Battlefront: WWII Australian Military Forces TO&E v1.0 July 1942 to August 1945 (South West Pacific Theatre of Operations)

By Nigel Perry

These Tables of Organisation & Equipment (TO&Es) are intended to assist the **Battlefront: WWII** player in constructing realistic Australian Military Forces in Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and Borneo during 1942-45. They are written in the same way as the US, Soviet and German TO&Es provided with the **Battlefront: WWII** Rulebook. These TO&E were designed to use the **Battlefront: WWII Far East & Pacific Card Supplement** and use those unit card numbers wherever possible. Australian series cards (AU-) are used when possible, but a number of British 14th army cards (14A-) and others are used when necessary.

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The Australian Army in WWII

It is often said that Australia possessed 2 armies in WWII. Strictly speaking it had 3, the Permanent Forces, the Militia which by 1942 had become known as the Citizen Military Forces or CMF and the Australian Imperial Forces or AIF. The Defence Act Limited the employment of the Permanent Forces and CMF to the defence of Australia while the AIF, recruited from volunteers, could be employed overseas.

By 1942 the CMF and Permanent Forces were indistinguishable and the definition of "Australia" had been extended to allow these forces to serve in most of the South West Pacific Theatre of Operations. Collectively the AIF and the CMF were known as the Australian Military Forces or AMF. The AIF, however, was clearly the "senior" service, with CMF units frequently coming under AIF control and AIF officers posted to command CMF units while the reverse situations being few in number.

In 1942 the AIF was organised according to the standard "British" pattern, while the CMF followed pre war Australian organisation. Neither was found suitable for jungle warfare against the Japanese. Accordingly during 1943 the AMF was reorganised into 3 types of division: armoured divisions, standard (i.e. CMF) infantry divisions, both of which were for home defence only, and jungle divisions. The 3 AIF divisions (6th, 7th, 9th) and 3 CMF divisions (3rd, 5th, 11th) were reorganised on the jungle establishment. Apart from specialist (commando) and corps (artillery and tank) units, these jungle establishment units were the only Australian formations to see combat in the remainder of the Pacific War. They possessed fewer transportation assets as walking was the main means of movement through much of the theatre.

Contents

Battlegroups

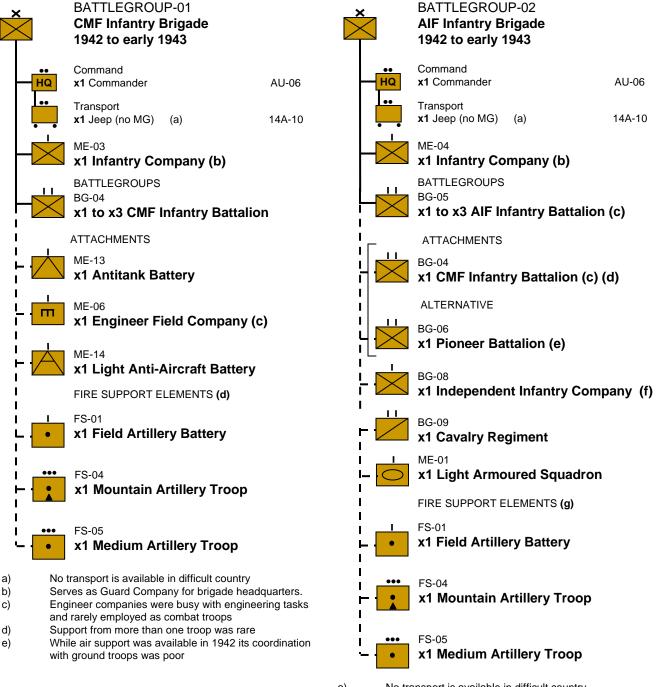
BG-01	CMF Infantry Brigade	mid 1942 - early 1943
BG-02	AIF Infantry Brigade	mid 1942 - early 1943
BG-03	AMF Jungle Brigade	mid 1943 -
BG-04	CMF Infantry Battalion	mid 1942 - early 1943
BG-05	AIF Infantry Battalion	mid 1942 - early 1943
BG-06	AMF Jungle Infantry Battalion	late 1942 -
BG-07	Parachute Infantry Battalion	mid 1944 -
BG-08	Commando Squadron	mid 1942 -
BG-09	Cavalry Regiment	late 1942 - early 1943

