

British Western Desert Air Force
1 September 1942

A.H.O. Western Desert (Advanced HQ at Burg El Arab;
Rear HQ at Wadi Natrun)

No. 1 (RAAF) Ambulance Unit (WADI NATRUN) - D.H. 86/86B

No. 285 Wing (HQ at Burg el Arab)

No. 2 (Photo Recon) Squadron (BURG EL ARAB) - Spitfire VB
(Det from HQ at RAF ME 208) (BURG EL ARAB) -
Hurricane IIA/Tomahawk

No. 1437th (Recon) Flight - Maryland/Baltimore

No. 60 (SAAF) (Recon) Squadron (WADI NATRUN) - Maryland/Baltimore

No. 3 (SAAF) Wing (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 12th (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Bostons

No. 24th (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Bostons

No. 55th (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Baltimore II/III

No. 223rd (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Baltimore II/III

Attached:

81st (USAAF) (Medium Bomber) Squadron (DEVERSOIR) - Mitchell II¹

No. 211 Group: (HQ at AMIRIYA)

66th (USAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA - Kittyhawk

No. 7 (SAAF) Wing: (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 6 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIB

No. 7 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IID,I/IIB²

No. 127 (Fighter-Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIB

No. 274 (Fighter-Bomber) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIB

No. 233 Wing (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 2 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I I/Tomahawks

No. 4 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I I/Tomahawks

No. 5 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I I/Tomahawks

No. 260 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I/II

No. 239 Wing (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 3 (RAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I

No. 112 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I

No. 250 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I

No. 450 (RAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Kittyhawk I

No. 243 Wing: (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 33 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIC

No. 213 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIC

No. 145 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Spitfire VB

No. 601 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Spitfire VB

No. 73 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIC ³

¹ The 81st USAAF Squadron was operating with the British light bombers.

² The Hurricane Is of No. 7 SAAF Sqn were equipped to carry 24 9pdr Jefferis bombs.

³ No. 73 Squadron was employed almost exclusively in a night-fighter role since early 1942. Prior to the Battle of Alam el Halfa all the remaining Hurricane squadrons were trained for the alternative role of night-fighter to support No. 73 Squadron in the event of enemy airborne attack on airfields.

No. 244 Wing: (HQ at AMIRIYA)

No. 1 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIB

No. 238 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIB

No. 80 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane IIC

No. 92 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Spitvire VB/C

Available to Reinforce WDAF, but not under its control

Squadrons of NO. 205 Group: (HQ at ISMAILIA)

No. 231 Wing: (HQ at ABU SUEIR)

No. 37 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (ABU SUEIR) - Wellington IC

No. 70 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (ABU SUEIR) - Wellington IC

No. 236 Wing: (HQ at JEBEL HAMZI)

No. 108 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (JEBEL HAMZI) - Wellington IC

No. 148 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (JEBEL HAMZI) - Wellington IC

No. 238 Wing: (HQ at KABRIT)

No. 40 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (KABRIT) - Wellington IC, II

No. 104 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (KABRIT) - Wellington IC, II

Squadrons of No. 201 (NC) Group: (HQ at ALEXANDRIA)

No. 252 (Fighter) Squadron (IDKU) - Beaufighter IC/VIF

No. 272 (Fighter) Squadron (IDKU) - Beaufighter IC/VIF

No. 821 (FAA) (Torpedo) Squadron (DEKHEILA) - Albacore⁴

No. 826 (FAA) (Torpedo) Squadron (DEKHEILA) - Albacore

Playfair, I.S.O., The Mediterranean and the Middle East, Vol III, (September 1941 to September 1942) British Fortunes reach their Lowest Ebb, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1960

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⁴ No. 821 and 826 were employed on night reconnaissance and bombing in forward area when supporting operations in the desert.