

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

### 1<sup>st</sup> Carpathian Rifle Brigade

1<sup>st</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Brigade

4<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
5<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
6<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion

### Divisional Troops

12<sup>th</sup> Podolski Reconnaissance Regiment

3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Machine Gun Battalion

1<sup>st</sup> Carpathian Field Regiment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Field Regiment  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Field Regiment  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Anti-Tank/Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Carpathian Field Company, Polish Engineers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Field Company, Polish Engineers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Field Company, Polish Engineers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Field Park Company, Polish Engineers

## NOTES:

1. This division was formed by the expansion of the Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade. This brigade had been formed on 12 April 1940 in the French Levant (otherwise known as Syria and Lebanon) from Polish exiles. It was then part of the French Army. On 20 June 1940, with the fall of France, the brigade came under the command of G.H.Q. Middle East and came under British command. Eight days later it transferred to Egypt. The brigade fought at Tobruk between 18 November and 10 December 1941, and then later at Alam Hanza and Bardia, where it gained a reputation for aggressive and determined fighting. The brigade withdrew to Egypt on the 15 March 1942 and then onward to Palestine to reorganise as part of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Division. The division started to disembark at Taranto on 21 December 1943. The rest of the corps followed during early 1944. The division and the corps first entered the line in March 1944 on the Adriatic sector, but were relieved in April to move to Cassino. The Poles attacked on 11 May 1944 and suffered heavy losses, however, due to progress made by the French Divisions and XIII Corps in the Liri Valley forced the Germans to evacuate Monte Cassino. The reconnaissance regiment of this division raised a regimental pennant over the monastery at 09.50 hours on 18 May 1944. The division advanced with the Allies and took part in the battle of the Gothic Line in August and September 1944.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
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4<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
5<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
6<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Rifle Brigade (2)

7<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
8<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Rifle Battalion  
9<sup>th</sup> (Bologna) Carpathian Rifle Battalion

### Divisional Troops

12<sup>th</sup> Podolski Reconnaissance Regiment

3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Machine Gun Battalion

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3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Field Park Company, Polish Engineers

1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Quarter-Master Section  
1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Chaplain Service Section  
1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Provost Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Traffic Control Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Field Security Section

8<sup>th</sup> Polish Court Martial Section

1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Paymaster Section

1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Field Post Section

## NOTES:

1. In late 1944 and early 1945, the II Polish Corps received considerable reinforcements from Allied prisoner of war camps. This unusual manner of obtaining additional personnel allowed the expansion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Infantry Division to the standard British infantry division establishment. It was in this form the division participated in the final Allied offensive in April 1945.
2. This was the new brigade formed with the additional personnel. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion was named in honour of being the first Allied unit to enter the Italian city of Bologna when it was liberated.

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