

OPERATION MARKET-GARDEN: ALLIED AIRBORNE FORCE

Robert Tomita

Allied I Airborne Corps:¹ LG F. A. M. "Boy" Browning (GB)

British 1st Airborne Division: MG Roy E. Urquhart
Divisional HQ & Defense Platoon

British 1st Parachute Brigade: BG Gerald W. Lathbury

Brigade HQ & Defense Platoon
1st, 2nd & 3rd Bns Parachute Regiment
1st Airlanding Anti-tank Battery RA
1st Parachute Sqn RE
1st Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC

British 4th Parachute Brigade: BG John H. "Shan" Hackett

Brigade HQ & Defense Platoon
10th, 11th & 156th Bns Parachute Regiment
2nd Airlanding Anti-tank Battery RA
4th Parachute Sqn RE
133rd Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC

British 1st Airlanding Brigade: BG Philip Hicks

Brigade HQ & Defense Platoon
1st Bn The Border Regiment
2nd Bn South Staffordshire Regiment
7th (Galloway) Bn King's Own Scottish Borderers
181st Airlanding Field Ambulance RAMC

Divisional Units

1st Airlanding Light Regiment, RA
1st Forward (Airborne) Observation Unit, RA
1st Airborne Divisional Signals
1st Airborne Reconnaissance Sqn
21st Independent Co. Parachute Regiment (Pathfinders)
9th (Airborne) Field Co. RE
261st (Airborne) Field Park Co. RE
250th (Airborne) Light Composite Co. RASC
1st (Airborne) Divisional Field Park RAOC
1st (Airborne) Divisional Workshops REME
1st (Airborne) Divisional Provost Co. CMP
89th (Parachute) Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

Combat Attachments

No. 2 Wing, The Glider Pilot Regiment
No. 1 Wing, The Glider Pilot Regiment
US 306th Fighter Control Sqn - Air Support Signals Unit
Elements of No. 2 (Dutch) Troop of No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando

Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade Group: MG Stanislaw Sosabowski

1st, 2nd & 3rd Polish Parachute Infantry Bns
Anti-Tank Battery
Airborne Light Artillery Battery Not used - shortage of gliders
Airborne Engineer Co.
Airborne Signals Co.
Airborne Transport & Supply Co.

¹ The Allied I Airborne Corps was actually an Ad-Hoc formation made up from various units of the First Allied Airborne Army.

US 82nd Airborne Division: MG James Gavin

325th Glider Infantry Regiment
504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment
507th Parachute Infantry Regiment attached from Jan 14th, 1944 to March 1st, 1945
508th Parachute Infantry Regiment attached from Jan 14th, 1944 to end of hostilities
HHB Division Artillery
 319th Glider Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
 320th Glider Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
 376th Parachute Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
 456th Parachute Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
80th Airborne Antiaircraft Bn
307th Airborne Engineer Bn
HQs Co. 82nd Airborne Division
307th Airborne Medical Co.
82nd Counter Intelligence Corps Det
782nd Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Co.
407th Airborne Quartermaster Co.
82nd Airborne Signal Co.
82nd Parachute Maintenance Co.
Military Police Platoon
Reconnaissance Platoon
Combat Attachments Attached
 British 1st Coldstream Guards Armored Bn Sept. 19 - 22
 British 5th Coldstream Guards Infantry Bn Sept. 19 - 22
 2nd Irish Guards Bn Sept. 16 - Oct 23
 Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Sept. 19 - Oct 10
 Royals Reconnaissance Bn Sept. 19 - Oct 9
 1st Polish Parachute Bde Sept. 25 - 30
 British 231st Infantry Bde Sept. 30 - Oct 1
 British 3rd Guards Bn Sept. 30 - Oct 1
 British 79th Field Regiment RA Sept. 30 - Oct 2
 British 304th Antitank Battery RA Sept. 30 - Oct 3
 US 506th Parachute Infantry Oct 1 - 3
 US 502nd Parachute Infantry Oct 3 - 4
 British 130th Infantry Bde Oct 5 - 6
 British 2nd Grenadier Guards Bn Oct 6 - 7
 British 13th/18th Hussars Oct 22 - Nov 10
 Canadian 27th Armored Regiment Nov 10 - 12

