

## 23<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division

### 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

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

### 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

12<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry <sup>(4)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

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

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Artillery

124<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

(H.Q., 287<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Northumbrian) & 288<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

125<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

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

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Engineers

233<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(8)</sup>

507<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(9)</sup>

508<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(9)</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals <sup>(10)</sup>

## NOTES:

1. This division was a second line Territorial Army formation, formed by the 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division. Like its parent division, this formation was organized as a Motor Division on a reduced establishment compared to a standard infantry division. Fifty-nine-year-old Major General William Norman HERBERT, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.\* was recalled from retirement to command the division with effect from 2 October 1939, when the divisional headquarters became effective; although he had been appointed as divisional commander on 30 August 1939. The division was sent to France, arriving on 22 April 1940. It was allocated to training and labour duties, having left both artillery regiments, and the majority of the signals and administrative personnel in the U.K.. It suffered heavy casualties during the battle for France, and was disbanded on 30 June 1940 on return to the U.K..
2. The 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade was a second-line Territorial Army formation raised in 1939 as part of this division, being the duplicate of the 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment was based at Hull; the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards at Middlesbrough; and the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards at Bridlington. . Brigadier (Temporary) the Viscount DOWNE, a Territorial Army officer, assumed command of the brigade on 11 September 1939. Aged thirty-seven years, DOWNE had served for three years in the Grenadier Guards from 1923 until 1926 as Richard DAWNAY, before succeeding to the peerage. DOWNE then served with the Green Howards in the Territorial Army, quickly rising to the rank of Colonel, T.A.. When this division disbanded, the brigade transferred to the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
3. The brigade was a second line Territorial Army formation with its headquarters located at Durham. The 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. D.L.I. was based at Shildon, the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. at Chester-le-Street, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Bn. at Teams near Gateshead. Brigadier (Temporary) Philip KIRKUP, D.S.O\*, O.B.E., M.C. commanded the brigade from its raising on 24 August 1939. A Territorial Army officer having joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1912, KIRKUP was a colliery manager, and was aged forty-six years in May 1940. When the division was broken up, this brigade served as an independent formation under various commands, including in Iceland, before joining the 49<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 18 May 1942.
4. The 12<sup>th</sup> Bn. D.L.I. was retitled on 1 February 1940 to become:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Tyneside Scottish**  
Its parent regiment became The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).
5. The battalion was a T.A. battalion based at Prudhoe, near Newcastle. Its role was that of the divisional motor cycle battalion. This battalion later became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Reconnaissance Corps, as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.
6. This regiment was formed in May 1939 as the duplicate of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment. The headquarters was based at Cowgate in Newcastle, with the 287<sup>th</sup> Battery being based in Blyth and the 288<sup>th</sup> Battery in Newcastle. This regiment did not travel to France with the division, but remained in the U.K.. It transferred to the 50<sup>th</sup> Division when this division disbanded.

7. This regiment was formed in May 1939 as a duplicate of the 74<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The regimental headquarters was based in Sunderland, with both batteries being based in South Shields. The regiment did not travel to France with the division, but remained in the U.K., possibly as it had not been equipped with guns by that time. In June 1940, the regiment was converted to an anti-tank role and redesignated as the:  
125<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery  
As such, the regiment came under the command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and went with that division to Singapore, where it was captured in February 1942.
8. A first line Territorial Army field company, which was based in Jarrow.
9. Both these companies were second line T.A. companies, which were based along with the headquarters, Royal Engineers, in Newcastle-on-Tyne.
10. The divisional signals were based alongside the 50<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals in Darlington, County Durham.

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