

The Original British Army of the Rhine

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The first British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) was created in March 1919 to control troops in the British occupation zone along the Rhine. The Armistice that went into effect on 11 November 1918 provided for British, French and American troops to occupy bridgeheads across the Rhine River.

The new army had five corps, each of two divisions, and a cavalry division. Regular units (other than cavalry) were largely withdrawn from BAOR divisions as they formed, with few remaining even to May 1919. While some New Armies and TF battalions survived as part of BAOR, the divisions were reinforced or continued with a large number of former training battalions.

See Note 1 at the end for a discussion of the sources and conventions adopted for this material. It is quite likely that details of artillery in particular are incomplete. Where a division retained its former brigade numbers, it may be presumed that the wartime battalions were gone in or before March 1919, and they appear only where they remained at least to April 1919. See Note 2 for a discussion of the '50-series' battalions.

BAOR began organized as follows:

II Corps

Light Division (formed from 2nd Division)

Southern Division (formed from 29th Division)

IV Corps

Lowland Division (formed from 9th Division)

Highland Division (formed from 62nd Division)

VI Corps

Northern Division (formed from 3rd Division)

London Division (formed from 41st Division)

IX Corps

Western Division (formed from 1st Division)

Midland Division (formed from 6th Division)

X Corps

Lancashire Division (formed from 32nd Division)

Eastern Division (formed from 34th Division)

Cavalry Division (formed from 1st Cavalry Division)

This force began to contract only five months later, with four divisions (Highland, Western, Midland and Eastern) and three corps (IV, VI and IX) closing down by the end of August. The Cavalry Division dissolved the next month. Finally, the remaining divisions were dissolved in October-November, leaving behind the Independent Division and two separate infantry brigades. The II and X Corps also closed down in November. The Independent Division itself lasted only to February 1920, after which there were just one or two Rhine brigades, along with (1921-22) two brigades temporarily in Upper Silesia.

The last of the '50-series' and other wartime battalions disappeared in February and March 1920. From that point, the troops in Germany were all from Regular units. With elimination of troops in Silesia in 1922, BAOR was organized into two Rhine Brigades and a few supporting troops. The British Army finally left Germany in 1929 and BAOR was disbanded.

I. The 1919 Army

This section covers the five corps and each of the eleven divisions created in March. The infantry divisions are listed in order of their original numbers (e.g., beginning with the former 1st Division and finishing with the former 62nd) rather than alphabetically.

Corps Headquarters and Troops

As in the case of the divisions, the information here is certainly incomplete. For example, most of the catalogue entries for the corps do not show the corps signal company continuing in existence as long as the corps itself (generally a gap of several months), which seems unlikely. Also, in several cases the listings of divisional supply columns may reflect a final decision on filing and organizing the material rather than actual periods of attachment.¹ For convenience and brevity, both here and in later sections, months are abbreviated in the detailed listings.

II Corps (disbanded Nov 1919)

Corps Troops Supply Column (387th Coy ASC) remained to Jun 1919
 Corps Siege Park (406th Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919
 9th Divisional Supply Column (131st Coy ASC) remained to Sep 1919
 29th Divisional Supply Column (496th Company ASC) was active to Jan 1920
 36th Divisional Supply Column (379th Coy ASC) remained to Jul 1919

IV Corps (disbanded Aug 1919)

Corps Cyclist Bn was active to Nov 1919
 Corps Troops Supply Column (389th Coy ASC) remained to Sep 1919
 Corps Supply Column remained to May 1919
 Corps Siege Park (562nd Coy ASC) remained to Apr 1919
 5th Divisional Supply Column (733rd Cy ASC) remained to Mar 1919
 37th Divisional Supply Column (135th Coy ASC) remained to Jun 1919

VI Corps (disbanded Jul 1919)

Corps Cyclist Bn was active to Nov 1919
 Corps Supply Column remained to Apr 1919
 Corps Siege Park (565th Coy ASC) was active to Nov 1919
 Troops Supply Column (368th Coy ASC) was active to Sep 1919
 2nd Divisional Supply Column (61st Coy ASC) was active to Jun 1919
 3rd Divisional Supply Column (63rd Coy ASC) was active to Aug 1919
 62nd Divisional Supply Column (719th Coy ASC) was active to Aug 1919

IX Corps (disbanded Aug 1919)

Corps Cyclist Bn remained to Aug 1919
 Corps Signal Coy remained to Aug 1919
 Corps Siege Park (717th Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919
 Corps Supply Column remained to Apr 1919
 Corps Troops Supply Column (716th Coy ASC) was active to Sep 1919
 1st Divisional Supply Column (59th Coy ASC) remained to Jul 1919
 6th Divisional Supply Column (50th Coy ASC) remained to Jun 1919

¹ For example, the war diaries for the 5th Divisional Supply Column (48th and 733rd Companies ASC) are listed under IV Corps for the entire period August 1914 to March 1919, even though the corps did not exist in August 1914 and the 5th Division was under II Corps well into 1915.

32nd Divisional Supply Column (352nd Coy ASC) was active to Nov 1919
 46th Divisional Supply Column (271st Coy ASC) remained to Jun 1919

X Corps (disbanded Nov 1919)

Corps Cyclist Bn remained to Oct 1919

Corps Signal Coy remained to Oct 1919

Corps Siege Park (594th Coy ASC) remained to Oct 1919

Corps Supply Column²

Corps Troops Supply Column (383rd Coy ASC) remained to Nov 1919

4th Divisional Supply Column (179th Coy ASC) remained to Jul 1919

Western Division

Formed March 1919 from 1st Division. Disbanded in Germany August 1919.

1st Infantry Brigade (HQ remained to Aug 1919)

1st Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment remained to Apr 1919

4th Bn Cheshire Regiment joined Apr 1919; left Aug 1919

9th (S) Bn Cheshire Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Aug 1919

52nd (S) Bn Cheshire Regiment joined Apr 1919; left Aug 1919

2nd Infantry Brigade (HQ remained to Jul 1919)

1st Bn Gloucestershire Regiment remained to Apr 1919

2nd Bn Welsh Regiment remained to Apr 1919

51st (S) Bn Welsh Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

52nd (S) Bn Welsh Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

53rd (S) Bn Welsh Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

3rd Infantry Brigade (HQ remained to Aug 1919)

1st Bn South Wales Borderers remained to Jun 1919

51st (S) Bn South Wales Borderers joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

52nd (S) Bn South Wales Borderers joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

53rd (S) Bn South Wales Borderers joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919

Artillery³

25th Brigade RFA left Apr 1919

39th Brigade RFA left Apr 1919

Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Sep 1919

Engineers

23rd Field Coy RE left Apr 1919

26th Field Coy RE left Apr 1919

409th (1/1st Lowland) Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919

75th Field Coy RE joined Apr 1919 and left Sep 1919

76th Field Coy RE joined Apr 1919 and left Aug 1919

Divisional Signal Coy remained to Sep 1919

1st Bn MG Corps remained to Jul 1919

6th (Pioneer) Bn Welsh Regiment remained to Aug 1919

² There is no war diary in the catalogue for this unit after February 1919.

³ For the two RFA brigades, April is the date of the last war diary in the catalogue. Given the withdrawal of other Regular units, their departure may be presumed. There is no information on who replaced them.

Medical and Veterinary⁴

- 2nd Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
- 141st Field Ambulance remained to Jun 1919
- 2 Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Aug 1919
- Divisional Troops: Divisional Train (7th, 13th, 16th, and 36th Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919

Light Division

Formed March 1919 from 2nd Division.⁵ Disbanded October-November 1919 in Germany. Its 1st Light Brigade became the Light Brigade in the Independent Division November 1919.

1st Light Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Nov 1919)

- 13th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps joined Mar 1919
- 18th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps joined Apr 1919
- 20th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps joined Feb 1919⁶

2nd Light Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919)

- 6th Bn London Regiment (City of London Rifles) joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919
- 9th Bn London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919
- 12th (S) Bn Royal Irish Rifles joined Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919⁷

3rd Light Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Nov 1919)

- 51st (S) Bn Rifle Brigade joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919
- 52nd (S) Bn Rifle Brigade joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919
- 53rd (S) Bn Rifle Brigade joined Mar 1919; disbanded Oct 1919

Artillery⁸

Engineers⁹

- 483rd (1/1st East Anglian) Field Coy RE remained to Aug 1919
- 2nd Bn MG Corps remained to Oct 1919
- 5th (S) Bn Royal Irish Regiment (Pioneers) joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919

Medical and Veterinary

- 5th Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
- 6th Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
- 100th Field Ambulance remained to Jun 1919
- 3rd Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919
- 2nd Divisional Train (28th, 31st, 35th and 172nd Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919

⁴ The last catalog entry for 1st Field Ambulance is December 1918, which suggests but does not establish that it did not remain after that date.

⁵ The division's wartime brigades closed down March 1919 and were replaced by new brigades (although they were probably used to form those brigade HQs). Information is incomplete, with a number of war diaries in the catalogue ending December 1918.

⁶ Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of regiment 8 April 1919. Had been a pioneer battalion during the war.

⁷ Frederick shows this battalion disbanded by 29 June 1919, but they have war diaries listed in the catalogue through October 1919.

⁸ No artillery units in the catalogue have dates later than December 1918. Following normal practice the wartime Regular brigades would have been relieved.

⁹ Following normal practice, the 226th Field Coy RE probably remained, and the 5th Field Coy RE probably left, but the last catalogue entry for each is December 1918. There is no indication of a third company in 1919. The divisional signal company also has no entry after December 1918.

Northern Division

Formed March 1919 from 3rd Division.¹⁰ Disbanded ca. October 1919 in Germany.¹¹

1st Northern Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left ca. Sep 1919)

51st (S) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919

52nd (S) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919

53rd (S) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers joined Mar 1919; disbanded Oct 1919

2nd Northern Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919)

13th (S) Bn King's (Liverpool Regiment) joined Apr 1919; disbanded 1919

1/5th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment joined Feb 1919 and left Oct 1919

1/6th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919

1/4th Bn York and Lancaster Regiment joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919

3rd Northern Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Jun 1919)

20th (S) Bn Durham Light Infantry¹² joined Apr 1919 and left Jun 1919

51st (S) Bn Durham Light Infantry joined Apr 1919 and left Jun 1919

52nd (S) Bn Durham Light Infantry joined Apr 1919 and left Jun 1919

Artillery

74th Brigade RFA joined Mar 1919 and remained to Jun 1919

75th Brigade RFA joined Apr 1919 and remained to Sep 1919

Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Sep 1919

Engineers

56th Field Coy RE left May 1919

438th (1/1st Cheshire) Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919

529th (1/1st East Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919

231st Field Coy RE joined Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919

Divisional Signal Coy remained to May 1919

3rd Bn MG Corps remained to Sep 1919

9th Bn Durham Light Infantry (Pioneers) joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919

Medical and Veterinary

7th Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919

8th Field Ambulance remained to May 1919

142nd Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919

11th Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919

3 Divisional Train (15th, 21st, 22nd and 29th Coys ASC) remained to Oct 1919

Midland Division

Formed March 1919 from 6th Division. Disbanded August-September 1919 in Germany.

1st Midland Infantry Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919 and left Sep 1919)

2/4th Bn Duke of Wellington's (WR Regiment)¹³ joined Mar 1919 and left Sep 1919

2/4th Bn KO Yorkshire Light Infantry¹⁴ joined Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919

5th Bn KO Yorkshire Light Infantry joined Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919

¹⁰ The division's wartime brigades closed down March-April 1919, although they were probably used to form the HQs of the new Northern brigades. The artillery brigades are from the Guards Division.

¹¹ There is no war diary for division HQ General Staff later than June 1919 in the catalogue.

¹² The 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment was broken up 8 April 1919 among the 20th (S), 51st (S) and 52nd (S) Bns.

¹³ Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment 22 April 1919.

¹⁴ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 7 April 1919.

- 2nd Midland Infantry Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919)
 51st (S) Bn Leicestershire Regiment¹⁵ joined Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919
 52nd (S) Bn Leicestershire Regiment joined Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919
 1/5th Bn South Staffordshire Regiment joined Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919¹⁶
- 3rd Midland Infantry Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919 and left Aug 1919)
 51st (S) Bn Sherwood Foresters joined Mar 1919 and left Jul 1919
 52nd (S) Bn Sherwood Foresters joined Mar 1919 and left Jul 1919
 53rd (S) Bn Sherwood Foresters joined Mar 1919 and left Jul(?) 1919¹⁷
- Artillery¹⁸
 24th Brigade RFA left Apr 1919
 Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Aug 1919
- Engineers
 12th Field Coy RE left Apr 1919
 459th (2/2nd West Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Aug 1919
 509th (1/1st London) Field Coy RE remained to Aug 1919
 93rd Field Coy RE joined Apr 1919 and left Aug 1919
- Divisional Signal Coy remained to Sep 1919
 11th (S) Bn Leicestershire Regiment (Pioneers) remained to Aug 1919
 6th Bn MG Corps remained to Jul 1919
- Medical and Veterinary
 16th Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
 17th Field Ambulance remained to May 1919
 18th Field Ambulance remained to Sep 1919
 6 Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Aug 1919
- Divisional Train (17th, 19th, 23rd and 24th Coys ASC) remained to Jul 1919

Lowland Division

Formed March 1919 from 9th (Scottish) Division. Disbanded October 1919 in Germany.

