

# BRITISH ARMY IN EUROPE 1939-1941

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## **Introduction**

In the 30's the British army was a small force of professional soldiers. As the war clouds loomed over Europe the British government began to expand the Territorial Army, the foundation of a citizen's force that was eventually to win the war. In some ways the British Army was the best in the world in 1939. Many of its soldiers were well trained professionals that had combat experience on the fringes of the empire. As its army was so small Britain could afford to have it almost entirely motorised, no horses were sent to France, Norway or Greece. Its tanks all had two-way radio and thus were much better equipped than Hitler's much-vaunted panzers, the majority of which had only had receivers and couldn't send. The Regimental system produced good combat cohesiveness and "staying power"; though it also tended to isolate groups.

The major failing of Britain's early war army was the total lack of co-operation between the various arms. The tanks, infantry and artillery often appeared to be fighting different battles. At the famous counter attack at Arras in 1940 the tanks attacked on their own as the infantry and tanks couldn't co-ordinate the start time. There were other problems, British tanks were easily the match of anything the Germans had, and the Matilda II almost invincible; however they broke down with monotonous regularity. This is why in the latter stages of the war the army used Shermans in such great quantities. Lastly the high command was indecisive and very bad at communication, on an operational level the British Tommy was badly let down by the incompetence of his superiors.

This list only covers forces deployed in Europe: the BEF in France; the debacle in Norway; the desperate days waiting for Hitler to pounce across the Channel and the ill-fated expedition to Greece. It is not intended as a guide to forces in North Africa; although the organisations were similar they were not identical.

### **Suggestions on Infantry-Tank Co-ordination**

The early British army was hopeless at co-ordinating its tanks and infantry. What follows are some suggestions for recreating this on the tabletop. If you have two British players give one the tanks and one the infantry and **DON'T LET THEM TALK TO EACH OTHER**, before or during the game. If you have only one player insist that he moves all his tanks first; then moves all his infantry. Once he's started moving the infantry he may not go back and move any tanks. When designing scenarios always start the infantry and the tanks a long way apart, or have them enter at different times.

Infantry and Artillery co-ordination was better than with the tanks, though there was one organisational screw up which made it more difficult that it should have been (see artillery doctrine below). There was no Tank and Artillery co-ordination. The 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division went to war without its artillery and the Armoured Brigades had no artillery in the first place. British tank units should never be given FO's in this period.

### **Artillery Doctrine**

By the end of the war British artillery was the best in the world; however it took a while to get to that point. The seeds of the system were in place in 1939 but there were a few problems. The first and major problem was that there were only two artillery batteries in each artillery regiment. As each regiment was meant to support one infantry brigade, this basically meant that one battalion in each brigade didn't get any artillery support. This problem wasn't sorted until March 1941. At this time the artillery was reorganised in to 3 batteries of two troops allowing a battery per battalion.

Observers from the artillery regiments were attached to the infantry unit they were supporting which made for good responsive artillery support from the artillery regiment. The problem was that calling in more guns beyond those of the regiment was difficult and slow. Not until 1942 did the British army get to grips with co-ordinating the fire of more than one regiment. However British artillery was on a par with every other nation in this respect.

The strength of the British artillery control system was that the officers in charge of the guns went forward and sat with the infantry they were supporting and ordered fire on their behalf. The officers for the troops, batteries and regiment went forward which provided enough observers for one for each battalion in the supported regiment. Contrast this with the French doctrine of having only a single observer for the entire battalion. He was an underling so all requests had to be agreed by the regimental commander first which slowed response time; and he sat well behind the supported troops.

Despite the plethora of observers, impromptu observed fire was uncommon. The majority of fire missions were supposed to be planned fire missions in support of an assault. In France the enemy moved so fast there was little time to plan or to survey the guns (guns must be surveyed on to a common grid in order to fire indirect) so there was much firing direct over open sights. As an aside even later in the war impromptu fire missions were uncommon: 95% of missions were planned fires. Despite the number of observers they were still often in the wrong place at the wrong time and remember real world terrain densities are much higher than those on the average table top.

In game terms two BHQs and the Brigade HQ of an infantry brigade is assumed to have an FO with it and can call fire as an FO. This FO has a link back to his own artillery regiment and may call any of the guns in that regiment.

I chose to give the BHQs FO ability rather than have FO stands as this represents the close link between the artillery and the supported Brigade. It also means that the FO (BHQ) will often not be in the best place to request fire that should help keep the number of requested missions down to near historical levels.

One unique feature of British artillery batteries at this time is the presence of an RAF liaison team in all artillery units. Each field artillery regiment has a liaison team; medium and heavy regiments have one team per battery. These teams were designed to communicate with RAF Lysander planes which were trained to call for and adjust artillery fire. In game terms an RAF Lysander can call the fire of any army artillery regiment or battery assigned to it. This is a very useful capability but it was thwarted by the Luftwaffe which blasted many Lysanders from the sky.

### Troop Quality

The regular British army in 1939 was as well trained as any in the world and better than most. The territorial units were not so good but still based around soldiers who had been on active service and who had been in the territorials for many years. The newly raised units left something to be desired, having been hurriedly raised and trained. Tank troops suffered from bad doctrine and didn't perform quite as well as the infantry and artillery, however at the start they were all regulars. At the bottom of the heap were the Home Guard units, old men given the dregs of the British armoury, who were supposed to fend off Hitler's legions should they have crossed the Channel. What they lacked in training they made up for in enthusiasm and local knowledge. I suspect that some would have fought valiantly to defend their homes and others would have run in panic when they saw the first grey uniform.

The 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions were possibly the worst trained divisions ever deployed by the British. At least half of the men had never fired a rifle when they arrived in France in April 1940, they were supposed to be used as labour units but got caught up in the fighting. Surprisingly these units fought bravely even against the German panzers though they didn't last long.

The majority of Commonwealth units fought much as their British brethren. However mention must be made of the Maori battalion in the New Zealand division who had a fearsome reputation.

In **Command Decision** terms regular divisions are Veteran Morale 9 with the exception of the tank and armoured car units which are Experienced Morale 9. Territorials are Experienced Morale 9. The 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions are Green Morale 9. The Home Guard are Green Morale 5 or Morale 9, 50% chance of either roll when the first morale check is made. Units training in England in 1940-41 will be Trained or Regular Morale 8 (those with the most recruits will be trained). The forces in Greece will be Experienced morale 9 with the exception of the tank units that will be Regular Morale 9 and the Maori who will be Veteran Morale 10.

For **WPD** regular divisions are Veteran with the exception of the tank and armoured car units which are Average Territorials are Average as are all divisions June 1940 and later. The 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions in France are Green but with a QC of 4+. Some units with many recruits in training in Britain will be Green or Trained – both with a QC of 5+. The Home Guard are Green, however there is a 50% chance of having a Quality Check (QC) of 4+. Roll when the first morale check is made. Units training in England in 1940-41 are Average. The forces in Greece will be Average except the Maori who will be Elite

# Infantry Units

## Infantry & Motor Divisions 1939-1940

### DHQ

*1 Command Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*

### HQ Company

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*  
*1 Infantry Stand (-)*

### 3 Infantry Brigades

#### Brigade HQ

*1 Command Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*

#### HQ Company

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*  
*1 Infantry Stand (-)*

### 3 Infantry Battalions

#### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*

#### 4 Infantry Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)*  
*2 Infantry Stands (ATR)*

#### 1 Support Company

*1 Engineer Stand (-)*  
*1 AAMG Stand (ATR)*  
*1 3" Mortar Stand (bg)*  
*1 15cwt Light Truck*  
*1 Recce Bren Gun Carrier*  
*1 Recce Infantry Stands (+) (ATR)*

#### 1 Brigade AT Battery

*1 Command Infantry Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*  
*2 15cwt Light Trucks carrying 25mm Hotchkiss*  
*AT Gun*  
*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

### 3 Artillery Regiments

#### RHQ

*1 Command Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*

#### HQ Battery

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*  
*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 2 Batteries

*1 Command Stand (ATR)*  
*1 8cwt Van*  
*3 CDSW or Quad tractors towing No27 Limber*  
*and 18/25lb Gun (4)*

### 1 AT Regiment

#### RHQ

*1 Command Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*

#### HQ Company

*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 4 AT Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)*  
*1 8cwt GS Van*  
*3 15cwt Truck towing 2pdr AT Gun*

### 3 Engineer Field Companies

*1 Command Engineer Stand*  
*3 Engineer Stands*  
*1 30cwt 6 Wheel Medium Engineer Supply Truck*

### 1 Engineer Field Park Company

*1 Command Engineer Stand*  
*1 Engineer Stand*  
*1 30cwt Medium Truck*  
*1 30cwt Light Truck carrying Recce Boats*  
*1 3t Medium Truck carrying SBG Mk II Bridge*  
*1 3t Medium Truck towing Mk II Pontoon Trailer*  
*1 3t Medium Truck carrying Mk II Bridge Trestles*  
*1 3t Medium Engineer Stores Truck*

### 0-1 Cavalry Regiments

#### RHQ

*1 Command Mk-VIB/C*

#### HQ Squadron

*1 Recce M/C Infantry Stand*

#### 3 Squadrons

*1 Command Mk-VIB/C*  
*1 Mk-VIB*  
*1 Scout Carriers*  
*1 Recce Infantry Stand (+) (ATR)*

### 1-2 MG Battalions

#### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*

#### HQ Company

*1 AAMG Stand (ATR)*  
*1 15cwt Light Truck*

#### 4 MG Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)*  
*3 MMG Stands*  
*4 15cwt Light Trucks*

## Notes

- 1) This list really applies until the last units left France although this was official establishment until the start of 1941.

- 2) The **motor divisions** were similar to standard infantry divisions. However they only had two infantry brigades. They were given a motorcycle battalion in compensation for the missing brigade. They were supposed to have two transport companies but none of the divisions actually had them. **1<sup>st</sup> London, 2<sup>nd</sup> London, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup>** divisions were raised as motor divisions. Only the **50<sup>th</sup>** saw active service (in France) though the motorcycle battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> was detached and sent to France with the **30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade** (see below). These divisions reverted back to standard infantry divisions in October to November 1940.

#### **Divisional Motorcycle Battalion**

##### **BHQ**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

##### **HQ Company**

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

##### **1 Armoured Scout Platoon**

2 Recce Daimler Dingo

##### **1 Scout Platoon**

2 Recce 8cwt Truck + MG

##### **3 M/C Companies**

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 8cwt FFW Truck*

*2 M/C Infantry Stand*

The standard motorcycle was the 633cc Big 4 Norton with a sidecar.

