

# 6<sup>TH</sup> AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE

## OFFICIAL BRIEFING

6TH AIRBORNE ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT  
IN FRANCE, JUNE TO AUGUST 1944



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**FLAMES OF WAR.**  
THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME



## 6<sup>TH</sup> AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE REGIMENT

**'On inspection we had a bit of paint missing and bullet holes in the tool boxes. Once again we had been lucky.'**  
**Sergeant Sheffield, 6th Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment War Diary.**

In early July 1941 'C' Special Service Squadron Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) was formed with 60 men, mostly volunteers from 5<sup>th</sup> Lancers and 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars, and six Tetrarchs at Ogbourne St George. In October 1941 the unit was transferred to Freetown in West Africa in case Spain entered the war.

In March 1942 they went to Madagascar and took part in the allied landings there. Only half the squadron went, consisting of four troops each of one Valentine and two Tetrarchs (under the command of 'B' Special Service Squadron). They suffered heavy casualties and lost nearly all the tanks. Their 2iC Captain Peter Llewellyn-Palmer was recommended for a Victoria Cross, but was later awarded, posthumously, the Military Cross.

Even before that operation was finished, the HQ of the squadron was already being formed in the UK as the Airborne Light Tank Squadron. The squadron was to utilise the new Hamilcar glider that had been specifically designed to carry the Tetrarch. When 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division left for North Africa they stayed behind in the United Kingdom.

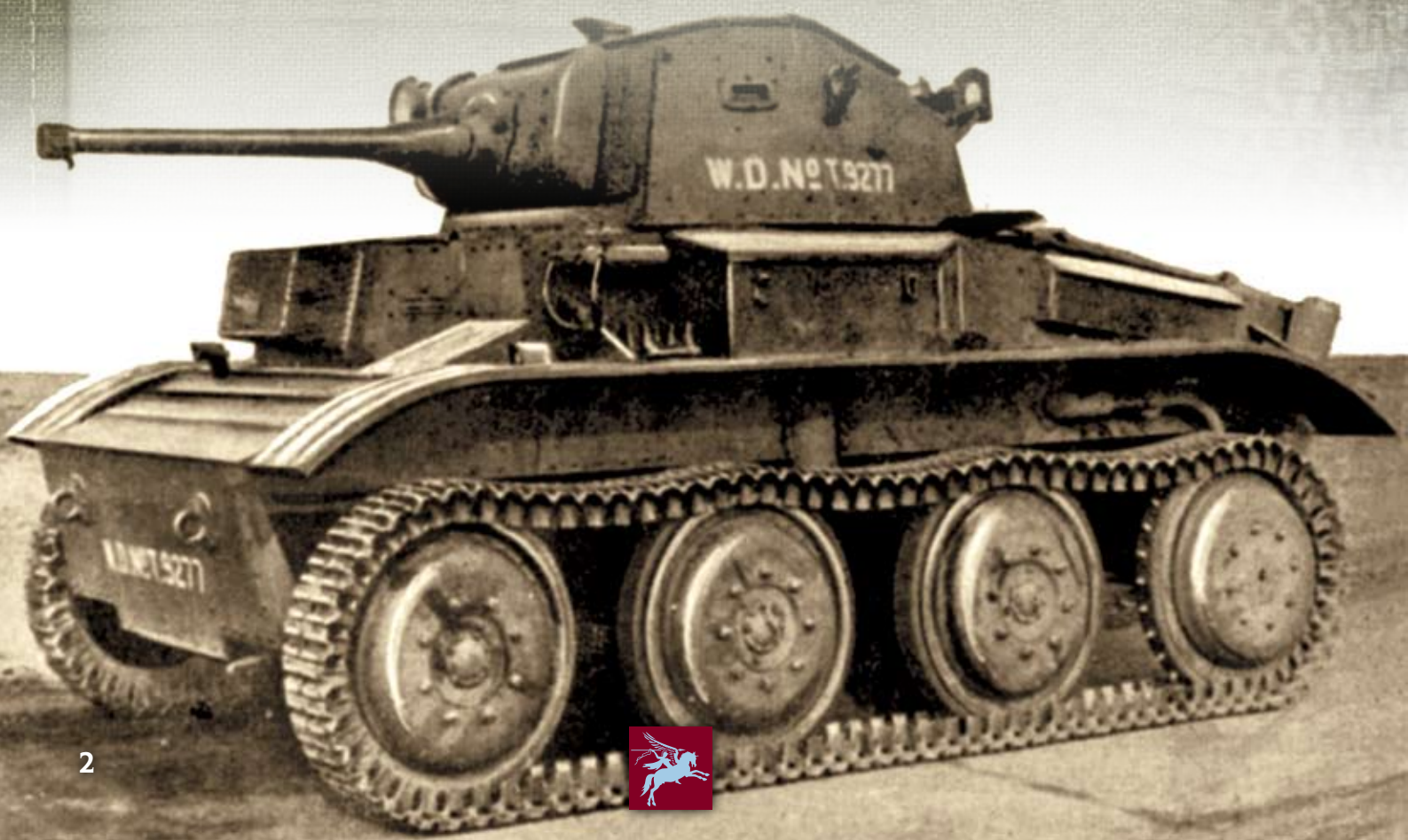
In early 1944, the Squadron was expanded to a full regiment – 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment RAC (6 AARR) under command of Lt Colonel Godfrey R Stuart – and was attached to General Richard Gale's 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. The light tanks now designated 'A' Squadron of this new regiment, while 'B' Squadron was formed as a 'light recce' squadron of carriers and jeeps. There was also a support

squadron of mortars, machine-guns and motorcyclists. It was with roughly this organization that the regiment was to go to war in Normandy.

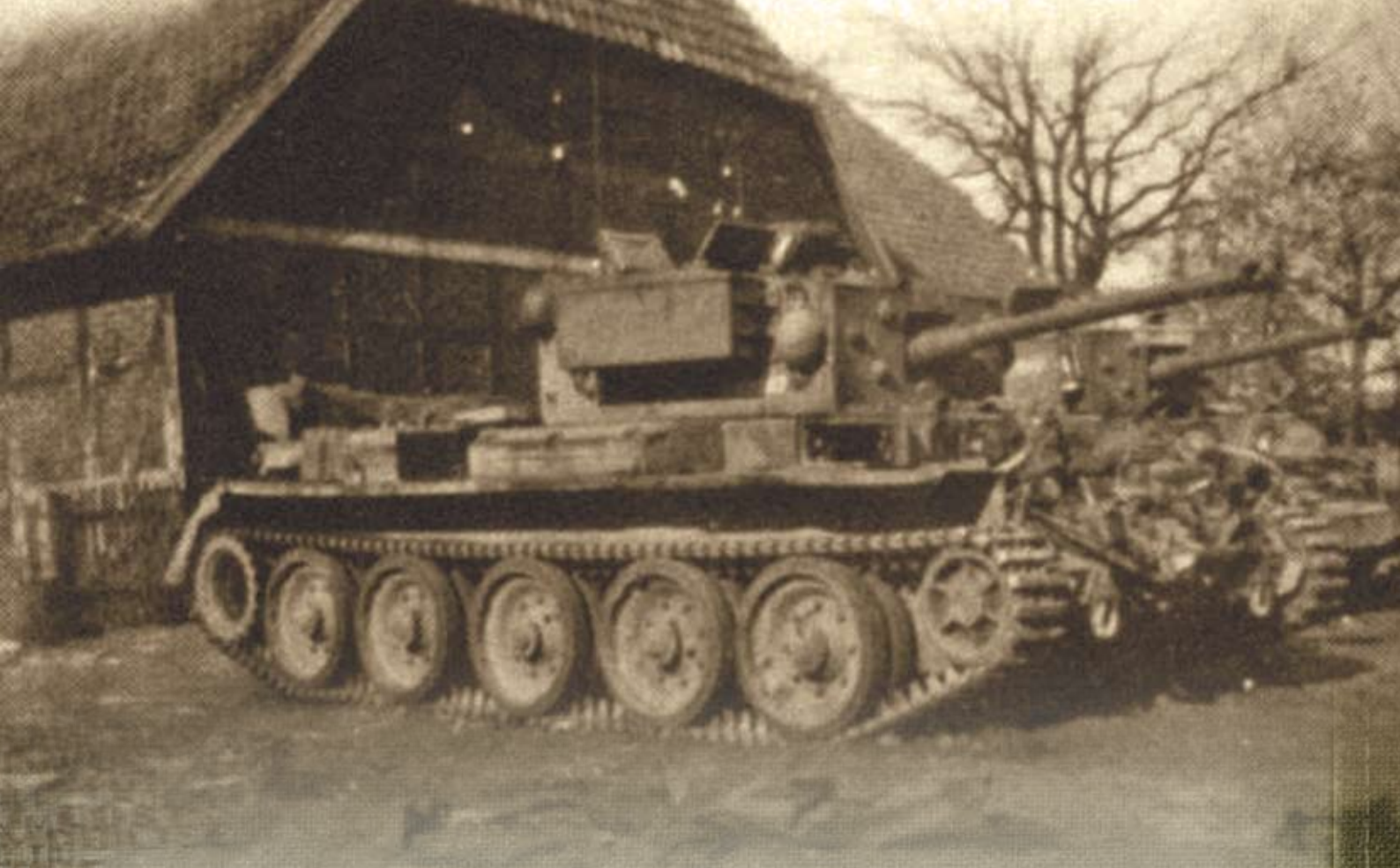
The organisation was as follows:

- Regimental Headquarters (Two Light Tanks)
- Headquarter Squadron in which are included the parachute harbour party (one officer and nine OR's), intercommunication troop (one sergeant, one provost corporal, seven motorcyclists and two M/C mechanics) plus a landing head party and an administration troop.
- Light Tank Squadron (A) consisting of headquarters (three light tanks) and five troops (each with three light tanks).
- Reconnaissance Squadron (B) consisting of a headquarters (one car 5cwt, one carrier universal with two LMGs and a 2" mortar and three motorcyclists), four troops (each of one car 5 cwt, one carrier universal with two LMGs and a 2" mortar) and five motorcyclists.
- Support Squadron (C) consisting of a headquarters (two cars 5 cwt and five motorcyclists) one support troop (two carriers universal each with a 3" mortar) and one assault troop (one carrier universal with two LMGs and one 2" mortar) and twenty motorcyclists.

This above organisation was slightly altered for the actual operation with an addition of two machine gun troops (each with four Vickers carried in Jeeps and trailers). This information comes from a line in the war diary that states "1800 - B







*Squadron and 4 Medium Machine-Guns, HQ Squadron together with Regimental Headquarters Tanks moved in support 8 Para Battalion in counter attack role at Le Bas de Ranville 105735. A Squadron and Assault Troop and 4 Medium Machine-Guns remained at Le Mesnil”.*

During D-Day twenty Hamilcars flew in carrying eighteen to twenty Tetrarch light tanks of ‘A’ Squadron (including 3-5 tanks armed with 3-inch howitzers). A further three Hamilcars flew in with six Recce Carriers of ‘B’ Squadron, another flew in with two 3” Mortars Carriers and another arrived with the Slave Battery Carrier and a Jeep.

There are many myths and misconceptions regarding the losses and employment of the regiment on D-Day. The fact remains that the regiment provided invaluable support to the Airborne troops throughout the Normandy campaign and suffered very few casualties during the landings of Operation ‘Mallard’ on the afternoon of D-Day – the only serious losses being the total loss of the parachuted ‘Harbour Party’ during the initial night landings.

Once the remainder of the regiment had arrived by sea, the regiment fought in the Airborne Bridgehead.

In late July two Light Tank Troops had been re-equipped with Cromwell IV cruiser tanks. On the 6 August, Eight Cromwells were put on the roster of A (tank) Squadron and placed in two troops of four tanks. By late August a third troop was so re-equipped for a total of twelve Cromwells.

The regiment’s finest hour to date came during Operation ‘Paddle’ – the breakout to the Seine – in August 1944. It provided vital recce support to 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division (greatly expanded by the two Special Service Brigades and by the Dutch and Belgium Brigades) and 49<sup>th</sup> Division and even

provided close armoured support to the infantry of those divisions. It is, however, entirely possible that by the time the Seine was reached there was hardly a Tetrarch left in working order.

