

UNITED KINGDOM

The Postwar Period: 1945-1951

In 1945, just after WWII ended, an event of enormous political importance took place in the United Kingdom (UK). The Labor Party was able, for the first time in its history, to establish an independent parliamentary majority. There was a period of understandable rejoicing, but before long, the new government realized it faced grave problems. Six years of war had stripped the UK of virtually all its foreign financial resources. "Sterling credits" (foreign debts) amounted to several billion pounds. The economy was in utter disarray. Some sectors, like the aircraft industry, had grown far too large. Others like railways and coal mines, were making due with obsolete equipment that was badly in need of replacement.

The answer appeared simple. In Britain, cash for imports had always come from the sale of exports. But the nation no longer had exports, and therefore had no way to pay for what it needed, not even food. To make matters worse, a few weeks after Japan surrendered on September 2nd, US President Harry Truman ended lend-lease (he had no choice), upon which Britain had depended for even the most basic necessities. John Maynard Keynes was able to negotiate a US\$3.75 billion loan from the United States and a smaller one from Canada, but for all intents and purposes, the UK was bankrupt.

Undaunted, Labor set about enacting measures that in some cases had been part of its platform since the beginning of the century. Nationalization of railroads and coal mines, so run down that any government would have had to bring them under state control, and of the "Bank of England" started immediately. Next came road transport, docks, harbors, and electrical power generation. Nobody argued about it. The Conservatives, in spite of their beliefs, would have had to do the very same things, under the circumstances.

Debate, such as it was, centered on Labor's social welfare program and Conservative cries that Britain was becoming a "welfare state." The "National Insurance Act" and the "Old Poor Law" merely legitimized existing public assistance ordinances. But Labor's most controversial move was establishing the "National Health Service", a truly gigantic governmental apparatus providing free, comprehensive medical care for every British subject, regardless of need or income. Shortly, all hospitals throughout the country were nationalized and controlled by left wing Health Minister Aneurin Bevan, until his death in 1960.

Measured in sheer legislative bulk, Britain's postwar Labor government accomplished more than any previous administration in the 20th century. Yet, it still failed to stabilize the economy. By 1947, the US loan was nearly spent (It was supposed to last four years). Imports were cut to the absolute minimum. Coal use was strictly regulated, while people literally died of the cold. The nation's supply of bread, never rationed, even during the dark days of the U-boat offensives, came under government control. Meat could not be had at any price! For the first time in its history, Britain was staring famine in the face. Relief came in the form of US Secretary of State George C. Marshall and the "Marshall Plan", a massive American program of financial assistance that was open to any nation in Europe. Although the Soviet Union immediately denounced it, all western European countries, including Britain, hastened to participate. The help came none too soon.

Decline and Fall of the British Empire

Maintaining Britain's colonial empire was something the country, broke as it was, could no longer afford. No one was surprised, therefore, when the issue of Indian independence was raised. Britain had been toying with this idea since the 1920's, but in the spring of 1942, the matter became crucial. At this time, the Japanese Army was sweeping through Burma heading for Assam and Bengal and Churchill was forced to offer India what amounted to dominion status in return for its support. Both the Muslim minority and the Hindu majority rejected the offer. When the war ended, Britain's new Labor government couldn't wait to cut India loose.

The decision was announced on June 3rd, 1947, at the height of the postwar financial crisis. The British "Raj" came to an abrupt end only ten weeks later, on August 15th. Termination of the British mandate in Trans-Jordan, the evacuation of Egypt except for the Suez Canal, and the withdrawal from Palestine were complete by 1948. Two hundred years of British foreign policy was swept away in the twinkling of an eye.

The Conservatives Strike Back: 1951-1964

Economic stringency and inflation troubled the last years of Labor rule under Attlee. The pound was sharply devalued in 1949 and a general election on February 23rd, 1950, reduced Labor's majority to only eight seats. On October 25th, 1951, a second general election returned the Conservatives (and Churchill) to power. How much of this victory was due to the outbreak of war in Korea and whatever political backlash the British left suffered as a consequence is open to debate. Once war was truly joined, any enthusiasm felt by British voters quickly died. As in America, the Korean War was seen as a sort of anti-climax to WWII, and the harsh realities of domestic unrest soon retook center stage.

The Conservatives remained in power for the next thirteen years. Their tenure was marked by the accession of a new monarch, Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, the resignation of Churchill in 1955, and that of his successor Anthony Eden in 1957. Eden's retirement, it was claimed, was for reasons of ill health, but it was chiefly due to his failed attempt to reclaim the Suez Canal Zone from Nasser, in the summer of 1956, in connivance with Israel and France. Eden was succeeded by Harold Macmillan, who remained in office until October 1963, when he too retired. He was followed by Sir Alexander Douglas-Home, his foreign secretary. In this period of single-party government, the economy and Britain's continuing retreat from colonialism remained top issues.

On the surface, the 1950s and early '60s were marked by economic expansion, and the average standard of living rose dramatically. But prosperity created a demand for imports that damaged the pound. Its decline meant higher interest rates, restrictions on credit, and import limits. These caused inflation that hurt exports and caused strikes. So the primary goal of UK economic policy from this point right up through the 1970s became how to increase productivity while placating organized labor. In this way, the government hoped to make Britain into an exporter nation again, allowing it to pay its bills while maintaining the value of its currency. But a decision by the Macmillan government not to join the European Economic Community (EEC) meant that although economic conditions in Britain did indeed improve, the country did not share in the astonishing growth led by the "economic miracle" in West Germany.

By the middle 1960s, there were signs that British prosperity was declining. Increases in productivity were disappearing, and labor was restive. Prime Minister Macmillan quickly realized that it had been a mistake not to join the EEC. In July 1961 he initiated negotiations to do so. But, by this time, Charles de Gaulle was ruling France, and he chose to veto Britain's entry. It would be 1973 before the UK finally became an EEC member. Labor moved back into power under Harold Wilson in 1964.

