



# ALLIED PLAYER BRIEFING

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## Introduction

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This short briefing is intended to provide the essential background material on the start states of your forces.

The handbook is therefore mostly composed of orders of battle (orbats) and logistic information.

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## LOGISTIC SUMMARY

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(Designer's Note: All of the logistic arrangements have been simplified to reduce player and umpire staff work. There will therefore be some averaging out of stocks and transport arrangements compared with the historical situation.)

Typical Dump Lift Capacities (approx. - see unit counters for specific details):

Dump	Lift in Supply Points	Dump Radius
Corps	15	10 km
Armoured Division	15	10 km
Infantry Division	10	10 km
Airborne Corps	8	5 km
Airborne Division	8	5 km

## STOCKS

Estimated Stocks as at a.m. 17 Sept 1944:	AMMO	FUEL	Location
2nd ARMY LOGISTIC DEPOT	60	40	BRUSSELS
<b>XXX CORPS</b>			
XXX Corps Forward Maint Area	100	100	BRUSSELS

<b>Estimated Stocks as at a.m. 17 Sept 1944:</b>	<b>AMMO</b>	<b>FUEL</b>	<b>Location</b>
Corps Troops Unit Holdings	15	10	BOURG-LEOPOLD
8th Armoured Bde Dump	20	10	BOURG-LEOPOLD
Unit Holdings	15	15	
5 AGRA Dump	30	6	
Unit Holdings	30	6	
Guards Armoured Dump	55	35	HECHTEL
Unit Holdings	35	35	
43rd Wessex Dump	50	20	DIEST
Unit Holdings	50	26	
50th Div Dump	40	20	LINDEL
Unit Holdings	50	26	
<b>I ALLIED AB CORPS</b>			
1st AB Corps HQ Dump	5	2	
1st AB Div Dump	8	2	
Unit Holdings:1 Para Bde	3	0	
4 Para Bde	3	0	
1 AL Bde	3	0	
1 Lt Regt RA	2	1	
Polish Bde	3	0	
82 AB Div Dump	8	2	
Unit Holdings:504 Para Regt	3	0	
505 Para Regt	3	0	
508 Para Regt	3	0	
325 Glider Regt	3	0	
82 AB Arty Regt	8	4	
101 AB Div Dump	8	2	
Unit Holdings:501 Para Regt	3	0	
502 Para Regt	3	0	
506 Para Regt	3	0	
327 Glider Regt	3	0	
101 AB Arty Regt	8	4	
<b>VIII CORPS</b>			
VIII Corps Forward Dump	40	20	HASSELT
11th Armoured Dump	40	10	AMIENS
Unit Holdings	35	10	
3rd Div Dump	40	10	HELCHTEREN
Unit Holdings	54	13	
<b>XII CORPS</b>			
XII Corps Forward Dump	40	10	MALINES
7th Armoured Dump	10	1	ANTWERP
Unit Holdings	15	1	
15th Div Dump	40	10	GHEEL
Unit Holdings	54	13	
53rd Div Dump	40	10	AART
Unit Holdings	54	13	

Divisional commanders will choose the deployment of these initial supply quantities within their divisions.

### Deliveries

Estimated Daily Deliveries to 2nd Army Main Dump Area from 17 Sept 44 onwards (Note that this is for ALL THREE ground Corps use):

65 AMMO and 35 FUEL supply points (delivered by Army transport resources)  
 Air resupply will be as you arrange with Air Forces - they will advise on capacity etc.  
 Up until the start of airborne operations you have been receiving 100 supply points (all types) per day by airlift.

Petrol and ammunition are collected by divisional RASC columns from the Corps Forward Maintenance Area, usually once a day, and moved forward to the divisional dumps (where established). Some divisions kept their supplies on the lorries, and re-distribute direct to sub-units using the RASC column. Others dumped, and units used their own transport/men to collect from the divisional dump. This will be a matter for divisional policy.

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## Air Transport Orbat

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Air component commanded by: Major-General Paul L Williams (First Allied Airborne Army)

Unit	Serials	Aircraft Type
<b>IX US TROOP CARRIER COMMAND (based in UK)</b>		
50th US Troop Carrier Wing	6	C47
52nd US Troop Carrier Wing	10	C47
53rd US Troop Carrier Wing	12	C47
US Glider Serials	48	CG4A
	2	Horsa
IX TC Pathfinders Group (Prov)	0	C47
<b>38 GROUP TRANSPORT COMMAND RAF (Based in UK)</b>		
	2	Albemarle
	6	Stirling
	2	Halifax
Glider Serials	18	Horsa
	2	Hamilcar
<b>46 GROUP TRANSPORT COMMAND RAF (Based in UK)</b>		
	6	Dakota
Glider Serials	8	Horsa
<b>Also under command for supply dropping purposes only: (based in UK)</b>		
8th Air Force (US)	6	B24 Bombers

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## Tactical Air Force Orbat

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### ESCORT AND ANTI-FLAK FOR TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

Unit	Composition	Aircraft Type
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#### **Air Defence of Great Britain (ADGB) - Fighter Command**

Commander : Air Marshal Sir Roderic M. Hill

Senior Air Staff Officer : Air Vice-Marshal W.B. Callaway

No. 10 Group RAF	(2 squadrons)	
	1 Squadron	Mustang
	1 Squadron	Meteor
No. 11 Group RAF	(29 squadrons)	
	6 Squadrons	Mosquito
	14 Squadrons	Mustang
	9 Squadrons	Spitfire
No. 12 Group RAF	(5 squadrons)	
	4 Squadrons	Spitfire
	1 Squadron	Mosquito
No. 13 Group RAF	(3 squadrons)	
	2 Squadrons	Mustang
	1 Squadron	Spitfire

#### **UNITED STATES EIGHTH AIR FORCE (based in UK)**

Commander: Lt-General James H. Doolittle

Deputy Commander : Maj-General Earle E. Partridge

Chief of Staff : Brig-General John H. Samford

Unit	Composition	Aircraft Type
1st Air Division	48 Squadrons	Fortress
2nd Air Division	44 Squadrons	Liberator
3rd Air Division	55 Squadrons	Fortress
VIII Fighter Command		
65 Wing	15 Squadrons	) Mustang &
66 Wing	15 Squadrons	) Thunderbolt
67 Wing	15 Squadrons	)

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## Air Cover & Air Support Orbat

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Unit	Composition	Aircraft Type
<b>Second Tactical Air Force RAF (2TAF) – Based in France and Belgium</b>		
Commander: Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham		
Senior staff officer: Air Vice Marshal V.E.Groom		
34 Recce. Wing	1 Recce Squadron	Spitfire
	1 Recce Squadron	Wellington
	1 Recce Squadron	Mosquito
No. 2 Group RAF	8 Squadrons	Mosquito
	5 Squadrons	Mitchell
No. 83 Group RAF	3 Recce Squadrons	Spitfire
	10 Squadrons	Typhoon
	4 Squadrons	Tempest
	1 Squadron	Meteor
	11 Squadrons	Spitfire
<b>UNITED STATES NINTH AIR FORCE</b>		
Commander : Lt-General Hoyt S. Vandenberg		
Chief of Staff : Brig-General Victor H. Strahm		
9th Photo Recce Group	4 Recce Squadrons	Lightning, Havoc, Mustang.
<b>US IX Tactical Air Command</b>		
70 Wing	12 Squadrons	Thunderbolt & Lightning
67 Tact Recce Group	3 Recce Squadrons	Mustang
	1 Night Fighter Squadron	Black Widow/Havoc
<b>US XIX Tactical Air Command</b>		
100 Wing	21 Squadrons	Thunderbolt & Mustang
10 Photo Recce Group	3 Recce Squadrons	Lightning & Mustang
	1 Night Fighter Squadron	Black Widow/Havoc
<b>US XXIX Tactical Air Command (Provisional)</b>		
	12 Squadrons	Thunderbolt & Mustang
363 Tact Recce Group	3 Recce Squadrons	Mustang/Lightning
<b>US 9th Bombardment Division</b>		
97 Wing	12 Squadrons	Havoc, Invader & Marauder
98 Wing	16 Squadrons	Marauder
99 Wing	16 Squadrons	Marauder & Invader
	1 Pathfinder Squadron	Marauder

