

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division

### 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Welsh Guards

### 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

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

### 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

### Divisional Troops

16<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Lancers <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

X Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

(H.Q., 30<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer), 46<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> & 54<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

XIII Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

(H.Q., 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> & 82<sup>nd</sup> (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

XVIII Field Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

(H.Q., 59<sup>th</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup> & 95<sup>th</sup> (Howitzer) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Royal Engineers

5<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10)

11<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10)

38<sup>th</sup> (Field) Company, Royal Engineers (10)

15<sup>th</sup> (Field Park) Company, Royal Engineers (11)

2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers (13)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers (14)

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

8<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

24<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

29<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

No. 2 Company, Corps of Military Police (16)

## NOTES:

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division was a Regular Army field division, with its headquarters based in Aldershot within Aldershot Command. This is the order of battle for this formation in June 1937. After the Great War, together with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, this division formed the British Army's strategic reserve for deployment to meet the strategic needs of the U.K. across the British Empire. From 11 March 1935, Major General A. P. WAVELL, C.B., C.M.G., M.C., *p.s.c.*, was the General Officer Commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Major General H. M. WILSON, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, (Known as 'Jumbo' WILSON) assumed command of the division on 19 August 1937. The General Staff Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Grade was Colonel T. R. EASTWOOD, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, who assumed his role on 13 July 1936. Colonel F. H. N. DAVIDSON, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, took over as G.S.O. 1 on 12 January 1938. The Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General was Colonel Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*, who assumed his appointment on 29 May 1937. He left on 27 September 1938 to command an anti-aircraft brigade, and later he commanded an anti-aircraft division in the U.K.
2. The headquarters of this brigade was based at Horse Guards, London S.W. 1, under command of London District. The commanding officer of the brigade in July 1937 at training and on manoeuvres was a Colonel, who was also the Officer Commanding Coldstream Guards. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards was stationed at Chelsea Barracks, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards and 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Welsh Guards were stationed at Wellington Barracks, next to Buckingham Palace. After April 1938, the three Guards battalions left the command of this brigade, which gained three infantry regiments of the line that transferred to Aldershot and its environs. This consolidated the division in and around Aldershot in preparation for the outbreak of war.
3. This brigade and all its constituent battalions were based in the Marlborough Lines (otherwise known as North Camp) in Aldershot. The 2<sup>nd</sup> King's Own were stationed in Blenheim Barracks, Marlborough Lines from 1 October 1934 until 28 February 1939. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters arrived in Aldershot in April 1937, they had to move into Talavera Barracks in Wellington Lines alongside the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment. On 1 September that year, they moved to Mandora Barracks, Stanhope Lines, South Camp, which had been vacated by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment that had left for Gibraltar. In November 1937, they moved again, this time to Malplaquet Barracks, Marlborough Lines, North Camp. This move was to consolidate the three battalions of the brigade in the Marlborough Lines. They stayed here until November 1938 when they transferred to Palestine. The 1<sup>st</sup> Worcestershire's were based in Ramillies Barracks, Marlborough Lines, North Camp from 1 October 1934 until 31 October 1938. Temporary Brigadier Francis Poitier NOSWORTHY, D.S.O.\*, M.C.\*, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, commanded the brigade from 13 April 1935 until 11 January 1938, when Temporary Brigadier Gerald Ion GARTLAN, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.* assumed command. The Brigade Major in this period was Major B. G. HORROCKS, M.C., Midd'x Regt, *p.s.c.*, who assumed his role on 24 February 1936, with Major K. C. DAVIDSON, Bt., M.C., Gordons, *p.s.c.* replacing him on 30 January 1938.
4. The brigade headquarters was based in Blackdown, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> D.C.L.I. based in Alma Barracks, Blackdown, the 1<sup>st</sup> South Staffordshire's in Tournay Barracks, Marlborough Lines, Aldershot and the 1<sup>st</sup> D.L.I. in Dettingen Barracks, Blackdown. In March 1938, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The South Staffordshires left Tournay Barracks to move to Palestine. The barracks were taken over by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment (see below). Their place in the brigade was replaced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment, who moved into Oudenarde Barracks, Marlborough Lines in September 1937. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. D.L.I. left Dettingen Barracks in October 1937 to move to the Middle East.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. R.W.F. moved into Dettingen Barracks from Inkerman Barracks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. D.L.I. moved into Inkerman Barracks in Woking. They arrived at Inkerman Barracks in October 1937 and only left when they were mobilised and moved to France on 30 September 1939. In October 1938, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment replaced the 2<sup>nd</sup> D.C.L.I. in Alma Barracks and came under command of this brigade. In June 1937, Temporary Brigadier H. C. PONSONBY, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, commanded this brigade, but he retired before the outbreak of the Second World War. The Brigade Major was Captain V. EVELEGH, D.C.L.I., who during the war rose to become a Major General and divisional commander.

