

MODERN BRITISH TOE'S

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While concentrating on current TOE's at the battalion level, this document also works backwards to the 1970's and includes some information from the 1960's and earlier. As a reminder, for armoured, artillery, aviation, and engineers in the British Army, battalion-sized units are termed regiments and companies are designated as squadrons. The level of detail varies among the TOE's, especially for support vehicles. While not always shown, all types of armour have a light aid detachment (LAD) of REME personnel attached, and usually have additional REME at the squadron level.

ARMOUR



Armoured Regiment (SDR)

Following Options for Change ("Options") the Army was to have eight armoured regiments. As they re-equipped with Challenger 2 they would be reduced to three squadrons each. Under the 1998 Strategic Defense Review (SDR), this was changed to six armoured regiments, but each was to have four squadrons. While two of the former armoured regiments were re-roled, the change in size still meant that the Army would have 24 tank squadrons. The regiments had an establishment of 58 tanks. It appears they might still be referred to as Type 50 armoured regiments, although Type 58 would be a more accurate title.¹ It is very similar to the earlier Type 50 regiment, and may have retained a personnel strength of 558.²

RHQ	2 MBT, 6 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 1 1-ton FFR vehicle, 1 Samaritan [ambulance]
HQ Sqn	includes Recce Troop (8 Scimitar), 1 FV432 ambulance
LAD REME	1 Challenger ARV, 1 Warrior 512, 1 Spartan
Sqn x4	[14 MBT]
Sqn HQ	2 MBT, 1 Spartan, 1 1-ton FFR vehicle
Troop x4	3 MBT
Admin Trp	1 Samaritan
REME	1 Challenger ARV, 1 FV432, 1 FV434, 1 Warrior 512



Armoured Regiment 1990's

RHQ	2 MBT, 4 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 1 4-ton FFR vehicle
HQ Sqn	includes Recce Troop (8 Scimitar), 1 FV432 ambulance
LAD REME	1 ARV, 1 FV432, 1 Sampson ARV
Sqn x4	[12 MBT]
Sqn HQ	3 MBT, 1 Spartan, 1 1-ton FFR vehicle
Troop x3	3 MBT
Admin Trp	1 FV432 ambulance
REME	1 ARV, 1 FV434, 1 FV432

This Type 50 Armoured Regiment has 558 personnel and 50 Challenger 1 MBT. As regiments re-equipped with the Challenger 2 MBT, they were reduced to three squadrons and a total of 38 MBT (and known as Type 38 Armoured Regiment). The conversion to Challenger 2 began in 1997. The Type 50 regiment may have had 5 Ferret scout cars into the early 1990's (1 at RHQ and 1 in each tank squadron HQ). As noted above, the move to the Type 38 regiment was halted under SDR when the number of armoured regiments was reduced.

At the time of Desert Storm (1990-91) a regiment (Type 57) had 57 tanks and 670 personnel. A variant was the Type 43 with 43 tanks. (At least initially, the Type 57 had Chieftain tanks and the Type 43 the newer Challenger 1. The last armoured regiment converted to Challenger 1 in 1994.³) It is somewhat unlikely that any British armoured regiment actually maintained a full TOE, especially in the 1980's and the early 1990's. At the time of Desert Storm, for example, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards had elements of four other regiments attached to bring them up to strength; The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars had elements of one other regiment; and 14th/20th King's Hussars had a complete squadron of the Life Guards and elements of another regiment. These were all drawn from BAOR, where most British armoured regiments were stationed.

¹ However, since the introduction of Whole Fleet Management in 1999, each regiment has 30 tanks on strength—shared among the squadrons as needed—and the rest of the Challenger 2 fleet is kept in storage at the Base Vehicle Depot in UK to be issued as and when required by operations.

² The nominal increase in tank strength would have added 32 personnel. However, as noted, the peacetime establishment of 30 is even below the strength of the former Type 38 regiment.

³ Conversion to Challenger 1 began 1983-84, with one brigade at a time in BAOR converting. Five regiments converted by 1989; the other five kept Chieftains until the consolidations in 1992-93, and the last regiment in the UK converted 1993-94. By that point, of course, Options had reduced the number of RAC and Household Cavalry regiments.

The organization for the Type 57 regiment appears below. The source for this was more detailed than for the more recent regiments, so it gives an idea of the number of B vehicles in armoured regiments.



Type 57 Armoured Regiment

RHQ	1 MBT, 3 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 3 Ferret and 1 Land Rover FFR
HQ Sqn	6 Land Rover FFR, 2 Land Rover, 1 1-ton Land Rover, 10 4-ton trucks, 2 Stalwart, 1 FV432 ambulance
Recce Troop	8 Scorpion
GW Troop	9 FV438, 2 Ferret SC, 2 4-ton trucks, 2 REME Land Rovers
LAD REME	1 ARV, 1 FV432, 1 Ferret SC, 1 Sampson
Sqn x4	[14 MBT]
	Sqn HQ 2 MBT, 1 Ferret SC, 1 Land Rover
	HQ Troop 1 Land Rover FFR, 1 Land Rover, 3 Stalwart, 1 4-ton truck, 1 FV432 Ambulance
	Troop x4 3 MBT
	REME 1 FV432, 1 FV434, 1 ARV

The Type 43 Armoured Regiment was identical, except that it had 3 squadrons. I am not sure when the FV438 went out of service, but it seems to have been gone by Desert Storm.⁴



Earlier armoured regiments

The armoured regiment of the early 1970's was organized into RHQ (2 MBT, 4 FV432, 16 armoured cars, 8 FV438 Swingfire), HQ Sqn, and three squadrons (each 17 MBT, 1 Fox, 1 FV432), giving it 53 MBT, 19 Fox armoured cars, 8 ATGM (FV438), and 7 FV432. These were then reorganized around 1978 into larger units: RHQ (2 MBT, 4 armoured cars, 4 FV432), HQ Sqn, and four squadrons (each 18 MBT, 1 armoured car and 1 FV432), for a total of 74 Chieftain MBT, 8 Fox armoured cars, and 9 FV432. If the four squadrons had only 15 tanks, the new regiment would have had 62 MBT. The FV438's were to be grouped into a single unit (30 vehicles) in each armoured division.⁵ These large regiments were part of the new "task force" armoured divisions in BAOR. A source for the late 1980's shows: RHQ (1 MBT, 3 Sultan ACV, 3 Ferret scout cars), 4 squadrons (14 Chieftain or Challenger 1 MBT, 1 Ferret, 1 ARV), Recce Troop (8 Scorpion), ATGW Troop (2 Ferret and 9 FV438), and LAD (1 ARV, 1 FV434, 1 Sampson, and 1 Ferret). This would give 65 MBT and indicates the Fox armoured cars were replaced by the tracked Scorpion when the latter came into service. Note that the FV438's returned. In general terms this organization might have come into effect around 1981. At some point these regiments transitioned to the Type 57 (or Type 43) shown above.

Regiments went through several organizations during earlier periods. In the late 1960's, a regiment had RHQ (2 MBT, 4 FV432, 1 Ferret, 1 bridgelay, 2 ARV), 3 squadrons (each 15 tanks, 2 Ferret, 1 FV434, 3 Stalwarts, 1 ARV), Recce Troop (8-10 Ferret), GW troop (6 FV438), and LAD (1 Humber or M5 REME halftrack). This regiment had 47 tanks. The number of tanks was cut from 53 to 47 when the FV438 ATGW vehicles were added in the mid-1960's (about the same time as the heavy Conqueror was scrapped). The regiment could also have an AAC flight (6 AH1 Sioux helicopters) attached. The 1960 armoured regiment had RHQ (4 MBT, 15 scout cars) and three tank squadrons (each 14 MBT and 3 Conqueror heavy tanks, along with an ARV and a dozer tank). This would have fallen to 53 tanks by reducing RHQ to 2 MBT.



Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (SDR)

This was but little modified from the earlier regiment. The strength remains around 600, and the main weapons are 48 Scimitar and 16 Striker. There are indications that the Scimitars will be replaced by the Sabre. Post SDR there are four armoured recce regiments, and these may have been reduced to three squadrons in peacetime; in wartime, one regiment would be broken up to bring the other three up to the four-squadron organization.

RHQ	8 Sultan, 3 Spartan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan
HQ Sqn	
LAD REME	1 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 1 Sampson, 1 wheeled recovery vehicle
Recce Sqn x4	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan
	Recce Troop x3 4 Scimitar
	GW Troop 4 Striker
	Support Troop 4 Spartan
	REME 1 Sampson, 2 Spartan

⁴ It is included in the charts in the 1992 *British Army Handbook*, which also suggests that some units might have had the Striker instead of the FV438. If some armoured regiments at that time had either vehicle, they seem not to have lasted long after.

⁵ These were designated as batteries RHA, thus giving the anti-tank role back to the artillery. The Swingfires reverted to the RAC in 1984.



Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment 1990's

RHQ	4 Sultan, 4 Spartan, 2 Land Rover FFR
HQ Sqn	
LAD REME	1 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 1 Sampson, 1 wheeled recovery vehicle
Recce Sqn x4	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 1 Spartan, 2 Land Rover FFR
	Recce Troop x3 4 Scimitar
	GW Troop 4 Striker
	Support Troop 4 Spartan
	REME 1 Sampson, 1 Spartan

This regiment had about 600 personnel, with 48 Scimitar and 16 Striker. At the time of Desert Storm (1990-91) the only complete armoured recce regiment to deploy had three recce squadrons with it, which were organized as the squadrons shown above. That may simply (as with the armoured regiments) reflect the understrength status of the regiment, as a recce squadron from a different regiment was also deployed to the Gulf.

A very similar TOE (with more detail of B vehicles) is shown in another source:

RHQ	3 Sultan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 4 Ferret SC
HQ Sqn	5 Land Rover FFR, 1 1-ton Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan, 11 4-ton trucks
LAD REME	1 Ferret SC, 4 Land Rover, 1 Sampson, 1 Stalwart, 1 medium wheeled recovery vehicle
Recce Sqn x4	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 1 Ferret SC, 2 Land Rover FFR
	HQ Troop 2 Stalwart, 1 Samaritan, 1 Land Rover FFR, 1 4-ton truck
	Recce Troop x3 4 Scimitar
	GW Troop 4 Striker
	Support Troop 4 Spartan
	REME 1 Sampson, 1 Spartan, 1 4-ton truck

As with the armoured regiment, this is the only indication of the Ferret scout car still around in the RAC by the early 1990's. While they did remain in British service in some capacity into the early 1990's, they do not appear in TOE's in most sources I have seen. This TOE seems to have been in place by 1991.

Some sources show an armoured recce regiment based in the UK with a different TOE than those in BAOR:

RHQ	3 Sultan, 3 (2?) Land Rover FFR, 4 Ferret SC
HQ Sqn	5 Land Rover FFR, 1 1-ton Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan, 11 4-ton trucks
LAD REME	1 Ferret SC, 4 Land Rover, 1 Sampson, 1 Stalwart, 1 wheeled medium recovery vehicle
Recce Sqn x3	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 1 Ferret SC, 2 Land Rover FFR
	HQ Troop 1 Samaritan, 1 Land Rover FFR, 3 4-ton trucks [alternative: 1 truck and 2 Stalwart]
	Recce Troop x4 2 Scorpion and 2 Scimitar
	Support Troop 5 Spartan
	REME 1 Sampson, 1 Spartan, 1 4-ton HGV
Guided Weapons Sqn	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Ferret SC
	HQ Troop 2 Stalwart, 1 Samaritan, 1 Land Rover (FFR?), 1 4-ton truck,
	GW Troop x4 4 Striker
	REME 1 Sampson, 1 Spartan, 1 4-ton truck

The vehicle count is actually about the same, but all of the Strikers have been consolidated in one squadron, and the other three still show a mix of Scorpions and Scimitars. This unit has been identified as the armoured recce regiment for 3rd Armoured Division, which by the late 1980's had no such unit stationed with it in Germany and would have to draw on one from the UK. (More generically, a 1992 source notes this as the organization for UK-based armoured recce regiments with a NATO reinforcement role.) There would probably have been only one such regiment, that intended for 3rd Armoured Division. Yeomanry regiments with a NATO reinforcement role had a completely different organization.

Yet another UK-based armoured recce regiment TOE in one source shows a mixed wheeled/tracked organization:

RHQ	3 Sultan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 4 Ferret SC
HQ Sqn	5 Land Rover FFR, 1 1-ton Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan, 4 4-ton trucks
LAD REME	1 Sampson, 1 Ferret SC, 1 medium and 1 light wheeled recovery vehicles
Recce Sqn (Wheeled)	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Ferret HQ Troop 1 Samaritan, 1 Land Rover FFR, 3 4-ton trucks Recce Troop <i>x4</i> 4 Fox armoured cars Support Troop 5 Spartan REME 1 Spartan, 1 Stalwart, 1 wheeled light recovery vehicle
Recce Sqn (Tracked) <i>x2</i>	Sqn HQ 2 Sultan, 2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Ferret HQ Troop 1 Samaritan, 1 Land Rover FFR, 3 4-ton trucks Recce Troop <i>x4</i> 4 Scorpion Support Troop 5 Spartan REME 1 Spartan, 1 Stalwart, 1 wheeled light recovery vehicle

With no other references to it, it is unclear why this organization would exist. One possibility is a regiment based in the UK but designed for roles other than reinforcement of BAOR.

In the 1980's, a source shows the regiment had three medium recce squadrons (four troops of 4 Scorpions) and a close recce squadron (five troops of 8 Scimitars).⁶ That source shows no Strikers, which seems unlikely. An alternative source shows two medium recce squadrons (8 Sultan and 16 Scorpion each) and a close recce squadron (10 Sultan and 40 Scimitar); it also shows 20 Striker and 20 Spartan, all in the close recce squadron. This may be right overall, but it seems unlikely the Strikers and Spartans were all in the one squadron. Note that by Desert Storm the Scorpions were gone.

