

## Case, Wood, Packing - British Army Naming Conventions by David Gray

British Army naming conventions, particularly for logistics and equipment, often use a **Noun-First (Inverted)** structure to classify items for inventory purposes, such as "Case, Wood, Packing". This system was designed for logical indexing in physical ledgers and storehouses, ensuring that all similar items (e.g., all types of "Case") were grouped together. The system groups items by their primary function, followed by descriptive details to ensure precise identification in supply chain documents.

### Logistics & Equipment Naming (Noun-First Examples)

- Case, Wood, Packing
- Boots, Combat, High Liability (The standard issue modern combat boot)
- Socks, GS (General Service) (Commonly used for standard-issue olive green socks)
- Drawers, Cotton, Cellular (The official name for traditional "string" or mesh underwear)
- Jersey, Heavy Wool, Olive Drab (The "Woolly Pully" jumper)
- Cap, Service, SD (Service Dress) (Formal peaked caps)
- Clothing, Protective, Suit
- Knife, Fork, and Spoon (KFS) (The standard field cutlery set)
- Vehicles, Armoured, Personnel Carrier
- Tools, Hand, Sledgehammer
- Rations, Composite, Individual

### Naming Conventions for Vehicles and Weapons

Beyond storehouse inventory, the British Army has specific patterns for larger equipment:

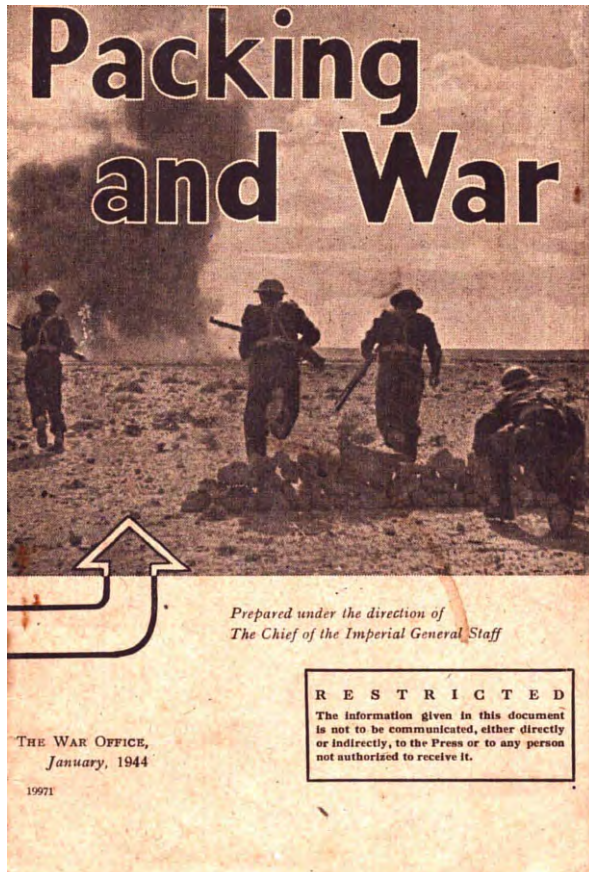
- **Tanks (The 'C' Rule):** Traditionally, British cruiser and main battle tanks are given names starting with 'C'.
  - *Examples:* Centurion, Chieftain, Challenger, Cromwell, Crusader.
- **Reconnaissance Vehicles (The 'S' Rule):** Many vehicles in the CVR(T) (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked) family start with 'S'.
  - *Examples:* Scorpion, Scimitar, Sabre, Spartan, Sultan.
- **Official Designations:** Formal names often include a functional description followed by a "Mark" (Mk) number to denote the version.
  - *Examples:* Gun Equipment, 155mm, L131 (AS-90 self-propelled gun) or Tank, Combat, Challenger 2.

### Document Naming Conventions

For administrative records, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) uses a strict Date-Title-Marking format to ensure documents are easily searchable across the department.

- **Format:** YYYYMMDD-Document\_Title-Security\_Marking
- **Example:** 20240318-Training\_Syllabus-OFFICIAL

## Packing and War



I bought this booklet recently on eBay, it was published by The War Office in January 1944. It gives a very good insight into how packing military equipment in wooden crates should be carried out in order for the contents to remain undamaged in transit. The boxes are constantly referred to as 'CsWP,' Cases, Wood, Packing. Notes at the beginning state:

*'This publication should be read in conjunction with "Standing Instructions for Os.C: [officers Commanding] Units and Drafts ordered overseas (War) Long Sea Voyage, December 1943." Packing and War lays down the general principles of packing for movement of G1098 stores and equipment from unit's own location.'*

Army Form **G1098** was a detailed British Army catalogue (Equipment Establishment Table) listing every item a unit was authorised to hold for mobilization, spanning personal weapons, clothing, tools, signals equipment, and complete

weapon systems. It was a tailored list (e.g., AFG 1098-707 for a Reconnaissance Regiment) rather than a single fixed set of items. Because it was tailored to each unit's role (e.g., an Infantry Battalion vs. an Artillery Battery), there was no universal "complete" list. Instead, the G1098 acted as an inventory "catalogue" for that specific unit's mobilization.

### The complete G1098 equipment was extensive and broken down into several categories:

- **Weapons & Optics:** Pistols, rifles, machine carbines, mortars, and support weapons.
- **Optics & Tools:** Compasses, watches, stereoscopes, sights, rangefinders, telescopes, and mine detectors.
- **Signals & Communications:** Wireless stations (which often had their own subsections/schedules), field telephones, switchboards, cable, and flags.
- **Transport & Cooking:** Vehicles, spare parts, and specialized cooking equipment.

- **Ammunition & Explosives:** Specific scales for each weapon (ball, tracer, AP, HE), hand grenades, and signals pistols.
- **Personal Kit:** Clothing and personal equipment carried, maintained, or exchanged by the soldier.

The G1098 served as a formal record, sometimes called "G10 stores," for tracking authorized inventory, often identifying "controlled stores" that required higher command authorization to replace.

### **Complete Equipment Schedules (CES)**

Major items like a tank, a field gun, or a wireless station were so complex they weren't fully itemised in the main G1098. Instead, the G1098 would list the major item and refer to a separate Complete Equipment Schedule (CES), which detailed every sub-component (down to the nuts, bolts, and specialized tools) required for that specific piece of hardware to be fully functional.

For a standard WWII British Infantry Battalion (the most common unit type), the AFG1098 (Army Form G1098) specified a massive inventory designed to make the unit a self-sufficient tactical force.

**Below is the typical "complete" equipment scale for a battalion as of 1943–1944:**

### **Weapons and Munitions**

The G1098 listed the exact number of personal and support weapons, often including items that had vanished from other official tables but remained unit entitlements.

- **Small Arms:** Approximately 700+ rifles, 60+ pistols (for officers and vehicle crews), and 100+ Sten submachine guns.
- **Light Machine Guns:** 50–60 Bren Guns (one per section, plus spares for carriers and HQ).
- **Support Weapons:**
  - 6 x 6-pounder Anti-Tank Guns (in the Support Company).
  - 6 x 3-inch Mortars for heavy indirect fire.
  - 18–24 x 2-inch Mortars (one per rifle platoon).
  - PIAT (Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank) launchers (typically one per platoon).
- **Ammunition Scales:** Detailed "First Line" ammunition counts for every weapon, including ball, tracer, armour-piercing, and smoke rounds.

### **Transport and Mobility**

By 1944, a British Infantry Battalion was highly motorised, requiring a vast fleet of vehicles to carry its G1098 stores.

- **Universal Carriers:** Approximately 13–20 "Bren Carriers" used for scouting, towing 6-pdrs, or carrying mortars.

- **Motor Transport:**
  - 15-cwt Trucks: Roughly 30–40 for platoon-level gear and tools.
  - 3-ton Lorries: 15–20 for battalion-level supplies, baggage, and ammunition.
  - Motorcycles: 30+ for dispatch riders and reconnaissance.
- **Bicycles:** Often 20–30 for silent movement within the unit area.

### Communications and Technical Gear

These items were often "controlled stores" requiring special authorisation for replacement.

#### Wireless Stations:

- **No. 18 Sets:** Used for communication between Battalion HQ and Companies.
- **No. 38 Sets:** Short-range "walkie-talkies" used within companies and platoons.
- **No. 19 Sets:** Higher-powered sets for communicating with Brigade or tanks.
- **Line Equipment:** Field telephones, switchboards, and miles of cable for secure wired communication.

#### Tools and Specialist Stores

- **Optical Gear:** Binoculars, prismatic compasses, watches, and rangefinders.
- **Pioneer Tools:** Pickaxes, shovels, saws, and explosives for the Pioneer Platoon.
- **Cooking & Messing:** Field cookers, insulated food containers, and mess tins.
- **Medical:** Stretcher sets and battalion-level medical chests for the Medical Officer.

For the most complex items, like the No. 19 Wireless Station, the G1098 would simply list the "Set" and refer the Quartermaster to a separate Complete Equipment Schedule (CES), which listed every single aerial, battery, and spare valve belonging to that kit.

