# 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Infantry Division (1)

Divisional Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon 26<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

## <u>176<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade</u> (2)

Headquarters, 176<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment

177<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (3)

Headquarters, 177<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

 $5^{th}$  Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment  $1^{st}/6^{th}$  Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment  $2^{nd}/6^{th}$  Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

197<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (4)

Headquarters, 197<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

**Divisional Troops** 

59<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (5)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (6)

## 20 November 2019 [59 (STAFFORDSHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISION (1944-45)]

Headquarters, 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Royal Artillery 61<sup>st</sup> (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (7) 110<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8) 116<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8) 68<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (9) 68<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)

Headquarters, 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Royal Engineers 257<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (11) 509<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (12) 510<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (12) 511<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (12) 24<sup>th</sup> Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers (13)

59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps 300<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps 301<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps 557<sup>th</sup> Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps 203<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 210<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 211<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 27<sup>th</sup> Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps 28<sup>th</sup> Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers 176<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers 177<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers 197<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

### NOTES:

- 1. The 59<sup>th</sup> (Staffordshire) Infantry Division landed in Normandy from the U.K. on 27 June 1944. This was the first operation the division had been involved in since the outbreak of war. It had been formed in 1939 as a second-line (or duplicate) of the 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division. Major General (Acting) Lewis Owen LYNE, D.S.O., *p.s.c.* commanded this Division until it was disbanded. The division fought at Caen between 4 July and 18 July; and at Mount Pincon between 30 July and 9 August 1944. On 19 October 1944, due to the heavy casualties sustained by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in Normandy, and the lack of reinforcements, it was disbanded as it was the junior division in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. The divisional headquarters was placed in suspended animation. Being a second-line Territorial Army division, it was not reformed after the war.
- 2. A first line T.A. brigade. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. South Staffordshires and 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. North Staffordshires were original battalions in the brigade. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Norfolks was a second line T.A. battalion that joined the brigade in October 1942. The three battalions were disbanded upon the demise of the brigade.
- 3. This brigade was part of the division from its formation, with no change in units. When the division disbanded, the brigade disbanded with the units broken up to provide drafts for other battalions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army.
- 4. This brigade was a second line Territorial Army formation, formed as a duplicate of the 125<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 42<sup>nd</sup> Division. The brigade was part of the 66<sup>th</sup> Division until 22 June 1940, when it transferred to the 59<sup>th</sup> Division. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers and 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. East Lancashires were original battalions in the brigade. The 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire joined the brigade in October 1942 from 143<sup>rd</sup> Brigade.
- 5. The reconnaissance battalion had joined the division on 27 January 1941. It became a reconnaissance regiment on 6 June 1942, and then part of the Royal Armoured Corps on 1 January 1944. It disbanded with the end of the division.
- 6. This battalion was the divisional machine gun unit, having joined the division on 18 November 1941.
- The regiment left the division when it was disbanded in October 1944. It then came under command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. In December 1944, the Regiment was redesignated: 61<sup>st</sup> Super Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery
- Both regiments came under command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army when the division was disbanded in October 1944. In January 1945, they were placed in suspended animation. The 110<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment had joined the division on 10 July 1940, having transferred from the 66<sup>th</sup> Division.
- 9. The regiment had joined the division on 1 July 1940 from 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It replaced the 66<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment which was posted to the 55<sup>th</sup> Division. It was placed in suspended animation when the division disbanded in October 1944.
- 10. The regiment had been formed in December 1940 and joined the division on 19 April 1943. It was disbanded in October 1944 when the division was broken up.
- 11. This company was a T.A. company based in Manchester. It joined this division on 23 June 1940.
- 12. These companies transferred into this division from the 55<sup>th</sup> Division between 30 December 1939 and 2 March 1940.
- 13. The bridging platoon joined the division on 1 October 1943.

#### SOURCES:

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