US 101st Airborne Division: MG Maxwell Taylor

327th Glider Infantry Regiment
401st Glider Infantry Regiment (less 2nd Bn) Disbanded 1 March, 1945 in France²
501st (Separate) Parachute Infantry Regiment attached from May 1st, 1944 to end of hostilities
502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment
506th Parachute Infantry Regiment attached from Sept 15th, 1943 to March 1st, 1945
HHB Division Artillery
 321st Glider Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
 377th Parachute Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
 907th Glider Field Artillery Bn (75mm)
81st Airborne Antiaircraft Bn
326th Airborne Engineer Bn

² Editor's note: 401st Glider Infantry ceased to be a tactical regiment prior to D-Day. Its 1st Bn normally functioned as 3rd Bn, 327th Glider Infantry, and its 2nd Bn was attached to 82nd Airborne Division's 325th Glider Infantry to serve as that regiment's 3rd Bn.

HQs Co. 101st Airborne Division
 326th Airborne Medical Co.
 101st Counter Intelligence Corps Det
 801st Airborne Ordnance Maintenance Co.
 426th Airborne Quartermaster Co.
 101st Signal Co.
 Military Police Platoon
 Reconnaissance Platoon
 Combat Attachments Attached

British 502 nd Light AA Battery RA	? - Nov 14
British 44 th Royal Tank Regiment	Sept 19 - 25
British 13 th /18 th Hussars	Oct 18 - 22
British 4 th /7 th Dragoon Guards	Nov 2 - 11
British 53 rd Reconnaissance Regiment	Oct 5 - 6 & Oct 13 - 19
British A & B Sqns, Royal Scots Greys	Oct 6 - 7
British 61 st Reconnaissance Regiment	Oct 6 - 12
British C Sqn, Royal Scots Greys	Oct 6 - 17
British 4 th Field Regiment RA	Oct 12 - 18
British 147 th Field Regiment RA	Oct 18 - ?
British 6 th Field Regiment RA	Nov 8 - ?
British 5 th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Oct 5 - ?
British Sherwood Rangers	Oct 22 - Nov 2
US 509 th Parachute Infantry Bn	Nov 22 - 27
British 152 nd Infantry Bde	Nov 19 - 26
British 116 th Field Regiment RA	?
British 304 th Antitank Battery RA	Oct 12 - 13
British 74 th Antitank Battery RA	Nov 9 - 13

Note: the Administrative Order of Battle for First Allied Airborne Army was:

First Allied Airborne Army: LTG Lewis H. Brereton (USAAF)

British I Airborne Corps: LTG F. A. M. "Boy" Browning

British 1st Airborne Division MG Roy E. Urquhart

British 6th Airborne Division MG R. N. Gale

British 52nd "Lowland" Division (Air Transportable)

British 1st Special Air Service Brigade

Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade Group MG Stanislaw Sosabowski

US XVIII Airborne Corps: LTG Matthew Ridgeway

US 13th Airborne Division (arrived in Theater Feb 6, 1945) MG George W Griner

US 17th Airborne Division (arrived in England Aug 25, 1944) MG William M Miley

US 82nd Airborne Division MG James Gavin

US 101st Airborne Division MG Maxwell Taylor

SOURCES:

Barry Gregory & John Batchelor - Airborne Warfare 1918-1945 (London: Phoebus Publishing Co. & New York: Exeter Books, 1979)

Shelby L. Stanton - Order of Battle U.S. Army World War II (Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1984)

The Battle of Arnhem Archive: <http://www.extraplan.demon.co.uk/main.htm>

US Army Center of Military History - Airborne Operations - TAB B: <http://www.army.mil/cmhp-g/documents/abnops/tabB.htm>

US Army War College - Military History Institute: <http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/>