

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

### 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Household Cavalry Regiment

The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (Prince of Wales's Own)

The North Somerset Yeomanry <sup>(3)</sup>

### 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) <sup>(5)</sup>

The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers) <sup>(6)</sup>

The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Warwickshire Yeomanry <sup>(8)</sup>

The Staffordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal Regiment) <sup>(9)</sup>

The Cheshire Yeomanry (Earl of Chester's) <sup>(10)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

104<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Essex Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

(H.Q., 339<sup>th</sup> (Essex Royal Horse Artillery) & 414<sup>th</sup> (Essex Yeomanry) Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

106<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Lancashire Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(13)</sup>

(H.Q., 423<sup>rd</sup> (Lancashire Yeomanry) & 424<sup>th</sup> (Lancashire Yeomanry) Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

107<sup>th</sup> Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(14)</sup>

(H.Q., 425<sup>th</sup> (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry) & 426<sup>th</sup> (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Divisional Royal Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup> (Cheshire) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (15)

141<sup>st</sup> Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers (15)

1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Divisional Signals (1<sup>st</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)), Royal Corps of Signals (16)

## NOTES:

1. Formed in the United Kingdom on 31 October 1939, this division brought under command two pre-war Territorial Army cavalry brigades, and a newly raised third brigade. Major General (Acting) John George Walters CLARK, M.C.\*, commanded the division from its raising on 31 October 1939, until it was redesignated as the 10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division on 1 August 1941; apart from 27 June to 1 July 1940, and 26 February until 8 May 1941, when Brigadier J. J. KINGSTONE officiated. The division travelled overland through France to Marseilles, and then by ship to Haifa, with the divisional headquarters opening there on 31 January 1940. The division had taken its horses with it, and initially deployed on internal security duties controlling the Arab and Jewish populations, which had been involved in terrorism and disturbances since 1936. It was under command of Headquarters Palestine & Trans-Jordan. The divisional headquarters moved to Trans-Jordan on 12 May 1941, and then formed Headquarters 'HabForce' for operations in Iraq and Syria through May, June and July 1941. On 1 August 1941, the divisional headquarters was redesignated and reorganized as the 10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.
2. The brigade was a Territorial Army formation, which was formed in the United Kingdom in October 1939. Brigadier (Temporary) James Joseph KINGSTONE, D.S.O., M.C., commanded the brigade from 23 October 1939, until 28 June 1941, apart from two periods when he officiated as divisional commander. The Household Cavalry Regiment was a composite regiment formed by the two Regular Army Household Cavalry Regiments, The Life Guards and Blues and Royals. The Life Guards were stationed at Hyde Park Barracks in London, and the Blues and Royals at Windsor. The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry was the senior Yeomanry regiment in the British Army. Its headquarters were located at Trowbridge. The North Somerset Yeomanry was a Territorial Army regiment, whose headquarters were based in Bath. The brigade left the U.K. on 11 February 1940, and travelled across France to embark at Marseilles on 14 February. It landed in Palestine on 20 February 1940. The brigade formed 'KingCol' on 8 May 1941 for operations in Iraq and Syria, crossing into Iraq on 9 May 1941. It invaded Syria on 21 June 1941, and was still located in Syria when it was redesignated as the 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade on 1 August 1941. Brigadier (Acting) John Gerald Edward TIARKS, *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the brigade on 29 June 1941, taking over from Brigadier KINGSTONE.
3. This regiment left this brigade on 21 March 1941, transferring to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade.
4. The brigade was a Territorial Army formation, with its headquarters based at 19, St. Mary's, Bootham, York. The original three regiments in the brigade were: The Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own), which was based in York; The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Foresters), which was based in Newark; and The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own), based in Doncaster. Brigadier (Temporary) Thomas PRESTON, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., a Territorial Army officer, commanded the brigade on its formation. Just prior to the brigade being dispatched overseas, a Regular Army officer, Brigadier (Acting) Charles Harvey MILLER, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, replaced Brigadier PRESTON, with effect from 2 January 1940. He relinquished command on 8 September 1940, to be replaced by the former Commander Royal Horse Artillery, Brigadier (Temporary) K. F. W. DUNN. The brigade landed in Palestine on 29 January 1940. It entered Syria on 8 July 1941, and remained there until 12 December 1941. It returned to Palestine, where it was deployed on internal security duties. The brigade was redesignated H.Q. 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 2 June 1942.
5. This regiment left this brigade on 22 March 1941, transferring to the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade.
6. On 2 February 1941, this regiment left this brigade. Elements of the regiment had been converted to artillery in December 1940, forming two batteries of the 15<sup>th</sup> Coast Regiment on Crete. It reformed as an armoured regiment in April 1941.

