

Force Headquarters Creforce (1)

Force Headquarters, Creforce

Infantry

1st Bn. The Welch Regiment (2)

9th Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps (The Rangers) (3)

2nd/2nd Australian Field Regiment (4)

Detachment, 2nd/3rd Australian Field Regiment (4)

16th Australian Infantry Brigade Composite Battalion (4)

17th Australian Infantry Brigade Composite Battalion (4)

11th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)

'S' Searchlight Regiment, Royal Marines (5)

'Royal Perivolians' (5)

1st Echelon, New Zealand Divisional Supply Column (5)

2 Greek Regiment (6)

Artillery

Commander Royal Artillery

102nd (Northumberland Hussars) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)

106th (Lancashire Hussars) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (8)

Royal Engineers (9)

Chief Engineer, Creforce

42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

Crete Composite Company, R.E.

1003 Docks Operation Company, Royal Engineers

Royal Engineers Stores Depot

Details, Australian Engineers and Australian Army Service Corps Stevedores

Details, New Zealand Engineers Stevedores

Royal Corps of Signals

Creforce Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Royal Army Service Corps (10)

Assistant Director Supplies and Transport

231st Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

101st Petrol Company, Royal Army Service Corps

1st Petrol Depot, Royal Army Service Corps

Two Supply Depots

Base Supply Depot

37th Detail Issue Depot, Royal Army Service Corps

Detachments, 1st and 26th Field Bakeries, Royal Army Service Corps

Miscellaneous Royal Army Service Corps

Royal Army Medical Corps (11)

Assistant Director of Medical Services

4th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

168th (City of London) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

189th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

48th Field Hygiene Section, Royal Army Medical Corps

1st Tented Hospital, Royal Navy

Detachments, 2nd/1st, 2nd/2nd, and 2nd/7th Australian Field Ambulances

Royal Army Ordnance Corps (12)

Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services

Ordnance Officer, Docks

Ordnance Depot, Creforce

Ammunition Depot, Creforce

Miscellaneous Ordnance Detachments

Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Mechanical Engineers (13)

5th Indian Brigade Workshops, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

52nd Light Anti-Aircraft Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Pioneer and Labour Units (14)

60th Palestine Pioneer Company, Pioneer Corps
1004th Cypriot Pioneer Company, Pioneer Corps
1005th Cypriot Pioneer Company, Pioneer Corps
1007th Cypriot Pioneer Company, Pioneer Corps
1008th Cypriot Pioneer Company, Pioneer Corps

Miscellaneous Units (15)

270th Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps
Base Pay and Field Cash Office
Detachment, Corps of Military Police
Suda Island Detachment
Miscellaneous Australian Details
Miscellaneous British Details

Layforce (16)

'A' Battalion
'D' Battalion

NOTES:

1. Headquarters Creforce was an ad hoc formation created with the arrival of Major General FREYBERG and the transfer of Headquarters 14th Infantry Brigade to Heraklion. The officers that formed Headquarters Creforce were a mixture of British and New Zealanders who were available on the island. The Force H.Q. comprised 28 officers and 90 other ranks, while the Force Signals had a strength of 3 officers and 86 other ranks. The combined staff of the Commander Royal Artillery, the Chief Engineer, and three services, amounted to 20 officers and 60 other ranks. The Naval Staff was composed of 3 officers and 20 other ranks, and the R.A.F. Headquarters comprised 20 officers and 75 other ranks. The entire strength of Creforce as of 20 May 1941 was 1,819 officers and 40,821 other ranks.
2. The 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment was designated as the Force Reserve, having arrived from Egypt. It had a strength of 23 officers and 831 other ranks, and it was deployed in the Chania area following the German invasion. Following evacuation, the battalion reformed in Egypt, where it had a strength of only 7 officers and 161 other ranks.
3. The 1st Bn. The Rangers was redesignated as the 9th Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps in late 1940. The battalion had served in Greece with the 1st Armoured Brigade, and on Crete it only had a strength of 16 officers and 401 other ranks.
4. Due to the shortage of equipment, several units were required to fight as infantry, even though they lacked equipment and training for the role. The 2nd/2nd Australian Field Regiment had a strength of 34 officers and 520 other ranks, the detachment of 2nd/3rd Field Regiment had 11 officers and 295 other ranks. The 16th Infantry Brigade Composite Battalion had a strength of 16 officers and 427 other ranks, and 17th Infantry Brigade Composite Battalion had a strength of 20 officers and 367 other ranks.
5. The 11th Searchlight Regiment and the Royal Marine searchlight battery had a combined strength of 14 officers and 350 other ranks. The 'Royal Perivolians' were an ad-hoc unit formed by members of various units of the British Army. They were supposedly named as such by Major General WESTON due to their alleged involvement in the rescue of the King of Greece, but this has not been confirmed by primary sources. The N.Z. Supply Column had 5 officers and 140 other ranks that fought as infantry.
6. The 2nd Greek Regiment had a strength of about 30 officers and 900 other ranks, but it only had about 500 rifles, and no support weapons.
7. The Northumberland Hussars had also served in Greece, so lacked guns, and was deployed as infantry. The unit had a strength of 11 officers and 268 other ranks.
8. The 106th Regiment, R.H.A., was another regiment that had served in Greece, and only had two 2 pounder anti-tank guns. These were deployed as a section in the Suda Bay Sector, and it had a strength of 1 officer and 15 other ranks. The rest of the regiment, 16 officers and 291 other ranks, were deployed as infantry.
9. The Commander Royal Engineers had a strength of 2 officers and 30 other ranks. The 42nd Field Company had moved to Crete from Egypt in October 1940, under the command of Major E. J. PARKER, who was succeeded by Major The Honourable R. G. H. PHILLIMORE, M.B.E.. The company had a strength of 4 officers and 160 other ranks. The Crete Composite Company was formed by combining details of R.E. personnel who had escaped from Greece, and it had a strength of 10 officers and 200 other ranks. 1003 Docks Operating Company had a strength of 5 officers and 121 other ranks, and the Stores Depot a strength of 4 officers and 80 other ranks. The Australian Engineers and Stevedores had a strength of 10 officers and 350 other ranks, and the New Zealand Stevedores a strength of 2 officers and 50 other ranks.

