

Heraklion Sector, Creforce ⁽¹⁾

14th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 14th Infantry Brigade and Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

2nd Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment

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

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

Infantry

2nd/4th Australian Infantry Battalion

7th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery

3rd Greek Infantry Regiment

7th Greek Infantry Regiment

Greek Garrison Battalion

Armoured Units

Detachment, 3rd The King's Own Hussars ⁽³⁾

Detachment, 'B' Squadron, 7th Royal Tank Regiment ⁽³⁾

Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

234th Medium Battery, Royal Artillery

7th Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Battery

Troop, 156th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

Section, 15th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery

Sections, 'C' Battery, Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Marines

Troop, 23rd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Marines

Royal Engineers ⁽⁵⁾

Section, 42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers

Detachment, 1017 Docks Operation Company, Royal Engineers

Detachment, 1038 Arab Stevedore Company, Royal Engineers

Royal Corps of Signals

Creforce Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Royal Army Service Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Service Corps

Royal Army Medical Corps

'B' Company, 189th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (6)

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

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 first British troops to arrive on the island were part of Force 'Assumption', the designation given to the 14th Infantry Brigade. They arrived at Suda Bay on 6 November 1940, and on 8 November, it was redesignated as 'Creforce'. When the New Zealand Division arrived on Crete following its evacuation from Greece, they occupied the Maleme area and the 14th Infantry Brigade moved to Heraklion in the east of the island. The command of Creforce passed from Brigadier CHAPPEL to Major General FREYBERG on 27 April 1941.
2. Headquarters, 14th Infantry Brigade (a pre-war Regular Army brigade stationed in Palestine), arrived in Crete on 6 November 1940, with the 2nd Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment and 2nd Bn. The Black Watch under command, as part of Force 'Assumption'. Brigadier O. H. TIDBURY commanded the brigade. On 18 February 1941, the 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment arrived on Crete and came under command of this Brigade. When the Brigade moved to Heraklion, the 1st Welch remained at Suda Bay as the Reserve for Creforce, although nominally it remained under command of the 14th Infantry Brigade until 14 June 1941. On 27 April 1941, an Indian Army officer, Brigadier B. H. CHAPPEL assumed command of the brigade. The 2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment arrived on 16 May 1941, and the 1st Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders three days later, with both battalions coming under command of this Brigade. The 1st Bn. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were disembarked at Tymbaki on the south coast. They made their way to Heraklion to be evacuated with the Brigade. On 20 May 1941, the strength of the brigade was:
 - a. Headquarters, 14th Infantry Brigade – 10 officers 100 other ranks,
 - b. Brigade Signals Section – 3 officers 60 other ranks,
 - c. Naval Staff – 2 officers & 20 other ranks,
 - d. Det, 3rd Hussars – 3 officers & 34 other ranks,
 - e. Det, 'B' Sqn, 7th R.T.R. – 3 officers & 30 other ranks,
 - f. 234th Medium Battery – 10 officers & 190 other ranks,
 - g. 7th Aust Light Anti-Aircraft Battery – 5 officers & 100 other ranks,
 - h. Troop, 156th L.A.A. Battery – 3 officers & 60 other ranks,
 - i. Section, 15th Coast Regiment – 5 officers & 80 other ranks,
 - j. Two Sections, 'C' H.A.A. Regt, R.M. – 5 officers & 118 other ranks,
 - k. Troop, 23rd L.A.A. Battery, R.M. – 2 officers & 60 other ranks,
 - l. Commander Royal Engineers – 3 officers & 20 other ranks,
 - m. Section, 42nd Field Company, R.E. – 1 officer & 70 other ranks,
 - n. Dets, 1017 & 1038 Stevedore Coys – 2 officers & 94 other ranks,
 - o. 2nd Bn. The Leicesters – 23 officer & 614 other ranks,
 - p. 2nd Bn. The Yorks and Lancs – 20 officer & 722 other ranks,
 - q. 2nd Bn. The Black Watch – 34 officers & 833 other ranks,
 - r. 1st Bn. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders – 32 officers & 623 other ranks,
 - s. 2nd/4th Australian Infantry Battalion – 33 officers & 520 other ranks,
 - t. 7th Medium Regiment, R.A. – 20 officers & 300 other ranks,
 - u. 3rd Greek Regiment – 20 officers & 1080 other ranks,
 - v. 7th Greek Regiment – 20 officers & 780 other ranks,
 - w. Greek Garrison Battalion – 20 officers & 780 other ranks,
 - x. Coy, 189th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. – 3 officers & fifty other ranks,

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| y. R.A.S.C. Personnel | – 10 officers & 150 other ranks, |
| z. R.A.O.C. Personnel | – 2 officers & 50 other ranks, |
| aa. 220 A.M.E.S., R.A.F. | – 1 officer & 50 other ranks, |
| bb. Airfield Det & 112 Sqn, R.A.F. | – 16 officers & 125 other ranks. |
3. The detachment of the 3rd Hussars was equipped with six Vickers light tanks, and the 7th R.T.R. detachment had just two Matilda Mk. II infantry tanks at Heraklion, and three at Tymbaki.
 4. The Medium Battery had thirteen field guns, which were Italian or French 70 mm or 100 mm artillery pieces. The 7th Australian L.A.A. Battery had six 40 mm Bofors guns, with 5 officers and about 100 other ranks. The one Troop of 156th (East Lancashire) L.A.A. Battery had four 40 mm Bofors, manned by 3 officers and 60 other ranks. The section of the 15th Coast Regiment had 5 officers and 80 other ranks to man two 4" guns, with the two sections of 'C' H.A.A. Battery having access to four 3" anti-aircraft guns, and a strength of 5 officers and 118 other ranks. The one Troop of the 23rd L.A.A. Battery, R.M. was equipped with light machine guns only, and it had a strength of 2 officers and 60 other ranks.
 5. The one Section from 42nd Field Company, R.E., had a strength of 1 officer and 70 other ranks, while in total, the Docks Operating Company and Stevedore Company had 2 officers and 94 other ranks.
 6. The 189th Field Ambulance was attached to the 14th Infantry Brigade, and it arrived on Crete with Force Assumption on 6 November 1940. The Headquarters and 'A' Company remained on Crete, while 'B' Company travelled on to Greece. When this company was evacuated from Greece, it was deployed to the Heraklion Sector.

SOURCES:

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