

1st South African Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Division

1st South African Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Royal Natal Carabineers

1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles

1st Transvaal Scottish

2nd South African Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 2nd South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/2nd Field Force Battalion ⁽²⁾

1st Natal Mounted Rifles

1st Cape Town Highlanders ⁽³⁾

5th South African Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 5th South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st South African Irish Regiment

2nd Regiment Botha

3rd Transvaal Scottish

Divisional Troops

3rd South African Reconnaissance Regiment, South African Tank Corps ⁽⁵⁾

Regiment President Steyn ⁽⁶⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Divisional South African Artillery

3rd South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery (Transvaal Horse Artillery) ⁽⁷⁾

4th South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

7th South African Field Brigade, South African Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

1st South African Anti-Tank Brigade, South African Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

1st South African Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade, South African Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Divisional South African Engineer Corps

1st South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

3rd South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps (9)

5th South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

21st South African Corps Field Park Company, South African Engineer Corps (10)

1st South African Divisional Signals, South African Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. The 1st South African Division had been formed in South Africa on 13 August 1940. It was initially deployed to East Africa, taking part in the Abyssinia campaign from 10 February 1941 until withdrawn to move to Egypt on 21 April 1941. Following the success of the Allies in Abyssinia and Somaliland, and with the deterioration of the situation in Libya and Egypt, the division was moved by sea, arriving in Egypt on 3 May 1941. The division concentrated in Egypt under the command of British Troops Egypt. Major General George BRINK, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., commanded the Division in this period. It entered the line, under the command of XXX Corps on 1 October 1941. It was involved in the battle which commenced on 18 November 1941 to relieve Tobruk. With the capture of the 5th Brigade (see below), the division reorganised, being withdrawn from the line to come under command of the 8th Army on 13 December 1941.
2. These two battalions merged on 1 April 1941.
3. This battalion transferred into this Brigade on 16 April 1941.
4. The brigade was captured at Gazala on 23 November 1941. To replace it, the 3rd South African Infantry Brigade transferred in from the 2nd South African Division on 20 April 1942.
5. The reconnaissance regiment joined the division on 1 June 1941.
6. This unit was the divisional machine gun battalion, and it joined the division on 8 June 1941.
7. The artillery units were redesignated as regiments on 11 August 1941.
8. This regiment joined the division on 1 September 1941.
9. This field company joined the division on 3 May 1941.
10. This company left the division on 30 April 1942. It was replaced by the:
19th South African Field Park Company, South African Engineer Corps

1st South African Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Division

1st South African Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Royal Natal Carabineers

1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles

1st Transvaal Scottish

2nd South African Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 2nd South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st/2nd Field Force Battalion

1st Cape Town Highlanders

1st Natal Mounted Rifles

3rd South African Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 3rd South African Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Imperial Light Horse

1st Royal Durban Light Infantry

1st Rand Light Infantry

Divisional Troops

3rd South African Reconnaissance Regiment, South African Tank Corps

Regiment President Steyn

'B' Company, Die Middellandse Regiment ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Divisional South African Artillery

1st South African Field Regiment (Cape Field Artillery), South African Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

4th South African Field Regiment, South African Artillery

7th South African Field Regiment, South African Artillery

1st South African Anti-Tank Regiment, South African Artillery

1st South African Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, South African Artillery

Headquarters, 1st South African Infantry Divisional South African Engineer Corps

1st South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

2nd South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps (5)

3rd South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

5th South African Field Company, South African Engineer Corps

19th South African Field Park Company, South African Engineer Corps

1st South African Divisional Signals, South African Corps of Signals

12th South African Field Ambulance

15th South African Field Ambulance

18th South African Field Ambulance

NOTES:

1. On 29 January 1942, the division came under command of XXX Corps, transferring to XIII Corps the next day. In anticipation of its involvement in the Battle for Gazala, the 5th South African Infantry Brigade was transferred in from the 2nd South African Infantry Division on 20 April 1942. Major General Daniel Hermanus PIENAAR, C.B., D.S.O.**, assumed command of the Division on 10 March 1942. The Battle for Gazala took place between 26 May and 21 June 1942. On 25 June, the division transferred to XXX Corps and fought at Mersa Matruh. It took part in the defence of the El Alamein line between 1 July and 27 July 1942. It also participated in the main battle of El Alamein between 23 October and 4 November still under XXX Corps. Following the breakout, the division did not take part in the advance, but it remained in Egypt transferring to XIII Corps on 5 November. On 30 November, it transferred to G.H.Q. Middle East and left Egypt on 1 January 1943 to return to South Africa in order to form an armoured division.
2. This brigade transferred from the 2nd South African Division to this division on 20 April 1942.
3. The Die Middelandse Regiment was the machine gun battalion for the 2nd South African Division. Following the capture of that division, 'B' Company, which was not at Tobruk with the rest of the division, joined the 1st Division on 27 June 1942.
4. This regiment transferred from the 2nd South African Division on 20 April 1942, replacing the 3rd South African Field Regiment which transferred to the 2nd Division on the same date.
5. This field company joined the division on 1 May 1942, having transferred from the 2nd South African Division.

SOURCES:

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