Only the **50<sup>th</sup>** in France had Dingos. All others had two truck scout platoons.

- 3) Stands followed by (+) have a high ratio of LMGs and have ROF2
- 4) Infantry and Engineer (-) have no LMGs or 2" mortars. This fires as "other" in CD terms. However they were often "found" Bren Guns so might be classified as normal troops.
- 5) The engineer stand in the support company represents a Pioneer platoon. This is not a fully functional engineering stand and may only perform digging tasks as if it's such a stand. It is not equipped or trained for major construction, mine laying or demolitions
- 6) The recce infantry stands are the crew of the carriers so if the stand has dismounted the carrier may move or fire.
- 7) The Brigade AT Company has 16 shots per gun carried by the tractor plus 29 shots in the ammo truck.
- 8) Regular artillery batteries carried little AP, it is treated as a specialist round
- 9) Not all artillery batteries were organised as above in France, most of the territorial divisions had two 18pdr guns and one 4.5" Howitzer instead of the 18/25pdr. Some of these batteries used Light Dragons Mk II rather than wheeled tractors. There was no AP for either gun
- 10) The 14<sup>th</sup> AT Regiment belonging to **4<sup>th</sup>** Division with the BEF had 25mm Hotchkiss instead of 2pdr.
- 11) The Recce Boats are small inflatable boats that can carry two men. There are enough in the field park company to carry a single infantry stand. The SBG Mk-II Bridge is a short sturdy bridge: it will make the bridge configurations: 24t – 15m, 18t – 20m, 9t – 25m and 5t – 30m. It takes an engineer stand two hours to build a bridge. The Mk II Bridge Trailer carries the pontoons for the Mk II Folding Boat Bridge. It is a pontoon bridge that can be constructed in the following configurations: A raft/ferry capable of carrying 7t or a 7t bridge up to 80m. The boats can be used as assault boats; the boat trailer carries enough boats to carry 6 infantry stands.
- 12) Most of the regular divisions: **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup>** had a divisional cavalry regiment at the start of the war. However only the **1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** still had them when the Germans struck on 10<sup>th</sup> May, the others losing them in March or April. However the **51<sup>st</sup>** division received the regiment from the **48<sup>th</sup>** division. The units with the **1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** were actually attached GHQ troops.
- 13) The **1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup>** divisions had a pair of MG battalions, one regular battalion indigenous to the division and another territorial battalion attached from GHQ troops. The **52<sup>nd</sup>** division didn't take its MG battalion to France.
- 14) Most of the 8cwt trucks were Morris PU but some Humbers were used. The most numerous 15cwt was the Morris CS8, with the Bedford MW a close second. The 30cwt trucks were Bedford OY or Austin K30, except in the engineers which used Morris 6x4 30cwt.

- 15) In May 1940 most of the **1<sup>st</sup>** (not to be confused with the 1<sup>st</sup> London) division was regular with one battalion of infantry (6<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders), one regiment of artillery (67<sup>th</sup>) and two engineer field companies (238<sup>th</sup> and 248<sup>th</sup>) being territorials. It had a GHQ Cavalry Regiment attached (13<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Hussars) and had two MG battalions one regular and one territorial.
- 16) The **2<sup>nd</sup>** division was largely regular, however in May 1940 it had two territorial infantry battalions (1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers and 7<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire) serving in different brigades. It had one regiment of territorial guns the 99<sup>th</sup> and two territorial field park companies (208<sup>th</sup> and 506<sup>th</sup>). The division was unusual in that it had two MG battalions one regular and one territorial.
- 17) The **3<sup>rd</sup>** division was similar to the 1<sup>st</sup>; it had one territorial infantry battalion (4<sup>th</sup> Royal Berkshire), and one territorial artillery regiment (33<sup>rd</sup>). The 246<sup>th</sup> and 253<sup>rd</sup> field engineer companies were also territorials.
- 18) The **4<sup>th</sup>** division had a single territorial infantry battalion (5<sup>th</sup> Northamptonshire); a field artillery regiment (77<sup>th</sup> Highland) and a field engineer company (225<sup>th</sup>). It did not have an MG battalion.
- 19) The **5<sup>th</sup>** division was not properly formed at the start of the war it was built up and sent to France piecemeal but by the time of the German attack it was fully formed. Of the infantry battalions one (6<sup>th</sup> Seaforth Highlanders) was territorial. However all its artillery, including the AT regiment) was territorial units with the exception of the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. However even that was equipped with 18pdr and 4.5" howitzers like its territorial brethren. All the engineers were territorial apart from the 28<sup>th</sup> field company as was the assigning MG battalion. In April it lost one of its brigades (15<sup>th</sup> – all regular) which was sent to Norway, so it started the French campaign with two brigades. As it was in reserve this was not a big problem. When it was engaged it was massively reinforced receiving 3 additional infantry brigades, four independent infantry companies, 5 additional field regiments, 4 medium artillery regiments, an AT regiment, a cavalry regiment and a battery of royal horse artillery.
- 20) The other divisions (**42<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup>**) were all territorial divisions; in general (excepting the **52<sup>nd</sup>**) the first battalion in each brigade was regular the rest territorial. The **48<sup>th</sup>** had two regular artillery regiments. The **50<sup>th</sup>** division had two regular battalions in one brigade (25<sup>th</sup>) but no others. The **51<sup>st</sup>** division had two regular artillery regiments and a regular field engineer company in addition to the infantry. The **52<sup>nd</sup>** has no regular battalions in the entire division. Only the **50<sup>th</sup>** and **51<sup>st</sup>** divisions had MG battalions.
- 21) In France there were several independent infantry battalions acting as GHQ troops. These were organised identically to normal infantry battalions; all were territorials. There were also a brigades of two battalions: the **20<sup>th</sup>** in Boulogne had two regular infantry battalions.
- 22) No divisions were sent to **Norway**, only independent brigades: the **4<sup>th</sup> Guards** and the **15<sup>th</sup>** were both regular units; the **146<sup>th</sup>** and **148<sup>th</sup>** were territorial units. All brigades except the **15<sup>th</sup>** had attached units: the **4<sup>th</sup> Guards**; **146<sup>th</sup>** and **148<sup>th</sup>** had an attached field engineer company. The **4<sup>th</sup> Guards** and the **148<sup>th</sup>** both had light AA batteries attached. The **148<sup>th</sup>** only had two infantry battalions instead of three.

#### **Light AA Battery**

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 15cwt Light Truck*

1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

- 23) After Dunkirk most divisions were a shell of their former selves and had to be re-built. The official war establishment was similar to that above though there were some changes. Each infantry battalion got a Recce M/C stand at BHQ. The brigade AT batteries were converted to recce companies, though not all divisions got them. All the artillery was supposed to be 18/25pdr, or the new 25pdr Mk II when it became available.

## **Brigade Recce Company**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 Car*

0-1 15cwt truck towing 2pdr AT Gun

0-1 Bicycle AT assault stand (ATR)

0-1 Recce Bren Carriers

0-1 Recce M/C Infantry Stand

0-1 3" Mortar Stand

The exact make up varied with any recce company having 3 elements e.g.: a bicycle AT stand, carriers and a M/C infantry stand. Given the paucity of AT guns in Britain at the time the 2pdr would seem to be the least likely choice. See below for the recce company for the 43<sup>rd</sup> light infantry.

It appears that M/C were in short supply, as of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1940 no unit had them in its brigade recce coy and not all divisions had enough for each infantry battalion. The number of M/C platoons was:

9 Platoons: **1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup> & 61<sup>st</sup> Divisions.**

6 Platoons (2 bdes only): **59<sup>th</sup> Division**

4 Platoons: **29<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

3 Platoons: **1<sup>st</sup> London & 2<sup>nd</sup> London Divisions. 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> & 70<sup>th</sup> Brigades** (see below)

The AT assault stands are equipped with Molotovs for close AFV assault. They close assault as engineer units. For CD players these AT Assault stands are NOT the same as the AT assault stands in the rulebook, but may be broken down in to such stands as normal infantry stands. The **56<sup>th</sup>** division is confirmed as having bicycle AT Stands.

- 24) Many of the territorial divisions after Dunkirk lacked heavy weapons. For example the 1<sup>st</sup> London Scottish Battalion of the **1<sup>st</sup> London Division** has 2 "real world" Bren guns, 6 Lewis guns, 2 2" mortars and a single ATR. Things were so bad that 30 of its men (1 stand) didn't have rifles and were armed with pikes! The **2<sup>nd</sup> London, 18<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 59<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup>** are all noted as being short of equipment; however it's likely that other units were short too. In the late summer and autumn of 1940 these units should have fire as "other" (CD), -1 AI (WPD) infantry stands, with an influx of standard stands as the year progresses. The battalions were short of carriers too, many having none in the aftermath of Dunkirk.

Units that escaped from Dunkirk were brought up to strength by an influx of raw recruits. They then spent the rest of the year training, but this was slowed by the constant need to mount anti-parachute guards and patrols at important locations, or dig beach defences. Many battalions were not fully trained until mid 41.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry when they returned from France and were only equipped with rifles. Raw recruits were provided to bring the battalion up to strength. In July a light company was formed with a carrier, motorcycle, AT assault and mortar stands (see 23 above). The unit was motorised in 4 commandeered civilian busses each carrying 3 stands.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Ox & Bucks Light Infantry started June only equipped with rifles. There was a shortage of NCOs so there are no command infantry stands. By the end of June they had enough ATR to equip 3 stands, and enough Bren LMGs to equip a single company. By the end of July the unit was motorised in 3t Trucks (one per company) and had a motorcycle recce stand at BHQ.

- 25) The MG battalions appear to have been re-equipped faster than the infantry units, most having a full complement of Vickers MMG a month or two after Dunkirk.
- 26) In the months after Dunkirk artillery was in short supply. On average, immediately after the return home, an infantry division had one 18pdr or 4.5" howitzer. Some divisions were in better shape and as deliveries of the new 25pdr Mk II picked up strength began to increase.

