

## 1<sup>st</sup> Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Division

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Scots Guards

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's)

Divisional Troops

1<sup>st</sup> The Royal Dragoons <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Royal Artillery

XVI Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

(H.Q., 27<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup> & 80<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

VII Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

(H.Q., 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 43<sup>rd</sup> (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

XI Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

(H.Q., 78<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer), 83<sup>rd</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup> & 85<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

<sup>(9)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Royal Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> (Field Park) Company, Royal Engineers (10) + (11)

12<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10) + (3)

23<sup>rd</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10)

24<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10)

1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (13)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's) (14)

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

7<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

40<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

42<sup>nd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

No. 1 Company, Corps of Military Police (16)

## NOTES:

1. This Regular Army field division was based in Aldershot as part of Aldershot Command. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division dated from 1809 and the raising of a division for service in the Peninsular War. After the Great War, the division formed part of the spearhead corps for deployment to meet the strategic needs of the UK across the empire. The establishment of the formation was consistent with the infantry division establishment agreed following a review of the experiences of the Great War. There were three infantry brigades, each comprising four infantry battalions. British Army formations usually enjoyed a generous provision of artillery, which was reflected in tactical doctrine. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division had three field brigades (one for each infantry brigade), each consisting of a headquarters battery and four field batteries. By April 1938, the one light artillery brigade was no longer allocated to the division. The division had three Royal Engineers field companies, again one per brigade, plus a field park company that had been added as a result of the experience of the Great War. The divisional signals were now provided by the Royal Corps of Signals, which had been formed on 28 June 1920. On 17 February 1938, command of the division was passed to Major General The Honourable H. R. L. G. ALEXANDER, C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Punjab Regiment, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*. ALEXANDER. At this time, he was the youngest Major General and divisional commander in the British Army, and was destined to become a Field Marshal by 1945.
2. This brigade and two of its constituent battalions (3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Scots Guards) were based in Stanhope Lines (otherwise known as North Camp), Aldershot. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards were based at Barossa Barracks and the Scots Guards were based at Albuhera Barracks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards, although based at Windsor for ceremonial duties, were under command of this brigade. By April 1938, all three battalions allocated to this brigade had changed. In April 1938, the constituent battalions were:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards (Windsor);  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Scots Guards;  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Welsh Guards.
3. The brigade and all its constituent battalions were based in Wellington Lines, Aldershot. Wellington Lines were the former central, permanent infantry barracks built in 1856 to 1859. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The K.R.R.C. were based in Salamanca Barracks, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Wiltshire Regiment at Talavera Barracks, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. North Staffordshire Regiment at Badajos Barracks. With the deterioration in the security situation in Palestine due to rioting amongst the Arab population, the brigade fulfilled its role and was dispatched to Palestine. It was accompanied by the 12<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers. On arrival, it took under command the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment which had been sent to Palestine from Devonport. Once the situation stabilised, the brigade returned to the United Kingdom, except for the Royal Sussex Regiment which transferred to Egypt in 1938. By April 1938, the brigade was back in the United Kingdom. Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment were still under command; but it had been joined by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Gordon Highlanders.

4. This brigade and all its constituent battalions were based in Bordon in Hampshire. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Buffs were stationed at St. Lucia Barracks between 1 September 1934 and 31 December 1938; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cameronians were stationed at Quebec Barracks from 1 October 1933 until 31 October 1937. The 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers were based at Guadaloupe Barracks from 1 October 1934 until 31 October 1938; in addition these barracks housed on a temporary basis the regimental depot. By April 1938, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cameronians had left to be replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), which took over Quebec Barracks with effect from 1 October 1937. The Cameronians moved to Catterick in North Yorkshire.
5. By this date, the division had been allocated a cavalry regiment in the role of divisional reconnaissance unit. The Royal Dragoons were stationed at Shorncliffe in Kent, and were under Eastern Command for the purposes of administration. By April 1938, the divisional cavalry regiment was the Royal Scots Greys, which were based at Hounslow Cavalry Barracks in West London.
6. A Regular Army field artillery brigade, this unit was based in Leipzig Barracks, Ewshott in Surrey. Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, this field brigade (regiment) had been replaced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
7. Another Regular Army field artillery brigade, this unit was based in Louisberg Barracks, Bordon. This field brigade was destined to remain with this division through from 1937 until at least the end of the Second World War.
8. This Regular Army field artillery brigade was based in Waterloo Barracks, Aldershot. This brigade (regiment) was still serving with this division at the outbreak of the Second World War, but left in 1940.
9. The Regular Army light artillery brigade that had been based at Ewshott had left the command of this division by April 1938. This left the division with three field brigades consistent with the three brigades
10. The three Royal Engineers field companies were all based at Aldershot. The Royal Engineers barracks in Aldershot were called Gibraltar Barracks, which had been built in 1895 in the Stanhope Lines (otherwise known as South Camp).
11. The lineage of this company dates back to 1811 and the formation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Company at Cadiz for service in the Peninsula War. In 1886, it was designated as a fortress company, and as such saw service in the Great War. In 1923, the company was disbanded in Belfast. The official history of the Royal Engineers state this company was reformed in 1934 as a field park company, under command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. The company, however, is shown on the 1930 Army List as a field park company. It was destined to serve with this division throughout the Second World War.
12. The divisional signals were based at Aldershot. The Royal Corps of Signals occupied a purpose built barracks called Mons Barracks, which were constructed in 1926/7.
13. This was a machine gun battalion, attached to the division and administered by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade. It was based at Martinique Barracks in Bordon, Hampshire. This battalion left Martinique Barracks in October 1938.
14. This unit was also a machine gun battalion. It was based in Maida Barracks, Aldershot and administered by the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade. In 1938, it was decided to concentrate the machine gun battalions in the regiments of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Cheshire Regiment, and Middlesex Regiment, so the West Yorkshires converted back to a standard infantry battalion. They left Maida Barracks in September 1937, to be replaced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment, which became the machine gun battalion for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

15. These three companies of the Royal Army Service Corps (R.A.S.C.) were all based in Aldershot. The Royal Army Service Corps had two barracks in Aldershot, both named after distinguished senior officers of the Corps. Buller Barracks served as the training centre for the R.A.S.C., with Clayton Barracks acting as the base for the operational units based in Aldershot.
16. This company of the Corps of Military Police was based in Aldershot.

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