

British Forces in the Middle East
23 October 1942

GHQ Middle East: General Sir Harold R.L.G.Alexander
HQs British Troops, Egypt: Lieutenant General Sir R.G.W.H.Stone
4th New Zealand Armored Brigade
organization unknown

8th Army: Lieutenant General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery

Army Troops

Directly Under Command

1st Army Tank Brigade: Brigadier G.N.Todd

42nd Royal Tanks

44th Royal Tanks

1st Armored Brigade

Details 4th Hussars

Details 8th Hussars

2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars

12th AA Brigade

14th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

16th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

27th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

88th Heavy AA Regiment, RA - 16 3.7" AA

94th Heavy AA Regiment, RA - 16 3.7" AA

2 Troops, 27th Searchlight Regiment, RA

2nd AA Brigade

2nd Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

199th and 261st Batteries, 69th Heavy AA Regiment,

RA - 16 3.7" AA

21st Indian Infantry Brigade

1/6th Raj Rif

3/7th Rajput

2/8th Gurkha Rifles (less one coy)

9th Indian Field Company, IE

29th Indian Field Ambulance

Army Troops

"B" Sqn, 6th Royal Tanks (HQ Protection)

Tank Delivery Regiment

1 Troop, 6th South African Armored C Regiment

(HQ Protection)

566th & 588th African Troops Companies
1 Camouflage Company
8th Army Signals
1 Squadron, SAS Regiment
4th Light Field Ambulance
200th Field Ambulance
3rd Libyan Arab Force (Guard duties)

X Corps: Lieutenant General Sir H. Lumsden

1st Armored Division: Major General R. Briggs

2nd Armored Brigade (2 Armored Cars)

Bays
9th Lancers
10th Hussars
Yorkshire Dragoons (Motor Bn)
1 Grant Tank
92 Shermans Tanks
68 Crusader Tanks

7th Motor Brigade

2nd Rifle Brigade
7th Rifle Brigade
2nd Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Divisional Troops

HQ 1st Armored Division (8 Crusaders & 6
Armored Cars)
12th Lancer Regiment (55 Armored Cars)
2nd Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
4th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
11th Royal Horse Artillery (Self Propelled)
(24-105mm)
78th Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
76th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
42nd Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
1st & 7th Squadrons, RE
1st Field Park Squadron
572nd African Field Coy (attached)
9th Field Squadron
1st Armored Division Signals
X Company
Z Company
1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)
1st Light Field Ambulance
15th Light Field Ambulance

Hammerforce

Bays, 1 troop
9th Lancers, 1 troop
10th Hussars, 1 troop
7th Field Squadron, RE
9th Field Squadron, RE
572nd A Field Company, RE
2nd Rifle Brigade, less 1 support company

Attached

4/6th South African Armored Car Regiment
 (55 Armored Cars)
 146th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 73rd Anti-Tank Regiment (48 6pdrs)
 6th Light AA Regiment, RA (48 Bofors)

8th Armored Division: Major General G.H.Gairdner
 24th Armored Brigade (transferred to 10th Armored Div)
 Hammerforce (transferred to 1st Armored Div)
 Other
 145th Field Park Squadron, RE (X Corps Reserve)
 8th Armored Division Signals
 HQ 1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

10th Armored Division: Major General A.H.Gatehouse
 Divisional Troops
 HQ 10th Armored Brigade (7 Crusader Tanks)
 Royal Armored Car Regiment (46 Armored Cars)
 1st Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 104th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 98th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 5th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 84th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
 53rd Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
 2nd Field Squadron, RE
 3rd Field Squadron, RE
 141st Field Park Squadron, RE
 6th Field Squadron, RE
 571st & 573rd African Field Companies
 10th Armored Division Signals
 3rd Light Field Ambulance
 8th Light Field Ambulance
 168th Light Field Ambulance

8th Armored Brigade
 3rd Royal Tanks (57 Grant Tanks)
 Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (31 Sherman Tanks)
 Staffordshire Yeomanry (45 Crusaders Tanks)
 1st Buffs

24th Armored Brigade
 41st Royal Tanks
 45th Royal Tanks
 47th Royal Tanks
 2 Grant Tanks
 93 Sherman Tanks
 45 Crusaders Tanks

133rd Lorried Indian Brigade

2nd Royal Sussex
4th Royal Sussex
5th Royal Sussex
"W" Coy, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

Corps Troops

HQ X Corps (2 Grant Tanks)
570th corps Field Park Coy
X Corps Signals
12th & 151st Light Field Ambulances.

