Royal Netherlands Independent Brigade Group ‘Prinses Irene’
Order of Battle July 1944 to May 1945

BG-DB01
Royal Netherlands Brigade Group ‘Prinses Irene’
Lieutenant Colonel A C de Ruyter van Steveninck (a)

Command
HQ
x1 Commander               BR-50
Transport
x1 Humber Scout Car        BR-38

ME-DB01
1st Netherlands Reconnaissance Squadron
Captain Immink (b)

ME-DB03
1st Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
Major Paassens

ME-DB03
2nd Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
Major Molenaar (Major Immink from 1 Apr 45) (b)

ME-DB03
3rd Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
Major Huber (Major Scherpenberg from 16 Mar 45)

FSE-DB01
1st Netherlands Field Artillery Battery
Captain Rissieeuw (Lieutenant Gouman commanding in OC’s absence until 14 Sep 44)

Attachment
x1 Polsten 20mm Antiaircraft Gun       BR-P16
Transport
x1 15cwt Truck                      BR-43

(a) Unlike the Belgian Brigade, the Netherlands ‘Prinses Irene’ Brigade remained a ‘Brigade’ in name only and was never expanded to the strength of a full, true Brigade Group. This was largely caused by the fact that the Netherlands was only partly liberated in 1944, with the bulk of the country still firmly in German hands until 1945.

(b) The Recce Squadron was disbanded in March 1945, with the personnel used to replace losses in the Fighting Groups. Captain Immink replaced Major Molenaar as commander of 2nd Fighting Group.
Royal Belgian
1st Independent Brigade Group
(‘Brigade Piron’)
Order of Battle July 1944 to May 1945

BG-DB02
1st Belgian Independent Brigade Group
Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Baptiste Piron
(July ‘44 to November ‘44)

Command
x1 Commander
BR-50

Transport
x1 Daimler Dingo Scout Car
BR-36

ME-DB02
1st Belgian Armoured Car Squadron
Major BEM de Solliers de Moranville

ME-DB03
1st Belgian Independent Motorised Fighting Unit
Major Wintergroen

ME-DB03
2nd Belgian Independent Motorised Fighting Unit
Major R Waterloos

ME-DB03
3rd Belgian Independent Motorised Fighting Unit
Major Louis Nowe

ME-DB04
1st Belgian Engineer Field Company
Captain Richard Smekens

FSE-DB02
1st Belgian/Luxembourg Field Artillery Battery
Lieutenant Colonel B de Ridder

Attachment
x1 Polsten 20mm Antiaircraft Gun
BR-P16

Transport
x1 15cwt Truck
BR-43

BG-DB03
1st Belgian Independent Brigade Group
Brigadier Jean-Baptiste Piron
(March ‘45 to May ‘45)

Command
x1 Commander
BR-50

Transport
x1 Daimler Dingo Scout Car
BR-36

BG-DB04
1st Belgian Armoured Car Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel BEM de Solliers de Moranville

BG-DB05
1st Belgian Infantry Battalion

BG-DB05
2nd Belgian Infantry Battalion

BG-DB05
3rd Belgian Infantry Battalion

ME-DB04
1st Belgian Engineer Field Company

ME-DB05
1st Belgian Independent Machine Gun Company

FSE-DB03
1st Belgian/Luxembourg Field Artillery Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel B de Ridder

Attachment
x1 Polsten 20mm Antiaircraft Gun
BR-P16

Transport
x1 15cwt Truck
BR-43
MANEUVER ELEMENT DB01
Reconnaissance Squadron

Command/Recon
x1 Commander BR-50
Transport/Recon
x1 Humber Light Recce Car Mk III BR-71
Recon
x5 Daimler Dingo Scout Car BR-36
Recon
x4 Infantry (2 PIAT) (ab) BR-49
Recon
x2 2-inch Mortar BR-55
Transport/Recon
x6 Universal Carrier (with MG) (ab) BR-31
x1 6pdr Antitank Gun BR-46
Transport
x1 Loyd Carrier BR-32

(a) The Infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

(b) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

MANEUVER ELEMENT DB02
Armoured Car Squadron (1944) (a)

Command/Recon
x1 Daimler Mk I 2pdr Armoured Car BR-37
Recon
x1 Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40
Recon
x5 Daimler Dingo Scout Car BR-36
Recon
x5 Daimler Mk I 2pdr Armoured Car BR-37
Recon
x1 Staghound Anti-Aircraft Armoured Car CA-P09

