# 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division (1)

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

# 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers

1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

# 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (3)

Headquarters, 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of York's Own)

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

# 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

## **Divisional Troops**

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (4)

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

72<sup>nd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

74<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Royal Engineers 232<sup>nd</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Company, Royal Engineers 505<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers 235<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps 522<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps 523<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps 524<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps xxx Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps 149<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 150<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 151<sup>st</sup> (Northumbrian) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps xx Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

xx Mobile Bath Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

Attached from II Corps Troops

## NOTES:

- 1. The division was a Territorial Army formation, which at the outbreak of war, was organised as a motor division with two brigades. It arrived in France on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1940 and was placed under the command of the B.E.F.. The division was retained as a G.H.Q. Reserve. On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the division was ordered to concentrate on the Vimy Ridge north of Arras. until the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1940, when it came under the command of II Corps. Following the German invasion, it came under the command of the B.E.F. again, and then III Corps for a day before returning to the command of II Corps. The division fought in the battle for the Ypres Comines Canal between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. The division was evacuated from Dunkirk on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1940, returning to the United Kingdom.
- 2. This brigade had been formed in the United Kingdom on the 1st November 1939. It then comprised of the following battalions, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), the 4<sup>th</sup> (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). The 4<sup>th</sup> Buffs were transferred from 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade in 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Borders from 126<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, and 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters from 148<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 49<sup>th</sup> Division. The brigade arrived in France on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1939, and was allocated to Lines of Communication duties. On the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the three above battalions left the command of the brigade to be replaced by the three battalions shown on the order of battle. It is presumed the three battalions which joined the brigade were already in France on L.o.C. duties. The brigade was placed under the command of 5<sup>th</sup> Division from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1940, from which it transferred to the 50<sup>th</sup> Division. On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, the brigade was attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, then returning to the 50<sup>th</sup> Division. It left again on the 21<sup>st</sup> May to the 46<sup>th</sup> Division, and then on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1940, it joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. The brigade was evacuated from Dunkirk on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1940. On return to the U.K., the brigade joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> London division, with which it remained until the end of the war.
- 3. This was a Territorial Army brigade, also known as the York and Durham Brigade. Brigadier (Temporary) Hubert Stanley KREYER, D.S.O., O.B.E., a Regular Army officer, commanded the brigade from the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1939 until the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940. Lieutenant Colonel BUSH officiated until the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1940, when Brigadier C. W. HAYDON assumed command.
- 4. This unit was the divisional motor cycle battalion allocated for the reconnaissance role.
- 5. This regiment had joined the division on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1939, transferring from the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

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