

NOTE

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R E P O R T NO. 57  
HISTORICAL SECTION (G.S.)  
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

22 Dec 52

A SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES IN ARMY ORGANIZATION, 1939-1945

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A summary of Major Changes in Army Organization, 1939-1945

1. This report is a summary of the major changes in the organization of the Canadian Army during the period of the Second World War. Although much of the material is available in reports of the Historical Section (G.S.), the aim of this report is to put it into a form suitable for ready reference. The scope is therefore limited to the organization of divisions - both infantry and armoured - and of independent armoured brigades and units of basic importance such as the infantry battalion, the armoured regiment, and the regiment of field artillery.

THE INFANTRY DIVISION

2. On the outbreak of the Second World War, an Order in Council, P.C. 2482 of 1 Sep 39, named as components of the Canadian Active Service Force the 1st and 2nd Divisions together with their necessary ancillaries (G.O. 135/39, Schedule "D"). Units were mobilized on the appropriate British war establishment according to a list issued by National Defence Headquarters in June 1939 (H.Q.S. 3498-4, vol 1: C.G.S. to D.Os.C., 26 Jun 39). The composition of a division at that time is given in Appendix "A" to this Report.

3. Early revision was necessary in order to conform to the existing organization of a British division, which no longer required a mechanized divisional cavalry regiment nor a machine gun battalion for each brigade. On the other hand, there was added an infantry anti-tank company for each brigade, intelligence sections, certain light aid detachments, and personnel of the pay corps. Moreover, field brigades of artillery were to become field regiments on arrival overseas.\* Therefore, prior to sending the 1st Division abroad, National Defence Headquarters notified London that it would consist of:

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\*See paragraph 52 of this Report.

<u>Units</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
Divisional headquarters	18	120
Employment platoon	-	34
Divisional and three infantry brigade sections intelligence corps	2	16
3 Infantry brigade headquarters	27	168
3 Infantry anti-tank companies	12	198
Headquarters divisional artillery	6	24
Headquarters divisional engineers	7	31
Headquarters divisional army service corps	7	29
Anti-tank regiment	18	525
3 Field regiments 25-pounder	84	1665
Divisional field park company	3	153
3 Field companies	15	711
Divisional signals	18	473
9 Rifle battalions	198	5826
Divisional ammunition company	11	379
Divisional petrol company	7	292
Divisional supply column	15	443
3 Field ambulances	36	666
Field hygiene section	1	28
Provost company	1	108
Divisional postal unit	1	24
9 Light aid detachments	9	108
Pay corps personnel	17	19
Total division	<u>513</u>	<u>12,040</u>

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Additional units

3 Machine gun battalions	66	1995
3 Light aid detachments	3	36
Pay corps personnel	3	3
Total of above	<u>72</u>	<u>2034</u>

(W.D., G.S. 1 Cdn Div, 5 Oct -  
17 Dec 39, Appx XI-8(b): Tel  
562, N.D.H.Q. to C.M.H.Q., 22  
Nov 39)

4. A similar organization was adopted by the 3rd Division and units of a 4th Division on their mobilization in the summer of 1940 (G.Os. 184/40 and 50/41 effective 24 May 40). About that time, however, the number of officers increased considerably with the decision to substitute subalterns for Warrant Officers Class III, of whom there had been 155 in the 1st Division alone\* (P.C. 29/2370 of 4 Jun 40. See also C.M.H.Q.

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\*There had been W.Os. III in the field regiment and anti-tank regiment, R.C.A., divisional signals, and the infantry (rifle) and machine gun battalions.

file 9/Substitution/1: Turner to Senior Officer, 27 Apr 40, and G.S.O. II to G.S.O. I, 1 May 40).

5. Lessons learned in the initial campaign in France were studied in detail by a special committee of the War Office headed by General Sir William Bartholomew, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. After reviewing its report, the Army Council decided that the basic organization of a division should be retained but that there should be a closer affiliation of artillery regiments and field companies to infantry brigades. Provision was made for brigade groups, and the following major units were added to the British division:

- One medium regiment (6-inch howitzers)
- One light anti-aircraft regiment
- One reconnaissance unit
- One machine gun battalion

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Re-Org/1:  
War Office letter 20/Gen/  
5884 (S.D.1), 13 Oct 40)

With the exception of the regiment of 6-inch howitzers, which Lt-Gen McNaughton had previously stated he would retain in Corps artillery, these changes in organization were promptly "accepted and approved in principle" for the establishments of the 1st and 2nd Divisions (*ibid*: Tel G.S. 2072, McNaughton to Crerar, 26 Sep 40, and reply, G.S.D. 74, 18 Oct 40).

6. The Field Force Committee at the War Office then proceeded to draft Organization Plan 35 (F.F.C. 35), which detailed the standard composition of a British division.\* From this document was drafted in turn a proposed composition of the Canadian Corps as a corps of three divisions and one armoured division. This received the approval of the War Committee of the Cabinet on 3 Apr 41. Each of the three Canadian infantry divisions overseas was to consist of:

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\*C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/4 contains a copy of F.F.C. 35 dated 21 Nov 40.

HEADQUARTERS:

Headquarters of a division  
Divisional intelligence section  
Divisional field security section  
Divisional headquarters defence and employment platoon

ARTILLERY:

Headquarters, divisional artillery  
3 Field regiments  
Headquarters, anti-tank regiment  
1 Anti-tank battery - 16 guns  
Headquarters, light anti-aircraft regiment  
1 Light anti-aircraft battery - 12 guns

ENGINEERS:

Headquarters, divisional engineers  
1 Field park company  
3 Field companies

SIGNALS:

Divisional signals

ARMoured CORPS:

Reconnaissance battalion

INFANTRY:

Machine gun battalion

SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT:

Headquarters, divisional R.C.A.S.C.  
Divisional ammunition company  
Divisional petrol company  
Divisional supply column

MEDICAL:

3 Field ambulances  
1 Field hygiene section

ORDNANCE:

4 Light aid detachments (heavy) - Type "A"  
7 Light aid detachments (light) - Type "B"  
4 Light anti-aircraft ordnance workshop subsections  
Divisional ordnance workshop  
Divisional ordnance field park  
Mobile laundry and forward decontamination unit  
Mobile bath unit  
Salvage unit

PROVOST:

Divisional provost company

POSTAL:

Divisional postal unit

3 INFANTRY BRIGADES, each with:

Headquarters, infantry brigade  
Infantry brigade headquarters defence platoon  
Anti-tank battery  
Light anti-aircraft battery  
3 Infantry battalions

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/6:  
Memo entitled "Approved Composition  
of Canadian Corps", undated)

7. Meanwhile, the War Office had set up another committee under Maj-Gen L.H.K. Finch, D.S.O., O.B.E., to examine the vehicle establishment of army units with a view to easing the serious strain on production and shipping and to facilitate provision and maintenance. Pending the report of this committee, detailed implementation of new establishments was delayed until 1941. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Re-Org/1/2: War Office letter 57/Vehicles/9279 (S.D.1), 27 Mar 41, contains a summary of the recommendations of the Finch Committee approved by the Army Council)

8. There had been considerable difficulty, for example, in obtaining motorcycle combinations for the reconnaissance squadrons organized for the 1st and 2nd Divisions in the summer of 1940, and these squadrons were disbanded in January 1941 (G.Os. 200/40 effective 22 Jun 40, 155/41, effective 19 Aug 40, and 156/41, effective 25 Jan 41). Contrary to British practice in creating a separate Reconnaissance Corps, the new Canadian divisional reconnaissance battalions equipped with scout cars and carriers were allocated to the Canadian Armoured Corps (G.O. 41/41, effective 26 Jan 41). Subsequently, they were redesignated reconnaissance regiments (G.O. 455/42, effective 8 Jun 42).

9. The infantry anti-tank companies were abolished early in February 1941 (G.O. 114/41, effective 5 Feb 41). Immediately afterwards, divisional headquarters defence and employment platoons and infantry brigade headquarters defence platoons were organized from The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment). This action was taken for the 1st and 2nd Divisions effective 6 Feb 41, for the 3rd Division 7 Apr 41, and for the 4th Division 10 May 41 (G.O. 151/41).

