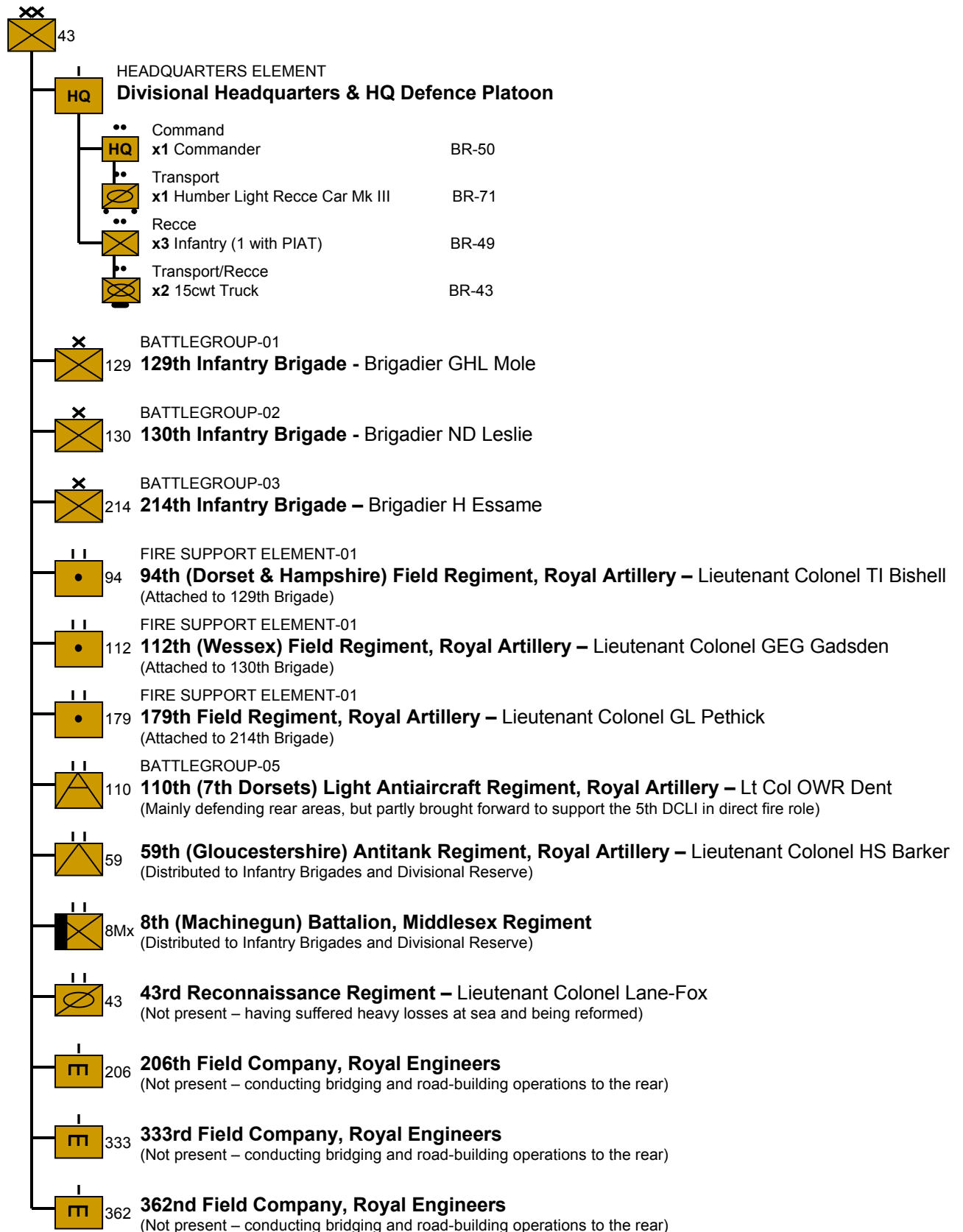
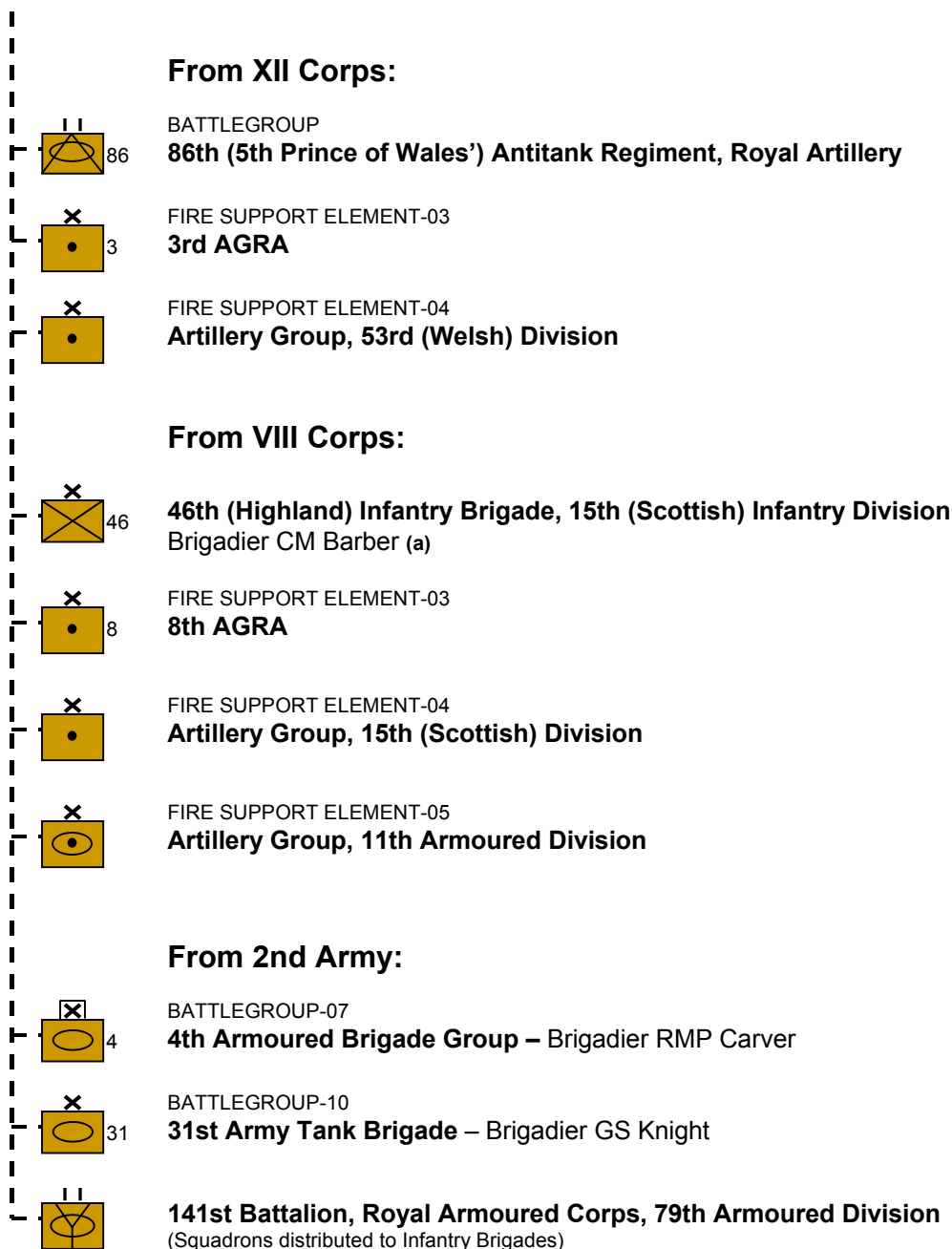


43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division at Hill 112, 10th July 1944

Major General Gwilym Ivo Thomas Commanding

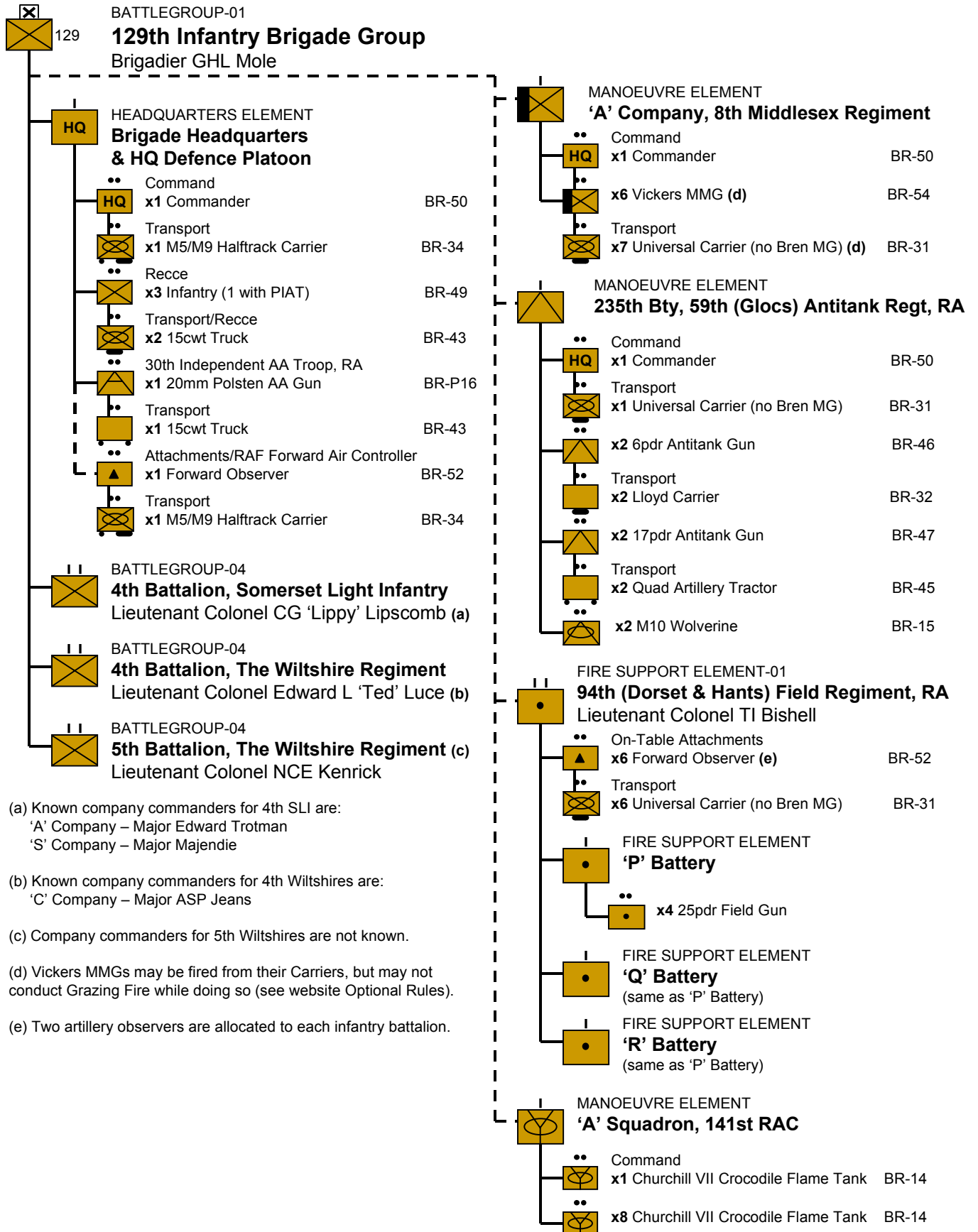


Attached Elements From XII Corps, VIII Corps and 2nd Army



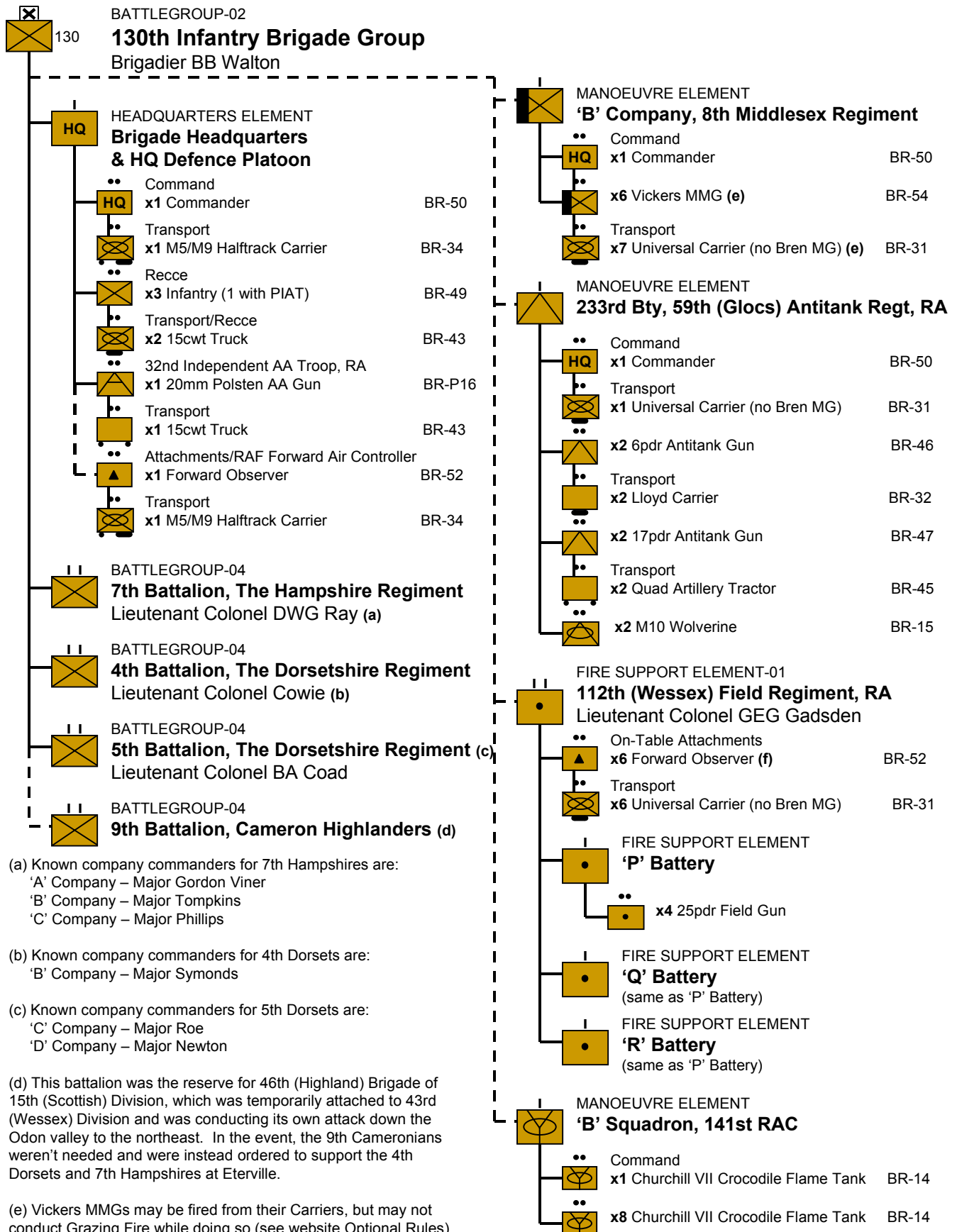
(a) 46th (Highland) Brigade conducted a separate attack, in concert with Operation Jupiter, down the Odon valley, northeast towards Caen. The brigade (with 'B' Squadron, 7 RTR, from 31st Army Tank Brigade) made good progress against little opposition and soon linked up with the Canadians near Carpiquet. Consequently, one battalion was detached from the brigade to support 130th Brigade at Eterville, which was having a much harder time of it. Therefore, this single battalion (the 9th Cameron Highlanders) is the only element of 46th Brigade that need be represented in this scenario.

129th Infantry Brigade Group



- (a) Known company commanders for 4th SLI are:
 'A' Company – Major Edward Trotman
 'S' Company – Major Majendie
- (b) Known company commanders for 4th Wiltshires are:
 'C' Company – Major ASP Jeans
- (c) Company commanders for 5th Wiltshires are not known.
- (d) Vickers MMGs may be fired from their Carriers, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while doing so (see website Optional Rules).
- (e) Two artillery observers are allocated to each infantry battalion.

130th Infantry Brigade Group



(a) Known company commanders for 7th Hampshires are:

- 'A' Company – Major Gordon Viner
- 'B' Company – Major Tompkins
- 'C' Company – Major Phillips

(b) Known company commanders for 4th Dorsets are:

- 'B' Company – Major Symonds

(c) Known company commanders for 5th Dorsets are:

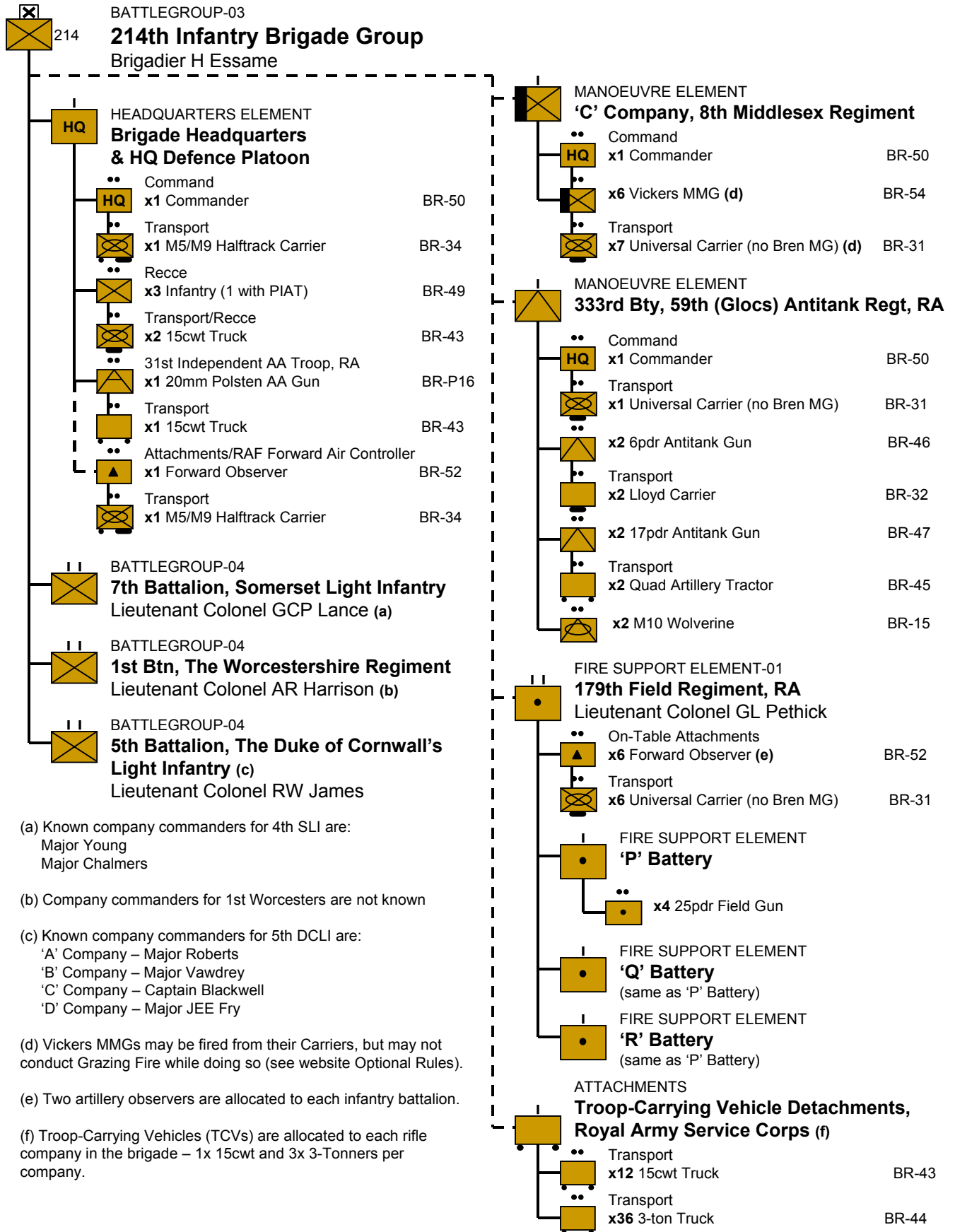
- 'C' Company – Major Roe
- 'D' Company – Major Newton

(d) This battalion was the reserve for 46th (Highland) Brigade of 15th (Scottish) Division, which was temporarily attached to 43rd (Wessex) Division and was conducting its own attack down the Odon valley to the northeast. In the event, the 9th Cameronians weren't needed and were instead ordered to support the 4th Dorsets and 7th Hampshires at Eterville.

(e) Vickers MMGs may be fired from their Carriers, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while doing so (see website Optional Rules).

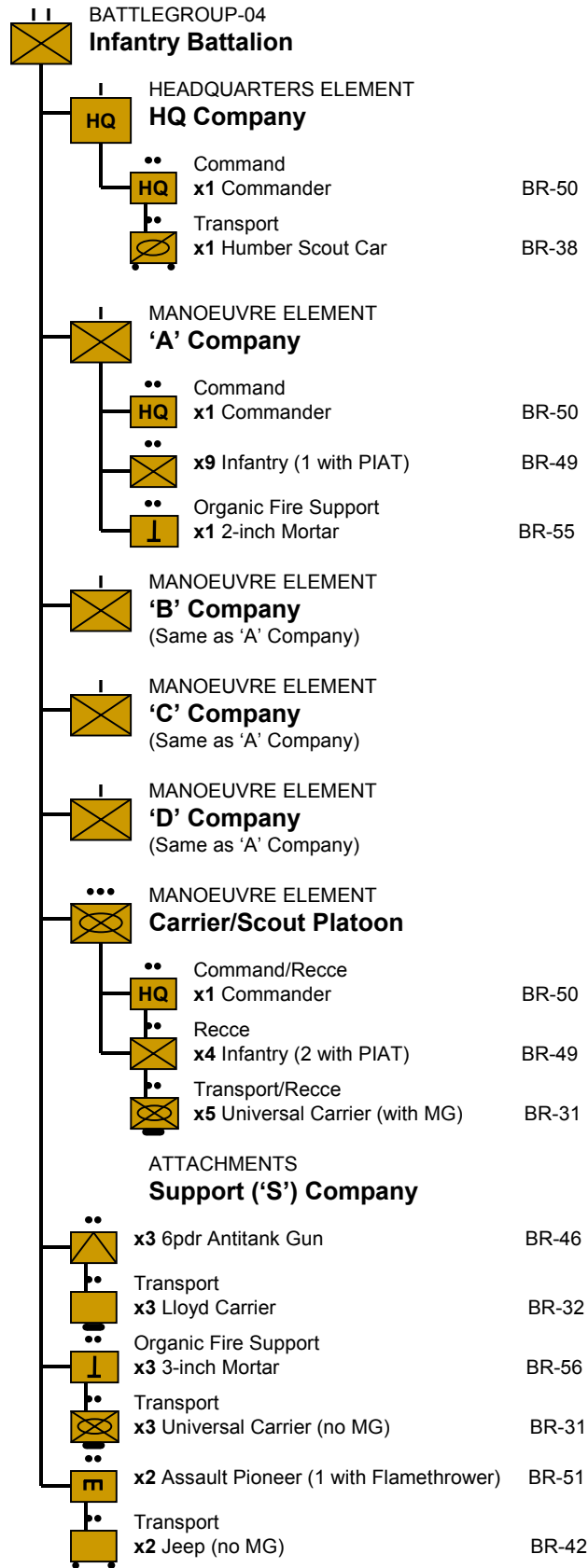
(f) Two artillery observers are allocated to each infantry battalion.

214th Infantry Brigade Group

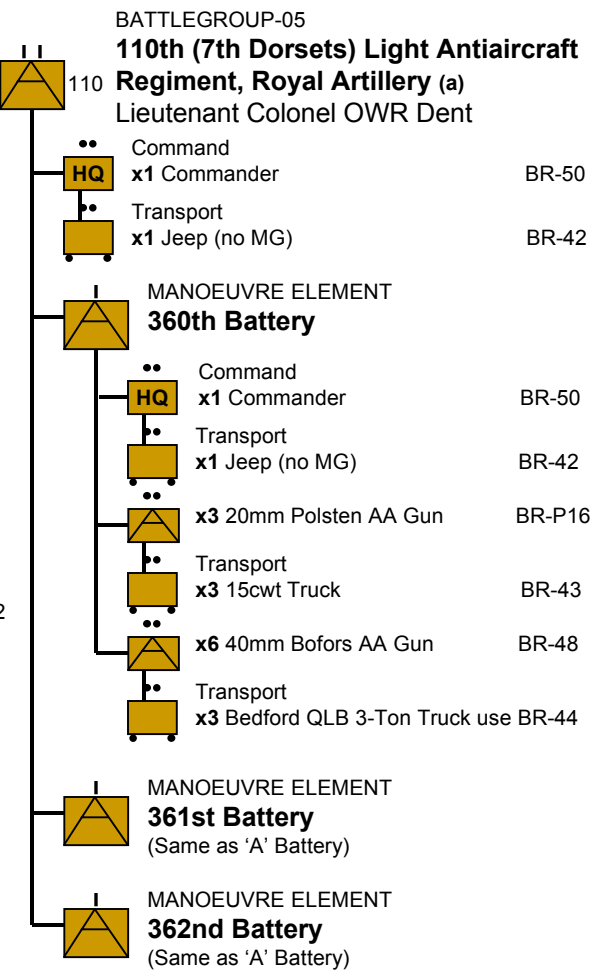
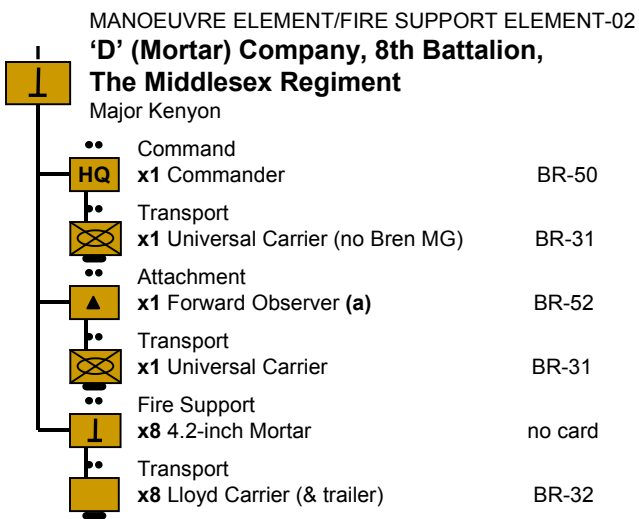
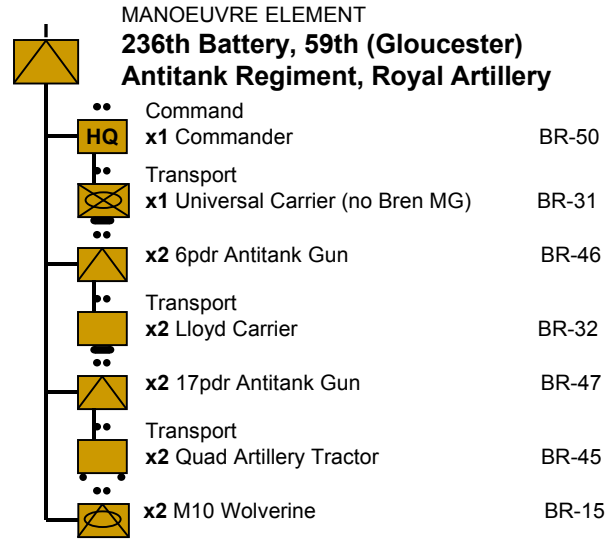


- (a) Known company commanders for 4th SLI are:
 Major Young
 Major Chalmers
- (b) Company commanders for 1st Worcesters are not known
- (c) Known company commanders for 5th DCLI are:
 'A' Company – Major Roberts
 'B' Company – Major Vawdrey
 'C' Company – Captain Blackwell
 'D' Company – Major JEE Fry
- (d) Vickers MMGs may be fired from their Carriers, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while doing so (see website Optional Rules).
- (e) Two artillery observers are allocated to each infantry battalion.
- (f) Troop-Carrying Vehicles (TCVs) are allocated to each rifle company in the brigade – 1x 15cwt and 3x 3-Tonners per company.

Infantry Battalion Organisation



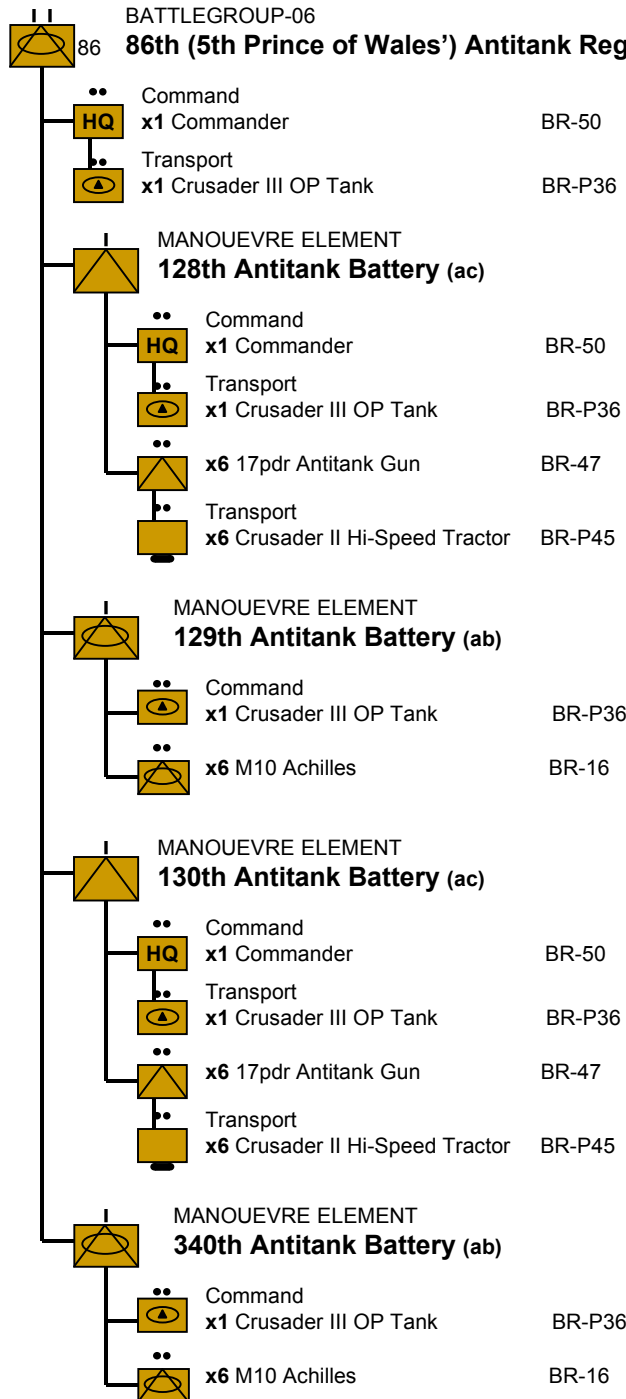
Divisional Reserve Formations



(a) In usual keeping with usual British practice, the divisional Light Antiaircraft Regiment was kept at the rear (owing to a lack of Luftwaffe targets in Normandy). However, with the failure of the initial attacks against Hill 112 and the subsequent shortage of artillery ammunition after the colossal shoots of the morning, 110 LAA Regt was brought forward in the afternoon to provide direct fire support for 5th DCLI (214th Brigade) in its assault on Hill 112.

(a) The mortars of the 8th Middlesex may only respond to calls from their own Forward Observer, or to the regiment's company commanders as Direct Fire Support or by infantry commanders of 43rd Division as General Fire Support. They may not be called by Royal Artillery Forward Observers or any other commanders.

Attached Elements, XII Corps: (86th (5th Prince of Wales') Antitank Regiment, Royal Artillery)

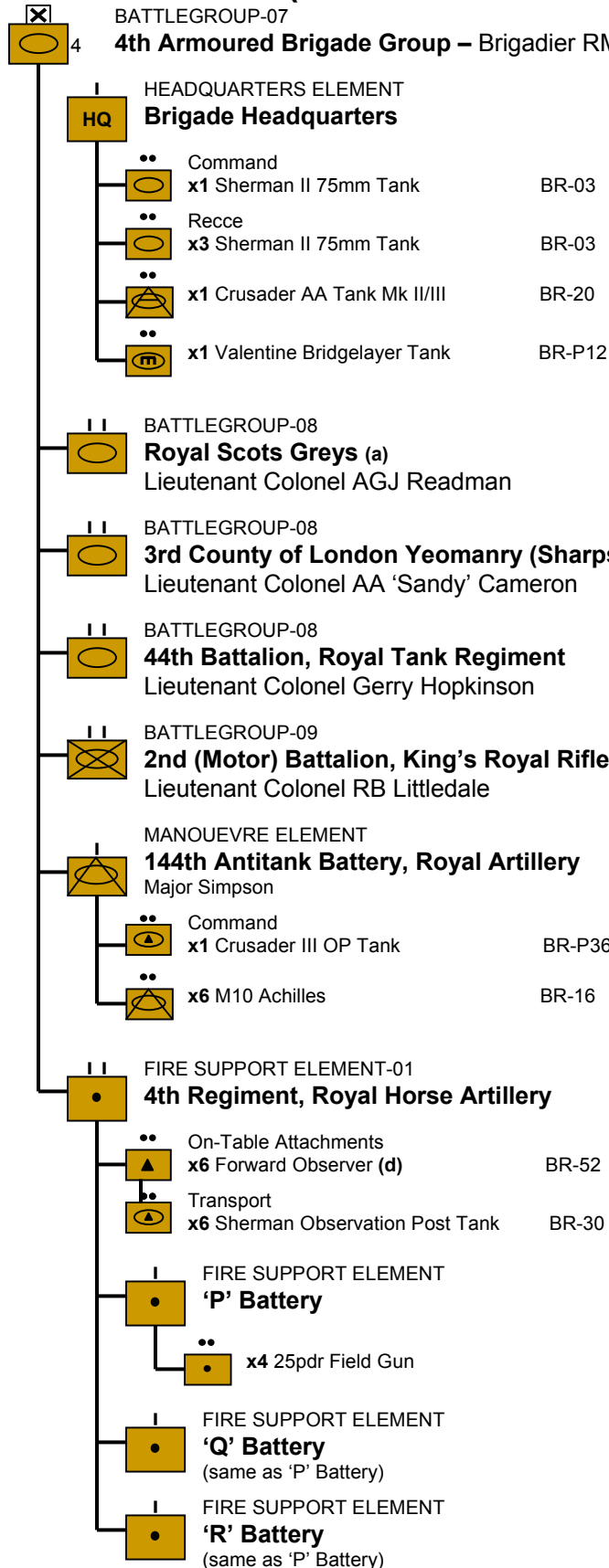


(a) You will have noticed that I have massed these assets as complete batteries as opposed to individual Antitank Troop MEs. This is to cut down the overall number of MEs in the scenario, which will considerably reduce playing time without too much loss of realism – in BF:WW2 there is nothing to prevent the player splitting an ME to the four winds – though the ME commander can only be in one place at a time! I would strongly advise against allowing direct attachment of these antitank units to other HQs or MEs, as this would afford an unrealistic degree of integration and flexibility.

(b) The 129th and 340th Batteries were attached to 31st Army Tank Brigade for Operation Jupiter, with each squadron being directly attached to either 7 RTR or 9 RTR. Each troop (i.e. two M10 models) would support one tank squadron. However, as mentioned above, I would not allow the direct attachment of M10s to tank squadrons – they were most definitely not under the command of the tanks on the day and indeed, RTR accounts I have come across make absolutely no mention of the role of the M10s, despite their creditable performance against the SS Tigers on Hill 112.

(c) I know nothing about the employment of 128th and 130th Batteries during Operation Jupiter, though I do know that 17pdrs of 43rd Division (59th Antitank Regiment) were pushed forward on several occasions – usually with disastrous consequences, owing to their softskinned tractors. I would expect that these armoured tractors came in very handy during the battle. A pity no-one does a model of a Crusader Tractor in 15mm! I would use Ram Kangaroo models in lieu (the Canadian Corps Antitank Regiments did, in fact, use turretless Rams as tractors until they were replaced by Crusaders, so it's not actually that wacky an idea!).

Attached Elements, 2nd Army: (4th Armoured Brigade Group)



(a) Squadron commanders for the Scots Greys are:
 'A' Squadron – Major Stewart
 'B' Squadron – Major JD Callender
 'C' Squadron – Major Paget

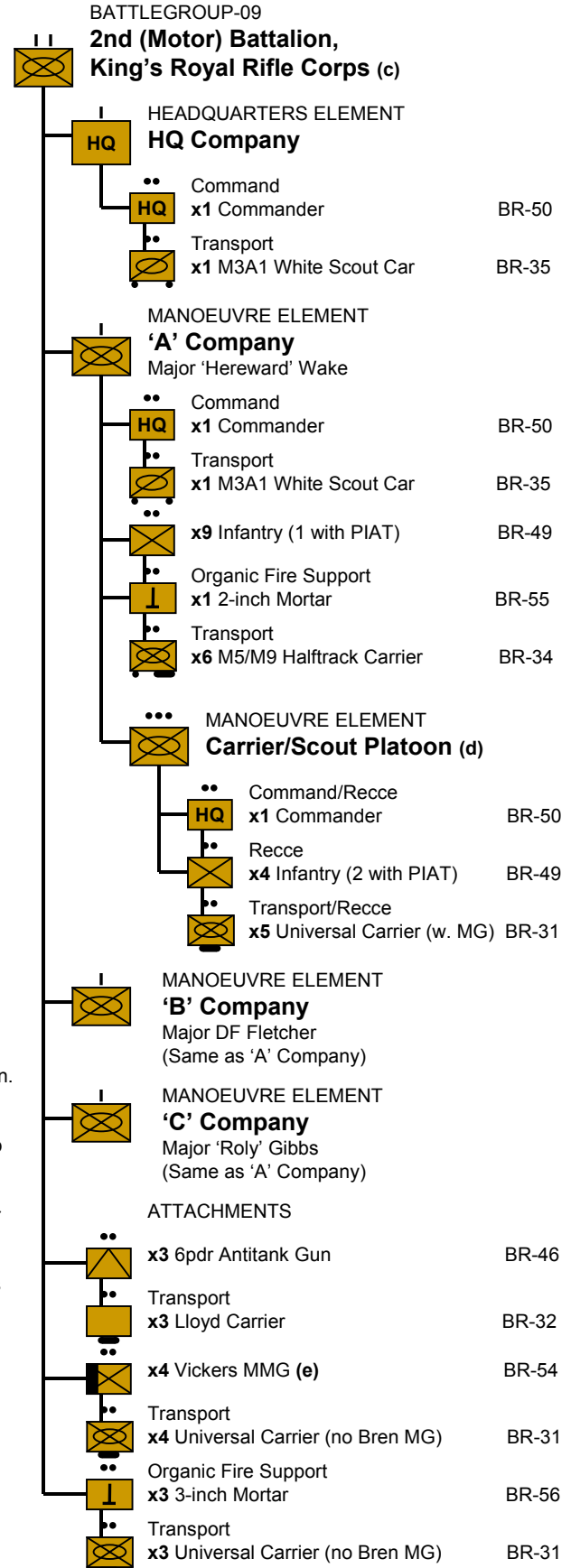
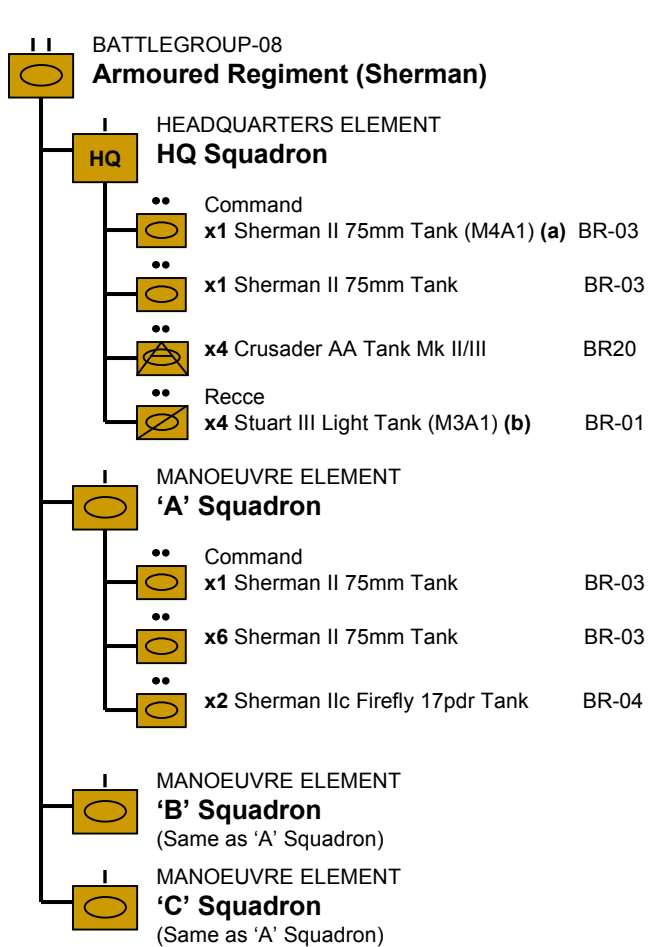
(b) Known squadron commanders for 3 CLY are:
 'A' Squadron – Major Oliver Woods
 'B' Squadron – Major Harold Phelps

(c) Company commanders for 2 KRRC are:
 'A' Company – Major 'Hereward' Wake
 'B' Company – Major DF Fletcher
 'C' Company – Major 'Roly' Gibbs

(d) Two artillery observers are attached to each armoured regiment.

(e) 4th Armoured Brigade, together with the truck-mounted 214th Infantry Brigade, was the operational reserve and breakthrough formation for Operation Jupiter. However, as the initial attacks against Hill 112 by 129th and 130th Brigade had failed to secure their objectives, Brigadier Carver rebuffed General Thomas' order to commit the brigade to the battle – believing (almost certainly correctly) that it would be suicide to send his tanks up and over Hill 112. In the event, 214th Brigade was taken away from Carver to bolster the attacks on Hill 112 and Carver eventually had to send the Scots Greys up Hill 112 in a doomed attempt to save 5 DCLI. 144th Antitank Battery also saw action on the day – against the Tigers of SS-Schwere-Panzer-Abteilung 102. The remainder of the brigade eventually saw some action during the night and over the next few days, but there was no major commitment of the brigade en masse as originally planned. This battlegroup may therefore only be committed to the game if the initial objectives are taken and held by the leading infantry brigades as per the plan.

4th Armoured Brigade Battalion Organisations



(a) Initially in Normandy, 4th Armoured Brigade was equipped almost exclusively with the Sherman Mk II (M4A1 – with the round-edged cast hull). However, battlefield replacements could be of any type and therefore, by Operation Jupiter, there were likely to have been a large number of Mk III (M4A2) and Mk V (M4A4) in the ranks.

(b) Note that the Recce Troop has been massed within the HQ Squadron. The reason is twofold – first, it keeps the overall number of manoeuvre elements down and speeds up play. Second, when not being used for recce duties (as indeed, they weren't on this occasion), the Recce Troop was used mainly for HQ protection.

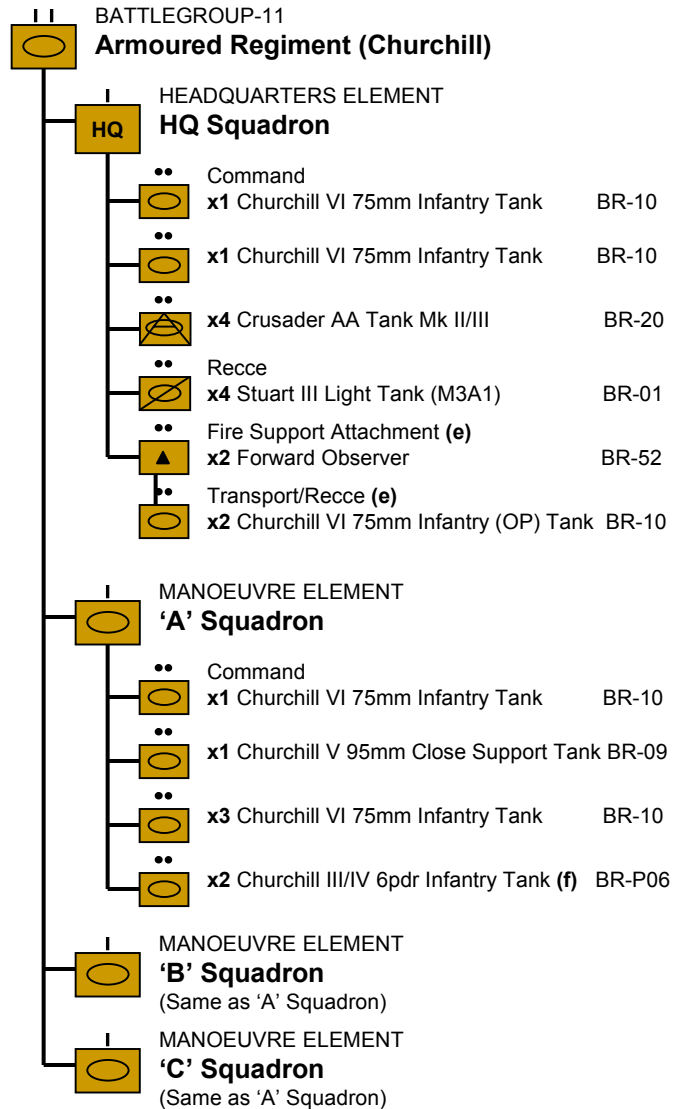
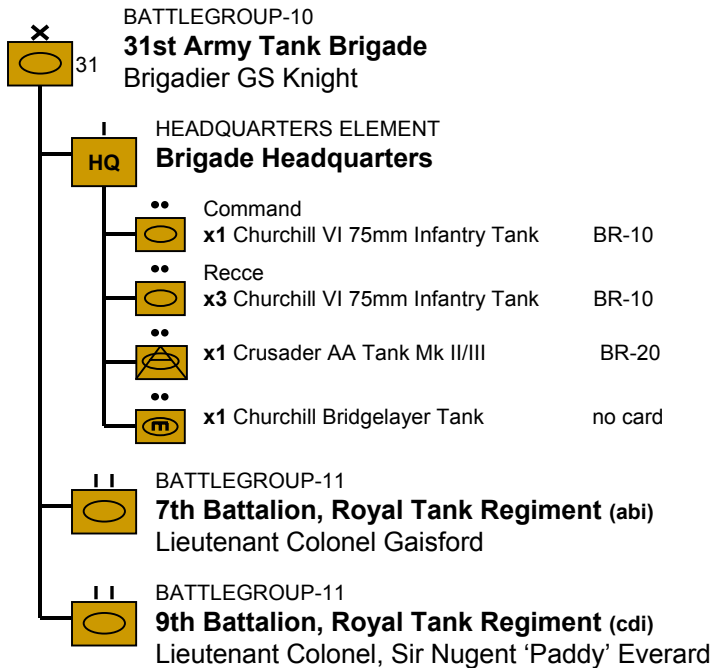
(c) The usual practice for Motor Battalions at this time was for one Motor Company to be attached to each armoured regiment of the brigade. However, in this instance, the battalion seems to have remained as an integral whole. If you're interested, the company/regiment affiliation was as follows:

- 'A' Company – attached to 3 CLY
- 'B' Company – attached to 44 RTR
- 'C' Company – attached to Scots Greys

(d) Note that each company in a Motor Battalion had its own Carrier (a.k.a. 'Scout') Platoon, whereas the line infantry would only have one such platoon per battalion.

(e) Vickers MMGs may be fired from their Carriers, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while doing so (see website Optional Rules).

Attached Elements, 2nd Army: (31st Army Tank Brigade)



(a) Known squadron commanders for 7 RTR are:
 'A' Squadron – Major Richard 'Dick' Joscelyne

(b) 7 RTR was split between 129th Infantry Brigade and 46th (Highland) Infantry Brigade for Operation Jupiter. Sub-allocation of squadrons was as follows:

- 'A' Squadron – 4th Wiltshires (objective Hill 112)
- 'B' Squadron – 46th (Highland) Brigade (**not in this scenario**) (h)
- 'C' Squadron – 4th Somerset and 5th Wiltshires (objective Hill 112)

(c) Squadron commanders for 9 RTR are:

- 'A' Squadron – Major Douglas Ballantine
- 'B' Squadron – Major Bob Warren
- 'C' Squadron – Major Ronnie Holden

(d) 9 RTR was allocated to 130th Infantry Brigade for Operation Jupiter. Sub-allocation of squadrons was as follows:

- 'A' Squadron – 7th Hampshires (in reserve)
- 'B' Squadron – 5th Dorsets (objective Château de Fontaine)
- 'C' Squadron – 4th Dorsets (objective Eterville)

(e) The artillery observers are attached from local artillery units. Their OP tanks were provided by the tank regiment and were ordinary gun tanks, though with an extra radio set. The artillery officer would fill the vacant role of vehicle commander and his artillery radio operator would fill the role of loader. This often left the Tankie gunner as the de facto tank commander! Give these OP tanks an additional -1 modifier in all shooting and close assault die rolls.

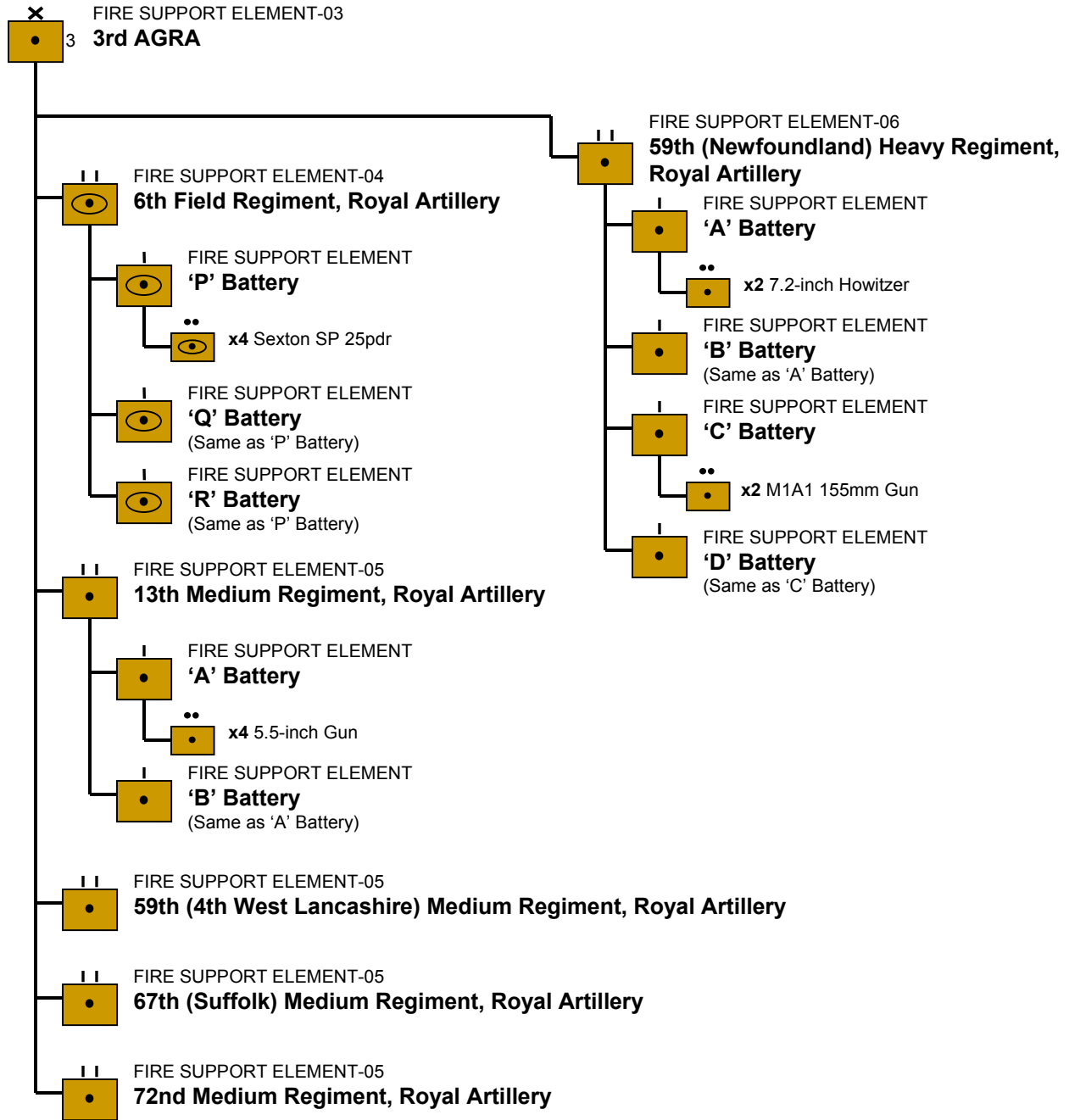
(f) The Churchill III/IV was retained at a ratio of one tank per troop, as it was discovered that the new 6pdr APDS ammo outperformed the 75mm in armour penetration. The Churchill III/IV is due to be released shortly as a new card in the Desert War Supplement. At present it exists as Website Prototype BR-P06.

(g) You may be wondering where the much-beloved Churchill VIIIs are? They simply had not been delivered yet! 9 RTR received its first ten Mk VIIIs as replacements on 13th July – ironically, as replacements for the terrible losses suffered during Operation Jupiter. The first production Mk VIIIs were all used to produce Crocodiles for 79th Armoured Division, which resulted in considerable delays in delivery of the Mk VII to the line tank regiments. Indeed, even by the end of the war, Mk VIIIs still made up only one tank per troop on average. This news often comes as a severe blow to dyed-in-the-wool wargamers who can't bear to be parted from all that armour, so break it to them gently!

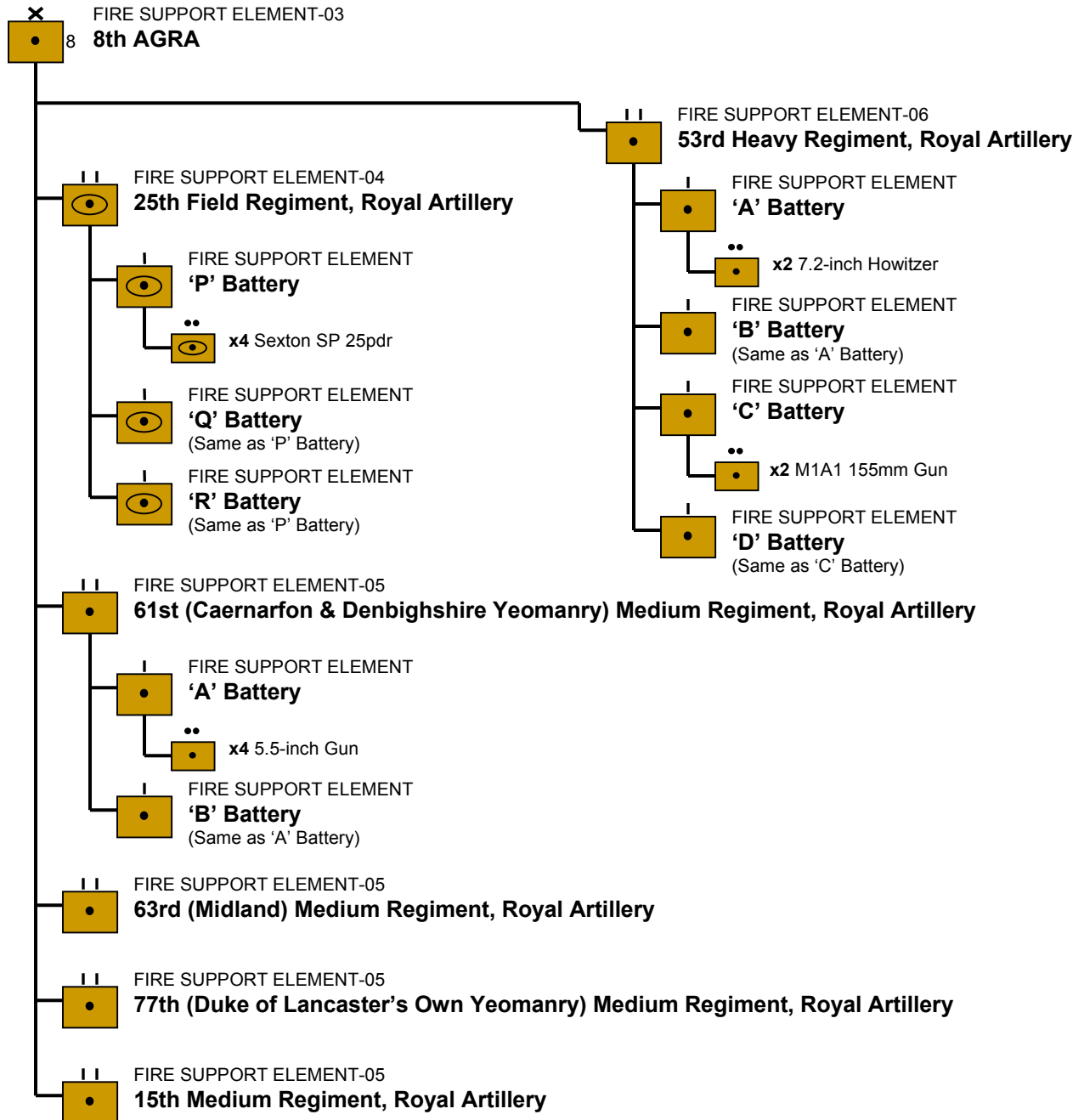
(h) Just to reiterate in case you missed it – 'B' Squadron, 7 RTR was supporting 46th (Highland) Brigade on 10th July and so will not be included in any Hill 112 scenario.

(i) You will note that 31st Army Tank Brigade had only two armoured regiments at this time as 141st RAC had previously been transferred to 79th Armoured Division to be re-equipped with Crocodiles and the resultant gap in the order of battle was never re-filled.

