

United Kingdom 1980's BAOR

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1st, 3rd & 4th Armoured Divisions

Division Headquarters:

Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in Sultan

3 Armoured Brigades, each with (see notes):

Brigade Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in Sultan

1 or 2 Armoured Regiments, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-MBT stand (see notes)

1-Reconnaissance Platoon:

2-Scorpan stands

1-Anti-Tank Platoon:

2-FV438 or Striker stands (not in Challenger units)

3-Armoured Squadrons, each with:

3 or 4-MBT stands (see notes)

1 or 2 Mechanised Infantry Battalions, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in FV432

1-Reconnaissance Platoon:

2-Scimitar stands

1-Mortar Platoon:

2-FV432 self-propelled mortar stands

1-Assault Pioneer Platoon:

1-FV432 engineer stand

1-Anti-tank Platoon:

4-Milan teams in FV432

1 -Spartan MCT stand

3-Infantry Companies, each with:

3-Fv432 or (1988+) Warrior Infantry Combat Teams

Divisional Assets:

1 Engineer Regiment

2 or 3-Field Engineer Squadrons, each:

3-Engineer stands in Fv432

1 Support Squadrons, with:

1-Fv180 CET stand

1-MGB bridge (truck)

Divisional Artillery:

1 to 2 Field Artillery Regiments, each with:

4-Abbot stands

1 to 2 Field Artillery Regiments, each with:

6-M109A1 or M109A2

1 Air Defence Battery, with:

3-Troops, each with:

3-Blowpipe or Javelin stands in Spartans

1 ACC Regiment, with:

3-Gazelle flights

4 or 6-Lynx/TOW flights

Notes:

1st Armoured (FEBA Div nth) was based at Verden and comprised:
7th Armoured Brigade (2 tank and 1 mechanised battalions, transitioning to Challenger in 1984-85);

12th Armoured Brigade (1 tank and 2 mechanised battalions);

22nd Armoured Brigade (2 tank and 2 mechanised battalions, transitioning to Challenger in 1989).

The divisional artillery regiment comprised two M109 battalions and one Abbot battalion.

4th Armoured (FEBA Div sth) was based at Herford and comprised:

11th Armoured Brigade (1 tank and 2 infantry battalions);

20th Armoured Brigade (2 tank and 1 infantry battalions, transitioning to Challenger in 1987-88) and until 1986;

33rd Armoured Brigade (1 tank and 2 infantry battalions).

The divisional artillery regiment comprised two Abbot battalions and one M109 battalion

3rd Armoured (Depth div) was based at Soest and comprised:

6th Armoured/Airmobile Brigade;

4th Armoured (2 tank and 1 mechanised battalions, transitioning to Challenger in 1985-86) and from 1986;

33rd Armoured Brigade (1 tank and 2 mechanised battalions)

The divisional artillery comprised one Abbot battalion and one M109 battalion.

Up until 1986, 4th Armoured would receive the 19th Infantry Brigade from Colchester UK as an additional brigade. The 19th Infantry Brigade was similar to 24th Infantry Brigade, though without territorial units, but with Fv438 instead of Striker.

From April 1986, 19th Brigade was to deploy with 4th Armoured Division (which had lost 33rd Armoured Brigade to 3 Div).

The main battle tanks were Chieftain and later Challenger. From 1983 armoured regiments shrank to only 3-MBT stands per sabre squadron (known as Type 57) or even only three of these sabre squadrons (known as Type 43). The Type 43 Regiments were usually those in Armoured Brigades which had two tank regiments. In 1988 there were nine Type 57 regiments and three Type 43 regiments in BAOR.

Conversion to Challenger 1 began in mid to late 1985, with one brigade at a time in BAOR converting starting with 7th Brigade. Five regiments had converted by 1989; the other five kept Chieftain until the consolidations in 1992/3, and the last regiment in the UK converted 1993/4.

In the early 1980s infantry battalions had 16 or less Milans (4 stands). Because Milan have been separated out in the lists, adjust the British data-card supplied with MSH by reducing the ATGW factor for Infantry Combat Teams and Infantry stands to 3-3" (or 3-6" for units equipped with LAW80).

In 1980 the infantry battalions were adjusted to have four infantry companies, but this was soon abandoned and they went back to the traditional three infantry company structure. An extra company might have been available in wartime.

The 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards was the first to be equipped with the Warrior IFV in 1987. Between 1988 and 1990 four further battalions transitioned.

Morale for these divisions should be 2/3 Veteran, 1/3 Regular.

2nd Infantry Division

Division Headquarters:

Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in truck

24th Infantry Brigade, with:

Brigade Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in Saxon

1-Anti-Tank Company:

4-Striker stands

1-Engineer Company:

2-Engineer stands in trucks

1 Mechanised Infantry Battalions, with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Saxon

1-Reconnaissance Platoon:

2-Fox stands

1-Mortar Platoon:

2-81mm mortar stands in Land Rover

1-Anti-tank Platoon:

5-Milan teams in Land Rover

3-Infantry Companies, each with:

3-Saxon Infantry Combat Teams

2 Infantry Battalions, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-Reconnaissance Platoon:

1-Infantry stands in light truck or

1-Fox stands

1-Mortar Platoon:

2-81mm mortar stands in Land Rover

1-Assault Pioneer Platoon:

1-Combat Engineer stand in Land Rover

1-Anti-tank Platoon:

1-Milan teams in Land Rover

3-Infantry Companies, each with:

3- Infantry stands in truck

1 Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Sultan

2-Medium Reconnaissance Squadrons:

4-Scorpien stands

1 Spartan Infantry Combat Teams

2-Reconnaissance Squadrons:

4-Fox stands

1 Spartan Infantry Combat Teams

2-Air Defence Battery:

2-Blowpipe stands in Land Rover

1 Field Artillery Regiment, with:

4-FH-70 stands towed

15th & 49th Territorial Brigades, each with:

Brigade Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in truck

1-Engineer Company:

2-Engineer stands in trucks

1-Air Defence Battery:

3-Blowpipe stands in Land Rover

4 or 5 Territorial Infantry Battalions, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-Reconnaissance Platoon:

1-Infantry stands in truck

1-Mortar Platoon:

1-81mm mortar stands in Land Rover

1-Assault Pioneer Platoon:

1-Engineer stand in truck

1-Anti-tank Platoon:

1-Milan team in Land Rover

3-Infantry Companies, each with:

3- Infantry stands in truck

1 Territorial Field Artillery Regiments, with:

4-105mm Light Gun stands towed

1 Territorial Light Reconnaissance Regiment, with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in Sultan

2-Reconnaissance Squadrons, each with:

4-Fox stands

Divisional Assets

3 Engineer Regiments, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand truck

2-Engineer Squadrons, each with:

3 Engineer stands in trucks

1- MGB bridge truck

12th Air Defence Regiment

4-Batteries, each with:

3-towed Rapier stands

655 AAC Squadron

1-Lynx /TOW flight

3-Gazelle flight

Notes:

In 1985 24th Infantry Brigade had three battalions. One equipped with Saxon APC, this aligns to the "Type A" organisation. The other two battalions are classed as using the "Type B" organisation.

In 1985 15th Brigade had four Territorial Infantry battalions while the 49th Brigade had five battalions. At this time both used 105mm Light guns.

The territorial battalions should always be considered as having Regular morale. Others may be regular or veteran.

6th Airmobile Brigade

Brigade Headquarters Company:

HQ: 1-HQ stand in truck

1-Engineer Company:

3-Engineer stands in trucks

1-MGB bridge in truck

1-Air Defence Battery:

4-Javelin stands in Land Rover

2 Infantry Battalions, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-HQ Stand in truck

1-Reconnaissance Company:

2-Fox stands

3 Infantry stands in truck

1-Mortar Platoon:

1-81mm mortar stands in Land Rover

1-Anti-tank Company:

2-Milan teams in Land Rover

3-Milan teams in truck

3-Infantry Companies, each with:

3- Infantry stands in truck

1 Army Air Corps Regiment, with:

2-Lynx flights

1-Gazelle flight

Army Air Corps Transport:

2-Chinook flights

4 Puma flights

Notes:

The 6th Airmobile Brigade was organised in 1983 as corps reserve (it had 2 airmobile infantry battalions: 1 Gordon Highlanders & 2 Light Infantry with each of their three rifle companies having an AT Platoon with three stands of Milan carried by Land Rover; a field regiment RA; field squadron RE and squadron AAC).

Only one of the battalions was normally lifted by helicopter for a particular operation, and even that could not be carried in a single helicopter lift.

In 1986 the brigade transitioned back to being an armoured brigade.

In 1988, 24th Brigade became airmobile, but was NORTHAG rather than just a British reserve. It was organised with three infantry battalions (one still in Saxons); one artillery regiment (6 stands 105mm light guns); an air defence troop (3 stands Javelin); two squadrons each three unarmed Lynx flights; 1 squadron of 4 Lynx/TOW flights and 1 Gazelle flight. Normally up to 4 flights of Puma and 4 flights of Chinook were assigned for lift.