(Also includes US IX Troop Carrier Command, but this has been transferred to the operational control of 1st Allied Airborne Army for this operation)

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## AIRBORNE FORCES ORBAT

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### 1st Allied Airborne Corps

**Corps Commander:** Lt-Gen F.A.M. (Boy) Browning  
1 AB Corps HQ

#### Corps Troops:

878th Airborne Engineer Bn      2nd Airlanding AA Battery  
Airborne Forward Delivery Airfield Group (AFDAG)

### 101st US Airborne Division

'The Screaming Eagles'

**Div Commander:** Maj-Gen Maxwell Taylor  
101 Div HQ

501st Para Regt (3 Bns)    Col Howard R. Johnson ('Jumpy Johnson')

501 Service Company (capacity = 2)

502nd Para Regt (3 Bns)    Lt Col John H Michaelis

502 Service Company (capacity = 2)

506th Para Regt (3 Bns)    Col Robert F Sink ('Colonel Bob')

506 Service Company (capacity = 2)

327th Glider Regt (3 Bns)    Lt Col Joseph H Harper

327 Service Company (capacity = 2)

101 Airborne Arty (4 Bns) : Artillery Commander: Brig-Gen Tony McAuliffe

321st Glider Fd Arty Bn    377th Para Fd Arty Bn

907th Glider Fd Arty Bn    81st Airborne AA/AT Bn

#### Divisional Troops

326th Airborne Engineer Bn      101 Service Company (capacity = 2)

### 82nd US Airborne Division

GOC: Maj-Gen James Gavin (Jim)

82 Div HQ

504th Para Regt (3 Bns)    Lt Col Reuben Tucker

504 Service Company (capacity = 2)

505th Para Regt (3 Bns)    Lt Col Ben Vandervoort

505 Service Company (capacity = 2)

508th Para Regt (3 Bns)    Lt Col Lindquist

508 Service Company (capacity = 2)

325th Glider Regt (3 Bns)

325 Service Company (capacity = 2)

82nd Airborne Arty Regt (4 Bns)

319th Field Artillery Battalion

320th Field Artillery Battalion

376th Field Artillery Battalion

456th Field Artillery Battalion

80th AA/AT Battalion

#### Divisional Troops

307th Airborne Engineer battalion

82 Service Company (capacity =2)

### 1st British Airborne Division

GOC: Maj-Gen Robert R Urquhart

1 Div HQ

1st Para Bde (3 Bns) Brig. Gerald W Lathbury  
(1st Para Bn, 2nd Para Bn, 3rd Para Bn)

4th Para Bde (3 Bns) Brig. John W Hackett  
(156th Para Bn, 11th Para Bn, 10th Para Bn)

1st AL Bde (3 Bns) Brig. Philip H Hicks  
(1st Bn The Border Regt, 7th Bn KOSB, 2nd Bn South Staffs)

Divisional Troops

1st Airlanding Light Regiment RA	250 Lt RASC Company (capacity = 4)
Airborne Recce Squadron	5th AL A/Tk Battery (17pdrs)
No. 1 Wing Glider Pilot Regiment	No. 2 Wing Glider Pilot Regiment