During this period some other units came under the regiment’s command for short periods. The Regiment was allocated a troop of four Canadian Centaur tanks from No.1 battery (24 August):

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Composite Centaur Battery had six Centaur IV CS tanks left over from the disbanded Royal Marines Armoured Support Regiments, as well as three Sherman Vs used as command/OP vehicles (though they retained their main 75mm guns). The Centaurs suffered frequent breakdowns during the breakout, though they operated effectively as the regiment’s dedicated artillery and also as assault guns when necessary.

Also on strength was 1<sup>st</sup> Belgian Armoured Car Squadron (20 August):

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Belgian Armoured Car Squadron has an HQ of mixed Dingo, Daimler and Staghound I armoured cars, as well as at least one Staghound AA car. It had five sabre troops, each of two Dingos and three Daimler armoured cars. The Dutch brigade also had a Recce Squadron in the British Recce Regiment mode, but this did not come under the command of the 6 AARR.

On the 5 September 1944 the Regiment embarked for the UK, and thus ended a very exciting and weary time in Normandy.

After Normandy the Tetrarch was finally dropped and the regiment changed to two equal Recce Squadrons (‘A’ & ‘B’) and a Support Squadron (now designated ‘C’).





# AIRLANDING ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON

(MECHANISED COMPANY)







## MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The paras are all hand-picked volunteers. Years of hard training has made them some of the toughest troops on any battlefield. An Airlanding Armoured Recce Squadron is rated **Fearless Veteran**, unless otherwise noted.



## HEADQUARTERS

### AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON HQ

#### HEADQUARTERS

3 Tetrarch CS  
2 Tetrarch CS

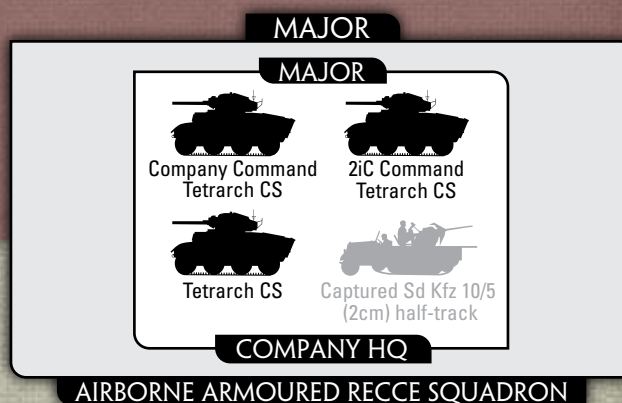
175 points  
115 points

#### OPTION

- Add Captured Sd Kfz 10/5 (2cm) for +30 points.

*The vehicles of an Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron HQ use the Cautious Movement and Disengage special rules on page 193 and 194 of the rulebook.*

Landing on D-Day the Tetrarchs of the Airlanding Armoured Recce Squadron were soon in combat and continued to be so until September. They were joined by Cromwells in late July/early August giving the squadron a bit more striking power.



AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON

In early July 1944 a German Sd Kfz 10/5 half-track was captured and put into use for air defence by the squadron. The half-track was manned by privates C. Davis and L. Walden. They claimed at least two aircraft during July, though these weren't officially confirmed.

## COMBAT PLATOONS

### AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE PLATOON

#### PLATOON

3 Tetrarch

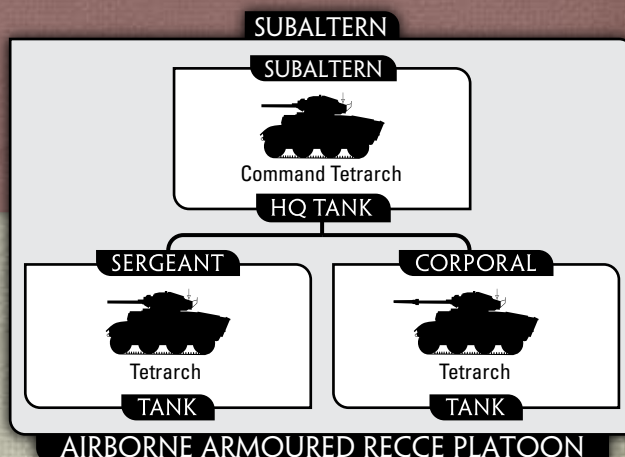
135 points

#### OPTION

- Fit Littlejohn adaptor to up to two Tetrarch tanks at no cost.

*The Tetrarch tanks of an Airborne Armoured Recce Platoon use the Cautious Movement and Disengage special rules.*

6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment arrived by glider late on D-Day with a squadron of eighteen to twenty Tetrarch light tanks. At least two Tetrarchs were damaged during the glider landings, however, these may have been repaired and pushed back into service later. The Tetrarch soldiered on throughout the Normandy campaign, though by the end of August many had been replaced by Cromwell IV tanks.



AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE PLATOON

## LITTLEJOHN ADAPTOR

The 2 pdr was a pre-war design and lacked the punch to engage modern tanks by 1944. To improve its anti-tank performance, some guns were fitted with squeeze-bore adaptors that accelerated sub-calibre shot to a higher velocity than normal, significantly increasing its anti-tank capability at the expense of anti-personnel capability.





