

## 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division

Headquarters, 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division (1)

### 143<sup>rd</sup> (Warwickshire) Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 143<sup>rd</sup> (Warwickshire) Infantry Brigade (2)

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment (3)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment (4)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

### 144<sup>th</sup> (Gloucestershire & Worcestershire) Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 143<sup>rd</sup> (Gloucestershire & Worcestershire) Infantry Brigade (5)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

4<sup>th</sup> (City of Bristol) Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment (6)

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

### 145<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 145<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Infantry Brigade (7)

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment (8)

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

The Buckinghamshire Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Royal Artillery (9)

66<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (10)

(H.Q., 261<sup>st</sup> (Bristol), 262<sup>nd</sup> (Bristol), 263<sup>rd</sup> (Bristol) & 264<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

67<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (11)

(H.Q., 265<sup>th</sup> (Worcester), 266<sup>th</sup> (Worcester), 267<sup>th</sup> (Worcester) & 268<sup>th</sup> (Worcester) (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

68<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (12)  
(H.Q., 269<sup>th</sup> (Warwick), 270<sup>th</sup> (Warwick), 271<sup>st</sup> (Warwick) & 272<sup>nd</sup> (Warwick) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Royal Engineers (13)

224<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

225<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

226<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (15)

143<sup>rd</sup> (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

*144<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)*

*145<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)*

48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps (17)

#### Army Troops in the 48<sup>th</sup> Divisional Area

The Warwickshire Yeomanry (18)

21<sup>st</sup> (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) Armoured Car Company, Royal Tank Corps (19)

99<sup>th</sup> (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Yeomanry) Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (20)  
(H.Q., 393<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry), 394<sup>th</sup> (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry), 395<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire Yeomanry) & 396<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

100<sup>th</sup> (Worcestershire and Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (21)  
(H.Q., 397<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 398<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 399<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry) & 400<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer) (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

204<sup>th</sup> (Warwickshire) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery (22)

228<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

229<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

202<sup>nd</sup> Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (23)

## NOTES:

1. The South Midland Division was formed in 1908 as part of the Territorial Force, and it was numbered in line with the other T.F. divisions in 1915. It was reformed after the Great War, with its headquarters based at Manor Road, Oxford. The division did not suffer too many changes in establishment prior to the outbreak of war. In 1939, the division formed a second line duplicate formation, designated as the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division mobilised on the outbreak of war, and it was the first Territorial Army division to be deployed to France, arriving there on 5 January 1940. Following its return to the United Kingdom, the division was destined to remain in the U.K. for the duration of the war. It was reduced to a Reserve Division in 1942. The division disbanded in 1946 and was not reformed when the Territorial Army was reconstituted in 1947. The 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division also remained in the United Kingdom throughout its existence.
2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, comprising four battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with its headquarters based in Great Brook Street Barracks, Birmingham. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalions were both based at the Drill Hall, Thorpe Street, Birmingham; the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at the Drill Hall, Queen Victoria Road, Coventry; and the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Aston Barracks, Witton, Birmingham. When the second Royal Warwickshire Regiment battalion was posted away in 1938, it was replaced by the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment which transferred in from the 54<sup>th</sup> (East Anglia) Infantry Division sometime in 1938.
3. This battalion was converted in 1936 into:  
**45<sup>th</sup> (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers**  
 This later was redesignated as the 45<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in Home Forces until February 1942, when it was converted into the 122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. It left for India in April 1943, initially joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division but then in August 1943, it transferred to the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division. In November 1943, it was reorganised as a L.A.A./Anti-Tank Regiment, reverting to an Anti-Tank role only in September 1944 whilst serving with that division in Burma. After the war, it was reformed as the 580<sup>th</sup> (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
4. In 1938, this battalion was converted to an anti-aircraft regiment, being entitled as:  
**69<sup>th</sup> (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery**  
 The regiment served with Home Forces until June 1941, when it moved to Malta. From there it served in Egypt, North Africa and Italy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army, being disbanded in Italy in January 1945. It was reformed in 1947 as the 469<sup>th</sup> (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
5. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at Worcester. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Old Market Street, Bristol 2, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. being based at the Drill Hall, Painswick Road, in the City of Gloucester. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. Worcestershire Regiment was based at The Shrubbery, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster (recruiting from the north of the county), and the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn at 16, Silver Street, Worcester which recruited from the southern end of the county.
6. In 1938, this battalion was converted into a searchlight regiment, being entitled as:  
**4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment (66<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment)**  
 This regiment (redesignated as the 66<sup>th</sup> (Gloucestershire) Searchlight Regiment in August 1940) served in Home Forces until disbanded in May 1945.

7. This formation was also a first line T.A. brigade, with its headquarters being located at 12, St. Mary's Butts, Reading. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Oxs and Bucks was based at the Drill Hall, St. Cross Street, Oxford, with the Buckinghamshire Battalion being based at the Drill Hall, Market Square, Aylesbury. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment was based at St. Michael's Hill, Bristol 2, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Berkshires at 12, St. Mary's Butts, Reading.
8. In 1938, this battalion was converted to an armoured role, being redesignated as:  
**44<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Tank Corps**  
 It duplicated to form the 50<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment in 1939. The 44<sup>th</sup> R.T.R. served in Egypt, Libya, Sicily, and Italy, with the 50<sup>th</sup> R.T.R. serving in Egypt, and Greece.
9. Originally formed in 1916 as the 1<sup>st</sup> South Midland Brigade, R.F.A., this regiment was reconstituted in the Territorial Army in 1920, with its headquarters based at Artillery Grounds, Clifton, Bristol. The 261<sup>st</sup>. 262<sup>nd</sup> and 263<sup>rd</sup> Batteries were based alongside the headquarters of the regiment. The 264<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Yeomanry House, Reading. On 1 June 1924, the regiment became part of the newly formed Royal Artillery. On 1 November 1938, the regiment converted into an anti-aircraft role, becoming:  
**76<sup>th</sup> (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery**  
 The 264<sup>th</sup> Battery was split off to form the 80<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery. The regiment was replaced in the division by the:  
**99<sup>th</sup> (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery**
10. The Commander Royal Artillery, a brigadier's appointment, was based at Manor Road, Oxford alongside the divisional commander.
11. Formed in 1916 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Midland Field Brigade, this unit was a first line Territorial Army regiment. The Headquarters and 265<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at 24, Southfield Street, Worcester, the 266<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Clarence Road, Malvern, the 267<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Easemore, Redditch, and the 268<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Trinity Road, Dudley. In 1939, this unit formed a second line regiment, designated as the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The 267<sup>th</sup> and 268<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred to the new regiment, which came under command of the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. It served with this division throughout the war. The 67<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in January 1940, serving with that formation in Tunisia, Italy, and Palestine.
12. This regiment was originally formed in 1916 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> South Midland Brigade, R.F.A.. The Headquarters, 269<sup>th</sup> and 270<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with the 271<sup>st</sup> Battery based at Clarendon Place, Leamington and the 272<sup>nd</sup> Battery based at 72, Victoria Avenue, Rugby. In 1939, this regiment formed a duplicate unit, entitled the 120<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The 270<sup>th</sup> and 272<sup>nd</sup> Batteries transferred to the new regiment, which came under command of the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The 68<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment served with the 48<sup>th</sup> Division until August 1942. It moved to Iraq in March 1943, coming under command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Army. It joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division on 17 August 1943 in Palestine. It saw active service with this division in the Italian campaign of 1944 and 1945. It returned to the United Kingdom in December 1945. The 120<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment remained with the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division until June 1944, when it transferred to the 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division.
13. The Headquarters Royal Engineers for the division was based at 32, Park Row, Bristol, together with the 224<sup>th</sup> Field Company. The 225<sup>th</sup> Field Company was based in Birmingham, the 226<sup>th</sup> Field Company was based at Reading, and the 227<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company was also based in Birmingham. All were first line Territorial Army units.

14. The divisional signals were based at The Barracks, Great Brook Street, Birmingham. The three artillery signals sections were also based at this location.
15. The divisional Royal Army Service Corps units were based at the Drill Hall, Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham.
16. In 1930, the 143<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance was based at Great Brook Street, Birmingham. It moved across Birmingham to Stockfield Hall, Stockfield Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham 27 in 1931, as the War Department had purchased the building two years earlier. In early 1938, the Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps expanded to form three field ambulances as required by the divisional establishment, with the new 145<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance being based at Stockfield Hall. The 144<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Ambulance was raised in Bristol in 1938.
17. The divisional ordnance unit was based at Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading.
18. The regiment was founded on 16 July 1794 with the raising of four troops of the Gentlemen and Yeomanry of Warwickshire. In 1796, they became the Warwickshire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry with four troops based at Packington, Birmingham, Rugby and Kineton. By 1893, an additional four troops had been raised to make the total of eight troops. The regiment saw service in the South African War in 1900 and 1901. When the Territorial Force was created in 1908, the regiment was known as the Warwickshire Yeomanry (Hussars) and had its headquarters at Warwick. 'A' Squadron was based in Birmingham, 'B' Squadron at Warwick, 'C' Squadron at Coventry and 'D' Squadron at Stratford upon Avon. After service in The Great War in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine, the regiment reformed in 1920. On the outbreak of war in September 1939, the regiment was under command of the South Midland Area. It joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. It later served as an armoured unit in the Western Desert before returning the U.K. as a training unit.
19. In 1922, eight yeomanry regiments were reduced to companies and converted to armoured car companies within the Royal Tank Corps. This company was based at The Barracks, Gloucester. In 1938, these companies were expanded to become regiments, and then in 1939 duplicated.
20. These two yeomanry regiments were merged in 1921 and converted into an artillery role. The headquarters of the brigade were based at Oxford Road, Aylesbury. 393<sup>rd</sup> Battery was also based at Aylesbury, with 394<sup>th</sup> Battery based at Taplow, 395<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Windsor and 396<sup>th</sup> Battery at Newbury. The regiment duplicated in June 1939 to reform the original two units. The 99<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment left this division on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1940, transferring to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, later serving in Burma. The 145<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment joined the new 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, being entitled in February 1942. It stayed in the U.K. with the division until January 1945, when it sailed for India to see the end of the war in the Far East.
21. This field brigade was also formed in 1921 by the merger and conversion of two yeomanry regiments. The headquarters of the new unit was based at The Shrubbery, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster. The 397<sup>th</sup> Battery was also based at Kidderminster; the 398<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at King's Heath, Birmingham; the 399<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Yeomanry House, Oxford; with the 400<sup>th</sup> Battery being based at the Drill Hall, Easington, Banbury. In 1938, the brigade became the anti-tank regiment for the division. In April 1939, the regiment (as it was now designated) duplicated, effectively recreating the two separate yeomanry regiments. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment fought with this division in France and Belgium, being converted to an airlanding light regiment to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division in 1943. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment later served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in North West Europe.

22. This battery was based in Saltley, Birmingham, and was under command of the 51<sup>st</sup> (Midland) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery. The rest of the brigade (regiment) was based in Stoke-on-Trent under Western Command.
23. The ordnance company was based at Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading. By 1937, it had been retitled as the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps and had officially become divisional troops.

SOURCES:

*The Monthly Army List January 1930*

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

*The Monthly Army List July 1937*

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: <http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

*The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1938*

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea>

*The Monthly Army List April 1938*

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