Unit	Date	Guns
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b>	6/40	None*
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division</b>	6/40	18 18/25pdr
<b>1<sup>st</sup> London Division</b>	6/40	2 18/25pdr, 1 18pdr & 2 4.5"
<b>1<sup>st</sup> London Division</b>	7/40	4 4.5", 1 13pdr, 1 18pdr & 2 18/25pdr
<b>1<sup>st</sup> London Division</b>	9/40	4 QF 75mm, 2 18/25pdr, 5 4.5"
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b>	6/40	2 18/25pdr
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division</b>	6/40	None*
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division</b>	11/40	7 QF 75mm Mk I/II
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	7/40	3 guns
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Brigade</b>	6/40	1 18/25pdr
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	2 18/25pdr, 6 18pdr & 4 4.5"
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	1 18pdr, 1 4.5"
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	2/41	1 25pdr Mk II, 1 18pdr, 1 4.5" (not fully equipped until 9/41)
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	1 18pdr, 2 4.5"
<b>38<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	Probably None
<b>42<sup>nd</sup> Division</b>	8/40	2 QF 75mm Mk I/II & 2 4.5"
<b>44<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	7/40	"some" 25pdr Mk II (1-2 guns?)
<b>45<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	9/40	2 25pdr, 4 4.5", 5 QF 75mm Mk I/II
<b>45<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	11/40	18 QF 75mm Mk I/II (Portee on 3t Lorry)
<b>45<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	2/41	6 QF 75mm Mk I/II, 12 25pdr Mk II
<b>50<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	None*
<b>52<sup>nd</sup> Division</b>	6/40	18 18/25pdr
<b>54<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	3 18/25pdr, 3 4.5"‡*
<b>54<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	10/40	6 18/25pdr, 6 QF 75mm Mk I/II, 3 60pdr‡
<b>54<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	4/41	12 18/25pdr, 6 QF 75mm Mk I/II‡
<b>55<sup>th</sup> Division</b>	6/40	7 guns of unknown type

This is not an exhaustive list. Production of 25pdr in Britain was running at 18 25pdr Mk II a month in the latter part of 1940

Those units marked "\*" were reduced to employing their artillery crews as infantry. This would amount to 2 infantry stands for each missing gun. However in June one of the **1st Division's** regiments could only muster 5 stands of infantry.

Although the official war establishment didn't officially change until March 1941, some units re-organised their artillery in three eight gun batteries from October 1940 (see 1941 division below) such as the **45<sup>th</sup> Division**. However given the huge deficit in guns this was largely academic.

- 27) The **2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division** arrived in Britain in June 1940. It had almost no equipment to speak of there were no AA guns, armoured cars, carriers, AT guns, mortars, trucks or field guns. The infantry were deficient had no ATR and were using Lewis guns instead of Brens. The only thing it had in sufficiency were rifles and Vickers MMGs. On 5<sup>th</sup> November the divisional artillery received its first guns: 7 US 75mm. The division was in this ill equipped state until the start of 1941 and is indicative of the poor state of the divisions in Britain at the time. For example no boys ATR were delivered to home forces in June to September 1940, they were all sent to the desert.
- 28) The **15<sup>th</sup> Division** had the 56<sup>th</sup> Medium Artillery Regiment attached in June 1940. This officially had 1 6" Howitzer but unofficially had: 1 6" Newton Trench Mortar and an assortment of old naval guns, the latter it is presumed, on fixed coastal defence mounts. The **45<sup>th</sup> Division** had the 56<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery regiment attached with 1 6" Gun, and 1 9.2" Howitzer. It also had "X" Defence Regiment attached with 3 4" Naval Guns. All these artillery assets were doled out in support of the three infantry brigades. The **1<sup>st</sup> London Division** had 74<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment under command with 1 60pdr and 1 6" Howitzer.
- 29) Other units on beach defence duties were reinforced with heavy weapons, for example the 10<sup>th</sup> Buffs had an extra MMG stand (ROF 1 only - they were old & unreliable) plus a 6" Newton mortar. There were only 5 shots for it in CD & TAC terms, 2 in WPD terms.



- 30) Most units were short of AT guns. However in October 1940 the **45<sup>th</sup> division** 6 2pdr. The 67<sup>th</sup> AT Regt of the **1<sup>st</sup> London Division** had 6 2pdr plus 1 6pdr. Note these 6pdr were old WW1 guns. Attached was C4 mobile battery with 1 old truck mounted 3pdr gun and C6 mobile battery with 1 4" truck mounted gun.

### **12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions 1940**

#### **DHQ**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

#### **3 Infantry Brigades**

##### **Brigade HQ**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8 Cwt Van*

#### **3 Infantry Battalions**

##### **BHQ**

*1 Command Stand*

#### **4 Infantry Companies**

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*2 Infantry Stands (-)*

#### **3 Engineer Field Companies**

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*3 Infantry Stands (-)*

#### **1 Engineer Field Park Company**

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*2 Infantry Stands (-)*

#### **Notes**

- 1) The **12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup>** Infantry Divisions were sent to France as construction troops, two brigades worked on construction tasks whilst the third trained for the week. Unfortunately the Germans struck before much training could be done and before any re-equipment could take place. Even Bren guns were in short supply so all infantry fire as other in CD terms and are -1 AI in WPD terms.
- 2) On the 20<sup>th</sup> May some artillery units were eventually scraped together for some of the divisions. The **12<sup>th</sup> division** got a troop of 18pdr and the **23<sup>rd</sup> division** got a mixed 18pdr and 4.5" battery. Those of the **12<sup>th</sup> division** had no sights so should be penalised for hitting. None of the guns in either division could fire indirect

#### **Artillery Troop 12<sup>th</sup> Division**

*1 Truck towed limber & 18pdr*

#### **Artillery Battery 26th Division**

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 Car*

*2 Truck Towed limber & 18pdr*

*1 Truck Towed limber & 4.5" Howitzer*

## Infantry Division 1941

### DHQ

1 Command Stand

1 Car

### HQ Company

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck

1 Infantry Stand

0-1 AAMG Stand

### 3 Infantry Brigades

#### Brigade HQ

1 Command Stand

1 Car

#### HQ Company

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck

1 Infantry Stand

### 3 Infantry Battalions

#### BHQ

1 Command Stand

#### 4 Infantry Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)

2 Infantry Stands (ATR)

#### 1 Support Company

1 Engineer Stand (-)

1 3" Mortar Stand (ATR)

1 15cwt Light Truck

1 Recce Infantry Stand (ATR) (+)

1 Universal Carrier

1 Lloyd Carrier towing 2pdr AT Gun

1 Universal Carrier Ammo Carrier

### 3 Artillery Regiments

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck

1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

#### 3 Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand

1 8cwt Van

2 Quad tractors towing No27 Limber and 18/25lb or 25pdr Mk II Gun (4)

### 1 AT Regiment

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 4 AT Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand

1 8cwt Van

3 15cwt Truck towing 2pdr AT Gun

### 1 AA Regiment

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 4 Light AA Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand

1 15cwt Light Truck

2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

### 3 Engineer Field Companies

1 Command Engineer Stand

3 Engineer Stands

1 30cwt 6 Wheel Medium Engineer Supply Truck

### 1 Engineer Field Park Company

1 Command Engineer Stand

1 Engineer Stand

1 30cwt Medium Truck

1 30cwt Light Truck carrying Recce Boats

1 3t Medium Truck carrying SBG Mk II Bridge

1 3t Medium Truck towing Mk II Pontoon Trailer

1 3t Medium Truck carrying Mk II Bridge Trestles

1 3t Medium Engineer Stores Truck

### 0-1 MG Battalion

#### BHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Company

1 AAMG Stand (ATR)

1 15cwt Light Truck

#### 4 MG Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)

3 MMG Stands

4 15cwt Light Trucks

### 1 Recce Regiment

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Squadron

1 3" Mortar Stand (ATR)

1 15cwt Light Truck

1 AAMG Stand (ATR)

2 Lloyd Carrier towing 2pdr AT Gun

1 Universal Ammo Carriers

#### 3 Recce Squadrons

1 Command Light Recce Car

2 Recce Light Recce Cars

1 Recce Universal Carrier

1 Infantry Stand

1 15cwt Light Truck

## Notes

- 1) Engineer Stands (-) have no LMGs or 2" mortars. This fires as "other" in CD terms or is -1 AI in WPD terms. However they were often "found" Bren Guns so might be classified as normal troops.

- 2) The engineer stand in the support company represents a Pioneer platoon. This is not a fully functional engineering stand and may only perform digging tasks as if it's such a stand. It is not equipped or trained for major construction, mine laying or demolitions
- 3) The recce infantry stands are the crew of the carriers so if the stand has dismounted the carrier may move or fire.
- 4) The artillery regiments were officially organised as above in March 1941 previous to that date they were supposed to be organised as in a 1940 division (see above). Some units pre-empted the new organisation before its official publication. Others were somewhat tardy, for example it's likely that the **6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division** in Greece still had the old 1939 organisation.
- 5) In an artillery battery AP is a limited round.
- 6) The Recce Boats are small inflatable boats that can carry two men. There are enough in the field park company to carry a single infantry stand. The SBG Mk-II Bridge is a short sturdy bridge it will make the bridge configurations: 24t – 15m, 18t – 20m, 9t – 25m and 5t – 30m. It takes an engineer stand two hours to build a bridge. The Mk II Bridge Trailer carries the pontoons for the Mk II Folding Boat Bridge. It is a pontoon bridge that can be constructed in the following configurations: A raft/ferry capable of carrying 7t or a 7t bridge up to 80m. The boats can be used as assault boats; the boat trailer carries enough boats to carry 6 infantry stands.
- 7) The Light Recce Car can be any one of: Beaverette Mk II-IV, Humber Mk II or Morris Mk II. The Beaverette never served overseas. The **5<sup>th</sup> Division** in 1941 had Beaverette Mk II cars. The **15<sup>th</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup>** divisions had to make do with the Lorry, 30cwt, Armoured, Anti-Tank, Bedford better known to the troops as the “Meat Safe”. The **56<sup>th</sup>** eventually Humber Mk II cars.
- 8) In April 1941 the 4<sup>th</sup> Recce Regiment of the **4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division** had 2 Bren Gun Carriers and no armoured cars. It had no AT guns, Mortars or AAMG.
- 9) Many infantry divisions in the UK were in a parlous state. Whereas the **1<sup>st</sup> Canadian** division for example was at full strength apart from the fact it had no armoured cars, its cousin the **2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian** division was short of everything: armoured cars, carriers, ATR, AT Guns, AA Guns. It had 7 US 75mm for its divisional artillery. The only bright spot was that Bren guns were arriving from Canadian factories. In Feb the division received 1 25pdr. By April 41 they had another 2. By June they had 5 guns and by Septembers they had a full complement of 25pdr Mk II. The first 2pdr AT gun was received in Jan 1941. Another 2 were delivered in February 41 and 3 transferred from the **1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division** (which didn't get replacements). ATR's remained in short supply through the summer of 1941, the division only having a third the authorised number. At the start of 1941 the division had no 3” mortars, by August 41 this deficiency had been almost entirely made up. In February 1941 the division only had ¼ of the required universal carriers, this had increased to ½ by August 1941. In April 1941 both the **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Divisions** received a pair of Beaverette Armoured cars for their recce regiments.
- 10) When the **3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division** arrived from Canada in the summer of 41 it was better equipped than its predecessor. In August 41 it had 6 25pdr, by the end of September it was fully equipped. However when it arrived it only received 3 2pdr. ATR's were also in very short supply: there being enough to equip 16 infantry stands. It had about ½ the required number of carriers.
- 11) On the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1941 the equipment state of the three Canadian divisions' artillery was as follows

