

3rd Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Divisional Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Division
Headquarters Defence & Employment Platoon
33rd Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

8th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 8th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

1st Bn. The Suffolk Regiment

2nd Bn. The East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own)

1st Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Volunteers) ⁽³⁾

9th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 9th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

2nd Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment

1st Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers

2nd Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles

185th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 185th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

2nd Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

1st Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment ⁽⁶⁾

2nd Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

3rd Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁷⁾

2nd Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) ⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery (9)

7th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 9th, 16th & 17th/43rd Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

33rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 101st, 109th & 113th/114th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

76th (Highland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)

20th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

92nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)

Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

17th Field Company, Royal Engineers

246th (Welsh) Field Company, Royal Engineers

253rd (West Lancashire) Field Company, Royal Engineers

15th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

2nd Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers

3rd Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (12)

23rd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

47th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

48th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

172nd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps

8th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

9th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

223rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

10th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

11th Field Dressing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Divisional Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

8th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

9th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

185th Infantry Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

3rd Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

3rd Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

3rd Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The division was a Regular Army formation, which had served in France in 1940 as part of the B.E.F.. It did not see active service again until the invasion of Normandy. It was one of the assault divisions, landing on Sword Beach on D Day under the command of Major General (Acting) Tom Gordon RENNIE, D.S.O., M.B.E., *p.s.c.*, who assumed command on 12 December 1943. Between 4 and 18 July 1944, the division was involved in the battle for Caen, and then from 18 to 23 July, the battle for Bourguebus Ridge. During the Battle for Caen, Major General RENNIE was wounded on 13 June 1944, so he was replaced by Major General (Acting) Lashmer Gordon WHISTLER, D.S.O.***, with effect from 23 June 1944. Major General WHISTLER remained in command throughout the campaign, and only left command in 1946 on being posted to India. After only a few day's rest, it fought in the battle for Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August 1944, all under the command of I Corps. The battle of the Nederrijn (Operation Market Garden) opened on 17 September 1944, with the division now under the command of VIII Corps. In 1945, the division was involved in both the major battles leading to the German surrender, the Rhineland between 8 February and 10 March; and the Rhine Crossing between 23 March and 1 April. Initially, for the Rhineland attack, the division was under command of XII Corps, but in then transferred to XXX Corps. Following the cessation of hostilities, the division left Germany in December 1945, moving to Palestine. In April 1946, the division (now consisting of the 7th, 8th and 9th Infantry Brigades) moved to the Canal Zone in Egypt. The 7th Infantry Brigade disbanded in December 1946, and the division disbanded in June 1947. It was reformed in Germany in November 1951.
2. The spearhead of the Normandy invasion on Gold Beach was the 8th Infantry Brigade, the 2nd East Yorks landing on Queen Red at 07.30 and the 1st South Lancashires on Queen White. The 1st Suffolk was the follow up battalion, landing at 09.30 am. Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Earnshaw Eden CASS, C.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C., commanded the brigade from 7 October 1943 until he was injured by a mine on 26 October 1944. He was succeeded by Brigadier (Acting) Edward Henry GOULBORN, D.S.O. the next day. He remained in command until July 1945, when he transferred to command the 5th (Guards) Infantry Brigade.
3. This battalion had joined the brigade on 11 June 1940, transferring from the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.
4. The 9th Infantry Brigade was the reserve brigade, landing late on D-Day morning. Brigadier (Temporary) James Crossley CUNNINGHAM, M.C. commanded the brigade with effect from 15 July 1942, but he was wounded on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was relieved by Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur Dennis Gordon ORR, D.S.O.. He was relieved of his command by the G.O.C. on 7 August 1944, and he was replaced by Brigadier (Acting) Gerald Dominic BROWNE, *p.s.c.*, who had been the G.S.O. 1 of the division. Brigadier (Acting) George Douglas RENNY assumed command on 1 January 1945, and he transferred to the 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division on 30 March 1945. Finally, Brigadier (Temporary) Walter Francis Herbert KEMPSTER, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*, became the brigade commander on 1 April 1945, again after being the G.S.O. 1 of the division and returned from sick leave.

5. This brigade was formed on 1 September 1942 by the redesignation of the Headquarters 204th Independent Infantry Brigade. The 2nd Warwicks transferred into the brigade on the 9th September 1942 from the 24th (Guards) Infantry Brigade. The 1st Norfolks had commenced the war in Delhi, India. The battalion returned to the U.K. in September 1940 and joined 24th (Guards) Infantry Brigade, from which it transferred to the 185th Brigade on 9th September 1942. The 2nd K.S.L.I. had started the war in the West Indies, returning to the United Kingdom in 1942 after a circuitous journey. The brigade joined the 79th Armoured Division on 8 September 1942, before joining this division on 10 April 1943. The brigade was the follow-up brigade on D-Day, landing between H + 150 and H + 250. Brigadier (Temporary) Kenneth Pearce SMITH, O.B.E., commanded the brigade until replaced by Brigadier (Acting) The Honourable Eric Louis BOLS, *p.s.c.* on 2 July 1944. On 8 December 1944, Brigadier BOLS was promoted to command the 6th Airborne Division, so Brigadier (Temporary) Francis Raymond Gage MATTHEWS, *p.s.c.* became the brigade commander on 20 January 1945. It is not known whether this brigade was redesignated as the 7th Infantry Brigade late in 1945 or early 1946.
6. This battalion left the brigade on 17 August 1945, transferring to the 71st Infantry Brigade, 53rd Infantry Division. The replacement battalion came from the 71st Infantry Brigade on the same date. It was the:
1st Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)
7. This regiment was formed on 30 April 1941, by the conversion of the 8th Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, a second line T.A. battalion based at Prudhoe, near Newcastle. It was entitled the 3rd Reconnaissance Regiment on 1 January 1944.
8. Originally attached to this division as a machine gun battalion during the battle for France, it officially came under the command on 11 November 1941.
9. The Commander Royal Artillery for the division during the campaign in North-West Europe was Brigadier (Temporary) Gerald Grimwood MEARS, M.C.*, *p.s.c.*, who was appointed on 1 February 1943 and served throughout the campaign. He was awarded the C.B.E. on 1 February 1945 and the D.S.O. on 22 March 1945, and he left the 3rd Infantry Division in early April 1945.
10. This regiment had joined the division on 5 March 1940, transferring from the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division. It left this division on 17 August 1945, following the cessation of hostilities.
11. This regiment was formed in November 1941 by the conversion of the 7th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). It joined this division on 24 March 1942, and left the division on 10 June 1945 to be disbanded. It was replaced by the: 112th (Durham Light Infantry) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery This regiment transferred in from 2nd Army on the same day.
12. Three of the four R.A.S.C. companies were Infantry Brigade Transport units, with the fourth being the Divisional Troops Company. It is not known which companies undertook which role within the division.

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