

BATTLEFRONT: WWII

British & Commonwealth TO&Es v1.0

III Indian Corps

8th December 1941 to 15th February 1942

(The Fall Of Malaya and Singapore)

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 Imperial and Commonwealth forces in Malaya and Singapore 1941-1942. 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.

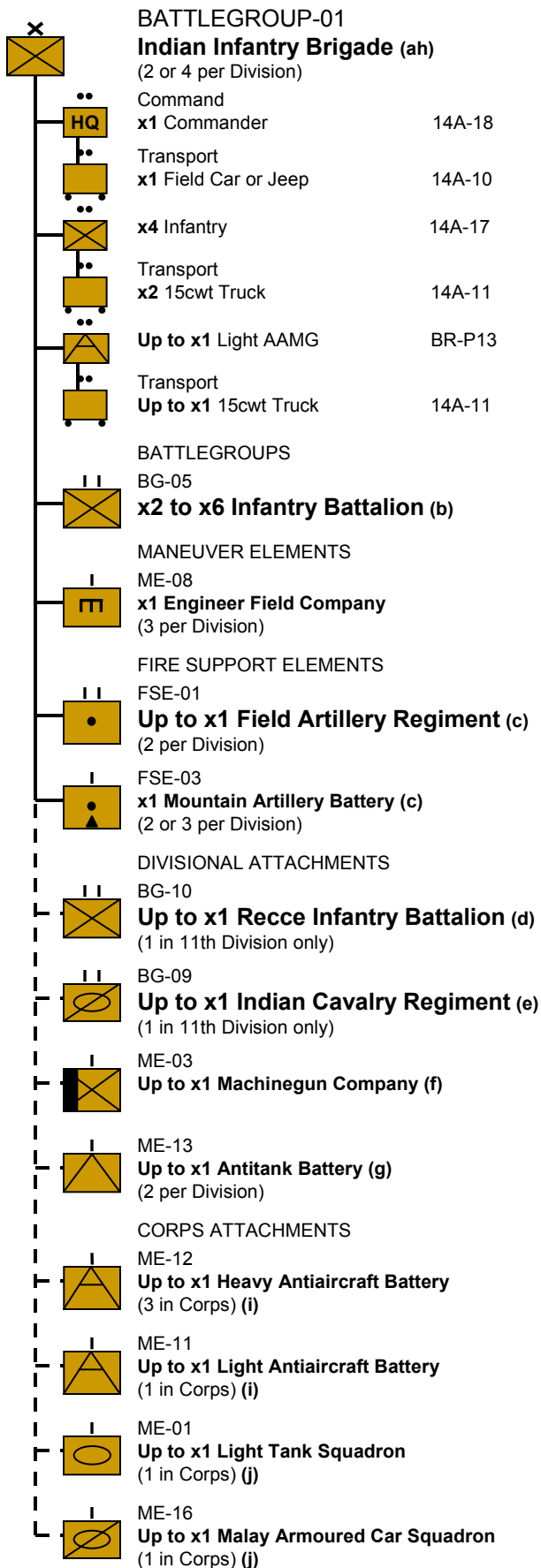
These TO&Es are intended to complement the forthcoming **Battlefront: WWII Far East & Pacific Card Supplement** and incorporate the new unit card numbers (these start with '14A-' for British Imperial and 'AU-' for Australian). However, it is possible to find the occasional vehicle here that is not covered by the new supplement. Units marked 'BR-' may be found in the **Late War Supplement** and the **Blitzkrieg Supplement**, while units marked '8A-' may be found in the forthcoming **Desert War Supplement** and 'BR-P' can be found in the Prototype Card Database on the website Extras Page.

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.

British Imperial & Commonwealth Forces In Malaya and Singapore 1941-42

These TO&Es cover the period from the Japanese invasion of Malaya on 8th December 1941, to the surrender of the Singapore Garrison on 15th February 1942. Although these TO&Es largely cover the field forces of III Indian Corps in Malaya (9th Indian Division, 11th Indian Division and 8th Australian Division), there are also some higher-level elements from the Singapore Garrison that directly supported the corps in the field. There were many more artillery (mostly coastal and heavy antiaircraft artillery), garrison, rear-echelon security and militia formations that were present in Singapore, but the wargames potential for these is extremely limited. There was also the British 18th Infantry Division, which had only just arrived in Singapore when the garrison surrendered and is therefore not included in this TO&E apart from the 53rd Brigade, which arrived earlier and fought with 11th Indian Division from late January 1941.

III Indian Corps Battlegroups 01



(a) There were **8x** Indian Infantry Brigades in III Indian Corps:
 8th Indian Brigade (9th Indian Division)
 22nd Indian Brigade (9th Indian Division)
 6th Indian Brigade (11th Indian Division)
 12th Indian Brigade (11th Indian Division)
 15th Indian Brigade (11th Indian Division)
 28th Indian Brigade (attached to 11th Indian Division)
 44th Indian Brigade (attached to 8th Australian Division)
 45th Indian Brigade (attached to 8th Australian Division)

(b) The Indian Brigades had the following mix of Indian, Gurkha and British battalions. All battalions were organised roughly the same, following the Indian Army's 1939 Internal Defence model:
 8th Brigade – **x4** Indian Battalions
 22nd Brigade – **x2** Indian Battalions
 6th Brigade – **x2** Indian Battalions and **x1** British Battalion
 12th Brigade – **x4** Indian Battalions
 15th Brigade – **x3** Indian Battalions and **x2** Gurkha Battalions
 28th Brigade – **x3** Indian Battalions and **x3** Gurkha Battalions
 44th Brigade – **x3** Indian Battalions
 45th Brigade – **x3** Indian Battalions

(c) 44th and 45th Brigades had no Indian or British Artillery units attached and therefore had to share Australian divisional assets (see BG-02).

(d) 11th Indian Division contained a unique formation entitled the 'Plymouth Argylls'. This was an ad hoc reconnaissance unit, formed from two understrength companies of Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and two understrength companies of Royal Marines.

(e) 11th Indian Division possessed the 3rd Indian Cavalry Regiment.

(f) The 11th Indian Division possessed a British Machinegun Battalion of four companies and would therefore easily be able to provide a company to each of its brigades. The 9th Indian and 8th Australian Divisions however, did not have an organic Machinegun Battalion, though there was an Australian Machinegun Battalion held as a Corps asset.

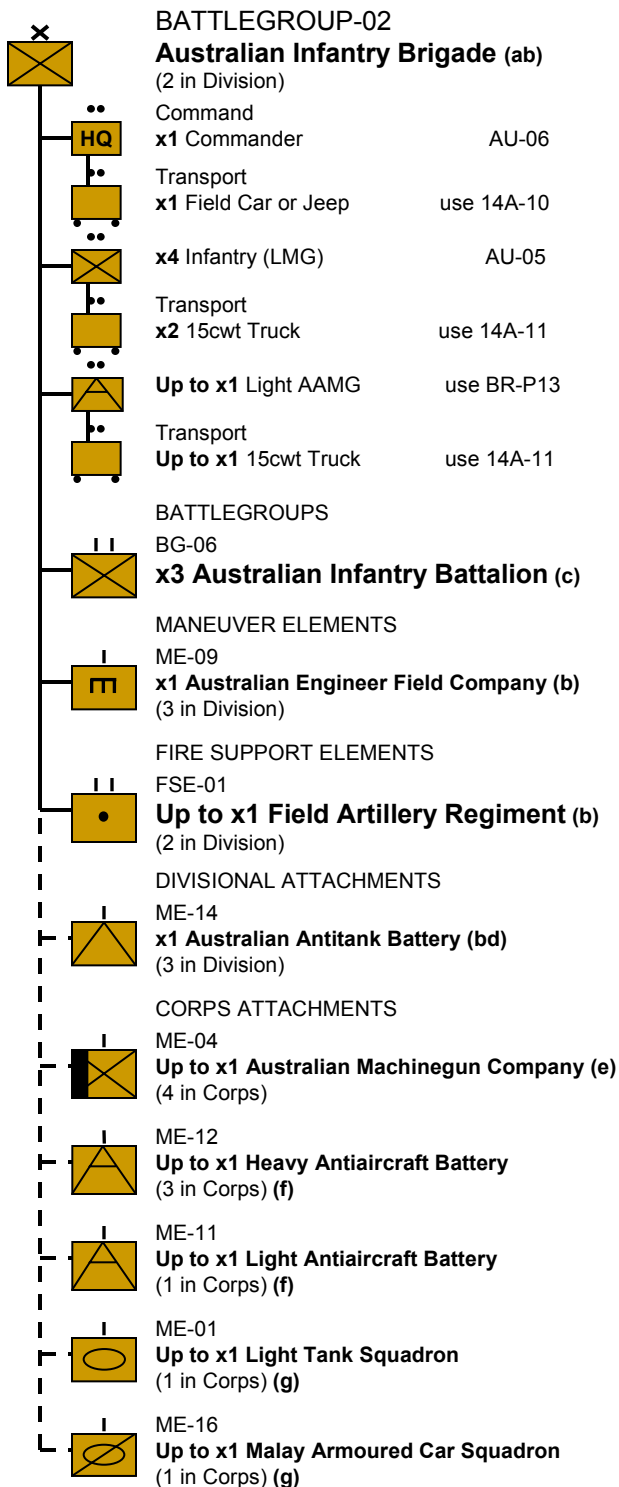
(g) 80th Antitank Regiment RA (officially part of 11th Indian Division) was split with two batteries going to each Indian Division. The 85th Antitank Regiment was also available at Singapore, with another three batteries.

(h) 11th Indian Division also gained the 53rd British Brigade from mid-January 1942. 53rd Brigade was the advanced guard of the freshly-arrived British 18th Infantry Division and was the only element of that division to see any action before the surrender. Use this BG for 53rd Brigade – **x3** Infantry Battalions, though with no organic supporting arms.

(i) The quantity of anti-aircraft guns increased considerably towards the end of the campaign as the fighting drew close to Singapore.

(j) The British 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron and the Armoured Car Squadron of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force were virtually the only armour available to III Indian Corps. Vehicles of these two units were photographed in action together (Vickers Light Tanks and Lanchester Armoured Cars, respectively), so it is possible that they fought for at least some of the campaign as a joint unit.

III Indian Corps Battlegroups 02



(a) There were **2x** Australian Infantry Brigades in III Indian Corps:
 22nd Australian Brigade (8th Australian Division)
 27th Australian Brigade (8th Australian Division)

(b) 8th Australian Division was supplemented by the largely untrained 44th and 45th Indian Brigades from 17th Indian Division (see BG-01). However, these two Indian Brigades were entirely dependant upon 8th Australian Division for supporting arms, such as artillery, antitank, etc, as the HQ, supporting arms and 46th Brigade of 17th Indian Division had been diverted to Burma. Therefore, be aware that the Fire Support Elements and Divisional Attachments shown here might have to be shared with an Indian Brigade.

(c) I have been unable to track down an organisation for Australian Infantry Battalions in Malaya. I have therefore opted for the Imperial '1939 Internal Defence' model, as used by the Indian and British battalions in Malaya and Singapore.

