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The Sixth Division was the first division raised by Australia in WWII (the first five served in WWI) and the first to see combat in the war. It was to be deployed as part of the BEF in France but the war there ended before it could arrive and it was detoured to North Africa instead. In January, during Operation Compass, the division was swapped for the 4th Indian which was withdrawn. The tough Australians then pursued the Italians along the coast road for hundreds of miles, taking thousands of prisoners along the way.