

52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Divisional Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division
Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon
9th Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

155th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 155th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

7th/9th (Highlanders) Bn. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)
4th (The Border) Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers
5th (Dumfriesshire) Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers ⁽³⁾

156th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 156th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th/5th Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers
6th (Lanarkshire) Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)
7th Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) ⁽⁵⁾

157th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 157th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

5th (City of Glasgow) Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)
6th (City of Glasgow) Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) ⁽³⁾
1st Bn. The Glasgow Highlanders ⁽⁵⁾

Divisional Troops

52nd Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁷⁾

7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment ⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Royal Artillery (9)
79th (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
80th (Lowland – City of Glasgow) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
186th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)
54th (The Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
108th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)

Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Royal Engineers
202nd (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers
241st (Lowland) Field Company, Royal Engineers
554th Field Company, Royal Engineers
243rd (Lowland) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers
17th Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers (12)

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps
528th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
529th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
530th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
76th Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
155th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
156th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
157th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
17th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
18th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
32nd Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
35th Mobile Laundry and Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Headquarters, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
155th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
156th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
157th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

157th Infantry Brigade Group (6)

Headquarters, 157th Infantry Brigade Group, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

5th (City of Glasgow) Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

6th (City of Glasgow) Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

1st Bn. The Glasgow Highlanders

52nd Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (7)

79th (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

304th Anti-Tank Battery, 54th (The Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry)
Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

354th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, 108th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

243rd (Lowland) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

17th Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers

529th Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

76th Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

157th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

52nd Field Maintenance Section, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment, 52nd Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

157th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

Two sections, 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. This division was a first line Territorial Army formation that was based in Scottish Command. It was deployed to France in June 1940, after the evacuation of the main British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, but it did not stay in France long before itself being evacuated. The Division remained in the U.K. until it landed in North-West Europe on 15 October 1944. Having been trained for airlanding operations, it joined 21st Army Group from H.Q. Airborne Troops. It fought, however, in the conventional ground role during the campaign. Major General (Acting) Edmund HAKEWILL-SMITH, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*, commanded the Division throughout the campaign. The first action the division fought in was the battle for the Scheldt from 15 October 1944 until 6 November 1944, during which it was under command of II Canadian Corps. It then served with each of the four British corps in the theatre. In the Battle for the Rhineland (Reichswald) between 8 February 1945 and 10 March 1945, and the crossing of the River Rhine between 23 March and 1 April 1945. On the cessation of hostilities, the Division came under command of I Corps District. In March 1947, the division returned to the United Kingdom where it was disbanded. Only the 155th Brigade survived as an independent brigade group within the Territorial Army on its reconstitution in 1947.
2. The 155th Infantry Brigade was a First Line, Territorial Army, infantry brigade, which had been part of the formation since its reconstitution after the First World War. It had served in France for four days in June 1940, otherwise it had been based in the U.K. until it arrived in the North-West Europe theatre on 20 October 1944. Brigadier (Temporary) James Francis Scott McLAREN, O.B.E., commanded the brigade with effect from 11 December 1943. He was a Regular Army officer in the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). Remarkably, he was still in command after the cessation of hostilities, at least up to 31 August 1945. He was absent from command between 4 February and 20 February 1945, and from 25 June to 30 June 1945, and from 31 July to 12 August 1945, during which periods other officers officiated on his behalf. McLAREN was awarded the D.S.O. for his leadership of the brigade on 12 July 1945.
3. In early 1945, concerns were raised about the reinforcements in 21st Army Group, and in consequence, the decision was taken to ensure there were not two or more battalions from the same regiment in any one brigade. As a result, these battalions exchanged brigades on 12 February 1945.
4. The 156th Infantry Brigade was a First Line, Territorial Army, infantry brigade, which again was a long-standing part of the division. It saw action in France from 12 June until 16 June 1940, but otherwise, it was based in the U.K. until deploying to North-West Europe on 13 October 1944. Brigadier (Acting) Cyril Nelson BARCLAY, *p.s.c.*, commanded the brigade from 3 December 1941 right through to 2 April 1945, apart from a short period from 27 August until 22 November 1943 when Lieutenant Colonel J. GREENSHIELDS officiated. Brigadier BARCLAY was a Regular Army officer, who was wounded twice in the First World War, and who came to the brigade from commanding the 2nd Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). During his tenure in command of the brigade, he was awarded the D.S.O. and the C.B.E. Brigadier (Acting) George Douglas RENNY, D.S.O., assumed command of the brigade on 2 April 1945 when Brigadier BARCLAY was posted to India, and he saw it though the cessation of hostilities and the initial occupation of Germany.
5. Under the same policy described above, these battalions exchanged brigades on 13 March 1945.

