

## 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Division

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

Headquarters, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment <sup>(3)</sup>

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

Headquarters, 140<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own)

2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment

### 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> (City of Dundee) Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The London Scottish

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) <sup>(6)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

117<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

89<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

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

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

47<sup>th</sup> (London) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. This was a second line Territorial Army division, formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 1<sup>st</sup> London Division. When formed, it was established as a motor division with two brigades. Major General (Acting) Harry WILLANS, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., a Territorial Army officer, commanded the Division from its establishment on 14 August 1939, until 29 November 1940, when he was appointed as Director-General of Welfare and Education at the War Office. Major General WILLAMS died on 5 February 1943 in an air crash in Libya. The division was not sent to France in 1940, remaining in the United Kingdom. On 21 November 1940, it was redesignated as the 47<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Division. On 8 December 1940, Major General Clifford Cecil MALDEN, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, a Regular Army officer was transferred from the role of Director of Military Training to command this formation. On 25 March 1941, MALDEN was killed, apparently while inspecting a minefield, he trod on a mine which exploded, killing him instantly. On 1 April 1941, Major General (Acting) John Edward UTTERSON-KELSO, D.S.O.\*, O.B.E., M.C.\* assumed command. He established the first Divisional Battle School to teach drills to platoons and companies. The Division was placed on the Lower Establishment in December 1941. On 9 April 1942, UTTERSON-KELSO was posted to become the Director of Infantry Training with Home Forces, so Major General (Acting) Gerald Walter Robert TEMPLER, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*, was appointed to command, on promotion from his role as a Brigadier General Staff with V Corps. On 14 September 1942, TEMPLER was promoted to command II Corps, and his career progressed so that he reached the rank of Field Marshal as Chief of the Imperial General Staff. The next G.O.C., was Major General (Acting) Alfred Eyrk ROBINSON, D.S.O.. The division commenced dispersing on 15 August 1944, this being completed by 31 August 1944, with Major General ROBINSON being posted to the Air Ministry.
2. This brigade had been formed on 1 November 1939. It had been posted to France on lines of communication duties in November 1939. Brigadier (Temporary) William Havelock Chaplin RAMSDEN commanded the Brigade from its formation, until 12 December 1940. The brigade was evacuated back to the United Kingdom, joining this division on 25 June 1940. During this period, RAMSDEN was awarded the C.B.E. and D.S.O. He was promoted to the rank of Acting Major General on 12 December, to assume command of an infantry division. Brigadier (Acting) Edward Temple Leigh GURDON, M.C., *p.s.c.*, was appointed to be the Brigade Commander on 2 January 1941. On 26 March 1941, Brigadier GURDON was appointed a Brigadier General Staff, and so he was replaced by Brigadier (Acting) Alexander Henry BLEST. The brigade was disbanded on 31 August 1944, leaving Brigadier BLEST to become a Sub-District Commander. The 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment appears to have been disbanded on leaving the brigade. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. D.C.L.I. transferred to the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division.
3. This battalion left the brigade on 29 February 1944, transferring to 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 49<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It was replaced on 5 March 1944 by:  
7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)  
When the brigade disbanded, the battalion transferred to the 183<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.
4. This was one of the original brigades in the division, then known as the 4<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Brigade. Brigadier (Acting) William Pat Arthur BRADSHAW, D.S.O., commanded the Brigade until 25 March 1941. It was redesignated on 21 November 1940 to become the 140<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> London) Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier (Temporary) James Willie PENDLEBURY, D.S.O., assumed command with effect from 3 November 1941, remaining in command until 12 April 1943. He was replaced by Brigadier (Temporary) Arnold De Lerisson CAZENOVE, D.S.O., M.V.O., an Regular Army officer in the Coldstream Guards. When the Brigade disbanded, Brigadier CAZENOVE was posted S.H.A.E.F's. Mission to the Netherlands. When the division reorganised in August 1944, the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Fusiliers disbanded, the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment transferred to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, in the 'new' 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division. Three battalions transferred into the brigade which remained with the division until it was finally disbanded.

