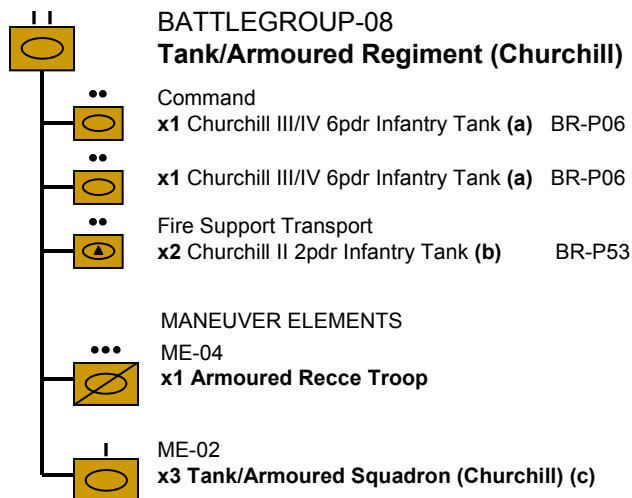
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 06-08



- (a) Late 1944: May replace Sherman II/III/IV with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank      use US-02 (76mm option)
- (b) In 5th Canadian Armoured Division 1943: Replace tanks with:  
 M3A1 White Scout Car      BR-35
- (c) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by the OP tanks.



- (a) Late 1944: May replace Sherman II/III/IV in any Armoured Division or 7th Armoured Brigade with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank      use US-02 (76mm option)
- (b) From Autumn 1944: May replace second Sherman II/III/IV in headquarters with:  
 Sherman Ic/Vc Firefly 17pdr Tank      BR-04
- (c) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by the OP tanks.



- (a) May replace one or both headquarters tanks with:  
 Churchill I 2pdr/3-inch Infantry Tank      BR-P52  
 Churchill II 2pdr Infantry Tank      BR-P53  
 Churchill IV (NA75) 75mm Infantry Tank      use BR-10
- Or in 1944 only: May replace with:  
 Sherman II 75mm Cruiser Tank      BR-03
- Or in 1945: May replace with:  
 Churchill VII 75mm Infantry Tank      BR-11
- Or in 7th Armoured Brigade, 1945: May replace with:  
 Churchill VI 75mm Infantry Tank      BR-10  
 Churchill V 95mm Close Support Tank      BR-12

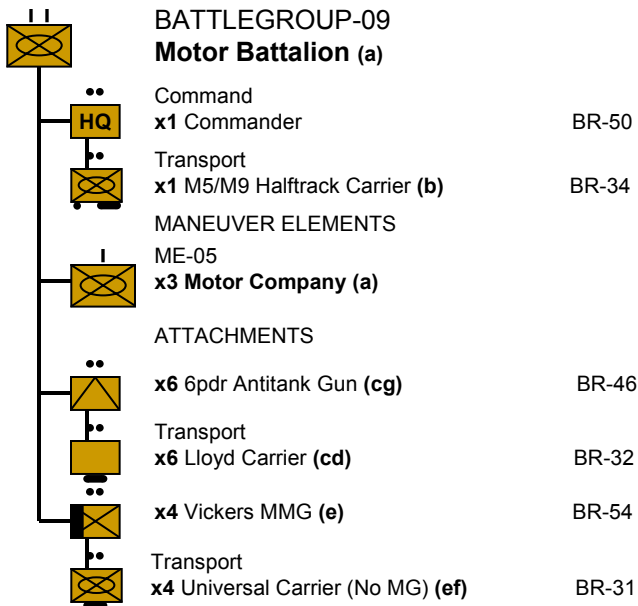
- (b) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by these tanks. May replace the OP tanks with:  
 Churchill III/IV 6pdr Infantry Tank      BR-P06  
 Churchill I 2pdr/3-inch Infantry Tank      BR-P52  
 Sherman OP Tank      BR-30

- (c) Spring to Autumn 1944: A lack of Churchill replacements meant that the Tank Regiments had to be brought up to strength with Shermans. The tactical employment of Shermans in these regiments was entirely a matter for the regimental commanders concerned, as there was no official doctrine on the subject. Therefore, either mix Shermans and Churchills within the squadrons (see ME-02), or alternatively replace **x1 Tank/Armoured Squadron (Churchill)** with:





# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 09



(a) The Motor Battalions were frequently split between the armoured regiments of the brigade – a Motor Company being attached to each. However, this system became more blurred from late 1944, as it became more common to attach armoured regiments to entire battalions of infantry and other elements as combined-arms battlegroups.

(b) May replace M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier with:  
 M3A1 White Scout Car BR-35  
 In 1943: Some units may not have received armoured personnel carriers. In which case, replace with:  
 15cwt Truck BR-43  
 In Late 1944: Replace in Canadian units with:  
 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(e) 1943-Spring 1944: Some units were still using an earlier organisation for their antitank platoons. May replace all 6pdrs and Carriers in the battalion with:  
**x8 6pdr Portee** forthcoming DWS card

(d) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian battalions with:  
 Windsor Carrier use BR-31  
 1943 to 1944: May replace in some units with:  
 M3A1 White Scout Car BR-35

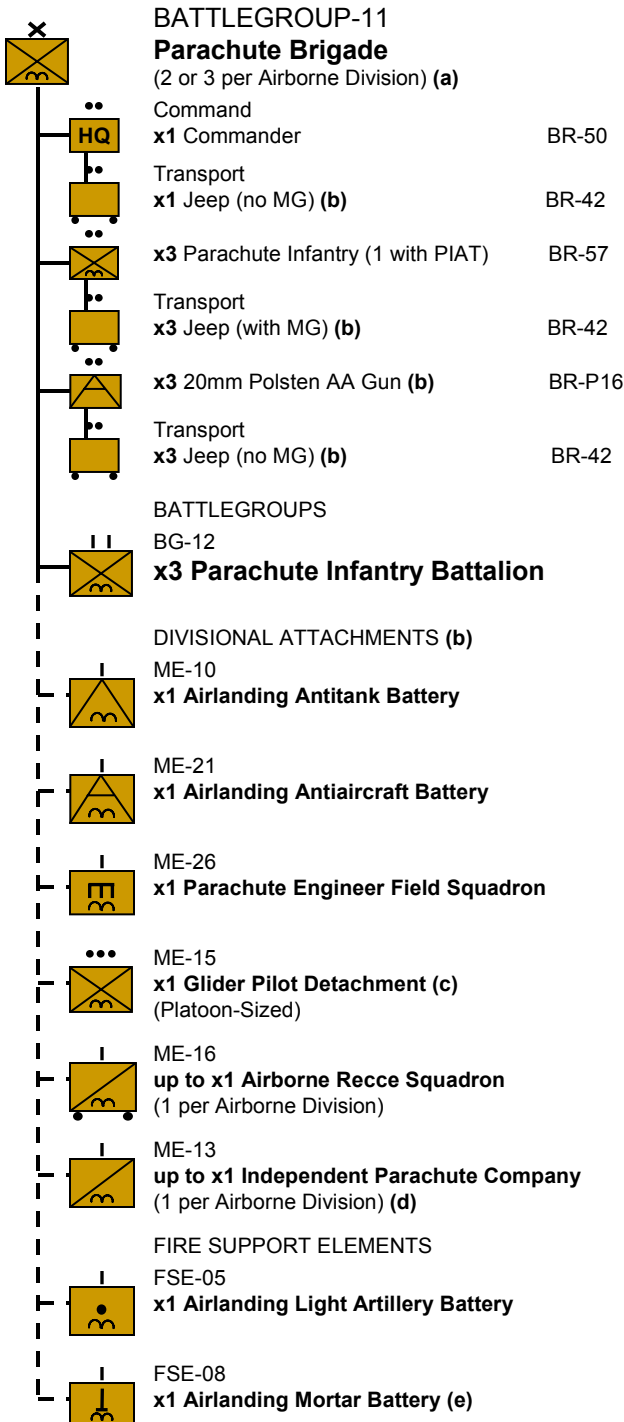
(e) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

(f) In 1943: May replace Universal Carriers in some units with:  
**x2 15cwt Truck** BR-43

(g) Autumn 1944: May replace **x2 6pdr Antitank Guns** with:  
 Vickers MMG BR-54



# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 11-12



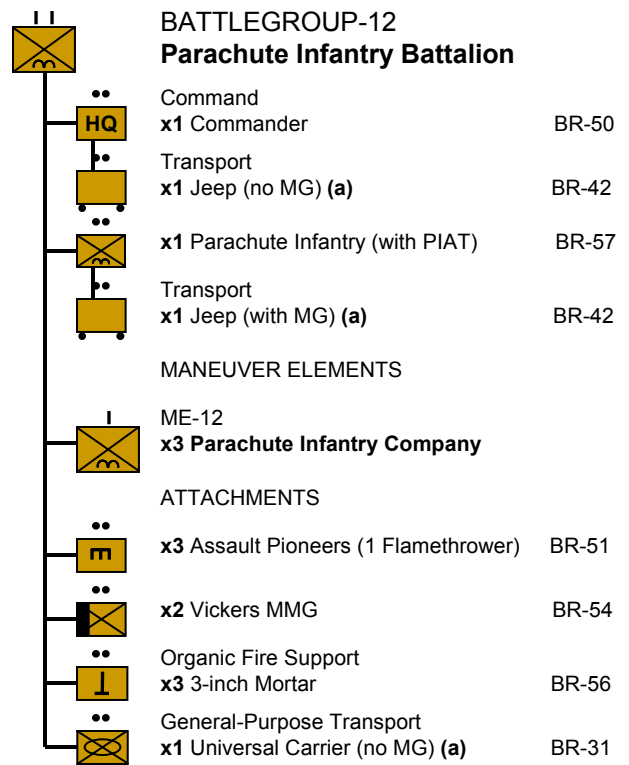
(a) 1st Airborne Division had two, later increased to three, Parachute Brigades during its period of operations in Sicily and Italy (1st 2nd & 4th Parachute Brigades). Following the disastrous airborne operation in Sicily, the division was used largely in a ground role. Following the division's withdrawal to NW Europe, 2nd Parachute Brigade remained as an independent formation with its own organic antitank, antiaircraft, pathfinder, artillery and support elements. 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group was used operationally during Operation Anvil/Dragoon (the invasion of Southern France) and during counter-insurgency operations in Greece.

(b) It was impossible at this stage of the war for an airborne brigade to be landed en masse in the first lift of any airborne operation. There simply weren't enough gliders for all the motor transport and heavy equipment. Much of the brigade's support elements would therefore be landed with the 'Sea Tail' after relief by ground forces. The Allied Airborne Forces did not manage to mount a single-lift operation until the crossing of the Rhine in 1945. The Brigadier had therefore to think very carefully about the balance of forces allocated to the first lift.

(c) The Glider Pilots would form their own fighting units on landing, but would be withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.

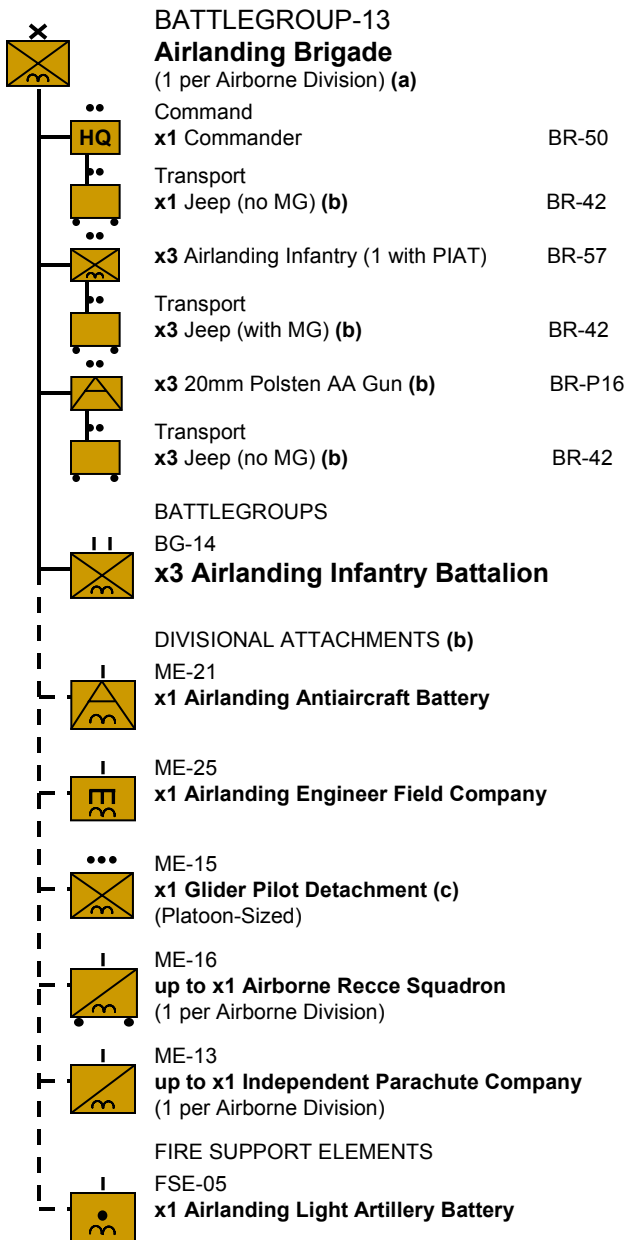
(d) 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group had a single Independent Parachute (Pathfinder) Platoon.

