

53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division

158th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 158th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th (Denbigh) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

6th (Carnarvon and Anglesey) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

7th (Merioneth and Montgomery) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

159th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 159th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

3rd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment

1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

160th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 160th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th (Llanelly) Bn. The Welch Regiment

1st/5th (Glamorgan) Bn. The Welch Regiment

2nd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment

Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

81st (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 323rd (Glamorgan) & 324th (Glamorgan) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

83rd (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 329th (Monmouth) & 330th (Monmouth) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

133rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

(H.Q., 331st (Monmouth) & 332nd (Radnor) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

60th (Royal Welch Fusiliers) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 237th, 238th, 239th & 240th Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

244th (Welsh) Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

245th (Welsh) Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

282nd Field Company, Royal Engineers (9)

285th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (9)

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (10)

NOTES:

1. This was a first line Territorial Army division, with its headquarters based at Shrewsbury. The division mobilised at the outbreak of war and was sent to Northern Ireland in stages; the 158th Infantry Brigade went first in October 1939, the 160th Infantry Brigade followed in December 1939 with the 159th Infantry Brigade and Divisional Headquarters arrived in April 1940. The division returned to the mainland in November 1941, initially coming under Western Command before joining XII Corps in April 1942. It remained with XII Corps until after landing in Normandy on the 27th June 1944. The division fought in the various major battles in North West Europe until the end of the campaign. The 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division was reconstituted in the Territorial Army in 1947.
2. A first line T.A. brigade, with its headquarters based at Wrexham. It comprised three first-line battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The 4th Bn. was based at Wrexham, the 6th Bn. at Carnarvon and the 7th Bn. at Newtown. The brigade remained with the division throughout the war, although there was a change in units in September 1944.
3. A first line Territorial Army brigade, the headquarters of which was based at Newport. The 4th Bn. K.S.L.I was based at Shrewsbury. The 1st Bn. Herefords, whose parent regiment was the K.S.L.I. was based at Hereford. The 3rd Bn. Monmouths, whose parent regiment was the South Wales Borderers, was based at Abergavenny. The brigade transferred to the 11th Armoured Division on 17 May 1942, and remained with that division for the rest of the war.
4. Another first line T.A. brigade based at Cardiff. The 4th Bn. The Welch Regiment was based as its title suggests at Llanelly, and the 1st/5th Bn. of the same regiment was based at Pontypridd. The 2nd Bn. Monmouths was based at Pontypool. This brigade remained with the division throughout the war, again with a change of units in September 1944.
5. This unit was a first line T.A. regiment, formed in 1916 as the 1st Welsh Brigade, R.F.A.. The H.Q. and 323rd Batteries were based at Port Talbot, with the 324th Battery being based at Bridgend. The regiment remained with the division throughout the war.
6. Formed in 1916 as the 2nd Welsh Brigade R.F.A., this first-line regiment had its Headquarters and 331st Batteries based at Newport. The 332nd Battery was based at Cross Keys. It too stayed with the division for the duration of the war.
7. A second-line T.A. regiment, formed in May 1939 as a duplicate of 83rd Field Regiment. The H.Q. and 331st Batteries were based at Griffithstown, Cardiff, with the 332nd Battery being based at Radnor. The regiment stayed with the division throughout the war.
8. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 5th (Flintshire) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers. The entire unit was based at Flint. The regiment left the division in December 1939 to transfer to the 1st Armoured Division. It served with the 1st Armoured Division, becoming the 101st Anti-Tank Regiment in October 1940. It was disbanded in Italy in April 1945. It was not replaced in the division until October 1940.

9. The Royal Engineers units in the division were a mix of first-line and second-line units. The 244th Field Company was a first-line Territorial Army company, which was based at Swansea. This unit remained with the division throughout the war. The 245th Field Company was also a first-line T.A. unit, but was based at Neath. It left the division on 8 October 1939 to transfer to the 5th Infantry Division which was being brought up to establishment in France. It was replaced by the newly raised 555th Field Company on the 30th December 1939. The 282nd Field Company was a second-line duplicate unit formed in 1939 and based at Port Talbot. The 285th Field Park Company was a second-line unit also formed in 1939 and was based at Gorseinon near Swansea. The 555th Field Company, 282nd Field Company and 285th Field Park Company were to remain with the division throughout the war.
10. The Divisional Signals were based at Cardiff.

SOURCES:

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