

British Western Desert Air Force
26 May 1942

A.H.O. Western Desert (Advance HQ at Gambut,

Rear HQ at Maaten Baggush)

No. 1 (RAAF) Air Ambulance Unit (GERAWLA)¹ - DH86/86B

No. Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (GAMBUT) -
Spitfire VB

No. 15 (SAAF) Squadron (Fighter/Recon) Squadron (AMIRIYA)
- Blenheim IVF

Det. No. 15 (SAAF) Squadron (Fighter/Recon) Squadron (KUFRA)
- Blenheim IVF

No. 40 (SAAF) (Recon) Squadron (EL ADEM)
- Hurricane I/Tomahawk

No. 208 (Recon) Squadron (EL ADEM) - Hurricane I/Tomahawks

No. 60 (SAAF) (Recon) Squadron (SIDI BARRANI) - Marylands

No. 1437 (Recon) Flight (MAKTILA) - Marylands/Baltimores

Communications Flight (MAATEN BAGGUSH) - Various a/c

No. 3 SAAF Wing: HQ at BAHEIRA)

No. 12 (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (BAHEIRA) - Boston III

No. 24 (SAAF) (Light Bomber) Squadron (BAHEIRA)
- Baltimore I

No. 223 (Light Bomber) Squadron (BAHEIRA) - Baltimore I

No. 2 Group: (HQ at EL ADEM)

No. 223 Wing: (HQ at GAMBUT)

No. 4 (SAAF) (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Tomahawks

No. 5 (SAAF) (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Tomahawks

No. 2 (SAAF) (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Kittyhawk I

No. 239 Wing: (HW at GAMBUT)

No. 3 (RAAF) (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Kittyhawk I

No. 112 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Kittyhawk I

No. 250 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Kittyhawk I

No. 450 (RAAF) (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Kittyhawk I

No. 243 Wing: (HQ at GAMBUT)

No. 33 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Hurricane IIA/B

No. 274 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Hurricane IIA/B

No. 80 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Hurricane C

No. 145 (fighter) Squadron (GAMBUT) - Spitfire VB²

No. 73 (night fighter) Squadron (EL ADEM) - Hurricane IIA/B

Available to Reinforce WDAF, but not under its control:

No. 205 Group (HQ at ISMAILIA)

No. 37 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (EL DABA) - Wellington IC

No. 70 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (EL DABA) - Wellington IC

No. 108 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (EL DABA) - Wellington IC³

¹ Name in capitals and parenthesis is the unit's location.

² No. 145 Squadron began operations on 1 June 1942.

³ No. 108 also had Liberator II aircraft, which were not available for tactical operations.

No. 236 Wing: (HQ at EL DABA)

No. 104 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (EL DABA)
- Wellington II/IC (less det in Malta)

No. 238 Wing: (HQ at SHALOLUFA)

No. 38 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (MAATEN BAGGUSH)
- Wellington IC

No. 40 (Medium Bomber) Squadron (SHALLUFA)
- Wellington IC

Squadrons of No. 201 (NC) Group (HQ at ALEXANDRIA)

No. 242 (Fighter) Squadron (QASABA) - Beaufighter IC

No. 272 (Fighter) Squadron (QASABA) - Beaufighter IC

No. 821 (FAA) (Torpedo) Squadron⁴ (MATTEN BAGGUSH)
- Albacores

No. 826 (FAA) (Torpedo) Squadron (MATTEN BAGGUSH)
- Albacores

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, 1960

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⁴ Nos. 821 and 826 were employed on night reconnaissance and bombing in forward area when supporting operations in the desert.