

## 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Division

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

Headquarters, 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers <sup>(3)</sup>

### 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

4<sup>th</sup> (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment <sup>(5)</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

### 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(6)</sup>

Headquarters, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment

8<sup>th</sup> (Ardwick) Bn. The Manchester Regiment <sup>(7)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

51<sup>st</sup> (Westmorland and Cumberland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

(H.Q., 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland) & 370<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52<sup>nd</sup> (Manchester) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

(H.Q., 205<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) & 206<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

53<sup>rd</sup> (Bolton) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(10)</sup>

(H.Q. 209<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) & 210<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

56<sup>th</sup> (King's Own) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

(H.Q., 221<sup>st</sup>, 222<sup>nd</sup>, 223<sup>rd</sup> & 224<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

200<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (12)

201<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (12)

202<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (12)

203<sup>rd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (13)

42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

## NOTES:

1. This division was a Territorial Army division dating from 1908. Its headquarters were based in Manchester. The division was sent to France, arriving on 12 April 1940.
2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based in Bury, comprising three battalions of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Bury, the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Rochdale, and the 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Salford.
3. This battalion left the brigade on 4 May 1940 when the division was in France. It transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. It was replaced on the same date by:-  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Border Regiment  
which transferred in from 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.
4. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters located in Carlisle. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own was based at Leonardgate in Lancaster, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Border Regiment was based in Kendal, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Workington.
5. This battalion left the brigade on 29 October 1939, transferring to the newly formed 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It was replaced on 10 November 1939 by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment  
which transferred in from Holywood in the Northern Ireland District
6. A first line Territorial Army brigade, the headquarters of which was based at Ashton-under-Lyne. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment was based at Blackburn, with the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment based at Wigan, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. at Ardwick, Manchester.
7. This battalion left the brigade on 6 May 1940, and was posted overseas to Malta where it arrived on 20 May 1940 to come under the command of the Malta Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)  
which transferred from Fort George, Inverness, where it was the garrison battalion.
8. This regiment was formed in 1920 by the conversion of the Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry. The regiment was based at Carlisle where the H.Q. and 370<sup>th</sup> Batteries were located, with the 203<sup>rd</sup> Battery being based at Whitehaven. This regiment did not go to France with the division, but instead was placed under command of the Norwegian Expeditionary Force for deployment to Norway. Only the 203<sup>rd</sup> Battery actually arrived in Norway, arriving circa 24 April 1940. A Troop was deployed near Lake Storvatn, later moving to Mo with the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Scots Guards. They fought in an action on 23 May, but on 31 May, the Troop were required to destroy their guns and embark for the U.K.. Following the Norwegian campaign, the regiment joined the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in July 1940, but left the U.K. in November 1940, to sail for Egypt. On arrival it came under command of the 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division for Operation Compass. Later it served with the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and transferred to the Far East, where it served as a Chindit Column.
9. This regiment was formed in 1916, with all three batteries being based in Manchester. The regiment served with the division in France but on return it transferred to the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It moved to the Middle East in October 1942, later joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division and see active service in Italy.
10. This regiment was also formed in 1916, with all three batteries being based in Bolton. The regiment had a similar history to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, and after a period with the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, it also saw active service with the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in Italy having arrived in the Middle East in August 1942.

11. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). All five batteries were based at Ulverston. This regiment did go to France and Belgium with the Division in April 1940.
12. The Headquarters Royal Engineers and the three field companies were all based at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1947, the Field Companies were reformed as 123<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Regiment.
13. This Territorial Army field park company was based in Smethwick, Staffordshire. It had been formed in 1939. It is believed it was formed by the former 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Divisional Engineers, which was based at Smethwick.
14. The Divisional Signals was based in Manchester.

**SOURCES:****Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945**

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