7. This brigade was a pre-war Territorial Army formation. Brigadier (Temporary) Henry Ormsby WILEY, M.C., commanded the brigade from 8 September 1938, until 17 May 1940. The original regiments in the brigade were The Cheshire Yeomanry, the headquarters of which were located in the City of Cheshire, the Staffordshire Yeomanry, with its H.Q. at Stafford, and the Warwickshire Yeomanry, which was based in the City of Warwick. The brigade left the U.K. on 18 December 1939, embarking at Marseilles on 31 December, and landing in Palestine on 9 January 1940. On 18 May 1940, Brigadier (Acting) John Inglis CHRYSTALL, C.B.E., M.C., assumed command of the brigade. He relinquished command on 26 February 1941, Brigadier (Acting) Leslie Skipp LLOYD, M.C., *p.s.c.*, not being appointed until 18 May 1941.
8. This regiment transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade on 22 March 1941.
9. The regiment was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade between 30 April and 4 June 1941.
10. The regiment left this brigade on 20 March 1941, transferring to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade.
11. The Commander Royal Horse Artillery of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division was Brigadier (Acting) Keith Frederick William DUNN. He was appointed on 20 November 1939, but in September 1940, WAVELL transferred the three Royal Horse Artillery regiments to Egypt. This left the C.R.H.A. with nothing to command, so Brigadier DUNN transferred to command the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade on 8 October 1940, and the post of C.R.H.A. lapsed.
12. In 1938, the 104<sup>th</sup> Army Field Brigade transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery and was designated for service with the embryonic 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. The Headquarters and 339<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at Chelmsford, with the 414<sup>th</sup> Battery based at Brentwood. The regiment joined the division on its formation. It arrived in Palestine on 20 February 1940. It left this division on 7 September 1940 moving to Egypt. The regiment served in Egypt and North Africa, effectively rejoining the division when it came under command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in September 1942. When that formation disbanded, it went on to see active service in Italy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army.
13. Based at Shaw Street, Liverpool, this regiment transferred from the Royal Artillery to the Royal Horse Artillery in 1938. It joined the division on its formation, and landed in Palestine on 20 February 1940. The regiment left this division on 16 August 1940 moving to Egypt. It was converted into a light anti-aircraft regiment in March 1941, and in the following month, it was sent to Greece. Following evacuation at the end of April, it returned to Egypt, being placed in suspended animation in July 1941.
14. In 1920, the South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry converted into the 107<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade. In 1938, the 107<sup>th</sup> Army Field Brigade transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery. All three batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham. It joined this division on its formation. The regiment travelled to Palestine with the division. It left on 23 August 1940, moving to Egypt. It served in the Western Desert, converting to become the 107<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment in April 1942. It converted again into a Medium Regiment in March 1944, serving with the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Group Royal Artillery in North West Europe during the 1944 and 1945 campaigns.
15. The Headquarters Royal Engineers was a Territorial Army unit, based in Liverpool. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Squadron was a first line Territorial Army unit, which was based in Birkenhead. The field park troop was a second line Territorial Army unit, which was based in Liverpool. All joined the division on its formation.
16. The 1<sup>st</sup> County of London Yeomanry transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920. It started as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Divisional Signals, then in 1938, the Mobile Divisional Signals, and then in 1939 with the formation of this division, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Divisional Signals. The regiment was based at Chelsea.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

### 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Household Cavalry Regiment

The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (Prince of Wales's Own)

The Warwickshire Yeomanry

### 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own)

The Cheshire Yeomanry (Earl of Chester's)

The North Somerset Yeomanry

### 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade & Signal Section

The Royal Scots Greys (2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons)

The Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own)

The Staffordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal Regiment)

### Divisional Troops

*104<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Essex Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery (5)*

*106<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Lancashire Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery (5)*

*107<sup>th</sup> Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery (5)*

2<sup>nd</sup> (Cheshire) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

141<sup>st</sup> Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Divisional Signals (1<sup>st</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)), Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. The division arrived in Palestine with the headquarters opening on 31 January 1940. Palestine was under a British mandate at this time and troops were deployed in order to control the confrontation between the Arab and Jewish populations. The division came under command of Headquarters, British Troops in Palestine and Trans-jordan. The crisis in Iraq in early 1941 led to the urgent requirement for troops to invade the country to enforce regime change. The divisional headquarters and elements of division formed 'Habforce' as a mobile force to enter Iraq from the west, whilst other British and Indian forces landed at Basra and attacked from the south. A flying column was formed from 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade and called 'Kingcol' and this force entered Iraq on 8 May 1941 heading for Habbiniya and Baghdad. The rest of Habforce entered Iraq on 31 May 1941 following Kingcol. With the capitulation of the Iraqi government, Habforce turned around and took part in the invasion of Syria attacking from Iraq and entering Syria on 21 June 1941. During this period, the rest of the division remained in Palestine on internal security duties. The division came under command of I Australian Corps on 15 July 1941. On 1 August 1941, the division reorganised and was redesignated as the:  
10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.
2. The brigade was a Territorial Army formation, which was formed in the United Kingdom in October 1939. The Household Cavalry Regiment was a composite regiment formed by the two Regular Army Household Cavalry Regiments, The Life Guards and Blues and Royals. The Life Guards were stationed at Hyde Park Barracks in London and the Blues and Royals at Windsor. The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry was the senior Yeomanry regiment in the British Army. Its headquarters were located at Trowbridge. The North Somerset Yeomanry was a Territorial Army regiment, whose headquarters were based in Bath. The brigade left the U.K. on 11 February 1940, and travelled across France to embark at Marseilles on 14 February. It landed in Palestine on 20 February 1940. On 8 May 1941, the brigade formed 'King Col' (named after brigade commander, Brigadier KINGSTONE) for operations in Iraq and Syria. It entered Iraq on 9 May 1941, and then Syria on 21 June 1941. On 1 August 1941, the brigade was reorganised and redesignated: 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade.
3. This was a Territorial Army brigade, with its headquarters based at 19, St. Mary's, Bootham, York. The original three regiments in the brigade were The Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own), which was based in York; The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Foresters), which was based in Newark; and The Yorkshire Dragoons Yeomanry (Queen's Own), based in Doncaster. The brigade landed in Palestine on 29 January 1940. It entered Syria on 8 July 1941 and remained there until 12 December 1941. Then it returned to Palestine, where it was deployed on internal security duties. The brigade was redesignated H.Q. 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 2 June 1942.
4. This formation was a pre-war Territorial Army brigade. It landed in Palestine on 9 January 1941. The brigade remained in Palestine throughout the period in question. On 1 August 1941, it was reorganised and redesignated as: 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade
5. These three artillery regiments were redeployed across Middle East Command shortly after arrival in the region and left the command of the division.

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