

**Miscellaneous British Infantry Brigades
1939-1945**

1st Sudan Defense Force Brigade

5/9/42 - Formed in the Sudan as a Brigade Group.
7/11/42 - Redesignated 12th Division Sudan Defense Force.

Assigned Units

4th Motor Battalion	5/9/42-7/10/42
7th Infantry Battalion	5/9/42-7/10/42
8th Infantry Battalion	5/9/42-7/10/42
56th Motor Company SSC	
1st Sudan Light Field Ambulance Section, 1st Field Coy, RE	

2nd Sudan Defense Force Brigade

In August 1943 HQ 19th Area was reorganized and became HQ 2nd Sudan Defense Force Brigade and 19th Area. It was under the command of HQ Troops in the Sudan and its role was administrative and internal security duties for the whole of Eritrea. The units assigned were:

1 Company, 19th Essex	8/43-6/44
3rd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	6/44-3/45

On 3/26/45 the 2nd Sudan Defense Force Brigade became a separate formation under HQ 19th Area in Eritrea and consisted entirely of Sudan Defense Force Units. The brigade was in existence on 8/31/45.

1st Gibraltar Brigade

3/13/41 - Formed in Gibraltar for its defense.

Assigned Units

2nd Kings Regiment	3/13/41-11/17/43
4th Black Watch	3/13/41-4/25/43
Independent Company	3/13/41-7/17/44
2nd Royal Scots	4/22/43-7/22/44
1st Hertfordshire	11/17/43-7/22/44
31st Suffolk	7/22/44-8/31/45
30th Dorsetshire	7/22/44-8/31/45

2nd Gibraltar Brigade

4/24/41 - Formed in Gibraltar for its defense.
12/1/43 - Redesignated and reorganized as 28th Infantry
Brigade.

Assigned Units

2nd Somerset Light Infantry	4/24/41-8/31/45
4th Devonshire	4/24/41-4/24/43
7th King's Own	6/30/42-9/7/42
1st Hertfordshire	4/24/43-11/17/43
2nd Kings Regiment	11/17/43-8/31/45

1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 1/5/44-2/2/44
2/4th Hampshire 3/24/44-8/31/45

1st Malaya Infantry Brigade

9/39 - A pre-war infantry in Malaya with the title Malaya
Infantry Brigade.
9/14/40 - Redesignated 1st Malaya Infantry Brigade.
2/14/42 - Captured by the Japanese

Assigned Units

2nd Loyals 9/3/39-1/11/42
1st Manchester (MG) 9/3/39-9/13/40
2nd Gordon Highlanders 9/3/39-9/13/40
2/17th Dogra (India) 9/3/39-9/9/40
1st Malay Regiment 9/3/39-8/29/41
2nd East Surrey 9/9/40-2/22/41
1st Mysor Infantry (India) 12/18/41-2/14/42

2nd Malaya Infantry Brigade

9/8/40 - Formed in Malaya.
2/14/42 - Captured by the Japanese

Assigned Units

1st Manchester (MG) 9/14/40-2/14/42
2nd Gordon Highlanders 9/14/40-2/14/42
2/15th Punjab (India) 11/1/40-5/10/41
2/17th Dogra (India) 8/29/41-9/1/42

Hong Kong Infantry Brigade

9/39 - A pre-war infantry brigade in Hong Kong.
12/25/41 - Captured by Japanese.

Assigned Units

2nd Royal Scots 9/3/39-11/16/41
1st Middlesex (MG) 9/3/39-12/25/41
Kumaon Rifles 9/3/39-11/16/40
Royal Rifles of Canada 11/16/41-12/25/41
Winnipeg Grenadiers 11/16/41-12/25/41
5/7th Rajput 11/16/40-11/16/41

Kowloon Infantry Brigade

11/41 - Formed in Hong Kong primarily for the defense of
the mainland.
12/25/41 - Captured by the Japanese.

Assigned Units

2nd Royal Scots 11/16/41-12/25/41
5/7th Rajput (India) 11/16/41-12/25/41
2/14th Punjab (India) 11/16/41-12/25/41

Jewish Infantry Brigade Group

9/28/44 - Formed in Egypt.

