

# British Ground Forces in the Falklands War of 1982

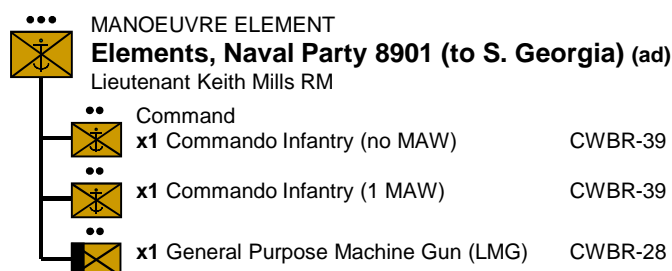
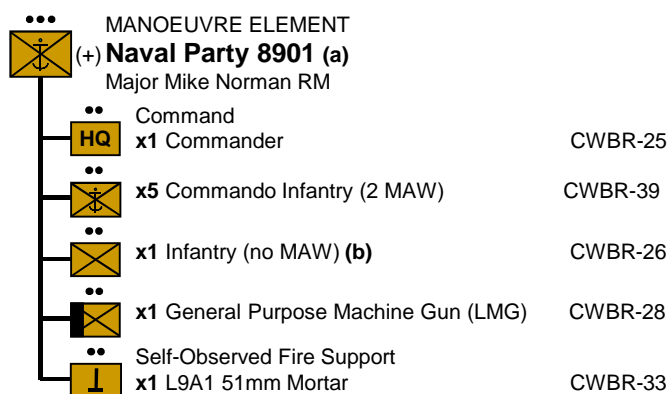
Orders of Battle & TO&Es v1.3 for *Battlefront: Modern*

By R Mark Davies

With thanks to Mark Middleton and Andy Stenhouse, formerly of 'K' Company, 42 RM Commando and to Dom Skelton



## Falkland Islands Garrison, 2nd April 1982

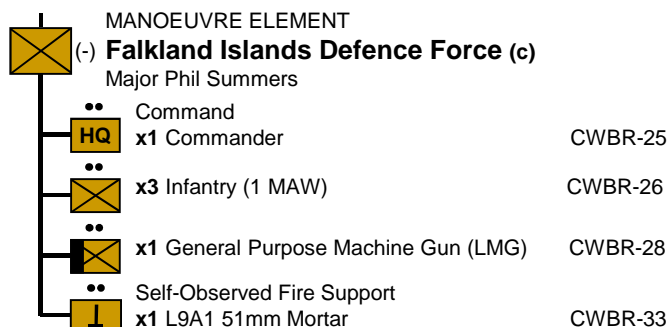


(a) Naval Party 8901 was the designation given to the Royal Marines detachment (with some attached Royal Navy personnel) normally stationed on the Falkland Islands. By sheer luck, NP 8901 was in the middle of handing over when the crisis erupted, so was at double its normal strength. Major Gary Noott was the outgoing commander, but was junior to the incoming Major Mike Norman, so Norman took command while Noott became military advisor to Governor Rex Hunt. After being captured, Naval Party 8901 was repatriated to the UK and became the core of 'J' Company, 42 RM Commando.

(b) This unit comprises the RN personnel and civilian volunteers.

(c) The FIDF comprised a weak company of some 60 men. However, due to the distance some had to travel to respond to the alert, only 25-40 men were able to report for duty on the day of the invasion.

(d) When reports came in of Argentine 'scrap dealers' landing on South Georgia, along with the arrival of an Argentine naval vessel, 22 Royal Marines from NP 8901 were re-embarked onto HMS Endurance to investigate.



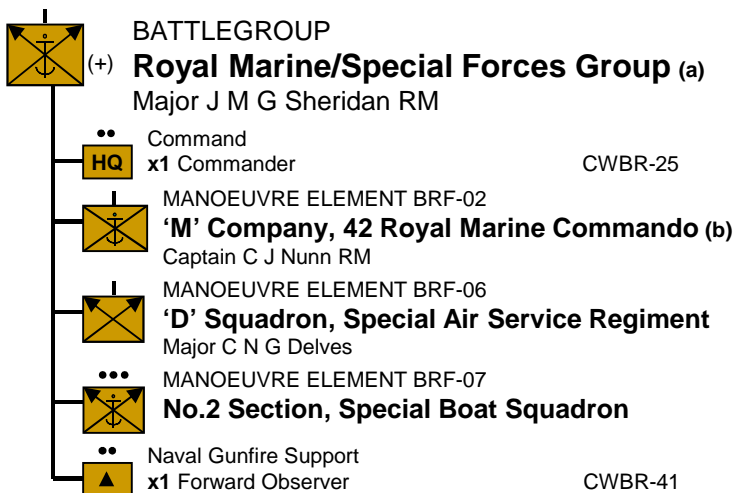
# British Land Forces, Falkland Islands Task Force