(a) In 1945: When the Armoured Car Squadron expands to a full regiment, the individual Squadron organisation changes to match the British organisation:

Armoured Car Squadron (1945)

Command/Recon
x1 Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-37
Recon
x1 Staghound Mk I 37mm Armoured Car BR-40
Recon
x5 Daimler Dingo Scout Car BR-36
Recon
x5 Daimler Mk I 2pdr Armoured Car BR-37
Recon
x1 AEC Mk III 75mm Heavy Armoured Car BR-81
Recon
x2 Infantry (1 PIAT) (a) BR-49
Recon/Transport
x1 C15TA Armoured Truck CA-P02

(b) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

(c) The Scout Platoon Infantry may alternatively dismount as:
Bren Light Machine Gun BR-53

(d) Carriers fire without Machine Gun rating when infantry dismount as Bren LMGs.

(e) The Scout Platoon may alternatively operate as a separate maneuver element:

Scout Platoon

Command/Recon
x1 Infantry (c) BR-49
Recon
x2 Infantry (1 with PIAT) (c) BR-49
Recon
x1 2-inch Mortar BR-55
Transport/Recon
x4 Universal Carrier (with MG) (d) BR-31
MANEUVER ELEMENT DB04
Engineer Field Company (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander BR-50
- Transport
  - x1 Jeep (no MG) BR-43
  - x18 Infantry (1 with PIAT) BR-49
- Recon
  - x1 Daimler Dingo Scout Car (a) BR-36

(a) I have been unable to discover the exact composition and equipment of the Belgian Engineer Field Company, so have based it on the British organisation of three platoons, each with six sections. The British generally used obsolete Light Recce Cars in the engineering recce role, but the Belgians seem to have used the Dingo as their standard scout car, so I have included a Dingo here.

(b) May conduct engineering tasks as detailed in the website playtest engineering rules. Note that the Assault Pioneer card (BR-51), with its enhanced close-combat values, does not really reflect the role of the Belgian Engineers in this instance.

MANEUVER ELEMENT DB05
Independent Machine Gun Company (1945)

- Command
  - x1 Commander BR-50
- Transport
  - x1 Universal Carrier (no MG) BR-31
  - x6 Vickers MMG (a) BR-54
- Attachment
  - x1 Forward Observer BR-52
- Organic Fire Support
  - x2 4.2-inch Mortar BR-P46
  - x2 Loyd Carrier BR-32

(a) Vickers MMGs may fire from their carriers when mounted, but may not conduct Grazing Fire while so doing (see website Playtest Rules page).

MANEUVER ELEMENT DB06
Infantry Company (1945)

- Command
  - x1 Commander BR-50
- x9 Infantry (1 PIAT) BR-49
- Organic Fire Support
  - x1 2-inch Mortar BR-55
The Netherlands Field Artillery Battery was organised uniquely with three Troops, each of x1 25pdr (each with a FO). As with British artillery, each Troop functions effectively as an independent ‘battery’, or all three may combine their fire in a Battery fire mission (in which case, only one FO may call for fire). The purpose of this triangular organisation was: if recruits became available from liberated Dutch territories, the battery could be rapidly expanded into a regiment of three batteries, using each troop as the nucleus for the new batteries.

The battery’s organisation was essentially the same as the Netherlands Battery, for the same reasons, but had twice as many guns in each Troop, due to a greater starting manpower pool. The battery’s 3rd Troop was Luxembourgeois, while the rest of the battery’s personnel were Belgian. Unlike the Netherlands Battery, this battery was eventually able to expand into a full Belgian/Luxembourg Regiment (see below).
Vehicle Markings for
Netherlands Independent Brigade Group
‘Prinses Irene’
July 1944 to May 1945

Netherlands Arm of Service Signs & Serials

The Arm of Service (AoS) sign was a system of coloured square markings devised by the British to quickly identify the type of unit to which the vehicle belonged. The AoS sign was then superimposed with a serial number, which identified different units of the same type within a formation. When used in conjunction with a formation sign, the exact unit could be determined by those who understood the system. The system was deliberately cryptic in order to confuse enemy intelligence-gathering efforts.

