

6th Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

14th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 14th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

2nd Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

2nd Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

16th Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 16th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1st Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) ⁽⁴⁾

23rd Infantry Brigade ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment

1st Bn. The Durham Light Infantry ⁽⁶⁾

Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion No 11 East ⁽⁷⁾

Divisional Troops

60th (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 237th (Lincoln) & 238th (Grimsby) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

2nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

12th Field Company, Royal Engineers

54th Field Company, Royal Engineers

219th (1st London) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

6th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6th Infantry Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (9)
61st Company, Royal Army Service Corps
145th Company, Royal Army Service Corps
419th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 6th Infantry Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps (10)
173rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
189th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
215th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
14th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
33rd Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

6th Infantry Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (11)
6th Infantry Divisional Ordnance Workshop, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (11)

6th Infantry Divisional Field Cash Office, Royal Army Pay Corps

6th Infantry Divisional Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

6th Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police

NOTES:

1. The 7th Infantry Division was a pre-war Regular Army division, based in Palestine, which on 3 November 1939, moved to Egypt and was redesignated as the 6th Infantry Division. The headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division became the H.Q. Western Desert Force on 17 June 1940. The 6th Infantry Division was reformed in Egypt on 17 February 1941. It took part in the invasion of Syria in June 1941, with only the 16th Infantry Brigade under command. The division entered Syria on 19 June 1941, taking part on the battle for Damascus between 19 and 21 June. Following the surrender of the Vichy French forces, it remained in Syria until 13 October 1941. The division was redesignated the 70th Infantry Division on 10 October 1941. It was ordered to Tobruk, which was besieged at the time, to relieve the 9th Australian Division. The divisional headquarters assumed command of all forces in the Tobruk Fortress at 22.00 hours on 22 October 1941. It took part in the battle to relieve Tobruk between 18 November and 10 December, breaking out from the besieged town. The division left Egypt on 28 February 1942, and arrived in India on 10 March 1942. Elements of the division were deployed in the Arakan during the first campaign in May 1943. On 6 September 1943, the division commenced re-organizing for the role of Long Range Penetration (L.R.P.), and on 25 October 1943, handed over its units to Special Force. It was formally disbanded on 24 November 1943.
2. This formation started the war as a regular British Army brigade stationed in Palestine under command of the 8th Infantry Division. The brigade remained in Palestine until June 1940 when it moved to Egypt. In April and May 1941, the brigade was stationed on Crete and fought against the German invasion of the island. Following its withdrawal from Crete, the Brigade was stationed in Egypt, Syria and Libya, fighting at Tobruk. The brigade left the Middle East for India on 28 February 1942, arriving on 9 March 1942. It was re-organised for the L.R.P. role on 7 September 1943.
3. This brigade was also a pre-war regular formation stationed in Palestine. It moved to Egypt in September 1940, and fought at Sidi Barrani in December 1940. The brigade joined the 6th Division on 19 February 1941, and fought with the division at Damascus and Tobruk. It left Egypt on 6 March 1942 and arrived in Ceylon on 15 March. The brigade arrived in India on 2 February 1943 to rejoin the division.
4. This battalion had joined the brigade on 17 January 1940. It was detached between 15 and 30 May 1941. The battalion left the Brigade on 11 June 1941, joining 8th Army Troops and then moving to Eritrea and later The Sudan. It was replaced by the:
2nd Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)
5. The brigade was another pre-war formation, formerly known as The Canal Brigade. It was reformed as the 23rd Infantry Brigade on 5 May 1941. The 4th Borders, a Territorial Army battalion based at Kendal at the outbreak of the war, joined the brigade in Egypt on 29 May 1941. The 1st D.L.I., a Regular Army unit had joined the brigade on 5 June 1941.
6. This battalion left the brigade on 22 January 1942, and moved to Malta. It was replaced by the:
1st Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment

7. This battalion had been raised on 1 November 1940 in Palestine from Czech soldiers who had escaped after the German occupation of their country and those released from the French Foreign Legion. Lieutenant Colonel Karel KLAPALEK commanded the battalion, which had four rifle companies and a support company that included a machine-gun, signals, engineer, maintenance and transport platoons. It joined this brigade on 30 May 1941, and left on 6 October 1941 to come under the command of the Polish Carpathian Rifle Brigade whilst stationed in Tobruk. It was replaced in this brigade on 17 October 1941 by the:
1st Bn The Essex Regiment
8. Based in Lincoln and Grimsby, this pre-war Territorial Army regiment joined the division on 20 July 1941 in Syria. It had served with the British Expeditionary Force in France from November 1939 until evacuated in May 1940. The regiment left the U.K. in May 1941, bound for the Middle East. It arrived in Syria in July 1941, and came under command of the 6th Infantry Division there. In September 1941, it came under command of the 8th Army, and did not travel with the Division when it was transferred to Tobruk. It rejoined this Division in December 1941, following the conclusion of Operation Crusader, and the relief of Tobruk. For the period the Division served in Tobruk, this regiment was replaced by:
144th (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
On 21 October 1943, the regiment commenced conversion to the Long Range Penetration Role to form 60 and 88 Columns in the 23rd Infantry Brigade.
9. The three Royal Army Service Corps companies provided a Divisional Ammunition Company, a Divisional Petrol Company, and a Divisional Supply Company. It is not known which company provided which function for the division. The fourth R.A.S.C. company was not added to the divisional establishment until June 1942, when the organisation was changed to three infantry brigade companies, and one divisional troops company.
10. The Light Field Ambulance was an additional unit to the establishment.
11. By 1941, a divisional ordnance field park and ordnance workshop had been added to the establishment of infantry divisions in the British Army, having formerly been under Corps Troops. The Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed on 1 October 1942, which assumed control of the workshops.

70th Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 70th Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

14th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 14th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

2nd Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

2nd Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

16th Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 16th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)

2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

23rd Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Essex Regiment

4th (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment

1st Bn. The Durham Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

144th (Surrey & Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 389th (Sussex Yeomanry) & (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

2nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

12th Field Company, Royal Engineers

54th Field Company, Royal Engineers

219th (1st London) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

70th Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

32nd Army Tank Brigade (3)

Headquarters, 32nd Army Tank Brigade & Signal Squadron

1st Royal Tank Regiment

4th Royal Tank Regiment

'D' Squadron, 7th Royal Tank Regiment

'C' Squadron, The King's Dragoon Guards

Polish Carpathian Rifle Brigade (4)

I Rifle Battalion

II Rifle Battalion

III Rifle Battalion

The Legion of Polish Officers (5)

Carpathian Lancers Regiment (6)

Carpathian Heavy Machine Gun Battalion (7)

Carpathian Field Artillery Regiment (8)

1st Carpathian Anti-Tank Company

2nd Carpathian Anti-Tank Company

Carpathian Brigade Engineers Group (9)

Carpathian Brigade Signals Group (10)

Carpathian Brigade Transport Column (11)

Carpathian Brigade Medical Services (12)

Carpathian Brigade Workshop

Infantry

Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion No 11 East (13)

2nd/13th Australian Infantry Battalion (14)

1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (15)

(H.Q., 'W', 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' Companies)

Artillery

4th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (16)

Headquarters, 4th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

51st (London) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

13th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

14th (West Lothian, Royal Scots) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (17)

3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (18)

104th Regiment (Essex Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery (17)

107th Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery (17)

The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Foresters) (19)

17th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery (19)

(H.Q., 206th & 530th Coast Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Royal Engineers

4th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

551st Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers

295th Army Field Company, Royal Engineers

143rd Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

Royal Army Service Corps

5th Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

14th Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

15th Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

51st Company, Royal Army Service Corps

307th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

346th Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle for the 70th Infantry Division, when it formed the main element of the Tobruk Garrison, with Major General SCOBIE acting as Garrison Commander. The units highlighted in **Bold**, formed part of the 32nd Army Tank Force, or 'Tob-Force', for the breakout commencing on 20 November 1941.
2. This field regiment replaced the 60th Field Regiment when this Division was transferred to Tobruk, to replace the Australians then forming the garrison in this besieged town in Libya. On arrival in Tobruk, the 389th Battery had one troop of Italian howitzers, and two troops of 18 pounder guns. The 390th Battery had one troop of Italian howitzers, one with 4.5" guns, and a third with 60 pounder medium guns.
3. This brigade was formed in Egypt with effect from 15 September 1941. Brigadier (Acting) Arthur Cecil WILLISON, D.S.O., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*, commanded the brigade from its formation, it is capture on 22 June 1942. Three days after its raising, it was sent to Tobruk to assume command of all the armoured formations within the garrison. The three squadrons of the 1st R.T.R. ('A' Squadron was not in Tobruk) were equipped with 28 cruiser tanks (Mk I, II and IVA), and 21 Vickers Mk VIB light tanks. The three squadrons of the 4th R.T.R. were equipped with 50 Matilda Mk. II infantry tanks, and a few light tanks, with the one squadron of the 7th R.T.R. had 19 Matilda Mk. II tanks. 'C' Sqn 1st King's Dragoon Guards used Marmon Herrington armoured cars. The Brigade Headquarters formed the main assault formation for the break-out from Tobruk commencing on 20 November 1941, taking under control artillery, engineer and infantry units to form an all-arms battlegroup. The brigade was captured with eventual fall of Tobruk on 22 June 1942; officially ceasing to exist on 1 August 1942.
4. The Polish Carpathian Brigade began its existence as part of the French Army of the Levant (Syria and Lebanon), being formed on 12 April 1940. About three-thousand, five-hundred men came together who had escaped from Poland through Romania and into Turkey to form two regiments of infantry, one horsed cavalry regiment, with some artillery and supporting arms and services. The French Army parented the new brigade as prior to the fall of France, the U.K. and France had an agreement that the U.K. would host escaped Polish naval units while the French hosted army units. Major General S. KOPANSKI commanded the brigade, as in the Polish Army the rank an officer held was linked to their seniority, rather than the appointment they held. On 20 June 1940, the brigade came under command of the British G.H.Q. Middle East Command following the fall of France and the brigade moved to Palestine at the French Levant sided with the Vichy Regime set up in France. The brigade remained part of the Polish Army, reporting to the Polish Government in Exile established in London, but came under operational command of the British Army. On or about 2 October 1940, the brigade moved to Egypt as Italy had declared war on the U.K. to be deployed around Alexandria. In August 1941, the Commander-in-Chief ordered the brigade to move to Tobruk to relieve the 18th Australian Infantry Brigade in the fortress that was surrounded by the Axis forces. The troops arrived in Tobruk on 21 August 1941 on board warships used to supply the isolated garrison. The units of the brigade saw action in the defence of Tobruk, and participated in the battle of Gazala that resulted in the relief of Tobruk. For a time, the brigade came under command of XIII Corps from the 11 December 1941 until 3 February 1942, and then the 1st (South African) Infantry Division from 3 February 1942 until 15 March 1942. By this date, STALIN had released a large number of detained Polish Army personnel and their dependents, who moved through the Caucasus mountains to Iraq, and then consolidated in Palestine. The Polish Carpathian Brigade moved to Palestine to be integrated

