

British Forces
Battle of El Alamein
23 October 1942

8th Army: Lieutenant General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery

Army Troops

Directly Under Command

1st Army Tank Brigade:¹ Brigadier G.N.Todd

42nd Royal Tanks

44th Royal Tanks

1st Armored Brigade²

Details 4th Hussars

Details 8th Hussars

2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars

12th AA Brigade³

14th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

16th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

27th Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

88th Heavy AA Regiment, RA - 16 3.7" AA

94th Heavy AA Regiment, RA - 16 3.7" AA

2 Troops, 27th Searchlight Regiment, RA

2nd AA Brigade⁴

2nd Light AA Regiment, RA - 48 Bofors

199th and 261st Batteries, 69th Heavy AA Regiment,

RA - 16 3.7" AA

21st Indian Infantry Brigade⁵

1/6th Raj Rif

3/7th Rajput

2/8th Gurkha Rifles (less one coy)

9th Indian Field Company, IE

29th Indian Field Ambulance

Army Troops

"B" Sqn, 6th Royal Tanks (HQ Protection)

Tank Delivery Regiment

1 Troop, 6th South African Armored C Regiment

(HQ Protection)

566th & 588th African Troops Companies

1 Camouflage Company

8th Army Signals

¹ This brigade was formed with four troops of 3 "Scorpions" each (3 officers and 25 men per troop).

² A holding unit for the 4th and 8th Hussars reforming and with the 2nd Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

³ For 8th Army protection.

⁴ Assigned to headquarters and railway protection.

⁵ Reforming and used for HQ protection, camouflage and guard duties.

1 Squadron, SAS Regiment
4th Light Field Ambulance
200th Field Ambulance
3rd Libyan Arab Force (Guard duties)

X Corps: Lieutenant General Sir H. Lumsden

1st Armored Division: Major General R. Briggs

2nd Armored Brigade (2 Armored Cars)

Bays
9th Lancers
10th Hussars
Yorkshire Dragoons (Motor Bn)
1 Grant Tank
92 Shermans Tanks
68 Crusader Tanks

7th Motor Brigade

2nd Rifle Brigade
7th Rifle Brigade
2nd Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Divisional Troops

HQ 1st Armored Division (8 Crusaders & 6
Armored Cars)
12th Lancer Regiment (55 Armored Cars)
2nd Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
4th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
11th Royal Horse Artillery (Self Propelled)
(24-105mm)
78th Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
76th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
42nd Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
1st & 7th Squadrons, RE
1st Field Park Squadron
572nd African Field Coy (attached)
9th Field Squadron
1st Armored Division Signals
X Company
Z Company
1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)⁶
1st Light Field Ambulance
15th Light Field Ambulance

Hammerforce

Bays, 1 troop
9th Lancers, 1 troop
10th Hussars, 1 troop
7th Field Squadron, RE
9th Field Squadron, RE
572nd A Field Company, RE
2nd Rifle Brigade, less 1 support company

Attached

4/6th South African Armored Car Regiment
(55 Armored Cars)
146th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)

⁶ X Coy with 2nd Armored Brigade, Y Coy with Hammerforce.

73rd Anti-Tank Regiment⁷ (48 6pdrs)
 6th Light AA Regiment, RA (48 Bofors)
8th Armored Division: Major General G.H.Gairdner
 24th Armored Brigade (transferred to 10th Armored Div)
 Hammerforce (transferred to 1st Armored Div)
 Other
 145th Field Park Squadron, RE (X Corps Reserve)
 8th Armored Division Signals
 HQ 1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)
10th Armored Division: Major General A.H.Gatehouse
 Divisional Troops
 HQ 10th Armored Brigade (7 Crusader Tanks)
 Royal Armored Car Regiment (46 Armored Cars)
 1st Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 104th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
 98th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 5th Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)⁸
 84th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
 53rd Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
 2nd Field Squadron, RE
 3rd Field Squadron, RE
 141st Field Park Squadron, RE
 6th Field Squadron, RE
 571st & 573rd African Field Companies
 10th Armored Division Signals
 3rd Light Field Ambulance
 8th Light Field Ambulance
 168th Light Field Ambulance
8th Armored Brigade
 3rd Royal Tanks (57 Grant Tanks)
 Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (31 Sherman Tanks)
 Staffordshire Yeomanry (45 Crusaders Tanks)
 1st Buffs
24th Armored Brigade
 41st Royal Tanks
 45th Royal Tanks
 47th Royal Tanks
 2 Grant Tanks
 93 Sherman Tanks
 45 Crusaders Tanks
133rd Lorried Indian Brigade⁹
 2nd Royal Sussex
 4th Royal Sussex