#### The Focus on Packing

The **Packing and War** booklet begins:

'The Question: When this war began Britain was faced with three problems;

1. Insufficiency of war production machinery.
2. Shortage of war materials.
3. Shortage or maldistribution of manpower.

The Premier's "blood, toil, tears and sweat" call was as much a banner for the home front as for the battle front. These three problems had to be faced and were faced.

But there is not the slightest margin, anywhere for careless treatment of equipment, bad packing, or wastage by units at home.

Yet here is the sort of message that has been received from North Africa:

*"Regret sixty percent of our G1098 equipment damaged in transit. Suggest improved methods packing and stowage".*

That message did not come from every unit in the North African campaign or the campaign could never have been begun.

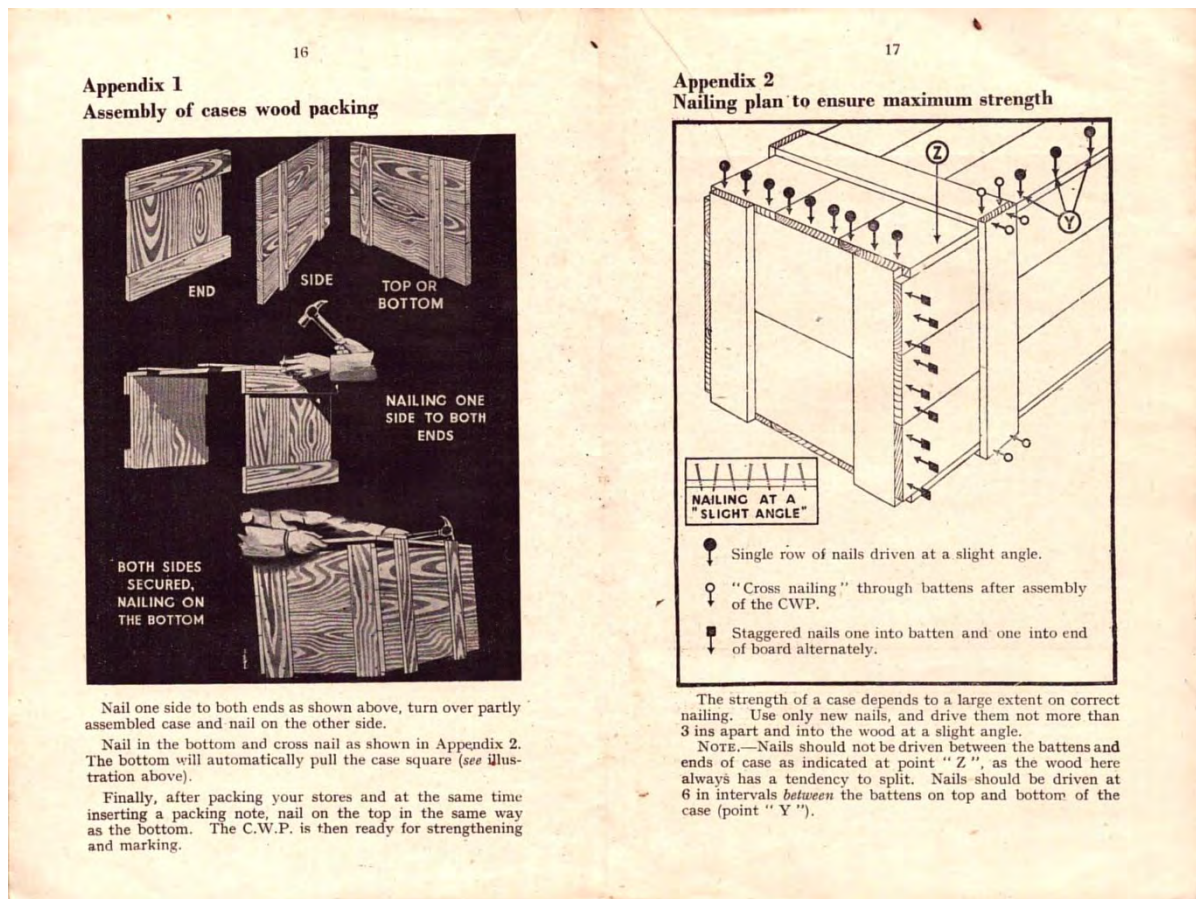
But it does throw up into high priority the one big question that every unit mobilizing or awaiting mobilization instructions must ask itself: -

*"Do we know how to pack our G1098 equipment so that we arrive, wherever we are going, in full fighting trim?"*

