

APPENDIX 2 TO VOLUME 3
FORMATIONS AND UNITS OF THOSE COMMEMORATED
IN HONG KONG WHICH WERE NOT PART OF THE HONG
KONG GARRISON IN 1941

ROYAL NAVY

HMS *Golden Hind* - In November 1944 the Australian government began transferring military bases and facilities to the Admiralty in preparation for the arrival in Australian waters of the newly formed British Pacific Fleet. On 20 November 1944 HMS *Golden Hind* was commissioned as a RN Accounting Base and headquarters at the former American army camp at Hargrave Park, Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales. A Royal Marine Training Base was opened in April 1945 when the former Royal Australian Navy base at Nelson Bay, New South Wales, (ex HMAS *Assault*) was given to the Royal Navy and administered by *Golden Hind*.

HMS *Prince of Wales* - a King George V-class battleship launched in 1939. She first saw action in August 1940 while still being outfitted in her drydock when she was attacked and damaged by German aircraft. In May 1941, at the Battle of the Denmark Strait, she scored three hits against the German battleship *Bismarck*, forcing *Bismarck* to abandon her raiding mission. She attempted to intercept Japanese troop convoys off the coast of Malaya as part of Force Z when she was sunk on 10 December 1941. She was sunk alongside her consort, the

battlecruiser HMS *Repulse*, by Japanese bombers, the first capital ships to be sunk solely by air power on the open sea. Admiral Phillips and Captain Leach were among the 327 fatalities. The wreck of Prince of Wales lies upside down in 223 feet (68 m) of water, near Kuantan, in the South China Sea.

HMS *Sultan* - the shore establishment naval base at Singapore, commissioned in 1940 as a successor to HMS *Terror*. She was abandoned after the fall of Singapore in 1942.

HMS *Tenedos* - 'S' class destroyer. She was launched in 1918. In August 1939, *Tenedos*, along with sister ships *Scout*, *Thanet* and *Thracian*, formed a local defence flotilla at Hong Kong. On 24 August 1939 *Tenedos* and *Scout* left Hong Kong for Singapore to be converted temporarily to minelayers. *Tenedos* then had her normal destroyer armament refitted. On 23 March 1940, the Royal Navy formed Malaya Force, with the intention of preventing German merchant ships from leaving harbours in the Dutch East Indies. *Tenedos* was then part of Force Z, comprising *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*, escorted by the destroyers *Electra*, *Express*, *Vampire* and *Tenedos*. She was attacked by 9 Mitsubishi G3M bombers searching for Force Z between 09:50 and 10:20 on 10 December but was undamaged. *Tenedos* and the Australian cruiser *Hobart* left Singapore for Batavia on 2 February 1942 and later escaped through the Sunda Strait to Ceylon. On 5 April 1942, *Tenedos* was under repair in Colombo harbour and was sunk with the loss of 33 officers and men by Japanese bombers.

HMS *Tyne* - a Hecla-class depot ship launched in 1940. She served in World War II and the Korean War, and was scrapped in 1972.

HMS *Victorious* - launched in 1939. Her service in 1941 and 1942 included famous actions against the battleship Bismarck, several Arctic convoys, and Operation Pedestal. She was loaned to the United States Navy in 1943 and served in the southwest Pacific as part of the Third Fleet as USS *Robin* and spent 28 days continuously in combat operations at sea, a record for a British carrier. Back in the British fleet, she participated in attacks in 1944 on the *Tirpitz* in Norwegian waters. In June 1944, she joined the Eastern Fleet at Colombo, her aircraft attacking Japanese installations in Sumatra, Malay and the Nicobar Islands. The British Pacific Fleet (BPF) was formed at Trincomalee on 22 November 1944, based in Sydney in February 1945, taking part in operations with the US Navy in the Pacific theatre.

ARMY

FORMATIONS

Malaya Command - In November 1940, the total strength of Malaya Command was 17 infantry battalions. It was commanded by Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival, the General Officer Commanding Malaya. On 18 November 1940, the command was placed under the

command of the British Far East Command and on 7 January 1942, under the short-lived South West Pacific Command or ABDACOM.

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Indian III Corps - the primary ground formation that took part in the Malayan Campaign in 1942. It was commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Lewis "Piggy" Heath with its Headquarters based in Kuala Lumpur. It was formed in mid-1941 as part of the Malaya Command and consisted of the Indian 9th Infantry Division, the Indian 11th Infantry Division, a lines of communication Area, and the Penang Fortress.