(e) The Airlanding Mortar Battery is only available to 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group.



(a) The transport listed was delivered with the 'Sea Tail' and not by glider.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 13

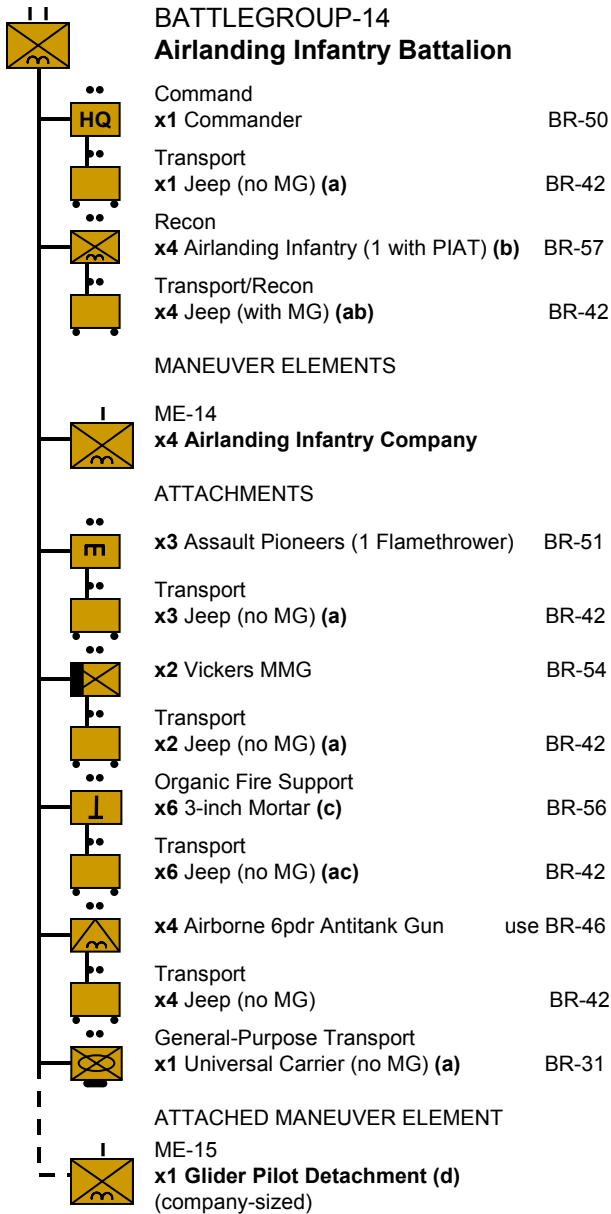


(a) 1st Airborne Division had 1st Airlanding Brigade under command throughout its operations in Sicily and Italy. Following the disastrous airborne operation in Sicily, the division was used in a ground role.

(b) It was impossible at this stage of the war for an airborne brigade to be landed en masse in the first lift of any airborne operation. There simply weren't enough gliders for all the motor transport and heavy equipment. During the assault on Sicily, one Airlanding Battalion was deleted from the order of battle to enable the bulk of the heavy weapons to be airlifted. However, of over 140 gliders (mostly Waco/Hadrian with a handful of Horsa), more than 70 were forced to ditch in the Mediterranean due to unexpectedly strong headwinds at the release point and only one solitary Horsa landed safely on the LZ.

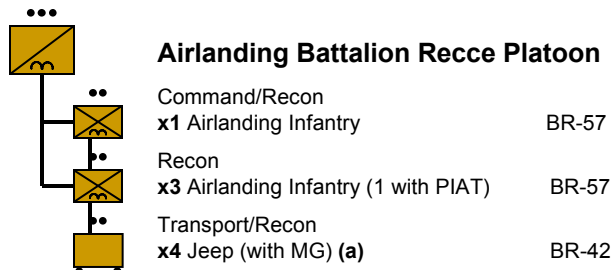
(c) The Glider Pilots would form their own fighting units on landing, but would be withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 14



(a) With the exception of the Antitank Platoon's Jeep tractors and possibly the Commander's Jeep, all transport elements were delivered with the 'Sea-Tail' and not by glider.

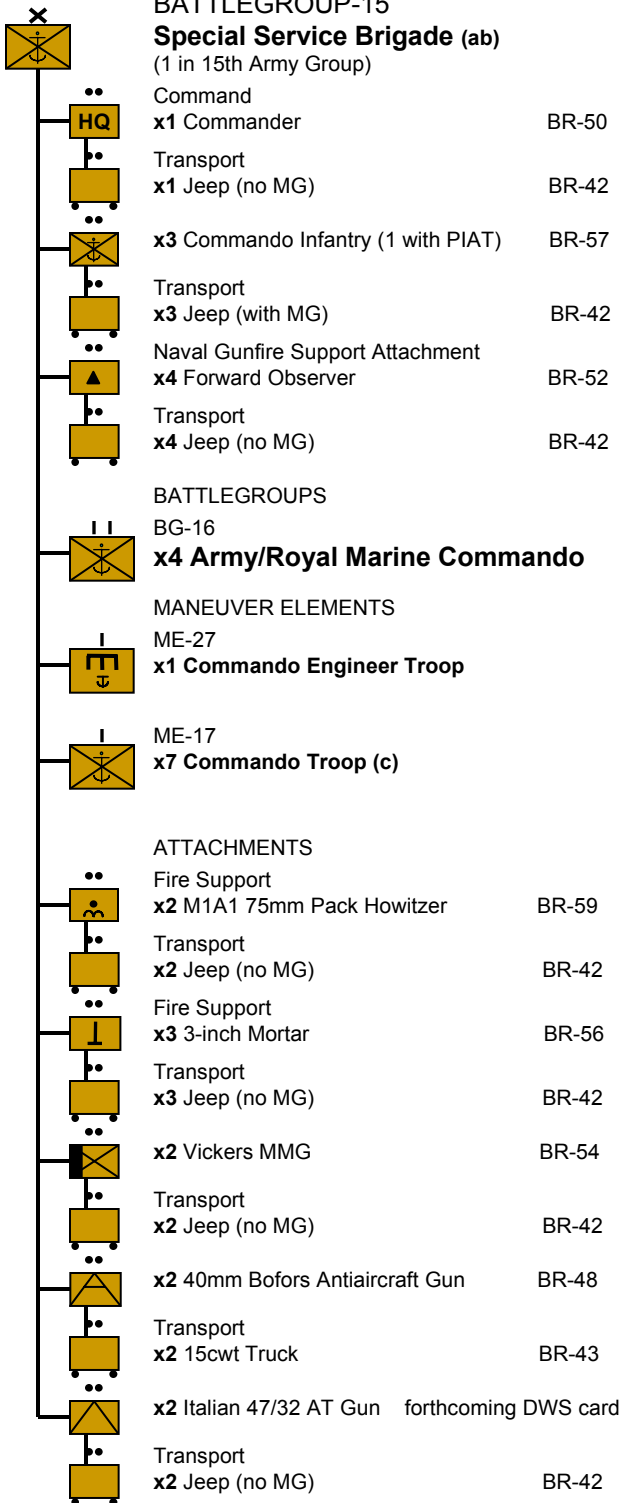
(b) The Recce Platoon may alternatively operate as a separate maneuver element:



(c) The mortars conduct indirect fire as two separate platoons of **x3** mortars each. Alternatively, they may be allocated as individual attachments to the Airlanding Infantry Companies.

(d) The Glider Pilot Detachment will be withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces and arrival of the 'Sea-Tail'.

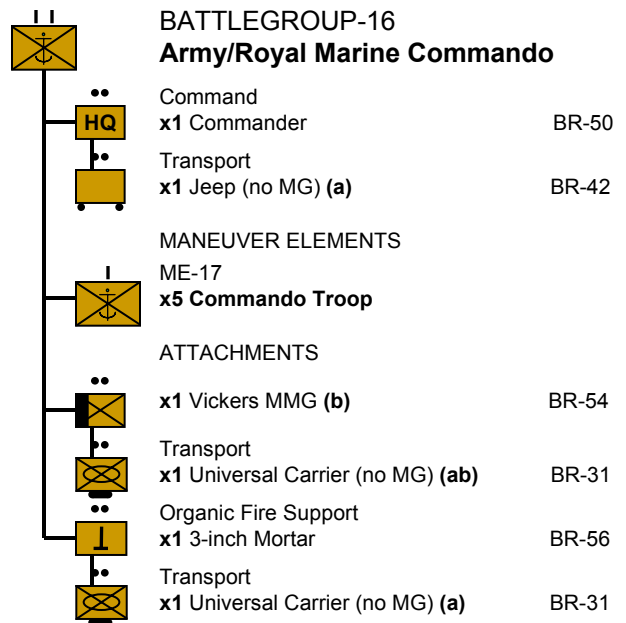
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 15-16



**(a)** The Special Service Brigades were later redesignated 'Commando Brigades'.

**(b)** 2nd Special Service/Commando Brigade was the only major British Commando formation operating in the Mediterranean. However, it was extremely rare to find the brigade deployed as a unified whole. Various parts of the brigade were involved everywhere from Leros to Southern France, as well as the main campaign in Sicily and Italy. The brigade also had US Ranger formations attached at various times.

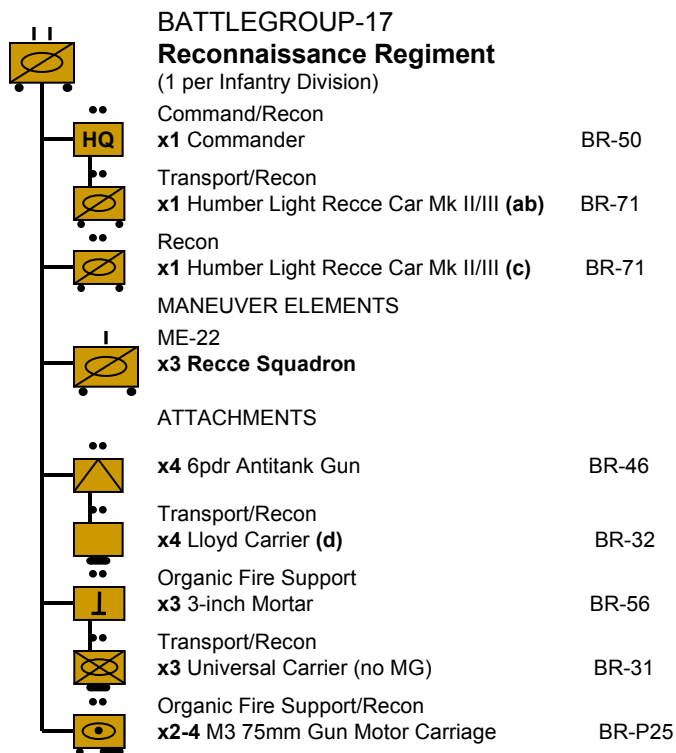
**(c)** The seven extra Commando Troops were made up of the 4th (Belgian) and 6th (Polish) Troops of 10th (Inter-Allied) Army Commando and the five troops of the Special Raiding Squadron.



**(a)** These transport elements would not be used during a raid or an amphibious operation, but might be present during a prolonged period ashore, when operating in a more 'regular' infantry role.

**(b)** Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 17-18



(a) 1943 to 1944: Many Humber LRCs still retained their Boys Antitank Rifles, whereas BR-71 only represents the late-war MG-only version.

May therefore replace with:

Humber Light Recce Car Mk II/III (Boys ATR) BR-P57

(b) In 1943: May replace LRC in some regiments with:

Morris Light Recce Car Mk II BR-P41

Replace LRC in Canadian regiments with:

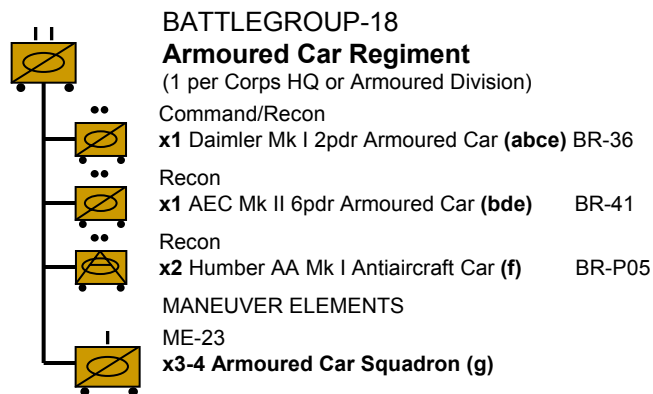
Otter Light Recce Car Mk I CA-P04

(c) In 78th Division until May 44: Replace LRCs with:

Marmon-Herrington Mk II/III Armoured Car forthcoming DWS card

(d) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian regiments with:

Windsor Carrier use BR-31



(a) The headquarters Daimler Armoured Car may call for fire as a Commander.

