

48th (South Midland) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

143rd Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 143rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/7th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

8th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

5th (Huntingdon) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment ⁽³⁾

144th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 144th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

7th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment ⁽⁵⁾

8th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

145th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 145th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) ⁽⁷⁾

4th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

1st Buckinghamshire Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

1st Lothians and Border Horse ⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Divisional Royal Engineers (9)
67th (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)
(H.Q., 265th (Worcester) & 266th (Worcester) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
68th (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)
(H.Q., 269th (Warwick) & 271st (Warwick) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
99th (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (12)
(H.Q., 393rd (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) & 394th (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry)
Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)
(H.Q., 209th (Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 210th (Queen's Own
Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 211th (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry), &
212th (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Divisional Royal Engineers (14)
224th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers
225th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (15)
226th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers
227th (South Midland) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (16)

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (17)
48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Ammunition Company, Royal Army Service Corps
48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps
48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
143rd (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
144th (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
145th (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
12th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

14th Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (18)

48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

48th (South Midland) Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

48th (South Midland) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The 48th (South Midland) Division was a first-line Territorial Army formation, which was reformed in the Territorial Army in 1920 following service in the Great War. It mobilised on the outbreak of war in September 1939. The General Officer Commanding the division was Major General Frank Crowther ROBERTS, V.C., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*, who assumed command on 1 June 1939, the day before his forty-eighth birthday. A Regular Army officer who joined the Army in 1911, he was highly decorated for gallantry in the Great War including the award of the Victoria Cross, but was wounded three times. However, he relinquished command of 22 October 1939 to be replaced by fifty-four years' old Major General Augustus Francis Andrew Nicol THORNE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.** , *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*. Andrew THORNE led the division throughout the campaign in France and Belgium. The 48th Infantry Division was the first T.A. division to be ready for deployment to France to join the British Expeditionary Force in France, arriving on 5 January 1940, and came under command of I Corps. There were some units exchanged between the former Regular Army and Territorial Army formations within the B.E.F. (see Order of Battle for September 1939 above). This is the order of battle with effect from 10 May 1940, the day the German invasion of the West began. The division moved up to the front line so by 21 May, it was deployed on the right flank of the B.E.F., with the French Army to the right and the 2nd Infantry Division on the left. The 144th and 145th Infantry Brigades were deployed forward, with the 143rd Infantry Brigade in reserve. It remained with I Corps being involved in the battle for St. Omer and La Bassee between 23 and 29 May 1940. During this battle, on 24 May, the division came under command of G.H.Q. B.E.F.. It was evacuated from Dunkirk on or about 1 June 1940. On its return to the United Kingdom, the division was reconstituted as a standard infantry division. It was part of VIII Corps and later I Corps District. On 20 December 1942, the division was placed on the Lower Establishment and redesignated as:

48th Infantry (Reserve) Division.

The division was under command of the G.H.Q. Home Forces until the end of the war, see:

2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based in Birmingham. It had originally comprised of four battalions of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, but two had been converted to other roles prior to the outbreak of war. The 1st/7th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment was based in Coventry, with the 8th Bn. being based in Aston, Birmingham. With the conversion of 6th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the 5th Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment, which was based at Peterborough, joined from the 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division. This brigade was to serve with this division for the duration of the war, albeit with several changes in units after 1942. Brigadier (Temporary) James MUIRHEAD, M.C., a Regular Army officer, commanded this Territorial Army brigade throughout the campaign. He had assumed command of the brigade on 1 December 1938 (replacing a Territorial Army brigadier) and relinquished command on 13 November 1941.
3. This battalion left the brigade on 29 January 1940, transferring to 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. It was replaced on the same date by:
1st Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
This battalion transferred in from the 11th Infantry Brigade as part of the B.E.F. policy of integrating Regular Army units into Territorial Army formations.

4. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at Worcester. The 5th Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment was based in Gloucester, with the 7th Bn. Worcestershire Regiment being based at Kidderminster and the 8th Bn at Worcester. This brigade was also to serve with this division for the duration of the war, again with many changes in units in 1943 and 1944. Brigadier (Temporary) James Melvill HAMILTON, D.S.O. commanded this Territorial Army brigade through until 9 October 1941. He was a Regular Army officer who had assumed command of the brigade on 1 December 1938 to replace a Territorial Army officer.
5. This battalion left the brigade on the 5th February 1940, transferring to the 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
2nd Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment
This battalion transferred in from the 5th Infantry Brigade.
6. This brigade was also a first line T.A. brigade, with its headquarters being located at Reading. The 4th Bn. Oxs and Bucks were based at Oxford, with the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion being based at Oxford as well. The 4th Bn. Royal Berkshires at Reading. The brigade was disbanded on 7 November 1943 when the division was reduced in establishment and the units posted away. The third Territorial Army brigade in this division was commanded by Brigadier (Temporary) Archibald Cecil HUGHES, T.D.. He was a Territorial Army officer, who was appointed also on 1 December 1938 alongside his two Regular Army colleagues. On 16 May 1940, during the fighting in France, HUGHES was relieved of command and Brigadier (Acting) The Honourable Nigel Fitzroy SOMERSET assumed command. He was captured with elements of his brigade at Cassel and made a prisoner of war with effect from 29 May 1940.
7. This battalion was transferred from the brigade on 5 February 1940, transferring to the 8th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment
This battalion transferred in from the 8th Infantry Brigade on the same date.
8. This was a Yeomanry regiment which was based in Edinburgh and had been under command of the Lowland Area. It probably transferred to this division in September 1939 to replace the Warwickshire Yeomanry, as that regiment was not at the time mechanised and ready for deployment to France. It left this division on 27 April 1940 whilst in France, being captured with the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division on 12 June 1940 at St. Valery.
9. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Frederick LAWSON, D.S.O., M.C., T.A., M.A., a Territorial Army officer, was the Commander Royal Artillery for this division during this period. Later in the war, he became the Director for Public Relations at the War Office.
10. Formed in 1916 as the 2nd South Midland Field Brigade, this regiment was a first line Territorial Army regiment. The Headquarters and 265th Batteries were based at Worcester, with the 266th Battery being based in Malvern. In June 1939, it had formed a duplicate regiment, the 119th Field Regiment which joined the 61st Infantry Division. On 31 January 1940, the regiment transferred to the 1st Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
24th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
This unit transferred in from the 1st Infantry Division on the same date. The 24th Field Regiment left this division in August 1942, and later served with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy.

11. This regiment was originally formed in 1916 as the 3rd South Midland Brigade, R.F.A.. The Headquarters and 269th Batteries were based in Birmingham, with the 271st Battery being based in Leamington. In July 1939, it formed a duplicate unit, the 120th Field Regiment. The regiment remained with this division until 22 August 1942. In March 1943 it arrived in Iraq and joined the 10th Indian Infantry Division in August of that year. It served with that division in Italy until the end of the war.
12. The regiment was based at Aylesbury (H.Q. and 393rd Battery) and Taplow (394th Battery). It had been formed in 1921 by the conversion of the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry and Berkshire Yeomanry. It left this division on 1 February 1940, transferring to the 2nd Infantry Division. It was replaced on the same date by:
18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
This regiment transferred in from the 2nd Infantry Division. The 18th Field Regiment left the division on 12 February 1941. In November 1942, it arrived in India and served with several formations in India and Burma.
13. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 100th (Worcestershire & Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Army Field Regiment. The Headquarters and 209th Batteries were based in Kidderminster, with the 210th Battery being based at King's Heath, Birmingham; the 211th Battery based at Oxford and the 212th Battery based at Easington, Banbury. In 1939, the regiment formed a duplicate regiment, entitled the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment. Four new batteries were raised, with the personnel from 211th and 212th Batteries transferring to the new regiment. The designated 211th and 212th Batteries remained with this regiment. The regiment left this division on 14 October 1941 to transfer to the 42nd Infantry Division. In October 1943, it joined the 6th Airborne Division and converted role to become the 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Light Regiment. As such, it served with the division in North West Europe. After the war it was reformed as the 300th (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.
14. The Headquarters Royal Engineers for the division was based at Bristol, together with the 224th Field Company. The 225th Field Company was based in Birmingham, the 226th Field Company was based at Reading, and the 227th Field Park Company was also based in Birmingham. All were first line Territorial Army units.
15. This field company left the command of the division on 16 February 1940, transferring to the 4th Infantry Division. It was replaced by the:
9th Field Company, Royal Engineers
This company transferred in from the 4th Infantry Division on the same date.
16. The Divisional Signals were based in Birmingham.
17. 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 516th Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Ammunition Company, the 517th Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Petrol Company and the 518th 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.
18. The division was allocated a mobile bath unit upon mobilisation.

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