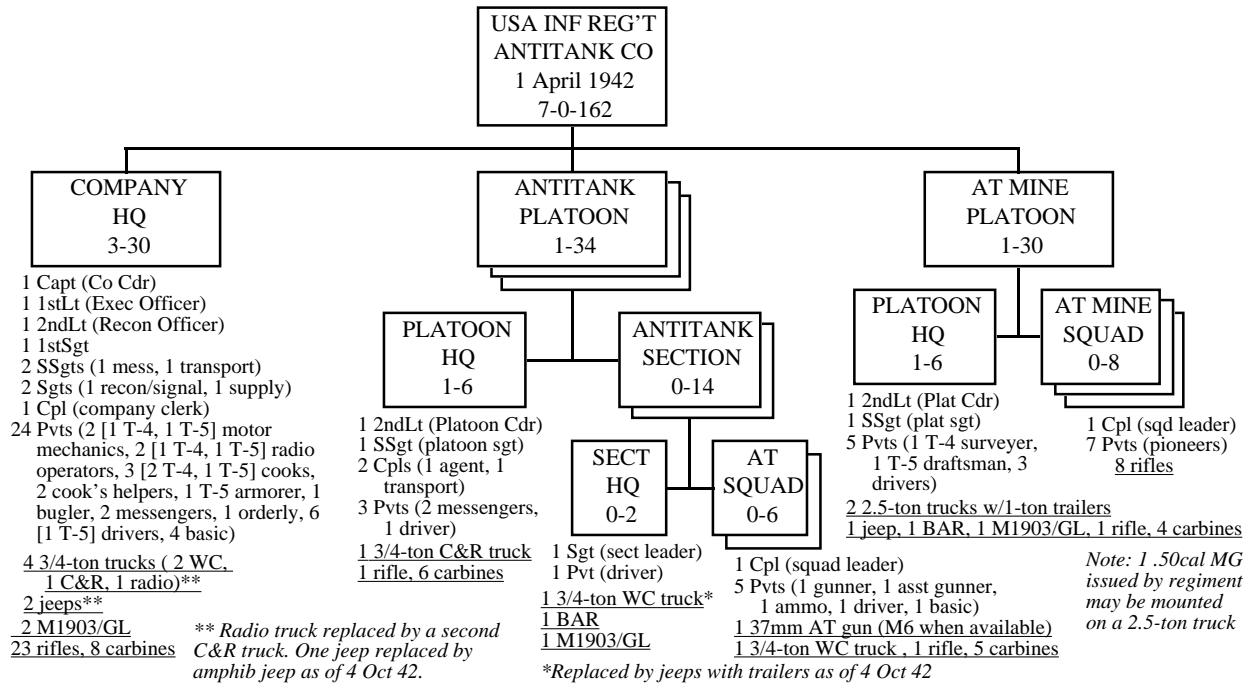


Appendix 5.4



Notes:

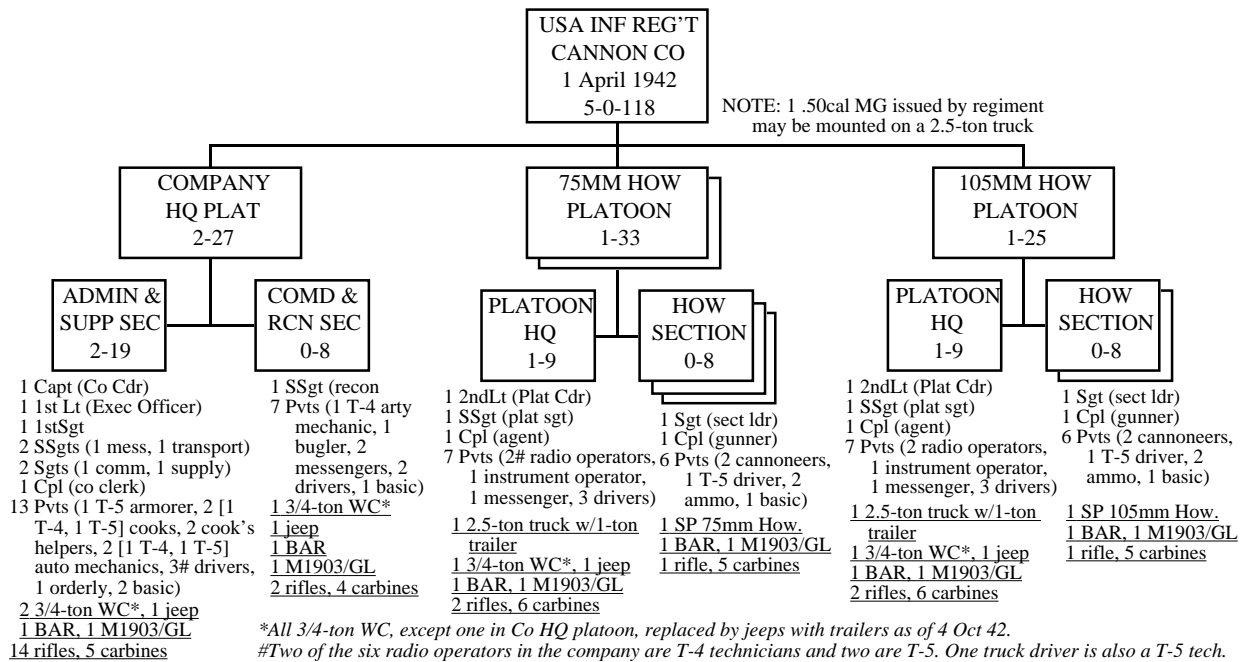
Weapons: The company was to receive the M6 37mm gun as soon as it was available. The M6 was the same as the M3 towed gun except that it was bolted to the rear bed on a 3/4-ton (unarmored) truck and could thus serve as a self-propelled weapon. The gun had a bullet-proof shield and could rotate 360 degrees but it could not be dismounted and fired from the ground. The truck was unarmored and the gun normally fired to the rear since the gun could not obtain full depression to the front. The idea was that the gun could open fire from a vantage point and then quickly retreat to avoid enemy counter-fire. In North Africa these vehicles proved to be all but useless since the 37mm gun was too light to be effective at the ranges at which "shoot and scoot" tactics might have been used successfully. Towed 37mm guns could at least be dug in and made much less conspicuous.

Small Arms: All company headquarters personnel carried M1 rifles except the officers, first sergeant, reconnaissance sergeant, bugler and messengers (who carried carbines) and the two radio operators (who carried M1903 rifles with grenade launchers). All personnel in the antitank platoons carried carbines except the section leaders (who had M1903 rifles with grenade launchers) and the drivers (who either carried M1 rifles or BAR's). In the antitank mine platoon one driver carried a BAR, a second had an M1903 rifle and the third had an M1 rifle. Other platoon headquarters members carried carbines while the squads carried rifles.

Enlisted Ranks: See the comments under Appendix 5.1. The company's privates included 11 technicians and 49 PFC.

Source: War Department Table of Organization 7-117 "Infantry Antitank Company" (Washington DC 1 April 1942).

Appendix 5.5



Notes:

Weapons: All “howitzers” were mounted on half-track carriers. The 75mm weapons were usually M1897 field guns rather than actual howitzers and they could serve as antitank as well as artillery weapons. The T-19 105mm howitzer-armed half-tracks were badly overloaded. Each half-track self-propelled weapon could actually accommodate only five members of the eight-man section it was authorized. The two ammunition handlers passed ammunition from the platoon’s 2.5-ton truck to their respective section half-track and rode in whatever other vehicle might have space for them. The basic private had no specified duties.

Small Arms: BAR issued to one driver each in the administrative and supply section and the command and reconnaissance section of the headquarters platoon, to one driver in each howitzer platoon headquarters and to the driver in each howitzer section. The issue of the M1903 rifles with grenade launchers was the same except that in the howitzer sections the section leaders carried them. All other personnel in the howitzer platoons carried carbines except the basic privates in the howitzer sections and one driver and the corporal (agent) in each platoon headquarters (who had M1 rifles). In the company headquarters platoon the officers, first sergeant, staff sergeant (transport), reconnaissance sergeant, communication sergeant, the bugler and two messengers carried carbines.

Enlisted Ranks: See the comments under Appendix 5.1. The company’s privates included 19 technicians and 30 PFC.

Source: War Department Table of Organization 7-14 “Infantry Cannon Company” (Washington DC 1 April 1942).