

## 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division & Signal Section

### 29<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 29<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment

23<sup>rd</sup> Hussars

2<sup>nd</sup> Fife and Forfar Yeomanry

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) (The London Rifle Brigade)

### 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment <sup>(4)</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

### Divisional Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Northamptonshire Yeomanry <sup>(5)</sup>

No. 270 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> *Household Cavalry Regiment* <sup>(6)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Machine Gun Company, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Honourable Artillery Company), Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

151<sup>st</sup> (Ayrshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(10)</sup>

75<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

58<sup>th</sup> (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

13<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

612<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

147<sup>th</sup> Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

10<sup>th</sup> Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Army Service Corps  
171<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
174<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
173<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
287<sup>th</sup> General Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps  
18<sup>th</sup> Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
179<sup>th</sup> Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
7<sup>th</sup> Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps  
76<sup>th</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (13)  
29<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers  
159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

## NOTES:

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division was raised in the United Kingdom on 9 March 1941. It remained in the U.K. until sailing for Normandy, and had not seen active service until landing in France. The divisional commander was Major General (Acting) George Philip Bradley ROBERTS, D.S.O.\*\*\*, M.C., known as 'Pip' ROBERTS. An experienced armoured commander, he was General Staff Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, Brigade Major of the 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade fighting in Egypt and Libya, and then commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment. Promoted Acting Brigadier, he commanded an armoured brigade during the battle of El Alamein, and a different brigade in the Tunisian campaign, from which he was appointed to this formation as divisional commander with effect from 6 December 1943. The divisional headquarters arrived in Normandy on 13 June 1944 (D+7) and the division came under command of VIII Corps. Between 25 June and 2 July, it was involved in the battle of the River Odon. It was then involved in Operation Goodwood, and the battle for Bourguebus Ridge between 18 and 23 July. In preparation for the assault on Mont Pincon at the end of July, the divisional commander ordered new brigade groupings to bring closer cooperation between tanks and infantry. The new brigade groupings are shown at Page 5 and 6, and at the same time, the division was allocated an armoured car regiment from Corps Troops. On 30 July, the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division took part in the battle for Mont Pincon, which lasted until 9 August when the German lines broke. The division advanced rapidly through France and Belgium. Still under command of VIII Corps, it took part in the battle of the Nederrijn between 17 and 27 September 1944. On 8 February 1945, the division became involved in the battle for the Rhineland, which lasted until 10 March 1945. After the cessation of hostilities, the division remained in Germany until disbanded in November 1945.
2. This brigade had been formed on 28 December 1940 in the United Kingdom. Initially, it was an independent brigade, until it joined the division on 9 March 1941. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment was a pre-war regular army unit, which had fought at Calais, in Greece and the Western Desert prior to joining this brigade on 6 February 1944. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Hussars was a war raised regiment, formed in December 1940 from cadres of the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and 15<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> The King's Royal Hussars. The Fife and Forfar Yeomanry was a Territorial Army unit, which had converted to an armoured car unit 1920. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Fife and Forfar Yeomanry was formed in April 1939 by the duplication of the regiment, and was based in Dundee. The 8<sup>th</sup> Bn The Rifle Brigade was formerly the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The London Rifle Brigade, a Territorial Army unit based in Moorgate, London. It was redesignated as the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. on 18 January 1941. The brigade remained unaltered in establishment until it disbanded in November 1945. Brigadier (Temporary) Charles Barnet Cameron HARVEY, D.S.O.\* (known as Roscoe HARVEY), commanded this brigade throughout the campaign in North-West Europe.
3. This brigade was a pre-war Territorial Army brigade, based at Newport. It had been part of the 53<sup>rd</sup> (Welsh) Infantry Division until transferring to this division in 1942. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. K.S.L.I was based at Shrewsbury, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Herefords (whose parent regiment was the K.S.L.I.) was based at Hereford. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Monmouths (whose parent regiment was the South Wales Borderers) was based at Abergavenny. The brigade transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division on 17 May 1942, remaining with the division for the rest of the war. Brigadier (Acting) John Grey SANDIE, D.S.O., M.C. commanded the brigade from 22 June 1942, until 3 July 1944, when he was posted to command the Small Arms School at Hythe. Brigadier (Acting) John Bryan CHURCHER assumed command of the brigade on 4 July, and remained in command until the end of hostilities in Europe. He later reached the rank of Major General.

4. This battalion left the brigade on 3 April 1945. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment,  
which transferred in from 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on the same day.
5. This regiment was a second line Territorial Army unit formed in 1939. It joined this division on 25 March 1943 and left in August 1944 to merge with the 1<sup>st</sup> Northamptonshire Yeomanry. It was replaced in the armoured reconnaissance role within this division by:  
15<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> The King's Royal Hussars,  
which transferred in from the disbanded 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade in the U.K.
6. At the end of July 1940, an armoured car regiment was allocated to each of the three British non-specialist armoured divisions from Corps Troops. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Household Cavalry Regiment came under command of this formation in July 1944, but it transferred to the Guards Armoured Division in August, with the another regiment being allocated to this division instead, namely:  
The Inns of Court Regiment
7. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers was broken up to form three independent machine gun companies, one of which was allocated to each of the three armoured divisions deployed in North West Europe.
8. The Brigadier Royal Artillery was Brigadier (Temporary) B. J. FOWLER, who remained in post until just prior to the armistice in Germany.
9. Formed in November 1940, this regiment joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Support Group when the division was formed, transferring to divisional troops on the abolition of the support group on 1 June 1942.
10. This regiment had been formed in 1940 with the conversion of the Ayrshire Yeomanry to artillery. It came under command of the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, transferring to this division on 1 June 1942.
11. This regiment had been formed in November 1940 with drafts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiments. It joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Support Group in March 1941, coming under command as divisional troops on 1 June 1942. It left the division on 2 June 1945, transferring to the Guards Division. It was replaced by:  
65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery,  
which transferred in from 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division on the same date.
12. The 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had converted to an artillery unit in 1938. It formed the 54<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In June 1939, this duplicated to form the 58<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment. It joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Support Group in May 1941, coming under divisional control on 1 June 1942.
13. The Commander R.E.M.E. had command of the two brigade workshops, twelve Light Aid Detachments (L.A.D.), and the Light Anti-Aircraft Workshop. There was one Type 'A' L.A.D., which was attached to the Headquarters, 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The four, Type 'B' L.A.Ds., were attached to the motorized Field Regiment, the Field Park Squadron, the Divisional Signals, and the divisional motor battalion. The three Type 'C' L.A.Ds. were attached to the three armoured regiments, and the armoured reconnaissance regiment. The two Type 'D' L.A.Ds. were attached to the self-propelled field regiment, and the anti-tank regiment.

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### 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Group <sup>(3)</sup>

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2<sup>nd</sup> Fife and Forfar Yeomanry

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## NOTES:

1. This is the usual order of battle for the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division on active service in North-West Europe, from July 1944 until the end of the war. There was flexibility in the order of battle, with units and battlegroups moving between brigades as necessary, in particular during fighting in the Netherlands. Likewise, artillery and engineer support would be allocated as appropriate to the tasking each brigade received.

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