

59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division

176th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 176th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

7th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

6th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

7th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)

177th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 177th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

1st/6th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

2nd/6th Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

Divisional Troops

6th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

61st (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 241st (North Staffordshire) & 242nd (North Staffordshire) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

116th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 243rd (Leek) & 244th (Stafford) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

59th (Staffordshire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. This formation was a second line Territorial Army division, formed on 4 September 1939. The units in the division were embodied by its parent formation, the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division, until the new division assumed command of its units on the 15th September 1939. The division lacked artillery and engineer units for some months. It was originally organised as a motor division, but was reorganised on a standard infantry division establishment in June 1940, gaining the 197th Infantry Brigade, a field artillery regiment, and an engineer field company from the disbanded 66th Infantry Division to bring it up to strength. It commenced the war in Western Command, moving to Northern Command on 1 June 1940. It came under command of X Corps on 24 June 1940, remaining with that corps until 8 April 1941, when the corps prepared for deployment to the Middle East. This division remained in the U.K. and transferred to IX Corps. On 10 November 1941 the division moved to Northern Ireland to join III Corps. The division returned to the mainland, and joined XII Corps to prepare for the invasion of France. It left for Normandy on 27 June 1944.
2. A first-line Territorial Army brigade, designated as the 166th Infantry Brigade. It was redesignated as the 176th Brigade on 4 September 1939. Its headquarters were based at Ashford House, Burton-on-Trent, under the command of Brigadier J. L. SHORT. The 7th Bn. South Staffordshires was a second-line battalion, formed by the duplication of the 5th Battalion. It was based at Brownhills. The 6th Bn. North Staffordshires was a first-line T.A. battalion stationed in Burton-on-Trent, with the 7th Bn. being the duplicate battalion, also stationed in Burton-on-Trent. The 7th Bn. left the brigade on 24th October 1942, transferring to the Orkney and Shetland Islands. It was replaced by the 7th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment. The other two battalions stayed with the brigade until it was disbanded.
3. A second-line Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters located at Burton Manor, Stafford. Brigadier A. E. HAWKINS commanded the brigade until August 1942. The 5th Bn. South Staffordshires was a first line T.A. battalion, based in Walsall. The 6th Bn. was a first line T.A. battalion based at Wolverhampton. It duplicated in 1939, with the 1st/6th Bn. remaining at Wolverhampton, and the 2nd/6th Bn. being based in Bilston.
4. This was a second-line T.A. unit, formed by the duplication of the 5th Battalion. As with its parent unit, it was based in Bolton, Lancashire. It was equipped as a motor cycle battalion for reconnaissance duties. It left this division on 30 November 1940 transferring to the 2nd Infantry Division. It later converted to become the reconnaissance regiment for the 2nd Division, serving with that division in Burma.
5. A first-line Territorial Army regiment, originally formed in 1916 as 2nd North Midland Brigade, R.F.A.. All three batteries were based at Shelton in Stoke-on-Trent. The regiment remained with the division throughout its existence, serving in Normandy in 1944. When the division disbanded, the regiment converted to become the 61st Super Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.
6. A second-line regiment formed in April 1939 as a duplicate of the 61st Field Regiment. Its Headquarters Battery was based in Hanley, the 243rd Battery in Leek and the 244th Battery in Stafford. This regiment also remained with the division throughout its existence, but was placed in suspended animation in January 1945 following the break-up of the division.

SOURCES:

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