- 1st Lowland Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Sep 1919)
 15th (S) Bn Highland Light Infantry¹⁹ joined Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919
 51st (S) Bn Highland Light Infantry joined Apr 1919 and left Sep 1919
 5th Bn KO Scottish Borderers joined Apr 1919 and left Aug 1919
 Brigade Trench Mortar Bty joined Apr 1919 and left Aug 1919
- 2nd Lowland Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Nov 1919)
 5th/6th Bn The Royal Scots joined Mar 1919 and left Oct 1919
 11th (S) Bn The Royal Scots joined Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919
 6th (S) Bn KO Scottish Borderers joined Apr 1919 and left Oct 1919
- 3rd Lowland Brigade (HQ formed Apr 1919 and left Sep 1919)
 4th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers joined Apr 1919 and left Aug 1919
 8th Bn Cameronians joined Mar 1919 and left Sep 1919
 9th (S) Bn Cameronians joined Apr 1919 and left Sep 1919

¹⁵ 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment broken up 12 April 1919 between the 51st (S) and 52nd (S) Bns.

¹⁶ Frederick indicates the battalion was disembodied 2 July 1919, but its war diary extends to August 1919.

¹⁷ The only entry in the catalogue is the March 1919 war diary. The battalion was active through November 1919.

¹⁸ The other Regular brigade left March 1919, and there are no indications of what brigades may have been assigned to the division in BAOR.

¹⁹ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 12 April 1919.

Artillery

- 50th Brigade RFA remained to Sep 1919
- 51st Brigade RFA remained to Oct 1919
- Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Sep 1919

Engineers

- 63rd Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919
- 64th Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919
- 90th Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919

Divisional Signal Coy remained to Sep 1919

9th Bn MG Corps remained to Sep 1919

9th (S) Bn Seaforth Highlanders (Pioneers) remained to Jun 1919 when disbanded on the Rhine

16th (S) Bn Highland Light Infantry (Pioneers)²⁰ joined Mar 1919; left Aug 1919

Medical and Veterinary

- 27th Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919
- 28th Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919
- 2/1st East Lancashire Field Ambulance remained to Apr 1919
- 21st Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919

Divisional Train (104th, 105th, 106th and 107th Coys ASC) remained to Nov 1919

Southern Division

Formed March 1919 from 29th Division. Disbanded October 1919 in Germany. Three battalions were used to form the Southern Brigade.

86th Infantry Brigade (left Oct 1919)

- 1st Bn Royal Dublin Fusiliers remained to May 1919
- 51st (S) Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined May 1919; left Oct 1919
- 52nd (S) Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined May 1919; left Oct 1919
- 53rd (S) Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined May 1919; disbanded Oct 1919

87th Infantry Brigade (left Oct 1919)

- 2nd Bn South Wales Borderers remained to Apr 1919
- 1st Bn KO Scottish Borderers remained to Apr 1919
- 1st Bn Border Regiment remained to Apr 1919
- 1/5th Bn Devonshire Regiment²¹ joined May 1919; left Oct 1919
- 51st (S) Bn Devonshire Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919
- 52nd (S) Bn Devonshire Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919

88th Infantry Brigade (left Oct 1919)

- 2nd Bn Leinster Regiment remained to Jun 1919
- 4th Bn Worcestershire Regiment remained to Apr 1919
- 2/4th Bn Hampshire Regiment²² joined May 1919; disbanded Oct 1919
- 15th (S) Bn Hampshire Regiment²³ joined May 1919; left Sep 1919
- 51st (S) Bn Hampshire Regiment joined May 1919; left Oct 1919

Artillery²⁴

Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Oct 1919

²⁰ Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment 9 April 1919.

²¹ Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment 22 April 1919.

²² Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment 21 April 1919.

²³ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 18 April 1919.

²⁴ The two Regular brigades left in February 1919 and there is no indication of who replaced them.

Engineers

- 455th (1/1st West Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
- 497th (1/3rd Kent) Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
- 510th (1/2nd London) Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
- Divisional Signal Coy remained to Aug 1919
- 29th Bn MG Corps remained to Oct 1919
- 1/2nd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment (Pioneers) remained to May 1919
- 9th Bn(S) Gloucestershire Regiment (Pioneers) joined May 1919; left Oct 1919
- Medical and Veterinary
 - 87th Field Ambulance remained to Sep 1919
 - 88th Field Ambulance remained to Nov 1919
 - 89th Field Ambulance remained to Jul 1919
 - 18th Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919
- Divisional Train (225th, 226th, 227th and 228th Coys ASC) remained to Oct 1919

Lancashire Division

Formed March 1919 from 32nd Division. Disbanded October 1919 in Germany.

