

9th Australian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Advanced Headquarters, 9th Australian Division, Signals & Employment Platoon
Rear Headquarters, 9th Australian Division & Signals

20th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 20th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals &
58th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/13th Australian Infantry Battalion
2nd/15th Australian Infantry Battalion
2nd/17th Australian Infantry Battalion
20th Australian Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

24th Australian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 24th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals &
76th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/28th Australian Infantry Battalion
2nd/32nd Australian Infantry Battalion ⁽³⁾
2nd/43rd Australian Infantry Battalion
24th Australian Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

26th Australian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 26th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals &
78th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion
2nd/24th Australian Infantry Battalion
2nd/48th Australian Infantry Battalion
26th Australian Infantry Brigade Anti-Tank Company

Divisional Troops

9th Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiment ⁽³⁾
82nd Light Aid Detachment

2nd/2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, Royal Australian Artillery, 9th Australian Division
2nd/7th Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/8th Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/12th Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
3rd Australian Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
4th Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Headquarters, Royal Australian Engineers, 9th Australian Division
2nd/3rd Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/7th Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/13th Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/4th Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers
72nd Light Aid Detachment

2nd/3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

9th Australian Divisional Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals
67th Light Aid Detachment

Headquarters, Australian Army Service Corps, 9th Australian Division
9th Australian Division Ammunition Company, Australian Army Service Corps
9th Australian Division Petrol Company, Australian Army Service Corps
9th Australian Division Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, 9th Australian Division
2nd/3rd Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/8th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/11th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/4th Field Hygiene Section, Australian Army Medical Corps

9th Australian Divisional Mobile Bath Unit, Australian Army Ordnance Corps

9th Australian Divisional Provost Company

9th Australian Divisional Postal Unit
9th Australian Field Cash Office
9th Australian Divisional Salvage Unit

Additional Units under command during Siege of Tobruk3rd Armoured Brigade (4)

Headquarters, 3rd Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

1st Royal Tank Regiment

'D' Squadron, 7th Royal Tank Regiment

3rd Hussars

1st King's Dragoon Guards

18th Australian Infantry Brigade (5)

Headquarters, 18th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals &
47th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/9th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/10th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/12th Australian Infantry Battalion

Infantry (Machine Gun)

1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

4th Anti-Aircraft Brigade

Headquarters, 4th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

51st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

13th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

14th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Royal Artillery and Royal Australian Artillery

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

104th Regiment (Essex Yeomanry), Royal Horse Artillery

107th Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars), Royal Horse Artillery

51st (Westmorland and Cumberland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

The Nottinghamshire (Sherwood Rangers) Yeomanry (xx)

Royal Engineers and Royal Australian Engineers

295th Army Field Company, Royal Engineers

551st Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers

143rd Army Field Park Troop, Royal Engineers

2nd/4th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

Signals

'K' Base Section, Royal Corps of Signals

27th Line Maintenance Section, Royal Corps of Signals

Royal Army Service Corps

309th Reserve Motor Company, Royal Army Service Corps

345th Reserve Motor Company, Royal Army Service Corps

550th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

88th Sub-Area Tobruk

Brigadier L. F. THOMPSON

Headquarters, 88th Sub-Area Tobruk1st Libyan Refugee Battalion2nd Libyan Refugee Battalion4th Libyan Refugee BattalionHeadquarters, 45th Pioneers Group1205th Indian Pioneer Company,1206th Indian Pioneer Company,1207th Indian Pioneer Company,

Libyan Works Battalion

88th Sub-Area Army Post Office

'H' Advanced Stationary Depot

Transit Camp

Prisoner of War Cage

NOTES:

1. The 9th Australian Infantry Division was the fourth and final infantry division raised as part of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force. It was formed in the Middle East on the 18th December 1940. It was initially allocated the 18th, 24th and 25th Australian Infantry Brigades, but of these only the 24th Brigade was destined to form a part of the Division operationally. The 25th Brigade, which was then based in the United Kingdom, transferred to the 7th Australian Division on its arrival in the Middle East in March 1941. Formed in Australia in July 1940, the 26th Brigade sailed for the Middle East on 18 November 1940. It joined the division in January 1941 on its arrival in the Middle East. The division concentrated in Palestine, under the command of I Australian Corps. With the conclusion of Operation 'Compass', which resulted in the capture of Cyrenaica, the 6th Australian Infantry Division was withdrawn to prepare for deployment to Greece. The newly arrived 9th Australian Infantry Division was sent to Cyrenaica to replace the 6th Australian Division and came under command of Cyrenaica Command. The German Forces launched their offensive on 31 March 1941 and the German advance encircled the division in Tobruk. It then fought in the famous siege of Tobruk until relieved by the British 70th Infantry Division. NOTE: The Order of Battle for the division and attached troops under command is that taken at 18.00 hours on Monday, 5 May 1941 – units departed and arrived in Tobruk during the siege, and they also moved between formations as and when required. The Headquarters of the 70th Infantry Division moved to Tobruk and by 17.00 hours on 22 October 1941, assumed command of all the troops in the Fortress from 9th Australian Division. The 9th Australian Infantry Division remained in the Middle East after the departure of the rest of the corps to take part in the battle of El Alamein. Following its key role in that battle, the division returned to Australia in late 1942.
2. This brigade was raised as part of the 7th Australian Infantry Division in April 1940. The 2nd/13th and 2nd/17th Battalions were formed in New South Wales, and the 2nd/15th Battalion in Queensland. The brigade transferred to the 9th Australian Division in January 1941.
3. These units do not appear on the Order of Battle on 5 May 1941 (see above).
4. This brigade was part of the British 2nd Armoured Division and was engaged heavily during the advance by the German and Italian forces in March 1941. Only the 1st R.T.R. and 'D' Squadron 7th R.T.R. remained with the brigade until it ceased to be operational on 18 September 1941. As a formation, the brigade had about sixty operational tanks, with twenty-six under repair. The 1st Royal Tank Regiment had fifteen light, and nineteen cruiser tanks fit for combat. 'D' Squadron, 7th R.T.R. had Matilda Mk. II infantry tanks (numbers uncertain), while the 3rd Hussars had four light, and eighteen cruiser tanks. The 1st King's Dragoon Guards was an armoured car regiment, with about thirty operational vehicles available.
5. This brigade was detached from the 7th Australian Infantry Division to reinforce this formation.
6. The Nottinghamshire (Sherwood Rangers) Yeomanry, were a Territorial Army cavalry regiment, which had served in Palestine with the 1st Cavalry Division. At Tobruk, the men of the regiment were used to man coastal artillery in the garrison.

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Advanced Headquarters, 9th Australian Division, Signals & Employment Platoon
9th Australian Divisional Intelligence Section

20th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 20th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals &
58th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/13th Australian Infantry Battalion

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2nd/48th Australian Infantry Battalion

Divisional Troops

9th Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiment

82nd Light Aid Detachment

2nd/2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

77th Light Aid Detachment

Headquarters, Royal Australian Artillery, 9th Australian Division
2nd/7th Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/8th Australian Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
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2nd/3rd Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/7th Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/13th Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/4th Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers
9th Australian Divisional Camouflage Training Unit
72nd Light Aid Detachment

2nd/3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

9th Australian Divisional Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals
9th Australian Divisional Wireless Section, Royal Australian Corps of Signals
67th Light Aid Detachment

Headquarters, Australian Army Service Corps, 9th Australian Division
10th Australian Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps
11th Australian Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps
12th Australian Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps
9th Australian Divisional Troops Company, Australian Army Service Corps
101st Australian General Transport Company, Australian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, 9th Australian Division
2nd/3rd Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/8th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/11th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/4th Field Hygiene Section, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, Australian Army Medical Corps
14th Australian Dental Unit, Australian Army Medical Corps
20th Australian Dental Unit, Australian Army Medical Corps
Australian Imperial Force Surgical Team, Australian Army Medical Corps

2nd/1st Australian Army Field Workshop, Australian Army Ordnance Corps
9th Australian Divisional Mobile Bath Unit, Australian Army Ordnance Corps

9th Australian Divisional Provost Company

'A' Company, 2nd/1st Australian Headquarters Guard Battalion

9th Australian Divisional Postal Unit

9th Australian Field Cash Office

9th Australian Divisional Salvage Unit

NOTES:

1. This is the Order of Battle for the 9th Australian Infantry Division on 23 October 1942. As recorded in the War Diary for the General Staff Branch of the formation. As stated above, this formation played a key role in the Second Battle of El Alamein, indeed, the action of the division in Operation 'Supercharge' can be argued to have led to the collapse of Axis resistance along the El Alamein front. Following the conclusion of the battle, the division assembled in the Canal Zone, from where it was conveyed back to Australia for later service in New Guinea.

SOURCES:

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