Maneuver Elements

ME-01 ME-02 ME-03 ME-04 ME-05 ME-05 ME-06 ME-07 ME-08 ME-09 ME-10	Light Tank Squadron Armoured Squadron CMF Infantry Company AIF Infantry Company Jungle Infantry Company Engineer Field Company Parachute Infantry Company Cavalry Squadron Carrier Platoon Scout Platoon	late 1942 - mid 1943 late 1943 - mid 1942 - early 1943 mid 1942 - early 1943 late 1942 - mid 1942 - mid 1944 - late 1942 - early 1943 mid 1942 - late 1942 -
	• • • •	
	, , ,	
ME-08	Cavalry Squadron	late 1942 - early 1943
ME-09	Carrier Platoon	mid 1942 -
	Scout Platoon	late 1942 -
ME-11	Commando Troop	mid 1942 -
ME-12	Machine Gun Platoon	mid 1942 -
ME-13	Anti-Tank Gun Battery	mid 1942 -
ME-14	Light Anti-Aircraft Battery	mid 1942 -

Fire Support Elements

Field Artillery Battery	mid 1942 -
Field Artillery Troop	mid 1942 -
Mountain Artillery Battery	mid 1943 -
Mountain Artillery Troop	late 1942 -
Medium Artillery Troop	late 1942 -
4.2" Mortar Troop	late 1944 -
	Field Artillery Troop Mountain Artillery Battery Mountain Artillery Troop Medium Artillery Troop



No transport is available in difficult country a) Serves as Guard Company for brigade headquarters. b) c) Some infantry battalions used the Jungle establishment prior to its official introduction. Replace with BG-06 AIF brigades often controlled attached CMF battalions d) e) Pioneer battalions were organised as regular infantry during 1942 and often used as such f) Used the same organisation as Commando Squadron Support from more than one battery was rare g) While air support was available in 1942 its coordination h) with ground troops was poor

Ň	BATTLEGROUP-03 AMF Jungle Brigade mid 1943 to 1945				
	Command x1 Commander Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a) ME-05 x1 Infantry Company (b) BATTLEGROUPS BG-06 x1 to x3 AMF Jungle Infantry I ATTACHMENTS	AU-06 14A-10 Battalion			FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS FS-01 up to x1 Field Artillery Battery FS-03 x1 Mountain Artillery Battery FS-05 x1 Medium Artillery Troop
	x3 Assault Pioneer w/ Flamethrower Forward Air Controller x1 Forward Observer (c) Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a) ME-09 x1 Carrier Platoon (a) BG-06 x1 Pioneer Battalion (d) BG-08 x1 Commando Squadron ME-02 x1 Armoured Squadron (e) ME-12 x3 Machinegun Platoon	AU-07 AU-08 14A-10	a) b) c) d) e) f) g)	Serve Grour late 19 Pione often Armou From equipp Repla Engin	Insport is available in difficult country s as Guard Company for brigade headquarters. Ind FAC's were rarely used to control air sorties until 944. See notes at end for more details. er battalions were organised as regular infantry and used as such ur was used from late 1943 mid 1944 some antitank batteries/troops were re- bed with 4.2" mortars or 75 mm pack howitzers. ce ME-13 with FS-04 or FS-06 eer field companies were busy on construction tasks arely employed as combat troops
	ME-13 x1 Antitank Battery (f) ME-06 x1 Engineer Field Company (g ME-14 x1 Light Anti-Aircraft Troop))			

AU-06

14A-10

AU-05

AU-12

14A-10

14A-15

14A-10

		BATTLEGROUP-04 CMF Infantry Battalion			
		Command x1 Commander Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a) MANEUVER ELEMENTS ME-03 x4 Infantry Company			1
	-	ME-12 x3 Machine Gun Platoon	S	(b))
		ME-09 x1 Carrier Platoon		(a))
		ATTACHMENTS x2 Pioneers	(c)		ŀ
		Organic Fire Support x1 3-inch Mortar (d)			ļ
		Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (a)			1
		DIVISIONAL ATTACHMENTS			
		Transport x1 25pdr Field Gun (e)			1
		Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a)			1

a)	No transport is available in difficult country

b) For jungle operations the Machine Gun Company was often equipped as ordinary infantry. Replace with Infantry Company ME-03.

