

4th Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 4th Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) (2)

3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) (3)

44th Royal Tank Regiment (4)

2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps (5)

4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (6)

No. 271 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

4th Armoured Brigade Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

5th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

14th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (7)

4th Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

4th Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

NOTES:

1. At the outbreak of war, this formation was known as the Heavy Armoured Brigade, and was stationed in Egypt. It commenced under command of the Armoured Division (Egypt), which became the 7th Armoured Division, with the brigade adopting a black Jerboa as its formation sign, hence becoming known as the 'Black Rats'. As an independent brigade, it served in Tunisia, Sicily and in Italy, before returning to the United Kingdom in January 1944. Brigadier (Temporary) John Cecil CURRIE, D.S.O.**, M.C., a highly decorated Regular Army officer in the Royal Horse Artillery, had assumed command of the brigade on 16 March 1944 (having commanded it on a previous occasion) and took it to France. The brigade landed in Normandy on 7 June 1944, under the command of I Corps. It came under the command of VIII Corps for the battle of The Oden between 25 June and 2 July and the battle for Caen between 4 and 18 July 1944. Brigadier CURRIE was killed by shell-fire on 26 June 1944, with Brigadier (Acting) Richard Michael Power CARVER, D.S.O.*, assuming command on 27 June. He led the brigade for the rest of the war. It was transferred to I Canadian Corps for the battle for Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August, then returning to VIII Corps. The brigade joined XII Corps on 12 August 1944 in order to take part in the battle of the Nederrijn (Operation Market Garden), which occurred between 17 and 27 September 1944. For most of the rest of the campaign, the brigade remained part of XII Corps, taking part in the battle for the Rhineland between 8 February and 10 March 1945, and the crossing of the River Rhine between 23 March and 1 April 1945. The Standardisation Conference decided to harmonise all British armoured brigades into two types (Type 'A' with an infantry motor battalion within an armoured division, and Type 'B' independently without), all to be equipped with the universal Comet tank in place of the mix of Churchills, Cromwells and Shermans. The C.I.G.S. approved this policy on 18 January 1945, with it being implemented over the following months, although it was not finally authorised until 1 May. In reality, most brigades continued to use Churchills, Cromwells or Shermans until the end of hostilities. The brigade disbanded in Germany in March 1948. Brigadier CARVER later became the Chief of the General Staff from 1971 until 1973, retiring as Field Marshal Sir Richard Michael Power CARVER, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C., Baron CARVER.
2. The Royal Scots Greys was a Regular Army cavalry regiment, dating from 1707. This regiment left the brigade on 29 April 1945, transferring to the 79th Armoured Division. It was not replaced in the brigade until 14 June 1945, when the 1st East Riding Yeomanry joined from 33rd Armoured Brigade.
3. This was a former Territorial Army regiment, based in St. John's Wood, London. Due to the casualties sustained in Normandy, the 3rd County of London Yeomanry absorbed the 4th County of London Yeomanry from 22nd Armoured Brigade. As from 29 July 1944, the combined regiment, known as the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) was on the order of battle for this brigade.
4. This was a Territorial Army regiment, formed in November 1938 by the conversion of the 6th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment. It joined the brigade on 13 July 1943, and remained with this formation throughout the campaign.
5. On 14 May 1945, this battalion left the command of the brigade, transferring to the 61st Infantry Division as divisional troops, in preparation for the division's intended deployment to South East Asia.
6. The artillery regiment came under command of this brigade on 25 June 1944, i.e., after landing in Normandy. The 6th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, replaced it between 28 August to 5 September 1944, while the R.H.A. regiment re-equipped with Sexton self-propelled guns. The 4th Regt., R.H.A. went on to serve with this brigade for the rest of the campaign.

7. The field ambulance left the command of this brigade on 18 February 1945. This was presumably a policy decision, as it appears that all armoured brigades lost their field ambulances at this time.

6th (Guards) Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 6th (Guards) Tank Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

4th (Tank) Bn. Grenadier Guards

4th (Tank) Bn. Coldstream Guards

3rd (Tank) Bn. Scots Guards

6th (Guards) Tank Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 261 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

229th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

11th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (2)

