

**Operation Ironclad
Invasion of Madagascar
5 May 1942**

British ground forces on day of assault:

1st Wave (5 May 1942) (at Diego Suarez)

British 29th Infantry Brigade (independent):
2nd South Lancashire Regiment
2nd East Lancashire Regiment
1st Royal Scots Fusiliers
2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers
455th Light Battery (Royal Artillery)
one MG company
six medium tanks
six light tanks

Landed near Diego Suarez (5 May 1942)

No. 5 Commando

Second Wave (5 May 1942) (near Diego Suarez)

British 17th Infantry Brigade Group (of 5th Division):
2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers
2nd Northamptonshire Regiment
6th Seaforth Highlanders
9th Field Regiment (Royal Artillery)

3rd Wave (6 May 1942) (near Diego Suarez)

British 13th Infantry Brigade (of 5th Division):
2nd Cameronians
2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
2nd Wiltshire Regiment

British Naval Forces:

Battleships:

HMA Ramillies

Aircraft Carriers:

HMS Illustrious

HMS Indomitable

Cruisers:

HMS Devonshire

Destroyers:

HMS Active

HMS Anthony

HMS Duncan

HMS Inconstant

HMS Javelin
HMS Laforey
HMS Lightning
HMS Lookout
HMS Pakenham
HMS Paladin
HMS Panther

Corvettes:

HMS Freesia
HMS Auricula
HMS Nigella
HMS Fritillary
HMS Genista
HMS Cyclamen
HMS Thyme
HMS Jasmine

Minesweepers:

HMS Cromer
HMS Poole
HMS Romney
HMS Cromarty

Assault transports:

HMS Winchester Castle
HMS Royal Ulsterman
HMS Keren
HMS Karanja
HMS Sobieksi

"Special" ships:

HMS Derwentdale (for motor landing craft and tanks)
HMS Bachaquero (tank landing ship)

Troop ships:

HMS Oronsay
HMS Duchess of Atholl
HMS Franconia

Stores and MT ships:

HMS Empire Kingsley
HMS Thalatta
HMS Mahout
HMS City of Hong Kong
HMS Mairnbank
HMS Martand

British Air Forces

Aboard Illustrious:

881 Sqdn -- 12 Grumman Martlett IIIs
882 Sqdn -- 8 Grumman Martletts, 1 Fairey Fulmar NFI
810 and 829 Sqdn -- together, 20 Fairey Swordfish

Aboard Indomitable:

800 Sqdn -- 8 Fairey Fulmars
806 Sqdn -- 4 Fairey Fulmars
880 Sqdn -- 6 Hawker Sea Hurricanes
827 and 831 Sqdn -- together 24 Fairey Albacores

Reinforcements

22nd East African Brigade Group (Arrived 8 June 1943)
1/1st Kings African Rifles
5th (Kenya) Kings African Rifles
1/6th Kings African Rifles
56th (Uganda) Field Battery
9th Field Regiment (Royal Artillery)
South African 7th (mot) Brigade: (Arrived 24 June 1942)
1st City Regiment
The Pretoria Regiment
Pretoria Highlanders
Northern Rhodesia 27th Infantry Brigade (Arrived 8 August 1942)
2nd Northern Rhodesia Regiment
3rd Northern Rhodesia Regiment
4th Northern Rhodesia Regiment
55th (Tanganyika) Light Battery
57th (East African) Field Battery

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