

7<sup>th</sup> South African Motorised Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> South African Motorised Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Pretoria Highlanders

The First City Regiment

'A' Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Car Commando, South African Tank Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, South African Artillery

88<sup>th</sup> Field Company, South African Engineers

## NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed on 18 June 1940 as the 7<sup>th</sup> South African Infantry Brigade. It formed part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> South African Infantry Division, which was raised at Pretoria for the organisation and training of home defence forces, garrison duties. In addition, it provided reinforcements for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> South African Infantry Divisions that had been designated for service overseas. In April 1942, it was proposed to convert this brigade into an armoured brigade, but, instead it was converted into a motorised brigade group for allocation to a new armoured division. With the invasion of Madagascar, and the pressing need for British reinforcements in India, the South African government agree to allow the deployment of this brigade to Madagascar. It arrived on Madagascar on 24 June 1942 under the command of Brigadier G. T. SENESCALL, being deployed to the Diego Suarez Fortress. This released the 22<sup>nd</sup> (East Africa) Infantry Brigade to advance into Central Madagascar, which eventually forced the surrender of the French administration. The armoured car squadron was attached to the 22<sup>nd</sup> (East Africa) Infantry Brigade for the campaign. The brigade left Madagascar on 3 December 1942 to return to South Africa, where it was disbanded in May 1943.

## SOURCES:

**British and Commonwealth Orders of Battle – 7<sup>th</sup> South African Motorised Brigade**

Available on-line at: <http://www.rothwell.force9.co.uk/7SAmbde.htm>

[Accessed 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011]

**Supplement to The London Gazette of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1948**

Dispatch – The Capture of Diego Suarez

Available on-line at: <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

[Accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011]

**Supplement to The London Gazette of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 1946**

Dispatch – Operations in East Africa, 12<sup>th</sup> July 1941 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 1943

Available on-line at: <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

[Accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011]