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3rd Indian Division - the Chindit formation made up of 77th and 111st Indian Brigades, three British brigades: 14th, 16th and 23rd and the 3rd West African Brigade. These were formed into groups of eight columns each and two wing Headquarters and a Force Headquarters. The Force was designated as 3rd Indian Division on 1 February 1944.

8th Division (Australia) - an infantry division formed during World War II as part of the all-volunteer Second Australian Imperial Force, raised from volunteers for overseas service from July 1940 onwards. Consisting of three infantry brigades, the intention had been to deploy the division to the Middle East to join the other Australian divisions, but as war with Japan loomed in 1941, the

division was divided into four separate forces, which were deployed in different parts of the Asia-Pacific region. All of these formations were destroyed as fighting forces by the end of February 1942 during the fighting for Singapore, and in Rabaul, Ambon, and Timor. Most members of the division became prisoners of war, waiting until the war ended in late 1945 to be liberated. One in three died in captivity.

9th Indian Infantry Division - formed on 15 September 1940 at Quetta, then transferred into Indian III Corps in Malaya, including the 15th, 20th, and 21st Indian Infantry Brigades. It was the first British Commonwealth Army formation to see action against the Japanese at the Battle of Kota Bharu on 8 December 1941. It fought a defensive retreat down Malaya's east coast until the 22nd Brigade was cut off from the rest of the division at a demolished railway bridge near the village of Layang Layang in the state of Johore. The General Officer Commanding, Major-General Barstow, was killed crossing the bridge, while attempting to contact the brigade. The 22nd Brigade was destroyed whilst trying to find another way to Singapore. What was left of the division was amalgamated with the 11th Indian Division, which surrendered in Singapore.

11th Indian Infantry Division - commanded by Major-General David Murray-Lyon, part of Indian III Corps in Malaya, 1941-1942.

18th (East Anglian) Infantry Division - formed in September 1939 as a second-line duplicate of the 54th (East Anglian) Infantry Division, with men from Essex and the East Anglian counties of

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in the 53rd, 54th and 55th Infantry Brigades. In December, the Division was sent to Egypt, and had reached South Africa when news of the Japanese entry into the war was received, so it was diverted to India. The 53rd Brigade was sent to Singapore, from where it was deployed north to Johore and became embroiled in the Battle of Muar. After several short engagements with Japanese forces, the brigade was withdrawn to Singapore Island. Between 29 January and 5 February, the rest of the division arrived in Singapore having sailed from India. Shortly afterwards, the entire division participated in the Battle of Singapore and surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942. Over one-third of the division's personnel died in captivity, including divisional commander Major-General Merton Beckwith-Smith.

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INFANTRY

(in alphabetical order)

2/18th Battalion Australian Infantry - formed in June 1940, assigned to the 22nd Brigade, part of the Australian 8th Division. After completing basic training, the 2/18th was sent to Singapore and Malaya in February 1941. The 2/18th saw action against Japanese forces in the Malayan campaign, during which they took part in a large-scale ambush of a Japanese force on the Malay Peninsula before joining the withdrawal to Singapore in early 1942. Assigned to defend

part of the north-west coast of the island, the battalion participated in the unsuccessful defence of Singapore and was ordered to surrender on 15 February 1942.

2/19th Battalion Australian Infantry - raised in 1940 for service during the Second World War as part of the Second Australian Imperial Force. Allocated to the 22nd Brigade, 8th Division, deployed to Malaya, The 2/19th fought several actions in Johore, before withdrawing across the Causeway to Singapore. There, the battalion was involved in the Battle of Singapore in early February 1942, during which it suffered heavy casualties before being captured following the capitulation of the British Garrison.

2/20th Battalion (Tulip Force), Australian Infantry - raised in mid-1940 as part of the 8th Division, the battalion was recruited from Second Australian Imperial Force volunteers drawn from the state of New South Wales. In early 1941, the 2/20th Battalion deployed to Malaya, where they formed part of the garrison until December when the Japanese invaded. The battalion subsequently fought a brief campaign along the east coast of the Malay Peninsula before being withdrawn back to Singapore in early 1942. They were heavily engaged after the Japanese landed on the island, and were eventually captured following the Fall of Singapore.

5th Battalion the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment
- embodied in 1939, part of 55th Infantry Brigade in 18th Infantry

Division, it was diverted to the defence of Singapore in December 1941 and surrendered in February 1942.

2nd Battalion the Border Regiment - in June 1943 part of 100th Brigade, 20th Indian Division in Imphal. The Japanese laid siege to Imphal and in June 1944 the Battalion took part in the successful counter-attack to relieve this siege.

