

Headquarters, British Troops in Egypt ⁽¹⁾

18th Infantry Brigade and Cairo Area ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 18th Infantry Brigade and Cairo Area & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

The Canal Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, The Canal Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

1st Bn. The Essex Regiment

Alexandria Area ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, Alexandria Area & Signal Section

3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards

20th Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

1st Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Marines

Command Troops ⁽⁴⁾

3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

7th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery

19th Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

54th Field Company, Royal Engineers

45th Fortress Company, Royal Engineers

NOTES:

1. H.Q. British Troops in Egypt (BTE) was a long standing formation, as the United Kingdom had a mandate over the otherwise independent country of Egypt. The main reason for the British presence in Egypt was to protect the Suez Canal, which was vital to the British strategic interests in the Far East. On the outbreak of war, BTE was under the command of Lieutenant General 'Jumbo' WILSON, C.B., D.S.O.. G.H.Q. Middle East was formed on 2 August 1939, with the arrival in Cairo of Lieutenant General Archibald WAVELL, who had been appointed to the new command on 24 July 1939. The first formal meeting of the three C in C's took place on 18 August 1939. H.Q. BTE then came under the command of G.H.Q. Middle East.
2. This formation was a Regular Army brigade stationed in Egypt. On 15 November 1939, its title was changed to:
Cairo Sub Area and 18th Infantry Brigade.
The brigade ceased to exist on 18 May 1940, being merged into the Headquarters Cairo Sub Area. The 18th Infantry Brigade was reformed on 20 July 1943.
3. This was a Regular Army brigade, which, as its names suggests was responsible for the defence of the Suez Canal. On 20 September 1939, the brigade was redesignated as:
23rd Infantry Brigade and Suez Canal Area.
On 15 August 1940, it was again redesignated as the Suez Canal Sub-Area. The 23rd Infantry Brigade was reformed on 5 May 1941, coming under the command of the 70th Infantry Division and later becoming part of Special Force in Burma.
4. The 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards was based at Mustapha Barracks, Alexandria.
5. The artillery units were under the command of BTE, and on 16 October 1939, they were formed into Royal Artillery Group, Middle East.
6. These regiments were equipped as mixed field and anti-tank regiments, with one battery having 2 pounder anti-tank guns, and the other 18 pounder field guns. They were re-equipped as field regiments in 1942.
7. This unit was equipped as a field regiment.
8. This unit was a coastal artillery battery.

SOURCES:

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