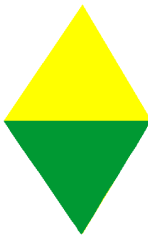


Appendix 9C

SA Army unit histories



1 SA Infantry Division¹

The division was formed on August 13, 1940 at the South African Military College at Roberts' Heights (now Thaba Tshwane), Pretoria. The formation demobilised in South Africa in January 1943 as part of a plan to form two armoured divisions.



The divisional commanders were:

- From August 13, 1940: Brigadier, then Major General "Uncle" George Brink.
- From March 10, 1942: Major General Dan H Pienaar.

Divisional Troops

	From	To	Remarks
<u>Artillery</u>			
<i>Antitank</i>			
1st Anti-Tank Brigade, SAA	25-Jan-41	12-Jun-41	renamed
1st Anti-Tank Regiment, SAA	01-Jun-41	01-Jan-43	
<i>Field Artillery</i>			
3rd Field Brigade, THA, SAA	29-Dec-40	11-Aug-41	renamed
4th Field Brigade, SAA	13-Aug-40	30-Jul-41	renamed
7th Field Brigade, SAA	13-Aug-40	11-Aug-41	renamed
1st Field Regiment, CFA, SAA	20-Apr-42	01-Jan-43	
3rd Field Regiment, THA, SAA	11-Aug-41	25-Jun-42	
4th Field Regiment, SAA	31-Jul-41	01-Jan-43	
7th Field Regiment, SAA	11-Aug-41	01-Jan-43	
<i>Light Antiaircraft</i>			
1st Light Antiaircraft Regiment, SAA	01-Sep-41	01-Jan-43	
<u>Engineers</u>			
<i>Field Companies</i>			
12th Field Company, SA Engineers	13-Aug-40	02-Apr-41	
1st Field Company, SA Engineers	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
2nd Field Company, SA Engineers	01-May-42	01-Jan-43	
3rd Field Company, SA Engineers	03-May-41	01-Jan-43	
5th Field Company, SA Engineers	05-Dec-40	01-Jan-43	
<i>Field Park Companies</i>			
19th Field Park Company, SA Eng	01-Apr-42	01-Jan-43	
21st Corps Field Park Company, SA Eng	01-Dec-40	30-Apr-42	
<u>Infantry</u>			
2nd Regiment Botha	05-Feb-42	01-Jan-43	
<i>Machine Gun</i>			
B Coy, Die Middellandse Regiment	27-Jun-42	01-Jan-43	

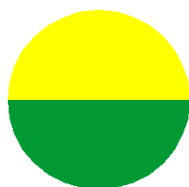
¹ Steve Rothwell, <http://homepages.force9.net/rothwell/1sa.htm>, August 24, 2003, accessed June 6, 2006.

Regiment President Steyn	08-Jun-41	01-Jan-43	
<u>Ordnance</u>			
1st South African Division Ordnance	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
<u>RAC</u>			
8th Royal Tank Regiment	7-Sep-42	05-Nov-42	attached
<u>Recce</u>			
3rd SA Reconnaissance Battalion	1-Jun-41	31-Dec-42	later 3 SA Armd Car Recce Regt
<u>Signals</u>			
1st South African Division Signals	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
<u>ST</u>			
1st South African "Q" Services Corps	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
Brigades			
<u>1 SA Infantry Brigade</u>			
1st Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
1st Royal Natal Carabineers	20-May-40	18-Jan-43	
1st Transvaal Scottish	19-May-40	18-Jan-43	
20-May-40	18-Jan-43		
<u>2 SA Infantry Brigade</u>			
1st Cape Town Highlanders	13-Aug-40	01-Jan-43	
1st Field Force Battalion	16-Apr-41	01-Jan-43	
1st Natal Mounted Rifles	01-Jan-40	01-Apr-41	
1st/2nd Field Force Battalion	23-May-40	01-Jan-43	
2nd Field Force Battalion	01-Apr-41	01-Jan-43	
01-Jan-40	01-Apr-41	01-Jan-43	
<u>3 SA Infantry Brigade</u>			
1st Imperial Light Horse	20-Apr-42	01-Jan-43	
1st Rand Light Infantry	08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43	
1st Royal Durban Light Infantry	08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43	
08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43		
<u>5 SA Infantry Brigade</u>			
1st South African Irish	13-Aug-40	23-Nov-41 ²	
2nd Regiment Botha	08-Jun-40	23-Nov-41	
3rd Transvaal Scottish	08-Jun-40	23-Nov-41	
08-Jun-40	23-Nov-41		
Higher formations served under			
East Africa Force	11-Nov-40	21-Apr-41	
GHQ Middle East Forces	22-Apr-41	03-May-41	
HQ British Troops Egypt	03-May-41	25-May-41	
Western Desert Force	25-May-41	01-Oct-41	
XXX Corps	01-Oct-41	13-Dec-41	
8th Army	13-Dec-41	29-Jan-42	
XXX Corps	29-Jan-42	30-Jan-42	
XIII Corps	30-Jan-42	25-Jun-42	
XXX Corps	25-Jun-42	15-Jul-42	
9 Australian Infantry Division	15-Jul-42	18-Jul-42	
XXX Corps	18-Jul-42	05-Nov-42	
XIII Corps	05-Nov-42	30-Nov-42	