(b) In 1943: In Canadian regiments, replace both armoured cars with:

Fox Mk I Armoured Car CA-P08

And from Autumn 1943 with:

Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40

(c) In 1944: Replace Command Armoured Car in British regiments with:

Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40

(d) In 1944: Some British regiments retained the AEC.

Alternatively, the second HQ armoured car may be replaced with:

Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40

Or in Canadian regiments with:

Staghound Mk IICS 3-inch Close Support Car CA-P

(e) Replace both armoured cars in South African regiments with:

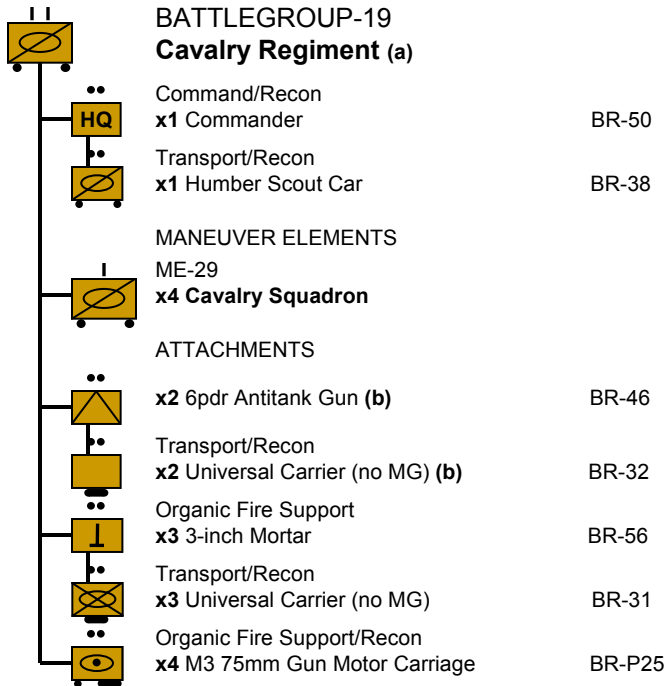
Marmon-Herrington Mk IV 2pdr Armoured Car BR-P49

(f) Late 1944: Humber AA withdrawn. However, some regiments acquired the following in 1945:

x2 Staghound AA Antiaircraft Car CA-P

(g) A three-squadron organisation was quite common early in the campaign, but it was eventually standardised in all regiments to four squadrons.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 19

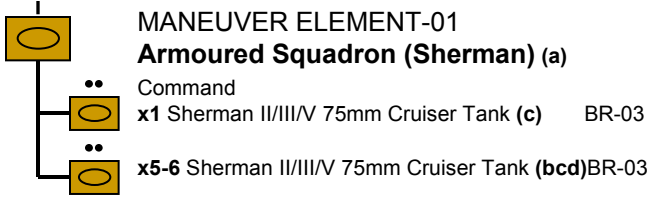


**(a)** The only unit to use this designation and organisation was the 2nd New Zealand Cavalry Regiment, which was the divisional reconnaissance element of the 2nd New Zealand (Mixed) Division. However, due the division's need for infantry reinforcements at the end of 1944, the regiment lost its armoured cars and was reorganised as a quasi-Infantry Battalion (see ME-29).

**(b)** Winter 1944/45: The Antitank Troop was disbanded to provide infantry replacements. Therefore, delete the 6pdr Antitank Guns and their transport.



# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 01-02



(a) May alternatively operate as four or five troop-sized maneuver elements of one tank each.

(b) Late 44 to 45: Replace x1 Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tank with:  
 x1 Sherman Ib 105mm Close Support Tank use US-07

The Sherman Ib was eventually adopted by all Sherman squadrons in Italy but was delivered over a fairly wide time-span:

- Summer 1944 - 1st Armoured Div
- Autumn 1944 - 6th Armoured Div
- 6th South African Armoured Division
- Winter 1944/45 - All units except 2nd Polish Armoured Bde
- Spring 1945 - 2nd Polish Armoured Bde

(c) Late 44 to 45: Replace some or all Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tanks with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank use US-02 (76mm option)

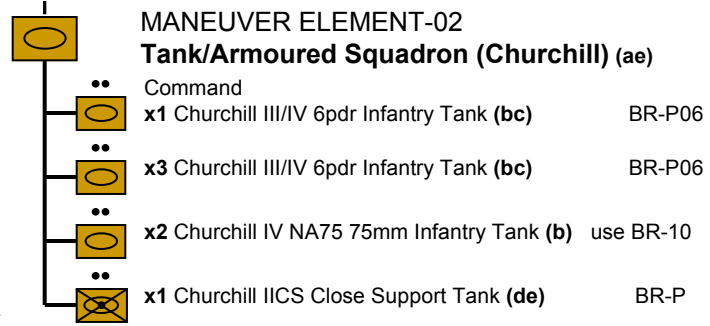
The Sherman IIa replaces Sherman II/III/V at the following rates per squadron:

- Summer 1944 - 1st Armoured Div - **1x tank**
- Autumn 1944 - 1st Armoured Div - **3x tanks**
- 6th Armoured Div - **1x tank**
- 6th South African Armoured Div - **1x tank**
- Winter 1944/45 - 2nd Armoured Bde (ex-1st AD) - **6x tanks**
- 6th Armoured Div - **3x tanks**
- 6th South African Armoured Div - **4x tanks**
- 7th Armoured Bde - **3x tanks**
- Spring 1945 - 2nd Armoured Bde (ex-1st AD) - **4x tanks**
- 6th Armoured Div - **3x tanks**
- 6th South African Armoured Div - **6x tanks**
- 7th Armoured Bde - **4x tanks**
- All other units - **None**

(d) Spring 1945: Replace some Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tanks with:  
 Sherman Ic/Vc Firefly 17pdr Cruiser Tank BR-04

The Firefly replaces Sherman II/III/V at the following rates per squadron:

- Spring 1945 - 6th Armoured Div - **1x tank**
- 6th South African Armoured Div - **None**
- All other units - **2x tanks**



(a) May alternatively operate as five troop-sized maneuver elements of one 75mm/6pdr tank each.

(b) In 1944: The lack of Churchill replacement tanks forced the incorporation of Shermans into the Tank Regiments (see BG-08). In Mixed Tank Squadrons, replace x2-3 Churchill III/IV or Churchill IV NA75 with:

- Sherman II 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-03
- Winter 1944/45: Shermans replaced - revert to original organisation.

(c) In Winter 1944/45: Replace x2 Churchill III/IV 6pdr Infantry Tanks with:  
 x2 Churchill VII 75mm Infantry Tank BR-11

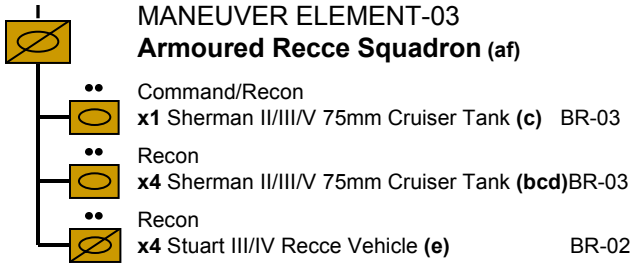
(d) May replace Close Support Tank with:  
 x1 Churchill ICS Close Support Tank BR-P

(e) Autumn 1944 to Winter 1944/45: Replace Close Support Tank with:  
 x1 Churchill V 95mm Close Support Tank BR-12

(f) In 1945, 7th Armoured Brigade had two of its three Sherman regiments replaced with Churchills. Use the following ME organisation for these two regiments:



# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 03-04



(a) The Armoured Recce Squadron may also operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Sherman and **x1** Stuart Recce. Designate one tank in each troop as the Troop Commander.

(b) Late 44: Replace **x1** Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tank with:  
**x1** Sherman Ib 105mm Close Support Tank use US-07

(c) Late 44 to 45: Replace some or all Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tanks with:  
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank use US-02 (76mm option)

The Sherman IIa replaces Sherman II/III/V at the following rates per squadron:

Summer 1944	- 1st Armoured Div	- <b>1x tank</b>
Autumn 1944	- 1st Armoured Div	- <b>2x tanks</b>
	- 6th Armoured Div	- <b>1x tank</b>
	- 6th South African Armoured Div	- <b>1x tank</b>
Winter 1944/45	- 2nd Armoured Bde (ex-1st AD)	- <b>4x tanks</b>
	- 6th Armoured Div	- <b>2x tanks</b>
	- 6th South African Armoured Div	- <b>2x tanks</b>
Spring 1945	- 2nd Armoured Bde (ex-1st AD)	- <b>2x tanks</b>
	- 6th Armoured Div	- <b>2x tanks</b>
	- 6th South African Armoured Div	- <b>4x tanks</b>

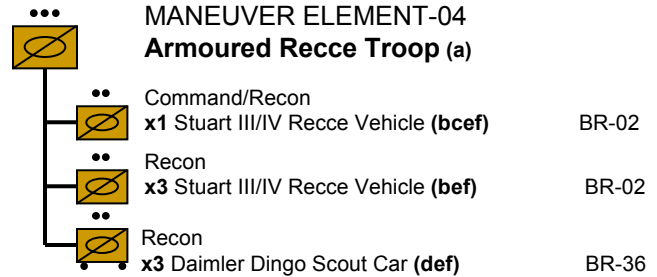
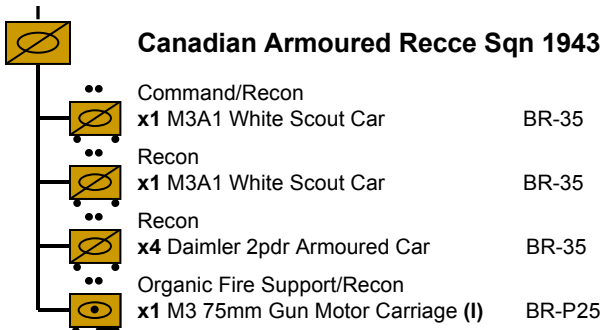
(d) Spring 1945: Replace some Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tanks with:  
 Sherman Ic/Vc Firefly 17pdr Cruiser Tank BR-04

The Firefly replaces Sherman II/III/V at the following rates per squadron:

Spring 1945	- 2nd Armoured Bde (ex-1st AD)	- <b>2x tanks</b>
	- 6th Armoured Div	- <b>1x tank</b>
	- 6th South African Armoured Div	- <b>None</b>

(e) Note that the Stuarts used in Sicily and Italy were almost exclusively turretless conversions.

(f) In 5th Canadian Armoured Division 1943: Before adopting the organisation listed above, the Canadians used the following ME organisation:



(a) The Recce Troop may alternatively operate as three section-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Stuart Recce and **x1** Dingo. Designate one vehicle in each section as the Section Commander. They may also operate as unit attachments to the regimental headquarters element and maneuver elements.

(b) Note that the Stuarts used in Sicily and Italy were almost exclusively turretless conversions.

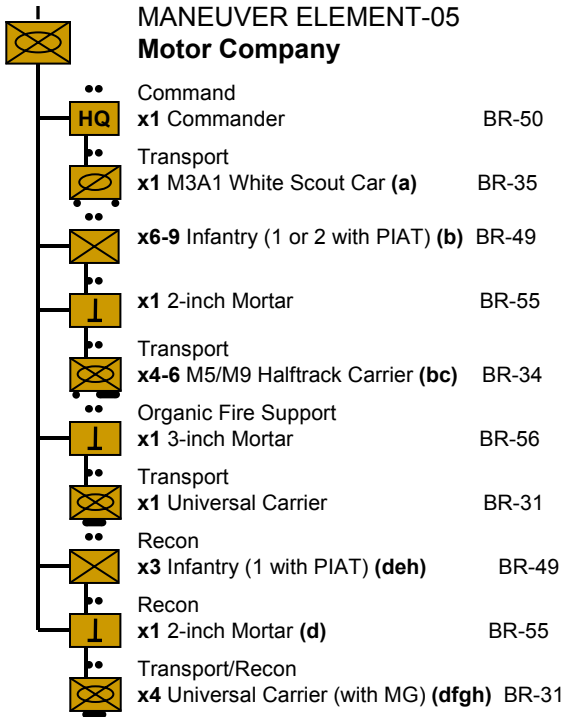
(c) May replace command vehicle with:  
 Daimler Dingo Scout Car (d) BR-36

(d) May replace Dingos with:  
 Humber Scout Car BR-38

(e) There are also examples in Italy of regiments with no Stuarts (particularly in 1943/44), as well as regiments with no scout cars. In either case, simply delete the appropriate vehicle type from the ME.

