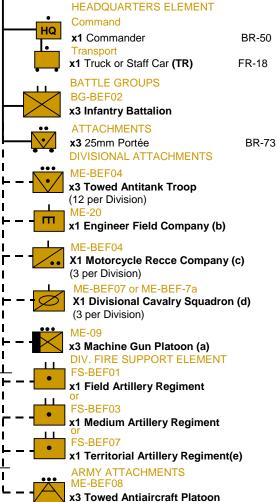
BEF Infantry Brigade

BATTLE GROUP-BEF01

Infantry Brigade



Note TR – Soft Transport

This note can apply to any of the BEF formations.

The BEF was nominally the only fully motorized army at the time. While this is technically true, the reality is less rosy. To achieve the 100% mechanisation of the BEF, the Army requisitioned almost anything with wheels and a motor. The result was that everything should be allowed to travel in trucks and lorries. Battalion HQs should have a staff car or something similar. Montgomery commanded such a unit in 1940, and reported afterwards that it was a logistical nightmare, the requisitioned trucks had not been well maintained in civilian life, and therefore suffered massive problems with breakdowns and getting spares.

As such, the transport allocated to the BEF units could reasonably any of the trucks or other soft transport available, such as the French Trucks and motorcycles. FR-18, FR-19, FR-20, FR-21 as well as the British BR-43 or BR-44.

Feel free to model the breakdown problems in a scenario by having fewer than the full number of motorized transport units available, especially for scenarios set after the front had collapsed..

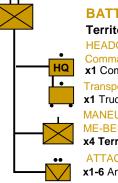
- (a) May substitute soft transport (see Note TR) for carrier.
- (b) Substitute ATR (BR-76) for PIAT in ME-20. Also, Note TR applies to the engineer transport.
- (c) See BG-BEF04 This was not usually an infantry division asset and will rarely appear. The divisional motor cycle battalion was restricted to Motor Divisions. For example 1 Queen Victoria Rifles were warned for duty as such as divisional 'cavalry' for 1 London Division on 11 May 1940 before going to Calais with 30 Infantry Brigade. There were two Motor Divisions and therefore theoretically motorcycle battalions in the BEF: 23 Division (which was organized for labour duties so the assets of 8 Northumberland Fusiliers may not have been present) and 50 Division (4 Northumberland Fusiliers which took part in the Arras counter-attack).
- (d) See BG-BEF07. In France the Divisional Cavalry Regiments were removed from the divisions in early 1940 and either became Army troops or formed Light Armoured Reconnaissance Brigades so this attachment is theoretical but also rare.
- (e) Front Line Territorial Divisions were almost identical to other infantry divisions, but had different artillery support.

BEF Infantry Battalion and MEs

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(a)

	L_		
>	<	BATTLE GROUP-BEF02	
		Infantry Battalion	
		HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT	
		Command	
		x1 Commander	BR-50
		Transport	
		x1 Truck or Staff Car (TR)	FR-18
		MANEUVER ELEMENTS	
	$-\!$	ME-BEF01	
		x4 Infantry Company	
		ME-BEF02	
	\sim	x1 Carrier Platoon	
	_••	ATTACHMENTS	
	— — —	x2 Assault Pioneers (No Flame)	BR-51
	••	Transport	
		x2 15cwt Truck (TR)	BR-43
		x2 AAMG	BR-P13
		Transport	
		x2 15cwt (TR)	BR-43
		Organic Fire Support	
	×	x1 3-inch Mortar	BR-56
		Transport	
		x1 15cwt (TR)	BR-43
	RAS	SC ATTACHMENTS	
I	L 📺	x16 Bedford QL 3-ton Lorry (TR)	BR-44
	• •		



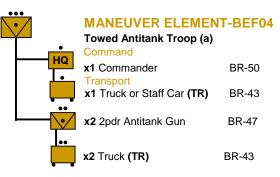
BATTLE GROUP-BEF03 Territorial Infantry Battalion (a) HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT Command x1 Commander BR-50 Transport x1 Truck or Staff Car (TR) BR-43 MANEUVER ELEMENTS ME-BEF03 x4 Territorial Infantry Company ATTACHMENTS x1-6 Anti-tank Rifle (b) BR-76

(a) These troops do not represent first line territorial divisions which should (aside from artillery) be treated as standard units. It represents those divisions dispatched to France as labour units to finish their training (12, 23, 46 Divisions) and existing line of communication and pioneer troops that were unexpectedly caught up in the fighting.

