# 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (1)

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

<u>4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade</u> (2)

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment
1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers
4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company (3)

5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (4)

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company (3)

6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (5)

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company (2)

**Divisional Troops** 

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery (6) 10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 99<sup>th</sup> (Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 13<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

# 16 May 2019 [2 INFANTRY DIVISION (1940)]

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers 5<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers 208<sup>th</sup> (Sussex) Field Company, Royal Engineers 506<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers 21<sup>st</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (7) 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Ammunition Company, Royal Army Service Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps 4<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (8)

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

No. 2 Company, Corps of Military Police (9)

Attached from G.H.Q. Troops

4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dragoon Guards (10)

### Attached from I Corps Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment (11)

#### NOTES:

- 1. A pre-war Regular Army formation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division mobilized at the outbreak of war, under the command of Major General H. C. LOYD. The formation arrived in France and Belgium on 21 September 1939, under the command of I Corps. Whilst in France, some units were transferred between the former Regular Army formations and the Territorial Army formations as they arrived in France. The German Army invaded The Netherlands, Belgium and France on 10 May, and this is the order of battle on this date. On 16 May, Major General LOYD reported sick, so was replaced as divisional commander by Brigadier F. H. N. DAVIDSON, until the new General Officer Commanding, Major General N. M. S. IRWIN was appointed on 20 May. On 21 May, the division was deployed on the line of the River Escaut under I Corps. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigades were in the front line, with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in reserve. Between 23 and 29 May 1940, it fought at the battle of St. Omer and La Bassee. During this period, it left I Corps, until it was evacuated from Dunkirk on 31 May 1940. The division remained in the U.K. until 15 April 1942, when it sailed for India. It later served in Burma..
- 2. This brigade was a pre-war Regular Army formation. Brigadier J. A. H. GAMMELL commanded this brigade until 6 February 1940, when Brigadier E. G. WARREN assumed command. WARREN remained in command for the duration of this campaign.
- 3. When each Regular Army mobilized in September 1939, each brigade was required to form an anti-tank company. The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) did so with effect from 1 September 1939 and is it believed this division did so around the same time. Most appear to have done so by requiring each of the three battalions in that brigade to provide one platoon. A Major usually commanded the company, with a second-in-command. The company consisted of three platoons, each commanded by a subaltern. Each platoon had two gun detachments, equipped with Hotchkiss 25 mm anti-tank guns.
- 4. Another pre-war Regular Army formation, Brigadier G. I. GARTLAN, a Regular Army officer, commanded this brigade throughout this campaign.
- 5. Brigadier N. M. S. IRWIN commanded this Regular Army brigade until 20 May 1940, when he was promoted to command this division. Lieutenant Colonel D. W. FURLONG then became the officiating commanding officer of the brigade until he was formally appointed and promoted on 3 June 1940.
- 6. Brigadier C. B. FINDLAY was the Commander Royal Artillery of this division during the campaign in France and Belgium.
- 7. On the outbreak of the Second World War, when the division mobilized, the three companies of the Royal Army Service Corps allocated to the division formed an Ammunition Company, Petrol Company and Supply Company. In this division, the 8<sup>th</sup> Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Ammunition Company, the 24<sup>th</sup> Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Petrol Company and the 29<sup>th</sup> Company formed the Supply Column. The fourth R.A.S.C. company was not added to the divisional establishment until June 1942, when the organisation was changed to three infantry brigade companies, and one divisional troops company.
- 8. The division was allocated a mobile bath unit.
- 9. At some time in late 1939 or early 1940, this unit was redesignated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police.
- 10. This cavalry regiment, equipped with light tanks, carriers and scout cars, was attached from G.H.Q. Troops as the divisional reconnaissance regiment.

11. Attached from I Corps Troops, this machine gun battalion, served with this division for the duration of the campaign, and indeed throughout the war.

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