

## Japanese Divisions & Independent Brigades In Burma 1942-45 v1.6

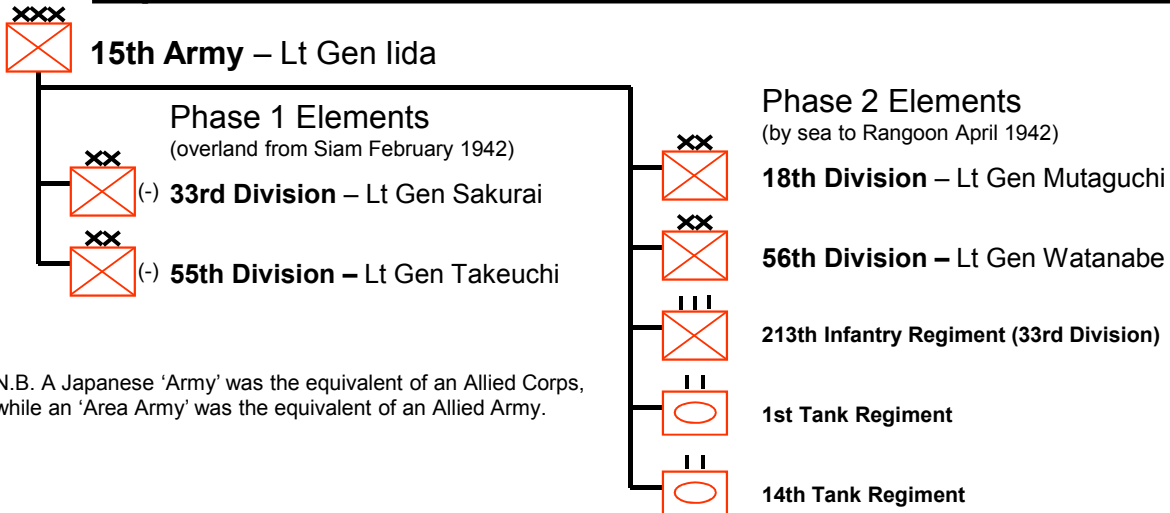
Formation	Commanding Generals	Infantry Regts	Artillery Regiment	Tankette Company	Recon Element	Engineer Regiment
2nd Division (Type A)	Lt Gen Mitsuo Nakazawa then Seizaburo Okazaki	4th IR 16th IR 29th IR	<u>2nd Field</u> 2x 75mm Bns 1x 150mm Bn	Nil	2nd Recon Regiment	2nd Eng Regt
15th Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Naoji Sakai then Masabumi Yamanouchi & Shibata	51st IR 60th IR 67th IR	<u>21st Field</u> 3x 75mm Bns	15th Division Tankette Company	15th Recon Squadron	15th Eng Regt
18th Division (Type B) (Part Motorised)	Lt Gen Renya Mutaguchi then Shinichi Tanaka & Eitaro Naka	55th IR 56th IR 114th IR	<u>18th Mountain</u> 3x 75mm Bns (one motorised)	Nil	18th Recon Regiment	12th Eng Regt
31st Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Kotoku Sato then T Kawada	58th IR 124th IR 138th IR	<u>31st Mountain</u> 3x 75mm Bns	Nil	Nil	31st Eng Regt
33rd Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Shozo Sakurai then Genzo Yanagida & Shinichi Tanaka	213th IR 214th IR 215th IR	<u>33rd Mountain</u> 3x 75mm Bns	33rd Division Tankette Company	Mounted Infantry Plt in Div HQ & each Inf Regt HQ	33rd Eng Regt
49th Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Saburu Takehara then Miyazaki	106th IR 153rd IR 168th IR	<u>49th Mountain</u> 3x 75mm Bns	Nil	Nil	49th Eng Regt
53rd Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Masao Baba then K Takeda	119th IR 128th IR 151st IR	<u>53rd Field</u> 2x 75mm Bns 1x 105mm Bn	Nil	53rd Recon Regiment	53rd Eng Regt
54th Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Shihachi Katamura	111th IR 121st IR 154th IR	<u>54th Field</u> 2x 75mm Bns 1x 105mm Bn	Nil	54th Recon Regiment	54th Eng Regt
55th Division (Type B)	Lt Gen Hiroshi Takeuchi then Tadashi Hanaya & T Sakuma	112th IR 143rd IR 144th IR*	<u>55th Mountain</u> 3x 75mm Bns* 1x 105mm Bn	Nil	55th Cavalry Regiment*	55th Eng Regt*
56th Division (Type B) (Part Motorised)	Lt Gen Masao Watanabe then Yuzo Matsuyama	113th IR 146th IR 148th IR	<u>56th Field</u> 3x 75mm Bns	56th Division Tankette Company	56th Recon Regiment	56th Eng Regt
24th Independent Mixed Brigade	Maj Gen Y Hayashi	138th Ind Bn 139th Ind Bn 140th Ind Bn 141st Ind Bn	24th Independent Gun Unit	Nil	Nil	24th Independent Pioneer Unit
72nd Independent Mixed Brigade	Maj Gen T Yamamoto	187th Ind Bn 188th Ind Bn 542nd Ind Bn 543rd Ind Bn	72nd Independent Gun Unit	Nil	Nil	72nd Independent Pioneer Unit

### Notes

\* The Headquarters of 55th Division's Infantry Group was detached to Guam, along with 144th Infantry Regiment, 3/55th Cavalry, 1/55th Mtn Arty & 1/55th Engineers. This group was slated for the cancelled invasion of Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) in May 1942 and a battlegroup led by I Btn/144th IR fought on the Kokoda Track. It is not clear if or when the 144th IR Group ever returned to 55th Division. The Armoured Squadron of 55th Cavalry was also detached, but was returned to the division by 1943 (though it was used as an independent Tankette Company rather than being returned to 55th Cavalry).

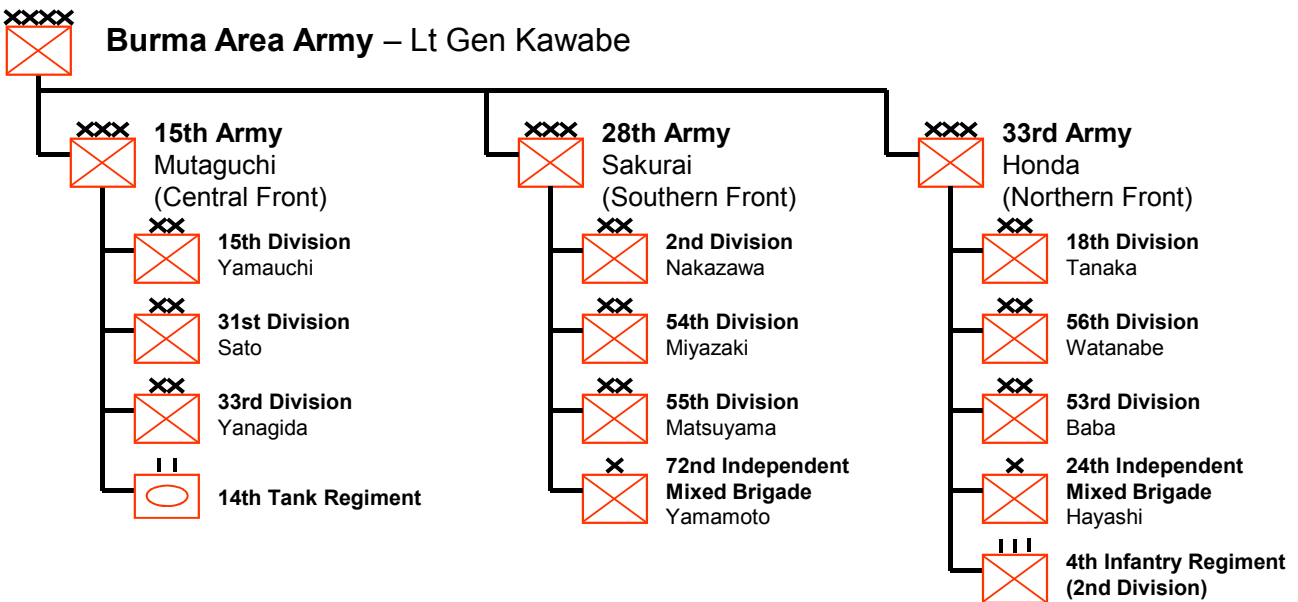
† 18th, 33rd, 55th & 56th Infantry Divisions were reinforced for the invasion of Burma in 1942. Thereafter, most divisions were whittled down by attrition and extremely long and fragile supply lines – particularly following the disastrous defeats of 1944 at Kohima and Imphal, in the Arakan and against Chinese and Chindit forces. Even before that, 15th 31st & 33rd Divisions were stripped to the bare essentials for 'The March on Delhi'.

