

49th (West Riding) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Divisional Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division
Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon
xx Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

70th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 70th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

10th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry
11th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry
1st Bn. The Tyneside Scottish

146th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 146th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment
1st/4th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
The Hallamshire Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

147th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 147th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

11th Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers
6th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) ⁽⁵⁾
7th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)

Divisional Troops

49th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁶⁾
2nd Bn. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Divisional Royal Artillery
69th (West Riding) Field Regiment Royal Artillery (8)
143rd (Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)
185th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)
55th (Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)
89th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Divisional Royal Engineers
294th Field Company, Royal Engineers
756th Field Company, Royal Engineers
757th Field Company, Royal Engineers
289th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers
23rd Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps
460th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
482nd Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
483rd Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
118th Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
146th (West Riding) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
160th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
187th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
16th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
17th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
35th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
70th Infantry Brigade Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
146th Infantry Brigade Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
147th Infantry Brigade Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

49th (West Riding) Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

49th (West Riding) Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

49th (West Riding) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The division was a first line Territorial Army formation. Elements of the division served in Norway in 1940 and Iceland from 1940 until 1942. It had trained as one of the assault divisions for the invasion, but this was changed, and it arrived in Normandy on 12 June 1944. The division was commanded by Major General G. H. A. MacMILLAN. Initially it was under command of XXX Corps and took part in the battles for The Odon between 25 June and 2 July 1944. On 25 July 1944, it transferred to I Corps.
2. This was a second line Territorial Army brigade, which had been formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 151st Infantry Brigade. It had been under command of the 23rd Infantry Division. As such, it had been deployed to France as part of the B. E. F. for labour and training duties. It joined this division on 18 May 1942. The brigade and its three constituent battalions were all disbanded on 20 August 1944, with the personnel being used as reinforcements for other units in 21st Army Group. It was replaced in the division by:
56th Infantry Brigade.
3. This brigade was one of the original first line Territorial Army brigades that constituted the division in 1939. There was no change in units.
4. Another of the original brigades in the division, one of the original battalions, the 1st/5th Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment had left on 7 September 1942, transferring to the 220th Independent Infantry Brigade (Home). It was replaced by the 11th Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers, which was a war raised service raised in October 1940. It transferred to this brigade from 222nd Independent Infantry Brigade (Home) on 8 September 1942.
5. The battalion suffered very heavy casualties during the battle for Le Parc de Boislande in Normandy in early June 1944, losing 16 officers and 220 men. The battalion was withdrawn into reserve on 19 June. The battalion re-entered the line on 26 June and again incurred heavy casualties. The decision was taken to remove this battalion from the division. It was sent back to the U.K. following a realistic, albeit unwelcome appraisal of the battalion's state by its Commanding Officer. It left this brigade on 6 July 1944 and was disbanded in the U.K. in August 1944. It was replaced in the brigade by:
1st Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment.
This battalion arrived from the United Kingdom. It had been raised in 1940 as the 8th Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment, but was redesignated in 1942 to replace the 1st Bn. which had been captured at Singapore.
6. This regiment had joined the division on 5 September 1942. It joined the Royal Armoured Corps on 1 January 1944, adopting this title.
7. This battalion, a second line T.A. battalion, joined this division on 7 June 1943 as the divisional support battalion. It was redesignated as a machine gun battalion on 28 February 1944.
8. This unit was one of the original field regiments in the division which remained with the division throughout the war.
9. This regiment was a duplicate of the 97th Field Regiment, formed in July 1939. It was entitled in February 1942. It had served with Home Forces until joining this division on 26 April 1942.
10. This regiment was formed in December 1942, with personnel from this division. It left the division on 29 November 1944 transferring to 2nd Army Troops until January 1945 when the regiment disbanded. It was replaced in the division by:
74th (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

11. A First Line Territorial Army regiment formed in 1938. It had formed part of the 54th Infantry Division, and then transferred to the 79th Armoured Division, before joining this Division on 26 July 1942.

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Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon
xx Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

56th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 56th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

2nd Bn. The South Wales Borderers ⁽³⁾
2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment
2nd Bn. The Essex Regiment

146th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 146th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment
1st/4th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
The Hallamshire Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

147th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 147th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

1st Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment ⁽⁴⁾
11th Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers
7th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)

Divisional Troops

49th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps
2nd Bn. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment

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69th (West Riding) Field Regiment Royal Artillery
74th (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)
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49th (West Riding) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The 49th Infantry Division reformed with the disbandment of the 70th Infantry Brigade and the transfer in of the 56th Infantry Brigade on 20 August 1944. It crossed the River Seine on 30 August 1944 and was sent to invest Le Havre. It moved across to XII Corps between 9 and 28 November 1944. The division was heavily involved in assisting to clear the Scheldt estuary to open up the port of Antwerp from 1 October until 8 November. It transferred to II Canadian Corps on 29 November 1944 and fought under that corps in the Netherlands. It was transferred to the 1st Canadian Army on 23 February 1945, and then I Canadian Corps on the 15th March. On 28 March, Major General (Acting) Stuart Blundell RAWLINS, C.B.E., M.C.*, *p.s.c.* replaced Major General MacMILLAN as General Officer Commanding. The division remained in Germany until disbanding to reform as an armoured formation in the Territorial Army in 1947.
2. This brigade had been formed on 15 February 1944, in the United Kingdom. The 2nd South Wales Borderers had joined from 7th Brigade, 9th Armoured Division; the 2nd Gloucesters from 140th Infantry Brigade and the 2nd Essex from 25th Infantry Brigade, 47th Division. The brigade was known as the 'Sphinx' Brigade on account of its insignia. It had landed in Normandy on D-Day as an independent infantry brigade attached to 50th Infantry Division.
3. This battalion left the brigade on 25 April 1945 transferring to 159th Brigade, 53rd Division. It was replaced in this brigade by the 7th (Merioneth and Montgomery) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers which transferred in from 158th Brigade. However, the 2nd South Wales Borderers returned to this brigade on 14 June 1945.
4. This battalion had commenced the war in Malaya, and was captured with the fall of Singapore in February 1942. A new 1st Battalion was raised by the redesignation of the war raised 8th Battalion on 28 May 1942. The battalion was then part of the 222nd Infantry Brigade. It transferred to the 162nd Infantry Brigade on 9 December 1942, and then joined the 147th Infantry Brigade on 6 July 1944.
5. This was a First Line T.A. regiment, based at South Shields and Hebburn on Tyne. It had formed part of the 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division. When the 50th Infantry Division was sent back to the United Kingdom to become a reserve division, this regiment transferred to this division with effect from 30 November 1944.

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