Assigned Units

1st Palestine Regiment 10/6/44-8/31/45

2nd Palestine Regiment	10/6/44-8/31/45
3rd Palestine Regiment	10/6/44-8/31/45
1st Palestine Light AA Battery	10/8/44-12/5/44
Jewish Field Regiment, RA	2/11/45-2/19/45
200th Field Regiment, RA	2/20/45-6/29/45
	7/12/45-8/31/45
643rd (Palestine) Field Company, RE	1/8/45-8/31/45
179th (Palestine)	1/8/45-8/31/45
140th Field Ambulance	2/17/45-8/31/45
Jewish Infantry Brigade Group	
Ordnance Field Park Section	1/12/45-8/31/45
Jewish Infantry Brigade Group	
Provost Section	unknown
Jewish Infantry Brigade Group	
Postal Unit	unknown

Special Service Brigades

November 1940 - early 1941

The Commandos, raised during 1940 were reorganized in November 1940 as shown below. The HQ Special Service Brigade was formed on 11/1/40 under the command of Combined Operations HQ.

SS Brigade

 4 Special Service Battalions, each with
 1 HQ
 2 Commandos

1941 -1943

Early 1941 the SS Battalions were reorganized into Commands, the whole being under the command of HQ SS Brigade. By the spring of 1943 the composition of the brigade was as follows:

SS Brigade

 1 Brigade Signals Troop
 Group HQ, with
 No. 1 Command
 No. 3 Command
 No. 6 Command
 Group
 No. 2 Command
 No. 4 Command
 No. 5 Command
 No. 9 Command
 No. 12 Command
 Group
 No. 40 (Royal Marines) Commando
 No. 41 (Royal Marines) Commando
 Group
 No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando
 Group
 No. 14 Commando
 No. 30 Commando

No. 62 Commando
Group
Commando Depot
Mountain & Snow Warfare Camp

1943-1945

In November 1943, owing to the expansion of the Commando Forces HQ, SS Brigade was replaced by HQ SS Group in the UK, which took command of all commando forces. In addition, four SS Brigades were formed. The group in March 1944 was as follows:

SS Group

- 1 SS Brigade (In UK)
 - Brigade Signals Troup
 - Light Aide Detachment Type "A"
 - No. 3 Commando
 - No. 4 Commando
 - No. 6 Commando
 - No. 45 (Royal Marine) Commando
- 2 SS Brigade (In Italy)
 - Brigade Signals Troup
 - Light Aide Detachment Type "A"
 - No. 2 Commando
 - No. 9 Commando
 - No. 40 (Royal Marines) Commando
 - No. 43 (Royal Marine) Commando
- 3 SS Brigade (In India)
 - Brigade Signals Troup
 - Light Aide Detachment Type "A"
 - No. 1 Commando
 - No. 5 Commando
 - No. 42 (Royal Marines) Commando
 - No. 44 (Royal Marine) Commando
- 5 SS Brigade (In UK)
 - Brigade Signals Troup
 - Light Aide Detachment Type "A"
 - No. 41 (Royal Marines) Commando
 - No. 46 (Royal Marines) Commando
 - No. 47 (Royal Marine) Commando
 - No. (IA) Commando

Group

- Group Signals
- Field Service Section
- Repair Section Light Aide Detachment
- Section Provost
- Section Postal Unit

Group

- Special Boat Unit (all arms)
- Royal Marine Engineer Commando

Group

Group 2nd Echelon (Royal Marine only)
Holding Commando
Commando Basic Training Center
Commando Mountain Warfare Training Center

Special Air Service Troops

1/7/44 - HQ formed in UK.

Assigned Units

1st SAS Regiment	1/7/44-8/31/45
2nd SAS Regiment	1/7/44-8/31/45
3rd French Paratroop Battalion	1/7/44-2/28/45
4th French Paratroop Battalion	1/7/44-2/28/45
Belgian Paratroop company	1/7/44-2/28/45
"F" Squadron GHQ Liaison Regiment	3/10/44-6/6/45
Belgian SAS Regiment	3/1/45-8/31/45
2e Régiment Chasseur de Parachutist	3/1/45-8/31/45
3e Régiment Chasseur de Parachutist	3/1/45-8/31/45

VIS Brigade

The HQ was formed on 8/16/44 on the island of Vis by the redesignation of HQ 20th Beach Group, the Forward Base under HQ Land Forces Adriatic. The brigade was responsible for the defense of the island and for operations against the Germans in support of the Yugoslavian partisans. It had under command RA, RE, Sigs, Infantry, Administrative units and squadrons of the RAF regiment from army troops in Italy.

Adriatic Brigade

Formed on 11/10/44 by the redesignation of the VIS Brigade under command HQ Land Forces Adriatic. The role of the brigade was unchanged.

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

Copyright GFN 1992