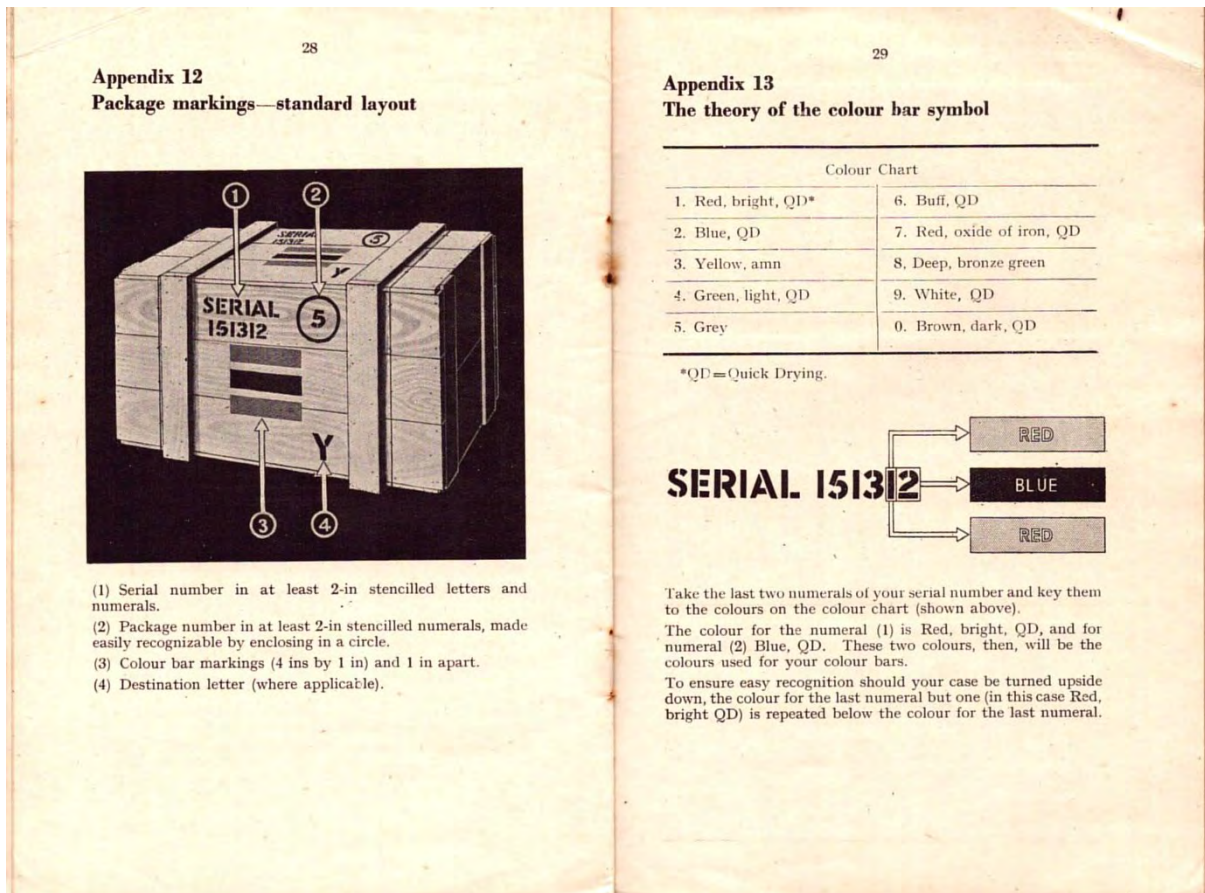
If a unit cannot answer that question with a decided "yes" then all the blood, toil, tears, and sweat from the design to the production assembly line, from the plant to the quartermaster, have been in vain.

There are other examples of damage in transit, principally through bad packing: such as the 60 per cent wastage we have quoted. What the U-boat fails to do many units unwittingly do for it.'

The booklet goes on to describe in detail how to pack various items in 'CsWP.'



There is an interesting section: **Appendix 12 Package Markings – Standard Layout (below)**. This shows how CsWP were marked. Units could choose two colours from a list of ten on the colour chart. The last two numbers on the serial number stencilled on the case would be in these colours making it easier to identify the whole delivery at a glance amongst a host of other boxes.



The book ends with:

'Do not allow YOUR stores to arrive at the RSD [Return Stores Depot], as shown in the photograph [below].



## Sources

- [Packing and War](#)
- [Gov.UK](#)
- [Mod.UK](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
- [Bayonet Strength](#)
- [CWL Addict](#)
- [Reddit](#)
- [Lycos.com](#)