10. Formerly units of the ordnance service had been classified as corps troops or ancillaries. Following the Bartholomew Report, however, the British introduced a divisional ordnance workshop and identified the following as integral parts of a division:

- Light aid detachments
- Divisional ordnance workshop
- Divisional ordnance field park section
- Mobile laundry and decontamination unit
- Mobile bath unit
- Salvage unit

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/  
4/4: Memo on war establishments,  
27 Nov 40)

The Canadians took similar action in 1941, but early in 1942 it was ruled that the last three units would no longer form part of the standard armoured or infantry division (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/6: W.O. letter

20/Misc/2071 (S.D.1), 2 Jan 42). That year the mobile bath unit became part of the R.C.A.M.C., but the following year it reverted to the R.C.O.C. on being combined with the mobile laundry (G.O. 145/42, effective 26 Mar 42, and G.O. 144/43, effective 1 Jan 43).

11. During 1941 the British also introduced a new organization for the Royal Army Service Corps which abolished the rigid system of carrying fixed quantities of ammunition, petrol, and other stores in various echelons on wheels and substituted R.A.S.C. companies based on standardized transport platoons (C.M.H.Q. file 6/Re-Org/RASC/1: W.O. letter 20/RASC/2392 (S.D.1), 13 Aug 41). The new organization was applied to the R.C.A.S.C. at the beginning of March 1942 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 38, effective 1 Mar 42).

12. The light anti-aircraft regiment, R.C.A., and its accompanying light anti-aircraft ordnance workshop subsections were eventually added to each Canadian division in turn during the first part of 1942 (C.M.H.Q. files 1/Formations/6/2 and /3: C.A.O.R.Os. 1697, 2004 and 2384, Cdn Army Order of Battle as of 1 Mar, 11 May and 1 Aug 42).

13. Mainly because of the shortage of manpower, however, the Field Force Committee of the War Office had been forced to redraft F.F.C. 35 during 1941. The new organizational plan, F.F.C. 36, Part 1, dated 14 Jan 42, provided for a division on a higher establishment with 17,395 all ranks or on a lower establishment with 12,210. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/6 contains a copy) The Canadians retained the higher establishment and planned an armoured corps and an infantry corps, the latter to have three divisions organized as follows:

HEADQUARTERS:

- Headquarters of a division
  - Divisional headquarters defence and employment platoon
  - Divisional intelligence section
  - Field security section

ARTILLERY:

- Headquarters divisional artillery
  - 3 Field regiments
    - Headquarters anti-tank regiment
      - Anti-tank battery (16 guns)
  - Headquarters light anti-aircraft regiment
    - Light anti-aircraft battery

ENGINEERS:

- Headquarters divisional engineers
  - 1 Field park company
  - 3 Field companies

SIGNALS:

- Divisional signals



ARMOURED CORPS:

Divisional reconnaissance battalion

INFANTRY:

Machine gun battalion

SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT:

Commander divisional army service corps  
Divisional ammunition company  
Divisional petrol company  
Divisional supply company

MEDICAL:

3 Field ambulances  
1 Field hygiene section

ORDNANCE:

4 Light aid detachments - Type A  
7 Light aid detachments - Type B  
4 Light anti-aircraft ordnance workshop subsections  
Divisional ordnance workshop  
Divisional ordnance field park

PROVOST:

Divisional provost company

POSTAL:

Divisional postal unit

3 INFANTRY BRIGADES, each with:

Infantry brigade headquarters  
1 Infantry brigade headquarters defence platoon  
3 Infantry battalions  
1 Anti-tank battery  
1 Light anti-aircraft battery

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/  
1: Proposed Composition  
Canadian Army (Field Force)  
in the United Kingdom, 16  
Jan 42)

14. Meanwhile, Headquarters First Canadian Army had come into being effective 6 Apr 42 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 66, 4 Apr 42).

15. After a summer of experimentation with new organizations for armoured and infantry divisions, the Army Council in the autumn of 1942 decided to have three types of British divisions:\*

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\*A comparison of the three types of British divisions is attached as Appendix "B". The army tank brigade is discussed in paragraph 32 of this Report.

- (a) Armoured division
  - One armoured brigade
  - One infantry brigade (lorry borne)
- (b) Division (later known as a "mixed division")
  - One tank brigade
  - Two infantry brigades
- (c) Infantry division
  - Three infantry brigades

Wherever possible standard establishments were applied to similar units in each type of division, minor differences being shown in footnotes, and the war establishments of most units were revised accordingly. (C.M.H.Q. file 6/Br Army/1: W.O. letter 20/Gen/6059 (S.D.1), 1 Oct 42)

16. At the same time, the Canadian forces overseas began to feel the effects of manpower restrictions combined with a serious shortage of shipping. In consequence, the First Canadian Army underwent a complete reorganization based on British war establishments in order to facilitate co-operation between formations and units of British and Canadian Armies. This reorganization became effective 11 Jan 43. (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 2) Canada created no mixed divisions but redesignated her first three major formations "infantry divisions" (G.O. 283/43, effective 7 Jan 43). Similar to the British infantry division (see Appx "B"), each now had the following units:

HEADQUARTERS UNITS:

- Headquarters of a division
- Headquarters divisional support battalion
- Divisional headquarters support company
- Divisional intelligence section\*
- Field security section

ARMoured CORPS:

- Reconnaissance regiment - L.A.D. (A)

ARTILLERY:

- Headquarters divisional artillery
- 3 Field regiments - L.A.D.(B) each
- 1 Anti-tank regiment - L.A.D.(B)
- 1 Light anti-aircraft regiment - workshop

ENGINEERS:

- Headquarters divisional engineers
- 1 Field park company
- 3 Field companies - L.A.D.(B)

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\* Disbanded, effective 7 Jan 43. (G.O. 284/43)

SIGNALS:

Divisional signals - L.A.D.(B)

3 INFANTRY BRIGADES, each with:

Infantry brigade headquarters  
1 Infantry brigade support company - L.A.D.(A)  
3 Infantry battalions

SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:

Headquarters commander R.C.A.S.C.  
1 Divisional troops company  
3 Infantry brigade companies

MEDICAL:

3 Field ambulances  
2 Field dressing stations  
1 Field hygiene section

ORDNANCE:

Headquarters divisional R.E.M.E.\*  
3 Infantry brigade workshops

PROVOST:

Provost company

POSTAL:

Postal unit

(C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order  
No. 2, effective 11 Jan 43)

17. As the War Office had not yet decided the details of the new support organization, the disbandment or reorganization of the machine gun battalion, divisional headquarters defence and employment platoon, and infantry brigade defence platoons in each division was held in **abeyance**. temporarily (*ibid*). When preliminary British establishments became available in April 1943, the three Canadian machine gun battalions were immediately converted into support battalions, each with a headquarters and three infantry brigade support groups, the former infantry brigade defence platoons being absorbed (G.O. 21/44, effective 1 May 43). Subsequent reorganization of support weapons eliminated the need for support units as such, however, allowing them to resume their former role, but with the substitution of one heavy mortar company for one machine gun company in each battalion (P.C. 88/2705 of 18 Apr 44). Early in 1944, therefore, the support battalions of the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions were converted once more into machine gun battalions (G.O. 222/44, effective 24 Feb 44). The

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\*A special note stated that the British R.E.M.E. organization, nomenclature and distribution of duties would be adopted but that a separate R.E.M.E. Grps would not be created, personnel to remain R.C.O.C.

corresponding changes were made in the 1st Canadian Infantry Division in Italy the following July (G.O. 120/45, effective 1 Jul 44). The divisional headquarters defence and employment platoon having remained unchanged throughout, each infantry brigade headquarters was once more given a ground defence platoon of The Lorne Scots (G.O. 297/44, effective 24 Feb 44).

18. Following the general reorganization of early 1943, the divisional field artillery underwent little change in basic organization. In the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, however, there was a temporary adjustment which allotted an additional field regiment and converted all four to self-propelled regiments for the assault phase of the Normandy invasion (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org Arty/1: Tel G.S. 2645, Cannilitary to Defensor, 26 Oct 43). The organization of the anti-tank regiment in each division had to be readjusted on the introduction of 17-pr guns, that of the light anti-aircraft regiment on the introduction of 40-mm self-propelled guns.\* Nevertheless, the only new unit added to the divisional artillery was the counter mortar officer's staff - type "A" for infantry divisions, type "B" for armoured (G.O. 488/44, effective 6 Jun 44). This was introduced as a direct result of experience gained in operations during the Italian campaign (C.M.H.Q. file 5/CMO A/1: G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, to C.M.H.Q., 25 May 44).

19. With regard to engineer units, it was found possible to have a standard organization for a field park company in either divisional, corps or army troops by adding a divisional bridge platoon to divisional engineers. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org Engrs/1: Senior Offr, C.M.H.Q., to G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, 16 Aug 43). The 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions each received a bridge platoon, R.C.E., in September 1943, the 1st Division the following month (G.Os. 480 and 493, effective 15 Sep and 21 Oct 43).

20. The new organization for the R.C.A.S.C. of an infantry division increased the number of companies from three to four, replacing "commodity" by "composite" companies\*\* with no great increase of personnel (Hist Sec, C.M.H.Q. Report No. 168, para 169). The R.C.A.M.C. personnel, on the other hand, grew considerably in numbers with the conversion of the three field ambulances of the infantry division to the new British type and the addition of two field dressing stations (*ibid*, para 179).

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\*See Hist Sec, C.M.H.Q., Report No. 168, The Organization of First Canadian Army, paras 118-131.

\*\*A "commodity" company handled only one major commodity - ammunition, petrol or supplies - for the entire division. Under the composite system, one company performed all three tasks for each brigade or divisional troops.

21. Once more the ordnance services of the division underwent considerable revision. The divisional field park, for example, became a corps troops unit known as a sub-park, but, early in 1944, each infantry division was again provided with an ordnance field park (G.O. 151/43, effective 14 Jan 43, and G.O. 325/44, effective 7 Feb 44). The Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was authorized as a separate Corps effective 1 Feb 44, later receiving the title "Royal" (G.Os. 127 and 196/44). Shortly afterwards, R.C.O.C. units such as light aid detachments, light anti-aircraft workshops,\* and infantry brigade workshops were redesignated R.C.E.M.E. (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 85, effective 15 May 44).

22. These were the principal changes to the basic organization of a Canadian infantry division in the Second World War. Its authorized composition at the end of hostilities in Europe is given in Appendix "C" to this Report.

#### THE ARMOURED DIVISION

23. The Canadian Armoured Corps was named a Corps of the Active Militia effective 13 Aug 40 (G.O. 250/40). Simultaneously, there was constituted the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade with a brigade headquarters, three regiments, and a mechanized cavalry regiment attached (G.O. 253/40, effective 13 Aug 40). In October it was expanded to a brigade group (H.Q.S. 20-4-7, vol 2: Crerar to the Minister, 11 Oct 40).

24. Following the decision taken early in 1941 to form a Canadian armoured division, this brigade was reconstituted and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade authorized - each with a headquarters and three armoured regiments (G.O. 79/41, effective 11 Feb 41). Headquarters 1st Canadian Armoured Division and the headquarters of its support group were authorized some two weeks later (G.O. 88/41, effective 27 Feb 41). Subsequently, the designation was changed to the 5th Canadian (Armoured) Division (G.O. 135/41, effective 5 Jun 41). Based on F.F.C. 35,\*\* it was to consist of the following:

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\*Light anti-aircraft ordnance workshop sub-sections had been replaced by light anti-aircraft regiment workshops, types "A" or "B", in January 1943. (G.O. 151/43)

\*\*See paragraph 6. The standard formation of a British armoured division was based on a new organization decided upon in October 1940 (H.Q.S. 20-4-7, vol 2: W.O. letters 20/RAC/74 (S.D.1), 5 Oct and 17 Nov 40).

HEADQUARTERS:

Headquarters of an armoured division\*  
Employment platoon  
Intelligence section  
Field security section

ENGINEERS:

1 Field park squadron  
2 Field squadrons

SIGNALS:

Armoured divisional signals

ARMoured CORPS:

Armoured car regiment

SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT:

Headquarters armoured divisional R.C.A.S.C.  
2 Armoured brigade companies  
1 Support group company  
1 Troop carrying section  
1 Armoured divisional troops company

MEDICAL:

3 Light field ambulances  
1 Light field hygiene section

ORDNANCE:

1 Armoured divisional ordnance workshop  
1 Armoured divisional ordnance field park  
1 Light aid detachment, type "A"  
6 Light aid detachments, type "B"  
6 Light aid detachments, type "C"  
3 Light anti-aircraft ordnance workshop sub-sections  
1 Mobile bath unit  
1 Salvage unit

PROVOST:

Provost company

POSTAL:

Armoured divisional postal unit

2 ARMoured BRIGADES, each with:

Headquarters armoured brigade\*  
3 Armoured regiments  
1 Motor battalion

SUPPORT GROUP:

Headquarters support group

ARTILLERY:

Field regiment - 24 guns  
Anti-tank regiment - 36 guns  
Light anti-aircraft regiment - 36 guns

INFANTRY:

Infantry battalion

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/6:  
Memo entitled "Approved Composition Canadian Corps", undated)

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\*A headquarters squadron was included within the war establishment of headquarters.

25. Soon after the arrival overseas of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division, the 4th Division was converted in Canada to the 4th Canadian Armoured Division with a support group and two armoured brigades (G.O. 132/42, effective 26 Jan 42). The new standard formation of a British armoured division set forth in F.F.C. 36\* differed from the old organization only with respect to the R.A.S.C., medical and ordnance components. These were to be as follows:

SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:

Commander Armoured Divisional R.A.S.C.  
2 Armoured Brigade companies  
1 Support group company  
1 Armoured divisional troops company

MEDICAL:

2 Light field ambulances, class E  
1 Light field hygiene section

ORDNANCE:

1 Light aid detachment, type "A"  
6 Light aid detachments, type "B"  
6 Light aid detachments, type "C"  
2 Armoured brigade ordnance companies  
1 Support group ordnance company  
2 Light anti-aircraft battery workshop sub-sections

(C.M.H.Q. file 1/Formations/4/  
6: F.F.C. 36, part 1, 14 Jan  
42)

Both Canadian armoured formations adopted these modifications, although retaining three light field ambulances of the old type in lieu of the two light field ambulances introduced by the British (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1: Proposed Composition Canadian Army (Field Force) in the United Kingdom, 16 Jan 42).

26. In May 1942 the British decided to reorganize their infantry and armoured divisions - the former to consist of two infantry brigades and one tank brigade, the latter one armoured and one infantry brigade (lorry borne) (C.M.H.Q. file 6/Brit Army/1: W.O. letter 20/RAC/120 (S.D.1), 20 May 42). Several defects in this organization appeared on Exercise "TIGER", however, and it was not adopted by the Canadians (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1: Tel 1998, McNaughton to Stuart, 12 Jun 42).

27. Nevertheless, after the arrival overseas of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division that summer, it was agreed that there should be more infantry in an armoured

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\*See paragraph 13.

division (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1/2: Minutes of meeting held at H.Q. First Cdn Army, 22 Oct 42). Various organizations were discussed, but, in view of the shortage of manpower and shipping, the decision was taken towards the end of 1942 to reorganize the 4th and 5th Canadian Armoured Divisions on the British model of one armoured and one infantry brigade (ibid: Tel GS 4182, McNaughton to Stuart, 21 Dec 42, and reply, Tel CGS 693, 23 Dec 42).