- c) CMF Pioneers were equipped as ordinary infantry d) Official issue scale was only 1 section, but most
- battalions fielded more. Battalions in the jungle often left their mortars behind.
- From late 1942 25pdr. guns were occasionally attached e) in a direct fire role. May replace with: 3.7" mountain gun (14A-16).

	BATTLEGROUP-05 AIF Infantry Battalion	
	Command x1 Commander Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a) MANEUVER ELEMENTS ME-04 x4 Infantry Company	AU-06 14A-10
	ME-09 x1 Carrier Platoon (a) (b)	
	ME-12 x1 Machine Gun Platoon (c)	
<mark>"</mark>	ATTACHMENTS x2 Pioneers (no Flamethrower)	AU-07
	Organic Fire Support x2 3-inch Mortar (d) Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (a) (e)	AU-12 14A-10
	DIVISIONAL ATTACHMENTS Transport x1 25pdr Field Gun (f)	14A-15
	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a)	14A-10
	transport is available in difficult country ne battalions had already replaced their (Carrier Plate

a) b) Some battalions had already replaced their Carrier Platoon with a Scout platoon: ME-10

Battalions in the jungle often left their MMGs behind.

c) d) Official issue scale was only 2 sections, but most battalions fielded more. Battalions in the jungle often left their mortars behind.

May replace with: Universal Carrier (no MG) 14A-08 e) f) From late 1942 25pdr. guns were occasionally attached in a

direct fire role. May replace with: 3.7" mountain gun (14A-16).

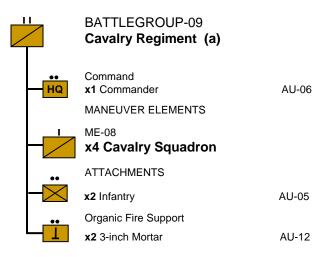
	BATTLEGROUP-06 AMF Jungle Infantry Battalion	n			JP-07 antry Battalion	
•• — <u>но</u>	Command x1 Commander	AU-06		Command x1 Commander MANEUVER ELEI	MENTS	AU-06
	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a) MANEUVER ELEMENTS	14A-10		ME-07 x3 Parachute	Infantry Compar	ıy
-	ME-05 x4 Infantry Company		<mark>m</mark>	ATTACHMENTS x2 Assault Pionee	ers (1 Flamethrower)	AU-07
	ME-12 x1 Machine Gun Platoon			x2 Vickers MMG Organic Fire Supp	port	AU-10
	ME-10 x1 Scout Platoon		Lï	x2 3-inch Mortar		AU-12
- <u></u>	ATTACHMENTS x2 Assault Pioneers (1 Flamethrower)	AU-07		BATTLEGROL	JP-08	
	x2 2pdr Antitank Gun (b) Transport	AU-03		Commando S		
	x2 Jeep (no MG) (a) (c)Organic Fire Supportx3 3-inch Mortar	14A-10 AU-12	HQ	Command x1 Commander		AU-06
	Transport x3 Jeep (no MG) (a) (c)	14A-10		MANEUVER ELEI ME-11 x3 Commando		
i	DIVISIONAL ATTACHMENTS			ATTACHMENTS	·	ALL 07
	Transport x2 25pdr Field Gun (d)	14A-15		x2 Pioneers (no F		AU-07
	Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (a)	14A-10		x2 Infantry	(b)	14A-21
a) No	o transport is available in difficult country	1	,		Squadrons were "mini varfare. Their platoons	

b)

