

53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Divisional Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division
Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon
xx Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

71st Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 71st Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment ⁽³⁾
1st Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)
1st Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

158th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 158th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th (Denbigh) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers ⁽⁴⁾
6th (Carnarvon and Anglesey) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers ⁽⁵⁾
7th (Merioneth and Montgomery) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

160th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 160th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th (Llanelly) Bn. The Welch Regiment
1st/5th (Glamorgan) Bn. The Welch Regiment ⁽⁶⁾
2nd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment

Divisional Troops

53rd Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁵⁾
1st Bn. The Manchester Regiment ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Artillery
81st (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
83rd (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
133rd (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
71st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)
116th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Engineers
244th (Welsh) Field Company, Royal Engineers
282nd Field Company, Royal Engineers
555th Field Company, Royal Engineers
285th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers
22nd Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers (9)

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

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Army Service Corps
531st Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
532nd Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
533rd Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
501st Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps
147th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
202nd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
212th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
13th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
26th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps
53rd Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
71st Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
158th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
160th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Field Park

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. This formation was a first line Territorial Army division. It was not sent to France in 1940, so the first action it saw was in North-West Europe. The division landed in Normandy on 27 June 1944, under the command of XII Corps. Major General R. K. ROSS commanded the division throughout the campaign. It was soon in action in the Battle for the River Odon until 2 July. Then between 4 and 18 July, it was involved in the Battle for Caen. After a short respite, the division was again in action, this time in the Battle for Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August 1944. On 3 August 1944, an internal reorganization took place within the division to split up the three battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the same brigade. This was a legacy of the Territorial Army origins of the division. This decision was taken due to the reinforcement policy of the British Army in sending drafts to regiments, to balance out requirements.
2. This brigade was formed in the United Kingdom on 28 November 1940 by the redesignation of the 3rd London Infantry Brigade. It was designated as the 71st Independent Infantry Brigade on 12 December 1940. At that time it comprised the 7th Bn The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), 8th Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment and the 9th Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment. By the time it joined this division on 18 October 1942, it comprised the above regiments, all of which were pre war Regular Army battalions. .
3. On arrival in Normandy, it was found the problem of reinforcements for the infantry units was complicated by having three former Territorial Army units all from the same regiment in one brigade. Therefore, the decision was taken to split up this brigade between the others in the division. On 3 August 1944, this battalion transferred to the 158th Infantry Brigade.
4. This battalion transferred to the 71st Infantry Brigade on 3 August 1944.
5. On 3 August 1944, this brigade transferred to the 160th Infantry Brigade.
6. This battalion transferred to the 158th Infantry Brigade on 3 August 1944.
7. This regiment was formed on 1 January 1941 under the command of this division. At that time, it was designated as the 53rd Battalion, The Reconnaissance Corps. It was redesignated as the 53rd Regiment, The Reconnaissance Corps on 6 June 1942. It became part of the Royal Armoured Corps on 1 January 1944.
8. This unit was the divisional machine gun battalion. It had joined the division on 1 October 1943, being then designated as a support battalion. It was redesignated as a machine gun battalion on 28 February 1944.
9. In September 1940, batteries from the 70th Anti-Tank Regiment, which itself was the duplicate of the 60th (Royal Welch Fusiliers) Anti-Tank Regiment, were used to form a new regiment entitled the 71st Anti-Tank Regiment. It joined this division on formation, and apart from two months serving with the 61st Infantry Division whilst based in Northern Ireland, it served with this division for the duration of the war.
10. This regiment was formed in January 1942 from by conversion of the 12th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers. It came under the command of the division on 3 April 1942. It left on 2 December 1944, to be disbanded. It was replaced by the:
25th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery
a Territorial Army Regiment which transferred in from Home Forces on the same date.

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1st Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) ⁽²⁾
1st Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

158th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 158th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

1st/5th (Glamorgan) Bn. The Welch Regiment
7th (Merioneth and Montgomery) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers ⁽³⁾
1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

160th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 160th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4th (Llanelly) Bn. The Welch Regiment
2nd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment
6th (Carnarvon and Anglesey) Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

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NOTES:

1. This is the Order of Battle for this division after the internal movement of two of the battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers on 3 August 1944. From there, the division took part in the final Battle of Falaise. From 17 September to 27 September 1944, the Division took part in Operation Market Garden under the command of XII Corps. On 8 February 1945, the Battle for the Rhineland commenced, with the Division under the command of XXX Corps. It transferred back to XII Corps on 18 February 1945. It took part in the Crossing of the River Rhine on 23 March and the final assault into Germany. In 1947, the Division disbanded in Germany, reforming as a T.A. Division in the United Kingdom.
2. This battalion left the brigade on 17 August 1945. It was replaced by the 1st Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment.
3. This battalion transferred to the 56th Infantry Brigade, 49th Infantry Division on 26 April 1945. It was replaced by the 2nd Bn. The South Wales Borderers which transferred in from the 56th Brigade. The two battalions returned to their original brigades on 13 June 1945.

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