⁷ One battery with 24th Armored Brigade, two troops guarding Corps HQ.

⁸ Attached less three troops (12 - 25pdrs) with 1st South African Division and three troops with 2nd New Zealand Division.

⁹ Attached from 44th Infantry Division, this brigade had under command a minefield task force composed of: Command CRE 10th Armored Division; 3rd Field Squadron, RE; 571st & 573rd African Field Companies, RE; and Det 141st Field Park Squadron, RE.

5th Royal Sussex
"W" Coy, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers (MG)

Corps Troops

HQ X Corps (2 Grant Tanks)
570th corps Field Park Coy
X Corps Signals
12th & 151st Light Field Ambulances.

XIII Corps: Lieutenant General Sir B.G.Horrocks

7th Armored Division: Major General A.F.Harding

4th Light Armored Brigade (9 Armored Cars)

4/8th Hussars (48 Stuart Tanks)
Greys (14 Grants & 19 Stuarts)
1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps

22nd Armored Brigade (4 Crusader Tanks)

1st Royal Tanks (24 Grants, 19 Stuarts)
5th Royal Tanks (24 Grants, 18 Stuarts)
4th County of London Yeomanry (9 Grants,
28 Crusaders)
1st Rifle Brigade

Division Troops

HQ 7th Armored Division (7 Crusaders &
5 Armd Cars)
Household Cavalry Regiment (53 Armored Cars)
11th Hussars (61 Armored Cars)
2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry (50 Armored Cars)
44th Reconnaissance Regiment
3rd Royal Horse Artillery (24-25pdrs)
4th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
97th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
65th Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
15th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
4th & 21st Field Squadrons, RE
143rd Field Park Squadron, RE
7th Armored Division Signals
2nd & 14th Light Field Ambulances

50th Infantry Division: Major General J.S.Nichols

69th Infantry Brigade

5th East Yorkshire
6th Green Howards
7th Green Howards

151st Infantry Brigade

6th Durham Light Infantry
8th Durham Light Infantry
9th Durham Light Infantry

1st Greek Infantry Brigade

1st Greek Battalion
2nd Greek Battalion
3rd Greek Battalion
1st Greek Field Artillery Regt (24-25pdrs)
1st Greek Field Company Engineers
1st Greek Machine Gun Company
1st Greek Field Ambulance

Division Troops

HQ 50th Infantry Division
74th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)

111th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 124th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
 154th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
 34th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
 233rd & 505th Field Companies, RE
 235th Field Park Company, Re
 50th Division Signals
 Tac Battalion HQ & 2 Coys
 2nd Cheshire (MG)
 186th & 149th Field Ambulances
44th Infantry Division: Major General I.T.P.Hughes
131st Infantry Brigade
 1/5th Queens
 1/6th Queens
 1/7th Queens
132nd Infantry Brigade
 2nd Buffs
 4th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment
 5th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment
133rd Infantry Brigade (detached to X Corps)
 Division Troops
 HQ 44th Infantry Division
 57th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 58th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 65th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 53rd Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
 57th Anti-Tank Regiment (48-6pdrs & 16-2pdrs)
 30th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
 11th Field Company, RE
 209th Field Company, RE
 210th Field Company, RE
 44th Division Signals
 6th Cheshire (MG)
 131st Field Ambulance
 132nd Field Ambulance
1st Free French Group (attached to 7th Armored Div)
 1st Battalion, Foreign Legion
 2nd Battalion, Foreign Legion
 3rd Battalion, Infanterie Marine Pacifique
 1st Free French Artillery (16-25pdrs & 4-5.5")
 2nd AA Company, 1st Fusiliers Marine (12 Bofors)
 2nd Free French Anti-Tank Company (16-6pdrs)
 22nd North African Anti-Tank Company (2-75mm)
 1st Free French Field Company Engineers
 3rd Field Regiment, RA (16-25pds)
Under command
 1st Free French Flying Column
 Armored Car Squadron, 1st Marocco Spahis
 1st Free French Tan Company
 Portée Troop 1st Marocco Spahis, with
 (4-75mm AT & 1-50mm AT guns)
 AA Troop 1st Battalion Foreign Legion
2nd Free French Group (attached to 50th Infantry Div).
 5th Bataillon de Marche

