

Islands Area ⁽¹⁾

22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

1st/1st Bn. The King's African Rifles

5th Bn. The King's African Rifles

1st/6th Bn. The King's African Rifles

56th (Uganda) Field Battery, East African Artillery

60th (East Africa) Field Company, East African Engineers

27th (Northern Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

2nd Bn. The Northern Rhodesia Regiment

3rd Bn. The Northern Rhodesia Regiment

4th Bn. The Northern Rhodesia Regiment ⁽⁴⁾

55th (Tanganyika) Light Battery, East African Artillery

59th (East Africa) Field Company, East African Engineers

27th (Northern Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade Group Company,
East African Army Service Corps

7th (Northern Rhodesia) Field Ambulance, East African Army Medical Corps

Area Troops

3rd/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles

19th Bn. The King's African Rifles ⁽⁵⁾

154th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

238th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

NOTES:

1. Madagascar is a large island off the eastern coast of Africa. It was a French colony and after the collapse of France in June 1940, it came under the administration of the Vichy French government. The British government feared that the island could become a base for Japanese naval operations (in particular submarines), so the decision was taken to capture the island. A large amphibious force sailed from the United Kingdom, the Army component comprising the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade; and the 13th and 17th Infantry Brigades from the 5th Infantry Division, which was en-route to India. The initial landings took place on 5 May 1942 by the 29th Brigade, with the 17th Brigade also landing on 5 May and the 13th Brigade on 6 May. These formations secured the important naval base of Diego Suarez after two days. The Islands Area was formed on 1 September 1942 to command British troops on Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius. By this date, the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade was still deployed on the island, together with the 22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. These two formations were involved in the final campaign to secure the rest of Madagascar from September until November 1942. The 29th Brigade then left the island leaving the two East African formations to garrison Madagascar until Free French forces assumed responsibility in June 1944.
2. Formed on 19 September 1939, this was one of the two original brigades raised in East Africa at the outbreak of war. The brigade had come under command of the 2nd (Africa) Division (later redesignated as the 12th (African) Division) when that formation became operational in July 1940. The brigade fought in the campaign in Italian Somaliland, being involved in the battle of the River Juba between 4 and 26 February 1941. The brigade advanced into Abyssinia serving with both African divisions at various periods. It returned to East Africa in December 1941 and was designated for operations in Madagascar. It landed on the island on 8 June 1942, and stayed there until January 1944, being the main formation involved in finally securing the island in late 1942. The brigade returned to East Africa in January 1944, and left for Ceylon in July 1944. It later served as an independent infantry brigade in the Arakan in Burma as part of XV Indian Corps.
3. This brigade had been formed on 18 September 1940 in Northern Rhodesia (now known as Zambia). It was originally intended for local defence in East Africa, but, in July 1942 it moved by road and rail to South Africa. It was embarked at the beginning of August and landed in Madagascar on 8 August. It assisted in the second campaign starting on 10 September leading to capture of the capital Tananarive and the final surrender on 18 October. The brigade remained on Madagascar to garrison the island until June 1944, when it moved back to East Africa.
4. This battalion left the brigade on 26 February 1943 to transfer to the 31st (East Africa) Brigade in East Africa. It was replaced on the same date by the:
2nd/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles
5. This was a war-raised battalion, which landed at Majunga in Madagascar circa 22 September 1942 to act as the garrison for this port and British base on the island. It came under command of The Islands Area upon landing on Madagascar, and remained on the island for the rest of the war.

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