5. By this date, the division had been allocated a cavalry regiment in the role of divisional reconnaissance unit. The 16<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Lancers were stationed at Hounslow Cavalry Barracks in west London, and they were under Eastern Command for the purposes of administration.
6. Temporary Brigadier Charles Bannatyne FINDLAY, M. C., A.D.C. was the Commander Royal Artillery with effect from 17 January 1936. He was still in this role at the outbreak of the Second World War, and although he retired on 2 October 1939, he remained on Active Service for the duration of the war.
7. A Regular Army field artillery brigade, which was based at Deepcut Barracks. These barracks were constructed in 1903 for two artillery units, just to the north of the Basingstoke Canal. It was divided into two parts, Minden Barracks North, and Minden Barracks South. This unit was mechanised in It had replaced the II Field Brigade in early 1937, when that unit transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.
8. Another Regular Army field artillery brigade, this unit and all its constituent batteries were based in Waterloo Barracks, Aldershot. This regiment was mechanised in February 1937. In May 1938, it was converted into an anti-tank regiment, but it remained allocated to this division. The four batteries remained, but now redesignated as the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries. The regiment left this division in April 1942 to be deployed to the Middle East, where it served for various Indian Divisions and other formations. The 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment transferred from the 1<sup>st</sup> Division to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division to become the third field regiment in this formation.
9. This Regular Army field artillery brigade was the second unit based at Minden Barracks at Deepcut, allowing two of the three field brigades from the division to be together. This regiment was mechanised in February 1937.
10. The three Royal Engineers companies were all based in Aldershot. The Royal Engineers barracks in Aldershot were Gibraltar Barracks, so it is probable that these three companies were based there. Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Keith YOUNG, M.C., R.E., was the Commander Royal Engineers for the division. During the Second World War, he rose to become the Engineer-in-Chief of Middle East Command in the rank of Major General, and then Chief Engineer of the 18<sup>th</sup> Army Group in Tunisia with the rank of Temporary Brigadier.
11. In 1937, this field park company was based at Bulford on Salisbury Plain, and was not technically under command of this division, although for all practical purposes it remained part of this formation.
12. The divisional signals were based at Aldershot. The Royal Corps of Signals had new purpose-built barracks constructed in Aldershot in 1926/7. These barracks were called Mons Barracks, and they housed all the signals units based in Aldershot. Lieutenant Colonel R. H. R. NEALE, R. Signals, commanded the unit in 1937 and 1938.

13. This unit was a machine gun battalion, and was based at Oudenarde Barracks, Marlborough Lines, Aldershot. The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade was responsible for the administration of this unit. In 1938, it was decided to concentrate the machine gun battalions in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The Cheshire Regiment and the Manchester Regiment. This battalion converted back to a standard infantry unit, and it moved to Edinburgh on ceremonial and garrison duties. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment moved into Oudenarde Barracks, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment assumed the role of machine gun battalion for the division, which moved into Tournay Barracks, Marlborough Lines, in March 1938.
14. This unit was also a machine gun battalion. It was based at Inkerman Barracks, Woking and administered by the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. In October 1937, it moved to Dettingen Barracks at Deepcut, and in early 1938 converted back to the standard infantry battalion establishment. In February 1939, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment transferred to Palestine, so the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment took their place in the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade as they were based in Oudenarde Barracks in Marlborough Lines.  
This allowed the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers to come under command of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, with which they served throughout the Second World War.
15. The three Royal Army Service Corps (R.A.S.C.) companies were based in Aldershot. The operational companies of the R.A.S.C. were stationed in Clayton Barracks.
16. The Military Police company was based in Aldershot.

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