11th Bataillon de Marche
21st North African Anti-Tank Company (12-75mm)
23rd North African Anti-Tank Company (4-75mm)
2nd Free French Company Engineers
2nd Free French Field Ambulance

Corps Troops

HQ XIII Corps (13 Armored Cars)
XIII Corps Signals
Troop 4/6th South African Armored Car Regiment
118th Royal Tanks (dummy tanks)
124th Royal Tanks (dummy tanks)
HQ & 1 Coy Battery, 4th Survey Regiment
578th African Field Company, RE
576th Corps Field Park Company

XXX Corps: Lieutenant General Sir. O. Leese

4th Indian Division: Major General F.I.S. Tucker

5th Indian Infantry Brigade

1/4th Essex
4/6th Raj Rif
3/10th Baluch

7th Indian Infantry Brigade

1st Royal Sussex
4/16th Punjab
1/2nd Gurkha Rifles

161st Indian Infantry Brigade

1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
1/1st Punjab
4/7th Rajput

Divisional troops

HQ 4th Indian Division
1st Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
11th Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
32nd Field Regiment, RA (16-25pdrs)
149th Anti-Tank Regiment (54-6pdrs & 10-2pdrs)
57th Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
2nd Field Company, RE
4th Field Company, RE
12th Field Company, RE
11th Field Park Company
4th Indian Division Signals
6th Raj Rif (MG)
17th Indian Field Ambulance
26th Indian Field Ambulance
75th Light Indian Field Ambulance

51st (Home) Infantry Division: Major General D.N. Wimberley

152nd Infantry Brigade

2nd Seaforth Highlanders
5th Seaforth Highlanders
5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

153rd Infantry Brigade

5th Black Watch
1st Gordon Highlanders
5/7th Gordon Highlanders

154th Infantry Brigade

1st Black Watch
7th Black Watch
7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Division Troops

126th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
127th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
128th Field Regiment, RA (24-25pdrs)
61st Anti-Tank Regiment, RA (48-6pdrs & 16-2pdrs)
40th Light AA Regiment, RA (48 Bofors)
274th Field Company, RE
275th Field Company, RE
276th Field Company, RE
51st (Home) Division Signals
1/7th Middlesex (MG)
51st Reconnaissance Regiment
174th Field Ambulance
175th Field Ambulance
176th Field Ambulance

Attached

50th Royal Tanks (44 Valentine Tanks)
3rd Troop, 395th African Field Company, RE

9th Austrian Division: Lieutenant General Sir L.Morshead

20th Infantry Brigade

2/13th Australian Battalion
2/15th Australian Battalion
2/17th Australian Battalion

24th Infantry Brigade

2/28th Australian Battalion
2/32nd Australian Battalion
2/43rd Australian Battalion

26th Infantry Brigade

2/23rd Australian Battalion
2/24th Australian Battalion
2/48th Australian Battalion

Division Troops

HQ 9th Australian Division
9th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment
2/7th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
2/8th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
2/12th Australian Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
3rd Australian Anti-Tank Regiment (64-6pdrs)
4th Australian Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
2/3rd Australian Engineering Field Company
2/7th Australian Engineering Field Company
2/13th Australian Engineering Field Company
9th Australian Division Signals
2/2nd Australian Battalion (MG)
2/3rd Australilan Field Ambulance
2/8th Australilan Field Ambulance
2/11th Australilan Field Ambulance
40th Royal Tanks (42 Valentine Tanks)
1st & 3rd Sections, 66th Mortar Company, Re (12-4.2")

