

CYRENAICAN DEFENCE FORCE [C.D.F. OR CYDEF]

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Based In eastern half of **Libya** and established in 1951
Paramilitary independent regular military police & security force
British trained , advised, equipped
Armed with automatic weapons and riot trucks with water cannon
Headquarters at Qarnadah [near Al Beida]
Garrisons throughout Cyrenaica
Under command of a Brigadier
Acted as King's praetorian guard, provincial based militia, prestigious
Recruited from loyal Sanussi sect tribesmen
Loyal to King Idris [hereditary leader of the Sanussi sect]

In 1952 had 600 personal, organised in personal bodyguard for Emir
In 1969 had 6,000 personnel, organised in Battalions

In September 1969 it was disbanded and disarmed following the military coup in Libya
CYDEF suffered 1 soldier killed and 15 wounded in 1969 coup
Integrated into regular army

Cyrenaica Province

Population 300,000 in 1952 (including 120 Italians)
Capital Benghazi [population 60,000 in 1952
70,000 in 1954
140,000 in 1964

Hereditary Emirate since 1917 with local government

Senussi Order

Established in 1837 in Yemen as Sufi offshoot of Sunni Islam
Moved to Cyrenaica in 1843
Traditionally based at Kufra
Puritanical, strict, powerful Muslim religious/political brotherhood
Well organised under hereditary family leaders
Active in **Libya** (Cyrenaica and Fezzan), as well as northern **Chad** and western **Sudan**

Other Libyan local security forces prior to 1969 coup:

National Security Force

A paramilitary regular force, equipped with armoured cars and helicopters
Disbanded in 1969 following military coup

Tripolitanan Police Force

Established in 1952
Police HQ at Tripoli
British trained
Khaki uniformed

Fezzan

Under French military garrison from 1943 until 1955

Population 40,000 in 1952 (including Arabs, Tebu and Tuareg)

In 3 scattered oasis

References; "Oasis Kingdom" , Nina Epton 1952
"Qadhafi's Libya" , Jonathan Bearman 1986
"Qaddafi and the Libyan Revolution" , David Blundy 1987