## Operation 'Corporate', May-June 1982



Major General Jeremy Moore RM

## Force Detached for Operation 'Paraquat' (Recapture of South Georgia) 21st to 26th April 1982



(a) Following a number of attempts, with mixed success, to infiltrate special forces onto South Georgia, a mixed RM/SAS/SBS force of 75 men was landed near Grytviken and marched overland, with artillery support from HMS Antrim, to assault the Argentine naval party there. In game terms, this combined force would equate to roughly:

x1 Commander	CWBR-25
x3 Commando Infantry (1 MAW)	CWBR-39
x3 Special Forces Infantry (1 MAW) (c)	CWBR-69
x1 GPMG (LMG)	CWBR-28
x1 Forward Observer	CWBR-41

(b) While the Special Forces rejoined the Task Force, 'M' Company remained on South Georgia (to their disappointment), to guard the island along with HMS Endurance. A new 'J' Company was formed to replace 'M' Company in 42 Commando.

(c) Special Forces Infantry units (CWBR-69) may each be broken down into x2 Special Forces Patrol units (CWBR-70).





BATTLEGROUP BRF-01

## 3 Commando Brigade

Brigadier Julian Thompson RM



Command  
x1 Commander

CWBR-25



x3 Commando Infantry (no MAW)

CWBR-39



Transport  
x2 Bv-202 Carrier (with MG)

CWBR-48



Brigadier Julian Thompson



### BATTLEGROUPS



BATTLEGROUP BRF-03

#### 40 Royal Marine Commando

Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Hunt



BATTLEGROUP BRF-03

#### 42 Royal Marine Commando

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Vaux



BATTLEGROUP BRF-03

#### 45 Royal Marine Commando

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Whitehead



BATTLEGROUP BRF-04

#### 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert 'H' Jones



BATTLEGROUP BRF-04

#### 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Hew Pike



BATTLEGROUP BRF-07

#### 22 SAS Regiment (Elements)

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Rose

### FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-01

#### 29 Commando Regiment, RA

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Holroyd Smith



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-02

#### 29 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment, RA

### MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-01

#### 'B' Squadron, The Blues & Royals (Elements)

Lieutenant Mark Coreth



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-11

#### 'T' Battery, 12 Air Defence Regiment, RA



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-13

#### Blowpipe Troop, 43 Air Defence Battery, RA



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-15

#### Raiding Squadron, Royal Marines

Captain Chris Baxter



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-16

#### Mountain & Arctic Warfare Cadre, RM

Captain Rod Boswell



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-14

#### Air Defence Troop, Royal Marines



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-07

#### Special Boat Squadron (Elements)

Major Jonathon Thomson



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-08

#### 59 Commando Field Squadron, RE

Major Roddy MacDonald

### ATTACHMENTS



Forward Air Controller

x4 Forward Observer

CWBR-41



x4 Gazelle AH Mk 1 Helicopter

CWBR-43



x3 Scout AH Mk 1 Helicopter

CWBR-42







BATTLEGROUP BRF-02  
**5 Infantry Brigade**  
Brigadier Anthony Wilson



Command  
x1 Commander

CWBR-25



x3 Infantry (no MAW) (b)

CWBR-26

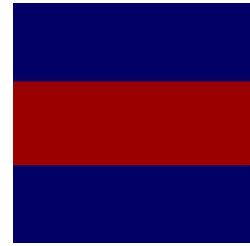


Transport/Recon  
x4 Land Rover (no MG)

CWBR-20



Brigadier Anthony Wilson



BATTLEGROUPS



BATTLEGROUP BRF-05  
**2nd Battalion, Scots Guards**

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Scott



BATTLEGROUP BRF-05  
**1st Battalion, Welsh Guards**

Lieutenant Colonel John Rickett



BATTLEGROUP BRF-06  
**1st Battalion, 7th (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) Gurkha Rifles**

