

New Zealand Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, New Zealand Infantry Division

4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

18th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

19th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

20th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

No. 2 Company, 27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion

4th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

34th New Zealand Anti-Tank Battery, New Zealand Artillery

6th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

21st New Zealand Infantry Battalion

22nd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

28th New Zealand (Maori) Infantry Battalion

No. 3 Company, 27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion

5th Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

32nd New Zealand Anti-Tank Battery, New Zealand Artillery

7th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers

6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

24th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

25th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

26th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

No. 1 Company, 27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion
6th Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery
33rd New Zealand Anti-Tank Battery, New Zealand Artillery
19th Army Troops Company, New Zealand Engineers (2)

Divisional Troops

New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment
27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion (3)

7th Anti-Tank Regiment, New Zealand Artillery (4)
5th Field Park Company, New Zealand Engineers
2nd New Zealand Divisional Signals, New Zealand Corps of Signals

Headquarters, New Zealand Army Service Corps
New Zealand Division Ammunition Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps
New Zealand Division Petrol Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps
New Zealand Division Supply Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, New Zealand Division
4th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps
5th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps
6th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps
4th New Zealand Field Hygiene Section, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

New Zealand Divisional Provost Company

New Zealand Divisional Postal Unit
New Zealand Field Cash Office
New Zealand Divisional Salvage Unit

NOTES:

1. Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, the New Zealand Army consisted of a small cadre of Regular Army personnel, supplemented by the New Zealand Territorial Force. On 6 September 1939, the decision was taken to mobilise a special force of three battalions, one from each of the three Military Districts. The 1st (Rifle) Battalion was raised by the Northern District, the 2nd (Rifle) Battalion by the Central District, and the 3rd (Rifle) Battalion from the Southern District. By 3 October 1939, the Special Force became known as the New Zealand Division, and the three Rifle battalions became the 18th, 19th and 20th Infantry Battalions respectively in the new 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade. The whole force was called the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The First Echelon left New Zealand on 6 January 1940, arriving in Egypt on 15 February 1940. The Second Echelon was sent overseas on 2 May 1940 bound for the Middle East; however, it was diverted to the United Kingdom arriving on 16 June 1940. The Second Echelon eventually arrived in Egypt between 5 and 8 March 1941. The Third Echelon left New Zealand on 27 August 1940, and it arrived in Egypt on 29 September 1940. The division concentrated in Egypt in March 1941, and was immediately sent to Greece, arriving in late March or early April 1941. This is the order of battle for the division in March 1941.
2. This Army Troops Company was allocated to this brigade in lieu of the 8th New Zealand Field Company, which had been formed, then disbanded, and was now in the process of reforming in New Zealand.
3. Less the three companies attached to each of the brigade groups.
4. Less the three companies attached to each of the brigade groups.

New Zealand Infantry Division

Headquarters, New Zealand Infantry Division
New Zealand Divisional Headquarters Employment Platoon

4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

18th New Zealand Infantry Battalion
19th New Zealand Infantry Battalion
20th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

21st New Zealand Infantry Battalion
22nd New Zealand Infantry Battalion
23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion
28th New Zealand (Maori) Infantry Battalion

6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

24th New Zealand Infantry Battalion
25th New Zealand Infantry Battalion
26th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

Divisional Troops

New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment

27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion

Headquarters, New Zealand Divisional Artillery
4th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery
5th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery
6th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery
7th New Zealand Anti-Tank Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

Headquarters, New Zealand Divisional Engineers

6th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers

7th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers

19th New Zealand Army Troops Company, New Zealand Engineers

5th New Zealand Field Park Company, New Zealand Engineers

New Zealand Divisional Signals, New Zealand Corps of Signals

Headquarters, New Zealand Army Service Corps

New Zealand Division Ammunition Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps

New Zealand Division Petrol Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps

New Zealand Division Supply Company, New Zealand Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, New Zealand Division

4th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

5th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

6th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

4th New Zealand Field Hygiene Section, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

New Zealand Divisional Provost Company

New Zealand Divisional Postal Unit

New Zealand Field Cash Office

New Zealand Divisional Salvage Unit

NOTES:

1. The New Zealand Division was sent to Greece on the orders of the United Kingdom's Prime Minister, who for political reasons, wanted to send an Expeditionary Force to Greece to show support as the threat of German invasion became imminent. On arrival in Greece, the division appeared to reorganise from brigade groups to the standard divisional establishment. It was deployed on the Aliakmon Line. The German Army invaded Greece on 6 April 1941, and the Allies were soon forced to retreat. The New Zealand Division was evacuated from Greece by 28 April 1941 and most units were taken to Crete. The majority of the division's artillery, transport and other equipment had to be abandoned in Greece. The division suffered some 890 casualties in Greece, of which 291 were killed. In addition, 1,614 New Zealand troops were left in Greece and became prisoners of war.