² The date of its destruction at Sidi Rezegh.

GHQ Middle East Forces	30-Nov-42	01-Jan-43
Formations attached		
25 East African Infantry Brigade	28-Dec-40	06-Apr-41
21 East African Infantry Brigade	27-Feb-41	06-Apr-41
Polish Indp. Carpathian Rifle Brigade	13-Feb-42	18-Mar-42
Free French Brigade	03-Feb-42	10-Feb-42
6 SA Infantry Brigade	18-Mar-42	20-Apr-42
Theatres		
South Africa	13-Aug-40	04-Nov-40
At Sea	04-Nov-40	11-Nov-40
East Africa	11-Nov-40	13-Jan-41
Abyssinia	13-Jan-41	08-Mar-41
East Africa	08-Mar-41	21-Apr-41
At Sea	22-Apr-41	03-May-41
Egypt	03-May-41	18-Nov-41
Libya	18-Nov-41	12-Dec-41
Egypt	12-Dec-41	30-Jan-42
Libya	30-Jan-42	15-Jun-42
Egypt	15-Jun-42	01-Jan-43
Battles, actions and engagements		
El Yibo	16-Jan-41	18-Jan-41
Turbi Road	24-Jan-41	25-Jan-41
Gorai	01-Feb-41	01-Feb-41
El Gumu	01-Feb-41	01-Feb-41
Hobok	02-Feb-41	02-Feb-41
Banno	08-Feb-41	09-Feb-41
Yavello Road	15-Feb-41	15-Feb-41
Mega	15-Feb-41	18-Feb-41
TOBRUK, 1941	18-Nov-41	10-Dec-41
GAZALA	26-May-42	21-Jun-42
MERSA MATRUH	26-Jun-42	30-Jun-42
DEFENCE OF ALAMEIN LINE	01-Jul-42	27-Jul-42
Tel el Eisa	10-Jul-42	11-Jul-42
EL ALAMEIN	23-Oct-42	04-Nov-42

1 SA Infantry Division, along with 6 SA Armoured Division were reformed in the early post-war years. The formations were subsequently disbanded as there was a general shortage of volunteers for the Active Citizen Force³.



2 SA Infantry Division⁴

The division was formed on October 23, 1940 with its divisional HQ at Roberts' Heights (now Thaba Tshwane), Pretoria. Most of the division – two brigades, as well as most of its divisional troops - were captured at

³ Cndt CJ Nöthling, *Ultima Ratio Regum*, Artillery History of South Africa, Military Information Bureau, SADF, Pretoria, 1987, p237.

⁴ Steve Rothwell, <http://homepages.force9.net/rothwell/2sa.htm>, January 16, 2004, accessed June 6, 2006.

Tobruk on June 21, 1942.