Labor's Turn Again

Wilson's government inherited the problems that had accumulated under the Conservatives, including poor productivity, a shaky pound, and surly trade unions. His solutions included a sweeping economic development plan, the introduction of modern technology, stern controls on imports, devaluation of the pound, wage restraint, and (odd for a "Labor" candidate) a reduction in the power of trade unions. Not surprisingly, most of these measures were unpopular. The only thing that kept the Conservatives out was their own weakness and internal divisions.

The Seventies

The Conservatives regained a majority in parliament on June 18, 1970. Their new prime minister, Edward Heath, set three goals for his regime: economic growth must return, trade union power must be broken, and Britain must join the EEC. He accomplished only the last. In fact, the trade unions broke Heath by boycotting his industrial legislation. Even the Arab oil embargo in 1973 worked against him, making a national coal miners' strike that winter particularly effective. The election in February 1974, held while factories were running three days a week and people were reduced to candlelight, did him and his party in. Wilson returned to office and promptly made peace by giving in to the miners. Neither Wilson nor James Callaghan, his successor, was able to come to terms with the unions. The late 1970s were marked by a series of bitter disputes that angered voters. The Liberal and Nationalist parties defected from the Labor coalition. On March 28, 1979, Callaghan was defeated by a vote of no confidence, the first since 1924. On May 3, 1979, Margaret Thatcher and the Conservatives, returned to power with a majority of fifty-nine seats.

The Return of the Conservatives

Thatcher had modest aspirations. She simply embarked on a campaign to eradicate socialism from British life. Toward this end, she denationalized nearly every industry that Labor had taken under government control in the previous forty years, as well as some industries that been in state hands for a century or more. But her most important victories came in her fight with Britain's trade unions. In a calculated step by step campaign, she first made secondary strikes and boycotts illegal, levying heavy fines on violators. Next, she outlawed the "closed shop". Finally, in 1984, She defeated Britain's coal mining unions after a brutal yearlong struggle punctuated by bitter rhetoric and repeated acts of violence.

Her economic recovery program was helped by a revival of world prosperity and lessening inflation, by the profits from industries sold to investors, and by the enormous revenues realized from the exploitation of North Sea oil. She achieved popularity by sending the armed forces to expel Argentina from the Falkland Islands in 1982, on the strength of which she won triumphant reelection on June 9, 1983. Failure to accomplish anything toward halting the violence in Northern Ireland dogged her. Nonetheless, she won an unprecedented third general election in 1987. In January 1988, Thatcher became the longest continually serving prime minister since the 19th century.

Everything ends, however. Mrs. Thatcher alienated fellow Conservatives with her insistence on replacing local property taxes with a uniform poll-tax and with her unwillingness to support a common European currency. In 1990 she was forced to withdraw as prime minister in favor of John Major. The Conservatives won the general elections in April 1992 to return for a fourth term. But, as recession lingered, Major's popularity continued to erode. In May 1997, the Labor Party won a landslide victory, and Anthony Blair became prime minister.

The Postwar Army

None of the above information would have any relevance to this work, were it not for the effects the events mentioned have had on the structure of the British armed forces and the policies surrounding the use and deployment of these forces. The British army in 1945 was probably the most professional and effective force, man for man, among the Allies. The "fat" that had accumulated on this army during the period between 1919 and 1939 had been burned away by its early defeats. Any lingering illusions about "fair play" or "social privilege" had been pounded out of it in places like Dunkirk, Crete, Tobruk, El Alamein, Singapore, Burma, Salerno, Anzio, Caen, and Arnhem (and I've barely scratched the surface). Britain's attention had been focused solely on outlasting the enemy. Its nerve and endurance were stretched beyond all human limits.

It therefore should come as no surprise that within weeks of the final German surrender, nearly everyone in Britain, soldier and civilian alike, simply "let go" and collapsed into a sort of exhausted torpor. The new Labor government looked on the maintenance of a standing army as a luxury the nation could ill afford. In spite of this, Britain refused to vacate its position as the leading European democracy and shouldered the responsibility of defending the peace it fought so long and hard to regain.

The establishment of the "British Army of the Rhine" (BAOR) shortly after WWII, represented a historic first for the UK, the peacetime commitment of a major portion of the British Army to the defense of Europe. This commitment consisted of a "Corps" sized force of three armored divisions with various support units. Considering the economic weakness of the empire at the time and the slow pace of recovery, the BAOR represented a considerable hardship for British taxpayers.

This hardship was not lost on unscrupulous British politicians. In the name of economy, both the BAOR and the rest of the British armed forces were victims of purposeful neglect, financial expediency, and outright political sabotage from 1945 through 1970. Successive Labor governments and economic hard times sapped the strength, first of the former "Colonial" army, then the "Territorial Army", swearing that these cuts had to be made to protect Britain's commitment to NATO. Then, the NATO commitment was cut! Considering the sorry state in which the British military found itself, the most remarkable things about it were the high standard of discipline and fighting spirit that still remained.

Tactically, the British army leadership ignored its political and financial problems and proceeded to absorb the lessons learned both by its own forces and those of its allies. The Korean War, the fighting in Malaya, French failure in Indochina and their successes in Algeria, three Arab-Israeli Wars, the American "ROAD" program of the 1960's, and their experiences in Vietnam, were absorbed into British army doctrine. "Tactical Flexibility" became a watchword. An extensive "Cross-Attaching" of assets, not only between brigades, but between battalions and even companies, became common practice.

A typical company sized combat team would consist of between two and four tank platoons, two infantry platoons, a few armored cars, and a mortar battery. Three or four of these or something similar would form a "Battle Group", with the addition of an artillery battery or other supporting units. The BAOR, therefore, was not a rigid grouping of discreet combat formations, but a "pool" of compatible interlocking "components" to be combined in various ways for optimal effectiveness.