XIII Corps: Lieutenant General Sir B.G.Horrocks

7th Armored Division: Major General A.F.Harding

4th Light Armored Brigade (9 Armored Cars)

4/8th Hussars (48 Stuart Tanks)
Greys (14 Grants & 19 Stuarts)
1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps

22nd Armored Brigade (4 Crusader Tanks)

1st Royal Tanks (24 Grants, 19 Stuarts)
5th Royal Tanks (24 Grants, 18 Stuarts)
4th County of London Yeomanry (9 Grants,
28 Crusaders)

1st Rifle Brigade

Division Troops

HQ 7th Armored Division (7 Crusaders &
5 Armd Cars)
Household Cavalry Regiment (53 Armored Cars)
11th Hussars (61 Armored Cars)
2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry (50 Armored Cars)
44th Reconnaissance Regiment
3rd Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
4th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
97th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
65th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
15th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
4th & 21st Field Squadrons, RE
143rd Field Park Squadron, RE
7th Armored Division Signals
2nd & 14th Light Field Ambulances

50th Infantry Division: Major General J.S.Nichols

69th Infantry Brigade

5th East Yorkshire
6th Green Howards
7th Green Howards

151st Infantry Brigade

6th Durham Light Infantry
8th Durham Light Infantry
9th Durham Light Infantry

1st Greek Infantry Brigade

1st Greek Battalion
2nd Greek Battalion
3rd Greek Battalion
1st Greek Field Artillery Regt (24-25pdrs)
1st Greek Field Company Engineers
1st Greek Machine Gun Company
1st Greek Field Ambulance

Division Troops

HQ 50th Infantry Division
74th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
111th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
124th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
154th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
102nd Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
34th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
233rd & 505th Field Companies, RE
235th Field Park Company, Re
50th Division Signals
Tac Battalion HQ & 2 Coys
2nd Cheshire (MG)
186th & 149th Field Ambulances

44th Infantry Division: Major General I.T.P.Hughes

131st Infantry Brigade

1/5th Queens
1/6th Queens
1/7th Queens

132nd Infantry Brigade

2nd Buffs
4th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment
5th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

133rd Infantry Brigade (detached to X Corps)

Division Troops

HQ 44th Infantry Division
57th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
58th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
65th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
53rd Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
57th Anti-Tank Regiment (48-6pdrs & 16-2pdrs)
30th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
11th Field Company, RE
209th Field Company, RE
210th Field Company, RE
44th Division Signals
6th Cheshire (MG)
131st Field Ambulance
132nd Field Ambulance

1st Free French Group (attached to 7th Armored Div)

1st Battalion, Foreign Legion
2nd Battalion, Foreign Legion
3rd Battalion, Infanterie Marine Pacifique
1st Free French Artillery (16-25pdrs & 4-5.5")
2nd AA Company, 1st Fusiliers Marine (12 Bofors)
2nd Free French Anti-Tank Company (16-6pdrs)
22nd North African Anti-Tank Company (2-75mm)
1st Free French Field Company Engineers

3rd Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)

Under command

1st Free French Flying Column
Armored Car Squadron, 1st Marocco Spahis
1st Free French Tan Company
Portée Troop 1st Marocco Spahis, with
(4-75mm AT & 1-50mm AT guns)
AA Troop 1st Battalion Foreign Legion

2nd Free French Group (attached to 50th Infantry Div).