# Japanese Order Of Battle – The Invasion Of Burma 1942

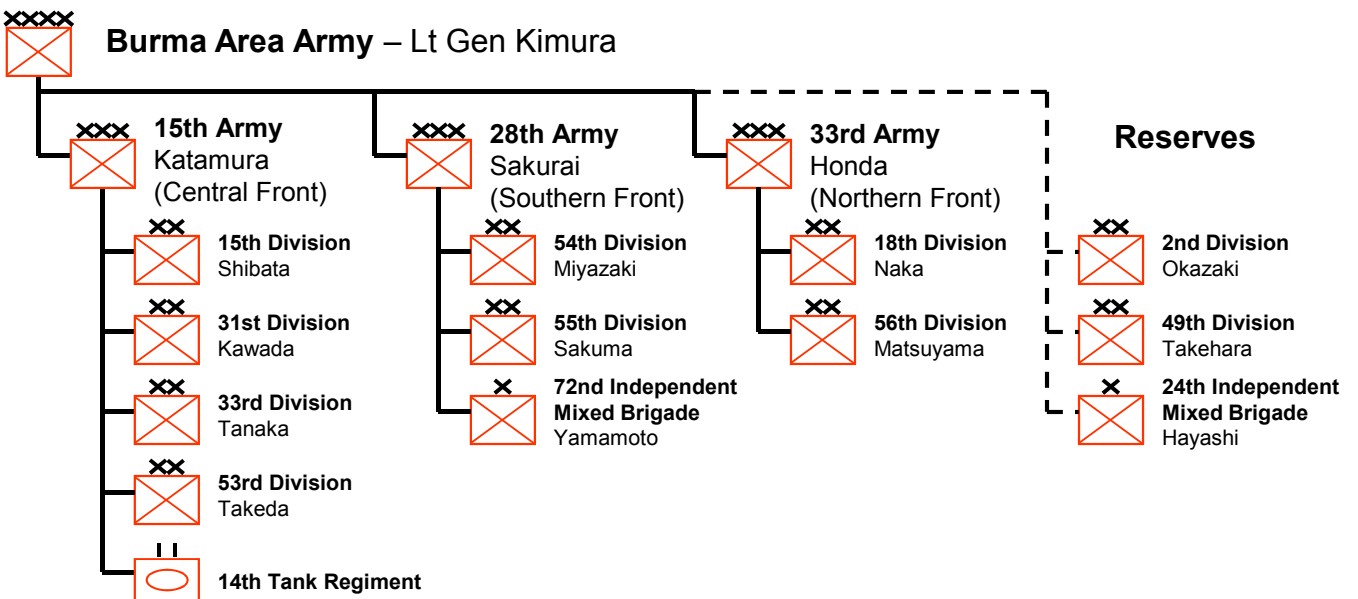


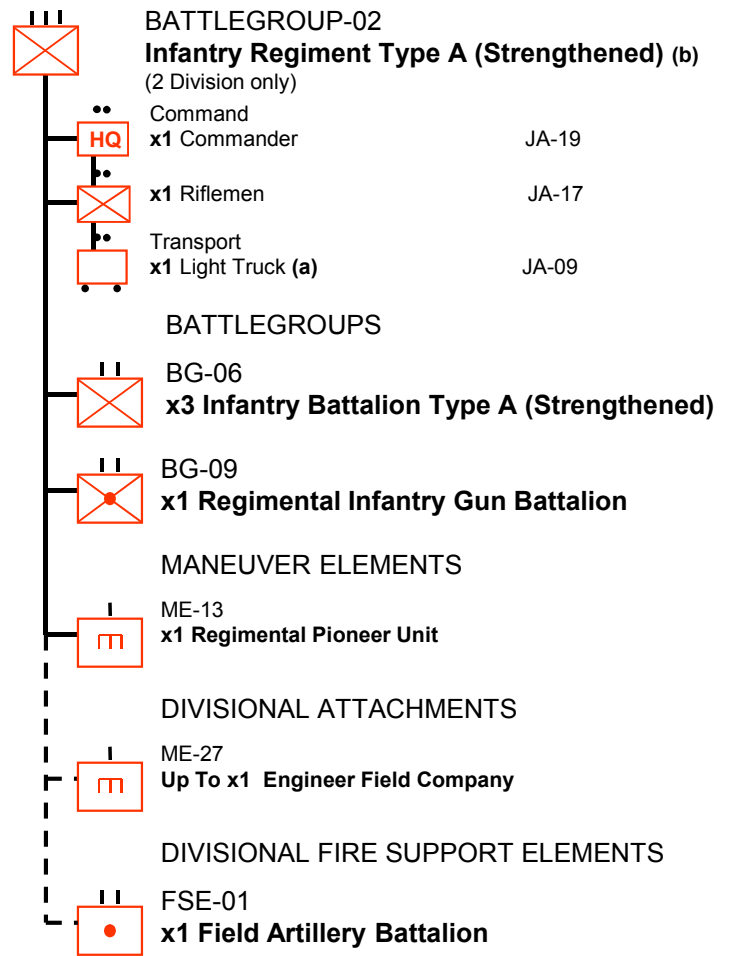
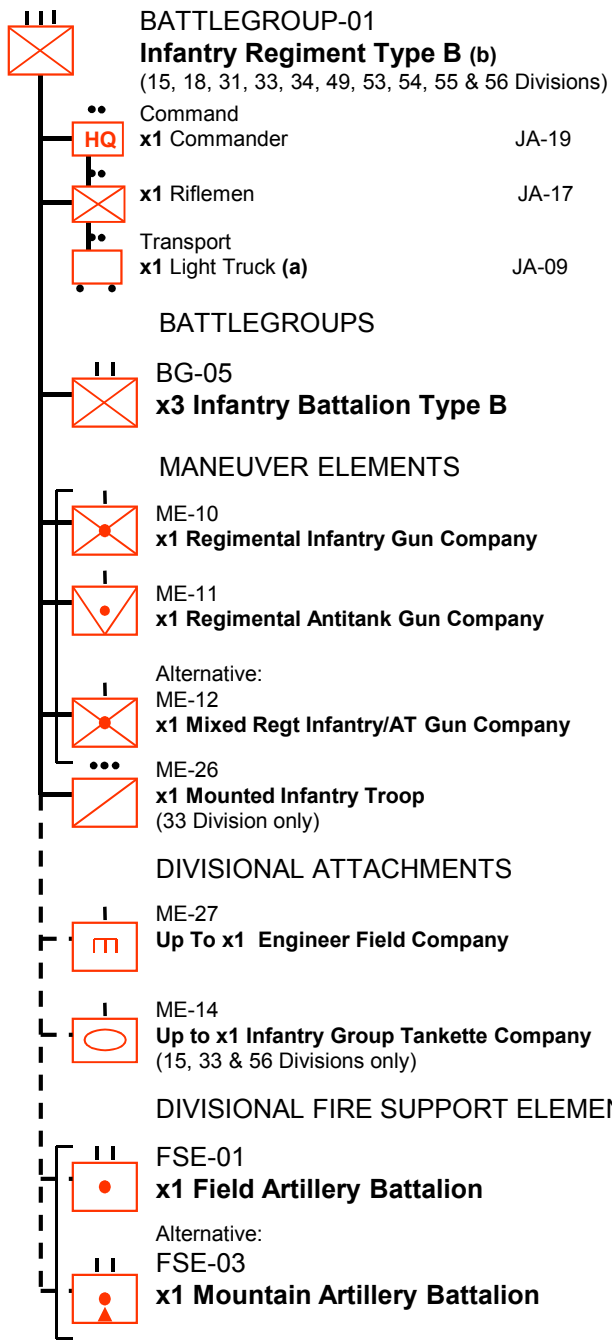
N.B. A Japanese 'Army' was the equivalent of an Allied Corps, while an 'Area Army' was the equivalent of an Allied Army.

# Japanese Order Of Battle – Burma, March 1944



# Japanese Order Of Battle – Burma, March 1945



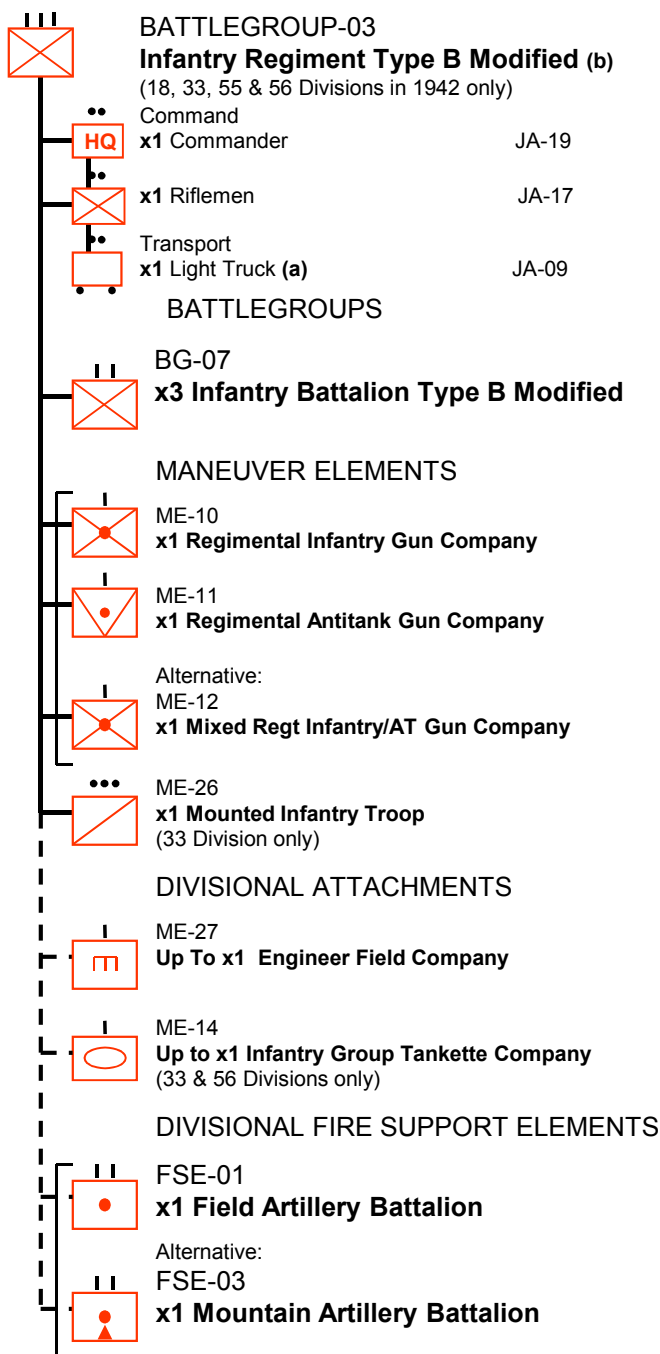


(a) The truck would be discarded in jungle or mountainous terrain. Alternatively, may exchange for:  
 Mounted Infantry JA-P10