Lieutenant Colonel David Morgan



BATTLEGROUP BRF-08  
**36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers**

Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Field



MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-12  
**63 (Air Defence) Squadron, RAF Regiment**

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-02  
**97 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery**

ATTACHMENTS



Additional Forward Observers, 4 Field Regt RA  
x2 Forward Observer

CWBR-41



Forward Air Controller  
x2 Forward Observer

CWBR-41



x3 Gazelle AH Mk 1 Helicopter

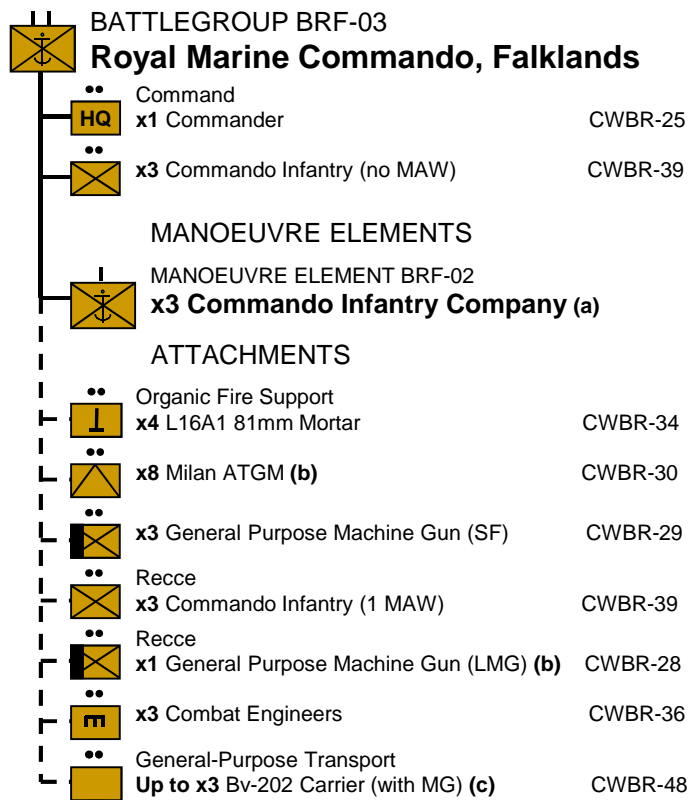
CWBR-43



x3 Scout AH Mk 1 Helicopter

CWBR-42



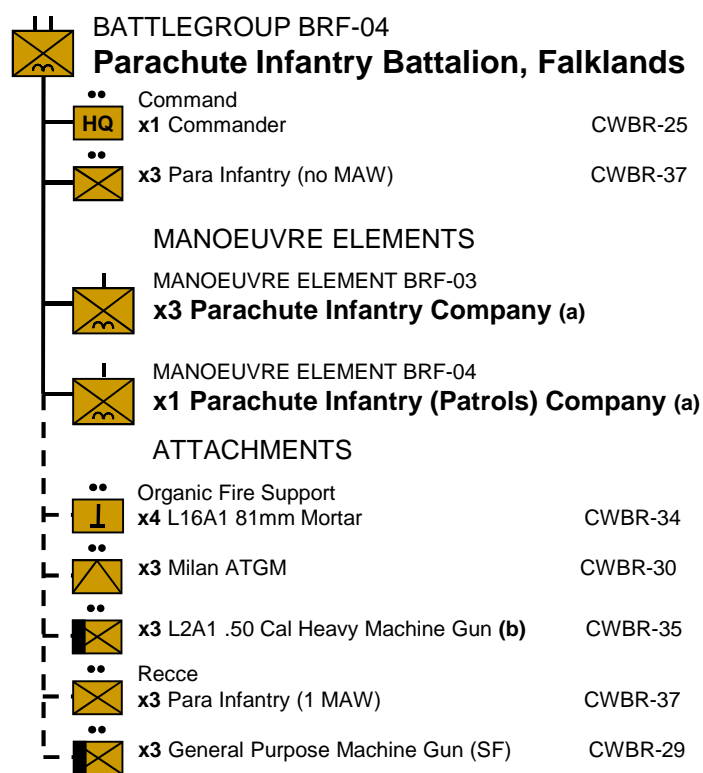


- (a) The Commando companies were designated thus:  
 40 RM Commando – 'A', 'B' & 'C' Companies  
 42 RM Commando – 'J', 'K', 'L' & 'M' Companies  
 45 RM Commando – 'X', 'Y' & 'Z' Companies

Note that 'M' Company remained in South Georgia after the successful recapture of the island, being replaced in 42 Commando by the newly-formed 'J' Company, which had been formed mainly from the repatriated men of Naval Party 8901.

