

1st Airborne Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Airborne Division

1st Parachute Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 1st Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Parachute Regiment

2nd Bn. The Parachute Regiment

3rd Bn. The Parachute Regiment

4th Parachute Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 4th Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

10th Bn. The Parachute Regiment

11th Bn. The Parachute Regiment

156th Bn. The Parachute Regiment

1st Airlanding Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 1st Airlanding Brigade & Signal Section

7th Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers

1st Bn. The Border Regiment

2nd Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

Divisional Troops

1st Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps

21st Independent Parachute Company (Pathfinders), The Parachute Regiment

Headquarters, 1st Airborne Divisional Royal Artillery

1st Airlanding Light Regiment, Royal Artillery

1st Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Artillery

2nd Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Artillery

1st Airlanding Light Anti-Aircraft Battery (City of London Yeomanry), Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 1st Airborne Divisional Royal Engineers

1st Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers

4th Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers

9th Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers

261st Airborne Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

1st Airborne Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 1st Airborne Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

93rd Airborne Light Company, Royal Army Service Corps

250th Airborne Light Company, Royal Army Service Corps

253rd Airborne Light Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1st Airborne Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

16th Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

133rd Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

181st Airlanding Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

1st Airborne Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

1st Airborne Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

89th Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

NOTES:

1. The divisional headquarters of the U.K.'s first airborne division was formed with effect from 1 November 1941. The divisional commander assumed command of the new formation on 4 November. Elements of the division had fought in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. They returned to the United Kingdom on 10 December 1943. It was not used during the invasion of Europe, but was on standby for many operations: all of which were cancelled. The division, however, became famous for its role in Operation Market Garden, landing at Arnhem on 17 September 1944. It fought in the battle for Arnhem for ten days, before the survivors were evacuated over the River Rhine. The division returned to the United Kingdom having suffered heavy casualties. On 10 May 1945, following the surrender of the German Army in Europe, the division was sent to Norway to administer the surrender of the German Army in that country. On 21 May 1945, the divisional headquarters was redesignated as Headquarters Norway Command. The division returned to the United Kingdom on 24 August 1945, and was disbanded shortly afterwards.
2. This brigade was the original parachute brigade which had been formed in the United Kingdom on 5 September 1941. The brigade served in North Africa as an independent formation between 12 November 1942 and 6 May 1943. The rest of the division had joined this brigade in North Africa on 7 May 1943. The brigade landed in Sicily on 13 July 1943 and fought there until 16 July. The brigade returned to the United Kingdom on 9 December 1943 in preparation for the forthcoming invasion of France. The brigade landed at Arnhem on 17 September 1944 with the 2nd Battalion reaching the bridge. During the battle, the brigade suffered very heavy casualties and for a time was amalgamated with the 4th Parachute Brigade. It was reconstituted in November 1944, and was used to assist in liberating Denmark on 8 May 1945 at the end of the war in Europe. The brigade returned to the United Kingdom on 30 July 1945.
3. Formed in the Middle East on 1 December 1942, this brigade joined the 1st Airborne Division on 10 June 1943 in North Africa. The brigade landed at Arnhem on 18 September 1944 for its first and only battle. As a result of the casualties sustained at Arnhem, this brigade was disbanded on 9 December 1944. All the constituent battalions were disbanded.
4. On 10 December 1941, the headquarters of the 31st Independent Infantry Brigade was redesignated as the 1st Airlanding Brigade Group in the United Kingdom. It moved to North Africa on 26 May 1943 and ceased to operate as a Brigade Group. Elements of the brigade landed on Sicily on 9 July 1943 and fought in that campaign. It returned to North Africa on 14 July 1943, and then landed in Italy on 12 September 1943. The brigade returned to the United Kingdom on 10 December 1943. Elements of the brigade landed at Arnhem on 17 September 1944, with the rest landing the following day. The survivors were transported back to the United Kingdom after evacuation from Arnhem, where the brigade was rebuilt. With the surrender of German Armed Forces on 9 May 1945, the brigade was sent Norway to assist in the liberation of that country. It served in Norway from 11 May until 25 August 1945, only to return to the United Kingdom to be disbanded.

SOURCES:

Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945

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