

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)

1st Bn. The King's Royal Rifles Corps

18th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) ⁽³⁾

9th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry ⁽³⁾ & ⁽⁴⁾

14th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) ⁽³⁾

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Divisional Troops

12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

11th Regiment (Honourable Artillery Company), Royal Horse Artillery ⁽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 ⁽¹⁰⁾

1st Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers ⁽¹¹⁾

27th Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (12)

No. xx Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. xx Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. xx Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. xx General Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

1st Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

226th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

69th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

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

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

2nd Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

18th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The division had fought throughout the campaign in Tunisia. It remained in North Africa during the invasion of Sicily. The division landed in Italy in May 1944, with the divisional headquarters being flown over to arrive in Italy on 27 May 1944. The division fought at Coriano during the battle for the Gothic Line. The campaign in Italy had been an infantry campaign, with the topography and weather mitigating against the deployment of armoured formations. Infantry casualties had been heavy in the battles for the Gothic Line and, there were few reinforcements for existing units from outside Italy. The decision was taken therefore to disband the division in September 1944. The division ceased to be operational on 28 October 1944, with the divisional headquarters being formally disbanded on 11 January 1945.
2. When the division disbanded, the brigade became an independent armoured brigade and continued to serve in Italy. It later rejoined the reconstituted formation in Palestine in 1947.
3. The brigade left division between February and August 1944 to come under command of the 1st Infantry Division at Anzio. During this period, the division had no infantry brigade allocated to its command. The units left the brigade on 4 October 1944 to come under command of: Cadre 168th Infantry Brigade.
The three battalions in the brigade were all reduced to cadre because of the casualties suffered and the lack of reinforcements in the Mediterranean Theatre. The brigade continued under the command of II Polish Corps with new units until it was disbanded on 1 January 1945.
4. This battalion was formerly:
The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own)
The regiment was redesignated on 19 December 1942. It is not known whether the Yorkshire Dragoons title was officially retained in any way, but it appears to have been in use unofficially.
5. This brigade came under command of the division for a period from July to September 1944:

43rd Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 43rd Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles

2nd Bn. 8th Gurkha Rifles

2nd Bn. 10th Gurkha Rifles

43rd Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

3rd (Indian) Light Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps

43rd Brigade Ordnance Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

43rd Light Aid Detachment, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

28th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

6. The divisional reconnaissance regiment left the division on 6 April 1944, transferring to Army Troops. It was replaced in the division by:
4th Queen's Own Hussars
This regiment transferred from Army Troops on 23 May 1944. When the division disbanded, this regiment re-equipped as an armoured regiment, joining the 9th Armoured Brigade.
7. When the division disbanded, these regiments came under command of 8th Army.
8. On 1 April 1944, the regiment was redesignated as:
60th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
In September 1944 when division disbanded, the regiment was placed in suspended animation until April 1945 when it ceased to exist.
9. When the division was broken up in October 1944, the regiment was reduced to cadre and transferred to 168th Brigade. It was disbanded on 1 January 1945.
10. This unit was redesignated on 21 August 1944 to become:
627th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
11. This unit was redesignated on 26 August 1944 to become:
631st Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers
12. The designations of the Royal Army Service Corps companies in this Division are not yet known.

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

4th Royal Tank Regiment

6th Royal Tank Regiment

61st (Lorried) Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 61st (Lorried) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Irish Guards

1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

1st Bn. The Border Regiment

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

83rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

8th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

55th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

56th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

143rd Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

No. 4 Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. 477 Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. 242 Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

14th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

70th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

86th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

176th Mobile Dental Unit, Army Dental Corps

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

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

61st Armoured Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

662nd Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The 1st Armoured Division was reconstituted in Austria in November 1945, by the redesignation of the 6th Armoured Division. The Rhino Badge of the 1st Armoured Division was used as the divisional sign. Major General Charles Falkland LOEWEN, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, commanded the formation during its transition from the 6th to the 1st Armoured Division, and up to the time when it was disbanded. The 1st Armoured Division moved to Palestine in February 1947, and this is the Order of Battle for August 1947. The establishment of the Division changed after the end of hostilities, with units such as the Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, Motor Battalion, and the Royal Artillery element being removed or much altered. The Division was disbanded circa September 1947 in Palestine.
2. The 2nd Armoured Brigade was part of the former 1st Armoured Division and had operated as an independent armoured brigade since September 1944. It returned to this Division in Palestine, with four armoured regiments under command, although the 9th Lancers left in August 1947 to move to Egypt.
3. The 61st (Lorried) Infantry Brigade was a continuation of the infantry brigade that served with the 6th Armoured Division in Italy, albeit with a complete change of constituent units.
4. It appears that there was only one artillery regiment under command of the Division in Palestine. This Regiment was in fact the redesignated 51st (Devon) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment that had served with the 6th Armoured Division in Italy. After the end of hostilities, it was placed on the establishment of the Regular Army and retitled.

SOURCES:

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