The divisional commanders were:

- From 23 October 1940: Major General IP de Villiers
- From 26 July 1941: Brigadier FH Theron (acting)
- From 5 September 1941: Major General IP de Villiers
- From 14 May 1942: Major General HB Klopper

Divisional Troops

Artillery

Antitank

2nd Anti-Tank Brigade, SAA	25-Jan-41	01-Jun-41	
2nd Anti-Tank Regiment, SAA	01-Jun-41	20-Jun-42	

Field Artillery

1st Field Brigade, SAA	23-Oct-40	28-Jan-41	renamed
2nd Field Brigade, SAA	23-Oct-40	Jan-41	renamed
1st Field Regiment, CFA, SAA	28-Jan-41	20-Apr-42	
2nd Field Regiment, NFA, SAA	Jan-41	21-Jun-42	
3rd Field Regiment, THA, SAA	20-Apr-42	21-Jun-42	
5th Field Regiment, SAA	27-Jan-41	26-May-42	

Light Antiaircraft

2nd Light Antiaircraft Regiment, SAA	Oct-41	21-Jun-42	
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Engineers

Field Companies

10th Field Company, SA Engineers	30-Nov-40	21-Jun-42	
2nd Field Company, SA Engineers	30-Nov-40	01-May-42	
4th Field Company, SA Engineers	30-Nov-40	21-Jun-42	
9th Field Company, SA Engineers	06-Jan-41	16-Jan-41	attached

Field Park Companies

20th Field Park Company, SA Engineers	30-Nov-40	21-Jun-42	
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Infantry

Machine Gun

Die Middellandse Regiment	23-Mar-41	21-Jun-42	
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Recce

7th SA Reconnaissance Battalion	01-Apr-41	21-Jun-42	
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Brigades

3 SA Infantry Brigade

05-Nov-40	20-Apr-42	
1st Imperial Light Horse	08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43
1st Rand Light Infantry	08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43
1st Royal Durban Light Infantry	08-Jun-40	01-Jan-43

4 SA Infantry Brigade

05-Nov-40	21-Jun-42	
2nd Natal Mounted Rifles	08-Jun-40	01-Oct-40
2nd Royal Durban Light Infantry	08-Jun-40	21-Jun-42
The Kaffrarian Rifles	08-Jun-40	21-Jun-42
Umvoti Mounted Rifles	01-Oct-40	21-Jun-42

<u>6 SA Infantry Brigade</u>	05-Nov-40	21-Jun-42
1st Pretoria Highlanders	01-Jul-40	01-Nov-40
1st South African Police	17-Jun-40	21-Jun-42
2nd Pretoria Highlanders	17-Jun-40	21-Nov-40
2nd South African Police	17-Jun-40	21-Jun-42
2nd Transvaal Scottish	21-Nov-40	21-Jun-42
Higher formations served under		
HQ British Troops Egypt	06-Jun-41	21-Jul-41
X Corps	21-Jul-41	07-Sep-41
HQ British Troops Egypt	07-Sep-41	05-Oct-41
8th Army	05-Oct-41	02-Dec-41
XIII Corps	02-Dec-41	10-Dec-41
XXX Corps	10-Dec-41	27-Mar-42
XIII Corps	27-Mar-42	18-Jun-42
8th Army	18-Jun-42	21-Jun-42
Formations attached		
2 SA Infantry Brigade	26-Nov-41	16-Jan-42
5 NZ Infantry Brigade	02-Dec-41	
1 Army Tank Brigade	22-Dec-41	06-Feb-42
32 Army Tank Brigade	14-Jun-42	22-Jun-42
201 Gds Infantry Brigade	15-Jun-42	20-Jun-42
11 Indian Infantry Brigade	15-Jun-42	20-Jun-42
Theatres		
South Africa	23-Oct-40	20-Apr-41
At Sea	20-Apr-41	06-Jun-41
Egypt	06-Jun-41	22-Mar-42
Libya	22-Mar-42	21-Jun-42
Battles, actions and engagements		
Clayden's Trench (Sollum)	11-Jan-42	12-Jan-42
GAZALA	26-May-42	21-Jun-42
Tobruk, 1942	20-Jun-42	21-Jun-42



3 SA Infantry Division⁵

3 SA Infantry Division was formed in South Africa on October 23, 1940, with its headquarters in Pretoria. The division never left South Africa, organising and training home defence forces, performing garrison duties and supplying replacements to the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions instead. Divisional headquarters was in Pretoria until 1942, when it moved to Ermelo (Mpumalanga), although its constituent units were deployed as far as the then South West Africa.

On April 4, 1942, the division was redesignated the 3rd SA Armoured Division. It was disbanded on May 17, 1943. In 1942, 7 SA Motorised Brigade took part in the

⁵ Steve Rothwell, <http://homepages.force9.net/rothwell/3sa.htm>, January 16, 2004, accessed June 6, 2006.

invasion of Madagascar. Major General GM Botha was divisional commander from August 1940 until its redesignating.

