



The British First Army in North Africa 1939-1943  
(Refer to Appendix 1 for full formation details)

The North African Campaign, also known as the Desert War, took place in the North African desert from June 10, 1940 to May 16, 1943. It included campaigns in Libya and Egypt (Western Desert), Morocco & Algeria (known to the Allies as Operation Torch) and in Tunisia.

Fighting in North Africa started with the occupation of Italy's Fort Capuzzo, in Libya by British forces in June 1940. This was followed by an Italian offensive and a Commonwealth counteroffensive.

When the Italians suffered terrible reverses, the German Afrika Korps commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel came to their assistance. After a back-and-forth series of battles for control of Libya and parts of Egypt, British Commonwealth forces under the command of General Bernard Montgomery eventually pushed the Axis forces back to Tunisia.

Following on the Allied Operation Torch landings in North West Africa in late 1942 under the command of General Dwight Eisenhower, and after Allied battles against Vichy France forces (which subsequently joined the Allies), Commonwealth and US forces finally pincer the Axis forces in northern Tunisia and forced their surrender.

The 7th Armored Division, (Egypt)  
HQ Troops

Armoured cars

11<sup>th</sup> Hussars (proven refer to file D3c)

1<sup>st</sup> Royal Dragoons (proven refer to file D2a)

Royal Armoured Corps

RHQ of 4th Royal Tank Regiment (proven refer to file D04)

RHQ of 7th Royal Tank Regiment (Dingo's not yet proven)

The 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade

7<sup>th</sup> Hussars (Dingo's not yet proven)

RHQ of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (Dingo's not yet proven)

The 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade

RHQ of 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Tank Regiment (Dingo's not yet proven)

8<sup>th</sup> Hussars Kings Royal Irish (Dingo's not yet proven)

The 2nd Armored Division, (Libya)  
HQ Troops

Armoured cars

1<sup>st</sup> Kings Dragoons (proven refer to file Appendix 2 & D3c)

The 3rd Armoured Brigade

3<sup>rd</sup> Hussars (Dingo's not yet proven see file D3a)

RHQ of 5th Royal Tank Regiment (proven refer to file D04).

RHQ of 6th Royal Tank Regiment (proven refer to file D04)

RHQ of 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment (proven refer to file D04)

The 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade

Scout Tp of the Wiltshire and Warwickshire Yeomanry Regts

(Dingo's not yet proven refer to file D6a)

Other Formations not operating as part of divisions, in North Africa. -

12<sup>th</sup> Lancers (Dingo's not yet proven)



(Image courtesy of the IWM E18790)

Photographer: Sgt Palmer of No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit  
Mareth Area (Costal Sector) 69<sup>th</sup> Bde 50<sup>th</sup> Div

Description: A Royal Engineers officer of 233 Fd Coy in a Daimler scout car inspects the wreckage of a German PzKpfw III tank blown up to prevent it being recovered by the enemy, North Africa.  
31 October 1942



(Image courtesy of internet, source unknown)

Description: Daimler Scout car in North Africa. Unfortunately no markings are visible so its not possible to establish the unit, note the Vickers gun used to increased sustained firepower



(Image courtesy of the IWM E13262)  
Photographers: Vanderson (Lieut), McLaren (Lieut), Knight (Lieut)  
Of No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit  
Description: Grant HQ tank and Daimler scout car, Libya, June 1942



(Image courtesy of the IWM E12637)  
Photographer: Keating G (Capt), Morris S (Sgt) of No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit  
Description: Grant tanks and scout cars of an armoured brigade headquarters in the Western Desert, 31 May 1942.



(Image courtesy of the <http://casawm.gov.au>)

Western Desert, Egypt. 13 November 1942.

Description: RAF ground crews refuelling the Stuart 3A1 tanks (foreground) and Dingo scout car in the front line from a petrol bowser (tanker) at right.

In the background are a convoy of ambulances. Advanced units of the RAF refuelled in the front line Army tanks which had been held up for lack of petrol in the battle for Sidi Barrani. Eight hundred yards away ten German 88mm guns shelled the road and twice while the refuelling was in progress, Messerschmitt Bf109 fighter aircraft attacked the vehicles.

Valuable time was saved and congestions on the road avoided by this timely aid from the RAF. Transport was moving up quickly and the vehicles in front saw columns had stopped. In a short time the tanks were in action again, and the convoys moved on.

Our desert squadrons are mobile. Ground Maintenance and Repair Units, Stores and Administrative organisations can pack up and take to the road at two hours notice. They follow the advance so quickly that in the shortest possible time Allied aircraft are pressing home attacks from the most forward airfields.

The unit which carried out the refuelling of the tanks was right in the front line until it was established at its final base.



(Image courtesy of the IWM E19084)

PHOTOGRAPHER: Palmer (Sgt) No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit

Description:: A Daimler armoured car bringing in prisoners during the enemy retreat from Egypt  
6 November 1942.



(Image courtesy of the IWM )

Photographer: Army Film & Photographic Unit

Description: A Daimler armoured car opens fire in the gloom of early morning at the start of the battle for  
Tripoli

18 January 1943



(Image courtesy of the IWM E14129)

PHOTOGRAPHER: Chetwyn (Sgt) No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit

Description: Newly-arrived Daimler armoured cars being loaded aboard railway flatcars at Port Tewfik, Egypt, 10 July 1942.



( photo courtesy of Tank Museum possibly IWM reference E16636)

Description: The crew of a dingo Scout car F19737 inspecting the site of a burnt out aircraft (Suka?), in the Western desert. The remains of the two radial engines can be observed to the left of the picture.

9.9.42



(photo courtesy of Tank Museum) possibly IWM Reference E14931

Description: The crew of a dingo Scout F19370 consciously approaching the burning wreck of a German transport. 26.7.42



Image courtesy of the internet source unknown

Photographer: Unknown

Description : Daimler scout car covered in camofalge netting



Image courtesy of the IWM NA 14306

North Africa  
Photographer Sgt Gunn, War Office official photographer  
Base salvage Depot, men of the Italian labor units preparing scrap for breaking up.  
26<sup>th</sup> April 1944



Image courtesy of the IWM  
Artist Jack Crippen, *Minqar Qa'im*, North Africa, 1943



Image courtesy of the IWM  
Tunisia  
Photographer: War Office official photographer  
Description : Daimler armoured car, possibly of the Derbyshire Yeomanry entering Tunisia  
7th May 1943



Image courtesy of the Bovington Tank Museum reference 2004-C6

Photographer: Unknown

Description: Daimler Armoured Car lies abandoned after being damaged, possibly by a mine.  
Date unknown