

6th South African Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th Armoured Division & Employment Platoon

11th South African Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 11th South African Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

1st Pretoria Regiment (Princess Alice's Own)

Prince Alfred's Guards

The Special Service Battalion

Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment ⁽³⁾

4th (Wilde's) Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles ⁽⁴⁾

12th South African Infantry Brigade ⁽⁵⁾

Headquarters, 12th South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

The First City/Cape Town Highlanders

The Royal Natal Caribineers

The Witwatersrand/De la Rey Regiment

74th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(7) + (8) + (9)

Divisional Troops

The Natal Mounted Rifles ⁽¹⁰⁾

The Royal Durban Light Infantry ⁽¹¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th South African Armoured Divisional Artillery ⁽¹²⁾

1st/6th Field Regiment (Prince Alfred's Own Cape Field Artillery), South African Artillery ⁽¹³⁾

4th/22nd Field Regiment, South African Artillery ⁽¹⁴⁾

7th/23rd Medium Regiment, South African Artillery ⁽¹⁵⁾

1st/11th Anti-Tank Regiment, South African Artillery ⁽¹⁶⁾

1st/12th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, South African Air Force ⁽¹⁷⁾

Headquarters, 6th South African Armoured Divisional Engineer Corps (18)

8th Field Squadron, South Africa Engineer Corps

12th Field Squadron, South Africa Engineer Corps

17th Field Park Squadron, South Africa Engineer Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Signals, South African Signal Corps

Headquarters, 6th South African Armoured Divisional Medical Corps

19th South African Field Ambulance, South African Medical Corps

20th South African Field Ambulance, South African Medical Corps

6th South African Field Hygiene Section, South African Medical Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Dental Unit, South African Medical Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Anti-Malaria Control Unit, S.A.M.C.

55th 'Q' Company, 'Q' Service Corps

56th 'Q' Company, 'Q' Service Corps

57th 'Q' Company, 'Q' Service Corps

58th 'Q' Company, 'Q' Service Corps

59th 'Q' Company, 'Q' Service Corps

73rd Bulk Breaking Platoon, 'Q' Service Corps

74th Bulk Breaking Platoon, 'Q' Service Corps

75th Bulk Breaking Platoon, 'Q' Service Corps

136th Tank Transporter Company, 'Q' Service Corps

Headquarters, 6th South African Armoured Divisional Technical Service Corps

3rd Armoured Divisional Workshop, Technical Service Corps

11th Armoured Brigade Workshop, Technical Service Corps

10th Motorised Brigade Workshop, Technical Service Corps

14th Armoured Divisional Second Line Transport Workshop, Technical Service Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Q & T Stores Field Park, Technical Service Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

6th South African Armoured Divisional Postal Unit, Royal Engineers

6th South African Armoured Divisional Provost Company, South African Corps of Military Police

66th Field Security Section, South African Intelligence Corps

Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles/Rand Light Infantry Regiment (19)

Regiment Botha/Regiment President Steyn (20)

South African Corps Troops (21)

21st Field Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
22nd Corps Field Park Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
25th Road Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
27th Road Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
30th Road Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
31st Road Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
32nd Road Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
36th Water Supply Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
36th Works & Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
38th Railway Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
39th Railway Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
40th Railway Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
41st Harbour Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
2nd Dock Operating Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
3rd Dock Operating Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
42nd Geological Survey Section, South Africa Engineer Corps
43rd Water Treatment Section, South Africa Engineer Corps
44th Water Maintenance Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
46th Survey Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
49th Survey Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
80th Engineer Base Workshops, South Africa Engineer Corps
81st Engineer Base Workshops, South Africa Engineer Corps
82nd Workshop & Park Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
83rd Engineers Stores Base Depot, South Africa Engineer Corps
85th Camouflage Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
93rd Engineer Base Workshops, South Africa Engineer Corps
94th Compressed Gas Depot, South Africa Engineer Corps
23rd Anti-Gas Laboratory, South Africa Engineer Corps
95th Bomb Disposal Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
104th Water Boring Section, South Africa Engineer Corps
106th Special Park Section, South Africa Engineer Corps
112th Artisan Work Section, South Africa Engineer Corps
156th Works & Construction Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
157th Works Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
158th Works Company, South Africa Engineer Corps
61st Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers
62nd Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers
622nd Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

857th Quarrying Company, Royal Engineers

NOTES:

1. The South African Army had a small, pre-war cadre of regular personnel, drawn only from the white population. With the outbreak of war, the country formed two infantry divisions, which fought in Egypt and Libya, where one was captured. The remaining infantry division was withdrawn back to South Africa after the battle of El Alamein and disbanded. A new armoured division was formed in South Africa on 1 February 1943, under the command of Major General William Henry Evered POOLE, D.S.O. It arrived in Egypt on 30 April 1943 for training under command of British Troops in Egypt. The division then came under the command of III Corps in Egypt between 1 January and 14 March 1944. It left Egypt on 16 April 1944, and landed in Italy at Taranto on 21 April. The division joined the I Canadian Corps on 28 May 1944 in the advance to the River Tiber. It spent one day (6 June) under command of XIII Corps, and was then withdrawn into 8th Army Reserve. On 20 August 1944, the division joined IV U.S. Corps in the battle to force the Trasimene Line. The next battle was fought at Arezzo between 4 and 17 July, and then the division was involved in the advance to Florence. Between 7 and 31 October, the division passed to the command of the 5th U.S. Army, before returning to the IV U.S. Corps. It participated in six engagements in the attempt to break the Gothic Line in late August through to September 1944. After the pause in operations for winter, the division transferred to the II U.S. Corps on 15 January 1945 for the final offensive. Towards the latter stages of the campaign, the division began to suffer from a lack of reinforcements, as the war had drained the country of most of the eligible white adult male population prepared, and able, to serve abroad in the Army. The division left Italy in May 1945 to return to South Africa.
2. This brigade was formed on 8 February 1943 and was the main armoured brigade in the division. Brigadier J. P. A. FURSTENBERG, D.S.O. commanded the brigade throughout the Italian campaign. Lieutenant Colonel A. H. JOHNSTONE, D.S.O., E.D. commanded the Pretoria Regiment. This regiment comprised four Sherman tanks in the Regimental Headquarters, a Reconnaissance Squadron of eleven Stuart/Honey V light tanks, and four Armoured Squadrons. Each squadron comprised a Squadron Headquarters of three Sherman V tanks, one Sherman VC, and two Sherman A.R.V. tanks, together with four Troops, each of four Sherman V tanks. 'A' Squadron was composed of Rhodesians, formerly members of the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment. 'B', 'C' and 'D' Squadrons were composed of white South Africans. Lieutenant Colonel J. OLSEN commanded the Prince Alfred's Guard regiment. 'B' Squadron of this regiment was composed of Rhodesians from the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel C. E. G. BRITZ, D.S.O. commanded the Special Service Battalion. 'C' Squadron of this regiment was composed of Rhodesians. As the campaign progressed, Sherman Firefly tanks were allocated to the brigade, which also used some Sherman and Stuart/Honey tanks modified as ammunition carriers.
3. The Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment provided the motorised infantry component of this brigade. Lieutenant Colonel R. REEVES-MOORE, D.S.O., M.C.* commanded this amalgamated battalion, which was formed on 13 July 1943. The four rifle companies were provided with M3 or M5 half-track armoured vehicles, or unarmoured lorries. The Support Company was motorised with lorries or Bren (or Universal) carriers. This motorised infantry battalion left the brigade on 24 February 1945 to transfer to the new 13th Infantry Brigade.

4. This Indian Army battalion was attached to this brigade from 13 January 1944 until the end of the war in May 1945. 18 August 1944 until 13 January 1945. It was equipped to establishment of a motorised, or lorried infantry battalion of four companies, and a support company with three anti-tank platoons (with 6 pdr a/tk guns), two medium machine-gun platoon (with the Vickers .303 machine gun), a mortar platoon with 3" mortars, and a reconnaissance platoon that used the Bren or Universal Carrier.
5. The 12th South African Motorised Infantry Brigade was the original infantry formation allocated to this division. Brigadier R. J. PALMER, D.S.O., commanded this brigade. Lieutenant Colonel P. C. A. FRANCIS, M.C., commanded the Royal Natal Carbineers. Lieutenant Colonel A. S. DUNCAN, D.S.O., commanded the First City/Cape Town Highlanders Regiment (an amalgamated battalion formed on 5 October 1943) until he was killed in action on 16 April 1945. Lieutenant Colonel W. S. DOUGLAS replaced him. 'B' Company of this battalion was composed of Rhodesians. Lieutenant Colonel W. R. van der RIET, M.C., commanded the Witwatersrand/De La Rey Regiment.
6. Due to the shortage of infantry in the Italian theatre, some artillery regiments were disbanded, or converted to an infantry role. The 74th L.A.A. Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. C. LONG, was one of the regiments converted to infantry. It was attached to this brigade between 25 August and 28 September 1944.
7. The below brigade was attached to division on 20 May 1944.

24th Infantry Brigade (Guards)

Headquarters, 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards) & Signal Section

5th Bn. Grenadier Guards

3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards

1st Bn. Scots Guards

23rd (Army) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (I)

42nd Field Company, Royal Engineers (II)

550th Company, Royal Army Service Corps

137th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (III)

24th Infantry Brigade (Guards) Workshop, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (IV)

This brigade left the division on 19 February 1945 to pass to the command of the 8th Army and then the 56th (London) Infantry Division. The newly constituted 13th South African Infantry Brigade replaced the 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards). Brigadier (Temporary) A. F. L. CLIVE, D.S.O., M.M. commanded this brigade until 1 November 1944, when he was succeeded by Brigadier (Temporary) M. D. ERSKINE, C.B.E., D.S.O., who remained in command during the rest of its attachment to this division.