1st Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment served with the 18th (East Anglian) Infantry Division, initially on the Norfolk Coast and then in the Far East where they fought in the Malayan Campaign and the Battle of Singapore. The Battalion fought at Sime Road Camp in Singapore and defended the camp for two days before being ordered to surrender.

2nd Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment - embodied in 1939, it left the UK with 53rd Infantry Brigade in 18th Infantry Division for the Middle East, but was diverted to Singapore in December 1941. It arrived there on 13 January 1942, and on 16 January 1942 went into action as part of 15th Indian Brigade in north Johor. Surrounded at Senggarang, the Battalion broke out in small parties and the majority reached Singapore, where it was ordered to surrender on 15 February.

2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment - in August 1940 posted from Shanghai to Malaya in 11th Indian Infantry Division based in North West Malaya. The Battalion suffered tremendous casualties

during the defence and retreat so on 19 December 1941 was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment to form the British Battalion (Malaya 1941). This unit fought gallantly throughout the rest of the short campaign until the surrender at Singapore on 15 February 1942.

2nd Battalion the Gordon Highlanders - based in Malaya as part of the Singapore garrison and fought in the battle for Singapore in February 1942, surrendering along with 130,000 other British Commonwealth soldiers on 15 February. The battalion suffered more casualties as prisoners of war in Japanese captivity than they did during the fighting.

13th Battalion the King's Regiment (Liverpool) - raised in October 1940, the battalion sailed for India in December 1941, and provided the majority of the British contingent for the Chindits in 77th Indian Infantry Brigade. The first operation began on 8 February 1943.

1st Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment - stationed in Malaya on the outbreak of the Second World War. It fought the Imperial Japanese Army in the Malayan Campaign in early 1942 and sustained heavy casualties, temporarily amalgamating with the 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to create the British Battalion which was captured on the surrender of Singapore.

1st Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment - stationed in British India, they were assigned to the 71st Indian Infantry Brigade, part of 26th Indian Infantry Division, in 1942, fighting in the Burma Campaign. They fought in the Battle of the Admin Box on the southern front in Burma in early 1944.

2nd Battalion the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) - In 1939, stationed in the Far East as part of Singapore Fortress's 1st Malaya Infantry Brigade. The 2nd Loyals fought in Malaya as part of the delaying action during the Battle of Malaya and eventually surrendered along with the rest of the Singapore garrison on 15 February 1942.

1st Battalion the Manchester Regiment - stationed in Singapore from 1938, part of the 2nd Malaya Infantry Brigade. It saw action during the Japanese invasion of the island and surrendered on 15 February 1942.

18th Battalion, Reconnaissance Corps (5th Battalion the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment) - formed in January 1941 to provide reconnaissance ('rece') units for infantry divisions. and joined 18th Infantry Division as its rece battalion. It landed in Singapore on 5 February 1942. Having lost the bulk of its weapons and equipment when Japanese dive-bombers attacked its troopship *Empress of Asia*, the unit hastily re-equipped as an infantry battalion and moved into the northern sector of the defences of Singapore Island. It was ordered to surrender on 15 February.

4th, 5th and 6th (City of Norwich) Battalions the Royal Norfolk Regiment - part of 53rd and 54th Infantry Brigades in 18th Infantry Division. In October 1941, the Battalions left UK, destined for the Middle East, but were diverted to Singapore and Malaya, surrendering in February 1942.

9th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers - raised in 1939, the Battalion embarked for the Middle East in 1941, but was diverted to Singapore on board the *Felix Roussel*. On 5 February 1942, approaching Singapore, their ship came under attack from 27 planes swooping down to deliver their bombs and strafing the ship with machine gun fire. Three bombs hit the ship causing the deaths of two fusiliers from 'Y' Company. The 'Felix Roussel' docked in Keppel Harbour at 23.00 hours and deployed into defensive positions the next day as support troops for the 11th Indian Division. They surrendered without going into battle on 15 February.

1/5th (Derbyshire) Battalion the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derby Regiment) - in late 1940, reassigned to the 55th Infantry Brigade, 18th Infantry Division. posted to Malaya. After Singapore fell to the Imperial Japanese Army, the battalion's men were sent to work on the infamous Burma Railway.

4th and 5th Battalions the Suffolk Regiment - part of 54th Infantry Brigade, 18th Infantry Division, sent to the Middle East but

diverted to Singapore in December 1941, surrendering after brief fighting in February 1942.