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Div</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Div</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Div</b>
<b>18/25pdr</b>	18	-	-
<b>25pdr Mk II</b>	-	10	6
<b>75mm US</b>	-	5	-

- 12) Two infantry divisions went to Greece as part of W Force the **6<sup>th</sup> Australian** and the **New Zealand Infantry Divisions**. The **6<sup>th</sup>** had an MG battalion attached but had no AA regiment. The artillery was probably organised as two 3 gun (12 real world guns) batteries. The **New Zealand Division** was divided in to 3 brigade groups: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Each had 3 infantry battalions, and artillery regiment, an AT battery, a field engineer coy and a MG Company. The remaining AT battery was in divisional reserve with the field park company and the recce regiment. The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade had the Maori battalion attached.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Division Crete 1941

### DHQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Van

### HQ Company

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 Infantry Stand

### 4<sup>th</sup> NZ Brigade

#### Brigade HQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Company

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 Infantry Stand  
1 MMG Stand

#### 1 Attached Tank Company

1 Mk-VI Command  
1 Mk-VI

#### 3 Infantry Battalions (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> NZ Battalions)

##### BHQ

1 Command Stand

##### 4 Infantry Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)  
2 Infantry Stands (ATR)

##### 1 Support Company

1 Engineer Stand (-)  
1 3" Mortar Stand (ATR)  
1 15cwt Light Truck

### 5<sup>th</sup> NZ Brigade (21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (Maori) NZ Battalions)

As above plus the Maori Battalion; which has an additional MMG attached.

The Brigade had the following other units attached:

#### 27<sup>th</sup> NZ Field Regiment

1 "Italian" 75mm probably a 75/18

#### 1 Troop 151<sup>st</sup> AA Battery

1 Matador Tractor towing 3.7" AA Gun  
1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

#### 2 Field Engineer Companies (7<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Army)

1 Command Engineer Stand  
3 Engineer Stands

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

##### RHQ

1 Command Stand

##### 2 Infantry Battalions

##### BHQ

1 Command Stand  
1 Infantry Stand (-)

##### 3 Companies

2 Infantry Stands (-)

##### 1 MG Company

1 MMG Stand  
2 Infantry Stands (-)

### 10<sup>th</sup> NZ Brigade

#### Brig HQ

1 Command Stand  
1 Car

#### HQ Company

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 Infantry Stand  
1 MMG Stand

#### Composite Battalion NZ Artillery & Service Corps

##### BHQ

1 Command Stand

##### 4 Infantry Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand  
2 Infantry Stands

#### 28<sup>th</sup> NZ Field Artillery Regiment

1 QF 75mm Mk I/II  
1 Truck towing 3.7" Howitzer (bg)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

##### RHQ

1 Command Stand

##### 1 Infantry Battalion

##### BHQ

1 Command Stand

##### 2 Companies

2 Infantry Stands (-)

##### 1 Infantry Battalion

as above but 3 companies

##### 1 MG Company

1 MMG Stand

2 Infantry Stands (-)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

As 6<sup>th</sup> but both battalions have 3 companies

#### 2 Batteries LAA (7<sup>th</sup> Australian & 23<sup>rd</sup> Royal Marines)

1 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

#### 156<sup>th</sup> Battery LAA

1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 8cwt Van  
2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

#### C Battery HAA RM

1 3" AA Gun (bg)

#### 1 Troop LAA RM

2 AAMG Stands

#### Z RM Coastal Battery

1 4" Coastal Gun (bg)

#### RAF Ground Crew

3 MMG stands (improvised from plane MGs)

#### Greek Militia

~4 Infantry Stands

## Notes

- 1) Of the artillery available to the division only the 3.7" Howitzer was capable of indirect fire and it was the only gun with an artillery tractor.
- 2) The Composite battalion consisted of rear area troops and artillery troops acting as infantry. They will be one quality class lower than average.

### 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Crete 1941

#### Brigade HQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 Car*

#### HQ Company

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

*1 Infantry Stand*

#### 1 Attached Tank Company (elements 7<sup>th</sup> RTR & 3<sup>rd</sup> King's own Hussars)

1 Matilda II Command

1 Mk-VI

#### 6 Infantry Battalions (2<sup>nd</sup> Btn York & Lancs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Black Watch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Leicestershire 1<sup>st</sup> Btn Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and 2/4<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion )

##### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*

##### 4 Infantry Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)

2 Infantry Stands (ATR)

##### 1 Support Company

*1 Engineer Stand (-)*

*1 3" Mortar Stand (ATR) (6)*

*1 15cwt Light Truck*

#### 234<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

1 Truck towing "75mm Italian Gun" possibly Obice da 75/18

2 Trucks towing "100mm Italian Gun" probably Obice da 100/17

*1 3t Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment RA

##### RHQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 Car*

##### HQ Battery

*1 15cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

##### 2 Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand

4 Infantry Stands

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Coastal Artillery Regiment

*2 4" Coastal Guns*

#### C Battery HAA RM

*1 Scammell Tractor towing 3.7" AA Gun*

*1 3t Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 1 Troop 7<sup>th</sup> Australian LAA

*1 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA*

#### 1 Troop 156<sup>th</sup> Battery LAA

*1 Bofors 40mm AA*

#### 1 Troop 23<sup>rd</sup> LAA RM

*1 2pdr Pom-Pom AA (bg)*

#### Herakleion Replacement Battalion

##### BHQ

**1 Command Stand**

##### 3 Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 Infantry Stand*

##### 1 MG Company

*1 MMG Stand*

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

##### RHQ

**1 Command Stand**

##### 3 Infantry Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*2 Infantry Stands (-)*

##### 1 MG Company

*2 MMG Stand*

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

##### RHQ

*1 Command Stand*

##### 3 Infantry Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*3 Infantry Stands (-)*

##### 1 MG Company

*1 MMG Stand*

## 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade Crete 1941

### Brigade HQ

1 *Command Stand*

1 *Car*

### HQ Company

1 *8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

1 *Infantry Stand*

### 1 Attached Tank Company

1 Mk-VI Command

1 Mk-VI

### 4 Infantry Battalions (2/1<sup>st</sup>, 2/7<sup>th</sup>, 2/8<sup>th</sup> & 2/11<sup>th</sup> Australian Battalions)

#### BHQ

1 *Command Stand*

#### 4 Infantry Companies

1 *Command Infantry Stand (ATR)*

2 *Infantry Stands (ATR)*

#### 1 Support Company

1 *Engineer Stand (-)*

1 *3" Mortar Stand (ATR) (6)*

1 *15cwt Light Truck*

### 2/8<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer Company

1 *Command Engineer Stand*

3 *Engineer Stands*

### 2/1<sup>st</sup> MMG Battalion

1 *Command Infantry Stand*

3 *MMG Stands*

### X Coastal Battery RM

1 *4" Coastal Gun (bg)*

### 1 battery: 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Regiment

1 *Truck towing a "Italian Gun" possibly Obice da 75/18*

### 1 battery: 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Regiment

1 *Command Infantry Stand*

1 *Car*

2 *Trucks towing "Italian Guns" possibly Obice da 75/18*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

#### RHQ

1 *Command Stand*

### 2 Infantry Battalions

#### BHQ

1 *Command Stand*

1 *Infantry Stand (-)*

### 2 Companies

2 *Infantry Stands (-)*

### 1 MG Company

1 *MMG Stand*

2 *Infantry Stands (-)*

### 5<sup>th</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

#### RHQ

1 *Command Stand*

### 3 Infantry Companies

1 *Command Infantry Stand*

3 *Infantry Stands (-)*

### 1 MG Company

1 *MMG Stand*

### Royal Gendarmerie School

#### HQ

1 *Command Stand*

### 8 Companies

2 *Infantry Stands (-)*

### Rethymnon Replacement Battalion

#### BHQ

1 *Command Stand*

### 4 Infantry Companies

1 *Command Infantry Stand*

1 *Infantry Stand (-)*

### 1 MG Company

1 *MMG Stand*

## Mobile Naval Base Defence Organization 1, Royal Marines, Crete 1941

### HQ

1 Command Stand  
1 Car

### M Group

#### 52<sup>nd</sup> LAA Regt HQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Car

#### HQ Battery

1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

#### 1 Troop 151<sup>st</sup> HAA Battery

1 Matador Tractor towing 3.7" AA Gun

#### 129<sup>th</sup> LAA Battery (plus a troop of 156<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Australian LAA)

1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 15cwt Light Truck  
3 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

### S Group

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy AA Regt RM HQ

1 Command Stand

#### HQ Battery

1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

#### 234<sup>th</sup> HAA Battery

1 Matador Tractor towing 3.7" AA Gun

#### A & C HAA Battery RM

2 3" AA Guns

#### 304<sup>th</sup> SL Battery

1 Command Infantry Stand  
4 90cm Searchlight

### Crete Composite Coy RE & 5<sup>th</sup> NZ Field Park Company

1 *Command* Engineer Stand  
3 Engineer Stands

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Welch Regiment

#### BHQ

1 Command Stand

#### 4 Infantry Companies

1 *Command* Infantry Stand (ATR)  
2 Infantry Stands (ATR)