Independent Polish Para Bde (3 Bns) May-Gen Stanislaw Sosabowski

**52nd Lowland Division**

GOC: Maj. Gen E. Hakewell-Smith  
52 Div HQ

155th Brigade (3 Bns)  
(7th/9th Royal Scots, 4th King's Own Scottish Borderers, 6th Highland Light Infantry)

156th Brigade (3 Bns)  
(4th/5th Royal Scots Fusiliers, 6th Cameronians. 1st Glasgow Highlanders)

157th Brigade (3 Bns)  
(5th King's Own Scottish Borderers, 7th Cameronians, 5th Highland Light Infantry)

Divisional Troops

52nd Recce Regt RAC	79th Field Regt RA
80th Field Regt RA	186th Field Regt RA
1st Mountain Regt RA	108th LAA Regt RA
52nd Divisional Engineers RE	

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.

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## XXX CORPS

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### Corps Deployment

The bulk of the Corps and its supporting troops is located around Bourg Leopold (J95). Guard's Armoured Division has its Irish Guards Battlegroup over the Canal by 'Joe's Bridge' at K03 with a bridgehead about 3km deep and 4 km wide. 43 Div is behind Guards Armoured, waiting for it to move on. 50<sup>th</sup> Div is to the rear, coming up.

### Corps Commander: Lt-Gen Brian Horrocks

Main Headquarters  
Mobile Tac HQ

### Corps Troops:

Staffordshire Yeomanry	15/19th King's Royal Hussars
44th RTR (ex 4th Armd Bde)	Royal Netherlands Brigade Group
2nd Household Cavalry Regiment	
8th Armoured Brigade (3 Armd, 1 Mech, 1 Arty Bns) Brig. G.E. Prior-Palmer	
552 Coy RASC (cap = 20)	

297 Coy RASC (of DUKWs <sup>(1)</sup> )	536 Coy RASC (of DUKWs <sup>(1)</sup> )
20 Army Troop Carrying Coy RASC <sup>(2)</sup>	90 Armd Bde Coy RASC <sup>(2)</sup>
3	

### Artillery:

100 AA Bde (3 LAA Regts)

#### 5th AGRA:

Belgian Field Regiment	Dutch Field Regiment
86th Field Regt RA	7th Medium Regt RA
64th (London) Medium Regt RA	84th (Sussex) Medium Regt RA

Notes: (1) DUKW companies can lift 1 Bn of infantry complete, or 20 supply points.

(2) Capable of lifting 1 Bn of infantry complete or 18 supply points.

### Airborne:

The seaborne admin and supply tails for the following units:

1st British Airborne Corps Tail	1st British Airborne Division Tail
82nd US Airborne Division Tail	101st US Airborne Division Tail
52nd (Lowland) Div Tail	52nd (Lowland) Div Brigade Group

(Note: Once the divisional tail arrives with an airborne unit, its dump and dump lift capacity increases to that of a standard infantry division)

### Air:

The following additional units are attached to 30 Corps:

16th Airfield Construction Group RE  
5357 Airfield Construction Wing RAF

### Engineers

Services and specialist attachments are included in the major unit totals.

The entire engineer capability of 2nd Army and 21 Army Group within reach will be at the disposal of 30 Corps, comprising around 9 regiments of engineers.

These are organised Bridging Columns (concentrated at BOURG-LEOPOLD) as follows:



(a) Assuming all bridges demolished, but airborne forces in occupation:

HARRY	Column for River MAAS
JIM	Column for MAAS-WAAL Canal
MICHAEL	Column for River WAAL
PETER	Column for Lower Rhine

(b) Assuming bridges on individual river lines demolished, but in our hands:

MAURICE	Column for River MAAS
GEORGE	Column for MAAS-WAAL Canal
SPIKE	Column for River WAAL
JOHN	Column for Lower Rhine

Total maximum possible column: A combination of any two of the above.

