

1st (British) Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Division

4th Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 4th Armoured Brigade
204th Signal Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals

14th/20th King's Hussars ⁽³⁾

1st Bn. The Royal Scots ⁽⁴⁾
3rd Bn. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers ⁽⁴⁾

2nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾
46th Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

23 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾

7th Armoured Brigade ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 7th Armoured Brigade
207th Signal Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards ⁽⁸⁾
The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars ⁽⁹⁾

1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regiment ⁽⁴⁾

40th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾
10th Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

21st Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾

Divisional Troops

16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers ⁽¹¹⁾

4th Regiment, Army Air Corps ⁽¹²⁾

26th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)

32nd Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (14)

39th Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (15)

12th Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (16)

32nd Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers (6)

1st (British) Armoured Signals Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. The 1st Armoured Division was formed in 1938, and served in the Second World War until September 1944, when it was disbanded in Italy. After the cessation of hostilities, the 6th Armoured Division was redesignated as the 1st Armoured Division, and it served in the Middle East until disbanded in 1946. In 1960, the 1st Infantry Division, then based in Germany, became the 1st Division, and in 1976, it was retitled as the 1st Armoured Division. It was part of I (U.K.) Corps, and the headquarters was located in Shiel Barracks, Verden, Germany. It comprised two brigades, the 7th Armoured Brigade and 22nd Armoured Brigade. In the 1980's, the 12th Armoured Brigade came under command in addition to the other two brigades. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the 7th Armoured Brigade was deployed to Saudi Arabia. As the scale of the forthcoming Coalition offensive grew, the 4th Armoured Brigade was deployed to Saudi Arabia, and the headquarters, 1st (British) Armoured Division was deployed to assume command of the two brigades. When the Coalition forces invaded Iraq, the 1st (U.K.) Armoured Division engaged four Iraqi infantry divisions, which were destroyed or isolated, and it overran the Iraqi 52nd Armoured Division. The division travelled about two-hundred and seventeen miles in ninety-seven hours, destroyed about three-hundred Iraqi tanks and captured about seven-thousand Iraqi soldiers. In 1993, the 4th Armoured Division was disbanded, and the 1st (U.K.) Armoured Division was moved to Wentworth Barracks, Herford in Germany. Elements of the division were deployed to Bosnia in 1996 – 1997, and again in 1998 – 1999. With the decision to invade Iraq, the divisional headquarters was again deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It took under command the 7th Armoured Brigade, 16th Air Assault Brigade, and 3rd Commando Brigade. The division secured southern Iraq, including the city of Basra during the 2003 offensive.
2. The armoured brigade was based in Germany, and the headquarters and signals squadron numbered about two-hundred personnel.
3. This armoured regiment was equipped with forty-three Challenger Main Battle Tanks (M.B.T.), and comprised six-hundred and seventy men.
4. These units were equipped as armoured infantry battalions, with forty-five Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicles (I.F.V.), and comprised about eight-hundred and fifty men. Both battalions had some reinforcements from other units to bring them up to strength.
5. The field regiment had a strength of about eight-hundred and fifty personnel, and was equipped with the M109, 155 mm self-propelled howitzer. The air-defence battery had one-hundred and seventy men, and was equipped with thirty-six Javelin missiles.
6. The engineer regiments had a strength of six-hundred men, and were equipped with a variety of engineering vehicles and machinery, including armoured vehicles.
7. This brigade was the first to be deployed to Saudi Arabia, becoming operational in mid-November 1990. The brigade had begun deploying in that October, with most of the heavy equipment being shipped to Saudi Arabia direct from Germany. Most of the personnel were flown from Germany to Saudi Arabia. The brigade headquarters and signal squadron numbered about two-hundred personnel.
8. This armoured regiment had forty-three Challenger M.B.Ts., and had six-hundred and seventy personnel on strength.
9. This armoured regiment had fifty-seven Challenger M.B.Ts., and had six-hundred and fifty personnel on strength.
10. The field regiment had twenty-four M109 self-propelled artillery howitzers, with eight-hundred and eighty personnel. The air-defence battery had one-hundred personnel, with thirty-six Javelin missiles.

11. This was the armoured reconnaissance regiment for the division, and had six-hundred and eighty personnel with forty Scimitar, twenty-four Scorpion and sixteen Striker light armoured vehicles.
12. The air component of the division had four-hundred and sixty personnel, with thirteen Lynx helicopters fitted with TOW anti-tank missiles, and eighteen general purpose Gazelle helicopters. Heavy lift helicopters were provided by the Support Helicopter Force (R.A.F.).
13. This field regiment had only twelve M109 self-propelled howitzers, and four-hundred and twenty personnel.
14. This heavy regiment had seven-hundred and eighty men, and was equipped with sixteen M109, and twelve M110 howitzers.
15. This heavy regiment was equipped with twelve Multiple Launch Rocket System vehicles, and had six-hundred and fifty personnel.
16. The air-defence regiment had six-hundred personnel, and operated up to twenty-four armoured mobile Rapier launchers.

SOURCES:

[Various Authors](#)

[Military Technology Vol XV Issue 7 1991 p.42 \(Germany, Monsh Publishing Group, 1991\)](#)