The 1970's version of the armoured recce regiment had 2 Scorpion at RHQ and three squadrons (each with five recce troops [3 Scorpion and 1 Striker] and an assault troop [5 Spartan]). It also had 6 light observation helicopters, which were expected to be removed, and was expected to gain a fourth squadron. This is not unlike the armoured car regiment of the 1960's, except now with tracked vehicles.

By 1969 there was, apparently, a distinction between an armoured recce regiment and an armoured car regiment, though both were largely equipped with armoured and scout cars. The 1969 armoured recce regiment had RHQ (3 FV432, 2 Ferret), HQ squadron (1 FV432, 2 Ferret), two armoured car squadrons (each SHQ with 2 FV434, 1 Ferret; admin troop with 1 FV432; support troop with 1 Ferret and 5 FV432; and five troops each with 2 Saladin, 1 Ferret, 1 ATGW Ferret), and an airportable squadron (SHQ with 2 Ferret, admin troop, and five troops each with 4 Ferrets). The regiment also had an air squadron with 1 FV432 and 6 light helicopters. The 1969 armoured car regiment had RHQ (1 FV432, 1 Ferret), HQ squadron (4 Ferrets), and three armoured car squadrons (each SHQ with 2 FV434 and 1 Ferret; admin troop with 1 FV432; support troop with 1 Ferret and 4 FV432; and five troops each with 2 Saladin, 1 Ferret, 1 ATGW Ferret). The regiment also had an air squadron with 1 FV432 and 6 light helicopters.

And older version of the armoured car regiment was organized with RHQ (2 FV610 Saracen APC and 2 Ferret SC), three squadrons (each with one Saracen in squadron HQ, four troops of 2 Saladin and 2 Ferret each, and support troop with 4 Saracens), plus a recce flight (6 AH1 Sioux helicopters). Ultimately one Ferret in each troop was armed with AT missiles.

NBC Defence Reconnaissance Regiment



Under SDR this role was given to a Regular regiment, and 1st RTR was the first such to assume it. The regiment detached one squadron with tanks to the Combined Arms Training Centre, and the remainder were consolidated as part of the new unit. Heyman's 2000-2001 volume shows the following organization:

RHQ	7 FFR Land Rovers
D Sqn [NBC Recce 1]	Sqn HQ 2 Spartan, 4 FFR Land Rover NBC Trp <i>x2</i> 1 Spartan, 5 Fuchs, 1 4-ton lorry Admin Trp 2 4-ton lorries, 1 4-ton fuel lorry, 1 ambulance
G Sqn [NBC Recce 2]	Sqn HQ 2 Spartan, 4 FFR Land Rover NBC Trp <i>x2</i> 1 FFR Land Rover, 10 PBDS ⁷ (4-ton) vehicles Admin Trp 2 4-ton lorries, 1 4-ton fuel lorry, 1 ambulance
Support Sqn	Sqn HQ 2 Spartan, 4 FFR Land Rover Decon Trp Support Trp

This unit has a strength of 244 personnel. The original SDR indicated that there would be a TA component (most likely a squadron), but its organization is unknown. While serving in this role, the regiment is known as the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Regiment, or sometimes simply as the Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Regiment.

⁶ The term "medium recce" was been retained for the squadrons in armoured recce regiments and the role itself even after the Scorpions left and the regiments became all-Scimitar.

⁷ Provisional Biological Detector System.

However, this TOE is not consistent with other information known about this regiment. When the JNBC Regiment became operational at the end of 1999 at RAF Honington as a joint Army and RAF unit it was composed of G Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment [formed by amalgamation of D Sqn and H (HQ) Sqn, 1st RTR], No. 27 Field Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment [re-formed 1 April 1999 and regimented (having disbanded September 1998)], A Squadron (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) [TA] at Swindon, and W Squadron (Westminster Dragoons) [TA] at London. D Squadron (possibly formed from 1st RTR) joined the regiment ca. 2000. It is possible that the TOE represents the current three Regular squadrons, and the Yeomanry squadrons would be similar to NBC Recce 2.

This NBC recce role first went to the TA. In 1994, The Royal Yeomanry Regiment was re-rolled as an NBC defence regiment. Its organization was:

RHQ	6 lorries/Land Rovers	
Squadron	Sqn HQ	2 Fuchs NBC recce vehicles
	Recce Troop x3:	3 Fuchs NBC recce vehicles
Squadron	Sqn HQ	2 Saxon APCs
	Recce Troop x3	4 Saxon NBC recce vehicles
Squadron x2	Sqn HQ	2 Land Rover
	Recce Troop x3	1 Land Rover, 4 4-ton lorries with NBC sampling equipment and recce teams

The fourth squadron of the chemical defence recce regiment (the second Land Rover/lorry squadron) was added 1998. The next year, however, under SDR, the role was transferred from the Territorial Army to a Regular unit.

Yeomanry Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment



The TA from 1967 had one armoured recce regiment, later increased to two. After Options in 1992 this was again reduced to one and the other became a specialized unit devoted to NBC reconnaissance. The Strategic Defense Review of 1998 gave the NBC role to a Regular regiment, and the Yeomanry again reorganized into two armoured recce regiments. A TOE for the Yeomanry showed:

RHQ	3 Sultan, 3 Ferret SC, 1 Land Rover FFR	
HQ Sqn	4 Land Rover FFR, 3 Ferret SC, 1 Land Rover, 1 ½-ton Land Rover FFR, 1 Samaritan, 13 4-ton lorries, 2 Eager Beaver [?]	
LAD REME	1 Ferret SC, 1 medium wheeled recovery vehicle, 2 Land Rover FFR, 2 Land Rover, 2 4-ton lorries, 1 Sampson	
Recce Sqn x4	Sqn HQ	2 Sultan, 1 Ferret SC, 2 Land Rover FFR
	HQ Troop	1 Land Rover FFR, 4 4-ton HGV, 1 Samaritan
	Recce Troop x5	4 Fox AC
	Support Troop	5 Spartan
	REME	1 medium wheeled recovery vehicle, 1 Land Rover FFR, 1 ½-ton Land Rover FFR, 1 4-ton lorry

This was later reorganized as

RHQ:	4 Sultan, 3 Spartan, 2 Land Rover (FFR?), 1 Sampson ARV
Recce Squadron x3/4	Sqn HQ: 2 Sultan, 1 Spartan
	4 Recce Troops, each 4 Fox armoured cars [later Sabre recce vehicles]
	Support Troop: 4 Spartan
	REME: 1 Sampson ARV, 1 Spartan

This would have had a LAD REME as well (actual source of Sampson ARV shown with RHQ), and probably similar support vehicles as the earlier TOE.

National Defence Reconnaissance Regiment



Most Yeomanry regiments in the TA were equipped with Land Rovers; organized in three squadrons,⁸ they had 315 personnel and 74 vehicles. These all had a purely home defence task. SDR led to a reduction in the number of Yeomanry regiments, and I have not seen confirmation of the current organization and roles of the survivors.

RHQ	3 ¼-ton Land Rovers, 1 4-ton lorry	
Recce Sqn x3	Sqn HQ	2 ¼-ton Land Rovers
	Admin Troop	1 ¼-ton Land Rover, 1 4-ton W/W and 1 4-ton lorry
	Recce Troop x4	4 ¼-ton Land Rovers
	Support Troop	1 ¼-ton Land Rover and 1 4-ton lorry

⁸ The Royal Wessex Yeomanry at one time had four squadrons.