(f) In 7th Armoured Brigade, 1945: Replace all vehicles with:  
 M8 Greyhound 37mm Armoured Car use US-11

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 05-07



(a) Late 1944: Replace Scout Car in Canadian units with:  
**x1 C15TA Armoured Truck** CA-P02

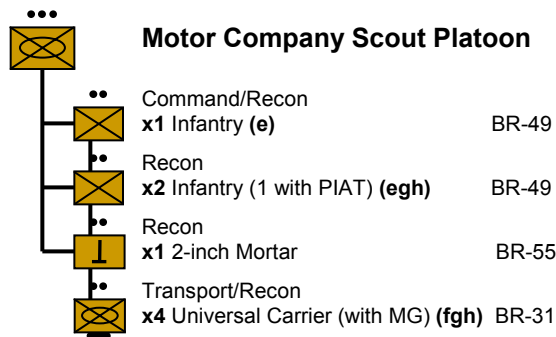
(b) Some Motor Companies (particularly in 1943/44) had only two motor platoons per company instead of three, hence the variable strength figure shown here.

(c) May replace or mix halftracks in some units with:  
**up to x10 M3A1 White Scout Car** BR-35  
 In 1943: Some units may not have received armoured carriers. In which case, replace with:

**x4-6 15cwt Truck** BR-43

In Late 1944: May replace in Canadian units with:  
**x4-6 C15TA Armoured Truck** CA-P02

(d) The Scout Platoon may alternatively operate as a separate maneuver element:

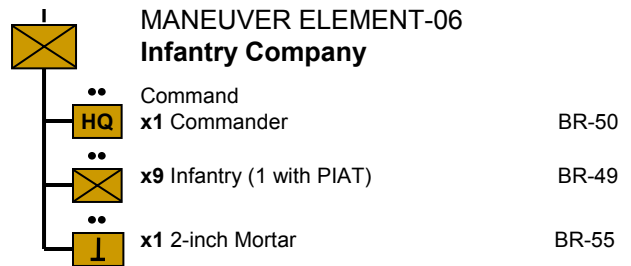


(e) The Scout Platoon Infantry may alternatively dismount as:  
 Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

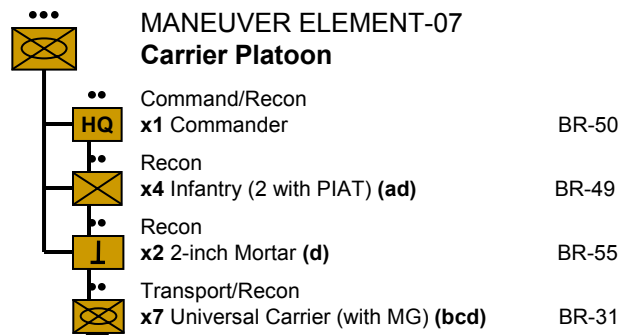
(f) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

(g) 1943 to 1944: Some units' Universal Carriers retained their Boys Antitank Rifles. In this case, delete the PIAT from the Carrier Infantry and replace the Universal Carriers with:  
 Universal (Scout) Carrier (MG & ATR) BR-P56

(h) In 5th Canadian Armoured Division from Autumn 1944: Replace one Scout Section (**x1 Infantry & x1 Carrier**) with:  
**x1 Wasp Flamethrower Carrier** BR-33



(a) Summer 1944 to Winter 1944/45: If the parent Infantry Battalion has been reduced to **x3** Infantry Companies due to losses (see BG-10), the Bren LMGs from disbanded units may be issued to the remaining companies: May therefore replace **x3** Infantry per Infantry Company with:  
 Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53



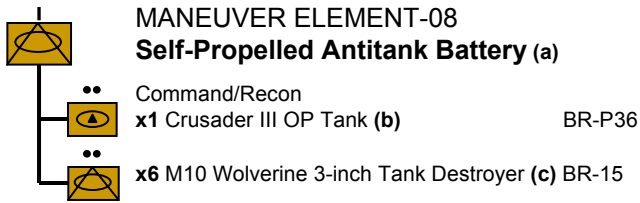
(a) The Carrier Infantry may alternatively dismount as:  
 Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

(b) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

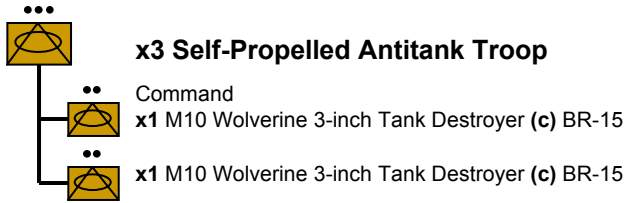
(c) 1943 to 1944: Some units' Universal Carriers retained their Boys Antitank Rifles. In this case, delete the PIATs from the Carrier Infantry and replace the Universal Carriers with:  
 Universal (Scout) Carrier (MG & ATR) BR-P56

(d) In 5th Canadian Armoured Division from Autumn 1944, or in Infantry Divisions 1945: Replace **x2** Carrier Sections (**x3** Carriers, **x2** Infantry and **x1** 2-inch Mortar) with:  
**x3 Wasp Flamethrower Carrier** BR-33

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 08-10

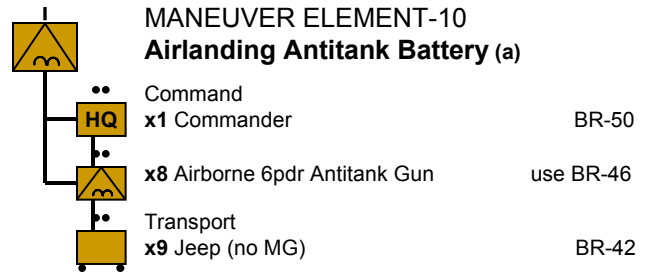


(a) The Self-Propelled Antitank Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:

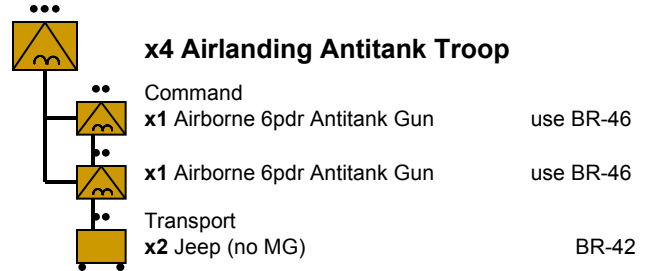


(b) In 1945: May replace the commander's transport with:  
Stuart III Recce Vehicle BR-02

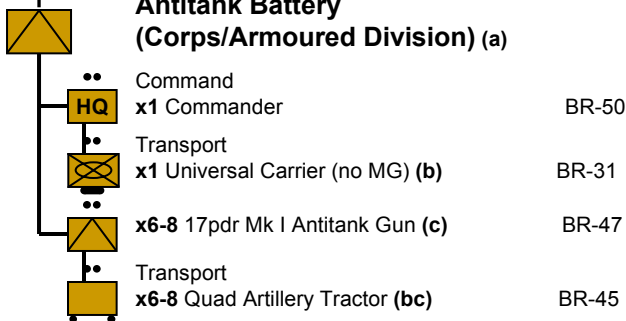
(c) Late 1944: May replace up to half M10 Wolverines with:  
M10c Achilles 17pdr Tank Destroyer BR-16  
In 1945: May replace up to all M10 Wolverines with:  
M10c Achilles 17pdr Tank Destroyer BR-16



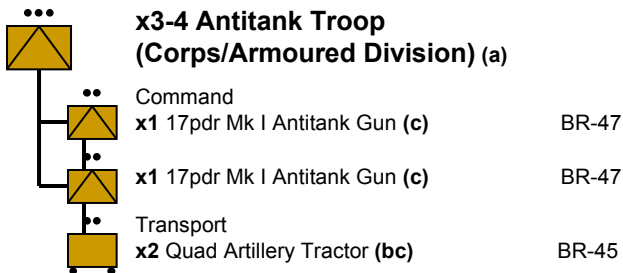
(a) The Airlanding Antitank Battery may alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements. One troop would typically be allocated to each Parachute Infantry Battalion in the brigade, with one in reserve:



## MANEUVER ELEMENT-09 Antitank Battery (Corps/Armoured Division) (a)



(a) The Towed Antitank Battery may alternatively operate as three or four troop-sized maneuver elements:



(b) May replace transport with:  
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier BR-34  
GMC 2½ Ton Truck use US-15

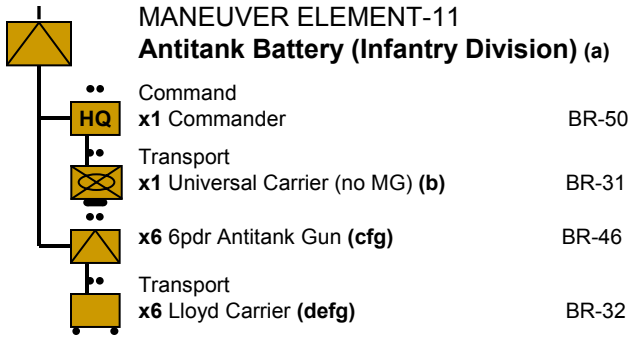
Or in a very few units from 1944 with:  
Crusader II Hi-Speed Tractor BR-P45

Or in some Canadian units from 1944 with:  
C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(c) Some units were still equipped with older equipment:  
17pdr Mk II (Pheasant) Antitank Gun forthcoming DWS card  
6pdr Antitank Gun BR-46

If still using 6pdr, replace Quad tractors with:  
Lloyd Carrier BR-32

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 11-15



(a) The Antitank Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements. It was common practice for one troop to be attached to each infantry battalion:



(b) In 1945: May replace commander's transport with:  
Stuart III Recce Vehicle BR-02

(c) In 1944: May replace up to **x2** 6pdr Antitank Guns in the battery (one Antitank Troop) with:  
17pdr Mk I Antitank Gun (d) BR-47

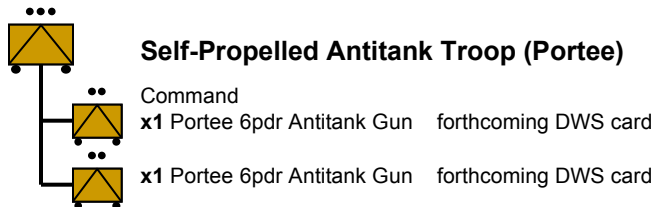
(d) Replace gun tractors for 17pdrs with:  
Quad Artillery Tractor BR-45  
GMC 2½ Ton Truck use US-15

Or in a very few units with:  
Crusader II Hi-Speed Tractor BR-P45

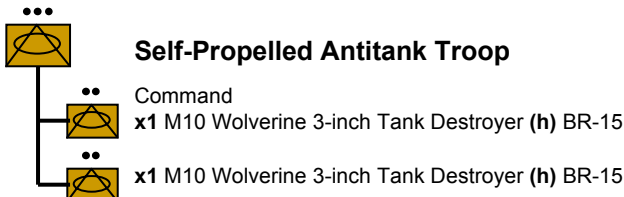
Or in Canadian units from late 1944 with:  
C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(e) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian units with:  
Windsor Carrier use BR-31

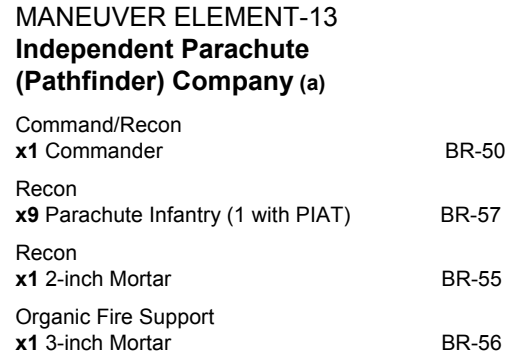
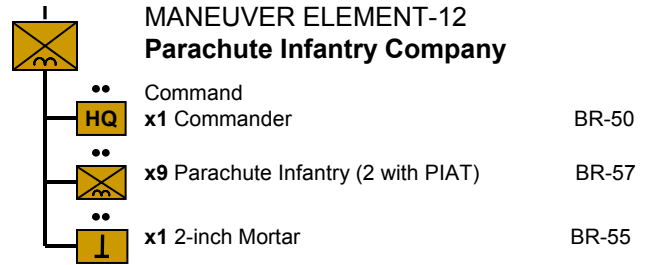
(f) May replace some or all Towed Antitank Troops in the battery with:



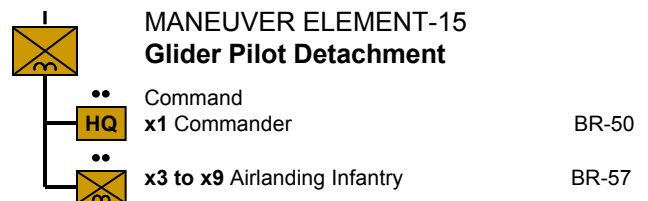
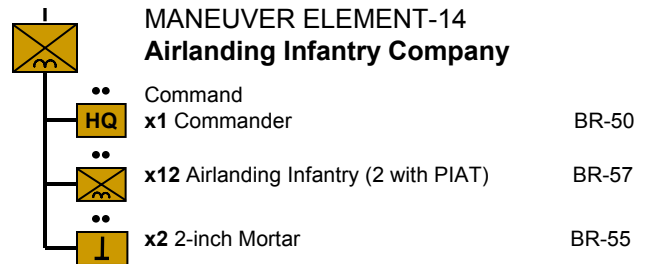
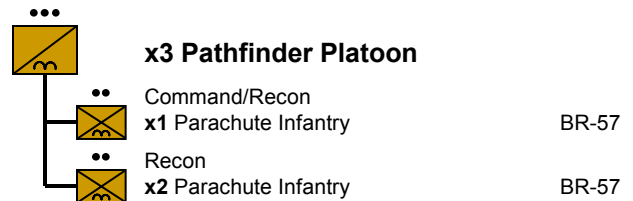
(g) In some Infantry Divisions from Summer 1944: May replace up to **x2** 6pdr Antitank Guns in the battery (one Antitank Troop) with:



(h) In 1945: May alternatively equip Self-Propelled Antitank Troop in some units with:  
M18 Hellcat 76mm Tank Destroyer use US-04

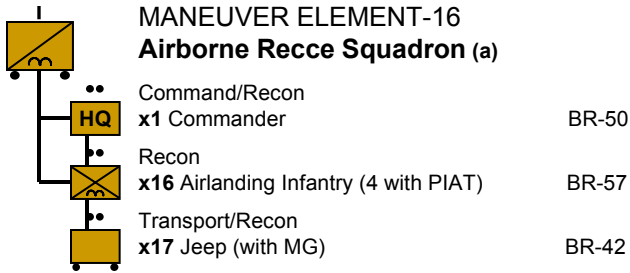


(a) The Independent Parachute (Pathfinder) Company may alternatively operate as three platoon-sized maneuver elements:

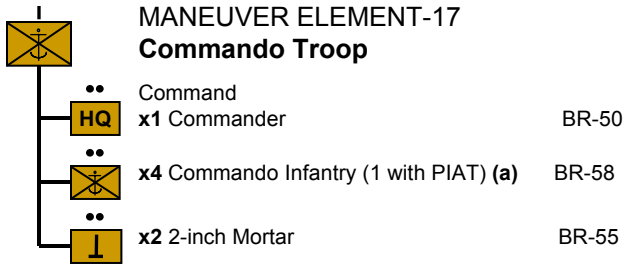
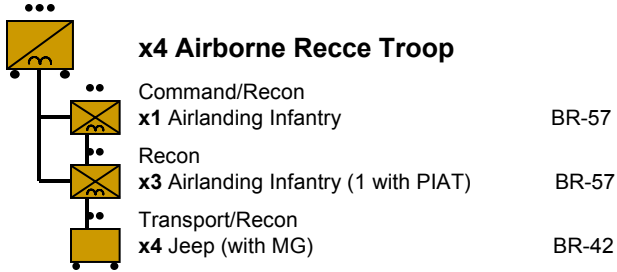


(a) Glider Pilots were trained as infantry and upon landing, formed their own fighting platoons and companies. However, due to their rare specialisation, they were withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.

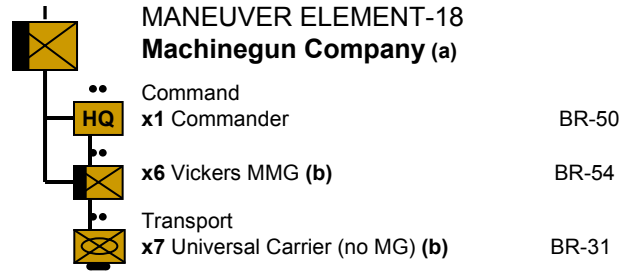
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 16-18



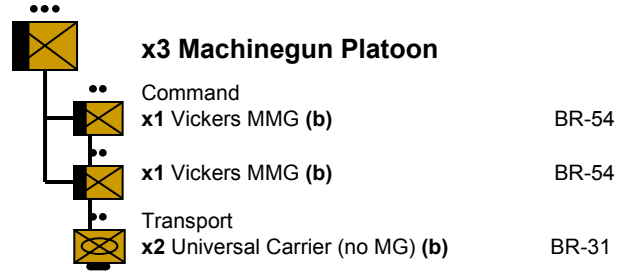
(a) The Airborne Recce Squadron may alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements:



(a) Spring 1945: May replace **x1** Commando Infantry with:  
**x1** Assault Pioneers (with Flamethrower) BR-51

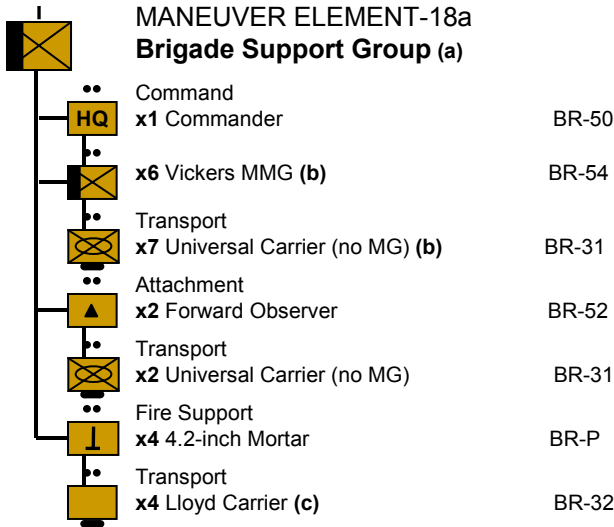


(a) The Machinegun Company may alternatively operate as three platoon sized maneuver elements as follows. These were typically attached to infantry battalions on a semi-permanent basis:

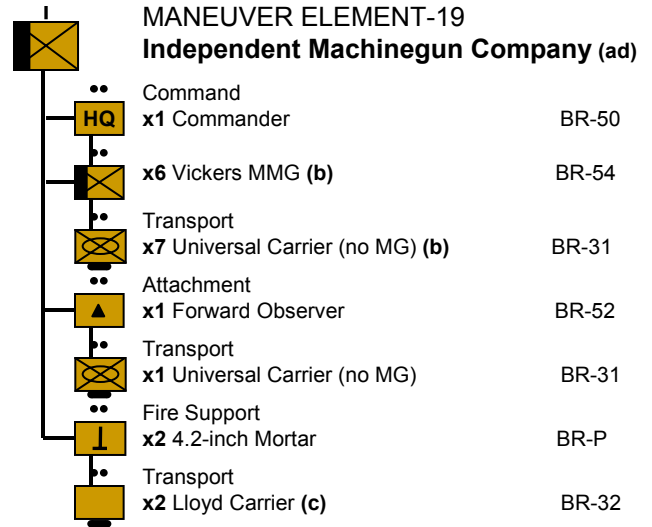


(b) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

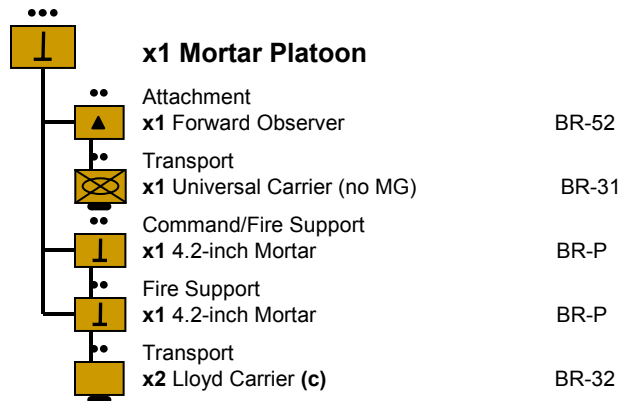
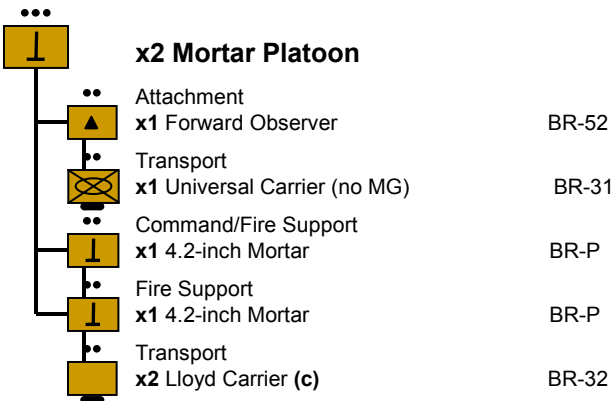
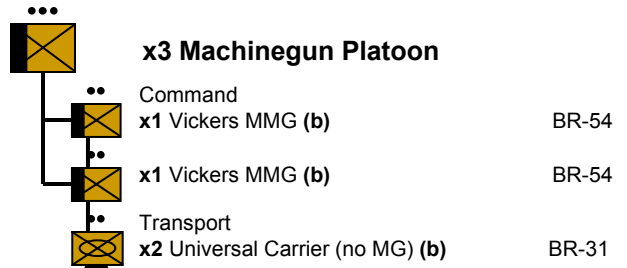
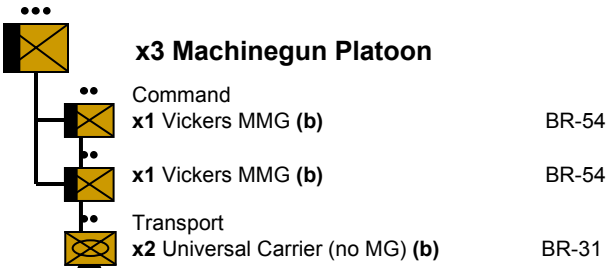
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 18a-19



(a) The Brigade Support Group normally operated as five platoon-sized maneuver/fire support elements as follows. The Machinegun Platoons were typically attached to infantry battalions on a semi-permanent basis:



(a) The Independent Machinegun Company normally operated as four platoon-sized maneuver/fire support elements as follows. The Machinegun Platoons were typically attached to infantry battalions on a semi-permanent basis:



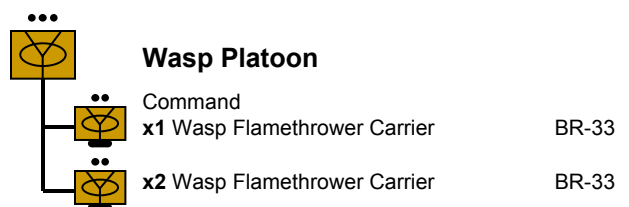
(b) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

(b) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

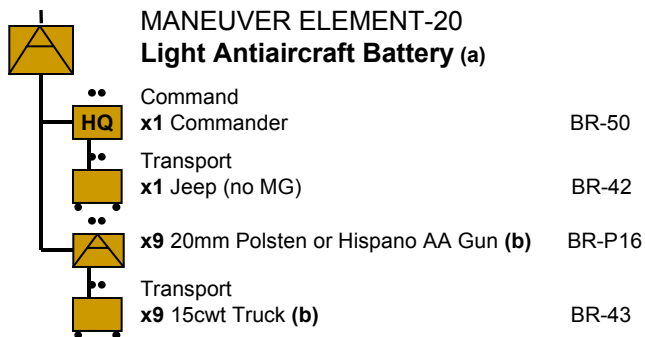
(c) In Canadian units: Replace Lloyd Carriers with: Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(c) In Canadian units: Replace Lloyd Carriers with: Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(d) In 1st Canadian Infantry Division, 1945: Add Wasp Platoon:



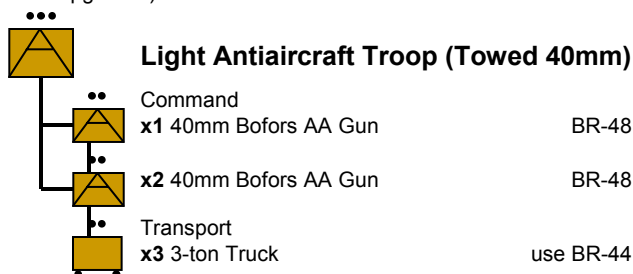
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 20-21



(a) The Light Antiaircraft Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:



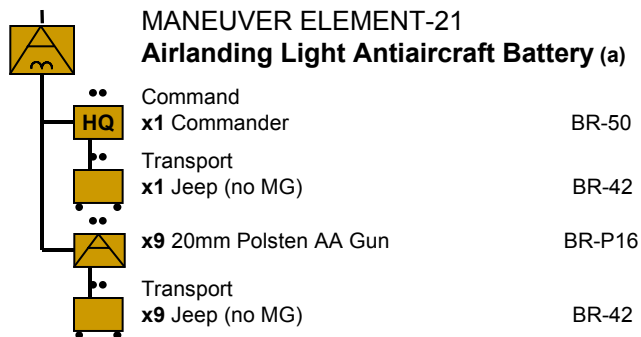
(b) May replace some or all Light Antiaircraft Troops in the battery with the following (by 1945 at least two troops per battery should be upgraded):



(c) In Armoured Divisions: Up to one Light Antiaircraft Troop in the battery may be upgraded to the following:



(d) Spring 1945: May replace up to x1 Morris C9B per troop with:  
x1 M16 MGMC use US-10