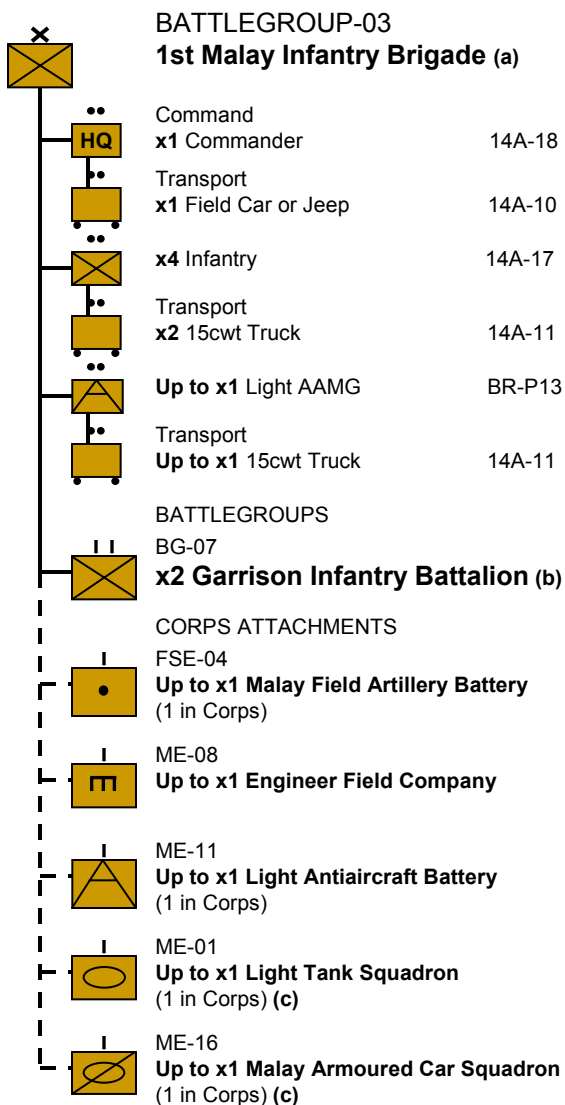
(d) The 4th Australian Antitank Regiment contained three batteries – one with 2pdrs, one with Böhler 47mm guns and another with French M1897 75mm guns. However, there was no ammunition available for the 75mm guns.

(e) There was an Australian Machinegun Battalion of four companies available as a Corps asset. Presumably this had been the 8th Division's organic asset before being elevated to Corps?

(f) The quantity of anti-aircraft guns increased considerably towards the end of the campaign as the fighting drew close to Singapore.

(g) The British 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron and the Armoured Car Squadron of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force were virtually the only armour available to III Indian Corps. Vehicles of these two units were photographed in action together (Vickers Light Tanks and Lanchester Armoured Cars, respectively), so it is possible that they fought for at least some of the campaign as a joint unit.

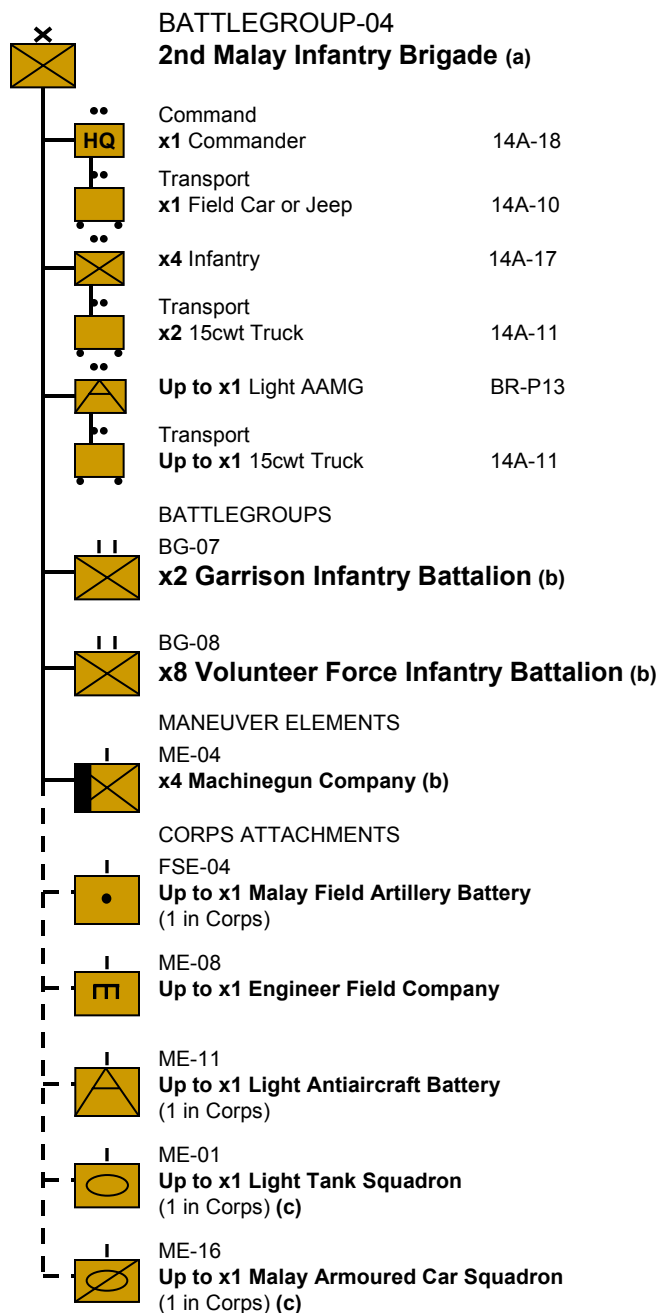
III Indian Corps Battlegroups 03-04



(a) 1st Malay Infantry Brigade was an independent formation.

