## <u>78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (1)</u>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) (2)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Hampshire Regiment (3)

<u>11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade</u> (4)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The East Surrey Regiment 5<sup>th</sup> (Huntingdon) Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment

<u>36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade</u> (5)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) 8<sup>th</sup> (Argyllshire) Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

**Divisional Troops** 

56<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps (6)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (7)

17<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)
132<sup>nd</sup> (Welsh) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)
138<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)
64<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)
49<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (12)

214<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13) 237<sup>th</sup> (City of Dundee) Field Company, Royal Engineers (13) 256<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (13) 281<sup>st</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (13)

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

11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 152<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 217<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps 47<sup>th</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

- 1. The division was formed on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1942 in the U.K. to form part of the expeditionary force being formed for service overseas. Initially under War Office Control, it came under command of 1<sup>st</sup> Army on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1942. On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1942, it came under command of V Corps. On the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1942, in preparation for the invasion of North Africa, it returned to 1<sup>st</sup> Army command. It left the U.K. on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1942, and landed in Algeria on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1942. On landing, the division was deployed as a series of brigade groups. It fought its first major battle between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 1942 at Tebourba Gap, coming back under V Corps command on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. The division then fought at Oued Zarga between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 1943, the battle of Medjez Plain between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and the final battle for Tunis between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943 all under V Corps command. The division remained in North Africa, until sailing for Sicily on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1943 under command of 8<sup>th</sup> Army.
- 2. This was a pre-war Regular Army brigade, initially under the command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. It joined the 78<sup>th</sup> Division on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942, having left the 1<sup>st</sup> Division on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1941 when that formation converted to the mixed divisional establishment (one armoured brigade and two infantry brigades). It left this division on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1942, transferring to the 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. It was replaced by:

## 38<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Infantry Brigade

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The London Irish Rifles 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

which transferred in from the 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.

- 3. This battalion sustained very heavy casualties in the battle for Tebourba Gap. As a consequence, it left this brigade on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1943 to rest and refit prior to joining the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1943.
- 4. A pre-war Regular Army brigade, at the outbreak of war this formation was under command of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It fought with that division in France in 1940. It left the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1942 when that formation converted to the mixed divisional establishment. It came under command of 1<sup>st</sup> Army, becoming part of this division on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942.
- 5. On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1939, this brigade was formed as a duplicate of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade. It came under command of the new 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. This formation was sent to France on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1940 to join the British Expeditionary Force, with the rest of 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division for labour and training duties. On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the brigade was over-run by German forces, with only small parties escaping back to the United Kingdom. It was reconstituted in the U.K., joining Force 110 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1941. It came under command of this division on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942.
- 6. This regiment joined the division on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, transferring from the 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division whilst stationed in the United Kingdom.
- 7. This battalion was a first line Territorial Army Unit. It joined the division on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1943 in the role of divisional support battalion.

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- 8. A Regular Army field regiment, originally formed in 1900, it had commenced the war with 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In April 1942, it joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry (Guards) Brigade Group. It joined this division with that brigade in June 1942, and remained with it until the end of the war.
- 9. This regiment was formed in May 1939 as the duplicate of the 81<sup>st</sup> (Welsh) Field Regiment under command of the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It transferred to this division on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1942.
- 10. Another second line Territorial Army unit, this regiment was formed in April 1939 as the duplicate of the 90<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Field Regiment. It was initially under command of the 47<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> London) Infantry Division, transferring to this formation on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1942.
- 11. The regiment was formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 54<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment. All five batteries were based at Milngavie. It was under command of the 15<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Infantry Division until transferring to this division on formation in March 1942.
- 12. This regiment was formed in July 1940 from a battery from the 19<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment. It served with the Home Forces until joining this division on formation.