

## 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division & Employment Platoon

### 26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

16<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> The Queen's Royal Lancers

17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers

2<sup>nd</sup> Lothians and Border Horse

10<sup>th</sup> (Tower Hamlet's Rifles) Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) <sup>(3)</sup>

### 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) & Signal Section

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Welsh Guards <sup>(5)</sup>

<sup>(6)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

1<sup>st</sup> Derbyshire Yeomanry <sup>(8)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

12<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (Honourable Artillery Company)

152<sup>nd</sup> (The Ayrshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

72<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

51<sup>st</sup> (Devon) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

5<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers <sup>(10)</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

*626<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers* <sup>(11)</sup>

144<sup>th</sup> Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

8<sup>th</sup> Bridging Troop, Royal Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

165<sup>th</sup> Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

3<sup>rd</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

49<sup>th</sup> Malaria Control Unit, Royal Army Medical Corps

156<sup>th</sup> Mobile Dental Unit, Army Dental Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

## NOTES:

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division formed in the United Kingdom on 12 September 1940, under the command of Major General J. T. CROCKER. On formation, the division complied with Basic Organisation III, with two armoured brigades (the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) a support group and an armoured car regiment. In April 1942, it changed to Basic Organisation V, which reduced the establishment to one armoured brigade, so the 20<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade left the division. The support group disbanded in June 1942, the artillery and engineer units becoming divisional troops. The division came under command of V Corps on 15 July 1942, in preparation for the invasion of North Africa. It left the U.K. on 8 November 1942 to sail for North Africa under command of Major General (Temporary) Charles Fredric KEIGHTLEY, *p.s.c.*. The division fought throughout the Tunisian campaign and, following the surrender of the German forces in North Africa, the division returned to V Corps on 26 May 1943, remaining in Tunisia until transferring to Italy on 18 March 1944. On 19 December 1943, KEIGHTLEY exchanged commands with Major General V. EVELEGH, who transferred in from command of the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The division arrived in Italy on 18 March 1944 from North Africa. It came under the command of XIII Corps and the first battle for the division was in the Liri Valley between 18 May and 30 May 1944. Next, it took part in the battle for Arezzo between 4 and 17 July 1944, and then the advance to Florence from 17 July 1944 to 10 August 1944 under the command of XIII Corps. On 24 July 1944, Major General (Temporary) Gerald Walter Robert TEMPLER, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.* succeeded EVELEGH in command of this division. On 5 August, TEMPLER was wounded, and it was not until 21 August 1944 when Major General Horatius MURRAY arrived to assume command of the division. Between 25 August and 22 September 1944, the division was involved in the battle for the Gothic Line. The weather intervened and the division rested during the winter. On 13 April 1945, the final battle commenced to clear Northern Italy, with the division helping to force the Argenta Gap under the command of V Corps and XIII Corps. The German Army in Italy surrendered on 5 May 1945. The division entered Austria on 8 May 1945, but it moved back to northern Italy in September of that year. It was redesignated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division in November 1945, even adopting the Rhino Badge as the divisional sign. The 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division moved to Palestine in February 1947, where it disbanded shortly afterwards.
2. The 26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was formed on 30 May 1940 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Motor Machine Gun Brigade. It was redesignated as the 26<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade on 12 October 1940. Two of its constituent regiments were Regular Army cavalry units. At the outbreak of the war, the 16<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Queens Royal Lancers were a horsed regiment in India, and the 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers were based at Colchester under command of the East Anglia District. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lothians and Border Horse were a second line Territorial Army regiment, formed at Ladybank in Fife by the duplication of its parent unit. Brigadier (Temporary) Charles Anderson Lane DUNPHIE, C.B.E., *p.s.c.* commanded the brigade throughout the Tunisian campaign.
3. This infantry unit was the motorised battalion for the armoured brigade. It left this brigade in May 1944 to come under command of 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade, which then came under command 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.

4. The first infantry brigade to join the division was the 38<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Infantry Brigade. On arrival in North Africa, there were problems with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) serving in the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in relation to the seniority of commanders. Therefore, on 16 February 1943, the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade left this division to transfer to the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. This brigade replaced the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 24 March 1943, on transferring in from the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Brigadier (Temporary) Felix Alexander Vincent COPLAND-GRIFFITHS, D.S.O., M.C. commanded this brigade from 14 July 1940 until 13 April 1943, when he was succeeded by Brigadier (Temporary) Stewart Arthur FORSTER, C. Gds. FORSTER handed over command to Brigadier P. S. GREGSON-ELLIS on 24 July 1943.
5. On 3 March 1945, this battalion left the brigade. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Welch Regiment  
This battalion transferred in from Army Troops on 9 March 1945. This battalion transferred to the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade on 29 June 1945, leaving this brigade with only two battalions.
6. Due the nature of the fighting in Italy, it was decided to add an additional infantry brigade to each armoured division, therefore, a new brigade was formed on 21 May 1944, which joined division on 29 May:

### 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

7<sup>th</sup> (The London Rifle Brigade) Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

10<sup>th</sup> (Tower Hamlet's Rifles) Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) (7)

14<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade\_Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

The brigade was known as 'M' Brigade until 29 May when it became the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade. Brigadier (Acting) Adrian Clements GORE, D.S.O. commanded the brigade throughout its service with this division. On 20 March 1945, this brigade was redesignated as the 61<sup>st</sup> Lorried Infantry Brigade.

7. This battalion left the brigade on 20 March 1945. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps  
This battalion transferred from 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade, joining the brigade on 8 March 1945. On 22 July 1945, the battalion left the brigade, together with the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Rifle Brigade. The two battalions were replaced on 19 July 1945 by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Queens' Own Cameron Highlanders  
Both these battalions transferred from the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Division.

8. Equipped with armoured cars, this regiment was the divisional reconnaissance unit.
9. The regiment left the division on 3 November 1944, passing to command of 8<sup>th</sup> Army. It remained in Italy until the end of the war.
10. On 7 March 1944, this squadron was redesignated to become:  
625<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
11. This squadron joined the Division on 26 July 1944 as the permanent additional R.E. unit. For two months from the date that the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade joined, the 627<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron had been attached from the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division.
12. The designations of the Royal Army Service Corps companies in this Division are not yet known.

SOURCES:

Please contact the Webmaster, or see: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/RobPALMER>