

1st Armoured Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 1st Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

3rd Royal Tank Regiment

4th Queen's Own Hussars

9th Bn. (The Rangers), The King's Royal Rifle Corps (2)

2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

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

155th (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery (3)

3rd (Cheshire) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

142nd Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers

211th Armoured Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

4th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

NOTES:

1. A pre-war Regular Army formation, the 1st Armoured Brigade had arrived in Egypt with the 2nd Armoured Division on 1 January 1941. The 4th Hussars was an original regiment with the brigade, with the 3rd R.T.R. joining in Egypt on 11 August 1940. The third regiment in the brigade, the King's Dragoon Guards, left on 24 January 1941, therefore, did not travel to Greece with the brigade. On 28 February 1941, the brigade was detached from the 2nd Armoured Division and re-formed as a brigade group with additional units under command, mainly from divisional troops of the 2nd Armoured Division. Brigadier (Temporary) Harold Vincent Spencer CHARRINGTON, M.C.*, *retired pay*, Reserve of Officers, (Gentleman-at-Arms), *p.s.c.*, commanded the brigade from 11 May 1940, and was in command throughout the campaign in Greece. The 1st Armoured Brigade arrived in Greece on 7 March 1941 and came under command of Force Headquarters. When the German invasion commenced on 6 April, the brigade was stationed with 'W' Force. On 9 April, it came under command of the 6th Australian Division, and between 10 and 18 April, it fought the major battle of the Greece campaign at Mount Olympus. It fell back with the retreating Allied forces, being evacuated back to Egypt on 29 April 1941. On its return to Egypt, the brigade was deployed equipping and training other Royal Armoured Corps units in Egypt. Brigadier CHARRINGTON was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) on 30 December 1941, for his leadership of the brigade in Greece. He had relinquished command of the brigade on 20 June 1941. The brigade suffered a total of 1,753 casualties of all categories. The casualties sustained by each unit were:

3 rd Royal Tank Regiment	– 289,
4 th Hussars	– 465,
1 st Bn. The Rangers	– 198
2 nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery	– 113,
102 nd Anti-Tank Regiment	– 277,
64 th Medium Regiment	– 53,
7 th Medium Regiment	– 181.

2. This was a Territorial Army unit, which joined the brigade on 22 March 1941.
3. This battery was part of the 52nd (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. This regiment had been formed in November 1938 by the conversion of the 52nd (East Lancashire) Field Regiment.

'W' Force (Greece)

Force Troops

7th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (1)

64th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

106th (Lancashire Hussars) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (3)

2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (4)

(H.Q, 16th & 20th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

122nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery (5)

154th (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery

292nd Army Field Company, Royal Engineers

NOTES:

1. This was a Regular Army regiment, which at the outbreak of the war was stationed in Egypt. It received orders to move to Greece on 26 March 1941, but only the Regimental Headquarters and 25th/26th Battery were in a position to deploy, as 27th/28th Battery was still re-equipping. Lieutenant Colonel John Harold Otto FROWEN, D.S.O., *g.*, commanded the regiment, which had served in support of the 6th Australian Infantry Division in Operation Compass, so it was a logical choice to accompany that division to Greece. The regiment assembled at a camp at Kephissia, just outside Athens, by 5 April 1941, after an eventful journey by sea from Alexandria. The regiment moved up to the Aliakmon River line and had its first action in Greece on 12 April as Australian covering forces withdrew. The regiment had one man killed in an air attack by Stukas on 14 April, and three others wounded. On 15 April, Lieutenant Colonel FROWEN was admitted to hospital, with Major SNOOK assuming command. The regiment withdrew on 17 April in accordance with New Zealand units it was based with, and it moved back to Thermopylae. On 22 April, Lieutenant Colonel FROWEN resumed command, and he came with orders to withdraw back to the coast for embarkation. The regiment left Greece on 24 April, and landed in Crete in the late afternoon.
2. A Territorial Army regiment, which had been formed in 1939 as a duplicate of the 52nd (London) Medium Regiment. As with the 7th Medium Regiment, it appears it was listed to go to Greece, but not deploy there in time before the German invasion.
3. The Lancashire Hussars was a Territorial Army yeomanry regiment, based in Liverpool. In 1921 it was converted into an Army Field Brigade, and in 1938, it became part of the Royal Horse Artillery. It was allocated to the 1st Cavalry Division when it was formed in October 1940. It travelled with the Division to Palestine. In March 1941, it was again converted, this time to a light anti-aircraft regiment. It arrived in Greece in April 1941. Following evacuation, the regiment was placed in suspended animation.
4. This was a Regular Army regiment, formed in 1927 as the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The regiment had served in France with the British Expeditionary Force
5. This battery had started the war as part of the 13th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, which itself was part of the 57th Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade, 7th Anti-Aircraft Division. The regiment had been formed in August 1938 as a Territorial Army unit. It left the UK in November 1940 to move to Egypt. The battery is presumed to have been detached from its parent regiment in Egypt to transfer to Greece.

SOURCES:

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