

2024

www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

Author: Robert PALMER, M.A.



A CONCISE HISTORY OF:

IX CORPS

HISTORY & PERSONNEL

A short history of IX Corps, an operational formation in the British Army between 1941 and 1943, which saw active service in Tunisia. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1930 and 1950 are included.

Copyright ©www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk (2024)

A Concise History of IX Corps (History & Personnel)

Version: 3_1
This edition dated: 10 April 2024
ISBN: Not yet allocated.

All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means including; electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, scanning without prior permission in writing from the publishers.

Author: Robert PALMER, M.A. (copyright held by author)
Published privately by: The Author – Publishing as:
www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

IX Corps

IX (Nine) Corps was formed in the United Kingdom in April 1941, to be responsible for the defence of Northumberland, the County of Durham, and the North Riding of Yorkshire. The 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division, and the Durham and North Riding County Division transferred to IX Corps from X Corps on 9 April 1941, which suggests that this is the date the Corps became operational. The Northumbrian County Division joined IX Corps the following day. The 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division transferred to join the corps on 21 November 1941. On 30 November 1941, both county divisions disbanded, and on the following day, the corps was redesignated as IX Corps District. The 15th Infantry Division left the Corps District on 28 September 1942, to transfer to Northumbrian District, suggesting the Corps District ceased to be operational on this date.

IX Corps was mobilised as a Field Force formation in anticipation of being deployed to French North Africa under the command of 1st Army. The Corps Headquarters landed at Algiers on 5 March 1943, and it moved forward to El Ksar, where it opened as Army Group Reserve on 24 March 1943. The 6th Armoured Division transferred to the corps from V Corps on 12 March 1943, as it was at the time re-equipping with American Sherman tanks, which was completed by 15 March. The intention was for the corps to assume command of the 1st Armoured Division, and the 46th Infantry Division, in addition to the 6th Armoured Division, but due to the circumstances prevailing in Tunisia at that time, this was not complete until 15 April.

The corps also took command of the 34th U.S. Infantry Division and 128th Infantry Brigade Group and commenced an attack on Pinchon – Fondouk on the southern flank of 1st Army. Although two features, Selchet el Kourizia and Two Tree Hill were captured, no break-through was achieved. The battle lasted from 22 April until 30 April. On 27 April, the Corps Commander was injured watching a demonstration of the PIAT (Projector Infantry Anti-Tank), with a piece of shrapnel entering his chest. In consequence, Lieutenant General HORROCKS was transferred from the command of XXX Corps in Eighth Army to IX Corps.

IX Corps was designated as the main formation to undertake what was hoped would be the final advance on Tunis, and for this reason, the 7th Armoured Division joined IX Corps on 30 April. The 4th Indian Infantry Division also joined on 30 April 1943, with the 4th Infantry Division joining on 3 May. This gave the Corps two armoured divisions and two infantry divisions. The final assault commenced at 03.30 hours on 6 May with the two infantry divisions forcing the Medjez-el-Bab gap, through which the two armoured divisions passed through. Tunis fell on 7 May, and shortly afterwards, the surrender of all Axis Forces in Tunisia on 13 May 1943. With the surrender of the Axis Forces in North Africa, IX Corps was run down, as it was not required for the invasion of Sicily. The 7th Armoured Division transferred to V Corps on 18 May 1943, and the 6th Armoured Division transferred to V Corps on 26 May. The corps disbanded on 31 May 1943.

Corps Commander

7 June 1941 – 17 November 1941

Lieutenant General (Acting) Ridley Pakenham PAKENHAM-WALSH, C.B., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

18 November 1941 – 31 January 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Edwin Logie MORRIS, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1 February 1942 – 11 September 1942

Lieutenant General Francis Poitier NOSWORTHY, C.B., D.S.O.*, M.C.*, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12 September 1942 – 29 May 1943 (Injured in Training Accident on 27 April 1943)

Lieutenant General (Acting) John Tredinnick CROCKER, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

30 April 1943 – 16 May 1943

Lieutenant General (Acting) Brian Gwynne HORROCKS, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

27 December 1941 – April/May 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Gordon Holmes Alexander MacMILLAN, M.C.** , *p.s.c.*

April/May 1943 – 31 May 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Roger PEAKE, D.S.O., O.B.E., The Royals, *p.s.c.*

Deputy Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General – (D.A. & Q.M.G.)

7 June 1941 – 29 March 1943

Not known

30 March 1943 – 3 June 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Robert Thomas COOKE, R.A.S.C., *p.s.c.*

Corps Commander, Royal Artillery – (C.C.R.A.)

21 February 1941 – 31 July 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Rowland Henry TOWELL, M.C., *g.*

1 August 1942 – 26 February 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Eric George William Warde HARRISON, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Chief Engineer – (C.Eng)

6 January 1942 – 10 August 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Alexander Douglas CAMPBELL, M.C., B.A., R.E.

Commander Royal Engineer, IX Corps Troops

1942 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel J. V. C. MOBERLEY

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

Bibliography and Sources

The Quarterly Army List April 1941

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistapr1941grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistapr21941grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List July 1941

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjul1941grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylist1941grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List October 1941

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistoct1941gre>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistoct21941grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1941

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1942grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List January 1942

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjan1942grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjan21942grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List April 1942 Parts I and II

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistapr1942grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistapr21942grea>
[Accessed 10 April 2024]

The Quarterly Army List July 1942

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjul1942grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjul21942grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List October 1942

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistoct1942grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistoct21942grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List January 1943 Part I and II

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjan1943grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjan21943grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjan31943grea>
[Accessed 10 April 2024]

The Quarterly Army List April 1943 Parts I and II

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistaprpart11943grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistaprpart21943grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

The Quarterly Army List July 1943 Parts I and II

Part I available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjulpart11943grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjulpart121943grea>
Part II available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjulpart21943grea>
<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjulpart221943grea>
[Accessed 3 February 2011]

Services of British Army Officers & cc 1939 – 1945

Published by Savanna Publications 1999 as reprint of the Half-Yearly Army List January 1946
90, Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, LONDON. SE23 3HZ [ISBN 1 902366 02 6]

Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O. in 1960

Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd

[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

World War II unit histories and officers

<http://www.unithistories.com/>

[Accessed 19 November 2011]

Generals.dk The Generals of WWII

<http://www.generals.dk/>

[Accessed 19 November 2011]

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

Author: T. F. MILLS

Available on-line at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20070622075214/http://www.regiments.org>

[Accessed 19 November 2011]