

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

125th (Lancashire Fusiliers) Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 125th (Lancashire Fusiliers) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

6th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

7th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers ⁽³⁾

8th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

126th (East Lancashire) Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 125th (East Lancashire) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th/5th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment ⁽⁵⁾

10th (Oldham) Bn. The Manchester Regiment ⁽⁶⁾

4th (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment

5th (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

127th (Manchester) Infantry Brigade ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 127th (Manchester) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Manchester Regiment

6th/7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment ⁽⁸⁾

8th (Ardwick) Bn. The Manchester Regiment

9th Bn. The Manchester Regiment ⁽⁹⁾

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Artillery

51st (Westmorland and Cumberland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

(H.Q., 203rd (Cumberland), 204th (Cumberland), 369th (Westmorland Yeomanry) & 370th (Cumberland Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52nd (Manchester) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹¹⁾

(H.Q., 205th (East Lancashire), 206th (East Lancashire), 207th (East Lancashire) & 208th (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

53rd (Bolton) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹²⁾

(H.Q. 209th (East Lancashire), 210th (East Lancashire), 211th (East Lancashire) & 212th (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Engineers

200th (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

201st (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

202nd (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (15)

501st Company, Royal Army Service Corps

502nd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

503rd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

125th (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

Army Troops in the 42nd Divisional Area

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (17)

93rd Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (18)

(H.Q., 201st (East Lancashire) & 202nd (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

60th (6th Cheshire and Shropshire) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (19)

(H.Q., 237th (Cheshire), 238th (Cheshire), 239th (Cheshire) & 240th (Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery) Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

222nd Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

211th Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

546th (Non-Divisional) Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

12th (2nd Western) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

42nd Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (20)

NOTES:

1. This division reformed within the Territorial Army in 1920, with its headquarters located at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. By July 1937, the divisional headquarters had moved to 145, Withington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester 16. The division had been formed in 1908 with the creation of the Territorial Force, and was numbered in 1915. In 1938, it formed both a machine gun battalion and anti-tank regiment, the former being the 9th Bn. The Manchester Regiment (which was part of this division), the latter being the 4th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), which had just transferred in from the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division. In 1939, the division duplicated to form the 66th Infantry Division. This new formation was effectively a mirror image of the existing division, with the exception that the 8th (Irish) Bn. The King's Regiment replaced a duplicate of the 5th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment. The 42nd Division mobilised upon the outbreak of war, being sent to France in April 1940. It returned to the United Kingdom to be reorganised as an armoured division in November 1941, however, it was disbanded in October 1943 without being deployed operationally. The 42nd Division was reformed in the Territorial Army in 1947. The 66th Division remained in the U.K. until it was disbanded in June 1940 to reinforce other formations.
2. This formation was a Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at the Castle Armoury, Castle Street, Bury. It comprised four battalions of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The 5th Bn. was based at Castle Street, Bury, the 6th Bn. was based at the Drill Hall, Baron Street, Rochdale, with both the 7th Bn. and 8th Bn. based at Salford; the 7th Bn. at the Drill Hall, Cross Lane, Salford 5, and the 8th Bn. at the Drill Hall, Great Clowes Street, Lower Broughton, Salford 3. This brigade converted to the 10th Armoured Brigade on 1 November 1941.
3. This battalion left the brigade in 1936 being converted to become:
39th (The Lancashire Fusiliers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers
This regiment was redesignated as the 39th Searchlight Regiment in August 1940. It served in the United Kingdom until May 1943, when it became an infantry battalion, reverting to the title of the 7th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers.
4. This Territorial Army brigade had its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Kendal. By July 1937, it had moved to the Riding School, Carlisle. After the Great War, the two T.A. battalions of the East Lancashire Regiment were merged into one, and two battalions of the Manchester Regiment were also merged (the 6th/7th). The two remaining battalions in the brigade were the 4th/5th East Lancashire Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Canterbury Street, Blackburn, and the 10th Bn. The Manchester Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Rifle Street, Oldham. Two T.A. battalions of The Border Regiment were transferred into the brigade, namely the 4th Bn. The Border Regiment which was based at the Drill Hall, Strand Road, Carlisle, and the 5th Bn. based at the Drill Hall, Pow Street, Workington. The brigade was converted to become the 11th Armoured Brigade on 1 November 1941.
5. This battalion left the brigade in 1938, transferring to 127th Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by the 4th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), which transferred in from 164th Infantry Brigade, 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division.

6. In 1938, this battalion was converted to an armoured regiment, being redesignated:
41st (Oldham) Battalion, Royal Tank Corps
The regiment formed the 47th Royal Tank Regiment as a duplicate unit in 1939. Both regiments served in the Western Desert with the 24th Armoured Brigade, being disbanded after the battle of El Alamein having sustained heavy casualties.
7. The headquarters of this Territorial Army brigade was based at 3, Stretford Road, Manchester. By July 1937, the brigade headquarters had moved to The Armoury, Ashton-under-Lyne. The 5th Bn. The Manchester Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Wigan; the 6th/7th Bn. at 3, Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester 15; the 8th Bn. at the Drill Hall, Ardwick Green, Manchester; and the 9th Battalion at The Armoury, Ashton-under-Lyne in Manchester. On 1 November 1941, the brigade was redesignated as the 42nd Support Group.
8. In 1936, this battalion was converted into an anti-aircraft regiment, and left the brigade. It was redesignated as :
65th (The Manchester Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery
The regiment served with Home Forces for most of the war, spending just over a year in the Middle East between March 1943 and August 1944.
9. In 1938, this regiment converted roles to become the machine gun battalion for this division. It left the command of this brigade, being replaced by the 4th/5th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment.
10. This regiment was formed in 1923 by the conversion of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry and its merger with the 51st (East Lancashire & Cumberland) Brigade, R.F.A. The 51st (East Lancashire) Brigade, R.F.A. had been formed in 1920 with its headquarters at Church (which is part of Accrington) in Lancashire. At this time, the brigade absorbed the former 4th East Lancashire Brigade which had been based in Cumberland. The reformed brigade comprised the 201st (East Lancashire) Battery based at Church, the 202nd (East Lancashire) Battery based at Burnley, the 203rd (Cumberland) Battery based at Whitehaven and the 204th (Cumberland) Battery based at Workington. In June 1922, the two East Lancashire batteries transferred to the newly formed 93rd (East Lancashire) Field Brigade and the 51st Brigade absorbed the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. The headquarters of the revised 51st Brigade was based at Workington, together with the 204th Battery; the 203rd Battery still being based at Whitehaven. The two new yeomanry batteries (the 369th and 370th) were based at the Artillery Drill Hall, Carlisle. By July 1937, the Headquarters Battery had moved from Workington to the Riding School, Swifts Row, Carlisle. It was joined by the 370th Battery. In 1939, the 51st Regiment duplicated to form the 109th Field Regiment, which joined the 66th Infantry Division. The 204th and 369th Batteries became part of the new regiment. The 51st Field Regiment served with the division until April 1940. It left the U.K. in November 1940 to transfer to Egypt, serving at Tobruk before moving with the 16th Infantry Brigade to Ceylon. In February 1943, it joined the 70th Infantry Division and was converted to 51 Column in Special Force in September 1943. The 109th Field Regiment served in the U.K. throughout the war.

11. Formed in 1916 as the 2nd East Lancashire Brigade, R.F.A., all five batteries of this regiment were based at Hyde Road, Manchester 12. In May 1939, it duplicated to form the 110th Field Regiment, which came under command of the 66th Infantry Division. The 207th and 208th Batteries transferred across to the new regiment. The 52nd Field Regiment left the division in October 1941, later transferring to the Middle East, where it joined the 8th Indian Infantry Division and fought in the Italian Campaign. The 110th Field Regiment joined the 59th Infantry Division in July 1940, serving with that division in North West Europe. It was placed in suspended animation in January 1945.
12. This regiment was also formed in 1916, as the 3rd East Lancashire Brigade, R.F.A.. All five batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Silverwell Street, Bolton. In July 1939, the regiment duplicated to form the 111th Field Regiment, which likewise came under command of the 66th Infantry Division. The 211th and 212th Field Batteries transferred to the new regiment. The 53rd Field Regiment also went to the Middle East and also served with the 8th Indian Infantry Division in Italy. The 111th Field Regiment left the 66th Infantry Division when it disbanded and later served with the 8th Army in Italy.
13. The Headquarters Royal Engineers and the three Territorial companies were all based in Manchester, at Seymour Grove, Old Trafford, Manchester 16. They had been raised in Manchester in 1901 as the 3rd Lancashire Engineer Volunteers. In 1908, the regiment transferred to the Territorial Force as the East Lancashire Division Engineers, based at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1920, following service in The Great War, the engineers were reconstituted as the 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Engineers, comprising three field companies all based at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1939, the engineers formed the duplicate field companies for the creation of the 66th Infantry Division, and at the same time raised the 203rd Field Park Company.
14. The Divisional Signals were based at Brooks Bar, Manchester. The two signal sections were also based at the same location
15. The Commander Royal Army Service Corps was located at 215, Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. The headquarters R.A.S.C. and all three companies were also based at this location. The non-divisional company was also based at this location.
16. The field ambulance was based at Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. The 12th General Hospital was also based at the same location.
17. This regiment was based at Lancaster House, Whalley Road, Manchester 16. It was one of the fourteen yeomanry regiments retained as cavalry when the Territorial Army was formed in 1920. It was under command of the East Lancashire Area, but affiliated to this division. In February 1940, the regiment converted into an artillery role and had no further links to the division. It was redesignated as:
77th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery
In April 1940, the regiment duplicated to form the:
78th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery
The 77th Medium Regiment was under the command of Home Forces until April 1944. In that month, it came under the command of 2nd Army. In June 1944, the regiment joined 8th Army Group, Royal Artillery, and served with that formation in North West Europe until the end of the war. The 78th Medium Regiment served with Home Forces until January 1943 when it left the U.K. bound for the Middle East. From January 1944 until the end of the war, the regiment served with the 8th Army in Italy.

18. The 51st (East Lancashire & Cumberland) Brigade, R.F.A. had been formed in 1920 with its headquarters at Church (which is part of Accrington) in Lancashire. At this time, the brigade absorbed the former 4th East Lancashire Brigade which had been based in Cumberland. The reformed brigade comprised the 201st (East Lancashire) Battery based at the Artillery Drill Hall, Church, the 202nd (East Lancashire) Battery based at Burnley Barracks, Burnley, the 203rd (Cumberland) Battery based at Whitehaven and the 204th (Cumberland) Battery based at Workington. In June 1922, the two East Lancashire batteries transferred to the newly formed 93rd (East Lancashire) Field Brigade and in 1923, the 51st Brigade absorbed the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. The headquarters of the new 93rd Army Field Brigade was at Burnley Barracks, alongside the 202nd Battery, the 201st Battery still being based at Church. On the 28th November 1938, the regiment converted into:

52nd (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

It was sent to France in November 1939 as part of the B.E.F, under the command of I Corps. Following its return to the United Kingdom, the regiment remained in the country until leaving for the Middle East in June 1941. The regiment then served in Middle East Forces and later 8th Army in Italy.

19. This headquarters of this regiment was located at The Armoury, Stockport. The 237th and 238th Batteries were also based at Stockport. The 239th Battery was based at Stalybridge, and the 240th Battery at Coleham, Shrewsbury. In 1938, the regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft brigade, titled as the:

81st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

The headquarters of the regiment remained at Stockport, with the 237th and 238th Batteries being redesignated as the 253rd and 254th Anti-Aircraft Batteries respectively. The 239th Battery at Stalybridge became the 255th Anti-Aircraft Battery. The 240th Battery transferred to the 51st (Midland) Medium Regiment. The 81st Anti-Aircraft Regiment came under command of the 33rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade, 4th Anti-Aircraft Division. The regiment left the U.K. in August 1942 to move to the Middle East. It remained in North Africa until placed in suspended animation in August 1944.

20. The divisional ordnance unit was based at Lancaster House, Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. By July 1937, it had been retitled as the 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps

SOURCES:

Primary Sources

- H.M.S.O** *The Monthly Army List January 1930*
Available From: Your Old Books and Maps: <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>
- H.M.S.O.** *The Monthly Army List July 1937*
Available From: Your Old Books and Maps <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>
- H.M.S.O.** *The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1938*
Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea>
- H.M.S.O.** *The Monthly Army List April 1938*
Available From: S & N Genealogy: <http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>
- H.M.S.O.** *The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1939*
Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1940grea>
- H.M.S.O.** *The Monthly Army List April 1940*
Available From: S & N Genealogy: <http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>
- JOSLEN, Lieut.-Col. H. F.** *Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945* (London, H.M.S.O., 1960 Reprinted London, The London Stamp Exchange Ltd., 1990) [ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

Secondary Sources

- BELLIS, Malcolm A.** *Regiments of the British Army 1939 – 1945 (Artillery)* (England, Military Press International, 1995) [ISBN 0 85420 110 6]
- HUGHES, Major General B. P.** *The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919-39* (England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1992) [ISBN 0 08 040984 9]
- MILLS, T. F.** *Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.*
Available on-line at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20070607051547/http://www.regiments.org/>
[Accessed 19 April 2016]
- The Royal Artillery 1939 – 45*
Available on-line at: <http://www.ra39-45.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>
[Accessed 20 March 2016]