

12th (African) Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 12th (African) Division

22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

H.Q. 22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

5th Bn. The King's African Rifles

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

53rd (East Africa) Light Battery, East African Artillery

54th (East Africa) Field Company, East African Engineers

1st (Tanganyika) Field Ambulance

22nd (East African) Infantry Brigade Group Company

24th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

H.Q. 24th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force

2nd Bn. The Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force

3rd Bn. The Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force

51st (Gold Coast) Light Battery, West African Artillery

52nd (Gold Coast) Field Company, West African Engineers

4th (Gold Coast) Field Ambulance

24th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade Group Company

1st South African Infantry Brigade (4)

H.Q. 1st South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Royal Natal Carabineers

1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles

1st Bn. Transvaal Scottish

3rd Armoured Car Company, South African Tank Corps

4th South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery
(H.Q., 10th, 11th & 12th Field Batteries, South African Artillery)

1st South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

10th (South African) Field Ambulance

1st (South African) Mobile General Workshop

Divisional Troops

'A' Squadron, 1st East Africa Armoured Car Regiment

'A' Company, 1st/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles (5)

2nd (South African) Anti-Tank Battery

3rd (South African) Field Company,
19th (South African) Field Park Company,

12th (African) Divisional Signals

2nd East Africa Field Hygiene Section

2nd East Africa Pioneers

12th Divisional Ordnance Field Park

No. 1 Irregular Company

NOTES:

1. The division was formed on 19 July 1940 in East Africa as the 2nd (African) Division. On 24 November 1940, it was redesignated the 12th (African) Division. It was stationed in East Africa, taking part in the campaign in Abyssinia. The divisional headquarters entered Italian Somaliland on 10 February 1941. The main action in the campaign was the battle of the River Juba, which took place between 4 and 26 February 1941 resulting in the Italian forces in Somaliland retreating. The division entered Abyssinia on 6 April 1941. It remained in Abyssinia after the Italian surrender to garrison the country until disbanded in April 1943. This is the order of battle for the division on 1 January 1941.
2. This brigade was formed in East Africa on 19 September 1939 as the 2nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. It comprised three pre-war Regular battalions of the King's African Rifles. The brigade was under command of East Africa Force from its formation until the 12th (African) Division became operational on 19 July 1940. During the campaign, this brigade served under command of the 11th (African) Division for periods of time, namely: 3 December 1940 to 8 January 1941; 23 February 1941 to 1 March 1941; and 12 March 1941 to 26 July 1941. The brigade left this division and Abyssinia on 30 December 1941 having come under command of the Central Area, East Africa Command on 23 December. It later served in Burma with the 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division during 1944 and 1945.
3. This brigade was formed in September 1939 by the Headquarters, Gold Coast Regiment in West Africa. It comprised the two pre-war Regular battalions of the Gold Coast Regiment, and a third war raised battalion of the regiment. It left the Gold Coast on the 1st June 1940 by sea to sail around the Cape to reach East Africa on 30 June. For about a month it was under command of East Africa Force until joining this division when it became operational on 19 July 1940. It served with this division throughout the campaign in Somaliland, participating in the battle of the River Juba between 4 and 26 February 1941. It moved into Abyssinia with the division but left on 11 October 1941 to move back to the Gold Coast. It arrived back in the Gold Coast on 1 December, when it was redesignated as the 2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Group. The brigade later became part of the 82nd (West Africa) Infantry Division serving in Burma in 1944 and 1945.
4. This brigade served with this division during the early part of the campaign. It joined the division in late December 1941, and remained under command until 11 March 1941, when it transferred to the 11th (African) Division. The following brigade was allocated to the 1st South African Division for the early stages of the campaign. On 6 April 1941, the brigade transferred to the 12th Division.

25th (East African) Infantry Brigade

2nd/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles

2nd/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles

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

5. A machine gun company attached to the division.

12th (African) Division (1)

21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade (2)

H.Q. 21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/2nd Bn. The King's African Rifles

1st/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles

1st Bn. The Northern Rhodesia Regiment

22nd Indian Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery

53rd (Gold Coast) Field Company, West African Engineers

2nd (Zanzibar) Field Ambulance

21st (East African) Infantry Brigade Group Company

25th (East African) Infantry Brigade (3)

H.Q. 25th (East African) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles

2nd/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles

3rd/4th Bn. *The King's African Rifles* (5)

27th Indian Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery

3rd South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

25th (East African) Infantry Brigade Group Company, East African Army Service Corps

Divisional Troops

'A' Squadron, 1st East Africa Armoured Car Regiment
1st South African Armoured Car Company, South African Tank Corps

3rd Bn. The Gold Coast Regiment
3rd/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles
'A' Company, 1st/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles (5)

3rd South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery
3rd South African Anti-Tank Battery, South African Artillery
4th Rhodesian Anti-Tank Battery, South African Artillery

19th South African Field Park Company, East African Artillery

2nd (East Africa) Field Hygiene Section, East African Army Medical Corps

12th (African) Divisional Field Park, East African Army Ordnance Corps

12th (African) Divisional Provost Company, East African Corps of Military Police

12th (African) Divisional Signals

NOTES:

1. This division stayed in Abyssinia after the defeat of the main Italian forces. This is the Order of Battle for 5 April 1941. It did not take part in the assault and capture of the Toselli Pass. The division was brought back into action in September 1941 when it forced the last Italian positions in Abyssinia on the Gondar plain, which surrendered on 27 November 1941. The division remained in Abyssinia to garrison the country.
2. This brigade left the 11th (Africa) Division on 27 February 1941 to transfer to the 1st (South African) Infantry Division. On 7 April 1941, it came under command of the 12th (African) Division. It remained with this division until 13 July 1941, when it left Abyssinia and returned to East Africa. The brigade was the first formation from East Africa to travel to the Far East, leaving by sea for Ceylon on 9^h March 1942. It later served in Burma with the 11th (East African) Infantry Division.
3. This brigade was formed in East Africa on 11 October 1940, with the title of the 5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. It was re-designated as the 25th Brigade on 18 October 1940. It initially was under command of East Africa Force, coming under command of the 1st (South African) Division on 28 December 1940. It transferred to the 12th (African) Division on 7 April 1941. The brigade left the division on 14 July 1941, spending a period under command of East Africa Force, moving by sea to Abyssinia between 3 and 16 September, and on arrival, Troops in the Sudan. It returned to the 12th (African) Division on 19 September 1941. It took part in the final actions of the East African campaign. The brigade stayed with the division in Abyssinia until returning to East Africa in March 1942. It later served in Ceylon, India and Burma with the 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division.