

## Maurice Force <sup>(1)</sup>

Force Headquarters <sup>(2)</sup>

146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

The Hallamshire Bn. The York and Lancashire Regiment

193<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

166<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 61<sup>st</sup> Divisional Royal Engineers <sup>(6)</sup>

Section, 55<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(7)</sup>

'B' Company, 147<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps <sup>(8)</sup>

158<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps <sup>(9)</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Demi-Brigade Chasseurs Alpins <sup>(10)</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> Bn. Chasseurs Alpins

53<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Chasseurs Alpins

67<sup>th</sup> Bn. Chasseurs Alpins

1013<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery

1014<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery

One section Engineers

## NOTES:

1. Maurice Force was formed on 15 April 1940 from elements of the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Infantry Division and the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The General Officer Commanding 'Maurice Force' was Major General Adrian CARTON De-WIART, who was the General Officer Commanding 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. He was appointed the commander of Maurice Force on 14 April 1940 in the rank of Acting Major General. Mauriceforce comprised one Territorial Army brigade from the British Army, and one Demi-Brigade from the French Army. The leading elements of 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade landed at Namsos on 16 April 1940. The French units landed on 19 April. The force advanced inland and met German troops on 21 April in the Vist area. By 22 April, the Vist area was lost to Allied forces, who withdrew into Namsos. A counter offensive was planned but did not take place. Mauriceforce was evacuated by the Royal Navy from Namsos on 2 and 3 May 1940.
2. The Force Headquarters was formed from the staff of the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division on 15 April 1940.
3. This brigade was a Territorial Army formation that formed part of the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Infantry Division. Brigadier (Temporary) Charles George PHILLIPS, D.S.O., M.C. commanded the brigade during the Norwegian campaign. The brigade was originally ordered to proceed to Narvik, but this was changed when the convoy was at sea and only about one-hundred and fifty miles off the Norwegian coast.
4. This battery was detached from the 82<sup>nd</sup> (Essex) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. It was earmarked for deployment to Namsos, and on 27 April it was due to arrive at Namsos on 29 April. Circumstances changed quickly and the battery never reached Namsos.
5. This battery was detached from the 56<sup>th</sup> (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The first 40 mm Bofors guns were landed at Namsos on 29 April. These guns were taken forward to support the troops at the front line. They were subjected to air attack, with two guns lost. The other two were safely evacuated back to Namsos.
6. The Headquarters, Royal Engineers from the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division was due to be deployed to Namsos with Maurice Force, but did not so before the evacuation.
7. A section of the 55<sup>th</sup> Field Company landed at Namsos to support the 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade during the operations.
8. This field ambulance was under orders to sail from Narvik where it had landed to Namsos to provide medical facilities. It did not arrive before Maurice Force was evacuated.
9. This additional field ambulance was due to arrive at Namsos on 1 May 1940, by which the decision to evacuate Maurice Force was already made. It comprised the Headquarters and 'B' Company of the Field Ambulance, as 'A' Company formed part of 'Sickleforce'. It did land at Namsos, and moved forward to support the 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, basing itself at Spillum.
10. This brigade of French mountain troops landed at Namsos overnight 19 to 20 April 1940. They remained in the Namsos protecting the base until Maurice Force was evacuated.

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