## COMBAT PLATOONS

### SEABORNE ARMoured RECCE PLATOON

#### PLATOON

4 Cromwell IV

460 points

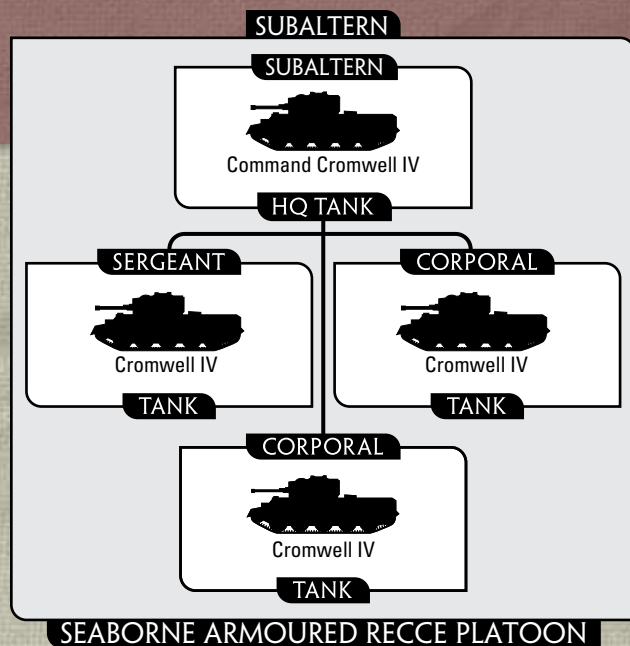
3 Cromwell IV

345 points

*The Cromwell IV tanks of a Seaborne Armoured Recce Platoon use the Cautious Movement and Disengage special rules.*

In early August the squadron was down to half their original strength of Tetrarch tanks and two platoons were issued Cromwell cruiser tanks as replacements. At the end of August a third platoon received Cromwells to bring the total for the squadron to twelve Cromwells.

The Cromwells fought alongside the remaining Tetrarch light tanks and played an important role in the fighting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment's actions during the last phase of their fighting in Normandy.



## WEAPONS PLATOONS

### AIRLANDING MACHINE-GUN PLATOON

#### PLATOON

HQ Section with:

2 Machine-gun Sections

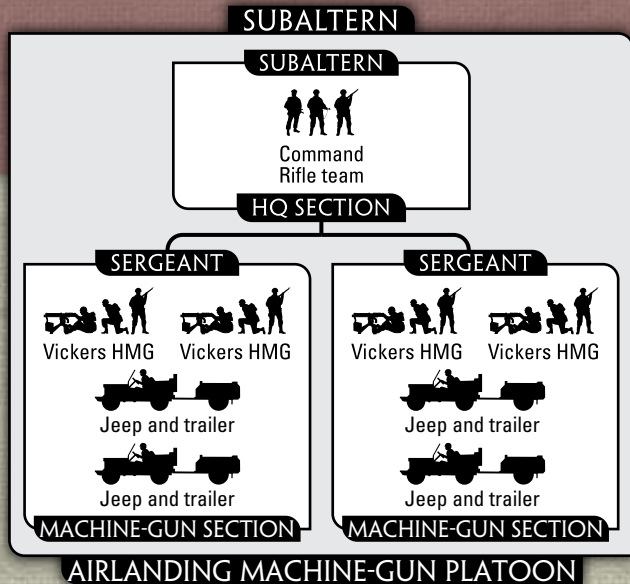
155 points

1 Machine-gun Section

85 points

Armed with the enormously reliable Vickers Mark I medium machine-gun the machine-gun platoon gives heavy, sustained fire support for your company.

One of the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment's machine-gun platoons, located around Ranville, was used to provide indirect map fire for several units, while the other was directly attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Parachute Battalion.







## AIRBORNE ARMOURD MORTAR PLATOON

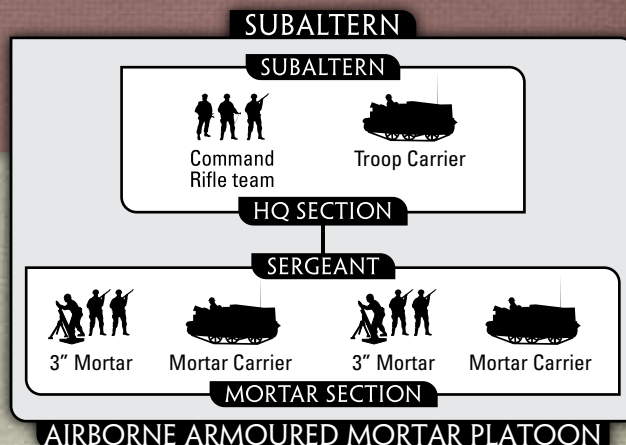
### PLATOON

HQ Section and Mortar Section with:

**2 ML 3" Mk II**

**70 points**

The compact Mortar Platoons of 'C' Squadron provide covering and support fire for the reconnaissance and tank platoons. They are able to fire both high explosive and smoke rounds as the situation requires. They are also highly mobile mounted in Mortar Carriers, which allows them to keep up with the tank and reconnaissance platoons during the fast paced battles of the regiment.



## AIRBORNE RECCÉ PLATOON

### PLATOON

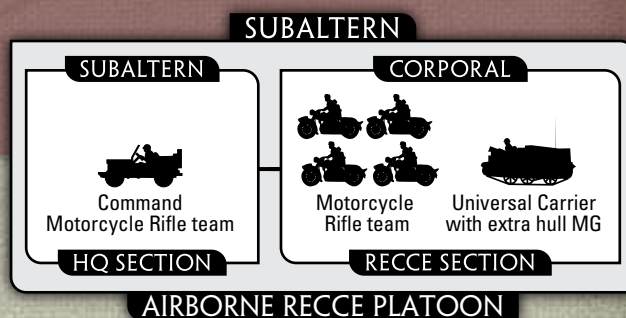
HQ Section with:

**1 Recce Section**

**85 points**

*An Airborne Recce Platoon is a Reconnaissance Platoon.*

*The Motorcycle Rifle teams of an Airborne Recce Platoon use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance and Solo Motorcycles rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook. The Command Motorcycle Rifle team is mounted in a Jeep, but operates in the same way as the other Motorcycle Rifle team.*



The reconnaissance platoons of 'B' Squadron, 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment were the scouting element of the regiment. Though only small platoons they are provided with enough fire-power to extract themselves from the stickiest of situations once the enemy had been located.