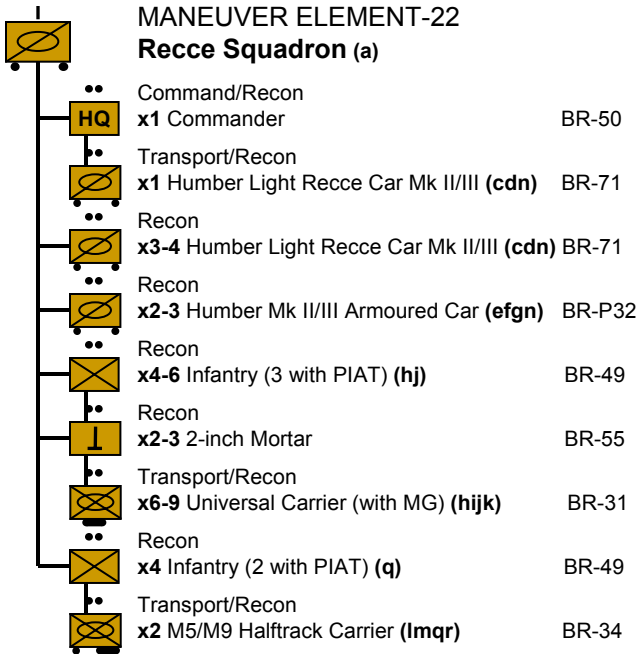


(a) The Airlanding Light Antiaircraft Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:

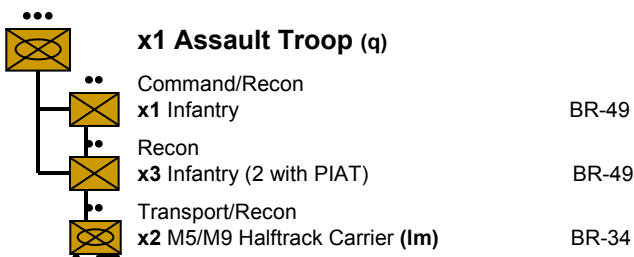
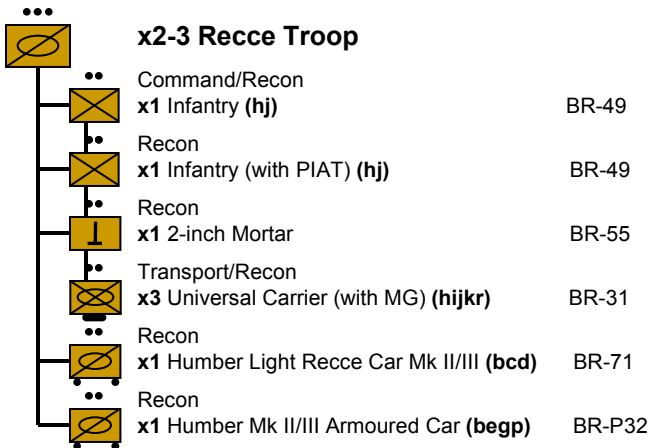




# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 22



(a) The Recce Squadron may alternatively operate as separate troop-sized maneuver elements. There were too many organisational variations to list here, but this was the most common):



(b) Another reasonably common organisational variation also worth mentioning was to subdivide the Recce Troops into an Armoured Car Troop (with all the LRCs and armoured cars massed together) and two or three Carrier Troops. It was also not unknown for a regiment to lack LRCs or alternatively to lack armoured cars – the variations are virtually endless!

(c) 1943 to 1944: Many Humber LRCs still retained their Boys Antitank Rifles, whereas BR-71 only represents the late-war MG-only version. May therefore replace with:  
 Humber Light Recce Car Mk II/III (Boys ATR) BR-P57

(d) In 1943: May replace Humber LRC in some regiments with:  
 Morris Light Recce Car Mk II BR-P41  
 Replace Humber LRC in Canadian regiments with:  
 Otter Light Recce Car Mk I CA-P04  
 Replace Humber LRC in Indian squadrons (at a ratio of two for each armoured car present) with:  
 Wheeled Armoured Carrier, India Pattern Mk IIa BR-P35

(e) In 1943: Replace Humber Armoured Car in Canadian regiments and some Indian squadrons with:  
 Fox Mk I Armoured Car (f) CA-P08

(f) May replace Humber/Fox Armoured Car with:  
 Daimler Mk I 2pdr Armoured Car BR-37  
 Humber Mk IV 37mm Armoured Car BR-39

(g) Replace Humber Armoured Car in South African units with:  
 Marmon-Herrington Mk IV 2pdr Armoured Car BR-P49

(h) The Carrier Infantry may alternatively dismount as:  
 Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

(i) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

(j) 1943 to 1944: Some units' Universal Carriers retained their Boys Antitank Rifles. In this case, delete the PIATs from the Carrier Infantry and replace the Universal Carriers with:  
 Universal (Scout) Carrier (MG & ATR) BR-P56

(k) In Indian squadrons, Universal Carriers may be replaced with:  
 Wheeled Armoured Carrier, India Pattern Mk I BR-P33

(l) May replace M5/M9 Halftracks with:  
 x4 M3A1 White Scout Car BR-35

(m) Late 1944: Replace M5/M9 Halftracks/M3A1 White Scout Cars in Canadian regiments with:  
 x2 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(n) In 56 Recce Regiment (78th Division), 1943 to May 1944: This unit continued to use obsolete equipment during this period – replace all LRCs and Armoured Cars in the ME with:  
 Marmon-Herrington Armd Car Mk II/III (o) forthcoming DWS card

(o) Up to x2 Marmon-Herringtons may be turretless field conversions, mounting the Italian 47mm Antitank Gun. In which case, replace with:  
 Marmon-Herrington 47mm Gun Carrier forthcoming DWS card

(p) In July 1944: 56 Recce Regiment, having discarded the Marmon-Herrington, was back in action using a variation on the standard ME organisation shown; Replace all Humber Mk II/III Armoured Cars with:  
 M8 Greyhound 37mm Armoured Car use US-11

(q) Indian Recce Squadrons did not have an Assault Troop.

(r) May replace the Carriers in one Recce Troop with:  
 x3 Jeep (with MG) BR-42

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 23



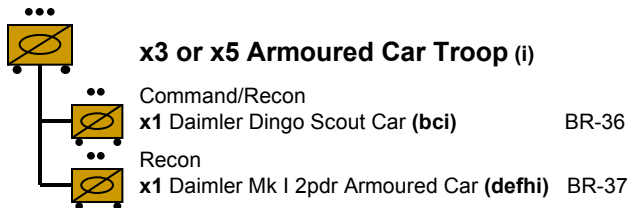
**(b)** The Armoured Car Squadron/Troop command vehicles may call for fire as a Commander. They may also be exchanged at any time for a dismounted Commander in a similar manner to cavalry or motorcycle troops. This is to enable reconnaissance on foot, which was a very common practice of Commonwealth armoured car crews.

**(c)** In Canadian regiments: Replace the Dingo Scout Cars with:  
 Lynx Scout Car CA-P01

**(d)** 1943 to early 1944: Some units still retained their older armoured cars. In which case, may replace some or all armoured cars in the squadron with:  
 Humber Mk II/III Armoured Car BR-P32  
 Humber Mk IV 37mm Armoured Car BR-39

**(e)** In 1943: Replace all Canadian armoured cars with:  
 Fox Mk I Armoured Car CA-P08  
 From Autumn 1943: Replace all Canadian armoured cars with:  
 Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40

**(a)** The Armoured Car Squadron may alternatively operate as five or seven troop-sized maneuver elements as follows:



**(f)** In South African regiments: Replace all armoured cars with:  
 Marmon-Herrington Mk IV 2pdr Armoured Car BR-P49

**(g)** In 1944: Replace the two squadron headquarters armoured cars in British regiments with:  
 Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40

**(h)** In 6th Armoured Division, Spring 1945: May replace Daimler Armoured Cars with:  
 M8 Greyhound 37mm Armoured Car use US-11

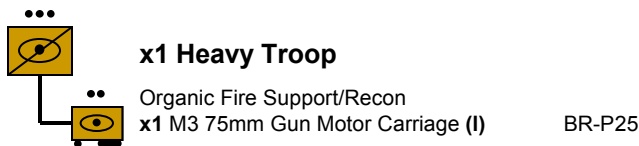
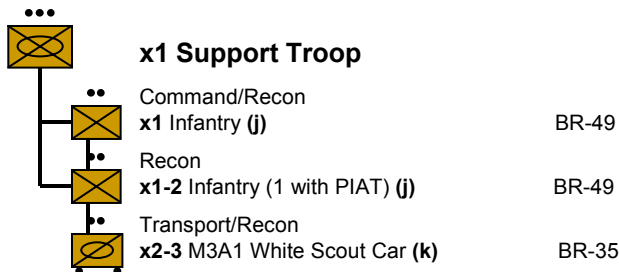
**(i)** In 1944: Increase the number of Armoured Car Troops in all squadrons to **x5**. Therefore increase the number of Scout Cars and Armoured Cars accordingly.

**(j)** The infantry of the Support Troop are trained and equipped to clear minefields. They may therefore perform this engineering task (see website Playtest Engineering Rules).

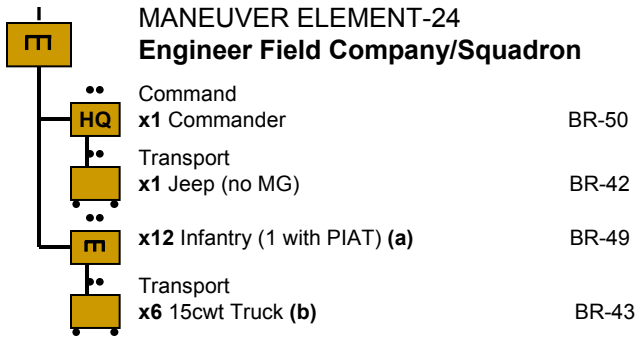
**(k)** Late 1944: Replace M3A1 White Scout Car in Canadian regiments with:  
 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

**(l)** In some British regiments 1945: May replace the M3 GMC in the Heavy Troop with:  
**x2** Staghound Mk II CS 3-inch Close Support Car CA-P  
 or:  
**x2** Staghound Mk III 75mm Armoured Car CA-P05

**(m)** In Canadian regiments, Winter 1944/45: Replace the second armoured car in Squadron HQ with:  
 Staghound Mk III 75mm Armoured Car

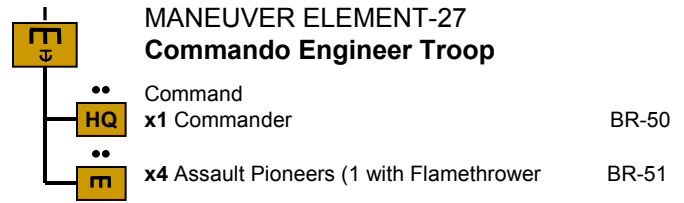


# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 24-29

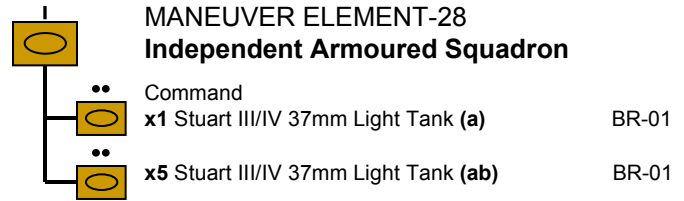


(a) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules. Note that the Assault Pioneer card (BR-51), with its enhanced close-combat values, does not really reflect the role of the Royal Engineers in this instance.

(b) May replace up to x2 15cwt Trucks with:  
x2 M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier BR-34  
Or alternatively:  
x3 M3A1 White Scout Car BR-35

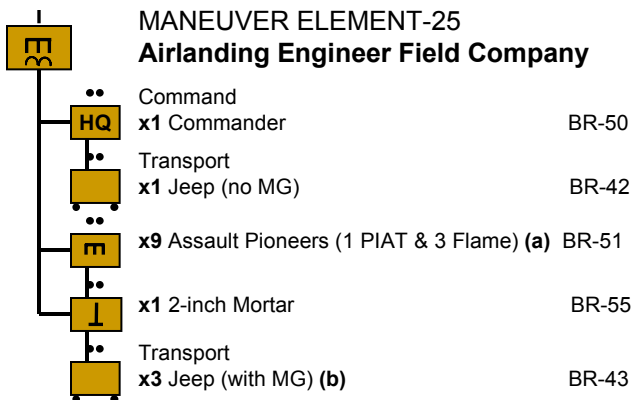


(a) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules.



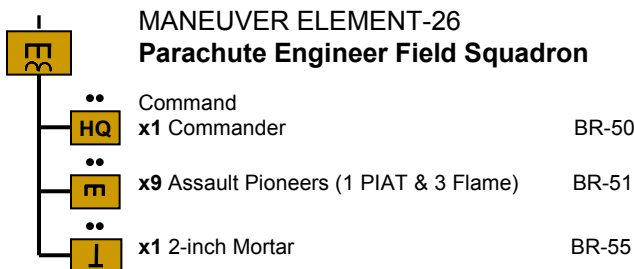
(a) May replace some or all Stuart Light Tanks with:  
Stuart III/IV Recce Vehicle BR-02

(b) May alternatively operate as five troop-sized maneuver elements of one tank each.

