

Guards Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Division & Employment Platoon

5th (Guards) Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 5th (Guards) Armoured Brigade and Signal Section

2nd (Armoured) Bn. Grenadier Guards

1st (Armoured) Bn. Coldstream Guards

2nd (Armoured) Bn. Irish Guards

1st (Motorised) Bn. Grenadier Guards

32nd (Guards) Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 5th (Guards) Armoured Brigade and Signal Section

5th Bn. Coldstream Guards

3rd Bn. Irish Guards ⁽⁴⁾

1st Bn. Welsh Guards ⁽⁵⁾

Divisional Troops

2nd (Armoured Reconnaissance) Bn. Welsh Guards

2nd Household Cavalry Regiment ⁽⁶⁾

No. 268 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

1st Independent Machine Gun Company, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

55th (Wessex) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

153rd (The Leicestershire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁹⁾

21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

94th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹¹⁾

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers ⁽¹²⁾

14th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

615th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

148th Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

11th Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

Guards Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals ⁽¹³⁾

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (14)

310th Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

224th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

535th Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

648th General Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

19th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

128th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

8th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

60th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

Guards Armoured Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (17)

Headquarters, Guards Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (18)

5th (Guards) Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

32nd (Guards) Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

Guards Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

Guards Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

77th Field Intelligence Section, Intelligence Corps

NOTES:

1. The Guards Armoured Division was formed in the United Kingdom on 17 June 1941. It originally consisted of the 5th and 6th Guards Armoured Brigades, but the 6th Armoured Brigade left the division in January 1943 when armoured divisions changed to having just one armoured brigade on their establishment. Major General (Acting) Allan Henry Shafto ADAIR, D.S.O., M.C.*, late Grenadier Guards, commanded the division from 21 September 1942 until August 1945. Lieutenant Colonel J. D. HORNUNG, M.C., Irish Guards was the General Staff Officer 1st Grade throughout the campaign, with Lieutenant Colonel W. M. SALE, Royal Horse Guards the Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General until December 1944. Lieutenant Colonel H. P. T. PRIDEAUX 3rd Carabiniers replaced SALE when he moved to take command of the 1st Household Cavalry Regiment. The division arrived in Normandy on 28 June 1944. It fought its first battle, at Bouguebus Ridge, between 18 and 23 July 1944, and then at Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August 1944. There is some suggestion that Field Marshal MONTGOMERY considered removing ADAIR from command of the division, but he did not follow this through, and ADAIR continued in command for the entire campaign. Following the breakout from Normandy, it advanced through Belgium, and then had a key role in the Battle of the Nederrijn (Operation Market Garden) between 17 and 27 September 1944. In August 1944, whilst stationed in Normandy, the division reorganized into battle groups formed by an armoured battalion and infantry battalion of the same regiment; the first operation when this new battle-group formation was used commenced on 29 August 1944 (see Page 5). It participated in the battle of The Rhineland between 8 February and 10 March 1945. After the cessation of hostilities in May 1945, the division reorganised as an infantry formation on 12 June 1945. It disbanded in Germany in March 1947.
2. This brigade was formed on 15 September 1941 by the re-designation of the 20th (Guards) Independent Infantry Brigade. New units joined the brigade on their conversion to armour or to a motorised battalion. There were no changes to the brigade's establishment during the campaign. Brigadier Norman Wilmshurst GWATKIN, C.V.O., Coldstream Guards, commanded the brigade from 15 December 1943 until at least August 1945. In the reorganization on August 1944, this brigade usually comprised the Grenadier Guards and Irish Guards battle-groups during operations.
3. This brigade was formed on 1 October 1941 with three war raised Guards battalions. The brigade joined the division on 1 June 1942. With effect from 15 December 1943, Brigadier George Frederick JOHNSON, Scots Guards, commanded the brigade; remaining in command until 24 May 1945. JOHNSON was awarded the D.S.O. on 21 December 1944. Brigadier J. O. E. VANDELEUR, D.S.O.* succeeded him in command of this brigade on 8 July 1945.
4. This battalion left the division on 21 March 1945, returning to the command of the brigade on 29 May 1945.
5. Due to casualties and reinforcements issues, the battalion left the brigade on 22 March 1945. It returned to the United Kingdom to come under the command of the 201st (Guards) Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by:
2nd Bn. Scots Guards
This battalion joined the brigade on 29 May 1945 having come from the United Kingdom. The Scots Guards and the 2nd (Armoured Reconnaissance) Bn. Welsh Guards formed a Scots and Welsh Guards Battle Group within the Division.

