

56th (London) Infantry Division (1)

167th (London) Infantry Brigade

8th (1st City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

9th (2nd City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

7th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

168th (London) Infantry Brigade (2)

1st Bn. *The London Irish Rifles*

1st Bn. *The London Scottish*

10th Bn. *The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)*

169th Infantry Brigade

2nd/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

201st (Guards) Infantry Brigade (3)

6th Bn. Grenadier Guards

3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards

2nd Bn. Scots Guards

Divisional Troops

44th Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps (4)

6th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment (5)

64th (7th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

65th (8th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

113th (Home Counties) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

67th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

100th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers (7)

220th (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

221st (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

501st Field Company, Royal Engineers (8)

563rd Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

1. The division was a pre-war, first line Territorial Army formation. It landed at Salerno in Italy on 9th September 1943, having come from Libya, with the 167th Infantry Brigade, 169th Infantry Brigade and 201st (Guards) Infantry Brigade under command. It was involved in the battles to recapture Naples in September 1943, the Volturno Crossing in October 1943, and Monte Camino in November and December 1943. In January 1944, it was involved in the battles for the Garigliano Crossing. As the position at Anzio deteriorated, the division was transferred from X Corps to the U.S. VI Corps at Anzio. It was withdrawn from Anzio to Egypt on 28th March 1944 to refit. This is the order of battle for this division in this period from September 1943 to February 1944.
2. This brigade left division on the 9th April 1943. Initially it became an independent infantry brigade under the command of XIII Corps in Egypt. On the 29th May 1943, the brigade came under the command of the 50th Infantry Division. With this division, it took part in the invasion of Sicily on the 13th July 1943, fighting with that formation throughout the campaign. The 50th Infantry Division left the Mediterranean in October 1943 to return to the United Kingdom. The 168th Infantry Brigade rejoined this division on the 17th October 1943, following the battle for Salerno. This brigade was detached from the division on the 30th January 1944, and landed at Anzio on the 3rd February 1944 to come under command of the 1st Infantry Division.
3. In the absence of the 168th Infantry Brigade, this formation joined the division on the 23rd July 1943 as third brigade. It had been an independent brigade in the campaigns in Egypt and Libya. The brigade fought with the division during the battle for Salerno. When the 168th Infantry Brigade returned to the command of the division on the 17th October 1943, this brigade remained under the command of the division, giving it four infantry brigades. The brigade fought in the battle of the River Garigliano, but officially left the division on the 3rd January 1943, passing to the command of X Corps. It was then attached to the 5th Infantry Division on the 6th January 1944 until the 2nd March 1944. In March 1944, due to the heavy casualties sustained by the brigade, and the lack of reinforcements to sustain three Guards brigades on active duty in Italy, this formation was reorganised. The 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards transferred to the 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards), being replaced by the 1st Bn. Irish Guards from that brigade. The 6th Bn. Grenadier Guards, 2nd Bn. Scots Guards and 1st Bn. Irish Guards were all reduced to cadres, sailing for the United Kingdom on the 10th April 1944. On its return to the United Kingdom, the formation assumed the role of training brigade for the entire Brigade of Guards.
4. This regiment transferred into the division on the 8th March 1943, replacing the 56th Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps, which had transferred to the 78th Infantry Division. On the 1st January 1944, this regiment transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps and was redesignated:
44th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.
5. Transferring to this division on the 12th January 1943, this unit had the role of divisional machine gun battalion.
6. This regiment joined the division on the 23rd April 1943, on the division's arrival in North Africa. The regiment began the war as part of the 44th Infantry Division, but transferred to the 50th Infantry Division in November 1942. It transferred from the 50th Infantry Division to this division, with which it served until the end of the war.
7. This field company was part of the 201st Guards Infantry Brigade Group. It joined the division on the 9th July 1943, and left with its host brigade on the 3rd January 1944.
8. Serving with the 168th Infantry Brigade, this field company was detached from the division to serve with the 168th Infantry Brigade in 50th Infantry Division from the 18th

March 1943 until rejoining this division on the 13th October 1943.

56th (London) Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

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9th (2nd City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

7th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

168th (London) Infantry Brigade (2)

1st Bn. The London Irish Rifles

1st Bn. The London Scottish

10th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's)

169th Infantry Brigade

2nd/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

Divisional Troops

44th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

6th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment

64th (7th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

65th (8th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

113th (Home Counties) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

67th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

100th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

220th (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

221st (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

501st Field Company, Royal Engineers

563rd Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

1. The division landed at Salerno in Italy on 9th September 1943, having come from Libya. As the position at Anzio deteriorated, the division was transferred from X Corps to the U.S. VI Corps at Anzio. The 168th Infantry Brigade landed first on the 3rd February, with the divisional headquarters landing on the 16th February with the 169th Infantry Brigade, the divisional commander taking command of the 1st Infantry Division in addition to this division on the 18th February due to the injury of Major General PENNEY, G.O.C. 1st Infantry Division, by shellfire on the 17th February. On the 22nd February, Major General PENNEY resumed command of the 1st Infantry Division. It is believed the 167th Infantry Brigade also landed on or about the 18th February. The division fought in the battle to secure the bridgehead, sustaining heavy casualties. It was withdrawn from Anzio to Egypt on 28th March 1944 to refit. This is the order of battle for this division in this period from February to March 1944.
2. The 168th Infantry Brigade rejoined this Division on the 17th October 1943, following the battle for Salerno, having served in Sicily with the 50th Infantry Division. This Brigade was detached from the Division on the 30th January 1944, and landed at Anzio on the 3rd February 1944 to come under command of the 1st Infantry Division. It reverted to the command of the 56th Infantry Division with the landing of the Divisional Headquarters on the 16th February 1944. It left Anzio with the Division on the 28th March 1944 to move back to Egypt to rest and refit.