28. The reorganization of the First Canadian Army, authorized as from 11 Jan 43, therefore gave each Canadian armoured division the following composition:

HEADQUARTER UNITS:

Headquarters of an armoured division  
Support company  
Intelligence section\*  
Field security section  
Light aid detachment (B)

ARMoured CORPS:

Armoured reconnaissance regiment - L.A.D. (C)  
Headquarters armoured brigade  
3 Armoured regiments - L.A.D. (C)  
1 Motor battalion - L.A.D. (B)

ARTILLERY:

Headquarters divisional artillery  
Field regiment - L.A.D. (B)  
Field regiment (S.P.) - L.A.D. (D)  
Anti-tank regiment - L.A.D. (A)  
Light anti-aircraft regiment  
Light anti-aircraft regiment workshop

ENGINEERS:

1 Field park squadron  
2 Field squadrons - L.A.D. (B)

SIGNALS:

Armoured divisional signals - L.A.D. (B)

INFANTRY:

Headquarters infantry brigade  
Support company  
Light aid detachment (A)  
3 Infantry battalions

SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:

Headquarters commander armoured divisional R.C.A.S.C.  
Armoured divisional troops company  
Armoured brigade company  
Infantry brigade company

MEDICAL:

Light field ambulance  
Field ambulance  
Field dressing station  
Field hygiene section

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\*Disbanded, effective 14 Jan 43. (G.O. 284/43)



ORDNANCE:

Headquarters divisional R.E.M.E.\*  
Armoured brigade workshop  
Infantry brigade workshop

POSTAL:

Postal unit

PROVOST:

Provost company

(C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order  
No. 2, effective 11 Jan 43)

29. Subsequent changes in the Canadian armoured divisions corresponded to those in the infantry divisions discussed previously.\*\* On the revival of machine gun battalions, for example, the infantry brigade of each armoured division gained an independent machine gun company. (G.O. 222/44, effective 24 Feb 44, and G.O. 120/45, effective 1 Jul 44) With respect to the R.C.A.S.C. there was a major difference, however, for on the abolition of the corps troops transport column early in 1944 an armoured divisional transport company was added to each armoured division.\*\*\* In addition, the armoured brigade company was increased from four to five transport platoons and the infantry brigade company of an armoured division was increased by one transport platoon. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org RCASC/1: C. of S., C.M.H.Q., to G.O.C.-in-C., First Cdn Army, 29 Feb 44)

30. During operations in Italy in the summer of 1944 it became apparent that the effectiveness of an armoured division could be doubled by adding a second infantry brigade in order to provide necessary relief. (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1/5: Notes on Reorg - 5 Cdn Armd Div, by Lt-Gen Burns, 9 Jul 44) It was therefore recommended that the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade with certain ancillary units be authorized for the 5th Canadian Armoured Division, the three infantry battalions being obtained by converting a motor regiment, a reconnaissance regiment, and a light anti-aircraft regiment and by reallocating the armoured car regiment of the 1st Canadian Corps to the 1st Canadian Infantry Division (H.Q.S. 20-1, F.D. 308: C. of S., C.M.H.Q. to C.G.S., 1 Aug 44 - copy on C.M.H.Q. file 1/Cdn Army/1/6). This additional brigade existed only until the 1st Canadian Corps reached North-West Europe (G.O. 18/45, effective 13 Jul 44, and G.O. 295/45, effective 13 and 15 Mar 45).

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\* A special note stated that the British R.E.M.E. organization, nomenclature and distribution of duties would be adopted, but that a separate R.E.M.E. Corps would not be created, personnel to remain R.C.O.C.

\*\*See paragraphs 17-21.

\*\*\*The former infantry divisional transport companies, on the other hand, became army troops.

31. The authorized composition of a Canadian armoured division at the end of hostilities in Europe is given in Appendix "D" to this Report.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE

32. On mobilization in 1939 the C.A.S.F. had two army tank battalions, which the next year were combined with two mechanized cavalry regiments\* to form the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade (G.O. 253/40, effective 13 Aug 40). Early in 1941, however, on the organization of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division with its two armoured brigades, the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade was constituted as a separate formation with a headquarters and three battalions (G.O. 79/41, effective 11 Feb 41). Although it was assumed originally that the role of these battalions would be confined to close co-operation with the infantry, British experience showed that an army tank brigade often had to operate semi-independently. To meet this need new establishments introduced in June 1941 provided brigade headquarters with a fighting element and army tank battalions and squadrons with close support tanks. (C.M.H.Q. file 5/Tk Bde/1: W.O. letter 79/Mobn/4496 (S.D.1), 9 Jun 41) The 2nd Canadian Army Tank Brigade, similarly organized, was constituted early in 1942 on the conversion of the 4th Division to armour (G.O. 132/42, effective 26 Jan 42). The battalions became army tank regiments in May 1942 (G.O. 302/42, effective 15 May 42). The 3rd Canadian Army Tank Brigade was created in the general reorganization of 1943 but later that same year its headquarters and three surplus army tank regiments were disbanded for reinforcements (G.O. 223/43, effective 1 Jan 43, and G.O. 89/44, effective 1 Nov 43). Meanwhile, the 1st and 2nd Army Tank Brigades had been redesignated the 1st and 2nd Armoured Brigades, their army tank regiments becoming armoured regiments (G.O. 88/44, effective 26 Aug and 22 Jul 43 respectively). As they were equipped with the same type of tank, they thus became interchangeable with the armoured brigades of divisions.\*\* (P.C. 67/621 of 2 Feb 44).

33. Despite these many changes of nomenclature, the basic organization remained practically constant - a headquarters, three regiments, signals, and service units. The composition of each independent armoured brigade at the end of the war is given in Appendix "E" to this Report.

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\*One of the latter was attached to the Brigade. See paragraph 23 of this Report.

\*\*It should be noted, however, that an independent armoured brigade did not have in its basic organization a motor battalion.

THE INFANTRY (RIFLE) BATTALION

34. On mobilization in 1939 Canadian infantry (rifle) battalions adopted British war establishment II/1931/12B/3\* published 6 Apr 38 with organization table of 6 Sep 39. This provided for:

	Offrs	O.R.
Battalion headquarters	4	43
Headquarter** company with signal, anti-aircraft, mortar, carrier, pioneer and adminis- trative platoons	5	210
4 Rifle companies (each);	3	97 (x4)
	<u>21</u>	<u>641</u>

Eleven platoons of the battalion - the anti-aircraft, mortar, pioneer, and two platoons per rifle company - were led by Warrant Officers Class III, the remainder by subalterns. A rifle company had three platoons each of three sections, a platoon having 29 other ranks, a section one corporal and seven privates. Battalions with Scottish or Irish affiliations were allowed six additional pipers. Due to differences in British and Canadian pay procedure, all Canadian battalions carried in addition a paymaster and his batman (C.A.R.Os. 36 and 366).

35. In November 1939 each battalion recruited an infantry anti-tank platoon to be attached to it and wear its distinctive dress, but three months later such platoons were concentrated and formed into a separate company for each brigade (W.D., 1 Inf A. Tk Coy, November 1939 - February 1940).

36. The initial campaign of the B.E.F. in France revealed that the infantry battalion required more men "for digging, for patrols and for holding long frontages at night and in conditions of poor visibility". To meet this need the War Office in March 1940 authorized an additional three men per rifle section and three cooks per battalion, a total of 111 O.R. (C.M.H.Q. file 5/Inf Bn/1: War Office letter 20/Infantry/3120 (S.D.1(b)), 4 Apr 40) Canadian authorities at once adopted this British higher establishment II/1931/12F/1\*\*\* (G.O. 169/40, effective 15 Mar 40).

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\*(H.S.) 723.009 (D1) contains a copy. This report does not deal in detail with the machine gun battalion nor the motor battalion.

\*\*British W.Es. use the term "headquarter company", Canadian W.Es. "headquarters company".

\*\*\*A copy of this W.E. and all those referred to later in this section is found on C.M.H.Q. file 5/Inf Bn/1, 1/2, and 1/3.

37. Shortly afterwards it was decided to replace all W.Os. III by subalterns, a step taken concurrently with the British (P.C. 29/2370 of 4 Jun 40, effective 1 May 40, and A.C.I. 804). Including pay personnel, the Canadian infantry battalion now had 33 officers and 753 O.R. (C.M.H.Q. file 5/Inf Bn/1: C.M.H.Q. to H.Q. 2 Cdn Div, 17 Sep 40).

38. After a thorough study of the initial campaign in France, the War Office in October 1940 decided to retain the basic organization of the infantry battalion but to increase its 3-in mortars and carriers, adding motorcycles to the carrier platoon (*ibid*: W.O. letter 20/Infy/3243 (S.D.1), 25 Oct 40). To compensate for these increases it was later found necessary, in view of the shortage of manpower, to reduce the rifle section by one private (*ibid*, 29 May 41). Reorganization of British battalions on the new W.E. II/1931/12F/2 was not authorized, however, until September 1941 (*ibid*, 11 Sep 41). Incorporating special adaptations, a Canadian equivalent based on prior information and identified as Cdn II/1940/12F/1 already had been introduced effective 1 Aug 41 (P.C. 77/7841 of 9 Oct 41 and G.O. 228/41). This provided for 32 officers and 767 O.R. in the battalion, each rifle company having five officers and 119 O.R., each platoon one officer and 36 O.R., each section one corporal and nine privates.

