

54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division

161st Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 161st Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/4th Bn. The Essex Regiment

1st/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment

2nd/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment

162nd Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 161st Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

6th Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment

2nd Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment

163rd Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 161st Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/4th Bn. The Essex Regiment

5th (Hackney) Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)

7th (Stoke Newington) Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

85th (East Anglian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 337th (Essex) & 338th (Essex) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

86th (East Anglian) (Hertfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 341st (St. Albans) & 342nd (Hertford) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

134th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

(H.Q., 213th (Essex) & 340th (Essex) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

55th (Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 217th (Suffolk Yeomanry), 218th (Suffolk Yeomanry), 219th (Norfolk Yeomanry)
& 220th (Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

248th (East Anglia) Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

249th (East Anglia) Field Company, Royal Engineers (10)

286th Field Company, Royal Engineers (11)

289th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (12)

54th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (13)

NOTES:

1. This formation was a first line Territorial Army division with its headquarters located at The Barracks, Hertford. It had been formed in 1908 and was numbered in 1915. It had been reformed in the Territorial Army in 1920. When the T.A. duplicated in 1939, the division formed the 18th Infantry Division. Unlike most T.A. divisions, the 18th Infantry Division was not a mirror image of the 54th Infantry Division. The units were divided on the basis of geographic location, with the Essex Regiment, one battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and both battalions of the Hertfordshire Regiment. The division remained in the U.K., being placed on lower establishment in January 1942. The division was disbanded in December 1943, elements becoming Lines of Communication Troops for 21st Army Group and other forming part of the 6th Airborne Division.
2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, based at the Drill Hall, Ongar Road, Brentwood. On 3rd September 1939, the brigade consisted of three first line T.A. battalions, the 4th and 5th Bns The Essex Regiment, and the 5th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment. The 4th Bn. Essex Regiment was based at Ilford and the 5th Bn. at Chelmsford. The 5th Bn. Royal Berkshires was based at Hackney in East London. These three battalions were forming second line battalions at the outbreak of war. The 2nd/4th and 2nd/5th Essex were based with their parent battalions, with the 7th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment being based at Stoke Newington, London. On the 11th September 1939, a duplicate 161st Brigade was formed consisting of the 2nd/4th Essex and 5th and 7th Bns of the Royal Berkshires. On 18th September, this duplicate brigade was redesignated as the 163rd Brigade. The 161st Brigade left the division on 18th December 1940 when it sailed for Sierra Leone. It remained there for six months before sailing for the Middle East. The brigade came under the command of the 5th Indian Division and transferred to the Indian Army establishment on 26th November 1941.
3. A first line T.A. brigade, yet only the 1st Bn. Hertfords was a first line T.A. battalion. This battalion was based at Hertford. The 2nd Hertfords and 6th Beds and Herts were both second line T.A. battalions, the former located with its parent battalion, the latter being based at Luton. Both battalions of the Hertfordshire Regiment were posted away in September 1942.
4. This brigade was formerly a first line T.A. formation comprising of battalions of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. This brigade was redesignated as the 53rd Brigade on 18th September 1939. A new 163rd Brigade was formed by the redesignation of the duplicate 161st Brigade (see above). The 'new' 163rd Brigade remained with the division until it was disbanded in December 1943.
5. A first line T.A. regiment, originally formed in 1916. The H.Q. and 337th Batteries were based at Stratford, East London, with the 338th Battery being based at Romford. The regiment later served in the Middle East before converting to a mountain regiment.
6. A first line T.A. regiment, formed in 1920 by the merger of the 2nd East Anglian Brigade R.F.A. and the Hertfordshire Yeomanry. The H.Q. and 342nd Batteries were based at Hertford. The 341st Battery was based at St. Albans. The regiment went to North West Europe following the break up of the Division
7. A duplicate regiment of the 85th Field Regiment formed in May 1939. The H.Q. and 213th Batteries were based at Stratford, with the 340th Battery being based at Grays, Essex. The regiment was titled 'East Anglian' in February 1942. The regiment went to India in May 1942, joining the 19th Indian Division before converting into a Medium Regiment in October 1944.

8. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 108th Army Field Regiment. The H.Q. and 220th Batteries were based at Swaffham, the 217th Battery at Bury St. Edmunds, the 218th Battery at Lowestoft and the 219th Battery at Norwich. The regiment left the division September 1942, and later joined 49th Division serving in North West Europe.
9. This was a first line T.A. company based at Bedford. The company was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division. On the 2nd November 1939, it transferred to the 1st Infantry Division, with which it remained throughout the war. It was replaced by the:
250th (East Anglia) Field Company, Royal Engineers
a first line T.A. company based at Cambridge, which was then part of Area Troops. This company left the division on 20th October 1940. It transferred to France and joined 42nd Division on 14th May 1940.
10. A first line T.A. company based in Luton. The company remained with the division until May 1943.
11. This company was a second line T.A. company, based in Bedford alongside 248th Field Company. This company also remained with the division until May 1943.
12. This company was a second line T.A. company. It was based at Luton.
13. The divisional signals were based at Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, London E15.

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