(b) There was one Malay regular and one British battalion in the brigade, both of which were organised very similarly.

(c) The British 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron and the Armoured Car Squadron of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force were virtually the only armour available to III Indian Corps. Vehicles of these two units were photographed in action together (Vickers Light Tanks and Lanchester Armoured Cars, respectively), so it is possible that they fought for at least some of the campaign as a joint unit.



(a) 2nd Malay Infantry Brigade was an independent formation.

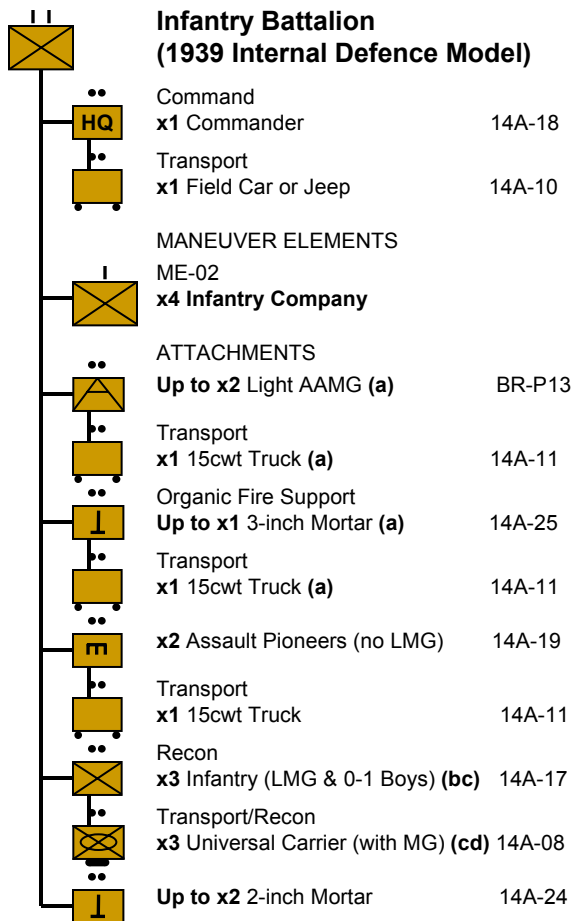
(b) The core of the brigade comprised an Indian and a British Infantry Battalion, supported by a British Machinegun Battalion. These were supplemented by four battalions of the Singapore Straits Settlements Volunteer Force and the four battalions of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force. The latter four battalions spent part of the campaign detached as an independent battlegroup called 'James Force'.

(c) The British 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron and the Armoured Car Squadron of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force were virtually the only armour available to III Indian Corps. Vehicles of these two units were photographed in action together (Vickers Light Tanks and Lanchester Armoured Cars, respectively), so it is possible that they fought for at least some of the campaign as a joint unit.

III Indian Corps Battlegroups 05-06

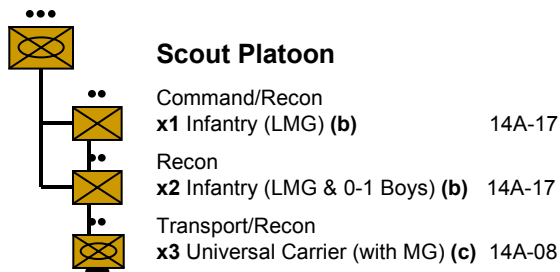
BATTLEGROUP-05

Infantry Battalion (1939 Internal Defence Model)



(a) These elements were not officially part of the 1939 Internal Defence Model Battalion, though a few battalions certainly had them.

(b) It is not likely that many (if any) battalions in Malaya had a Scout Platoon. However, if fielded, the Scout Platoon may be deployed as a separate Maneuver Element:

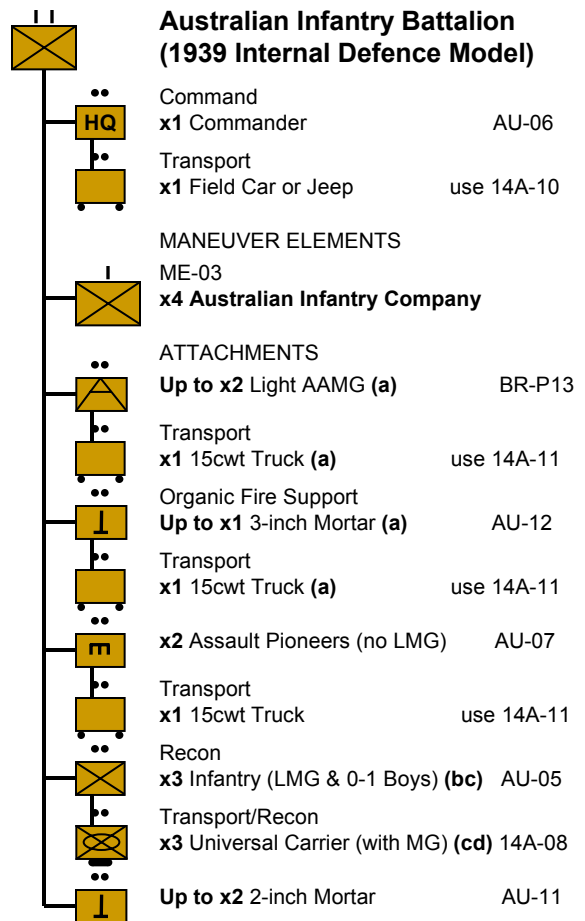


(b) The Scout Platoon infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun 14A-22

(c) The Carriers fire without MGs when the infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

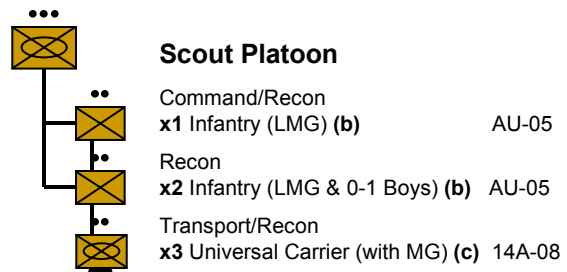
BATTLEGROUP-06

Australian Infantry Battalion (1939 Internal Defence Model)



(a) These elements were not officially part of the 1939 Internal Defence Model Battalion, though a few battalions certainly had them.

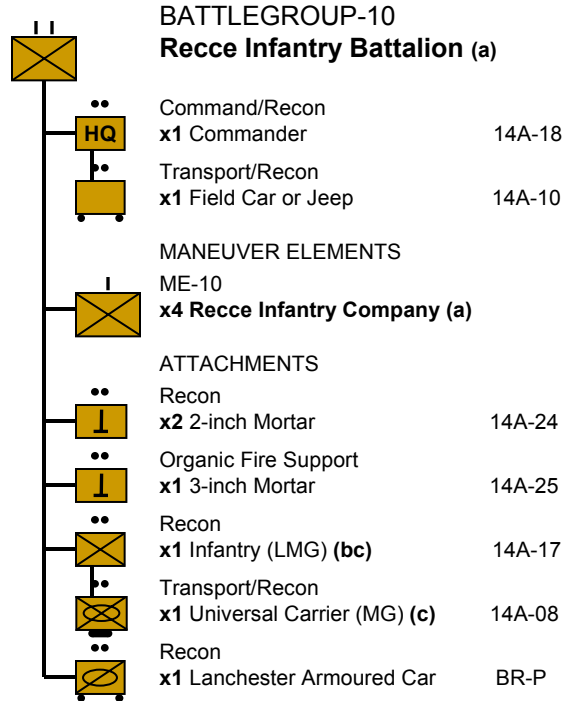
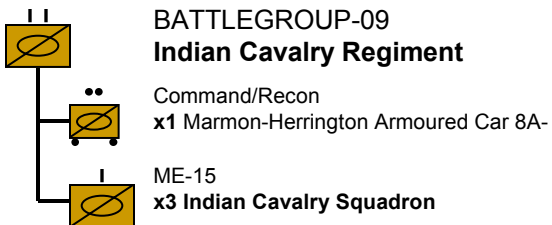
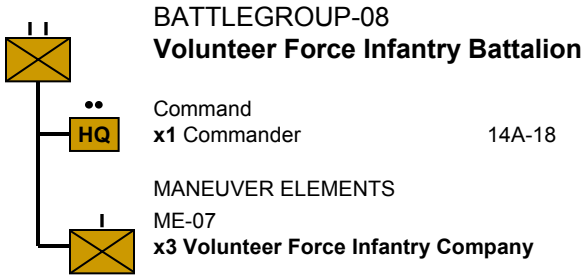
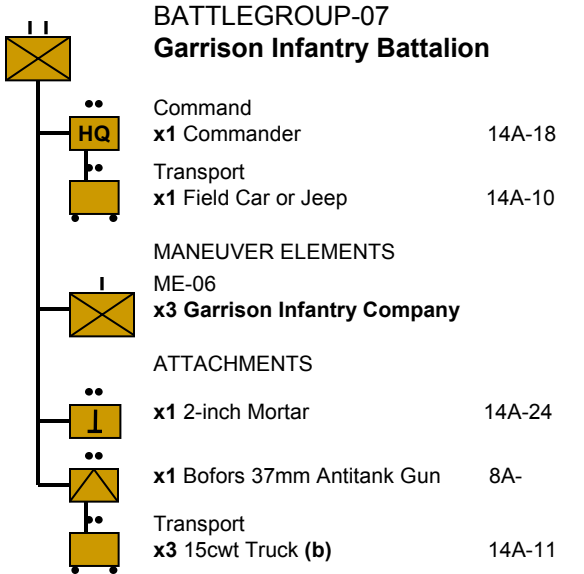
(b) It is not likely that many (if any) battalions in Malaya had a Scout Platoon. However, if fielded, the Scout Platoon may be deployed as a separate Maneuver Element:



(b) The Scout Platoon infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun use 14A-22

(c) The Carriers fire without MGs when the infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

III Indian Corps Battlegroups 07-



(a) This unit was given the joke title 'The Plymouth-Argylls', which sounds like a real regimental title, but is in fact a British football team! The name came about because 'A' and 'B' Companies were formed from elements of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, while 'C' and 'D' Companies were formed from ships' detachments and dockyard defence detachments of Royal Marines (Plymouth is a Royal Navy town, hence 'Plymouth-Argylls').

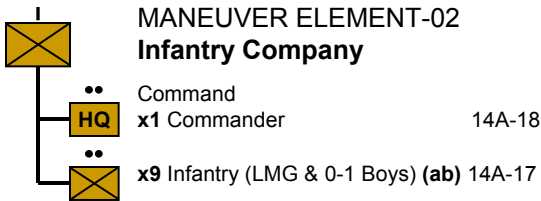
(b) The Carrier infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun 14A-22

(c) The Carriers fire without MGs when the infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

III Indian Corps Maneuver Elements 01-06

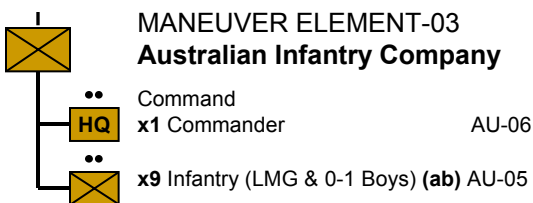


(a) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Light Tank.