39. To conform to British changes such as the introduction of six 2-pr anti-tank guns and four 20-mm anti-aircraft guns into the infantry battalion, a new W.E. Cdn II/1940/12F/2 was adopted on 3 Sep 42 (P.C. 44/3723 of 4 May 42 and G.O. 472/42). This eliminated headquarters company by adding to battalion headquarters an administrative wing of three platoons - signal, anti-aircraft and administrative - and by creating a support company of four platoons - carrier, mortar, anti-tank, and pioneer. The medical officer and the paymaster, formerly shown as attached, were now included with the regimental officers, as was a lieutenant R.C. Sigs to command the signal platoon. Again the infantry section was reduced by one private. The total strength of the battalion was now 37 officers and 782 O.R., each of the four rifle companies having five officers and 110 O.R., each platoon one officer and 33 O.R., each section one corporal and eight privates.

40. In January 1943, when the entire First Canadian Army began an extensive reorganization to conform more closely to British war establishments,\* there was published a new W.E. Cdn II/12F/3 (P.C. 2339 of 23 Mar 43 and G.O. 144/43, effective 1 Jan 43). This was authorized for 31 Canadian infantry battalions in the United Kingdom effective 31 Jan 43 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No.

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\*See paragraph 16 of this Report.

18, 27 Jan 43). On the one hand it reintroduced a headquarters company to control the signal and administrative platoons and provided for the later replacement of 2-pr anti-tank guns by six 6-prs; on the other hand it eliminated the anti-aircraft platoon and reduced the rifle companies from four to three. Although the battalion thus decreased in strength to 32 officers and 741 O.R., each of the three rifle companies now had five officers and 142 O.R., each platoon one officer and 44 O.R. One lance-corporal was added to each section. Effective 15 Mar 43, the reference number of the new W.E. was changed from Cdn II/12F/3 to Cdn II/233/1 (W.D., C.M.H.Q. (G.S.), March 1943, Appx 75: W.E. letter 77, 12 Mar 43).

41. The fourth rifle company was reintroduced by the British in April 1943 (C.M.H.Q. file 6/Br Army/1/2: W.O. letter 20/Inf/3502 (S.D.1), 11 Apr 43). This change was incorporated in a new W.E. Cdn II/233/2 dated 27 Apr 43 (G.O. 466/43). The battalion strength thus increased to 37 officers and 811 O.R., although each rifle company was reduced to five officers and 122 O.R., each platoon to one officer and 36 O.R. A section still had a corporal, lance-corporal, and eight privates. This new W.E. was immediately authorized for the battalions of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, which had just received mobilization orders \* for the Sicilian invasion ((H.S.) 212Cl. 4009 (D86): C.M.H.Q. Mobilization Order No. 1, 17 Apr 43, as amended). Owing to manpower shortages, however, the remaining Canadian battalions temporarily retained the lower establishment (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org Inf/1: Extract from memo re Army Comd's Conference, 8 Jun 43). Eventually they were placed upon Cdn II/233/2 effective 1 Aug 43 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 107, 20 Jul 43).

42. Within a few days these battalions were again reorganized on a new W.E. Cdn II/233/3 effective 5 Aug 43 (G.O. 466/43 and C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 119, 7 Aug 43). It made no changes in basic organization and strength (37 officers and 811 O.R.), but provided for all four rifle company commanders to be majors (C.A.O.R.O. 4273, 12 Feb 44). Although battalions in the Mediterranean theatre did not convert to this new W.E. until February 1944, they were allowed to adopt the same effective date (5 Aug 43) as for the others and thus protect the seniority

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\*In the Canadian sense of the term, units were "mobilized" on being formed or created by Order-in-Council. In the British sense, however, the "mobilization" of a unit is the process of completing it in all respects by a definite date by virtue of its having been given an overriding priority. ((H.S.) 212Cl.4009 (D86): Memo on Mobilization, 7 Apr 43) Therefore Canadian units, although mobilized in Canada or in some instances overseas, received specific "mobilization orders" prior to leaving the United Kingdom.

and pensions of personnel affected (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 29, 26 Feb 44; see also C.M.H.Q. file 5/Inf Bn/1/2: Tel ACG 1554, Flambo to Canmilitary, 30 Dec 43).

43. Incorporating numerous minor amendments, a new W.E. Cdn II/233/4 was authorized effective 15 Aug 44 (G.O. 553/44). Again it brought no change in basic organization nor in strength, apart from a note which provided for an additional four privates (one driver I.C. per rifle company) when the battalion formed part of an armoured division. An amendment of September 1944, however, added a Scout officer plus his batman, thus increasing the strength of a normal battalion to 38 officers and 812 O.R. (C.M.H.Q. file 5/Inf Bn/1/3: Amendment No. 4, effective 30 Sep 44).

44. This W.E. Cdn II/233/4 was still in force at the end of the war. A Canadian infantry (rifle) battalion then consisted of:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
Battalion headquarters	6	54
Headquarters company with signals and administrative platoons	5	94
Support company with mortar, carrier, anti-tank and pioneer platoons	7	184
4 rifle companies (each)	5	120 (x4)
	<u>38</u>	<u>812</u>

Each rifle company had three platoons of one officer and 36 O.R., each platoon three sections of a corporal, lance-corporal, and eight privates.

#### THE ARMoured REGIMENT, C.A.C.

45. On the Canadian Armoured Corps being named a Corps of the Active Militia in August 1940,\* units converted to armoured regiments in the new corps were to adopt British W.E. I/1931/5E/1\*\*. This provided for:

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\*See paragraph 23 of this Report.

\*\*All W.Es. referred to in this section may be found on C.M.H.Q. file 5/Armd Regt/1 and /1/2. The report does not discuss the W.Es. for an army tank battalion or regiment, which are found on C.M.H.Q. file 5/Tk Regt/1.

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>A.F.Vs.</u>
Regimental headquarters	5	12	4 cruiser tks
Headquarter squadron with intercommunication and administrative troops	5	120	10 scout cars
3 Squadrons (each)	7	138	14 cruiser tks 2 close support cruiser tks
	<u>31</u>	<u>546</u>	

Each squadron had two cruiser tanks and two close support cruiser tanks in its headquarters and comprised four troops, each of three cruiser tanks. An amendment dated 18 Nov 40 stated that the armoured fighting vehicles would vary in type and might consist of a combination of various marks of tanks.

46. For the armoured regiment C.A.C. this British W.E. was superseded by Cdn I/1940/5E/1 effective 30 Sep 41 (P.C. 42/8600 of 5 Nov 41 and G.O. 255/41). Although the basic organization and allotment of tanks remained unchanged, there was an increase of two other ranks in the regimental strength. In addition, provision was made for an attached paymaster, medical officer, and two R.C.O.C. armourers. Amendment No. 2, effective 1 Apr 42, allowed armoured regiments equipped with five-man tanks an increment of 55 O.R. (G.O. 217/42).

47. As part of the reorganization of the First Canadian Army to conform to British establishments, a new W.E. Cdn I/5E/2 was authorized on 1 Jan 43 (P.C. 60/2993 of 13 Apr 43 and G.O. 168/43). Six Canadian armoured regiments in the United Kingdom adopted this new W.E. effective 31 Jan 43 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 21, 29 Jan 43). Among other changes it provided regimental headquarters with one command tank and eleven cruiser tanks, eight to be anti-aircraft tanks if available. It also added to headquarters squadron a reconnaissance troop with ten universal carriers and deleted one scout car from the intercommunication troop. Each of the three squadrons gained a fifth troop of three cruiser tanks. The regiment now had nine scout cars, one command tank, and 68 cruiser tanks. Including the paymaster and medical officer, its strength increased to 37 officers and 646 O.R. In addition, armoured regiments equipped with five-man tanks were allowed an increment of 64 O.R., those with six-man tanks 125 O.R., and those with seven-man tanks 189 O.R. Effective 15 Mar 43, the reference number of this new W.E. was changed from Cdn I/5E/2 to Cdn II/151/1 (W.D., C.M.H.Q. (G.S.), March 1943, Appx 75: W.E. letter 77, 12 Mar 43). Amendment No. 1 authorized one recovery tank with three tradesmen for each of the three squadron headquarters and a further eight troopers for regimental headquarters (G.O. 308/43, effective 8 May 43).

