

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

Divisional Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division  
Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon

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

Headquarters, 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

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, 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

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

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

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

### Divisional Troops

<sup>(5)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment <sup>(6)</sup>

Headquarters, 56<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

74<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

124<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

102<sup>nd</sup> (Northumberland Hussars) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

25<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

233<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers

505<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers

235<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

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

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps  
346<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
508<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
522<sup>nd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps (10)  
149<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
150<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
186<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
*200<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps*  
22<sup>nd</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps  
47<sup>th</sup> Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps  
48<sup>th</sup> Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Electrical &  
Mechanical Engineers

69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers  
151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers  
168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

## NOTES:

1. The 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was a Territorial Army formation, which had left the United Kingdom on 23 April 1941. It moved via Cyprus to Iraq, arriving on 21 November 1941. It left Iraq on 12 January 1942, moving via Syria to Egypt. During the battle of Gazala in June 1942, the 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade was destroyed and the majority of its personnel captured. The remainder of the division was involved in the rest of the campaign in the Western Desert and Tunisia. It landed in Sicily as one of the assault formations on 9 July 1943 under command of XIII Corps, and fought throughout the campaign. Major General (Acting) Sidney Chevalier KIRKMAN, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*, commanded the division during the Sicily campaign. The sea was running high at the time of the landings, which caused some difficulties, with some units finding themselves in the wrong place. Fortunately, resistance was light, with 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade taking the town of Avola by 09.00 hours. Once the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Infantry Division relieved the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, this formation pushed on through the foothills to Lentini, on the southern edge of the plain of Catania. The vital Primosole bridge was relinquished during a counter attack, having been secured by airborne forces. Heavy fighting with units from a German Parachute Division took place over the 15 and 16 July, with the advance not being able to continue until 17 July. The division found the southern approaches to Catania strongly defended, and was placed on the defensive, while XXX Corps fought its way around towards Adrano. The division resumed the advance on 4 August, and reached Messina on 17 August. After the Sicily campaign, the 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade replaced the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (which reverted to the 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), and the division prepared to return to the U.K.. The division left Sicily for the United Kingdom on 19 October 1943
2. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Cunliffe COOKE-COLLIS, D.S.O., commanded this brigade during the Sicily campaign.
3. Brigadier (Temporary) Ronald Henry SENIOR, D.S.O.\*, T.D. commanded this brigade during the Sicily campaign.
4. There was no reconnaissance regiment allocated to the division during the Sicily campaign.
5. The battalion was the divisional machine gun battalion.
6. The Commander Royal Artillery was Brigadier (Acting) Cyril Henry NORTON, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*
7. This regiment joined the division on 27 April 1943 with the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It remained with the division even when the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade returned to the 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It eventually left this division on 30 November 1944.
8. This field company also joined on 27 April 1943 with the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It left this division with the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 10 October 1943.
9. There were only three Field Ambulances serving with the division during the Sicily campaign, but it is not known which three of the four shown were deployed to Sicily with the formation.

## SOURCES: