

1st Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Division

2nd Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)

9th Queen's Royal Lancers

10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)

9th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry ⁽³⁾

7th Motor Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 7th Motor Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The King's Royal Rifles Corps

2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

7th Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) (London Rifle Brigade)

Divisional Troops

12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

11th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (Honourable Artillery Company) ⁽⁷⁾

76th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

42nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

7th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. This was a pre-war Regular Army formation, formed in 1938 as 'The Mobile Division'. The divisional headquarters were based at Priory Lodge near Andover, within Southern Command. This was the only armoured division in the British Army at the outbreak of the Second World War. It remained in the U.K. training and equipping until leaving for France on 14 May 1940. Initial elements of the 1st Armoured Division began landing at Le Havre on 15 May, being sent to a location south of Rouen to concentrate and prepare for action. The division was evacuated through Cherbourg on 16 June 1940. After a period in the U.K. spent rest and refitting, the division was sent to Egypt in 1942. The division served under 8th Army as it advanced into Tunisia. The division entered Tunisia under the command of X Corps, 8th Army on 13 March 1943. The divisional commander during this period was Major General R. BRIGGS. Between 21 and 30 March, it took part in the battle of Tebaga Gap. Then, on 6 and 7 April, it participated in the battle of Wadi Akarit. On 15 April 1943, it transferred to IX Corps in 1st Army and then took part in the battle for El Kourzia between 22 and 26 April. On 1 May 1943, it moved to 1st Army Reserve, rejoining IX Corps on 8 May (after the final breakthrough had been achieved) until the surrender of the German forces on 13 May 1943. Following the end of the Tunisian campaign, the division left IX Corps on 22 May 1943 to transfer back to 8th Army command, and it moved to Libya for a period before returning to Tunisia. It did not take part in the invasion of Sicily or the early stages of the Italian campaign. It moved to Italy on 27 May 1944 prior to the assault on the Gothic Line.
2. This brigade had been formed at the outbreak of war, joining this division its formation. It served with the division until it was disbanded in September 1944.
3. The regiment was redesignated on 19 December 1942 from its former title of the Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own). The unit commenced the war as a horsed cavalry regiment in the Territorial Army. It joined the 1st Cavalry Division and served in Palestine. The regiment joined this brigade on 24 August 1942 as the motorised infantry battalion. It is not known whether the Yorkshire Dragoons title was officially retained in any way, but it appears to have been in use unofficially.
4. This brigade was formed on 9 February 1942 by the redesignation of the 7th Support Group. It originally comprised the 2nd Bn. The K.R.R.C. and the 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade. It joined this division on 23 September 1942.
5. This unit was the divisional reconnaissance regiment, equipped with armoured cars.
6. This was a pre-war Regular Army regiment. At the outbreak of war, it was serving in Egypt. It joined the 7th Support Group in April 1941, serving with the 7th Armoured Division. The regiment joined this formation on 21 September 1942. It left the Division on 25 October 1943 to transfer to the United Kingdom, where it served under the 2nd Army.
7. This regiment joined the division on 24 August 1942. It was a Territorial Army unit which was based at Armoury House, Finsbury Barracks, London. It had joined the 1st Support Group in August 1940 after the division returned from France. The regiment had served with this support group until coming under command of divisional troops, apart from one month with the 8th Armoured Division.
8. This regiment joined the division on 22 September 1942. It had been formed as the 101st Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, being redesignated as the 76th Anti-Tank Regiment in November 1940. It transferred to divisional troops when the support group was disbanded.

9. This regiment joined the division on 26 September 1942. It had been formed in November 1939 with batteries from the 17th and 36th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments. The new regiment left the United Kingdom in November 1941 bound for the Middle East. It served with Middle East Forces until joining this formation.

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