

## World War I & II Pages

# BOTSWANA (BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE) AND THE TWO WORLD WARS

## Page 2

### CHECKLIST OF BECHUANALAND COMPANIES OF THE AFRICAN PIONEER CORPS (ALLIED 5th, 8th, & 9th ARMIES) AND SUMMARY OF THEIR ACTIVITIES 1941-1946<sup>6</sup>

summarized from R.A.R. (Alan) Bent, *Ten Thousand Men of Africa: The Story of the Bechuanaland Pioneers and Gunners 1941-1946* London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office for the Bechuanaland Government, 1952. 128pp.

*[Alan Bent was seconded from Bechuanaland Protectorate district administration to serve as a lieutenant rising to major with APC Bechuana companies No. 1972 (in Syria & Lebanon), No. 1977 (probably with them in Egypt, Sicily & Monte Cassino), No. 1966 (with them in Italy as far as Trieste), and No. 1989 (in Palestine & Rhodes/ Greek Islands)]*

Only a minority of Bechuana servicemen saw action in Italy from Sicily up through the battle of Monte Cassino to the Austrian and Yugoslav borders. Bent explains (p.89) that most servicemen stayed in and moved around the Middle-East sector (Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, & Syria) during the war because the Middle East was both the main military supply base for North Africa/ Italy and a rear base for the Far East: it "was the pivot of British arms and of war munitions and supplies abroad, and the Bechuana and Basuto were pre-eminent as a loyal, dependable and efficient labour force to be rushed wherever heavy labour was needed."

### Glossary

*Pioneers* (in African Pioneer Corps, originally African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps, a regiment of the Royal Pioneer Corps of British Army): soldier workers in construction, dock & transport loading, equipped with rifles for camp guard duty & personal defence when working near front-line..

*Gunners* (in Royal Artillery of British Army): soldiers firing heavy anti-aircraft guns both at aircraft above and "air bursts" at tanks and other targets on the ground.

*Sappers* (in Royal Engineers of the British Army): soldier engineering workers building iron bridges and roads, salvaging wrecked vehicles & aircraft for spare parts, etc.

*Smoke-operators*: pioneers making smoke to camouflage ships in harbours and tanks etc on the ground from attack by enemy aircraft.

### Chronology

1939: Sept. Britain and Empire/Commonwealth, with exception of Union of South Africa, declare war on Germany on Sept. 3: the eight principal "tribal" paramount chiefs of Bechuanaland Protectorate declare their allegiance on Sept. 7, and offer troops against white rebellion in South Africa. (South Africa eventually declares war after Smuts replaces Hertzog as prime minister in a "constitutional coup".)

1940-41 700 individuals from Bechuanaland Protectorate join South African army (Native Labour Corps of Union Defence Force) from Nov. 1940, but B.P. chiefs only endorse recruitment into British Army (which after 1940-41 disasters at Dunkirk and in Greece gives weapons training to previously unarmed members of its Royal Pioneer Corps until then regarded as "auxiliaries" rather than as regular soldiers).

1941: July Arrival of first Companies 1971, 1972, 1973, & 1974 of the African (Auxiliary – soon dropped) Pioneer Corps of the Royal Pioneer Corps (British Army) at Lobatse base training camp (old Cold Storage Works), after initial drill in tribal capitals. 350 to 365 men to a company, with their own

sergeant-major and two sergeants, plus British Army officers and NCOs.

1941: Aug. Arrival for training at Lobatse of APC Companies 1975, 1976, 1977, & 1978.

1941: Sept. 1971-1974 leave Lobatse by train for Durban, followed after a few days by 1975-1978.

1941: Oct.-Nov. Arrival of first APC Bechuana companies in Egypt at Qasassin base camp of Royal Pioneer Corps near Tel-el-Kebir.

1941: Dec. APC Companies 1971-1977 leave Qasassin across Suez Canal & Sinai desert, through Palestine to join the British **9th Army** in Syria (including Palestine and Lebanon in British Army parlance). They build rank-traps and fortifications at Haifa & Beirut (Lebanon), against possible German attack on Suez Canal from the north-eastern Mediterranean.

1941-1942 Training at Lobatse of APC Companies 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, & 1990.

1942: Aug.-Sept. Arrival at Lobatse of last APC Companies 1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, & 1966 for two-month training.

1943: May Bechuana pioneer companies 1980, 1981, 1985 etc. mustered in Egypt to be shipped west to North Africa/ Italy; 633 men from Basuto APC Companies 1919 & 1927 drowned after ship *Erinpura* torpedoed by airplane (May 1st). Jackson (2202: p.745) adds that 61 Bechuana died on the *Erinpura*, but this is not mentioned in Bent (1952) and the names are not known.

1943: July Bechuana pioneer companies 1982, 1984, 1986 & 1987 arrived in Egypt from Syria at Pioneer Corps depot Qasassin, Egypt, so that 2500 Bechuana on standby to be shipped west but only 1980 & 1981 actually went to Italy in October; others stayed in Middle-East – and all except 1986 subsequently left British **8th Army** Egypt for British **9th Army** Syria.

1943: July 10 Sicily landings (George Beach, Syracuse) 209 HAA battery of 1972 company first Bechuana ashore at 8.30am.

1943: Sept. 3 Reggio landing: 1977 Bechuana company smoke-making & anti-sniper patrols next day

1943: Sept. 9-10 US 5th Army landing at Salerno, including 1976 Bechuana company as part of British Army 10 Corps

1943: Oct. 10 German line on Volturno river broken

1943: Nov. 1969 & 1977 Bechuana sappers with Royal Engineers bridged 1,200-foot wide Sangro river

1944: March 15-16 Attack on Cassino town (“Marumong” or “the Hardest Fought Battle of World War Two”) by 24th New Zealand Battalion supported by 1977 Bechuana company smoke-makers; 1983 much shelled with Royal Signals two miles from Cassino;

1943: Dec. 3 Bechuana pioneers (1979 company) killed in German air raid on Bari oil refinery

1945: April 3 Bechuana gunners (1972 company) killed in HAA artillery barrage against Punta Bianca & Palarmia island

1945: April 10 8th Army offensive attack across Senio river

1945: May 5 Final surrender of German forces in Europe including north of Italy

1945: June Some senior companies 1979 mustered at Qasassin pioneer base camp in Egypt began to be shipped home.