Divisional Troops

Artillery

Field Artillery

6th Field Regiment, SAA	27-Jan-41	04-Apr-42	
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Engineers

Field Companies

10th Field Company, SA Engineers	23-Oct-40	16-Jan-41	
12th Field Company, SA Engineers	Oct-41	04-Apr-42	
16th Field Company, SA Engineers	Oct-41	04-Apr-42	
9th Field Company, SA Engineers	23-Oct-40	06-Jan-41	

Field Park Companies

17th Field Park Squadron, SA Engineers	09-Jan-42	04-Apr-42	
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Field Squadrons

8th Field Squadron, SA Engineers	23-Oct-40	04-Apr-42	
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Infantry

Machine Gun

Special Service Battalion	Jun-41	03-Apr-42	
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Brigades

7 SA Motorised Brigade

	23-Oct-40	04-Apr-42	
1st Pretoria Highlanders	Dec-41	Nov-42	
1st Pretoria Regiment	23-Jul-40	09-Feb-43	
1st Witwatersrand Rifles	11-Jul-40	31-Jan-41	attached
Prince Alfred's Guard	01-Jan-43	09-Feb-43	
Regiment de la Rey	18-Jul-40	01-Dec-41	
The First City Regiment	18-Jun-40	31-Dec-42	
6th Field Regiment, SAA	16-Jun-42	07-Dec-42	dates approx
88th Field Company, SA Engineers	16-Jun-42	07-Dec-42	dates approx
A Squadron, 1st Armd Car Commando,			
SA Tank Corps	16-Jun-42	07-Dec-42	

8 SA Infantry Brigade

	23-Oct-40	01-Nov-40	
1st Cape Town Highlanders	01-Jul-40	06-Nov-40	
Prince Alfred's Guard	Jul-40	Nov-40	
The First City Regiment	Jul-40	Nov-40	

9 SA Infantry Brigade

	23-Oct-40	01-Oct-41	
Cape Town Highlanders	06-Nov-40	06-Jan-41	
1st Pretoria Highlanders	Nov-40	26-Sep-41	
1st Regiment Botha	Sep-40	Nov-40	
	Jan-41	Oct-41	
2nd Natal Mounted Rifles	23-Nov-40	Apr-41	
2nd Pretoria Regiment	Sep-40	Oct-40	
2nd Rand Light Infantry	Feb-41	Oct-41	
2nd Royal Natal Carabineers	09-Sep-40	03-Oct-40	
2nd Transvaal Scottish	04-Sep-40	21-Nov-40	
Die Middellandse Regiment	01-Jul-40	22-Mar-41	
Regiment President Steyn	15-Jul-40	22-Nov-40	

Regiment Westelike Provinsie	01-Jul-40	01-Sep-40
The First City Regiment	Apr-41	Oct-41
Special Service Battalion	07-Oct-42	01-Nov-42
<u>10 South African Infantry Brigade</u>	01-Nov-40	04-Apr-42
1st Pretoria Highlanders	26-Sep-41	Dec-41
1st Regiment Botha	Jul-40	Sep-40
2nd Natal Mounted Rifles	Apr-41	30-Nov-41
2nd Witwatersrand Rifles	Oct-40	28-Nov-41
Prince Alfred's Guard	Jan-41	04-Apr-42
Regiment Suid-Westelike Distrikte	Jul-40	01-Sep-40
The First City Regiment	Nov-40	Apr-41
The Kimberley Regiment	22-Jul-40	Sep-41
<u>Theatres</u>		
South Africa	23-Aug-40	04-Apr-42

3 SA Armoured Division

3 SA Armoured Division was formed on April 4, 1942 by redesignating 3 SA Infantry Division. On October 7 it was redesignated the Mobile Field Force, though it appears to have still been referred to as 3 SA Armoured Division. The formation was disbanded on May 17, 1943.

Divisional Troops

<u>Armoured Cars</u>		
Special Service Battalion ⁶	04-Jan-43	09-Feb-43

Brigades

<u>7 SA Motorised Brigade</u>	04-Apr-42	16-Jun-42
	07-Dec-42	17-May-43
<u>8 SA Infantry Brigade⁷</u>	Nov-42?	Dec-42?

<u>Theatres</u>		
South Africa	04-Apr-42	17-May-43

4 SA Division

No information.

5 SA Division

No information.

⁶ As an Armoured Car Commando.

⁷ Possibly 8 Training Brigade in November 1942 and 8 Armoured Brigade in December of that year.



6 SA Armoured Division

This division – the first true armoured division in South African military history – was formed in South Africa on February 1, 1943 from new recruits and units that had served in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd SA Infantry (and Armoured) Divisions. After completing its training in Egypt, the division landed at Taranto, Italy on April 20, 1944. Answers.com avers that despite leading the advance on Rome, the division was denied the honour of "taking" the city (entering the city first) by the United States Army. "However, the division was one of the first allied units to enter Florence two months later. The division's active role in the war ended when the German forces in Italy surrendered on May 2, 1945. Major General WHE (Evered) Poole was the sole divisional commander during its existence.

Divisional Troops

Artillery

Antitank

11th Anti-Tank Regiment, SAA	15-Feb-43	05-Oct-43	
1st/11th Anti-Tank Regiment, SAA	05-Oct-43	08-May-45	

Field Artillery

166th (Newfoundland) Field Regiment, RA	18-Aug-44		attached
1st/6th Field Regiment, CFA, SAA	05-Oct-43	08-May-45	
22nd Field Regiment, (SA Irish) SAA	15-Feb-43	05-Oct-43	
23rd Field Regiment, SAA	15-Feb-43	05-Oct-43	
4/22 Field Regiment, SA Artillery	05-Oct-43	08-May-45	
6th Field Regiment, SAA	15-Feb-43	05-Oct-43	
7th Field Regiment, SAA	01-Oct-43	05-Oct-43	

Light Antiaircraft

12th Light Antiaircraft Regiment, SAAF	15-Feb-43	05-Oct-43	
1st/12th Light Antiaircraft Regiment, SAAF	05-Oct-43	21-Jun-44	

Medium Artillery

76th Medium Regiment, RA	13-Jun-44	05-Aug-44	attached
7th/23rd Medium Regiment, SAA	05-Oct-43	08-May-45	

Engineers

Field Park Squadrons

17th Field Park Squadron, SA Engineers	15-Feb-43		
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Field Squadrons

12th Field Squadron, SA Engineers	15-Feb-43		
622nd Field Squadron, RE	30-Jun-44		attached
8th Field Squadron, SA Engineers	15-Feb-43		

Infantry

4th/13th Frontier Force Rifles	18-Aug-44	13-Jan-45	attached
74th Light Antiaircraft Regt, RA (as inf)	25-Aug-44	28-Sep-44	attached
Cape Town Highlanders	01-Oct-43	05-Oct-43	
Imperial Light Horse	Sep-43	05-Oct-43	

<i>Support Battalion</i> "DSR"	Mar-45?	08-May-45
<i>Support Group</i> Royal Durban Light Infantry	Dec-43	20-Jan-45
<u>Medical</u>		
19th Field Ambulance, SAMC	05-Aug-44	
20th Field Ambulance, SAMC	05-Aug-44	
<u>Recce</u>		
Natal Mounted Rifles	15-Feb-43	20-Jan-44
 Brigades		
<u>11 South African Armoured Brigade</u>	08-Feb-43	08-May-45
1st Pretoria Regiment	09-Feb-43	08-May-45
Prince Alfred's Guard	09-Feb-43	08-May-45
Special Service Battalion	09-Feb-43	08-May-45
ILH/Kim.R (Imperial Light Horse/ Kimberley Regiment	05-Oct-43	24-Feb-45
The Kimberley Regiment	09-Feb-43	05-Oct-43
4th/13th Frontier Force Rifles	13-Jan-44	08-May-45
<u>12 South African Motorised Brigade</u>	08-Feb-43	08-May-45
1st Witwatersrand Rifles	09-Feb-43	30-Jun-43
FC/CTH (First City/Cape Town Highlanders Regiment)	05-Oct-43	08-May-45
Regiment de la Rey	09-Feb-43	30-Jun-43
Royal Natal Carabineers	28-Jul-43	08-May-45
The First City Regiment	09-Feb-43	05-Oct-43
WR/DLR (Witwatersrand/de la Rey Regiment) ⁸	30-Jun-43	08-May-45
RB/RPS (Regiment Botha/Regiment President Steyn)	Mar-45?	08-May-45
<u>13 South African Motorised Brigade</u>	13-Jan-45	08-May-45
ILH/Kim.R (Imperial Light Horse/ Kimberley Regiment	24-Feb-45	08-May-45
Natal Mounted Rifles	20-Jan-45	22-Jan-45
Natal Mounted Rifles/SAAF	22-Jan-45	08-May-45
Royal Durban Light Infantry	20-Jan-45	08-May-45
15th Field Regiment, SAA	20-Jan-45	08-May-45
RB/RPS (Regiment Botha/Regiment President Steyn)	Mar-45	08-May-45
5th Field Company, SA Engineers	20-Jan-45	08-May-45
18th Motor Brigade Signals	20-Jan-45	08-May-45
19th Field Ambulance, SAMC	01-Feb-45	08-May-45
<u>24 Guards Infantry Brigade</u>	20-May-44	19-Feb-45
1st Battalion, The Scots Guards	01-Mar-40	31-Aug-45
3rd Battalion, The Coldstream Guards	13-Mar-44	28-Feb-45
5th Battalion, Grenadier Guards	05-Jun-42	28-Mar-45
23rd (Army) Field Regiment, RA	05-Apr-44	14-Aug-44
42nd Field Company, RE	13-Mar-44	10-Mar-45
201st Guards Brigade Workshop, REME	13-Mar-44	31-Aug-44