6. The 157th Infantry Brigade was the third, First Line, Territorial Army, infantry brigade in the division, and likewise, it had been so since the reconstitution of the formation post First World War. This formation had seen service in France from 8 until 18 June 1940. Brigadier (Temporary) James Dewar RUSSELL, D.S.O., M.C., commanded the brigade with effect from 22 November 1943. He was a Regular Army officer in the Highland Light Infantry, who had been wounded twice while serving with the regiment during the First World War. On 12 August 1944, this brigade was formed into a Group, as the sea echelon of the 52nd Infantry Division, which was then organised for Air Landing operations in North-West Europe. The brigade group moved to North-West Europe on 6 September 1944, under command of the 21st Army Group. With the commencement of Operation Market Garden, the line of communication between the leading units of XXX Corps and the base was subject to almost constant attacks by German forces. In consequence, the 157th Infantry Brigade Group (with only one infantry battalion, the 6th Bn. H.L.I. under command) was brought up to the Grave area to take under command various units and formations that had been deployed ad-hoc to deal with the German incursions that on occasions had broken the perilous line of communication to the forward troops at Nijmegen attempting to reach Arnhem. The units that came under command of the Brigade Group included the Dutch Princess Irene Brigade. The brigade group was under command of XXX Corps from 11 to 24 September 1944, after which it was passed to the command of I Airborne Corps. On 9 October 1944, it came under XII Corps for five days, moving to the Scheldt area to come under command of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division with effect from 15 October. On 23 October 1944, the brigade group was disbanded as the brigade reverted to the command of the 52nd Infantry Division. Brigadier RUSSELL was awarded a Bar to the D.S.O. on 12 April 1945. On 26 January 1945, Brigadier (Acting) Eneas Henry George GRANT, D.S.O., M.C., assumed command of the brigade, but he was absent from 24 July 1945 onwards when Lieutenant Colonel R. L. C. ROSE officiated. An officer in the Seaforth Highlanders, Lieutenant Colonel GRANT had been wounded in Normandy, being awarded the D.S.O. for his leadership of the 7th Battalion of his regiment. He was awarded a Bar to the D.S.O. on 11 October 1945.
7. The reconnaissance regiment for the division was originally formed on 8 April 1941 as the 52nd Reconnaissance Battalion, The Reconnaissance Corps. It was redesignated at the 52nd Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps on 6 June 1942. It became part of the Royal Armoured Corps, being redesignated on 1 January 1944.
8. This battalion joined the division on 7 June 1943, initially in the role of support battalion. It became the divisional machine gun battalion on 19 March 1944.
9. The Commander Royal Artillery (C.R.A.) for the division during 1944 and early 1945 was Brigadier (Temporary) Lionel Bryan Douglas BURNS, D.S.O., M.C., who was posted to 15 Line of Communication Area in April 1945. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Riou BENSON, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*, replaced him as the C.R.A.
10. This regiment was formed in December 1942. It immediately joined the division and remained with it throughout the rest of the war.
11. Formed in January 1942 by the conversion of the 9th Battalion, The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment). This regiment joined the Division on 12 March 1942, remaining with the division during the whole campaign.
12. The bridging platoon joined the division on 1 October 1942.

For further information on this division and its service during the Second World War, please see:

BLAKE, George [Mountain and Flood – The History of the 52nd \(Lowland\) Division 1939 – 1945 \(Glasgow, Jackson, Son and Company, 1950\).](#)

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52nd Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

52nd Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

52nd Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. This is the Abbreviated Order of Battle with effect from 23 March 1945 and opening of the Crossing of the River Rhine, when the division was under command of XII Corps. On the cessation of hostilities, the division came under command of I Corps District. In March 1947, the division returned to the United Kingdom where it was disbanded.

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