2nd New Zealand Division: Lieutenant Genera. Sir

B.C.Freyberg

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

21st New Zealand Battalion
22nd New Zealand Battalion
23rd New Zealand Battalion
6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade
24th New Zealand Battalion
25th New Zealand Battalion
26th New Zealand Battalion
9th Armored Brigade (1 Sherman & 3 Crusaders)
3rd Hussars (9 Grants, 12 Shermans, 16 Crusaders)
Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (14 Grants, 10 Shermans,
13 Crusaders)
Warwickshire Yeomanry (14 Grants, 13 Shermans,
17 Crusaders)

Division Troops

HQ 2nd New Zealand Division
2nd New Zealand Signals
4th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
5th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
6th New Zealand Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
7th New Zealand Anti-Tank Regiment (59-6pdrs)
14th New Zealand Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
6th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
7th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
8th New Zealand Engineering Field Company
27th New Zealand Battalion (MG)
5th New Zealand Field Ambulance
6th New Zealand Field Ambulance
166th Light Field Ambulance

1st South African Division: Major General D.H.Pienaar

1st South African Infantry Brigade

1st Royal Natal Carabiniers
1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
1st Transvall Scottish

2nd South African Infantry Brigade

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

3rd South African Infantry Brigade

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

Division Troops

HQ 1st South African Division
South African Division Signals
1st South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
4th South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
7th South African Field Regiment (24-25pdrs)
1st South African Anti-Tank Regiment (48-6pdrs
and 16-2pdrs, 3-18pdrs & 6-50mm)
1st South African Light AA Regiment (48 Bofors)
1st South African Engineering Field Company
2nd South African Engineering Field Company
3rd South African Engineering Field Company
5th South African Engineering Field Company
19th South African Engineering Field Park

Regiment President Steyn (MG)
1 Coy, Die Middelandse Regiment (MG)
12th South African Field Ambulance
15th South African Field Ambulance
18th South African Field Ambulance

Attached

8th Royal Tanks (51 Valentines)
1st South African Reserve Group¹⁰
 8th Royal Tanks
 3rd South African Armoured Car Regiment,
 (less two squadrons)
 1 South African Anti-Tank Battery
 1 South African Light AA Troop
 1 Troop "Scorpions"
 2nd Regiment Botha, from 1st SA Inf. Bde.

23rd Armored Brigade Group (In Corps Reserve)

8th Royal Tanks (to 1st SA Division)
40th Royal Tanks (to 9th Australian Division)
46th Royal Tanks (49 Valentines)
50th Royal Tanks (to 50th (Home) Division)
121st Field (Self Propelled) Regiment, RA
 (16-25pdrs)
158th Battery, 56th LAA Regiment, RA
295th African Field Company, RE
7th Light Field Ambulance

Corps Troops

HQ XXX Corps
XXX Corps Signals
4/6th South African Armoured Car Regiment (3 troops)
7th Medium Regiment (8-4.5" & 8-5.5")
64th Medium Regiment (8-4.5" & 8-5.5")
69th Medium Regiment (16-4.5")
1 Comp. Battery, 4th Survey Regiment
HQ & 2nd Section, 66th Mortar Company, RE¹¹
 (6-4.2")

Equipment

Tanks

Grant Tanks	246
Sherman Tanks	286
Crusader Tanks	421
Stuart Tanks	167
Valentines	223
Matildas	6

Of the 1,348, 1,136 were reported fit for action on 23 October.

Armored Cars

¹⁰Formed 10/23/42, dissolved 10/31/42.

¹¹ The company was equipped with 18 4.2" mortars, but two sections were detached to the 9th Australian Division.

Humber	188
Daimler	96
Marmon-Harrington	212
AEC	4

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

Copyright GFN 1992