APC Squadron 1960

Sqn HQ	2 Saracen APCs
Royal Signals Troop	
LAD REME	5 Saracen APCs, 1 heavy recovery vehicle, 8 other vehicles
Troop x3	HQ (3 Saracen APCs), three sections (each 4 Saracen APCs), Spt Section (2 Saracen APCs)

The squadron had 53 Saracen APCs and 173 personnel, with 12 other vehicles and 2 motorcycles. The LAD REME had 5 more of the Saracens and 57 personnel. Each APC troop could carry a company of infantry. From 1957 to 1963, each armoured brigade in BAOR had an APC squadron attached to carry the assigned infantry battalion.⁹ In 1963 the infantry battalions assumed responsibility for the APCs (and the new tracked FV432 APC began replacing the Saracens).

INFANTRY

Armoured Infantry Battalion 1990's



Bn HQ	1 Warrior MCV
HQ Coy	5 FV432; 3 FSC, 2 ¾-ton FFR and 2 ¾-ton GS, 1 ½-ton GS, 8 4-ton, 5 8-ton, 10 HMLC
LAD REME	1 FV434 and 1 Warrior (recovery)
Coy x3	[14 Warrior MCV]
	Coy HQ 2 Warrior MCV; 1 FV432 ambulance
	Platoon x3 4 Warrior MCV
	REME 1 Warrior (recovery) and 1 Warrior (repair)
MS [Maneuver Support] Coy ¹⁰	Coy HQ 2 Warrior MCV; 1 FV432 ambulance; 1 ¾-ton FFR and 1 1-ton Land Rover, 1 FCS
	Milan Platoon 2 Warrior MCV and 2 Milan in HQ, 3 sections each 3 Warrior MCV and 6 Milan [200 missiles] ¹¹
	Recce Platoon 8 Scimitar
	Mortar Platoon 9 FV432 and 9 81mm mortars ¹²
	REME 1 FV434, 1 FV432, 1 Sampson

The battalion had 732 personnel, 56 Warrior MCV, 20 Milan, 20 FV432, 8 Scimitar, and 9 81mm mortars. From about 1995 the Scimitar was withdrawn and replaced by the Sabre. By around 1999, pressure for formation of an assault pioneer platoon led to a slight reorganization. The third rifle company lost one platoon, which was shifted to the maneuver support company (still in its four Warriors) and trained for that role. In addition, the mortar platoon was cut to 2 tubes in each section (a section had 3 FV432, two with the 81mm mortar mounted). The Milan platoon was reduced to four firing posts in each section.¹³ This revised unit had 741 personnel, 52 Warrior MCV, 21 FV432, 8 Sabres, 6 81mm mortars, and 12 Milan. A further 4 Milan are held in the mobilization section, which would be activated if the unit deployed for war.

At the time of Desert Storm (1990-91) the deployed battalions had around 850 personnel and only 45 Warrior MCV (15 in each rifle company), with larger numbers (about 50) of the FV432 APC. In the FS [Fire Support] company, the mortar platoon had 8 81mm mortars, the AT platoon had 18 FV432 APCs¹⁴ and 24 Milan. The recce platoon was the same. Mortar platoons increased from 8 to 9 around 1993.

This was essentially a new type of unit, and descended from the FV432-mounted mechanized infantry battalion. There were around five of them by 1990, and the planned total (by 1993) was eight (increased to a ninth in 1999/2000 under SDR).

The basic infantry platoon (Warrior or Saxon-mounted) has five men at platoon headquarters (one 51mm mortar) and three sections of eight men each. Mechanized and light battalions can have a support section of 2 GPMG as well, carried in platoon vehicles.

⁹ This was first done by 14th/20th King's Hussars and then by 4th RTR. The regiment kept one squadron in tanks, which went to Berlin, and the other two converted to APCs.

¹⁰ At one time, these were termed fire support companies.

¹¹ This adds up to 20 Milan firing posts. Perhaps, as with the later unit, 4 more were held for mobilization. There are still 200 of the actual missiles in the unit.

¹² This does not show any vehicles for platoon headquarters, which seems improbable. Another source shows HQ (2 Sultan), 4 sections each 1 Warrior and 2 FV432 with 81mm mortars; in this one the Warrior MCV in each mortar section seems improbable. Yet another source shows 2 Sultan and 4 Spartan (presumably one Spartan in each section) and this does seem possible.

¹³ The current Milan Platoon has 1 Spartan and 2 Warrior in platoon HQ (still 2 Milan), and 3 sections, each of 2 Warrior and 4 Milan.

¹⁴ Although one source shows HQ (2 FV432) and 4 sections (each 3 FV432 and 5 Milan). Another source gives the platoon 2 FV432 at platoon HQ, 4 sections (each 3 FV432 and 5 Milan) and one section (4 Spartan MCT). Spartan MCT has two Milan in a turret. This was probably an interim organization until more Warrior vehicles were available.

Mechanized Infantry Battalion [wheeled] 1990's

With the former tracked battalions converting to the Warrior MCV (and termed as armoured infantry), the mechanized appellation at this point belonged only to units in the wheeled Saxon.

Bn HQ	3 Saxon APC
HQ Coy	
Coy x3	[13 Saxon APC]
	Coy HQ 1 Saxon APC
	Platoon x3 4 Saxon APC
MS Coy	Milan Platoon 2 Saxon APC/2 Milan, 3 sections each 3 Saxon and 6 Milan
	Recce Platoon 8 Scimitar [replacing 8 Fox armoured cars]
	Mortar Platoon 9 81mm mortars, 9 Saxon(?), 1 (or more?) Land Rover
	MG Platoon 9 GPMG, ? Saxon

The battalion had 685 personnel, 64 Saxon, 20 Milan [four held in a mobilization section], 8 Scimitar, 9 81mm mortars. Around 1991 these might have had 650 personnel and only 43 Saxons. The Scimitars were replaced from 1995 by the Sabre. As with the armoured unit, some other changes occurred by 1999. The third rifle company also gave up a platoon, which moved to the maneuver support company and trained as assault pioneers. The Milan platoon was reduced to 4 launchers in each section and none at platoon HQ. The mortar platoon was reduced to 2 tubes in each section. This revised battalion has 667 personnel, 51 Saxon, 8 Sabre, 12 Milan, and 6 81mm mortars. An additional four Milan were held in a mobilization section. The GPMG is to be replaced by a chain gun.

By the 1980's, mechanized battalions in the UK were mounted in the Saxon wheeled APC and retained the Fox as their recce vehicle. (These were battalions with a wartime BAOR reinforcement role.) The original mechanized battalions (in the FV432 APC) were found only in Germany, and gradually converted to armoured infantry in the Warrior MCV.