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ARTILLERY

2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery - was part of the Malaya Anti-Aircraft Brigade and consisted of Headquarters, 11, 12 and 13 Anti-Aircraft Batteries, H.K.S.R.A.)

2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery - raised for service during the Second World War as part of the all volunteer Second Australian Imperial Force in November 1940. In early 1942, the Regiment took part in the Malayan campaign and the Battle of Singapore before being captured when Singapore fell.

2/15th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery - raised in Sydney in late 1940 as part of the Second Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF), assigned to the 8th Division. In late 1941, it was sent to Singapore and subsequently fought in the Malayan Campaign before being captured after the Fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942.

3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - consisted of 11th, 29th and 30th Batteries, and arrived in Singapore in November 1941, moving north to Johor then Kuala Lumpur, then retreating to surrender in Singapore on 15 February 1942.

5th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery - formed to defend Singapore on 13 May 1941, the Regiment was captured when the fortress surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942.

6th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - raised in 1935 at Lichfield. It consisted of 3 Anti-Aircraft Battery, 12 Anti-Aircraft Battery, 16 Anti-Aircraft Battery and 15 (Independent) Anti-Aircraft Battery. It served in the Battle of France and was evacuated from Dunkirk. Re-equipped, it defended London and the West Midlands during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. It was then sent to the Middle East theatre, but was diverted en route to the Far East, Split up, ill-equipped and fighting against overwhelming odds, the Regiment was captured in Java, Dutch East Indies, in March 1942.

7th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery - 7th Heavy Regiment RA were at Singapore from 24 February 1939, and was re-designated 7th Coast Regiment on 18 December 1940. It was lost at Singapore in February 1942. It comprised: 11 and 31 Batteries RA, 5 and 7 Batteries HKSRA. It manned Beting Kusa Battery, with 2 x 6 “ guns and Johore Battery, with 3 x 15” guns, two of which were used against the Japanese as they could be turned to target them on Johore and Singapore.

9th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery - formed in 1934 in Singapore as 9th Heavy Regiment, it became 9th Coast Regiment in 1940. In 1942, it consisted of 7, 22 and 32 Batteries RA. On 12 February, the coastal batteries were destroyed and the Regiment was lost at the surrender of Singapore on 15 February 1942.

21st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - a TA unit from the Chester area, formed in November 1941 with the 48th, 69th and 70th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries for service overseas. It deployed in December 1941 for the Middle East, but was diverted at Cape Town to Singapore, instead going to Batavia as Singapore was under siege. They fought in Java until the Dutch surrendered on 9 March 1942.

35th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery raised on 2 September 1939 with three Batteries: 78, 89 and 144, at Black Hall, St Giles, Oxford. It arrived in Singapore on 13 January 1942, and was split up in Malaya, Singapore, Sumatra and Java. All were captured by the Japanese.

48th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - comprised 49, 95, 242 Batteries and sailed from Gourock on 7 December 1941 on the *Duchess of Athol* bound for Basra. At Durban, they boarded HMT *Dunera* for Singapore, but were diverted to Batavia, Java, and docked at Tanjong Priok harbour. It went to Meester Cornelious Barracks, then on to airfields Kemorjuran, Tejliliton, then to Andir airfield and

Punkak Pass, on the hampered by Japanese bombers. They stopped in a tea-plantation then were ordered to surrender in March 1942.

77th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - a Territorial Army regiment renamed in 1938, that fought through the blitz in 1940. It sailed on 6 December 1941 aboard Convoy WS14 to join Middle East Forces, but on 9 January 1942, while still at sea, it was diverted to the Far East following the Japanese invasion of Malaya. The convoy arrived at Singapore on 13 January, but most of the regiment's equipment went on to the Middle East, and it had to be re-equipped from the stockpile at Singapore. The airbases at Singapore were under heavy attack and the RAF redeployed its aircraft to the Dutch East Indies: the AA units aboard WS14 were diverted again, sailing on 30 January and arriving at Batavia on Java on 3/4 February. The Regiment (less 239 Battery left to defend Batavia) was sent to the naval base at Surabaya. Part of the regiment boarded an express train for Surabaya, but on the way it collided with a goods train, and three officers and 12 other ranks were killed, and another 60 officers and men injured. When the Japanese attack on Java began, 77th was the only fully equipped HAA regiment available. Japanese landings on Java began on 1 March near Batavia. 77th was forced to withdraw from Surabaya to Tjilatjap in the face of strong attacks, and one Troop was cut off and lost at Surabaya. 'Blackforce', a mixed force of Australians and British commanded by Brigadier Arthur Blackburn, VC, kept up an active defence for several days, but the Dutch commander ordered his units to cease fire on 8 March, and the remnants of 16 Anti-Aircraft Brigade including the 77th

surrendered on 12 March. It claimed to have destroyed 26 Japanese aircraft.

80th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery - part of 11th Indian Division, it fought in Malaya and surrendered in Singapore.

85th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery - formed in Essex in 1941, it was part of the reinforcements to Singapore Garrison, diverted in transit to Basra, arriving in Singapore on 13 January 1942. They were in action at Johor Bahru and on Singapore Island, and surrendered on 15 February. Of 615 all ranks who were prisoners of war, the Regiment lost 197 men dead, mainly in Thailand, Singapore, or on a Hell Ship, but some in Formosa, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Japan.

88th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery - part of 9th Indian Division, it fought down the Malayan peninsula and surrendered in Singapore.

118th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery - formed in 1939 as the second line regiment to 65th (8th London) Field Regiment (TA) to accommodate the large number of South Londoners (many from Lewisham) who wished to enlist. In 1941 it was sent to India. Their equipment was camouflaged and set up for the wrong terrain and they had little or no experience of jungle warfare, but in January 1942 they joined 18th (East Anglian) Division to reinforce the Singapore Garrison. They arrived amidst the chaos of air raids on 29 January 1942 just in time to take part in the final week's battle for Singapore.

During this time the Regiment lost 22 men, and they were ordered to surrender on 15 February.

122nd (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery - a Territorial regiment formed in Bradford on 1 June 1939 along with 70 Field Regiment. Both Regiments had the title 'West Riding'. It had two batteries, 278 and 280 Field Batteries. On 3 January 1941 the Regiment embarked at Glasgow in the Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of Japan* and arrived in Malaya on 11 March to become part of the 12th Indian Brigade. When the Japanese invaded Malaya the following December, 278 Battery was sent up country to face them and fought its way all down the Peninsular to rejoin 280 Battery in the short battle for Singapore Island, where they were ordered to surrender on 15 February 1942.

125th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery - travelled from the UK to Canada and Bombay, then landed in Singapore on 5 February, engaged in Serangoon from 7/8 February, surrendered 15 February 1942.

137th (West Lancashire) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery - arrived in Singapore on 28 November 1941 and moved to Kajang, near Kuala Lumpur and arrived in the 11th Indian Divisional area on 12 December. It served with that Division during the Malayan campaign and was captured at Singapore on 15 February 1942. The title (2nd West Lancashire) was authorized two days later. a memorial

plaque to the Regiment is on the wall of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Church Street, Blackpool.

148th (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal

Artillery - was assigned to the 18th (East Anglian) Infantry Division in 1939. Initially commanding two batteries (419 and 420), the third battery (512) was formed in the regiment at Rochdale on 1 June 1941. The regiment was transferred to Singapore with its division, arriving just before the Fall of Singapore in February 1942 and surrendered on 15 February.

155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal

Artillery - moved to India in May 1941, then moved to Malaya with 4.5" guns, joining 11th Indian Division. It fought in the Battle of Malaya and the Battle of Singapore and was taken prisoner on 15 February 1942.

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ENGINEERS

18th Division Royal Engineers - arrived in Singapore in February 1942. It consisted of:

251st Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

288th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

560th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

all of which were ordered to surrender on 15 February 1942.

35 Fortress Company, Royal Engineers - part of Singapore Fortress Garrison, surrendered in 1942.

36 Fortress Company, Royal Engineers - part of the Penang Fortress, Malaya Command, in 1941.

41 Fortress Company, Royal Engineers - part of Singapore Fortress Garrison, surrendered in 1942.

251 Field Park Company, Royal Engineers - part of 18 (East Anglian) Division in Malaya 1941-1942. The Company, less all their equipment and transport, arrived in Singapore as shipwrecked survivors - one asphyxiated - on the SS *Empress of Asia*, sunk on 5 February 1942 by Japanese bombs, only to be ordered to surrender ten days later.

288 Field Company, Royal Engineers - part of 18 (East Anglian Division) arrived safely in Singapore, together with the 560th, on the US Navy troop carrier USS *West Point* (the peacetime liner SS *America*) in convoy with HQ 18 Division RE on USS *Wakefield* (SS *Manhattan*) on 29 January 1942. After fighting on the Island, it surrendered with the Garrison on 15 February 1942.