- 14th Infantry Brigade (remained to Oct 1919)
 - 51st (S) Bn King's (Liverpool Regiment)²⁵ assigned Mar 1919; left Oct 1919
 - 52nd (S) Bn King's (Liverpool Regiment) assigned Mar 1919; left Oct 1919
- 96th Infantry Brigade (remained to Nov 1919)
 - 15th (S) Bn Lancashire Fusiliers remained to Oct 1919
 - 16th (S) Bn Lancashire Fusiliers remained to Oct 1919
- 97th Infantry Brigade (remained to Nov 1919)
 - 2nd Bn KO Yorkshire Light Infantry remained to May 1919
 - 1/5th Bn Border Regiment remained to Oct 1919
 - 51st (S) Bn Manchester Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919
 - 52nd (S) Bn Manchester Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919
 - 53rd (S) Bn Manchester Regiment joined Mar 1919; disbanded Oct 1919
- Artillery
 - 161st Brigade RFA remained to Oct 1919
 - 168th Brigade RFA remained to Oct 1919
 - Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Oct 1919
- Engineers²⁶
 - 206th Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
 - 218th Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
 - 219th Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919
- Divisional Signal Coy remained to Oct 1919
- 12th (S) Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (Pioneers) joined Mar 1919; disbanded 1 Nov 1919
- 32nd Bn MG Corps remained to Oct 1919

²⁵ It seems likely that the 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment was part of this brigade when it formed, but left no surviving war diary. It was broken up 18 June 1919 on the Rhine among the 51st (S) Bn and 52nd (S) Bn, along with the 13th (S) Bn (Pioneers).

²⁶ The three companies went to the Independent Division.

Medical and Veterinary

- 90th Field Ambulance remained to May 1919
- 91st Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919
- 92nd Field Ambulance remained to Nov 1919
- 42 Mobile Veterinary Section
- Divisional Train (202nd, 203rd, 204th and 205th Coy ASC) remained to Nov 1919

Eastern Division

Formed March 1919 from 34th Division. Disbanded June-July 1919 in Germany.

101st Infantry Brigade (remained to Jun 1919)

- 10th (S) Bn Lincolnshire Regiment remained to Jun 1919
- 2nd Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment remained to May 1919
- 1/4th Bn Royal Sussex Regiment remained to Jul 1919
- 10th (S) Bn Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) joined Mar 1919; left Jun 1919²⁷

102nd Infantry Brigade (remained to Jul 1919)

- 7th (S) Bn Cheshire Regiment remained to Jul 1919
- 25th (S) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers remained to Apr 1919
- 51st (S) Bn Bedfordshire Regiment joined Mar 1919; left Jul 1919
- 52nd (S) Bn Bedfordshire Regiment joined Mar 1919(?);²⁸ left Jul 1919
- 53rd (S) Bn Bedfordshire Regiment joined Apr 1919; left Jul 1919

103rd Infantry Brigade (remained to Jul 1919)

- 51st (S) Bn Royal Sussex Regiment joined Apr 1919; left Jul 1919
- 52nd (S) Bn Royal Sussex Regiment joined May 1919; left Jul 1919
- 53rd (S) Bn Royal Sussex Regiment joined Feb 1919; left Jul 1919

Artillery

- 152 Brigade RFA remained to Jul 1919
- 160 Brigade RFA remained to Jul 1919
- Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Jul 1919

Engineers

- 207th Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
- 208th Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
- 209th Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
- Divisional Signal Coy remained to Jul 1919
- 2/4th Bn Somerset Light Infantry (Pioneers) remained to Jul 1919²⁹
- 34th Bn MG Corps remained to Jul 1919

Medical and Veterinary

- 102nd Field Ambulance remained to Jul 1919
- 103rd Field Ambulance remained to Jun 1919
- 104th Field Ambulance remained to May 1919
- 44th Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Jul 1919
- Divisional Train (229th, 230th, 231st and 232nd Coys ASC) remained to Jul 1919

²⁷ The battalion remained in Germany to at least December 1919 according to its war diaries.

²⁸ Only the July 1919 war diary is listed in the catalogue.

²⁹ Frederick indicates they were disbanded 4 June 1919 at Bath, but their war diary runs through July 1919.

London Division

Formed March 1919 from 41st Division. Disbanded October 1919 in Germany. Three battalions were used to form 1st Rhine Brigade.

