

55th (West Lancashire) Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 55th (West Lancashire) Division & Employment Platoon

164th (North Lancashire) Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 164th (North Lancashire) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The Prince of Wales's Volunteers Regiment (South Lancashire Regiment) ⁽³⁾

5th Bn. The Prince of Wales's Volunteers Regiment (South Lancashire Regiment) ⁽⁴⁾

4th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) ⁽⁵⁾

5th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) ⁽⁶⁾

165th (Liverpool) Infantry Brigade ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 165th (Liverpool) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool)

7th Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) ⁽⁸⁾

10th (Liverpool Scottish) Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) ⁽⁹⁾

4th/5th (Earl of Chester's) Bn. The Cheshire Regiment ⁽¹⁰⁾

166th (South Lancashire & Cheshire) Infantry Brigade ⁽¹¹⁾

Headquarters, 166th (South Lancashire & Cheshire) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

7th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment ⁽¹²⁾

5th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

6th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

6th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 55th (West Lancashire) Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽¹³⁾

87th (1st West Lancashire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁴⁾

(H.Q., 345th (1st West Lancashire), 346th (2nd West Lancashire), 347th (3rd West Lancashire) & 348th (25th West Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

88th (2nd West Lancashire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁵⁾

(H.Q., 349th (9th West Lancashire), 350th (10th West Lancashire), 351st (11th West Lancashire) & 352nd (26th West Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

89th (3rd West Lancashire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁶⁾

(H.Q., 353rd (12th West Lancashire), 354th (13th West Lancashire), 355th (14th West Lancashire) & 356th (27th West Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 55th (West Lancashire) Divisional Royal Engineers (17)

252nd (West Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (17)

253rd (West Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (17)

254th (West Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (17)

55th (West Lancashire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (18)

H.Q. 55th (West Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (19)

537th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (19)

538th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (19)

539th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (19)

164th (West Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (20)

55th (West Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps (21)

61st (North Midland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (22)

(H.Q., 241st (North Staffordshire), 242nd (North Staffordshire), 243rd (Leek) & 244th (Stafford) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

62nd (North Midland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (23)

(H.Q., 245th (Derby), 246th (Derby), 247th (Wolverhampton) & 248th (West Bromwich) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 46th (North Midland) Divisional Royal Engineers (24)

212th (North Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (24)

213th (North Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (24)

214th (North Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (24)

Headquarters, 46th (North Midland) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (25)

510th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (25)

511th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (25)

512th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (25)

Army Troops in the 55th Divisional Area

The Cheshire Yeomanry (Earl of Chester's) (26)

106th (Lancashire Yeomanry) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (27)

(H.Q., 423rd (Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry) & 424th (Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry) (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

51st (Midland) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (28)

(H.Q., 215th (Staffordshire) and 216th (Staffordshire) (Howitzer) Batteries, Royal Artillery)

59th (4th West Lancashire) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (29)
(H.Q., 233rd (West Lancashire), 234th (West Lancashire) (Howitzer), 235th (West Lancashire)
(Howitzer) & 236th (West Lancashire) (Howitzer) Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

235th Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (20)

210th Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (20)

Supplementary Reserve

No. 3 (West Lancashire) Company, Lines of Communication Signals, Royal Corps of
Signals (20)

NOTES:

1. This division was one of the Territorial Force divisions formed in 1908. It was numbered in 1915, and reconstituted into the Territorial Army in 1920. Headquarters of the formation were located at St. George Building, Lime Street, Liverpool 1. Between 1936 and 1938, no less than nine of the twelve infantry battalions were transferred away from the division. Two battalions of the South Staffordshire Regiment and one of the North Staffordshire Regiment were posted into the Division with the disbanding of the 46th (North Midland) Infantry Division. Circa 1938, the formation was reorganised as a motor division, with just two brigades. It is believed the 164th Infantry Brigade was disbanded, with the 165th Infantry Brigade comprising the 5th Bn. The King's Regiment, The Liverpool Scottish and the 4th Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment. The 166th Infantry Brigade comprised the 5th and 6th Bn's. The South Staffordshire Regiment and the 6th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment. In April 1939, the Division was ordered to form a duplicate division. The duplicate division was titled the 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division. The 164th Infantry Brigade was reformed to come under command of the 55th Infantry Division again, with the 166th Infantry Brigade being redesignated as the 176th Infantry Brigade and forming a duplicate brigade, the 177th Infantry Brigade. The 59th Infantry Division assumed command of the 176th and 177th Infantry Brigades on the 15th September 1939.
2. This formation was a Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters located at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. The 4th Bn. The Prince of Wales's Volunteers was based at Bath Street, Warrington, with the 5th Bn. based at the Drill Hall, Mill Street, St. Helen's. In November 1938, The Prince of Wales's Volunteers Regiment (South Lancashire Regiment) was retitled as The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers). The 4th Bn. The Loyal Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Stanley Street, Preston, and the 5th Bn. was based at The Barracks, Fletcher Street, Bolton. It is believed this brigade was disbanded in 1938 (see above) but was reconstituted in April 1939 when the division duplicated.
3. In 1938, it is believed this battalion transferred to the 165th Infantry Brigade, and by 3rd September 1939, it under the command of the 164th Infantry Brigade.
4. In 1938, this battalion converted into a searchlight unit, becoming 5th Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) (61st Searchlight Regiment)
It remained part of the regiment until transferring to the Royal Artillery in 1940. It was based in the United Kingdom until November 1944, when it was converted into a Garrison Regiment. In February 1945, it became the 612th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery and saw service in North West Europe.
5. In 1938, this battalion was converted into a searchlight regiment, becoming:
4th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) 62nd Searchlight Regiment
The regiment remained part of The Loyal Regiment until being absorbed into the Royal Artillery in 1940. It served with Home Forces until May 1943, then being converted into a light anti-aircraft regiment.
6. When this division was reorganised as a motor division, this unit became the divisional reconnaissance battalion, equipped with motor cycles, and left this brigade to come under divisional command.
7. As its name suggests, the headquarters of this brigade was based in Liverpool, and was also located at the St. George Building, Lime Street, Liverpool 1. The 5th Bn. The King's Regiment was based in the Drill Hall, Townsend Avenue, Liverpool 11; the 7th Bn. at 99, Park Street, Bootle Liverpool 20; and the 10th Bn. at 7, Fraser Street, Liverpool 3. The 4th/5th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Volunteer Street, in the City of Chester,