The 5th Bn. Grenadier Guards, and 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards, designated their companies by the more usual No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and S titles. Lieutenant Colonel G. C. GORDON-LENNOX, D.S.O. commanded the 5th Bn. Grenadier Guards until replaced by Lieutenant Colonel P. T. CLIFTON, D.S.O.; and Lieutenant Colonel W. A. G. BURNS, D.S.O., M.C., followed by Lieutenant Colonel W. L. STEELE, commanded the 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards. Lieutenant Colonel D. S. WEDDERBURN, D.S.O. commanded this battalion until he was killed in action on 29 February 1944, with his replacement, Lieutenant Colonel G. A. D. TAYLOR, M.C. being killed in action on 26 June 1944. Lieutenant Colonel R. D. CARDIFF commanded the 1st Bn. Scots Guards, until replaced by Lieutenant Colonel R. G. LEWTHWAITE, M.C.. The five companies of this battalion were: 'Right Flank' Company, 'B' Company, 'C' Company, 'Left Flank' Company, and 'S' Company.

- I. This Field Regiment (comprising 60th, 89th & 90th Field Batteries) commanded by Lieutenant Colonel T. F. K. HOWARD, D.S.O., was attached to this brigade from 5 April until 14 August 1944.
 - II. Major A. MORRIS commanded this company, until replaced by Major C. B. STEWART, S.A.E.C., on 17 June 1944.
 - III. This Field Ambulance came under command of this brigade on 14 August 1944, to replace the 226th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.
 - IV. The Workshop allocated to this brigade was entitled the 201st Guards Brigade Workshop, until redesignated on 1 September 1944.
8. To replace the 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards), which was required to reinforce a British division, the South Africans managed to raise a second infantry brigade to relieve them. The 13th South African Infantry Brigade came into existence on 13 January 1945, by using resources from within the division and supporting elements.

13th South African Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 13th South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

The Royal Durban Light Infantry

The Natal Mounted Rifles/South African Air Force Regiment

The Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment

'D' Company, Regiment Botha/Regiment President Steyn (i)

15th Field Regiment, South African Artillery (ii)

5th Field Squadron, South African Engineers Corps

19th Field Ambulance, South African Medical Corps

The Royal Durban Light Infantry was formerly the support battalion for the division; The Natal Mounted Rifles were combined with the personnel from 1st/12th LAA Regiment to form an infantry battalion; and the Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment was previously the

motorised battalion with 11th Armoured Brigade. Brigadier J. B. BESTER, D.S.O.* commanded the brigade from its formation until the end of the war.

Lieutenant Colonel C. METCALFE, E.D., commanded the Royal Durban Light Infantry. Lieutenant Colonel R. D. JENKINS, D.S.O., commanded the combined Natal Mounted Rifles/South African Air Force Regiment, which was formed with effect from 17 January 1945. Lieutenant Colonel R. REEVES, D.S.O.*, M.C.* commanded the Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment. The company from the Regiment Botha/Regiment President Steyn joined on 23 March 1945.

- i. The Regiment President Steyn had been the machine gun battalion of the 1st South African Division in the Western Desert campaign, and it returned to South Africa with the division, where it amalgamated with Regiment Botha on 9 August 1943. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel A. S. NEL, It moved to Italy as a reserve battalion, but in March 1945, the regiment provided two heavy support companies; one to each of the two infantry brigades in the division.
 - ii. This regiment was formed in January 1945 from the 6th South African Armoured Division Reserve Artillery Regiment, and the 4th/25th Anti-Tank Battery. Lieutenant Colonel G. P. JACOBS commanded the regiment. It comprised the 43rd, 45th and 4th/25th Field Batteries.
 - iii. Major J. F. M. LUYT commanded this squadron.
9. On 7 October 1944, Combat Command 'B' of the 1st U.S. Armored Division was attached to this division. Major General V. E. PRICHARD, U.S. Army, commanded this formation, which remained with the 6th South African Armoured Division until 21 April 1945. It comprised:

Combat Command 'B'

Headquarters, Combat Command 'B'

13th U.S. Tank Battalion

11th U.S. Armored Infantry Battalion

81st U.S. Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

27th U.S. Armored Field Artillery Battalion 68th or 91st

16th U.S. Armored Engineer Battalion

10. The regiment was the reconnaissance regiment for the division until February, when it converted to an infantry role, combined with the 1st/12th LAA Regiment, and came under command of 13th Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel R. D. JENKINS, D.S.O., commanded this regiment, which included a large contingent of Rhodesians. The regiment included on its establishment Daimler Dingo armoured cars, White scout cars, Sherman A.R.Vs., with the troops comprising a mixture of Sherman and Stuart/Honey tanks. In addition, there was an anti-tank platoon and a mortar platoon in the regiment.

