Headquarters, British Troops in Egypt (1)

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

4th Airborne Division (2)

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

10th Bn. The Parachute Regiment
156th Bn. The Parachute Regiment

6th New Zealand Infantry Division (3)

9th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

31st New Zealand Battalion
32nd New Zealand Battalion
33rd New Zealand Battalion

32nd New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

Non-Divisional Formations

24th Armoured Brigade (4)

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

45th Royal Tank Regiment

74th Armoured Brigade (5)

101st Royal Tank Regiment
4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade (6)

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

18th New Zealand Armoured Regiment
19th New Zealand Armoured Regiment
20th New Zealand Armoured Regiment

22nd New Zealand Motorised Battalion

Unbrigaded

The Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra Princess of Wales’s Own)
3rd County of London Yeomanry
46th Royal Tank Regiment
118th Royal Tank Regiment
124th Royal Tank Regiment

44th Reconnaissance Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps

2nd Free French Armoured Car Squadron

1st Greek Armoured Car Squadron

4th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
24th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
98th (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)
165th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

2nd Field Regiment, Free French Forces

95th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery
105th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

2nd Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)
2nd Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment
4th Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment
1st Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise’s)
1st Bn. 2nd Punjab Regiment
3rd Bn. 10th Baluch Regiment
1st Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles
3rd Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles
1st Bn. 9th Gurkha Rifles

Jaipur Guards
Jodhpur Sirdar Infantry
1st Rampur Infantry

1st Bataillon de Marche, Free French Forces
4th Bataillon de Marche, Free French Forces

4th Greek Guard Battalion

2nd Bn. Libyan Arab Force
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, B.T.E. was under the command of Lieutenant General ‘Jumbo’ WILSON, C.B., D.S.O.. H.Q. B.T.E. came under the command of G.H.Q. Middle East when it was formed. During this period, the General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt was Lieutenant General (Acting) Robert Graham Hawkins STONE, D.S.O., M.C., p.s.c., who held this appointment from 1 February 1942 until 12 December 1944.

2. This ‘division’ was in fact the 4th Parachute Brigade, but at this time was designated as a division for deception purposes. The brigade was formed in at Kabrit on 1 December 1942, with Brigadier ‘Shan’ HACKETT assuming command on 4 January 1943. The two battalions under command were both based in the Suez Canal area and were in the process of converting to parachute battalions. The 10th Bn. The Parachute Regiment was forming at Kabrit from the 2nd Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment and additional volunteers from the 4th and 5th Battalions of that regiment. The 156th Bn. The Parachute Regiment was formed with volunteers drawn from various units across India and was raised in Delhi in October 1941. After deployment on internal security duties in India, it moved to Kabrit in early 1943 to join the embryonic 4th Parachute Brigade. The third unit in the brigade, the 11th Bn. The Parachute Regiment did not join until 30 April 1943. The brigade left Egypt in May 1943 to sail to Libya, and was then deployed in Tunisia and Italy before being sent to the U.K.. Its one major operation was at Arnhem in September 1944, after which, because of the casualties it had sustained in that operation, the brigade was disbanded.

3. This division was not an operational formation, but it was the training and reinforcement unit for the 2nd New Zealand Division. Personnel arriving from New Zealand would join this formation for operational training and acclimatization. From here, they would be sent in drafts to join the 2nd New Zealand Division as and when required.

4. The 24th Armoured Brigade was formed in the United Kingdom in November 1940 by the redesignation of the 24th Army Tank Brigade, a pre-war Territorial Army formation. The brigade arrived in Egypt in July 1942 as part of the 8th Armoured Division. On 11 October 1942, it transferred to the command of the 10th Armoured Division and participated in the second battle of El Alamein. After that, the brigade was run down and was eventually disbanded on 1 March 1943.

5. This formation was a dummy tank or deception formation. It was raised in the Middle East on 6 July 1942 by the redesignation of the ‘A’ Force Depot. The 101st Royal Tank Regiment was also a dummy tank unit. The brigade was redesignated as the 24th Armoured Brigade (Dummy Tanks) on 23 August 1943 and continued as such for the rest of the war.

6. The 4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade was originally an infantry brigade which had been sent to the Middle East as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

7. The 98th Field Regiment was a Territorial Army unit. It left the U.K. in November 1939 to serve with the British Expeditionary Force in France. Evacuated from Dunkirk in May 1940, it returned to the U.K. to reform and re-equip. In September 1942 it joined the 10th Armoured Division in Egypt, and when that formation disbanded in December 1942, it came under command of British Troops in Egypt. In September 1943, the regiment moved to Italy to come under command of
the 8th Army. It moved to North West Europe in March 1945 where it served until the end of the war.

8. This regiment was formed in the Middle East in May 1942 from elements from the Headquarters 83rd Anti-Tank Regiment, the 87th and 121st Field Regiments. It joined the 26th Indian Infantry Brigade, which was then serving in Persia (Iran). In August 1942, the regiment came under command of British Troops in Egypt. It joined the 231st Infantry Brigade Group in May 1943 and fought with them in Sicily, from where it transferred to 8th Army command to serve in Italy. The regiment disbanded in Italy in December 1944.

SOURCES:

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