48. Shortly afterwards this W.E. was rewritten as Cdn II/151/2 (G.O. 422/43, effective 29 May 43). The increment for five-man crews was now incorporated in the

basic establishment, which thus provided for a total of 37 officers and 727 O.R. If equipped with six-man tanks regiments were still allowed an increment of 125 O.R., if with seven-man tanks 189 O.R. This W.E. also embodied a new policy regarding tradesmen in A.F.V. crews.

49. Effective 12 Jan 44, a new W.E. Cdn II/151/3 was authorized for armoured regiments C.A.C.\* (G.O. 346/44). This W.E. reduced the number of A.F.Vs. in regimental headquarters to four cruiser tanks. In headquarters squadron it replaced the ten universal carriers by eleven light tanks for the reconnaissance troop and introduced a troop of six anti-aircraft tanks. To each of the three squadrons it added an administrative troop. The regimental strength thus was increased to 38 officers and 657 O.R. As the Sherman tank with a crew of five had become standard, the provision for increments to allow for six-man or seven-man tanks was removed. An armoured regiment now had nine scout cars, six anti-aircraft tanks, 61 cruiser tanks, eleven light tanks and three recovery tanks. Due to the favourable air situation which developed in both Italy and North-West Europe, the anti-aircraft troop with its six A.A. tanks was later deleted in favour of seven armoured tracked vehicles for the carriage of ammunition to replenish tanks in forward areas during an action. A saving of one officer and nine O.R. per armoured regiment resulted. (G.O. 61/45, Amendment No. 10, effective 15 Oct 44. See also C.M.H.Q. file 5/Armd Regt/1/2: G.S. Submission No. 328, 27 Nov 44)

50. Incorporating eleven amendments to the former W.E., Cdn II/151/4 was authorized effective 30 Nov 44 (G.O. 61/45). Including three further amendments, this was the W.E. for an armoured regiment C.A.C. at the end of the Second World War. It provided for:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>A.F.Vs.</u>
Regimental headquarters	5	16	4 cruiser tks
Headquarters squadron with reconnaissance, intercommunication, and administrative troops	9	172	11 light tks 9 scout cars
3 Squadrons (each)	8	153	19 cruiser tks 1 recovery tk
	<u>38</u>	<u>647</u>	

A squadron consisted of squadron headquarters with four

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\*The armoured regiments of the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, which had operated in Italy on a special British W.E. known as VI/560/4, an armoured regiment, Middle East, did not adopt Cdn II/151/3 until 1 Apr 44 (C.M.H.Q. Administrative Order No. 84, 15 May 44. For relevant documents see C.M.H.Q. file 1/Org CAC/1/2)



cruiser tanks and one recovery tank, an administrative troop, and five troops of three cruiser tanks each. In addition, each squadron headquarters had two tracked armoured ammunition carriers and headquarters squadron had one (these vehicles having been shown formerly as command tanks).

THE FIELD REGIMENT, C.A.C.

51. The artillery of the C.A.S.F. was mobilized initially on the old organization of three field brigades per division\* (G.O. 135/39). British W.E. III/1931/9/3\*\* dated April 1937 provided for a divisional field brigade to have:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Armament</u>
Brigade headquarters	4	43	
3 Batteries (18-pr) (each)	6	137	6 guns (x3)
1 Battery (4.5-in howitzer)	6	138	6 howitzers
	<u>28</u>	<u>592</u>	

A battery had three sections, each of two towed guns or howitzers. A field brigade therefore had a total of 18 guns and six howitzers, a division 54 guns and 18 howitzers, all towed by light dragons or six-wheeled artillery tractors.

52. The British Army had already set about replacing field brigades by field regiments of artillery. To avoid changing horses in mid-stream, however, the Canadian authorities decided to send the artillery of the 1st Division overseas "organized in field brigades for conversion to regiments on arrival". (C.M.H.Q. file 1/Div/1; Tel 471, External to Dominion, 26 Oct 39) The actual change-over took place soon after they reached England, the field brigades of the 2nd Division being converted later just prior to leaving Canada (G.Os. 44 and 123/40, effective 21 Dec 39 and 1 Jun 40).

53. Under the new organization, British W.E. II/1931/7A/2\*\* of June 1938, a field regiment comprised:

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\*This section does not attempt to discuss the organization of artillery units allotted to corps or army. In many cases they differed considerably according to their armament, in others they were similar to the field regiment of a division but bore a different number.

\*\* (H.S.) 723.009 (D1) contains a copy.

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Armament</u>
Regimental headquarters	5	43	
2 Batteries (25-pr) (each)	11	256	12 guns (x2)
	<u>27</u>	<u>555</u>	24 guns

Normally, each battery had three troops, each troop two sections, each section two 25-pr towed guns or a total of four guns per troop, 12 per battery, 24 per regiment. Alternatively, each battery could have two troops of four 18-pr guns each and one troop of four 4.5-in howitzers. Some time elapsed, however, before the 1st Division was able to replace with 25-pounders the 18-pounders of First World War type which they took overseas, while the 2nd Division had to make do with obsolescent 75-mm pieces until September 1941 (Stacey, Col C.P., The Canadian Army (King's Printer, Ottawa), pp 7 and 32).

54. Meanwhile, the organization of a field regiment underwent considerable changes based upon the recommendation of the Bartholomew Committee\* that there be a closer affiliation of artillery to infantry brigades. By October 1940 the British had produced a new W.E. but tentatively delayed formal approval while the Finch Committee\*\* studied a possible reduction of personnel and transport. (C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Arty/1: Montague to Secty D.N.D., 15 Oct 40) At the request of Lt-Gen McNaughton, however, it became authorized as an interim establishment for a field regiment, R.C.A., effective 1 Nov 40. As such it was identified as Cdn II/1940/7A/1.\*\*\* (P.C. 24/1327 of 22 Feb 41 and G.O. 51/41) Each of the field regiments affected was extensively reorganized into three batteries, each of two troops of two sections, each section having two 25-pr towed guns. This basic organization proved to be most satisfactory and was not changed again. The new field regiment thus had 24 towed 25-pr guns, manned by 39 officers and 626 O.R., with a subaltern replacing the W.O. III formerly allotted to each troop.

55. As soon as the new British establishment for a field regiment, R.A., became firm, the interim Canadian W.E. was replaced by Cdn II/1940/7A/2\*\*\* effective 1 Jun 41. (P.C. 58/4840 of 3 Jul 41 and G.O. 144/41) This provided for:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Armament</u>
Regimental headquarters	6	56	
3 Batteries (each)	10	194	8 guns (x3)
	<u>36</u>	<u>638</u>	24 "

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\*See paragraph 5 of this Report.

\*\*See paragraph 7.

\*\*\*C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Arty/1 contains a copy.

After the reorganization of early 1943, its identification number changed from Cdn II/7A/2 to Cdn II/173/1 effective 15 Mar 43 (W.D., C.M.H.Q. (G.S.), March 1943, Appx 75: W.E. letter 77, 12 Mar 43).

56. Effective 29 Jul 43, this W.E. for a field regiment in an infantry division was replaced by Cdn II/187/1\* (G.O. 422/43). By including the medical officer and paymaster, formerly shown as attached, the strength of the regiment increased to 38 officers and 638 O.R.

57. Meanwhile, the W.E. of a field regiment in an armoured division, although almost identical to Cdn II/1940/7A/2, had been numbered Cdn I/1940/6A/1 and later renumbered Cdn II/172/1 effective 15 Mar 43 (W.E. letter 77, *op cit*). On 29 Jul 43 it was superseded by Cdn II/172/2\*\* (G.O. 422/43). As in the case of a field regiment in an infantry division, there were 38 officers and 638 O.R. manning 24 towed 25-pr guns.

58. Effective 18 Mar 44 both Cdn II/172/2 and Cdn II/187/1 were superseded by a single W.E. Cdn II/190B/1,\*\*\* which provided for a field regiment in an armoured or infantry division (G.O. 346/44). It retained the basic organization of 38 officers and 638 O.R. manning 24 towed 25-pr guns but added eight 20-mm guns.

59. After no less than eight amendments, one of which ~~deleted~~ the eight 20-mm guns, this W.E. was rewritten as Cdn II/190B/2\*\*\* effective 26 Dec 44 (G.O. 148/45). With minor amendments, this was the establishment in force for a field regiment, R.C.A., in an armoured division or an infantry division at the end of the war. It provided for:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Armament</u>
Regimental headquarters	8	56	
3 Batteries (each)	10	192	8 guns (x3)
	<u>38</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>24 guns</u>

A battery still had two troops, a troop two sections, a section two 25-pr towed guns.

