

12th (African) Division ⁽¹⁾ (Ethiopia Area)

Headquarters, 12th (African) Division

26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

3rd/6th Bn. *The King's African Rifles*

26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, East African Army Service Corps

28th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 28th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

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

4th/6th Bn. The King's African Rifles

7th Bn. The King's African Rifles

Divisional Troops

'C' Squadron, Kenya Armoured Car Regiment

54th (Nyasaland) Field Battery, East African Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

18th (Sohan) Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

22nd Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

12th (African) Infantry Division Defence and Employment Company

53rd (Gold Coast) Field Company, West African Engineers ⁽⁷⁾

54th (East Africa) Field Company, East African Engineers ⁽⁸⁾

12th (African) Divisional Signals, East African Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 3rd Group Somali Companies

Harar Sub-Area

Headquarters, British Troops in British Somaliland

The Somaliland Camel Corps

3rd/6th Bn. The King's African Rifles (9)

1st (Somali) Bn. The King's African Rifles

Southern Somalia Sub-Area

9th Bn. The King's African Rifles

NOTES:

1. The divisional headquarters had been formed on 19 July 1940 in East Africa, with Major General A. R. GODWIN-AUSTIN assuming command of 12 September. It had been titled as the 2nd (African) Division until 24 November 1940 when it was redesignated as the 12th (African) Division. It had under command the 22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade and 24th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade and had the 1st South African Infantry Brigade under command for the offensive into Italian Somaliland. The division forced the main Italian defensive positions on the River Juba between 4 and 26 February 1941. The division advanced to capture Mogadishu and then turned inland to Abyssinia. Now with the 25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade and 26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade under command, in November 1941 the division captured the final Italian position in Abyssinia at Gondar bringing about the end of the campaign. The division was then employed concentrating the Italian prisoners of war and supporting their repatriation to Italy; and also providing internal security for Abyssinia. With the requirement for troops to garrison Abyssinia reduced, and the raising of an East African division for service in the Far East, this division left Abyssinia on 17 April 1943 and moved back to Kenya to formally disband the next day. The G.O.C. 12th (African) Division (Major General C. C. FOWKES) became the new G.O.C. 11th (East Africa) Division on 20 April 1943.
2. This brigade was formed on 4 January 1941 in East Africa. After initial training, it moved to British Somaliland in May 1941, and then moved to Abyssinia to join the 12th (African) Division on 20 October 1941. It took part in the final assault on Gondar with the 25th (East Africa) Brigade under command of the 12th (African) Division leading to the final surrender of Italian forces on 21 November 1941. The brigade remained in Abyssinia until 18 December 1942 supervising the evacuation of Italians from that country. It then moved to East Africa coming under command of Central Area on 18 December and began preparing for service overseas. It joined the 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division on 17 May 1943 moving to Ceylon in the August of that year. It later served in Burma and India.
3. This brigade had been formed in East Africa on 9 July 1941. It joined the 11th (African) Division on 20 August 1941 for two months, and then moved to Abyssinia in October 1941 where it was used to blockade French Somaliland. It came under command of this division on 8 March 1942, and finally entered French Somaliland on 26 December 1942 after an armistice had been agreed. The brigade moved back into Abyssinia on 3 January 1943, and on 17 April it left this division to come under direct control of East Africa Command. It became an independent infantry brigade and later saw significant active service in Central Burma under command of IV Corps in late 1944 and early 1945.
4. This field battery was formed in East Africa and came under command of this division on 30 October 1941. It left the division on 16 December 1941 to transfer to the Central Area where it joined the 3rd (East Africa) Field Regiment when it was raised in Kenya in early 1943.
5. This mountain battery was detached from the 24th Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery based at Kohat (although the battery was detached at Mi Ali) and sent in early 1940 to East Africa to reinforce East Africa Force which was desperately short of artillery units for the campaign in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia. It came command of this division on 27 July 1941 and left on 5 December 1941. Both Indian mountain batteries were then sent back to India in mid-1943.

6. This mountain battery had been detached from the 20th Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery based at Quetta. It had arrived at Mombasa on 11 September 1939 and came under command of the 21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. It fought with this brigade in the East African campaign. The battery then came under command of this division on 27 July 1941. It left on 5 December 1941 with the 18th Mountain Battery as both moved to Kenya prior to returning to India.
7. This field company was attached to the 21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade for the campaign in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia. It came under command of this division on 7 April 1941. It left this division on the 6th December 1941 to begin its journey back to West Africa.
8. This field company was under command of the 22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade for the campaign in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia. It came under command of this division on 27 July 1941 and remained with the division until 23 February 1943. It transferred across to the newly raised 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division and saw active service in Burma.
9. This battalion was detached from the 26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.