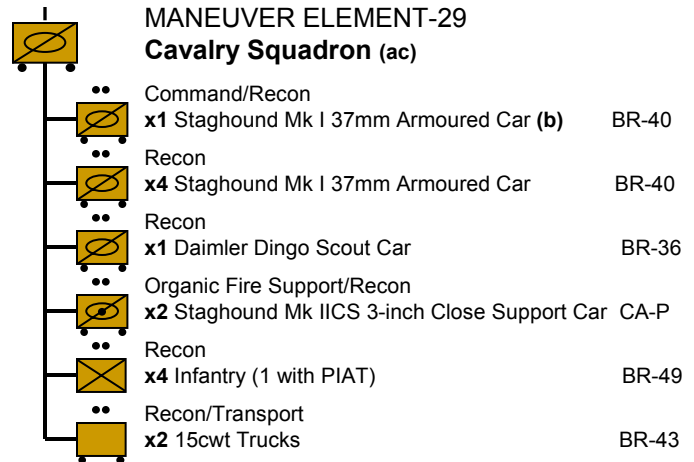


(a) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules.

(b) These Jeeps may be flown in by glider during the first lift.



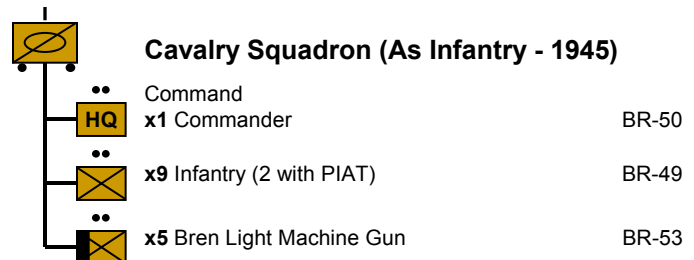
(a) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules.



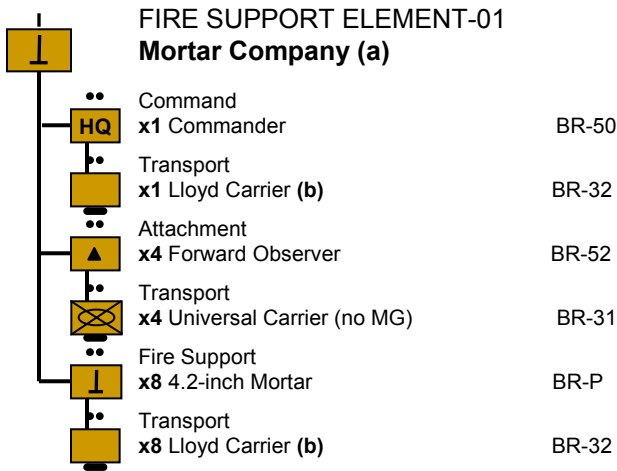
(a) The squadron's armoured cars & scout car may alternatively operate as seven troop-sized elements of one car each.

(b) The Armoured Car Squadron/Troop command vehicles may call for fire as a Commander. They may also be exchanged at any time for a dismounted Commander in a similar manner to cavalry or motorcycle troops. This is to enable reconnaissance on foot, which was a very common practice of Commonwealth armoured car crews.

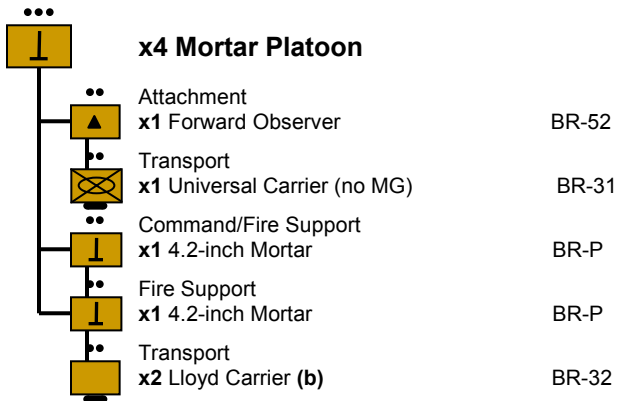
(c) Winter 1944/45: The 2nd New Zealand Cavalry Regiment was dismounted to provide a badly-needed extra 'Infantry Battalion'. The squadrons were then organised as follows:



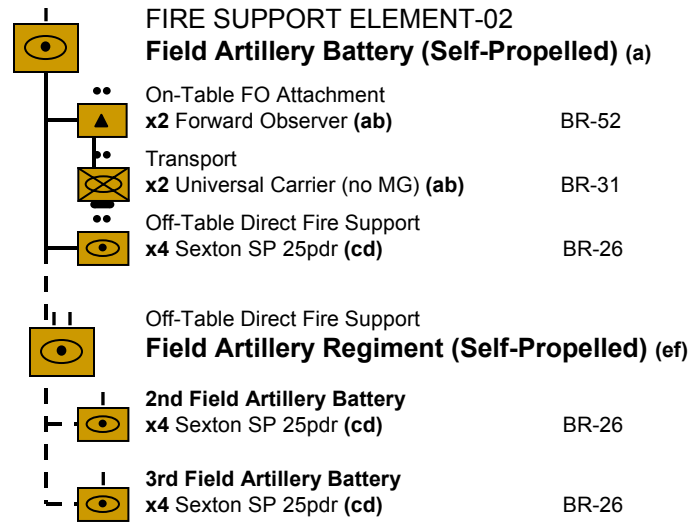
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 01-02



(a) The Mortar Company may alternatively operate as four separate platoon-sized fire support elements as follows:



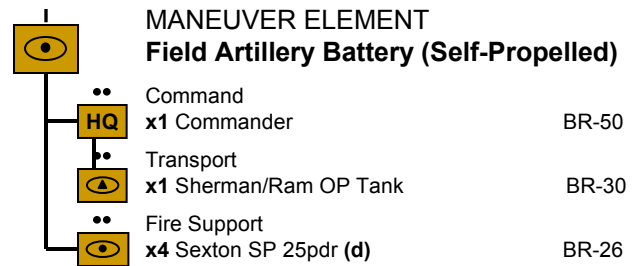
(b) In Canadian units: Replace the Lloyd Carriers with: Windsor Carrier use BR-31



(a) Each battalion-sized infantry/armoured battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it (from the same battery). This also 'factors-in' AGRA FOs and Battery Commanders (who also acted as FOs). The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company Commanders. Commonwealth artillery may also fire by Troop (i.e. a half-battery of two guns). Each FO may call for a single Field Artillery Troop as Organic Fire Support.

(b) The FOs may alternatively be transported by the OP Tanks in the headquarters element of an armoured regiment. Alternatively, their transport may be replaced by:  
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier BR-34  
Or in 1945 with:  
Stuart III Recce Vehicle BR-02

(c) In emergency situations, a Field Artillery Battery (Self-Propelled) may be fielded as an on-table Maneuver Element:

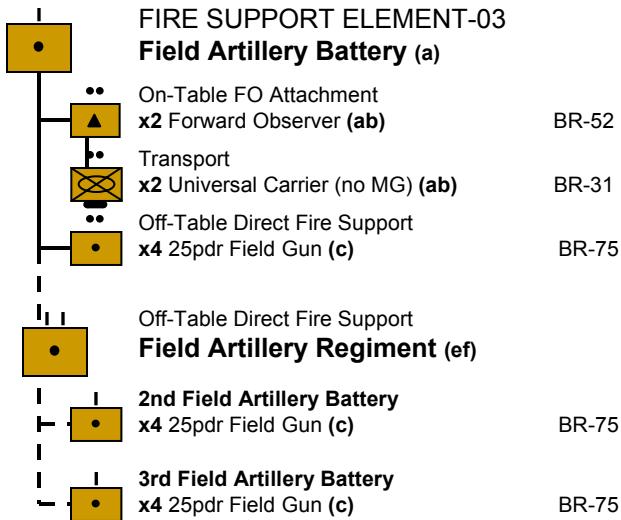


(d) Some batteries may be equipped with:  
x4 M7 Priest SP 105mm US-06

(e) The entire Field Regiment is available as Direct Fire Support when the FO calls for a 'Mike Target'. See the website British Artillery Tutorial. Commanders may not call for 'Mike Targets' or General Fire Support.

(f) The division's entire artillery group will be available as General Fire Support when the FO calls for an 'Uncle Target'. An Armoured Division had two Field Regiments – one SP and one Towed (FSE-03), while an Infantry or Mixed Division normally had three Towed Field Regiments (FSE-03). General Support may also be available from AGRA – especially when in defence. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 03-04

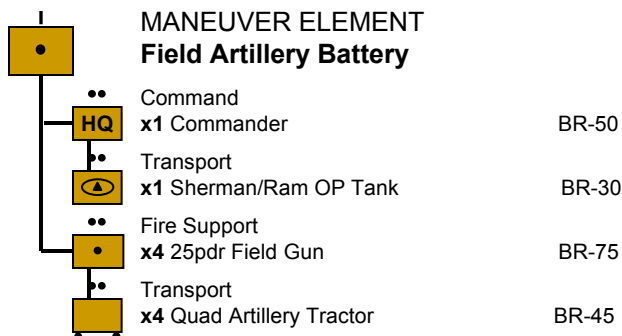


(a) Each battalion-sized infantry/armoured battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it (from the same battery). This also 'factors-in' AGRA FOs and Battery Commanders (who also acted as FOs). The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company Commanders. Commonwealth artillery may also fire by Troop (i.e. a half-battery of two guns). Each FO may call for a single Field Artillery Troop as Organic Fire Support.

(b) The FOs may alternatively be transported by the OP Tanks in the headquarters element of an armoured regiment. Alternatively, their transport may be replaced by:

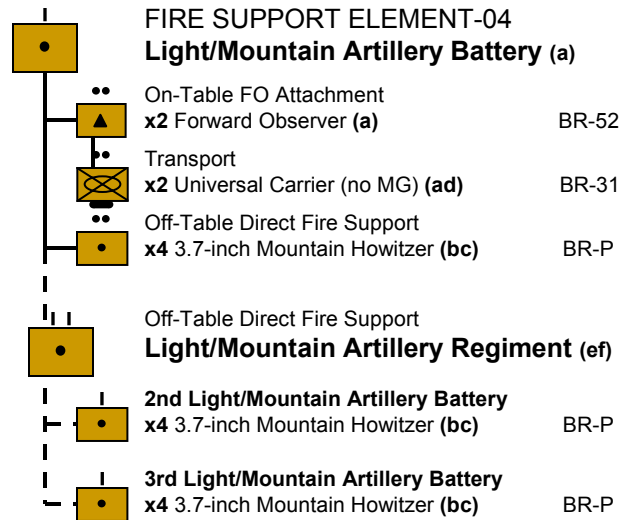
M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier	BR-34
Or in 1945 with:	
Stuart III Recce Vehicle	BR-02

(c) In emergency situations, a Field Artillery Battery may be fielded as an on-table Maneuver Element:



(d) The entire Field Regiment is available as Direct Fire Support when the FO calls for a 'Mike Target'. See the website British Artillery Tutorial. Commanders may not call for 'Mike Targets' or General Fire Support.

(e) The division's entire artillery group will be available as General Fire Support when the FO calls for an 'Uncle Target'. An Infantry or Mixed Division normally had three Towed Field Regiments. General Support may also be available from AGRA – especially when in defence. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.



(a) Each battalion-sized infantry/armoured battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it (from the same battery). This also 'factors-in' AGRA FOs and Battery Commanders (who also acted as FOs). The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company Commanders. Commonwealth artillery may also fire by Troop (i.e. a half-battery of two guns). Each FO may call for a single Light/Mountain Artillery Troop as Organic Fire Support.

(b) In emergency situations, a Light/Mountain Artillery Battery may be fielded as an on-table Maneuver Element:



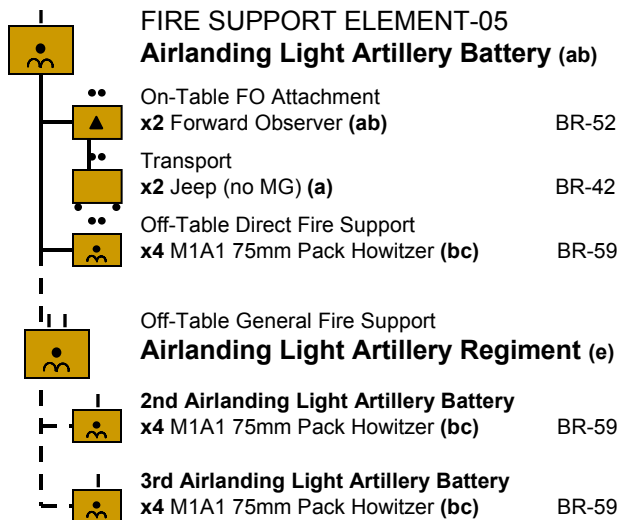
(c) Some batteries may be re-equipped with:  
**x4 M1A1 75mm Pack Howitzer** BR-59

(d) May replace transport with:  
Jeep (no MG) BR-42  
Pack Mules BR-P

(e) The entire Light/Mountain Regiment is available as Direct Fire Support when the FO calls for a 'Mike Target'. See the website British Artillery Tutorial. Commanders may not call for 'Mike Targets' or General Fire Support.