5th Bataillon de Marche
11th Bataillon de Marche
21st North African Anti-Tank Company (12-75mm)
23rd North African Anti-Tank Company (4-75mm)
2nd Free French Company Engineers
2nd Free French Field Ambulance

Corps Troops

HQ XIII Corps (13 Armored Cars)
XIII Corps Signals
Troop 4/6th South African Armored Car Regiment
118th Royal Tanks (dummy tanks)
124th Royal Tanks (dummy tanks)
HQ & 1 Coy Battery, 4th Survey Regiment
578th African Field Company, RE
576th Corps Field Park Company

XXX Corps: Lieutenant General Sir. O. Leese

4th Indian Division: Major General F.I.S. Tucker

5th Indian Infantry Brigade

1/4th Essex
4/6th Raj Rif
3/10th Baluch

7th Indian Infantry Brigade

1st Royal Sussex
4/16th Punjab
1/2nd Gurkha Rifles

161st Indian Infantry Brigade

1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
1/1st Punjab
4/7th Rajput

Divisional troops

HQ 4th Indian Division
1st Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
11th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
32nd Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
149th Anti-Tank Regiment (54-6pdrs & 10-2pdrs)
57th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
2nd Field Company, RE
4th Field Company, RE
12th Field Company, RE
11th Field Park Company
4th Indian Division Signals
6th Raj Rif (MG)
17th Indian Field Ambulance
26th Indian Field Ambulance
75th Light Indian Field Ambulance

51st (Home) Infantry Division: Major General D.N.Wimberley

152nd Infantry Brigade

2nd Seaforth Highlanders
5th Seaforth Highlanders
5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

153rd Infantry Brigade

5th Black Watch
1st Gordon Highlanders
5/7th Gordon Highlanders

154th Infantry Brigade

1st Black Watch
7th Black Watch
7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Division Troops

126th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
127th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
128th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
61st Anti-Tank Regiment, RA (48-6pdrs & 16-2pdrs)
40th Light AA Regiment, RA (48 Bofors)
274th Field Company, RE
275th Field Company, RE
276th Field Company, RE
51st (Home) Division Signals
1/7th Middlesex (MG)
51st Reconnaissance Regiment
174th Field Ambulance
175th Field Ambulance
176th Field Ambulance

Attached

50th Royal Tanks (44 Valentine Tanks)
3rd Troop, 395th African Field Company, RE

9th Austrian Division: Lieutenant General Sir L.Morshead

20th Infantry Brigade

2/13th Australian Battalion
2/15th Australian Battalion
2/17th Australian Battalion

24th Infantry Brigade

2/28th Australian Battalion
2/32nd Australian Battalion
2/43rd Australian Battalion

26th Infantry Brigade

2/23rd Australian Battalion
2/24th Australian Battalion
2/48th Australian Battalion

Division Troops

HQ 9th Australian Division
9th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment
2/7th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
2/8th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
2/12th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
3rd Australian Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
4th Australian Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
2/3rd Australian Engineering Field Company
2/7th Australian Engineering Field Company
2/13th Australian Engineering Field Company

9th Australian Division Signals
 2/2nd Australian Battalion (MG)
 2/3rd Australian Field Ambulance
 2/8th Australian Field Ambulance
 2/11th Australian Field Ambulance
 40th Royal Tanks (42 Valentine Tanks)
 1st & 3rd Sections, 66th Mortar Company, Re (12-4.2")

2nd New Zealand Division: Lieutenant General Sir
 B.C.Freyberg

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade
 21st New Zealand Battalion
 22nd New Zealand Battalion
 23rd New Zealand Battalion

6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade
 24th New Zealand Battalion
 25th New Zealand Battalion
 26th New Zealand Battalion

9th Armored Brigade (1 Sherman & 3 Crusaders)
 3rd Hussars (9 Grants, 12 Shermans, 16 Crusaders)
 Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (14 Grants, 10 Shermans,
 13 Crusaders)
 Warwickshire Yeomanry (14 Grants, 13 Shermans,
 17 Crusaders)