Mechanized Battalion [tracked] 1980's

Bn HQ	4 FV432, 2 Ferret
HQ Coy	
LAD REME	2 FV434
Coy x3	Coy HQ 2 FV432, 1 Ferret, 1 FV434
	Platoon x3 4 FV432
FS Coy	Coy HQ 1 FV432, 1 Ferret
	Mortar Platoon 1 FV432, 8 FV432/81mm mortars, 1 Ferret
	AT Platoon 2 FV432 (HQ), 4 sections (each 3 FV432, 5 Milan), 1 Section (4 Spartan MCT)
	Recce Platoon 8 Scimitar

Since the Fox armoured car was supposed to replace the Ferret scout car, it seems strange that a TOE from the late 1980's would still show the Ferrets. The original plan (from the late 1970's) was to reorganize mechanized battalions into a 650-man battalion: Bn HQ (14 FV432, 2 Fox, 6 81mm mortars), HQ Coy, and four companies (each 16 FV432, 1 Fox, 4 Milan), giving 78 FV432, 7 Fox, 6 81mm mortars, and 16 Milan. However, it appears that they actually remained at three rifle companies and a fire support (then probably just called support) company. There were two MMG carried at company HQ and a 2" mortar at each platoon HQ. The recce platoon probably began with 8 Fox armoured cars.

The old mechanized battalion (ca. 1970) was organized as follows:

Bn HQ	4 FV432, 2 Ferret
Coy x3	Coy HQ 2 FV432, 1 Ferret
	Platoon x3 4 FV432
Support Coy	Coy HQ 1 FV432
	Mortar Platoon 1 FV432, 6 FV432/81mm mortars
	AT Platoon 6 FV432/120mm Wombat
	AT Platoon 6 Land Rovers with Vigilant ATGM
	Recce Platoon 8 Ferret
	Pioneer platoon 4 FV432

By the early 1970's, a version of this battalion had 712 personnel, 74 FV432 APC, 5 armoured cars, 16 Milan, 6 Wombat, 51 Carl Gustav ATGL, and 6 81mm mortars. [The number of Milan launchers seems high for this period.] The detailed chart above only shows 63 FV432 APC's, so it is not clear where the additional 11 might have been (although attached REME might have had as many as 10 FV432 or FV434). A 1977 variant shows Bn HQ (8 FV432, 2 Fox armoured cars), HQ Coy, Support Company (6 81mm mortars, 8 Milan, 14 FV432), and three rifle companies (16 FV432, 1 Fox armoured car, 9 Carl Gustav ATGL), for a total of 700 men, 70 FV432, 5 Fox, 6 81mm mortars, 8 Milan and 27 Carl Gustav.

Infantry Battalion [Light Role] 1990's

Bn HQ	
HQ Coy	includes assault pioneer platoon
Coy x3	1 Saxon at coy HQ; 3 platoons
MS Coy	AT Platoon 3 sections, each 2 Milan; 8 Land Rovers or trucks
	Rece Platoon 6 medium utility trucks [Land Rovers] with GPMG
	Mortar Platoon 9 81mm mortars, 10 trucks or Land Rovers
	MG Platoon 9 GPMG

The battalion had 625 personnel, 6 Milan, and 9 81mm mortars. This is the basic organization for all units not armoured infantry or mechanized, including battalions of The Parachute Regiment. Before establishment of the MG platoon, these would have two MMG in each rifle company headquarters. Each platoon has a 51mm mortar. Light role battalions had few changes under SDR. The mortars were reduced to six (two in each section) and the assault pioneer platoon placed in the maneuver support company. Although assault pioneer platoons had existed previously, one rifle company lost its third platoon to provide the unit. These battalions have an additional 3 Milan in a mobilization section. Strength is 620 all ranks.

The infantry battalion ca. 1970 was similar in structure, although with different equipment.

Bn HQ	
HQ Coy	
Rece Platoon	4 ½-ton Land Rover with GPMG, 4 ½-ton Land Rovers
Defence Platoon	1 Land Rover, 2 lorries (includes 2" mortar and 3 GPMG)
Coy x3	3 platoons
FS Coy	Coy HQ includes 3 Land Rovers
	Mortar Platoon 6 81mm mortars, 17 Land Rovers
	Pioneer Platoon 2 lorries
	AT Platoon 6 120mm Wombat on Land Rovers
	AT Platoon 6 Vigilant ATGW on Land Rovers

AT weapons were upgraded over time; from 1965 the 84mm Carl Gustav replaced the 3.5" rocket launcher in rifle companies, and Milan ATGM would replace the Vigilant and later the Wombat.

A 1963 infantry battalion included Bn HQ (1 Ferret), HQ Coy (including assault pioneer platoon), and four rifle companies. Each rifle company had three rifle platoons (with 2x2" mortars and 2x3.5" ATRL) and a fire support platoon (2x3" mortars and 2 Wombat). These may have received a small number of the FV432: 6 in HQ company and 4 in the support platoons.

Parachute Battalion

When organized for an actual airborne role, these could differ somewhat from the normal infantry battalion.

Bn HQ	
Coy x3	3 platoons
Support Coy	Coy HQ
	Mortar Platoon: 9 81mm mortars
	MG Platoon: 3-6 .50-caliber AAMG
	AT Platoon: 4 Sections, each 6 Milan
	Pioneer Platoon: three squads
	Rece Platoon: two squads on Land Rover with GPMG

Parachute battalions had 634 (rather than 625) personnel. Earlier, parachute battalions (in the airborne role) had 603 personnel, organized into Bn HQ, Patrol Company (signals, patrols [foot or Land Rover rece], assault pioneer platoons), three rifle companies, and a fire support company (mortar platoon [8 81mm mortars], AT platoon [6 Milan], and MG platoon [6 GPMG and 4 .50-caliber MGs]). Each platoon has a 51mm mortar.

Anti-Tank [Air Mobile] Infantry Battalion late 1990's

One version shows the following organization:

Bn HQ		
HQ Coy		
Airmobile Infantry Coy x3	Coy HQ	
	Infantry Platoon x2	
	AT Platoon	6 Milan teams
Support Coy	Recce Platoon	2 Land Rover, 1 Supercat with GMPG, 2 vehicles with Milan ATGM
	Mortar Platoon	9 81mm mortars, 10 1-ton trucks or Supercats
	AT Platoon	6 sections, each 4 Milan ATGM

An alternative depiction of the airmobile infantry battalions in 24th Airmobile Brigade is as follows:

Bn HQ		
HQ Coy [170 personnel]	HQ platoon and intelligence section, signal platoon, QM platoon, catering platoon, motor transport platoon, REME section, provost section, regimental admin office	
Infantry Coy x2 ¹⁵	Coy HQ	2 Land Rover FFR, 1 Pinzgauer, 1 4-ton truck
	Platoon x3	HQ (4) and 3 sections (8 men each); 51mm mortar and GPMG; 1 Land Rover GS and 1 4-ton truck
Aviation Coy	Coy HQ	(same as infantry coy)
	Platoon x2	(same as infantry coy)
	AT Platoon	8 Milan ATGM
FS Coy [126 personnel]	Coy HQ	
	AT Platoon	[35 personnel]: HQ and 5 teams (each 2 Milan ATGM); each team 2 GMWP ¹⁶
	Recce Platoon	[24 personnel]: HQ and 3 sections (each 2 Land Rover FFR and 2 GMWP) ¹⁷
	Mortar Platoon	57 personnel]
	HQ	2 Land Rover FFR, 5 ATMP ¹⁸
	Section x3	[15 personnel] 3x81mm mortar, Land Rover FFR, 3 Steyr-Pinzgauer)

This battalion had 680 personnel and the following vehicles: 63 Land Rovers, 19 4-ton trucks, 23 8-ton trucks, 14 TUM(HD), 30 GMWP, 13 ATMP, 2 JCB, 2 UBRE, and 114 trailers. There are a total of 42 Milan ATGM (10 in each infantry company, 8 in the aviation company, and 14 in the fire support company). The battalion had 100 LAW80 divided among its platoons. There was a plan to issue the .50-caliber MG (4?). This particular organization probably disappeared after elimination of 24th Airmobile Brigade in late 1999.