10. The Royal Army Service Corps element comprised troops evacuated from Greece, and others deployed to the island from Egypt. The 231st M.T. Company had a strength of 10 officers and 450 other ranks, while the 101st Petrol Company had a strength of 7 officers and 250 other ranks. The Petrol Depot had 7 officers and 250 other ranks, the two supply depots had 10 officers and 200 other ranks, and the Base Supply Depot had a strength of 5 officers and 65 other ranks. The 37th D.I.D. comprised 2 officers and 30 other ranks, and the detachments from the two Field Bakeries were a total of 2 officers and 65 other ranks. Finally, the miscellaneous R.A.S.C. personnel amounted to 10 officers and 100 other ranks.
11. Most of the R.A.M.C. personnel had previously served in Greece. The 4th Field Ambulance had a strength of four officers and about 100 other ranks, the 168th Field Ambulance, 2 officers and about 100 men, and the 189th Field Ambulance, 6 officers and about 100 other ranks. The Field Hygiene Section incorporated men from the 2nd Armoured Division's section, and they amounted to 2 officers and about 50 other ranks. The Tented Hospital had a strength of 12 officers and 52 other ranks, and the total of the Australian units was 8 officers and 210 men.
12. The R.A.O.C. units on Crete totalled about 30 officers and 600 men.
13. In 1941, the Mechanical Engineers within the British Army were still part of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The 5th Indian Brigade Workshop comprised 4 officers and about 100 other ranks. The two other workshops had a combined total of 2 officers and 75 other ranks.
14. The Pioneer Companies were recruited locally in the Middle East and served under British officers. The Palestinian Company (comprised mainly of Arabs) had 3 officers and 439 other ranks, while in total, the four Cypriot Companies had 11 officer and 688 other ranks. There were about 200 other miscellaneous pioneers located in the Sector.
15. The Field Security Section had 1 officer and 20 other ranks, while the Pay Office had 5 officers and 30 other ranks. The Military Police detachment had 4 officers and 60 other ranks. The Suda Island detachment comprised 1 officer and 28 other ranks. The miscellaneous Australian troops numbered about 10 officers and 130 other ranks, while the British odds and bods numbered about 25 officers and 150 other ranks.
16. Layforce was formed from three Commando unit sent to the Middle East, and they were redesignated as 'Battalions' within Layforce on arrival in Egypt. 'D' Battalion was formed by the amalgamation of 50 and 52 (Middle East) Commandos. Such was the state of British commitments in the Middle East in April and May 1941, Layforce constituted the only reinforcements available to Middle East Command. They were landed overnight 26/27 May, an advance party having landed on 24 May, in order to assist covering the withdrawal from the island. In total, Layforce comprised about 40 officers and 760 other ranks. The force carried out its task well, but found itself as the rearguard, and in consequence, few men escaped from Crete. For further information on Layforce, please see: <http://www.commandoveterans.org/Layforce>

SOURCES:

Please contact the webmaster, or see: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/RobPALMER>