(b) Three regiments per division.

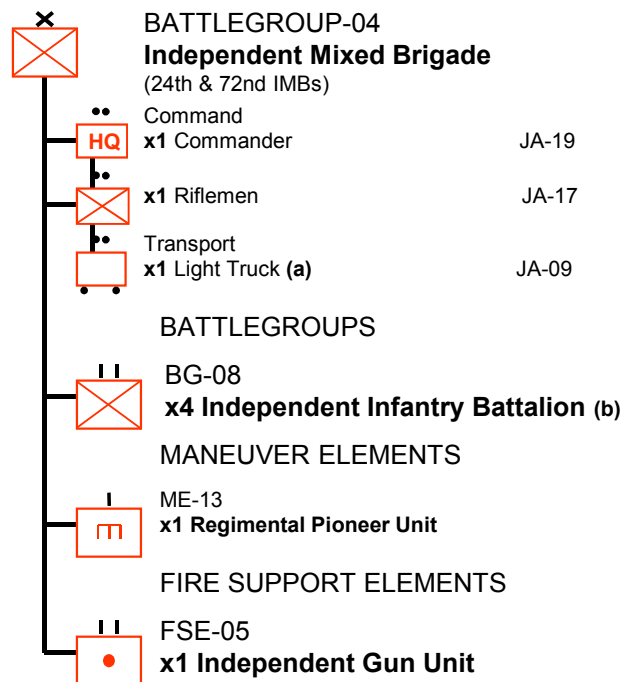
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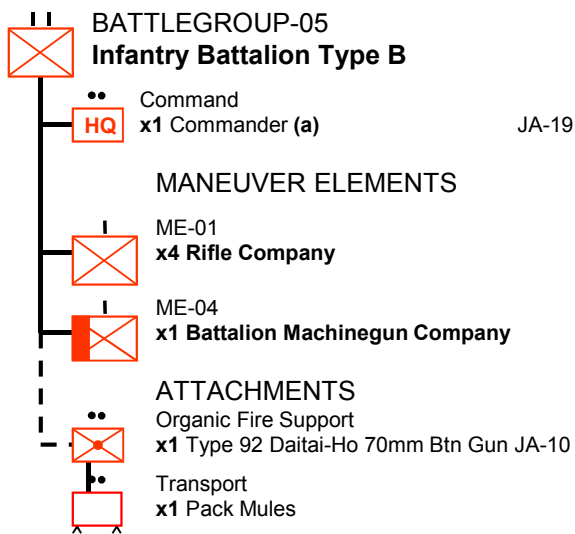
(a) The truck would be discarded in jungle or mountainous terrain. Alternatively, may exchange for:  
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(b) Three regiments per division.

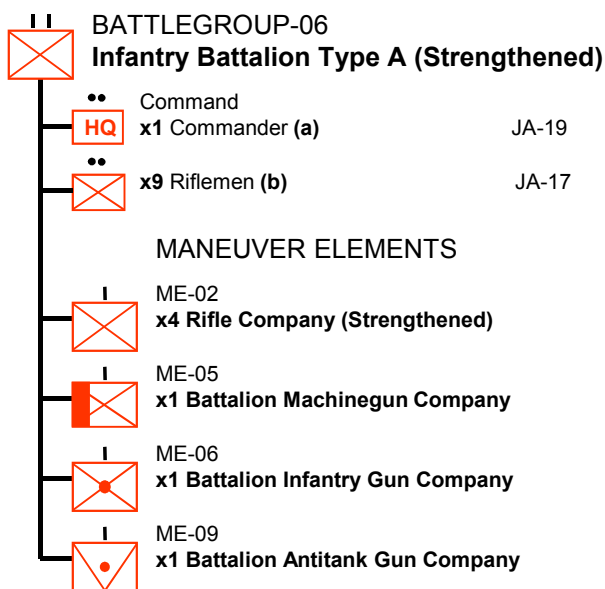
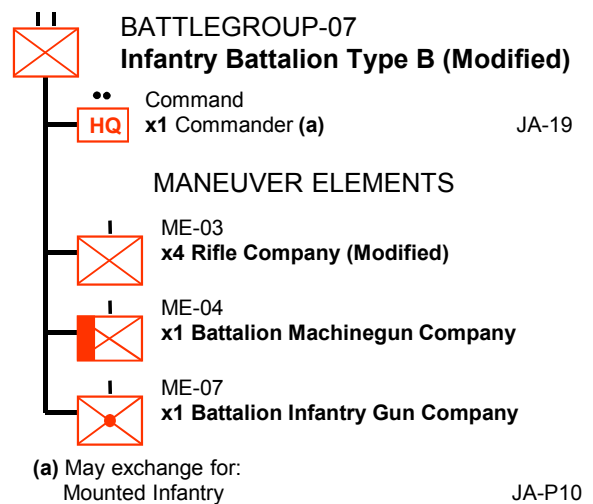


(a) The truck would be discarded in jungle or mountainous terrain. Alternatively, may exchange for:  
 Mounted Infantry JA-P10

(b) The number of Independent Infantry Battalions in an Independent Mixed Brigade could vary from x3 to x6. In IMBs with 5-6 battalions, the battalions tended to be weaker with only three rifle companies each. The two IMBs in Burma (24th & 72nd) both had x4 four-company battalions. In other theatres, IMBs could also contain diverse elements such as Tankette Companies, Antiaircraft Companies and mortars in lieu of guns, but this does not seem to have been the case in Burma.

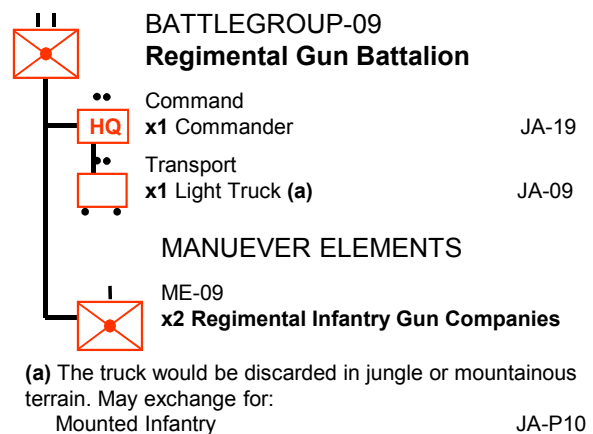
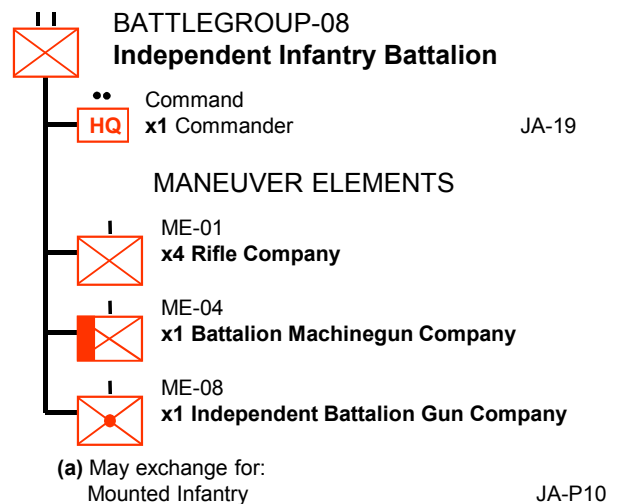


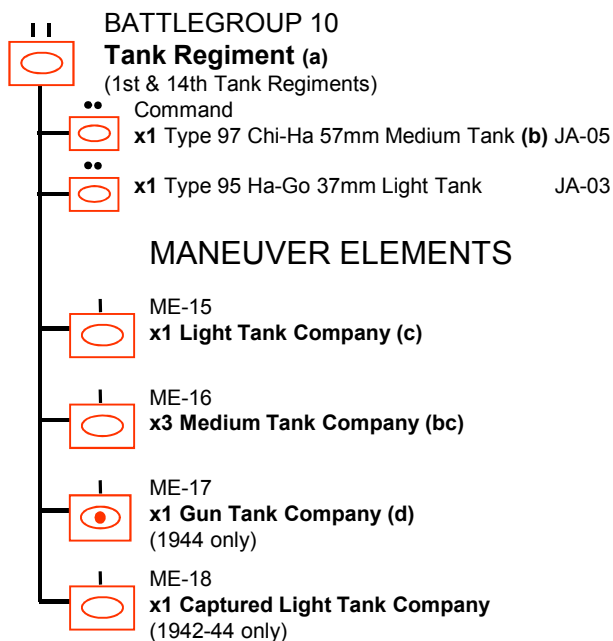
(a) May exchange for:  
Mounted Infantry JA-P10



(a) May exchange for:  
Mounted Infantry JA-P10

(b) The 'Strengthened' organisation had a very strong HQ defence element.





(a) Japanese tank forces involved in the initial invasion of Burma were extremely light: 1st (Light Tank) Company of 2nd Tank Regiment marched into Burma from Malaya on its tracks – only a single reinforced platoon made it into action (x2 models) and this was lost in action against the British 7th Armoured Brigade at Pegu. In April 1942 1st and 14th Tank Regiments arrived with the reinforcement wave which landed at Rangoon. The 1st were withdrawn sometime after the conquest of Burma, while the 14th were used again offensively in 1944, alongside 33rd Division against Imphal. However, the regiment was destroyed at Imphal, but was partially rebuilt and fought again during the defence of Mandalay in 1945.

(b) There is serious difference of opinion in various sources as to what tank types were operated by the Medium Tank Companies of 14th Tank Regiment during the invasion of Burma in 1942. During the invasion of Malaya, the 14th Tank Regiment had its 'Medium' Tank Companies filled with Type 95 Ha-Go Light Tanks due to a lack of Type 97 Chi-Ha Mediums. According to Rottman, the regiment kept this organisation when it was sent to Burma. However, Lyall and Tamayama declare that the regiment had received its Type 97 Chi-Ha Mediums. To muddy the waters even further, an accompanying photo, purporting to show these tanks at Lashio in 1942 actually shows Type 94 Mediums (a slightly improved version of the Type 89 Yi-Go)! So depending on which source you believe, the command Type 97 Chi Ha Medium Tank may be replaced with:

Type 95 Ha-Go 37mm Light Tank JA-03

Alternative:

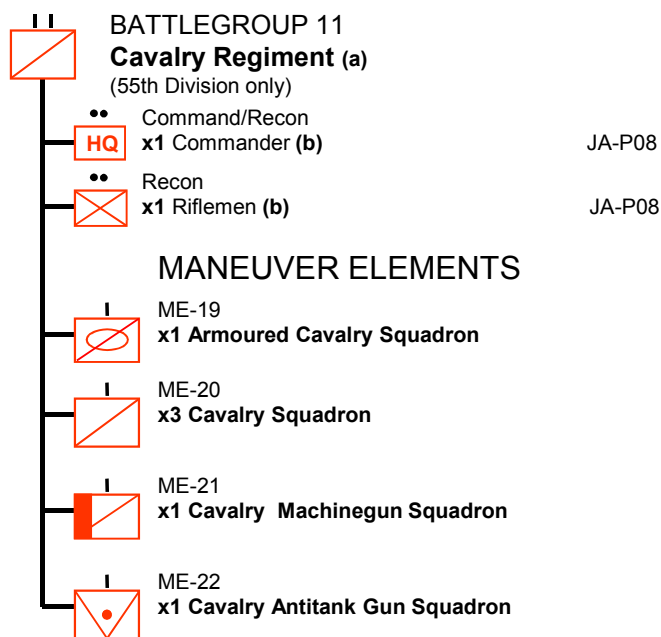
Type 89 Yi-Go 57mm Medium Tank JA-04

However, whatever the type used in 1942, these tanks were replaced in 1943 with:

Type 97 Shinoto Chi-Ha 47mm Medium Tank JA-06

(c) In 1945, the 14th Tank Regiment was reconstructed with x1 Light Company and x2 Medium Companies. All were sorely under strength (see ME-14 and ME-15).

(d) The new Gun Tank Company was meant to be formed of 75mm-armed Type 2 Hi-I Gun Tanks (card JA-P28). However, production of these tanks was painfully slow and most regiments, including the 14th Tank Regiment in Burma, instead received Ho-Ni I Self-Propelled 75mm Guns.



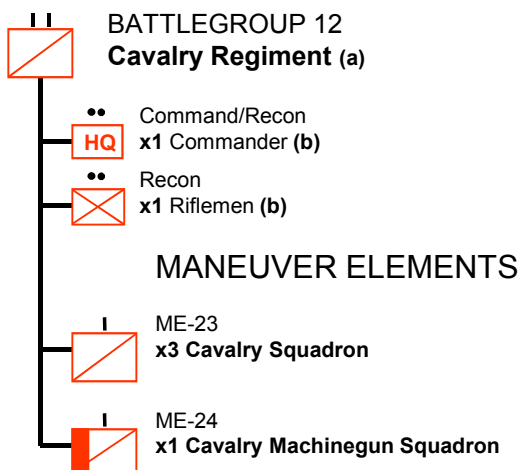
(a) 55th Cavalry Regiment was the only such unit in Burma. However, it never fought as a unified regiment as the Armoured Squadron, one of one of the Cavalry Squadrons and a section each of MGs and antitank guns, were sent to Guam in 1941 with the 55th Infantry Group HQ, the 144th Infantry Regiment and other divisional elements. The Armoured Squadron eventually returned to the division later in 1942, though remained directly attached to 55th Division HQ as an independent Tankette Squadron, and never returned to the regiment. The 55th Cavalry Regiment (now consisting of two Squadrons, plus the MGs and antitank guns) was sent to the dense jungles of the Kaladan Valley in January 1944 and was consequently dismounted, with mules being re-allocated to the MGs and antitank guns.

(b) When mounted, replace with:

Cavalry

JA-P08

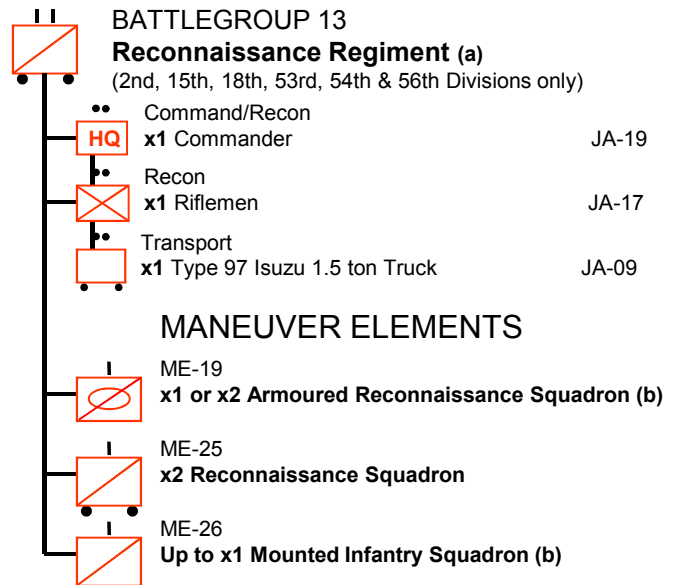
From March 1942 to December 1943, delete Cavalry option and add:  
 x1 Captured British Truck use JA-09



(a) The evidence for a mounted cavalry regiment being present in Burma is scant, though one source suggests that 18th Division had the 12th Cavalry Regiment under command for a time in 1942. 18th Division was a 'Square' Division (i.e. consisting of four Infantry Regiments) until early 1942, when it was converted to a 'Triangular' Type B Division just prior to being embarked for Burma as part of the Phase 2 reinforcement wave in April 1942. As a Square Division, it had 22nd Motorised Cavalry Battalion (a relatively weak organisation, not covered by these TO&Es), but this was disbanded during the division's reorganisation. I can find no corroborating evidence for the 12th Cavalry Regiment being present with the Phase 2 reinforcements landed at Rangoon, though it is possible that this regiment might have been a late arrival, fighting against Chinese forces later in 1942. Personally however, I believe that the source has mis-identified or mis-translated the designation of the partly-horsed 12th Transport Regiment as '12th Cavalry Regiment'. Nevertheless, I have included this TO&E here, as it may be of interest, as such Cavalry Regiments fought extensively in China and Manchuria. The 18th Reconnaissance Regiment was created in 1943 (using the BG-13 TO&E) and served as the 18th Division's eyes and ears from that point forth.

