

## 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Division (1)

### 125<sup>th</sup> (Lancashire Fusiliers) Infantry Brigade (2)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers (3)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

### 126<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Infantry Brigade (4)

- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment (5)
- 10<sup>th</sup> (Oldham) Bn. The Manchester Regiment (6)
- 4<sup>th</sup> (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment
- 5<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

### 127<sup>th</sup> (Manchester) Infantry Brigade (7)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment
- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment (8)
- 8<sup>th</sup> (Ardwick) Bn. The Manchester Regiment
- 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment (9)

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Artillery

51<sup>st</sup> (Westmorland and Cumberland) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (10)  
(H.Q., 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland), 204<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland), 369<sup>th</sup> (Westmorland Yeomanry) & 370<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52<sup>nd</sup> (Manchester) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (11)  
(H.Q., 205<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire), 206<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire), 207<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) & 208<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

53<sup>rd</sup> (Bolton) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (12)  
(H.Q. 209<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire), 210<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire), 211<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) & 212<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Engineers

- 200<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)
- 201<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)
- 202<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13)

42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (15)

501<sup>st</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

502<sup>nd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

503<sup>rd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

125<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

### Army Troops in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Area

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (17)

93<sup>rd</sup> Army Field Brigade, Royal Artillery (18)

(H.Q., 201<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) & 202<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

60<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> Cheshire and Shropshire) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery (19)

(H.Q., 237<sup>th</sup> (Cheshire), 238<sup>th</sup> (Cheshire), 239<sup>th</sup> (Cheshire) & 240<sup>th</sup> (Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery) Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

222<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

211<sup>th</sup> Medium Artillery Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals (14)

546<sup>th</sup> (Non-Divisional) Company, Royal Army Service Corps (15)

12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Western) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (16)

42<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (20)

1. This division was reformed within the Territorial Army in 1920, with its headquarters located at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. By July 1937, the divisional headquarters had moved to 145, Withington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester 16. The division had been formed in 1908 with the creation of the Territorial Force, and was numbered in 1915. In 1938, it formed both a machine gun battalion and anti-tank regiment, the former being the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment which was part of this division; the latter being the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) which had just transferred in from the 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division. In 1939, the division duplicated to form the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. This new formation was effectively a mirror image of the existing division, with the exception that the 8<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Bn. The King's Regiment replaced a duplicate of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division mobilised upon the outbreak of war, being sent to France in April 1940. It returned to the United Kingdom to be reorganised as an armoured division in November 1941. However, it was disbanded in October 1943 without being deployed operationally. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division was reformed in the Territorial Army in 1947. The 66<sup>th</sup> Division remained in the U.K. until it was disbanded in June 1940 to reinforce other formations.
2. A Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at the Castle Armoury, Castle Street, Bury. It comprised four battalions of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at Castle Street, Bury, the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. was based at the Drill Hall, Baron Street, Rochdale, with both the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. and 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. based at Salford; the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Cross Lane, Salford 5, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Great Clowes Street, Lower Broughton, Salford 3. This brigade converted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941.
3. This battalion left the brigade in 1936 being converted to become:  
**39<sup>th</sup> (The Lancashire Fusiliers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers**  
This regiment was redesignated as the 39<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment in August 1940. It served in the United Kingdom until May 1943, when it became an infantry battalion, reverting to the title of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers.
4. A Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at the Drill Hall, Kendal. By July 1937, it had moved to the Riding School, Carlisle. After the Great War, the two T.A. battalions of the East Lancashire Regiment were merged into one, and two battalions of the Manchester Regiment were also merged (the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>). The two remaining battalions in the brigade were the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> East Lancashire Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Canterbury Street, Blackburn, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Rifle Street, Oldham. Two T.A. battalions of The Border Regiment were transferred into the brigade, namely the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Border Regiment which was based at the Drill Hall, Strand Road, Carlisle, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. based at the Drill Hall, Pow Street, Workington. The brigade was converted to become the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941.
5. This battalion left the brigade in 1938, transferring to 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), which transferred in from 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division.
6. In 1938, this battalion was converted to an armoured regiment, being redesignated:  
**41<sup>st</sup> (Oldham) Battalion, Royal Tank Corps**  
The regiment formed the 47<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment as a duplicate unit in 1939. Both regiments served in the Western Desert with the 24<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, being disbanded after the battle of El Alamein having sustained heavy casualties.