1945: late Aug. Last Bechuana companies (1968 & 1966) leave Italy for Qasassin, where original Bechuana APC companies were being reconstituted from “diluted” parts. Transport home was delayed by priority given to troops returning to Europe and Asia until 1946.

late 1945-1946 The more junior companies ex-Italy (1990, 1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, & 1966) were sent off to Palestine, over their protests, to Esdraelon (south of Nazareth) for infantry training in case of Jewish-Palestinian hostilities (some Basuto but no Bechuana killed by Jewish insurgents). Other ex-Middle East Bechuana companies resumed camp security for British troop withdrawal from

Syria.

March 1946 After reassembly at Qasassin, the last Bechuana companies (ex-Italy as above plus 1988 & 1989) leave Egypt by ship.

April 1946 Arrival of last companies back in Bechuanaland Protectorate via Clairwood camp in Durban (given civilian suit, £10, and accumulated back pay).

1946-49 Recruitment for High Commission Territories Corps in 1946 for service in Palestine; HCTC disbanded after Britain abandoned the Palestine Mandate and South African protest at "armed natives" massing on its borders.

<i>Companies listed in order of recruitment</i>	<i>Tribal reserve where recruited</i>	<i>Served in/with</i>
	CSM: Company Sergeant-Major	AA: Anti-Aircraft
	EC: individual recruitment number (Entry Certificate?)	APC: African Pioneer Corps
	RSM: Regimental Sergeant-Major	HAA: Heavy Anti-Aircraft
		NZ: New Zealand
		RA: Royal Artillery
		RAF: Royal Air Force
		RE: Royal Engineers
		RPC: Royal Pioneer Corps
		SADF: South African Defence Force
		US: United States [of America]

### \* *Companies "diluted" for non-labour duties in 1943*

* 1971	<p>Bangwaketse</p> <p>arrived Lobatse July 1941, departed Sept. 1941; arrived Syria Dec. 1941 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Mooketsi, G. (EC 107)</p>	<p>British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group), initially attached to Australian field engineers company 2/8; mid-1942 guard duties – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery (HAA batteries 16, 20, 28: 2nd RA regiment.) served March 1943 at Benghazi (Libya) &amp; Port Said (Egypt), Palestine, Syria (64 Group), Libya; by July 1943 at Port Said with HAA; then to Haifa (with third battery of 2301) &amp; Damascus, ready to go north if Germany invaded Turkey; then back to Libya &amp; then in Spring of 1944 back again to Haifa; provided port HAA protection and – though the most senior – the only Bechuana dilution company never to reach Italy; as a senior company, 1971 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.</p> <p><i>Also see APC company 2301 below.</i></p>
* 1972	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Lobatse July 1941 [Aug. with Sgt. Molwa Sekgoma, see photo opp.p.5], departed Sept. 1941; arrived Syria Dec. 1941 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Elisha K. Gwathe (EC 6149)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group), initially attached to Australian field engineers company 2/8 – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery (73rd RA regiment, HAA batteries 209, 210, later 76th RA regiment) served March 1943 Alexandria (Egypt); Sicily landings (George Beach, Syracuse) 10 July 1943; Syracuse air-raid defence 25 July 1943; Sicily until Oct. 1944 to join US <b>5th Army</b> in both field firing (Nov. 1944 accuracy brought German "uncomfortable retaliatory fire") and AA protection at Livorno (Leghorn, port for Pisa) on west coast; Feb. 1945 transferred from disbanded 73rd RA regiment for 76th while still field-firing on German coastal guns (with retaliation) and AA on Pisa front: 5 April 1945.</p>

