

## Malta Command <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, Malta Command

### The Malta Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The King's Own Malta Regiment

### Artillery

26<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 15<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> & 71<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

(H.Q., 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Batteries, Royal Artillery)

7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

(H.Q., 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery and 7<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Battery, Royal Malta Artillery)

Headquarters, Royal Malta Artillery

(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery)

### Engineers

16<sup>th</sup> Fortress Company, Royal Engineers

24<sup>th</sup> Fortress Company, Royal Engineers

### Royal Corps of Signals

The Malta Signal Company, Royal Corps of Signals

### Royal Army Service Corps

32<sup>nd</sup> Company, Royal Army Service Corps

### Royal Army Medical Corps

30<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Medical Corps

## Royal Army Pay Corps

### Malta Detachment, Royal Army Pay Corps

#### NOTES:

1. Malta Command was an independent, static command of the British Army. It was responsible for the defence of the island of Malta, which was an important base for the Royal Navy in the central Mediterranean Sea.
2. This brigade commanded all the infantry units deployed on the island. It was the original Regular Army formation that was based on the island. It was known pre-war as the 'Malta Infantry Brigade'. On 7 August 1940, with the creation of a second infantry brigade on the island, this brigade became known as the 'Southern Infantry Brigade'. On 14 July 1942, the brigade was again redesignated, this time as the 1<sup>st</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade. Finally, on 1 April 1943, it was redesignated as the 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade. Under this title, it left the island on 30 March 1943 to move to Egypt, as the need to retain three Regular Army units on Malta became a luxury. It landed in Sicily on 10 July 1943 under command of the 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, later serving with the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Sicily. It then crossed the Straits of Messina to land in Italy on 8 September 1943 under command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It left Italy on 23 September 1943 to return to the United Kingdom with the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, with which it served in Normandy, having been one of the assault formations on D-Day. The 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was withdrawn from North West Europe on 14 December 1944 to return to the United Kingdom, where it was downgraded to a reserve division. This brigade remained with the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division until August 1945, when it transferred to the Northumbrian District. It was disbanded late in 1945.
3. The 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Regiment was based at Tigne.
4. This was a Regular Army anti-aircraft regiment of the Royal Artillery. It comprised two batteries of the Royal Artillery, and two anti-aircraft batteries of the Royal Malta Artillery (R.M.A.). A new searchlight battery of the Royal Malta Artillery was formed on 5 September 1939. The 5<sup>th</sup> A.A. Battery of the R.M.A. was stationed at Delimara, with the 6<sup>th</sup> and new 7<sup>th</sup> Batteries being station at Mtarfu.
5. The Headquarters, Royal Malta Artillery was based at Fort St. Elmo in Valetta (this is now an excellent military museum).

#### SOURCES: