

Royal Airforce, Middle East Command
11 November 1941

HQ, RAF, ME (Cairo)

Nos 2 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (HELIOPOLIS)¹
L.R. Hurricane I/Beaufighter IPR
267 (Transport) Squadron Loadstars/Audaxs/Proctors

No. 201 Naval Cooperation Group: (HQ at Alexandria)

No. 2 (Recon) Squadron (Yugoslav) (ABOUKIR)
D.O.22
No. (General Recon/Torpedo bomber) (Hellenic) Squadron (DEKHEILA)
Ansons/Fulmers
No. 272 (Recon/Fighter) (IDKU) (detachment with W.D.A.F.)
Beaufighter IC
Sea Rescue Flight - Wellington IC
Advanced Reconnaissance Base at Fuka (became No. 201 Group on
7 Dec 1941 & NO. 235 Wing on 15 Jan 1942.
No. 39 (Recon/Torpedo Bomber) Squadron (MARYUT - Alexandria) -
Beauforts/Marylands (less detachment with W.D.A.F.)
No. 203 (Recon) Squadron (BURG EL ARAB) - Blenheim IV
(less detachment with W.D.A.F.)
No. 230 (Recon) Squadron (KASFAREET) - Sunderlands

No. 202 Group: (HQ at Cairo) (Became A.H.Q., Egypt, on 12/1/41)

No. 117 (Bomber/Transport) Squadron (BILBEIS) - Wellesleys
(less detachment with W.D.A.F.)
No. 216 (Bomber/Transport) Squadron (KHANKA) - Bombays
(less detachment with W.D.A.F.)
No. 223 (Training) Squadron (SHANDUR) - Marylands
No. 73 (Fighter) Squadron (PORT SAID) - Hurricanes (less det
to 230 Wing)
No. 1 (Recon) Squadron (ISMAILIA) - Wellington I/IC

No. 252 Wing (HQ at Alexandria)

No. 73 (Fighter) Squadron (AMIRIYA) - Hurricane I
(det from Port Said)
No. 213 (Fighter) Squadron (MATARIYA - Helipolis) - Hurricane I
(det from Cyprus)

No. 203 Group (HQ at Khartoum)

No. 6 (Recon) Squadron (WADI HALFA, KUFRA) - Gladiators,
Hurricane I, Blenheim IV/ Lysanders
Det. No. 6 (Light Bomber) Squadron (ASMARA) - Wellesleys

No. 205 Group: (HQ at Shallufa)

Nos. 37 & 38 (Med. Bomber) Squadrons (SHALUFA) - Wellington IC
Nos. 70 & 148 (Med. Bomber) Squadrons (KABRIT) - Wellington IC
Nos. 108 (Med. Bomber) Squadron (FAYID) - Wellington IC

HQ, RAF IN PALESTINE & TRANS JORDAN (Jersulem) (became AHQ Levant
on 12/11/41)

No. 263 Wing (HQ in Beirut)
No. 335 (Fighter) Squadron (Hellenic) (AQIR Lebanon)
- Hurricane I
Free French (RAYAK - Lebanon) - Morane 406

¹ Name in in capital letters and parenthesis is the location of the unit.

Free French (DAMASCUS - Syria) - Blenheim IV)
Free French Com. Flt. (BEIRUT) - various a/c
No. 259 Wing (HQ at NICOSIA)
No. 213 (Fighter) Squadron (NICOSIA) - Hurricane I
(less detachment with No. 202 Group.)
No. 815 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron (F.A.A.) (LAKATAMIA
- Cyprus) - Albacores/Swordfish

A.H.Q. ADEN (became HQ British Forces, ADEN, on 4/14/42)

No. 8 (Light Bomber) Squadron (ADEN) - Blenheim I/IV/Vincent
(less detachment with W.D.A.F.)

A.H.Q. IRAQ (HABRANIYA)

No. 52 (Recon) Squadron (HABRANIYA) - Audaxs
No. 244 (Light Bomber) Squadron (SHAIBAH) - Vincents
No. 261 (Fighter) Squadron (MOSUL) - Hurricane I

A.H.Q. EAST AFRICA (NIROBI) (Became No. 207 Group on 12/15/41)

No. 3 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (AISCIA - Ethiopia) - Mohawks
No. 41 (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (GILGIL - Kenya)
- Hartbeests

No. 34 (SAAF) (Recon) Flt (PORT REITZ - Kenya) - Anson
No. 35 (SAAF) (Recon) Flt (NAIROBI - Kenya) - Junkers Ju 86

H.Q., R.A.F. MEDITERRANEAN (VALETTA): Became A.H.Q. MALTA in
December 1941)

No. 18, 107 (Light Bomber) Squadrons (LUQA) - Blenheim IV
No. 40, 104 (Medium Bomber) Squadrons (LUQA) - Wellington IC
No. 69 (Recon) Squadron (LUQA) - Marylands
No. 126, 149 (Fighter) Squadrons (TAKALI) - Hurricane IIA/B
No. 185 (Fighter) Squadron (HAL FAR) - Hurricane I/IIA/B/C
No. 828 (Torpedo) Squadron (HAL FAR) - Swordfish/Albacore
No. 830 (Torpedo) Squadron (HAL FAR) - Swordfish/Albacore