11. This regiment was the support battalion for the division until February 1945, when it converted to an infantry role, and came under command of 13th Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel C. METCALFE commanded the battalion throughout its deployment in Italy. The battalion comprised two companies equipped with the .303 Vickers machine gun, and a third company equipped with twelve 4.2" mortars. An additional mortar company ('D' Company) was formed on 25 May 1944, joining the division on 26 June 1944.
12. The Commander South African Artillery for the division was Colonel J. N. BIERMAN, C.B.E.
13. The 1st/6th Field Regiment had the additional honourific title of Prince Alfred's Own Cape Field Artillery. Lieutenant Colonel L. D. KAY, D.S.O., commanded the regiment until he was killed in action on 21 October 1944. Lieutenant Colonel I. B. WHYTE, D.S.O., E.D., replaced him in command. The regiment comprised the 1st/16, 3rd/17th and 4th/18th Field Batteries; the 3rd/17th being composed of Rhodesians.
14. Lieutenant Colonel F. H. HARPER commanded the 4th/22nd Field Regiment, which was formed by the conversion of the Pretoria Highlanders and South African Irish. The three batteries were: 7th/64th Battery (Transvaal Horse Artillery), 10th/65th Field Battery and 11/66th Field Battery (South African Irish).
15. The 7th/23rd Medium Regiment, comprised the 15th/67th and 19/68th Medium Batteries, each of two troops with four 5.5" guns. Lieutenant Colonel H. H. GREENWOOD commanded the regiment during the Italian campaign.
16. Lieutenant Colonel G. D. GOODMAN commanded this regiment, which had four batteries. The 1st/22nd Anti-Tank Battery was formed from the Rhodesian 4th Anti-Tank Battery, and still was manned by Rhodesians. This battery had two troops equipped with towed 17 pdr anti-tank guns, and one with 6pdr guns. The 2nd/23rd, 3rd/24th and 4th/25th Batteries were all equipped with M10 self-propelled anti-tank guns.
17. Lieutenant Colonel G. W. MEISTER commanded this regiment, which was composed of three batteries: the 1st/7th, 2nd/8th and 3rd/56th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries. The regiment was disbanded on 21 June 1944. The personnel were later absorbed into the Natal Mounted Rifles to form an infantry battalion.
18. The senior engineer in the division was Lieutenant Colonel K. T. GILSON, D.S.O., S.A.E.C., who later in the campaign was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel R. M. M. CORMACK, M.B.E., S.A.E.C.. Major A. H. ROCYN-JONES, O.B.E. commanded the 8th Field Squadron, Major R. M. M. CORMACK, S.A.E.C. (who later became the Chief Engineer of the division) commanded the 12th Field Squadron, and Major J. R. DUNBAR-SUTHERLAND, S.A.E.C., commanded the 17th Field Park Squadron.
19. The Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles/Rand Light Infantry Regiment, was formed on 12 August 1943 by the amalgamation of the two regiments. Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel P. G. V. van der BYL, M.C., the three squadrons of this regiment provided reinforcements for the three armoured regiments of the 1st South African Armoured Brigade. On 7 March 1945, this regiment absorbed the Transvaal Scottish, another reinforcement regiment, to form the 'DSR' (Divisional Support Regiment) battalion.
20. This was another reinforcement regiment, which in March 1945 provided two heavy support companies for the two infantry brigades. Lieutenant Colonel A. S. NEL commanded the regiment, which had been formed on 9 August 1943.

21. Lieutenant Colonel C. E. TODD, O.B.E., M.C., S.A.E.C., commanded the Headquarters, South African Engineer Corps Troops (later replaced by Lieutenant Colonel J. SCOTT, D.S.O., M.B.E., S.A.E.C.). Lieutenant Colonel F. J. HUGO, M.B.E, S.A.E.C., commanded the Roads Group (replaced by Lieutenant Colonel G. B. WEALE, O.B.E.); Lieutenant Colonel H. MILL-COLMAN, O.B.E., S.A.E.C., commanded the Airfield Construction Group; Colonel W. H. EVANS, C.B.E., Legion of Merit (Officer) commanded the Railway Construction Engineers; Lieutenant Colonel L. D. BROWNE, O.B.E. Bronze Star, S.A.E.C., commanded the Tunnelling Detachment; and Lieutenant Colonel W. A. ZWANPEOEL, S.A.E.C., commanded the Railways and Harbour Composite Operating Company.

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