

48th (South Midland) Infantry Division (1)

143rd Infantry Brigade (2)

- 1st/7th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment
- 8th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment
- 5th (Huntingdon) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (3)

144th Infantry Brigade (4)

- 7th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment (5)
- 8th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment
- 5th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

145th Infantry Brigade (6)

- 4th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) (7)
- 4th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
- 1st Buckinghamshire Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

1st Lothians and Border Horse (8)

- 67th (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)
(H.Q., 265th (Worcester) & 266th (Worcester) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 68th (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)
(H.Q., 269th (Warwick) & 271st (Warwick) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 99th (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)
(H.Q., 393rd (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) & 394th (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (12)
(H.Q., 209th (Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 210th (Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars Yeomanry), 211th (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry), & 212th (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

- 224th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)
- 225th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13) + (14)
- 226th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)
- 227th (South Midland) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (13)

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (15)

NOTES:

1. The formation was a first line Territorial Army division, with its headquarters based at Oxford. It was mobilized on the outbreak of war, and was the first Territorial Army division to be deployed to France, arriving there on the 5th January 1940. On arrival in France, it came under command of I Corps. There was a policy in the British Expeditionary Force to integrate former Regular Army units into Territorial Army formations. This led to various changes in establishment prior to the German invasion of the Low Countries on the 9th May 1940. On return from France, the division joined VIII Corps in the United Kingdom. On the 14th November 1941, it transferred to I Corps District and was reduced to the Lower Establishment. On the 20th November 1942, it was redesignated as the 48th Infantry (Reserve) Division and came under command of G.H.Q. Home Forces in a draft finding and training role. It remained in this role throughout the rest of the war. In 1946, the division was disbanded and was not reformed when the Territorial Army was reconstituted in 1947.
2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based in Birmingham. It had originally comprised of four battalions of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, but two had been converted to other roles prior to the outbreak of war. The 1st/7th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment was based in Coventry, with the 8th Bn. being based in Aston, Birmingham. With the conversion of 6th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the 5th Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment, which was based at Peterborough, joined from the 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division. This brigade was to serve with this division for the duration of the war, albeit with several changes in units after 1942.
3. This battalion left the brigade on the 29th January 1940, transferring to 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. It was replaced on the same date by:
1st Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
which transferred in from the 11th Infantry Brigade as part of the B.E.F. policy of integrating Regular Army units into Territorial Army formations.
4. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at Worcester. The 5th Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment was based in Gloucester, with the 7th Bn. Worcestershire Regiment being based at Kidderminster and the 8th Bn at Worcester. This brigade was also to serve with this division for the duration of the war, again with many changes in units in 1943 and 1944.
5. This battalion left the brigade on the 5th February 1940, transferring to the 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
2nd Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment
which transferred in from the 5th Infantry Brigade.
6. This brigade was also a first line T.A. brigade, with its headquarters being located at Reading. The 4th Bn. Oxs and Bucks were based at Oxford, with the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion being based at Oxford as well. The 4th Bn. Royal Berkshires at Reading. The brigade was disbanded on the 7th November 1943 when the division was reduced in establishment and the units posted away.
7. This battalion was transferred from the brigade on the 5th February 1940, transferring to the 8th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment
which transferred in from the 8th Infantry Brigade on the same date.

8. This was a Yeomanry regiment which was based in Edinburgh and had been under command of the Lowland Area. It probably transferred to this division in September 1939 to replace the Warwickshire Yeomanry as that regiment was not at the time mechanised and ready for deployment to France. It left this division on the 27th April 1940 whilst in France, being captured with the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division on the 12th June 1940 at St. Valery.
9. Formed in 1916 as the 2nd South Midland Field Brigade, this regiment was a first line Territorial Army regiment. The Headquarters and 265th Batteries were based at Worcester, with the 266th Battery being based in Malvern. In June 1939, it had formed a duplicate regiment, the 119th Field Regiment which joined the 61st Infantry Division. On the 31st January 1940, the regiment transferred to the 1st Infantry Division. It was replaced by:
24th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
which transferred in from the 1st Infantry Division on the same date. The 24th Field Regiment left this division in August 1942, and later served with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy.
10. This regiment was originally formed in 1916 as the 3rd South Midland Brigade, R.F.A.. The Headquarters and 269th Batteries were based in Birmingham, with the 271st Battery being based in Leamington. In July 1939, it formed a duplicate unit, the 120th Field Regiment. The regiment remained with this division until the 22nd August 1942. In March 1943 it arrived in Iraq and joined the 10th Indian Infantry Division in August of that year. It served with that division in Italy until the end of the war.
11. The regiment was based at Aylesbury (H.Q. and 393rd Battery) and Taplow (394th Battery). It had been formed in 1921 by the conversion of the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry and Berkshire Yeomanry. It left this division on the 1st February 1940, transferring to the 2nd Infantry Division. It was replaced on the same date by:
18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
which transferred in from the 2nd Infantry Division. The 18th Field Regiment left the division on the 12th February 1941. In November 1942, it arrived in India and served with several formations in India and Burma.
12. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 100th (Worcestershire & Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Army Field Regiment. The Headquarters and 209th Batteries were based in Kidderminster, with the 210th Battery being based at King's Heath, Birmingham; the 211th Battery based at Oxford and the 212th Battery based at Easington, Banbury. In 1939, the regiment formed a duplicate regiment, entitled the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment. Four new batteries were raised, with the personnel from 211th and 212th Batteries transferring to the new regiment. The designated 211th and 212th Batteries remained with this regiment. The regiment left this division on the 14th October 1941 to transfer to the 42nd Infantry Division. In October 1943, it joined the 6th Airborne Division and converted role to become the 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Light Regiment. As such, it served with the division in North West Europe. After the war it was reformed as the 300th (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

13. The Headquarters Royal Engineers for the division was based at Bristol, together with the 224th Field Company. The 225th Field Company was based in Birmingham, the 226th Field Company was based at Reading, and the 227th Field Park Company was also based in Birmingham. All were first line Territorial Army units.
14. This field company left the command of the division on the 16th February 1940, transferring to the 4th Infantry Division. It was replaced by the:
9th Field Company, Royal Engineers
which transferred in from the 4th Infantry Division on the same date.
15. The Divisional Signals was based in Birmingham.

SOURCES:

Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O in 1960 Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd
[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

British Southern Command on 3 September 1939

Available online at:

<http://www.patriotfiles.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=6694&allpages=1&theme>

[Accessed 9th November 2011]