



### **First Battalion Welsh Guards**

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In June 1944 the *1st Battalion Welsh Guards* returned to France. The Guards Armoured Division consisted of the 5th Armoured Brigade, *32nd Guards Brigade*, Reconnaissance units and the normal complement of Artillery. The 1st Battalion was in the 32nd Guards Brigade...

After the battle of Normandy the 1st and 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards had a short rest until the 31st August 1944 when the advance was resumed. On the 1st September the 1st Battalion re-entered Arras in triumph, the first troops to reach the City just as they had been the last to leave in 1940. The 2nd Battalion occupied Vimy Bridge, the following day both Battalions moved to Douai.

On the 3rd September 1944 the Battalion reached Brussels, with them Liberating Brussels, and the Antwerp being fallen with in to the Allied hands the decision was made to push on and try and secure the bridgehead over the northern Rhine. Still in the lead, the Welsh Guards Group pressed on the Albert Canal at Beringen where the bridge had been partially destroyed. Under heavy fire the Welsh Guards crossed, they forced their way through...



### **Second Battalion Welsh Guards**

June 1944 soon came, probably quicker than one would care to imagine. The 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards embarked for N.W Europe, however in the days to follow despite untimely storms in the channel, the build up of Allied Forces continued. The 1st and 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards crossed in various detachments between 18 - 29 June landing in Aromanches, with shelters of artificial harbour formed by grounded block ships with specially constructed "Mulberry" units...

The 2nd Battalion moved and occupied fields near Bayeux with the 1st Battalion a little east of them, ready to do what might be required of them...

They moved on 2 September to the outskirts of Douai and there a series of marriages took place, for the Guards Armoured Division was reorganised in Regimental Groups; each consisted of One Armoured and One Infantry Battalion of the same Regiment, 1st and 2nd Battalions forming the Welsh Guards Group...

The distance to Brussels was just short of a hundred miles...

A few enemy were encountered in Enguien but not enough to stop the advance...

The 3 September 1944 at 07.00 hours the Welsh guards liberated Brussels, Lieutenant J A W Dent of Number Three Troops, One Squadron being the first tank into Brussels.

After the Liberation of Brussels the 1st and 2nd Battalion's moved on to Wavre, then came Helchteren, Hechtel and Leopoldsburg, where they suffered a lot of casualties mainly of the 1st Battalion.

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/10757.aspx>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh\\_Guards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_Guards)