

**British Troops in the Middle East
1939-1940**

Troops in Egypt 9/30/39

HQ British Troops in Egypt (BTE)

In the western desert

The Armored Division (Egypt) - 7th Armored Division

Heavy Armored Brigade

1st Royal Tanks

6th Royal Tanks

Light Armored Brigade

7th Hussars

8th Hussars

11th Hussars

Divisional Troops

"M" Battery, 3rd RHA

"C" Battery, 4th RHA

1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps

7th Infantry Division (at Mersa Matruh)

29th Infantry Brigade

2nd Scots Guards

1st Buffs

Divisional Troops

"P" Battery & 1 troop, 3rd RHA

"D" Battery, 3rd RHA

2nd Field Company, RE

7th Division Signals

1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

1st Hampshire Regiment

In the Delta

18th Infantry Brigade

1st Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

23rd Infantry Brigade

1st Royal Sussex Regiment

1st Essex Regiment (one coy in Cyprus)

Alexandria Area

20th AA Battery, RA

3rd Coldstream Guards

HQ 4th Indian Division

11th Indian Infantry Brigade

4th Field Regiment, RA

2nd Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

3rd Royal Horse Artillery, less "M" Battery and 1 troop

4th Royal Horse Artillery, less "C" Battery

7th Medium Regiment, RA

19th Heavy Battery (coastal)

42nd Field Company, RA

45th Fortress Company, RE

54th Field Company, RE

Divisional Troops

Royals Armored Car Regiment (1 sqn 5th Dragoon Guards
under command; sailed for UK 11/30/39)

Det/Royal Horse Artillery (sailed for UK 11/30/39)

12th Field Company, RE

Jerusalem Area
2nd King's Own
2nd Black Watch
2nd Highland Light Infantry
Lydda Area
Greys (1 sqn 4/7th Dragoon Guards under command,
sailed for UK 11/30/39)
Force Troops
17th Heavy Battery (Coastal)
Det. 8th Railway Company
Trans-Jordan Frontier Force

In Cyprus

17th Heavy Battery (Coastal)
Det. 8th Railway Company

In Sudan

1st Worcestershire Regiment
1st Cheshire (MG)
2nd Yorks and Lancaster Regiment

In Aden

5th Heavy Regiment (formed in Aden 9/39)
9th Heavy Battery (coastal)
15th (Singapore) AA Battery Hong Kong Singapore Light
Artillery

British Somalia

OC Somaliland Camel Corps
Somaliland Camel Corps

31 January 1940

Egypt

HQ British Troops in Egypt (BTE)

In the Western Desert

HQ 6th Infantry Division (in Mersa Matruh)
22nd Infantry Brigade
2nd Scots Guards
1st Welch

Divisional Troops

"J" Battery & one Troop, 3rd RHA
"D" Battery, 3rd RHA
31st Field Regiment
2nd Field Company, RE
6th Division Signals
1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

Armored Division (Egypt) (7th Armored Division on 2/16/40)

Heavy Armored Brigade

1st Royal Tanks
6th Royal Tanks

Light Armored Brigade

7th Hussars
8th Hussars
11th Hussars

Divisional Troops

"M" Battery, 3rd RHA, anti-tank
"C" Battery, 4th RHA
1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps

- 2nd Rifle Brigade
- 4th Indian Division
 - 5th Indian Infantry Brigade
 - (includes 1st Royal Fusiliers)
 - 11th Indian Infantry Brigade (includes 2nd Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)
 - Divisional Troops (includes 1st & 4th Field Regiments, RA)
- 2nd New Zealand Division
- 18th Infantry Brigade
 - 2nd Highland Light Infantry
- 23rd Infantry Brigade
 - 1st Royal Sussex
 - 1st Durham Light Infantry
- Alexandria Sub Area
 - 9th Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment
 - 20th Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment
 - 5th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment
 - 3rd Coldstream Guards
- Command Troops
 - HQ Royal Artillery Group
 - 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, less "J" and "M" Batteries and 1 troop of "J" Battery
 - 4th Royal Horse Artillery, less "C" Battery
 - 7th Medium Regiment
 - 19th Heavy Battery (coastal)
 - 42nd Field Company, RE
 - 54th Field Company, RE
 - 45th Fortress Company, RE
 - Egyptian Command Signals
 - 1st Cheshire (MG)
- Palestine and Trans-Jordan
 - HQ British Forces in Palestine and Trans-Jordan
 - 1st Cavalry Division
 - 4th Cavalry Brigade
 - Household Cavalry Regiment, RAC
 - Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, RAC
 - North Somerset Yeomanry, RAC
 - 5th Cavalry Brigade
 - Yorkshire Dragoons
 - Yorkshire Hussars
 - Nottinghamshire Yeomanry
 - 6th Cavalry Brigade
 - Cheshire Yeomanry
 - Staffordshire Yeomanry
 - Warwick Yeomanry
 - Divisional Troops
 - 104th Royal Horse Artillery (arrived 2/20/40)
 - 106th Royal Horse Artillery (arrived 2/20/40)
 - 107th Royal Horse Artillery
 - 2nd Field Park Squadron, RE
 - 141st Field Park Troop, RE
 - 1st Cavalry Division Signals
 - 8th Infantry Division
 - 14th Infantry Brigade

