

BATTLEFRONT: WWII

British & Commonwealth TO&Es v4.03

21st Army Group 1944-1945

(European 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 European Theatre of Operations (ETO – i.e. Northwest Europe). 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, but copyright remains that of Fire & Fury Games.

The 'Commonwealth' Forces In 21st 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 21st Army Group this group included British, Canadian, Polish, Czechoslovak, Dutch and Belgian forces at brigade strength or larger.

US formations of all types also came under the command of 21st Army Group for most of the NW European Campaign, but these are already covered by the existing US TO&Es in the **Battlefront: WWII** Rulebook and the US Airborne TO&Es published on this website.

So Where Do I Start?

For the absolute beginner, it is recommended that you first take a look at Jim Baker's excellent Beginner's Guide on the website 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 Tables of Organisation & Equipment (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)-11). 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, quite a long way behind (i.e. off-table). 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, reserve. Its light armoured carriers can move it around the battlefield very quickly with some protection from mortar and machinegun fire and it comes well-provided with its own infantry antitank weapons, light mortars and machineguns.

Continued over...

So Where Do I Start? (Continued)

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, Cromwells or Churchills (see ME-01, ME-02 and ME-04). Typically one or two armoured 'Troops' (i.e. Platoon-sized units) 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 division or time period, different models of tanks are available. If in doubt, the standard 75mm-armed Sherman V (M4A4 in US terms) was the most common variety of tank available in NW Europe, with every fourth Sherman being a 'Firefly' – armed with the deadly 17-pounder gun.

The real trump card in any late-war 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 (usually fitted with wooden dummy guns to make them look like an ordinary tank). In Battlefront: WWII, there is no need to actually buy and paint the model artillery pieces and gun tractors, as they would normally be deployed well to the rear of the battle (though many gamers like to buy and paint them to 'complete' their collection).

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 (usually a Lieutenant – a very junior officer) had the potential to call in every Allied artillery piece within range – if the importance of the target (or the location being defended) was important enough. In attack, the British & Canadians 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. Similarly, when in defence, the FOs would pre-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 DF missions (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 (in defence, the battalion would typically deploy with three companies 'up' and one in reserve), some brigade-level antitank or anti-aircraft guns, a Machinegun Platoon, the rest of that tank squadron (or maybe some Churchills instead of Shermans) or some reconnaissance assets from a Recce or Armoured Car Regiment and maybe some 'Funnies' for that all-out assault (see the separate 'Funnies' Specialist Armour TO&Es). 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.

Please don't hesitate to ask questions on the Battlefront Forum at www.fireandfury.com or e-mail me directly at rmarkdavies@hotmail.co.uk

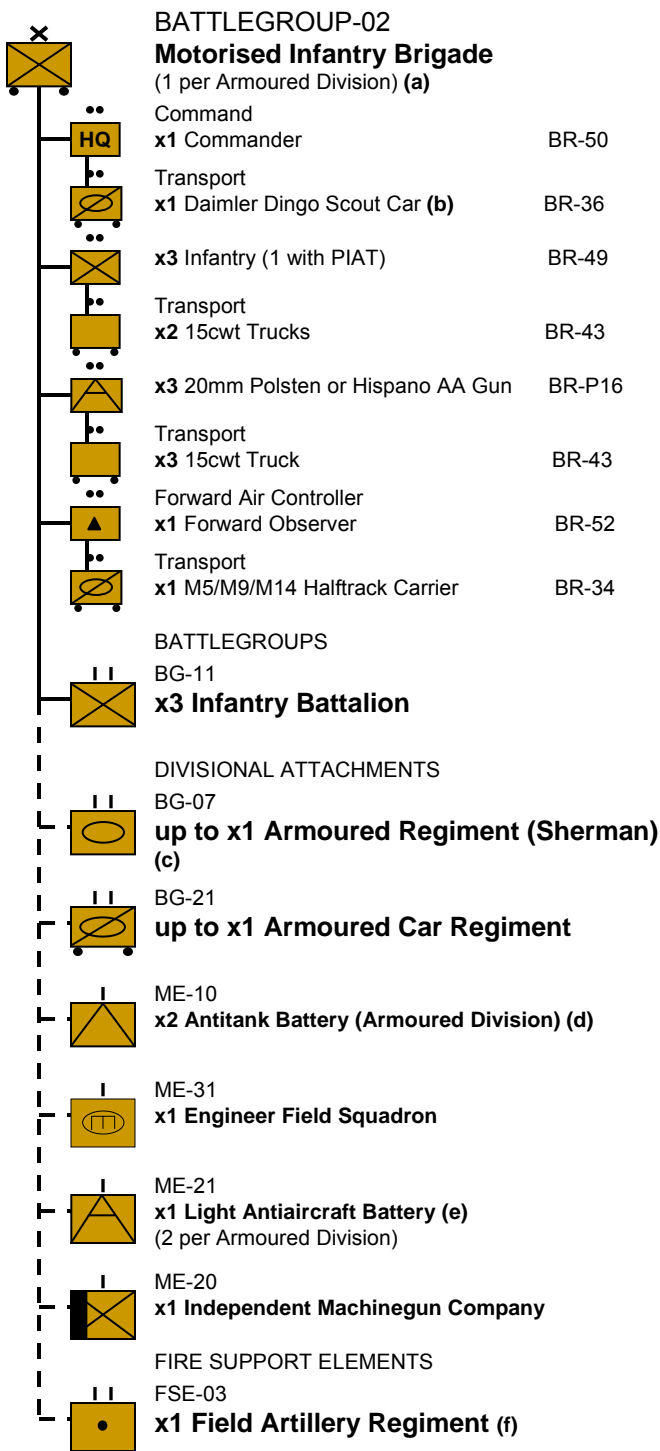
Happy Gaming!

R Mark Davies
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21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 01




21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 02



(a) The 7th, 11th, Guards, 1st Polish, 4th Canadian and 5th Canadian Armoured Divisions each included a Motorised Infantry Brigade and an Armoured Brigade. Following the failure of the early operations by the three British Armoured Divisions in Normandy, where the Motorised Infantry and Armoured Brigades maintained their distinct identities (and completely failed to support each other), the distinction between the two brigades of an armoured division became very blurred. From roughly August 1944, infantry battalions and armoured regiments were swapped between the two – sometimes permanently and sometimes as the mission demanded. Both Brigadiers in an Armoured Division were then expected to function as either infantry or armour Brigadiers as the situation required. This TO&E is therefore more of a 'paper' organisation after Normandy – from August onwards, BGs and MEs may be swapped between BG-01 and BG-02. Also note that 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) In 7th Armoured Division, replace the Sherman Regiment with:

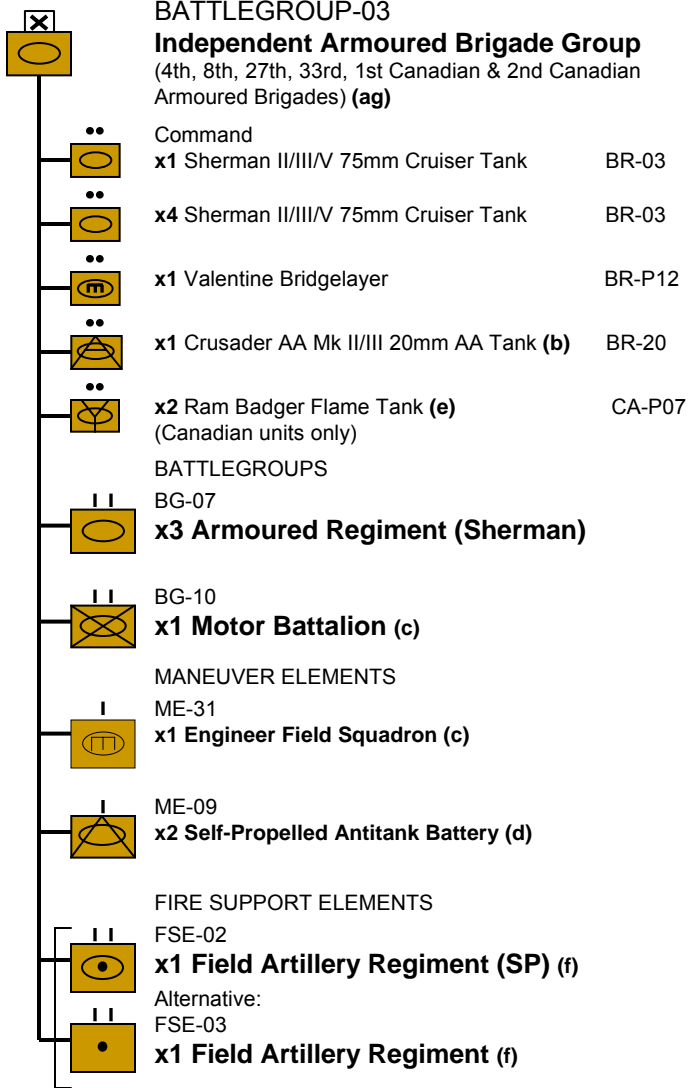
	BG-08	x3 Armoured Regiment (Cromwell)
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(d) Towed Antitank Batteries were disbanded in Armoured Divisions to provide infantry replacements in the Winter of 1944/45.

(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. From Late 44, all towed Light AA Batteries in Armoured Divisions were converted to Self-Propelled.

(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. 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.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 03



(a) 8th, 27th and 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigades each had two regiments converted to amphibious 'DD' Shermans for the Normandy Landings, but reverted to being standard armoured brigades immediately afterwards. 27th Armoured Brigade was disbanded in July '44. 33rd Armoured Brigade was transferred to 79th Armoured Division after Normandy for conversion to specialist 'Funny' armour. 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade was transferred from Italy early in 1945.

(b) May replace the Crusader AA Mk II/III with:
 Crusader AA Mk I 40mm AA Tank BR-21

(c) The Motor Battalion and Engineer Field Squadron are available to 4th and 8th Armoured Brigades only. Motor Battalions frequently operated as separate companies – each Motor Company being attached to a different armoured regiment within the brigade.

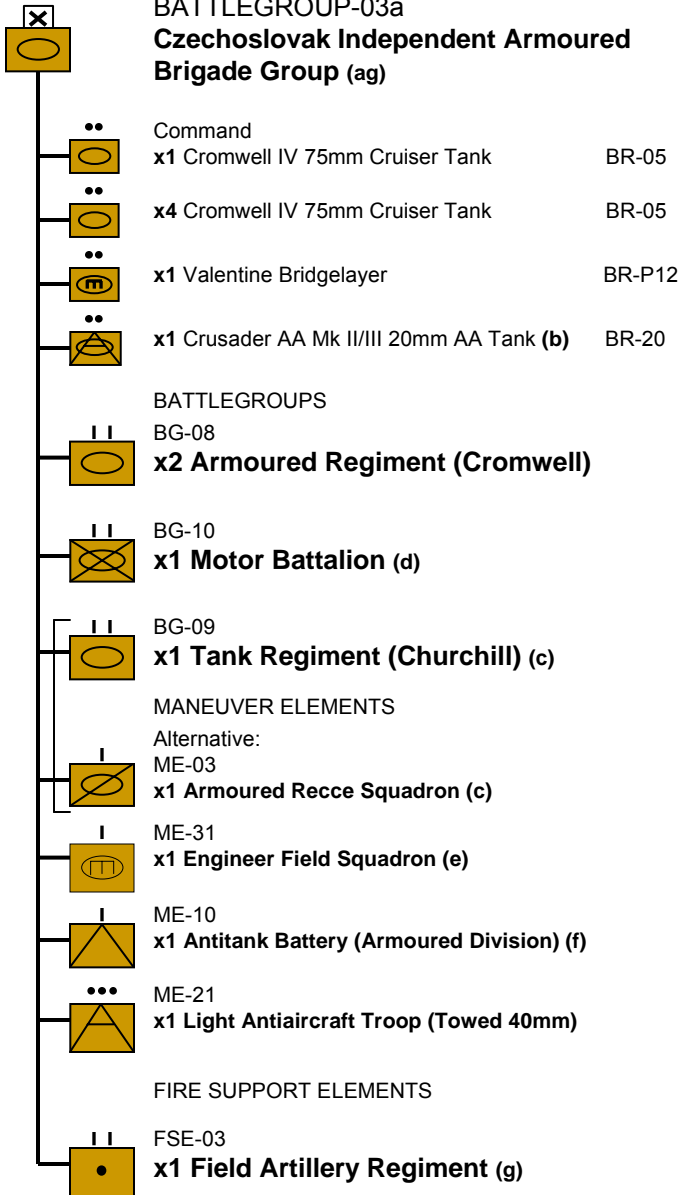
(d) The Self-Propelled Antitank Battery is available to 4th Armoured Brigade only.

(e) The Flame Tank Troop of Ram Badgers is only available to Canadian brigades in 1945. The Badger was also known as the Cougar in some units.

(f) The Field Artillery Regiment is available only to the 4th and 8th Armoured Brigades. The 8th Armoured Brigade's Field Regiment was self-propelled from the outset, but the 4th Armoured Brigade had towed 25pdrs until its conversion to Sextons in July '44.

(g) 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.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 03a



(a) The 1st Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade Group was quite radically different to the other independent armoured brigades in the theatre, having Cromwells instead of Shermans and eventually including a regiment of Churchills. It began the campaign approximately one-third understrength, but was brought up to strength during the Winter of 1944/45 by the addition of a Churchill regiment and the addition of third troops to the antitank and engineer elements and a third battery to the Field Artillery Regiment.

(b) May replace the Crusader AA Mk II/III with:
 Crusader AA Mk I 40mm AA Tank BR-21

(c) The Tank Regiment (Churchill) is only available in 1945, when it replaces the Armoured Recce Squadron.

(d) The Motor Battalion may operate as separate companies – each Motor Company being attached to a different armoured regiment within the brigade.

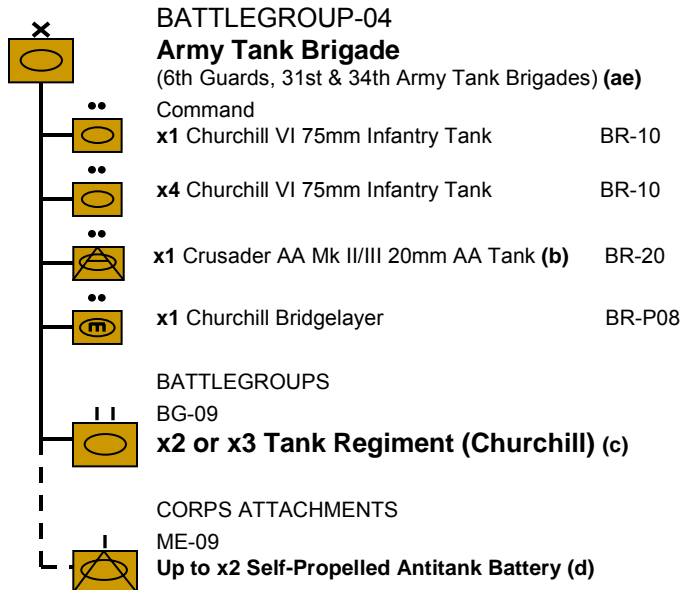
(e) The Engineer Field Squadron was one-third understrength (two troops only) until 1945 when it was brought up to strength.

(f) The Antitank Battery was one-third understrength (two batteries only) until 1945 when it was brought up to strength.

(g) The Field Artillery Regiment was one-third understrength (two batteries only) until 1945, when it was brought up to strength.

(h) Independent Armoured and Army Tank Brigades hardly ever fought as unified brigades. However, in the case of the Czechoslovak Brigade, it fought as an integral whole throughout its period of operations (entirely spent in the siege lines outside Dunkirk). It had various units attached to it throughout the campaign, including Commandos, Churchill tanks (which were eventually handed over to the Czechs) and rear-security battalions of British infantry. However, in April 1945, a combined-arms battlegroup called 'Token Force' was detached from the brigade to US 3rd Army with the task of symbolically 'liberating' Prague.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 04



(a) The Army Tank Brigades were redesignated as Armoured Brigades late in 1944. However, the designation 'Tanks' continued in common usage for Churchill formations until the end of the war. 31st Army Tank Brigade was transferred to 79th Armoured Division after Normandy, for conversion to specialist armour.

