

## 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division

### 149<sup>th</sup> (Northumberland) Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 149<sup>th</sup> (Northumberland) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northumberland Fusiliers <sup>(3)</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northumberland Fusiliers <sup>(4)</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> (City) Bn. The Northumberland Fusiliers <sup>(5)</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northumberland Fusiliers <sup>(6)</sup>

### 150<sup>th</sup> (York and Durham) Infantry Brigade <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 150<sup>th</sup> (York and Durham) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own)

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry <sup>(8)</sup>

### 151<sup>st</sup> (Durham) Infantry Brigade <sup>(9)</sup>

Headquarters, 151<sup>st</sup> (Durham) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry <sup>(10)</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Artillery

72<sup>nd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

(H.Q., 285<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian), 286<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Northumbrian), 287<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Northumbrian) & 288<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

73<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

(H.Q., 289<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> East Riding), 290<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> East Riding), 291<sup>st</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> North Riding) & 292<sup>nd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> North Riding) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

74<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(13)</sup>

(H.Q., 293<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Durham), 294<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Durham), 295<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Durham) & 296<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Durham) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Engineers

232<sup>nd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers (14)

233<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers (14)

234<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers (14)

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (15)

Headquarters 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (16)

522<sup>nd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

523<sup>rd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

524<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

149<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (17)

### Army Troops in the Divisional Area

The Northumberland Hussars (18)

55<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (19)

(H.Q., 217<sup>th</sup> (Durham) (Howitzer), 218<sup>th</sup> (Durham) (Howitzer), 219<sup>th</sup> (Durham) (Howitzer) & 220<sup>th</sup> (Durham) Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

26<sup>th</sup> (East Riding of York Yeomanry) Armoured Car Company,  
Royal Tank Corps (20)

206<sup>th</sup> Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals

552<sup>nd</sup> (Non-Divisional) Company, Royal Army Service Corps (16)

50<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (21)

## NOTES:

1. This division was a Territorial Army formation, with its headquarters based at 129, Victoria Road, Darlington, County Durham. Originally formed in 1908, it was numbered in April 1915. The division was reconstituted into the Territorial Army in 1920. In 1938, it was reorganised as a motor division. This was due to the conversion of the four battalions of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers to roles other than a standard infantry battalion, and the conversion of two battalions of the Durham Light Infantry. In 1939, the division duplicated to form the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division as a mirror image second line formation. The 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division served in France in 1940, and then Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Sicily. In 1944, it became one of the assault divisions on D-Day in Normandy. It was reduced to the role of a reserve division in late 1944, but in 1945 went to Norway to disarm the German Army following their surrender in May. The division was reconstituted in the Territorial Army in 1947. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division served in France in 1940 in a labour and training role, but was disbanded in late 1940 to reinforce other divisional formations.
2. A Territorial Army brigade, it comprised four battalions of The Northumberland Fusiliers. The headquarters of the brigade was located at the Drill Hall, Hutton Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at the Drill Hall, Newburn-on-Tyne, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn at the Drill Hall, Church Street, Walker-on-Tyne, the 6<sup>th</sup> (City) Bn. at the St. George's Drill Hall, St. Mary's Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne and the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Fenkle Street, Alnwick. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1935, the regiment was granted the title 'Royal'. In 1938, with the conversion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion to other roles, the brigade was disbanded. It was reformed in 1947 with the reconstitution of the Territorial Army and the 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division.
3. In 1938, this battalion was converted into the reconnaissance (motor cycle) battalion for the division, and was placed under command of divisional troops.
4. This battalion was converted into an anti-aircraft role in 1938, being redesignated as: 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (53<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment)  
The regiment served with Home Forces until January 1945, when it became the 638<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment then served in Norway.
5. In 1938, this battalion was converted into an armoured role, being redesignated as: 43<sup>rd</sup> (Northumberland) Battalion, Royal Tank Corps  
It formed a duplicate regiment, the 49<sup>th</sup> R.T.R. in 1939. Both later saw service with the 79<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in N.W. Europe.
6. In 1938, this battalion was converted into a machine gun role, being allocated to this division as the divisional machine gun battalion.
7. The headquarters of this Territorial Army brigade was based at Chancery Lane, Malton. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment was based at Londesborough Barracks, Hull, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards being based at Thirsk Road, Northallerton (later moved to Guisborough near Middlesbrough), and the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. at St. John's Road Barracks, Scarborough. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry was based at the Drill Hall, Stockton-on-Tees. The brigade served with the division until it was captured in the Western Desert in June 1942.

8. In 1936, this battalion converted to a searchlight unit, becoming the:  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry (54<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment)  
and  
2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry (55<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment)  
Both regiments became part of the Royal Artillery in August 1940. The 54<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment served in the U.K. until February 1945, when it moved to Italy to serve with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army. The 55<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment also served in the U.K., but in January 1942 was converted into the:  
113<sup>th</sup> (Durham Light Infantry) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery  
The regiment later served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in North West Europe.
9. A first line Territorial Army brigade with its headquarters located at 53, Old Elvet, in the City of Durham. It comprised four battalions of the Durham Light Infantry. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at the Drill Hall, Bishop Auckland, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Liningstone Road, Sunderland, the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Gilesgate, Durham, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Burt Terrace, Gateshead. The brigade served with the division throughout the war.
10. In 1936, this battalion converted to a searchlight unit, being redesignated as the:  
47<sup>th</sup> (The Durham Light Infantry) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers  
The regiment served with Home Forces until January 1942, when it was converted to:  
112<sup>th</sup> (Durham Light Infantry) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery  
As such, it served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in N.W. Europe.
11. A first line Territorial Army regiment originally formed in 1916, with the headquarters and three batteries based in Newcastle on Tyne, and the fourth Battery, the 287<sup>th</sup>, being based in Blyth. In 1939, it formed a duplicate unit, the 124<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The 287<sup>th</sup> and 288<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred to the new regiment. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment served with this division until captured in the Western Desert in June 1942. The 124<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment joined the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, but transferred back to this division in June 1940. It was to serve with this division until it was reduced to a reserve formation in November 1944.
12. Reformed in 1921 as the 73<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Brigade, R.F.A., this regiment was based at Hull. The H.Q., 289<sup>th</sup> and 290<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at Wenlock Barracks, Hull, with the 291<sup>st</sup> Battery based at Uppang Lane, Whitby and the 292<sup>nd</sup> Battery based at the Artillery barracks, Lytton Street, Middlesbrough. On 1 June 1924, the regiment assumed the title as shown. On 10 December 1936, the regiment converted to an anti-aircraft role, being redesignated as the:  
62<sup>nd</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery  
As such, it served in North Africa and with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy.
13. A first line Territorial Army regiment originally formed in 1916, with the H.Q., 294<sup>th</sup>, 295<sup>th</sup> and 296<sup>th</sup> Batteries being based at South Shields. The 293<sup>rd</sup> Battery was based at Hebburn on Tyne. This regiment served with the division until it was re-designated a reserve division in November 1944. In May 1939, the regiment duplicated to form the 125<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. The 294<sup>th</sup> and 295<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred to the new regiment. In June 1940, the regiment converted to an anti-tank role as the:  
125<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery  
It came under command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, being captured with the division at Singapore in February 1942.