7. A Territorial Army brigade, the headquarters of which was based at 3, Stretford Road, Manchester. By July 1937, the brigade headquarters had moved to The Armoury, Ashton-under-Lyne. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment based at the Drill Hall, Wigan; the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn. at 3, Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester 15; the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Drill Hall, Ardwick Green, Manchester; and the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion at The Armoury, Ashton-under-Lyne in Manchester. On the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941, the brigade was redesignated as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Support Group.
8. In 1936, this battalion was converted into an anti-aircraft regiment, and left the brigade. It was redesignated as :  
**65<sup>th</sup> (The Manchester Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery**  
 The regiment served with Home Forces for most of the war, spending just over a year in the Middle East between March 1943 and August 1944.
9. In 1938, this regiment converted roles to become the machine gun battalion for this division. It left the command of this brigade, being replaced by the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment.
10. This regiment was formed in 1923 by the conversion of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry and its merger with the 51<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire & Cumberland) Brigade, R.F.A. The 51<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) Brigade, R.F.A. had been formed in 1920 with its headquarters at Church (which is part of Accrington) in Lancashire. At this time, the brigade absorbed the former 4<sup>th</sup> East Lancashire Brigade which had been based in Cumberland. The reformed brigade comprised the 201<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) Battery based at Church, the 202<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Battery based at Burnley, the 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland) Battery based at Whitehaven and the 204<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Battery based at Workington. In June 1922, the two East Lancashire batteries transferred to the newly formed 93<sup>rd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Brigade and the 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade absorbed the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. The headquarters of the revised 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade was based at Workington, together with the 204<sup>th</sup> Battery; the 203<sup>rd</sup> Battery still being based at Whitehaven. The two new yeomanry batteries (the 369<sup>th</sup> and 370<sup>th</sup>) were based at the Artillery Drill Hall, Carlisle. By July 1937, the Headquarters Battery had moved from Workington to the Riding School, Swifts Row, Carlisle. It was joined by the 370<sup>th</sup> Battery. In 1939, the 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment duplicated to form the 109<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, which joined the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 204<sup>th</sup> and 369<sup>th</sup> Batteries became part of the new regiment. The 51<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment served with the division until April 1940. It left the U.K. in November 1940 to transfer to Egypt, serving at Tobruk before moving with the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade to Ceylon. In February 1943, it joined the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was converted to 51 Column in Special Force in September 1943. The 109<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment served in the U.K. throughout the war.
11. Formed in 1916 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Lancashire Brigade, R.F.A., all five batteries of this regiment were based at Hyde Road, Manchester 12. In May 1939, it duplicated to form the 110<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, which came under command of the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 207<sup>th</sup> and 208<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred across to the new regiment. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment left the division in October 1941, later transferring to the Middle East, where it joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division and fought in the Italian Campaign. The 110<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment joined the 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in July 1940, serving with that division in North West Europe. It was placed in suspended animation in January 1945.

12. This regiment was also formed in 1916, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> East Lancashire Brigade, R.F.A.. All five batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Silverwell Street, Bolton. In July 1939, the regiment duplicated to form the 111<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, which likewise came under command of the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries transferred to the new regiment. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment also went to the Middle East and also served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in Italy. The 111<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment left the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division when it disbanded and later served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy.
13. The Headquarters Royal Engineers and the three Territorial companies were all based in Manchester, at Seymour Grove, Old Trafford, Manchester 16. They had been raised in Manchester in 1901 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lancashire Engineer Volunteers. In 1908, the regiment transferred to the Territorial Force as the East Lancashire Division Engineers, based at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1920, following service in The Great War, the engineers were reconstituted as the 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Engineers, comprising three field companies all based at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1939, the engineers formed the duplicate field companies for the creation of the 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and at the same time raised the 203<sup>rd</sup> Field Park Company.
14. The divisional signals were based at Brooks Bar, Manchester. The two signal sections were also based at the same location
15. The Commander Royal Army Service Corps was located at 215, Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. The headquarters R.A.S.C. and all three companies were also based at this location. The non-divisional company was also based at this location.
16. The field ambulance was based at Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. The 12<sup>th</sup> General Hospital was also based at the same location.
17. This regiment was based at Lancaster House, Whalley Road, Manchester 16. It was one of the fourteen yeomanry regiments to be retained as cavalry when the Territorial Army was formed in 1920. The regiment was under command of the East Lancashire Area, but affiliated to this division. In February 1940, the regiment converted into an artillery role and had no further links to the division. It was redesignated as:  
77<sup>th</sup> (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery  
In April 1940, the regiment duplicated to form the:  
78<sup>th</sup> (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery  
The 77<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment was under the command of Home Forces until April 1944. In that month, it came under the command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. In June 1944, the regiment joined 8<sup>th</sup> Army Group, Royal Artillery, and served with that formation in North West Europe until the end of the war. The 78<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment served with Home Forces until January 1943 when it left the U.K. bound for the Middle East. From January 1944 until the end of the war, the regiment served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy.

18. The 51<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire & Cumberland) Brigade, R.F.A. had been formed in 1920 with its headquarters at Church (which is part of Accrington) in Lancashire. At this time, the brigade absorbed the former 4<sup>th</sup> East Lancashire Brigade which had been based in Cumberland. The reformed brigade comprised the 201<sup>st</sup> (East Lancashire) Battery based at the Artillery Drill Hall, Church, the 202<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Battery based at Burnley Barracks, Burnley, the 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland) Battery based at Whitehaven and the 204<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Battery based at Workington. In June 1922, the two East Lancashire batteries transferred to the newly formed 93<sup>rd</sup> (East Lancashire) Field Brigade and in 1923, the 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade absorbed the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. The headquarters of the new 93<sup>rd</sup> Army Field Brigade was at Burnley Barracks, alongside the 202<sup>nd</sup> Battery, the 201<sup>st</sup> Battery still being based at Church. On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1938, the regiment converted into:
- 52<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery**
- It was sent to France in November 1939 as part of the B.E.F, under the command of I Corps. Following its return to the United Kingdom, the regiment remained in the country until leaving for the Middle East in June 1941. The regiment then served in Middle East Forces and later 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy.
19. This headquarters of this regiment was located at The Armoury, Stockport. The 237<sup>th</sup> and 238<sup>th</sup> Batteries were also based at Stockport. The 239<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Stalybridge, and the 240<sup>th</sup> Battery at Coleham, Shrewsbury. In 1938, the regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft brigade, titled as the:
- 81<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery**
- The headquarters of the regiment remained at Stockport, with the 237<sup>th</sup> and 238<sup>th</sup> Batteries being re-designated as the 253<sup>rd</sup> and 254<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries respectively. The 239<sup>th</sup> Battery at Stalybridge became the 255<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battery. The 240<sup>th</sup> Battery transferred to the 51<sup>st</sup> (Midland) Medium Regiment. The 81<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment came under command of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. The regiment left the U.K. in August 1942 to move to the Middle East. It remained in North Africa until placed in suspended animation in August 1944.
20. The divisional ordnance unit was based at Lancaster House, Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 16. By July 1937, it had been retitled as the 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisional Royal Army Ordnance Corps