

BATTLE OF FRANCE D-DAY

FORCES IN NORMANDY, 1944

6TH AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE REGIMENT

BRITISH AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON IN
NORMANDY AND BELGIUM 1944

This supplement adds:

- Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron
to D-Day: British Force in *Battle of France: D-Day*.

This Formation is Limited. Your Force may only have one Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron.

You may field compulsory Combat Units (with a black box in the Formation Diagram) from a Airborne Armoured Recce Squadron as Support Units in a D-Day: British Force from *Battle of France: D-Day*



6th AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE REGIMENT

In early July 1941 C Special Service Squadron Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) was formed with 60 men, mostly volunteers from 5th Lancers and 10th Hussars, and six Tetrarchs at Ogbourne St. George. In October 1941 the unit was transferred to Freetown in West Africa in case Spain entered the war.

In March 1942 they went to Madagascar and took part in the allied landings there. Only half the squadron went, consisting of four troops each of one Valentine and two Tetrarchs (under the command of B Special Service Squadron). They suffered heavy casualties and lost nearly all the tanks. Their second-in-command, Captain Peter Llewellyn-Palmer, was recommended for a Victoria Cross, but was later awarded, posthumously, the Military Cross.

Even before that operation was finished, the HQ of the squadron was already being formed in the UK as the Airborne Light Tank Squadron. The squadron was to utilise the new Hamilcar glider that had been specifically designed to carry the Tetrarch. When 1st Airborne Division left for North Africa, the squadron stayed behind in the United Kingdom.

EXPANSION AND REORGANISATION

In early 1944, the Squadron was expanded to a full regiment, the 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (6 AARR), under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Godfrey R Stuart, and was attached to General Richard Gale's 6th Airborne Division. The tanks were now designated A Squadron of this new regiment, while B Squadron was formed as a light recce squadron of carriers, jeeps, and motorcycles. There was also a support squadron of mortars, machine-guns and motorcyclists. It was with roughly this organization that the regiment was to go to war in Normandy.

D-DAY — INTO ACTION

During D-Day, twenty Hamilcars flew in carrying eighteen to twenty Tetrarch light tanks of A Squadron (including close-support tanks armed with 3-inch howitzers). A further three Hamilcars flew in with six recce carriers of B Squadron, another flew in with two mortar carriers and another arrived with the slave battery carrier and a jeep.

There are many myths and misconceptions regarding the losses and employment of the regiment on D-Day. The fact remains that the regiment provided invaluable support to the airborne troops throughout the Normandy campaign



and suffered very few casualties during the landings of Operation Mallard on the afternoon of D-Day — the only serious casualties being the total loss of the parachuted Harbour Party during the initial night landings. Once the remainder of the regiment had arrived by sea, the regiment fought as a unit in the airborne bridgehead.

By late July two light tank troops had been re-equipped with Cromwell IV cruiser tanks. On 6 August, eight Cromwells were put on the roster of A (Tank) Squadron and placed in two troops of four tanks. By late August a third troop was also re-equipped bringing the total to twelve Cromwells.

THE BREAKOUT

The regiment's finest hour to date came during Operation Paddle — the breakout to the Seine — in August 1944. It provided vital recce support to 6th Airborne Division (greatly expanded by the addition of both Special Service Brigades and the Dutch and Belgium Brigades) and the 49th (West Riding) Division, and even provided close armoured support to their infantry. It is, however, entirely possible that by the time the Seine was reached, there was hardly a Tetrarch left in working order.

During this period some other units came under the regiment's command for short periods. The regiment was allocated a troop of four Centaur tanks and a command Sherman tank. The Centaurs suffered frequent breakdowns during the breakout, though they operated effectively as the regiment's dedicated artillery and also as assault guns when necessary.

Also temporarily on strength was 1st Belgian Armoured Car Squadron (from 20 August). This squadron had an HQ of mixed Dingo, Daimler and Staghound armoured cars, as well as at least one Staghound A/A car. It had five sabre troops (as the cavalry still called its front-line platoons), each of two Dingo scout cars and three Daimler armoured cars. The Dutch brigade also had a recce squadron in the style of a British infantry division, but this did not come under the command of 6 AARR.

On 5 September 1944 the regiment embarked for the UK, and thus ended a very exciting and wearying time in France. After Normandy the Tetrarch was replaced by the American-built M22 Locust and the regiment changed to two equal Recce Squadrons (A & B) and a Support Squadron (now designated C).

BRITISH SPECIAL RULES

The following special rules are characteristic of D-Day: British forces, reflecting their own style of equipment, tactics, and approach to battle.

AIRBORNE

This Formation may make an Airborne Assault in missions that use the Airborne Assault rules (page 306 of *Battle for France: D-Day*).