An earlier version of this battalion, roughly 1989-93, was organized as follows:

Bn HQ		
HQ Coy		
Airmobile Infantry Coy x3	Coy HQ	(with 2 MMG)
	Infantry Platoon x3	
Support Company	Coy HQ	
	Recce Platoon	6 Land Rover with GPMG
	Mortar Platoon	8 81mm mortars, 9 Land Rovers
	AT Platoon	6 sections, each 4 Milan ATGM

This unit might have a MG platoon in the support company (4 .50-caliber AAMG). Each platoon had a 51mm mortar.

The brigade always had a third battalion as well. One source shows it with a conventional infantry battalion, another indicates that it was similar to the airmobile battalion, with two airmobile infantry companies and one conventional company (three infantry platoons).

In the period roughly 1989-93 the third battalion was a conventional mechanized battalion in the Saxon wheeled APC. However, the AT platoon had 6 Milan ATGM sections and only one Saxon APC, and the mortar platoon could have Land Rovers in place of the Saxon. This was probably a holdover from its original role in Germany. The brigade was reorganized in Mar 1993 to become fully airmobile and added two helicopter regiments.

¹⁵ This company has 10 Milan ATGM, but how they are distributed has not been indicated.

¹⁶ Ground Mobile Weapon Platform: a modified Land Rover.

¹⁷ Each section can mount four Milan ATGM and 4 GPMG on the vehicles.

¹⁸ All Terrain Mobile Platform: a small 6x6 vehicle.

Gurkha Battalion 1990's 

Bn HQ	includes 4 GPMG	
Rece Platoon	6 ½-ton Land Rovers	
Company x4	3 platoons	
FS Company	AT Platoon	6 Milan teams, 6 120mm Wombat, 6 Land Rover
	MG Platoon	4 MMG, 4 .50-cal AAMG
	Mortar Platoon	9 81mm mortars

This may have reflected organization while still in Hong Kong, as the Wombat had otherwise long disappeared. These may have moved more towards the conventional infantry battalion given above, although retaining four companies. Each platoon has a 51mm mortar. These are now probably organized identically with light role infantry battalions.

The battalion was roughly the same in the 1980's, without Milan ATGM in the AT platoon and with the older 2" mortar in rifle platoons; battalion HQ had 2 GPMG rather than 4.

Territorial Army Infantry Battalion ca 1999 

Bn HQ	includes 4 Land Rovers	
Rece Platoon	6 ½-ton Land Rovers, 2 GPMG [2 squads]	
MG Platoon	9-12 MMG [GPMG on tripod]	
Coy x3	3 platoons	

SDR reduced the number of TA infantry battalions to less than half the prior number, but brought about some changes for the remainder. The HQ company as such disappeared in 1999, with pioneer and rece platoons attached to other companies. All three platoons in each company were formed and manned. Companies with the ARRC role replaced one rifle platoon in each company with a support platoon (mortar, Milan, rece, MMG and pioneer sections); these would have eliminated the separate pioneer and rece platoons. Some battalions have four or five companies.

Territorial Army Infantry Battalion 1990's 

Bn HQ		
HQ Coy	includes assault pioneer and rece platoons	
Coy x3	2 platoons with third platoon to be activated and manned by reservists on mobilization	

The battalion would have around 500 men. Those with an Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) role on mobilization would be reinforced with Milan and mortar platoons from a fire support (FS) battalion. Prior to 1992, battalions had four companies.

Territorial Army Fire Support Battalion ca 1996/97 

Bn HQ		
FS Coy x2	Milan Platoon	6 Milan?, Land Rovers
	Mortar Platoon	9 81mm mortars, Land Rovers
	MG Platoon	9 GPMG, Land Rovers

This battalion had 376 personnel, and was intended to reinforce units tasked for an ARRC role (it also allowed elimination of four more companies in the Territorial Army). One source shows only 336 men, with 6 81mm mortars. This type of unit was created in 1995 (four battalions were converted) and disappeared in 1999 after SDR.

Special Air Service Regiment 

The Regular regiment (22nd SAS) has four squadrons. A full-strength squadron would have 6 officers and 78 other ranks, divided into a headquarters and four troops. Troops normally operate in patrols of 4 men each, which can be mounted in Land Rovers. The Land Rovers can be armed with GPMG, Milan ATGM, or 40mm grenade launcher. An alternate to the Land Rover is the Light Strike Vehicle (LSV): a dune buggy with MG or grenade launcher.

The two Territorial Army SAS regiments have essentially the same organization, except that each now has three squadrons. Squadrons were cut from five to three in each regiment in 1994.

Royal Marine Commando 1982

Cdo HQ	
HQ Coy	[182 personnel] (signals, transport and admin troops)
Rifle Coy x3	[114 personnel, 3 troops of 30 and HQ of 24]
Support Coy	[154 personnel]
AT Troop	14 Milan
Mortar Troop	6 81mm mortars
Recce Troop	
Assault Pioneer Troop	

Total strength 678 personnel (if HQ is included in the HQ Company total above). Another source shows 56 in Cdo HQ but does not give a separate strength for HQ Company, indicating that a commando in the 1908's was 700+ personnel (up from 680 in the 1960's). The RM web page indicates about 650 personnel in peacetime and 700-plus in wartime. The AT Troop was reduced to 12 Milan by the 1990's. Weapons included 9 81mm and 9 51mm mortars, 100 94mm ATGL, 13 sustained fire (SF: GPMG) machine-guns, 18 0.5" Browning machine-guns, and 12 0.5" Infantry Support Weapons (ISWS).

ARTILLERY, AVIATION, AND ENGINEERS

Royal Artillery

Given the small number of regiments, the RA in the 1990's has quite a variety of organizations.

The most common field regiment is that equipped with the AS90 SP 155mm. These were increased after Options to four batteries, of 8 guns each. While the nominal total was 32, only 6 guns in each battery are manned in peacetime.¹⁹ Earlier (when there were more of them), these regiments had three batteries (still probably 6 actual and 8 nominal barrels each). Before the AS90 was introduced, they used the US M109A1 SP 155mm howitzer or the Abbot SP 105mm howitzer (the latter disappeared earlier than the former, but both probably went between 1991 and 1993). The wartime Sexton SP 25-pounder survived into the 1950's, replaced by the M44 SP 155mm; the latter was then superseded by the Abbot.