(f) The division's entire artillery group will be available as General Fire Support when the FO calls for an 'Uncle Target'. An Infantry or Mixed Division normally had three Towed Field Regiments. General Support may also be available from AGRA – especially when in defence. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.

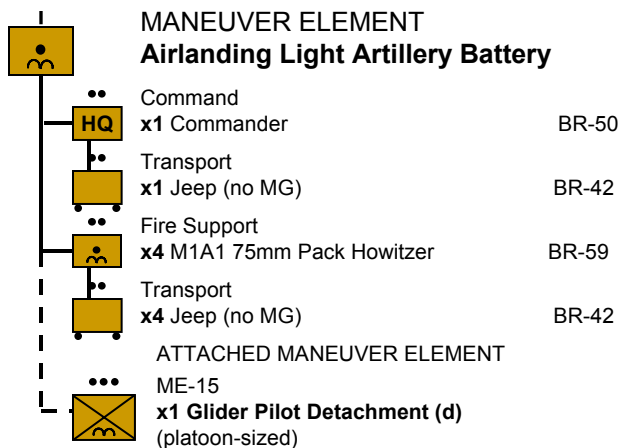
# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 05-07



(a) Airborne Brigades have only a third as much artillery at their disposal as regular Infantry or Armoured Brigades (one battery compared to one regiment). This also means that they don't have as many Forward Observers. However, after the experiences of the Normandy Campaign, Airborne Forward Observation Units were created to increase the number of FOs attached to front-line airborne units. Therefore, in Autumn 1944, increase number of FOs and Jeeps to **x6**.

(b) Commonwealth artillery may also fire by Troop (i.e. a half-battery of two guns). Each FO or Para/Airlanding Infantry Commander may call for a single Airlanding Light Artillery Troop as Direct Fire Support.

(c) In emergency situations, an Airlanding Light Artillery Battery may be fielded as an on-table Maneuver Element:



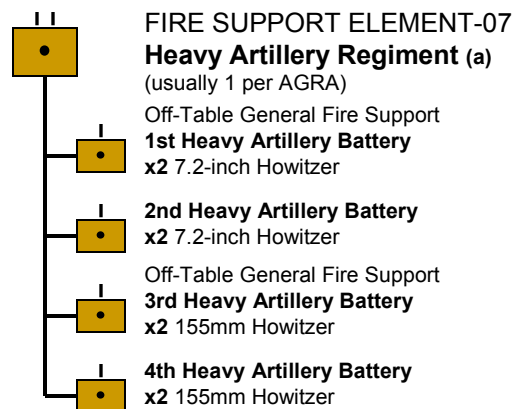
(d) The Glider Pilot Detachment will be withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.

(e) The entire Airlanding Light Regiment is available as General Fire Support when the FO calls for a 'Mike Target'. See the website British Artillery Tutorial. Commanders may not call for 'Mike Targets' or General Fire Support. General Support may also be available from AGRA – especially when in defence. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details. Note that in an Airborne Division, a 'Mike Target' is the division's entire artillery group – equivalent to an 'Uncle Target' in a regular division – hence why it is classed as General Fire Support.



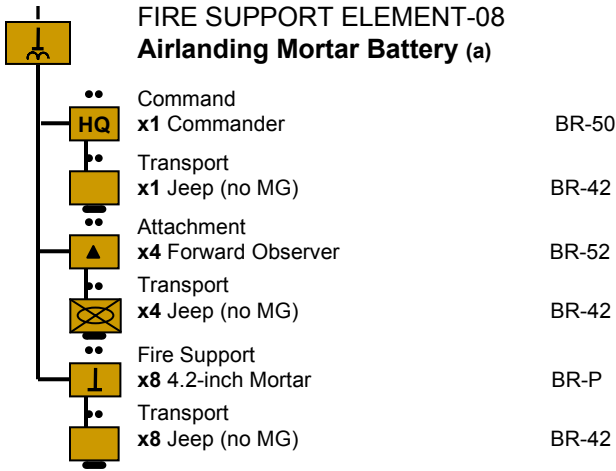
(a) One or more Medium Regiments may be available for a Preparatory Barrage mission or in General Support for a Defensive Fire Mission which is being thickened by AGRA (i.e. 'Victor', 'William' & 'Yoke' Targets). Alternatively, a single Medium Regiment may be available as General Support to thicken a divisional 'Uncle Target'. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.

(b) Alternatively, due to their longer range (at the expense of hitting power), some batteries may still be equipped with:  
**x4 4.5-inch Guns**

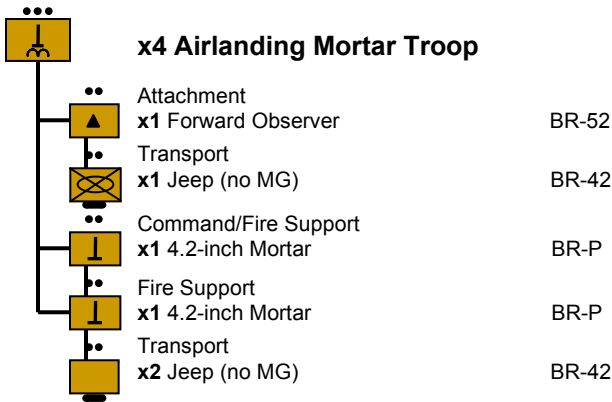


(a) One Heavy Regiment may be available for a Preparatory Barrage mission or in General Support for a Defensive Fire Mission which is being thickened by an entire AGRA (i.e. 'Victor', 'William' & 'Yoke' Targets). Heavy Regiments were not normally used individually. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.

# 15th Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 05-07



(a) The Mortar Company may alternatively operate as four separate platoon-sized fire support elements as follows:



## Design Notes

You may have noticed a few changes in basic organisations that you may not have been expecting? The reason for this is that at the time of writing, I have completely torn up the old NW Europe TO&Es and am writing them again from scratch in much the same vein as this TO&E – and consequently much closer in rationale to the original TO&Es published in the rulebook. My apologies to anyone who now finds the odd Commander stand redundant, but I'm sure you'll find a use for them! Hate mail may be posted to the usual address...

The main changes are the elimination of the plethora of tiny, platoon-sized MEs littering the existing NWE TO&Es, together with the company-sized BGs (mainly recce units and the like). There was a reason for these way back in the mists of time, but I now think it was just plain wrong. We now have a lot of company/battery-sized MEs that may be split, if desired, into smaller platoon-sized MEs, which is much closer to the American TO&E in the rulebook. I've also now added the BGs for the Recce Regiment and the Armoured Car Regiment, which were left out of the original NW Europe TO&E for various reasons. Like the Brigade BGs, these are going to be fielded very rarely, but it is useful to be able to see how all the pieces fit together in the bigger picture (it was actually quite common for Recce Regiments to fight battalion-level dismounted actions, in any case).

The only platoon-sized independent MEs remaining in the TO&Es at present are the Armoured Recce Troop and the Carrier Platoon – both of which were very large platoons and virtual companies in their own right.

However, this is all still a work in progress, so if the Public demand the return of Antitank Troop or MG Platoon Commanders, I will gladly do so. If nothing else, it will serve as a good stimulus for debate on the forum!

Some NWE TO&E mistakes corrected here are: The reduction of the Motor Company Scout Platoon from four sections to three (which makes it different to the Carrier Platoon, as it should be). The return of the Recce Platoon to the Airlanding Battalion (previously deleted by accident). The addition of more 'Sea Tail' transport to the Airlanding Battalion not previously included. Change of composition to Carrier Platoon. The addition of Defence Platoons and Independent AA Troops to Brigade HQs.

I am also expanding the 'Funnies' TO&Es to encompass not only 79th Armoured Division in NW Europe, but also 9th Armoured Brigade and 25th Armoured Engineer Brigade in Italy. This should be a straightforward task and should be up soon. The re-write of the 21st Army Group TO&E might take a little longer, though I'll try to be as quick as possible.

Anyway, as I said earlier; this is a work in progress, so keep it coming guys! There are massive gaps in my knowledge regarding the Italian Campaign – so many books to buy and so little time/money! The really confusing area is the world of armoured cars – the variety used in Italy was staggering and I've only just scratched the surface with this list. Don't be afraid to tell me I'm wrong (I'm used to it now) [*though in v1.01 I've added a lot more information - RMD*]! I would rather know what the correct answer is than remain wrong! If you have any suggestions, corrections or downright disagreements, please post them up on the forum for us all to debate, or if you prefer; e-mail them privately to [rmarkdavies@aol.com](mailto:rmarkdavies@aol.com)

### My Thanks To...

All those who have helped/continue to help with this project. The ones who spring immediately to mind are (in no particular order):

Mike Hickling  
Mark Urban  
Nigel Perry  
Edward Sturges  
Craig Simms  
Mark Hayes  
Jim Baker  
Ken Natt  
Paul Elvidge  
Evan Allen  
Sam Spiers



# Amendments Incorporated Into v1.01

BG-01 – FAC's transport options expanded to include OP tanks. Erroneous reference to the non-existent '1st Canadian Armoured Division' corrected.

BG-02 – Designation changed to Motorised Infantry Brigade. Number of brigades in a division changed to 1 or 2. Slight change to Antitank Battery allocation, depending on number of brigades in the division. Note added regarding artillery allocation in large divisions.

BG-05 – Note (a) expanded to mention creation of third brigade in 2nd NZ Div in Feb 45. Also added option for BG-19 Cavalry Regt for 2nd NZ Div, instead of the usual recce regiment. Also added option for Brigade Support Group and notes added detailing MG & Mortar support attachments according to division.

BG-05a – New BG created for Indian Infantry Brigades as various subtle differences made it easier to show separately.

BG-06 – Armoured Recce Troop added to Armoured Recce Regiment. Scout Car option added for 5th Canadian Armd Div 1943.

BG-07 – Changed Firefly introduction date in RHQ to Autumn 44.

BG-08 – Options added to notes for incorporating Shermans in 1944.

BG-09 – Added option for 6pdr Portees in early part of campaign. Added option to convert 1x antitank platoon to MMGs.

BG-10 – Added option for reduced number of companies in 1944. Added option for conversion of antitank platoon to infantry. Added more transport options and notes on transport. Added organic MMG Platoon for battalions of Infantry Divisions.

BG-11 – Airlanding Mortar Battery (FSE-08) added to 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group.

BG-15 – Added seven extra Commando Troops (Polish, Belgian & Special Raiding Squadron). Brigade-level heavy weapons attachments added from Raiding Support Squadron.

BG-16 – Vickers 'K' reference deleted – only used in NW Europe.

BG-17 – Indian and New Zealand references deleted. Marmon-Herrington option added for 78th Division in early part of campaign. Armoured Car deleted, along with armoured car options – replaced with a second LRC. Support Battery (M3 GMC) Added.

BG-18 – Number of squadrons altered to 3 or 4. Note (f) added. Dingo changed to Daimler AC. Scout car references deleted. Options added for Staghound. Staghound AA option added.

BG-19 – New Cavalry Regiment BG created for 2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment.

ME-01 – Number of troops changed to 4 or 5.

ME-02 – Shermans incorporated into 1944 squadron. 'CS' designations added to early CS tanks.

ME-03 – Canadian armoured car option added for 1943.

ME-04 – Dingos added (In NW Europe, an Armoured Regiment's scout cars tended to operate as a distinct 'Liaison Troop', separate from the Stuarts of the Recce Troop. However, in Italy they were grouped together as partners in reconnaissance; hence their inclusion in this TO&E, but not in the NWE TO&E). Humber option added. Option added for either/or. M8 Greyhound option added for 7th Armoured Brigade.

ME-05 – Variable strength option added for early campaign organisation. Wasp option added to Scout Platoon.

ME-06 – Bren LMG option added for reduced-strength battalions.

ME-07 – Wasp option added.

ME-12 – Number of PIATs increased to account for battalion AT Platoon. Number of mortars decreased – only one per platoon.

ME-13 – Number of mortars decreased as above.

ME-17 – Options added for issue of flamethrowers in 1945.

ME-18a – New ME created for Brigade Support Group.

ME-19 – Option added for Wasp Platoon.

ME-22 – Added more strength variables (the variety in organisation was huge). Added Marmon-Herrington and M8 Greyhound options for 56 Recce Regt. Changed Indian references to Squadron instead of Regiment. Jeep option added instead of Carriers in one troop.

ME-23 – Added variable strength for Support Troop. Added options for incorporation of Staghound II & III.

ME-24 – Increased to x12 Engineers, as each Engineer Platoon had four sections.

ME-27 – Commando Engineer Squadron redesignated Commando Engineer Troop and reduced considerably in strength. Flamethrowers confirmed as being used by these units.

ME-28 – New ME created for Independent Armoured Squadron. Only used by the infantry brigades of 4th Indian Division.

ME-29 – New ME created for Cavalry Squadron. Also includes dismounted option for 1945, when the regiment was reformed as infantry.

FSE-08 – New FSE created for Airlanding Mortar Battery.