into the new Polish Army in the East as a brigade in the new 3rd Carpathian Infantry Division. As such, it later served in Italy in 1944 and 1945 but never returned to its native land.

5. As a significant proportion of those that escaped from Poland were officers of the Polish Army, there were more officers than required by the establishment of this brigade. These additional officers formed the Legion that was attached to the brigade until 18 August 1941 when it disbanded as these officers were absorbed into Polish and British units.
6. This unit was the brigade's reconnaissance regiment, being equipped with armoured cars and Bren gun carriers.
7. The heavy machine gun battalion was equipped in the same manner as a British machine gun unit with Vickers machine guns.
8. The field artillery regiment was equipped with 25 pounder British field guns and organised as a British field artillery regiment.
9. Two companies and a group headquarters comprised the Brigade Engineer Group.
10. The Signals Group comprised one company with a headquarters and three platoons.
11. The Transport Column had three platoons.
12. The Medical Group had two companies and a field hospital.
13. This battalion had been raised on 1 November 1940 in Palestine from Czech soldiers who had escaped after the German occupation of their country, and those released from the French Foreign Legion. Lieutenant Colonel Karel KLAPALEK commanded the battalion, which had four rifle companies, and a support company that included a machine-gun, signals, engineer, maintenance and transport platoons. It joined the 6th Infantry Division on 30 May 1941, and transferred with that division to Tobruk, but left on 6 October 1941 to come under the command of the Polish Carpathian Rifle Brigade, which was already based in Tobruk.
14. The sinking of H.M.S. Lacona, one of the Royal Navy's fast minelayers running between Alexandria and Tobruk, led to a shortage of warships available, so this battalion of the 9th Australian Infantry Division had to remain in Tobruk.
15. This battalion was a machine gun unit, was equipped with 0.303 Vickers machine guns, and some mortars. All four companies served in Tobruk, but 'Z' Company, commanded by Captain J. J. B. JACKMAN, came under command of the 32nd Army Tank Brigade for the breakout operation commencing on 20 November 1941.
16. Brigadier (Acting) John Spencer MUIRHEAD, a Territorial Army officer, commanded this brigade during the siege of Tobruk. The two light anti-aircraft regiments were equipped with 40 mm Bofors guns, and some captured Italian guns. The heavy anti-aircraft regiment was equipped with 3.7" anti-aircraft guns.
17. These three artillery regiments were equipped with sixteen, 25 pounder, field artillery guns. The 104th and 107th Regiments were Territorial Army units detached from the 1st Cavalry Division in Palestine.
18. This regiment was an anti-tank unit, and as one battery was detached, it comprised sixteen, 2 pounder, anti-tank guns.
19. This unit was a Territorial Army, cavalry unit, which had formed part of the 1st Cavalry Division in Palestine. On 2 February 1941, it was converted into an artillery unit, manning coastal guns on Crete, and at Tobruk. The regiment reformed as an armoured unit in late April 1941, but it appears that the elements of the unit deployed to Tobruk remained in the garrison, and in September 1941, were redesignated as 17th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery.

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