

6th Australian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 6th Australian Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

16th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 16th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'J' Section Signals & 45th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/1st Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/2nd Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/3rd Australian Infantry Battalion

16th Australian Anti-Tank Company

17th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 17th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'K' Section Signals & 46th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/5th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/6th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/7th Australian Infantry Battalion

19th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 19th Australian Infantry Brigade, 'L' Section Signals & 79th Light Aid Detachment

2nd/4th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/8th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/11th Australian Infantry Battalion

Divisional Troops

6th Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiment

2nd/1st Australian Machine Gun Battalion

2nd/2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

Headquarters, Royal Australian Artillery, 6th Australian Division (5)
2nd/1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/2nd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/3rd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd/1st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Headquarters, Royal Australian Engineers, 6th Australian Division
2nd/1st Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/2nd Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/8th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers
2nd/2nd Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers

6th Australian Divisional Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6th Australian Division Australian Army Service Corps
6th Australian Division Ammunition Company, Australian Army Service Corps
6th Australian Division Petrol Company, Australian Army Service Corps
6th Australian Division Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, 6th Australian Division
2nd/1st Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/2nd Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/7th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps
2nd/1st Field Hygiene Section, Australian Army Medical Corps

6th Australian Division Field Cash Office
6th Australian Division Field Postal Unit

6th Australian Division Provost Company

6th Australian Division Salvage Unit
6th Australian Division Section Reception Camp
Intelligence Section, 6th Australian Division

NOTES:

1. Following the success of Operation Compass in defeating the Italian Tenth Army in Libya, the British War Cabinet decided to send forces to Greece. When Italy declared war on the United Kingdom and France on 10 June 1940, they invaded Greece from Albania (which was under Italian control) in order to gain Greek territory. However, the Greek forces proved too strong for the Italians troops, who were forced back. Initially, the Greek government refused British support, but as the threat from Germany increased, they relented and the British government, led by Winston CHURCHILL agreed to send ground and air forces to Greece. On 6 March 1941, the relief commenced with units from 9th Australian Infantry Division replacing those from the 6th Australian Division, so they could move back to Egypt and prepare to move to Greece. Known as 'Lustre Force' the headquarters of the 6th Australian Division embarked on the S.S. Pennland on 31 March 1941. They arrived at Piraeus at 15.00 hours on 3 April. The divisional commander, Major General Sir Iven MacKAY, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. (he had been knighted for his role in the capture of Cyrenaica) met with the staff of I Australian Corps and began deploying his troops accordingly. As the division landed, the German invasion of Yugoslavia was already underway, so he was ordered to hold the Florina Gap. Contact was made with German forces at about 09.00 hours on 10 April 1941 near the Yugoslav border. Due to the nature of the campaign in Greece, the division operated as three infantry brigade groups, supported as and when necessary by divisional resources. The military situation in Greece collapsed quickly, so by 26 April 1941, the division was embarking to leave Greece. Major General MacKAY flew to Crete to arrange for the deployment of 19th Australian Infantry Brigade on the island. The 19th Brigade arrived on Crete, with the rest of the division being conveyed to Alexandria, where the divisional headquarters arrived at 09.00 hours on 1 May 1941. On 5 June 1941, the units that had served in Crete were reunited with the division in Palestine and the process of rebuilding the formation continued. The 2nd/1st, 2nd/7th and 2nd/11th Battalions all suffered heavy casualties, as had the 2nd/3rd Field Regiment, 2nd/8th Field Company, 2nd/7th Field Ambulance and 6th Australian Division Supply Company. On the 11th June, one company from the 2nd/3rd and 2nd5th Infantry Battalions, and the 2nd/3rd Machine Gun and 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalions were detached from the division and deployed to Lebanon as part of 'Exporter Force'. The next day, the H.Q. 17th Australian Infantry Brigade was also placed under command of 'Exporter Force'. Following the armistice, the division continued refitting and reorganising in Palestine, whilst undertaking internal security duties. On 9 October 1941, it commenced moving into Syria to guard against German invasion from the north. The division remained in Syria until February 1942, when due to the Japanese invasion of South-East Asia, and the threat to Australia itself, the division travelled to Suez and embarked for the Far East.
2. During the campaign in Greece, Brigadier A. S. ALLEN, C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D. commanded this brigade group.
3. Brigadier S. G. SAVIGE, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., commanded this brigade during the campaign in Greece.
4. Brigadier G. A. VASEY, C.B.E., D.S.O., commanded this brigade during the campaign in Greece.
5. The Commander Royal Artillery was Brigadier E. F. HERRING, D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

SOURCES:

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