

**January - March 1941
Libya**

**6th Australian Division
16th Brigade
2/3rd Battalion
Company B**

**With supporting units of the
Australian
2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment
2/3rd Light Anti Aircraft Regiment
and elements of the
British
7th Army Royal Horse Artillery**

Formed in Victoria Australia in October of 1939 along with the 2/1st 2/2nd and 2/4th Battalions. This unit received training in Liverpool and Ingleburn until January of 1940 when they then shipped out to Kantara and then off to Palestine for further training.

The 2/3rd first saw action on January 3rd 1941 Bardia Libya along with the 2/1st and 2/2nd. This battle resulted in victory and the capture of nearly 40000 Italian soldiers and countless stores of equipment.

The second battle the 2/3rd took part in was the the siege of Tobruk on January 21st 1941. This resulted in another victory for the Australians and major loses to the Italians with forcing their retreating to El Agheila Libya.

The majority of the 2/3rd severed as garrison duty for Tobruk after its fall. Company B along with the 19th Brigade, pushed on for the assault and capture of Derna Libya on the 30th of January 1941. After the victory at Derna Company B served garrison duty until March.

On March 7th 1941 the 2/3rd along with the rest of the 6th Division left Tobruk for Greece where it served until April 27th before evacuating back to Palestine. The 2/3rd then served in Syria and Lebanon before leaving to fight the Japanese in March of 1942.

The 2/3rd Battalion was one of only 2 Australian infantry Battalions to fight against all of the major Axis powers of World War 2. They fought the Germans, Italians, Japanese, and Vichy French. They saw action in North Africa, Greece, Crete, Syria, Lebanon, and Papua New Guinea.

The 2/3rd Battalion was disbanded on February 8th 1946 and was one of the most decorated Battalion of the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) During their service 203 men were killed and 432 were wounded. The unit received 4 Distinguished Service Orders, 16 Military Crosses, 12 Distinguished Conduct Medals, 30 Military Medals, 2 British Empire Medals, and 73 Mentioned in Despatches.