

6th Airborne Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Division

3rd Parachute Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 3rd Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

8th (Midland Counties) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

9th (Home Counties) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

5th Parachute Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 5th Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

7th (Light Infantry) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

12th (Yorkshire) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

13th (Lancashire) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

6th Airlanding Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 6th Airlanding Brigade & Signal Section

12th Bn. The Devonshire Regiment

2nd Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

1st Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles

Divisional Troops

6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁵⁾

22nd Independent Parachute Company, The Parachute Regiment ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Artillery

53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Light Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

3rd Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

4th Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

2nd Airlanding Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

2nd Forward Observation Unit (Airborne), Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Engineers
3rd Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers
591st Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers
249th (East Anglia) Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)
286th Airborne Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (9)

6th Airborne Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Army Service Corps
716th Airborne Light Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps
63rd Airborne Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps
398th Airborne Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
224th Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
225th Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
195th Airlanding Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

6th Airborne Divisional Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

6th Airborne Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

6th Airborne Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

317th Field Security Section (Airborne), Intelligence Corps

NOTES:

1. The divisional headquarters was formed in the United Kingdom with effect from 3 May 1943, with the divisional commander assuming command on 7 May 1943. The division was brought up to full war establishment on 23 September 1943. It landed in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944 being withdrawn from the theatre of operations on the 3rd September 1944 to return to the United Kingdom. The German advance through the Ardennes caused the return of the division to North West Europe on 24 December 1944. It remained there until 24 February 1945, when it returned to the U.K. to prepare for the crossing of the River Rhine. On 24 March 1945, the division once again landed in Europe from the air, in the operation to clear the Rhine crossings. On 19 May 1945, the division arrived back in the U.K., following the armistice on 8 May 1945. It was then designated as the U.K. Strategic Reserve, being deployed to Palestine in late 1945.
2. This brigade comprised three war raised battalions. The 8th Bn. Parachute Regiment had been raised from the 13th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and the 9th Bn. from the 10th Bn. The Essex Regiment. The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion had been raised from a cadre of 100 personnel in the United Kingdom, who then returned to Canada to form the battalion.
3. The brigade had been formed 1 June 1943 by the re-designation of the headquarters of the 72nd Independent Infantry Brigade. The 7th Bn. Parachute Regiment had been raised from the 10th Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry, the 12th Bn. from the 10th Bn. The Green Howards, and the 13th Bn. from the 2nd/4th Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment.
4. The Airlanding Brigade was formed on 6 May 1943. Two battalions transferred across from the 1st Airlanding Brigade on 16 May, namely the 2nd Oxs and Bucks and the 1st Royal Ulster Rifles. The 12th Bn. The Devonshire Regiment joined the Brigade on 30 July 1943, transferring from 214th Infantry Brigade.
5. Originally formed in 1942 as a light tank squadron, this unit was upgraded to a full reconnaissance regiment establishment and assumed the above title on 14 January 1944. It had formed part of the 1st Airborne Division until joining this division on 26 May 1943.
6. This company was the designated pathfinders unit for the division.
7. The regiment had commenced the war as the anti-tank regiment of the 48th Infantry Division, having been originally being converted to an artillery regiment in 1922. It joined the 42nd Infantry Division in October 1941, becoming part of the support group when that division was converted to an armoured role. It transferred to this division on 27 October 1943, converting from an anti-tank to a light regiment on 3 November 1943. It was equipped with the 75mm pack howitzers.
8. These two batteries came under command of the division on 9 July 1943. On 2 February 1945, the 6th Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery was formed, and the three batteries were amalgamated to form the:
2nd Airlanding Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.
9. The Headquarters, Royal Engineers for this division was formed by the conversion of the H.Q. R.E. of the 54th Division. Two field companies transferred across from the 54th Division to the 6th Airborne Division. The 249th (East Anglia) Field Company became an Airborne Field Company, with the 286th Field Company becoming the 286th Airborne Field Park Company.

6th Airborne Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Division

2nd Parachute Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

4th (Wessex) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

5th (Scottish) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

6th (Royal Welch) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

3rd Parachute Brigade

Headquarters, 3rd Parachute Brigade & Signal Section

3rd Bn. The Parachute Regiment

8th (Midland Counties) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

9th (Home Counties) Bn. The Parachute Regiment

6th Airlanding Brigade

Headquarters, 6th Airlanding Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

1st Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles

1st Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

Divisional Troops

6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

21st Independent Parachute Company, The Parachute Regiment

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Artillery

53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Light Regiment, Royal Artillery

2nd Airlanding Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

2nd Airlanding Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

2nd Forward Observation Unit (Airborne), Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Engineers

1st Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers

9th Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers

249th (East Anglia) Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers

286th Airborne Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

6th Airborne Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

716th Airborne Light Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps

63rd Airborne Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps

398th Airborne Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 6th Airborne Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

127th Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

224th Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

195th Airlanding Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

6th Airborne Divisional Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

6th Airborne Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

6th Airborne Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

317th Field Security Section (Airborne), Intelligence Corps

NOTES:

1. Following the end of the war in both Europe and South East Asia, the 6th Airborne Division was allocated to the Imperial Strategic Reserve. It was sent to Palestine between 15 September and 6 November 1945.
2. This brigade joined the division from its role as an Independent Parachute Brigade on 29 August 1945. Its three battalions were all war raised battalions of the Parachute Regiment. The 4th Bn. had been formed on 1 January 1942 from the first batch of parachute volunteers. It was later entitled (Wessex) as each of the battalions took on a regional title (except for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions). The 5th Bn. was formed by the conversion of the 7th Bn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the 6th Bn. by the conversion of the 10th Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers. The brigade had served in the Mediterranean theatre during the war, including Southern France, Italy and Greece. It arrived back in the U.K. on 25 June 1945 and replaced the 5th Parachute Brigade, which was sent to South East Asia.

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