

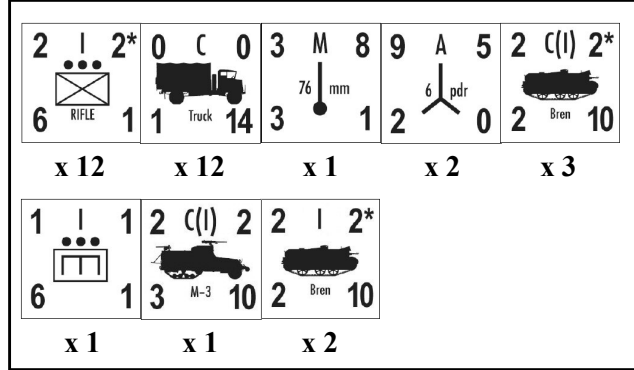


# British 43rd Infantry Division

September, 1944

129th  
Infantry  
Brigade

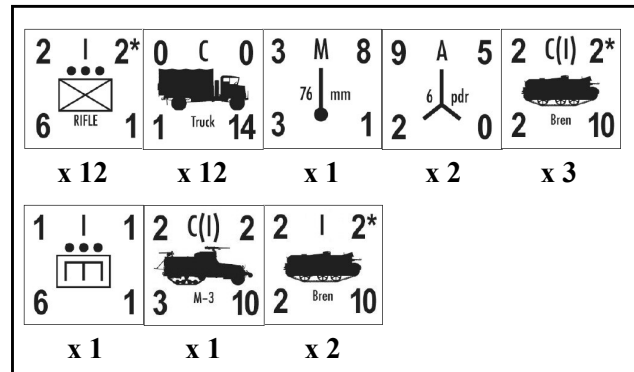
Infantry  
Battalion  
x 3



Infantry Battalions are 4th Somerset Light Infantry and 4th and 5th Wiltshire.

130th  
Infantry  
Brigade

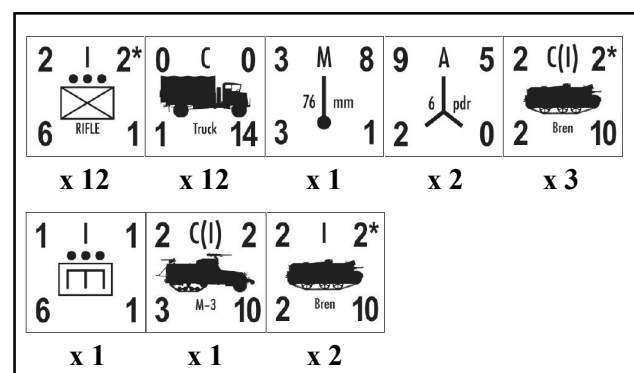
Infantry  
Battalion  
x 3



Infantry Battalions are 7th Hampshire and 4th and 5th Dorsetshire.

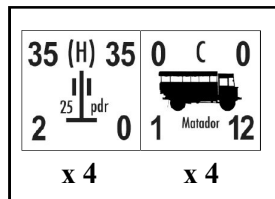
214th  
Infantry  
Brigade

Infantry  
Battalion  
x 3

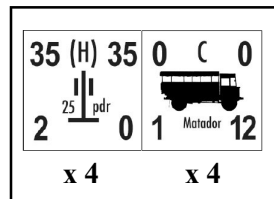


Infantry Battalions are 7th Somerset Light Infantry, 1st Worcestershire, and 5th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

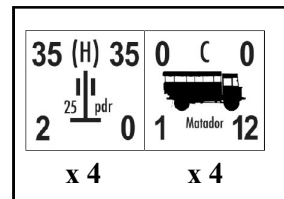
94th  
Field  
Regiment  
Royal  
Artillery



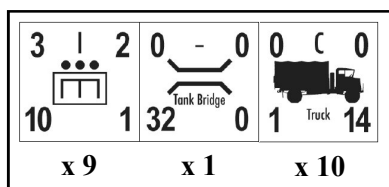
112th  
Field  
Regiment  
Royal  
Artillery



179th  
Field  
Regiment  
Royal  
Artillery





204, 260, 553  
Field  
Companies  
Royal  
Engineers





By Greg Moore  
gregpanzerblitz.com  
April, 2024





8th  
Machine Gun  
Battalion  
Middlesex  
Regiment

2 I 2*	10 M 17	2 I 2*
 M-G	107 mm	 Bren
4 1	2 0	2 10
x 9	x 4	x 13



59th  
Anti-Tank  
Regiment  
Royal  
Artillery

9 A 5	14 A 10	0 C 0	14 A 10
6 pdr	17 pdr	 Truck	 Wolverine
2 0	2 0	1 14	6 9
x 6	x 3	x 9	x 3


43rd  
Reconnaissance  
Regiment  
Royal  
Armoured  
Corps

2 I 2*	3 M 8	9 A 5	2 C(l) 2*	2 I 2*	3 A 5
 RIFLE	76 mm	6 pdr	 Bren	 Bren	 Daimler
6 1	3 1	2 0	2 10	2 10	3 16
x 3	x 1	x 2	x 6	x 9	x 3

110th  
Light  
Anti-Aircraft  
Regiment  
Royal  
Artillery

8 H 12	0 C 0	8 I 4
40 mm	 Truck	 M-16
2 0	1 14	3 10
x 6	x 6	x 3

64th  
Royal  
Artillery  
Regiment

48 (H) 42	0 C 0
5.5 inch	 Matador
2 0	1 12
x 3	x 3

Detached from  
XXX Corps  
troops

The 43rd Wessex Division, mobilized in September of 1939, was scheduled to go to France as part of the BEF in 1940, but the quick fall of France in May precluded them from joining that fight. The division then spent the next 4 years training and defending the home island from possible German invasion. In 1944, the Wessex Division finally went to war, arriving in Bayeux (in Normandy) on June 23rd as part of the followup forces for Operation Overlord. After heavy action in Normandy, the 43rd became part of XXX corps in its rush across France.

For Operation Market-Garden, the 43rd advanced behind the Guards Armored Division to provide infantry support as needed. Its engineers stood ready to erect or repair bridge crossings as needed and its rifle battalions were trained and equipped for river assaults that might be needed. The division advanced to Nijmegen on Day 5 of the operation. Shortly thereafter, it was given the lead in the attack north as the Guards Armored tanks were found to be unsuited to the boggy terrain. Unfortunately, the Germans had retaken Arnhem on Day 4 and were now strongly positioned across the route north of Nijmegen and little progress was made against them. The division was, however, able to advance on secondary roads to the west, making first contact with the Poles at Driel on day 7.

On the night of Day 8, half of the 5th Dorsetshire Regiment was sent across the Lower Rhine to reinforce the heavily besieged paratroopers at Oosterbeek. The crossing was a disaster, as the soldiers landed in scattered groups and most were rounded up by the Germans. By Day 9, the mission to capture the bridge at Arnhem was considered to have failed and the division was assigned a new mission: evacuate the survivors of the 1st Airborne. On the night of Day 9, the 43rd sent boats across the river and rescued 2300 Brits and Poles before daylight ended the operation. Most of the survivors of the 5th Dorsets who had crossed the night before were unfortunately among those left behind and became prisoners. The Allies retreated back behind the Waal River and were content to just hold the front in place at Nijmegen until almost the end of the war.