6th (Guards) Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

6th (Guards) Tank Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

6th (Guards) Tank Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

1. Formed on 15 January 1943 by the conversion of the 6th (Guards) Armoured Brigade, the three units in this brigade remained with it throughout the campaign. Brigadier G. L. VERNEY commanded the brigade from its formation, and led it to Normandy where it landed on 18 July 1944. Initially under command of 2nd Army, it supported the 15th (Scottish) Infantry Brigade from 28 July, until 10 August 1944 in the fighting for Mont Pincon. Brigadier VERNEY was promoted to command the 7th Armoured Division on 2 August 1944, with Brigadier (Acting) Sir William de Stopham BARTELLOT, 4th Baronet, assuming command the next day. He was killed on 18 August 1944, with Brigadier (Acting) Walter Douglas Campbell GREENACRE, M.V.O., succeeding him for the rest of the war. The brigade with VIII Corps, supporting the 3rd Infantry Division, between 10 August and 19 October 1944. It was then moved to the command of XII Corps for the campaign in the Netherlands, transferring to XXX Corps on 31 January 1945. On 2 February 1945, it was reorganised and redesignated as the 6th (Guards) Armoured Brigade, with the three units being redesignated as armoured battalions of their respective regiments. It transferred back to the command of VIII Corps, supporting both the 15th (Scottish) and 3rd Infantry Divisions until the end of hostilities. On 17 June 1945, following the surrender of the German Army, the brigade converted into an infantry role.
2. The 11th Light Field Ambulance transferred in to this formation from the disbanded 27th Armoured Brigade on or about 30 July 1944. It served with this brigade until February 1945, when as described in the history of the brigade: *'The Light Field Ambulance was invaluable to hold our less serious sick cases and return them to their units after rest and treatment.However, High Medical Authority decided that a Field Ambulance was a luxury in a Brigade such as ours and with great reluctance we saw them leave us.*

8th Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 8th Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards

24th Lancers (2)

The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers)

12th (Queen's Westminsters) Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps

8th Armoured Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 265 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

502nd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

168th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

8th Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

8th Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

8th Armoured Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

3. This brigade was formed on 1 August 1941 by the conversion and redesignation of the 6th Cavalry Brigade in Palestine. Of the three units under command by June 1944, only the Nottinghamshire Yeomanry was an original unit of the 6th Cavalry Brigade. The 4th/7th Dragoon Guards joined the Brigade on 27 February 1944. The 24th Lancers was a war-raised unit, formed in December 1940 with cadres from the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers and 17th/21st Lancers. The brigade landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944, supporting the 50th Infantry Division, under the command of Brigadier (Acting) Hugh John Bernard CRACROFT. The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry and 4th/7th Dragoon Guards were both equipped with DD Sherman tanks, and the 24th Lancers with deep wading Sherman tanks. The brigade took part in the battle of The Oden between 25 June and 2 July under command of XXX Corps. When Brigadier CRACROFT transferred to the 7th Armoured Division on 3 July 1944, the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 34th Tank Brigade, Colonel (Acting) Anthony Desmond Rex WINGFIELD, D.S.O., assumed command. On 29 July 1944, Brigadier (Temporary) George Erroll PRIOR-PALMER assumed command, in which he continued for the rest of the war. The brigade took part in the battle for Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August 1944, the battle of the Nederrijn between 17 and 27 September 1944, and the battle for the Rhineland between 8 February and 10 March 1945.
4. Because of the high casualty rate suffered by the brigade, the 24th Lancers was disbanded on 29 July 1944. It was replaced in the brigade by:
13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own),
which transferred in from the disbanded 27th Armoured Brigade.

27th Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 27th Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)

The Staffordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal Regiment)

The East Riding Yeomanry

27th Armoured Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 266 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

90th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

11th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

27th Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

27th Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

27th Armoured Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed on 26 November 1940 by the redesignation of the 1st Armoured Reconnaissance Brigade, which had seen service in France. Both the 13th/18th Hussars and the East Riding Yeomanry were original regiments on the formation of the brigade. The Staffordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal Regiment) transferred into this brigade on 14 February 1944 to add a battle experienced unit to the formation (it had fought in Egypt and North Africa). The 13th/18th Hussars and Staffordshire Yeomanry were equipped with DD Sherman tanks, and the East Riding Yeomanry with deep wading Sherman tanks, for the invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944. Brigadier (Acting) George Erroll PRIOR-PALMER commanded this formation from 25 April 1943, until it disbanded. The brigade then took part in the battle for Caen between 4 and 18 July 1944. On 30 July 1944, the brigade was disbanded due to high casualties sustained by British formations in Normandy, and the paucity of replacements. The 13th/18th Hussars went to the 8th Armoured Brigade, the Staffordshire Yeomanry to the 79th Armoured Division, and the East Riding Yeomanry to the 33rd Armoured Brigade. The 11th Light Field Ambulance transferred to the 6th Guards Tank Brigade. Brigadier PRIOR-PALMER transferred to the command of the 8th Armoured Brigade.

