

2nd Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Armoured Division

3rd Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 3rd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

3rd The King's Own Hussars

5th Royal Tank Regiment

6th Royal Tank Regiment

2nd Support Group ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 2nd Support Group & Signal Section

9th Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consorts Own) (Tower Hamlets Rifles) ⁽⁴⁾

'D/J' Battery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

104th (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

Divisional Troops

1st King's Dragoon Guards

4th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers ⁽⁵⁾

143rd Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers ⁽⁵⁾

2nd Armoured Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. On 15 December 1939, the 2nd Armoured Division was formed in the United Kingdom. It originally comprised the 1st Light Armoured Brigade and 22nd Heavy Armoured Brigade. The 1st Light Armoured Brigade was a regular army formation which comprised the 4th Hussars, The King's Dragoon Guards and 3rd Hussars. The brigade travelled out to Egypt with the division, arriving on 1 January 1941. On 5 March 1941, 1st Armoured Brigade left Egypt to be deployed to Greece. The division relinquished the 3rd Armoured Brigade between 26 February and 19 March, when the division came together as the front line of the British Forces in Libya, under Cyrenaica Command. The Divisional H.Q. took under command some units already in Libya. When the Axis Forces attacked on 31 March 1941, the division initially held the line, but then quickly fell back, sustaining heavy casualties. On 8 April 1941, the divisional commander was captured in Libya and on 10 May 1941, the division was formally disbanded in Egypt.
2. This brigade had been formed in September 1939 as the 1st Heavy Armoured Brigade. It was then part of the 1st Armoured Division. The brigade was redesignated as the 3rd Armoured Brigade on 14 April 1940. It served in France with the 1st Armoured Division between 23 May and 18 June 1940. The brigade transferred to the 2nd Armoured Division on 5 October 1940, and left the United Kingdom bound for Egypt on 1 November. It arrived on 1 January 1941. On 1 February, it left the division to come under command of XIII Corps, being reformed as an armoured brigade group on 28 February with under command the following units:

1st Bn. The Tower Hamlet Rifles
Free French Motorised Battalion.

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
2nd/1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
16th Australian Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company
1st Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

4th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers
3rd Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

The brigade group served with the 6th Australian Infantry Division during the latter stages of Operation Compass. On 19 March, the brigade rejoined the 2nd Armoured Division. With the Axis attacks on 31 March, the brigade formed the front line, and sustained heavy casualties. The brigade commander was captured on 6 April, and on 8 April 1941, the brigade withdrew into the Tobruk Fortress. It formed a composite regiment for the garrison. On 14 April 1941, the brigade headquarters and the three regimental headquarters were evacuated by sea to Egypt. On 18 September 1941, the brigade ceased to be operational but was not disbanded officially until 11 January 1943.

3. The 2nd Support Group was formed on 5 February 1940 in the United Kingdom. It arrived in Egypt with the division on 1 January 1941. The support group returned to Egypt on 17 April 1941 and was disbanded.
4. The 1st Bn. Tower Hamlet Rifles was redesignated as the 9th Bn. The Rifle Brigade on 15 January 1941.
5. These two squadrons were attached from the 7th Armoured Division from 24 March to 8 April 1941.

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