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\*C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Regt/1 contains a copy.

\*\*C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Regt Armd/1 contains a copy.

\*\*\*C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Regt Armd & Inf/1 contains a copy.

60. While an infantry division had three such regiments, an armoured division had but one field regiment of towed guns and one field (self-propelled) regiment manning twenty-four 25-pr S.P. guns on a RAM chassis.\* At the end of the war the field (S.P.) regiment in each of the armoured divisions was operating on W.E. Cdn II/190A/3\*\* (G.O. 219/45, effective 15 Apr 45). This provided for:

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Armament</u>
Regimental headquarters	9	61	
3 Batteries (each)	10	183	8 guns (x3)
	<u>39</u>	<u>610</u>	24 guns

As in a field regiment with towed guns, a battery had two troops each of two sections each with two 25-pr S.P. guns. In addition, the field (S.P.) regiment had eight 20-mm guns.

#### CONCLUSION

61. This report was written by Major R.B. Oglesby, R.C.A.S.C.

*R.B. Oglesby Major*  
for (C.P. Stacey) Colonel  
Director  
Historical Section (G.S.)

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\*During operations in Italy, 8 Fd (S.P.) Regt, R.C.A., which served with the 5th Canadian Armoured Division, had 105-mm guns in lieu of 25-pr RAMS and adopted W.E. Cdn II/189/1, later Cdn II/189/2 (See C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd Regt 105 Armd/1)

\*\*C.M.H.Q. file 5/Fd R 190A/1 contains a copy.

COMPOSITION OF A DIVISION

ON MOBILIZATION

1 Sep 39

	<u>British W.E.</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS:</u>			
Headquarters of a division	II/1931/1/2	18	120
<u>CAVALRY:</u>			
Divisional cavalry regiment	II/1931/6/2	21	415
<u>ARTILLERY:</u>			
H.Q. divisional artillery	II/1931/3A/2	6	24
3 Field brigades, each with Headquarters 3 Batteries (18-pr) 1 Battery (4.5-in how)	III/1931/9/3	28	592(x3)
1 Anti-tank regiment	II/1931/7/3	17	524
<u>ENGINEERS:</u>			
H.Q. divisional engineers	II/1931/4/2	6	31
1 Divisional field park company	II/1931/9/4	3	153
3 Field companies	II/1931/10A/2	5	237(x3)
<u>SIGNALS:</u>			
Divisional signals	II/1931/11/4	18	472
<u>INFANTRY:</u>			
3 Infantry brigades, each with Brigade headquarters	II/1931/2/4	9	56(x3)
3 Infantry(rifle)battalions	II/1931/12B/3	21	641(x9)
1 Machine gun battalion	II/1931/12C/2	20	653(x3)
<u>ARMY SERVICE CORPS:</u>			
H.Q. divisional R.A.S.C.	II/1931/5/2	6	29
Ammunition company	II/1931/13/3	10	378
Petrol company	II/1931/13A/2	7	292
Supply column	II/1931/15/3	15	439
<u>MEDICALS:</u>			
3 Field ambulances	II/1931/16/2	10	165(x3)
1 Field hygiene section	II/1931/17/1	1	23
<u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u>			
Provost company	II/1931/20/4	1	105
Divisional postal unit	II/1931/21/2	1	24
Employment platoon	II/1931/25/1	-	34

TOTAL PER INFANTRY DIVISION: 535 13,941

((H.S.) 723.009(D1) contains a copy of  
each of these war establishments)

COMPARATIVE LAYOUT OF BRITISH DIVISIONS

October 1942

DETAIL	ARMoured DIVISION	DIVISION	INFANTRY DIVISION
<u>H.Q.</u>	H.Q. Armd Div L.A.D. Type B Armd Div Sp Coy Armd Div Sec Int Corps Armd Div F.S. Sec	H.Q. Div Div Sp Coy Div Sec Int Corps Div F.S. Sec	H.Q. Div Div Sp Coy Div Sec Int Corps Div F.S. Sec
<u>Bdes</u>	H.Q. Armd Bde THREE Armd Regts THREE L.A.Ds. Type C Motor Bn L.A.D. Type B	H.Q. Tk Bde THREE Tk Bns THREE L.A.Ds. Type C	H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns
	H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns	H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns	H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns
		H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns	H.Q. Inf Bde L.A.D. Type A Inf Bde Sp Coy THREE Inf Bns
<u>Armd Corps</u>	Armd C. Regt L.A.D. Type A		
<u>Arty</u>	H.Q. Armd Div R.A. TWO Fd Regts TWO L.A.Ds. Type B A Tk Regt L.A.D. Type A Lt A.A. Regt Lt A.A. Regt Wksp	H.Q. Div R.A. THREE Fd Regts THREE L.A.Ds. Type B A Tk Regt L.A.D. Type A Lt A.A. Regt Lt A.A. Regt Wksp	H.Q. Div R.A. THREE Fd Regts THREE L.A.Ds. Type B A Tk Regt L.A.D. Type A Lt A.A. Regt Lt A.A. Regt Wksp
<u>Engrs</u>	Fd Pk Sqn L.A.D. Type B TWO Fd Sqns	H.Q. Div R.E. Fd Pk Coy L.A.D. Type B THREE Fd Coys	H.Q. Div R.E. Fd Pk Coy L.A.D. Type B THREE Fd Coys
<u>Sigs</u>	Armd Div Sigs L.A.D. Type B	Div Sigs L.A.D. Type B	Div Sigs L.A.D. Type B

DETAIL	ARMOURED DIVISION	DIVISION	INFANTRY DIVISION
<u>Recce Corps</u>		Recce Regt L.A.D. Type B	Recce Regt L.A.D. Type B
<u>S T</u>	H.Q. Armd Div R.A.S.C. Armd Bde Coy Inf Bde Coy Armd Div Tps Coy	H.Q. Div R.A.S.C. Tk Bde Coy TWO Inf Bde Coys Div Tps Coy	H.Q. Div R.A.S.C. THREE Inf Bde Coys Div Tps Coy
<u>Med</u>	Lt Fd Amb Fd Amb F.D.S. Fd Hyg Sec	TWO Fd Ambs TWO F.D.Ss. Fd Hyg Sec	THREE Fd Ambs TWO F.D.Ss. Fd Hyg Sec
<u>Wksps</u>	H.Q. Armd Div R.E.M.E. Armd Bde Wksp Inf Bde Wksp	H.Q. Div R.E.M.E. Tk Bde Wksp TWO Inf Bde Wksps	H.Q. Div R.E.M.E. THREE Inf Bde Wksps
<u>Pro</u>	Armd Div Pro Coy	Div Pro Coy	Div Pro Coy
<u>Postal</u>	Armd Div Postal Unit	Div Postal Unit	Div Postal Unit

(C.M.H.Q. file 6/Br Army/1:  
Appx to W.O. letter 20/Gen/6059  
(S.D.1), 1 Oct 42)

AUTHORIZED COMPOSITION OF AN  
INFANTRY DIVISION

31 May 45

	<u>Cdn W.E.</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS:</u>			
Divisional headquarters	II/116/3	38	117
Increment 'A'		2	6
		40	123
<u>ARMoured CORPS:</u>			
Reconnaissance regiment	II/251/3	43	777
<u>ARTILLERY:</u>			
Headquarters, R.C.A.	II/117/4	10	31
3 Field regiments (each)	II/190B/2	38	632 (x3)
Headquarters			
3 Batteries (25-pr)			
1 H.Q. anti-tank regiment	II/181/3	7	54
Increment 'A'		1	2
3 Anti-tank batteries	II/186E/1	7	142 (x3)
1 Anti-tank battery	II/186F/1	7	144
		36	626
1 H.Q. light anti-aircraft regiment	II/179/3	7	41
3 L.A.A. batteries	II/180A/1	9	170 (x3)
		34	551
1 C.M.O. staff (A)	II/150A/3	5	43
<u>ENGINEERS:</u>			
Headquarters, R.C.E.	II/118/3	7	27
1 Field park company	II/195/3	4	112
1 Bridge platoon	II/196/2	1	40
3 Field companies	II/194/4	7	249 (x3)
<u>SIGNALS:</u>			
Divisional signals	II/219/1	29	714
<u>INFANTRY:</u>			
Machine gun battalion	II/240/2	37	701
Defence and employment platoon	II/146/2	1	60
3 Infantry brigades (each)			
Headquarters	II/141/3	18	52 (x3)
Ground defence platoon	II/148/2	-	27 (x3)
3 Infantry battalions	II/233/4	38	812 (x9)
<u>SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:</u>			
H.Q. R.C.A.S.C.	II/261/2	10	35
3 Infantry brigade companies (2 tpt pls each)	-	9	308 (x3)
1 Divisional troops company (2 tpt pls)	-	9	291
<u>MEDICAL:</u>			
3 Field ambulances	II/298/2	12	230 (x3)
2 Field dressing stations	II/297/2	6	89 (x2)
1 Field hygiene section	II/299/3	2	27
<u>ORDNANCE:</u>			
Ordnance field park	III/290/2	2	78