		<p>guns (with ammunition) and then on to Italy, April 1943, prep for 5th Army spring offensive, HAA joined in artillery barrage on enemy bridges, troops, transport, batteries, with naval destroyer gun support against Punta Bianca &amp; Palarmia island (3 Bechuana killed) ; as a senior company, 1972 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.</p> <p>[Also see APC company 2301 below.]</p>
* 1973	<p>Bakwena</p> <p>arrived Lobatse July 1941, departed Sept. 1941; arrived Syria Dec. 1941 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Seaomeng, S. (EC 662) &amp; Robert Moreri (EC 1308)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group), initially to Bekaa valley; labour at Royal Engineers camps – diluted Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery (HAA battery 311: 78th RA regiment; HAA batteries 243, 244, 245: 76th RA regiment,) served March 1943 Haifa (Palestine) in expectation of German invasion of Turkey, passed through Cyprus, transferred to Italy; defended airfields and small ports on Adriatic till July 1944 crossed to US <b>5th Army</b> AA cover at Civitavecchia near Pisa; Sept. 1944 both “British and African” gunners transferred to Naples dock labour unloading steel equipment; their RA regiment soon disbanded; 1973 began guard duties; ; as a senior company, 1973 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.</p>
* 1974	<p>Bakgatla, Bamalete, Batlokwa</p> <p>arrived Lobatse July 1941, departed Sept. 1941; arrived Syria Dec. 1941 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: G. Selogoe Pilane (EC 2071)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group), initially attached to Australian field engineers company 2/8; Royal Engineers bridge &amp; road building; winter 1942-3 Royal Engineers camp guarding – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery 1943 (61st RA regiment, HAA batteries 170,171,195) served March 1943 Tripoli (Libya); May convoy next to Basuto APC ship torpedoed where 600 drowned; Italy; AA with virtually no action at Augusta, only practices, till Sept. 1944 crossed to Bari on Adriatic coast; trained in field-firing at Civitavecchia near Pisa; as a senior company, 1974 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946. <i>Also see APC company 2302 below</i></p>
* 1975	<p>Bangwaketse, Barolong</p> <p>arrived Lobatse Aug.-Sept. 1941, departed Oct. 1941; arrived Syria Dec. 1941 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Seaomeng, S. (EC 662)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group), initially attached to Australian field engineers company 2/8; Royal Engineers bridge &amp; road building &amp; anti-tank ditches; winter 1942-3 Royal Engineers camp guarding – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery (HAA batteries 192,199,200: 69th RA regiment) served March 1943 Tripoli (Libya); from Sept. 1943 defended Brindisi (Italy) and then Taranto “dullest time of all” without action till regiment dissolved end of 1944; as a senior company, 1975 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946. <i>Also see APC company 2302 below</i></p>
* 1976	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Lobatse Aug.-Sept. 1941, departed Oct. 1941; arrived Syria via Egypt Dec. 1941</p> <p>CSM: n/a [confusion</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> in Syria (64 Group) initially to Bekaa valley, then Beirut; labour at Royal Engineers camps; Egypt, Italy – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt Jan-Feb. 1943 to Royal Artillery (HAA batteries 278, 279, 280: 87th RA regiment, later 1st RA regiment) served March 1943 Tobruk (Libya); landed with US <b>5th Army</b> as part of 10 Corps (British Army) at Salerno (Italy) on 10 Sept. 1943 (Day 2) – also Basuto pioneers &amp; Swazi smoke company; covered US retreat back to Salerno beachhead</p>

	<p>with CSMs for 1967 &amp; 1968 below?]</p>	<p>with field firing of artillery against enemy, 13 Sept. etc.; continued field firing in advance to the Volturmo against German 88s, n.b. 279 battery "old soldiers now"; support for 10 Corps (46 Midland Division, 56 London Black Cats, &amp; 7th Armoured Desert Rats) at Capua, Grazzianise and Cancellio bridgeheads; German line on Volturmo broken 19 Oct. and German retreat to Gustav Line (from upper Sango across Appenines to upper Volturmo &amp; River Garigliano); 87th RA harassed enemy with long-range salvoes but now open to air attack; camped close to Vesuvius before volcano erupted; HAA protection for airfields at Foggia and then near Brindisi; RA 89th HAA regiment became semi-mobile from July 1944, &amp; was disbanded Sept. 1944; sent to labour and guard duties, then joined 1st HAA regiment, at Marradi in central Apennines between 5th &amp; 8th Armies field-firing in mobile batteries against enemy transport and strong points in support of infantry of 13 Corps 56 Division (incl. Lovat Scouts), NZ Division of 5 Corps, Polish Corps, 43rd Indian Brigade, Italian infantry of 10 Corps, &amp; 6th Armoured Division – thought front not yet advancing again the 1st HAA regiment fired 11,500 rounds in March 1945; supported renewed <b>8th Army</b> offensive 10 April 1945 attack across Senio river, strafed by few German aircraft (after long absence); 8th Army front advancing across Santerno towards Ferrara; as a senior company, 1976 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.</p> <p>[Also see APC company 2302 below.]</p>
<p>* 1977</p>	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>CSM: Meese, N.</p> <p>arrived Lobatse Aug.-Sept. 1941, departed Oct. 1941; arrived Egypt Nov.-Dec.1941 [Syria Dec. 1941?]</p> <p>CSM: Meese, M. (EC 6925)</p> <p>Cook: Cpl. Johnny Palaelo (Bent p.95)</p>	<p>[First sent to British 9th Army in Syria?] British <b>8th Army</b> (Royal Pioneers 66 Group) garrison company Suez Canal guard duties from February 1942 (Tel el Kebir etc), near Alexandria end of 1942 [see photo opp. p.21]; Italy – diluted 1943 to Royal Pioneers smoke generation; Sicily landings (How Beach, Syracuse) 10 July 1943; Reggio landing (Italy) &amp; anti-sniper patrols on day after 3 Sept.1943 invasion; smoke screens at Crotona &amp; Bari mid-Sept; replaced by 1979 at Bari &amp; went on to Foggia guard duty Oct.-Nov.; Jan. 1944 at Vasto near Sangro for smoke &amp; labour plus 2 ammo carrier sections for frontline (5th Army on Garigliano/ Rapido approaching Cassino, but 7 divisions withdrawn to England for France invasion preparation); March-April 1944 followed British 5th Corps with 1968, 1969, 1980 &amp; 1983 to join US <b>5th Army</b>; camped close to Vesuvius when volcano erupted, and had to move quick; 15-16 March 1944 provided smoke cover for 24th New Zealand Battalion attack on Cassino town in 3rd and bitterest Battle of Cassino ("Marumong" or "the Hardest Fought Battle of World War Two"); c.July smoke duties at newly captured port of Ancona under 19 Group <b>8th Army</b>; left smaller smoke unit and went to labour on Cattolica railhead on coast when Rimini fell 21 Sept. 1944; worked with Canadian Corps, then to 5 Corps Feb. 1945 at Ravenna building bailey-bridges and handling RE stores (1968, 1970, 1977 under 61 Pioneer Group); 1970 together with 1968, 1970, 1980 &amp; 1977 followed soon after 1967 &amp; 1969 to Po in April/May 1945 "handling supplies and ammunition" ; as a senior company, 1977 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.</p> <p>[Also see 2300 APC company below.]</p>