a) No transport is available in difficult country

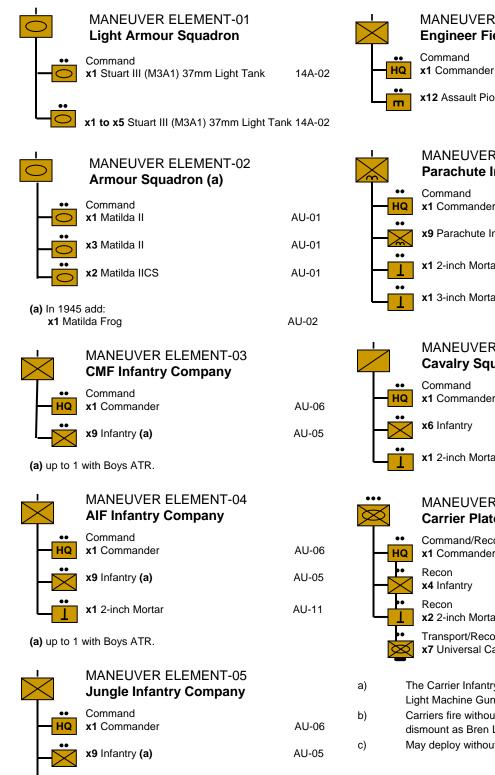
b) Often left out of organization, especially later in the war.
c) May replace with: Universal Carrier (no MG) 14A-08
d) 25pdr. guns were occasionally attached in a direct fire role. Until late 1943 may replace 25 pdr. with: 3.7-inch mountain gun (14A-16). From late 1943 may replace 25 pdr. with 75mm Pack Howitzer (AU-04) or with short 25 pdr. (Use 3.7-inch mountain gun card).

Australian Commando Squadrons were "mini" battalions, experienced in jungle warfare. Their platoons were trained to operate independently of each other. Their elements were about twice the size of regular units, with a proportionately larger amount of officers and integral support troops such as medical, signals and intelligence. The Chindit card is more appropriate to their training, equipment and role



a) Prior to its training as a Commando Squadron the 7th Division's Cavalry Regiment saw service using an ad-hoc organisation.

AMF Maneuver Elements



MANEUVER ELEMENT-06 Engineer Field Company

ler

AU-06

x12 Assault Pioneer (no flamethrower) AU-07

	MANEUVER ELEMENT-07 Parachute Infantry Company		
•• 	Command x1 Commander	AU-06	
	x9 Parachute Infantry (1 with PIAT)	use 14A-21	
	x1 2-inch Mortar	AU-11	
	x1 3-inch Mortar	AU-12	

MANEUVER ELEMENT-08 Cavalry Squadron

•• HQ	Command x1 Commander	AU-06
••	x6 Infantry	AU-05
••	x1 2-inch Mortar	AU-11

MANEUVER ELEMENT-09 Carrier Platoon

••	Command/Recon		
HQ	x1 Commander		AU-06
••	Recon x4 Infantry	(a)	AU-05
<u>ه</u> .	Recon x2 2-inch Mortar		AU-11
•	Transport/Recon x7 Universal Carrie	r (with MG) (b) (c)	14A-08

 The Carrier Infantry may alternatively dismount as: Bren Light Machine Gun 14A-22
 Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

May deploy without carriers when in difficult terrain

a) b) Up to 1 with PIAT from late 1943. Known as PITA (Projector Infantry Tank Attack) in Australian service. In the attack, jungle infantry companies frequently grouped their Bren LMGs together for fire support. May replace 1 in 3 infantry with Bren LMG (14A-22).

AU-11

x1 2-inch Mortar

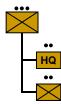
AMF Maneuver Elements

AU-06

AU-09

AU-10

AU-10



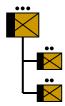
MANEUVER ELEMENT-10 Scout Platoon

Command/Recon	
x1 Commander	
Recon	
x3 Scout	

MANEUVER ELEMENT-11 Commando Troop

• Q	Command x1 Commander	AU-06
•	x6 Infantry (a) (b)	14A-21
•	Organic Fire Support x1 2 -inch Mortar	AU-11

a) b) The mixture of long and short range weapons used by the Commandos is better represented with the Chindit card. In the attack, jungle infantry companies frequently grouped their Bren LMGs together for fire support. May replace 1 in 3 infantry with Bren LMG (14A-22).