	<u>Cdn W.E.</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:</u>			
H.Q. R.C.E.M.E.	II/50/3	5	17
Increment 'A'		1	
3 Infantry brigade workshops	II/339/5	6	184 (x3)
1 L.A.A. Workshop (A)	II/51/3	1	28
4 Light aid detachments (A)	II/317/4	1	15 (x4)
6 Light aid detachments (B)	II/317/4	1	13 (x6)
1 Light aid detachment (D)	II/340A/5	1	46
<u>POSTAL:</u>			
Divisional postal unit	II/207/3	1	21
Increment 'A'			<u>3</u>
			24
<u>PROVOST:</u>			
Provost company	II/341/3	3	112
<u>INTELLIGENCE:</u>			
Field security section	II/359/4	1	12
Increment 'A'			<u>1</u>
			13

TOTALS\*

1st Canadian Infantry Division	917	17,158
2nd Canadian Infantry Division	917	17,176
3rd Canadian Infantry Division	917	17,176

INFANTRY DIVISIONAL INCREMENTS TO CORPS TROOPS

<u>ORDNANCE:</u>			
Infantry ordnance sub park	III/289/1	4	130
Mobile laundry and bath unit(B)	III/293/2	3	63
Increment 'A'			7
<u>PAY:</u>			
Field cash office	III/57A/3	2	5

TOTAL DIVISIONAL INCREMENTS\*

1st Canadian Infantry Division	9	205
2nd Canadian Infantry Division	9	215
3rd Canadian Infantry Division	9	215

(C.A.O.R.O. 5941, 4 Jul 45,  
Schedule "A", as at 31 May  
45)

\*Differences are accounted for by battalions with Scottish or Irish affiliations and by variations in increments. The detail above describes the units and increments of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division.

AUTHORIZED COMPOSITION OF AN  
ARMOURED DIVISION

31 May 45

	<u>Cdn W.E.</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS:</u>			
Divisional headquarters	II/100/3	47	242
Administrative group			
increment		2	6
Increment 'D'		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
		52	251
<u>ARMOURED CORPS:</u>			
Armoured reconnaissance			
regiment	II/151/4	38	647
Headquarters, armoured brigade	II/101/4	23	99
3 Armoured regiments	II/151/4	38	647 (x3)
<u>ARTILLERY:</u>			
Headquarters, R.C.A.	II/104/3	13	38
Field regiment	II/190B/2	38	632
Field regiment (S.P.)	II/190A/3	39	610
Headquarters anti-tank			
regiment	II/181/3	7	54
Increment 'A'		1	2
Increment 'B'		1	1
2 Anti-tank batteries	II/188/3	7	169 (x2)
2 Anti-tank batteries	II/188/3	7	173 (x2)
		<u>37</u>	<u>741</u>
Headquarters light anti-			
aircraft regiment	II/179/3	7	41
3 L.A.A. batteries	II/180A/1	9	170 (x3)
		<u>34</u>	<u>551</u>
Counter mortar officer's staff(B)	II/150B/3	4	31
<u>ENGINEERS:</u>			
Field park squadron	II/195/3	4	112
Bridge troop	II/196/2	1	40
2 Field squadrons	II/194/4	7	249 (x2)
2 Increments 'A'			9 (x2)
<u>SIGNALS:</u>			
Armoured divisional signals	II/213/1	26	697
<u>INFANTRY:</u>			
Headquarters, infantry brigade	II/141/3	18	52
Increment 'A'		1	1
Independent machine gun			
company	II/239/2	9	202
Ground defence platoon	II/148/2	-	27
3 Infantry battalions	II/233/4	38	816 (x3)
1 Motor battalion	II/231/3	36	815
<u>SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:</u>			
H.Q. R.C.A.S.C.	II/261/2	10	35
Armoured brigade company		14	530
(five transport platoons)			
Infantry brigade company		11	369
(three transport platoons)			
Armoured divisional troops		13	450
company (four platoons)			
Armoured divisional transport		10	359
company (three platoons)			

	<u>Cdn W.E.</u>	<u>Oftrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>MEDICAL:</u>			
Light field ambulance	II/291/3	9	180
Field ambulance	II/298/2	12	230
Field dressing station	III/47A/2	6	89
Field hygiene section	II/299/3	2	27
<u>ORDNANCE:</u>			
Armoured divisional ordnance field park	III/290/2	2	66
<u>ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:</u>			
H.Q. R.C.E.M.E.	II/50/3	5	17
Increment 'A'		1	
Armoured brigade workshop	II/338/5	8	277
Infantry brigade workshop*	II/339/5	6	184
L.A.A. Workshop (A)	II/51/3	1	28
Light aid detachment (A)	II/317/4	1	15
5 Light aid detachments (B)	II/317/4	1	13 (x5)
4 Light aid detachments (C)	II/340/4	1	24 (x4)
4 Increments 'A'			1 (x4)
Light aid detachment (D)	II/340A/5	1	37
Light aid detachment (D)	II/340A/5	1	42
<u>POSTAL:</u>			
Divisional postal unit	II/207/3	1	21
<u>PROVOST:</u>			
Provost company	II/341/3	3	112
<u>INTELLIGENCE:</u>			
Field security section	II/359/4	1	12
Increment 'A'			1
<u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u>			
Employment platoon	II/103/1		34

TOTALS\*\*

4th Canadian Armoured Division	742	13,837
5th Canadian Armoured Division	748	14,033

ARMoured DIVISIONAL INCREMENTS TO CORPS TROOPS

<u>ORDNANCE:</u>			
Armoured ordnance sub park	III/289/2	4	123
Mobile laundry and bath unit(B)	III/293/2	3	63
Increment 'A'			7
Increment 'B'			10
<u>PAY:</u>			
Field cash office	III/57A/3	2	5

TOTAL DIVISIONAL INCREMENTS\*\*

4th Canadian Armoured Division	9	208
5th Canadian Armoured Division	9	198

(C.A.O.R.O. 5941, 4 Jul 45, Schedule "A", as at 31 May 45)

\*5th Canadian Armoured Division had two infantry brigade workshops.

\*\*See note to Appendix "C". In this instance the example is the 4th Canadian Armoured Division.

AUTHORIZED COMPOSITION OF  
AN INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE

31 MAY 45

	<u>Cdn W.E.</u>	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS UNITS:</u>			
Headquarters armoured brigade	II/101/4	23	199
Increment		5	16
		<u>28</u>	<u>215</u>
<u>ARMOURED CORPS:</u>			
3 Armoured regiments	II/151/4	38 (x3)	647 (x3)
<u>SIGNALS:</u>			
Armoured brigade signals	II/213/1	3	129
Increment 'A'			19
			<u>148</u>
<u>SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT:</u>			
Armoured brigade company (4 transport platoons)	-	12	434
<u>MEDICAL:</u>			
Light field ambulance	II/291/3	9	180
<u>ORDNANCE:</u>			
Armoured brigade ordnance field park	III/103A/2	3	90
<u>ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:</u>			
Armoured brigade workshop	II/338/5	8	277
3 Light aid detachments (C)	III/155/4	1 (x3)	24
3 Increments 'A'			1
			<u>25 (x3)</u>
<u>PROVOST:</u>			
Provost section	III/60/3	-	16
TOTAL ARMOURED BRIGADE*		180	3376

(C.A.O.R.O. 5941, 4 Jul 45,  
Schedule "A", as at 31 May 45)

\*The example given is the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade. The 2nd Brigade was identical with but one minor exception - its L.A.Ds. were organized on W.E. Cdn II/340/4 rather than II/155/4.