#### 1 Support Company

1 Engineer Stand (-)  
1 3" Mortar Stand (ATR)

### 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion KRRC

As Welch above

### 106<sup>th</sup> LAA Regiment RHA

#### RHQ

1 *Command* Stand

#### 3 Batteries

1 *Command* Infantry Stand  
1 Infantry Stand

### 102<sup>nd</sup> LAA Regiment

As Above

### 2/2<sup>nd</sup> & 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Regiments

#### RHQ

1 *Command* Stand

#### 3 Batteries

1 *Command* Infantry Stand  
1 Infantry Stand

#### 1 Battery

1 *Command* Infantry Stand  
5 Infantry Stands

### 102<sup>nd</sup> AT Regiment

#### RHQ

1 *Command* Stand

#### 3 Batteries

1 *Command* Infantry Stand  
1 Infantry Stand

### 11<sup>th</sup> Search Light Regiment

1 *Command* Stand

4 Infantry Stands

### 211<sup>th</sup> Medium Artillery Battery

1 *Command* Infantry Stand

3 Infantry Stands

### 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Composite Battalion

#### BHQ

1 *Command* Stand

#### 4 Infantry Companies

1 *Command* Infantry Stand  
2 Infantry Stands

### 17<sup>th</sup> Australian Composite Battalion

As Above

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Cretan Infantry Regiment

#### RHQ

1 *Command* Stand

#### 2 Infantry Battalions

1 *Command* Stand  
3 Infantry Stands (-)

## Independent Brigade Groups 1940-1941

The independent brigade group resembled the infantry brigade of a division. However it had no divisional affiliation and usually had a number of supporting units attached on a more-or-less permanent basis. None of the Brigades saw combat in the period covered by this list, all being home defence units. The organisation of the sub units of the brigade is the same as the appropriate division for the year. The component parts of each brigade are listed below.

- 1) **24<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Groups.** 4 infantry battalions, 1 artillery regiment, 1 AT battery, 1 MG company & 1 brigade AT Company

- 2) **29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group.** 4 infantry battalions, 1 artillery battery (1 25pdr) & 1 AA Troop (1 40mm Bofors)
- 3) **31<sup>st</sup> Independent Brigade Groups.** 3 infantry battalions, 1 artillery regiment, 1 AT battery, 1 MG company, 1 RE field company & 1 brigade AT Company
- 4) **148<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group.** 4 infantry battalions, 1 artillery regiment, 1 AT battery & 1 MG company.
- 5) **198<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group.** 3 infantry battalions, 2 Independent companies, 1 artillery regiment, 1 AT battery & 1 MG company (2 MMG stands only)

### **Motor Machine Gun Brigade 1940**

#### **Bde HQ**

*1 Mk-VI Tank Command*

#### **HQ Company**

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

#### **3 Regiments**

##### **RHQ**

1 Command Stand

1 Car

##### **3 Squadrons**

1 Command Infantry Stand

1 Infantry Stand

1 Medium or 2 Light Trucks

2 MMG Stand

2 LMG/ATR Stands

4 Cars

#### **Notes**

- 1) There were 3 such brigades **1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>**. **1<sup>st</sup>** existed from late May to early October 1940, **2<sup>nd</sup>** from early June to early December and the **3<sup>rd</sup>** from late June to late November 1940.
- 2) By September 1940 the **1<sup>st</sup> Brigade** had probably replaced the cars, MMG stands and LMG/ATR with Humber Light Recce Cars. Each regiment had a single Valentine tank and a Malcolm Campbell Armoured Car – the latter probably as an HQ vehicle.
- 3) By September 1940 the **3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade** had replaced the cars, MMG stands and LMG/ATR stands with Beaverette and Humber Light Recce Cars
- 4) The LMG/ATR stands fire as dedicated ATR stands but have the firepower of a normal infantry stand.
- 5) The cars in the list above represent more “real world” cars than the norm, thus each can lift a single stand.
- 6) All the brigades were short of kit and had to rely on many requisitioned civilian vehicles.

### **Home or Beach Defence Battalion 1940-1941**

#### **BHQ**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 Car*

#### **3-6 Companies**

1 Command Infantry Stand (-)

3-5 Infantry Stands (-)



## Notes

- 1) Home defence battalions were often split up with platoons (stands) being scattered all over the countryside defending important locations.
- 2) Units defending beaches were often bolstered with an assortment of ancient heavy weapons.

### **Pioneer Battalion 1939-1941**

#### **BHQ**

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Truck*

#### **HQ Company**

1 AAMG Stand

1 15cwt Light Truck

#### **3-4 Companies**

1 Command Infantry Stand

2 Infantry Stands

## Notes

- 1) Three companies in 1939, four 1940 onwards

### **LDV or Home Guard Battalion 1940-1941**

#### **BHQ**

1 Command Stand

#### **HQ Company**

0-1 3" Smith Gun

0-1 Car

#### **2-6 Companies**

1 Command Infantry Stand (-) (ATR?)

2-7 Infantry Stands (-)

0-1 MMG Stands

0-1 Northover Projector Stands

## Notes

- 1) The Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) were formed in May 1940; they became the Home Guard in July 1940.
- 2) In the beginning even small arms were in short supply, units relying on farmers' shot-guns and Molotov Cocktails. Such stands are only capable of close assaults. By mid July 1940 some US rifles were issued but only enough to give one stand in 20 rifles. By August 1940 things had improved and one in three stands had rifles. By September about 2/3rds the guard had rifles. However MGs were still in short supply so all infantry stands fire as "other" for CD and are AI -1 for WPD.
- 3) By the start of 1941 a battalion stood some chance of having a few Northover Projectors; some US Browning MMGs and/or a handful of Boys ATR. By August 1941 most companies had Northover Projectors, this went some way to alleviating the shortage of rifles as the Northover crew didn't carry rifles. However there were still men without weapons at the end of 1941.
- 4) The Smith Gun was not issued until July 1941 and many units did not get any until 1942. It was towed by requisitioned transport.

# Armoured Units

## 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division (-) France 1940

### DHQ

1 Cruiser Command

### HQ Company

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Command*

### 2 Armoured Brigades

#### Brig HQ

1 Cruiser Command

#### HQ Squadron

1 Cruiser CS

### 3 Regiments

#### RHQ

1 Mk-VI Command

#### HQ Squadron

*1 3t Ammo Truck + AAMG & ATR*

#### 2 Squadrons

1 Cruiser Command

0-1 Cruiser

1 Mk-VI

### 1 AT/AA Regiment

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 2 AT Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

3 15cwt Truck towing 2pdr AT Gun

#### 2 Light AA Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 15cwt Light Truck*

12 AAMG Stands

6 30cwt Medium Trucks

#### 1 Engineer Field Company

1 *Command* Engineer Stand

3 Engineer Stands (ATR)

4 15cwt Light Trucks

1 30cwt 6 Wheel Medium Engineer Supply Truck

#### 1 Engineer Field Park Company

1 *Command* Engineer Stand

1 30cwt Medium Truck

1 30cwt Medium Truck (mines)

1 30cwt Medium Truck (wire)

1 30cwt Medium Truck (boats)

1 3t Medium Truck (track way)

### Notes

- 1) Each regiment has 4 Mk-VI and 5 or 6 Cruisers. In total the division has 29 Cruisers and 24 Mk-VI (excluding 3<sup>rd</sup> RTR). The exact break down of cruiser types is unknown but the following tanks were taken to France: 1 A9; 4 A9CS; 6 A10; 8 A13 Mk1; 13 A13 Mk2 and 1 Unknown. The 3<sup>rd</sup> RTR was detached from the division and fought as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Calais (see below)
- 2) The 8cwt trucks are mostly Morris PU, the 3t were mostly Bedford QY.
- 3) The ammo truck in the tank RHQ: the crew must dismount to fire the ATR, the AAMG is roof mounted
- 4) Each engineer stand carries ¼ tonne (560lb) of explosives. The boat truck carries 4 Mk 1 Assault boats each capable of carrying one infantry stand. The wire truck carries 300m of barbed wire. The mine truck carried 3000 (real world) AT mines. The track way truck carries a 20ft track way sufficient to allow 24t vehicles to cross small ditches. There was supposed to be a 3t Truck with a SBG Mk III but it didn't make it to France.
- 5) The above organisation was how the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division looked when it attacked the German Bridgeheads at the Somme. During the attack it lost a great deal of its armoured strength. It was withdrawn from combat.
- 6) After the Somme attack the division had 5 Mk-VI, 5 Cruisers and 1 Matilda I, these were organised in a 3 squadron regiment. The AA batteries received 1 Bofors each and the division was reinforced with a standard infantry battalion.
- 7) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division formed on this basis in January 1940, though it only had light tanks and MG armed trucks to stand in for the cruiser tanks.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade May 1940

### Brigade HQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

### HQ Squadron

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

### 2 Motor Battalions (1<sup>st</sup> Bttn Rifle Brigade & 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn KRRC)

#### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

#### 4 Motor Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)*

*2 Infantry Stands*

*3 15cwt Light Trucks*

*1 Recce Infantry Stand (+)*

*1 Scout Carrier*

### 1 "Motorcycle" Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Bttn Queen Victoria Rifles)

#### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*

#### 3 Infantry Companies

*1 Command Infantry Stand (-)*

*2 Infantry Stands (-)*

### 1 Tank Regiment (3<sup>rd</sup> RTR)

#### RHQ

*1 A-9CS Command*

#### HQ Squadron

*1 3t Ammo Truck + AAMG & ATR*

#### 2 Squadrons

*1 A-13 Cruiser Command*

*1 A-9 Cruiser*

*1 Mk-VI*

#### 1 AT Battery (229<sup>th</sup>)

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 8cwt van*

*2 15cwt Truck towing 2pdr AT Gun*

*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 1 Heavy AA Battery (6<sup>th</sup> Btty, 2<sup>nd</sup> HAA Regt)

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 Car*

*2 Scammel Heavy Trucks towing 3.7" AA Gun*

*1 6x4 3t Truck towing Fire Control Trailer*

*1 6x4 3t Truck towing No 1 Mk 1 Air Search Radar*

*1 3t Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 1 Light AA Battery (172<sup>nd</sup>)

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 15cwt Light Truck*

*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

*1 Vickers Mk VIII 2pdr 40mm AA (fixed)*

#### 2 Search Light Batteries (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>)

*1 Command Stand*

*4 Infantry Stands (ATR)*

## Notes

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade only had half its vehicles available, as the ship carrying them left Calais before they could all be unloaded.
- 2) The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion QVR was a motorcycle unit in name only having left all its vehicles in England. One third its infantry were only armed with pistols so it fires as other in CD terms and is -1 AI for WPD.
- 3) The 3<sup>rd</sup> RTR definitely had 5 cruisers and 4 light tanks. The types of cruiser have been estimated from personal accounts of the battle.
- 4) The 229<sup>th</sup> AT battery should have had 3 guns but one was left in England due to lack of shipping space
- 5) The searchlight batteries had lights and sound locators but they were used as infantry in the battle for Calais so are depicted as such
- 6) The majority of the unit were regular personnel; however the 1<sup>st</sup> QVR and 229<sup>th</sup> AT Battery were territorials.

## Armoured Division late 1940-1941

### DHQ

- 1 Tank Command
- 1 Tank

### HQ Company

- 1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck

### 2 Armoured Brigades

#### Brig HQ

- 1 Tank Command

#### HQ Squadron

- 1 Tank
- 1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck

### 3 Armoured Regiments

#### RHQ

- 1 Tank Command

#### HQ Squadron

- 1 CS Tank
- 1 3t Ammo Truck

#### 3 Squadrons

- 1 Tank Command
- 2 Tanks

### 1 Motor Battalion

#### BHQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Light Truck

#### 4 Motor Companies

- 1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)
- 1 Infantry Stand
- 2 15cwt Light Trucks
- 1 Recce Infantry Stand (+) (ATR)
- 1 Scout Carrier

### 1 Support Group

#### Group HQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Van

### 1 AT Regiment

#### RHQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

- 1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 4 AT Batteries

- 1 Command Infantry Stand
- 1 Car
- 3 15cwt Truck towing 2pdr AT Gun

### 1 Artillery Regiment

#### RHQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

- 1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck
- 1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

#### 3 Batteries

- 1 Command Infantry Stand
- 1 8cwt Van
- 2 Quad towing No27 Limber and 18/25lb or 25pdr Mk II Gun

### 1 AA Regiment

#### RHQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Company

- 1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck
- 1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 4 Light AA Batteries

- 1 Command Infantry Stand
- 1 15cwt Light Truck
- 2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

### 1 Infantry Battalion

#### BHQ

- 1 Command Stand
- 1 8cwt Van
- 1 AAMG Stand
- 1 15cwt Truck

#### HQ Company

- 1 Recce Infantry Stand (+) (ATR)
- 1 Scout Carrier

#### 4 Infantry Companies

- 1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)
- 2 Infantry Stands (ATR)
- 1 3t Heavy Truck

### 1 Armoured Car Regiment

#### RHQ

- 1 Humber Mk II Command

#### 3 Squadrons

- 1 Humber Mk II Command
- 3 Recce Humber Mk II

### 2 Engineer Field Companies

- 1 Command Engineer Stand
- 3 Engineer Stands (ATR)
- 4 15cwt Light Trucks
- 1 30cwt 6 Wheel Medium Engineer Supply Truck

### 1 Engineer Field Park Company

- 1 Command Engineer Stand
- 1 30cwt Medium Truck
- 1 30cwt Medium Truck (mines)
- 1 30cwt Medium Truck (wire)
- 1 30cwt Medium Truck (boats)
- 1 3t Medium Truck (track way)
- 1 3t Medium Truck (SBG Mk-III)

## Notes

- 1) This represents the home defence armoured divisions formed after Dunkirk.
- 2) Tanks were in short supply after Dunkirk and in the summer of 1940 it was a lucky armoured division that had any tanks. The 1<sup>st</sup> was best off having 26 Cruiser tanks and 4 Light tanks by September 1940. About that time the supporting formations were brought to something like full strength. In October the 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade was transferred to it (see item 4 below). In early 1941 all its cruisers were stripped from it and sent to the Middle East. It was then brought up to strength with Crusaders.
- 3) The 2<sup>nd</sup> was officially formed in Jan 1940, but by June 1940 was still woefully short of tanks: its 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade had 30 Mk-VI light tanks. In September 1940 the entire division had 36 "light tanks". In October the DHQ and each of the Bde HQ's had 1 A10 cruiser and 1 Mk-VI each. The 2<sup>nd</sup> RTR had 1 A9CS, 8 A10 and 4 A13. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> RTR each had: 1 A10CS, 4 A10 and 8 A13. The 1<sup>st</sup> RHA providing the artillery for the division had Mk-VI command tanks at RHQ in place of the 8cwt van. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is listed in item 4 below. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division never fully formed on the new organisation, the tank brigades never got motor battalions and the division lacked any AT or AA guns. The armoured car regiment had a mixture of Morris and Rolls Royce A/C. In August 1941 the division was carted off to Egypt.
- 4) A detailed listing of the equipment available to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Division is available from the regimental diaries. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division on 10/10/40.

### 2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars

May 1940: 1 Vickers Medium, 1 Mk-VIc, 1 ATR/LMG Stand, 1 Truck

June 1940: 2 Mk-VIc, 2 Mk VIb, 2 Daimler Dingo

July 1940: 6 "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 2 Mk VIb

August 1940: 6 Mk-IIIa "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 3 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo

September 1940: 6 "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 3 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humberette A/C

October 1940: 6 "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 5 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humberette A/C

November 1940: 1 Crusader Mk I; 6 "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 5 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC

December 1940: 1 Crusader Mk I; 5 "Dutchmen", 2 Mk-VIc, 5 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC

January 1941: 1 Crusader Mk I; 4 "Dutchmen", 3 Mk-VIc, 5 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo

February 1941: 2 Crusader Mk I; 4 "Dutchmen", 3 Mk-VIc, 5 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo

March 1941: 5 Crusader Mk I; 4 Mk-VIc, 7 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo

April 1941: 1 Crusader Mk I; 1 A-13 Mk II; 4 Mk-VIc, 7 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo

May 1941: 3 Crusader Mk I; 1 A-13 Mk II; 4 Mk-VIc, 7 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Lloyd Carrier

June 1941: 5 Crusader; 1 A-13 Mk II; 4 Mk-VIc, 7 Mk VIb, 1 Daimler Dingo, 1 Lloyd Carrier

### 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry

July 1940: 2 Mk-IIIa Dutchmen; 2 Mk-VIb; 2 Humber Mk I LRC

August 1940: 11 Mk-VIb, 1 Humber Mk I LRC, 1 Light Dragon Mk II

September 1940: 8 Mk-VIb, 1 Humber Mk I LRC, 1 Light Dragon Mk II

November 1940: 8 Mk-VIb, 1 Mk-V, 1 Humber Mk I LRC, 1 Light Dragon Mk II

December 1940: 1 A-13 Mk II; 8 Mk-VIb, 1 Mk-VI, 1 Humber Mk I LRC

January 1941: 1 A-13 Mk II; 8 Mk-VIb, 1 Mk-VI, 1 Humber Mk I LRC, 2 Daimler Dingo

February 1941: 1 A-13 Mk II; 7 Mk-VIb, 1 Mk-VIc, 1 Mk-VI, 2 Daimler Dingo

March 1941: 1 Crusader Mk I; 1 A-13 Mk II; 6 Mk-VIb, 2 Mk-VIc, 1 Mk-VI, 2 Daimler Dingo

April 1941: 5 Crusader Mk I; 1 Covanter, 1 A-13 Mk II; 2 Mk-VIb, 6 Mk-VIc, 2 Daimler Dingo

May 1941: 1 Covanter, 1 A-13 Mk II; 2 Mk-VIb, 6 Mk-VIc, 2 Daimler Dingo

June 1941: 2 Crusader Mk I; 1 Covanter, 1 A-13 Mk II; 2 Mk-VIb, 6 Mk-VIc, 2 Daimler Dingo

July 1941: 5 Crusader Mk I; 1 Covanter, 1 A-13 Mk II; 2 Mk-VIb, 6 Mk-VIc, 2 Daimler Dingo

### 4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry

May 1940: 2 Vickers Medium; 2 Mk-VIc, 1 Light Dragon

June 1940: 5 Mk-VIc, 1 Light Dragon

July 1940: 10 Mk-VIc, 1 Light Dragon, 1 Daimler Dingo

August 1940: 10 Mk-VIc, 1 Light Dragon, 1 Daimler Dingo  
 September 1940: 9 Mk-VIc; 1 Light Dragon, 2 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC  
 October 1940: 9 Mk-VIc; 1 Light Dragon, 2 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC  
 November 1940: 8 Mk-VIc; 1 A-13 Mk II, 2 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC  
 December 1940: 8 Mk-VIc; 1 A-13 Mk II, 2 Daimler Dingo, 1 Humber Mk I LRC  
 January 1941: 8 Mk-VIc; 1 A-13 Mk II, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 February 1941: 8 Mk-VIc; 1 Crusader Mk I, 1 A-13 Mk II, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 March 1941: 4 Mk-VIc; 5 Crusader Mk I, 1 A-13 Mk II, 1 Covenanter, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 April 1941: 4 Mk-VIc; 1 Covenanter, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 May 1941: 4 Mk-VIc; 2 Crusader Mk I, 1 Covenanter, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 June 1941: 4 Mk-VIc; 3 Crusader Mk I, 1 Covenanter, 2 Daimler Dingo  
 July 1941: 1 Mk-VIc; 2 Covenanter, 2 Crusader Mk I; 1 Light Tank M2A4; 1 Medium Tank M3, 2 Daimler Dingo

- 5) The 6<sup>th</sup> was formed in October 1940, though it had but a single Matilda II at the time, having to make do with MG and ATR armed trucks. There were a handful (probably 1 or 2 stands) of Guy armoured cars and carriers in the 20<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. The rest of the division was in poor shape the artillery regiment having a mix of 18pdr, 4.5" howitzer and US 75mm Guns towed by impressed civilian vehicles. There were no Bofors the AA regiment making do with AAMGs. At least the AT regiment had some 2pdr, by December 1940 each regiment was at 1/3<sup>rd</sup> strength with Matilda II (probably CS) and Valentines. By March the artillery equipment was replaced with 25pdr Mk II and each of the Regiments had 8 Valentines and 1 Matilda II CS.
- 6) The 7<sup>th</sup> was out in the Desert so is beyond the scope of this volume
- 7) The 8<sup>th</sup> was formed on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1940. It was equipped with Matilda II CS and Valentine tanks. There is no record of it early equipment state but it's likely to have lagged a few months behind the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 8) The Recce Infantry Stand (+) has a high number of LMGs compared to a normal stand. In CD terms it has a ROF of 2. It requires both Bren Carriers to carry it. The stand represents the crew of the carriers so if the stand has dismounted the carrier may move or fire.
- 9) Each engineer stand carries ¼ tonne (560lb) of explosives. The boat truck carries 4 Mk 1 Assault boats each capable of carrying one infantry stand. The wire truck carries 300m of barbed wire. The mine truck carried 3000 (real world) AT mines. The track way truck carries a 20ft track way sufficient to allow 24t vehicles to cross small ditches. The SBG Mk III can make bridges in the following configurations: 40t – 13m; 24t – 20m; 18t – 25m and 9t – 30m. It takes an engineer stand two hours to build a bridge.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade Group 1941