⁸ The "Royal Boere".

24th Independent Brigade Group (Guards)		
Workshop, REME	01-Sep-44	10-Mar-45
550th Company, RASC	05-May-44	10-Mar-45
137th Field Ambulance, RAMC	14-Aug-44	10-Mar-45
226th Field Ambulance, RAMC	21-Apr-44	14-Aug-44

Higher formations served under

HQ British Troops Egypt	01-May-43	
III Corps	01-Jan-44	14-Mar-44
Egypt Force	14-Mar-44	14-Apr-44
8th Army Reserve	21-Apr-44	28-May-44
1st Canadian Corps	28-May-44	06-Jun-44
XIII Corps	06-Jun-44	
8th Army Reserve	06-Aug-44	20-Aug-44
IV US Corps	20-Aug-44	07-Oct-44
5 US Army	07-Oct-44	31-Oct-44
IV US Corps	31-Oct-44	15-Jan-45
II US Corps	15-Jan-45	30-Apr-45
5 US Army	30-Apr-45	

Theatres

South Africa	01-Feb-43	19-Apr-43
At Sea	19-Apr-43	30-Apr-43
Egypt	30-Apr-43	16-Apr-44
At Sea	16-Apr-44	21-Apr-44
Italy	21-Apr-44	08-May-45

Battles, actions and engagements

ROME	22-May-44	04-Jun-44
Advance to the Tiber	22-May-44	04-Jun-44
Celleno	09-Jun-44	09-Jun-44
Bagnoregio	11-Jun-44	13-Jun-44
Allerona	15-Jun-44	15-Jun-44
TRASIMENE LINE	20-Jun-44	30-Jun-44
AREZZO	04-Jul-44	17-Jul-44
ADVANCE TO FLORENCE	17-Jul-44	10-Aug-44
Monte San Michele	18-Jul-44	20-Jul-44
Monte Domini	21-Jul-44	24-Jul-44
Monte Kili	21-Jul-44	23-Jul-44
Paula Line	30-Jul-44	04-Aug-44
GOTHIC LINE	25-Aug-44	22-Sep-44
Monte Porro del Bagno	15-Sep-44	18-Sep-44
Femmina Morta	17-Sep-44	18-Sep-44
Catarelto Ridge	28-Sep-44	03-Oct-44
Monte Vigese	30-Sep-44	06-Oct-44
Monte Stanco	07-Oct-44	13-Oct-44
Monte Salvaro	19-Oct-44	23-Oct-44
BOLOGNA	14-Apr-45	21-Apr-45
Monte Sole	15-Apr-45	18-Apr-45
Camposanto Bridge	22-Apr-45	22-Apr-45

6 SA Armoured Division, along with 1 SA Infantry Division were reformed in the early post-war years. The formations were subsequently disbanded as there was a general shortage of volunteers for the Active Citizen Force⁹.