Division Troops
 HQ 2nd New Zealand Division
 2nd New Zealand Signals
 4th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
 5th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
 6th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
 7th New Zealand Anti-Tank Regiment (59-6pdrs)
 14th New Zealand Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
 6th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
 7th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
 8th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
 27th New Zealand Battalion (MG)
 5th New Zealand Field Ambulance
 6th New Zealand Field Ambulance
 166th Light Field Ambulance

1st South African Division: Major General D.H.Pienaar

1st South African Infantry Brigade
 1st Royal Natal Carabiniers
 1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
 1st Transvaal Scottish

2nd South African Infantry Brigade
 1/2nd Field Force Battalion
 1st Natal Mounted Rifles
 Cape Town Highlanders

3rd South African Infantry Brigade
 1st Imperial Light Horse
 1st Royal Durban Light Infantry
 1st Rand Light Infantry

Division Troops
 HQ 1st South African Division
 South African Division Signals
 1st South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)

4th South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
7th South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
1st South African Anti-Tank Regiment (48-6pdrs
and 16-2pdrs, 3-18pdrs & 6-50mm)
1st South African Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
1st South African Engineering Field Company
2nd South African Engineering Field Company
3rd South African Engineering Field Company
5th South African Engineering Field Company
19th South African Engineering Field Park
Regiment President Steyn (MG)
1 Coy, Die Middelandse Regiment (MG)
12th South African Field Ambulance
15th South African Field Ambulance
18th South African Field Ambulance

Attached

8th Royal Tanks (51 Valentines)
1st South African Reserve Group
8th Royal Tanks
3rd South African Armoured Car Regiment,
(less two squadrons)
1 South African Anti-Tank Battery
1 South African Light AA Troop
1 Troop "Scorpions"
2nd Regiment Botha, from 1st SA Inf. Bde.

23rd Armored Brigade Group (In Corps Reserve)

8th Royal Tanks (to 1st SA Division)
40th Royal Tanks (to 9th Australian Division)
46th Royal Tanks (49 Valentines)
50th Royal Tanks (to 50th (Home) Division)
121st Field (Self Propelled) Regiment, RA
(16-25pdrs)
158th Battery, 56th LAA Regiment, RA
295th African Field Company, RE
7th Light Field Ambulance

Corps Troops

HQ XXX Corps
XXX Corps Signals
4/6th South African Armored Car Regiment (3 troops)
7th Medium Regiment (8-4.5" & 8-5.5")
64th Medium Regiment (8-4.5" & 8-5.5")
69th Medium Regiment (16-4.5")
1 Comp. Battery, 4th Survey Regiment
HQ & 2nd Section, 66th Mortar Company, RE
(6-4.2")

British 9th Army: Lieutenant General Sir Wm. G.Holmes

(in the Levant - Beirut)

20th Indian Infantry Brigade:
organization unknown

25th Indian Infantry Brigade:
organization unknown

26th Indian Infantry Brigade:
organization unknown

201st Guards Motor Brigade:
3rd Coldstream Guards
2nd Scots Guards
6th Grenadier Guards

XXV Corps: (in Cyprus)

10th Indian Infantry Brigade:
organization unknown

HQs Palestine and Transjordan (in Palestine)

Transjordan Frontier Force:
organization unknown

1st Army Tank Brigade
44th Royal Tanks
42nd Royal Tanks
11th Royal Tanks

Air Headquarters RAF Middle East: Air Chief Marshal

Sir Arthur Tedder (in Cairo)

No. 201 RAF Group: Air Vice Marshal L. Slatter

No. 205 RAF Group: Air Commander A.P. Ritchie

Desert Air Force:

No. 211 RAF Group

No. 212 RAF Group: H.A.Fenton

No. 3 SAAF Wing

12th U.S. Bomb Group

57th U.S. Fighter Group

No. 232 RAF Wing

No. 28 RAF Reconnaissance Wing

HQs U.S. Middle Eastern Air Force: Major General L.H.Brereton

IX U.S. Bombardment Command
organization unknown

Joslen, Lt. Col. H.F., Orders of Battle, Second World War, 1939-1945, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1960.

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