

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

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

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

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

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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) Anti-Tank Company (3)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade (4)

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

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)

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

6<sup>th</sup> (Banffshire) Bn. The Gordon Highlanders

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company (3)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade (5)

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

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company (3)

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery, (6)

2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

19<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

67<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

21<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers  
23<sup>rd</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers  
238<sup>th</sup> (County of Renfrewshire) Field Company, Royal Engineers  
248<sup>th</sup> (East Anglia) Field Company, Royal Engineers  
6<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

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

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (7)  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Ammunition Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps  
1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
1<sup>st</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (8)

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

No. 1 Company, Corps of Military Police (9)

Attached from G.H.Q. Troops (10)

13<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars

Attached from I Corps Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment (11)

4<sup>th</sup> (City of Aberdeen) Bn. The Gordon Highlanders (12)

## NOTES:

1. The division was a pre-war Regular Army formation stationed at Aldershot, where its headquarters were located. The division mobilized at the outbreak of war, under the command of Major General Harold Rupert Leofric George ALEXANDER, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C.\*, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*. The division arrived in France on 20 September 1939, still under the command of Major General ALEXANDER. This is the order of battle for the division on 10 May 1940, the date the German invasion of France and the Low Countries commenced. The division was under the command of I Corps, until 19 May 1940 when it transferred to II Corps. The division withdrew back from the Dyle Line to that of the River Escaut, transferring to II Corps. On the River Escaut, the division was deployed with I Corps on the right and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division on the left. All three brigades were deployed in the front line, leaving no reserve. On 24 May, the division reverted to the command of I Corps. The division was evacuated from Dunkirk on 2 June 1940. Following evacuation from Dunkirk, the division remained in the United Kingdom, being converted to a mixed division in June 1942. In November 1942, it reverted to a standard infantry division establishment. The division arrived in North Africa in March 1943, serving in the Tunisian campaign. After Tunisia, the division captured the island of Pantelleria in the Mediterranean. It was one of the assault divisions in the landings at Anzio in January 1944, continuing to serve in Italy for the next twelve months. In February 1945, it moved to Palestine, where it was stationed at the end of the war.
2. A pre-war Regular Army brigade, Brigadier M. B. BECKWITH-SMITH commanded this formation throughout the campaign in France and Belgium. He later assumed command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and died as a prisoner of war in the Far East.
3. When each Regular Army mobilized in September 1939, each brigade was required to form an anti-tank company. The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) did so with effect from 1 September 1939. Most appear to have done so by requiring each of the three battalions in that brigade to provide one platoon. A Major usually commanded the company, with a second-in-command. The company consisted of three platoons, each commanded by a subaltern. Each platoon had two gun detachments, equipped with Hotchkiss 25 mm anti-tank guns.
4. This formation was another pre-war Regular Army brigade. Brigadier C. E. HUDSON commanded this brigade throughout this campaign until 14 December 1940.
5. The third brigade in this division was also a pre-war Regular Army formation. Brigadier T. N. F. WILSON assumed command of this brigade on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1939 and remained in post until 18 December 1940.
6. The Commander Royal Artillery for this division during the 1940 campaign in France and Belgium was Brigadier (Temporary) Christopher Peter Westby PERCEVAL, D.S.O., *y.*, *g.* Born in 1890, PERCEVAL was a career Royal Artillery officer who had seen service in the First World War, during which he was awarded the D.S.O..

7. On the outbreak of the Second World War, when the division mobilized, the three companies of the Royal Army Service Corps allocated to the division formed an Ammunition Company, Petrol Company and Supply Company. In this division, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Ammunition Company, the 40<sup>th</sup> Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Petrol Company and the 7<sup>th</sup> Company formed the Supply Column. The fourth R.A.S.C. company was not added to the divisional establishment until June 1942, when the organisation was changed to three infantry brigade companies, and one divisional troops company.
8. In 1940, each infantry division was allocated one Mobile Bath Unit from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, but the field park and workshop units were Corps Troops.
9. At some time in late 1939 or early 1940, this unit was redesignated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police.
10. This cavalry regiment, equipped with light tanks, carriers and scout cars, was attached from G.H.Q. Troops as the divisional reconnaissance regiment.
11. Attached from I Corps Troops, this machine gun battalion, served with this division for the duration of the campaign.
12. This machine gun battalion was attached to the division from G.H.Q. Troops when it deployed along the Escaut Line in Belgium.

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