⁹ Cmdt CJ Nöthling, *Ultima Ratio Regum, Artillery History of South Africa*, Military Information Bureau, SADF, Pretoria, 1987, p237.

7 SA Division

7 SA Division was founded as an infantry formation on August 1, 1974. As established, it consisted of 71, 72 and 73 Motorised Brigades. The division was a sequel to an Active Citizen Force headquarters established in April 1965. This changed its name to HQ Army Task Force (Permanent Force) in 1967 and was superseded by 1 SA Corps, consisting of 7 SA Infantry Division and 8 SA Armoured Division.

A provisional 1977 order of battle had 1 SA Corps organised as follows:

Corps Troops

Artillery

Field Artillery

14 Light Regiment, SAA

15 Missile Regiment, SAA

Light Antiaircraft

47 Antiaircraft Regiment, SAA

57 Antiaircraft Regiment, SAA

67 Antiaircraft C&R Unit, SAA

Engineers

17 Field Squadron, SAEC

27 Engineer Support Regiment, SAEC

Infantry

1 Para Bn, SAIC

2 Para Bn, SAIC

Signals

Corps Signals Group

Maintenance

13 Maintenance Unit

23 Maintenance Unit

33 Maintenance Unit (SA Cape Corps)

15 Transit Maintenance Unit

201 Air Supply Company

27 Field Workshop, TSC

37 Field Workshop, TSC

11 Medium Workshop, TSC

12 Medium Workshop, TSC

Medical

23 Mobile Hospital

48 Field Ambulance Unit

10 Medical Evacuation Unit

26 Field Hygiene Company

Military Police

13 Provost Company, SACMP

14 Provost Company, SACMP

Paymaster

17 Field Pay Unit

A provisional 1977 order of battle had 7 SA Infantry Division organised as follows:

Divisional Troops

Artillery

17 Locating Regiment, SAA

Light Antiaircraft

17 Antiaircraft Regiment (35mm), SAA

27 Antiaircraft Regiment (20mm), SAA

Medium Artillery

17 Medium Regiment, SAA

Engineers

17 Field Squadron, SAEC

17 Engineer Support Regiment, SAEC

Infantry

17 Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron.

Signals

17 Signals Group

Maintenance

17 Maintenance Unit

17 Field Workshop, TSC

Medical

17 Mobile Hospital

17 Field Ambulance Unit

Military Police

17 Provost Company, SACMP

Recce

7 Combat Reconnaissance Brigade

71 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC

72 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC

73 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC

Brigades

71 Motorised Brigade

711 Motorised Battalion, SAIC

712 Motorised Battalion, SAIC

713 Motorised Battalion, SAIC

71 Field Regiment, SAA

71 Field Squadron, SAEC

71 Signals Unit

71 Maintenance Unit

71 Field Workshop, TSC

71 Field Ambulance

72 Motorised Brigade

721 Motorised Battalion, SAIC

- 722 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 723 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 72 Field Regiment, SAA
- 72 Field Squadron, SAEC
- 72 Signals Unit
- 72 Maintenance Unit
- 72 Field Workshop, TSC
- 72 Field Ambulance

73 Motorised Brigade

- 731 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 732 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 733 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 73 Field Regiment, SAA
- 73 Field Squadron, SAEC
- 73 Signals Unit
- 73 Maintenance Unit
- 73 Field Workshop, TSC
- 73 Field Ambulance

By 1985, 7 SA Division mustered 71 Motorised and 82 Mechanised Brigades. 72 Motorised was under command of 8 SA Division and 73 Motorised Brigade had apparently been disbanded. The division took part in numerous training exercises at the SA Army Battle School at Lohatlha in the northern Cape from 1978. The division's major exercise was Kwiksilwer, involving 72 Brigade and the divisional headquarters in 1987. The division's brigades were disbanded in 1992 and the battalions and regiments came to answer directly to the divisional headquarters¹⁰ - the thinking was that these would be grouped into task forces as required. The concept was never put to a serious test. The formation was also renamed 7 SA Division. The division reverted to a more conventional organisation from April 1, 1997, when its former units became 73 Brigade, those of 8 SA Division formed 74 Brigade and that of 9 SA Division became 75 Brigade. The restructured SA Army of the late 1990s had no room for field divisions, and 7 SA Division was disbanded on April 1, 1999, its 52 subordinate units falling instead under the new Type Formations.

