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

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT

(+)
Naval Party 8901 (a)
Major Mike Norman RM

Command
x1 Commander
x5 Commando Infantry (2 MAW)
x1 Infantry (no MAW) (b)
x1 General Purpose Machine Gun (LMG)
Self-Observed Fire Support
x1 L9A1 51mm Mortar

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT

(-)
Falkland Islands Defence Force (c)
Major Phil Summers

Command
x1 Commander
x3 Infantry (1 MAW)
x1 General Purpose Machine Gun (LMG)
Self-Observed Fire Support
x1 L9A1 51mm Mortar

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT

Elements, Naval Party 8901 (to S. Georgia) (ad)
Lieutenant Keith Mills RM

Command
x1 Commando Infantry (no MAW)
x1 Commando Infantry (1 MAW)
x1 General Purpose Machine Gun (LMG)

(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

British Land Forces, Falkland Islands
Major General Jeremy Moore, Royal Marines

BATTLEGROUP BRF-01
3 Commando Brigade
Brigadier Julian Thompson RM

BATTLEGROUP BRF-02
5 Infantry Brigade
Brigadier Anthony Wilson

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

BATTLEGROUP
Royal Marine/Special Forces Group (a)
Major J M G Sheridan RM

Command
x1 Commander

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-02
‘M’ Company, 42 Royal Marine Commando (b)
Captain C J Nunn RM

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-06
‘D’ Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment
Major C N G Delves

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-07
No.2 Section, Special Boat Squadron

Naval Gunfire Support
x1 Forward Observer

(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
x3 Commando Infantry (1 MAW)
3 Special Forces Infantry (1 MAW) (c)
x1 GPMG (LMG)
x1 Forward Observer

(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).
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

BATTLEGROUP BRF-01
- x1 40 Royal Marine Commando
  - Lieutentant Colonel Malcolm Hunt
- x1 42 Royal Marine Commando
  - Lieutentant Colonel Nick Vaux
- x1 45 Royal Marine Commando
  - Lieutentant Colonel Andrew Whitehead
- x1 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment
  - Lieutentant Colonel Herbert ‘H’ Jones
- x1 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment
  - Lieutentant Colonel Hew Pike
- x1 22 SAS Regiment (Elements)
  - Lieutentant Colonel Michael Rose

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

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS
- FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-01
  - 29 Commando Regiment, RA
  - Lieutentant Colonel Mike Holroyd Smith

ATTACHMENTS
- Forward Air Controller CWBR-41
- Forward Observer CWBR-41
- x4 Gazelle AH Mk 1 Helicopter CWBR-43
- x3 Scout AH Mk 1 Helicopter CWBR-42
5 Infantry Brigade
Brigadier Anthony Wilson

BATTLEGROUP BRF-02
Command
x1 Commander
x3 Infantry (no MAW) (b)
Transport/Recon
x4 Land Rover (no MG)

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
x2 Forward Observer
x2 Forward Observer
x3 Gazelle AH Mk 1 Helicopter
x3 Scout AH Mk 1 Helicopter
Royal Marine Commando, Falklands

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
x3 Commando Infantry (no MAW) CWBR-39

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-02
x3 Commando Infantry Company (a)

ATTACHMENTS

Organic Fire Support
x4 L16A1 81mm Mortar CWBR-34
x8 Milan ATGM (b) CWBR-30
x3 General Purpose Machine Gun (SF) CWBR-29
Recce
x3 Commando Infantry (1 MAW) CWBR-39
Recce
x1 General Purpose Machine Gun (LMG) (b) CWBR-28
x3 Combat Engineers CWBR-36

General-Purpose Transport
Up to x3 Bv-202 Carrier (with MG) (c) CWBR-48

(a) The Commando companies were designated thus:
- 40 RM Commando – ‘A’, ‘B’ & ‘C’ 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).

Parachute Infantry Battalion, Falklands

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
x3 Para Infantry (no MAW) CWBR-37

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-03
x3 Parachute Infantry Company (a)

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-04
x1 Parachute Infantry (Patrols) Company (a)

ATTACHMENTS

Organic Fire Support
x4 L16A1 81mm Mortar CWBR-34
x3 Milan ATGM CWBR-30
x3 L2A1 .50 Cal Heavy Machine Gun (b) CWBR-35
Recce
x3 Para Infantry (1 MAW) CWBR-37
x3 General Purpose Machine Gun (SF) CWBR-29

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

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

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

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

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
Command
x1 Commander
CWBR-25

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-06
'D' Squadron
Major C N G Delves

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-06
'G' Squadron

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BATTLEGROUP BRF-08
36 Engineer Regiment RE, Falklands
Command
x1 Commander
CWBR-25