(b) In theory the battalion had 18 AT rifles although there are references to having to scrounge them.

	MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF03 Territorial Infantry Company	
HQ	Command x1 Commander	BR-50
	x9 Infantry (a)	BR-49

(a) Pioneer and rear echelon troops were short of Bren LMG. You may use the Russian values on the Russian rifle Infantry card (RU-17) for these troops.



The towed antitank troop may also operate as separate unit attachments to a maneuver element or headquarters element.

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		- HQ
		-
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MANEUVER ELE	MENT-BEF01
Command x1 Commander	BR-50
x9 Infantry	BR-49
x1 Anti-tank Rifle	BR-76
Organic Fire Support x1 2-inch Mortar	BR-55

MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF02 Carrier Platoon

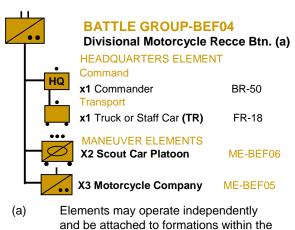
Command/Recon x1 Commander	BR-	50
Transport/Recon x1 Universal Carrier	BR-	31
x3 Bren LMG (a)	BR	-49
Transport/Recon x3 Bren Carrier (with MG)	(b)	BR-31
	x1 Commander Transport/Recon x1 Universal Carrier x3 Bren LMG (a) Transport/Recon	x1 CommanderBR-Transport/ReconBR-x1 Universal CarrierBR-x3 Bren LMG (a)BR-

(a) May dismount as:

Bren Light Machine Gun	BR-53
or Boys ATR (1 per platoon)	BR-76
or 2-inch Mortar (1 per platoon)	BR-55
- note that sources conflict over whether	2" was available

(b) Carriers fire without machine gun weapon rating when passengers dismount.

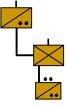
BEF Inf. Div. Support Elements



S BA	TTLE GROUP-BEF	05
🔁 Div	visional Cavalry Regin	nent
(1 p	per division)	
HE	ADQUARTERS ELEMEN Command/Recon	Т
	x1 Vickers Mk VIb	BR-61
	Recon	
-2	x1 Scout Carrier	BR-70
	x1 Vickers Mk VIb	BR-61
	MANEUVER ELEMEN	ITS
	ME-BEF07	
X3 Divisional Cavalry Squadron (a)		

(a) Cavalry squadrons may individually attach to brigades

Note-only one Divisional Cavalry regiment would be present in an infantry division. The Divisional Cavalry Regiment in the BEF was generally withdrawn prior to 10 May 1940 and either held as Army troops or formed into Light Armoured Reconnaissance Brigades. On formation 1st, 3rd, 4th, 48th and 51st seem to have had Divisional Cavalry Regiments, all of which were withdrawn at the end of March 1940 (although 1st Lothians were reattached to 51st (Highland) from GHQ troops possibly because of their independent operations).



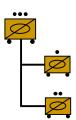
MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF05 Motorcycle Company

ME-BEF01 x1 Infantry Company (a)

Transport

division.

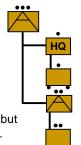
- x12 Motorcycle use FR-21
- 2" mortars were not part of the 1939 establishment, but (a) may have been present. If not, drop one MC as well.



MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF06 Scout Car Platoon

Command/Recon x1 Daimler Scout Car **BR-36**

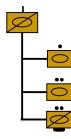
Recon x3 Daimler Scout Car **BR-36**



MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF08 und Antiniumoft Tunnu (n)

Towed Antiaircraft Troop (a)	
Command x1 Commander	BR-50
Transport	
x1Truck (TR)	BR-43
x2 40mm Bofors Antiaircraft Gun	BR-48
x2 Truck (TR)	BR-44

(a) The guns in the towed antiaircraft troop may also operate as separate unit attachments to a maneuver element or headquarters element.



MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF07

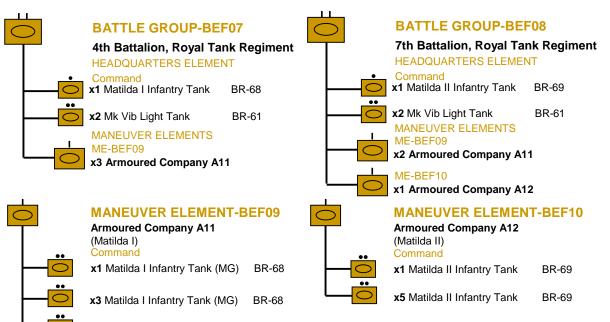
Divisional Cavalry Squadron Command/Recon