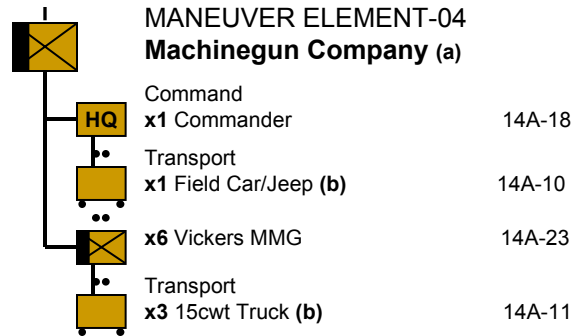
(a) A maximum of two companies in the battalion may have a Boys Antitank Rifle and most battalions did not even have that many.

(b) In many battalions, stocks of LMGs were parlous, often with only one or two LMGs per platoon, rather than the official three LMGs. To add to the difficulties, they were frequently obsolete items such as Lewis or Vickers-Berthier LMGs rather than Brens. Therefore, in most battalions, **x3** Infantry units in the company must use the 'No LMG' firepower ratings on card 14A-17.



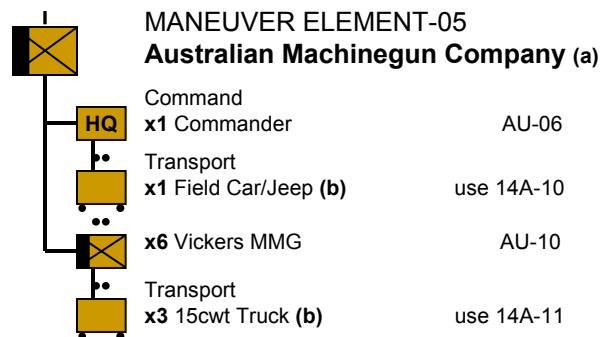
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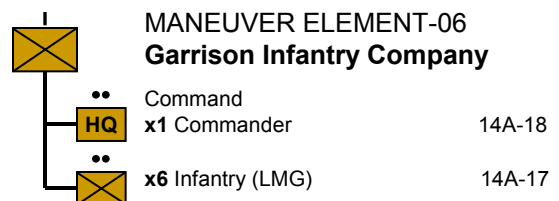
(a) At this stage of the war it was still very common to find MG Companies fighting as complete units, rather than broken up into individual platoons, which was commonly the case 1943-45.

(b) In less well equipped units, delete the Commander's transport and replace the trucks with:
Pack Mules.

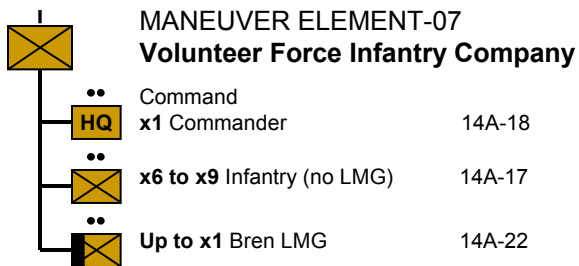


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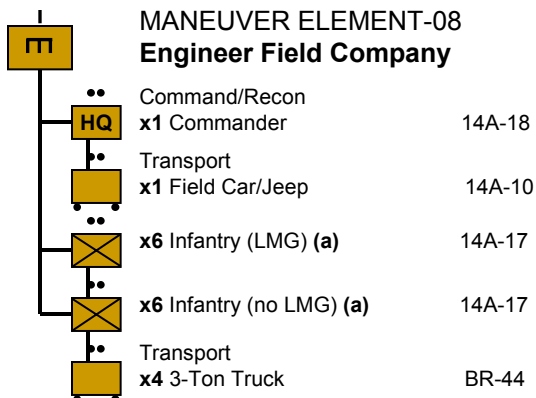
(b) In less well equipped units, delete the Commander's transport and replace the trucks with:
Pack Mules.



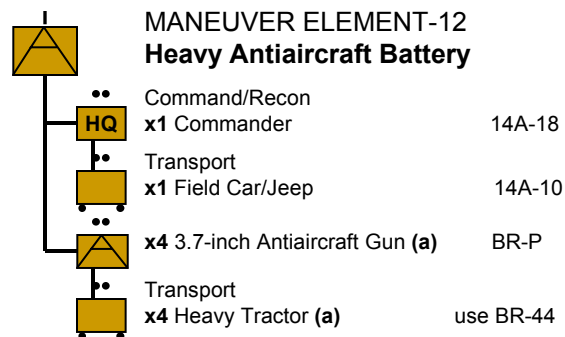
III Indian Corps Maneuver Elements 07-12



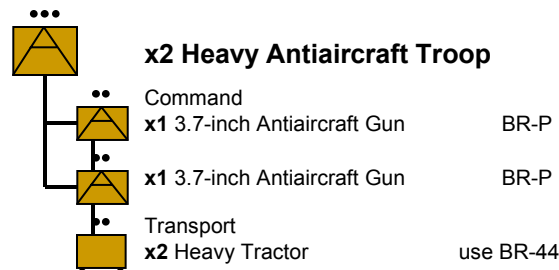
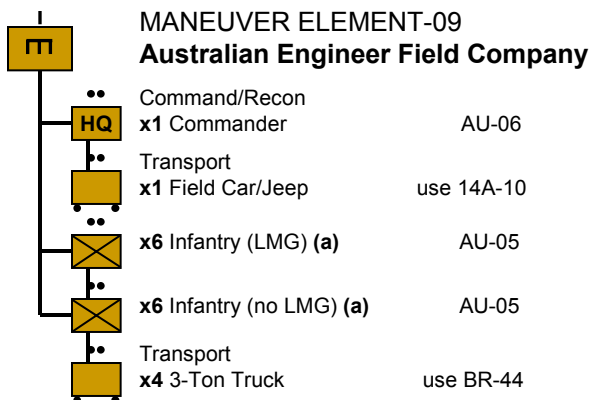
(a) The battery may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Maneuver Elements:



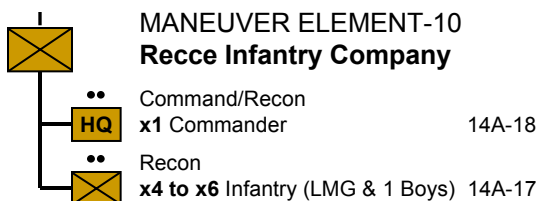
(a) These infantry may perform engineering tasks as detailed in the website Prototype Engineering Rules.



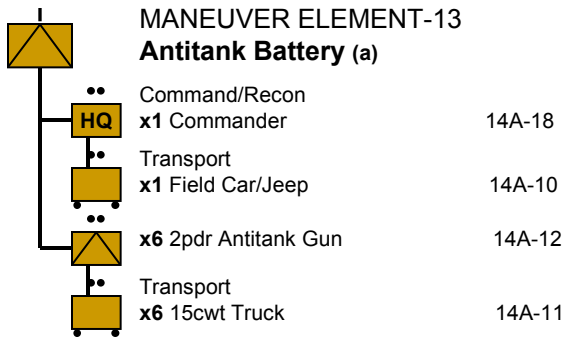
(a) The battery may alternatively be deployed as two troop-sized Maneuver Elements:



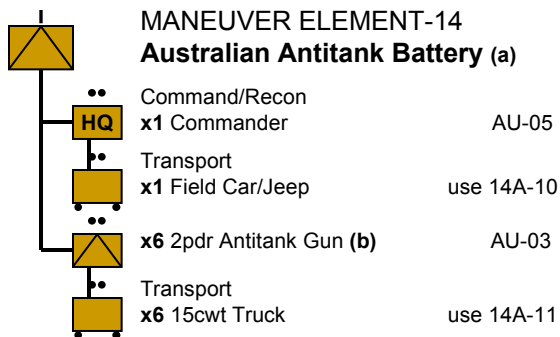
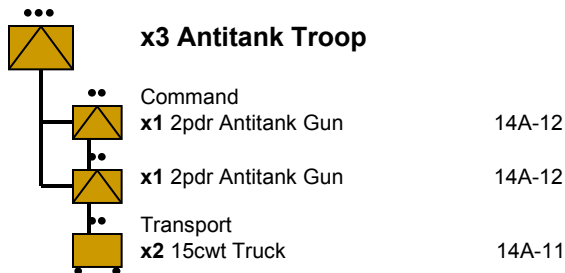
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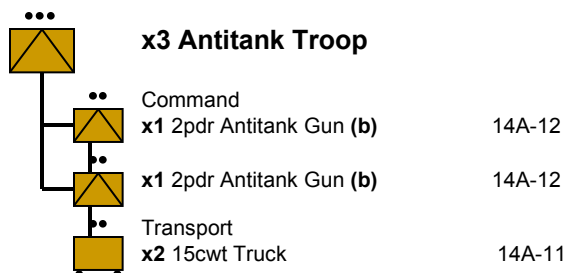
III Indian Corps Maneuver Elements 07-



(a) The Battery may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Maneuver Elements:

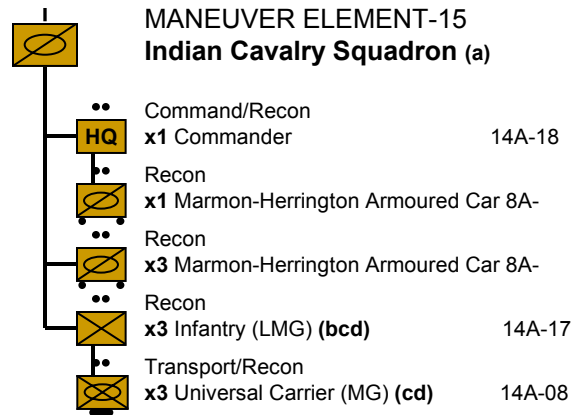


(a) The Battery may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Maneuver Elements:

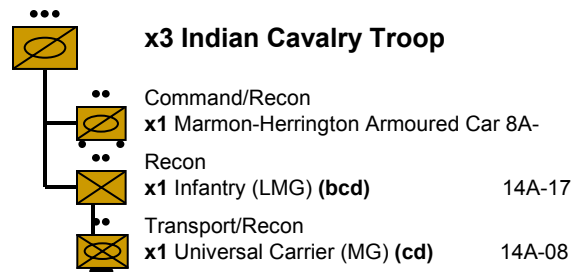


(b) The three batteries of the Australian 4th Antitank Regiment each had a different type of gun. One battery had 2pdrs, as shown here, while another had French M1897 75mm guns (but no ammunition for them). The remaining battery was equipped with ex-Italian Böhler 47mm guns. Therefore, may replace all guns with:

Böhler 47mm Antitank Gun use KNIL-13

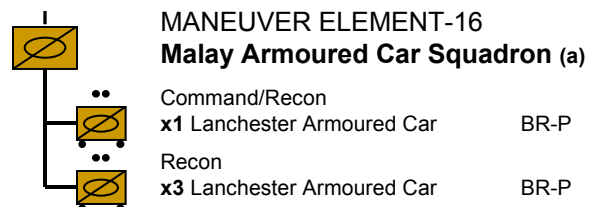


(a) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized Maneuver Elements:



(b) The Carrier infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun 14A-22

(c) The Carriers fire without MGs when the infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.