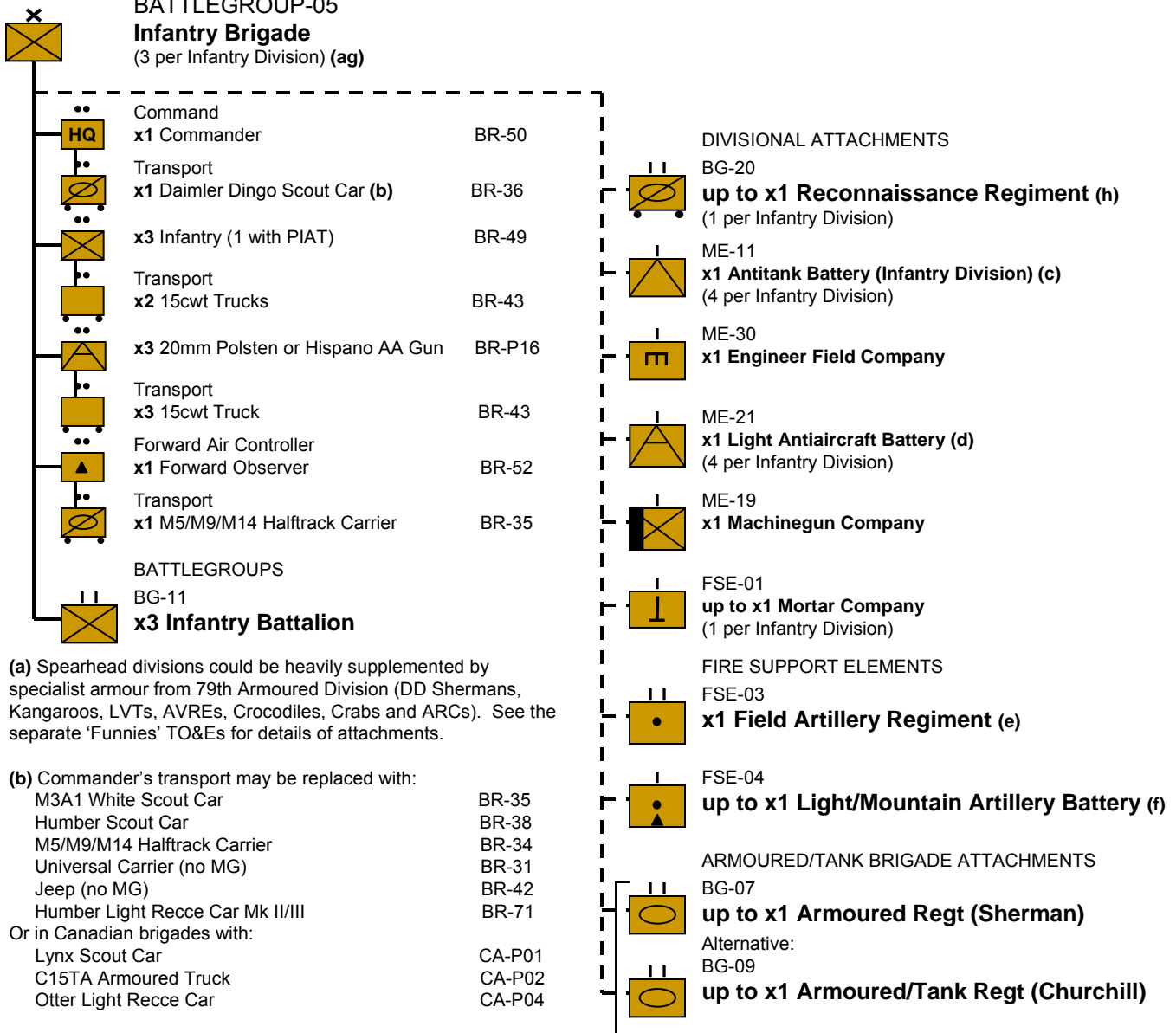
(b) May replace the Crusader AA Mk II/III with:
 Crusader AA Mk I 40mm AA Tank BR-21

(c) 31st Army Tank Brigade only fielded two regiments of Churchills in Normandy. The third regiment (141st RAC) had been detached prior to the Normandy Landings and served as an independent Crocodile Regiment before being incorporated into 79th Armoured Division.

(d) Due to the lack of a 17pdr tank in Churchill regiments, the Churchills were frequently supported directly by troops of M10c Achilles Tank Destroyers from the Corps' Reserve Antitank Regiments.

(e) 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.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 05



(a) Spearhead divisions could be heavily supplemented by specialist armour from 79th Armoured Division (DD Shermans, Kangaroos, LVTs, AVREs, Crocodiles, Crabs and ARCs). See the separate 'Funnies' TO&Es for details of attachments.

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

M3A1 White Scout Car	BR-35
Humber Scout Car	BR-38
M5/M9/M14 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) The 43rd (Wessex) and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions had three Antitank Batteries, but each battery was four troops strong, rather than the usual three. 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division had an Antitank Regiment organised like that of an Armoured Division; with **x2** Self-Propelled Antitank Batteries (ME-09) and **x2** Towed Antitank Batteries (ME-10).

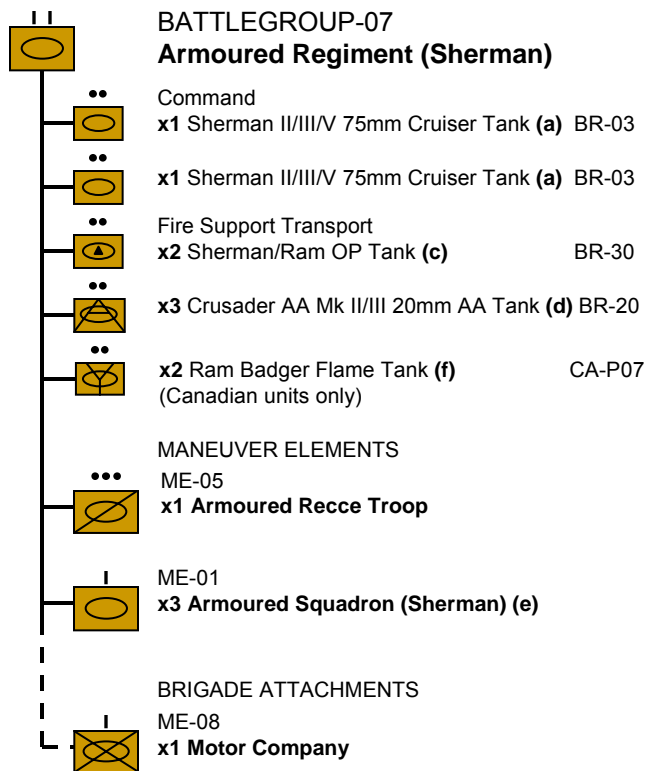
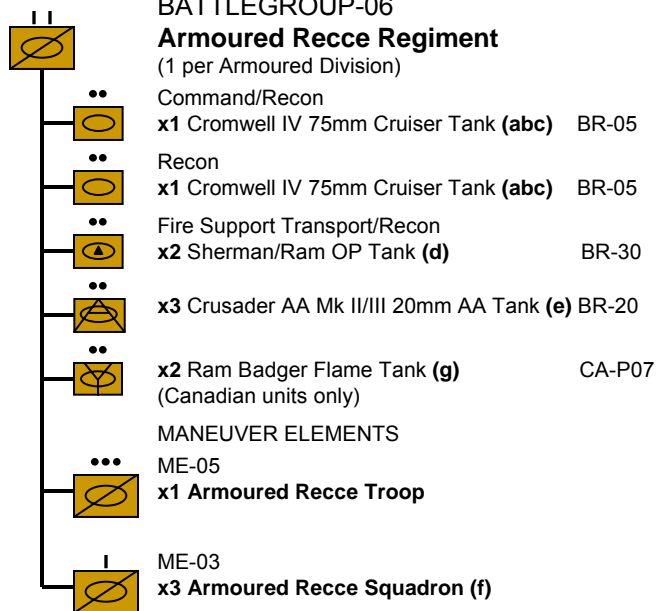
(d) Three Light Antiaircraft Batteries in the division had 40mm Bofors armament, while one battery was equipped with 20mm Polsten/Oerlikon/Hispano guns. Some units split up the 20mm guns to make four mixed batteries. As the Luftwaffe threat receded, it was most unusual to attach antiaircraft batteries 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

(f) The Light/Mountain Artillery is only available to 52nd (Lowland) Mountain/Air-Transportable Infantry Division from October 1944.

(g) The 3rd, 5th (Yorkshire), 15th (Scottish), 43rd (Wessex), 49th (West Riding), 50th (Northumbrian), 51st (Highland), 52nd (Lowland), 53rd (Welsh), 59th (Staffordshire), 1st Canadian, 2nd Canadian and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions were all engaged in Northwest Europe. 59th (Staffordshire) Division was disbanded in Normandy due to losses. 52nd (Lowland) Division was a light Mountain/Air-Sea Transportable division; initially attached to 1st Allied Airborne Army in the UK, it was reorganised as a regular infantry division and deployed to NW Europe in October 1944 (following the failure of Operation Market-Garden), where it was used to spearhead the assault on Walcheren. 5th (Yorkshire) and 1st Canadian Divisions were redeployed from Italy to NW Europe in 1945. 50th (Northumbrian) Brigade was reinforced to four brigades for D-Day, by the addition of 56th Independent Infantry Brigade. However, 56th Brigade was absorbed into 49th (West Riding) Division in July 1944 to replace the disbanded 70th Brigade. 50th (Northumbrian) Division was then disbanded in the Autumn. 116th & 117th Independent (Royal Marines) Infantry Brigades were also deployed to NW Europe in 1945 using this organisation (note that these were low-grade infantry – not Commandos). The 1st Belgian Infantry Brigade Group also used this organisation (including an organic Armoured Car Regiment) after its reorganisation during the winter of 1944/45.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 06-07



(a) Late 1944: May replace some or all Cromwell IV with:
 Cromwell VII 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-07

(b) In Canadian Armoured Divisions: Replace all Cromwell tanks with:
 Sherman II/III/IV 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-03

(c) In 11th Armoured Division, April 1945: Replace all Cromwell tanks with:
 Comet 77mm Cruiser Tank BR-19

(d) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by the OP tanks. Some units (particularly in the 7th Armoured Division) may replace the Sherman/Ram OP tanks with:
 Cromwell IV 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-05

(e) August 44: AA Tanks largely withdrawn.

(f) In 7th Armoured Division, June 1944 only:
 Increase to **x4 Armoured Recce Squadron**.

(g) The Flame Tank Troop of Ram Badgers is only available to Canadian regiments in 1945. The Badger was also known as the Cougar in some units.

(a) In 11th Armoured Division from February 45 (and one regiment in 7th Armoured Division from April 1945): Replace all Sherman tanks with:
 Comet 77mm Cruiser Tank BR-19

(b) In 1st Polish Armoured Division from October 1944: Replace all Sherman tanks with:
 Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank BR-78

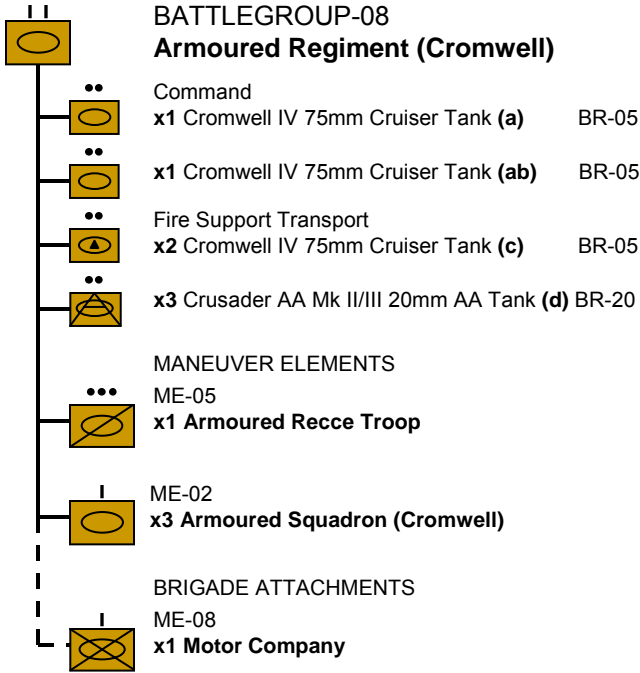
(c) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by the OP tanks. In 11th Armoured Division; May replace Sherman OP Tanks with:
 Sherman V 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-03

(d) August 44: AA Tanks largely withdrawn.

(e) In DD-equipped regiments for the Normandy Landings, two of the three squadrons in each regiment were equipped with DD tanks – see ME-03.

(f) The Flame Tank Troop of Ram Badgers is only available to Canadian regiments in 1945. The Badger was also known as the Cougar in some units.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 08-09

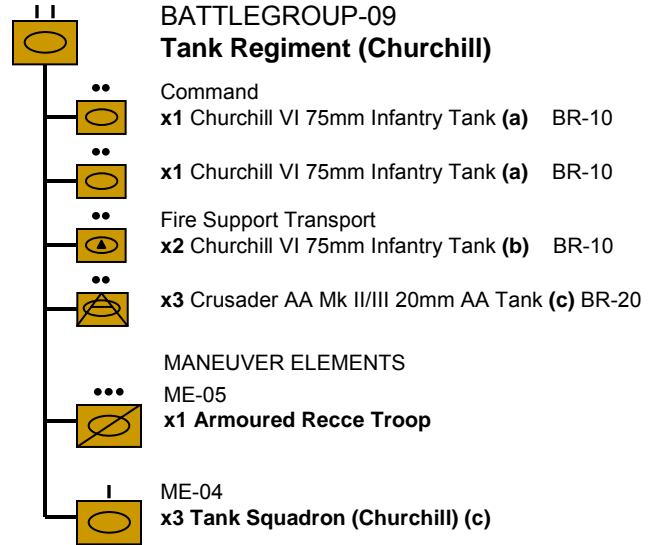


(a) Late 44: May replace HQ tanks with:
Cromwell VII 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-07

(b) In 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade, replace second HQ tank with:
x1 Sherman Vc Firefly 17pdr Tank BR-04

(c) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by the Cromwell IV OP tanks.

(d) August 44: AA Tanks largely withdrawn.

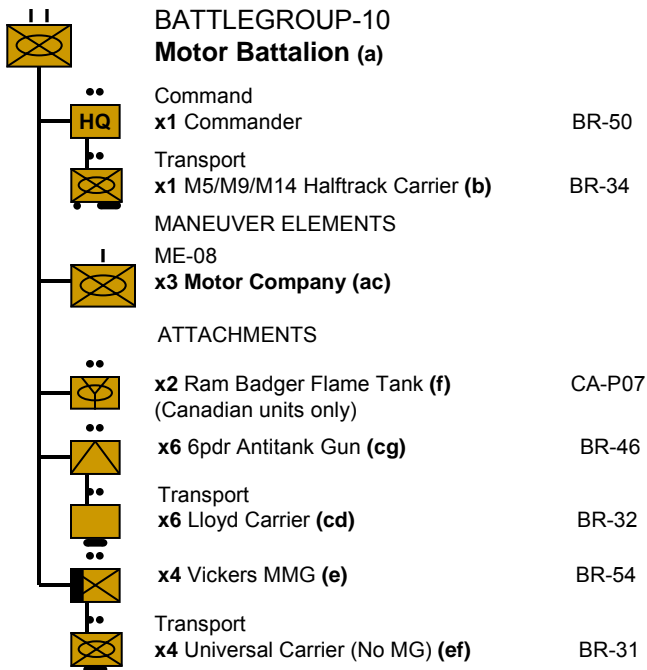


(a) May replace one or both headquarters tanks with:
Churchill III/IV 6pdr Infantry Tank BR-77
Or from July 44: May replace with:
Churchill VII 75mm Infantry Tank BR-11

(b) Attached Forward Observers may be transported by these tanks. May replace the OP tanks with:
Churchill III/IV 6pdr Infantry Tank BR-77

(c) August 44: AA Tanks largely withdrawn.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 10-11



(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.

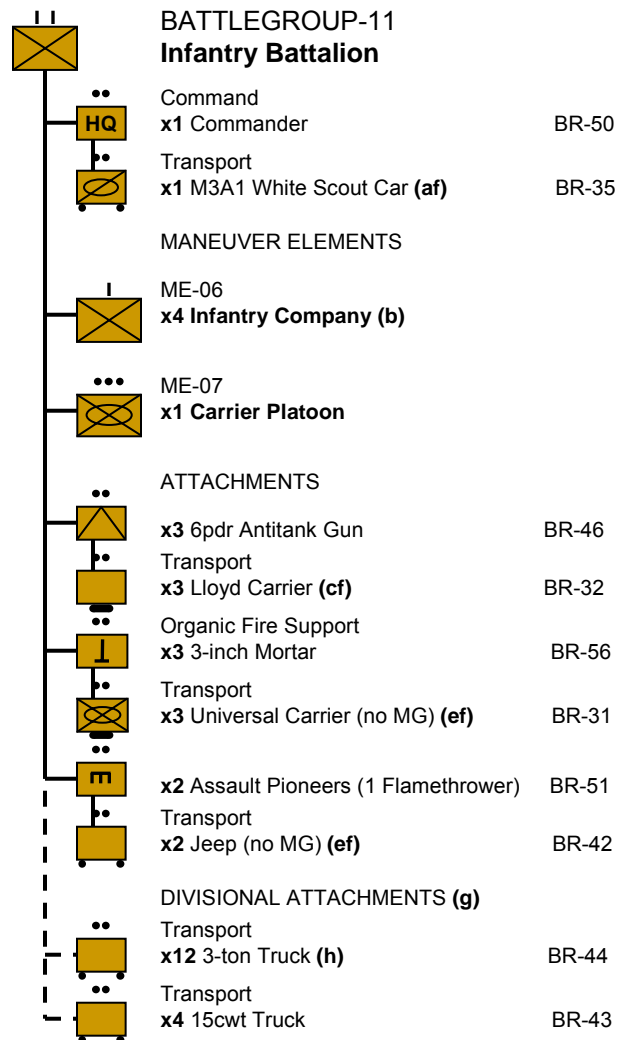
(b) May replace M5/M9 Halftrack Carrier with:
M3A1 White Scout Car BR-35
In 1944: Replace in Canadian units with:
C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(c) In Guards and 1st Polish Armoured Divisions:
Increase to **x4 Motor Companies**

(d) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian battalions with:
Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(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) The Flame Tank Troop of Ram Badgers is available to Canadian units in 1945 only. The Badger was also known as the Cougar in some units.



(a) May replace the commander's transport with:
Humber Scout Car BR-38
Humber Light Recce Car BR-71
Universal Carrier (no MG) BR-31
Daimler Dingo Scout Car BR-36
M5/M9/M14 Halftrack Carrier BR-34
Jeep (no MG) BR-42
Or in Canadian units with:
C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(b) Late 1944 to 1945: Some battalions may be reduced to **x3** Infantry Companies due to heavy infantry losses. The battalions were often brought back up to strength for offensives (though consequently might suffer in terms of quality).