x1 Vickers MMG x1 Vickers MMG

MANEUVER ELEMENT-12 Machine Gun Platoon

Command

MANEUVER ELEMENT-14 Light Antiaircraft Battery (a)

Command x1 Commander	AU-06
Transport x1 Jeep (no MG)	14A-10
x6 40mm Bofors AA Gun	14A-14
Transport x6 15cwt Truck (b)	14A-11

The Light Antiaircraft Battery usually operates as three troop-sized maneuver elements:

x3 Light Antiaircraft Troop

••	Command x1 40mm Bofors AA Gun	14A-14
••	x1 40mm Bofors AA Gun	14A-14
••	Transport x2 15cwt Truck (b)	14A-11

Transport frequently not available and guns manhandled into position

	1
•• <u>HQ</u> ••	C X T X
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MANEUVER ELEMENT-13 Antitank Battery (a)

•• HQ	Command x1 Commander	AU-06
••	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG)	14A-10
	x6 2pdr Antitank Gun (b)	AU-03
ŀ	Transport x6 Jeep (c)	14A-10



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d)

The Antitank Battery usually operates as three troopsized maneuver elements. Single guns may also be attached to an infantry battalion or company. Renamed Tank Attack Battery from mid 1943.

4	\backslash	х3
	-	Coi x1

x3 Antitank Troop (d)

••	Command x1 2pdr Antitank Gun		AU-03
	x1 2pdr Antitank Gun	(b)	AU-03
••	Transport x2 Jeep (c)		14A-10

mid 1944
mid 1943 may replace transport with: 2 pdr. Portee

(8A-30). Transport often not available in difficult terrain. From mid 1944 troops of Tank Attack Battery may be replaced with a troop of 75mm Pack Howitzer (FS-04) or a troop of 4.2" Mortar (FS-06).



a)

AMF Fire Support Elements

•	FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-01 Field Artillery Battery (a) (b)	
	On-Table FO Attachment x2 Forward Observer (a)	AU-08
	Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (a)	14A-10
	Off-Table Direct Fire Support x4 25pdr Field Gun	14A-15
•	Off-Table Direct Fire Support Field Artillery Regiment (c) (1 per Division)	
	2nd Field Artillery Battery x4 25pdr Field Gun	14A-15
· ·	3rd Field Artillery Battery x4 25pdr Field Gun	14A-15

 Each infantry battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it for each battery. The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company Commanders. Australian 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) Can be deployed on table by troops. Deployment by troops was common due to the nature of the terrain
 c) The rest of the Field Regiment is sometimes available from late 1943

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-02 Field Artillery Troop

•• HQ	Command x1 Commander		AU-06
ŀ	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG)	(a)	14A-10
	x1 Bren LMG	(a)	14A-22
	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG)	(a)	14A-10
··	Fire Support x2 25pdr Field Gu	n	14A-15
ŀ∙ □	Transport x2 Quad Artillery ⁻	Fractor	use 14A-11

a)

No transport available in difficult terrain

		••
	-	
		••
	•	

a)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-03 Mountain Artillery Battery (a)

••	On Table FO Attachment x2 Forward Observer (b)	AU-06
• •	Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (c)	14A-10
••	Off-Table Direct Fire Support x4 75 mm Pack Howitzer	AU-04

- Mountain Artillery Batteries may also be deployed on table as two Mountain Artillery Troops (FS-04)
- b) Each infantry battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it for each battery. The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company Commanders. Australian 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.

c) No transport is available in difficult terrain

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FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-04 Mountain Artillery Troop

••	Attachment x1 Forward Observer		AU-06
ŀ.	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a)		14A-10
••	Command/Fire Support x1 75 mm Pack Howitzer	(b)	AU-04
•• •	Fire Support x1 75 mm Pack Howitzer	(b)	AU-04
•• •••	Transport x2 Jeep (c)		14A-10

No transport is available in difficult terrain 75mm Pack howitzers may be replaced with 3.7-inch Mountain Howitzer (14A-16) until late 1943.

a) b)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-05 Medium Artillery Troop

,	On-Table FO Attachment x1 Forward Observer	AU-08
,	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG) (a)	14A-10
•	Off-Table Direct Fire Support x2 4.5 inch Gun (b) (c)	