When the Conservatives returned to power in the 1970s, there was little they could do to improve the army's lot. Money was tight everywhere. Union unrest, the 1973 oil embargo, and other more pressing problems shoved any sort of military upgrade program onto a back burner. England's closest ally, the US was reeling from the political and military repercussions of failure after ten years in

Vietnam. The cold war was heating up again. The Middle East was in flames. There was widespread unemployment while inflation ate away at the standard of living. There was even a new term coined, "Stag-flation", used to describe this unique phenomenon of economic stagnation combined with runaway inflation. The West, including the UK, seemed to be in rapid decline. It was one of those pivotal periods when anything can happen.

"She's The Best Man in England!"

Victory for the Conservatives and the advent of Margaret Thatcher in 1979 administered the proverbial "shot in the arm" to a weary and demoralized nation. Socialism was out! Free enterprise was in! Military reform was finally deemed important enough to take seriously. Military spending increased, slowly at first. But events far away, in the dismal South Atlantic, were to give Britain and the British people a long overdue and sorely needed wake-up call.

In 1982, Britain's war in the Falkland Islands against Argentina marked one of the lowest points in British military capability and one of the finest achievements in the history of British arms. British troops were forced to land on a hostile shore seven thousand miles from home, without proper naval gunfire support, without proper air cover, even without proper troopships or landing craft. They then "Yomped" across a frigid wilderness, their backs bent under enormous loads in some of the worst weather conditions imaginable, fighting a running battle against a numerically superior enemy who controlled the only usable seaport in the theater.

Losses were heavy, especially among Britain's "dinky" warships, and the fact that the whole operation didn't end in disaster was primarily due to the fighting qualities and physical endurance exhibited by ordinary British soldiers and sailors, Commandos, Guardsmen, Ghurkas and Para's. The boost this little victory gave to the morale and reputation of the British soldier lasted just long enough to allow the UK to make a considerable contribution to the Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) in 1991.

The Gulf War

It may be truly said of Saddam Hussein that he probably had the worst sense of timing of any expansionist military leader in modern history. The invasion of his small but oil-rich neighbor Kuwait could not have come at a less opportune time. He decided to invade at the precise moment in history when his northern neighbor and former backer, the USSR, was flat on its back. Not only was Russia incapable of flexing its muscles on his behalf, but positively dependent on the good will of its former NATO enemies to prevent total bankruptcy. In addition, his long and brutal war with his Eastern neighbor, "Fundamentalist" Iran, had made it impossible for him to claim any sort of religious "High-Ground" as a spokesman for worldwide Muslim unity.

Had Saddam waited twelve more months before invading, he would have caught the US in the middle of a bitter presidential election campaign and all the political impotence on the part of the US Congress that would have entailed. Instead he chose to provoke a president who had been Ronald Reagan's protege; a man who had repeatedly been accused of being "wishy-washy" on various issues, and who could ask for nothing better than a popular foreign war to take the electorate's mind off domestic policy.

Also, had he waited but a few months, the powerful British and French expeditionary forces sent to assist in his crushing defeat would not have been available for deployment. Both these forces had been slotted for demobilization, and it was only the "Gulf Crisis" that allowed them a last minute "stay of execution". The British forces in the Gulf, when they sailed home to the UK to be deactivated did so in triumph, thanks to Saddam.

At first, the end of both the "Cold War" and the "Gulf War" left the British Army without a mission. But, as it turned out, the expansion of the NATO alliance and the power vacuum left by the demise of the Soviet Union gave the armies of Europe a new lease on life. Smaller, better armed, better trained, the "streamlined" armies of the "New World Order" enter a new century with greater confidence, mobility, and flexibility than ever.

The Last Word

Throughout the "Cold War", the British government consistently under-funded, under-manned, and under-mined its army. The fact that the UK didn't suffer a catastrophic military disaster during this period was simply a matter of blind luck. Had the Soviet Union called NATO's bluff sometime in the 1970's or 80's and "crossed the wire" into West Germany, British soldiers would have once again been called upon to do what they have done so many times before in the history of the empire, "muddle through" and stem the tide until Britain's politicians got over their traditional petty peacetime parsimony.

FOREIGN WEAPONS

All foreign weapons in British service are of US origin.

TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

ARMORED DIVISION: 1946

Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company(Motor Brigade):	3xTL1 Infantry(A)/Truck
Support Company(Motor Brigade):	1x3" Mk1 Mortar Carrier(3), 1x6lbr ATG/Truck, 1xTL1 Engineer(A)/Truck, 1xTL1 Infantry(R)/Bren Carrier, 1x"Wasp" Flamethrower
Infantry Company(Armored Brigade):	3xTL1 Infantry(A)/M3 Halftrack, 1xTL1 Infantry(R)/Bren Carrier
Support Company(Armored Brigade):	2xTL1 Infantry Support(A)/Bren Carrier, 3x6lbr/Windsor Carrier
Machinegun Company:	4xTL1 Infantry Support(A)/Bren Carrier, 1x4.2" Mk1 Mortar(2)/Windsor Carrier
Engineer Company:	4xTL1 Engineer(A)/Truck
Tank Squadron:	4xComet <u>or</u> Sherman "Firefly"
Armored Regiment Recon Squadron[R]:	3xM24 Chaffee, 3xStaghound
Recon Squadron[R]:	1xM24 Chaffee, 1xDaimler "Dingo", 4xCromwell <u>or</u> Challenger
Artillery Battery:	2x25lbr Mk2(2)/Quad Tractor
Artillery Battery(SP):	2-3x25lbr Sexton(2)
Anti-Tank Company:	2x17lbr ATG/Crusader Tractor, 1x32lbr ATG/M3 Halftrack
Infantry Battalion(Motor Brigade):	1xTL1 Infantry(A) HQ/Truck, 4xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company, 3xJeep/LMG[R]
Infantry Battalion(Armored Brigade):	1xTL1 Infantry(A) HQ/M3 Halftrack, 4xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company, 1x"Wasp" Flamethrower, 1xJeep/LMG[R]

