

8th Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 8th Armoured Division

23rd Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 23rd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

40th Royal Tank Regiment

46th Royal Tank Regiment

50th Royal Tank Regiment

7th Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) (London Rifle Brigade)

24th Armoured Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 24th Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

41st (Oldham) Royal Tank Regiment

45th (Leeds Rifles) Royal Tank Regiment

47th (Oldham) Royal Tank Regiment

11th Bn. (Queen's Westminsters), The King's Royal Rifle Corps

8th Support Group ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 8th Support Group & Signal Section

14th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)

5th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

73rd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

56th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Divisional Troops

2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry

11th Regiment (Honourable Artillery Company), Royal Horse Artillery

104th Regiment (Essex Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery

6th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

NOTES:

1. The 8th Armoured Division was formed in the United Kingdom on 4 November 1940. It was organised on Basic Organization No. III. This meant it comprised two armoured brigades and a support group. The division's first commander was Major General Richard McCREERY. The division was retained in the United Kingdom as the threat of invasion was still present. Having been formed in Northern Command, it moved to Southern Command on 4 March 1941. Two months later, on 29 May, the division transferred to the South Eastern Command. It remained with this command until the threat of invasion had passed, transferring to War Office control on 7 May 1942 when the division sailed for Egypt. As with all ships bound for Egypt, they had to travel via Freetown and South Africa. The division arrived on 5 July 1942, and it commenced operational readiness training. The arrival of the division in Egypt coincided with the greatest threat to the British position in the Middle East as the Axis forces reached El Alamein. With the arrival of Lieutenant General MONTGOMERY, plans were advanced for the Battle of El Alamein. There was no specific role for this division in that battle; instead it was used to reinforce other formations. In addition, the Headquarters Divisional Royal Artillery formed a specific formation called 'Hammerforce' to exploit the gaps through the minefields. With the eventual success of the 8th Army, 8th Armoured Division had no role and was disbanded in Egypt on 1 January 1943. In fact, the formation never operated as a division at time during its deployment in Egypt.
2. Formed on 1 November 1940 by the redesignation of the 23rd Army Tank Brigade, this brigade was one of the two original armoured brigades in the division. It arrived in Egypt with the division on 5 July 1942. On arrival, it was reorganized as an Independent Brigade Group and thrown into the battle to defend the El Alamein Line under command of XXX Corps with effect from 17 July. As a brigade group, the formation had under command:

23rd Independent Armoured Brigade Group

Headquarters, 23rd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

40th Royal Tank Regiment

46th Royal Tank Regiment

50th Royal Tank Regiment

7th Bn. The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) (London Rifle Brigade)

Troop, 9th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

331st Company, Royal Army Service Corps

333rd Company, Royal Army Service Corps

7th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

The brigade later took command of various artillery units and other engineer units. It fought in the Battle of Alam Halfa between 30 August and 7 September 1942 under command of the 10th Armoured Division. During the main Battle of El Alamein, it operated under command of XXX Corps and the 9th Australian Division. The brigade continued to serve as an independent brigade for the rest of the war, ending up in Greece from October 1944 until the end of the war.

- This brigade, like its sister brigade in the division, was formed by the redesignation of an Army Tank Brigade. The brigade arrived in Egypt ahead of the main division, and it was sent to the front line to come under command of the 7th Armoured Division.

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