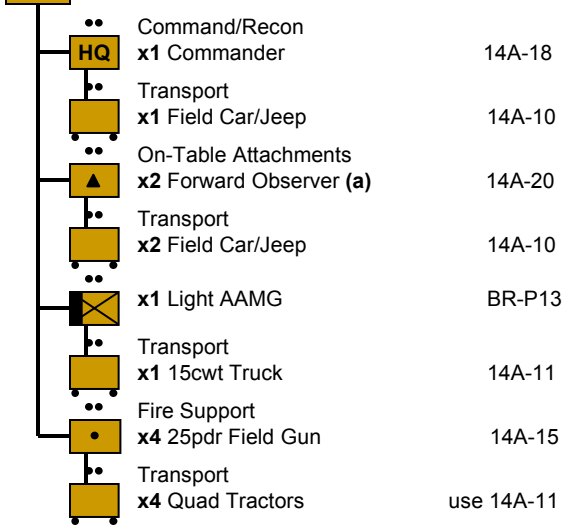
(a) The Squadron may alternatively be deployed as three troop-sized maneuver elements, each of **x1** Armoured Car.

III Indian Corps Fire Support Elements 01-03

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-01 Field Artillery Regiment

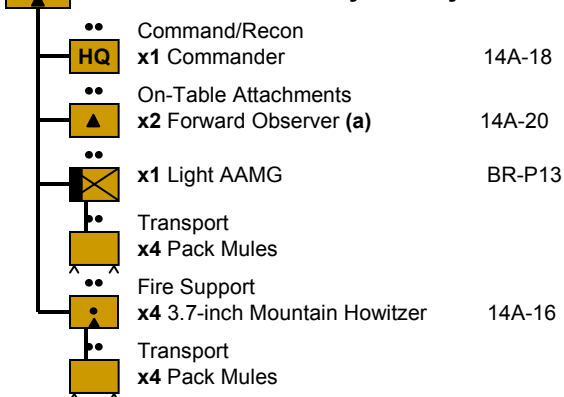


FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-02 Field Artillery Battery



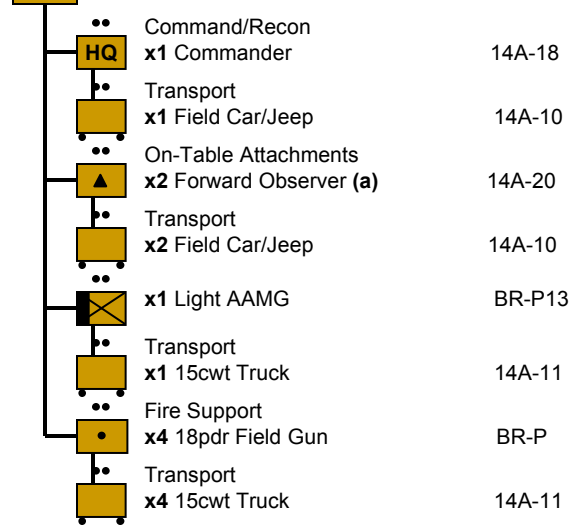
(a) Each FO controls a Troop (I.e. a half-battery of x2 guns). Each FO may also call in the rest of the battery onto one target as Direct Fire Support, or the rest of the regiment as General Fire Support.

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-03 Mountain Artillery Battery



(a) Each FO controls a Troop (I.e. a half-battery of x2 guns). Each FO may also call in the rest of the battery onto one target as Direct Fire Support.

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT-04 Malay Field Artillery Battery



(a) Each FO controls a Troop (I.e. a half-battery of x2 guns). Each FO may also call in the rest of the battery onto one target as Direct Fire Support.

Close Air Support Notes

Support from the RAF was virtually non-existent in Malaya, 1941-42. The RAF's five Fighter Squadrons of Brewster Buffalos were totally outclassed and overwhelmed by the Japanese onslaught and Japanese aircraft patrolled the roads and battlefields at will. In any case, there was no dedicated fighter-bomber in the theatre: The Buffalo couldn't carry bombs and the only other aircraft available were two RAAF Bomber Squadrons with Hudsons and four RAF Bomber Squadrons with Blenheims.

So to cut it short – you don't get any, but the Japs get lots!

Suggested Troop Qualities

Raw

44th Indian Brigade
45th Indian Brigade
22nd Australian Brigade
27th Australian Brigade
53rd British Brigade
Singapore Straits Settlements Volunteer Force
Federated Malay States Volunteer Force
Singapore Garrison AA Regiments

Trained

100th Independent Light Tank Squadron
Armoured Car Squadron, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force
Field Battery, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force
6th Indian Brigade
8th Indian Brigade
12th Indian Brigade
Indian Battalions, 15th Indian Brigade
22nd Indian Brigade
28th Indian Brigade
1st Malay Brigade
Regular Battalions, 2nd Malay Brigade
Mountain Batteries, Indian Artillery
1st Indian Heavy Antiaircraft Regiment
8th Australian Division Supporting Arms
80th & 85th Antitank Regiments, Royal Artillery

Experienced

3rd Indian Cavalry Regiment
5th, 88th, 137th & 155th Field Regiments, Royal Artillery
2/1st & 2/2nd Gurkhas, 15th Indian Brigade
'Plymouth-Argylls'