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7th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (3)

168th Infantry Brigade (4)

1st Bn. The London Irish Rifles (5)

1st Bn. The London Scottish (5)

10th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) (6)

169th Infantry Brigade

2nd/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

(7)

Divisional Troops

44th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

6th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment

64th (7th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

65th (8th London) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

113th (Home Counties) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

67th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

100th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

220th (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

221st (2nd London) Field Company, Royal Engineers

563rd Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

56th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

1. The division returned to Italy on 17th July 1944 to become involved in the battles for the Gothic Line in August and September 1944. This is the order of battle for this division for this period.
2. This battalion reduced to Cadre in September 1944. Surplus personnel were transferred to the 9th Bn. The Royal Fusiliers. The battalion was replaced in this Brigade on 23rd September 1944 by:
1st Bn. The London Irish Rifles
which transferred in from 168th Brigade. The Cadre 8th Bn. R.F. was formally transferred to 168th Brigade on 28th November 1944.
3. This battalion reduced to Cadre in September 1944. It was replaced by:
1st Bn. The London Scottish
which transferred in from 168th Brigade on the 23rd September 1944. The Cadre 7th Oxs and Bucks was formally transferred to 168th Brigade on 28th November 1944.
4. On 24th September 1944, due to the casualties and lack of reinforcements in the area, this brigade ceased to be operational. The Brigade H.Q. commanded the unit cadres until it was disbanded on 1st January 1945. The cadres under command for varying periods of time between September 1944 and 31st December 1944 were:
1st Bn. The Welch Regiment
8th (1st City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)
7th Bn. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
1st Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)
9th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light infantry
14th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)
42nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery
5. This battalion transferred to 167th Brigade on 23rd September 1944.
6. This battalion left the brigade on 15th May 1944 (and disbanded?). It was replaced in brigade by:
1st Bn. The Welch Regiment
which arrived from Middle East Forces. This battalion in turn was reduced to cadre on 27th September 1944, before being reactivated on 19th October 1944 and eventually transferring to 1st (Guards) Brigade, 6th Armoured Division in March 1945.
7. Joined division as replacement brigade for 168th Brigade on 25th September 1944:

43rd Indian Infantry Brigade

- 2nd Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles
- 2nd Bn. 8th Gurkha Rifles
- 2nd Bn. 10th Gurkha Rifles

This brigade in turn left the division on 7th October 1944 and was not replaced until 10th March 1945 when the 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards) joined the division.

8. The regiment left the division on 9th November 1944 passing to command of A.F.H.Q. It disbanded in January 1945.

56th (London) Infantry Division (1)

24th Infantry Brigade (Guards) (2)

2nd Bn. Coldstream Guards

1st Bn. Scots Guards

1st Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

167th Infantry Brigade

9th (2nd City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

1st Bn. The London Scottish

1st Bn. The London Irish Rifles

169th Infantry Brigade

2nd/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd/7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

Divisional Troops

44th Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

6th Bn. The Cheshire Regiment

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42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

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563rd Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

56th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

1. This is the order of battle for the division in March 1945. The final offensive in Italy commenced on the 13th April 1945, with the division involved in forcing the Argenta Gap. By the 21st April 1945, the German forces were in retreat, with all German Forces in Italy surrendering on the 2nd May 1945. The division remained in Italy, until it was disbanded in 1947. It was reformed in the reconstituted Territorial Army of 1947 as an armoured division.
2. This brigade came under the command of this division on the 10th March 1945, having been an independent brigade in Italy, although attached to the 6th South African Armoured Division for most of 1944. The brigade left the 6th South African Division on 19th February 1945 to pass to the command of the 8th Army. This was to allow the two Guards Brigades in Italy, the 24th, and the 1st to reorganise due to the heavy casualties suffered and the lack of reinforcements. The 5th Bn. Grenadier Guards and the 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards were both reduced to cadres, with their other battalions in the 1st Infantry Brigade (Guards) absorbing the additional personnel. Both cadres returned to the United Kingdom. The 2nd Bn. Coldstream Guards transferred in from the 1st Infantry Brigade (Guards) to this brigade on the 10th March 1945 to replace the 3rd Battalion. The 5th Bn. Grenadier Guards was replaced on the 10th March 1945 by the 1st Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), which had been reconstituted in early 1945. Once reorganised, the brigade joined the 56th Infantry Division.