<u>18th Infantry Division (1)</u>

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Division

53rd Infantry Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 53rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment 6th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment 7th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment (3)

54th Infantry Brigade (4)

Headquarters, 54th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment 4th Bn. The Suffolk Regiment 5th Bn. The Suffolk Regiment

55th Infantry Brigade (5)

Headquarters, 55th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

1st Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment

2nd Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment (6)

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

105th (The Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (7) (H.Q., 417th (Bedford) & 418th (Bedford) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

135th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

(H.Q., 344th (Hitchin) & 336th (Northampton) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery) 148th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)

(H.Q., 419th (Bedford) & 420th (Bedford) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery) 65th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)

(H.Q., 257th, 258th, 259th & 260th Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers 287th Field Company, Royal Engineers (11) 288th Field Company, Royal Engineers (11) (12) 251st (East Anglia) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (11)

18th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

- 1. The formation was a second line Territorial Army division raised in 1939 as a duplicate of the 54th (East Anglia) Infantry Division. The 54th Infantry Division did not produce a mirror image second line division as most Territorial Army divisions did, but divided the first and second line units up on a geographic basis. This division, therefore, contained units of The Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Suffolk Regiment and its subsidiary regiment, The Cambridgeshire Regiment, and one battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. The units allocated to the division were administered by the 54th Infantry Division until the 18th Infantry Division assumed control on 30 September 1939. The division remained in the U.K. until leaving for the Far East on 28 October 1941. It was intended to be deployed in Burma, but was diverted to Malaya. It was captured with the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942.
- 2. The brigade was raised as a duplicate of the 161st Infantry Brigade and was embodied by that brigade until 18 September 1939. On that date, a new 53rd Infantry Brigade was formed by the redesignation of the 163rd Infantry Brigade, a first line Territorial Army brigade based at Norwich, and part of the 54th Infantry Division. It comprised the 5th Bn., a first line T.A. battalion based at Dereham, the 6th Bn. a second line (or duplicate) battalion based at Norwich, and the 7th Bn. another second line battalion based at King's Lynn.
- 3. On 1 November 1939, the 7th Bn. Norfolks left to transfer to France under command of G.H.Q. B.E.F., being replaced by the :

2nd Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment

This battalion transferred in from 55th Infantry Brigade.

- 4. A second line Territorial Army brigade formed in 1939. The 4th Bn. Norfolks based at Norwich, and the 4th Bn. Suffolks based at Ipswich were both first line T.A. battalions. The 5th Bn. Suffolks at Bury St. Edmunds was a second line T.A. battalion.
- A second line Territorial Army brigade formed in 1939. The 5th Bn. Beds & Herts was based at Bedford, and the 1st Bn. Cambridgeshires at Cambridge, both being first line battalions. The 2nd Bn. Cambridgeshires was a second line duplicate battalion based at Wisbech.
- 6. On 30 October 1939, the 2nd Bn. Cambridgeshires left the Brigade and transferred to 53rd Brigade. It was replaced by :

 $1^{st}/5^{th}$ Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) This was a Derby based T.A. battalion that transferred in from 148^{th} Infantry Brigade, 49^{th} Infantry Division.

- A pre-war T.A. regiment with batteries based at Bedford (H.Q. and 417th) and Biggleswade (418th). It left the division on 11 November 1939.
- 8. A T.A. regiment formed in July 1939 as a duplicate of the 86th Field Regiment. The title (East Anglia) was not allocated. The batteries were based at Hitchin (H.Q. and 344th) and Peterborough (336th).
- A T.A. regiment formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 105th Field Regiment. The title (The Bedfordshire Yeomanry) was granted in February 1942. The batteries were based at Luton (H.Q. and 420th) and Dunstable (419th).
- 10. A second line T.A. regiment formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 55th (The Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment. The regiment was based at Bury St. Edmunds and comprised 257th, 258th, 259th and 260th Batteries. The regiment left the Division on 19 December 1939 transferring to 50th Infantry Division. Later, it served with the 7th Armoured Division in the Middle East, Italy and North West Europe.

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- 11. The three companies were all T.A. units. The 287th Company was a second line unit based at Cambridge, the 288th Field Company (another second line unit) and the 251st Field Park Company (a first line unit) at Norwich.
- 12. The third field company joined on 15 December 1939. It was a war raised company, the 560th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

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