

I Australian Corps ⁽¹⁾

1st Australian Anti-Aircraft Brigade

2nd/1st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Corps Troops

2nd/9th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/11th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/1st Medium Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/1st Survey Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

2nd/9th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/14th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/15th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/23rd Corps Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers

1st Railway Construction Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd Railway Construction Company, Royal Australian Engineers
3rd Railway Construction Company, Royal Australian Engineers
1st Railway Survey Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd Railway Survey Company, Royal Australian Engineers
3rd Railway Survey Company, Royal Australian Engineers

2nd/5th Australian Field Hospital
2nd/6th Australian Field Hospital

NOTES:

1. The I Australian Corps was established on 11 April 1940 in Melbourne, Australia as part of the Second Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). The Australian government appointed Lieutenant General Thomas BLAMEY the General Officer Commanding I Australian Corps, and he acted as the General Officer Commanding the Second A.I.F., responsible to the Australian government for the management of Australian troops overseas. On 10 June 1940, the Headquarters left Australia for Palestine. The Corps took control of Cyrenaica, Libya, with effect from 16 February 1941, replacing the British XIII Corps, which returned to Egypt. In April that year, the Corps Headquarters was transferred to Greece to command the Allied Forces deployed there. It opened in Greece on 5 April 1941, and had under command the Australian 6th Infantry Division, 2nd New Zealand Infantry Division, 12th Greek Division and British 1st Armoured Brigade. It appears that few of the Corps Troops were deployed to Greece, the only exceptions being the Field Hospitals. On 12 April, the Corps was redesignated as ANZAC Corps to recognise the Australian and New Zealand formations under command. The Germans advanced quickly through Greece, forcing the Corps Headquarters to leave Greece on 23 and 24 April, to return to Egypt. In June, the Corps was designated to take command of the Allied Forces following the invasion of Syria and Lebanon, but assumed command earlier on 18 June 1941 before the objectives were reached. After the cessation of hostilities, now under the command of Lieutenant General John LAVARACK, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the Corps assumed responsibility for the whole of Syria and Lebanon north of the Beirut to Damascus road. On 7 December 1941, the Japanese attacked in South East Asia, and calls grew for the Australian formations in the Middle East to return to South East Asia. The British Government made the request for the return of the Corps on 3 January 1942, which the Australian Government agreed to on the 6 January. The I Australian Corps, 6th Australian Infantry Division and 7th Australian Infantry Divisions left Egypt bound for Java at the end of January. However, following a dispute between the British and Australian Governments, the Corps Headquarters and 7th Infantry Division returned direct to Australia, whilst the 6th Infantry Division was detached to Ceylon for a period. The Australian government allowed the 9th Australian Infantry Division to remain in Egypt, where it was destined to play a major role in the Second Battle of El Alamein in October and November 1943. After that battle, this division travelled back to South-East Asia to fight in New Guinea.

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