(c) Assuming bridges demolished and held by enemy:

TOM	Column to assault River MAAS (One Bde up)
BILL	Column to assault River MAAS (Two Bdes up)
REGGIE	Column to assault River WAAL (One Bde up)
BASIL	Column to assault River WAAL (Two Bdes up)
FRED	Column to assault Lower RHINE (One Bde up)
BERTRAM	Column to assault Lower RHINE (Two Bdes up)

(d) Assuming all bridges captured intact:

RICHARD	Column to form opposed bridgehead over River ISSEL 15
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### **Guards Armoured Division**

GOC: Maj-Gen A.H.S.Adair (Allan)  
Divisional HQ

#### **5th Guards Armoured Brigade**

Grenadier Guards Battlegroup: (2nd (Armoured) Bn Grenadier Guards, 1st (Motor) Bn Grenadier Guards)

Irish Guards Battlegroup: (3rd Bn Irish Guards, 2nd (Armoured) Bn Irish Guards)

Armoured Bde RASC Company (capacity 15)

#### **32nd Guards Brigade**

Coldstream Battlegroup: (5th Bn Coldstream Guards, 1st (Armoured) Bn Coldstream Guards)

Welsh Guards Battlegroup: (1st Bn Welsh Guards, 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Bn Welsh Guards)

Infantry Bde RASC Company (capacity 15) 3

#### **Divisional Troops**

Guards Armoured Divisional Engineers (Including 2 x Class 40 Bridges)

55th Field Regiment RA 153rd Field Regiment RA

94th Light AA Regiment RA Divisional RASC Company (Capacity 25)

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.

**British 43rd (Wessex) Division**

GOC: Maj-Gen G.I.Thomas (Ivor)  
Divisional HQ

129th Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. G H I Mole  
(4th Bn The Somerset Light Infantry, 4th Bn The Wiltshire Regiment, 5th Bn The Wiltshire Regiment)  
504 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

130th Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. B B (Joe) Walton  
(7th Bn The Hampshire Regiment, 4th Bn The Dorsetshire Regiment, 5th Bn The Dorsetshire Regiment)  
505 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

214th Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. Hubert Essame  
(7th Bn The Somerset Light Infantry, 1st Bn The Worcestershire Regiment, 5th Bn The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry)  
506 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

Divisional Troops  
43rd Reconnaissance Regiment RAC  
94th Field Regiment RA  
179th Field Regiment RA  
Divisional RASC Company (Capacity 20)  
43rd Divisional Engineers  
112nd Field Regiment RA  
110th Light AA Regiment RA

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.

**50th (Northumbrian) Div.**

GOC: Maj-Gen D.A.H.Graham DSO, MC.  
Div HQ

69th Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. F.Y.C. Knox DSO  
(5th Bn The East Yorkshire Regiment, 6th Bn The Green Howards, 7th Bn The Green Howards)  
346 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

151st Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. R.H. Senior DSO  
(6th Bn The Durham Light Infantry, 8th Bn The Durham Light Infantry, 9th Bn The Durham Light Infantry).  
508 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

231st Brigade (3 Bns) Brig. Sir A.B.G. Stanier Bt. DSO  
(2nd Bn The Devonshire Regiment, 1st Battalion The Hampshire Regt, 1st Bn The Dorsetshire Regiment)  
522 Company RASC (Capacity 18)

Divisional Troops  
61st Reconnaissance Regiment RAC  
74th Field Regiment RA  
124th Field Regiment RA  
524 Company RASC (Capacity 20)  
50th Divisional Engineers  
90th Field Regiment RA  
25th Light AA Regiment RA

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.

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## VIII CORPS ORBAT

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[Game Note – in order to allow a corps to be handled by a single team the level of unit resolution for this Corps is brigade/regiment. Smaller units will not usually be represented].

### Corps Deployment

11 Armd Div is moving up from positions on the Seine. The first battlegroup will have arrived by 19<sup>th</sup> September.