14. The 1<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Engineer Volunteers was formed in 1860. In 1884, the Durham and Newcastle Engineers merged to form the 1<sup>st</sup> Newcastle on Tyne and Durham Engineers. In 1908, the regiment became the Northumbrian Division Engineers, with its headquarters based in Newcastle on Tyne. Following service in The Great War, the divisional engineers were reconstituted at Newcastle-on-Tyne, with the headquarters based at Barras Bridge, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The 232<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, the 233<sup>rd</sup> Field Company based at Jarrow, the 234<sup>th</sup> Field Company based at Gateshead-on-Tyne. In 1939, the 233<sup>rd</sup> Field Company transferred to the duplicate 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and the 235<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company was formed at Gateshead. The 232<sup>nd</sup> Field Company was later captured with the 150<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the Western Desert, but the other two units served with the division until November 1944. The divisional engineers were reformed as the 103<sup>rd</sup> Field Engineer Regiment in 1947.
15. The divisional signals were based at the Drill Hall, Darlington, County Durham.
16. The divisional Royal Army Service Corps was located at the R.A.S.C. Barracks, Walton Street, Hull. All three divisional companies and the non-divisional company were all based at the R.A.S.C. Barracks at Hull.
17. The field ambulance was based at Hutton Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It served with the division throughout the war.
18. The Northumberland Hussars were a yeomanry regiment, based in Newcastle on Tyne, with squadrons based at South Shields, Morpeth and Hexham. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1940, it converted into the:  
**102<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery**  
The regiment served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Support Group and then the 1<sup>st</sup> Support Group, becoming an anti-tank regiment. In October 1942, it rejoined this division until November 1944, when it transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
19. The 55<sup>th</sup> Medium Brigade was reformed in 1920. The headquarters was based at the Drill Hall, The Green, Sunderland. The 217<sup>th</sup> Battery was also based in Sunderland alongside the headquarters. The 218<sup>th</sup> and 220<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Seaham Harbour, and the 219<sup>th</sup> Battery at the Armoury, West Hartlepool. In 1936, the brigade converted into an anti-aircraft role, being titled as the 63<sup>rd</sup> (Durham) Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The 219<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery transferred to the 54<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment. The new regiment joined the 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group, and was still with this group (by now redesignated as a brigade) at the outbreak of war. The regiment later served in Ceylon and India. In October 1944, it was converted to a medium battery (the 63<sup>rd</sup>) which then combined with the 70<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery (formed by converting the 70<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment to form the 87<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment. This regiment continued to serve in India until disbanded in May 1945.
20. This company was based at Walton Street, Hull.
21. The divisional ordnance unit was based at the Cleveland Iron and Steel Works, Branch End, South Bank, Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.

**SOURCES:**[Primary Sources – Army Lists](#)

*The Monthly Army List January 1930*

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

*The Monthly Army List July 1937*

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

*The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1938*

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea>

*The Monthly Army List April 1938*

Available From: S & N Genealogy at: <http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>

*The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1939*

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1940grea>

*The Monthly Army List April 1940*

Available From: S & N Genealogy at: <http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>

Secondary Sources

- ARIS, George: DURTNELL (ed.) *The Fifth British Division 1939 to 1945* (U.K., The Fifth Division Benevolent Trust, n.d.)
- BARKER, Major A. H. R. *A Short History of the 50<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian Division* R.A. (Berwick-Upon-Tweed, The RUST, Tweeddale Press Ltd., BERWICK-UPON-TWEED (1966)
- Major B. T.D., R.C.T.
- BELLIS Malcolm A. *Divisions of the British Army 1939 – 1945* (Published BELLIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2000)  
[ISBN 0-9529693-1-9]
- BELLIS, Malcolm A. *British Tanks and Formations 1939 – 45* (England, BELLIS, Second Edition 1987)  
[ISBN 0 9512126 2 1]
- BELLIS, Malcolm A. *Brigades of the British Army 1939 – 45* (England, BELLIS, 1986)  
[ISBN 0 9512126 1 3]
- BEVIS, Mark *British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-43* (U.K. Helion and Company, 2001)  
[ISBN 1 874622 80 9]
- BEVIS, Mark *British and Commonwealth Armies 1944-45* (U.K., Helion and Company, 2001)  
[ISBN 1 874622 90 6]
- BEVIS, Mark *British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 1* (U.K., Helion and Company, 2005) [ISBN 1 874622 18 3]
- BEVIS, Mark *British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 2* (U.K., Helion and Company, 2005) [ISBN 1 874622 38 8]
- 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]
- JOSLEN Lieut-Col H. F. (Ed.) *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]

Websites

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

Author: T. F. MILLS

Available on-line at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20070622075214/http://www.regiments.org>

[Accessed 7 September 2018]