8. In 1938, this battalion was converted into an armoured role, becoming the:
40th (King's) Bn. Royal Tank Corps
Later this became the 40th Royal Tank Regiment.
9. In 1938, this battalion was transferred from The King's Regiment to The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. From then, it was retitled as The Liverpool Scottish.
10. In 1938, this battalion converted to a machine gun role, and passed to the command of the West Lancashire Area.
11. The headquarters of this brigade was located in Beacon Place, Lichfield, Staffordshire. The 7th Bn. Cheshire Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Bridge Street, Macclesfield. The 6th Bn. of the South Staffordshire Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. The 5th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Booth Street, Stoke-on-Trent, with the 6th Bn. based at the Drill Hall, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent.
12. In 1938, this battalion converted to a machine gun role, and passed to the command of the West Lancashire Area.
13. The Headquarters, Divisional Royal Artillery was located within the main divisional headquarters at the St. George Building, Lime Street, Liverpool 1.
14. This regiment was formed in 1916 as the 1st West Lancashire Field Brigade. All five batteries were based in Edge Hill, Liverpool. In May 1939, this regiment formed a duplicate regiment, the 136th Field Regiment the 347th and 248th Batteries transferring to the new regiment. Both regiments were based at Edge Hill and were under command of this division at the outbreak of war. The 87th Field Regiment left the U.K. in December 1941, moving to Iraq. It served for the rest of the war in Iraq, Iran and Palestine. The 136th Field Regiment arrived in India from the U.K. in March 1943. It joined the 7th Indian Infantry Division, with which it fought throughout the Burma campaigns of 1944 and 1945.
15. Formed in 1916 as the 2nd West Lancashire Field Brigade, the Headquarters, 349th and 352nd Batteries were based in Preston, with the 350th Battery based in Lancaster and the 351st Battery based in Blackpool. The Regiment duplicated in June 1939, to form the 137th Field Regiment. The 349th and 350th Field Batteries transferred to the new 137th Field Regiment. In September 1939, the regiments were under command of the West Lancashire Area, and may have left the command of this division in 1938. Both the 88th Field Regiment and 137th Field Regiment were sent to Malaya, where they were captured in February 1942.
16. The 3rd West Lancashire Field Brigade can trace its lineage back to 1860 and the formation of the 15th Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Corps. The Headquarters, 353rd and 256th Batteries were based in Liverpool, the 354th Battery in Garston and the 355th Battery at Widnes. On the 1st October 1937, this field brigade was converted to an anti-aircraft brigade. It was designated as the:-
70th (3rd West Lancashire) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery
This regiment left the U.K. in March 1942 to travel to India. It served in India until August 1944.

