44th (Home Counties) Division (1)

<u>131st (Surrey) Infantry Brigade</u> (2)

4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (3) 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) 5th Bn. The East Surrey Regiment (4)

5 DII. The East Surrey Regiment (4)

6th Bn. The East Surrey Regiment (5)

132nd (Middlesex and Kent) Infantry Brigade (6)

5th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment 7th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (7) 8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (7) 9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (8)

<u>133rd (Sussex and Kent) Infantry Brigade</u> (9)

4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

4th Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

4th Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

5th (Cinque Ports) Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Royal Artillery

- 57th (Home Counties) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (10)
- (H.Q., 225th (Brighton), 226th (Brighton), 227th (Hove) & 228th (Worthing) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 58th (Sussex) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (11) (H.Q., 229th (Eastbourne), 230th (Hastings), 231st (Bexhill) & 232nd (Hailsham) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 59th (Home Counties) (Cinque Ports) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (12) (H.Q., 233rd (Kent), 234th (Kent), 235 (Kent) & 236th (Kent) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Royal Engineers

208th (Sussex) Field Company, Royal Artillery (13)

209th (Sussex) Field Company, Royal Artillery (13)

210th (Sussex) Field Company, Royal Artillery (13)

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (15) 507th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15) 508th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15) 509th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

131st (Home Counties) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

Army Troops in the 44th Divisional Area

97th (Kent Yeomanry) Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (17) (H.Q., 385th (Duke of Connaught's Own Yeomanry), 386th (Duke of Connaught's Own Yeomanry), 387th (Queen's Own Yeomanry) & 388th (Queen's Own Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

98th (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry, Queen Mary's) Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (18) (H.Q., 389th (Sussex Yeomanry), 390th (Sussex Yeomanry), 391st (Surrey Yeomanry) & 392nd (Surrey Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52nd (Kent) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (19) (H.Q., 205th (Chatham and Faversham), 206th (Erith), 207th (Erith) & 208th (Bromley) (Howitzer) Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

226th Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (20)

227th Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (20)

203rd Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (20)

44th Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (21)

18 November 2009 [44 (HOME COUNTIES) DIVISION (1930-38)]

- 1. This formation was one of the Territorial Force divisions formed in 1908. With the formation of the Territorial Army, this division was reconstituted, with its headquarters based at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, London. In 1938, the decision was taken to convert The Middlesex Regiment into a machine gun regiment. This led to changes in the constitution of the brigades. In April 1939, with the expansion of the Territorial Army, the division duplicated to form a mirror image second line division, the 12th Infantry Division. The 44th Division served in France in 1940, and later Egypt, being disbanded shortly after the battle of El Alamein in 1942. It was reformed in 1947 as part of the reconstituted Territorial Army.
- 2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at 84, Eccleston Square, London SW1. The 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal Regiment was based at The Barracks, Mitcham Road, Croyden, with the 5th Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment being based at the Drill Hall, Sandford Terrace, Guildford. The 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, St. George's Road, Wimbledon, and the 6th Bn. at Kent Villa, 62, Claremont Road, Surbiton. In 1938, the 4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment was converted into an artillery role, the 5th Bn. The East Surrey Regiment transferred to the 132nd Infantry Brigade. These battalions were replaced by the:

6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

Both these battalions transferred in from the 47th (2nd London) Infantry Division which was disbanded at this time. This brigade later transferred to the 7th Armoured Division when the division disbanded.

- This battalion left the brigade in 1938 on being converted to:
 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal Regiment (63rd Searchlight Regiment) In 1940, the regiment became part of the Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until it was converted to the 127th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, serving with the 2nd Army in North West Europe.
- 4. In 1938, this battalion was converted to become the anti-tank regiment for the division. It was entitled as:

57th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

The regiment served with the division until it disbanded and went on to serve with the 8th Army in Italy.

- 5. In 1938, this battalion transferred to the 132nd Brigade.
- 6. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters at 66, Victoria Street, London. It originally comprised four battalions of the Middlesex Regiment, the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, but the 10th Bn. was disbanded in 1919 and not reformed. Therefore the 5th Bn. Q.O.R.W.K. transferred in from the 133rd Brigade. The 5th Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, East Street, Bromley, with the 7th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment being based at 'The Elms', Priory Road, Hornsey; the 8th Bn. at the Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow; and the 9th Bn. at the Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden Green. In 1938, the Middlesex Regiment was designated as a machine gun regiment, so the 7th and 8th Battalions left this brigade, transferring to the East Anglia Area. They were replaced by the 6th Bn. East Surreys from 131st Brigade and 5th Q.O.R.W.K. from 133rd Brigade.

