

1st South African Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Division

1st Divisional Signals Company, South African Corps of Signals

1st South African Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

2nd South African Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters 2nd South African Infantry Brigade

3rd Brigade Signals Company, South African Corps of Signals

1st Field Force Battalion

2nd Field Force Battalion

1st Natal Mounted Rifles

2nd South African Armoured Car Company, South African Tank Corps

12th South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

12th South African Field Ambulance, South African Army Medical Corps

2nd South African Mobile General Workshop, South African Army Ordnance Corps

5th South African Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters 5th South African Infantry Brigade

5th Brigade Signals Company, South African Corps of Signals

1st (South African) Irish Regiment

2nd Regiment Botha

3rd Transvaal Scottish

1st South African Armoured Car Company, South African Tank Corps

5th South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

11th South African Field Ambulance, South African Army Medical Corps

3rd South African Mobile General Workshop, South African Army Ordnance Corps

25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade (5)

H.Q. 25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles

2nd/4th Bn. The King's African Rifles

27th Indian Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery

3rd South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

6th (Uganda) Field Ambulance, East African Army Medical Corps

25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, East African Army Service Corps

Divisional Troops

One platoon, 1st/3rd Bn. King's African Rifles (6)

3rd South African Field Brigade (Transvaal Horse Artillery), South African Artillery
(H.Q., 7th, 8th & 9th (South African) Field Batteries, South African Artillery)

4th *South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery* (2)

1st South African Anti-Tank Brigade, South African Artillery
(H.Q., 3rd Anti-Tank Battery, South African Artillery)

One section, 6th South African Anti-Aircraft Battery, South African Artillery

1st *South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps* (2)

21st South African Corps Field Park Company, South African Engineer Corps

1st South African Divisional Signals, South African Corps of Signals

1st South African Divisional Supply Company, South African Army Service Corps

1st South African Divisional Ammunition Company, South African Army Service Corps

1st South African Divisional Petrol Company, South African Army Service Corps

2nd South African Provost Company, South African Corps of Military Police

1st (South African) Motor Cycle Company, South African Tank Corps

2nd (South African) Motor Cycle Company, South African Tank Corps

No. 2 Abyssinian Irregular Company
No. 5 Abyssinian Irregular Company

NOTES:

General – The nomenclature of each unit has been shown with the additional title ‘South African’, ie. 3rd South African Field Company. The division itself did not use these titles, as to them they were irrelevant. Likewise, they were used sometimes by higher formations, and not on other occasions. They became relevant when the division served alongside other British and Commonwealth formations, but again, appear to have been used indiscriminately.

1. The pre-war South African army comprised a small regular army, known as the South African Permanent Force, a territorial force called the Active Citizen Force and the Defence Rifles Association. All these elements drew only from the white population of the country. The infantry component of the permanent force was the Special Service Battalion, born out of the depression in order to employ young men. On 15 September 1939, the one battalion was expanded to form the 1st Special Service Brigade. The war in South Africa was not overly popular, and some men refused to serve outside South Africa. This led to the reorganisation of the armed forces onto a volunteer basis for service overseas. The Mobile Field Force was created to command any divisions raised. On 13 August 1940, the 1st South African Division was formed with its headquarters at the Military College. It moved to East Africa and joined the East Africa Force there on 11 November 1940. On arrival, the 1st (South African) Infantry Brigade transferred to the 12th (African) Division. The 1st South African Division took part in the East African campaign to its conclusion. The division left East Africa by sea on 21 April 1941, arriving in Egypt on 3 May 1941.
2. This brigade was formed on 13 May 1940 at Kafferskraal. The 1st Infantry Brigade was an Active Citizen Force (A.C.F.) formation based at Pietermaritzburg. The 1st Royal Natal Carabineers was an A.C.F. battalion also based at Pietermaritzburg as part of this brigade. In addition, the 1st Field Company was a constituent part of this brigade. The Duke of Edinburgh’s Own Rifles was an A.C.F. battalion based in Capetown, with the 1st Transvaal Scottish being an A.C.F. battalion based in Johannesburg. On arrival in Kenya, this brigade was detached from this division, and allocated to the 12th African Division. It transferred to the 11th African Division on 11 March 1941. It did not rejoin this division until reunited in Egypt. It operated as a brigade group with the 4th Field Brigade and 1st Field Company under command.
3. The brigade was originally formed as the Field Force Brigade at Ladysmith on 1 February 1940 with the volunteers from Special Service units prepared to serve overseas. It was renamed as the 2nd South African Infantry Brigade on 13 May 1940, and mobilised for service with the division on 22 May 1940 at Premier Mine. The 1st and 2nd Field Force Battalions were the two battalions consisting of Permanent Force personnel prepared to serve overseas. The 1st Natal Mounted Rifles were an A.C.F. infantry battalion based at Durban.
4. The 5th Brigade was raised on 16 June 1940 at Barberton. The 3rd Transvaal Scottish was raised at Benoni, Transvaal, on 16 October 1940. The 2nd Regiment Botha was raised near Nystroom, Transvaal, on 1 November 1939, and the 1st South African Irish Regiment in Johannesburg on the same date.

5. This brigade was formed in East Africa on 11 October 1940, with the title of the 5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. It was re-designated as the 25th Brigade on 18 October 1940. It initially was under command of East Africa Force, coming under command of the 1st (South African) Division on 28 December 1940. It transferred to the 12th (African) Division on 7 April 1941. The brigade left the division on 14 July 1941, spending a period under command of East Africa Force, moving by sea to Abyssinia between 3 and 16 September, and on arrival, Troops in the Sudan. It returned to the 12th (African) Division on 19 September 1941. It took part in the final actions of the East African campaign. The brigade stayed with the division in Abyssinia until returning to East Africa in March 1942. It later served in Ceylon, India and Burma with the 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division.
6. One platoon was attached to this division from the 1st/3rd Bn. The King's African Rifles equipped with Vickers 0.303 medium machine guns.

SOURCES:

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/SouthAfrica/EAfrica/EAfrica-A8.html>