## AIRBORNE ASSAULT PLATOON

### PLATOON

HQ Section with:

**4 Assault Squads**

**155 points**

**3 Assault Squads**

**125 points**

**2 Assault Squads**

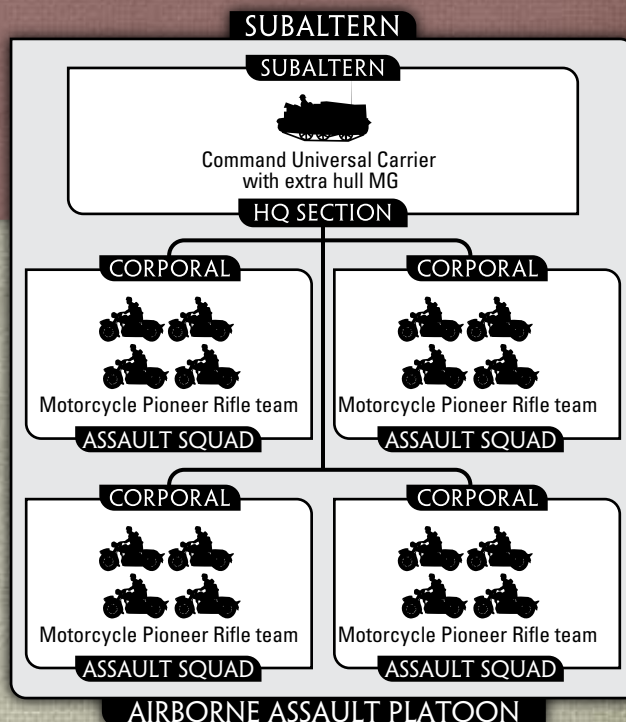
**95 points**

*The Command Universal Carrier of an Airborne Assault Platoon is a Recce team.*

*The Motorcycle Pioneer Rifle teams of an Airborne Assault Platoon use the Motorcycle Reconnaissance and Solo Motorcycles rules on pages 196 and 197 of the rulebook.*

The assault or 'Blitz' platoon provided the regiment with fast mobile infantry force able to exploit breakthroughs on their speedy motorcycles.

The 'Blitz troop' as it was otherwise known in the Regiment, provided the Commander with a motorcycle mounted Infantry force to support the other recce units when and where needed. They rode into battle upon the lightweight 125cc motorcycles such as the famous 'Enfield Flying Flea'.





## DIVISIONAL SUPPORT PLATOONS

### ROYAL MARINE ARMoured SUPPORT PLATOON

#### PLATOON

1 Sherman V and 4 Centaur	240 points
1 Sherman V and 3 Centaur	195 points
1 Sherman V and 2 Centaur	150 points

#### OPTION

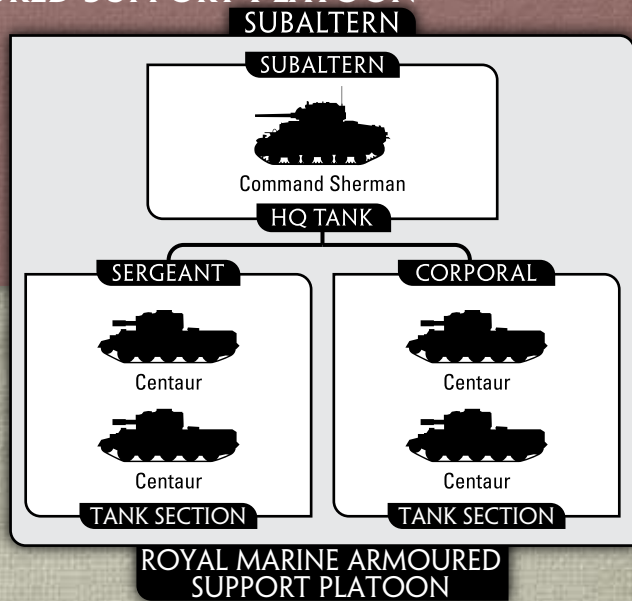
- Equip Sherman V with .50 cal AA MG for +5 points.

#### MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The crews of the Centaur tanks have had little time to become adjusted to their new vehicles, but they are keen to try them out. A Royal Marine Armoured Support Platoon rated as **Confident Trained**.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
<b>CONFIDENT</b>	<b>TRAINED</b>
FEARLESS	VETERAN

X Independent Royal Marine Armoured Support Battery landed on Sword Beach on D-Day to give fire support for the initial landings. Later their equipment was handed over to the X Armoured Battery, RA. Under their new ownership the



Centaur tanks gave good service as artillery in the airborne salient. In late August, due to a lack of British personnel, the Canadians loaned troops to crew these unusual vehicles.

### BELGIAN ARMoured CAR PLATOON

#### PLATOON

3 Daimler I and 2 Dingo	135 points
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#### OPTIONS

- Fit Littlejohn adaptor to one Daimler I armoured car at no cost.

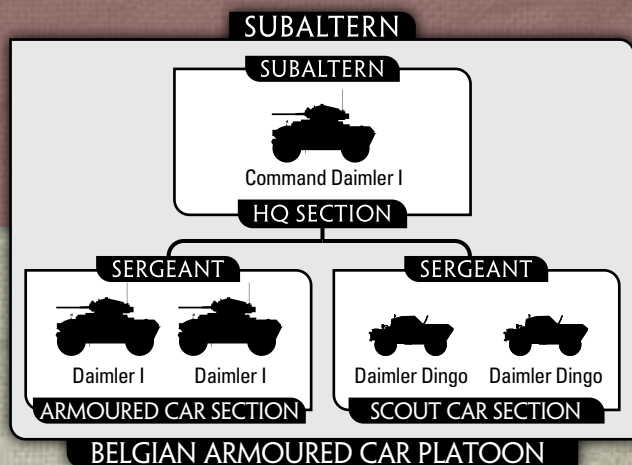
The Belgian Piron brigade was landed in the first days of August along with the Dutch and Polish, by 20 August the Armoured Car Squadron had been transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment, the rest of the Brigade moved towards Auberville. The squadron provided point recce on all routes that the regiment advanced along, and did sterling service throughout Operation Paddle.

*A Belgian Armoured Car Platoon is a Reconnaissance Platoon.*

#### MOTIVATION AND SKILL

A Belgian Armoured Car Platoon is rated **Confident Trained**.

