

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

Headquarters, Malta Command

### 1<sup>st</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Malta Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The King's Own Malta Regiment

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. The King's Own Malta Regiment

### 2<sup>nd</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

8<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

8<sup>th</sup> (Ardwick) Bn. The Manchester Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) <sup>(4)</sup>

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment <sup>(6)</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Malta Regiment

### 4<sup>th</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Cheshire Regiment <sup>(8)</sup>

## Artillery

### Headquarters and District Establishment

- 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)  
(H.Q., 6<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> & 49<sup>th</sup>/91<sup>st</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)  
(H.Q., 15<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup>/71<sup>st</sup> Defence Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)  
(H.Q., 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Coast Batteries, Royal Artillery)

### Headquarters, Royal Malta Artillery

- 1<sup>st</sup> Coast Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery (12)  
(H.Q. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery)

### School of Artillery, Malta

### Malta Officer Cadet Training Unit

### 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade (13)

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (14)  
(H.Q., 55<sup>th</sup>, 98<sup>th</sup> & 223<sup>rd</sup> L.A.A. Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 65<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (15)  
(H.Q., 194<sup>th</sup>, 195<sup>th</sup> & 196<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 74<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (16)  
(H.Q., 59<sup>th</sup>, 186<sup>th</sup> & 225<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery (17)  
(H.Q., 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery (18)  
(H.Q., 484<sup>th</sup> S/L Battery Royal Artillery and 8<sup>th</sup> S/L Battery, Royal Malta Artillery)

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade (19)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (20)  
(H.Q., 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (21)  
(H.Q., 10, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (22)  
(H.Q., 190<sup>th</sup>, 191<sup>st</sup> & 222<sup>nd</sup> H.A.A. Batteries, Royal Artillery)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery (23)  
(H.Q. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Malta Artillery (24)  
(H.Q., 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> H.A.A. Batteries, Royal Malta Artillery)

Royal Engineers (25)

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

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

173<sup>rd</sup> Tunnel Company, Royal Engineers

127<sup>th</sup> Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers

128<sup>th</sup> Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers

Royal Corps of Signals

Malta Command Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. Malta Command came under command of G.H.Q. Middle East with effect from 11 March 1942, and remained so until 2 December 1944. On that date, it reverted to being an independent command.
2. This brigade 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. This brigade was formed in Malta on 7 August 1940 as the 'Northern Infantry Brigade'. It comprised two British battalions and two battalions of the King's Own Malta Regiment. On 14 July 1942, the brigade was redesignated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade and then on 1 April 1943 as the 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade. By the end of October 1943, the brigade had no units under command; with the brigade headquarters leaving Malta for Egypt on 3 November 1943. Shortly after arrival in Egypt, the brigade headquarters disbanded.
4. This battalion transferred to the 234<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 6 April 1943, and travelled with the brigade to the Aegean Islands, where it was captured with the surrender of Leros on 16 November 1943.
5. On 27 July 1941, a new brigade was formed in Malta with an embryonic brigade headquarters that had been sent from the United Kingdom. The brigade was at first known as the 'Central Infantry Brigade', and took under command three British infantry battalions. The brigade remained on Malta from its formation until the end of the war, by which time it comprised two battalions of the King's Own Malta Regiment and one British battalion.
6. This battalion transferred to the 234<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade on 11 April 1943, and travelled with the brigade to the Aegean Islands where it was captured with the surrender of Leros on 16 November 1943.

7. The fourth infantry brigade to be formed in Malta was the 'Western Infantry Brigade' raised on 13 May 1942 and comprising three British battalions. On 14 July 1942, the brigade was redesignated as the 4<sup>th</sup> (Malta) Infantry Brigade, and on 1 April 1943, it was redesignated as the 234<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. On 11 June 1943, the brigade then comprising four battalions left Malta and moved by sea to Egypt. It moved to Palestine where came under command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Division for a month. On 16 September 1943, the brigade was redesignated as Force 292 for deployed to the Aegean Islands. On 20 September 1943, the brigade landed on Leros and on 1 November 1943 it was integrated into the Headquarters, British Troops on Leros. The Germans invaded the island that month; the brigade surrendering to them on the 16<sup>th</sup> November with only details escaping to Egypt.
8. This battalion left the command of this brigade on 5 April 1943, and returned to the United Kingdom by sea. It later joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in North West Europe by which time it had reverted to the role of a standard infantry battalion.
9. The 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment was a pre-war Regular Army unit. It arrived on Malta in April 1941 and was the Command Reserve artillery unit. The regiment left Malta in March 1942 moving to Middle East Command where it was converted into a Medium Regiment in November 1943.
10. Formed in February 1941 by the conversion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Mobile Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery, the 17<sup>th</sup> Defence Regiment was redesignated as the 26<sup>th</sup> Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery in June 1941. In September 1943, it was again redesignated, this time as the 26<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment. As such, it served in Palestine and Italy until the end of the war.
11. This regiment was formed in December 1940 by the redesignation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment served on Malta until August 1944 when it moved to the United Kingdom where it saw out the rest of the war.
12. In December 1940, the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery was redesignated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Coast Regiment, R.M.A.. It served on Malta throughout the war.
13. In January 1941, all the anti-aircraft regiments on the island of Malta were grouped together into the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel N. V. SADLER who had been sent from the United Kingdom as the senior anti-aircraft officer was promoted to the rank of Acting Brigadier to form the new brigade. He was soon replaced by Brigadier C. J. WOOLLEY and in May 1941, it took command of all the light anti-aircraft and searchlight units on the island, whilst the new 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade took command of all the heavy anti-aircraft units.
14. This regiment was formed in August 1939 in the United Kingdom. It left Home Forces in December 1941 to travel to Malta, arriving in January 1942. It did not remain on the island long, moving onto to Egypt in March 1942. It later served in North West Europe with 2<sup>nd</sup> Army.
15. Formed in November 1940, this regiment was raised in the United Kingdom. It did not arrive in Malta until September 1941, leaving in November 1942 to move to North Africa. It returned to Malta in June 1944 and was disbanded there in November.
16. This regiment was raised on Malta in February 1941 from independent batteries. It stayed on Malta until April 1942, when it moved to Middle East Forces. It later served in Tunisia and Sicily with 8<sup>th</sup> Army, moving to the U.K. in April 1945.
17. In March 1941, this unit was formed with batteries from the 2<sup>nd</sup> H.A.A. Regiment, R.M.A. and 11<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Regiment, R.M.A. It remained stationed in Malta throughout the war.
18. This unit was formed in November 1940, and served on Malta during the war until it was disbanded in May 1944.
19. The second anti-aircraft brigade was formed on Malta on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1941 to take command of all the heavy anti-aircraft units on the island.
20. .

21. This was a Regular Army regiment, which had been formed in 1936. It was sent to Malta prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. It remained on the island until February 1944, when it returned to the United Kingdom.
22. Formed in Gibraltar in December 1939, this unit was disbanded in Gibraltar in November 1940, and immediately reformed on Malta in the same month. It remained on Malta throughout the main air raids, being disbanded in June 1943.
23. In December 1939, personnel from the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment were used to form this regiment. It was at first designated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the prefix 'Heavy' being added in June 1940. It served on Malta throughout the war.
24. This regiment was formed in September 1939 on Malta.

SOURCES: