

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

125th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 125th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/5th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

1st/6th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

1st Bn. The Border Regiment ⁽³⁾

125th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

126th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 126th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment ⁽⁵⁾

5th (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

126th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

127th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 127th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

5th Bn. The Manchester Regiment

1st Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) ⁽⁷⁾

127th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

51st (Westmorland and Cumberland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

52nd (Manchester) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

53rd (Bolton) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

56th (King's Own) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers
200th (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers
201st (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers
250th (East Anglia) Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)
203rd (East Lancashire) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Ammunition Company,
Royal Army Service Corps

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

125th (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

126th (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

127th (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

20th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

10th Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (11)

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

Attached from G.H.Q. Troops

7th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment (10)

NOTES:

1. This division was a pre-war first line Territorial Army division, with its headquarters based in Manchester. The division arrived in France on 12 April 1940 and came under the command of III Corps on 29 April 1940. At this time, Major General William George HOLMES, D.S.O.*, commanded the division. It transferred to I Corps on 19 May 1940 as the division moved into the front line on the River Escaut. The 127th Infantry Brigade was detached to join 'Mac Force, leaving the division with two brigades. The division was evacuated from Dunkirk on 31 May 1940. The division was re-equipped in the United Kingdom, initially under Northern Command. On 4 July 1940, it came under the command of X Corps and then on 9 September 1940, IV Corps. For nearly twelve months from 5 November 1940 to 22 October 1941, the division was under the command of XI Corps. On 23 October 1941, the division transferred to Northern Command and on 1 November 1941 was reorganised and redesignated as the 42nd Armoured Division. The division remained in existence for just short of two years as an armoured formation before being disbanded on 17 October 1943.
2. A first line Territorial Army brigade, Brigadier (Temporary) George, William SUTTON, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D. (a Territorial Army officer) commanded this brigade during the campaign in France. When the division reorganised on 1 November 1943, this brigade was converted to the 10th Armoured Brigade. The 1st/5th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers was converted to become the 108th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps; the 1st/6th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers became the 109th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps; and the 9th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers became the 143rd Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.
3. This battalion joined the brigade on 4 May 1940 when the division was in France. It transferred from 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division, replacing the 1st/8th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers. That battalion had transferred to 4th Infantry Brigade as part of a policy to integrate Regular Army units in Territorial Army formations. The 1st Bn. The Border Regiment left the brigade on 1 December 1940, transferring to the 31st Infantry Brigade. Later, it became an Airlanding Battalion in the 1st Airlanding Brigade. It was replaced on the same date by the newly formed:
9th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers
4. Another first line Territorial Army formation, Brigadier (Temporary) George DARWELL, M.C., Reserve of Officers, commanded this brigade until 13 January 1940, when a Regular Army officer, Brigadier E. G. MILES assumed command. He remained in command until 20 September 1940.
5. This Regular Army infantry battalion joined the brigade on 10 November 1939 transferring from Holywood in the Northern Ireland District. It replaced the 4th Bn. The Border Regiment that had transferred to the 25th Infantry Brigade.
6. A first line Territorial Army brigade, this formation was part of the division on mobilization in September 1939. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Brigadier V. T. R. FORD commanded the brigade. On 24 November 1939, Brigadier K. J. MARTIN assumed command, but an Indian Army officer, Brigadier J. G. SMYTH, V.C., took command on 5 February 1940 as the division prepared for deployment to France. He remained in command throughout the campaign. When the division moved up the River Escaut, this brigade was detached to join 'Mac Force' in order to defend the Arras area.
7. This Regular Army battalion joined the brigade on 20 May 1940 from Fort George, near Inverness, replacing the 8th (Ardwick) Bn. The Manchester Regiment, which was posted overseas to Malta, arriving there on 20 May 1940 to come under the command of the Malta Infantry Brigade.

8. This regiment did not go to France with the division, but left in April 1940, for potential deployment to Norway as part of the Norwegian Expeditionary Force. This left the division with just two field regiments whilst serving in France. The regiment later joined the 46th Infantry Division.
9. This unit joined the division on 14 May 1940 from 54th Infantry Division. It replaced the: 202nd (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers which transferred to 52nd Division.
10. This Territorial Army battalion was attached to the division from GHQ Troops in its role as a machine gun battalion.
11. 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 501st Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Ammunition Company, the 502nd Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Petrol Company and the 503rd 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.
12. In 1940, each infantry division was allocated one Mobile Bath Unit from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, but the field park and workshop units were Corps Troops.

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