31st Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 31st Tank Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

7th Royal Tank Regiment (2)

9th Royal Tank Regiment

141st Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

34th Tank Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 269 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

16th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

21st Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

31st Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

31st Tank Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

31st Tank Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

1. Formed on 15 January 1941, this brigade comprised two units of the Royal Tank Regiment, and one from the Royal Armoured Corps. The 141st Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps was formed by the conversion of the 7th Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Equipped with Churchill tanks, the brigade landed in Normandy on 21 June 1944, however, the 141st Regiment, R.A.C. had already arrived in Normandy equipped with Crocodile (Flame Throwers) Churchill tanks. Initially under the command of the 15th Infantry Division, the brigade came under the command of XII Corps on 26 July 1944. The 141st Regiment, R.A.C. operated effectively as an independent unit, as it was the only Crocodile equipped unit in North-West Europe at this time. Elements of 141st Regiment, R.A.C. fought in Normandy, the assault on Brest, and the capture of the Channel Ports. The brigade took part in the battle for The Odon between 25 June and 2 July, and the breakout towards Falaise. Brigadier (Acting) Gordon Sherwin KNIGHT commanded this brigade from 24 August 1942, until almost the end of hostilities, making him one of the longest serving brigade commanders in the 21st Army Group. He was promoted Temporary Brigadier with effect from 24 February 1943, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) on 29 March 1945, plus a Bar to the D.S.O. on 21 June 1945. On 4 September 1944, the brigade joined the 79th Armoured Division, the 7th and 9th R.T.R. transferring to the 34th Tank Brigade.
2. Although JOSLEN does not show this, the official history of the 34th Tank Brigade states that this regiment transferred to the 34th Tank Brigade on 17 August 1944, arriving with its new formation on 19 August having covered the eighty mile march on tracks from the east flank of the Second Army by a most circuitous route.

33rd Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 33rd Armoured Brigade & Headquarters Squadron

1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry

144th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

148th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (12)

33rd Armoured Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 262 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

380th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

22nd Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

33rd Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

33rd Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

33rd Armoured Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

5. On 17 March 1944, the 33rd Tank Brigade was redesignated as the 33rd Armoured Brigade. The Northamptonshire Yeomanry was a pre-war Territorial Army Yeomanry regiment. The 144th Regiment, R.A.C. was formed by the conversion of the 8th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment, and the 148th Regiment, R.A.C. by the conversion of the 9th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). The brigade, equipped with Churchill tanks landed in Normandy on 13 June 1944. It took part in the battle for Caen under the command of I Corps. Brigadier (Acting) Henry Balfour SCOTT, D.S.O. *, commanded the brigade from 17 March 1944, until the end of the war. On 18 January 1945, the brigade joined the 79th Armoured Division, and was re-equipped with specialist armour.
6. After the breakout from Normandy, the 148th Regiment, R.A.C. was disbanded on 16 August 1944. It was replaced by:
The East Riding Yeomanry,
which transferred in from the disbanded 27th Armoured Brigade.

34th Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 34th Tank Brigade

107th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (King's Own)

147th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

153rd Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (2)

7th Royal Tank Regiment (3)

34th Tank Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 267 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

170th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

23rd Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

34th Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

34th Tank Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed on 1 December 1941 by the conversion of the 226th Independent Infantry Brigade. The 147th Regiment, R.A.C. was formed by the conversion of the 10th Bn. The Hampshire Regiment, and the 153rd Regiment from the 8th Bn. The Essex Regiment. The 107th Regiment, R.A.C. was originally formed as the 151st Regiment, R.A.C. by the conversion of the 10th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). In November 1943, the 107th Regiment, R.A.C., (formed by the conversion of the 5th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment) was disbanded, so the 151st Regiment was redesignated as the 107th Regiment, R.A.C. on 30 December 1943 in order to continue the traditions of the former T.A. 5th Bn., The King's Own. Brigadier (Acting) William Stanhope CLARKE, *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the formation on 3 July 1943. The brigade landed in Normandy on 3 July 1944. It came under the command of I Corps. The brigade took part in the clearing of the Channel ports, and the battle of the River Scheldt. On 2 February 1945, the brigade was redesignated as the 34th Armoured Brigade, remaining under command of Brigadier (Temporary) William Stanhope CLARKE, who was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) on 1 February 1945, and made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) on 1 March 1945.
2. On 24 August 1944, the 153rd Regiment, R.A.C. was disbanded, forming 'C' Squadron of the 107th Regiment. It was replaced by:
9th Royal Tank Regiment,
which transferred in from the 31st Tank Brigade on 4 September 1944.
3. Although JOSLEN does not show this, the official history of the 34th Tank Brigade states that the 7th Royal Tank Regiment transferred to the 34th Tank Brigade on 17 August 1944, arriving with its new formation on 19 August having covered the eighty mile march on tracks from the east flank of the Second Army by a most circuitous route. This regiment was to remain with this formation, although detached to Dunkirk, until February 1945 when it transferred to 31st Armoured Brigade, then serving with 79th Armoured Division.

34th Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 34th Tank Brigade

7th Royal Tank Regiment (2)

9th Royal Tank Regiment (3)

107th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (King's Own)

147th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (4)

34th Armoured Brigade Signals Section, Royal Corps of Signals

No. 267 Forward Delivery Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

170th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

34th Armoured Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

34th Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen

NOTES:

4. The 34th Armoured Brigade was formed on 2 February 1945, by the redesignation of the 34th Tank Brigade.
5. This regiment transferred to the 31st Armoured Brigade, in 79th Armoured Division, with effect from 14 February 1945.
6. This regiment left the brigade on 1 July 1945.
7. This regiment left the brigade on 30 June 1945.

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