Airborne units were specially trained, equipped, and organised to conduct airborne operations.

NOT AIRBORNE

Cromwell Airborne Recce Troop Units must be placed in Airborne Reserves if conducting an Airborne Assault (page 306 of *Battle for France: D-Day*).

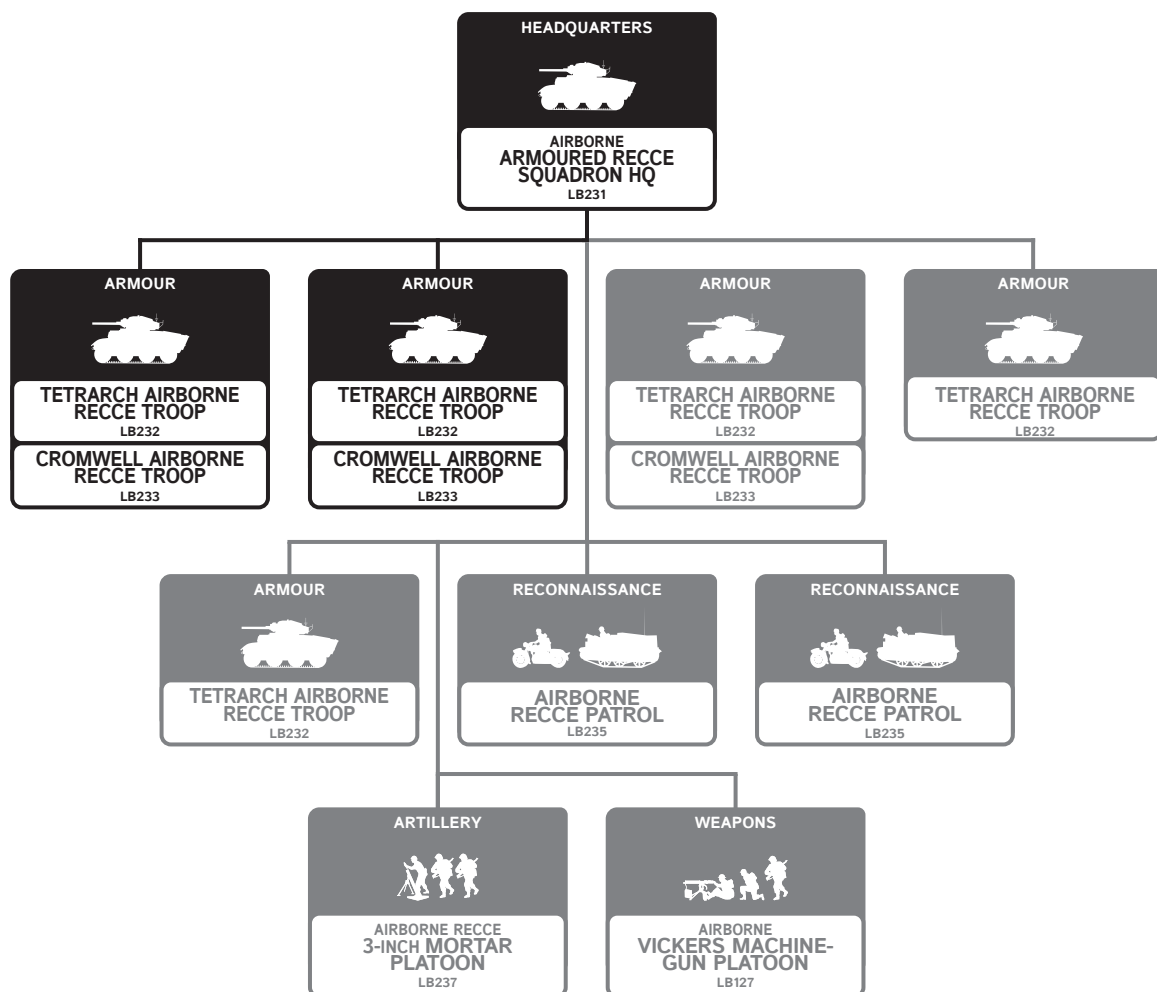
The Cromwell tanks were issued as replacements and are too heavy to be carried by glider.



AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON

TANK FORMATION

You must field the Formation HQ and one Combat Unit from each black box.
You may also field one Combat Unit from each grey box.



You may field a Combat Unit from a black box as a Support Unit for your Force.

AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE SQUADRON HQ



3x Tetrarch CS (3-inch)

5 POINTS

2x Tetrarch CS (3-inch)

3 POINTS

Landing on D-Day, the Tetrarchs of the Airborne Armoured Recce A Squadron were soon in combat and continued to be until September.