### Brig HQ

1 A13 Mk II Command

### HQ Squadron

1 Mk-VIB

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

### 1 Armoured Regiment (3<sup>rd</sup> RTR)

#### RHQ

1 A10 Command

#### HQ Squadron

1 A10 CS Tank

*1 3t Ammo Truck*

#### 3 Squadrons

1 A10 Command

2 A10's

### 1 Armoured Regiment (4<sup>th</sup> Hussars)

#### RHQ

1 Mk-VIB Command

#### HQ Squadron

*1 3t Ammo Truck*

#### 3 Squadrons

1 Mk-VIB Command

2 Mk-VI

### 1 Motor Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Rangers)

#### BHQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Light Truck*

#### 4 Motor Companies

1 Command Infantry Stand (ATR)

1 Infantry Stand

2 15cwt Light Trucks

1 Recce Infantry Stand (+) (ATR)

1 Scout Carrier

### 1 Artillery Regiment (2<sup>nd</sup> RHA)

#### RHQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

#### HQ Battery

*1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

*1 3t Medium Ammo Truck*

#### 3 Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 8cwt Van*

2 Quad towing No27 Limber and 25pdr Gun

### 1 Light AA Battery (155<sup>th</sup>)

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

*1 15cwt Light Truck*

2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA

### 1 AT Regiment (102<sup>nd</sup>)

#### RHQ

1 Command Stand

1 8cwt Van

#### HQ Battery

1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck

#### 2 AT Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand*

1 Car

3 2pdr Portee AT Gun

### 1 Engineer Field Company (3<sup>rd</sup> Cheshire)

1 Command Engineer Stand

3 Engineer Stands (ATR)

4 15cwt Light Trucks

1 30cwt 6 Wheel Medium Engineer Supply Truck

## Notes

- 1) This unit was sent to Greece in April 1941

## Army Tank Brigade 1939-1941

### Brigade HQ

1 Command Cruiser Tank

### 3 Tank Regiments

#### RHQ

1 Command Matilda

*1 3t Ammo Truck + AAMG & ATR*

#### HQ Squadron

2 Recce Mk IVB

#### 3 Tank Companies

1 Command Matilda

3 Matilda

## Notes

- 1) Only 2 regiments were sent to France with the BEF, there was no Brigade HQ. For the rest of the period covered by this book its unlikely tanks were allocated to the Brigade HQ. It's probable that it has a staff car and command stand.

- 2) The **1<sup>st</sup> Army Tank Brigade** consisted of 3 regiments: 4<sup>th</sup> RTR in France was equipped with Matilda I. 7<sup>th</sup> RTR in France was equipped with 50% Matilda I and 50% Matilda II. The 8<sup>th</sup> RTR was left in Britain and was equipped with 66% Matilda I and 33% Matilda II at the time of Dunkirk. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were lost in France and replaced by the 44<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> regiments in December 1940. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> RTR of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was eventually entirely re-equipped with Matilda II by September 1940. The 7<sup>th</sup> RTR in September 1940 was equipped with Matilda I tanks and was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force.
- 3) The **1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army Tank Brigade** arrived in Britain in July 1941. It had the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Army Tank Battalions. By the end of July it had 3 Matilda II, 1 Churchill Mk I and a single Dingo. By the end of August the Brigade had 1 “Cruiser”, 2 Dingos, and 9 Infantry tanks (probably 1 Churchill and the rest Matildas). On the 24/10/41 the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion was at near full strength, each squadron having 3 Matilda MkII\* and the HQ had 1 Matilda. There were no light tanks. On 19/11/41 the battalion took possession of its first Churchill, at the same time the other Battalion received an influx of new tanks. On the 30/11/41 the 14<sup>th</sup> battalion had 3 Churchills and 6 Matildas. The battalion also had 2 “Scout Cars” almost certainly Dingoes.
- 4) The **21<sup>st</sup> Army Tank Brigade** had the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> RTR. The 43<sup>rd</sup> joined when the 44<sup>th</sup> was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in December 1940. At the start of the war it was equipped with Vickers Mediums and Mk II Light Tanks each regiment having enough tanks to equip a single squadron, the other squadrons were deployed as infantry (one command infantry and one infantry stand each). In September 1940 the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> RTR were receiving Matilda II tanks and the 48<sup>th</sup> RTR was getting Valentine Mk I. These were supplemented by Mk II in April 1941. On 1/10/40 the 42 RTR had 4 Matilda II, 1 Vickers Medium, 1 Light Tank and 1 Carrier. On 14/9/40 44 RTR had 10 Matilda II. On 17/9/40 48 RTR had 8 Valentines, 1 Light Tank and 2 Carriers.
- 5) The **25<sup>th</sup> Army Tank Brigade** was formed in 1939 but had very few if any tanks. When it was re-formed in December 1940 it had the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> RTR. The 12<sup>th</sup> RTR was formed on Matilda II tanks, by July 1941 it a 3 stands of Churchill (Mk I or II) tanks. The 51<sup>st</sup> was another Matilda unit receiving its first Churchill Mk II in July. The 11<sup>th</sup> had Valentine tanks.
- 6) The **31<sup>st</sup> Army Tank Brigade** was formed in January 1941 with two regiments: 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> RTR, however equipment was slow in coming, in June 1941 the 9<sup>th</sup> RTR it had 1 Valentine, 1 Vickers Medium & 2 Mk-VI Light Tanks. By the end of the month they had received a Churchill Mk I. By the end of September they had 5 Churchills
- 7) The **North Irish Horse** was converted to an independent armoured regiment in April 1941. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1941 it had 5 Valentine Tanks. This increased to 6 on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Armoured Brigade 1939-1941**

#### **Bde HQ**

1 Command Tank

*1 Scwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

#### **3 Armoured Regiments**

##### **RHQ**

1 Command Tank

##### **3 Squadrons**

1 Command Tank

3 Tanks

#### **Notes**

- 1) There were three such brigades the **20<sup>th</sup>**, **23<sup>rd</sup>** and **24<sup>th</sup>**.
- 2) The **20<sup>th</sup>** was formed at the outbreak of the war but equipment was slow in coming. In May 1940 each regiment was about squadron strength and had a mix of Carriers, Guy Armoured cars, Mk-VI tanks and some lorries. During May all the “equipped” squadrons in the Brigade formed the **Yeomanry Armoured Detachment**. At the start of June all squadrons received an influx of Bren Gun Carriers. On the last day of June 1940 it became part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division



- 3) The **23<sup>rd</sup>** was in a similar shape to the **20<sup>th</sup>**; it received its first Valentine tanks in October 1940. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> it became part of the **8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division**.
- 4) The **24<sup>th</sup> Brigade** only lasted a few months of 1940. In September it had some light tanks. It received its first Valentines in October 1940
- 5) The **1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade Group** was heavily reinforced and is described in the armoured division entry

#### **Light Armoured Recce Brigade 1940**

##### **Bde HQ**

1 Mk-VI Command

##### **HQ Company**

*1 Scwt FFW Staff Radio Truck*

##### **2 Cavalry Regiments**

##### **RHQ**

1 Command Mk-VIB/C

##### **3 Squadrons**

1 Command Mk-VIB/C

1 Mk-VIB

1 Recce Infantry Stand (+) (ATR)

1 Scout Carrier

##### **Notes**

- 1) Two such units the **1<sup>st</sup>** & **2<sup>nd</sup>** were formed by taking divisional cavalry regiments from the infantry divisions. There were also some independent cavalry regiments
- 2) The recce infantry stands are the crew of the carriers so if the stand has dismounted neither carrier may move or fire.
- 3) In June 1940 the **1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Recce Brigade** was re-formed after the losses in France. As it was an armoured car unit it is described in the section on armoured car regiments below.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers Armoured Car Regiment 1939-1940**

##### **RHQ**

1 Morris CS9 A/C Command

##### **3 Squadrons**

1 Morris CS9 A/C *Command*

2 Recce Morris CS9 A/C

1 Recce M/C Patrol Stand

1 Engineer Stand (-)

1 3t Truck

##### **Notes**

- 1) The M/C Patrol stand is a very small unit. The riders only have pistols. Thus it has NO combat ability and is treated as soft transport. The motorcycles were 350cc machines.
- 2) The engineers were attached to the unit in 1940 to demolish bridges during the retreat through France. As they are small detachments they fire as other for CD and have -1 AI for WPD. In game terms the only engineering task they can perform is demolitions.

#### **Armoured Car Regiment 1939-1941**

##### **RHQ**

1 A/C Command

##### **3 Squadrons**

1 A/C *Command*

2-3 A/C

##### **Notes**

- 1) There were 3 regiments formed at the start of the war: **North Irish Horse** and the **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Derbyshire Yeomanry**

- 2) The **NIH** only received its first armoured car in January 1940. The exact type is unknown but the unit was equipped with a mix of Rolls-Royce and Humber Mk 1 Light Recce Cars. By June 1940 strength had increased to 2 armoured cars. Non “mounted” personnel served as Infantry giving a pair of recce infantry stand (-), both of which were motorised in light trucks. In April 1941 the NIH was converted to a Valentine tank unit.
- 3) The **1<sup>st</sup> Derbyshire Yeomanry** was assigned to the 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in November 1940. Up to that time it probably only had MG armed cars and no armoured cars.
- 4) The **2<sup>nd</sup> Derbyshire Yeomanry** was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in November 1940. Up to that point it was equipped with MG armed cars and a one or two Guy armoured cars.
- 5) In June 1940 the **1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Recce Brigade** was formed. It was a short lived formation which was disbanded by the end of the year. It contained 3 armoured car regiments: 4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards; 13<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Hussars and 1<sup>st</sup> East Riding Yeomanry. Each regiment had 12 Beaverette light recce cars in September 1940.

