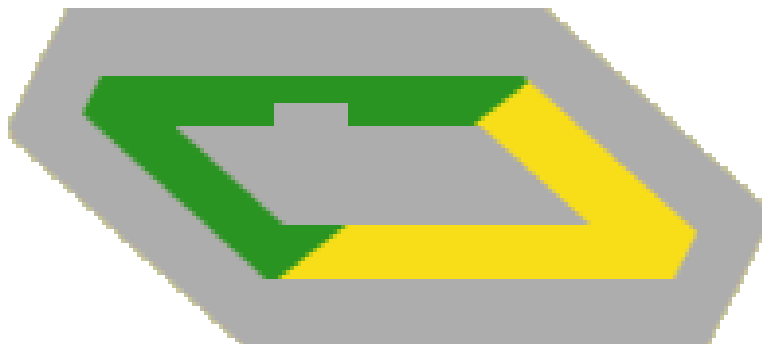




Second Australian Imperial Force
2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment



2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment colour patch (1944)



2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment colour patch (1944 – 1946)

The 2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment was a regiment of the 2nd Armoured Brigade, 1st Armoured Division during the Second World War. It was formed in July 1941 and was disbanded in August 1945.

The Regiment was comprised of the following sub units:

Regimental Headquarters (RHQ)
A Squadron
B Squadron
C Squadron

The regiment was initially equipped with M3 Grant medium tanks and later received Matilda tanks.

Commanding Officers	Dates
LT COL F E Wells	7/41 - 1/42
LT COL T E Williams	1/42 - 3/43
LT COL A E McIntyre	3/43 - 8/45
MAJ J B Lathlean	8/45 - Disbandment

Equipment

- General Grant tanks
- Matilda tanks
- General Stuart tanks

Battle Honours

- South-West Pacific 1945
- Tarakan
- Labuan

Casualties

- 9 died
- 16 wounded

Decorations

- 1 MC
- 2 MM

2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment

In November 1940 the Australian War Cabinet approved the formation of an armoured division and the 1st Armoured Division was raised in July 1941. The 2/9th Australian Armoured Regiment was raised in August, as part of the division's 2nd Armoured Brigade.

Between 1941 and 1942 the 2/9th was based at Puckapunyal, Vic., where it was initially equipped with Bren gun carriers and later with American-designed M3 Grant medium tanks and M3 Stuart light tanks. However, at the start of 1943 the 1st Armoured Division was disbanded and the 2/9th moved to Singleton, NSW, where it became part of the newly raised 4th Armoured Brigade. In May the 2/9th moved to the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland. In March 1944 the 2/9th replaced its Grant tanks with the British-built Matilda tanks. Throughout 1944 and into the start of 1945 the 2/9th continued its training, but the regiment did not go into action until almost the end of the war.

In March 1945 the regiment finally received orders to prepare for overseas service. Moving to Cairns, Queensland, C Squadron sailed for Morotai and the rest of the regiment followed in April. The regiment's ultimate destination, however, was Borneo.

The 2/9th was to take part in the OBOE operations, a series of amphibious landings designed to reoccupy areas of the Borneo and the Netherlands East Indies. The regiment would support the 9th Division landings at Tarakan, and then Labuan and Brunei Bay, in British North Borneo.

For the invasion of Tarakan, C Squadron was attached to the 26th Brigade and came ashore on 1 May, the first day of the battle, and subsequently took part in the fighting along ANZAC and Bourke Highways, the Tarakan airstrip, and Snag's Track, and for the Otway and Skyes features, and the Djoata oilfields. In June the rest of the regiment and 9th Division landed at Labuan and Brunei Bay. B Squadron landed on Labuan Island, with the 24th Brigade, on 10 June, where it supported the infantry on the airfield, Flagstaff Hill, Crater Feature, and MacArthur Road. Meanwhile, A Squadron had landed on Brunei Bay with the rest of the division and supported the advance inland. The 2/9th performed similar tasks in all of these locations, namely supporting the infantry's advance by engaging Japanese fortifications and by providing mobile fire support.

The 2/9th Armoured Regiment remained on Borneo until the end of December, when it returned to Australia and was disbanded at the start of 1946.



2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment M3 Grant Tank - on exercise near
Herberton, Qld 19 August 1943.



9 Troop, B Squadron, 2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regiment Matilda Tanks - moving east
Labuan, Borneo 10 June 1945.



Snags track, **Tarakan**. 20 May 1945. one of the 14 troop Matilda Mk II tanks of 2/9 armoured regiment firing its three inch howitzer at a Japanese pillbox forward of c company 2/23 infantry battalion positions on the elbow. The fire of this howitzer is directed by phone reports from the forward troops



Malanda area, Queensland. 11 December 1944. Csquadron, 2/9 Armoured Regiment Matilda tanks in movement along the Glen Allyn road to the final assault against Lamond's Hill and the conclusion of exercise "RAMPANT".



Wondecla, Queensland, Australia. 17 July 1945. tanks of "A" squadron, 2/9th Armoured Regiment moving past the saluting base as VX1 General Sir Thomas Blamey, GBE., KCB., CBG., DSO., ED., commander-in-chief, allied land forces, south west pacific area, takes the salute.



Labuan, North Borneo, 10 June 1945. Matilda tanks of B squadron, 9 Troop, 2/9th Armoured Regiment, moving east soon after the OBOE 6 operation landing.



Netherlands East Indies: Halmahera Islands, Morotai, Officers and men of 2/43 Infantry Battalion riding on a Matilda tank of 9 Troop, B Squadron, 2/9 Armoured Regiment, during preparations for the OBOE 6 operation.



Brunei, north Borneo, 10 June 1945. Tanks and personnel of A Squadron, 2/9 Armoured Regiment, approaching the town of Brooketon as the unit moves forward to support 2/17 Infantry Battalion during the OBOE 6 operation.

Memorabilia

