

British Forces
Battle of Sidi Rezeg
November 1941

8th Army: General Sir Claude Auchinleck

2nd South African Division: Major General I.P.de Villiers

Division Troops:

- 7th South African Reconnaissance Battalion (less det)
- 1st South African Field Regiment
- 2nd South African Field Regiment
- 5th South African Field Regiment
- South African Anti-Tank Regiment¹
- 2nd South African Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment
 - 5th Battery
 - 6th Battery

Die Middellandse Regiment (machinegun battalion)

3rd South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier C.E. Borain

- 1st Imperial Light Horse
- 1st Durban Light Infantry
- 1st Rand Light Infantry

4th South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier A.A. Hayton

- Umvoti Mounted Rifles
- 2nd Royal Durban Light Infantry
- Kaffrarian Rifles

6th South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier F.W. Cooper

- 2nd Transvaal Scottish
- 1st South African Police Battalion
- 2nd South African Police Battalion

Oasis Group: Brigadier D.W. Reid

Force E: Brigadier

- HQ 29th Indian Infantry Brigade (less rearward HQ dets)
- 7th South African Reconnaissance Battalion (less 1 co)
- 4th Field Battery, 2nd South African Field Regiment
- "C" Battery, 73rd Anti-Tank Regiment, RA (less 1 troop)
 - (4-18pdrs & 12-2pdrs)
- 6th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RA (less X Troop)
- 3/2nd Punjab Regiment (less carrier platoon)
- 6th South African Armored Car Regiment (less 1 sqn & a detachment)

Oasis Group (less Force E): Lt. Col. J.O. Knight²

- Det 6th South African Armored Car Regiment
- 2nd South African Field Regiment (less 4th Field Battery)

¹ Detached to 4th Indian Division, 12 November.

² Forces left behind when Force E set out for Jalo consisted of rearward HQs of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade, two battalions of infantry with anti-tank and anti-aircraft artillery and two battalions of dummy tanks with units listed.)

70th Division (Tobruk Fortress): Major General MacK. Scobie
(Ten batteries of field artillery, including some 60pdrs and some Italian 149mm and 105mm guns, and two medium batteries.)

- 4 anti-tank batteries
- 4 light anti-aircraft batteries
- 3 heavy anti-aircraft batteries
- 2 5.9" coastal defense batteries (Italian Guns)

32nd Army Tank Brigade: Brigadier A.C. Willison
(126 tanks - including 69 infantry tanks & 30 armored cars)

- 1st Royal Tanks
- 4th Royal Tanks
- 7th Royal Tanks

14th Infantry Brigade: Brigadier B.H. Chappel

- 1st Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
- 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment
- 2nd Black Watch
- 2/15th Australian Infantry Regiment
- 14th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Coy
- 7th Leicestershires

16th Infantry Brigade: Brigadier C.E.N. Lomax

- 2nd Liecesters
- 2nd Queens
- 2nd King's Own Royal Regiment
- 2/13th Australian Infantry Regiment
5-75mm & 2-60pdrs guns manned by infantry
- 16th Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Coy

23rd Infantry Brigade: Brigadier C.H.V. Cox

- 1st Essex
- 1st Durham Light Infantry
- 4th Border
- 23rd Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Coy

Polish Carpathian Brigade Group: Major General S. Kopanski

- 4 Infantry Battalions
- 2 Infantry Companies
- Ant-tank Company
- Machinegun Company

Matruh Fortress: Brigadier W.H.E. Poole

- 4th South African Field Regiment
- 23rd Hong Kong and Singapore Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery,
RA
- 5th South African Light Anti-Aircraft Battery
- Troop, 4th South African Light Anti-Aircraft Battery
- 204th Coast Battery, RA

2nd South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier W.H.E. Poole

- 1st Natal Mounted Rifles
- 1/2nd Field Force Battalion
- Cape Town Highlanders

Long Range Desert Group: Lt. Col. G.L. Prendergast

XIII Corps: Lieutenant General A.R. Godwin-Austen

Corps Troops:

Artillery:

2 medium regiments
1 anti-tank regiment (less 1 battery)
3 light anti-aircraft batteries
1 heavy anti-aircraft regiment
1 heavy artillery battery

4th Indian Division: Major General F.W.Messervy
Division Troops:

Central India Horse (less carrier sqn)
New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment
1st Field Regiment
25th Field Regiment
31st Field Regiment
65th Anti-Tank Regiment
1 unknown Battery, RA
1 light anti-aircraft regiment, RA
2nd South African Anti-Tank Regiment