1st Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
 2nd York and Lancaster
 16th Infantry Brigade
 2nd Queens
 2nd Leicestershire
 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
 Divisional Troops
 Royals, RAC
 12th Field Company, RE
Jerusalem Area
 2nd King's Own
 1st South Staffordshire
 2nd Black Watch
Lydda Area
 Greys
 56th Field Company, RE
 1st Hampshire
Force Troops
 17th Heavy Battery (coastal)
 Det. 20th Anti-Aircraft Battery
 Det. 8th Railway Company, Re
 Palestine Command Signals
 1st Buffs
 1st Sherwood Foresters (less one co. in Cyprus)
In Cyprus
 1st Sherwood Foresters (one company)
In Sudan
 1st Worcestershire Regiment
 2nd West Yorkshire
 1st Essex Regiment
 Sudan Defense Force
In Aden
 5th Heavy Regiment (coastal)
 9th Heavy Battery (coastal)
 15th (Singapore) AA Battery Hong Kong Singapore Light
 Artillery
 20th Fortress Company, RE
British Somalia
 OC Somaliland Camel Corps
 Somaliland Camel Corps

6/30/40

In Egypt
 HQ British Troops in Egypt (BTE)

In the Western Desert

7th Armored Division
 4th Armored Brigade
 7th Hussars
 6th Royal Tanks
 7th Special Group
 "M" Battery, 3rd RHA, anti-tank
 "C" Battery, 4th RHA
 1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps

2nd Rifle Brigade
 Divisional Troops
 11th Hussars, Royal Armored Cars
 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, Anti-Tank
 (less "M" Battery)
 4th Royal Horse Artillery, (less "C" Battery)
 2nd field Squadron, RE
 141st Field Park Troop, RE
 Mersa Matruh Garrison
 22nd Infantry Brigade
 2nd Highland Light Infantry
 1st Welch
 Attached
 107th Royal Horse Artillery
 12th Field Company, RE
 42nd Field Company, RE
 1st Cheshire (MG)
 5th Indian Brigade (less one RF)
 Attached
 Lines of Communications HQ
 "C" Coy, 1st Hampshire
 Force Troops
 25/26th Battery, 7th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery
 Corps Signals
In the Delta
 7th Armored Brigade
 8th Hussars
 1st Royal Tanks
 14th Infantry Brigade
 2nd King's Own Regiment
 1st South Staffordshire Regiment
 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment
 23rd Infantry Brigade
 1st Royal Sussex (detached 11/22/40 to 7th Indian
 Brigade)
 1st Durham Light Infantry
 2nd Black Watch
 1st Hampshire Regiment (less "C" Coy)
 4th Indian Division
 2 Indian Brigades
 Attached
 1st Field Regiment, RA
 4th Field Regiment, RA
 1st Royal Fusiliers (detached from 5th Indian Brigade)
 2nd Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
 3rd Royal Horse Artillery (detached to Western Desert)
 4th Royal Horse Artillery (detached to Western Desert)
 31st Field Regiment, RA
 7th Medium Regiment, less one battery
 New Zealand Division (less two infantry brigades)

Alexandria Sub-Area

9th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment
25th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, less two sections
26th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery
5th Anti-Aircraft Battery
20th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery
5th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery
3rd Coldstream Guards
1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

Cairo Sub-Area

2nd Scots Guards

Command Troops

HQ 19th Heavy Battery
X Heavy Battery
Y Heavy Battery
2nd Field Company, RE
45th Fortress Company, RE

GHQ Troops

HQ 8th Division Signals
512th A Field Survey Company, RE

Palestine and Trans-Jordan

HQ British Forces in Palestine & Trans-Jordan

1st Cavalry Division

4th Cavalry Brigade
Household Cavalry Regiment, Composite Regiment
Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, RAC
North Somerset Yeomanry, RAC

5th Cavalry Brigade
Yorkshire Dragoons
Yorkshire Hussars
Nottinghamshire Yeomanry

6th Cavalry Brigade
Cheshire Yeomanry
Staffordshire Yeomanry
Warwick Yeomanry

Divisional Troops

104th Royal Horse Artillery (arrived 2/20/40)
106th Royal Horse Artillery (arrived 2/20/40)

6th Austrian Division

16th Infantry Brigade
2nd Queens
2nd Leicesters
1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Jerusalem Area

Greys
1st Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

Command Troops

28th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery
17th Heavy Battery (coastal)
56th Field Company, RE

Palestine Command Signals
6th Division Signals
1st Buffs Infantry Regiment
Trans Jordan Frontier Force

In Cypres

OC Troops
1st Sherwood Foresters

In Sudan

25th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, less two sections
1st Worcestershire Regiment
1st Essex Regiment
2nd West Yorkshire
Sudan Defense Force

In Adem

5th Heavy Regiment (coastal)
9th Heavy Battery
15th (Singapore) AA Battery Hong Kong Singapore Light
Artillery
23rd (Singapore) AA Battery Hong Kong Singapore Light
Artillery
23rd Searchlight Regiment
20th Fortress Company, RE

East Africa

HQ East Africa Force
CD Battery
Colonial Divisions and Brigades

Somaliland

OC Somaliland Camel Corps
Somaliland Camel Corps

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

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