- a) No transport is available in difficult country
- b) Indirect Fire weapon rating: 0 vs. V, +1 vs. T,G,sV: Large Template
- x2 4.5 inch guns can be replaced by x1 US 155mm
 Howitzer. Indirect Fire weapon rating: 0 vs. V, +1 vs.
 T,G,sV: Large Template

AMF Fire Support Elements

••			FIRE SUPPORT EI Mortar Troop	_EMENT-06	
		••	Attachment x1 Forward Observer		AU-08
		.	Transport x1 Jeep (no MG)	(a)	14A-10
		•• 	Command/Fire Support x1 4.2-inch Mortar	(b)	BR-P13
	L	<u>ا</u>	Fire Support x1 4.2-inch Mortar	(b)	BR-P13
		•• • •	Transport x2 Jeep (no MG) (a)		14A-10

No transport is available in difficult terrain

Indirect Fire weapon rating: -1 vs. V, 0 vs. T,G,sV: Large Template

Close Air Support

Close Air Support for the AMF was not as well coordinated or provided on the scale as other Theatres of Operation. This was in part due to the topography of the theatre and Japanese skill at camouflage, with Japanese positions hard to identify from the air. This was also due to the lack of suitable AMF air to ground communications. Airborne FAC control of sorties was preferred. See web-site for prototype airborne FOO/FAC rules.

Until at least 1944, most targeting for Close Air Support was closer to pre-planned fire support than observed fire. As a first approximation, do not use air support except as pre-planned in the first few turns of a scenario.

When air support against opportunity targets is included, consider all targets as obscured to account for the difficulty in identifying targets. Until 1943 ground troops had to resort to the use of smoke to mark targets for air attack. This should be done by calling in a single smoke mission (only one on the table) from a mortar or artillery unit in the usual way, which is then used in the immediately following air sortie phase as the nominated aim point. If more than one smoke template is on the table when the aircraft attack, distribute the aircraft among the templates randomly using a die roll.

AMF units were supported by level bombing, dive bombing and strafing sorties. Unfortunately, the aircraft used to support AMF units are not those included in any Battlefront card series (including Beaufighter, Kittyhawk, Vengeance and Airacobra). To avoid having to create new cards, use the Hurricane II B (14A-26), with only level bombing and strafing allowed.

The only consolation is that the Allies enjoyed air superiority, except at the beginning of this period, and are not subject to Japanese air attack.

a) b)

Australian Military Forces Bibliography

The excellent work of G Nafziger was not used to compile these TO&Es. This was a deliberate choice from a desire to use primary and secondary sources if possible, and the author's ease of access to the library collections of the ADF and State Library of Victoria.

<u>AMF War Diaries</u> - a number can be viewed online at the Australian war Memorial; http://www.awm.gov.au/database/

<u>Orders of Battle</u> - have been summarised at the campaign level and can be viewed online at: http://www.diggerhistory.info/

<u>AMF Unit Histories</u> - a listing of published unit histories for infantry and artillery units can be viewed online at: http://www.diggerhistory.info/

Additional unit histories consulted for this work included:

<u>Commando White Diamond</u> - D Astill, the 2/8th commando squadron <u>Commando Double Black</u> - A Pirie, the 2/5th commando squadron <u>Sanananda Interlude</u> - F Hartley, the 2/7th cavalry regiment <u>The Pioneers</u> - G Osborne, the 2/1st Pioneers <u>From snow to jungle</u> - J Bellair, 2/3rd machine gun battalion <u>Eagles alighting</u> - J Dunn, AMF Parachute Battalion <u>The vital factor</u> - P Handel, 2/6th armoured regiment

Campaign Histories - the most useful campaign histories for this study included: <u>Milne Bay 1942</u> - C Barker and G Knight <u>Kokoda</u> - P Ham <u>On Shaggy Ridge</u> - P Bradley <u>The Silent Seventh</u> - M Johnston, history of the 7th Division <u>The Magnificent Ninth</u> - M Johnston, history of the 9th Division

My Thanks to ...

All those on the Battlefront forum for freely sharing their ideas and making valuable contributions and suggestions.