3 Inf Div - in position to assault bridgehead over Escaut Canal in vicinity of Lille St.Hubert (O3)

4th Armoured Brigade and 1 Belgian Brigade are also in transit and will not be available until 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at the earliest.

**Corps Commander:** Lt-General Sir Richard N. O'Connor  
Corps HQ

### Corps Troops:

1st Belgian Group (1 bn)

61st Medium Regt RA

63rd Antitank Regt RA

8th Corps Troops Engineers

77th Medium Regt RA

121st LAA Regt

8th Corps RASC Column (capacity 20)

**11th Armoured Division:** GOC: Maj-Gen G.P.B.Roberts

29th Brigade

(Shropshire Battlegroup, Rifle Battlegroup)

Bde RASC Company (Cap = 15)

159th Brigade

(Hereford Battlegroup, Monmouth Battlegroup)

Bde RASC Company (Cap = 15)

Divisional Troops

11th Armoured Divisional Engineers

151st Field Regiment RA

13th Regiment RHA

Divisional RASC Company (Cap = 25)

(Note battlegroups are treated as single units, though they consist of one infantry battalion and one armoured battalion mixed)

**British 3rd Infantry Division :** GOC: Maj-Gen L.G.Whistler

8th Brigade - Brig Cass (3 Bns)

9th Brigade - Brig Orr (3 Bns)

185th Brigade - Brig Smith (3 Bns)

Divisional Troops

3rd Reconnaissance Regiment RAC

7th Field Regiment RA

76th Field Regiment RA

3rd Divisional Engineers

33rd Field Regiment RA

Divisional RASC Company (Cap = 20)

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.

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## XII CORPS ORBAT

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[Game Note – in order to allow a corps to be handled by a single team the level of unit resolution for this Corps is brigade/regiment. Smaller units will not usually be represented].

### Corps Deployment

7 Armd Div - near Antwerp, (took over from 53 Div positions on 15 Sep). It is low on fuel and will be difficult to move up within 8-10 days.

15 Scottish Div is around Gheel (AZ94) ready to move east and make an initial assault over Escaut Canal. 53 Welsh Div at AART west of Gheel (AZ94) and ready to move up to support 15<sup>th</sup> Scottish.

**Corps Commander** : Lt-General N.M. Ritchie

Corps Troops:

1st Royal Dragoons (Armoured Car)	13th Medium Regt RA
59th Medium Regt RA	6th Field Regt
4th Armoured Brigade (-1 regiment +4 Regt RHA )	
Corps RASC Column (Capacity = 20)	

**7th Armoured Division** : GOC: Maj-General Verney

22 Brigade

- Battle Group A
- Battle Group B
- Bde RASC Coy (Cap=15)

131 Brigade

- Battle Group C
- Battle Group D
- Bde RASC Coy (Cap=15)

Divisional Troops:

11th Hussars	3rd Field Regt RHA
5th Field regt RHA	7th Armoured Divisional Engineers
Divisional RASC Coy (Capacity = 25)	

[NOTE: The battlegroups above consist of one infantry battalion and one armoured battalion mixed.]

**15th (Scottish) Division** : GOC: Maj-General C.M. Barber

44th Lowland Brigade (3 bns)

46th Highland Brigade (3 bns)

227th Highland Brigade (3 bns)

Divisional Troops:

15th Recce Regiment RAC	131st Field Regt RA
181st Field Regt RA	190th Field Regt RA
15th Divisional Engineers	Divisional RASC Coy (Cap = 20)

**53rd (Welsh) Division** : GOC: Maj-General R.K. Ross

71st Brigade (3 bns)

158th Brigade (3 bns)

160th Brigade (3 bns)

Divisional Troops:

53rd Recce Regt RAC	81st Field Regt RA
83rd Field Regt RA	133rd Field Regt RA
53rd Divisional Engineers	Divisional RASC Coy (Cap = 20)

Divisional troops such as signals, anti-tank, MG and medical troops have been factored into the major combat units of the division.