## British Forces Operation Crusader 18 November 1941

8th Army: General Sir Claude Auchinleck 2nd South African Division: Major General I.P.de Viliers 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 Regiment<sup>1</sup> 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 Durbam 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: HQ 29th Indian Infantry Brigde (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.Knight<sup>2</sup> Det 6th South African Armored Car Regiment 2nd South African Field Regiment (less 4th Field Battery)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Detached to 4th Indian Division, 12 November.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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) <u>32nd Army Tank Brigade:</u> Brigdier A.C.Willison (126 tanks - including 69 infantry tanks & 30 armored cars) 1st Royal Tanks 4th Royal Tanks (Mk II Tanks) 7th Royal Tanks (Mk II 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 <u>23rd Infantry Brigade</u>: 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 1st Polish Infantry Battalion 2nd Polish Infantry Battalion 3rd Polish Infantry Battalion 1st Polish Cavalry Group Czechoslovakian Infantry Battalion 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

organization unknown

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 CavalryRegiment 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 (M II Matilda Tanks) "C" Squadron, 42nd Royal Tanks (M III Valentine Tanks) 44th Royal Tanks (M III Valentine Tanks) Carrier Squadron, Central India horse 8th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs) Troop light anti-aircraft 2nd New Zealand Division: Major General Freyberg Divisional Troops: 2nd (mot) Cavalry Regiment 28th (mot) Maori Infantry Battalion 32nd (mot) Wellington Infantry Battalion 27th Motor Machine Gun Battalion <u>4th New Zealand Brigade</u>: Brigadier E. Pittick 18th Auckland Battalion 19th Wellington Battalion 20th New Zealand Battalion 5th New Zealand Brigade: Brigadier J. Hargest 21st New Zealand Battalion 22nd New Zealand Battalion 23rd New Zealand Battalion 6th New Zealand Brigade 24th Auckland Battalion 25th New Zealand Battalion

26th New Zealand Battalion Artillery: Brigadier R. Miles 7th Anti-Tank Regiment 14th A/A New Zealand Royal Artillery, NZRA 5th Field Artillery Regiment, NZRA 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 GeneralW.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 anit-tank and anti-aircraft artillery 7th Armored Brigade: Brigadier G.M.O.Davy HQ (5 cruiser tanks & 5 close support cruiser tanks)<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Close support tanks had one 3.7" howitzer and 3.303 Vickers machineguns.

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 Sqnadron, 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) (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) <u>1st South African Division</u>: 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 Stevn (machinegun battalion) (less 1st & 3rd Cos) <u>1st South African Infantry Brigade</u>: 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)

Italy, <u>Seconda Offensiva Britannico in Africa Settentrionale</u>,

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Joslen, Lt. Col. H.F., <u>Orders of Battle, Second World War, 1939–1945</u>, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1960.

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