5. This Brigade was a Territorial Army formation, commanded by Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Rigby KEWLEY, D.S.O.\*, M.C., who was an officer in the Territorial Army. Brigadier (Acting) Harold Augustus FREEMAN-ATTWOOD, O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*, a Regular Army officer, assumed command on 27 July 1940, until he left on 30 October 1941 on promotion to the rank of Acting Major General. Brigadier (Temporary) Alexander Arthur RICHARDSON, *p.s.c.* was appointed as the Brigade Commander on 30 October 1941. He left on 18 March 1942 for an appointment as a Staff Officer for the forthcoming invasion of Algeria and Tunisia. Brigadier (Acting) Vere Gordon STOKES, M.C., was promoted to assume command of the Brigade, but he was badly wounded on 13 April 1942, and he had to relinquish command. Brigadier (Acting) Walter Charles Alfred HANNEY, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, was promoted to assume command of the Brigade. He remained in command until 27 October 1944. When the division re-organised, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Black Watch transferred to the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The London Scottish transferred to the 144<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers (see below) transferred to the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
6. In April 1944, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers was captured on the Aegean Islands, therefore, on 3 May 1944, the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was redesignated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the regiment.
7. The Commander Royal Artillery for this Division WEDDERBURN-MAXWELL between 14 February and 28 September 1942 was Brigadier (Temporary) Archibald Pennant CAMPBELL, of Achalader, O.B.E., *p.s.c.* He was succeeded by Brigadier (Acting) Archibald George LITTLE, *p.s.c.*, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Artillery. He held this appointment with effect from 29 September 1942, until 21 January 1944. He in turn was succeeded by Brigadier (Temporary) Harry Kenneth DIMOLINE,

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

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

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

12<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) <sup>(3)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment

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

Headquarters, 140<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

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

### 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment

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

### Divisional Troops

117<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

173<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

56<sup>th</sup> (Highland) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

<sup>(9)</sup>

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

47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division Field Stores Platoon, Royal Engineers

<sup>(10)</sup>

47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. On 1 September 1944, the division reformed as the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division. It came under War Office control, remaining so for the rest of the war. Major General John Edward UTTERSON-KELSO, C.B., D.S.O.\*, O.B.E., M.C.\*, who had formerly commanded the formation between April 1941 and April 1942, returned to command the Division for the rest of the war. The Division was disbanded shortly after the end of the war in Europe in mid-1945.
2. This brigade had commenced the war as the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, a second line Territorial Army formation under the command of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division. The brigade served in France in 1940 for labour and pioneer duties, where it suffered heavy casualties. It returned to the U.K. where it served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division from June 1942 to July 1944. When the 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division disbanded, the brigade transferred to this division, with different units under command. It remained with the division until the war's end. With effect from 10 September 1944 until at least August 1945, Brigadier (Temporary) David Harvey HAUGH, M.C. *p.s.c.* commanded this Brigade, having previously commanded two other infantry brigades.
3. This battalion left the brigade on 30 October 1944. It does not appear on the order of battle after this date, so it may have been disbanded.
4. This brigade was formerly the 213<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade, formed in September 1940. On 1 September 1944, the brigade transferred from the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to this division and was redesignated as the 140<sup>th</sup> Brigade. All the battalions within the brigade following its transfer were new to this brigade, joining in either July or August 1944. Brigadier (Acting) Ernest Herbert Leslie WHITE, (Captain, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers) assumed command of this Brigade on 23 July 1942. He relinquished command on 24 July 1945, handing over to Brigadier (Temporary) Manley Angell JAMES, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., M.B.E., *p.s.c.* JAMES had been awarded his Victoria Cross in 1918 while serving with the Gloucestershire Regiment in France. He relinquished command of the Brigade on 5 October 1945, when it is believed to have been disbanded.
5. As with the 140<sup>th</sup> Brigade, this brigade was originally formed as the 220<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade (Home). It transferred from the 76<sup>th</sup> Division on 1 September 1944, and it was redesignated as the 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade on 17 November 1944. All the units shown above joined the brigade in July or August 1944. Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur Charles Tarver EVANSON, M.C. commanded the 220<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade with effect from 10 May 1943, and he remained in command until 14 January 1945, when he was promoted to the rank of Major General to assume command of the North Midland District. On 15 January 1945, Brigadier (Temporary) Ernest Owen MARTIN, D.S.O., of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers assumed command of the Brigade. He was to remain in command until at least August 1945.
6. This regiment had been one of the original field regiments under command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Division when it was formed. It remained under command when the division dispersed and reformed in September 1944.
7. The regiment was formed in January 1942 by conversion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. It transferred from the 76<sup>th</sup> Division to this formation on 1 September 1944. The regiment disbanded on 7 December 1944.
8. On 1 September 1944, this regiment joined the division from the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It remained with the division until the end of the war.

9. On 27 February 1945, the following regiment joined the division from Home Forces:  
171<sup>st</sup> Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery  
This regiment had been formed in January 1942 by the conversion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment converted back to a field regiment on 30 May 1945, remaining under command of this division.
10. On 29 January 1945, two further Royal Engineers field companies joined the division, namely:  
507<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers  
649<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers

SOURCES:

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