

38th (Welsh) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 38th (Welsh) Infantry Division

113th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 113th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/5th Bn. The Welch Regiment

15th (Carmarthenshire) Bn. The Welch Regiment

1st Bn. The South Wales Borderers ⁽²⁾

114th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 114th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5th Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

The Brecknockshire Bn., The South Wales Borderers

2nd Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

115th Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 115th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

8th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

13th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

9th Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)

Divisional Troops

38th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁵⁾

182nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

70th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

616th Field Company, Royal Engineers

38th (Welsh) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. Formed in 1939 as the duplicate of the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, this division remained in the United Kingdom throughout the war. It started under command of Western Command, joining III Corps on 15 July 1940. It only was under command for three months, coming under G.H.Q. Home Forces on 30 October 1940. It joined IV Corps on 16 April 1941, transferring to V Corps on 24 November 1941. On 1 December 1941, the division was placed on the Lower Establishment. It left V Corps on 6 July 1942 as the Corps prepared for deployment to North Africa. It transferred to the Hampshire & Dorset District and then joined XII Corps on 20 May 1943. After a month, it moved to East Kent District and then on 24 October 1943, it joined II Corps. It left II Corps on 17 January 1944, to return to Hampshire & Dorset District. On 15 August 1944, the divisional headquarters ceased to command formations and units, and began to disperse. On 1 September 1944, the division reorganised and was redesignated as the 38th Infantry (Reserve) Division.
2. When the division reorganised, this brigade was disbanded. All three units were the original battalions formed with the brigade in 1939. The 2nd/5th Battalion The Welch Regiment transferred to the 135th Infantry Brigade, 45th Division, but the 15th Bn. of the Regiment was disbanded on or about 22 July 1944. The 1st Bn. The South Wales Borderers (formed by the re-designation of the 4th Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment on 12 December 1942) transferred to the 182nd Infantry Brigade, 61st Infantry Division. A new 113th Infantry Brigade was formed by the re-designation of the 45th Infantry Brigade.
3. On 20 July 1944, this brigade was disbanded, having been formed in 1939 and also comprising its original units. Two of its constituent battalions (The Brecknockshire Battalion and the 2nd Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment) were disbanded on or about 14 July 1944. On 1 September 1944 a new 114th Infantry Brigade was formed by the redesignation of the 211th Infantry Brigade from the disbanding 80th Infantry Division. The 5th Bn. K.S.L.I. transferred to the new 114th Infantry Brigade.
4. The third original brigade in the division, it had comprised the 8th Bn. 9th Bn. and 10th Bn of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The 10th Bn. R.W.F. left on 25 July 1942, to become the 6th Bn. The Parachute Regiment. It was replaced by the war raised 13th Bn. R.W.F.. On 11 October 1943, the 9th Bn. left to become a draft finding unit with the 220th Infantry Brigade. It was replaced by the 9th Bn. Somerset Light Infantry which transferred in from the 220th Infantry Brigade. On 10 March 1944, the 115th Infantry Brigade formed 'B' Marshalling Area in Southern Command for the invasion forces earmarked for North West Europe. This brigade left the division on 3 July 1944 becoming the planning staff for Force 135, with the role of re-occupying the Channel Islands. The units within the brigade were all changed, with the 8th Bn. R.W.F. being disbanded on 12 September and the 9th Bn. S.L.I. being disbanded on 16 September, however, the 13th Bn. R.W.F. was transferred to Northern Ireland to continue as a training and draft finding unit. Three other battalions were posted in between 27 and 29 August 1944. On 9 February 1945, the plan to re-occupy the Channel Islands was postponed, and the brigade moved to North West Europe arriving on 12 February 1945. It assumed the role as an independent brigade on lines of communication duties.

5. The reconnaissance unit for the division was originally formed in January 1942 as an independent company. It became the 38th Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps on 13 November 1943. It was redesignated as the 38th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps on 1 January 1944.
6. This regiment was formed in February 1942 from personnel from the 12th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment and batteries from the 78th, 79th and 80th Field Regiments. It joined this division on 2 January 1943. It left the division on 14 August 1944, to come under the command of Home Forces. It disbanded in December 1944.
7. This regiment was formed in 1939 as the duplicate to the 60th Anti-Tank Regiment in the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division. It remained with this division throughout the war.
8. This Field Company joined the division on 18 February 1943 and left on 14 August 1944.

SOURCES:

Please contact the webmaster, or see: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/RobPALMER>

38th Infantry (Reserve) Division ⁽¹⁾

113th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

5th Bn. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

4th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

5th (Cumberland) Bn. The Border Regiment

114th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

8th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

9th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

8th Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

5th Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

80th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps ⁽⁴⁾

5th (Earl of Chester's) Bn. The Cheshire Regiment ⁽⁵⁾

195th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

70th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

502nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

38th Infantry (Reserve) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. The 38th Infantry (Reserve) Division was formed on the 1st September 1944. The division became the reserve draft finding and training formation for Western Command. The Division disbanded in March 1946.
2. This brigade was formed on the 26th September 1944 by the redesignation of the 45th Infantry Brigade. All three units under command of the brigade transferred in between the 22nd and 25th July 1944. The 4th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment and the 5th Bn. The Border Regiment both transferred in from 213th Infantry Brigade, 76th Infantry (Reserve) Division when it was disbanded. The battalions remained with the division in a draft finding and training role until the Brigade was disbanded in 1946.
3. This brigade was formed on the 1st September 1944 by the redesignation of the 211th Infantry Brigade from the 80th Infantry Division. The 8th Bn. Warwicks transferred in from 143rd Infantry Brigade, 48th Infantry Division; the 8th Bn. Worcs from 144th Infantry Brigade, 48th Infantry Division; the 9th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers joined from 220th Infantry Brigade; and the 5th Bn. The K.S.L.I. transferred in from 114th Infantry Brigade.
4. This regiment transferred from the 80th Infantry (Reserve) Division into the new 38th Infantry (Reserve) Division on the 1st September 1944. It was redesignated the 38th Reconnaissance Regiment on the 2nd October 1944. The regiment disbanded on the 6th November 1944.
5. The battalion transferred in from the 80th Infantry (Reserve) Division on the 1st September 1944 when that division disbanded. It remained with this division for the rest of the war.
6. This regiment also transferred in from the 80th Infantry (Reserve) Division on the 1st September 1944. This regiment remained with the division for the rest of the war and performed the role of a holding unit.