

## 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

### 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

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

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

16<sup>th</sup> Australian Anti-Tank Company

### 17<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

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

2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

### 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

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

2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

### Divisional Troops

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Australian Machine Gun Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion

Headquarters, Royal Australian Artillery, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division (5)

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

Headquarters, Royal Australian Engineers, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisional Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Australian Army Service Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Ammunition Company, Australian Army Service Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Petrol Company, Australian Army Service Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Supply Company, Australian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, Assistant Director of Medical Services, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps

2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Field Hygiene Section, Australian Army Medical Corps

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Field Cash Office

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Field Postal Unit

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Provost Company

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Salvage Unit

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Section Reception Camp

Intelligence Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division

## Florina Gap <sup>(6)</sup>

### 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade

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

2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

### Attached Troops

27<sup>th</sup> (New Zealand) Machine Gun Battalion

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Tank Regiment

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. (The Rangers), The King's Royal Rifle Corps (2)

### Divisional Troops

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division & Employment Platoon

'B' Section, Field Security Section

Intelligence Section, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Field Postal Unit

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Provost Company

Headquarters, Medium Artillery, I Australian Corps

Headquarters, Royal Australian Artillery, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division (5)

64<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

102<sup>nd</sup> (Northumberland Hussars) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

Headquarters, Royal Australian Engineers, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division  
2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers

6<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisional Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Australian Army Service Corps

## Verria Pass

### 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade Group (7)

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

2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion

16<sup>th</sup> Australian Anti-Tank Company

7<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery

'D' Troop, 234<sup>th</sup> Battery, Medium Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

## Officers Holding appointments on H.Q. 6 Aust Div From 1 – 30 Apr 1941

### **General Officer Commanding**

Major General Sir I. G. MackAY, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

### **Aide-de-Camp**

Lieutenant B. H. TRAVERS

### **General Staff**

#### **General Staff Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Class**

Colonel R. B. SUTHERLAND

#### **General Staff Officers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**

Major I. R. CAMPBELL, D.S.O. (until 7 Apr)

Major A. D. MOLLOY (from 9 Apr)

#### **General Staff Officers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class**

Captain A. E. BAMFORD

Captain R. R. VIAL

#### **Intelligence Officer**

Lieutenant W. M. KNOX

#### **Cipher Officer**

Lieutenant W. L. SPEIGHT

#### **Liaison Officers**

Major T. E. WILLIAMS

Captain B. R. GRIEVE

T/Captain B. V. WILSON

#### **Field Security Section**

Lieutenant T. F. TIMSON

### **Branch of the Adjutant General & Quarter-Master General**

#### **Assistant Adjutant & Quarter-Master General**

T/Colonel C. E. PRIOR

#### **Deputy Assistant Adjutant General**

Major B. J. O'LOUGHLIN

#### **Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General**

Major C. BOWSER

#### **Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General (Staff Learner)**

Captain A. T. McLEAN

#### **L.S.O.**

T/Major A. W. SHEPPARD

#### **Camp Commandant**

Captain G. T. R. UFF

#### **Amenities Officer**

Lieutenant G. TONGE

### Administrative Services and Departments

**Assistant Director of Medical Services**

Colonel H. C. DISHER

**Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services**

Major A. H. DAWKINS

**Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services**

Lieutenant Colonel B. W. PULVER

**Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services (Assistant)**

Captain E. G. HELLSTROM, M.M.

**Staff Officer Mechanical Engineering**

Major E. W. BRYCESON

**Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal**

Captain G. G. HAWKER

### Headquarters Divisional Artillery

**Commander**

Brigadier H. F. HERRING, D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

**Brigade Major (Staff Learner)**

Major H. V. STEPHENS (Officiating at Brigade Major)

**Staff Captain (Staff Learner)**

Captain J. D. SYMES (Officiating as Staff Captain)

**Intelligence Officer**

Lieutenant W. R. EASDOWN

### Headquarters Divisional Engineers

**Commanding Officer**

Lieutenant Colonel L. C. LUCAS, M.C., V.D.

**Adjutant**

Captain L. G. REDDY (until 19 April)

Lieutenant W. G. CANTELO (from 19 April)

**Intelligence Officer**

Lieutenant R. K. J. NOLAN

### Headquarters Divisional Signals

**Commanding Officer**

Lieutenant L. J. WELLMAN

**Adjutant**

Captain S. J. GREVILLE

**Army Service Corps**

**Commanding Officer**

Lieutenant Colonel N. B. LOVERIDGE, O.B.E.

**Adjutant**

Captain J. E. MARSH



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division replacing those from the 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, so they could move back to Egypt and prepare to move to Greece. Known as 'Lustre Force' the headquarters of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade was sent forward to guard the Florina Gap, on the left of the Allied line, and close to the border with Yugoslavia, while the 16<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade was located at Veria (the Australians spelt it with two 'r's). The 17<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade was still in the process of landing and consolidating before moving north. The collapse of the Yugoslav Army, and the German advances in Thessaloniki, meant that the positions held by the Allied forces were at risk of being outflanked. The military situation in Greece collapsed quickly, with the division moving back to Serbia. By 26 April 1941, the situation had become untenable, so the division began embarking to leave Greece. Major General MacKAY flew to Crete to arrange for the deployment of 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade on the island. The 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Battalions all suffered heavy casualties, as had the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Field Company, 2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Supply Company. On 11 June, one company from the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun and 2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Pioneer Battalions were detached from the division and deployed to Lebanon as part of 'Exporter Force'. The next day, the H.Q. 17<sup>th</sup> 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. It was initially deployed to guard the Verria Pass (see above).

3. Brigadier S. G. SAVIGE, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., commanded this brigade during the campaign in Greece. It was the last of the three brigades to land in Greece, and it moved up to join the division at the Servia Pass.
4. Brigadier G. A. VASEY, C.B.E., D.S.O., commanded this brigade during the campaign in Greece. It was deployed on the left flank, guarding the Florina Pass, on the border with Yugoslavia, which was anticipated (rightly) to be the main line of advance of the German forces.
5. The Commander Royal Artillery was Brigadier E. F. HERRING, D.S.O., M.C., E.D.
6. This is the order of battle of the Brigade Group when it was deployed to the Florina Gap.
7. This is the order of battle for the Brigade Group when it was deployed to Verria.

## SOURCES:

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