The brigade should normally be rated Regular morale, with an optional upgraded to Veteran.

British 1st Corps Assets

9/12th Lancers & 13/18th Hussars Armoured Reconnaissance Regiments, each with:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-Sultan

1-Samson ARV stand

4-Recce Squadrons, each with:

3-Scimitar stands

1-Striker stand

1-Spartan Infantry Combat team

23rd & 25th Engineer Regiments, each:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-Sultan

3-Amphibious Squadrons, each with:

3-M2 Ribbon Bridge stands

1-Amphibious Squadrons, each with:

1-Fv180 CET stand;

5-M2 stands

32nd Armoured Engineer Regiment:

Battalion Headquarters:

HQ: 1-Sultan

3-Armoured Engineer Squadrons, each with:

2-Chieftain AVLB stands

2-Centurion AVRE stands

1-Fv180 CET stand

1st Corps Artillery Brigade (see notes)

5th & 32nd Heavy Artillery Regiments, each with:

3-M107 stands

39th Heavy Artillery Regiment, with:

3-M110A2 stands

50th Missile Regiment, with:

3-Lance stands

12th & 22nd Air Defence Regiments, each with:

2-Batteries (see notes), each with:

3-towed Rapier stands

2-Batteries, (see notes) each with:

3-Tracked Rapier stands

664th AAC Squadron with:

3-Gazelle AH.1 flights

Notes:

Originally the Corps Artillery was known as 1st Artillery Division until 1981 when it became Artillery Division and then re-designated Artillery 1 Br Corps in 1984. It comprised an M107 regiment (5 Heavy with 4 batteries); a Lance regiment (with 3 Lance stands); 32 Regiment (which supplied FV438 Swingfire to the armoured regiments and Blowpipe MANPADS). Finally two Rapier regiments completed the formation.

In 1984-85 it was expanded as detailed. The M110s were originally issued one stand per divisional M109 regiment in place of two M109 stands. In the early '80s there were only two artillery regiments per division, one with Abbot and one with M109/M110. In 1989/90, 39 Heavy Regiment converted from M110 to MLRS and 32 Heavy converted to M110.

Up until 1984, Rapier Air Defence Regiments only had three batteries (not four) and all had towed Rapier. The first regiment with four batteries was 22 AD Regiment which on 29 March 1985 was equipped with two tracked Rapier batteries and two towed Rapier batteries, each of 12 fire units (3 stands). Originally it was 16 & 22 AD Regiments in Germany; from 1985 12 AD Regiment replaced 16 AD Regiment in Germany.

Morale for these corps assets can be Regular or Veteran.

General Notes:

Prior to the defence cuts of 1981, BAOR comprised four armoured divisions and had only one corps-level recce regiment (2RTR). These deployed with the "covering force" (4 Armd Div) behind 2RTR and then the other three divisions strung in a line. At the beginning of 1983 it became 2 ½ armoured divisions and two reconnaissance regiments, plus an infantry division, with 2nd Armoured Division becoming 2nd Infantry Division. The 2nd Infantry Division had a mechanised brigade in the UK to deploy on war warning. With three divisions in Germany they would deploy in the traditional army way of 'two-up and one-back'. The 'two-up', in the front-line, were known as 'FEBA divisions' (Forward Edge of the Battle Area), the third as the 'Depth Division'. The infantry division from UK deployed as Corps rear area security.

From the Mid-80s, the two reconnaissance regiments of BAOR were used together as the Corps Recce Force to fight the "screen battle" in front of the "covering force" brigades. These regiments were Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (Tracked) (BAOR). The Depth Division would have a reconnaissance regiments attached, known as Armoured Reconnaissance Regiments (Tracked) (UK) when it arrived from the UK with 19 Infantry Bde. The difference between ARR (T) (BAOR) & ARR (T) (UK) was mainly in the Support Troop of each squadron, four Spartan instead of five which, in MSH terms, is no difference.

The Saxon is a wheeled APC while the FV180 CET is an engineering vehicle. The following stats apply:

Name	Weapon	Defences	AT	AI	AA	ATGW	FP	NV	NBC	WT	Move	Notes
Saxon	Various	3/2 5 2 0	0-9"	5-9"	HS-9"	3-6"	B	IR	Y	3	12"	1984+ LAW80
Fv180	MG	3/2 2 0	3-9				B	P	-	3	9"a	1977+ May have MC