(b) The Royal Marines took extra GPMGs and Milan ATGMs with them to the Falklands; over and above their normal establishment.

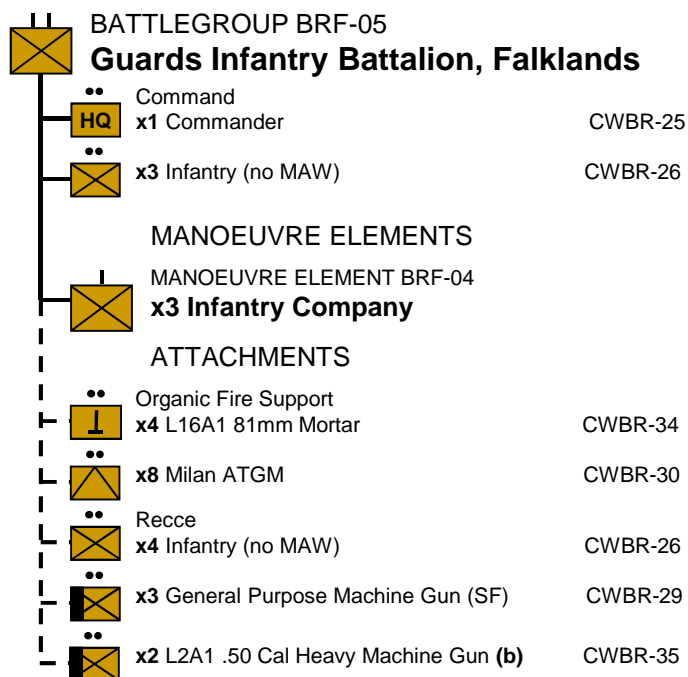
(c) I've been unable to discover exactly how many Bv-202s made it to the Falklands and who had them. However, we have found references to 45 RM Commando having x3 Bv-202 (7 in real terms).



(a) 2 Para and 3 Para both used the letters A-D to designate their rifle companies. However, 2 Para's Patrols Company was designated 'C', while 3 Para's Patrols Company was designated 'D'.

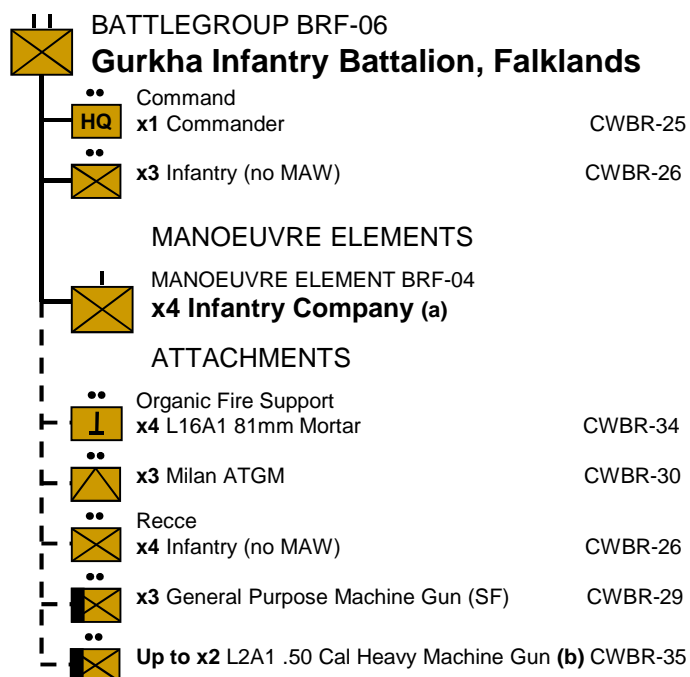
(b) The Para Battalions were each allocated a platoon of Browning .50 Cal HMGs on US-supplied AA mounts.





