

## 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

### 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

### 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

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

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

4<sup>th</sup> (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

### Divisional Troops

45<sup>th</sup> Bn. Reconnaissance Corps <sup>(5)</sup>

<sup>(6)</sup>

Headquarters, 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery

8<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

(H.Q., 578<sup>th</sup>, 579<sup>th</sup> & 580<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

51<sup>st</sup> (Westmorland & Cumberland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

(H.Q. 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland) & 370<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

60<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

(H.Q., 237<sup>th</sup> (Lincoln), 238<sup>th</sup> (Grimsby) & 442<sup>nd</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

56<sup>th</sup> (King's Own) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(10)</sup>

(H.Q., 203<sup>rd</sup>, 221<sup>st</sup>, 222<sup>nd</sup> & 290<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Headquarters, 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisional Royal Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (11)

12<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (11)

54<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers (11)

219<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> London) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (12)

70<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was a pre-war Regular Army division, based in Palestine, which on 3 November 1939, moved to Egypt being re-designated as the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The headquarters of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division became the H.Q. Western Desert Force on 17 June 1940. The 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was reformed in Egypt on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1941. It took part in the invasion of Syria in June 1941. Following the surrender of the Vichy French forces in Syria, the division was sent to Tobruk, which was then besieged, to relieve the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. The division was redesignated the 70<sup>th</sup> Division on 10 October 1941. Major General (Acting) George William SYMES, M.C.\* , *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the Division on 11 February 1942, from Major General SCOBIE. The Division left Egypt on 28 February 1942 and arrived in India on 10 March 1942. Initially, it came under command of G.H.Q. India, but joined IV Corps on 18 April 1942. On 6 May, it came under command of Eastern Army, but on 29 August, it moved to XV Indian Corps. Elements of the division were deployed in the Arakan, under the command of XV Indian Corps, during the first campaign in early 1943, returning to Eastern Army command on 7 April 1943. It moved to Southern Command on 17 July 1943, and then Central Command on 10 October 1943. On 6 September 1943, the division commenced reorganizing for the role of Long Range Penetration (L.R.P.), and on 25 October 1943, formally handed over its units to Special Force. The division was formally disbanded on 24 November 1943.
2. This brigade started the war as a Regular Army formation, stationed in Palestine, under command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The brigade remained in Palestine until June 1940, when it moved to Egypt. In April and May 1941, it was stationed on Crete and fought against the German invasion of the island. Following its withdrawal from Crete, the brigade was stationed in Egypt, Syria and Libya, fighting at Tobruk. The brigade left the Middle East for India on 28 February 1942, arriving on 9 March 1942. It was reorganised for the L.R.P. role on 7 September 1943.
3. This brigade was also a pre-war Regular Army formation stationed in Palestine. The brigade moved to Egypt in September 1940, and fought at Sidi Barrani in December 1940. It joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Division on 19 February 1941, and fought with the division at Tobruk. The brigade left Egypt on 6 March 1942, and arrived in Ceylon on 15 March. It re-joined the division on arrival in India on 2 February 1943.
4. The brigade was a pre-war Regular Army formation, stationed in Egypt, it was known as The Canal Brigade. It was reformed as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on 5 May 1941. The 4<sup>th</sup> Borders, a Territorial Army battalion based at Kendal at the outbreak of the war, joined the brigade in Egypt on 29 May 1941. The 1<sup>st</sup> Essex had been with the brigade since 17 October 1941, having been reformed, and retrained, after the battle of Gallabat under the command of 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> South Staffordshires joined the brigade only twenty-three days before it sailed for India.
5. This regiment was formed in the United Kingdom in 1941, as the reconnaissance unit for the 45<sup>th</sup> (Wessex) Infantry Division. It sailed for India in September 1942. On arrival, it joined this division on 21 October 1942. In September 1943, it converted into a long range penetration unit, and joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.
6. There was no machine gun battalion allocated to the division.
7. This regiment joined the division on 28 February 1942, the day the division left Egypt. Its batteries had been titled as 'V', 'X' & 'Y' Batteries, but were retitled in November 1942. It left this division on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1943, transferring to Southern Command and then the 25<sup>th</sup> Indian Division in November 1943.

8. A pre-war Territorial Army unit, this regiment joined the division in February 1942, having served at Tobruk and Egypt. It formally joined the division on 1 March 1942, as it sailed for India. On arrival, the regiment was detached to serve in Ceylon. It rejoined this division on 8 February 1942. On 29 September 1942, it converted into the long range penetration role and formed 51 Column in 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.
9. Based in Lincoln and Grimsby, this pre-war Territorial Army regiment joined the division on 20 July 1941 in the Middle East. On 21 October 1943, the regiment commenced conversion to the long range penetration role, to form 60 and 88 Columns in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade.
10. The regiment left the division on 14 July 1943, and formed 56<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank/Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, combining with elements of 55<sup>th</sup> (Devon) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The 56<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank/L.A.A. Regiment then came under the command of 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. On 6 August 1943, it was replaced in this division by:  
69<sup>th</sup> (Duke of Connaught's – Hampshire) Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment,  
Royal Artillery
11. A second line Territorial Army regiment, which had just arrived in the Middle East from the U.K.. It comprised the 274<sup>th</sup>, 275<sup>th</sup>, 285<sup>th</sup> and 292<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries. In July 1943, the regiment reorganised as a Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment. The 274<sup>th</sup> and 275<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries were transferred to 33<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, in exchange for 132<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. A new 523<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery was formed to bring the regiment up to strength. The regiment then converted to the long range penetration role to form 69 Column in Special Force on 30 September 1943, and also formed four light anti-aircraft troops to support Special Force.
12. These Royal Engineer field companies were allocated to Special Force as commando engineer units.
13. This Royal Engineer field park company was allocated to Special Force, but remained at Ranchi, and was not deployed to Burma.

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