

Retimo Sector, Creforce ⁽¹⁾

19th Australian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 19th Australian Infantry Brigade and Signal Section

2nd/1st Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/7th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/8th Australian Infantry Battalion

2nd/11th Australian Infantry Battalion

Company, 2nd/1st Australian Machine Gun Battalion

Armoured Units ⁽³⁾

Detachment, 7th Royal Tank Regiment

Infantry ⁽⁴⁾

4th Greek Regiment

5th Greek Regiment

Gendarmerie School ⁽⁵⁾

Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

2nd/3rd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Section 106th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

'X' Coast Defence Battery, Royal Marines

Royal Engineers ⁽⁷⁾

2nd/8th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

Australian Army Service Corps ⁽⁸⁾

Detachment, Australian Army Service Corps

Australian Army Medical Corps ⁽⁹⁾

'B' Company, 2nd/7th Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps

Australian Army Ordnance Corps (10)

2nd/1st Australian Ordnance Store Company, Australian Army Ordnance Corps

Miscellaneous

Provost Detachment (11)

Airfield Signals Detachment (12)

NOTES:

1. Headquarters Creforce was an ad hoc formation created with the arrival of Major General FREYBERG and the transfer of Headquarters 14th Infantry Brigade to Heraklion.
2. The Headquarters, 19th Australian Infantry Brigade, was part of the 6th Australian Infantry Division, and had fought in Greece. It was evacuated from Greece to Crete and was deployed to Retimo (also known as Rethymno) to form the garrison for that town. This town had a small airfield, hence the reason it was chosen to form one of the four Allied garrisons on the island. Brigadier George VASEY commanded the brigade, but he was located at Georgioupolis, between Retimo and Suda Bay, with Lieutenant Colonel Ian CAMPBELL, the C.O. of the 2nd/1st Australian Infantry Battalion, acting as commander of all Allied troops in Retimo. The 2nd/1st Battalion comprised 32 officers and 549 other ranks, the 2nd/7th Battalion had a strength of 31 officers and 650 other ranks, the 2nd/8th Battalion had 14 officers and 370 men, and the 2nd/11th Battalion had a strength of 35 officers and 610 other ranks. Only the 2nd/1st and 2nd/11th Battalions were actually based in Retimo, with the 2nd/7th Battalion deployed to Heraklion, but transferred to Maleme on the invasion, and finally the 2nd/8th Battalion was located around Chania. The machine gun company had 6 officers and 164 other ranks. The garrison at Retimo managed to defend the town against the initial German attacks from the air, but later they were overwhelmed by superior forces (including tanks), and unable to escape, most of the garrison surrendered. This signals section comprised 2 officers and 60 other ranks, with 2 officers and 40 other ranks from a Signal Construction Section attached to the Sector.
3. The detachment of the 7th R.T.R. had two Matilda Mark II infantry tanks, with 1 officer and 11 other ranks.
4. Both the Greek Regiments had a strength of about 50 officers and 2,250 other ranks, but they were very poorly equipped.
5. The Gendarmerie School had about 20 officers and 780 men, mainly young men under training as Privates in the Cretan Gendarmerie.
6. The 2nd/3rd Field Regiment was the largest artillery unit in the garrison, with 15 officers and 175 other ranks. It was equipped with fourteen 75 mm and 100 mm field guns of Italian or French origin. The 1 officer and 15 other ranks of the Section from 106th Regiment, R.H.A., had two 2 pounder anti-tank guns with which to defend the garrison. The Royal Marine Coastal Defence battery had two 4" guns, with 3 officers and 84 other ranks.
7. The Australian Engineers company had a strength of 6 officers and 145 other ranks.
8. The Australian Army Service Corps personnel numbered 5 officers and about 100 other ranks, drawn from various units.
9. The one company of the Field Ambulance had a strength of 2 officers and 50 other ranks.
10. The Ordnance personnel were drawn from the 2nd/1st Australian Ordnance Store Company and other miscellaneous detachments.
11. The Provost detachment had a strength of 2 officers and 75 other ranks.
12. The Airfield Detachment comprised Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel, and numbered 1 officer and 30 other ranks.

SOURCES:

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