(a) The Guards Battalions used very different designations for their companies. Those of the 1st Welsh Guards were lettered 'A', 'B' & 'C', while those of the 2nd Scots Guards were designated 'Left Flank', 'Right Flank' and 'G' Companies.

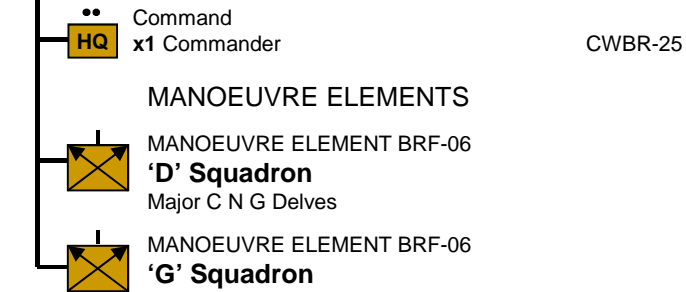
(b) The Guards Battalions were each allocated a platoon of Browning .50 Cal HMGs on US-supplied AA mounts.



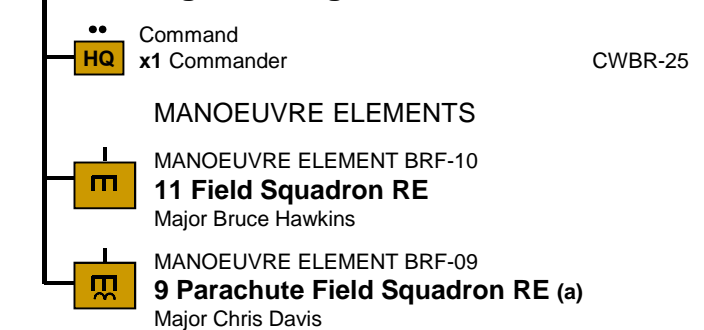
(a) The 1/7th Gurkhas were one of the strongest infantry battalions in the Task Force. The companies were designated 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D'

(b) I can't find any direct mention of the Gurkhas having .50 Cals, but there are x2 unaccounted for in the overall numbers, so these may have been allocated to the Gurkhas.

**BATTLEGROUP BRF-07**  
**22 Special Air Service Regiment, Falklands**



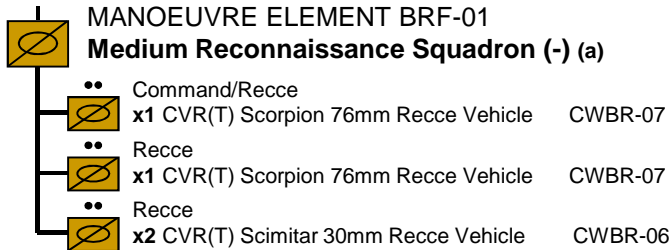
**BATTLEGROUP BRF-08**  
**36 Engineer Regiment RE, Falklands**



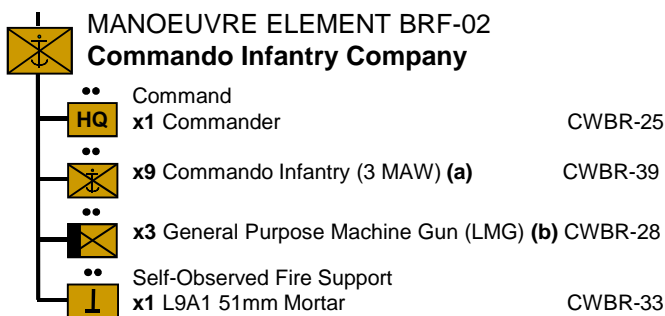
(a) 9 Parachute Field Squadron RE was reinforced by a Troop from 20 Field Squadron RE, commanded by Captain David Foxley.