A (Tank) Squadron consisted of a headquarters (three close-support tanks) and five troops (each with three light tanks). They were joined by Cromwells in late July/early August giving the squadron a bit more striking power.

MOTIVATION

FEARLESS 3+

SKILL

TRAINED 4+

• TANK FORMATION • AIRBORNE • SCOUT •

IS HIT ON

CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR

FRONT 1

SIDE & REAR 1

TOP 1

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
12"/30cm	16"/40cm	24"/60cm	32"/80cm	4+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Tetrarch CS (3-inch)	16"/40cm	2	1	5	3+	Overworked
Tetrarch CS (MG)	16"/40cm	3	3	2	6	

TETRARCH AIRBORNE RECCE TROOP



2x Tetrarch (2 pdr)

5 POINTS

1x Tetrarch (Littlejohn)

6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment arrived by glider late on D-Day with a squadron of eighteen to twenty Tetrarch light tanks. At least two Tetrarchs were damaged during the glider landings, however, these may have been repaired and put back into service later.

MOTIVATION

FEARLESS 3+

SKILL

TRAINED 4+

• TANK UNIT • SCOUT • BATTLE TANKS •

IS HIT ON

CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR

FRONT 1

SIDE & REAR 1

TOP 1

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
12"/30cm	16"/40cm	24"/60cm	32"/80cm	4+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Tetrarch (2 pdr)	24"/60cm	2	1	7	4+	Overworked
Tetrarch (Littlejohn)	24"/60cm	2	1	8	4+	Overworked, No HE
Tetrarch (MG)	16"/40cm	3	3	2	6	



Find the Tetrarch on battlefrontgroup.com

BR007 TETRARCH AIRBORNE RECCE TROOP

CROMWELL AIRBORNE RECCE TROOP



4x Cromwell (75mm)

25 POINTS

3x Cromwell (75mm)

19 POINTS

By early August, A Squadron was down to half their original strength of Tetrarch tanks, so two platoons were issued Cromwell tanks as replacements. At the end of August a third platoon received Cromwell tanks to bring the total for the squadron to twelve. These fought alongside the remaining Tetrarch light tanks and played an important role in the fighting of the 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment's actions during the last phase of their fighting in Normandy.

MOTIVATION

FEARLESS 3+

Protected Ammo Remount 2+

SKILL

TRAINED 4+

• TANK UNIT • SCOUT • NOT AIRBORNE •

IS HIT ON

CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR

FRONT 6

SIDE & REAR 4

TOP 1

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
12"/30cm	16"/40cm	28"/70cm	32"/80cm	3+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Cromwell (75mm)	28"/70cm	2	1	10	3+	Smoke
Cromwell (MGs)	16"/40cm	4	4	2	6	

AIRBORNE RECCE PATROL



1x Universal Carrier (MGs) (LB236)
2x Jeep (MG)

3 POINTS

B (Reconnaissance) Squadron consisted of a headquarters (one car 5cwt — as the British referred to the American jeep, one universal carrier with two machine-guns, and three motorcyclists), and four troops (each of one car 5 cwt, one universal carrier with two machine-guns, and five motorcyclists).

The reconnaissance platoons of B Squadron, 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, were the scouting element of the regiment. Though only small platoons they are provided with enough fire-power to extract themselves from the stickiest of situations once the enemy becomes aware of their presence.

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+
Scout
Last Stand 4+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+
Scout
Assault 5+

• UNARMoured TANK UNIT • SCOUT •
• SPEARHEAD •

IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

SAVE
 5+

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
12"/30CM	12"/30CM	20"/50CM	48"/120CM	4+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Jeep (MG)	16"/40CM	3	3	2	6	Self-defence AA

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+
Scout
Counterattack 5+
Scout
Last Stand 4+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+
Scout
Assault 5+

UNIVERSAL CARRIER
AIRBORNE RECCE PATROL

• TANK • SCOUT • SPEARHEAD •

IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

ARMOUR

FRONT		1
SIDE & REAR		0
TOP		0

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
10"/25CM	14"/35CM	20"/50CM	24"/60CM	4+

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Universal Carrier (MGs)	16"/40CM	4	4	2	6	Forward Firing

AIRBORNE RECCE 3-INCH MORTAR TROOP



6x 3-inch mortar
4x 3-inch mortar
2x 3-inch mortar

12 POINTS

8 POINTS

4 POINTS

C Squadron's compact mortar platoon provides covering and support fire for the reconnaissance and tank troops. They are able to fire both high explosive and smoke rounds as the situation requires.

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+

SKILL
VETERAN 3+
Heavy Weapon
Assault 4+

• INFANTRY UNIT • HEAVY WEAPON •

IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

SAVE
 3+

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
6"/15CM	8"/20CM	8"/20CM	8"/20CM	AUTO

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
3-inch mortar	40"/100CM	ARTILLERY	1	4+	4+	Smoke Bombardment

AIRBORNE VICKERS MACHINE-GUN PLATOON



4x Vickers MMG
2x Vickers MMG

5 POINTS

3 POINTS

Armed with the incredibly reliable Vickers medium machine-gun, this platoon gives heavy, sustained fire support for your company.

One of the machine-gun platoons located around Ranville has been used to provide indirect map fire for several units.

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+
Heavy Weapon
Assault 5+

• INFANTRY UNIT • HEAVY WEAPON •

IS HIT ON
CAREFUL 4+

SAVE
 3+

TACTICAL	TERRAIN DASH	CROSS COUNTRY DASH	ROAD DASH	CROSS
8"/20CM	8"/20CM	12"/30CM	12"/30CM	AUTO

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALTED	MOVING	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER	NOTES
Vickers MMG	24"/60CM	6	2	2	6	
Firing Bombardment	48"/120CM	ARTILLERY	1	6	6	

COMMAND CARD OPTIONS

BELGIAN BRIGADE PIRON ARMoured CAR SQUADRON

The Armoured Car Squadron of the Belgian Brigade Piron are its eyes and ears. Trained in the latest British methods they combine these skills with an intimate knowledge of the country-side they are fighting through.

Your Force includes one Recce Squadron, which is a Formation containing:

- 1 HQ Unit of
 - 3x Daimler (2 pdr) for 3 points
 - 2x Daimler (2 pdr) for 2 points from (LB178).
 - Add one Staghound (command card) for +2 points.
- 2-5 Belgian Brigade Piron Daimler Armoured Car Troop (command card).
- 0-1 Motor Platoon (LB153).

**British, Build, Formation,
Limited, Title**

**0
POINTS**

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BELGIAN BRIGADE PIRON STAGHOUND

The Belgian Brigade Piron had a small number of the larger American-built Staghound in addition to the usual Daimler. Much roomier than the Daimler, it had two more crew members and an extra machine-gun.

One Daimler (2pdr) armoured car in this Unit has the armour rating shown to the right and replaces its MG weapon with the one below. It does not have the Overworked rule on the 2 pdr. See Belgian Brigade Piron Armoured Car Squadron for points.

WEAPON	RANGE	ROF HALT	MOVE	ANTI-TANK	FIRE-POWER
Staghound (MGs)	16"/40CM	4	4	2	6

ARMOUR	
FRONT	3
SIDE & REAR	2
TOP	0

**British, Build, Unit (Belgian
Brigade Piron Armoured
Car Squadron HQ), Title**

**0
POINTS**

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BELGIAN BRIGADE PIRON DAIMLER ARMoured CAR TROOP

The additional Daimlers and Dingos of the Belgian Armoured Car Platoons provides the Belgian with improved recce abilities. The better speed of the Dingo scout cars allows them to scout ahead of the Daimler armoured cars and break-off quickly from enemy fire.

Field a Daimler Armoured Car Troop (LB178) with the following composition for:

- 2x Daimler (2 pdr),
 - 1x Daimler (Littlejohn),
 - & 2x Dingo (MG) 5 points
- 3x Daimler (2 pdr)
 - & 2x Dingo (MG) 4 points

**British, Build, Unit (Daimler
Armoured Car Troop), Title**

**0
POINTS**

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THE BELGIAN PIRON

The Belgian Piron brigade was landed in the first days of August along with the Dutch and Polish, by 20 August the Armoured Car Squadron had been transferred to the 6th Airborne Armoured Recce Regiment, the rest of the Brigade moved towards Auberville. The squadron provided point recce on all routes that the regiment advanced along, and did sterling service throughout Operation Paddle.

6TH AIRBORNE ARMoured RECCE REGIMENT CAPTURED SD Kfz 10/5 HALF-TRACK

In early July 1944 a German Sd Kfz 10/4 half-track was captured and put into use for air defence by the squadron. The half-track was manned by privates C Davis and L Walden. They claimed at least two aircraft during July, though these weren't officially confirmed.

Add one captured Sd Kfz 10/4 (2cm) to this Unit from a German Sd Kfz 10/4 Light AA Platoon (LG142) with the following rating changes:

MOTIVATION	
FEARLESS	3+
SKILL	
TRAINED	4+

It does not use the German Stormtroopers rule.

**British, Build, Unit
(Airborne Armoured Recce
Squadron HQ), Limited**

**2
POINTS**

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