

## 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry (Reserve) Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry (Reserve) Division

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

Headquarters, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

### 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

### 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment

### Divisional Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment <sup>(5)</sup>

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals <sup>(6)</sup>

## NOTES:

1. Despite its distinguished war record, as infantry reinforcements became more problematical, the decision was taken for this division to return to the U.K. and assume the role as a reserve formation. The division left North West Europe on 12 December 1944, arriving back in the United Kingdom two days later. Most of the artillery units and engineer units remained in North West Europe or were disbanded there, with none remaining under the command of this division. The General Officer Commanding the division in this period was Major General Douglas Alexander Henry GRAHAM, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.\*, M.C., *p.s.c.*, who had assumed command on 27 November 1944, for his second period as G.O.C.. On 1 August 1945, following the surrender of all the German Forces in the West, the divisional headquarters ceased to command its formations and moved to Norway, where it arrived by 25 August 1945. It assumed the title of Headquarters, British Land Forces Norway. The division was reconstituted as part of the Territorial Army in 1947.
2. This formation was redesignated as a reserve infantry brigade in December 1944 with no change in units. When the divisional headquarters was sent to Norway, it transferred to the command of the East & West Riding District on 1 August 1945. Brigadier (Temporary) William Reginald COX, *p.s.c.*, commanded the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade from 2 December 1944, taking over from Brigadier J. M. K. SPURLING. Brigadier COX left on 8 January 1945, with Lieutenant Colonel C. F. HUTCHINSON officiating until 14 February 1945, when Brigadier Sir A. G. B. STANIER, Bart, assumed command having transferred from the 231 Infantry Brigade (see below). Again, he was not in post long, moving to become the Commanding Officer of the Welsh Guards and Regimental District. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Cunliffe COOKE-COLLIS, D.S.O.\*, assumed command with effect from 1 March 1945.
3. As with the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, this formation was redesignated as a reserve infantry brigade in December 1944, and it transferred to the East and West Riding District on 1 August 1945. Brigadier (Acting) Desmond Spencer GORDON, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, commanded this brigade from 17 June 1944 until 7 December 1944, when he transferred to an operational brigade in North-West Europe. Brigadier (Acting) John Francis WALKER then assumed command, having swapped with Brigadier GORDON from 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, and he remained in command until at least the beginning of September 1945.
4. This brigade was also redesignated as a reserve infantry brigade in December 1944 with no change in units. It came under the command of the Northumbrian District on 1 August 1945. Brigadier (Temporary) Sir Alexander Beville Gibbons STANIER, D.S.O.\*, M.C., Bart, was in command of this brigade from 23 February 1944, through the Normandy campaign, until he left on 14 February 1945. Brigadier (Temporary) James Dewar RUSSELL, D.S.O.\*, M.C., then assumed command for the rest of the war.
5. As the divisional machine gun battalion, this battalion remained under command of this division until 30 June 1945, when it transferred to the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.
6. The divisional signals ceased to exist on 31 July 1945 when the divisional headquarters was redesignated for service in Norway.

## SOURCES:

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