

48th (South Midland) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

143rd Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 143rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

1st/7th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

8th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

143rd Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company ⁽³⁾

144th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 144th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

5th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

8th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

144th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company ⁽³⁾

145th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 145th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

1st Buckinghamshire Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

4th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

145th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company ⁽³⁾

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

24th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

68th (South Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Divisional Royal Engineers

9th Field Company, Royal Engineers

224th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers

226th (South Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers

227th (South Midland) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

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

Headquarters, 48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (7)

48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Ammunition Company, Royal Army Service Corps

48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps

48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 1st Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

143rd (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

144th (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

145th (South Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

12th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

14th Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (8)

48th (South Midland) Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

48th (South Midland) Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

48th (South Midland) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

Attached from I Corps Troops

4th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment (9)

NOTES:

1. The 48th (South Midland) Division was a first-line Territorial Army formation, which was reformed in the Territorial Army in 1920 following service in the Great War. It mobilised on the outbreak of war in September 1939. The General Officer Commanding the division was Major General Frank Crowther ROBERTS, V.C., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*, who assumed command on 1 June 1939, the day before his forty-eighth birthday. A Regular Army officer who joined the Army in 1911, he was highly decorated for gallantry in the Great War including the award of the Victoria Cross, but was wounded three times. However, he relinquished command of 22 October 1939 to be replaced by fifty-four year-old Major General Augustus Francis Andrew Nicol THORNE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.**, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*. Andrew THORNE led the division throughout the campaign in France and Belgium. The 48th Infantry Division was the first T.A. division to be ready for deployment to France to join the British Expeditionary Force in France, arriving on 5 January 1940, and came under command of I Corps. There were some units exchanged between the former Regular Army and Territorial Army formations within the B.E.F. (see Order of Battle for September 1939). This is the order of battle with effect from 10 May 1940, the day the German invasion of the West began. The division moved up to the front line so by 21 May, it was deployed on the right flank of the B.E.F., with the French Army to the right and the 2nd Infantry Division on the left. The 144th and 145th Infantry Brigades were deployed forward, with the 143rd Infantry Brigade in reserve. It remained with I Corps being involved in the battle for St. Omer and La Basse between 23 and 29 May 1940. During this battle, on 24 May, the division came under command of G.H.Q. B.E.F.. It was evacuated from Dunkirk on or about 1 June 1940. On its return to the United Kingdom, it became part of VIII Corps and later I Corps District. On 20 December 1942, the division was placed on the Lower Establishment and redesignated as:

48th Infantry (Reserve) Division.

The division was under command of the G.H.Q. Home Forces until the end of the war, see:

2. Brigadier (Temporary) James MUIRHEAD, M.C., a Regular Army officer, commanded this Territorial Army brigade throughout the campaign. He had assumed command of the brigade on 1 December 1938 (replacing a Territorial Army brigadier) and relinquished command on 13 November 1941.
3. When the division mobilized in September 1939, each brigade was required to form an anti-tank company. 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, and the company comprised three platoons, each commanded by a subaltern. Each platoon had two gun detachments, equipped with French Hotchkiss 25 mm anti-tank guns.
4. Brigadier (Temporary) James Melvill HAMILTON, D.S.O. commanded this Territorial Army brigade during this campaign and through until 9 October 1941. He was a Regular Army officer who had assumed command of the brigade on 1 December 1938 to replace a Territorial Army officer.
5. The third Territorial Army brigade in this division was commanded by Brigadier (Temporary) Archibald Cecil HUGHES, T.D.. He was a Territorial Army officer, who was appointed also on 1 December 1938 alongside his two Regular Army colleagues. On 16 May 1940, during the fighting in France, HUGHES was relieved of command and Brigadier (Acting) The Honourable Nigel Fitzroy SOMERSET assumed command. He was captured with elements of his brigade at Cassel and made a prisoner of war with effect from 29 May 1940.

6. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Frederick LAWSON, D.S.O., M.C., T.A., M.A., a Territorial Army officer, was the Commander Royal Artillery for this division during the campaign in France and Belgium. Later in the war, he became the Director for Public Relations at the War Office.
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 516th Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Ammunition Company, the 517th Company, R.A.S.C. formed the Petrol Company and the 518th 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. This unit was the divisional machine gun battalion, attached from I Corps Troops. It was a Territorial Army battalion that was based in the City of Chester.

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