

## 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

### 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment (The 1<sup>st</sup> Rifle Volunteers)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment

### 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

### 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

12<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

96<sup>th</sup> (Royal Devonshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

171<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

88<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

205<sup>th</sup> (Wessex) Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(9)</sup>

259<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(10)</sup>

45<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. The 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was a second line Territorial Army formation, formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 43<sup>rd</sup> (Wessex) Infantry Division. The division was stationed in the United Kingdom throughout the war. In December 1941, it was placed on the lower establishment. At the time it was under the command of Major General H. de R. MORGAN, who was G.O.C. from 8 May 1941 until 11 January 1943. Major General J. K. EDWARDS replaced him on 12 January 1943, and he remained as General Officer Commanding until the division dispersed in 1944. The Division served in Northern Ireland between February and December 1943. With the re-organisation of the Home Forces in 1944, on 15 August 1944, the division commenced to disperse, and by 30 August 1944, it had ceased to exist.
2. This brigade was a second line Territorial Army formation, originally comprising three battalions of the Devonshire Regiment. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment left this brigade in May 1940, being deployed overseas to Gibraltar. It was replaced by the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment from 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, however, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. returned to this brigade on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1943 on its return from Gibraltar. The 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. had left the brigade on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1942. The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regiment was an original first line unit in the brigade when it was formed. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regiment left this brigade on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1943 to be disbanded. It was replaced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. The battalion had been captured in Singapore on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942, so on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1942, the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. was redesignated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. It transferred to this brigade from the 219<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1943. Brigadier W. G. MICHELMORE was in command of the Brigade at the commencement of the Second World War, and he was succeeded by Brigadier W. CARDEN-ROE with effect from 30 October 1941. He relinquished command on 1 September 1944 when a new Brigade was formed. The brigade was disbanded on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1944, with the battalions being dispersed. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment transferred to 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 6<sup>th</sup> Devons transferred to 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade in 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Surreys moved to 184<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.
3. A second line Territorial Army brigade, which was formed in 1939. The brigade had comprised three battalions of the Somerset Light Infantry, the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions. On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1942, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. Somerset Light Infantry left, transferring to the 214<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade to be replaced by the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment, which transferred in from 214<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Brigadier J. VICARY commanded the Brigade from 1 October 1942 until it was reorganised on 1 September 1944. When the brigade disbanded, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Somerset Light Infantry transferred to the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry disbanded on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1944, sending a large draft of men to join the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn., and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions which were serving with the 43<sup>rd</sup> (Wessex) Infantry Division in Normandy. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment was also disbanded at this time, and also sent drafts to Normandy to join the battalions in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

4. This brigade was also a second line formation, which had been formed in 1939. It had comprised the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. Devonshire Regiment and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Bns. D.C.L.I.. The 9<sup>th</sup> Devons left on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1940 to transfer to the 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade to replace the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. of the regiment. Several units came and went from the brigade until the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1943. This was a war raised battalion of the regiment. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. D.C.L.I. remained with the brigade, but the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. transferred to the 214<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1942. Ironically, this brigade later joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> (Wessex) Infantry Division and fought throughout the campaign in North West Europe. It was replaced by the 12<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment which transferred in from the 214<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on the same day. Brigadier G. H. P. WHITFIELD commanded the Brigade from 27 August 1940 until 19 August 1943, when Brigadier C. H. V. COX assumed command. On 11 December 1943, Brigadier N. MacLEOD assumed command of the Brigade, and he remained in command until it was disbanded on 31 August 1944. When the brigade disbanded, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. D.C.L.I. disbanded on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1944, sending a large draft to the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. in Normandy, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. East Surreys and 12<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment both disbanded as well.
5. The only original artillery unit to remain with the division throughout its existence, this regiment had been formed in 1920 with the conversion of the two Devon yeomanry regiments into artillery units. When the division disbanded, it transferred to the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, and in January 1945, Home Forces.
6. In January 1942, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Defence Regiment was converted into the 171<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment. It joined this division soon after being converted. It left in August 1944, to come under command of Home Forces until February 1945, when it joined the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Reserve) Division.
7. Formed in November 1941 by the conversion of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment, this unit joined the division soon after conversion. When the division disbanded, it transferred to Home Forces and in August 1945, became the 88<sup>th</sup> Training Regiment, Royal Artillery.

## 45<sup>th</sup> (Holding) Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 45<sup>th</sup> (Holding) Division

### 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

14<sup>th</sup> Bn. *The Durham Light Infantry*

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles

11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

### 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> (Royal Militia Island of Jersey) Bn. The Hampshire Regiment

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Welch Regiment

14<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry <sup>(4)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

161<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps <sup>(5)</sup>

175<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

176<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

205<sup>th</sup> (Wessex) Field Company, Royal Engineers

259<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers

45<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. On 1 September 1944, the Headquarters 45<sup>th</sup> (Holding) Division was formed by personnel from the recently disbanded 77<sup>th</sup> (Holding) Division. Major General W. G. MICHELMORE, was the General Officer Commanding throughout the existence of this formation. On 1 December 1944, the title of the formation was changed to the 45<sup>th</sup> Division. The Division was disbanded in March 1946, and being a second line Division, it was not reformed when the Territorial Army was reconstituted in 1947.
2. This Brigade was formed by the re-designation of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, which had been part of the recently disbanded 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Brigadier J. H. HOGSHAW commanded the Brigade from 1 August 1944 until the end of the war. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles transferred across from the 203<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers transferred in from 220<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 14<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry came from the 209<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 14 November 1944, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
3. This Brigade was formed by the redesignation of the 209<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade (Home), which had been part of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Brigadier N. P. PROCTOR commanded the Brigade with effect from 10 August 1944, until he was replaced by Brigadier A. GILROY on 14 February 1945.
4. This battalion joined the 209<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 25 September 1942, but it transferred to the 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 14 November 1944. It was replaced by:  
**11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment**  
This battalion joined the Brigade on 15 November 1944, and it remained with this formation for the rest of the war.
5. This Regiment transferred in from the 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division on 13 September 1944. It had originally been formed in August 1941 as the 161<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps by the conversion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Green Howards. It remained with this formation until the end of the war.

## SOURCES:

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