17. The three Field Companies can trace their origin back to the raising of the 2nd Lancashire Engineer Volunteers in Liverpool. In 1908, with the creation of the Territorial Force, the West Lancashire Division Engineers was established with its headquarters at St. Helens. The 1st (The St. Helens) West Lancashire Field Company, 2nd (The St. Helens) West Lancashire Field Company and the West Lancashire (The St. Helens) Divisional Telegraph Company were all based in St. Helens. In 1920, the 55th (West Lancashire) Division Engineers was reconstituted by the St. Helens Field Companies absorbing the 9th Bn. The King's Regiment. By July 1937, the Headquarters Divisional Engineers had moved to Tramway Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, with the 254th Field Company. The 252nd and 253rd Field Companies were still based at Engineer Hall, Croppers Hill, St. Helens. The 255th Company was not formed. In 1939, the 254th Field Company was re-designated as a field park company. In 1939, the divisional engineers formed duplicate units. The first line units left the command of the division to come under command of the West Lancashire Area, with the 253rd Field Company being allocated to the 3rd Infantry Division. The second line units became the engineers for the division. In 1947, the divisional engineers were reformed as the 107th Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, with the 252nd, 253rd, 254th Field Companies and 255th Field Park Squadron.
18. The Divisional Signals were based at 38, Mason Street, Edgehill, Liverpool 7. The two artillery signal sections were based at the Drill Hall, Aspinall Street, Prescott. The Lines of Communication unit was also based at 38, Mason Street, Edgehill, Liverpool 7.
19. The Headquarters, R.A.S.C. was based at the Drill Hall, Manchester Road, Southport, together with the 537th and 538th Companies. The 539th Company and 557th (Non-Divisional) Companies were both based at the Drill Hall, 13, Low Hill, Liverpool.
20. The field ambulance was based at the Drill Hall, Rathbone Road, Old Swan, Liverpool 15.
21. The ordnance company was based at the Drill Hall, Southport Road, Ormskirk.
22. A first line Territorial Army regiment, originally formed in 1916 as 2nd North Midland Brigade, R.F.A.. The Headquarters, 241st and 242nd Batteries were based at Shelton in Stoke-on-Trent. The 243rd Battery was based in Leek and the 244th Battery in Stafford. In 1936, the regiment was attached to the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division. In 1939, the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division duplicated to form the 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division, the regiment transferring to that new division. It also duplicated to form the 116th Field Regiment. The 61st Field Regiment remained with the 59th Infantry Division throughout its existence, serving in Normandy in 1944. When that division disbanded, the regiment converted to become the 61st Super Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery. The 116th Field Regiment also remained with the 59th Infantry Division throughout its existence, but was placed in suspended animation in January 1945 following the break-up of the division.
23. This regiment was reformed in 1920, being based in Derby and Staffordshire. The Headquarters Battery was based at 91, Siddals Road, Derby, together with the 245th and 246th Batteries. The 247th Battery was based at West Park, Wolverhampton, and the 248th Battery at Carters Green, West Bromwich. In 1937, it was converted into an anti-aircraft regiment and redesignated as the: 68th (North Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery In June 1940, it was retitled a heavy anti-aircraft regiment. It served in Home Forces until June 1941 when it left for Egypt, serving there and in Malta to the end of the war.

24. The Headquarters, Royal Engineers were based at the Drill Hall, Smethwick, Staffordshire. The 212th Field Company was also based at Smethwick alongside the Headquarters, Royal Engineers. The 213th Company was based at Cannock, Staffordshire, and the 214th Company was based in Tunstall, one of the six towns which now form Stoke-on-Trent. When the division disbanded the divisional Royal Engineers were attached to the 55th (West Lancashire) Division. In 1939, the 215th Field Park Company was raised, based in Smethwick. At the outbreak of war, the 212th and 215th Companies were under the command of the South Midland Area, with the 213th and 214th Companies under the command of the West Lancashire Area. The 214th Field Company served with III Corps in France as part of the B.E.F. In May 1942 it joined the 78th Infantry Division seeing active service in North Africa and Italy.
25. The headquarters of the divisional R.A.S.C. was based at the Drill Hall, Carter's Green, West Bromwich, Staffordshire together with all three companies. When the division disbanded, the units were attached to the 55th (West Lancashire) Division.
26. The Cheshire Yeomanry had its headquarters at 'Gilwern', Abbot's Park, Liverpool Road, Chester. The regiment remained as a cavalry unit, joining the 6th Cavalry Brigade in October 1939. It travelled with the brigade and the 1st Cavalry Division to Palestine in January 1940.
27. In 1922, the Lancashire Yeomanry converted into an artillery field brigade. The headquarters and both batteries were based at 75, Shaw Street, Liverpool. In November 1938, the regiment transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery. In November 1939, it came under command of the 1st Cavalry Division, travelling with that formation to Palestine in early 1940. The regiment was placed in suspended animation in Egypt in July 1941.
28. This brigade (regiment) was formed in October 1932 by amalgamation of the 51st and 54th Medium Brigade. The Headquarters Battery, 215th and 216th Batteries were all based in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The third battery of the brigade was the 204th (Warwickshire) Medium Battery, based in Saltley, Birmingham. The regiment mobilised at the outbreak of war, with now the 215th and 240th (Shropshire Horse Artillery) Batteries under command. It moved to France in October 1939. In April 1940, it was deployed to the Saar Front under command of the 51st Infantry Division. The regiment withdrew with the division and came under 'Ark Force' so made for Le Havre. It was evacuated successfully from that port in June. The regiment remained in the U.K. until September 1942, when it sailed for Egypt. It served in Italy until February 1945 when it moved to North West Europe.
29. Previously part of the Royal Garrison Artillery, this Territorial Army unit was based at The Grange, Edge Lane, Liverpool. It served with the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1940, and then served in North West Europe in 1944 and 1945.

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