* 1978	Batawana  arrived Syria Feb.1942 via Egypt  CSM: Serogola Seretse (EC 8657)	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group); railway construction labour; Royal Engineers camp guarding; May 1943 Egypt – diluted to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt June 1943 to Royal Pioneers aircraft salvage sections 130-135 as drivers etc., served in Libya; it is not clear if 1978 was repatriated from Egypt to southern Africa in June-August 1945 or after temporary service for the <b>9th Army</b> in Syria in early 1946.
* 1979	Bangwato  arrived Egypt Nov.-Dec.1941  CSM: Malegowana, M. (EC 7407)	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group), British <b>8th Army</b> (Royal Pioneers 66 Group) garrison company Suez Canal guard duties from February 1942 (Tel el Kebir etc), near Alexandria end of 1942; Italy – diluted 1943 to British <b>8th Army</b> Royal Pioneers smoke generation, served Sicily (Augusta & Syracuse) from 14 July 1943; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Bari docks (Italy); 2 Dec. 1943 showed smoke prowess at Bari harbour oil refinery under biggest enemy air raid on shipping (three killed); then back to Foggia & Cerignola airfields; still at Bari May 1944; trained Indian Army replacements & went c. July 1944 as labour company to newly captured port of Ancona under 19 Group 8th Army; stayed during very wet winter with floods into docks unloading ships till only Bechuana company there at year end, as Bechuana were replaced by newly arrived Swazi pioneers from North Africa; still at Ancona unloading in spring 1945 (temporarily joined by 1990); ; as a senior company, 1979 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.  [Also see 2300 APC company below.]

### *Other companies recruited in late 1941:*

1980	Bakwena  CSM: John, K.  arrived Syria Feb.1942 via Egypt  CSM: Kgakgamatso, M. (EC 1434) & John, K. (EC 1628)	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group); labour at Royal Engineers camps; mid-1942 guard duties; later 1943 British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Taranto & Brindisi docks & ammo depot (Italy), accident Nov.; March-April 1944 followed British 5th Corps with 1968, 1969, 1977, & 1983 to join US <b>5th Army</b> , to work Vairano railhead with 1983; camped close to Vesuvius when volcano erupted; mountain road and bridge-building (for 8th Army reinforcements to cross to Cassino); c. July 1944 unloading petrol at Montagnano near Lake Trasimene and near 1968, 1970, 1971; to ammo dump and railhead at Chiaravalle just north of Ancona August 1944; winter 1944 replaced 1967 company with RAF unloading at Senegallia; with RAF to Cervia in Jan. 1945; 1980 together with 1968, 1970, & 1977 followed soon after 1967 & 1969 to Po in April/May 1945 "handling supplies and ammunition" ; as a senior company, 1980 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.
1981	Bangwato  arrived Syria Feb.1942 via Egypt  CSM: Abel Sikunyana (EC 8156)	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group); labour at Royal Engineers camps; mid-1942 guard duties; later 1943 to British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Taranto & Brindisi docks & ammo depot (Italy); trained & converted to smoke duty by 112 British Smoke Company for Taranto & Barletta, stayed there till May 1944 & trained Indian Army company replacement; working in mountains till August 1944 transfer to Ancona dock work, and split between ammo dump and railheads at Chiaravalle and Jesi

		near of Ancona (61 Group & 42 Group again); to Kimini (HQ of 64 Pioneer Group i/c 1967, 1980, 1981) in winter of 1944 half company on railhead unloading moving on to Cesana and half company on mule tending for Veterinary Corps; as a senior company, 1981 was presumably shipped back to southern Africa from Egypt in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.
<b>1982</b>	Bangwato  arrived Syria Feb.1942 via Egypt  CSM: Serogola Seretse (EC 8657) & Marupin, M. (EC 7503)	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group); railway construction labour; later 1943 in British <b>8th Army</b> 1982 went to Qasassin Pioneer Corps depot, Egypt, in readiness for shipping west; but went instead to Cairo (Long Valley & Abasia sub-depots of 4 Base Ordinance Depot) & back to Qasassin by Sept. 1943 to be equipped for Italy; but instead of Italy, went back to Cairo to excavate great caves of Tura; January 1944 to Suez dock labour; by February 1944 back in Syria at Aleppo constructing camps; from April 1944 worked on Paiforce Leave Camp and signals construction at Beirut; then with 1984 built camps at Artouz; moved into Syrian desert Nov. 1944-April 1945 building and repairing road from Bent Jbail towards Iran and Iraq, then back over mountains to Lebanon valley; then construction work with precast concrete in camp construction around Damascus till left Syria; it is not clear if 1978 was repatriated from Egypt to southern Africa in June-August 1945 or after temporary service for the <b>9th Army</b> in Syria in early 1946.
<b>1983</b>	Bangwaketse, Bakgatla  arrived Egypt Nov.-Dec.1941  CSM: Suping, M. (EC 664)	[First posting not clear] British <b>8th Army</b> (Royal Pioneers 66 Group) garrison company Suez Canal guard duties from February 1942, near Alexandria end of 1942; mid-1943 Alexandria training as beach-handling unit; Sicily (Syracuse) 13 July 1943; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Bari docks (Italy); Jan. 1944 to road work across Sangro, replacing 1969; March-April 1944 followed British 5th Corps with 1968, 1969, 1977, & 1980 to join US <b>5th Army</b> , to work Vairano railhead with 1980; road-making in mountains incl. snowdrifts (roads for 8th Army reinforcements to cross to Cassino); working with Royal Signals two miles from Cassino, much shelled; arrived Arezzo south of River Arno in support of British 13 Corps (now transferred from 8th to 5th Army to replace Free French divisions gone to France) soon after 15 July 1944 Arezzo fell to Fifth Army's 46 and 39 Groups chasing Germans to Gothic Line towards Florence; supply labour at Poggibonsi scene of German stand, repaired Arno bridges damaged by floods, forward to Pontassieve on bridging; from Oct.1944 day and night shifts at 13 Corps ammo and petrol dumps at Vicchio, near Borgo San Lorenzo, beyond Florence – also portered for frontline Rifle Brigade battalion and cleared mountain track for supply jeeps; 46 Pioneer Group (incl. 1966, 1969, & 1983) congratulated for sterling work in mountains by Gen. Mark Clark; moved into Bologna with 5th Army & stayed there handling stores at railhead; as a senior company, 1983 was presumably shipped back via Egypt to southern Africa in June-August 1945 before repatriation was halted until early 1946.
<b>1984</b>	Bakwena, Barolong  arrived Lebanon mid-Feb.in March 1942 via Egypt  CSM: n/a	First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> (64 Group), Lebanon (plate-laying for New Zealand railway survey company), remained in Syria later 1943 with APC companies 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989; then unloading ships for British <b>8th Army</b> at Suez docks in Egypt, followed by return in Nov. 1943 to <b>9th Army</b> Syria loading ordinance, petrol and food at Aleppo; February 1944 moved to Terbol to handle salvage & RE supplies; May 1944 back to Aleppo loading supplies