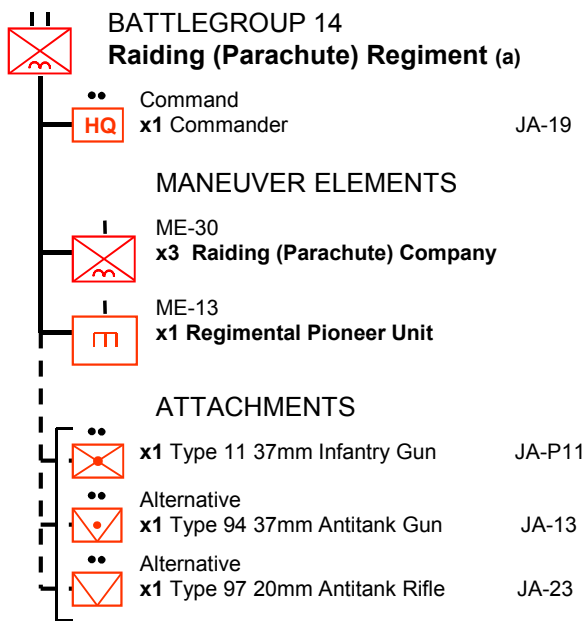
(b) When mounted, replace these units with:  
Cavalry

JA-P08



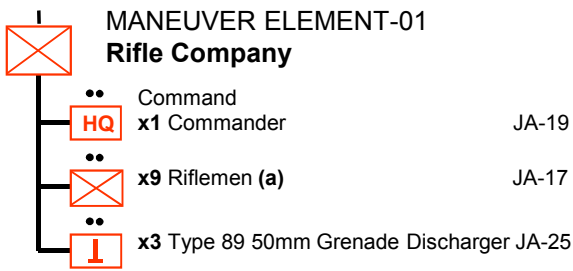
(a) 2nd, 18th, 53rd, 54th & 56th Divisions are known to have possessed a Reconnaissance Regiment in Burma. 18th Division only had a Reconnaissance Regiment from 1943. 15th Division had only a single Motorised Reconnaissance Squadron. Of the other divisions in Burma, 55th Division had a Cavalry Regiment (see BG-11) and 33rd Division had a number of Mounted Infantry Troops, while 31st Division had no recon element at all. Information on 49th Division is scant, but like 31st Division, it does not appear to have had a recon element.

(b) Some regiments (such as 2nd and 56th Recce Regiments) converted their Mounted Infantry Squadron (ME-26) into a second Armoured Recce Squadron (ME-19). This second Armoured Recce Squadron had armoured cars rather than tracked vehicles – this is confirmed for 2nd & 56th Recce Regiments. A regiment may not have a Mounted Infantry Squadron AND two Armoured Squadrons. There is also a US photo purporting to show a Type 89 Medium tank belonging to 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment.

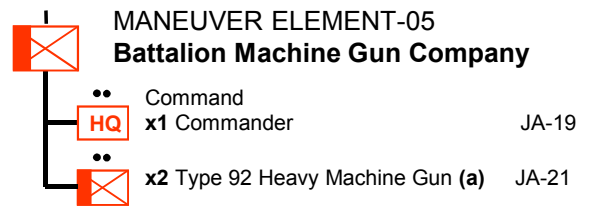


(a) In late March 1942, the Japanese air forces in Burma, having already largely achieved air superiority, briefly switched their efforts away from tactical air support of the ground forces and instead concentrated on a swift but heavy offensive counter-air programme. They quickly achieved air supremacy over the previously-troublesome (but weak) RAF forces in Burma and the 'Flying Tigers' of Chennault's American Volunteer Group. This had three major strategic effects: 1. The Japanese 15th Army was now able to move ground forces freely in the open by day without fear of air attack or observation. 2. The Phase 2 reinforcements were now able to land at Rangoon without fear of air attack (the IJN had launched a diversionary sortie into the Indian Ocean to deal with the Royal Naval threat to the troop convoys). 3. The Japanese air forces now had a completely free hand to launch whatever air operations they desired over Burma, including a planned drop by parachute forces onto the major strategic hub and Chinese stronghold of Lashio (the gateway to the 'Burma Road' – the main supply route to China). The Imperial Japanese Army's 1st Raiding Regiment was readied for the task and the mission was launched in April 1942. However, operations on the ground rapidly overtook events and the necessity for the drop suddenly evaporated. The 1st Raiding Regiment's drop was cancelled en route to Lashio and they returned to base. The Japanese never again attempted an airborne operation in Burma and no Japanese airborne units ever fought in Burma. Nevertheless, the planned drop on Lashio does make for an interesting campaign 'what-if' and consequently I have included this battlegroup in the TO&Es.





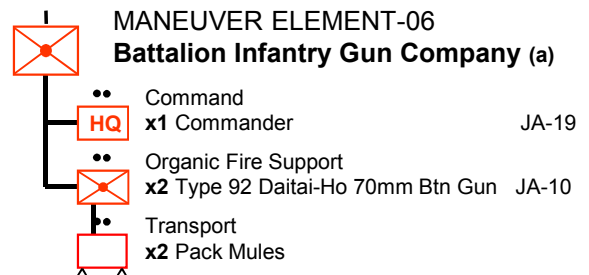
(a) May replace up to x3 Riflemen with:  
Type 99 Antitank Mine Unit JA-23



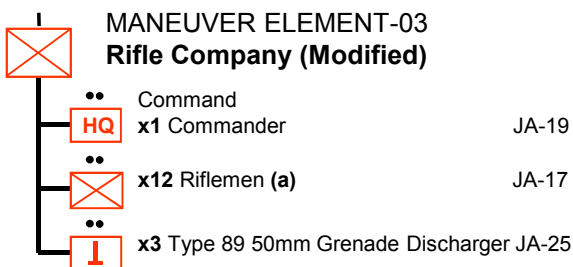
(a) Some or all HMGs in the Machine Gun Company may be directly attached to the battalion's Rifle companies. Note that this organisation is weak because the battalion's Rifle Companies in a Type A Division all contained their own organic HMG section.



(a) May replace up to x3 Riflemen with:  
Type 99 Antitank Mine Unit JA-23



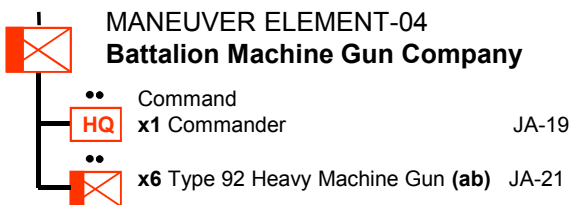
(a) The company may alternatively be split up as individual attachments to the battalion's Rifle Companies or Headquarters Element.



(a) May replace up to x3 Riflemen with:  
Type 99 Antitank Mine Unit JA-23

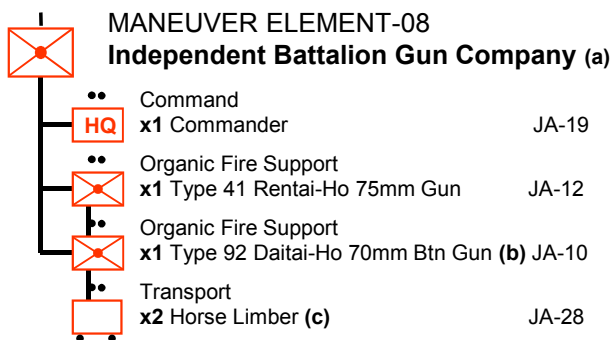


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(a) Some or all HMGs in the Machine Gun Company may be directly attached to the battalion's Rifle companies.

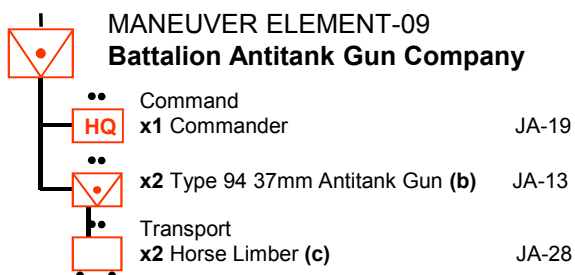
(b) Some units operated at a slightly weaker strength:  
x4 Type 92 Heavy Machine Gun JA-21



(a) The company may alternatively be split up as individual attachments to the battalion's Rifle Companies or Headquarters Element.

(b) May replace Type 92 70mm Daitai-Ho with:  
 Type 94 37mm Antitank Gun JA-13  
 Or from 1944 with:  
 Type 01 47mm Antitank Gun JA-14

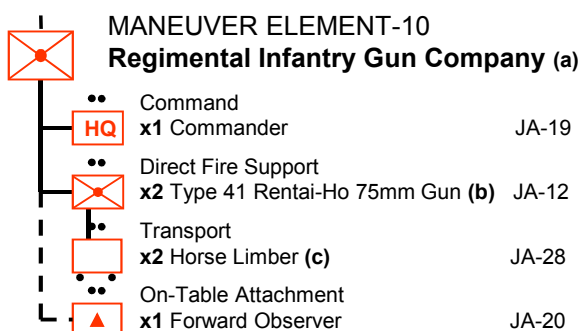
(c) May replace limbers with:  
 Pack Mule



(a) The company may alternatively be split up as individual attachments to the battalion's Rifle Companies or Headquarters Element.

(b) From 1944: May replace Type 94 37mm Antitank Guns with:  
 Type 01 47mm Antitank Gun JA-14

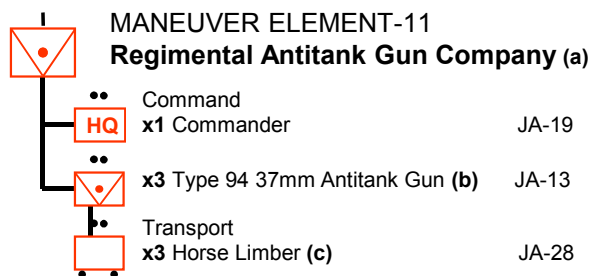
(c) May replace limbers with:  
 Pack Mule



(a) The company may alternatively be split up as individual attachments to the Regiment's infantry battalions.