- Headquarters, Netherlands Independent Brigade Group ‘Prinses Irene’
- 1st Netherlands Signals Company
- 1st Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
- 2nd Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
- 3rd Netherlands Independent Motorised Fighting Group
- 1st Netherlands Reserve & Training Company
- 1st Netherlands Field Artillery Battery
- 1st Netherlands Supply & Ordnance Company
- 1st Netherlands Light Aid Detachment
- 1st Netherlands Transport Company
- 1st Netherlands Reconnaissance Squadron
The formation sign for the ‘Prinses Irene’ Brigade was the heraldic lion rampant of the House of Orange-Nassau, in orange, facing left, on a black disc.

One variation, seen on a Loyd Carrier of 3rd Independent Motorised Fighting Group, was to paint the title ‘IRENE’ in white beneath the sign.

I am not aware of any other formation signs being used by the Netherlands ‘Princes Irene’ Brigade. Unlike other ‘Free’ European Allied forces, there were no national symbols painted on the brigade’s vehicles (other than the Allied Star).
### Belgian Arm of Service Signs & Serials

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<td>1st Belgian Independent Machine Gun Company (1945 only – conjectural)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When the Brigade expanded, the MGs were massed into a single MG Company. My guess is that this company filled the vacant ‘119’ serial:
1st Belgian Brigade Formation Signs

The original Belgian formation sign was a simple ‘B’. It was officially replaced prior to Normandy, but was still carried by many vehicles until the end of 1944 – especially softskins and carriers. It was originally ordered to be painted in concert with the Belgian roundel (see below).

This was the official formation sign in 1944, which replaced the ‘B’. It was worn on uniforms as the unit patch and was also painted on many vehicles in the Brigade, especially the Armoured Car Squadron.

In the first order regarding the marking of Belgian vehicles, the Belgian Air Force roundel was to be painted on the centre-rear of vehicles when the ‘B’ was used as the formation sign. It was also seen on some vehicles after the ‘B’ was replaced by the new formation sign (above). Was also painted centrally on the Allied Star on many Carriers (see below).

This sign was universally adopted as the Brigade’s formation sign late in 1944, when the Brigade was reorganised as a full Infantry Brigade Group. It was worn as the unit uniform patch and replaced the older formation signs on the Brigade’s vehicles.

Although not strictly a formation sign, the Belgian roundel superimposed on the Allied Star was a common feature on Belgian Carriers (as mentioned above) and was probably also painted on other vehicles.

1st Belgian Armoured Car Regiment Squadron Tacsigns (1945 Only)

As the 1st Belgian Brigade initially had only a single squadron of armoured cars, squadron tacsigns were not used. The only turret markings were a small troop number on the turret sides and the vehicle’s name (see list).

However, when the Armoured Car Squadron was expanded to a full regiment of four squadrons during the winter of 1944/45, the British system of squadron tacsigns was adopted (see left). They were painted white; indicating an un-brigaded regiment.

Troop numbers were painted in white within each sign (painted green in the case of No.4 Squadron).
1st Belgian Armoured Car Squadron Vehicle Names (1944)

Squadron HQ
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'Amarante'
2IC - Daimler Armoured Car 'Amazone'
SSM - Daimler Armoured Car 'As de Pique'
Adjudant - Dingo - 'Ajax'
Intelligence Officer - Dingo 'Achille'
Signal Officer - Staghound - 'Ardent'
Air Defence 1 - Staghound AA - no known name
Air Defence 2 - Staghound AA - no known name

1st Troop
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'Boute en Train'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Branle Bas'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Burkel'
Dingo - 'Bliksem'
Dingo - 'Blackswan'

2nd Troop
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'Calamity'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Corsaire'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Casse-Cou'
Dingo - 'Cycloon'
Dingo - 'Cobra'

3rd Troop
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'D'Artagnan'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Dur-à-Cuire'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Dynamite'
Dingo - 'Dendermonde'
Dingo - 'Diskmuide'

4th Troop
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'Enragé'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Effronté'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Entêté'
Dingo - 'Eekhoorn'
Dingo - 'Egel'

5th Troop
Commander - Daimler Armoured Car - 'Franchimont'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Flandria'
Daimler Armoured Car - 'Fear-Naught'
Dingo - 'Furet'
Dingo - 'Féroce'