RELUCTANT	CONSCRIPT
<b>CONFIDENT</b>	<b>TRAINED</b>
FEARLESS	VETERAN



#### BELGIAN SPECIAL RULES

The Belgian Brigade is trained by the British therefore Belgian platoons follow all of the British special rules on pages 246 to 248 of the rulebook except British Bulldog. In addition they also have the following Belgian special rule.

#### LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

The familiar terrain of northwest France and Belgium gave the Belgians a distinct advantage. Locals were also able to warn the brigade of enemy positions and movements.

*Belgian Platoons do not use the British Bulldog special rule. Instead, a Belgian Armoured Car Platoon may re-rolled failed Skill tests to Disengage (see page 194 of Flames Of War).*







## PARACHUTE PLATOON

### PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Rifle Squads

230 points

2 Rifle Squads

170 points

### GAMMON BOMBS

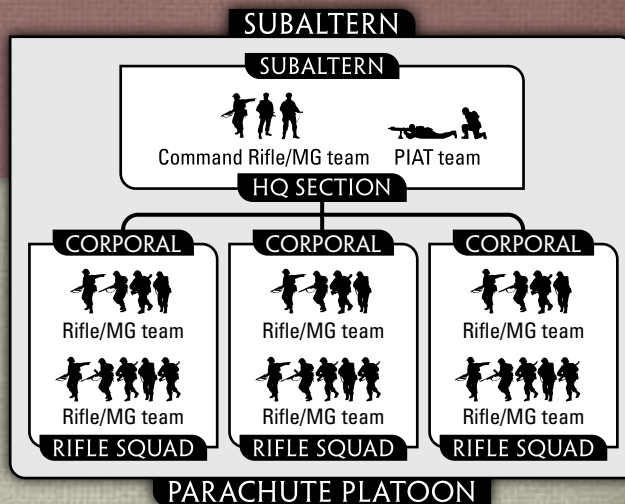
*All Rifle/MG teams in a Parachute Platoon carry Gammon Bombs giving them Tank Assault 3.*

### SECTION MORTARS

*Each turn one of the Parachute Platoon's Rifle/MG teams may fire as a Light Mortar team firing Smoke.*

The highly trained men of the paratroopers were assigned the job of securing the extreme eastern flank from the enemy.

On D minus 1 (the night before D-Day), they dropped by parachute into France. In darkness of the night the paras were scattered and disorganised, but they quickly rallied and successfully executed their mission to isolate the beaches.



Parachute platoons are well equipped to deal with the difficult mission ahead of it. They have PIAT anti-tank projectors to use against enemy tanks as well as knock out particularly difficult enemy positions.

They also have a light mortar which will help smoke enemy heavy machine-guns to prepare the way for the platoon to assault the enemy.

## AIRLANDING PLATOON

### PLATOON

HQ Section and Scout Squad with:

2 Rifle Squads

220 points

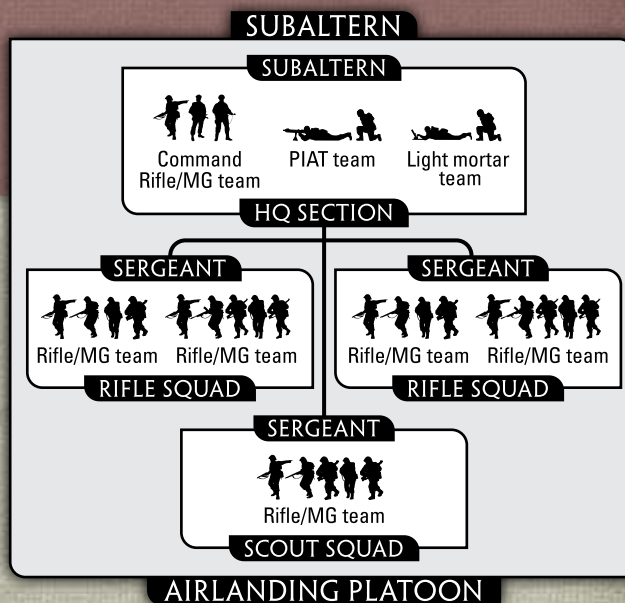
1 Rifle Squad

160 points

### GAMMON BOMBS

*All Rifle/MG teams in a Airlanding Platoon carry Gammon Bombs giving them Tank Assault 3.*

The airlanding platoon has to be slightly smaller in size to the standard infantry platoon in order to fit into a Horsa glider. Tough, motivated and well equipped these men are every bit as elite as their parachuting brothers-in-arms.





## AIRLANDING ANTI-TANK PLATOON

### PLATOON

HQ Section with:

4 OQF 6 pdr (late)

160 points

2 OQF 6 pdr (late)

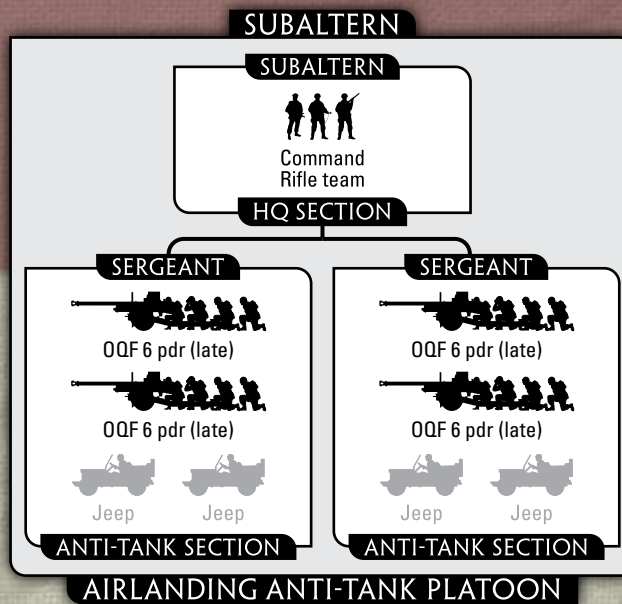
80 points

### OPTION

- Add Jeeps to the platoon for +5 points.

Airborne companies by their very nature are lightly armed. Jerry's Panzers have the ability to make a meal of the toughest troops so you need anti-tank assets with you on the ground and in action immediately. This is where the ubiquitous 6 pdr-armed airlanding anti-tank platoon comes to the fore.

Landed in Horsa gliders together with their jeep tows, these manoeuvrable guns can hit any German armoured force for a six!



## AIR SUPPORT

### PRIORITY AIR SUPPORT

Typhoon

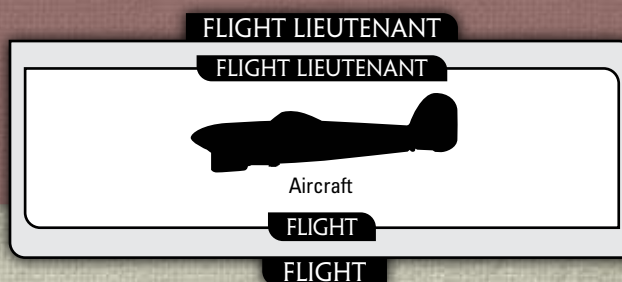
220 points

### LIMITED AIR SUPPORT

Typhoon

170 points

The Royal Air Force (RAF) dominated the skies, supporting the troops with close air support and keeping Germany's fighters from the beaches.





## AIRLANDING LIGHT BATTERY, ROYAL ARTILLERY

### PLATOON

HQ Troop with:

Two Gun Troops with:

**8 M1A1 75mm pack**

**250 points**

One Gun Troop with:

**4 M1A1 75mm pack**

**150 points**

**2 M1A1 75mm pack**

**90 points**

### OPTION

- Add Jeeps for +5 points per Gun Troop.



^M1A1 75mm pack howitzer

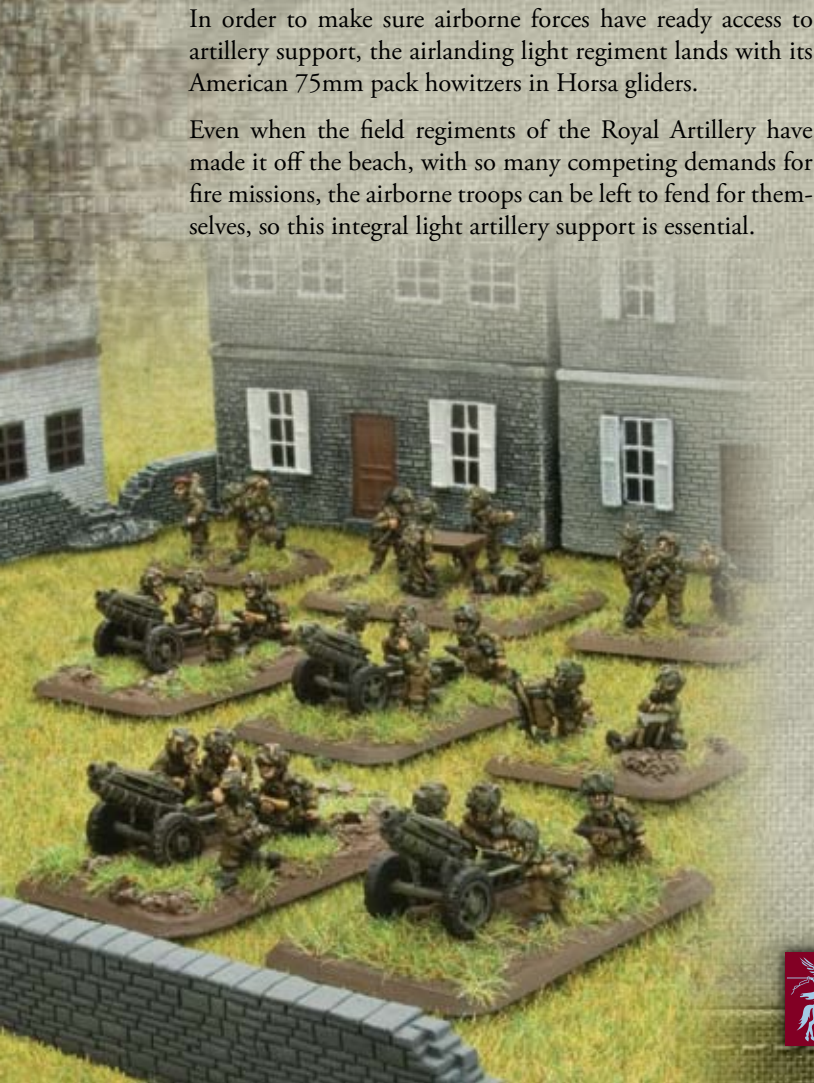
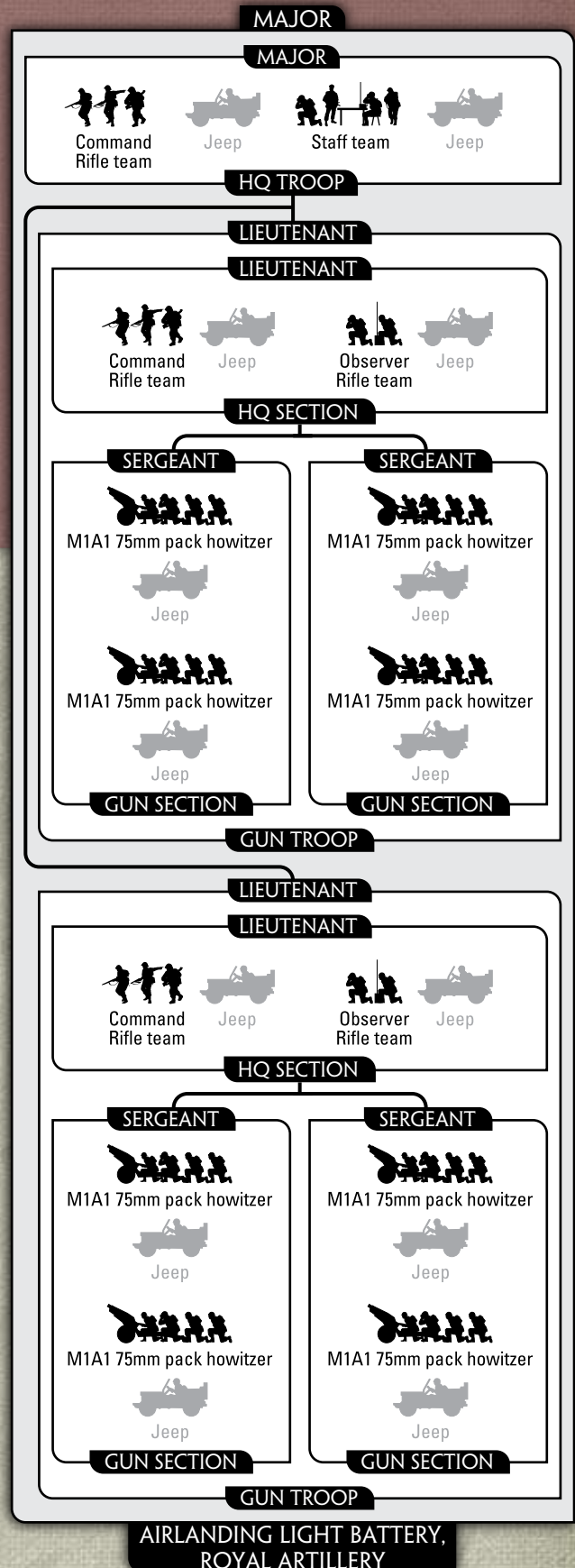
### BRITISH ARTILLERY

*An Airlanding Light Battery, Royal Artillery uses the British Artillery special rules found on page 248 of the rulebook.*

*Although an Airlanding Light Battery, Royal Artillery is a single Support choice, each Gun Troop operates as a Separate platoons with its own Command team. The Command team and Staff team of the HQ Troop must be attached to a Gun Troop from its battery at the start of the game before deployment.*

In order to make sure airborne forces have ready access to artillery support, the airlanding light regiment lands with its American 75mm pack howitzers in Horsa gliders.

Even when the field regiments of the Royal Artillery have made it off the beach, with so many competing demands for fire missions, the airborne troops can be left to fend for themselves, so this integral light artillery support is essential.





# BRITISH ARSENAL

## TANK TEAMS

Name <i>Weapon</i>	Mobility <i>Range</i>	Front <i>ROF</i>	Armour Side <i>Anti-tank</i>	Top <i>Firepower</i>	Equipment and Notes
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### LIGHT TANKS

Tetrarch	Light Tank	1	1	1	Co-ax MG.
OQF 2 pdr gun	24"/60cm	2	7	4+	
With Littlejohn adaptor	24"/60cm	2	9	5+	No HE.
Tetrarch CS	Light Tank	1	1	1	Co-ax MG.
OQF 3" howitzer	24"/60cm	2	5	3+	Smoke.

### MEDIUM TANKS

Centaur	Standard Tank	6	4	1	Co-ax MG, Protected ammo, Unreliable.
OQF 95mm CS howitzer	24"/60cm	2	7	3+	Smoke.
Firing bombardments	48"/120cm	-	4	5+	Smoke bombardment.
Cromwell IV	Light Tank	6	4	1	Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Protected ammo, Tow hook.
OQF 75mm gun	32"/80cm	2	10	3+	Semi-indirect fire, Smoke.
Sherman V	Standard Tank	6	4	1	Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Tow hook.
M3 75mm gun	32"/80cm	2	10	3+	Semi-indirect fire, Smoke.

### SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS

Captured Sd Kfz 10/5 (2cm)	Half-tracked	-	-	-	Gun shield.
2cm FlaK38 gun	16"/40cm	4	5	5+	Anti-aircraft.

### RECONNAISSANCE

Universal Carrier	Half-tracked	0	0	0	Hull MG, Recce.
Daimler Dingo	Jeep	1	0	0	AA MG, Recce.
Motorcycle Rifle team	Jeep	-	-	-	Motorcycle reconnaissance, Dismount as Rifle team.
Rifle	16"/40cm	1	2	6	Awkward layout.

### ARMoured CARS

Daimler I	Wheeled	1	0	0	Co-ax MG, Recce.
OQF 2 pdr gun	24"/60cm	2	7	4+	
With Littlejohn adaptor	24"/60cm	2	9	5+	No HE.

### VEHICLE MACHINE-GUNS

Vehicle MG	16"/40cm	3	2	6	ROF 1 if other weapons fire.
.50 cal Vehicle MG	16"/40cm	3	4	5+	ROF 1 if other weapons fire.
Vehicle Twin MG	16"/40cm	4	2	6	ROF 2 if other weapons fire.

## GUN TEAMS

Weapon	Mobility	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Vickers HMG	Man-packed	24"/60cm	6	2	6	ROF 3 when pinned down or moving.
Firing bombardments		40"/100cm	-	-	-	
ML 3" Mk II mortar	Man-packed	24"/60cm	2	2	3+	Smoke, Minimum range 8"/20cm.
Firing bombardments		40"/100cm	-	2	6	Smoke bombardment.
OQF 6 pdr gun (late)	Medium	24"/60cm	3	11	4+	Gun shield.
M1A1 75mm pack howitzer	Light	16"/40cm	2	6	3+	Smoke.
Firing bombardments		64"/160cm	-	3	6	Smoke bombardment.



## INFANTRY TEAMS

Team	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Rifle team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	
Rifle/MG team	16"/40cm	2	2	6	
Light Mortar team	16"/40cm	1	1	4+	Smoke, Can fire over friendly teams.
PIAT team	8"/20cm	1	10	5+	Tank Assault 4.
Staff team	16"/40cm	1	2	6	Moves as a Heavy Gun team.

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Teams with Gammon Bombs are rated as Tank Assault 3.

Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 3.

## TRANSPORT TEAMS

Vehicle	Mobility	Armour			Equipment and Notes
		Front	Side	Top	
Jeep, Jeep and Trailer, or Motorcycle	Jeep	-	-	-	
Troop Carrier	Half-track	0	0	0	2 Passenger-fired MGs.
OP, Mortar, or Lloyd Carrier	Half-tracked	0	0	0	

## AIRCRAFT

Aircraft	Weapon	To Hit	Anti-tank	Firepower	Notes
Typhoon	Cannon	3+	8	5+	
	Rockets	3+	6	3+	