A.H.Q., Western Desert (Adv. H.Q. at Bir Khamsa; Rear H.Q. at Maaten
Baggush)

No. 1 (RAAF) (Ambulance) Squadron (FUKA) - D.H. 86
No. 6 (SAAF) (Recon) Flight (FUKA) - Marylands
No. 1437 (Recon) Flight (FUKA) - Marylands
No. 39 (Torpedo Bomber/Recon) Squadron (FUKA)
- Beaufort I/Marylands (Det from 201 Group)
No. 203 (Recon) Squadron (FUKA)²
- Beaufort I/Marylands (Det from 201 Group)
No. 31 (Transport) Squadron³ (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - DC-2
(det from Lahore India)
No. 117 (Transport) Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - DC-2
(Det from No. 202 Group)
No. 216 (Bomber Transport) Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Bombays
(Det from No. 202 Group)
Comm. Flt. No. 826 (FAA) (Torpedo) Squadron⁴ (MAATEN BAGGUSH) -

² No. 39 and 203 Squadrons employed on Crusader as general reconnaissance within range of desert flank.

³ The detachments from No. 31 and 117 Squadrons formed a single operational squadron.

⁴ No. 826 Squadron employed in Crusader on night reconnaissance and bombing in the forward area.

Various; Swordfish/Albacores)

No. 33 (Fighter) Squadron (JARABUB) - L.R. Hurricane I

No. 113 (Fighter) Squadron (JARABUB) - Blehneim IV F

No. 272 (Fighter) Squadron (GERAWLA) - Beaufighter IC
(Det from NO. 201 Group)

NO. 253 (A.C.) WING (HQ at GHOT WAHAS) (Absorbed by A.H.Q.
Western Desert later in November 1941)

No. 208; 451 (RAAF) (Recon) Squadrons (SIDI BARRANI) Hurricane I

No. 237 (Rhodesian) (Fighter) Squadron (GERAWLA) - Hurricane I

No. 258 Wing: (HQ at Bir Khamsa)⁵

No. 1 (SAAF); 94 (Fighter) Squadrons (MAATEN BAGGUSH)
- Hurricane IIA/B; I

No. 2 (SAAF) & 3 (RAAF) (Fighter) Squadrons (SIDI HANEISH)
- Tomahawks

No. 238 (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH)
- Hurricane IIA/B

No. 274 (Fighter) Squadron (FUKA) - Hurricane IIA/B

No. 262 Wing (HQ at SIDI HANEISH)

No. 4 (SAAF) (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Tomahawks

No. 112 (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Tomahawks

No. 250 (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Tomahawks

No. 229 (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Hurricane IIA/B

No. 80 (Fighter) Squadron (FUKA) - Hurricane I⁶

No. 260 (Fighter) Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Hurricane I

No. 269 Wing: (HQ at SIDI HANEISH)

No. 30 (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Hurricane I/II/A/B

RN(F) (FAA) (Fighter) Squadron (SIDI HANEISH) - Hurricane I

No. 3 (SAAF) Wing (HQ at MAATEN BAGGUSH)

No. 11 (Light Bomber Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Blenheim IV

No. 12 (SAAF) (Light Bomber Squadron (El DABA) - Marylands

No. 21 (SAAF) (Light Bomber Squadron (Qotafiya - Marylands

No. 24 (SAAF) (Light Bomber Squadron (FUKA) - Boston III⁷

No. 270 Wing: (HQ at FUKA)

No. 8 (Light Bomber Squadron (FUKA) - Blenheim IV
(one flight Det from ADen)

No. 45 (Light Bomber Squadron (FUKA) - Blenheim IV

No. 55 (Light Bomber Squadron (FUKA) - Blenheim IV⁸

⁵ Shortly before Crusader, the fighter wings were reorganized so that No. 262 Wing became entirely composed of Hurricane squadrons (Nos. 1 SAAF), 94, 299, 238, 260, and 274) and No. 258 Wing had Tomahawk Squadrons (Nos. 2 (SAAF), 3 (RAAF), R\$ (SAAF), 112 and 250), together with the Hurricanes of the RN(F) Squadron, Nos. 30 and 80 squadrons came directly under A.H.Q. Western Desert and H.Q. No. 269 Wing eventually came under the control of No. 201 Group as HQ No. 234 Wing. Both Nos. 262 and 258 Fighter Wings were then concentrated in Bir Khamsa area on the eve of the offensive.

⁶ No. 80 Squadron began operations on 11/20/41.

⁷ The 24th (SAAF) Sqn was employed as a reconnaissance unit until December 1941.

⁸ No. 55 Squadron available to WDAF for short time only.

No. 14 (Light Bomber Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Blenheim IV
No. 84 (Light Bomber Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Blenheim IV
Lorraine (Free French) (ABU SUEIR) - Blenheim IV

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, London, 1960.

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