x1 Vickers Mk VIb	BR-61
Recon	
x2 Vickers Mk Vib	BR-61
Recon	

x5 Scout Carriers (a) **BR-70**

BEF Army Tank Battalions

The BEF fielded 2 tank Battalions at Army Level, (as part of the 1st Army Tank Brigade), the 4th and 7th Battalions of the RTR (Royal Tank Regiment). These were among the more famous of the British formations as they took part in the armoured counterattack at ARRAS, which caused the Germans a momentary check to their headlong rush to the sea. The 4RTR was equipped with A11 Matilda I (BR-68) while 7RTR had a mix of A11s and A12 Matilda II (BR-69). The A11 Matilda I came in two varieties, those with .303 machine guns and those with a heavy machine gun (.50 cal). There is mention of A11s with .50 cal guns as opposed to the standard .303s in HQs, which we are assuming to be section HQs. The theoretical full strength organization is:



x2 Matilda I Infantry Tank (HMG) BR-68

At Arras, the 7RTR lent 4RTR 7xMatilda II to create a mixed company and reorganized their A12 company. This would give both Battalions one mixed company. This would replace one of the A11 companies in 4RTR and the A12 company in 7RTR (note that the command tank in 7RTR might still be a Matilda II):

MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF11

Armoured Company Mixed (Matilda I/Matilda II) Command	
x1 Matilda I Infantry Tank (MG)	BR-68
x2 Matilda II Infantry Tank	BR-69
x2 Matilda I Infantry Tank (MG)	BR-68
x1 Matilda I Infantry Tank (HMG)	BR-68

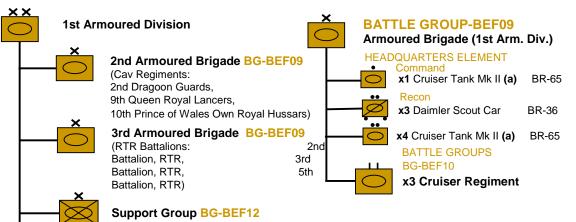
Just to complicate things, there was considerable attrition due to mechanical breakdown. At Arras, both battalions were 25-30% understrength, so a scenario designer might consider removing 1-2 of the tanks at random from each company if doing the Arras battle.

After Arras the remnants of the two battalions were withdrawn to Carvin and formed into 4/7 RTR with 18 Mk I's, 2 Mk II's and 7 light tanks, the Battlefront representation of which might be:



1st Armoured Division/Armoured Formations

The 1st was shipped to France as a separate entity to the BEF.



Notes for 1st Armoured Division tanks.

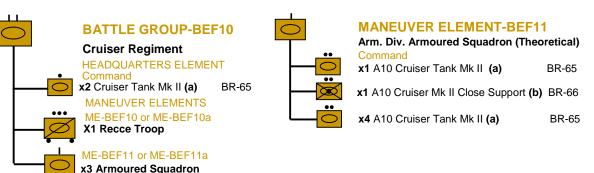
- (a) Alternative: A9 Cruiser Mk I BR-63 or A13 Cruiser Mk IVA BR-67
- (b) Alternative: A9 Cruiser Mk I CS BR-64
- (c) Alternative MK VIb Light Tank BR-61

The theoretical organization of the Cruiser Regiments was:

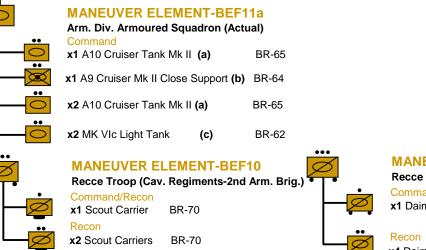
x1 Engineer Field Company (replace PIAT with ATR)

ME-20

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However, the required number of cruisers was not available in 1940 and the two brigades made up the numbers with Mk VI light tanks. This gives a more realistic organization of:



MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF10a Recce Troop (3rd Armoured Brigade)

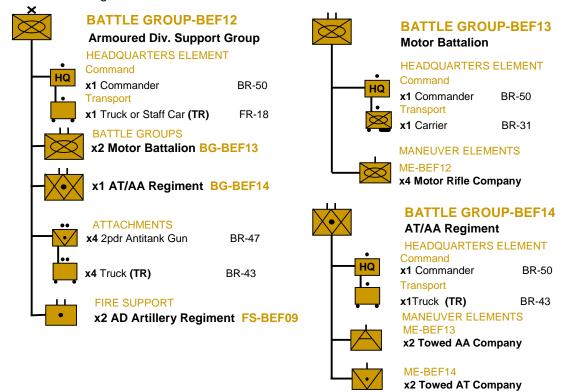
Command/Recon x1 Daimler Scout Car BR-36

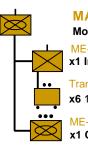
x4 Daimler Scout Car BR-36

(a) May dismount as Bren LMG BR-53 OR Boys ATR BR-76

1st Armoured Division/Support Formations

Although the support group is listed as a separate brigade-level organization, its even number of all major assets makes it likely that its components were used as equal attachments to the armoured brigades.





MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF12 Motor Rifle Company

ME-BEF01 x1 Infantry Company

Transport

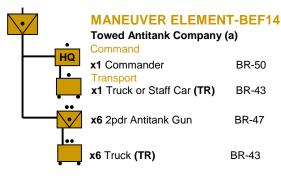
x6 15cwt (TR)

BR-43

ME-BEF02 x1 Carrier Platoon (a)

(a) No 2" mortar

(a)



The towed antitank troop may also operate as separate unit attachments to a maneuver element or headquarters element.

 MANEUVER ELEMENT-BEF13

 Towed Antiaircraft Company (a)

 Command

 x1 Commander
 BR-50

 Transport

 x1Truck (TR)
 BR-43

 x6 40mm Bofors Antiaircraft Gun
 BR-48

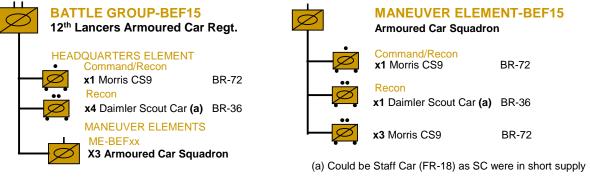
 x6 Truck (TR)
 BR-44

(a) The guns in the towed antiaircraft company may also operate as separate unit attachments to a maneuver element or headquarters element.

Note-This unit was understrength when first shipped to France, and originally had NO Bofors. However, by the time of the campaign it had some. Scenario designers may replace several of the Bofors by AAMG (BR-P13)

12th Lancers

The 12th Lancers were a unique BEF cavalry regiment that used the Morris CS9 AC



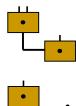
(a) Could be Staff Car (FR-18) as SC were in short supply

BEF Artillery

BEF-FS02

BR-52

BR-31



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS01 Field Artillery Regiment

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS02

x2 Field Artillery Battery

Field Artillery Battery

On-board FO Attachment **x1** Forward Observer

x1 Universal Carrier No MG(a)

Off-board Direct Fire Support x6 18/25pdr Towed Field Gun (b)

Transport



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS03 Medium Artillery Regiment

x2 Medium Artillery Battery BEF-FS02 FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS04

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS07

x2 Mixed Field Artillery Battery BEF-FS08

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS08

Medium Artillery Battery

x4 4.5" Towed Howitzer (c)	
x1 Universal Carrier No MG (a) Off-board General Fire Support	BR-31
Transport	
x1 Forward Observer	BR-52
On-board FO Attachment	

Territorial Field Artillery Regiment

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS05 Royal Horse Artillery Regiment x2 RHA Artillery Battery BEF-FS06 FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS06 RHA Artillery Battery On-board FO Attachment x1 Forward Observer BR-52 Transport x1 Universal Carrier No MG(a) BR-31 Off-board Direct Fire Support x4 18/25pdr Towed Field Gun (b)

On-board FO Attachment		
x1 Forward Observer	BR-52	
Transport		
x1 Universal Carrier No MG(a)	BR-31	
Off-board Direct Fire Support		
x4 18pdr Towed Field Gun (d)		
Off-board Direct Fire Support		
x2 4.5" Towed Howitzer (b)		

Mixed Field Artillery Battery

- (a) Or soft transport (see note TR)
- (b) 18/25-pdr: Large template, -1 vs V, 0 vs T,G,sV
- (c) 4.5": Large template, 0 vs V, +1 vs T, G, sV
- (d) 18-pdr: Small template, -1 vs V, 0 vs T,G,sV



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS09

Armoured Division Artillery Regiment

x2 AD Artillery Battery BEF-FS06

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-BEF-FS06 AD Artillery Battery

1	
On-board FO Attachment	
x1 Forward Observer	BR-52
Transport	
x1 Universal Carrier No MG(a)	BR-31
Off-board Direct Fire Support	
x4 18 Towed Field Gun (d)	