

Scotland and Force K6 in World War II

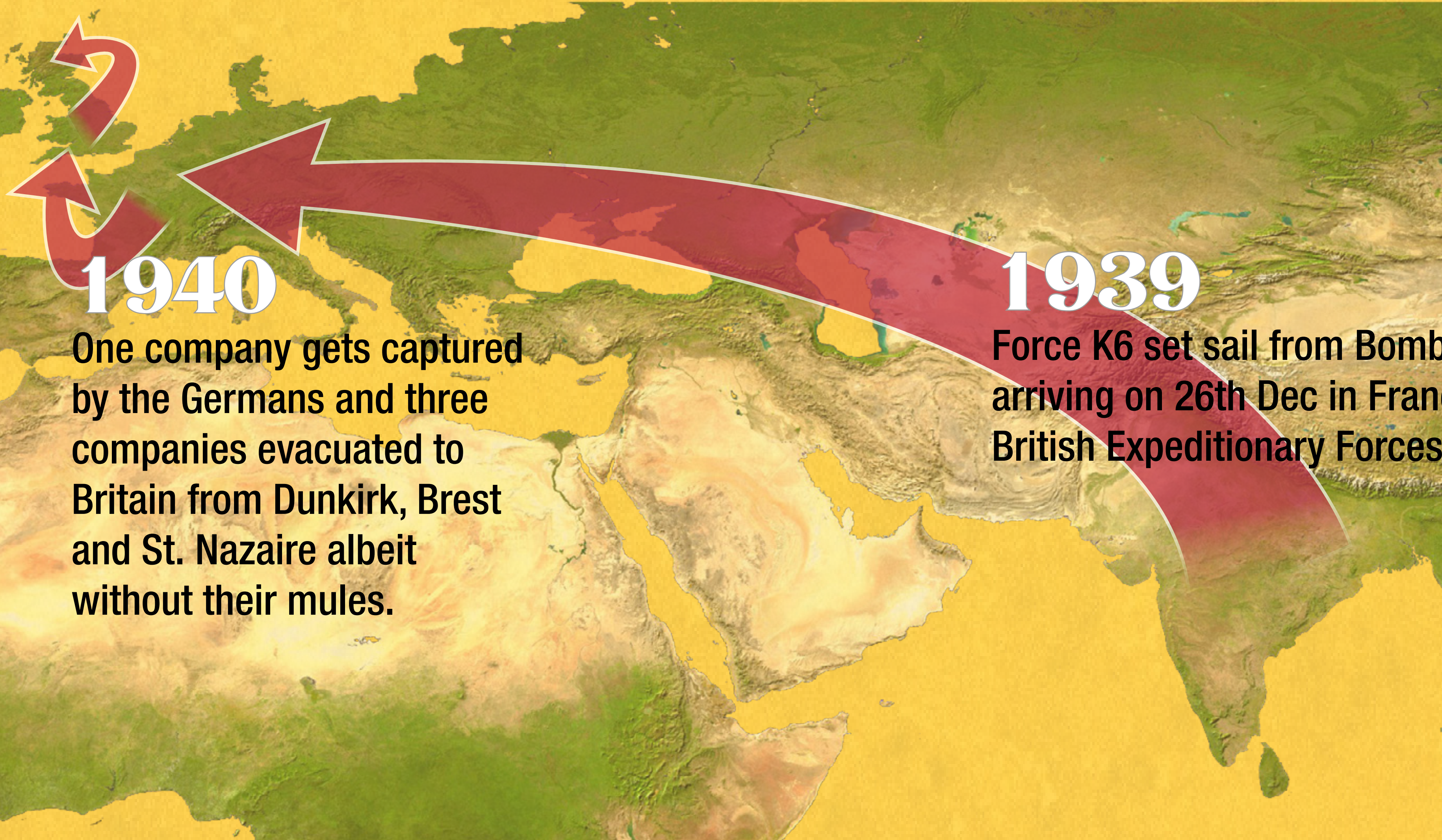
Force K6 were an all Muslim British Indian Army mule transport corps which moved stores, ammunition and supplies during World War II. They consisted of 1800 personnel and 2000 animals, primarily mules.

They held jobs such as drivers, daffadars (sergeants) & naiks (corporal), non-commissioned officers, cooks, blacksmiths and a bellows boy.

Over 2.5 million British Indian soldiers and servicemen participated in World War II with 87,000 deaths and over 150,000 injured.

1941 - 1943

Conduct arctic and mountain warfare training in the UK travelling to Wales and Scotland in preparation for a possible invasion of Norway. They provided pack transport for British Infantry Units during military exercises.



1940

One company gets captured by the Germans and three companies evacuated to Britain from Dunkirk, Brest and St. Nazaire albeit without their mules.

1939

Force K6 set sail from Bombay on 8th Dec arriving on 26th Dec in France to join the British Expeditionary Forces fighting there.



Force K6 soldiers stationed near Aviemore, Highlands, July 1942.
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A corner of Pakistan in Scotland

Kingussie (near Inverness) hosts the largest gravesite of Force K6 soldiers in Britain. Scotland has a total of 13 men from Force K6 buried across four cemeteries. They died due to cold conditions or training accidents. In Lairg they established a temporary mosque and were welcomed by the local community.

There are nine graves in Kingussie, two in Dornoch and one each in Aberdeen and Grange.

Kingussie Cemetery, Inverness-shire
Grave of Force K6 driver Mushtaq Ahmad
died in 1942, aged 21.
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A historic Day in Glasgow at George Square where for the first time a wreath was laid to commemorate the soldiers of the British Indian Army, and specifically Force K6, on Remembrance Sunday 12th Nov 2017

The message on the wreath read: *"Remembering ALL those who have served. Scotland remembers its special and enduring connection with Force K6 – NEVER FORGOTTEN"*

Driver Abdul Ghani of Force K6 painted in 1941 by Henry Lamb.
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See more at the GlaswegAsians exhibition in Scotland Street School Museum.

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