

**BRITISH AND IMPERIAL FORCES IN THE ALLIED INVASION OF SYRIA AND LEBANON: INITIAL FORCES,  
JUNE 8, 1941**

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Ravi Rikhye

Operation Exporter

British Forces, Transjordan and Palestine

General Sir H.M. Wilson

Royal Navy

VADM E.L.S. King

Force B

*Cruisers*

Phoebe [flag VA 15 Cruiser Squadron]

Ajax

*Destroyers*

Kandahar

Kimberley

Jackal

Janus

[From June 10<sup>th</sup>]

Stuart [RAN]

Jaguar

Griffen

Defender

Force C

Glengyle [Special Service Vessel]

Coventry [AA Cruiser]

*Destroyers*

Ilex

Isis

Hotspur

Hero

803 Squadron FAA [Palestine, 12 Fulmar]

815 Squadron FAA [Nicosia, 12 Swordfish]

829 Squadron FAA [5 Swordfish Nicosia, 4 Albacore Lydda]

Ground Forces

Command Troops

C Battalion, Special Service Brigade

Scots Greys

Staffordshire Yeomanry

Composite Regiment [Mechanized]

Cheshire Yeomanry [Horsed]

Transjordan Frontier Force [one horsed, one mechanized regiments]

Engineers

Ancillary units

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Division [- 1 brigade] [Maj-Gen. J.D. Lavarack]

HQ 25<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade

2/14 Australian Battalion  
2/16 Australian Battalion  
2/27 Australian Battalion  
2/31 Australian Battalion  
2/33 Australian Battalion

Royal Dragoons  
6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Cavalry Regiment  
Cheshire Yeomanry [horsed]

2/4 Australian Field Regiment  
2/6 Australian Field Regiment  
6 Australian AT Battery  
7 Australian AT Battery  
170 Light anti-Aircraft Battery

2/5 Australian Field Company  
2/6 Australian Field Company

[This was a new division with light tanks only, and with transport for two battalions only]

5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Group [BRIG W.L. Lloyd]

1 Royal Fusiliers [LTC A.D.G. Orr]  
3/1 Punjab Regiment  
4/6 Rajputana Rifles [LTC L.B. Jones]

1 Field Regiment, RA including  
9 Field Battery  
11 Field Battery  
171 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery

18 Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

[This brigade, ex 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, were veterans of the East African and Western Desert campaigns]

Free French Division [General Gentilhomme]

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade  
Battalion Foreign Legion  
Two battalions Senegalese

13<sup>th</sup> Brigade [COL. Jenin, KIA]  
Battalion Fusiliers Marins  
Two battalions Sengalese

Groupment Collet [COL Collet]  
2 Circassian Squadrons [1 horsed, 1 mechanized]  
1 Spahi Squadron [lorry borne]  
12 H39 light tanks, 5 light cars, 1 75mm, 1 65mm, 1 AT

Also, at least

1 battery 75mm guns

1 AT Company

1 Tank Company [may be double counted in Groupment Collet]

[This nominal division was incomplete in transport and weapons]

SOURCE: *Campaign in West Asia*, Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War 1939-45; Combined Inter-Services Historical Section (India and Pakistan), 1957