

## MIDDLE EAST COMMANDO

## WAR ESTABLISHMENT

## (i) Summary of ranks

Details	Lieutenant - colonel	Majors	Captains	Subalterns	Medical Officers	Warrant officers class I	Warrant officers class II	Staff – serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Privates	Total Middle East Commando
(A) Headquarters; headquarters squadron instructional and transport wings, 4 squadrons	1	5	7	25		1	5	5	32	34	241	456
(B) Three foreign squadrons			3					3			3	9
(C) Holding depot squadron		6	30	10		2	4	4	12	12	20	100
(D) Special boat section		1	4	7				1	6	14	23	56
(E) Attached personnel					1				2		8	11
Total, Middle East commando (including attached)	1	12	44	42	1	3	9	13	52	60	395	632

This establishment supersedes W.Es. Nos. VI/19A/3, VI/98A/1 and VI/237/1 in War Establishments, Volume VI

## (ii) Personnel

## (A) Headquarters, headquarters squadron instructional and transport wings, 4 squadrons

Unit	Headquarters	4 Squadrons (each)							Total, headquarters squadron instructional and transport wings
		Squadron headquarters	3 troops (each)					Total, squadron	
			Troop headquarters	1 section	1 section	1 section	Total, troop		
Officer commanding (lieutenant - colonel)	1								1
Second in command (major)	1								1
Majors		1						1	4
Adjutant (captain)	1								1
Instructor and sports officer (captain)	1								1
Captains		1						1	4
Quarter - master	1								1
Administrative officer (P.M.V, P.R.I. messing ) (subal- tern)	1								1
Subalterns			1	1			2	6	24
Total, officers	6	2	1	1			2	8	38
Regimental serjeant - major	1								1
Regimental quarter - master - serjeant	1								1
Warrant officers, class II		1						1	4
Total, warrant officers	2	1						1	6
Orderly room colour serjeant	1								1

Unit	Headquarters	4 Squadrons (each)							Total, headquarters squadron instructional and transport wings
		Squadron headquarters	3 troops (each)					Total, squadron	
			Troop headquarters	1 section	1 section	1 section	Total, troop		
Colour serjeants		1						1	4
Clerk for pay duties (serjeant)	1								1
Police serjeant	1								1
Transport serjeant	1								1
Instructors (serjeants)	2								2
Weapons training instructor (also W/T storeman) (serjeant)	1								1
Assitant demolitions instructor (also demolitions store- man) (serjeant)	1								1
Serjeants			1		1		2	6	24
Serjeant cook	1								1
Total, staff - serjeants and serjeants	9	1	1		1		2	7	37
Officers' mess corporal	1								1
Serjeants' mess corporal	1								1
Rations corporal	1								1
M.T. corporal ( for 2 mobile squadrons)	2								2
Corporal butcher	1								1
Orderly room clerk (corporal)	1								1
Post corporal	1								1
Sanitary duties (corporal)	1								1
Corporal (cookhouse duties)	1								1
Corporals				1		1	2	6	24
Cooks (rank and file	2								2
Cooks for									
Officers' mess	1								1
Serjeants' mess	1								1
Mess servants for									
Officers' mess	2								2
Serjeants' mess	2								2
Police	3								3
Storeman	1								1
Sanitary duties	3								3
Clerks	2								2
Pioneer	1								1
Drivers I.C. (includes 4 driver mechanics)	35								35
Motor mechanics	2								2
Batmen (may be civilian)	5								5
Medical officers orderly (lance corporal)	2								2
Fitters	7								7
General duties		2	5	5	6	6	22	68	(a)272
Total, rank and file	79	2	5	6	6	7	24	74	375
Total, other ranks	90	4	6	6	7	7	26	82	418
Total, all ranks	96	6	7	7	7	7	28	90	456

(B) Three foreign squadrons (each) British personnel only are shown  
Administrative officer (captain)

