

**Organization of British 1st & 6th Airborne Divisions  
(Structure and Divisional Elemental Assignments)  
1941-1945**

Part I Internal Structure

HQ Airborne Division

- 1 Airborne Division HQ Defense Platoon
- 1 Independent Paratroop Company
- 1 Field Service Company

2 HQ Paratroop Brigades

- 2 Paratroop Brigade HQ Defense Platoons
- 6 Paratroop Battalions

HQ Airlanding Brigade

- 1 Airlanding Brigade Defense Platoon
- 3 Airlanding Battalions

Airborne Armored Reconnaissance Regiment

HQ Airborne Division Royal Artillery

- 1 Airlanding Light Regiment
- 1 Airlanding Anti-tank Regiment

HQ Airborne Division Royal Engineers

- 2 Paratroop RE Squadrons
- 1 Field Company Airborne
- 1 Field Park Company Airborne

Airborne Division Signals

HQ Airborne Division Royal Army Service Corps

- 1 Airborne Light Company
- 2 Airborne Division Comp Companies

Medical

- 2 Paratroop Field Ambulances
- 1 Airlanding Field Ambulance

Airborne Division Ordnance Field Park

HQ Airborne Division Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

- 1 Airborne Division Workshop
- 1 Airlanding Light Aid Detachment, Type "A" (armored)
- 1 Airlanding Light Aid Detachment, Type "A" (non-armored)
- 4 Airlanding Light Aid Detachments, Type "B"
- 1 Airlanding Light Aid Detachment, Type "C"

Airborne Division Provost Company

Airborne Division Postal Unit

Mobile Photo Enlargement Section

Forward Observer Unit

Equipment

Pistols	2,942
Rifles	7,171
Sten Guns	6,504
Light Machine Guns	966
Vickers Mk I MGs	46
2" mortars	474
3" mortars	56
4.2" mortars	5
PIATs	535
20mm (airborn) guns	23
Flamthrowers	38

75mm Pack Howitzers	27
6pdr Anti-tank	84 (airborne)
17pdr Anti-tank	16
MKV Bicycles	1,907
Bicycles, folding	1,362
Motorcycles, light	529
Motorcycles, solo	704
Jeeps, 5 cwt	904
Miscellaneous Cars	115
Scout Cars	25
Carriers, misc.	25
Ambulances	24
Trucks, 15 cwt	129
Lorries, 3 ton	438
Tractors, misc.	26
Cruiser Tanks	11
Light Tanks	11
Trailers	935

### **1st Airborne Division**

11/41 - Divisional HQ formed in UK.  
5/21/45 - Divisional HQ designated as HQ Norway Command.

#### Royal Armored Cars

Airborne Light Tank Squadron 8/17/42-4/11/43  
1st Airlanding Reconnaissance Sqn 1/1/44-8/31/45

#### Royal Engineer Field Company

9th 6/19/42-3/25/45

#### Royal Engineer Field Park Company

261st 12/15/41-3/25/45

#### Royal Engineer Paratroop Squadrons

1st 6/19/42-9/3/42  
5/7/43-3/25/45  
2nd 11/11/42-11/16/43  
3rd 1/19/43-4/11/43  
4th 6/9/43-10/30/44

#### Royal Engineer Airborn Squadrons

1st 3/26/45-8/31/45  
9th 3/26/45-8/30/45  
591st 6/1/45-8/31/45

#### Royal Engineer Airborne Park Squadron

261st 3/26/45-8/31/45

#### Signals

1st Airborne Division 4/22/42-8/31/45

#### Light Battery

1st Airlanding 9/28/42-2/5/43

#### Light Regiment

1st Airlanding 2/6/43-10/3/43  
2/11/44-8/31/45

#### Anti-Tank Batteries

1st Independent 8/5/42-10/22/42  
1st Airlanding 9/28/42-3/24/45  
2nd Airlanding 10/23/42-3/24/45  
5th Airlanding 2/20/45-3/24/45

<u>Anti-Tank Regiment</u>	
1st Airlanding	3/25/45-8/31/45
<u>Light AA Batteries</u>	
283rd	7/2/42-12/3/42
1st Airlanding	12/4/42-2/21/44
<u>Reconnaissance Forces</u>	
1st Airlanding Squadron	12/1/42-12/31/43
<u>AAC</u>	
21st Independent Paratrooper Company	7/42-8/31/45
<u>Brigades</u>	
1st Airlanding Group	12/10/41-3/9/43
1st Airlanding	3/10/43-8/31/45
1st Paratrooper Brigade	12/10/41-9/22/42
	5/7/43-5/5/45
	8/25/45--8/31/45
2nd Paratrooper Brigade	7/30/42-11/16/43
3rd Paratrooper Brigade	11/13/42-4/11/43
4th Paratrooper Brigade	6/10/43-12/9/44
<b>6th Airborne Division</b>	
5/7/43	- Divisional HQ formed in UK.
9/23/43	- Brought to full wartime establishment.
<u>Royal Armored Cars</u>	
Airborne Light Tank Squadron	5/26/43-1/13/44
6th Airborne Division Regiment	1/14/44-8/31/45
<u>Royal Engineer Field Company</u>	
249th (Airborne)	6/7/43-8/31/45
<u>Royal Engineer Paratroop Squadrons</u>	
3rd	6/7/43-5/28/45
591st	6/7/43-5/28/45
<u>Royal Engineer Airborne Squadrons</u>	
3rd	5/28/45-7/19/45
9th	6/1/45-8/31/45
<u>Royal Engineer Airborne Park Squadron</u>	
286th (Airborne)	6/7/43-8/31/45
<u>Signals</u>	
6th Airborne Division	5/7/43-8/31/45
<u>Anti-Tank Batteries</u>	
3rd Airlanding	7/9/43-2/23/45
4th Airlanding	7/9/43-2/23/45
<u>Anti-Tank Regiment</u>	
53rd WY	10/27/43-11/2/43
2nd Airlanding	2/24/45-8/31/45
<u>Light AA Regiment</u>	
53rd WY	11/3/43-8/31/45
<u>Light AA Battery</u>	
2nd Airlanding	5/26/43-2/20/44

AAC

22nd Independent Paratrooper Company 10/26/43-7/19/45

Brigades

6th Airlanding Brigade	5/6/43-8/31/45
3rd Paratrooper Brigade	5/15/43-8/31/45
72nd Independent Infantry Brigade	5/28/43-8/31/45
5th Paratrooper Brigade	6/1/43-7/19/45
2nd Paratrooper Brigade Group	8/29/45-8/31/45

Joslen, Lt. Col. H.F., Orders of Battle, Second World War, 1939-1945, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1960.

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