(b) May replace Type 41 Rentai-Ho (particularly from late 1944) with:  
 Type 97/99 81mm Mortar JA-26

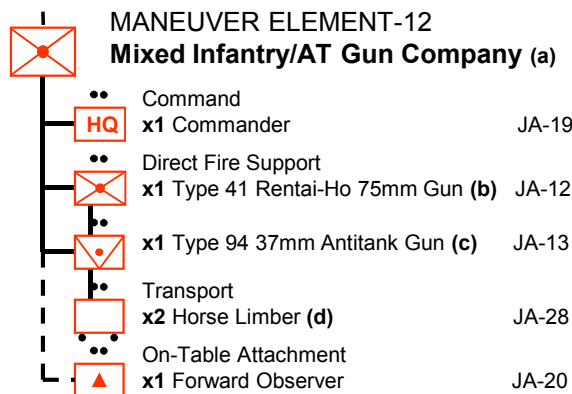
(c) May replace limbers with:  
 Pack Mule



(a) The company may alternatively be split up as individual attachments to the Regiment's infantry battalions. Note that additional Antitank Companies could also be attached from Independent Antitank Regiments at army level.

(b) From 1944: May replace Type 94 37mm Antitank Guns with:  
 Type 01 47mm Antitank Gun JA-14

(c) May replace limbers with:  
 Pack Mule

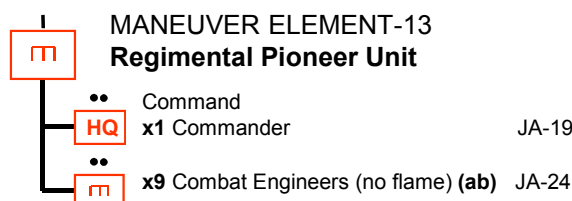


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(b) May replace Type 41 Rentai-Ho (particularly from late 1944) with:  
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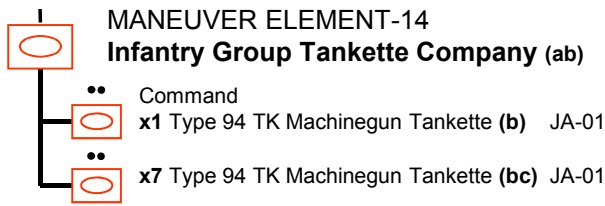
(c) From 1944: May replace Type 94 37mm Antitank Gun with:  
 Type 01 47mm Antitank Gun JA-14

(d) May replace limbers with:  
 Pack Mule



(a) May replace some or all Combat Engineers with:  
 Type 99 Antitank Mine Unit JA-23

(b) Parachute Raiding Regiment: add 3 flamethrowers.



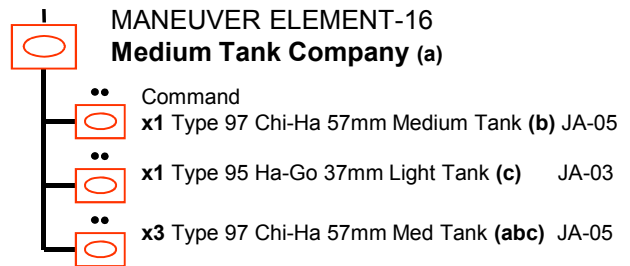
(a) The company may alternatively be split up into four platoon-sized maneuver elements, each of **x2** Tankettes, as direct attachments to the division's Infantry Regiments. Designate one tank in the platoon as the commander.

(b) Type 94 TK Tankettes seem to have been extremely rare in Burma, though common elsewhere. One source suggests that they might not have been deployed to Burma at all. The tankettes may therefore be replaced with:

Type 97 Te-Ke 37mm Tankette JA-02

(c) April to May 1942, in 33rd & 56th Divisions only, may replace up to **x2** Tankettes with tanks captured from the British 7th Armoured Brigade:

Stuart I 37mm Light Tank use 14A-02



(a) The company may alternatively be split up into three platoon-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** tanks, as direct attachments to BGs or MEs.

(b) In 14th Tank Regiment in 1942: replace Type 97 Chi-Ha 57mm Medium Tanks with:

Type 95 Ha-Go 37mm Light Tank JA-03

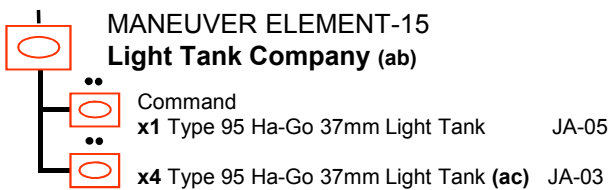
Alternative (see notes for BG-10):

Type 89/94 Yi-Go 57mm Medium Tank JA-04

In 1943: replace these tanks with:

Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha 47mm Medium Tank JA-06

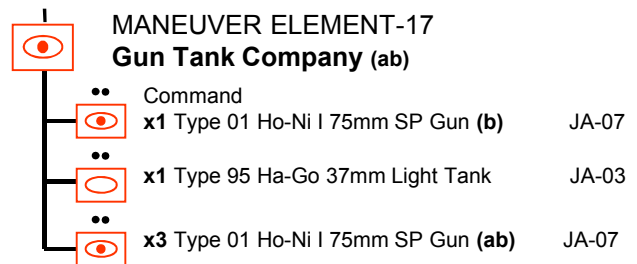
(c) In the reconstructed 14th Tank Regiment in 1945: Delete the Type 95 Ha-Go Light Tank and reduce to **x2** Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha Medium Tank.



(a) The company may alternatively be split up into four platoon-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** tank, as direct attachments to BGs or MEs.

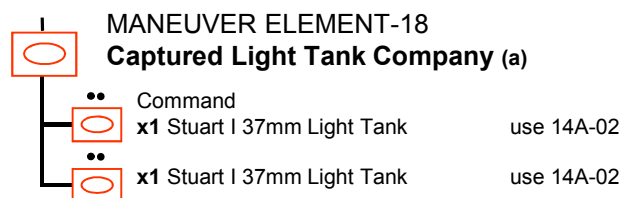
(b) February to March 1942: The only Japanese armoured unit in Burma was the understrength 1st Company, 2nd Tank Regiment, which marched into Burma from Thailand with 33rd Division on its own tracks (losing most of its tanks to breakdowns). By the time it first got into action at Pegu on 6/7 March 1942, it consisted of **x2** Type 95 Ha-Go 37mm Light Tanks. Designate one tank as the commander.

(c) In the reconstructed 14th Tank Regiment in 1945: Reduce to **x3** Type 95 Ha-Go Light Tank.

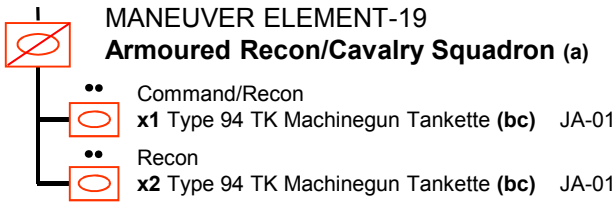


(a) The company may alternatively be split up into three platoon-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Ho-Ni, as direct attachments to BGs or MEs.

(b) The new Gun Tank Company was meant to be formed of 75mm-armed Type 2 Ho-I Gun Tanks (card JA-P28). However, production of these tanks was painfully slow and most regiments, including the 14th Tank Regiment in Burma, instead received Ho-Ni I Self-Propelled 75mm Guns.



(a) These were mainly captured from 7th Armoured Brigade in 1942, though the company had also acquired one Lee Medium Tank during the early days of the Battle of Imphal (though sadly not enough to warrant a Lee model).

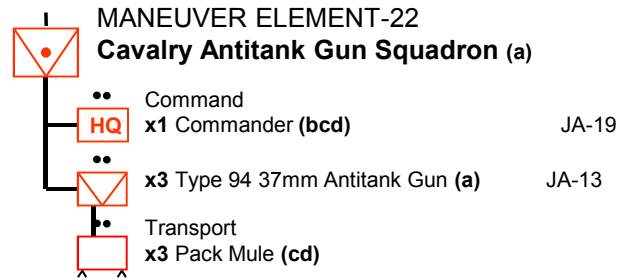


(a) The company may alternatively be split up into three platoon-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Tankette, as direct attachments to the division's Infantry Regiments.

(b) The tankettes may be replaced with:  
 Type 97 Te-Ke 37mm Tankette JA-02  
 Type 95 Ha-Go 37mm Light Tank JA-03

Or in 2nd Division with:  
 Type 89 Yi-Go 57mm Medium Tank JA-04

(c) In those regiments with second Armoured Recon Squadrons, replace all tankettes in the second squadron with:  
 Type 92 Machinegun Armoured Car JA-P12

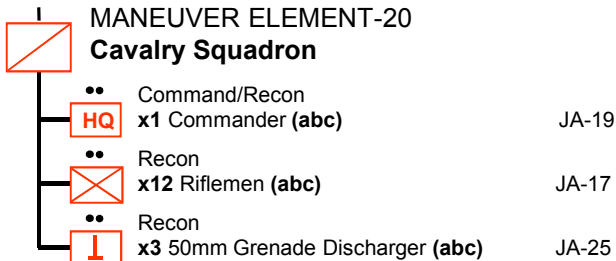


(a) The squadron may be split up as individual section attachments to the Cavalry Squadrons. Note that one of 55th Cavalry Regiment's AT sections was not present in Burma.