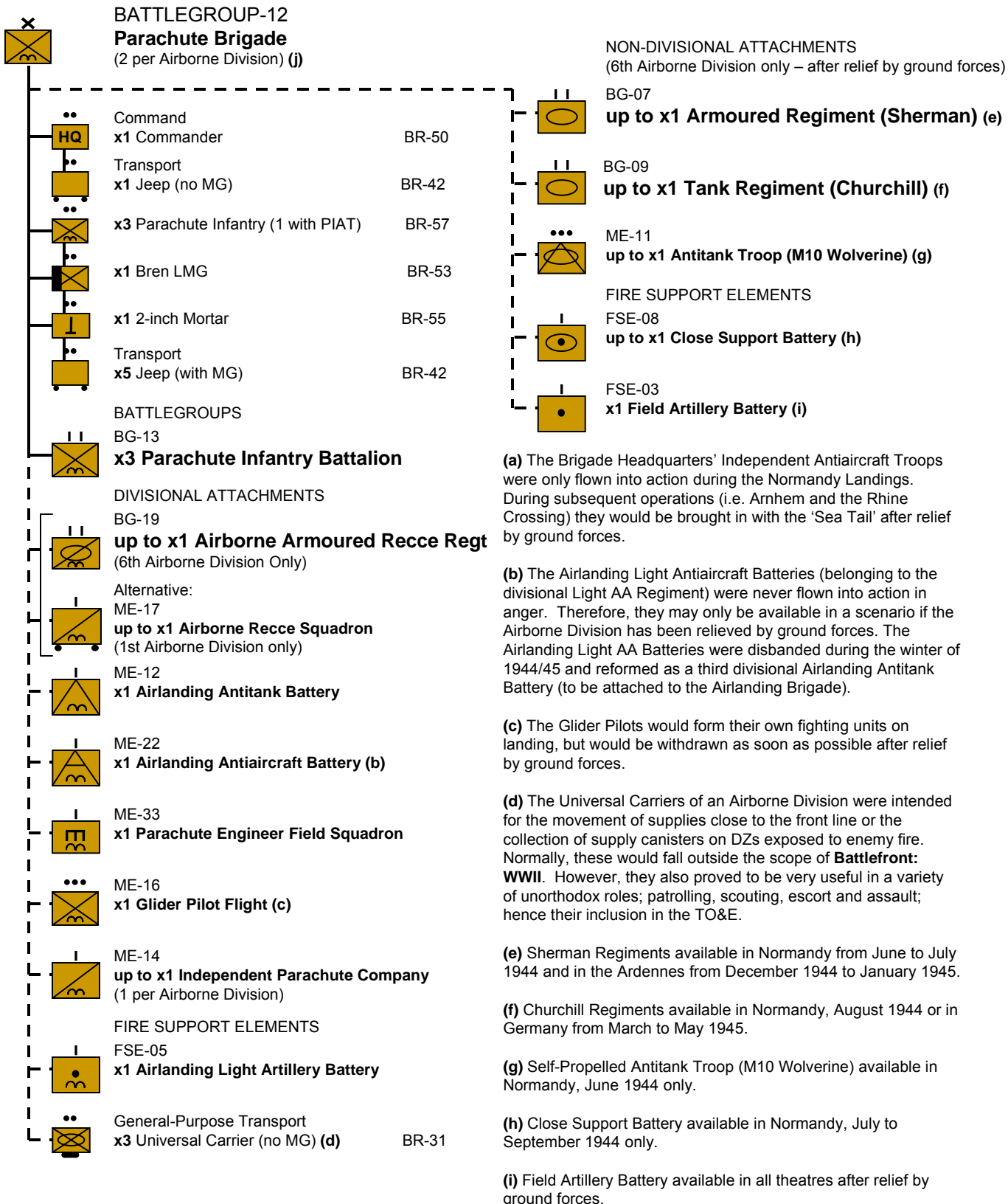
(c) Replace Lloyd Carrier in Canadian units with:
Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(d) Infantry Battalions of Armoured Divisions/Motorised Brigades had Troop-Carrying Vehicles (TCVs) attached on a semi-permanent basis and would therefore have greater access to transport than those of Infantry Divisions.

(e) In the attack, Commonwealth Infantry Battalions would often be supported by a plethora of specialist armour from 79th Armoured Division such as AVREs, Kangaroos, Crabs, Crocodiles, Buffalos, etc. See the separate 'Funnies' TO&E for details.

(f) From October '44: May replace light transport in wet terrain with:
M29C Weasel Amphibious Carrier BR-P58

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 12



(a) The Brigade Headquarters' Independent Antiaircraft Troops were only flown into action during the Normandy Landings. During subsequent operations (i.e. Arnhem and the Rhine Crossing) they would be brought in with the 'Sea Tail' after relief by ground forces.

(b) The Airlanding Light Antiaircraft Batteries (belonging to the divisional Light AA Regiment) were never flown into action in anger. Therefore, they may only be available in a scenario if the Airborne Division has been relieved by ground forces. The Airlanding Light AA Batteries were disbanded during the winter of 1944/45 and reformed as a third divisional Airlanding Antitank Battery (to be attached to the Airlanding Brigade).

(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) The Universal Carriers of an Airborne Division were intended for the movement of supplies close to the front line or the collection of supply canisters on DZs exposed to enemy fire. Normally, these would fall outside the scope of **Battlefront: WWII**. However, they also proved to be very useful in a variety of unorthodox roles; patrolling, scouting, escort and assault; hence their inclusion in the TO&E.

(e) Sherman Regiments available in Normandy from June to July 1944 and in the Ardennes from December 1944 to January 1945.

(f) Churchill Regiments available in Normandy, August 1944 or in Germany from March to May 1945.

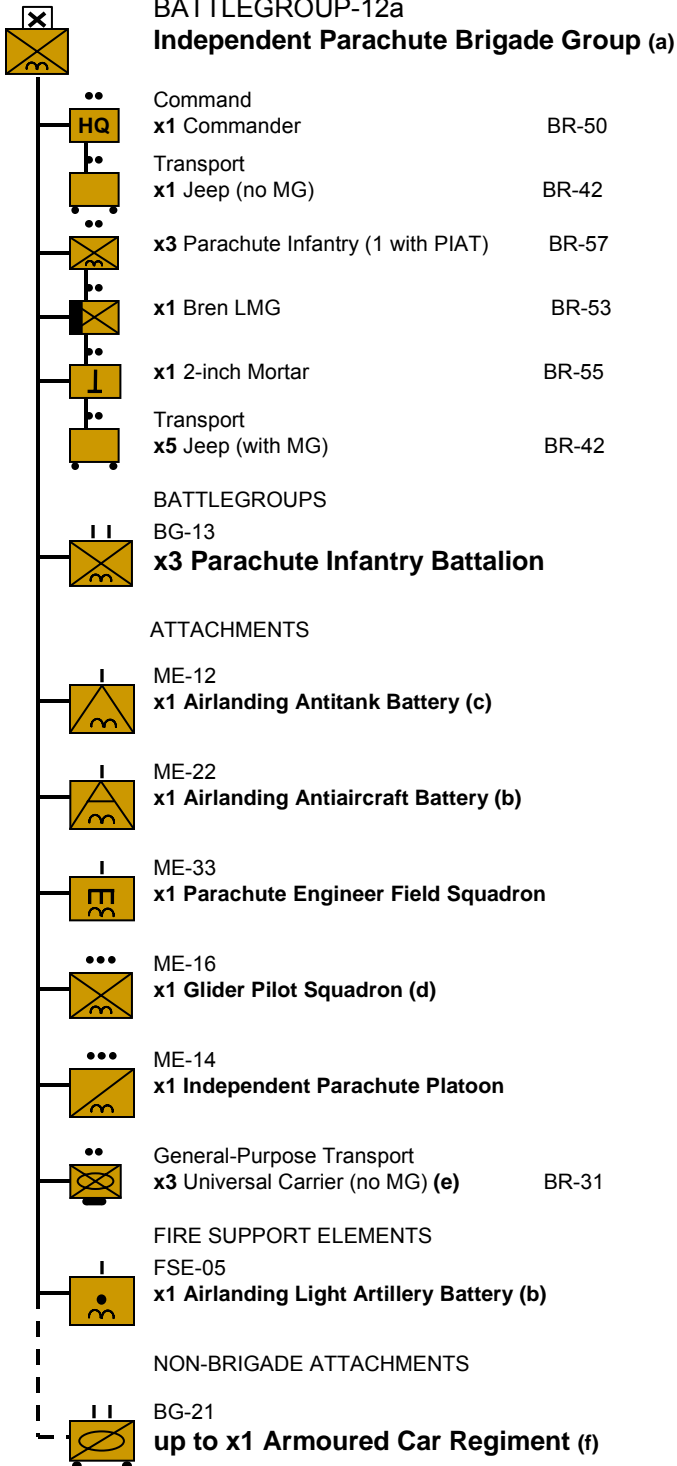
(g) Self-Propelled Antitank Troop (M10 Wolverine) available in Normandy, June 1944 only.

(h) Close Support Battery available in Normandy, July to September 1944 only.

(i) Field Artillery Battery available in all theatres after relief by ground forces.

(j) The 1st & 6th Airborne Divisions were both engaged in NW Europe. 6th Airborne took part in the Normandy, and Germany Campaigns in an airborne role, as well as the Ardennes in a ground role. 1st Airborne's only major operation in Europe was Operation Market-Garden (Arnhem), where it was practically destroyed.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 12a-13



(a) The only such formation in Northwest Europe was the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group, which saw action during Operation 'Market-Garden', under the command of 1st Airborne Division. There was also the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group, which served mainly in Italy and Greece, but warrants inclusion here, as it also saw service in France as part of the mainly US/French landings in the South (Operation 'Anvil'/'Dragoon').

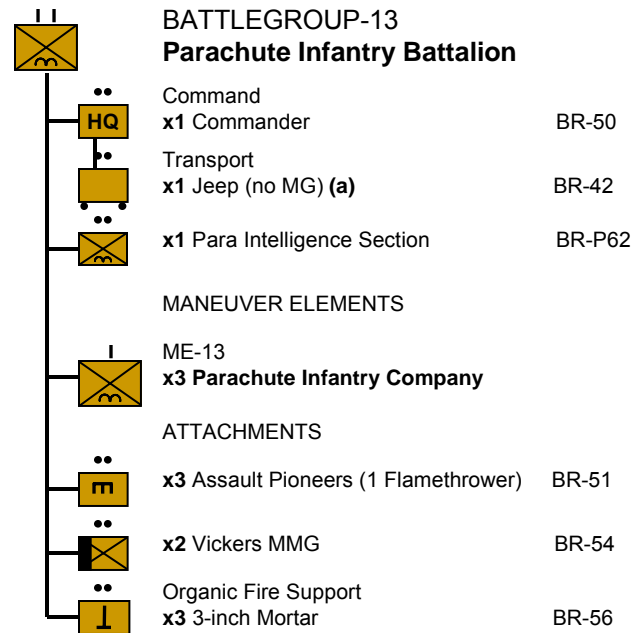
(b) These elements were not flown into action in reality and would therefore only be available after relief by ground forces.

(c) The Airlanding Antitank Batteries of the Independent Brigades did not contain the 17pdr Troop found in those of the Airborne Divisions.

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

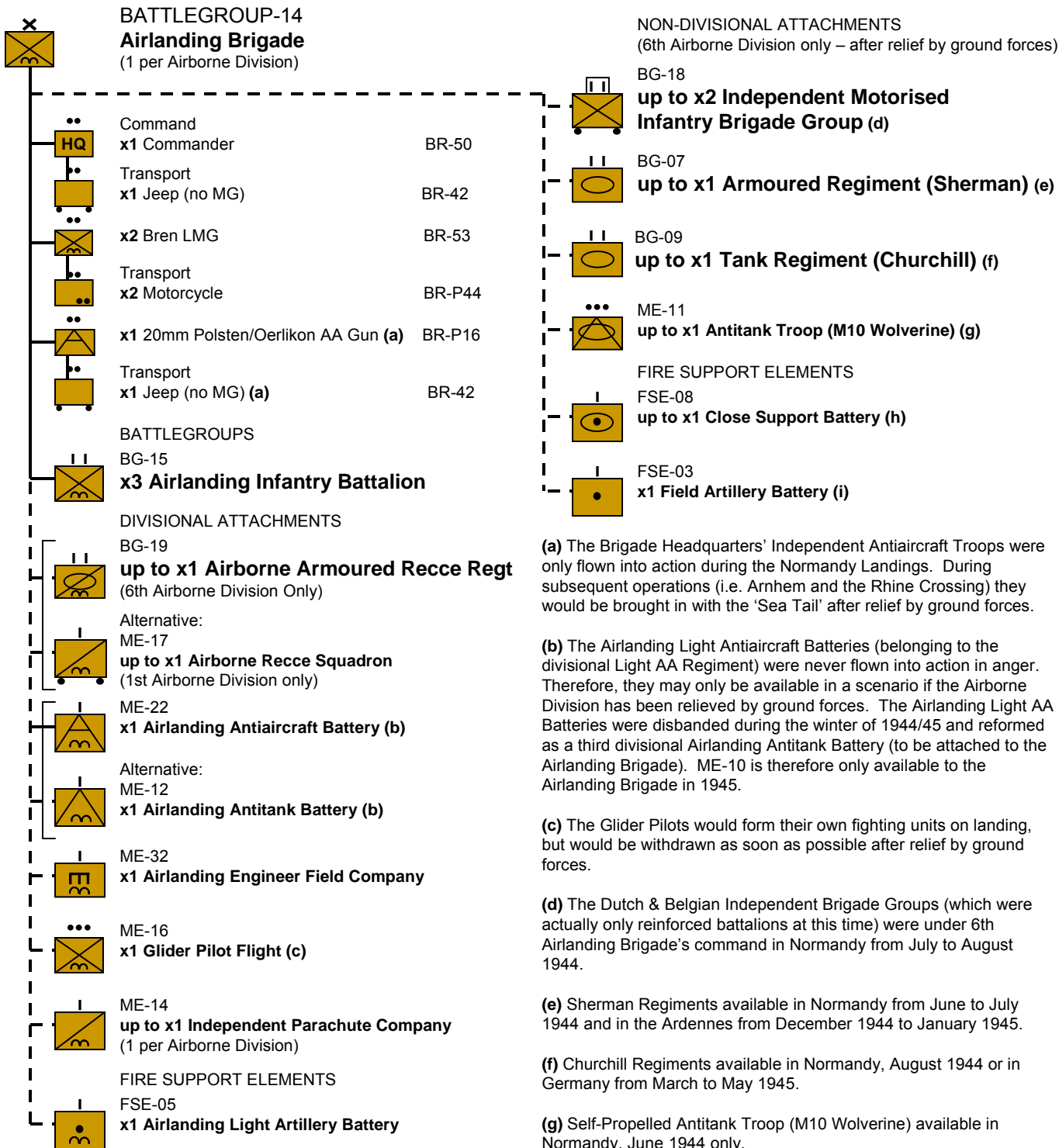
(e) The Universal Carriers of an Airborne Division were intended for the movement of supplies close to the front line or the collection of supply canisters on DZs exposed to enemy fire. Normally, these would fall outside the scope of **Battlefront: WWII**. However, they also proved to be very useful in a variety of unorthodox roles; patrolling, scouting, escort and assault; hence their inclusion in the TO&E.

(f) The Armoured Car Regiment is only available to 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group, during Operation 'Market-Garden'.



(a) The transport listed was delivered separately (by glider).

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 14



(a) The Brigade Headquarters' Independent Antiaircraft Troops were only flown into action during the Normandy Landings. During subsequent operations (i.e. Arnhem and the Rhine Crossing) they would be brought in with the 'Sea Tail' after relief by ground forces.

(b) The Airlanding Light Antiaircraft Batteries (belonging to the divisional Light AA Regiment) were never flown into action in anger. Therefore, they may only be available in a scenario if the Airborne Division has been relieved by ground forces. The Airlanding Light AA Batteries were disbanded during the winter of 1944/45 and reformed as a third divisional Airlanding Antitank Battery (to be attached to the Airlanding Brigade). ME-10 is therefore only available to the Airlanding Brigade in 1945.

(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) The Dutch & Belgian Independent Brigade Groups (which were actually only reinforced battalions at this time) were under 6th Airlanding Brigade's command in Normandy from July to August 1944.

(e) Sherman Regiments available in Normandy from June to July 1944 and in the Ardennes from December 1944 to January 1945.

(f) Churchill Regiments available in Normandy, August 1944 or in Germany from March to May 1945.

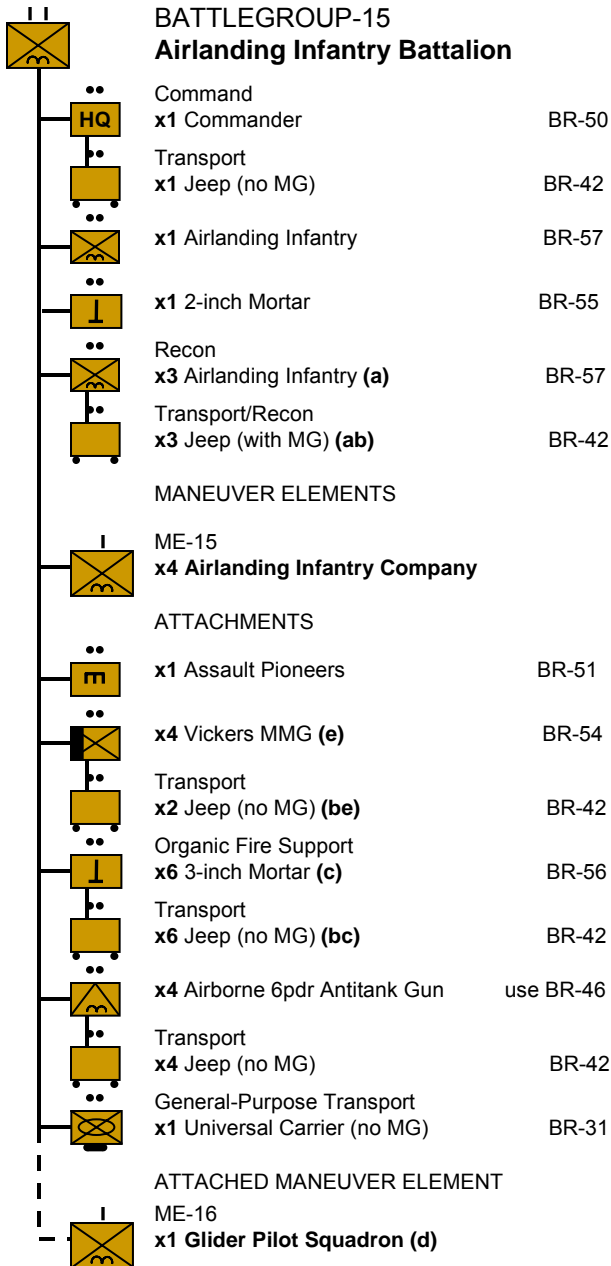
(g) Self-Propelled Antitank Troop (M10 Wolverine) available in Normandy, June 1944 only.

(h) Close Support Battery available in Normandy, July to September 1944 only.

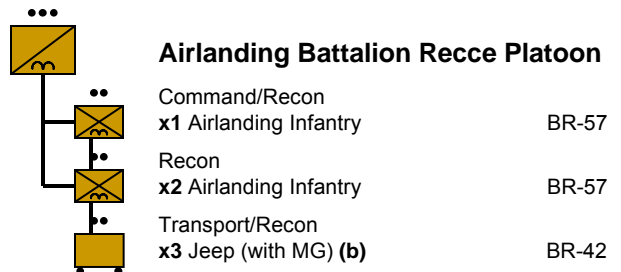
(i) Field Artillery Battery available in all theatres after relief by ground forces.

(j) The 1st & 6th Airborne Divisions were both engaged in NW Europe. 6th Airborne took part in the Normandy and Germany Campaigns in an airborne role, as well as the Ardennes in a ground role. 1st Airborne's only major operation in Europe was Operation Market-Garden (Arnhem), where it was practically destroyed.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 15



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



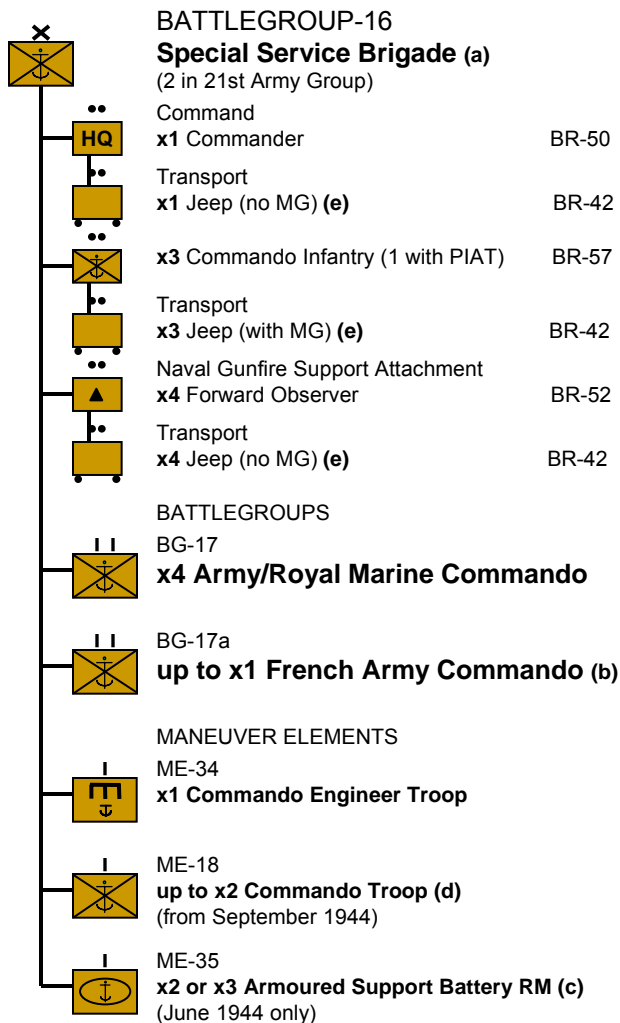
(b) With the exception of the HQ and Antitank Platoon, the battalion's transport elements would normally be delivered with the 'Sea Tail' after relief by ground troops. However, in 1945 all elements may be delivered by glider.

(c) The mortars conduct indirect fire as two separate platoons of x3 mortars each. Alternatively, x4 mortars may be allocated as individual attachments to the Airlanding Infantry Companies, leaving x2 mortars at battalion level.

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

(e) Note that the battalion had two MMG Platoons, but only one of them had Jeep transport.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 16-17a



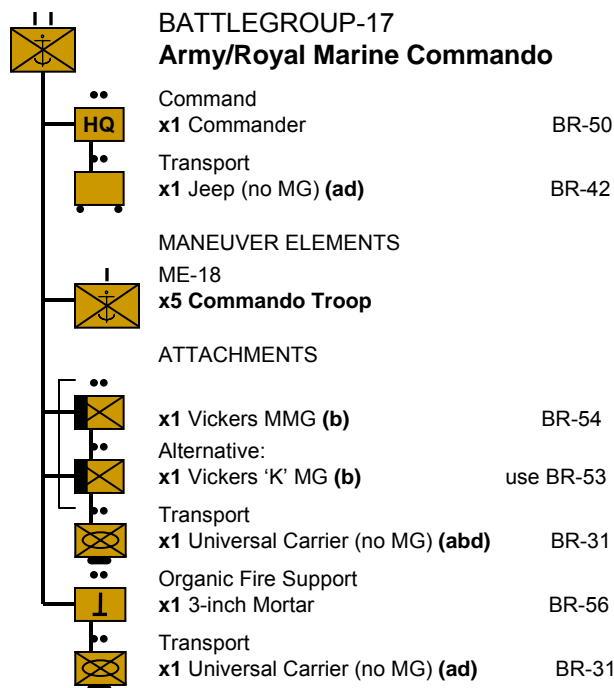
(a) It is a common misconception that the Commandos' only major action in NW Europe was D-Day itself. In fact, 1st & 4th Special Service Brigades took part in the entire Normandy Campaign from June to September 1944, as well as the subsequent sieges for the Channel Ports, the bloody assault on Walcheren, the crossing of the Rhine and the final liberation of the Netherlands. The Special Service Brigades were redesignated 'Commando Brigades' late in 1944.

(b) The French Army Commando (part of 10 (Inter-Allied) Army Commando) served with 1 Special Service Brigade in Normandy and with 4 Special Service/Commando Brigade thereafter.

(c) The Armoured Support Batteries, Royal Marines, are only available in June 1944. 1 Special Service Brigade had **x3** Batteries, while 4 Special Service Brigade had **x2** Batteries. They were all disbanded at the end of June 1944. There was a regimental structure, but they never fought as unified regiments, but rather as individual Batteries or Troops, hence why there is no Armoured Support Regiment BG listed here.

(d) The two extra Commando Troops are the Belgian and Norwegian Troops of 10 (Inter-Allied) Army Commando, who were attached to 4 Special Service/Commando Brigade after Normandy.

(e) From September 1944: May replace transport with:
 M29C Weasel Amphibious Carrier BR-P58



(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) The Vickers 'K' was the official MG of the Support Troop at this time, though some units kept their older Vickers MMGs and instead distributed the 'K' Guns out to the individual troops. Evidence is scarce, as the orders of battle changed regularly to meet the needs of individual missions, but some units also seem to have acquired many more than the official scale of issue. For example, at least one Army Commando also acquired double the regulation Bren issue and another even possessed large numbers of MG42s! (c)

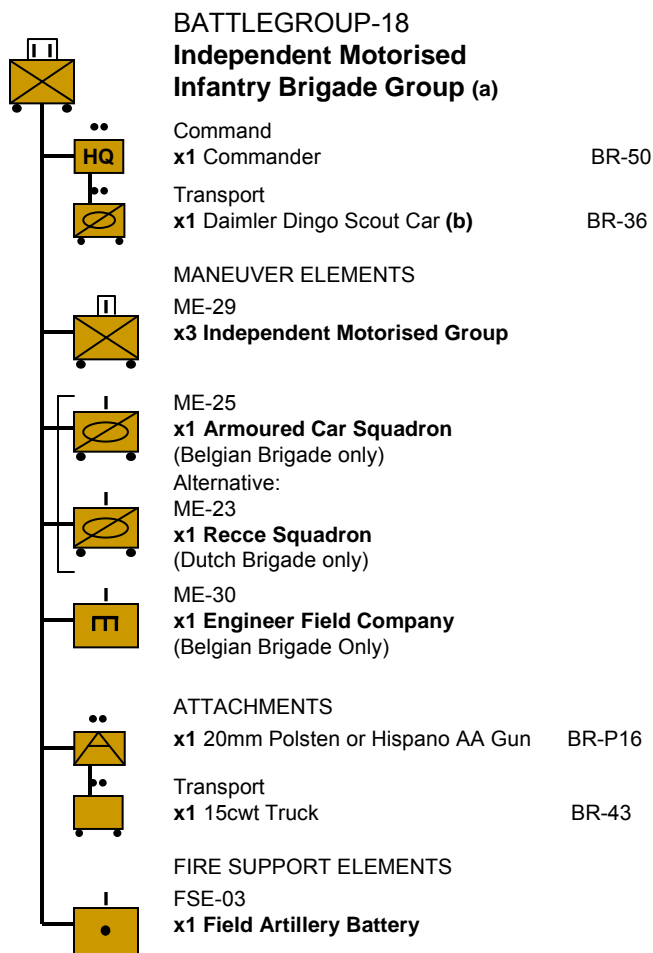
(c) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

(d) From September 1944: May replace transport with:
 M29C Weasel Amphibious Carrier BR-P58



(a) The French Commandos were theoretically a part of 10 (Inter-Allied) Army Commando, but actually fought in NW Europe as a distinct entity.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 18



(a) Only the Dutch 'Prinses Irene' Brigade and 1st Belgian Brigade used this organisation. They began life as shown here – as reinforced combined-arms battalions. The title 'Brigade' stemmed from the intention that they would be rapidly expanded once recruiting areas were liberated, using the individual units as the cadres for new battalions constructed from liberated personnel. These 'brigades' therefore contained a large headquarters and transport echelon, as well as unusually large numbers of heavy weapons and carriers when compared to a British infantry battalion. In August 1944, they were both attached to 6th Airlanding Brigade in Normandy (who were grateful for the motor transport they brought with them). In September, the brigades were separated, with each being attached to a succession of different British, US and Canadian divisions. The Belgian Brigade was stood-down in November 1944, to allow it to recruit liberated men and expand into a full Infantry Brigade before taking to the field once again in the Spring of 1945 (use BG-05 in 1945). The Dutch Brigade was unable to expand its organisation due to the failure to liberate the Netherlands (though it was able to find enough recruits to replace losses) and stayed in the line, using the original organisation until the end of the war.

(b) May replace commander's transport with:

Jeep (no MG)	BR-42
Humber Scout Car	BR-38
Universal Carrier (no MG)	BR-31

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 19

BATTLEGROUP-19

Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment (h)

Command/Recon

x1 Tetrarch I CS 3-inch CS Light Tank (a) BR-22

Recon

x2 Airlanding Infantry BR-57

Transport

x2 Motorcycle BR-P44

MANEUVER ELEMENTS

ME-27

up to x1 Airborne Light Tank Squadron (b)

ME-28

x1 or x2 Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron (bc)

ATTACHMENTS

Organic Fire Support

x1 3-inch Mortar (d) BR-56

Transport/Recon

x1 Universal Carrier (no MG) (d) BR-31

x4 Vickers MMG BR-54

Transport/Recon

x4 Jeep (e) BR-42

ATTACHMENTS

ME-25

x1 Armoured Car Squadron (f)
(August 1944 only)

FSE-08

x1 Close Support Battery (f)
(August 1944 only)

ME-14

x1 Independent Parachute Company (g)
(April to May 1945 only)

(a) August 1944: Replace the HQ tank with:

x1 Cromwell IV 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-05

October 1944: Replace the HQ tank with:

x1 Commander BR-50

Transport:

x1 Daimler Dingo Scout Car BR-36

(b) From October 1944, both squadrons were reorganised into identical Airborne Armoured Recce Squadrons, with mixed Scout Cars, Carriers and Cromwell tanks (see ME-28). However, a half-squadron of M22 Locust Light Tanks was retained for gliderborne operations.

(c) June to September 1944: Only x1 Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron, increasing to x2 Airborne Armoured Recce Squadrons from October 1944.

(d) October 1944: Replace Mortar Troop with:

x2 4.2-inch Mortar BR-P46

x2 Jeep (with MG) BR-42

(e) October 1944: Replace MMG transport with:

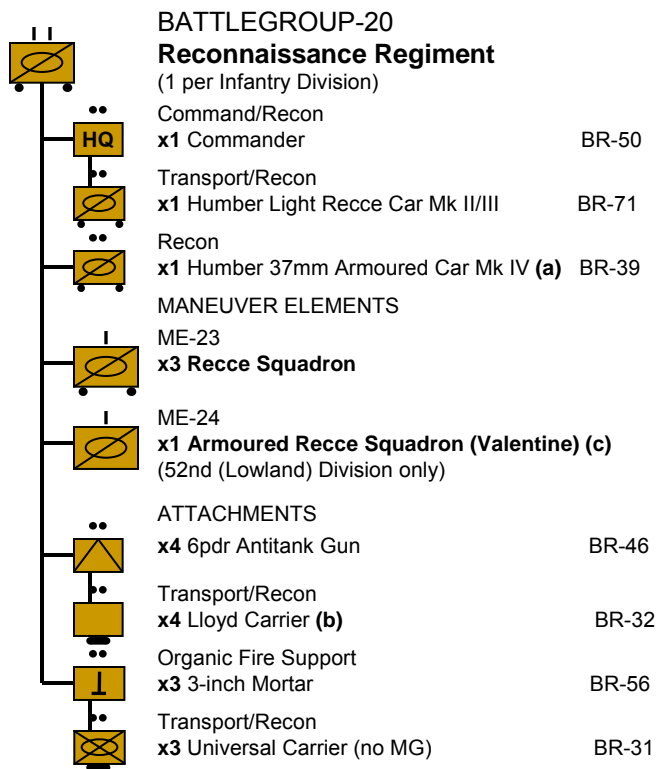
x4 Universal Carrier (no MG) BR-31

(f) August 1944: The regiment was supplemented for the breakout from Normandy by the addition of the Belgian Armoured Car Squadron and the 1st Canadian Composite Close Support Battery.

(g) From April 1944: The regiment was supplemented after the Rhine Crossing by the addition of the divisional Pathfinder Company, motorised in acquired Jeeps and other transport.

(h) The 6th Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment was the only unit of its type, being attached to 6th Airborne Division. It served in all three of 6th Airborne's operations in NW Europe: During the Normandy Landings it was flown in by glider almost in its entirety and continued to serve in-theatre until early September 1944. During its spell in Normandy, the shortcomings of light tanks became apparent and the regiment was stiffened with Cromwells, before being withdrawn and completely reorganised (see above). It served in a conventional ground role during the Ardennes Crisis, December 1944 to January 1945. In April 1945, the regiment was again used in an airborne role, to support the crossing of the Rhine. However, unlike the mass glider-lift of Normandy, this time only the Half-Squadron of Locusts and the Mortar Troop were lifted across by glider, while the remainder of the regiment crossed the Rhine by conventional means. However, the Light Tanks were finally disbanded immediately after the operation due to losses. The Regiment was reunited with its Mortar Troop for the advance across Germany and was also supplemented by the divisional Pathfinders (22nd Independent Para Company), who 'acquired' Jeeps and other motor transport by various means.

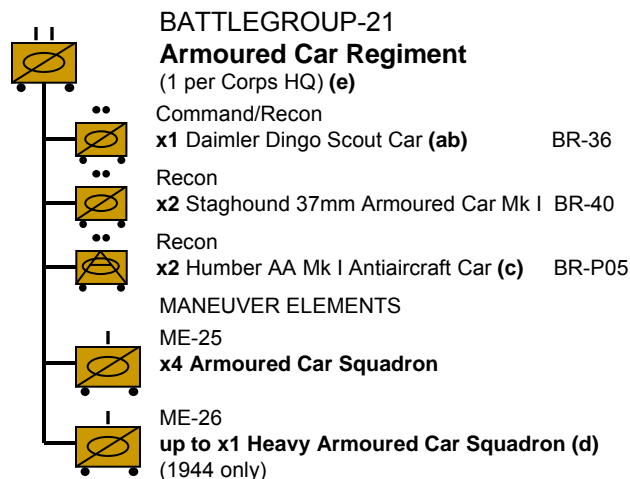
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Battlegroups 20-21



(a) From October 1944, may replace Humber Armoured Car with:
 Daimler 2pdr Armoured Car Mk I BR-37

(b) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian regiments with:
 Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(c) 52nd (Mountain) Recce Regiment uniquely contained a squadron
 of Valentine Infantry Tanks.



