

## 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank Regiment

5<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment

4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consorts Own)

### 131<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters, 131<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

### Divisional Troops

11<sup>th</sup> Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Artillery

3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

146<sup>th</sup> (Pembroke & Cardiganshire) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Royal Engineers

4<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

21<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

143<sup>rd</sup> Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. This was a pre-war Regular Army division based in Egypt known as 'The Mobile Division' and then renamed as 'The Armoured Division (Egypt)'. On 16 February 1940, it was redesignated as the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. The division took part in most of the battles in the Western Desert from Operation Compass in December 1940 to El Alamein in October 1942. It then came under XXX Corps for the advance across Libya and into Tunisia. Major General (Acting) Allan Francis HARDING, C.B.E., D.S.O.\*, M.C., *p.s.c.* commanded the division from 17 September 1942 until he was injured by shell-fire on 19 January 1943. Major General (Acting) George Watkin Eden James ERSKINE, D.S.O., *p.s.c.* replaced him with immediate effect. On 6 March 1943, the division took part in the battle of Medenine, and then between 16 and 23 March, it was involved in the battle of the Mareth Line. It commenced the battle under command of XXX Corps but transferred to X Corps on 18 March 1943 in order to outflank the main Axis positions. It returned to XXX Corps on 22 March. It also participated in the battle of Wadi Akarit on 6 and 7 April 1943. On 13 April, it transferred to X Corps, and took part in the battle for Enfidaville between 19 and 29 April. On 30 April, the division together with the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division and 201<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade, transferred from the 8<sup>th</sup> Army to the 1<sup>st</sup> Army, where it came under command of IX Corps. With IX Corps, it participated in the final battle for Tunis between 5 and 12 May 1943. Following the surrender of the German forces in North Africa, the Division transferred to V Corps on 18 May, and then returned to Libya on 25 May to join X Corps and prepare for the invasion at Salerno. It landed at Salerno on 15 September 1943 and fought it Italy until leaving to travel to the United Kingdom on 20 December 1943.
2. This was a Territorial Army brigade. It was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Division but travelled to Egypt with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division. It served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division and this formation during the battles in the Western Desert, finally coming under the command of this division on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1942 and to serve with this formation until the end of the war.
3. This was a pre-war Territorial Army brigade, which was part of the 44<sup>th</sup> (Home Counties) Infantry Division. It travelled with that division to Egypt, arriving prior to the battle of Alam Halfa. It formally came under the command of this division on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1942 during the battle of El Alamein.
4. A pre-war regiment, it had served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division until transferring to this division on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1942.
5. This regiment had been formed in July 1939 as a duplicate of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment. Initially it was under command of the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It moved to Egypt in September 1942 to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. It joined this division on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1942.
6. Formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 55<sup>th</sup> (Suffolk & Norfolk) Yeomanry Anti-Tank Regiment, this unit joined the division on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in Egypt having previously served with the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the U.K., France and the U.K. again.
7. A Territorial Army regiment formed in August 1938, this unit joined the division on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1942 having arrived in Egypt in January 1941. It had served in Egypt, Greece and then back in the Western Desert with 8<sup>th</sup> Army prior to joining this division.

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