Each regiment had at least 2 FV432 and 4 FV432 with Cymbeline radar at RHQ and 2 FV432 in each battery. An Abbot troop was initially established with Land Rover or Ferret scout car, FV432, 3 Abbots, and 3 Stalwart load carriers. At one time RHQ had at least 4 FV432/FV439 vehicles (the latter a signals variant).

The basic towed field regiment had three batteries of the 155mm FH70, with 6 howitzers each. The last Regular unit gave these up around 1995 after Options, and the last two TA regiments to use it lost them after SDR. RHQ included at least 6 lorries and each battery at least 10 lorries. The regiment also had 2 Land Rovers with towed Cymbeline radars. A Regular regiment around 1990 had 6 1-ton trucks at RHQ, along with 3 towed Cymbeline radars; each battery 6 Foden [German-built] tractors and 2 Land Rovers. As this unit was with 24th Airmobile Brigade at the time, it may not have had a standard organization.

The heavy regiment now has two batteries of MLRS (9 each) and a locating battery. These regiments formerly were armed either with the US M110A2 203mm SP Howitzer or M107 SP 175mm Gun. The MLRS regiments (and 175mm gun regiments before them) are known as depth fire regiments. The 203mm regiment had an RHQ with at least 6 lorries, 1 FV432, 1 FV439 and 1 M578 [US] ARV; its four batteries each had 1 FV432 and 4 M110A2 howitzers. These units would also have the M548 load carriers. The 175mm regiment was similar, although with at least 8 lorries at RHQ. It could have three or four batteries, and also included 4 FV432 with Cymbeline radar. In the mid 1970's a heavy regiment had 12 rather than 16 175mm guns. The first heavy regiment had converted to MLRS by the time of the Gulf War, and all had by the early 1990's.

In 1960, BAOR organized three regiments with two batteries of Honest John rockets (2 launchers each) and two batteries of towed 8" howitzers (4 barrels each). These lasted to 1976-77 when both weapons were retired.²⁰ A missile regiment with 12 Lance SSM was formed 1975-77 (originally four batteries of 3 missiles, later three batteries of 4); it lasted to Mar 1993. It would have had M668 missile carriers and M548 load carriers as well.

Two regiments have the 105mm light gun. The parachute regiment has three batteries (6 guns each) and the commando regiment the same, along with a special forward observation battery. The commando regiment has a volunteer battery that could be added on mobilization. For the parachute regiment, the guns are towed with Land Rovers, and the regiment also has a troop with 4 Land Rovers with Cymbeline radars. The regiment most recently serving with 24th Airmobile Brigade used 1-ton trucks, with at least 6 at RHQ and 8 in each of three batteries. The old (towed) field regiments had the 25-pounder; the last one still so-equipped was converted in 1967.

¹⁹ In 1999, regiments in Germany were to disband their fourth battery (leaving three, each with 8 tubes) while those in the UK were still to have four (with 6 tubes each).

²⁰ However, it is possible that the towed 8" howitzers were retired before that and replaced with the M110 SP model.

Air defence regiments have a variety of equipment and organizations in the 1990's. There are regiments with the Javelin (successor to the Blowpipe SAM): each three batteries (36 launchers each). Javelin can be mounted on the FV432, Spartan, or wheeled vehicles. One regiment has 108 Starstreak HVM launchers among three batteries. These can be shoulder launched or mounted on the Stormer APC (with 8-round launcher and 20 reload missiles). The final type of regiment has the Rapier SAM [Field Standard C, or FSC], with either three or four batteries. A towed Rapier battery has 8 launchers, a SP battery 12.

Earlier, air defence regiments were equipped with the Rapier (36 launchers in three batteries). In the late 1980's, a Rapier regiment had two SP batteries (each 12 Tracked Rapier, 2 Land Rovers, 2 M578 ARV, 12 M548 cargo carriers, and 2 4-ton lorries) and two towed batteries (each 12 towed Rapier and 24 Land Rovers). The Thunderbird SAM regiment had 12 launchers.

The Royal Artillery also formerly had batteries with the shoulder-launched Blowpipe SAM. These were often found attached to field regiments, but may have nominally been part of an air defence regiment.

Army Air Corps

Two basic squadrons exist in the 1990's. Most have 6 Lynx AH with TOW and 6 Gazelle light helicopters (can be armed with 7.62mm MG). Squadrons in Germany at one time had 6 and 8, respectively. Another type of squadron has 11 Lynx AH. 48 Apache Longbow (WAH-64) helicopters have been ordered to outfit two or three regiments (3rd, 4th and 9th) in the new 16th Air Assault Brigade.²¹ These will be delivered 2000-2002.

The two regiments formerly in 24th Airmobile Brigade (3rd and 4th) had two mixed squadrons and one with 11 Lynx AH, for a total strength of 35 helicopters and about 450 personnel. The regiment still in Germany (1st) probably has three mixed squadrons. In the 1980's, when each division had a regiment of three squadrons, squadrons were probably uniform (either 12 Lynx or 12 Gazelle) but the regiment may not have been. It appears that each regiment had a squadron of Lynx and a squadron of Gazelle, but the third squadron could be of either type. Transport helicopters for Army units come from the Royal Air Force not the Army Air Corps.²²

Royal Engineers

Around 1999, a number of field squadrons were reorganized into a new form of armoured engineer squadron. In Germany a regiment was reorganized with three armoured engineer squadrons. In the UK, a regiment could have a mix of the new armoured engineer and the traditional field squadrons. The new armoured engineer squadron had SHQ, one or two armoured troops, a field troop, and a support troop.²³ It is likely that the field and support troops would be similar to the earlier organization, described below. The armoured troop may still be 3 AVRE and 3 AVLB.

By the 1990's, the basic [close support] engineer regiment in Germany had RHQ, HQ squadron, three field squadrons, a support squadron, and an LAD REME. The regiment had a strength of about 650 personnel. There is one regiment for each armoured brigade. In the UK a close support regiment usually had two field squadrons, and might have been mounted in wheeled vehicles (Land Rovers or 4-ton lorries) instead of tracked APCs. Again, one regiment is allotted to each mechanized brigade. The basic layout of a close support regiment (taking the pattern from Germany) was:

Regimental HQ		
HQ Squadron		
Field Squadron x3	Around 200 men and 68 vehicles, counting its attached REME of 12-15 personnel	
	Sqn HQ	2 Sultan, 1 Ferret, 5 Land Rover, 6 4-ton trucks, 1 Stalwart
	Field Troop x3	82 personnel and 7 APCs
		Troop HQ
		46 personnel, 3 Spartan, 1 4-ton lorry
		Section x4
		1 APC [FV432 or Spartan] and 9 personnel
	Support Troop	includes 5 combat engineer tractors, 1 digger, 3 tractors, 1 Stalwart, 2 4-ton trucks (1 fuel)
Support Squadron	Bridging troop	2 Medium Girder Bridges
	Plant troop	1 Crane, Tractors and Diggers
	Resources Troop	3 Cranes and 3 10-ton trucks
REME LAD		

²¹ There is some inconsistency in the sources, but it appears there will be the three regiments, each with 16 Apaches, rather than two with 24 each (the third presumably retaining Lynx and Gazelle).