Instructor (also acts as staff quarter	
Master –serjeant (staff – serjeant	1
Storeman (private)	<u>1</u>
Total each foreign squadron	<u>3</u>
Total 3 foreign squadrons	<u>9</u>
(C) <i>Holding depot squadron</i>	
Majors	6
Captains	30
Subalterns	<u>10</u>
Total, officers	<u>46</u>
Warrant officers, class I	2
Warrant officers class II	4
Staff serjeants	4
Serjeants	12
Corporals	12
Privates	<u>20</u>
Total, other ranks	<u>54</u>
Total, holding depot squadron	<u>100</u>
(D) <i>Special boat section</i>	
Officer commanding (major)	1
Second – in – command	1
Squadron officers	
Captain	3
Subalterns	<u>2</u>
Total Officers	<u>12</u>
Staff – serjeant	1
Serjeants	6
Corporals	14
Officers mess cook (may be civilian)	1
Officers' mess servant (may be civilian)	1
Batmen (may be civilian)	4
Drivers I.C.	2
Privates	<u>15</u>
Total, other ranks	<u>44</u>
Total, special boat section	<u>56</u>
(E) <i>Attached personnel—</i>	
R.Signals	
Electricians, signals	4
R.A.M.C.	
Medical officer	1
Nursing orderlies (includes 1 lance – corporal)	2
R.A.O.C.	
Armourers (1 serjeant, 1 lance corporal)	2
Fitter M.V.	1
A.P.T.C.	
Instructor	<u>1</u>
Total attached personnel	<u>11</u>
Wireless section (attached from special operator training and holding unit, Middle East,	
W.E. VI/366/1	
Signal officer (subaltern)	1
Operators, R. Signals	<u>(b)24</u>
(111) <i>Transport</i>	
Advanced operational headquarters —	
Car, 4 – seater, 4 – wheeled	1
Truck, 15cwt., 4 – wheeled	1
Main headquarters and instructional and administrative requirements	

Motor – cycles	6
Car, 2 seater, 4 – wheeled	1
Car, 5 – cwt., F.W.D	1
Trucks, 15 – cwt., 4 – wheeled	4
Lorry, 3 – ton, 4 – wheeled	1

*Pool of transport capable of making 2 British squadron completely mobile*

Trucks, 15 – cwt., 4 – wheeled	2
Lorries, 3 – ton, 4 – wheeled	24

*Special boat section*

Trucks, 15 – cwt., 4 – wheeled (1 for use at main headquarters 1 for use at operational headquarters)	2
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(iv) *Table of weapons ad ammunition*

Detail	Headquarters, headquarters squadron instructional and transport winnigs	Four British Squadrons	Three foreign squadrons	Holding depot squadron	Special boat section	Pool	Attached personnel
Pistols .38 inch				48	36		(c)1
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun				12	12		12
Reserve				288	216		6
Pistols, .45 – inch (automatic)	(d)7	32	27			25	
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun	12	12	12			12	
Reserve	42	192	162			150	
Rifles, .303 – inch	89	328	252	52	8		(e)4
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun	50	50	50	50	50		50
Reserve	4,450	16,400	12,600	2,600	400		1,200
Machine carbines, .45 – inch		96	72		12		
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun		100	100		150		
Reserve		9,600	7,200		10,800		
Bren L.M.Gs., .303 – inch (two per troop)		24	18				
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun		1,000	1,000				
Reserve		12,000	9,000				
A.Tk. rifles, .55 – inch (one per squadron)		4	3				
Ammunition — rounds							
On man or with gun		200	200				
Reserve		160	120				
Pistols, signal	10						
Ammunition — rounds per pistol							
“T”	20						

Detail	Headquarters, headquarters squadron instructional and transport winings	Four British Squadrons	Three foreign squadrons	Holding depot squadron	Special boat section	Pool	Attached personnel
"G"	10						
"R"	10						
Grenadaes		288	216				

(a) Includes

24 lance - corporals

4 cooks (rank and file)

4 storemen

and personnel to be trained as —

cooks (one per troop)

medical orderlies (one per troop)

sanitary dutymen (one per squadron)

water dutymen (one per squadron)

(b) Based on the operation of three suitcase wireless sets per British squadron (i.e. 12 sets for 4 squadrons) two operators per set and one electrician, signals per squadron for maintenance

(c) For medical officer

(d) For officers and warrant officer, class I

(e) For A.P.T.C. instructor, R.A.O.C. armourers and fitters