

7th Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Division & Signal Section

22nd Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 22nd Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

1st Royal Tank Regiment

5th Royal Tank Regiment

4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) ⁽³⁾

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

131st Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 159th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1st/6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) ⁽⁵⁾

1st/7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) ⁽⁶⁾

Divisional Troops

8th King's Royal Irish Hussars

No. 263 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

3rd Independent Machine Gun Company, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

5th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

65th (Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

15th (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

4th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

621st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

143rd Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

7th Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

7th Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (8)
67th Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
507th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
58th Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps
287th General Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
2nd Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
131st Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
29th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
70th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps
134th Mobile Dental Unit, Army Dental Corps

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (9)
22nd Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
131st Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

7th Armoured Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

7th Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

7th Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The division arrived in Normandy on 8 June 1944 (D+2), under the command of Major General (Temporary) George Watkin Eben James ERSKINE, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*. It was initially under the command of XXX Corps, but on 15 August 1944, came under the command of I Corps. The division then alternated between I Corps and XII Corps for the rest of the campaign. It fought in Operation Goodwood, the battle for Borguebus Ridge between 18 and 23 July 1944. As a result of concerns about the performance of the division in Normandy, General MONTGOMERY relieved Major General ERSKINE of his command on 4 August 1944, and appointed Major General (Acting) Gerald Lloyd VERNEY, M.V.O. *p.s.c.* as divisional commander, from command of the 6th (Guards) Tank Brigade. The division took part in Operation Market Garden, the battle for the Nederrijn between 17 and 27 September 1944. On 22 November 1944, Major General (Acting) Lewis Owen LYNE, D.S.O. *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the formation, in place of Major General VERNEY. In 1945, the division took part in the crossing of the River Rhine between 23 March and 1 April. The division came under the command of 21st Army Group, and then Headquarters British Army of the Rhine, on the cessation of hostilities. The division did not disband, but continued as a Regular Army division into the 1950's.
2. This was a former Territorial Army brigade, based in London. It had joined this division on 8 November 1941. At the time of the Normandy landings, Brigadier (Temporary) William Robert Norris HINDE, D.S.O.***, O.B.E. (who was known as 'Looney' HINDE) commanded the brigade. General MONTGOMERY relieved him of command on 7 August 1944, with Brigadier (Temporary) Harry Ripley MACKESON, *p.s.c.*, replacing him on 10 August. In turn, MACKESON was replaced by Brigadier (Temporary) Hugh John Bernard CRACROFT, D.S.O., with effect from 16 September 1944. On 18 October 1944, Brigadier (Acting) Anthony Desmond Rex WINGFIELD, D.S.O., M.C., replaced CRACROFT, and he remained the commanding officer of the brigade until the end of hostilities.
3. As a result of casualties sustained during the fighting in Normandy, the regiment was amalgamated with the 3rd County of London Yeomanry in the 4th Armoured Brigade. The regiment was replaced in this brigade on 29 July 1944 by the:
5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards
This regiment transferred in from the 28th Armoured Brigade, 9th Armoured Division, a formation disbanding in the United Kingdom.
4. This brigade had joined the division on 1 November 1942, transferring from the 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division whilst both formations were stationed in Egypt. During the severe fighting in Normandy, the number of casualties from the infantry battalions in both armoured and infantry divisions led to problems with reinforcements. This problem continued through the fighting into the Netherlands. As a consequence, the policy was made to break up the three brigades in 21st Army Group which consisted of three battalions of the same regiment. This was a legacy of these brigades being former Territorial Army formations, which were formed on a geographic basis. Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Seymour EKINS, *p.s.c.*, commanded this brigade when it landed in France, but on 2 July 1944, Brigadier (Temporary) Ernest Cecil PEPPER, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*, replaced him. Brigadier (Acting) William Reginald COX, *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the brigade on 8 October 1944, but after only two months, Brigadier (Acting) John Michael Kane SPURLING, *p.s.c.*, came in to command this brigade. Brigadier SPURLING remained in command until the end of hostilities, being awarded the D.S.O. on 12 July 1945 for his leadership in crossing the Dortmund – Ems Canal.

5. This battalion left the brigade on 3 December 1944 transferring to 231st Infantry Brigade, 50th Infantry Division. It was replaced in this brigade by:
2nd Bn. The Devonshire Regiment
which transferred in from the 231st Infantry Brigade on the same date.
6. This battalion left the brigade on 2 December 1944, transferring to 151st Infantry Brigade, 50th Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
9th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry
which transferred in from that brigade on the same date.
7. This regiment left the division on 29 May 1945, transferring to the 11th Armoured Division. It was replaced by:
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
which transferred in from the Guards Division on 21 June 1945.
8. In 1944, an additional R.A.S.C. unit, designated as an armoured divisional transport company, was added to the divisional establishment. The additional unit that joined the division in January 1945 was the 133rd Divisional Transport Company.
9. 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, 159th Infantry Brigade. The four, Type 'B' L.A.Ds., were attached to the motorized Field Regiments, 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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