²² Around 1999, the RAF had three squadrons each with 12 HC2 Chinook and two squadrons each with 13-15 Puma HC1 for the helicopter role, along with one squadron still with 15 Wessex HC2. (Squadron strengths had been higher in earlier times, with perhaps 15-18 aircraft in the Chinook and Puma squadrons.) Another Wessex squadron was due to receive the new Merlin HC1 in 2000.

²³ 8 Armoured Engineer Sqn in 26 Engineer Regiment (reformed for support of 12th Mechanized Brigade) shows its organization as two armoured troops, a field troop, and a support troop. This regiment has both an armoured engineer squadron and a field squadron. 32 Engineer Regiment (in Germany), with three armoured engineer squadrons, shows them as being comprised of one armoured and one field troop, along with the support troop.

At an earlier time, each field squadron also included 1 Stalwart in each troop HQ (field troops) and 1 in the support troop. The support squadron included 6 dump trucks. The field squadron did not have a support troop in 1970; it was added by the 1980's.

51st Field Squadron RE, when assigned to 24th Airmobile Brigade, had the following organization:

- HQ Troop
- Field Troop x4 (32 personnel each; 4-ton DAF truck and 3 Land Rovers)
- Plant Troop
- Resources Troop
- Motor Transport & Echelon Troop
- Forward Repair Team REME

It had a total strength of 210 in peacetime (to increase to 275 in war) and 120 vehicles. These included 4 Combat Engineer Tractors, 4 ATMPs, five GCBs, 2 medium wheeled tractors, and 2 ultralight wheeled tractors.

A field engineer regiment in the Territorial Army has two field squadrons (each 8 Land Rovers at squadron HQ and three troops with 1 Land Rover and 2 lorries each) plus a support squadron (with diggers, tractors, lorries, etc.).

The parachute engineer squadron includes 3 troops (around 33 personnel each) and a support troop with Land Rovers, diggers, and medium girder bridges.

An amphibious squadron has 170 personnel and 36 M2/M3 ferries (with at least 6 Land Rovers). Formerly there were 30 (15 in each of two troops). Squadron HQ had 1 Sultan and 1 Ferret, and each troop included a Spartan and a Ferret. RHQ of 28th Amphibious Engineer Regiment included 2 Sultan and 2 Ferrets. The regiment also had a support and training squadron (HQ: 1 Ferret and 5 Land Rovers; Training Troop with 12 M2 and 2 Land Rovers; Troop with 6 Combat Engineering Tractors; and Troop with 9 M2 in reserve stock). The regiment originally had two amphibious squadrons, but was reduced to one after Options (1992/93) and the other moved to the Territorial Army. (SDR eliminated the TA amphibious squadron.)

Before the reorganization in the 1990's that led to many field squadrons becoming the new pattern of armoured engineer squadrons, the former armoured engineer squadrons had four troops with 3 AVRE and 3 AVLB each, giving the squadron 12 of each vehicle. Squadron HQ included 1 Sultan and 1 Ferret, and each troop also had 1 Spartan and 2 Ferrets. Earlier a squadron had three troops along with one troop of 4 Combat Engineering Tractors. RHQ of 32nd Armoured Engineer Regiment had 2 Sultan, 2 Ferret, 2 Chieftain ARV, and 4 FV434. Typically it had three armoured engineer squadrons.

LOGISTICS

The Royal Logistics Corps was formed in Apr 1993 from the Royal Corps of Transport (RCT), the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), the Army Catering Corps (ACC), the Royal Pioneer Corps (RPC), and elements of the Royal Engineers. Support units prior to that date would have been similar, but functional (e.g., transport regiments from the RCT and ordnance battalions from RAOC). The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) provide equipment support and remained separate.

Close Support Regiment RLC



- Regimental Headquarters
- Headquarters Squadron [includes Defence Troop, Workshops, and Stores Section]
- Two or three Brigade Support Squadrons
 - Squadron Headquarters and Headquarters troop
 - Stores troop (three Stores Sections)
 - Fuel and GT troop (3 TTF (Bulk Fuel Tankers) Sections and 1 DROPS²⁴ Section)
 - IRG & Brigade RV Troop (four Intermediate Replenishment Group Sections and one Brigade RV Section)
 - C Support Troop (five 8-ton Sections and 1 MHE Section)
- Divisional Support Squadron
 - Squadron Headquarters and Headquarters troop
 - Divisional Stores Troop (three Stores Sections)
 - C Support Troop (1 DROPS Section, 2 TTF (Bulk Fuel Tankers) Sections, 1 BT Section and 1 MHE Section)
 - Divisional Troops IRG (1 IRG²⁵ Section and 1 ERG Section)

²⁴ DROPS: Demountable Rack Off Loading and Pickup System vehicles.

²⁵ Intermediate Replenishment Group.

General Support Regiment RLC

Regimental Headquarters
 Headquarters Squadron
 Two Artillery Support Squadrons
 A Troop (1 Fuel and 3 DROPS sections), B Troop (3 DROPS sections)
 Supply Squadron (1 Combat Support Troop, Divisional Logistic RV and 2 DSA Group)
 Tank Transporter Squadron

REME Support Battalion

Battalion Headquarters
 Headquarters Company²⁶
 Close Support Company [mix of Forward Repair Groups and Medium Repair Groups]²⁷
 General Support Company²⁸

The battalion totals around 450 personnel; the close support company is equipped with armoured repair and recovery vehicles. There is one REME battalion specially designed to support aviation units. Formerly part of 24th Airmobile Brigade, it moved to the new 16th Air Assault Brigade Oct 1999.

Attached REME

Sources do not always show attached REME personnel (light aid detachments), and it is not always possible to determine if strength figures for units included them.

As an example, in 1991 the attached REME strength for various types of units was: 92 (armoured regiment), 56 (armoured recce regiment), 70 (mechanized battalion), 82 (artillery regiment), 78 (engineer regiment), and 53 (transport regiment). The workshops for an armoured division had a strength of 15 officers and 328 other tanks (343 total). By the end of the decade, the totals were 120 (armoured regiment), 90 (armoured recce regiment), 90 (armoured infantry battalion), 85 (close support engineer regiment), 110 (general support engineer regiment), 115 (field regiment RA), 160 (air defence regiment RA), 130 (regiment AAC), 60 (signals regiment), 75 (close support regiment RLC), and 95 (general support regiment RLC). A division would also have an REME battalion of around 450.

²⁶ Headquarters company in the new 5th Bn REME (formed for 3rd UK Division) has a company HQ (1+2), QM (main) department (1+3), QM (technical) department (1+10), motor transport department (0+11), regimental catering (0+7), RLC stores section (1+3), regimental administration office (2+10), battalion technical office (1+4), and battalion training wing (0+4). This gives it a strength of 7 officers and 54 other ranks (61 personnel).

²⁷ The close support company in 5th Bn REME has a company HQ, forward repair group, recovery platoon, general platoon, and support platoon.

²⁸ The general support company intended for 5th Bn REME will have (when formed) a support platoon, vehicle and general platoon, optronics platoon, and power pack platoon.

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