5th Indian Infantry Brigade: Brigadier D.Russell

1st Buffs
3/16th Punjabs
4/6th Rajaput

7th Indian Infantry Brigade: Brigadier H.R.Britggs

1st Royal Sussex
4/11th Sikhs
4/16th Punjabs

11th Indian Infantry Brigade: Brigadier A.Anderson

2nd Cameronians
2nd Maraths
1/6th Rajput

1st Army Tank Brigade: Brigadier H.R.B.Watkins

8th Royal Tanks
"C" Squadron, 42nd Royal Tanks
44th Royal Tanks
Carrier Squadron, Central India horse
8th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
Troop light anti-aircraft

New Zealand Division: Major General B.C.freyberg

Division Troops:

3 field regiments
1 anti-tank regiment
1 anti-aircraft regiment
27th New Zealand Machinegun Battalion
28th (Maori) Battalion

4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade: Brigadier L.M.Inglis

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade: Brigadier J. Hargest

6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade: Brigadier H.E.Barrowclough

XXX Corps: Lieutenant General C.W.M.Norrie

Corps Troops:

HQ 6th South African Armored Car Regiment
122nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RA (1 troop)
1st South African Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RA
(2 troops)

7th Armored Division: Major General W.H.E.Gott

Division Troops:

Advanced HQ, 9 cruiser tanks

11t Hussars (armored cars)
 1st King's Dragoon Guards (armored cars)
 4th South African Armored Car Regiment
 Misc. troops of anti-tank and anti-aircraft artillery
7th Armored Brigade: Brigadier G.M.O.Davy
 HQ (5 cruiser tanks & 5 close support cruiser tanks)³
 7th Hussars (37 cruiser & 20 crusader tanks)
 2nd Royal Tanks (52 cruisers)
 6th Royal Tanks (49 crusaders)x
 4th Royal Horse Artillery (2 btrys, 16-25pdrs)
 102nd Royal Horse Artillery (Northumberland Hussars)
 (1 troop, anti-tank)
 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (1 btry,
 less 2 troops)
 "A" Co. 2nd Rifle Brigade
22nd Armored Brigade: Brigadier J.Scott-Cockburn
 HQ (8 crusader tanks)
 "C" Battery, 4th Royal Horse Artillery (8-25pdrs)
 102nd Royal Horse Artillery (Northumberland Hussars)
 (1 troop, anti-tank)
 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (1 btry,
 less 2 troops)
 3rd County of London Yeomanry (47 Crusaders & 4
 close support tanks)
 4th County of London Yeomanry (43 crusaders & 5
 close support tanks)
 2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (47 Crusaders & 4
 close support tanks)
 "B" Company, 1st Kings' Royal Rifle Corps
7th Support Group: Brigadier J.C.Campbell
 3rd Royal Horse Artillery (36-2pdrs AT guns)
 203rd Battery, 51st Field Regiment, RA (12-25pdrs)
 60th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 12th Battery & troop, 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Regt
 1st King's Royal Rifle Corps (less "B" Co.)
 2nd Rifle Brigade (less "A" Co.)
4th Armored Brigade Group: Brigadier A.H.Gatehouse
 HQ (10 M.3 tanks)
 8th Hussars (50 M.3 tanks)
 3rd Royal Tanks (52 M.3 Tanks)
 5th Royal Tanks (52 M.3 Tanks)
 2nd Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment, RHA (Northumberland Hussars)
 less 1 btry)
 122nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RA (less 1 troop)
 2nd Scots Guards
22nd Guards Brigade: Brigadier J.C.) .marriott
 Squadron, 6th South African Armored Car Regiment
 (less 1 troop)
 51st Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs) (less 1 btry)
 73rd Anti-Tank Regiment, RA (12-18pdrs & 36-2pdrs)

³ Close support tanks had one 3.7" howitzer and 3 .303 Vickers machineguns.

(less "C" Btry)
 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (1 btry, less
 2 troops)
 3rd Coldstream Guards
 9th Rifle Brigade
 12th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, RA (army troops under
 the command of the 22nd Guards Brigade)

1st South African Division: Major General G.E.Brink
Division Troops:
 3rd South African Reconnaissance Battalion
 3rd South African Field Regiment (THA) (24-25pdrs)
 7th South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
 7th Medium Regiment, RA (2-4.5" batteries)
 1st South African Anti-Tank Regiment (16-18pdrs &
 48-2pdrs)
 1st South African Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment
 (less 2 troops) (36 guns)
 Regiment President Steyn (machinegun battalion)
 (less 1st & 3rd Cos)

1st South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier D.H.Pienaar
 1st Royal Natal Carabineirs
 1st Transvaal Scottish
 1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
 1st Company, Regiment President Steyn (machinegun co)

5th South African Infantry Brigade: Brigadier B.F.Armstrong
 1st South African Irish
 2nd Regiment Botha
 3rd Transvaal Scottish
 3rd Company, Regiment President Steyn (machinegun co)

Agar-Hamilton, J.A.I. & Turner, L.C.F., The Sidi Rezeg Battles 1941, Oxford, University Press, London/New York, 1957.

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

Copyright GFN 1991.