



British 53rd Infantry Division

December, 1944

71st
Infantry
Brigade

Infantry
Battalion
x 3

2 6 RIFLE	1 2*	0 1 Truck	0 14	3 76 mm	8 1	9 6 pdr	5 0	2 2 C(l) Bren	2* 10
x 12		x 12		x 1		x 2		x 3	
1 6 RIFLE	1 1	2 3 M-3	2 10	2 2 Bren	2*	2 10			
x 1		x 1		x 2					

Infantry Battalions are the 1st Battalion of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the 1st Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry, and the 4th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

158th
Infantry
Brigade

Infantry
Battalion
x 3

2 6 RIFLE	1 2*	0 1 Truck	0 14	3 76 mm	8 1	9 6 pdr	5 0	2 2 C(l) Bren	2* 10
x 12		x 12		x 1		x 2		x 3	
1 6 RIFLE	1 1	2 3 M-3	2 10	2 2 Bren	2*	2 10			
x 1		x 1		x 2					

Infantry Battalions are the 7th Battalion of the Royal Welch Regiment, the 1st/5th Battalion of the Welch Regiment, and the 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment.

160th
Infantry
Brigade

Infantry
Battalion
x 3

2 6 RIFLE	1 2*	0 1 Truck	0 14	3 76 mm	8 1	9 6 pdr	5 0	2 2 C(l) Bren	2* 10
x 12		x 12		x 1		x 2		x 3	
1 6 RIFLE	1 1	2 3 M-3	2 10	2 2 Bren	2*	2 10			
x 1		x 1		x 2					

Infantry Battalions are the 2nd Battalion of the Monmouthshire Regiment, the 1st/5th Battalion of the Welch Regiment, and the 6th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

81st
Field
Regiment
Royal
Artillery

35 (H) 35	0 C 0
2 25 pdr	1 Matador 12
x 4	x 4

83rd
Field
Regiment
Royal
Artillery

35 (H) 35	0 C 0
2 25 pdr	1 Matador 12
x 4	x 4

133rd
Field
Regiment
Royal
Artillery

35 (H) 35	0 C 0
2 25 pdr	1 Matador 12
x 4	x 4

244, 282, 555
Field
Companies
Royal
Engineers

3 10 RIFLE	2 1	0 32 Tank Bridge	0 0	0 1 Truck	0 14
x 9		x 1		x 10	

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1st
Machine Gun
Battalion
Manchester
Regiment

2	I	2*	10	M	17	2	I	2*
4		1	2	107 mm	0	2		10
x 9			x 4			x 13		

71st
Anti-Tank
Regiment
Royal
Artillery

9	A	5	14	A	10	0	C	0
2		0	2		0	1		14
x 6			x 6			x 12		

53rd
Regiment
Reconnaissance
Corps

2	I	2*	3	M	8	9	A	5	2	C(I)	2*	2	I	2*	3	A	5
6		1	3	76 mm	1	2		0	2		10	2		10	3		16
x 3			x 1			x 2			x 6			x 9			x 3		

The 53rd “Welsh” Division had served as a home defense division until the Normandy invasion, where it landed in late June and saw heavy fighting. In the Ardennes Campaign, the Welshmen were sent across the Meuse to help engage the German spearheads during the January counteroffensive. In that fight, the 53rd fought a sharp battle against the 116th Panzer, which counterattacked it several times, but finally recaptured La Roche on January 11 before withdrawing back to Holland.