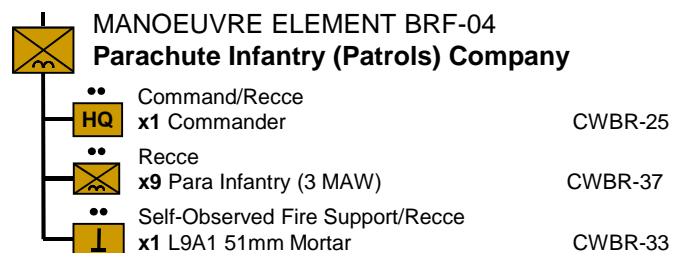
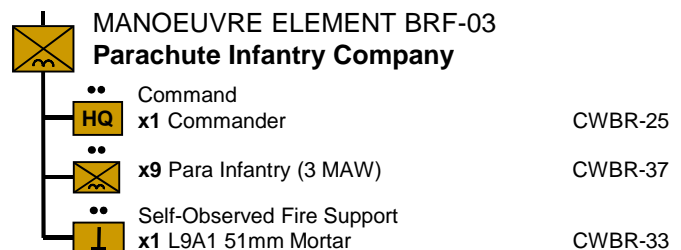


(a) 'B' Squadron, The Blues & Royals, sent two Medium Recce Troops (numbered 3 & 4) plus a Samson ARV to the Falklands. The two troops normally operated independently of each other and provided armoured support to the infantry in addition to their more usual armoured reconnaissance role. May therefore split this ME into two Troop-sized MEs, each consisting of **x1** Command Scorpion and **x1** Scimitar.

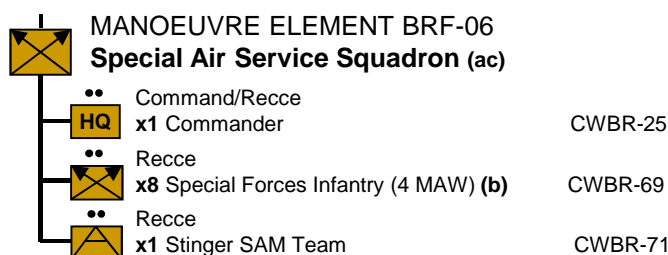


(a) Our resident ex-Commandos tell me that the Carl-Gustav MAWs, which had performed sterling service during the Argentine invasion and at S Georgia, were largely discarded for the march from San Carlos to Port Stanley, to make way for more MG and Milan ammo.

(b) The Commandos took far more GPMGs to the Falklands than their official organisation allowed. The large rifle section size and the incorporation of Royal Marine Reserves provided the extra manpower to carry the additional weapons and ammunition.



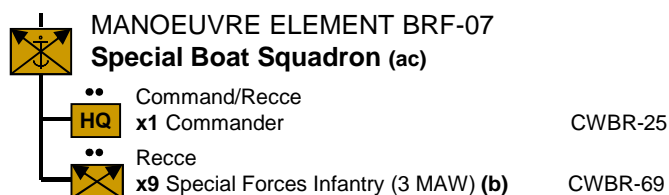




(a) The Squadron would normally operate as separate Troop-sized MEs, each of **x2** SF Infantry units (designate one unit in each Troop as the Troop Commander). However, the size and composition of SAS teams varied from mission to mission.

(b) Each Special Forces Infantry Section may be split into **x2** Special Forces Patrols (CWBR-70).

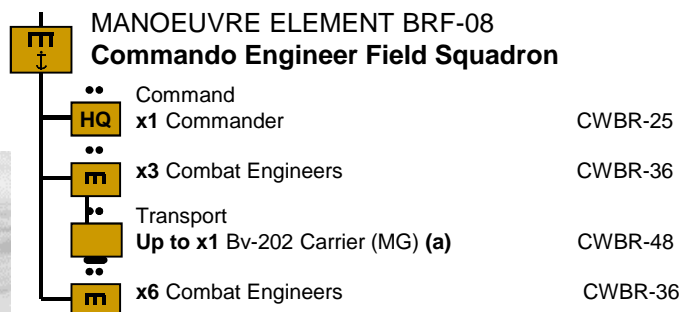
(c) Every unit in the Squadron may act as a Forward Observer or Forward Air Controller.



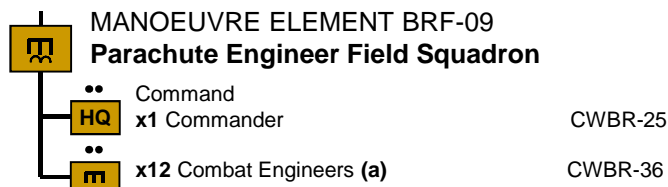
(a) The Squadron would normally operate as separate Section-sized MEs, each of **x2 to x3** SF Infantry units. The SBS deployed three Sections to the Falklands, numbered 2, 3 and 6.

(b) Each Special Forces Infantry Section may be split into **x2** Special Forces Patrols (CWBR-70).

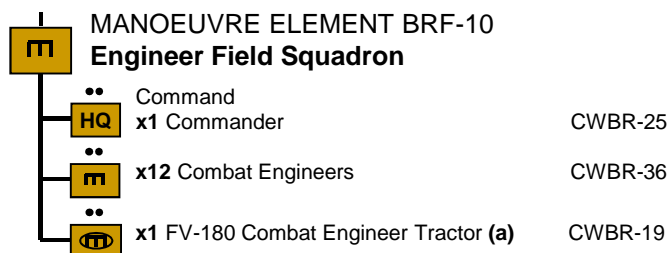
(c) Every unit in the Squadron may act as a Forward Observer or Forward Air Controller.



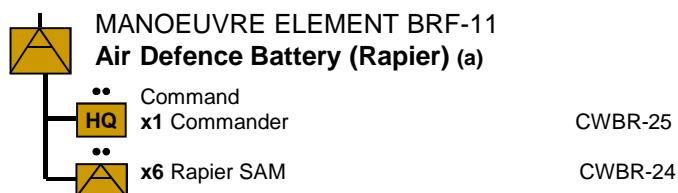
(a) I am by no means certain that the Squadron's Bv-202-mounted Troop was able to bring its transport to the Falklands. Most units had to leave transport in the UK, while others lost their transport when the Atlantic Conveyor was sunk.



(a) 9 Parachute Field Squadron RE normally comprised three Troops, for a total of **x9** Sections. However, they were expanded to four Troops (**x12** Sections) for the Falklands, by the addition of a Troop from 20 Field Squadron RE.



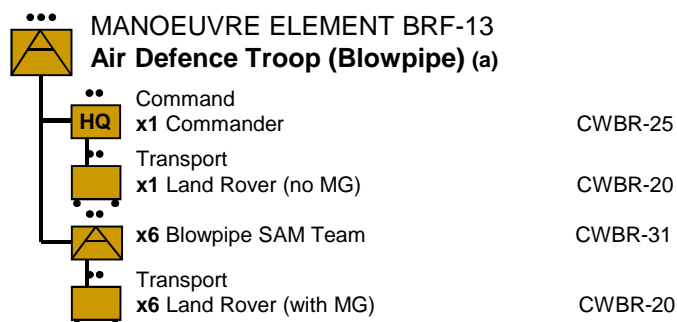
(a) I m not absolutely certain as to exactly who had the CET Troop in the Falklands. A standard Engineer Field Squadron would normally have a CET Troop, so I have placed it here. However, another likely contender is 61 Plant Squadron RE, which operated other heavy engineering machinery.



(a) This unit seems to have relied entirely on helicopter transport.

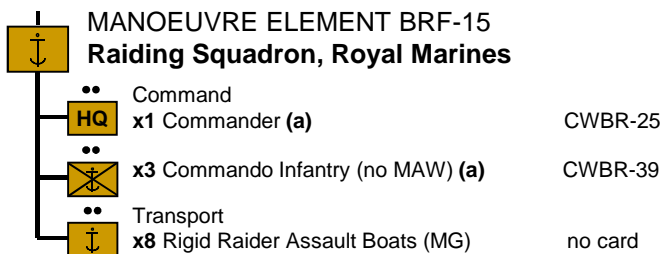
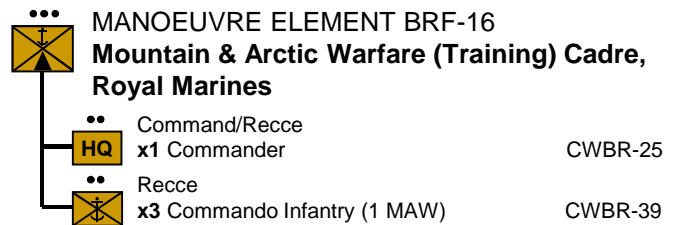
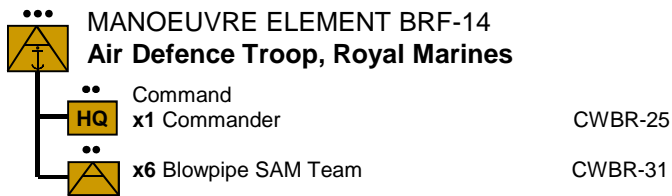


(a) I can confidently state that this unit took all its transport to the Falklands, as it is recorded that it took 12 hours for the Squadron to disembark all its Land Rovers.