		<p>&amp; RE supplies, May 1944 back to Aleppo loading supplies attached to 87 Armoured Brigade (where Morolong soldier murdered on guard); joined 1982 building camps at Artouz and remained in area for rest of service into late 1945 ('laying water mains, digging pipe lines, handing stone and sand up to' hut builders, making roads etc.); then, after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Syria; till eventually shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.</p>
1985	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Lebanon mid-Feb. in March 1942 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Phemelo, P. (EC 8531)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> (64 Group) Lebanon (Royal Engineers road building), Syria June 1943; later 1943 in British <b>8th Army</b> to Qasassin Pioneer Corps depot, Egypt, in readiness for shipping west; but went instead to Cairo (Long Valley &amp; Abasia sub-depots of 4 Base Ordnance Depot) then guard duties near Alexandria, then back to <b>9th Army</b> at Haifa by Dec. 1943 in salvage handling &amp; camp construction; Feb. 1944 working back in Syria (at Majdaloun RE base supply depot actually in Lebanon); moved to Aleppo after couple of months, handling petrol and ammo, and assisting RE works company; July 1944 at Haifa breaking up old vehicles for parts; then Feb. 1945 Tripoli (Syria) building "the tank transporter track at Bechmazzine", roads, and jeep tracks for mountain forestry, drainage channels, and RE sewage at Qatana; after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to <b>9th Army</b> for camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Syria; till eventually shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.</p>
1986	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Syria Jan.-Feb.1943 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Lebodilwe, B. (EC 8663) &amp; Gaefalale, S. (EC 8165)</p>	<p>First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group), Beirut guard duties; then in British <b>8th Army</b> in Egypt August 1943, at Fanara on Great Bitter Lake handling RE supplies &amp; building new camps; Sept. 1943 to Alexandria training as dock workers but not sent to Italy but to Suez to lay pipes &amp; construct camps as well as dock labour Oct.1943 to May 1944; June 1944 to Ameriya in desert east of Alexandria to excavate pipeline formerly used by Montgomery's Alamein advance, plus camp construction and dock work; expert camp constructors including prisoner-of-war camp at El Daba west of Alamein for Germans captured in Italy; one 1986 rearguard on supply truck shot and killed and wounded two Egyptian attackers with one bullet; then, after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Syria; till eventually shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.</p>
1987	<p>Bakgatla</p> <p>arrived Syria Jan.-Feb.1943 via Egypt</p> <p>CSM: Bogatsu, P. (EC 2451)</p>	<p>Included Sgt. Mmusi Pilane brother of (Bakgatla Kgosi) Molefi Pilane, and together with 1988 "pre-eminent among the later companies for smartness on parade and general capability". First sent to British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group), then to British <b>8th Army</b> camp at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, and to Suez dock labour with 1984 and 1986; then joined 1986 working on prisoner-of-war camp construction at El Daba west of Alamein; returning to <b>9th Army</b> in Dec. 1944, then Tulkarm near Haifa on RE (DCRE) work works; then Hadera until repatriated; after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Svria; till eventually</p>

		shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.
<b>1988</b>	Tati (Balalanga, Bakhurutshe, Barolong)  arrived Syria Jan.-Feb.1943 via Egypt  CSM: Obitseng, M. (EC 5145)	Together with 1987 "pre-eminent among the later companies for smartness on parade and general capability". With British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group), road-making along cliff face plus railway track at Cheka pass in Lebanon mountains; massed at Aleppo/ Damascus for possible service in Turkey; then, after scare passed, went to supply handling and salvage at Terbol in Feb/ March 1944; penultimate Bechuana APC company (before 1989) to leave Syria to join British <b>8th Army</b> in Egypt June 1944, stationed at Ikingi in western desert guarding refugee camps & RE work on pipe lines; then Dec. 1944 left for <b>9th Army</b> Bashit and Qustina road repairing & brick/slab casting; finally as camp guards at Beit Nabala north of Haifa; then, after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Syria; till eventually shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.
<b>1989</b>	Bangwato  arrived Syria Jan.-Feb.1943 via Egypt  CSM: Malelekwa, K. (EC 9663)	British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group), working at RE base supply depot at Haifa mostly with timber; Sept. 1943 sixty men to Cyprus of whom thirty in beach cargo handling under dive-bomber attacks in Dodecanese [Greek Islands], during which Sgt. Ofhalatse Sefholo died; Nov. 1943 aerodrome and leave camp construction by 1989 at Beirut in; last Bechuana company in Syria to leave for British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt in Aug. 1944; trained as AA gunners for two months at Almaza (to replace individual Bechuana HAA gunners in Italy invalidated out or lucky to be drawn for leave back home); but not needed in Italy so sent back to Haifa guard duties versus local thieves; March 1945 temporary farmworkers for harvest at GHQ farm near Nazareth (near Affuleh on Esdraeolon plains); otherwise "heavy, valuable and dirty work, handling oil and petrol in bulk", medical stores, salvage etc. till end of 1945; then, after futile waiting for repatriation August to late 1945 or early 1946 at Qasassin base camp in Egypt, assigned back to camp security duties covering British withdrawal from Syria; till eventually shipped back home (again via Qasassin) in March 1946.
<b>1990</b>	Bangwato  arrived Egypt (Qasassin) January 1943  CSM: Keaboka Kgamane (EC 9289)	British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt, breaking Port Said dock strike; landed in Sicily (Syracuse) c.24 July 1943; congratulated by Monty at Palagonia; landed Italy 5 Sept. 1943 as dock labour; Crotone/Bari mid-Sept. for USAAF; Nov. 1943 to Campobasso in mountains near front line; then work at railheads near Sangro frontline; mud and then snow; remained handling ammo & petrol on Sangro January 1944 with 1969 & 1966; then building mole and repairing docks at Ortona [see photo opp.Bent p.68] under occasional enemy fire; then April 1944 sent to railhead ammo dumps on frontline when spring offensive resumed; during next winter worked with 41 SADF Engineers Company on building docks, concreting & road surfacing; temporarily joined 1979 unloading at Ancona docks, quarrying nearby; then around early 1945 to base supply depot near Jesi (under 87 Pioneer Group); returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.

**Later recruited companies (arrived Lobatse Aug.-Sept. 1942, n.b. numbering of Companies descends in order of recruitment.**

<p><b>1970</b></p>	<p>Bangwaketse</p> <p>arrived Egypt (Qasassin) January 1943;</p> <p>arrived Syria Jan.-Feb.1943</p> <p>CSM: Kebalebile, K. (EC 782)</p>	<p>British <b>9th Army</b> Syria (64 Group); British <b>8th Army</b> Sicily (Syracuse) c.24 July 1943; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Bari docks (Italy); crossed Appenines to U.S. <b>5th Army</b> arriving Capua Jan.1944 working ammo and petrol dumps at 10 Corps (19 Group) railhead and ferrying across Garigliano under frontline fire for British 5th Division and then US 4th Division; retired from frontline end of March to join Bangwaketse 1983 at Vairano railhead; assisted Canadian Corps building up stores for coming spring offensive; then when Winter Line broke at Cassino, set up Canadian ammo dump at Melfa (with 1969); early 1944 worked on ammp dump at Narni in central Appenines, moving to new dump near 1968 on Lake Trasimene c.July 1944 (where visited by King George VI); joined 1980 at ammo dump and railhead at Chiaravalle just north of Ancona August 1944; moved Oct. 1944 to Rimini ammo depot and sub-depots north for British, Canadian, NZ, Polish convoys; with 1968 dug Ghurka infantry defences at Forli; then moved with 5 Corps field maintenance to Ravenna (1968, 1970, 1977 under 61 Pioneer Group); 1970 together with 1968, 1980 &amp; 1977 followed soon after 1967 &amp; 1969 to Po in April/May 1945 "handling supplies and ammunition"; by time of 30 April-5 May German surrender, 1970 probably at <b>8th Army</b> rear supply base Mestre near Venice; returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.</p>
<p><b>1969</b></p>	<p>Bakwena, Batawana</p> <p>arrived Egypt (Qasassin) April 1943</p> <p>CSM: John, J. (EC 1308) &amp; Kgakgamatso, M. (EC 1434)</p>	<p>British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt, Malta; Sicily (Augusta failed to land) 13 Aug.1943 &amp; Syracuse 14 July 1943; landed Taranto in Italy Sept.1943; mid-Oct. to San Severo railhead near front line; Nov. speedily bridged Sangro under Royal Engineers, with some of 1977, "one of the foremost of the Herculean labours by which the Bechuana are remembered" (incl. Col. Boothby ex Lobatse 1941); [x2 photos in Bent opp.p.53: "They built the largest Bailey Bridge in the world while Spitfires weaved overhead from dawn to dusk to ward off dive bombers...the 1,200-foot long Sangro bridge."--incorrectly attrib. by Bent to 1980 (Bakwena) in caption] remained handling ammo &amp; petrol on Sangro January 1944 with 1990 &amp; 1966; hampered by coastal flood; returned to Sangro bridge building (8th Army now at Ortona/ Orsogna); early 1944 repaired Venafro-Isernia road linking 8th and 5th Armies; dug and camouflaged gun pits in mountains; April 1944 followed British 5th Corps with 1968, 1977,1980 &amp; 1983 to join US; c. July 1944 took over road and bridge-building tasks of 1980; <b>5th Army</b>, to work at Vairano railhead with 1980 and 1983 (roads for 8th Army reinforcements to cross to Cassino); May 1944 at Pignatoro below Monte Cassino, with Canadian Corps engineers, then when Winter Line broke they built pontoon bridge across Melfa (with 1970); July 1944 joined 13 Corps Royal Engineers road and bridge-building near Castelnuovo; as soon Florence fell to SADF early Aug. 1944 built famous Trinity bailey-bridge across Arno with 577 Company RE; proceeded via Pontassieve, Dicomano, and Borgo San Lorenzo into mountains bridging and repairing roads (for 46 Group now 13 Corps Pioneer HQ), frequently under shellfire from nearby frontline; Oct. 1944 built bailev-bridgē 8km bevond Castel del Rio and</p>

		<p>maintained road to it incl. quarrying, plus new bridging on adjacent 6th Armoured Division supply route; camp at Moradacio partly destroyed by flooded stream; Nov. 1944 marched forward again in gales on 5th Army (static) winter front in mountains thrusting for Bologna, making roads at Sassaleone and San Clemente (Bechuana called their camps <i>Kapoko</i>, i.e. snow.); 46 Pioneer Group (incl. 1966, 1969, &amp; 1983) congratulated for sterling work in mountains by Gen. Mark Clark; in April 1945 5th Army offensive bridged Idice river at Budio on [upper] Po on 26th [April?]; by time of 30 April-5 May German surrender, 1969 at Monfalcone south of Udine (Venezia Giulia provincial capital) <b>8th Army</b> supply centre; then unloading heavy and urgent supplies with Basuto companies at airfields to south of Udine; returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.</p>
1968	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Egypt (Qasassin) April 1943</p> <p>CSM: Kgolo, G. (EC 7978) &amp; Motsumi, M. (EC 8012) &amp; Lebogang (EC 9116)</p>	<p>British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt, break Port Said dock strike; Sicily (Syracuse) c.24 July 1943; Oct.-Nov. 1943 to Bari docks (Italy); April 1944 followed British 5th Corps with 1968, 1969, 1977, 1980 &amp; 1983 to join US <b>5th Army</b>, to work at Mignano ammo dump under fire (so fire-fighting too); worked at forward ammo dump near Cassino; c.July 1944 to Monte San Savino ammo dump near 1970 and 1980 and Lake Trasimene; ; working in mountains till August 1944 transfer to Ancona dock work; then via 5 Corps field maintenance centre at Fabriano to Montemarciano (with other Bangwato companies) to Rimini and Gambettola with sections forward at Forli in winter; with 1970 dug Ghurka infantry defences at Forli; then moved with 5 Corps Field Maintenance to Ravenna (1968, 1970, 1977 under 61 Pioneer Group); 1968 together with 1970, 1980 &amp; 1977 followed soon after 1967 &amp; 1969 to Po in April/May 1945 "handling supplies and ammunition"; by time of 30 April-5 May German surrender, 1968 busy at Udine (Venezia Giulia provincial capital) <b>8th Army</b> supply centre; 1966 and 1968 were the last Bechuana companies to travel south down Italy by train and take ship at Taranto for Middle-East at end of August 1945; returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.</p>
1967	<p>Bangwato</p> <p>arrived Egypt (Qasassin) April 1943</p> <p>CSM: Motsumi, M. (EC 8012) &amp; Gabalebe, M. (EC 13440)</p>	<p>British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt; Sicily (Syracuse) c.24 July 1943; Lentini air-raid five killed 11 Aug.; to RAF airstrips in S. Italy Sept. 1943; moved with RAF to near Cerignola Oct.; April 1944 still loading supplies at rear RAF bases Campomarino, Casalbordino, San Severo; with RAF to San Vito and Ancona advanced bases c.July 1944; sections entered Rimini 15 Sept. 1944 (4 days after capture) handled supplied and airfield construction with RAF ground crews and were strafed by German aircraft; left RAF at year end (swapped with 1980) to make roads at Faenza (in deliberately flooded country south of Ravenna, captured mid-Dec. 1944 after month's siege); Jan. 1945 at Forli dug defences for an Indian Brigade; March 1945 forward to Cervia preparing roads for spring offensive; sent forward in spring offensive from RE nightwork on Senio to Po south back, in front of guns, to prepare bridging; "theirs was one of the first bridges across the Po"; by time of 30 April-5 May German surrender, 1967 was "clearing railway tunnels</p>

		and erecting bridges on the Austrian border [Brenner Pass] to facilitate the supply of the Eighth Army corps beyond the Alps"; returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.
<b>1966</b>	Bangwato  arrived Egypt (Qasassin) April 1943  CSM: Gabolebye, M. (EC 13840)	British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt, Great Bitter Lake, Malta; Sicily (Syracuse) 14 July 1943; landed Italy to Brindisi Sept. 1943; by Nov. 1943 working of railway reconstruction near Sangro front; remained handling ammo & petrol on Sangro January 1944 with 1990 & 1969; noted for hard work at petrol depot; still on Sangro near Ortona April 1944; [Bent memories of bomb-shattered billets]; worked c.July 1944 at Montemarciano advanced ammo dump for 87 Group, under fire and breaking unloading records; Oct.1944 to Ancona docks unloading and building wharves; Dec. 1944 joined US <b>5th Army</b> British 13th Corps joining 1969 & 1983; making roads in mountains at Castel del Rio high in mountains where enemy heavily bombarded [photo opp.p.69 clearing snow from route to 5th Army front in Apennines, also see IWM film]; 46 Pioneer Group (incl. 1966, 1969, & 1983) congratulated for sterling work in mountains by Gen. Mark Clark; accompanied Royal Engineers 56 Field Company "repairing bridges and breaks in the road and removing road blocks" close to 8th Army 13 Corps, "keeping up with the chase and never sleeping twice in the same place...much of this exciting journey was done in tipper trucks"; by time of 30 April-5 May German surrender, 1966 was with 13 Corps at Gorizia near Trieste, clearing road blocks "and were now bridging the wide ice-green waters of the Isonzo at Gorizia" camped with British 13 Corps halted before Trieste reading to fight with Tito's Yugoslavs for its capture.  British' then called back to airfields near Udine to unload supplies brought by bombers from the south (railways cut & Venice port largely disabled); 1966 and 1968 were the last Bechuana companies to travel south down Italy by train and take ship at Taranto for Middle-East at end of August 1945; returned to Egypt (Qasassin) for repatriation, waiting there August till late 1945/ early 1946 when sent (over their protests) for <b>9th Army</b> infantry training in Palestine until finally shipped home (via Qasassin again) in March 1946.

