

# The Long, Long Trail

*The British Army of 1914-1918 - for family historians*

## The 9th (Scottish) Division in 1914-1918

### The history of 9th (Scottish) Division



The Division came into existence as a result of Army Order No. 324, issued on 21 August 1914, which authorised the formation of the six new Divisions of K1. It was formed of volunteers, under the administration of Scottish Command. Having been in training at home since late August 1914, although only gradually were arms and equipment obtained, the recruits were judged to be ready for war by May 1915. The 9th Division served on the Western Front throughout the war, and was regarded by many as one of the best fighting formations of 1914-18.

Training locations:

August 1914: Salisbury Training Centre

September 1914: Bordon

The units of the Division crossed to France 9-12 May 1915 and then took part in the following actions:

#### **1915**

The Battle of Loos

#### **1916**

The Battle of Albert\*

The Battle of Bazentin\* in which the Division captured Longueval

The Battle of Delville Wood\*

The Battle of Le Transloy\*

The battles marked \* are phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

#### **1917**

The First Battle of the Scarpe\*\*

The Second Battle of the Scarpe\*\*

The battles marked \*\* are phases of the Arras Offensive 1917

The First Battle of Passchendaele+

The battle marked + is a phase of the Third Battle of Ypres

The action of Welsh Ridge (the last phase of the Cambrai operations 1917)

#### **1918**

The Battle of St Quentin\*\*\*

The First Battle of Bapaume\*\*

The battles marked \*\* are phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

The Battle of Messines+

The Battle of Bailleul+

The First Battle of Kemmel+

The Second Battle of Kemmel+

The battles marked + are phases of the Battles of the Lys

The Advance in Flanders in which the Division captured the Outtersteene Ridge

The Final Advance in Flanders in which the Division fought in the Battle of Courtrai and the action of Ooteghem

The Division was withdrawn for rest on 26-27 October 1918 and was still in billets at the Armistice. It was selected to advance to the Rhine as part of the occupation force and crossed into Germany on 4 December 1918, taking up a position in the Cologne bridgehead. In late February 1919, the original units left and were demobilised, being replaced by others. The Division was renamed as the Lowland Division and the fine history of the 9th (Scottish) Division was at an end.

52,055 officers and men of the Division were killed, wounded or captured during the war.

### The order of battle of the 9th (Scottish) Division

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#### 26th Brigade

8th Bn, the Black Watch	
7th Bn, the Seaforth Highlanders	
8th Bn, the Gordon Highlanders	left May 1916
5th Bn, the Cameron Highlanders	
1/5th Bn, the Loyal North Lancashire Regt	joined December 1915, left January 1916
10th Bn, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	joined from 27th Bde May 1916, left February 1918
26th Machine Gun Company	formed 29 January 1916 left to move into 9th MG Battalion 1 March 1918
26th Trench Mortar Battery	joined 15 June 1916

#### 27th Brigade

11th Bn, the Royal Scots	
12th Bn, the Royal Scots	
6th Bn, the Royal Scots Fusiliers	left May 1916
10th Bn, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	left for 26th Bde May 1916
9th Bn, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	joined May 1916, left February 1918
27th Machine Gun Company	formed 23 December 1915 left to move into 9th MG Battalion 1 March 1918
27th Trench Mortar Battery	joined July 1916

#### 28th Brigade

*This Brigade was broken up on 16 May 1916 and replaced by the South African Brigade. Reformed as a three-battalion brigade in September 1918*

6th Bn, the King's Own Scottish Borderers	
9th Bn, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	returned September 1918
10th Bn, the Highland Light Infantry	see <i>South African Brigade</i>
11th Bn, the Highland Light Infantry	see <i>South African Brigade</i>
28th Machine Gun Company	formed 3 January 1916
2nd Bn, the Royal Scots Fusiliers	joined September 1918
1st Bn, the Royal Newfoundland Regt	joined September 1918
28th Trench Mortar Battery	joined 11 September 1918

#### South African Brigade

History of the South African forces in WW1

*Brigade joined Division on 22 April 1916 and left on 13 September 1918.*

1st Regt, the South African Infantry	
2nd Regt, the South African Infantry	
3rd Regt, the South African Infantry	disbanded 18 February 1918
4th Regt, the South African Infantry	

*On 24 April 1918, after suffering very heavy casualties, the 1st, 2nd and 4th SA Regiments were amalgamated, temporarily becoming the SA (Composite) Regiment. They were re-formed by 1 September 1918.*

10th Bn, the Highland Light Infantry	under command of Brigade for 8 days in May 1916
11th Bn, the Highland Light Infantry	under command of Brigade for 8 days in May 1916
28th Machine Gun Company	joined 6 May 1916 left to move into 9th MG Battalion 1 March 1918
South African Trench Mortar Battery	joined 13 June 1916

3/4th Bn, the Royal West Kent Regt	joined 6 June 1917, left 15 June 1917
3/10th Bn, the Middlesex Regt	joined 6 June 1917, left 23 July 1917
2nd Bn, the Royal Scots Fusiliers	joined 26 April 1918, left 13 September 1918
9th Bn, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	joined 21 April 1918, left 12 September 1918

**Divisional Troops**

6th Bn, the Bedfordshire Regt	left March 1915
6th Bn, the Leicestershire Regt	left April 1915
9th Bn, the Seaforth Highlanders	joined December 1914, became Divisional Pioneer Battalion early 1915
10th Motor Machine Gun Battery	joined 30 April 1915, left 11 June 1916
197th Company, the Machine Gun Corps	joined 19 December 1916 left to move into 9th MG Battalion 1 March 1918
No 9 Battalion, the Machine Gun Corps	formed 1 March 1918
11th Motor Machine Gun Battery	joined 7 October 1918, left 7 November 1918

**Divisional Mounted Troops**

B Sqn, the 1/1st Glasgow Yeomanry	joined 15 May 1915, left 10 May 1916
9th Divisional Cyclist Company, Army Cyclist Corps	formed 1 December 1914, left 26 June 1916

**Divisional Artillery**

L Brigade, RFA	
LI Brigade, RFA	
LII Brigade, RFA	left 8 January 1917
LIII (Howitzer) Brigade, RFA	broken up 11 September 1916
9th Divisional Ammunition Column RFA	
9th Heavy Battery RGA	left 16 May 1915
V.9 Heavy Trench Mortar Battery RFA	joined May 1916, left February 1918
X.9, Y.9 and Z.9 Medium Mortar Batteries RFA	joined April 1916; on 13 February 1918, Z broken up and batteries reorganised to have 6 x 6-inch weapons each

**Royal Engineers**

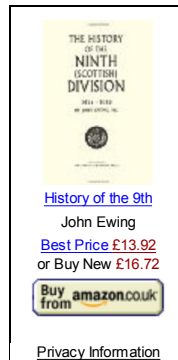
63rd Field Company	
64th Field Company	
90th Field Company	joined January 1915
9th Divisional Signals Company	

**Royal Army Medical Corps**

27th Field Ambulance	
28th Field Ambulance	
29th Field Ambulance	left May 1916
South African Field Ambulance	joined May 1916, left 13 September 1918
2/1st (East Lancashire) Field Ambulance	joined 26 September 1918
20th Sanitary Section	left 29 March 1917

**Other Divisional Troops**

9th Divisional Train ASC	104, 105, 106 and 107 Companies
21st Mobile Veterinary Section AVC	
212th Divisional Employment Company	formed by 23 June 1917
9th Divisional Motor Ambulance Workshop	transferred to Divisional Train 9 April 1916



This page is dedicated to the memory of men like *James Percival McNicol*, who was commissioned into the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in November 1916 and posted to join the 10th (Service) Battalion. He died as a result of multiple bullet wounds at No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, then located at Bagneux near Doullens, on 20 June 1918. According to the 10th Argylls war diary, 14 June 1918, "*Battalion took over front line, left sub sector, from 2nd KOYLI. Considerable inconvenience caused daily by enemy heavy trench mortar and notwithstanding a certain amount of heavy artillery fire on Moyenneville, direct hits are obtained daily on either the front line or Cornwall Avenue. Constant repairing is necessary nightly. Enemy artillery has been less active lately*". On 22 June, the Battalion was relieved by the 1/5th Border Regiment and came out for rest. James was researched in detail for private clients by fourteeneighteen|research

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