

66th Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 66th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

197th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 197th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/5th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

2nd/6th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

5th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

198th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 198th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

8th (Irish) Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool)

6th (East Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

7th (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

199th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 199th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/8th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

6th Bn. The Manchester Regiment

7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 66th Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

109th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 204th (Cumberland Yeomanry) & 369th (Westmorland Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

110th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 207th (East Lancashire) & 208th (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

111th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

(H.Q., 211th (East Lancashire) & 212th (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 66th Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

255th Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

256th Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

257th Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

258th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (9)

66th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. The 66th Infantry Division was a second-line Territorial Army formation, raised as a duplicate of the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division. The units were administered by the 42nd Division until the headquarters of the 66th Division formally assumed command on 27 September 1939. Major General Arthur William PURSER, O.B.E., M.C., *g. y.* commanded the division from its formation until 10 January 1940, when Major General A. N. CUNNINGHAM replaced him. There was no other appointment for Major General PURSER, who retired in June 1940, aged fifty-five years. The division served in the United Kingdom, firstly in Western Command until April 1940, when it moved to Northern Command. The division was disbanded on 23 June 1940, when it was broken up and the units dispersed.
2. A second-line T.A. brigade, duplicate of the 125th Brigade. Brigadier S. T. LUCEY commanded the brigade from its raising until 2 May 1941. The 2nd/5th Lancashire Fusiliers was based at Bury, with the 2nd/6th Bn. being based at Middleton. The 5th Bn. East Lancashire Regiment was based in Burnley. When the division disbanded, the brigade transferred to come under the command of the 59th Division. As such, it remained in the U.K. until moving to France to arrive on 29 June (D+23). The brigade fought at Caen and Mount Pincon, before being disbanded by 26 August 1944, becoming responsible for battlefield clearance, but it appears the infantry battalions were disbanded at this time.
3. A second-line T.A. Brigade, duplicate of the 126th Brigade. The 8th Bn. King's Regiment was based in Liverpool, with the 6th Bn. Borders based at Carlisle and the 7th Bn. at Whitehaven. When the division disbanded in June 1940, the brigade came under the command of the 1st (London) Division for a period of six months, before joining 54th Division. It was disbanded on 14th December 1943 to become H.Q., 11th Lines of Communication Area for 21st Army Group. The 8th Bn. King's Regiment joined 102nd Beach Sub Area and landed at Juno Beach on D-Day, being disbanded shortly afterwards. The 7th Bn. Border Regiment left the brigade on the 9th December 1942 to transfer to the 222nd Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by the 2nd Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment. Both the 2nd Hertfords and 6th Border Regiment came under command of 104th Beach Sub Area and landed on Gold Beach on D-Day. Both battalions disbanded circa August 1944.
4. Raised in 1939 as the duplicate of the 127th Brigade, this was a second-line T.A. brigade with its headquarters located at Ashton-Under-Lyne. Brigadier J. M. RAWCLIFFE commanded this brigade from its raising until 13 August 1941. The 2nd/8th Lancashire Fusiliers were based at Kersal, with the 6th Bn. Manchester Regiment being based at Leigh and the 7th Bn. at Didsbury. When the division was disbanded, the brigade came under the command of the 55th Division. There were many changes in units, but it continued to serve in the U.K. as part of 55th Division until the end of the war.
5. The regiment was raised in 1939 as a duplicate of the 51st Field Regiment. The Headquarters and 204th Batteries were located at Workington, with the 369th Battery being based in Carlisle. The regiment transferred to the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division on the disbandment of the 66th Division, and served with that division in the U.K. for the duration of the war.
6. The regiment was formed in May 1939 as the duplicate of the 52nd Field Regiment. The headquarters and two batteries were all based in Manchester. The regiment transferred to the 59th Division In July 1940, and served with the division in Normandy. It then came under 2nd Army with the disbanding of the 59th Division, until being placed in suspended animation in January 1945.

7. A second line duplicate unit, formed in July 1939. The headquarters and two batteries were all based in Bolton. After leaving this division, the regiment served with the 42nd Division in the U.K. for a period of time, before joining the 50th Division in North Africa. It then served with the 8th Army in Italy until the end of the war.
8. There was no anti-tank regiment allocated to the division. The 66th Anti-Tank Regiment, which was raised as a duplicate of the 56th Anti-Tank Regiment and should have joined this formation, was under command of the 55th Infantry Division instead.
9. The four Royal Engineers units were all based in Manchester. The 257th Field Company was under command of the East Lancashire Area at the outbreak of war, but re-joined this division on 19 December 1939.

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

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O in 1960 Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd

[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

British Western Command on 3 September 1939

Available online at:

<http://www.patriotfiles.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=6695&page=1>

[Accessed 23rd January 2012]