2nd New Zealand Infantry Division (1)

4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

18th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

19th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

20th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

21st New Zealand Infantry Battalion

22nd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

28th New Zealand (Maori) Infantry Battalion

10th New Zealand Infantry Brigade (2)

Composite New Zealand Infantry Battalion (3)

6th Greek Infantry Regiment

8th Greek Infantry Regiment

Divisional Troops

New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment

27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion

5th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery (4)

7th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers

19th New Zealand Army Troops Company, New Zealand Engineers

2nd New Zealand Divisional Signals, New Zealand Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. The division was evacuated from Greece to Crete by the end of April 1941. The division was given responsibility for the Maleme and Canea areas of Crete. It had lost many men and much material in Greece, particularly signals equipment and artillery. The Germans launched their famous aerial assault on Crete in late May 1941. After much valiant fighting by the tired troops, the Germans slowly gained territory and the remnants of the New Zealand Division were evacuated again, this time back to Egypt, where the division was reconstituted.
2. This brigade was formed in Crete to replace the absent 6th Brigade. When the division was reconstituted, the 6th Brigade again joined the divisional order of battle
3. This battalion was formed by personnel from the 4th New Zealand Field Regiment and Army Service Corps units. It was equipped as an infantry formation.
4. This regiment was the only New Zealand Artillery unit equipped with artillery during the battle for Crete. It appears it did not fight as a complete formation, but was split up into three batteries, one each being allocated to the three brigades.

2nd New Zealand Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Infantry Division

4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

18th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

19th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

20th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 5th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

21st New Zealand Infantry Battalion

22nd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion

28th New Zealand (Maori) Infantry Battalion

6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 6th New Zealand Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

24th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

25th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

26th New Zealand Infantry Battalion

Divisional Troops

New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment

27th New Zealand Machine Gun Battalion

Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Divisional Artillery

4th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

5th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

6th New Zealand Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

7th New Zealand Anti-Tank Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

14th New Zealand Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, New Zealand Artillery

Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Divisional Engineers
6th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers
7th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers
8th New Zealand Field Company, New Zealand Engineers
5th New Zealand Field Park Company, New Zealand Engineers

2nd New Zealand Divisional Signals, New Zealand Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Divisional Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 2nd New Zealand Divisional Army Medical Corps
4th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps (2)
5th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps
6th New Zealand Field Ambulance, New Zealand Army Medical Corps
4th New Zealand Field Hygiene Section, New Zealand Army Medical Corps

NOTES:

1. After Crete, the division returned to Egypt. On 23 February, the division moved to Syria and came under command of 9th Army. The division remained in Syria until June 1942, when it moved back to Egypt in response to the Axis advance to El Alamein. The division travelled by road to Mersa Matruh in four days and fifteen hours, a total distance of 1,450 kilometres. The division was in position by 22 June 1942, and overnight 27/28 June, it was surrounded by Axis forces and had to execute a fighting withdrawal. On 29 June 1942, the division was formally redesignated as the 2nd New Zealand Division, principally for deception purposes as the N.Z. Expeditionary Corps Base in Egypt was given the designation of the 6th New Zealand Infantry Division. On 14 and 15 July 1942, the division attacked Ruweisat Ridge in a night assault. The New Zealanders captured the ridge, but in the absence of tanks and artillery, they were forced back on the evening of 15 July. The division sustained 1,405 casualties, the vast majority of whom were killed or captured. On 21 and 22 July, the 6th Brigade attacked the El Mrier Depression, but two battalions were effectively destroyed suffering about 900 casualties. This is the order of battle for the division at the battle of El Alamein on 23 October 1942. In lieu of the 4th N.Z. Brigade, the division was allocated a British armoured brigade, making this division the first mixed division. The armoured brigade allocated to the division was:

9th Armoured Brigade

Headquarters, 9th Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

3rd King's Own Hussars

The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry

The Warwickshire Yeomanry

14th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)

166th Light Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

2. This brigade and its field ambulance were not on the order of battle for the division at this time. The brigade was refitting and converting to an armoured role at this period.