(b) February 1942: When mounted, replace Commander's transport with:  
 Cavalry JA-P08

(c) March 1942 to December 1943: Delete Mule/Horse transport and add:  
**x3 Captured British Trucks** use JA-09

(d) From January 1944: Delete trucks and return the Mule transport to the MGs. The Commander has no transport.



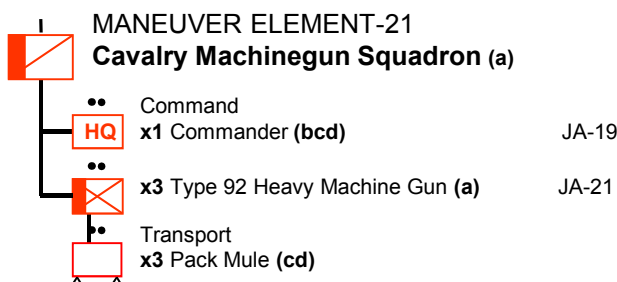
(a) February 1942: When mounted, replace with:  
 Cavalry JA-P08

(b) From March 1942: Delete Cavalry option and add:  
**x7 Captured British Trucks** use JA-09

(c) From January 1944: No horsed or motorised transport.



(a) When mounted, these units may be exchanged for:  
 Cavalry JA-P08

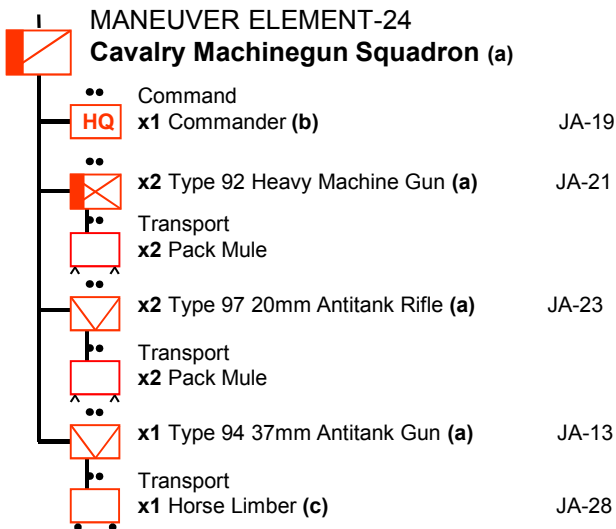


(a) The squadron may be split up as individual section attachments to the Cavalry Squadrons. Note that one of 55th Cavalry Regiment's MG sections was not present in Burma.

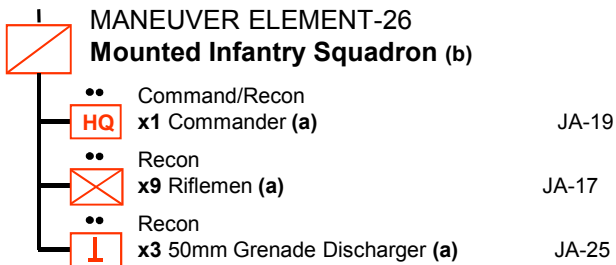
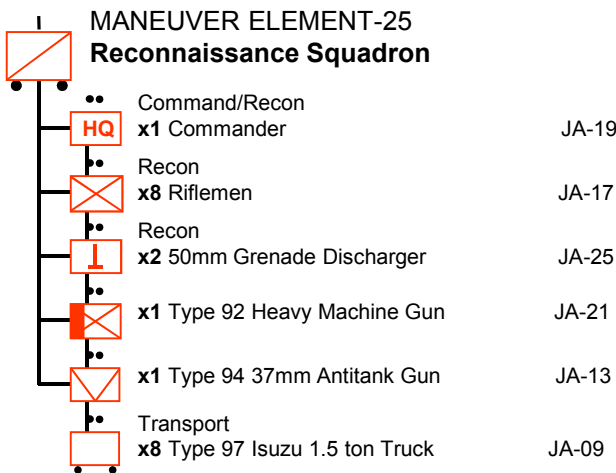
(b) February 1942: When mounted, replace Commander's transport with:  
 Cavalry JA-P08

(c) March 1942 to December 1943: Delete Mule/Horse transport and add:  
**x3 Captured British Trucks** use JA-09

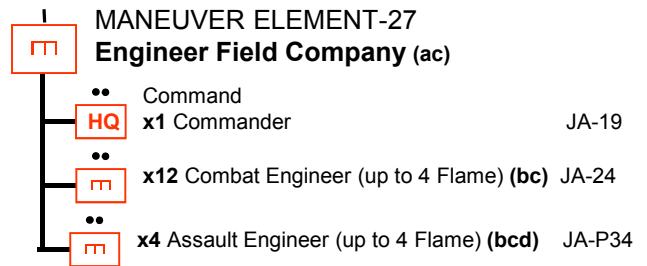
(d) From January 1944: Delete trucks and return the Mule transport to the MGs. The Commander has no transport.



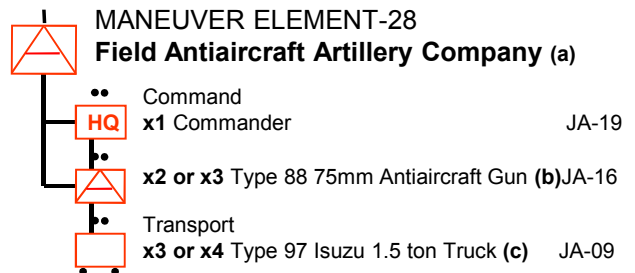
- (a) The squadron may be split up as individual section attachments to the Cavalry Squadrons.
- (b) When mounted, the Commander may be exchanged for:  
 Cavalry JA-P08
- (c) May exchange limber for:  
 Pack Mule



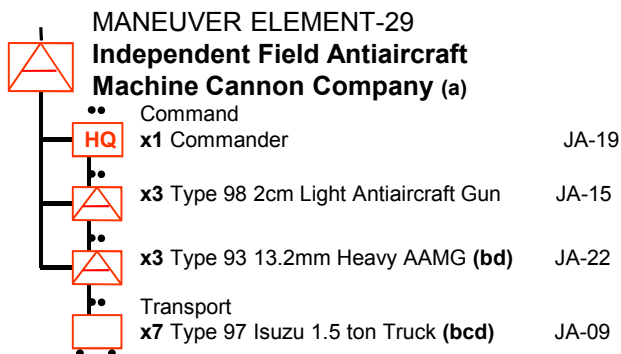
- (a) When mounted, these units may be exchanged for:  
 Mounted Infantry JA-P10
- (b) 33rd Division had a Mounted Infantry Troop (i.e. Platoon) attached to Divisional HQ and to each of its three Infantry Regiment HQs. Each Troop consists of **x4** Mounted Infantry (**x3** Riflemen & **x1** Grenade Discharger). Designate one unit in the Troop as the Troop Commander.



- (a) There were three companies in the divisional Engineer Regiment, which would usually be split between the three Infantry Regiments in the division. The Engineer Regiment also had a Bridging Company. Additionally, there would normally be one or two Independent Engineer Regiments at Army level, which could also supply engineering support.
- (b) May exchange some or all Combat or Assault Engineers for:  
 Type 99 Antitank Mine Unit JA-23
- (c) The Company may be divided up into platoon-sized attachments, each of **x3** Combat Engineers and **x1** Assault Engineers.
- (d) The Assault Section in each Engineer Platoon had 2x LMGs, while the 'normal' Combat Engineer Sections had no LMG.



- (a) Field Antiaircraft Battalions (each of three companies) and Independent Field Antiaircraft Artillery Companies were held at Army and Area Army level and would be allocated down to divisions and other units. One such unit was used April-May 1942; primarily in the anti-tank role.
- (b) Independent Companies may only have **x2** guns, while companies belonging to AA Battalions may have **x2** or **x3** guns, depending on the classification of the battalion.
- (c) Some units only had partial mobility, in which case reduce the number of trucks or delete them altogether. The remaining trucks would be swapped between companies/guns, as required.

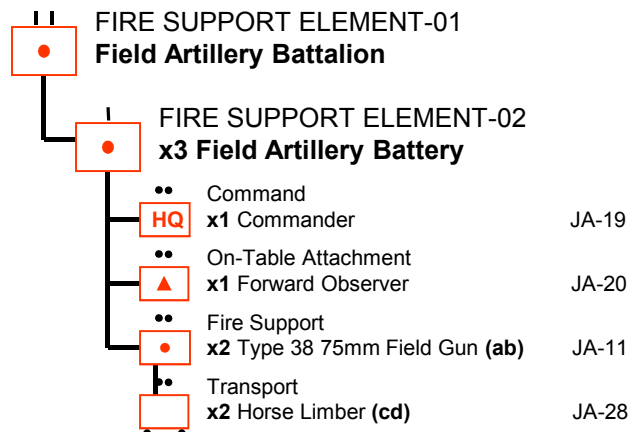


(a) Independent Field Antiaircraft Machine Cannon Companies were held at Army and Area Army level and would be allocated down to divisions and other units.

(b) Some lower-grade companies did not have the 13.2mm AAMGs, in which case delete them and their transport.

(c) Some units only had partial mobility, in which case reduce the number of trucks or delete them altogether. The remaining trucks would be swapped between companies/guns, as required.

(d) In some units, the trucks were fitted with AA mountings, to enable the 13.2mm AAMGs to fire while mounted.



(a) 53rd & 54th Divisions had one battalion equipped with Type 91 105mm Howitzers, while 2nd Division had one battalion equipped with Type 96 150mm Howitzers.

(b) At least one motorised division in Burma (probably 18th Division and maybe also 56th Division) replaced their Type 38 75mm Field Guns with the very effective Type 90 75mm Field Gun. In 1945 these were frequently used in the anti-tank role. May therefore replace Type 98 Field Guns with:

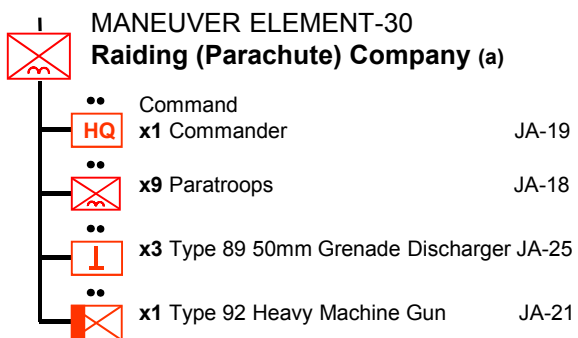
Type 90 75mm Field Gun JA-P33

(c) Very few formations had motor transport for their artillery, but two such formations were 18th and 56th Divisions. In which case, replace limbers with:

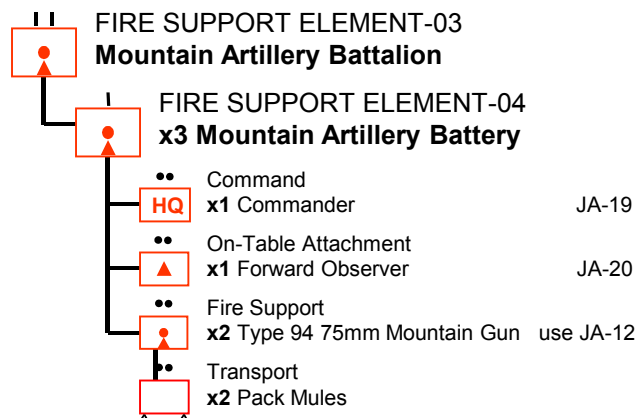
Type 97 Isuzu 1.5 ton Truck JA-09

(d) From the fact that some examples were captured, we know that at least one unit in Burma was using armoured tractors (probably from 18th or 56th Division). May therefore replace transport with:

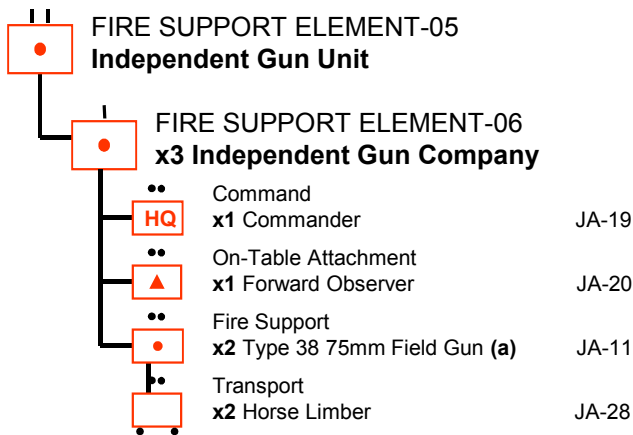
Type 98 So-Da Armoured Prime Mover JA-24



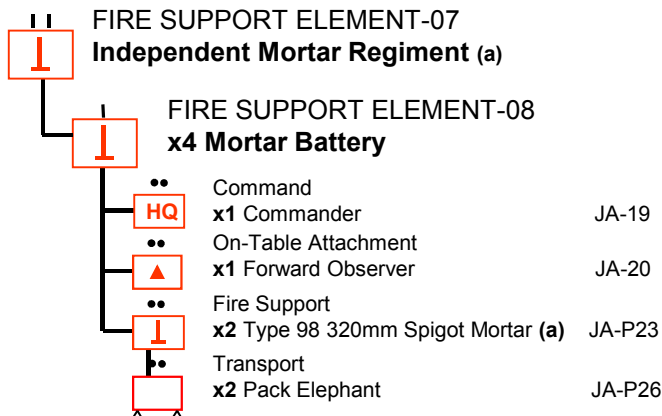
(a) In actual Japanese airborne operations such as those on Borneo and Sumatra, the 'dropped' strength of the Raiding Regiments was usually considerably less than the 'paper' strength. However, they always caused a level of havoc that was greatly out of proportion to their actual numbers, so for that reason alone, a scenario designer could feel justified in using the full company organisation shown here.



(a) 55th Division had one battalion in its Mountain Artillery Regiment equipped with Type 91 105mm Howitzers. Use FSE-01 for this unit.

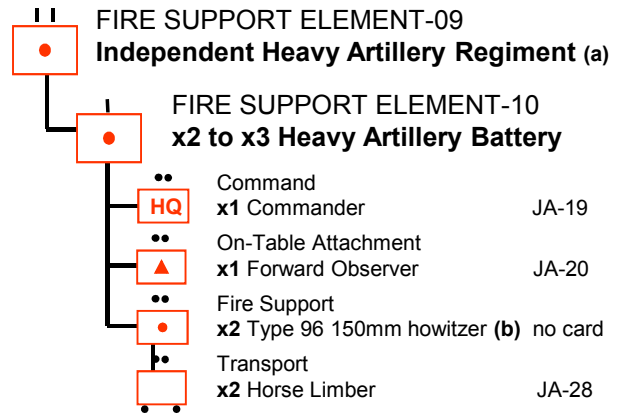


(a) In some units, may replace 75mm guns with:  
Type 97/99 81mm Mortar JA-26  
Type 94/97 90mm Mortar JA-27



(a) While I haven't found any direct references to a full Mortar Regiment in Burma, one battery of 320mm Spigot Mortars was definitely present at Imphal in 1944.

(b) Most Independent Mortar Regiments in the IJA used conventional mortars in 90mm calibre. I've no evidence for these being used in Burma, but as an option, the x2 320mm Spigot Mortars in each battery may be replaced by:  
x6 Type 94/97 90mm Mortar JA-27  
(Replace Elephant transport with x6 Pack Mules)



(a) Heavy Artillery Regiments were Army and Area Army-level units. In 1942 there was one Heavy Regiment equipped with 150mm howitzers and a Mixed Heavy Regiment equipped with one battery each of 105mm and 150mm. Other Heavy Regiments were added later, including one equipped solely with 105mm Howitzers. Type 45 240mm Howitzers were also used elsewhere, but not in Burma. Note that these regiments were often allocated as individual batteries or even as individual guns.

(b) May replace one or all batteries with:  
Type 91 105mm Howitzer no card

#### General Note on Japanese Artillery in Burma:

For offensive operations, such as the initial invasion of Burma in 1942 and Operation U-Go in 1944 ('The March On Delhi'), the divisions involved in the operation (33rd and 55th in 1942 and 15th, 31st and 33rd in 1944) were placed on a 'Light Scale'. This meant stripping the infantry regiments of much of their heavy regimental support weaponry (such as 75mm Regimental Guns and antitank guns) and reducing the divisional artillery complement to roughly x1 model gun per Battery.

For example, in February 1942, only one Antitank Gun Company was taken in the Phase 1 operation and the artillery batteries were reduced to half strength, while the 105mm guns were left behind. These missing guns caught up with their divisions when the Phase 2 reinforcements were landed at Rangoon in April 1942.

55th Division is known to have at least partially offset the loss of guns with captured 3-inch mortars in 1942, but it is not known what units used these captured weapons and at what level.

#### General Note on Japanese Army Air Support in Burma:

In 1942, the mainstay of close air support for the Army in Burma was the Mitsubishi Ki-30 'Ann' Type 97 Army Assault Plane (JA-P32). However, these were withdrawn at the end of 1942.

There was a single *chutai* of the more modern Mitsubishi Ki-51 'Sonia' Type Type 99 Army Assault Plane (JA-29) in Burma throughout the war, but these were used for tactical reconnaissance and liaison rather than close air support.

After the withdrawal of the Ki-30 'Ann', some fighter *Sentai* in Burma equipped with Nakajima Ki-43 *Hayabusa* ('Oscar') Type 1 Army Fighters (JA-P30) were given the secondary role of ground-attack and their Oscars were fitted with bomb-racks. These provided the bulk of close air support work in Burma from 1942-45.

However, some heavier aircraft, such as Ki-48 *Sokei* ('Lily') Army Twin Light Bombers, were also sometimes assigned to close air support work.