- 7. On the 1st November 1938, this battalion was converted to become the: 9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (60th Searchlight Regiment). In August 1940, it became part of the Royal Artillery. The regiment served with Home Forces until converted to the 126th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, it served with the 2nd Army in N.W. Europe until the end of the war.
- 8. In 1938, these battalions were converted into machine gun battalions, and were transferred away from this brigade. One battalion was allocated to this division, and the other to the 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division. In September 1939, however, both battalions were under command of the East Anglia Area.
- 9. This brigade was another first line T.A. brigade, with its headquarters located at the Drill Hall, Victoria Road, Tunbridge Wells. The 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Tonbridge, the 4th Battalion, The Buffs was based at the Drill Hall, St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, the 4th Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment at the Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, the 5th Battalion at the Drill Hall, Bulverhythe, Hastings. This brigade was broken up when the division disbanded.
- 10. This regiment was originally formed in 1916 as the 1st Home Counties Brigade, R.F.A.. Three batteries were based in Brighton, namely the H.Q., 225th and 226th Batteries, with the 227th Battery being based at Hove and the 228th Battery at Worthing. In May 1939, this regiment duplicated to form the 113th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. This came under command of the 12th Infantry Division. The 227th and 228th Batteries transferred across to the new regiment. The 57th Field Regiment served with the division until it disbanded, when it came under command of 8th Army Troops, serving in Italy until the end of the war. When the 12th Infantry Division disbanded, the 113th Field Regiment transferred to the 56th (London) Infantry Division, serving in Iraq, North Africa and Italy with that division.
- 11. Another regiment formed in 1916, as the 2nd Home Counties Brigade, this regiment had the Headquarters Battery and 229th Battery based at Eastbourne, the 230th Battery at Hastings, the 231st Battery at Bexhill, with the 232nd Battery being based at Hailsham. In May 1939, the regiment duplicated to form the 114th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. The 231st and 232nd Batteries transferred to the new regiment. The 58th Field Regiment served with the division until it disbanded, transferring to the 8th Army until it converted to the 84th Medium Regiment in December 1943. The 112th Field Regiment later served in India with the 20th Indian Infantry Division.
- 12. This regiment was reconstituted in 1920 as the 3rd Home Counties Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. The Headquarters was based in Dover, Kent. In 1921, it was retitled as the 59th (Home Counties) Brigade, R.F.A.. The 233rd Battery was based at Dover, 234th Battery at Folkstone, 235th Battery at Margate and the 236th Battery at Deal. On the 1st June 1924, it was redesignated as shown above. In 1938, the 236th Battery moved to Ramsgate. On the 1st November 1938, the regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft role, being redesignated as the:

75th (Home Counties) (Cinque Ports) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery The regiment was replaced in the division by the 65th (8th London) Field Brigade, which transferred in from the disbanded 47th (2nd London) Infantry Division.

13. The Headquarters, Royal Engineers, was based at Brighton with the 209th Field Company, the 208th Field Company was based at Eastbourne, the 210th Field Company was based at Seaford.

- 14. The divisional signals were based at the Drill Hall, Stamford Brook Road, Ravenscourt Park, West London.
- 15. The headquarters of the divisional R.A.S.C. was based at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon, together with the 508th Company and 509th Company. The 507th Company was based at the Drill Hall, Union Street, Maidstone.
- 16. The field ambulance was based at the Old Palace, Maidstone.
- 17. This regiment was formed in 1920 by the amalgamation of The Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (The Duke of Connaught's Own) and The West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own). The Headquarters Battery was based at the Drill Hall, Union Street, Maidstone, together with the 388th Battery. The 385th Battery was based at St. Peter's Lane, Canterbury, the 386th Battery at the Drill Hall, Ashford and the 387th Battery at Yeomanry House, 24, Bromley Common, Bromley. The regiment formed a duplicate regiment in July 1939, titled as the 143rd Field Regiment. The 97th Field Regiment went to France in May 1940, and then returned to Home Forces. It then sailed for Iraq in October 1941. In November 1941, it joined the 10th Indian Infantry Division, and remained with that division until the end of the war in Italy. The 143rd Regiment was under command of Home Forces until joining 49th Infantry Division in April 1942. It remained with that division throughout the war.
- 18. This regiment was formed in 1920 by the conversion of the Sussex Yeomanry, and the conversion of the Surrey Yeomanry, Queen Mary's Regiment in 1922. The Headquarters, 391st and 392nd Batteries were based at Melbourne House, 72, King's Avenue, Clapham Park, London S.W. 4. The 389th Battery was based at the Drill Hall, Gloster Road, Brighton and the 390th Battery at East Road, Chichester. The regiment duplicated in June 1939 to form the 144th Field Regiment. The 98th Regiment went to France with the B.E.F. in November 1939. On its return to the U.K., it remained at home until September 1942 when it sailed for Egypt. The regiment later formed part of 8th Army Troops in Italy. The 144th Regiment had a long association with the Indian Army, joining the 5th Indian Infantry Division in the Sudan in December 1940. After serving in Egypt, the regiment moved to Iraq with the 5th Indian Division. In August 1942 it transferred to the 31st Indian Armoured Division, with which it remained until the end of war.
- 19. The headquarters of this regiment was based at Bexley Road, Erith. The 206th and 207th Batteries were collocated with the headquarters of the regiment. The 205th Battery was based at the Drill Hall, Chatham, and the 208th Battery at the Drill Hall, Parish Lane, Penge. In 1935, the regiment converted into an anti-aircraft role, being redesignated as the 58th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Brigade.
- 20. The 226th and 227th Signal Sections were both based at the Drill Hall, Hurstpierpoint, with the 203rd Signal Section was based at Fort Pitt, Chatham.
- 21. The divisional ordnance unit was based at the Drill Hall, Boundary Road, Chatham. By 1937, it had been redesignated as the 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps