

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)

3rd Armoured Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 3rd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Royal Tank Regiment

3rd Royal Tank Regiment ⁽⁴⁾

5th Royal Tank Regiment

1st Support Group ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 1st Support Group & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifles Corps

1st Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

(H.Q., A/E & B/O Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

(H.Q., L/N & H/I Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

Divisional Troops

1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Field Park Troop, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, (1st County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)), Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. A pre-war Regular Army formation formerly known 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. The division 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. Major General Roger EVANS, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.* commanded the division. The 2nd Armoured Brigade of the division landed at Cherbourg on 20 May. The French launched an offensive on 27 May on the Somme front. Elements of the 1st Armoured Division participated in this action, however, the French attack was blunted and then pushed back by German forces. The 51st Infantry Division completed its move from the Saar Front to come under command of the French IX Corps on 28 May. It was intended for the British 1st Armoured Division to join the 51st Infantry Division to form a British corps in due course. The British forces in France were now in two groups, with the 1st Armoured Division and 51st Infantry Division under French command, with the Beauman Division and other Lines of Communication troops under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Henry KARSLAKE. 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, transferring to 1st Army for the final battles in the Tunisian campaign. Later, it served in Italy where it disbanded in late 1944.
2. A pre-war regular brigade, which was based at Tidworth and entitled the 2nd Light Armoured Brigade. All three regiments were based at Tidworth as well. Brigadier (Temporary) Frank THORNTON, *p.s.c.* commanded the brigade until 22 January 1940, when Brigadier (Acting) Richard Loudon McCREERY, M.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.* assumed command. McCREERY remained in command throughout the deployment in France,¹ and through until 11 December 1941. It was retitled as the 2nd Armoured Brigade on 14 April 1940. This brigade remained with the division until the formation disbanded in Italy in 1944. This brigade continued to serve as an independent brigade in Italy.
3. A pre-war Regular Army brigade, with its headquarters based at Perham Down and entitled the 1st Heavy Armoured Brigade. The 5th R.T.R. was co-located with the brigade headquarters, with the 2nd R.T.R. based at Farnborough and the 3rd R.T.R. based at Warminster. Brigadier (Temporary) Vyvyan Vavasour POPE, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.* commanded the brigade until 20 April 1940, when Brigadier (Acting) John Tredinnick CROCKER, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.* assumed command. On 14 April 1940, the brigade was redesignated as the 3rd Armoured Brigade. The brigade deployed to France with the division, minus the 3rd R.T.R. which had been deployed already to Calais.
4. The 3rd R.T.R. was detached from the brigade and sent to Calais in May 1940, where it was captured when Calais fell on 26 May 1940.

5. The Support Group was based at Tidworth in Wiltshire. Both of the infantry battalions were based at Tidworth. Both Horse Artillery Regiments were sent to France in October 1939 as Army Troops for the B.E.F.. The two infantry battalions transferred to the newly formed 30th Infantry Brigade in April 1940 and were deployed to Calais on 22 May 1940. They fought at Calais until the garrison surrendered on 26 May 1940. When the Support Group was deployed to France in 1940, it only consisted of only the recently formed:
101st Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

SOURCES:

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