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

(b) In Canadian regiments, replace the Daimler Dingo with:
 Lynx Scout Car CA-P01

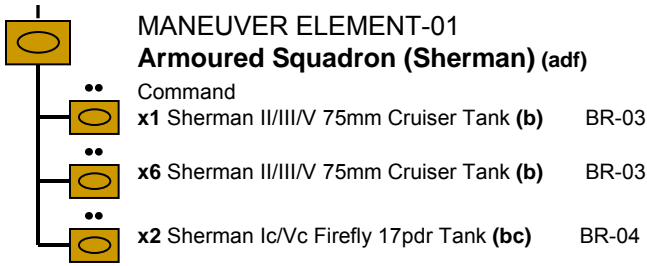
(c) Late 1944: Humber AA withdrawn. However, some regiments
 acquired the following in 1945:

x2 Staghound AA Antiaircraft Car CA-P09

(d) At least one regiment experimented with massing all its AEC
 Armoured Cars into a single Heavy Squadron. This option may
 not therefore, be chosen if the other squadrons contain any
 AECs or M3 GMCs.

(e) The Armoured Car Regiments were replaced in the Armoured
 Divisions prior to the Normandy Landings, by the new Armoured
 Recce Regiments, while the Armoured Cars were allocated to
 the Corps HQs. However, the Normandy Campaign showed that
 these new formations proved to be unsuited to the role and the
 Armoured Car Regiments were reinstated soon afterwards as the
 eyes and ears of the Armoured Divisions.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 01-02



(a) May alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank in the troop as the Troop Commander). At least one tank in each troop must be 75mm-armed.

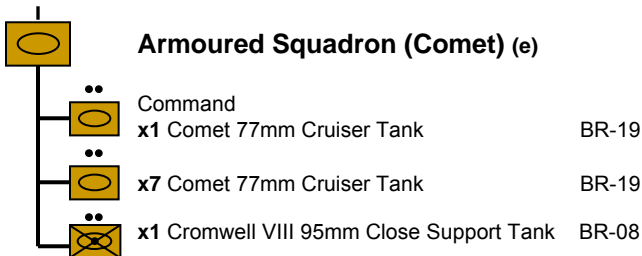
(b) October-December 1944, in 1st Polish Armoured Division: Replace all Sherman 75mm and Firefly tanks with Sherman IIa (M4A1 76mm). However, some units used 'unofficial' means to hang on to some Fireflies (usually by classifying them as 'captured!'). **Up to x1** Firefly may be retained, but the remainder must be replaced with:

Sherman IIa 76mm Cruiser Tank BR-78

(c) In most British and Canadian units, late 1944 to 1945: May replace a further **x2** Sherman II/III/V 75mm Cruiser Tank with:

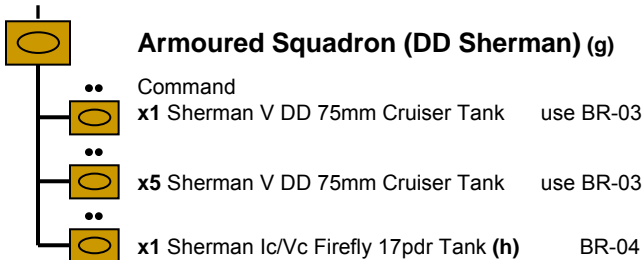
x2 Sherman Ic/Vc Firefly 17pdr Tank BR-04

(d) February 1945, in 11th Armoured Division: Replace ME-01 with the following organisation:



(e) May alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank in the troop as the Troop Commander).

(f) In DD-equipped squadrons, replace ME-01 with the following organisation:



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

(h) The Firefly was not DD-capable. This unit represents the 'CB' (Coastal Bombardment) Troop of two Fireflies, which supported the landings by direct fire from specially-converted LCT(CB) landing craft. Delete the Firefly from DD-equipped squadrons during the Scheldt, Rhine and Elbe operations.



(a) May alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank in the troop as the Troop Commander). At least one tank in each troop must be 75mm-armed.

(b) From August 1944: May replace up to **x3** Cromwell IV (may increase to **x5** in 1945) with:

Cromwell VII 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-07

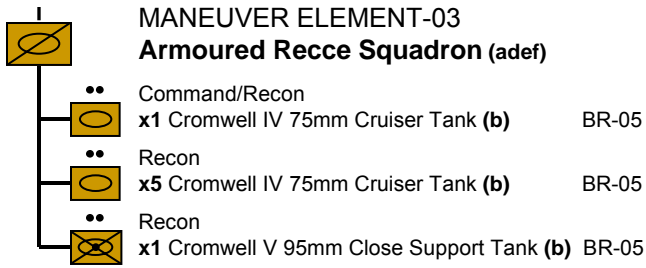
(c) From August 1944: May replace Cromwell V with:

Cromwell VIII 95mm Close Support Tank BR-08

(d) In 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade: Delete the Fireflies. However, in 1945 add the following:

x2 Challenger 17pdr Cruiser Tank BR-18

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 03-05



(a) May alternatively operate as five troop-sized maneuver elements of one 75mm tank each. After the introduction of re Challenger (see note (d)) the squadron may operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank as the Troop Commander). At least one tank in each troop must be 75mm-armed.

(b) From August 1944: May replace up to x3 Cromwell IV (may increase to x5 in 1945) with:
Cromwell VII 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-07

(c) From August 1944: May replace Cromwell V with:
Cromwell VIII 95mm Close Support Tank BR-08

(d) In September 1944: Add the following:
x2 Challenger 17pdr Cruiser Tank BR-18

(e) Canadian Armoured Recce Regiments did not use the Cromwell or Challenger, but simply used the Sherman and Firefly. Use the organisation listed at ME-01, but designate all tanks as Recon units.

(f) In the 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade: Use the following organisation:



(g) May alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements; each of x1 Cromwell IV and x1 Stuart (designate one tank as the Troop Commander).



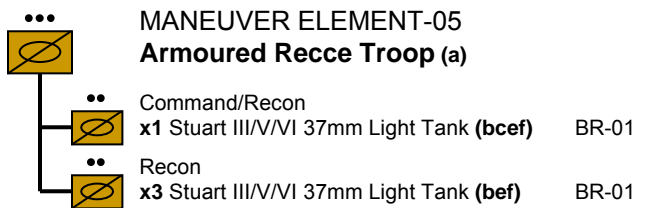
(a) May alternatively operate as five troop-sized maneuver elements of one 75mm/6pdr tank each. A reorganised Tank Squadron (see note (d)) may alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank as the Troop Commander). At least one tank in each troop should be 75mm-armed.

(b) From July 1944: Replace up to x2 Churchill VI 75mm Infantry Tank (increasing to x3 in 1945) with:
Churchill VII 75mm Infantry Tank BR-11

(c) From late 1944: May replace Churchill V CS with:
Churchill VIII 95mm Close Support Infantry Tank BR-12

(d) From August 1944: The remaining Churchill regiments gradually changed from having 5x three-tank Troops per Squadron, to having 4x four-tank Troops per Squadron. Therefore, to reflect this organisational change, add the following:
x2 Churchill VI 75mm Infantry Tanks BR-10

(e) In 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade from April 1945: Add the following:
x1 Challenger 17pdr Cruiser Tank BR-18



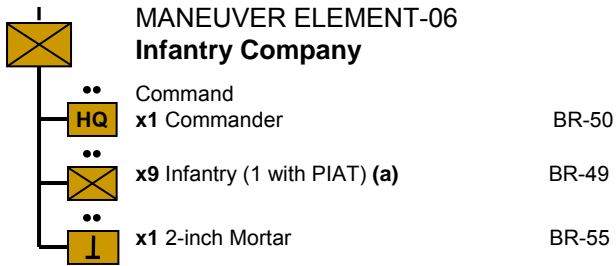
(a) The Recce Troop may alternatively operate as three section-sized maneuver elements, each of x1 Stuart. If scout cars are incorporated into the troop (see note (d) below), each section will consist of a x1 Stuart and x1 Humber Scout Car. Designate one vehicle in each section as the Section Commander. They may also operate as direct attachments to the regimental Headquarters Element and Maneuver Elements.

(b) In some units from July 1944: May replace some or all Stuart Light Tanks with:
Stuart III/VI Recce Vehicle BR-02

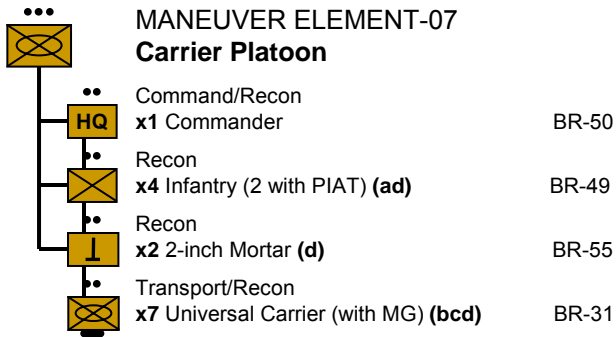
(c) In 7th & 11th Armoured Divisions from April 1945: May replace x2 Stuart Light Tanks or Stuart Recce Vehicles with:
x2 M24 Chaffee 75mm Reconnaissance Tank use US-27

(d) From late 1944: Many regiments incorporated the scout cars of the regiment's Liaison Troop into the Recce Troop. Therefore, may add:
x3 Humber Scout Car BR-38

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 06-08



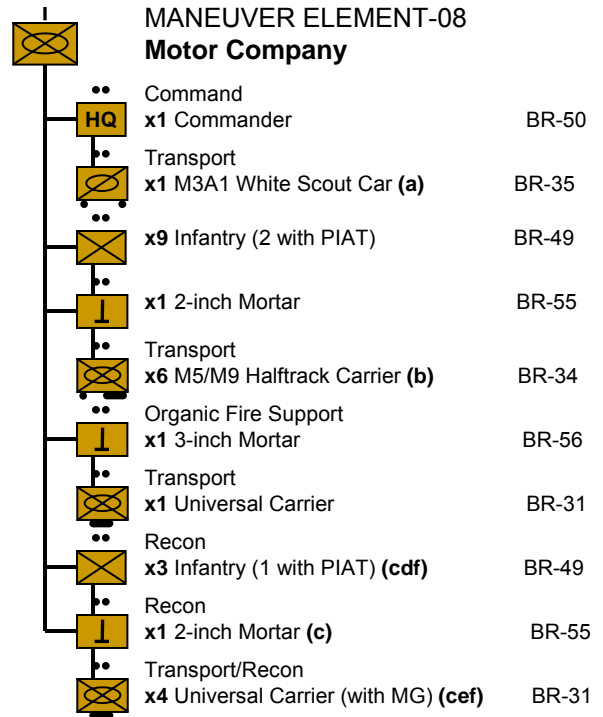
(a) For D-Day, one platoon in each company of the Assault Battalions of 3rd, 50th (Northumbrian) and 3rd Canadian Divisions, was trained and equipped as a 'Breaching Platoon'. Therefore, on D-Day only, may replace x3 Infantry with:
x3 Assault Pioneer (1 with flame) BR-51



(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.

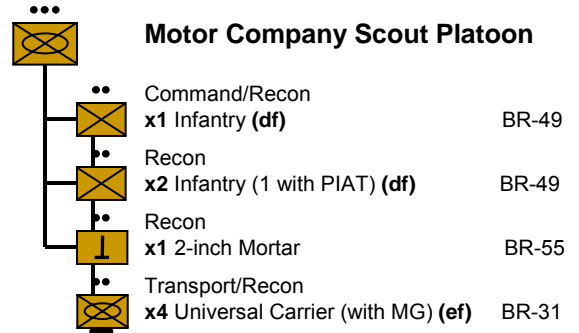
(c) In Infantry Divisions from June 1944: May replace x2 Carrier Sections (x3 Carriers, x2 Infantry (1 PIAT) and x1 2-inch Mortar) with:
x3 Wasp Flamethrower Carrier BR-33



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

(b) In Late 1944: May replace some or all halftracks in Canadian units with:
x6 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

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

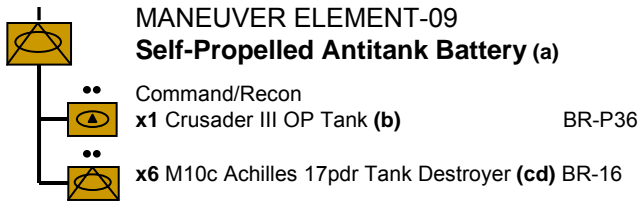


(d) The Scout Platoon Infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

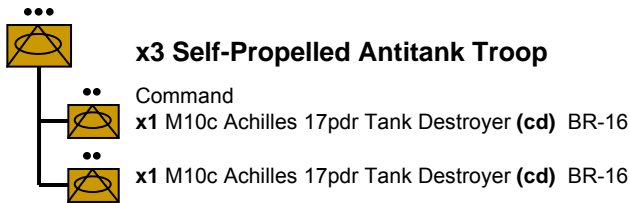
(e) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

(f) In Canadian Armoured Divisions from Autumn 1944:
Replace one Scout Section (x1 Infantry & x1 Carrier) with:
x1 Wasp Flamethrower Carrier BR-33

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 09-10



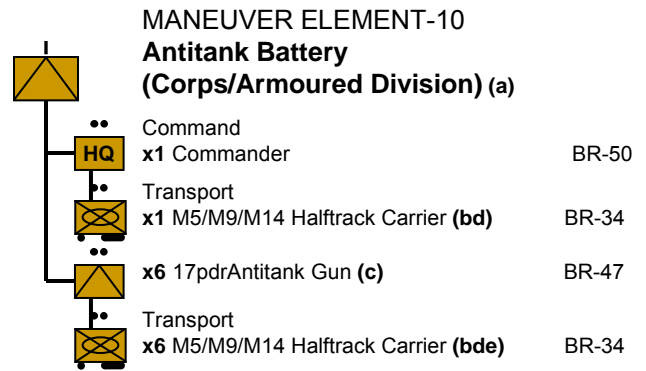
(a) The Self-Propelled Antitank Battery will typically operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:



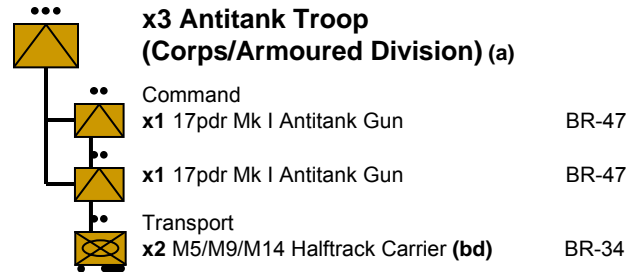
(b) May replace the commander's transport with:
 Stuart III/V/VI Recce Vehicle BR-02
 Crusader II Hi-Speed Tractor BR-P45

(c) In June 1944, only the Corps Reserve Antitank Batteries were fully equipped with the M10c Achilles as shown here. The Antitank Batteries of the Armoured Divisions did not manage to achieve this until late 1944. Therefore, from June to September 1944: Replace **x2 to x4** M10c Achilles with:
 M10 Wolverine 3-inch Tank Destroyer BR-15

(d) The Self-Propelled Batteries of 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division were equipped completely with:
 M10 Wolverine 3-inch Tank Destroyer BR-15



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



(b) Replace transport in some Canadian units with:
 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02
 Or in Corps Antitank Regiments & Czech Brigade with:
 Crusader II Hi-Speed Tractor BR-P45
 Or in some Canadian units with:
 Ram Hi-Speed Tractor CA-P06

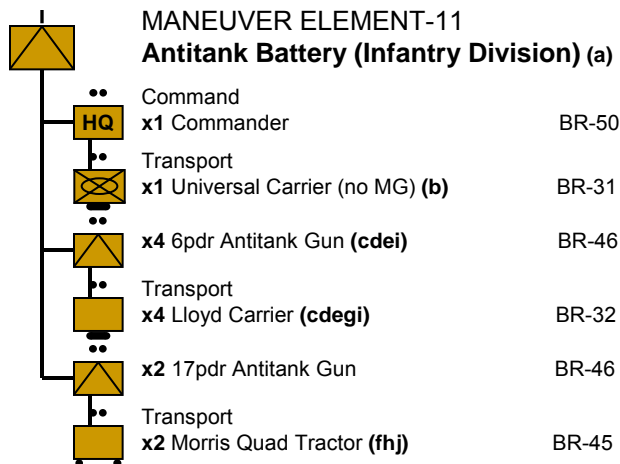
(c) In Guards Armoured Division, from Winter 1944/45: Towed antitank guns were disbanded and the divisional Antitank Regiment became an extra armour/infantry battlegroup, pairing a Self-Propelled Battery of M10c Achilles to a Towed Battery operating as armoured infantry. Therefore, delete all 17pdr Antitank Guns, but add:

x12 Infantry (3 with PIAT) BR-49

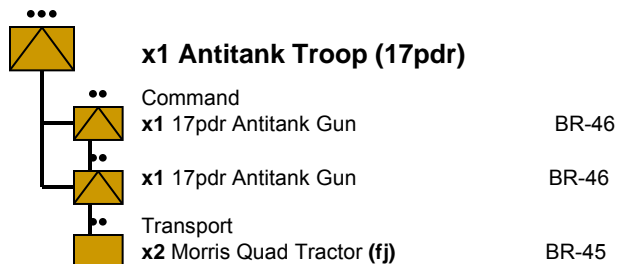
(d) Following the disbandment of the AA Troops in most Armoured Regiments, many Crusader AA Tanks were utilised as armoured tractors for 17pdrs. May therefore replace transport in some units with:

Crusader Mk II/III 20mm Antiaircraft Tank BR-20

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 11-12



(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) May replace commander's transport with:
 Stuart III/V/VI Recce Vehicle BR-02
 Valentine VIII/IX/X/XI OP Tank BR-P11
 Valentine XI 75mm Infantry Tank BR-P10

(c) May replace **x2** 6pdr Antitank Guns in the battery (one Antitank Troop) with:
x2 M10 Wolverine 3-inch Tank Destroyer BR-15

(d) May replace **x2** 6pdr Antitank Guns in the battery (one Antitank Troop) with:
x2 17pdr Antitank Gun BR-46

(e) From November 1944: Replace one Towed Antitank Troop in the battery (6pdr or 17pdr) with:
x2 Archer Self-Propelled 17pdr Antitank Gun BR-17

(f) May replace gun tractors for 17pdrs in some Canadian units from late 1944 with:
 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

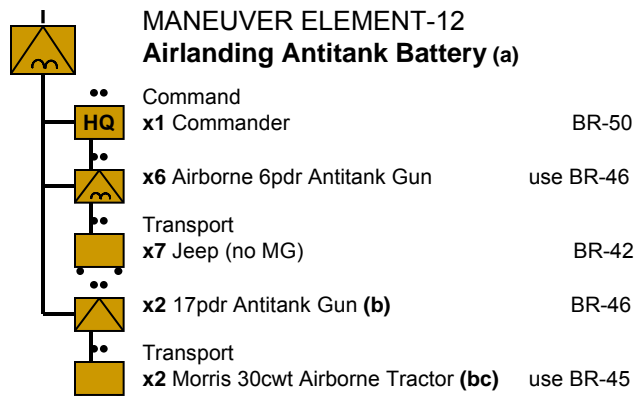
(g) Replace Lloyd Carriers in Canadian units with:
 Windsor Carrier use BR-31

(h) Late 1944: After the disbandment of Antiaircraft Troops in Armoured Regiments, may replace some Morris Quad Tractors with AA tanks (fitted with 17pdr tow hooks):
 Crusader AA Mk II/III Antiaircraft Tank BR-20

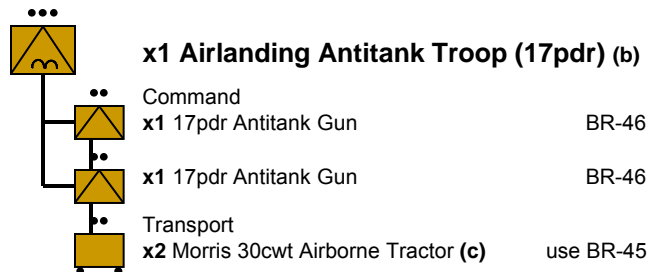
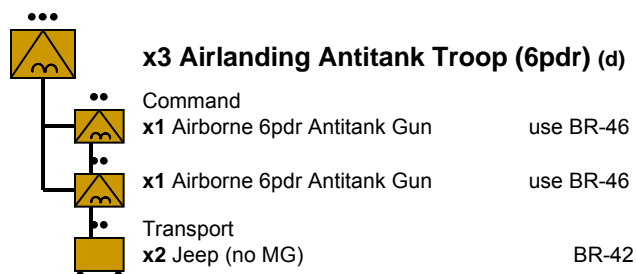
(i) In 3rd, 43rd (Wessex) and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions, from June 1944: increase by **x2** 6pdr Antitank Gun (one Antitank Troop) and automatically convert **x1** Troop to M10 Wolverine.

(j) Following the disbandment of the AA Troops in most Armoured Regiments, many Crusader AA Tanks were utilised as armoured tractors for 17pdrs. May therefore replace transport in some units with:

Crusader Mk II/III 20mm Antiaircraft Tank BR-20



(a) The Airlanding Antitank Battery will typically operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements. One troop would usually be allocated to each Parachute Infantry Battalion in the brigade, with the 17pdr Troop in reserve:

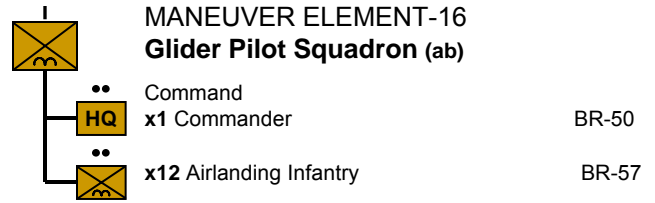
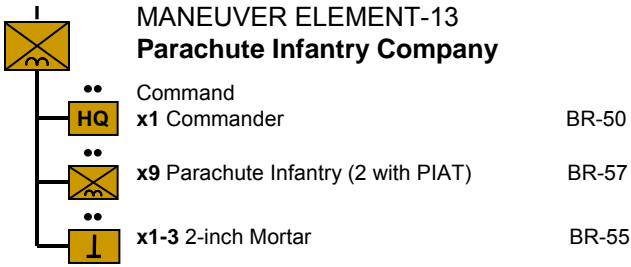


(b) From September 1944: Increase to **x2** 17pdr Troops (**x4** 17pdrs and associated transport) per battery. The Airlanding Antitank Batteries of Independent Parachute Brigades did not contain a 17pdr Troop.

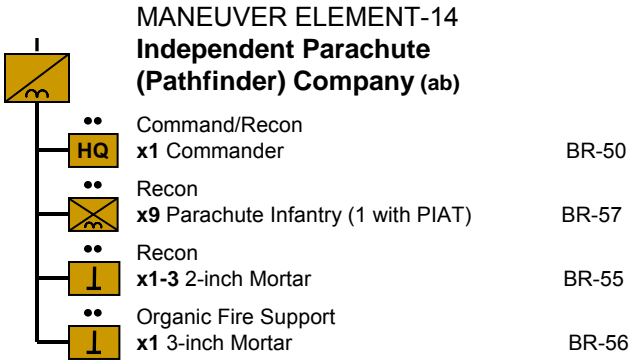
(c) October 1944: Replace tractor with:
 ¾ Ton Light Truck US-14

(d) 1st Airlanding Antitank Battery had an extra 6pdr troop, for a total of four 6pdr and two 17pdr troops.

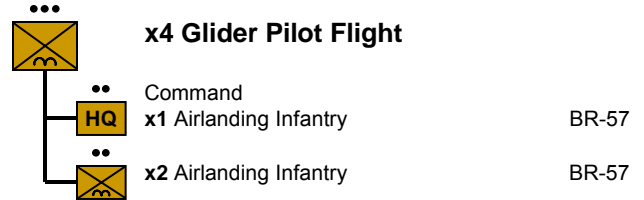
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 13-17



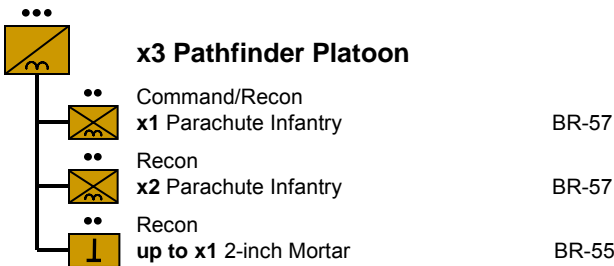
(a) Glider Pilots were trained as infantry and upon landing, formed their own fighting platoons and companies. However, due to their rare specialisation, they were withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.



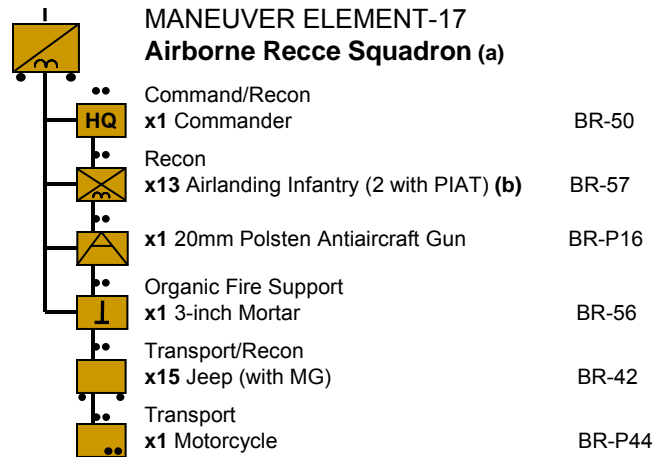
(b) Until the Glider Pilots had the opportunity to form into Squadrons, individual Flights would fight alongside their transported battlegroups:



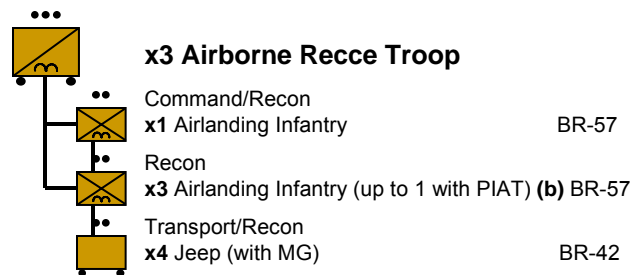
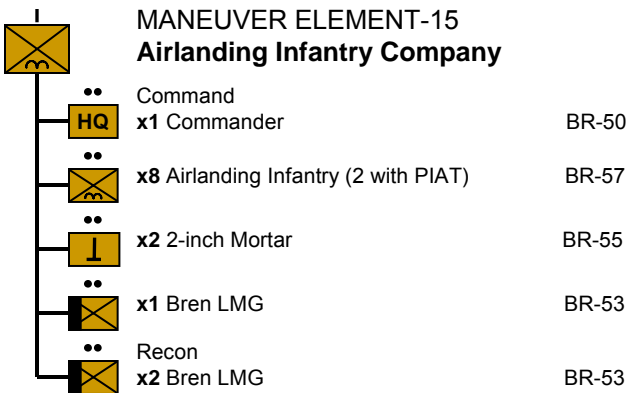
(a) The Independent Parachute (Pathfinder) Company may alternatively operate as three platoon-sized maneuver elements:



(b) In 6th Airborne Division 1945: If attached to Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment, add sufficient softskin vehicles to the Independent Parachute Company to transport it. Probably a mixture of Jeeps, light trucks and captured vehicles.

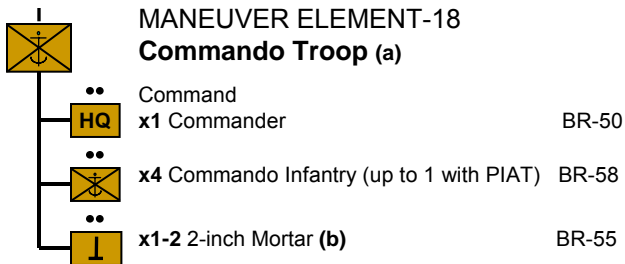


(a) The Airborne Recce Squadron may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:



(b) The Airlanding Infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren LMG BR-53

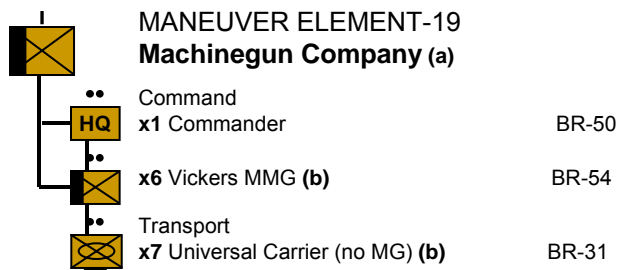
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 18-20



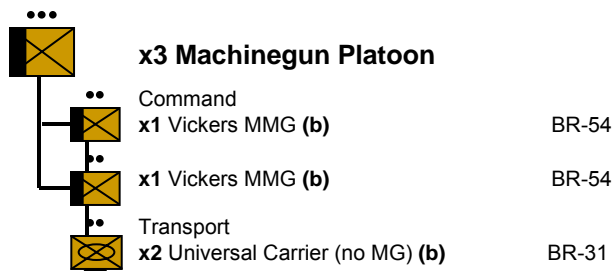
(a) Commandos, by their very nature, were unorthodox and tended to change the detail of their organisation as the mission demanded and would often supplement their weaponry with captured or 'acquired' items. For example, 3 Army Commando had double the normal ration of Brens and 4 Commando issued captured MG42s, while others had extra Vickers 'K' Guns. Some units may therefore add one of the following, though keep it consistent throughout the Battle Group:

Bren LMG	BR-53
Vickers 'K' MG	use BR-53
MG42 LMG	use GE-49

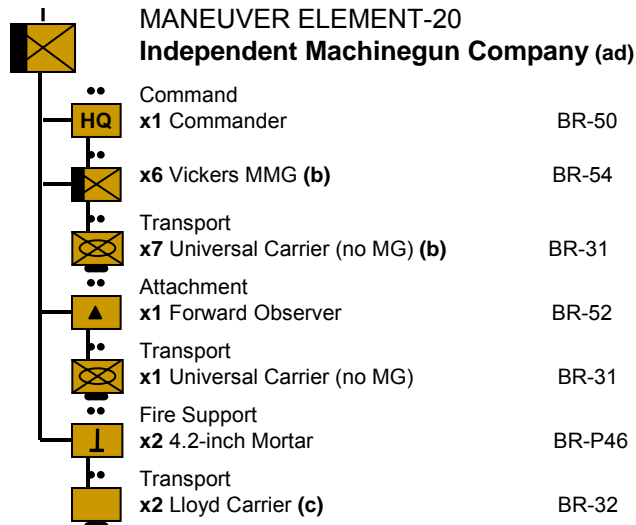
(b) As with MGs, the number of mortars within the Commando Troops could vary from unit to unit. May increase to **x2**.



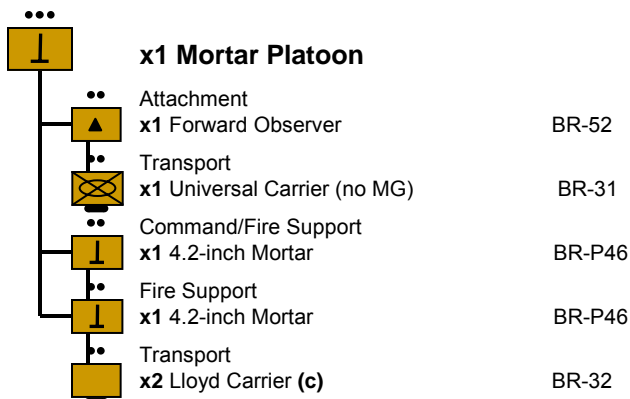
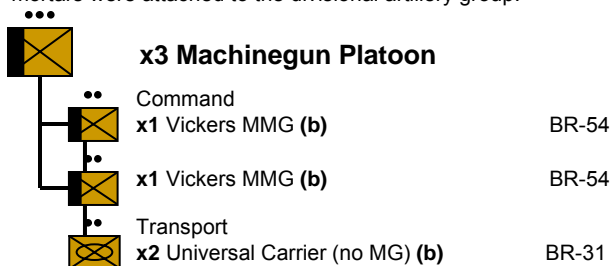
(a) The Machinegun Company would usually operate as three platoon sized maneuver elements as follows. These were attached to infantry battalions on a semi-permanent basis:



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



(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, while the mortars were attached to the divisional artillery group:



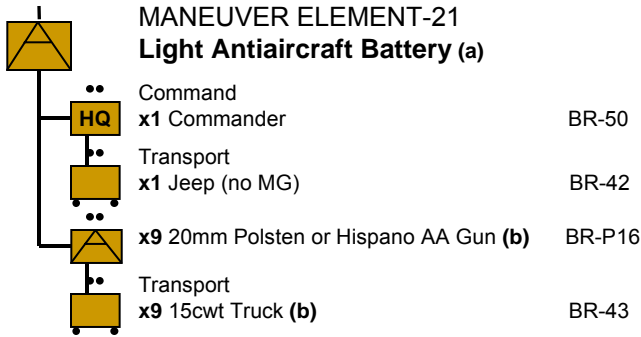
(b) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

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

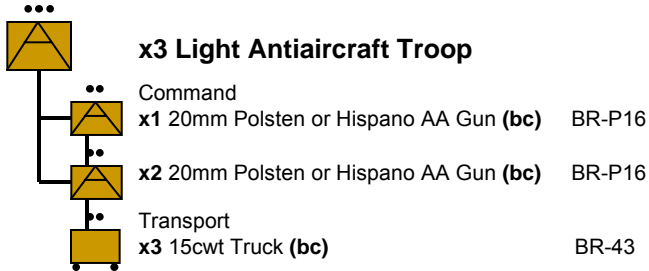
(d) October 1944: Add Wasp Platoon:



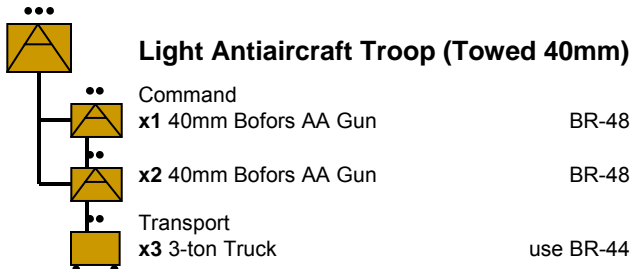
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 21-22



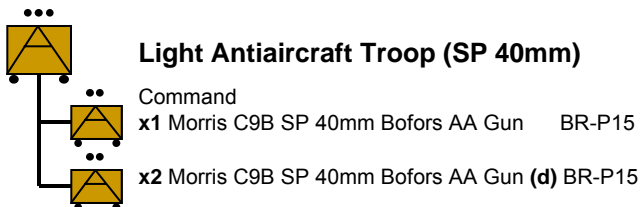
(a) The Light Antiaircraft Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:



(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 and most Armoured Divisions had replaced 20mm guns by June 1944):



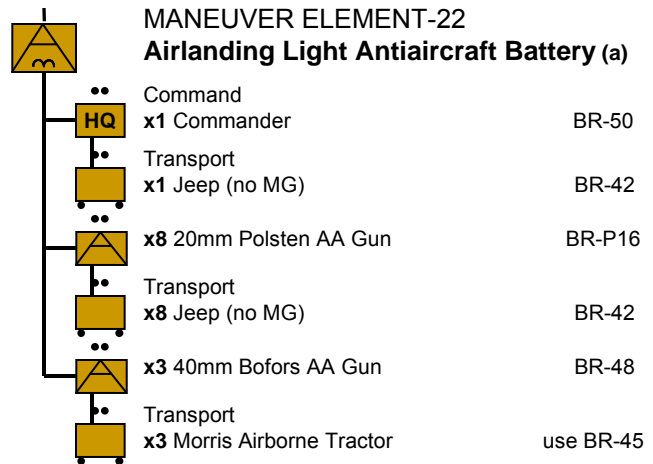
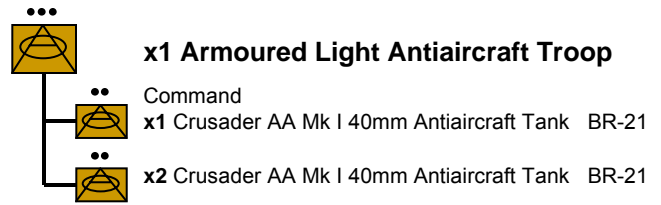
(c) Up to one Light Antiaircraft Troop in the battery may be upgraded to the following: (e)



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

(e) Some divisions (particularly Armoured Divisions) massed all their SP AA Troops into one battery. The Armoured Divisions then disbanded their Towed AA Batteries during the Winter of 1944/45 to provide infantry replacements.

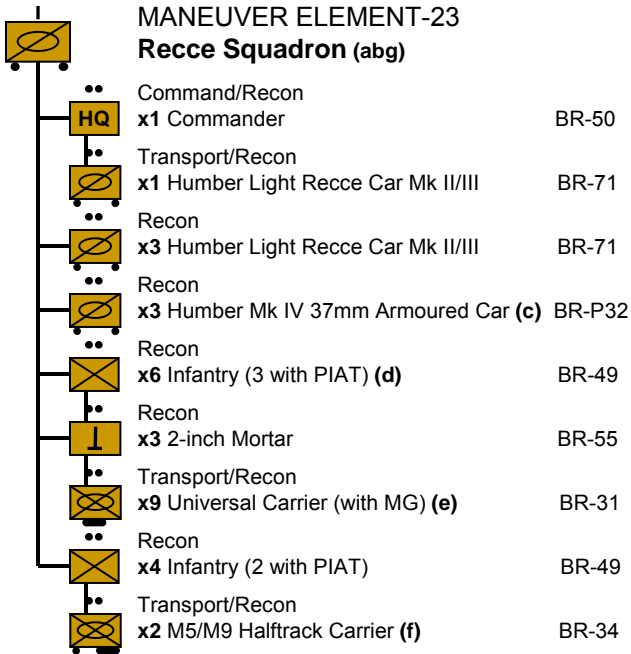
(f) In 3rd, 50th (Northumbrian) and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions; Add an Armoured Light Antiaircraft Troop to each Light antiaircraft Battery:



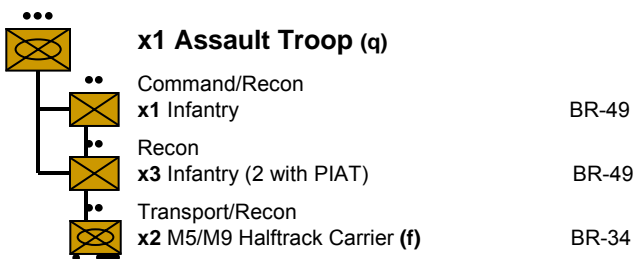
(a) The Airlanding Light Antiaircraft Battery may alternatively operate as three troop-sized maneuver elements:



21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 23-24



(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 to subdivide the Recce Troops into an Armoured Car Troop (with all the LRCs and armoured cars massed together) and three Carrier Troops.

(c) From October 1944: May replace Humber Mk IV Armoured Car with:

Daimler Mk I 2pdr Armoured Car BR-37

(d) The Carrier Infantry may alternatively dismount as:

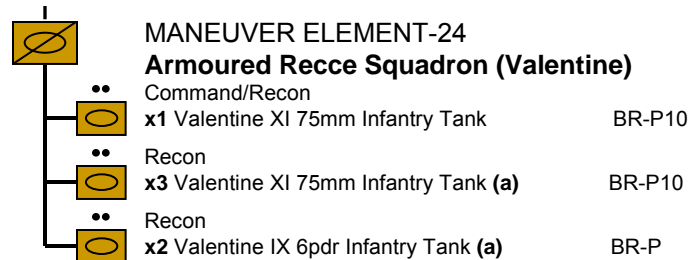
Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

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

(f) Late 1944: Replace M5/M9 Halftracks in Canadian regiments with:

x2 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(g) The Dutch Recce Squadron only had two Recce Troops, so delete x1 Humber LRC, x1 Humber Armoured Car, x2 Infantry, x1 2-inch Mortar and x3 Universal Carriers.

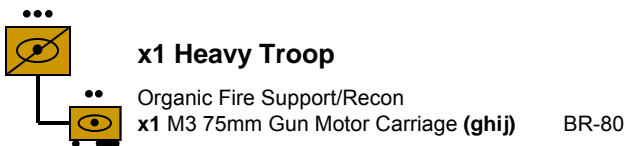
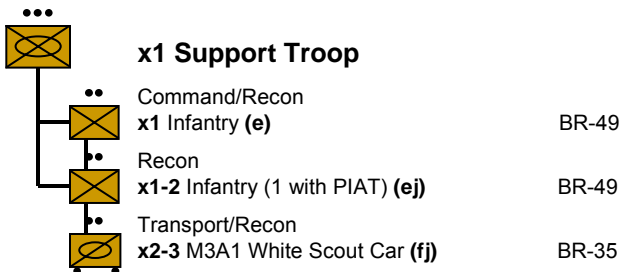
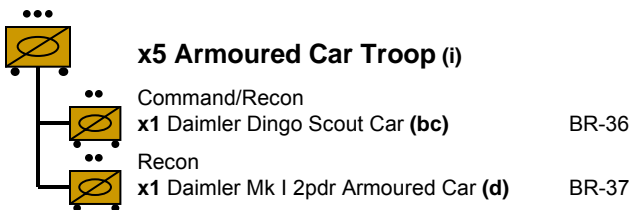


(a) May alternatively operate as five troop-sized maneuver elements of one tank each.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 25-26



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



(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) In Canadian regiments: Replace all Daimler Armoured Cars with:
Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Cars BR-40

(e) 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).

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

(g) From June to December 1944: All M3 GMCs progressively replaced in British regiments by:
x1 AEC Mk III 75mm Armoured Car BR-81

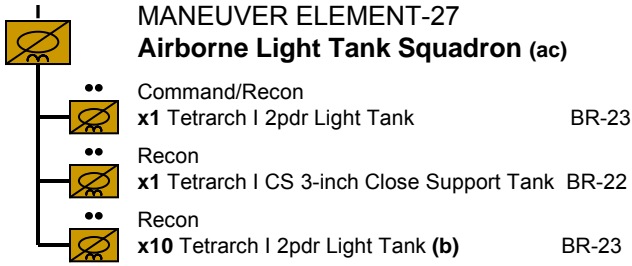
(h) In Canadian regiments from April 1945: M3 GMC replaced by:
x1 Staghound Mk III 75mm Armoured Car CA-P05

(i) The Heavy Troop may not be fielded if the regiment contains a Heavy Armoured Car Squadron (ME-26 – see BG-21).

(j) The Belgian Armoured Car Squadron did not have a Heavy Troop or a Support Troop. It did however, have an AA Troop – replace the second HQ Staghound with:
x1 Staghound AA Armoured Car CA-P09



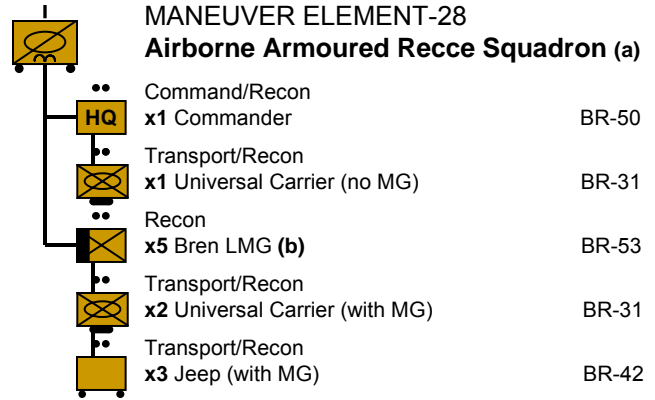
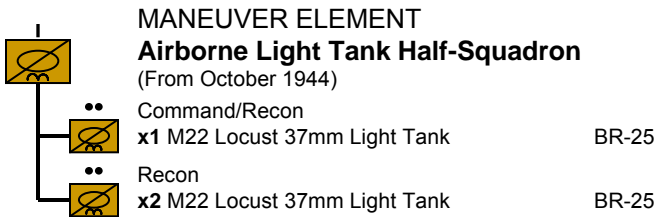
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 27-28



(a) May alternatively be fielded as five troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each. Designate one tank in each troop as the Troop Commander. Troops may not be of mixed tank types.

(b) August 1944: Replace x5 Tetrarch I (i.e. the command tank, plus two troops) with:
x5 Cromwell IV 75mm Cruiser Tank BR-05

(c) October 1944: Following the return from Normandy, the Tetrarchs were retired and the Light Tank Squadron was reorganised as an Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron (ME-28), to match the other squadron in the regiment. However, the two Squadrons each maintained a troop of M22 Locust Light Tanks on strength, to be used only in glider-borne operations. The only instance of this was during the Crossing of the Rhine in April 1945. However, the Locusts were massed as an independent 'half-squadron' as shown below:



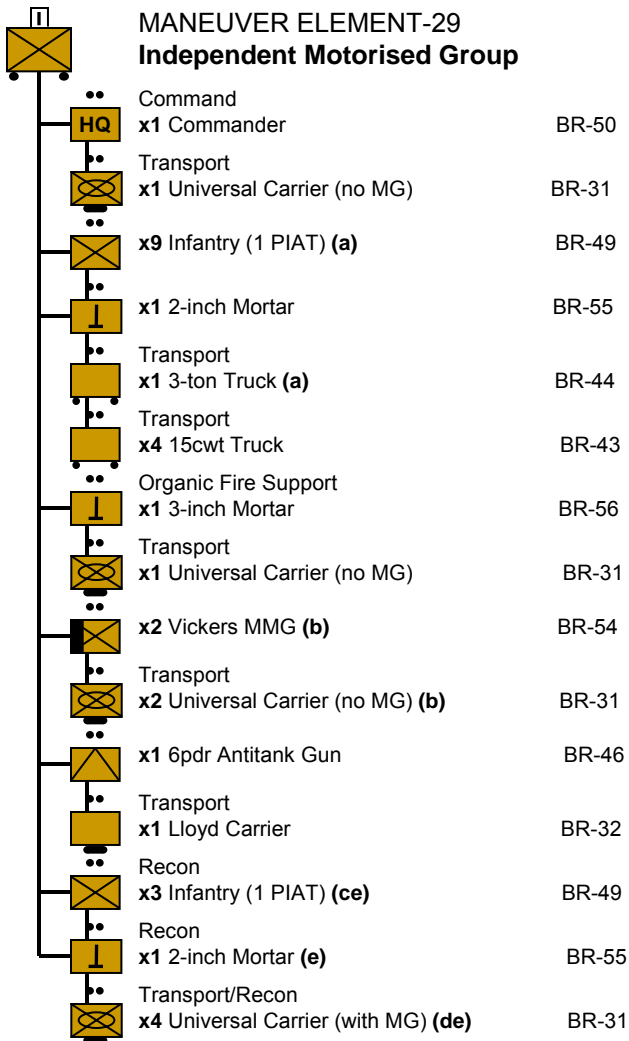
(a) October 1944: Airborne Armoured Recce Squadrons completely reorganised as shown below:



(b) One Bren unit may alternatively dismount as:
2-inch Mortar BR-55

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 29-31

MANEUVER ELEMENT-29 Independent Motorised Group



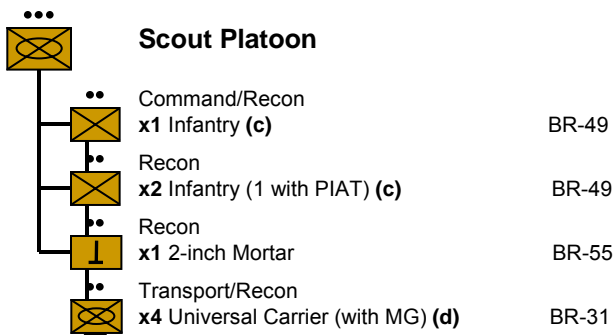
(a) In the Dutch Brigade: Delete x3 Infantry and x1 3-ton Truck.

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

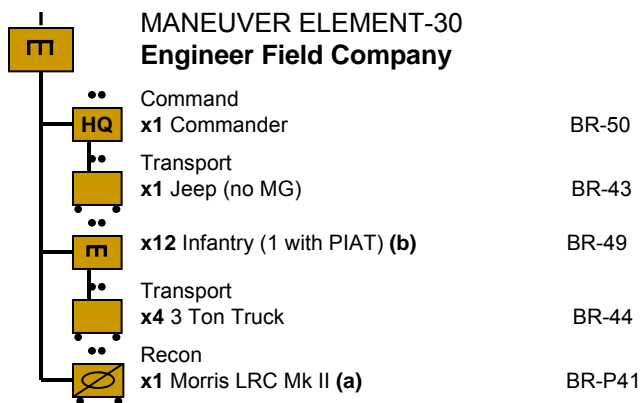
(c) The Scout Platoon Infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

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

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



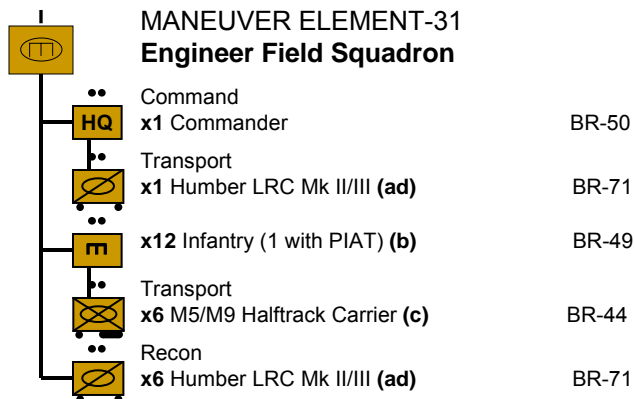
MANEUVER ELEMENT-30 Engineer Field Company



(a) May replace Morris LRC in Canadian units with:
Otter LRC CA-P04

(b) 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.

MANEUVER ELEMENT-31 Engineer Field Squadron



(a) May replace Humber LRCs in some units with:
Morris LRC Mk II BR-P41
Or in some Canadian units with:
Otter LRC CA-P04

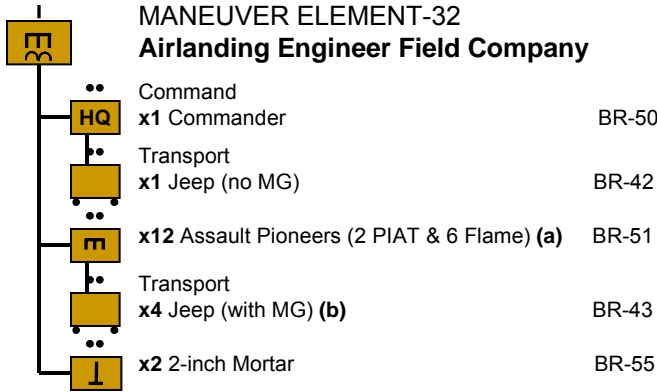
(b) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules. Note that the Assault Pioneer card (BR-51), with its enhanced close-combat values, does not really reflect the role of the Royal Engineers in this instance.

(c) May replace some or all halftracks in Canadian units with:
C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(d) May replace Humber LRC in some Canadian units with:
Otter LRC CA-P04

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Maneuver Elements 32-35

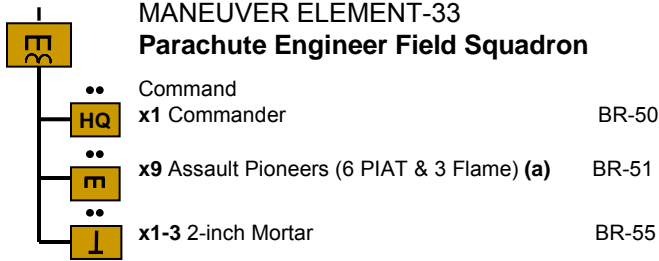
MANEUVER ELEMENT-32 Airlanding Engineer Field Company



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

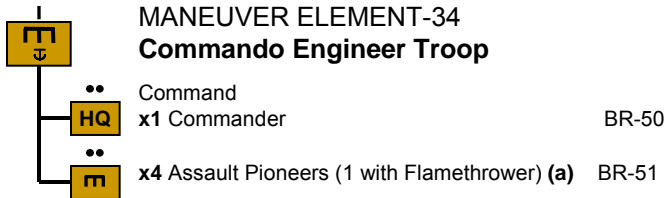
(b) These Jeeps may be flown in by glider during the first lift.

MANEUVER ELEMENT-33 Parachute Engineer Field Squadron



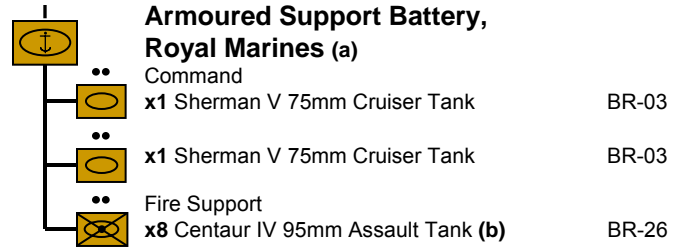
(a) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules.

MANEUVER ELEMENT-34 Commando Engineer Troop



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

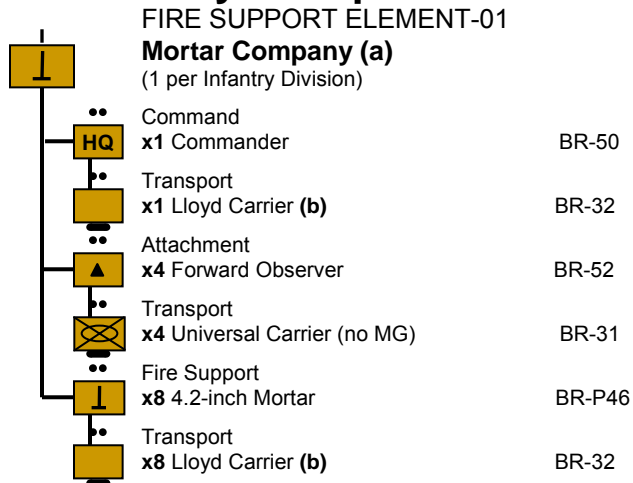
MANEUVER ELEMENT-35 Armoured Support Battery, Royal Marines (a)



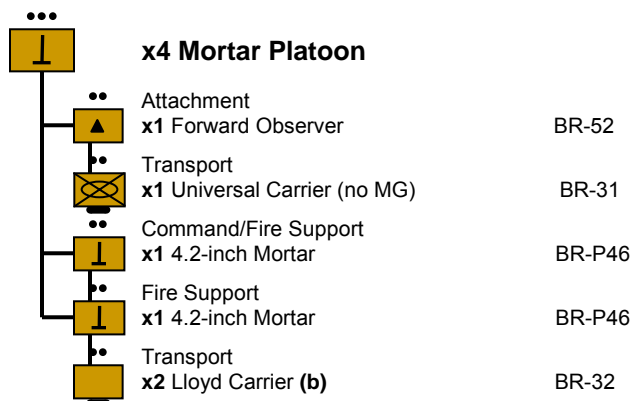
(a) Although originally intended to be used as floating artillery during the D-Day assault, these batteries proved to be most unsuitable in this role and were instead simply used as direct-fire infantry support tanks. It would not therefore be very accurate to use these batteries as indirect artillery. However, following their disbandment at the end of June 1944, some Centaurs were retained and reorganised as an independent Canadian Armoured Support Battery, which did operate successfully as indirect artillery. See FSE-08.

(b) May alternatively operate as four troop-sized maneuver elements of two tanks each (designate one tank in the troop as the Troop Commander).

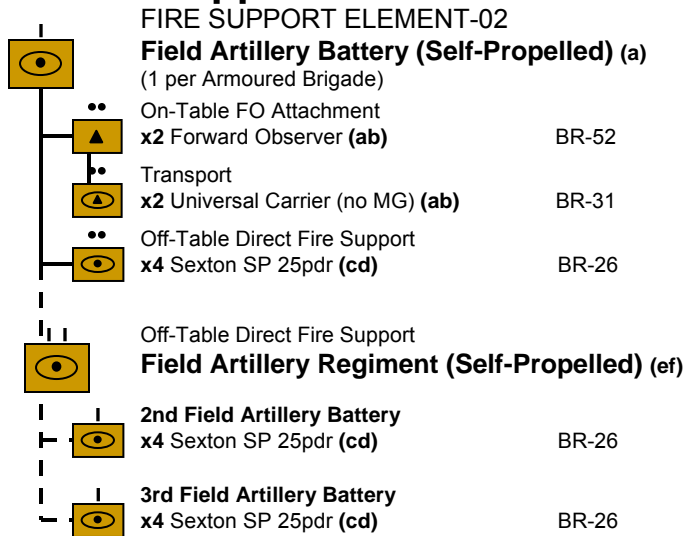
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 01-02



(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

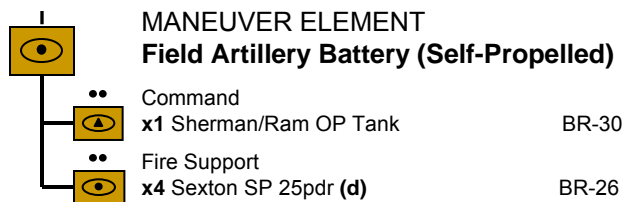


(a) Each battalion-sized infantry/armoured battlegroup has two FOs directly attached to it (from the same battery). This also 'factors-in' AGRAs FOs and Battery Commanders (who also acted as FOs). The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by either FO, or alternatively by Infantry Battalion/Company 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:



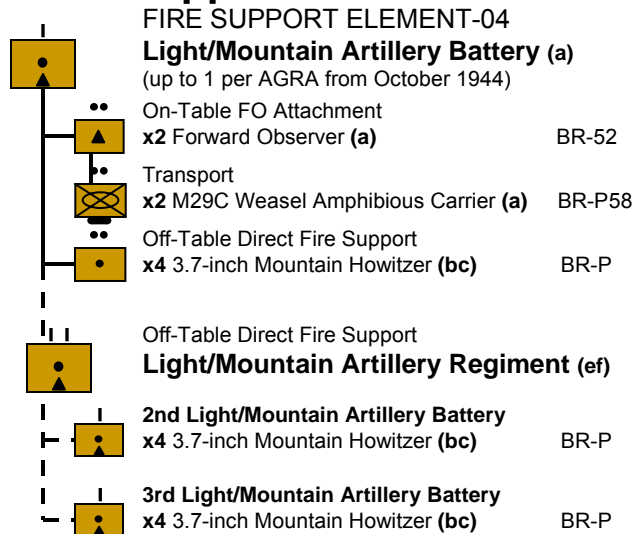
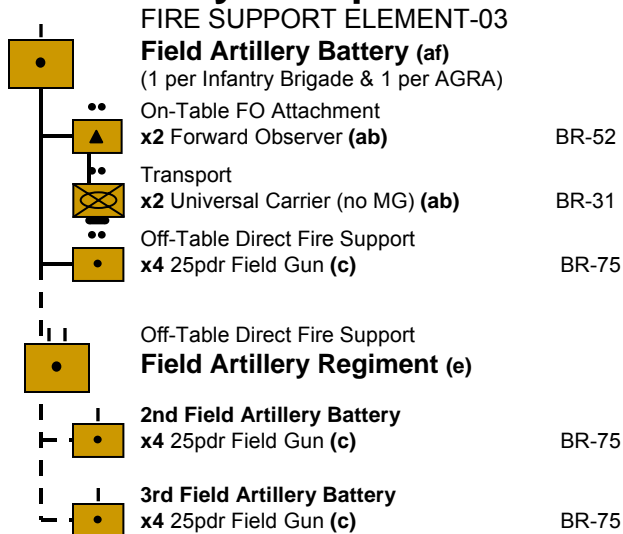
(d) Batteries in 3rd, 50th (Northumbrian) and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions were equipped with Priest for D-Day, but these were replaced with towed 25pdrs as per BG-03. Therefore in these divisions June-July 1944, may replace Sextons with:

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 Division normally had three Towed Field Regiments (FSE-03). General Support may also be available from AGRAs – especially when in defence. See website British Artillery Tutorial for details.

21st 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/V/VI Recce Vehicle BR-02

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



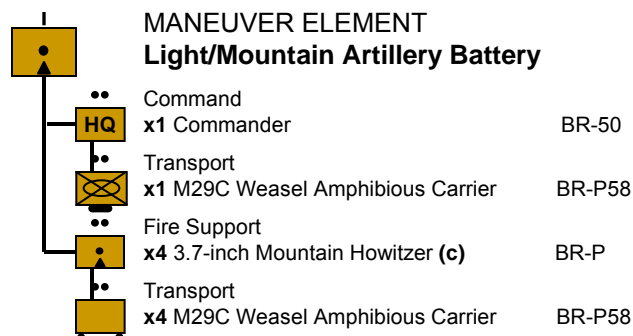
(d) The entire Field Regiment is available as Direct Fire Support when the FO calls for a 'Mike Target'. See the website British Artillery Tutorial. Commanders may not call for 'Mike Targets' or General Fire Support.

(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.

(f) The Belgian and Dutch Field Artillery Batteries in 1944 each had three troops: Increase to **x6** 25pdr Field Guns and add **x1** Forward Observer. However, Dutch Field Artillery Troops were half-sized, so reduce to **x3** 25pdr Field Guns (**x1** per Troop). Adjust transport accordingly. During the Belgian Brigade's reorganisation during the Winter of 1944/45, the battery was expanded to a full regiment, as FSE-03.

(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.

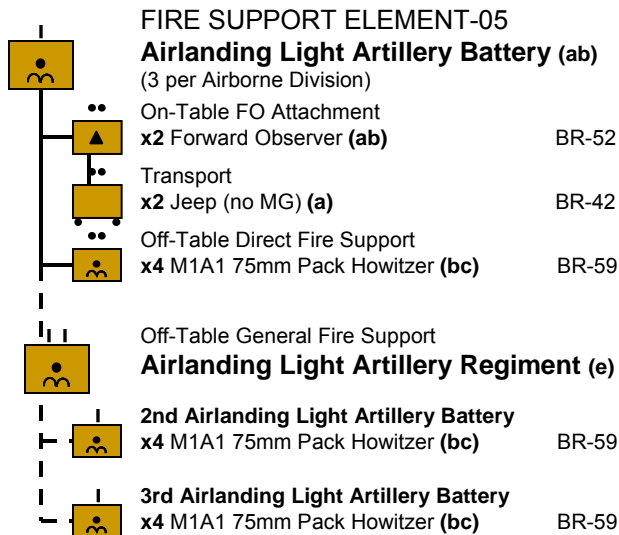
(b) In emergency situations, a Light/Mountain Artillery Battery may be fielded as an on-table Maneuver Element:



(c) 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.

(d) 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.

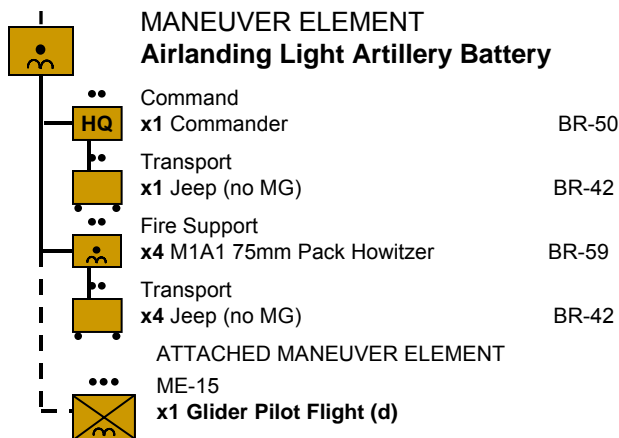
21st Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 05-07



(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:



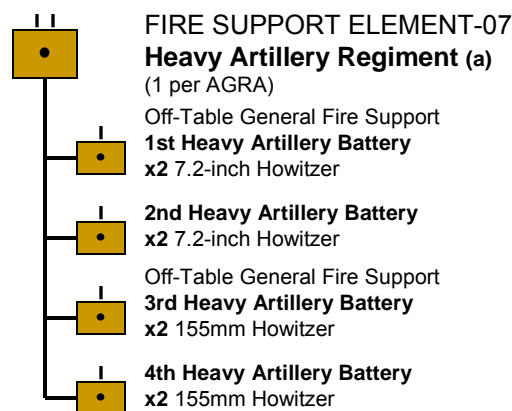
(d) The Glider Pilot Detachment will be withdrawn as soon as possible after relief by ground forces.

(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.

21st Army Group – Commonwealth Fire Support Elements 08-09

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-08

Composite Armoured Support Battery (b) (6th Airborne Division July-Aug 1944 only)

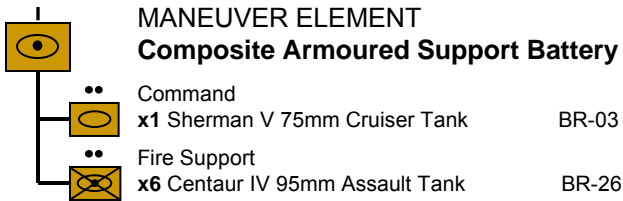


(a) The battery may be called as Direct Fire Support by any of the three FOs (who may be directly attached to Airborne or Commando HQ or Maneuver Elements), or alternatively by Commando or Airborne Battalion/Company Commanders as General Support. The battery may also fire by Troop (three Troops, each of two Centaurs). Each FO may call for a single Troop as Organic Fire Support.

(b) The battery may alternatively be fielded on table as a Maneuver Element:

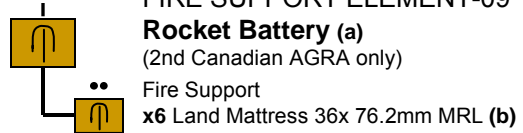
MANEUVER ELEMENT

Composite Armoured Support Battery



FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-09

Rocket Battery (a) (2nd Canadian AGRA only)



(a) Only one Rocket Battery existed – as part of the 2nd Canadian AGRA from November 1944 onwards. It may be added to a preparatory barrage as General Fire Support, but may not be called once the initial barrage has lifted.

(b) The battery may alternatively fire by troop; three troops, each of x2 Land Mattress.

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My Thanks To...

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And finally, Chris and Sidney Jones for inspiring me to wargame in the first place!

Design Notes

You may have noticed a few changes in basic organisations that you may not have been expecting? As mentioned in the recently-published 15th Army Group TO&Es, I have completely torn up the old NW Europe TO&Es and have re-written them again from scratch. I have tried to forget everything that was written in the old TO&Es and have written them as if I was writing them for the first time. I have considered the tactical employment of units, as well as the number of vehicles/weapons/men in a unit. Consequently I think they are 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 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). I've also added BGs to cover the relevant Free French, Dutch, Belgian and Czech forces serving in 21st Army Group, who weren't previously covered. Conversely, I've removed the BG for the Armoured Support Regiment, as the constituent batteries always fought independently.

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 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. There are considerable changes to engineer MEs owing to a lot of new research – some interesting new information discovered was the extent to which the Royal Engineers used armoured carriers to accompany armoured forces and used obsolete Light Recce Cars to reconnoitre and survey routes (Engineer Recce is a vital role in modern NATO doctrine, but I previously had no idea how common it was in WW2 as well). Consequently, you will now see lots of carriers and LRCs in the engineer MEs. On the flip-side, many engineers have been downgraded from 'Assault Pioneers' to 'Infantry' who can perform engineering tasks. This came out of a number of recent forum discussions, plus further research on the subject.

On the subject of engineers, 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(ish). I'll try to be as quick as possible.

Anyway, as I said earlier; this is a work in progress, so keep it coming chaps! Don't be afraid to tell me I'm wrong (I'm used to it now)! 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@hotmail.co.uk**

Amendments Incorporated Into v.4.02

- General** – New card numbers added throughout for Sherman Ila, Churchill III/IV, M3 GMC and AEC III.
- BG-01** – Sherman Ila option added for 1st Polish Armoured Division, October 1944.
- BG-05** – Mountain artillery symbol corrected. Note added re disbandment of 50th Division.
- BG-07** – Sherman Ila option added for 1st Polish Armoured Division, October 1944.
- BG-10** – 4th Motor Company option extended to 1st Polish Armoured Division.
- BG-12** – Defence Platoon organisation corrected & AA Platoon deleted (Andy P).
- BG-12a** – Defence Platoon organisation corrected & AA Platoon deleted (Andy P).
- BG-13** – Recce Section changed for Intel Section (Andy P).
- BG-14** – Defence & AA Platoons amended (Andy P).
- BG-15** – Composition of HQ and Support Company elements corrected (Andy P).
- BG-17a** – Note added.
- BG-18** – Notes structure amended.
- BG-19** – Major post-Normandy reorganisation details added.
- ME-01** – Sherman Ila option expanded for 1st Polish Armoured Division, October 1944.
- ME-06** – D-Day Breaching Platoon option added.
- ME-12** – Additional 17pdr troop added after Normandy.
- ME-14** – Transport option added to Independent Para Company after crossing of the Rhine.
- ME-15** – Bren added (Andy P).
- ME-17** – 3-inch Mortar added to Airborne Recce Squadron & 1x motorcycle section. Bren option added (Andy P).
- ME-22** – Bofors guns added to the mix (Andy P).
- ME-25** – Staghound AA option added for Belgian Armoured Car Squadron.
- ME-27** – Reorganised to conform to the new BG-19. Cromwell option expanded.
- ME-28** – Reorganised to conform to the new BG-19. Infantry changed to Bren LMGs.
- ME-29** – Infantry numbers corrected (increased to three Motor Platoons, plus Scout Platoon)
- ME-32** – Increased by 25%. Flamethrower allocation considerably increased. Extra PIAT, Jeep and 2x mortars added (Andy P).
- ME-33** – PIAT and Flamethrower allocation considerably increased & 2-inch mortar added (Andy P)
- FSE-04** – Mountain artillery symbol corrected.

Amendments Incorporated Into v.4.03

- ME-15** – Major reorganisation – deletion of x3 Airlanding Infantry and addition of x2 Recon Bren LMGs (Andy P).