

## Headquarters, British Troops in Egypt <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

### 4<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Parachute Regiment

156<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Parachute Regiment

### 6<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Infantry Division <sup>(3)</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

31<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Battalion

32<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Battalion

33<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand Battalion

32<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

### Non-Divisional Formations

24<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

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

74<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

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

4<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Armoured Brigade (6)

Headquarters, The Cairo Brigade & Signal Section

18<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Armoured Regiment

19<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Armoured Regiment

20<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Armoured Regiment

22<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Motorised Battalion

Unbrigaded

The Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own)

3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry

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

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

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

44<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> Free French Armoured Car Squadron

1<sup>st</sup> Greek Armoured Car Squadron

4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

24<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

98<sup>th</sup> (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)

165<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, Free French Forces

95<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

105<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Punjab Regiment  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 10<sup>th</sup> Baluch Regiment  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 6<sup>th</sup> Rajputana Rifles  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 13<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Rifles  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 9<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles

Jaipur Guards  
Jodhpur Sirdar Infantry  
1<sup>st</sup> Rampur Infantry

1<sup>st</sup> Bataillon de Marche, Free French Forces  
4<sup>th</sup> Bataillon de Marche, Free French Forces

4<sup>th</sup> Greek Guard Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 William 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Parachute Regiment was forming at Kabrit from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment and additional volunteers from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions of that regiment. The 156<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Parachute Brigade. The third unit in the brigade, the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Division as and when required.
4. The 24<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was formed in the United Kingdom in November 1940 by the redesignation of the 24<sup>th</sup> Army Tank Brigade, a pre-war Territorial Army formation. The brigade arrived in Egypt in July 1942 as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. On 11 October 1942, it transferred to the command of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 101<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank Regiment was also a dummy tank unit. The brigade was redesignated as the 24<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade (Dummy Tanks) on 23 August 1943 and continued as such for the rest of the war.
6. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 98<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 83<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, the 87<sup>th</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> Field Regiments. It joined the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 231<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade Group in May 1943 and fought with them in Sicily, from where it transferred to 8<sup>th</sup> Army command to serve in Italy. The regiment disbanded in Italy in December 1944.

SOURCES:

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