MANOEUVRE ELEMENTS

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-10
11 Field Squadron RE
Major Bruce Hawkins

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-09
9 Parachute Field Squadron RE (a)
Major Chris Davis

(a) 9 Parachute Field Squadron RE was reinforced by a Troop from 20 Field Squadron RE, commanded by Captain David Foxley.
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-01
Medium Reconnaissance Squadron (-) (a)

- Command/Recce
  - x1 CVR(T) Scorpion 76mm Recce Vehicle CWBR-07
  - x1 CVR(T) Scorpion 76mm Recce Vehicle CWBR-07
  - x2 CVR(T) Scimitar 30mm Recce Vehicle CWBR-06

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-02
Commando Infantry Company

- Command
  - x1 Commander CWBR-25
  - x9 Commando Infantry (3 MAW) (a) CWBR-39
  - x3 General Purpose Machine Gun (LMG) (b) CWBR-28
  - Self-Observer Fire Support
    - x1 L9A1 51mm Mortar CWBR-33

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-03
Parachute Infantry Company

- Command
  - x1 Commander CWBR-25
  - x9 Para Infantry (3 MAW) CWBR-37
  - Self-Observer Fire Support
    - x1 L9A1 51mm Mortar CWBR-33

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-04
Parachute Infantry (Patrols) Company

- Command/Recce
  - x1 Commander CWBR-25
  - Recce
  - x9 Para Infantry (3 MAW) CWBR-37
  - Self-Observer Fire Support/Recce
    - x1 L9A1 51mm Mortar CWBR-33
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.

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

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

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.
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-09
Parachute Engineer Field Squadron

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
x12 Combat Engineers (a) CWBR-36

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-10
Engineer Field Squadron

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
x12 Combat Engineers CWBR-36
x1 FV-180 Combat Engineer Tractor (a) CWBR-19

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-11
Air Defence Battery (Rapier) (a)

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
x6 Rapier SAM CWBR-24

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

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-12
RAF Regiment Air Defence Squadron (a)

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
Transport
x1 Land Rover (no MG) CWBR-20
x4 Rapier SAM CWBR-24
Transport
x4 1-Ton Land Rover Light Truck CWBR-21

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-13
Air Defence Troop (Blowpipe) (a)

Command
x1 Commander CWBR-25
Transport
x1 Land Rover (no MG) CWBR-20
x6 Blowpipe SAM Team CWBR-31
Transport
x6 Land Rover (with MG) CWBR-20

(a) I have thus far been unable to establish whether or not this unit took its transport to the Falklands.
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-14
Air Defence Troop, Royal Marines

- Command
  - x1 Commander CWBR-25
  - x6 Blowpipe SAM Team CWBR-31

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-15
Raiding Squadron, Royal Marines

- Command
  - x3 Commando Infantry (no MAW) CWBR-39
- Transport
  - x8 Rigid Raider Assault Boats (MG) no card

(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.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT BRF-16
Mountain & Arctic Warfare (Training) Cadre, Royal Marines

- Command/Recce
  - x1 Commander CWBR-25
  - x3 Commando Infantry (1 MAW) CWBR-39
29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery (a)

Command
x1 Commander

Transport/Recon
x1 Land Rover (no MG)

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-02
7 Field Battery, Royal Artillery

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-02
8 Field Battery, Royal Artillery

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT BRF-02
79 Field Battery, Royal Artillery

(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.

Field Artillery Battery (a)

Command
x1 Commander

Transport/Recon
Up to x1 Land Rover (no MG) (a)

On-Table Attachment
x1 Forward Observer

Transport/Recon
Up to x1 Land Rover (no MG) (a)

Fire Support
x3 L118 105mm Light Gun

Transport/Recon
Up to x3 1-Ton Land Rover Light Truck (a)

(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 - x6 Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Hermes) (d)
- 801 Naval Air Squadron - x4 Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Invincible) (d)
- 809 Naval Air Squadron - x4 Sea Harrier FRS Mk 1 (HMS Hermes & HMS Invincible) (d)
- 845 Naval Air Squadron - x7 Wessex HU Mk 5 (RFA Tidespring, RFA Tidepool & RFA Fort Austin)
- 846 Naval Air Squadron - x7 Sea King HC Mk 4 (HMS Hermes, HMS Fearless, HMS Intrepid, SSs Canberra, Elk & Norland)
- 847 Naval Air Squadron - x12 Wessex HU Mk 5 (RFA Engadine & SS Atlantic Conveyor)
- 848 Naval Air Squadron - x7 Wessex HU Mk 5 (HMS Endurance, RFA Olina & 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

Élite
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.