Elements, XII Corps: (3rd Army Group Royal Artillery)



Elements, VIII Corps: (8th Army Group Royal Artillery)



Supporting Divisional Artillery Groups (Initial Barrage Only)

From XII Corps:



From VIII Corps:



Deployment & Objectives

(infantry battalions listed left to right across divisional frontage)

<u>Brigade</u>	<u>Battalions</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Attached Tanks</u>
<u>46th (H) Brigade</u>	2nd Glasgow Highlanders	Bretteville-sur-Odon (left bank)	(‘B’ Sqn 7 RTR)
	7th Seaforth Highlanders	Bretteville-sur-Odon (right bank)	
	9th Cameron Highlanders	Brigade Reserve then sent to 130th Bde	
<u>130th Brigade</u>	4th Dorsets	Eterville	(‘C’ Sqn 9 RTR)
	5th Dorsets	Château de Fontaine	(‘B’ Sqn 9 RTR)
	7th Hampshires	Brigade Reserve (then Maltot)	(‘A’ Sqn 9 RTR)
<u>129th Brigade</u>	4th Wiltshires	Hill 112 (Left Shoulder)	(‘A’ Sqn 7 RTR)
	4th Somersets	Hill 112 (Crest)	(‘C’ Sqn 7 RTR)
	5th Wiltshires	Hill 112 (Right Shoulder)	(‘C’ Sqn 7 RTR)
<u>214 Brigade</u>	Divisional Reserve and breakthrough formation – mounted in TCVs		(4th Armoured Brigade)

4th Armoured Brigade and 214th Infantry Brigade will be committed to the battle once the infantry’s objectives have been secured. However, the umpire should note that this event will trigger the release of further Tigers from SS-Schweres-Panzer-Abteilung 102 (and probably further armour from I. SS-Panzer-Korps (see the German order of battle).

Note that General Thomas may order the commitment of 214th Brigade to the battle at any time, though if he does so, 4th Armoured Brigade will become unavailable (Brigadier Carver will rebuff any further orders and will be supported by the corps commander). However, the Scots Greys, 144th Antitank Battery and one Motor Company may still be used to support 214th Brigade.

As previously mentioned, the only element of 46th (Highland) Brigade that need be represented is the 9th Cameron Highlanders. However, the umpire should only make this battalion available quite late in the scenario, as it would be rather premature to strip 46th Brigade of its reserve before it had completed its objectives!

Preparatory Artillery Fire Plan & Tactical Artillery/Air Support

The Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) for 43rd (Wessex) Division is Brigadier Heath. I strongly suggest that this role be filled by a player! For the opening barrage, he has all the assets listed in this order of battle. As with German regimental commanders, each British Brigadier has his own regiment (i.e. battalion) of field artillery loosely under his command. However, the big difference here is that Brigadier Heath has the authority to overrule the infantry Brigadiers and re-allocate their artillery to higher-priority and larger missions – each Royal Artillery Forward Observer has the capacity to call in colossal amounts of artillery and it is up to Brigadier Heath to approve such requests and re-allocate the resources – which should produce some highly entertaining inter-player friction!

An anti-mortar and counter-battery programme started at H-60 (0400hrs). This would probably have consisted of the divisional 4.2-inch mortars and the battalion 3-inch mortars firing at German batteries previously located by flash and sound location, as well as by reconnaissance and air OPs. So allow six turns or so of mortaring German mortar platoons and Nebelwerfers before the troops start moving, as well as some AGRA assets allocated to countering off-table artillery (which of course, would not then be available for the main barrage). Or this could alternatively be abstracted - make up your own rules for this.

The AGRAs opened up at H-15 (0445hrs). These heavy-hitters laid concentrations on every likely point of resistance (mainly the villages and the crest of Hill 112). These should be standing concentrations – feel free to use your imagination here! This is the creative part of British artillery planning! I don't have a cease-fire time, but these barrages typically went on for 20 to thirty minutes (2-4 turns). This might also include a single concentration from the Royal Navy Bombardment Group (which is known to have included the battleship Warspite, the cruiser Belfast and the monitor Lord Roberts).

Once the AGRAs lifted, 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force came into play – RAF 'Tentacles' directed Typhoons and Spitfires onto targets. Each FAC may call in up to one aircraft per turn. After each half hour, the FACs apply an additional -1 modifier to their die roll as the quantity of air support is reduced (i.e. apply the modifiers in turns 4, 7, 11...etc).

The main barrage was a 3,500 yard-wide (roughly 7 feet of table) walking barrage, fired by the 264 25pdrs of 43rd, 53rd, 15th and 11th Armoured Divisions (33 batteries), which began at H-Hour (0500hrs) and moved at walking pace over the forward German positions at Eterville and Hill 112. It overlapped the frontage to be attacked by 500 yards on each flank. This equates roughly to a barrage thirty-three templates wide by two deep, moving two templates forward each turn. This is a concentrated 25pdr barrage with factors of +0 v. V and +1 v. TGsv.

The walking barrage should last maybe three or four turns. The artillery from 11th Armoured, 15th and 53rd Divisions will not be available again thereafter, but the 43rd Division artillery will revert to the control of the infantry Brigadiers/Brigadier Heath. 4th RHA (4th Armoured Brigade) does not seem to have been involved in all this – I expect it was held in reserve for the planned breakout. As far as the scenario goes, I would not allow 4th RHA to be used unless 4th Armoured Brigade are committed to the battle en masse (see above).

Each Field Regiment from 43rd Division suffers an additional -1 Call For Fire modifier at the end of every hour (i.e. in turns 7, 13, 19...etc). This is to simulate reduction of ammunition stocks, as well as slackening of fire due to gunners' fatigue.

Each Royal Artillery Forward Observer is also the Troop Commander for one of the Field Artillery troops (i.e. half-batteries) and the two Troop Commanders from one battery are always attached to the same infantry battalion/armoured regiment. Therefore, if calling for a Troop or Battery target, roll for Organic Fire Support. Each FOO may also call for a 'Mike Target' (i.e. regimental fire mission), in which the entire Field Regiment is allocated to that observer as Direct Fire Support. The Infantry Brigadier concerned will need to approve any call for a 'Mike', though he may be overruled by the CRA.

A FOO may also call for an 'Uncle Target', which is all three Field Regiments in the division. Obviously the CRA will need to approve all 'Uncles'. An 'Uncle' is called as General Fire Support.

Once an objective has been taken, the Royal Artillery FOOs may set up their OP and register Defensive Fire (DF) targets for AGRA. This is done simultaneously to Improving Position, so once the FOO has improved his position, he is also assumed to sorted out his DF plan with the local battalion commander. From this point forth, the FOO may route calls for 'Victor' or 'Yoke' DF missions through the CRA as General Fire Support. AGRA may only fire DF missions after the initial barrage. The umpire must enforce this.

A 'Victor' target for our purposes is the fire of one or the other AGRA and a 'Yoke' for our purposes is the fire of both AGRAs combined (maybe with the addition of the Royal Navy!). Field Artillery from 43rd Division (and 4th RHA if available) may thicken these missions as required. I'll do some diagrams to show the size of these missions and suggested factors! You'll find that it is MUCH easier to print your own templates onto card (with the factors marked on them) rather than fiddle with hundreds of stacked-up little templates as supplied with the game!

During DF missions, an entire AGRA must fire at the same target – it may be split during the initial barrage, but not during DF. Mortars may not thicken Royal Artillery missions.

In addition to allocating and planning artillery resources, it is also the CRA's job to ensure that the same asset doesn't get fired twice in the same turn! For example, a 'Mike' mission means that all guns from one Field Regiment are firing at the target selected by one FOO – so the other five FOOs from that regiment are going to be disappointed! However, even though a FOO's troop may be busy firing into someone else's 'Mike', he may still be able to call in higher-level artillery such as 'Victor'.

A -1 modifier is added to the Call For Fire roll for an AGRA after every successful DF mission. This is to simulate ammunition expenditure and encourage careful consideration by the CRA as to the priority of targets hit by AGRA (it should not be an unlimited resource!). This may need playtesting, but I think it's a better system than finite artillery ammunition.

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– Patrick Delaforce

The Fighting Wessex Wyverns (43rd Wessex) Division) – Patrick Delaforce

Marching To The Sound Of Gunfire – Patrick Delaforce

Tank Tracks (9 RTR At War 1940-45) – Peter Beale

La Bataille de Caen – Georges Benamou

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Royal Artillery Homepage – Nigel F. Evans

Acknowledgements

My Thanks to Mike Hickling and Edward Sturges for their help and information.