560 Field Company, Royal Engineers - stationed in Malaya, ordered to surrender in Singapore on 15 February 1942.

Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners - 9 and 10 Field Companies were part of 10th Indian Infantry Division in Malaya and Singapore, and were ordered to surrender on 15 February 1942.

SUPPORTING UNITS

32 Company, Royal Army Medical Corps - based at Tanglin, Singapore, from the 1930s, it was moved to HQ Malaya in 1941 and was ordered to surrender on 15 February 1942.

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AIR FORCES

36 Squadron, Royal Air Force - along with 100 Squadron RAF, it retained obsolete biplanes when Japan invaded Malaya, and flew an unsuccessful attack against the Japanese cruiser *Sendai* during the Battle of Kota Bharu on 8 December 1941. It continued operating against the Japanese, its Vildebeests being supplemented by five ex-Fleet Air Arm Fairey Albacores. Where possible it operated by night, bombing Japanese-held airfields and troops. On 26 January 1942, Japanese forces landed at Endau, on the east coast of Malaya, 150

miles from Singapore. To oppose this landing, nine Vildebeests of No 100 Squadron and three of 36 Squadron, together with nine Australian Lockheed Hudsons, set off at 1:00 pm (having flown against land targets the night before), and despite a fighter escort five Vildebeests were shot down. No 36 and 100 Squadrons repeated the attack two hours later with nine Vildebeests (with two from 100 Squadron) and three Albatrosses. A further five Vildebeests and two Albatrosses were shot down, and a further two more damaged so badly that they were written off. These losses—which included the commanding officers of both Squadrons—could not be sustained, and the remnants of the two squadrons were evacuated to Java on 31 January, being merged into a single unit. On 28 February, nine Vildebeests attacked a Japanese convoy off Rembang in Northern Java, claiming eight ships sunk but losing another commanding officer. It ceased to exist on 7 March 1942 after its last two Vildebeests ditched off Sumatra while attempting to evacuate to Ceylon. No 36 Squadron reformed at Thanjavur in India on 22 October 1942.

243 Squadron, Royal Air Force - was re-raised during World War II, operating initially as a fighter squadron in Malaya and Singapore during 1941–42. It was briefly disbanded just prior to the fall of Singapore, and was re-formed in mid-1942, again as a fighter squadron, and fought in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns in 1942–44, before being disbanded in October 1944. In 1945, after training on transport aircraft in Canada, the squadron moved to Australia as part of No. 300 Wing, from where it conducted communications flights between British bases in the South West Pacific area, mainly to

British Pacific Fleet bases. By the end of the war the squadron was flying scheduled services and extended these to Hong Kong on its surrender. A large proportion of the squadron personnel was Australian. It disbanded in mid-1946.

357 Squadron, Royal Air Force - formed on 1 February 1944 at Digri, Bengal, from No. 1576 (Special Duties) Flight as an expansion of the Royal Air Force Special Duty Service. The squadron was equipped with Consolidated Liberator and Lockheed Hudson aircraft, which formed "A" Flight, whilst "B" Flight consisted of four Consolidated Catalina aircraft operated by the squadron from Red Hills Lake, Madras. On 15 September 1944, No. 357 Squadron moved to Jessore, Bengal. Operational flights dropping small numbers of agents and equipment into Malaya began in November 1944 using the squadrons Liberators. The flights in early 1945 were to locations in Kelantan and Perak. Later flights were reaching as far south as Batu Pahat and Kota Tinggi and covering 3,500 air miles with a flying times of over 22 hours - near the aircraft's maximum range. Also early in 1945, the Hudsons were replaced by Douglas Dakotas, and "C" Flight was equipped with Westland Lysanders. The squadron disbanded on 15 November 1945.

358 Squadron, Royal Air Force - formed on 8 November 1944 at Kolar, India as a heavy bomber unit flying the Consolidated Liberator. The squadron performed only one bombing mission on 13 January 1945, bombing Mandalay and by then flying from Digri. Thereafter the squadron role changed to a special duties squadron, starting

operations as such in the night from 22 to 23 January 1945, when 11 of the squadron's Liberators were dispatched on missions around Hanoi. Three aircraft were lost, with only two successfully completing their missions. On 10 February 1945 the squadron moved to Jessore. For the rest of the war the squadron dropped agents and supplies to resistance groups in Japanese-held territory. After the Japanese surrender the squadron then dropped supplies to POW camps and repatriated released prisoners. It was disbanded on 21 November 1945 at Bishnupur.