

1st Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Division

1st Light Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 1st Light Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

1st King's Dragoon Guards

3rd The King's Own Hussars

4th Queen's Own Hussars

2nd Light Armoured Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Light Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)

9th Queen's Royal Lancers

10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)

1st Heavy Armoured Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 1st Heavy Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Royal Tank Regiment

3rd Royal Tank Regiment

5th Royal Tank Regiment

1st Support Group ⁽⁵⁾

2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifles Corps

1st Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

(H.Q., A/E & B/O Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

(H.Q., L/N & H/I Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

Divisional Troops

1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾

1st Field Park Troop, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals ⁽⁷⁾

NOTES:

1. The 1st Armoured Division was a pre-war Regular Army formation, which was formerly known as The Mobile Division. It had been formed on 1 October 1937, being redesignated in late 1938. It originally comprised two light armoured brigades and a tank brigade, but in early 1939, it was agreed to reduce the establishment to one light and one heavy armoured brigade, although this did not take effect until November. The divisional headquarters were based at Priory Lodge near Andover as part of Southern Command. It transferred to Eastern Command on 4 November, returning to Southern Command on 26 January 1940. It left for France on 14 May 1940, serving under G.H.Q. B.E.F., the 7th French Army and 10th French Army. The division was evacuated from France on 16 June 1940. It was refitted in the United Kingdom as it only brought seven tanks back from France. Initially under Southern Command, on 29 June it transferred to Aldershot Command, and then on 4 July, it became operational again joining XII Corps. The division left for Egypt on 27 August 1941, travelling via Suez, to arrive on 13 November 1941. The division took part in several battles in the Western Desert and later served in Tunisia and Italy.
2. A pre-war brigade with its headquarters based at Tidworth in Wiltshire. The 1st King's Dragoon Guards were based at Aldershot, with the other two regiments based at Tidworth. The brigade left the division on 4 November 1939, transferring to Northern Command. It then joined the embryonic 2nd Armoured Division on 19 January 1940.
3. A pre-war brigade, which was also based at Tidworth. All three regiments were also based at Tidworth. The brigade remained with the division until it was disbanded in Italy in 1944.
4. A pre-war regular brigade, with its headquarters based at Perham Down. The 5th R.T.R. was collocated with the brigade headquarters, with the 2nd R.T.R. based at Farnborough and the 3rd R.T.R. based at Warminster. The 3rd R.T.R. was detached from the brigade and sent to Calais in May 1940. The regiment was captured in Calais when it fell on 26 May 1940. The rest of the brigade deployed to France with the division. It was redesignated as the 3rd Armoured Brigade on 14 April 1940. It left this division on 4 October 1940 to transfer to the 2nd Armoured Division.
5. The support group was based at Tidworth in Wiltshire. Both of the infantry battalions were based at Tidworth. Both horse artillery regiments were sent to France in October 1939 as Army Troops for the B.E.F.. The two infantry battalions were transferred to the newly formed 30th Infantry Brigade in April 1940. The brigade was deployed to Calais on 22 May 1940, where it fought the Germans until it and all the troops in Calais surrendered on 26 May 1940. When the Support Group was deployed to France in 1940, it consisted of only the recently formed:
101st Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
6. Both Royal Engineers units were Regular Army formations. The 1st Field Squadron was based at Aldershot, with the 1st Field Park Troop being based at Tidworth.
7. The divisional signals were based at Bulford.

SOURCES:

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Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O. in 1960 Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd
[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

Author: T. F. MILLS

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