### *Companies subsequently formed in the Middle-East:*

<b>"B" Detach-ment</b>	'Miscellaneous body of Bechuana working as a labour unit in Egypt'	British <b>8th Army</b> Egypt: assembled at Pioneer Corps headquarters Qasassin, to build up Western Desert petrol dump in preparation for battle of El Alamein [see photo of L/C Sukwane opp. p.36, i/c 30 men.]
<b>* 2300</b>	diluted from APC Companies 1977, 1979 (four sections of each)  CSM: Thakano, M. (EC 7115)	diluted as Royal Pioneers Bechuana Smoke Company in <b>9th Army</b> (64 Group); served from later 1943 as port smoke protection at Haifa (Palestine) and Beirut (Labanon), though only saw enemy recce planes no bombers; from Dec. 1944 reverted to pioneer work mostly guard duty around Haifa.
<b>* 2301</b>	diluted from APC Companies 1971, 1972	diluted 1943 to British <b>8th Army</b> Royal Artillery (HAA batteries 186, 294, 295: 96th RA regiment, later 106th RA regiment) served March 1943 Suez (Egypt); by July 1943 at

	CSM: Letsholatnebe, S. (EC 6228)	El Shatt, some on artificial island in middle of Suez Bay; then moved to Libya with one battery at Tobruk and one at Benghazi (with third battery to Haifa with 1971); then all batteries to Damascus (with 1971), ready to go north if Germany invaded Turkey; returned to Port Said & Tahag; then "deployed their guns round the unhappy Greek forces engaged in their national and never-ending dispute"; subsequently sent to Italy; where provided AA cover for Bari and Taranto with "little action"; [106th] RA regiment disbanded Sept. 1944 and men dispersed to fill gaps (men invalidated out or on home leave in B.P.) in other Bechuana RA gun crews.
* 2302	from APC companies 1974, 1975, 1976  CSM: Mosimanegape, T. (EC 6425)	diluted 1943 to British <b>8th Army</b> Royal Artillery (HAA batteries 205,231,235: 89th RA regiment, later 57th RA regiment) served March 1943 Tripoli (Libya); from Sept. 1943 defended Brindisi (Italy) "with little incident" till Sept. 1944 89th HAA regiment disbanded and men waited for redeployment; joined 57th HAA regiment in Faenza area (see 1967) on eastern sector of 8th Army front in support of 5 Corps, 78 Division, 8 Indian Division, & Cremona Group of Italian infantry – 57th HAA regiment averaged 10,000 rounds monthly fired during winter lull; one 2302 HAA battery supported beginning of 8th Army spring offensive with assault across Lake Commachio on 10 April 1945, moving on to support NZ troops, with airbursts in night-sky along enemy lines to guide attacking aircraft; one battery with 5 Corps defended Argenta gap into the Po valley through which 8th Army poured towards Ferrara;

### *Training & Headquarters Staff:*

<b>64</b> (Bechuana) <b>Pioneer</b> <b>Group HQ</b>	Bechuanaland Depot, Lobatse, B.P. from June 1941.  Later in war: CSM Depot Staff Phillip P. Matante (EC 14052).	C/O Lt.-Col. R.S. Boothby, plus five Royal Pioneers officers (majors & captains), five assistant DCs from BPG as liaison officers (lieutenants). Boothby replaced by Lt.-Col. J.H.M. Edye (later Brig. Edye, director of labour at War Office, London).
<b>A.G. 10</b> <b>Cairo</b>	Officer representing High Commission Territories at British <b>8th</b> <b>Army</b> GHQ, in Adjutant General's office, Cairo.  RSM: Rasebolai Kgamane (EC 8567)	Lt-Col D.W. How, ex-Assistant Resident Commissioner of Basutoland; subsequently replaced by Lt Col R. Charnock, a British Army officer with Basuto troops. Assisted from June 1943 by Major J.D.A. Germond ex-DC of Bechuanaland Protectorate. On his leaving for Italy (see below), Charnock was replaced by Lt.Col. S.H. Walker – one major task was organizing the home leave scheme (by lottery) for Bechuana etc. troops. (For the vital role of RSM Rasebolai Kgamane see Bent p.91.)
<b>Qasassin</b> <b>Middle-East</b> <b>Royal</b> <b>Pioneer</b> <b>Corps</b> <b>Depot</b>	Commanded by Brig. Picot-Moodie; with up to hundred Bechuana pioneers at one time 1943-44, incl. "B" Detachment formed 1943	At request of RE commandant, only Bechuana guarded RE stores dump at Qasassin (see story of Private Molamu EC 8815 in Bent p.89) until Qaassassin Bechuana were removed to Italy to replace casualties.
<b>39, 46, &amp; 61</b> <b>Groups</b> <b>Royal</b> <b>Pioneers</b>	with <b>8th &amp; 5th Armies</b> in Italy	Bechuana APC Companies and detachments circulated in Italy under these Groups attached to the two Armies.
<b>A.G. 7</b>	Officer: Lt. Col. Charnock	For Charnock see also AG 10 Cairo above. AG 7 officers

<b>A.S. 7 (Colonial Troops)</b>	S-11FC Col. CHAMOCK, joined Nov. 1943 by Major Germond	FOR CHAMOCK SEE ALSO AG TO Cairo ABOVE. AG/ OFFICERS assisted by RSM's toured High Commission Territories troops, incl. HCT base depot at Taranto, Italy.
<b>Italy</b>	RSM Molwa Sekgoma (EC 6005),  RSM Kgari Sechele (EC 1980),  RSM Mookani Gaseitsiwe (EC 10252),  RSM Molefi Pilane (EC 2251).	HCT pioneers were placed under Pioneer & Labour Directorate of Royal Pioneers section of AFHQ Italy, and gunners were placed under Royal Artillery section of AFHQ.

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