8 SA Division

8 SA Division was established as an armoured formation on August 1, 1974, consisting of 81 Armoured Brigade, 82 Mechanised Brigade and 84 Motorised Brigade. It was, in many respects, a mirror of 7 SA Division. A provisional 1977 order of battle had 8 SA Infantry Division organised as follows:

Divisional Troops

Artillery

- 18 Locating Regiment, SAA

Light Antiaircraft

¹⁰ Lt Niko Allie, 7 South African Division ... closes its doors, Salut, May 1999, p30.

18 Antiaircraft Regiment (35mm), SAA
28 Antiaircraft Regiment (20mm), SAA

Medium Artillery

18 Medium Regiment, SAA

Engineers

18 Field Squadron, SAEC
18 Engineer Support Regiment, SAEC

Armour

18 Tank Regiment, SAAC
18 Forward Delivery Squadron, SAAC

Signals

18 Signals Group

Maintenance

18 Maintenance Unit
18 Field Workshop, TSC

Medical

18 Mobile Hospital
18 Field Ambulance Unit

Military Police

18 Provost Company, SACMP

Recce

8 Combat Reconnaissance Brigade
81 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC
82 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC
83 Armoured Car Regiment, SAAC

Brigades

81 Motorised Brigade

811 Tank Regiment, SAAC
812 Tank Regiment, SAAC
813 Mechanised Battalion, SAIC
81 Medium Regiment (SP), SAA
81 Field Squadron, SAEC
81 Signals Unit
81 Maintenance Unit
81 Field Workshop, TSC
81 Field Ambulance

82 Mechanised Brigade

821 Mechanised Battalion, SAIC
822 Mechanised Battalion, SAIC
823 Tank Regiment, SAAC
82 Field Regiment, SAA
82 Field Squadron, SAEC
82 Signals Unit
82 Maintenance Unit
82 Field Workshop, TSC
82 Field Ambulance

83 Mechanised Brigade

- 831 Mechanised Battalion, SAIC
- 832 Mechanised Battalion, SAIC
- 833 Tank Regiment, SAAC
- 83 Field Regiment, SAA
- 83 Field Squadron, SAEC
- 83 Signals Unit
- 83 Maintenance Unit
- 83 Field Workshop, TSC
- 83 Field Ambulance

84 Motorised Brigade

- 841 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 842 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 843 Motorised Battalion, SAIC
- 84 Field Regiment, SAA
- 84 Field Squadron, SAEC
- 84 Signals Unit
- 84 Maintenance Unit
- 84 Field Workshop, TSC
- 84 Field Ambulance

By 1985, 8 SA Division consisted of 81 Armoured Brigade, 84 Motorised Brigade and 72 Motorised Brigade. 82 Mechanised Brigade was under command of 7 SA Division. The division's brigades were disbanded in 1992 and the battalions and regiments came to answer directly to the divisional headquarters¹¹ - the thinking was that these would be grouped into task forces as required. The concept was never put to a serious test. The formation was also renamed 8 SA Division. The division was effectively disbanded on April 1, 1997, when its former units became part of 7 SA Division as 74 Brigade.

9 SA Division

9 SA Division was established in 1992 when the SA Army abandoned the conventional order of battle used for field divisions. The division was effectively disbanded on April 1, 1997, when its former units became part of 7 SA Division as 74 Brigade.

10 SA Division

This division was created in 1988 from personnel in Sector 10 in northern Namibia to defend against a perceived threat from the Cuban 50th Division deployed around Xangongo, not far north of Ovambo. The division stood down in 1989. The divisional headquarters was in the regional capital, Oshakati.

Divisional Troops

Not known

¹¹ Lt Niko Allie, 7 South African Division ... closes its doors, Salut, May 1999, p30.

Formations

Task Force Yankee (Okankolo)

- 81 Armoured Brigade

Task Force X-Ray (Ondangwa)

- 53 Bn
- 54 Bn
- 4 SAI Bn (62 Mech)
- 901, 904, C & D Coys, 101Bn
- Artillery: G5 and 35mm ADA

Task Force Zulu (Ruacana)

- 61 Mech Bn Gp
- 51 bn
- 102 Bn
- 902, 903, A & B Coys, 101Bn
- Artillery: G5 and 35mm ADA