49th (West Riding) Infantry Division (1)

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division

146th Infantry Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 146th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment 1st/4th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry The Hallamshire Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

147th Infantry Brigade (3)

Headquarters, 147th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/5th Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) 1st/6th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) 1st/7th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)

148th Infantry Brigade (4)

Headquarters, 148th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/5th Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

1st/5th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) (5) 8th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

69th (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

(H.Q., 273rd (1st West Riding) & 274th (2nd (West Riding) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

70th (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)

(H.Q., 277th (4th West Riding) & 279th (6th West Riding) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

71st (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

(H.Q., 281st (7th West Riding) & 282nd (8th West Riding) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

58th (Duke of Wellington's) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)

(H.Q., 229th, 230th, 231st & 232nd Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 49th (West Riding) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

228th (West Riding) Field Company, Royal Engineers (10)

229th (West Riding) Field Company, Royal Engineers (10)

230th (West Riding) Field Company, Royal Engineers (10)

231st (West Riding) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (10)

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (11)

NOTES:

- 1. This formation was a first line Territorial Army division, with its headquarters based at Clifton in York. The division had absorbed elements of the 46th (North Midland) Infantry Division when it disbanded in 1936. The Division was required to provide units for the campaign in Norway. The Divisional Headquarters was designated Headquarters 'AvonForce' on 5 April 1940, and sailed for Norway. The Divisional Troops remained in the U.K.. On the return of the divisional headquarters from Norway, it was designated Headquarters Alabaster Force and sailed for Iceland. The formation returned from Iceland in April 1942, and was reconstituted as an infantry division. It later served in North West Europe.
- 2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based in Doncaster. The 4th Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment was based at Lincoln, the 1st/4th K.O.Y.L.I. was based at Wakefield, and the Hallamshire Battalion (the 4th Bn.) was based in Sheffield. The brigade sailed for Norway on 11 April 1940, where it formed 'Mauriceforce'. It fought in Norway between 16 April and 3 May 1940. On its return from Norway, the brigade sailed for Iceland, where it stayed for two years. On its return, it again formed part of this division, and had no change of units throughout the war.
- 3. A first line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based in Rastrick. The $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}/\mathbf{5}^{\text{th}}$ West Yorkshire Regiment was based in York, with the 1st/6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment being based at Skipton, and the 1st/7thBattalion at Milnsbridge. This brigade did not go to Norway, but sailed for Iceland on 17 May 1940. It returned from Iceland with the divisional headquarters in April 1942, remaining with the division for the rest of the war.
- 4. A first line Territorial Army brigade, whose headquarters were based at Nottingham. The 1st/5th Leicestershire Regiment was based at Loughborough, the 1st/5th Sherwood Foresters at Derby, and the 8th Bn. at Newark. The brigade was sent to Norway, where the 2nd S.W.B. were deployed to Narvik (see below), whilst the other two battalions formed 'Sickleforce'. Ill trained and under equipped, the brigade suffered badly in Norway. The remnants were withdrawn back to the U.K., and the brigade left the division when the rest went to Iceland, remaining in the U.K.. In 1942, it was reorganized as a training brigade in the U.K..
- 5. The 1st/5th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters left the brigade on 29 October 1939, transferring to the 18th Infantry Division. It was replaced by the:
 - 2nd Bn. The South Wales Borderers
 - This Regular Army battalion transferred in from Londonderry.
- 6. The was a first line Territorial Army (T.A.) regiment, which had originally been formed in 1916. The H.Q. and 273rd Batteries were based in Leeds, with the 274th Battery being located at Bramley. The regiment remained with the division throughout the war.
- 7. Another first line T.A. regiment formed in 1916. All three batteries were based in Bradford. The regiment left the division in April 1940, when the divisional headquarters sailed for Iceland. In February 1943, the regiment joined the 46th Infantry Division, and served with that formation in North Africa and Italy.
- 8. A first line T.A. regiment formed in 1916. All three batteries were based in Sheffield. This regiment transferred to 46th Infantry Division in July 1940, and remained with that division for the rest of the year.
- 9. The regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 4th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding). All the five batteries were based in Halifax. This regiment transferred to the 46th Infantry Division in June 1940, and served with the division in North Africa and Italy.

[49 INFANTRY DIVISION (1939)]

- 10. The four engineer companies under command of this Division were first line T.A. companies that were based in Sheffield.
- 11. The divisional signals were based in Leeds.

SOURCES:

Primary Sources - Army Lists

The Monthly Army List January 1930

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm

The Monthly Army List July 1937

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm

The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1938

Available on-line at: http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea

The Monthly Army List April 1938

Available From: S & N Genealogy at: http://www.genealogysupplies.com/
The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1939

Available on-line at: http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1940grea

The Monthly Army List April 1940

Available From: S & N Genealogy at: http://www.genealogysupplies.com/

Secondary Sources

ARIS, George: DURTNELL (ed.) The Fifth British Division 1939 to 1945 (U.K., The Fifth Division Benevolent Trust,

n.d.)

BAKER, A. H. R. and RUST, B. A Short History of the 50th Northumbrian Division (Berwick-on-Tweed, The

Tweeddale Press Ltd., 1966)

BELLIS Malcolm A. Divisions of the British Army 1939 – 1945 (Published BELLIS 2nd Edition, 2000)

[ISBN 0-9529693-1-9]

BELLIS, Malcolm A. British Tanks and Formations 1939 – 45 (England, BELLIS, Second Edition 1987)

[ISBN 0 9512126 2 1]

BELLIS, Malcolm A. Brigades of the British Army 1939 – 45 (England, BELLIS, 1986)

[ISBN 0 9512126 1 3]

BEVIS, Mark British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-43 (U.K. Helion and Company, 2001)

[ISBN 1 874622 80 9]

BEVIS, Mark British and Commonwealth Armies 1944-45 (U.K., Helion and Company, 2001)

[ISBN 1 874622 90 6]

BEVIS, Mark British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 1 (U.K., Helion and

Company, 2005) [ISBN 1874622 183]

BEVIS, Mark British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 2 (U.K., Helion and

Company, 2005) [ISBN 1874622 38 8]

CONVERSE Allan Armies of Empire. The 9th Australian and 50th British Divisions in battle 1939 – 1945

(Port Melbourne (Australia) Cambridge University Press, 2011)

[ISBN 978-0-521-19480-8]

DELAFORCE, Patrick The Polar Bears from Normandy to the Relief of Holland with the 49th Division

(Stroud, Alan SUTTON Publishing Ltd, 1995) [ISBN 0 75370 265 7]

DELAFORCE, Patrick Monty's Northern Legions – 50th Northumbrian and 15th Scottish Divisions at War

1939-1945 (Stroud, Sutton Publishing, 2004) [ISBN 0-7509-3556-1]

HUGHES, Major General B. P., The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919-39

(England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1992) [ISBN 0 08 040984 9]

JOSLEN Lieut-Col H. F. (Ed.) Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945 (London: H.M.S.O., 1960)

(Reprinted London: The London Stamp Exchange Ltd, 1990) [ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

U/K The Story of 46 Division 1939 – 1945 (Austria, University Book Press, n.d. circa

1946)

4 October 2018 [49 INFANTRY DIVISION (1939)]

Websites

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

Author: T. F. MILLS

Available on-line at: http://web.archive.org/web/20070622075214/http://www.regiments.org

[Accessed 7 September 2018]