Armored Regiment: 1xComet or "Firefly" (HQ), 3xTank Squadron, 1xArmored Regiment Recon Squadron
 Recon Regiment: 1xCromwell (HQ), 3xRecon Squadron, 3xDaimler "Dingo"[R], 1xCromwell/Dozer
 Artillery Regiment: 3xArtillery Battery
 Artillery Regiment(SP): 3xArtillery Battery (SP)

Motor Infantry Brigade: 1xTL1 Infantry(A) GHQ/Truck, 3xInfantry Battalion, 1xMachinegun Company, 1xArtillery Regiment, 1xAnti-Tank Company, 1xEngineer Company, 2x40mm L/60 "Bofors"/Truck
 Armored Brigade: 1xTL1 Infantry(A) GHQ/Sherman ACV, 3xArmored Regiment, 1xInfantry Battalion, 1xArtillery Regiment(SP), 1xAnti-Tank Company, , 1xEngineer Company, 1xCentaur/Dozer, 1xComet or "Firefly", 2x40mm L/60 "Bofors"/Truck

Armored Division: 1xArmored Brigade, 1xMotor Infantry Brigade, 1xRecon Regiment

Air Support: Any combination of WWII fighter-bombers or Gloucester Meteors. See WWII Micro-Armour "The Game".

Notes: 1) This formation never actually existed. It represents what the UK planned to field if WWII had continued into 1946.
 2) 6lbr ATGs may use "Discarding Sabot" (APDS) ammunition if you like. Use the stats provided for the US 57mm M1 (APDS).
 3) 6lbrs may be replaced by 3.7" "Burney" RcRs.
 4) The "Windsor" carrier was an extended version of the Universal or "Bren" Carrier, designed for greater crew comfort.
 5) M24s and Staghounds in Armored Recon Squadrons may be replaced by M5 Stuarts, "Recon" Stuarts, and/or M8 ACs.
 6) Recon Squadrons may contain M5 "Stuart" Light Tanks and "Recon" Stuarts instead of M24s and Daimler "Dingos".
 7) The Sherman ACV was a turretless "Armored Command Vehicle". Use the stats provided for the RAM "Kangaroo".
 8) The Centaur/Dozer was a turretless tank with a bulldozer blade attached. Its performance was similar to the "Cromwell".
 9) The 32lbr ATG was an experimental weapon that proved too heavy, too unwieldy, and insufficiently powerful to be mass produced. Two prototypes were built. One was scrapped and one sent to a museum. You may use 17lbrs instead.

ARMORED DIVISION: 1950+

Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 3xTL2 Infantry(B)/Truck
 Mechanized Infantry Company: 3xTL2 Infantry(B)/Saracen
 Support Company: 1x3" Mortar(3)/Truck, 1xTL2 Engineer/Truck, 1xTL2 Infantry Support/Truck
 Engineer Company: 3xTL2 Engineer/Truck
 Tank Squadron: 5xCenturion Mk3
 Armored Car Squadron: 4xSaladin[R], 1xTL2 Infantry(R)/Saracen
 Artillery Battery: 2x25lbr Mk2(2)/Truck

Motorized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) HQ/Truck, 4xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company
 Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) HQ/Saracen, 4xMechanized Infantry Company, 1xSupport Company
 Armored Regiment: 1xCenturion Mk3(HQ), 1xDaimler AC, 3xTank Squadron, 1xCenturion "Dozer"
 Armored Car Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) HQ/Saracen, 3xArmored Car Squadron
 Engineer Regiment: 3xEngineer Company
 Artillery Regiment: 3xArtillery Battery

Motorized Infantry Brigade: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 4xMotorized Infantry Battalion, 1x4.2" Mk1 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1xEngineer Company
 Tank Brigade: 1xTL2 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 4xArmored Regiment, 1xMechanized Battalion

Armored Division: 1xMotorized Infantry Brigade, 1xArmored Brigade, 2xArtillery Regiment, 1xEngineer Regiment

Notes: 1) You may use any appropriate British vehicle or weapon type available in this time period.
 2) You may not mix types within battalions/regiments.
 3) For TO&E information on the UK 29th Brigade, and the rest of the "Commonwealth Division" in Korea, please see the section entitled "Korean War Allies", elsewhere in this work.

ARMORED DIVISION: 1965+

Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Conscripts/Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 3xTL2 Infantry(A)/FV432
 Support Company: 1xTL2 81mm Mortar/FV432(3), 1x120mm BAT RcR/FV432, 1xTL2 Engineer/FV432
 Tank Squadron: 5xCenturion Mk13 or Chieftan Mk5
 Armored Car Squadron: 2xSaladin[R], 2xFerret[R], 1xTL2 Infantry(R)/Saracen
 Engineer Squadron: 3xTL2 Engineer/FV432
 Anti-Tank Battery: 1xFV432/Swingfire, 1xAH-1/SS-11 "Sioux"

Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL2 Infantry(A) HQ/FV432, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company, 1xFerret[R]
 Armored Regiment: 1xFV432 (HQ), 3xTank Squadron, 1xFerret[R], 2xAH-1 "Scout"
 Armored Car Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(A) HQ/Saracen, 3xArmored Car Squadron, 2xAH-1 "Scout"
 Engineer Regiment: 1xTL2 Infantry(A) HQ/FV432, 3xEngineer Squadron

Artillery Regiment: 3x105mm Abbot(3)
 Heavy Artillery Regiment: 3xM109(4), 1x203mm M110(1+)

 Line Brigade: 1xTL2 Infantry(A) GHQ/FV432, 2xMechanized Infantry Battalion, 2xArmored Regiment, 1xFerret[R]
 Artillery Brigade: 2xArtillery Regiment, 1xHeavy Artillery Regiment

 Armored Division: 2xLine Brigade, 1xArtillery Brigade, 1xArmored Car Regiment, 1xEngineer Regiment, 1xAnti-Tank Battery

 Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
 Helicopter Squadron: 3xAH-1 "Scout"

 Air Support: Panavia "Tornados", SEPECAT "Jaguars", F-4 "Phantoms", or AV8A "Harriers"

Notes: 1) You may use any appropriate vehicle or weapon type available. You may always mix types within battalions.
 2) One Line Brigade in the BAOR at this time consisted of 1xTank Regiment and 3xMechanized Battalion.

ARMORED DIVISION: 1980+

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Conscripts/Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 4xTL3 Infantry(A)/FV432
 Support Company: 2xScorpion, 1xStriker/Swingfire, 1xFerret[R]
 Tank Squadron: 4xChieftan Mk5 or Challenger
 Recon Squadron: 5xScimitar[R]
 Engineer Squadron: 1xTL3 Engineer/FV432, 1xAVRE, 1xAVLB
 ATGM Company: 3xStriker/Swingfire
 Aviation Squadron: 2xAH3 "Lynx", 1xSA341 Gazelle
 Anti-Aircraft Battery: 3xRapier (Tracked)

 Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/FV432, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company, 1xTL3 81mm Mortar/FV432(3)
 Armored Regiment: 1xSultan (HQ), 4xTank Squadron, 1xSupport Company, 1xRecon Squadron
 Reconnaissance Regiment: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/Saracen, 3xRecon Squadron, 1xSupport Company
 Engineer Regiment: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/FV432, 3xEngineer Squadron
 Artillery Regiment: 3x105mm Abbot(3)
 Heavy Artillery Regiment: 3x155mm M-109A2(3)
 Aviation Regiment: 3xAviation Squadron

 Mechanized Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) GHQ/FV432, 2xMechanized Infantry Battalion, 1xArmored Regiment
 Armored Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) GHQ/FV432, 1xMechanized Infantry Battalion, 2xArmored Regiment
 Artillery Brigade: 1xArtillery Regiment, 1xHeavy Artillery Regiment, 1xATGM Company

 Armored Division: 1xMechanized Brigade, 1xArmored Brigade, 1xArmored Car Regiment, 1xArtillery Brigade, 1xEngineer Regiment, 1xAviation Regiment

Air Support: Panavia "Tornados", SEPECAT "Jaguars", F-4 "Phantoms", or AV8A "Harriers"

Notes: 1) You may use any appropriate vehicle or weapon type available. You may always mix types within battalions.
 2) The British 1st Corps (BAOR) in 1980 consisted of four armored divisions plus one "Field Force".
 3) This "Field Force" was designed to provide an in-place cadre that could be augmented by units from the UK in wartime.
 4) The Alvis Sultan is the "Command" version of the Spartan APC.

INFANTRY DIVISION: 1982 (FALKLAND ISLANDS)

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Conscripts/Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Commando Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(R)
 Commando Support Company: 3x81mm L16 Mortar(1+), 1xTL3 Engineer, 1xTL3 Infantry(S)
 Guards/Paratroop/Ghurka Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(A)
 Guards Support Company: 1x81mm L16 Mortar(4), 1xTL3 Infantry Support
 Paratroop Recon Company: 3xTL3 Infantry(R)
 Paratroop Support Company: 1x81mm L16 Mortar(4), 1xTL3 Engineer, 1xTL3 Engineer, 1xTL3 Infantry(R)
 Engineer Company: 3xTL3 Engineer

 Commando Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(R) HQ, 3xCommando Company, 1xCommando Support Company
 Guards Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ, 4xGuards Company, 1xGuards Support Company, 1xEngineer Company
 Paratroop Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ, 3xParatroop Company, 1xParatroop Support Company, 1xParatroop Recon Company, 1x105mm Light Gun(3)
 Ghurka Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ, 4xGhurka Company, 1x81mm L16 Mortar(4), 1xEngineer Company
 Artillery Regiment: 3x105mm "Light Gun"/Bv-202

3rd Commando Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) GHQ, 3xCommando Battalion, 1xEngineer Company, 1xArtillery Regiment, 3xSA342 "Gazelle", 2xAH-1 "Scout", 1xTL3 Infantry(S)
 5th Light Infantry Brigade: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) GHQ, 2xGuards Battalion, 1xGhurka Battalion, 1x105mm Light Gun(3)/Bv-202, 2xSA342 "Gazelle", 2xAH-1 "Scout", 1xTL3 Infantry(S)

Division: 3rd Commando Brigade, 5th Light Infantry Brigade, 2xParatroop Battalion

Available Support Units: (One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
 Armored Support Troop: 1xScorpion, 1xScimitar
 SAM Battery: 3xRapier
 Scout Helicopter Flight: 1xAH1 "Scout"
 SAS Squadron: 3xTL3 Infantry(S)
 Transport Helicopter Support: 2xWestland "Sea King", 2xWestland "Wessex"

Air Support: AV8A "Harriers" and "Sea Harriers"

Notes: 1) One stand in each Commando, Guards, or Paratroop company may contain a "Milan-1" ATGM team (MP).
 2) Two "Ghurka" Infantry stands may contain a Milan-1 ATGM team (MP).
 3) One stand in each Commando, Guards, Paratroop, or Ghurka Battalion may contain a "Blowpipe" SAM team (MP).
 4) The division detailed above had no numeric designation. The Falklands campaign was called "Operation Corporate".
 5) The Volvo Bv-202 is better known as the "Snowcat". It is a special vehicle in that when moving it, treat all "open" terrain as "clear" terrain regardless of ground surface condition or adverse weather.

ARMORED DIVISION: 1984+

Generation: III, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 4xTL3 Infantry(A)/MCV-80
 Support Company: 2xScorpion, 1xStriker/Swingfire, 1xFeret[R]
 Tank Squadron: 5xChieftan or Challenger
 Recon Squadron: 4xScorpion[R]
 Recon Squadron(Territorial Army)[R]: 1xFerret, 4xFox, 1x"Spartan/Swingfire
 Close Recon Squadron: 6xScimitar[R]
 Engineer Squadron: 1xTL3 Engineer/FV432, 1xAVRE, 1xAVLB
 ATGM Company: 3xStriker/Swingfire
 Aviation Squadron: 2xAH3 "Lynx", 1xSA342 "Gazelle"
 Anti-Aircraft Battery: 3xJavelin/Spartan

Mechanized Infantry Battalion: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/MCV-80, 3xInfantry Company, 1xSupport Company, 1xTL3 81mm Mortar/FV432(3)
 Armored Regiment: 1xChieftan or Challenger (HQ), 4xTank Squadron, 4xScimitar[R]
 Recon Regiment: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/Sultan, 3xRecon Squadron, 1xClose Recon Squadron
 Recon Regiment (Territorial Army): 1xFerret (HQ), 4xRecon Squadron
 Engineer Regiment: 1xTL3 Infantry(A) HQ/FV432, 3xEngineer Squadron
 Artillery Regiment: 3x105mm Abbot(4)
 Heavy Artillery Regiment: 3x155mm M109A2(4)
 Aviation Regiment: 3xAviation Squadron

Artillery Brigade: 1xArtillery Regiment, 1xHeavy Artillery Regiment, 1xATGM Company

Armored Division: 2-4xTL3 Infantry(A) GHQ/M577, 5xTank Battalion, 5xMechanized Battalion, 1xRecon Regiment, 1xArtillery Brigade, 1xEngineer Regiment, Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Aviation Regiment

Air Support: Panavia "Tornados", "Jaguars", "Jaguar Ss", F-4 "Phantoms", AV8B "Harrier IIs", or "Harrier" Mk-7s

Notes: 1) You may use any appropriate vehicle or weapon type available. You may always mix types within battalions.
 2) "Field Forces" may be created using any of the division's available components (or parts thereof).
 3) Please do not confuse the UK "Javelin" with the US "Javelin". The British weapon is a SAM system introduced in 1990. The US weapon is an ATGM introduced in 1994.
 4) The Alvis Sultan is the "Command" version of the Spartan APC.

ARMORED DIVISION: 1995+

Generation: IV, Air Superiority Rating: 90, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 30%

Infantry Company: 3xTL4 Infantry(A)/Warrior
 Support Company: 3xTL3 81mm Mortar/FV432(1+)
 Armored Squadron: 4xChallenger
 Recon Squadron: 3xScimitar, 1xStriker/Swingfire, 1xTL4 Infantry(R)/Spartan
 SAS Squadron: 4xTL4 Infantry(S), 4xLandrover/LMG[R] or Landrover/Milan-2[R]

Combat Engineer Squadron:	3xTL3 Engineer/Spartan, 1xFV434 REME
Armored Engineer Squadron:	2x AVLB, 2x Chieftain AVRE
Bridging Squadron:	3x"Alligator" Mobile Bridge
Javelin Battery:	9xSpartan/Javelin SAM
Air Defense Battery:	9xStarstreak/Stormer
Armored Regiment:	1xSultan (HQ), 3x Armored Squadron, 2x Scimitar[R]
Armored Infantry Battalion:	1xTL4 Infantry (A) HQ/Warrior, 3xInfantry Company, 2xScimitar[R]1x Landrover[R]
Artillery Regiment:	3x155mm AS90(4)
Armored Recon Regiment:	1xSultan (HQ), 4xRecon Squadron
Armored Engineer Regiment:	1xSpartan (HQ), 3xBridging Squadron, 1xFV434 REME, 3xArmored Engineer Squadron
Aviation Regiment:	4xAH7 "Lynx ", 3xAH3 "Lynx"
Armored Brigade:	1xTL4 Infantry(A) GHQ/Spartan, 2xArmored Regiment, 2xArmored Infantry Battalion, 1xArtillery Regiment, 1xRecon Squadron, 1xStriker/Swingfire
Armored Division:	3xArmored Brigade, 1xAviation Regiment, 1xArmored Engineer Regiment
Available Support Units:	(One or more of these units or parts thereof, may appear in a particular action at your discretion.)
Combat Engineer Regiment:	3xCombat Engineer Squadron
Air Defense Regiment:	1xSpartan (HQ), 3xAir Defense Battery
SAS Regiment:	3xSAS Squadron
Artillery Regiment:	3x155mm FH70/Truck, 1xCymbeline Radar
Helicopter Squadron:	3xSA342M "Gazelle"
Air Support:	Panavia "Tornados", "Jaguars", "Jaguar Ss", F-4 "Phantoms", AV8B "Harrier IIs", or "Harrier" Mk-7s

Notes:

- 1) Each Infantry stand contains an attached Milan-2 ATGM team (MP).
- 2) The 1st Armored Division is made up of the 4th, 7th and 20th Armored Brigades.
- 3) One Armored Regiment may be equipped with Challenger Mk2 after 1996.
- 4) All MBTs will be replaced with Challenger Mk2s as they become available.
- 5) The Alvis Sultan is the "Command" version of the Spartan APC.6) TO&E information on British forces deployed to the Balkans may be found in the section on "United Nations Peacekeepers" elsewhere in the work.

TACTICAL NOTES

The hypothetical British armored division was included above to illustrate the futility of continued Nazi resistance in 1945 and to quiet the nagging protests of WWII German Army "groupies" who claim that, had the Nazi's been able to hold on a little longer, their superior technology would have given them a decisive advantage. (Knock yourselves out boys!) It was also included to cover historical "what-if" campaigns pitting the Anglo-Americans against the Soviets in Central Europe circa. 1946.

The "Commonwealth" Division in the Korean War can be used to show the advantages and disadvantages of British, Canadian, and other Commonwealth forces in fighting North Korean and Chinese Armies, and to explore the tactical differences inherent in using their doctrines and equipment.

The "BAOR" was a unique military organization, in which individual initiative, tactical flexibility, and innovation were raised to the level of "high art." Generally, in game terms, a "Battle Group" from any British division in Europe from 1970-1990 may consist of the following: 1xInfantry(HQ)/APC, 1xSupport Company, 1-2x"Recon" stands, 1xATGM stand, and 1xAnti-Aircraft stand.

To this you can add: 1xTank Group: 3xTank Squadron, 1xMechanized Company, 1x81mm Mortar(1)/FV432
or 1xBalanced Group: 2xTank Squadron, 2xMechanized Company, 1x81mm Mortar(2)/FV432
or 1xInfantry Group: 1xTank Squadron, 3xMechanized Company, 1x81mm Mortar(3)/FV432

Company Size "Combat Teams" can be formed by trading infantry and tank stands between the companies/squadrons. "Brigade Groups" may have two or three of the above plus: 1xInfantry GHQ/APC and 1x"105mm" or "155mm" Artillery Battery. A "Division" can deploy two, three, or four "Independent" Brigade Groups, but will retain control of all other assets to parcel out on an "as needed" basis. This concept and the tactical flexibility it produced served the UK well, both in the Falklands and the Persian Gulf.

The end of the Soviet Union created a paradigm shift in world military thinking. One of the more interesting aspects of this shift was the recognition it gave to the advanced nature of British combined-arms doctrine. The British Army of the "New World Order" is a well-armed and balanced force that can be pitted against any contemporary opponent with confidence. After decades of penury and neglect, the British Army is once more on the forefront of technical and philosophical innovation. Scenarios can be devised involving British expeditionary forces in North Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, or anywhere else on the planet. The chaotic state of current world affairs means that virtually any confrontation is possible. Use your imagination!

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On May 12, 1997, The British Foreign Secretary delivered a foreign policy statement detailing the aims and objectives of the incoming Labor government. Its overall purpose, "to promote the national interests of the United Kingdom and to contribute to a strong world economy." It also included these specific words, "to spread the values of human rights, civil liberties, and democracy which we demand for ourselves." Ten days later the government announced a complete ban on the manufacture, transfer, export, and import of anti-personnel mines. On July 1st, the UK officially transferred Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China, in a short ceremony attended by Prime Minister Tony Blair and Prince Charles.

On July 28th, the government announced that, "we will not issue an export license if there is a clearly identifiable risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression." Despite this, the government then allowed the delivery of "Hawk" jets and "Alvis" armored vehicles to Indonesia. This was done in spite of the fact that the former Conservative government had admitted that previously shipped British armored vehicles had been used by the Indonesians to suppress domestic protesters. Export licenses for the sale had been issued before the election and therefore could not be revoked. The Blair government's new European policy was made manifest in its agreement to adopt the EU's single currency, Blair's signature on the social chapter of the 1992 "Maastricht Treaty", and Britain's acceptance of the "Amsterdam Treaty".

Oman: 2001

In 2001, the UK held its biggest field-training exercise in more than five years when 24,000 troops were transported to Oman, near the Persian Gulf. More than 12,000 Omani troops and practically their whole air force was involved. The quadrennial joint rapid-reaction force field-training exercise, code-named "Saif Sareea 11", ran for six weeks, from October to mid November. It included amphibious landings and parachute assaults as well as various air operations. The UK's 1st Armored Division, elements of the 4th Armored Brigade and 3rd Commando Brigade took part. Royal Navy participation comprised a carrier group and an amphibious group, while the Royal Air Force deployed more than thirty combat aircraft. It was the first major test of the RAF's Boeing C-17A strategic transports.

Hostage Rescue: Sierra Leone

In September 2000, UK forces rescued six troops of the Royal Irish Regiment and a Sierra Leone Army liaison officer from the "West Side Boys" militia group. The hostages were about to be executed when they were "snatched" and taken to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary LSL, *Sir Percivale*. After a fierce firefight led by SAS and Paras, one British soldier was killed, another seriously wounded and eleven more suffered minor injuries. The "West Side Boys" suffered twenty-five fatalities and eighteen were captured, including the group's leader. The rescued troops were in the country as part of a British Army training team.

Kosovo

At the beginning of June 1999, British forces entered Kosovo as "spearhead" of the NATO intervention there. Two complete brigades (4th Armored and 5th Airborne) deployed approximately 10,000 troops. The situation as British troops entered Kosovo was described by Julian Manyon in an article in *The Spectator*.

"...NATO or rather the British Army, entered Kosovo, according to the letter of the agreement extracted from the Serbs, at dawn on Saturday. Racing down the road to meet them I came upon a surprisingly modest advance guard. ...four Land Rovers containing Gurkha soldiers who, with a mixture of Eastern politeness and menace, set about searching the vehicles of surprised and equally angry Serbs at a makeshift checkpoint. Behind them came General Jackson's spearhead force, lines of paratroopers supported by Scimitar and Warrior armored vehicles, and behind them the heavy Challenger tanks. The best assessment of them came from my newly arrived cameraman, Ezra, an Israeli whose own military experience includes commanding the second boat in Ariel Sharon's stunning night counter-attack across the Suez Canal in the Yom Kippur war. 'This is a real army-said Ezra as we drove alongside the British lines of advance, observing the soldiers relaxed professionalism and the immaculate condition of their occasionally slightly dated equipment. Its the real thing ..."

New Weapons

In 2001, the UK Defense Procurement Agency (DPA) issued an invitation for the assessment phase of a ground-based air defense (GBAD) system. The GBAD project aims to integrate the current Matra, Rapier, and Starstreak with a common command, control, communications and intelligence system, enhancing them considerably. The first contracts were awarded in 2002.

The "Future Rapid Effects System" (FRES) project is aimed at the UK's future fleet of AFVs. This project is being advanced in tandem with the "Tactical Reconnaissance Armored Combat Equipment Requirement" (TRACER) project. One of the key objectives for FRES and TRACER will be to give the army a medium force option to "achieve early effect" (whatever that means). The vehicles must be C-130 transportable to give them greater deployability. Development will be in conjunction with the US Army's "Future Scout and Cavalry System" (FSCS) project.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) would like to replace its current inventory of Warrior IFVs and Challenger Mk2 MBTs, due for replacement in 2005, with vehicles developed by these programs. Among the technologies under study are a novel "zero intrusion" turret, "Sensor Technology of Affordable Infra-Red Systems" (STAIRS), banded tracks, hybrid electric drives, a cased telescopic ammunition weapon system, ceramic armor, and the future development of electric armor. (Did you get all that?)

The army also has plans for developing a diesel-powered vehicle to support the lightweight "Modular Artillery Weapons System" (MAWS), that includes a 155mm towed artillery system and a multiple rocket launcher. These will be used by future UK rapid deployment forces. The army is also looking to replace or supplement four types of existing vehicles: the Saxon, the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) family, the FV430 family, and Land Rover Family. The requirement is for light, versatile, armored cars able to be deployed rapidly anywhere in the world.

Following a competition involving a wide variety of vehicles from an international field, the MoD has placed contracts with Hunting Engineering, Alvis Vehicles, and Vickers Defense Systems, worth about US\$715,000 for a yearlong "Risk Reduction and Trials" program. A preferred contractor is due to be selected in 2003, with vehicles entering service in 2006.

Future UK forces will be equipped with commercially available ATGM systems to meet light infantry requirements by 2005. In parallel, the MoD is reviewing requirements for an anti-tank capability for mechanized and armored infantry units prior to determining whether these could be met by similar commercially available systems. The assessment is that systems now available abroad offer significant financial savings over ones developed domestically. The leading contenders are the US "Javelin" and Israeli "Gill". Development of these missiles began in the late 1980s. Both use fire-and-forget imaging infrared guidance systems.

The first WAH-64 Apache attack helicopter to arrive in the UK was delivered to GKN Westland Helicopter's plant in Yeovil, England, on May 2, 1999. Under a 1996 contract worth more than US\$3.2 billion, the British Army is to receive sixty-seven WAH-64s, a derivative of the US Army AH-64D "Apache Longbow". Nine WAH-64s were delivered by the end 2000 and the rest should be deployed by the end of 2003.

2002 BRITISH ARSENAL

Vehicles: 386xChallenger Mk2 Tanks, 332xScimitar & 128xSabre Light Tanks, 772xWarrior, 829xFV432, & 501xSaxon APCs
 Anti-Tank: 73xStriker/Swingfire, 700+Milan/TOW ATGMs, LAW-80 ATGLs
 Artillery: 166x105mm Light Guns, 44x155mm FH70 Towed Howitzers, 179x155mm AS90 SP Howitzers, & 36xMLRS
 Anti-Aircraft: 105xRapier, 374xJavelin, 147xStormer/Starstreak, & 120xStinger SAMs
 Combat Aircraft: 269x"Tornado", 67x"Harrier", 52x"Jaguar", 91x"Hawk", 7x"Canberra"
 Helicopters: 125xGazelle, 108xLynx (including Lynx/TOW), 31xSea King, 31xChinook, 33xPuma, 9+WAH-3
 Small Arms: 9mm FN 35 Pistols, 5.56mm L85A1, 7.62mm FN-FAL, L39A1, & L96A1 Rifles, 5.56mm L86A1, 7.62mm FN MAG, 7.62mm Bren L4, & .50cal Browning M2HB Machineguns

- Notes:
- 1) The UK is developing a new wheeled AFV called the "MRAP" in cooperation with Germany and the Netherlands.
 - 2) Ninety-six AS90s have been upgraded to the L52 configuration known as the "Braveheart".
 - 3) All "Rapier" Batteries are being upgraded to the "Rapier 2000" configuration.
 - 4) A new "Lightweight Mobile Artillery Weapon System" (LIMAWS) is being developed to replace all UK 105mm Light Guns.
 - 5) A replacement for the LAW80, the "NLAW" is now being tested.
 - 6) Sixty-six new Engineer Vehicles based on the "Challenger" chassis, including a bridgelayer (Titan) and mine-clearing vehicle (Trojan) are being developed to enter service in 2005.
 - 7) Twenty-two "Merlin" M3 transport helicopters are being procured to replace Britain's now withdrawn "Wessex" models.
 - 8) The WAH-3 is the UK designation for the US AH-64 "Apache", which will replace the Lynx by the end of 2003.
 - 9) 232xEUROFIGHTER "Typhoon 2000" are entering service, starting with fifty-five aircraft in mid 2002.
 - 10) 142xTornados should be upgraded to the "GR.4 and .4A configuration by the end of 2002.
 - 11) The US "Joint Strike Fighter" (JSF) program has been formally identified as offering the best potential to replace Britain's current "Harriers" and "Sea Harriers". They have agreed to participate.
 - 12) Advance "Paveway" Laser/GPS guided bombs are on order.

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