

254th Indian Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 254th Indian Tank Brigade

254th Indian Tank Brigade Headquarters Squadron Tank Troop

3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) (2)

7th Light Cavalry (3)

25th Dragoons (4)

3rd Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers

401st Field Squadron, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

254th Indian Tank Brigade Signal Squadron, Indian Signal Corps

609th General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

589th Tank Transporter Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

14th Indian Light Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps

254th Indian Tank Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

104th Indian Ordnance Field Park (Tank Brigade)

63rd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. In early 1941, G.H.Q. India ordered the raising of a second armoured division in India, to be designated as the 2nd Indian Armoured Division. The two armoured brigades raised to become part of this new division were the 4th and 5th Indian Armoured Brigades. This brigade was raised at the cavalry depot at Risalpur in India with effect from 1 April 1941 as the 4th Indian Armoured Brigade under the command of Brigadier (Acting) William Thomas GILL, M.C.*. GILL was promoted from command of the 3rd Carabiniers then stationed in India, and was a British officer in the Regular Army. The first unit to join the brigade did not do so until August 1941, this being the 46th Cavalry; itself a newly raised regiment. The Scinde Horse (14th Prince of Wales's Own Cavalry) came under command in October 1941, but left only one month later. It was replaced by the 7th Light Cavalry, but the third regiment, the 25th Dragoons, did not join until 23 May 1942. In October 1941, the brigade was redesignated as the 254th Indian Armoured Brigade, and then from 10 September 1942 it was retitled as the 254th Indian Tank Brigade. In April 1943, the brigade transferred to the 44th Indian Armoured Division with the break-up of the 32nd Indian Armoured Division. On 18 November 1943, Brigadier (Temporary) Reginald Lawrence SCOONES, O.B.E., R.T.R., assumed command from Brigadier GILL, and the brigade was placed under command of the 14th Army as a reserve formation. With effect from 5 December 1943, the 25th Dragoons, 1 Troop 401st Field Squadron and a company from the 3rd Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers were detached to come under direct command of XV Indian Corps in the Arakan. This regiment fought with distinction during the battle of the Admin Box in February 1944. Meanwhile, the rest of the brigade was deployed to the Imphal plain to come under command of IV Corps. When the Japanese attacked in April 1944, the brigade became the sole armoured formation involved in the siege of Imphal. In the absence of the 25th Dragoons (still in the Arakan), it was decided to reinforce this brigade with the 150th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. The men of 'C' Squadron were flown in, but before their tanks could reach them, the road from Dimapur via Kohima was cut. The men already in Imphal were equipped with spare tanks and became 'YL' Squadron attached to the 3rd Carabiniers. After the siege was lifted, the 149th Regiment, R.A.C. came under command between 4 July and 18 August 1944. On 4 November 1944, the 150th Regiment, R.A.C. formally came under command of the brigade, and remained with it until October 1945 (see below). The brigade transferred to the command of XXXIII Indian Corps by October 1944, supporting that corps in its advance down the Kabaw Valley and across the Chindwin river. It continued to operate with this corps in the advance via Allamyo towards Rangoon until the end of the campaign in Burma. In June 1945, the brigade moved back to India, now under command of Brigadier (Acting) W. W. A. LORING, who had assumed command in March 1945. The brigade remained in India until partition in August 1947, having been redesignated as the 3rd Indian Armoured Brigade in December 1945, but now with three Indian cavalry regiments under command.

2. This was a cavalry regiment of the British Army. It was stationed in India at the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 as part of the Sialkot Brigade, in the Lahore District. It came under command of the 2nd Indian Armoured Brigade on 1 September 1940, transferring to the 1st Indian Armoured Brigade in November 1941. It joined this brigade in December 1943 and remained with it until 28 January 1945. After attachments to other units, it returned to the command of this brigade in July 1945 until April 1946. When the brigade moved to Imphal in early 1944, it was equipped with Lee tanks. It gained 'YL' Squadron formed by personnel from the 150th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps in April 1944, so named because that regiment had been formed by the conversion of the 10th Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment. The regiment was a key factor in the successful defence of the Imphal plain, taking part in the battles of Nunshigum, the Shenam Saddle and at Bishenpur.
3. One of the oldest cavalry regiments of the Indian Army, it had been based at Secunderabad in the 4th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade in September 1939, still equipped with horses. It mechanized in mid-1940, and in November 1941 it came under command of this brigade. By the time of the siege of Imphal, it was equipped with Stuart tanks and participated in the battles to clear the Kohima road, and around Bishenpur. It left this brigade in February 1945.
4. This was a British Army regiment that was raised with a cadre from the 3rd Carabiniers in 1941. It joined this brigade on 23 May 1942. Now equipped with Lee tanks, the regiment was detached to come under command of XV Indian Corps with effect from 5 December 1943, and fought with distinction in the Battle of the Admin Box in February 1943, proving the viability of using tanks in the Indian and Burmese jungle. It was not replaced in this brigade until the arrival of the 150th Regiment, R.A.C..

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