122nd Infantry Brigade (remained to Oct 1919)

9th (S) Bn East Surrey Regiment joined Apr 1919; left Oct 1919

1/7th Bn Middlesex Regiment joined Feb 1919; left Oct 1919

23rd (S) Bn Middlesex Regiment³⁰ joined Mar 1919; left Oct 1919

123rd Infantry Brigade (remained to Oct 1919)

11th (S) Bn Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)³¹ remained to Sep 1919

2/4th Bn Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)³² joined Mar 1919; left Sep 1919

10th (S) Bn Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)³³ joined Mar 1919; left Sep 1919

124th Infantry Brigade (remained to Oct 1919)

17th (S) Bn Royal Fusiliers³⁴ joined Apr 1919; disbanded Oct 1919

23rd (S) Bn Royal Fusiliers³⁵ joined Mar 1919; left Sep 1919 and disbanded that year

Artillery

187th Brigade RFA remained to Oct 1919

190th Brigade RFA remained to Oct 1919

Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Sep 1919

Engineers

228th Field Coy RE remained to Oct 1919

233rd Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919

237th Field Coy RE remained to Sep 1919

Divisional Signal Company remained to Sep 1919

19th (S) Bn Middlesex Regiment (Pioneers)³⁶ remained to Oct 1919

41st Bn MG Corps remained to Oct 1919

Medical and Veterinary

138th Field Ambulance remained to May 1919

139th Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919

140th Field Ambulance remained to Oct 1919

52nd Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919

Divisional Train (296th, 297th, 298th and 299th Coy ASC) remained to Sep 1919

Highland Division

Formed March 1919 from 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. Disbanded August 1919 in Germany.

1st Highland Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919;³⁷ left Aug 1919)

10th (S) Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919

5th (S) Bn QO Cameron Highlanders assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919

52nd (S) Bn Gordon Highlanders assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919

³⁰ Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment 10 March 1919.

³¹ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 17 April 1919.

³² Absorbed 53rd (S) Bn of the regiment April 1919.

³³ Absorbed 51st (S) Bn of the regiment 1 April 1919.

³⁴ Absorbed 51st (S) Bn of the regiment 3 April 1919, and later absorbed personnel of 1/1st HAC Inf Bn.

³⁵ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 4 April 1919.

³⁶ Absorbed 52nd (S) Bn of the regiment 8 April 1919.

³⁷ Date surmised (for all three brigades) given the disappearance of the wartime brigades that month and the assignment of battalions. The earliest war diary in the catalogue for any brigade HQ is May 1919.

- 2nd Highland Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919; left Sep 1919)
 1/4th Bn Gordon Highlanders assigned by May 1919; left Aug 1919
 1/5th Bn Gordon Highlanders assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919
 51st (S) Bn Gordon Highlanders
- 3rd Highland Brigade (HQ formed Mar 1919; left Aug 1919)
 6th Bn Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919
 8th (S) Bn Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919
 1/4th Bn Seaforth Highlanders assigned Mar 1919; left Aug 1919
- Artillery
 310th Brigade RFA remained to Aug 1919
 312th Brigade RFA remained to Aug 1919
 Divisional Ammunition Column remained to Aug 1919
- Engineers
 457th (West Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
 460th (West Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
 461st (West Riding) Field Coy RE remained to Jul 1919
- Divisional Signal Coy remained to Aug 1919
 53rd (S) Bn Gordon Highlanders (Pioneers) joined Apr 1919; left Aug 1919
 62nd Bn MG Corps remained to Aug 1919
- Medical and Veterinary
 2/1st West Riding Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
 2/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance remained to May 1919
 2/3rd West Riding Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
 2/1st West Riding Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Aug 1919
- Divisional Train (525th, 526th, 527th and 528th Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919

Cavalry Division

The Cavalry Division in BAOR was based on 1st Cavalry Division, whose headquarters remained active through September 1919.

- Dragoon Brigade (HQ established Apr 1919 and disbanded Aug 1919)
 6th Dragoon Guards assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 1st Royal Dragoons assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 6th Inniskilling Dragoons assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 Dragoon Brigade MG Sqn assigned Apr to Aug 1919
- Hussar Brigade (HQ established Apr 1919 and disbanded ca. Aug 1919)³⁸
 3rd (King's Own) Hussars assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 10th (Prince of Wales's) Hussars assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 15th (The King's) Hussars assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 9th MG Sqn assigned Apr to Aug 1919
- Lancer Brigade (HQ established Apr 1919 and disbanded Sep 1919)
 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 12th (Prince of Wales's) Lancers assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 17th (Duke of Cambridge's) Lancers assigned Apr to Aug 1919
 2nd MG Sqn assigned Apr to Aug 1919
- 1st Field Sqn RE remained to Aug 1919
 1st Signal Sqn RE remained to Aug 1919

³⁸ The last war diary in the catalogue is July 1919, but the assigned units all have war diaries through August 1919.

Medical and Veterinary

- 1st Cavalry Field Ambulance remained to Aug 1919
- 3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance remained to Sep 1919
- 9th Cavalry Field Ambulance remained to May 1919
- 1st Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Sep 1919
- 10th Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Aug 1919
- 39th Mobile Veterinary Section remained to Oct 1919
- Supply Column (57th Coy ASC) remained to Sep 1919
- 1st Auxiliary Horse Transport Coy (574th Coy ASC) remained to Aug 1919

II. The Interim Army 1919-1920

Independent Division

Formed November 1919 in Germany as the last of the original BAOR divisions closed down.
Disbanded February 1920.

Light Brigade (HQ established Nov 1919 and disbanded Jan 1920)³⁹

- 13th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 18th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 20th (S) Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Southern Brigade (HQ established Nov 1919 and disbanded Jan 1920)⁴⁰

- 51st (S) Bn Warwickshire Regiment assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 52nd (S) Bn Warwickshire Regiment assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 52nd (S) Bn Devonshire Regiment assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Northern Brigade (HQ established Nov 1919 and disbanded Feb 1920)⁴¹

- 52nd (S) Bn King's (Liverpool Regiment) assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- 52nd (S) Bn Manchester Regiment assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 52nd (S) Bn Durham Light Infantry assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- Brigade Light Trench Mortar Battery assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

113th Brigade RFA assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Engineers⁴²

- 206th Field Coy RE
- 218th Field Coy RE assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- 219th Field Coy RE assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

29th Bn MG Corps assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

20th (S) Bn Durham Light Infantry (Pioneers) assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

51st (S) Bn Hampshire Regiment assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Medical and Veterinary

- 5th Field Ambulance assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 6th Field Ambulance assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- 7th Field Ambulance assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- 61st Sanitary Section assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920
- 18th Mobile Veterinary Section assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Divisional Train (225th, 226th, 227th and 228th Coys ASC)⁴³ assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

³⁹ This was the 1st Light Brigade in the disbanded Light Division.

⁴⁰ The battalions came from the disbanded Southern Division.

⁴¹ The battalions came from the disbanded Northern and Lancashire Divisions.

⁴² From the disbanded Lancashire Division.

Garrison Troops, Rhine Garrison

This command appears to have been established November 1919 along with the Independent Division, and to have lapsed in February 1920 as well.

1st Rhine Brigade (HQ established Nov 1919)⁴⁴

10th (S) Bn Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

11th (S) Bn Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

23rd (S) Bn Royal Fusiliers assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

2nd Rhine Brigade (HQ established Nov 1919)⁴⁵

51st (S) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

51st (S) Bn Rifle Brigade assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

52nd (S) Bn Rifle Brigade assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

231st Field Coy RE assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

19th Bn Middlesex Regiment (Pioneers) assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

41st Bn MG Corps assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

140th Field Ambulance assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

142nd Field Ambulance assigned Nov 1919 to Feb 1920

52nd Mobile Veterinary Section assigned Nov 1919 to Jan 1920

Rhine Garrison Train assigned Nov 1919, and lasted to at least Jun 1920

14th (King's) Hussars transferred from Mesopotamia to Germany in March 1919, but has no surviving war diary after its transfer.

III. The Final Army 1920--1929

With the run-down of the Independent Division,⁴⁶ BAOR established a force with six Regular battalions: 1st Bn Royal Irish Regiment, 4th Bn Worcestershire Regiment, 2nd Bn Black Watch, 1st and 3rd Bns Middlesex Regiment, and 1st Bn Durham Light Infantry.

In 1921-22 there was a GHQ, British Silesian Force to help oversee the plebiscite in Upper Silesia. This GHQ was established June 1921 and discontinued July 1922. The only unit war diary to survive is that of 2nd Bn Connaught Rangers, who were present May 1921 to April 1922. The British troops were organized into two brigades:⁴⁷

1st Silesia Brigade: 2nd Bn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 2nd Bn Leinster Regiment

2nd Silesia Brigade: 2nd Bn Connaught Rangers and 1st Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers

⁴³ From the disbanded Southern Division.

⁴⁴ The battalions came from the disbanded London Division.

⁴⁵ The battalions came from the disbanded Light and Northern Divisions.

⁴⁶ It is not clear if the two Rhine brigades actually disbanded, or merely stopped keeping war diaries after February 1920. The original notes from Dr. Watson (see Note 1 at the end) indicated these six battalions were grouped as a single brigade, but my own suspicion is that the two Rhine brigades remained in existence.

⁴⁷ All but the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were among the south Irish regiments disbanded 31 July 1922 following establishment of the Irish Free State.

From 1922, BAOR comprised two Rhine brigades, which survived into 1929 when BAOR was disbanded and the British withdrew.⁴⁸

1st Rhine Brigade

1 st Bn Northumberland Fusiliers	1922 – 1926
1 st Bn West Yorkshire Regiment	1922 – 1926
2 nd Bn QO Cameron Highlanders	1922 – 1926
1 st Bn York & Lancaster Regiment	1922 – 1924
2 nd Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment	1926 – 1928
2 nd Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers	Nov 1926 – Oct 1929
2 nd Bn Worcestershire Regiment	1926 – 1928

2nd Rhine Brigade

2 nd Bn Duke of Cornwall's LI	1922 – 1924
1 st Bn YO Yorkshire LI	1922 – 1924
2 nd Bn KRRC	1922 – 1925
1 st Bn Royal Ulster Rifles	1922 – 1926
1 st Bn Manchester Regiment	1923 – 1924
2 nd Bn King's Shropshire LI	1924 – 1927
1 st Bn Oxford & Bucks LI	1925 – 1927
2 nd Bn Royal Fusiliers	1926 – 1929
2 nd Bn Leicestershire Regiment	1927 – 1929
2 nd Bn Dorsetshire Regiment	1928 – 1929

There was one cavalry regiment present from 1919, 14th King's Hussars. It was amalgamated October 1922 at Cologne with the inactive 20th Hussars to form 14th/20th Hussars, and returned to the UK in 1923. 1st King's Dragoon Guards were stationed in Germany 1924—1927 and 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars from 1927—1929.

3rd Brigade RFA was in Germany 1920—1923. 8th Brigade RFA came to Germany in 1921 and remained to 1927 [redesignated May 1924 as 8th Field Brigade RA]. The last artillery unit was 19th Field Brigade RA from 1927—1929.

7th Field Company RE served in Germany 1919—1929.

⁴⁸ The following battalions served in BAOR during the periods indicated, but brigade allocation is not known: 1st Bn Duke of Wellington's (1922-23), 2nd Bn Hampshire Regiment (1928-29), and 1st Bn South Lancashire Regiment (1928-29).

End Notes

This work represents a greatly expanded and revised version of a brief summary that appeared as the Appendix in Graham E. Watson and Richard A. Rinaldi, *The British Army in Germany (BAOR and After): An Organizational History 1947-2004* (Tiger Lily Publications LLC for obat.com). That Appendix was largely based on information provided by Dr. Watson.

Note 1

The major source for this material was the online catalogue of war diaries from records group WO 95, First World War and Army of Occupation.⁴⁹ These entries take the form, e.g.:

WO 95/1406 Divisional Troops: 7 Field Ambulance 1914 Aug - 1919 Oct

This particular example is from 3rd Division, which became Northern Division in March 1919. It indicates that war diaries are available for 7th Field Ambulance RAMC for the period August 1914 to October 1919; the particular record group is one that falls under 3rd Division. From the entries, one knows that the unit was active and assigned to the division through October 1919. Depending on other information, it may have closed down or been reassigned following that date.

One problem is that, in some cases, the records are incomplete. In others, there is always the chance that the unit remained longer, but there is no surviving copy of its war diary for that period. This should be kept in mind when reviewing the listings for each division. Conceivably, a unit may have arrived a month earlier, with its war diary filed under an earlier formation, or remained up to a month later, with no extant war diary for that month, or the war diary filed elsewhere.

In the details under divisions, 'remained to' indicates that the unit was part of the wartime division, becoming part of the occupation division, and remaining under its control until the indicated date. 'Joined' indicates a unit newly assigned, generally in March or April of 1919.

For the infantry, I have also checked against J. B. M. Frederick, *Lineage Book of British Land Forces 1660-1978*, two volumes (Wakesfield, Yorkshire: Microform Academic Publishers, 1984).

Note 2

In autumn 1917, most surviving battalions from the Training Reserve were affiliated to regiments in groups of three, as the 51st and 52nd (Graduated) Battalions and 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion. In February 1919, all of those active were redesignated as (Service) battalions. Many of these battalions went to Europe in March and April 1919, where they were either absorbed into existing battalions or became elements of the occupation divisions. Six were disbanded in October and November 1919 following dissolution of the last divisions. However, ten of them remained into 1920, with five disbanded in February and the remainder the next month.

⁴⁹ The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/default.asp?j=1.