

## Scissors Force <sup>(1)</sup>

Force Headquarters <sup>(2)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Scots Guards <sup>(3)</sup>

No. 1 Independent Company <sup>(4)</sup>

No. 2 Independent Company <sup>(4)</sup>

No.3 Independent Company <sup>(4)</sup>

No. 4 Independent Company <sup>(4)</sup>

No. 5 Independent Company <sup>(4)</sup>

One troop, 203<sup>rd</sup> (Cumberland) Field Battery, Royal Artillery

One troop, 55<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Detachment, 230<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Field Company, Royal Engineers

## NOTES:

1. Scissors Force was formed in early May 1940 under the command of Colonel Colin McVean GUBBINS. The role of this force was to form a base in the Bodo, Mo and Mosjoen area to the south of Narvik and to block and delay the German advance from the south.
2. The Force Headquarters was formed from the staff of the 61<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division on 15 April 1940.
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Scots Guards was part of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) which was sent to assist in blocking the road at Mo.
4. These companies were formed with volunteers from the Territorial Army divisions then stationed in the United Kingdom. They were:
  - No. 1 Independent Company – Formed by the 52<sup>nd</sup> (Lowland) Division;
  - No. 2 Independent Company – Formed by the 53<sup>rd</sup> (Welsh) Division;
  - No. 3 Independent Company – Formed by the 54<sup>th</sup> (East Anglian) Division;
  - No. 4 Independent Company – Formed by the 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division;
  - No. 5 Independent Company – Formed by the 56<sup>th</sup> (London) Division;
 Each company comprised five officers and about two-hundred and seventy men organised into three platoons, each consisting of three sections. Unusually, an officer commanded each section. There were also some Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and Norwegian interpreters on the strength of each company. Each company had a support section equipped with four Bren guns. They were intended to be self-supporting units. As they were raised for intended service in Norway, the units were equipped with Alpine rucksacks, snowshoes, Arctic boots, sheepskin coats and about £4,000 in cash. The role of the companies was seen as guerrilla tactics, in effect a forerunner of the commandos into which they evolved.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> After the Norwegian campaign, the five companies returned to the U.K. On 11 October 1940, the Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 Companies formed the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Battalion, with Nos. 6 and 7 Companies forming part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Service Battalion.

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