

1st Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Division

2nd Armoured Brigade Group ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Armoured Brigade Group & Signal Section

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)

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

9th Queen's Royal Lancers

1st Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) ⁽³⁾

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

88th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

44th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

No. 3 Troop, 1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

2nd Armoured Brigade 'A' Company, Royal Army Service Corps

2nd Armoured Brigade 'B' Company, Royal Army Service Corps

1st Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

201st Guards Brigade Group ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 201st Guards Brigade Group & Signal Section

3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards

2nd Bn. Scots Guards

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

201st Guards Brigade Group (903) Company, Royal Army Service Corps

5th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

201st Guards Brigade Group Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

201st Guards Brigade Group Provost Section, Corps of Military Police

201st Guards Brigade Group Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

Divisional Troops (5)

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

7th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals.

NOTES:

1. This formation was the United Kingdom's only pre-war armoured division located in the U.K.; the other formation being The Armoured Division (Egypt), later to become the 7th Armoured Division. The 1st Armoured Division was formed in the U.K. by the redesignation of the Mobile Division. The division was deployed to France, but only after the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk. It served in France between 14 May and 16 June 1940. In practice, the division did not function as a complete formation whilst deployed in France. On being evacuated from France, the division reformed in the U.K.. After equipping and training, it sailed from the U.K. on 27 August 1941, and because it had to sail via Cape Town and Durban in South Africa, it did not arrive until 13 November. The division then required a period to acclimatize and work up to operational effectiveness. It came under the command of 8th Army on 13 December, but it did not move forward to join XIII Corps until 2 January 1942. During this period, the 22nd Armoured Brigade was detached from the division to come under command of the 7th Armoured Division for the start of Operation Crusader. The division remained with XIII Corps until 23 April 1942, when the division transferred to XXX Corps. The first action this division participated in the Western Desert was the Battle for Gazala. This is the Order of Battle of this division on the opening of this battle on 26 May 1942. The General Officer Commanding this division was Major General Herbert LUMSDEN.
2. This brigade was a pre-war formation, which was designated as a Light Armoured Brigade. It was under command of this division. It served in France between 20 May and 16 June 1940 under command of Brigadier Richard McCREERY. The brigade left the U.K. on 5 October 1941 to sail for the Middle East via the Cape. It arrived on 29 November 1941, and it commenced acclimatisation training in Egypt. On arrival in Egypt, on 6 March 1942, it was reorganised as a Brigade Group. It was in this organisation that the brigade first saw action on 26 May with the Battle for Gazala. The brigade sustained heavy casualties in the battle and subsequent retreat, so all three original regiments were posted away by 4 July 1942. They were replaced on 7 July 1942 by three other armoured regiments, namely:
3rd/5th Royal Tank Regiment,
6th Royal Tank Regiment,
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters).
These regiments fought under command of this brigade during the First Battle of El Alamein, also known as the Defence of the Alamein Line. The three original regiments had returned to the command of this brigade by the Second Battle of El Alamein.
3. This was the motorised infantry battalion under command of this brigade. It sustained heavy casualties during the battle and retreat, so left command of this brigade on 19 June 1942. It was replaced on 7 July 1942 by the:
1st Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps
This battalion was in turn replaced on 1 August 1942 by the:
9th Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps
Such was the chaos during this period, this battalion was under command for seven days, being replaced as the motorised infantry battalion on 24 August 1942 by:
The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own)

4. The Guard Brigade was formed on 11 February 1941 in Egypt as the 22nd Infantry Brigade. It was redesignated as the 22nd Guards Brigade on 20 March 1941. The brigade acted as an independent brigade to be attached to various formations as operational needs dictated. The brigade was under command of XXX Corps for the opening of Operation Crusader on 18 November 1941. On 5 January 1942, with the withdrawal of the Axis forces back to El Agheila, the brigade came under command of the 1st Armoured Division. It was under command of this division for the opening of the Battle of Gazala, with Brigadier J. C. O. MARRIOTT in command. He was replaced by Brigadier G. F. JOHNSON on 17 June 1942. The brigade moved into Tobruk and came under command of the 2nd South African Infantry Division on 15 June 1942, and it was captured with the fall of Tobruk on 20 June 1942. The brigade was reformed in Egypt on 14 August 1942.
5. As the division operated with two brigade groups, the units under divisional command were limited.
6. The 12th Lancers first came under command of this division on 1 November 1940 in the role of divisional reconnaissance unit. It was equipped with armoured cars. The regiment travelled with the division to Egypt, and it served with the formation until 12 May 1942. Just prior to the Battle for Gazala which commenced on 26 May, this regiment left this division. It was replaced by the:
The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons).

1st Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

2nd Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)
10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)
9th Queen's Royal Lancers

The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own) ⁽³⁾
'X' Company, 1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

7th Motor Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 7th Motor Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps
2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)
7th Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)

Divisional Troops ⁽⁵⁾

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

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
11th Regiment (Honourable Artillery Company), Royal Horse Artillery
78th (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾
76th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
42nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

1st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
7th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
1st Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers
572nd Field Company, Royal Engineers ⁽⁷⁾

1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals.

1st Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
15th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

NOTES:

1. Following the withdrawal to the El Alamein line, and the two successful battle to defend the line (First Battle of El Alamein and Battle of Alam Halfa), the division was refitted for the forthcoming Second Battle of El Alamein. This is the Order of Battle at the commencement of that battle on 23 October 1942.
2. The three original regiments returned to the command of this brigade rested and refitted in time for the Second Battle of El Alamein.
3. This regiment was in fact the brigade's motorised infantry battalion.
4. This brigade had been formed on 9 February 1942 by the redesignation of the Headquarters, 7th Support Group. This was the support group allocated to the 7th Armoured Division. It had been formed as a Brigade Group, but on 24 August 1942, it reorganised as a standard brigade formation. The brigade continued to serve with this division throughout the rest of the campaign, and into Italy until the brigade was disbanded on 1 January 1945.
5. When the division reorganised in August 1942, it reverted to a more standard armoured division establishment, that is one with divisional troops.
6. This regiment was the divisional reconnaissance unit, and it was equipped with armoured cars and scout cars.
7. These regiments were attached from Corps Troops for the commencement of the Second Battle of El Alamein.

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