(a) I have thus far been unable to establish whether or not this unit took its transport to the Falklands.





(a) These personnel are the crews for the Rigid Raider assault boats, who may be dismounted when the boats are not in use. They do not fill transport slots on the boats.





(a) 29 Commando Regiment RA also contained 148 Commando Forward Observation Battery RA, who were specialists in controlling naval gunfire support (NGFS). I think that rather than add more FOs, the best way to model this in game terms is to allow all FOs to call for NGFS as General Fire Support when it is available.



(a) I have very little information on how much transport was brought ashore by the Royal Artillery. However, it would seem that almost all moves conducted during the campaign were done by helicopter.





## **British Air Support**

I have only listed those aircraft that took a direct part in supporting the ground campaign.



### **Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm (a)**

800 Naval Air Squadron  
801 Naval Air Squadron  
809 Naval Air Squadron  
845 Naval Air Squadron  
846 Naval Air Squadron  
847 Naval Air Squadron  
848 Naval Air Squadron

- **x6** Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Hermes) **(d)**
- **x4** Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Invincible) **(d)**
- **x4** Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Hermes & HMS Invincible) **(d)**
- **x7** Wessex HU Mk 5 (RFA Tidespring, RFA Tidepool & RFA Fort Austin)
- **x7** Sea King HC Mk 4 (HMS Hermes, HMS Fearless, HMS Intrepid, SSs Canberra, Elk & Norland)
- **x12** Wessex HU Mk 5 (RFA Engadine & SS Atlantic Conveyor)
- **x7** Wessex HU Mk 5 (HMS Endurance, RFA Olna & SS Atlantic Conveyor) **(b)**

### **Royal Marines**

3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron RM - **x3** Gazelle AH Mk 1 & **x3** Scout AH Mk 1 (already listed above under 3 Commando Brigade)

### **Army Air Corps**

656 Squadron AAC

- **x4** Gazelle AH Mk 1 & **x3** Scout AH Mk 1 (already listed above under 5 Infantry Brigade)

### **Royal Air Force**

1(F) Squadron RAF

- **x5** Harrier GR Mk 3 (HMS Hermes) **(d)**

18 Squadron RAF

- **x2** Chinook HC Mk 1 (SS Atlantic Conveyor) **(c)**

### **Notes**

**(a)** There were also **x1** Wessex HAS Mk 3, **x7** Lynx HAS Mk 2 & 3, **x4** Wasp HAS Mk 1, **x7** Sea King HAS Mk 2 and **x9** Sea King HAS Mk 5 serving in the shipboard Anti-Submarine, Recce, Anti-Surface, Rescue and Liaison roles. These were also sometimes employed in troop transportation.

**(b)** **x3** Wessex HU Mk 5 were lost when the Atlantic Conveyor was sunk.

**(c)** Only one Chinook (in real terms) survived the sinking of the Atlantic Conveyor. One actual aircraft would not normally warrant inclusion in game terms. However, its impact on the campaign was profound – particularly in the rapid movement of troops and artillery – and I therefore think it reasonable to include **x1** Chinook in the orbat after the sinking of the Atlantic Conveyor.

**(d)** Once the RAF's GR Mk 3s arrived, the Sea Harriers concentrated on the air battle, leaving the RAF to do the mud-moving.



## **British Troop Quality**

### Trained

Falkland Islands Defence Force

### Experienced

Some Guards Companies\*

### Veteran

1/7th (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) Gurkha Rifles

Most of 1st Welsh Guards & 2nd Scots Guards

The Blues & Royals

All Aircrew

Royal Engineers

Royal Artillery

RAF Regiment

Forward Air Controllers

### Elite

Special Air Service

Special Boat Squadron

Royal Marine Commandos

Parachute Regiment

Commando Royal Engineers

\* The Guards, and particularly the 1st Welsh Guards, have been criticised by a number of witnesses and authors for their alleged lack of war-readiness prior to the campaign and for some of their actions (or in some cases, alleged lack of action) during the campaign. It may therefore be appropriate to drop the troop quality of some Guards MEs.