6. The regiment was attached to this division during the campaign. It had left the command of the Division on 27 February 1943, when it was decided that armoured car regiments would be Corps Troops. Its return allowed the division to use them as the divisional reconnaissance unit so that the 2nd Bn. Welsh Guards could form one of the four battle-groups.
7. The Commander Royal Artillery for the division from 29 November 1943 until at least August 1945 was Brigadier Herbert Clive PHIPPS, Royal Artillery. He was awarded a Periodic D.S.O. on 21 June 1945.
8. A first line Territorial Army regiment, based in Taunton and Shepton Mallet in Somerset. The batteries were entitled 'West Somerset Yeomanry' although the regiment was entitled 'Wessex'. In September 1939, the regiment had been under the command of the 45th (Wessex) Division. It transferred to the Guards Armoured Division in June 1942.
9. This field regiment had been formed in February 1940 by the conversion of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, a Territorial Army cavalry regiment. It joined the Guards Support Group in October 1941 and came under the direct command of the division on 1 June 1942.
10. A pre-war Regular Army regiment, it transferred from the 1st Infantry Division to this formation on 1 June 1942. The regiment transferred to the 7th Armoured Division on 29 May 1945. It was replaced by:
75th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
This regiment transferred in from the 11th Armoured Division.
11. This regiment was formed in November 1941 by the conversion of the war raised 8th Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The regiment joined the division on 1 June 1942.
12. Lieutenant Colonel C. P. JONES, M.C., R.E. was the Commander Royal Engineers (C.R.E.) until 8 October 1944, when Lieutenant Colonel J. N. THOMAS, D.S.O., M.C., R.E. replaced him. THOMAS remained as C.R.E. for the rest of the campaign.
13. Lieutenant Colonel W. D. TUCKER, O.B.E., R.Sigs, was the Commander Royal Signals for the division throughout the campaign.
14. Lieutenant Colonel A. K. WOODS, O.B.E., R.A.S.C., was the Commander Royal Army Service Corps on 3 September 1944, but by the end of the campaign on 5 May 1945, he had been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel A. R. PURCHES, R.A.S.C.
15. The establishment of an armoured division contained both a divisional troops company and a divisional transport company from the Royal Army Service Corps. It is not confirmed which company was numbered the 535th Company, nor the numbering (if any) of the other company.
16. Colonel B. J. DAUNT, O.B.E. was the Assistant Director of Medical Services at the beginning of the campaign, but Colonel T. W. DAVIDSON replaced him by 5 May 1945.
17. The Assistant Director of Ordnance Services for the division throughout the campaign was Lieutenant Colonel F. B. H. VILLIERS, O.B.E., R.A.O.C..
18. The Commander Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for the division throughout the campaign was Lieutenant Colonel L. H. ATKINSON, O.B.E., R.E.M.E. He 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 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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1st (Motorised) Bn. Grenadier Guards

2nd (Armoured) Bn. Irish Guards

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Headquarters, 5th (Guards) Armoured Brigade and Signal Section

1st (Armoured) Bn. Coldstream Guards

5th Bn. Coldstream Guards

2nd (Armoured Reconnaissance) Bn. Welsh Guards

1st Bn. Welsh Guards

Divisional Troops

2nd Household Cavalry Regiment

1st Independent Machine Gun Company, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

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55th (Wessex) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

153rd (The Leicestershire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

94th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

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14th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

615th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

148th Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

11th Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

Guards Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. With the war against Germany over, the 21st Army Group transformed into the British Army of the Rhine as an occupying force. There was deemed to be no requirement for three British armoured divisions, so on 12 June 1945 the Guards Armoured Division changed to an infantry division. However, the Division did not remain in existence long, disbanding in 1946.

Guards Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, Guards Division & Employment Platoon

5th Guards Brigade

Headquarters, 5th (Guards) Brigade and Signal Section

1st Bn. Grenadier Guards

2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards

1st Bn. Coldstream Guards

2nd Bn. Irish Guards

6th Guards Brigade

Headquarters, 6th (Guards) Brigade and Signal Section

4th Bn. Grenadier Guards

4th Bn. Coldstream Guards

3rd Bn. Scots Guards

32nd (Guards) Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 32nd (Guards) Brigade and Signal Section

5th Bn. Coldstream Guards

3rd Bn. Irish Guards

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75th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)

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