### **Phantom 1940**

1 Command Stand  
 1 Commandeered Ford V8 Car  
 1 Recce Guy A/C  
 1 Recce M/C Infantry Stand

#### **Notes**

- 1) The Phantom was the GHQ’s liaison unit used to keep contact with subordinate HQ’s. As such it’s not really a combat unit and is included for the sake of interest.
- 2) This is a territorial unit.

### **Armoured Train Group 1940-41**

1 Armoured Locomotive  
 2 6pdr Armoured Gun Cars

#### **Notes**

- 1) There were four such groups imaginatively numbered **No.1 to No.4**
- 2) Each train had 2 6pdr naval guns, 2 Boys ATR and 6 MG.

## **Artillery Units**

### **Field Regiment RA 1939-1941**

These are organised as the divisional artillery of an infantry division (see above), however there were no 4.5” howitzers in the non-divisional artillery.

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) Regiments 1939-1940

### RHQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Van

### HQ Battery

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 3t Medium Ammo Truck

### 2 Batteries

1 (Joint) Command Mk-VIB  
2 Light Dragon towing No27 Limber and 18/25lb

### Notes

- 1) Supposedly part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division, they were sent to France ahead of their parent formation and never fought under its command
- 2) In early 1940 the 1<sup>st</sup> RHA swapped its Dragon batteries for Morris Quad towed batteries.
- 3) There was no AP ammo in the official allocation

## Medium Regiment RA 1939-1941

### RHQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Van

### HQ Battery

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 3t Medium Ammo Trucks

### 2 Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 6 Wheel Car  
2 Matador Medium truck OR Dragon Mk III/IV  
towing Gun

### Notes

- 1) This represents units with 4.5" Guns, 60pdr and 6" Howitzers
- 2) Only the 6" batteries use the Dragon, though most were truck towed. All Dragons were lost in France.
- 3) After Dunkirk there was a general shortage of guns and most Medium regiments were under strength.
- 4) In March 1941 the medium regiments were reorganised with 3 batteries.
- 5) There was no smoke issued for these guns

## Heavy Regiment RA 1939-1941

### RHQ

1 Command Stand  
1 8cwt Van

### HQ Battery

1 8cwt FFW Staff Radio Truck  
1 6x4 Medium Ammo Trucks

### 1 Gun Battery

1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 8cwt Van  
2 Heavy Tractor towing 1 6" Mk 19 Gun

### 2 Howitzer Batteries

1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 8cwt Van  
2 Heavy Tractor towing 1 8" or 9.2" Howitzer

### Notes

- 1) There were 3 such regiments in France: 1<sup>st</sup> with a mix of 6" guns and 8" howitzers and the 51<sup>st</sup> & 52<sup>nd</sup> with 6" guns and 9.2" howitzers

- 2) Most of the guns were lost in France. However by September 1940 the **57<sup>th</sup> (Newfoundland) Regiment** had been equipped with 9.2" and 6" guns; however it had two of each type. There was also the **59<sup>th</sup> (Newfoundland) Regiment** but that only had a single 9.2" gun.
- 3) The 6" and 8" guns are towed in two parts and need to be assembled at the firing site. The 9.2" was transported in 3 parts; though only 2 tractors were required to tow the 3 parts. The 9.2 was installed on a massive platform and took a minimum of 6 hours to emplace and the same amount of time to take up.
- 4) None of these guns fired smoke.

### **Super Heavy Battery RA 1939-1941**

*1 Command Infantry Stand*  
*1 8cwt Van*  
*1 6x4 Medium Ammo Truck*  
2 Heavy Tractor towing 1 12" Howitzer

#### **Notes**

- 1) This organisation is a "fudge" as it represents an amalgamation of the **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** batteries that only had 2 "real world" guns each
- 2) The 12" Howitzer needed elaborate preparations before firing could commence taking a minimum of 6 hours to emplace or displace
- 3) Oddly no smoke was available for the 12" Howitzer

### **Super Heavy Battery (Rail) RA 1939-1941**

1 Command Infantry Stand  
 1 Steam Locomotive  
 1 9.2" Rail Gun  
 1 Ammo Rail Wagon  
 1 Crew Rail Wagon

#### **Notes**

- 1) This organisation is a fudge as it represents only 2 "real world" guns. To represent this you may want to limit it to firing every other turn
- 2) Only one battery (**1<sup>st</sup>**) was sent to France. However several were activated for home defence in May & June 1940. **X & Y battery RCA** together made the **3<sup>rd</sup> Super Heavy Regiment RA**; the **27<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RA** also manned railway guns. The **3<sup>rd</sup>** and **27<sup>th</sup>** both had 4 "real world" guns each so should have no firing restrictions (the organisation above does not change). There was also the **4<sup>th</sup>** and **10<sup>th</sup>** Super Heavy Batteries
- 3) The **5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>** and **13<sup>th</sup>** super heavy batteries used 12" rail howitzers were reactivated for anti-invasion defence and used a similar organisation. The **6<sup>th</sup> Super Heavy Battery** had more guns than the others and should have no firing restrictions.
- 4) One battery of 13.5" railway guns was emplaced near Dover manned by Royal Marines. The last gun to make up the battery was not delivered until May 1941. The ammo and crew facilities for these guns were almost certainly located in building close to the track. There was also a single "real world" 18" rail gun operating in the Dover area in 1940, but being only a single gun its insignificant in platoon scale games.

# AA Units

## AAMG Battalion 1939-1941

### RHQ

*1 Command Stand  
1 Car*

### 3 Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand  
9 AAMG Stands*

## Light AA Regiment 1939-1941

### RHQ

*1 Command Stand  
1 Car*

### HQ Battery

*1 30cwt Medium Ammo Truck*

### 3 Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 15cwt Light Truck  
2 Morris CDSW truck towing 40mm AA*

### Notes

- 1) Some batteries had Vickers MkVIII 2pdr “pom pom” 40mm AA. These were fixed in position.
- 2) In 1940 after Dunkirk there was a shortage of equipment. The **Canadian AA&AT group** is a good example only having 4 40mm by Autumn 1941.

## AA Regiment 1939-1941

### RHQ

*1 Command Stand  
1 Car*

### HQ Battery

*1 3t Ammo Truck*

### 3 Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 15cwt Truck  
2 Leyland Terrier 6x4 towing 3” (76mm) AA Gun  
1 3t Truck towing AA Instrument Trailer*

## Heavy AA Regiment 1939-1941

### RHQ

*1 Command Stand  
1 Car*

### HQ Battery

*1 3t Ammo Truck*

### 3 AA Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 15cwt Truck  
2 Scammel HAT Heavy Trucks towing 3.7” AA Gun  
1 6x4 3t Truck towing Fire Control Trailer  
0-1 6x4 3t Truck towing No 1 Mk 1 Air Search Radar*

### Notes

- 1) Only a few units had the radar

## Searchlight Regiment 1939-1941

### RHQ

*1 Command Stand  
1 Car*

### 4 SL Batteries

*1 Command Infantry Stand  
1 8cwt Van  
1 6x4 Medium truck carrying 90cm SL & towing  
MkVIII or IX Sound Locator*

## Notes

- 1) The Searchlight batteries were more often than not used as impromptu infantry. In which case a battery can field 2 infantry stands each equipped with integral Boys ATR

## Engineering Units

### Field Company RE 1939-1941

There were several GHQ field companies – they were organised identically to the field companies in an infantry division.

### Bridge Company RASC 1939-1941

#### CHQ

*1 Command Stand*

*1 Car*

#### 1 Pontoon Section

*1 M/C Command Infantry Stand*

3 6x4 Truck with Mk V Pontoons

1 6x4 Truck with Mk VII Trestles

#### 3 Pontoon Sections

*1 M/C Command Infantry Stand*

2 6x4 Truck with Mk V Pontoons

1 6x4 Truck with Mk VII Trestles

#### 1 FBE Bridge Section

*1 M/C Command Infantry Stand*

2 6x4 Truck with FBE Bridge Sections towing Trailer with 3 FBE Pontoons

1 6x4 Truck & Trailer with FBE Raft Equipment

1 6x4 Truck with FBE Trestles

#### 1 SBG Bridge Section

*1 M/C Command Infantry Stand*

1 6x4 Truck with SBG Bridge Sections

1 6x4 Truck with SBG Bridge Decking

1 6x4 Truck with SBG Bridge Misc Parts

1 6x4 Truck carrying 1 Recce Boat & 6 Assault Boats

1 6x4 Truck with Kapok Equipment

#### 1 RE Section

*1 Engineer Stand*

## Notes

- 1) The bridging companies were designed to deliver bridging equipment to the Royal Engineers in the field. They had no way to assemble the bridges on their own. Sections usually operated independently hence the command stands
- 2) The Mk V Pontoon Bridge is made of multiple 3 pontoon rafts. The bridge can take 24t loads. Each raft is 7m long. In game terms each truck carries enough pontoons for 2 rafts or 14m of bridging. Three rafts of 18t capacity can also be made from a single pontoon truck load. If the river is too wide to be bridged the rafts can act as ferries. An entire engineer company is required to build the bridge.
- 3) The Floating Bridge Equipment (FBE) Mk II is usually used to make rafts, 2 boats are required to make a 5t capacity raft. An engineer stand can make 3 rafts in 15 minutes. The FBE can also be used to make a 5t bridge 80m long – this takes about an hour to build. The boats can be used as assault boats, each has the capacity to carry an infantry stand. Note the boats need constructing an engineer stand can probably do 3 boats in 5 minutes.

- 4) The Small Box Girder Bridge (SBG) Mk II is used for spanning small gaps. Two girder bridges take a single engineer stand and hour to construct and four girder bridges two hours. Additional personnel are no extra help. A two girder bridge can be constructed in the following formations: 10m (0): 18t; 15m (bg): 9t; 20m (4): 5t. Four girders make: 13m (4): 24t; 20m (8): 18t (12); 27m (16): 9t and 30m (20): 5t. The section carries 24 girders and 16 ramps. As there are 2 ramps per bridge up to 8 bridges could be built. The numbers in brackets indicate the numbers of girders required for each type of bridge.
- 5) The recce boat carries 2 men in the “real world” the recce boat in the list above represents enough boats to lift half an infantry stand. The assault boats carry a whole infantry stand
- 6) Kapok equipment can may a bridge for infantry 50m long. Four such bridges could be built with the equipment in a section. Using all the equipment in a section a raft to float a 15cwt or lighter truck or a 2pdr AT gun could be constructed