

255th Indian Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 255th Indian Tank Brigade

255th Indian Tank Brigade Headquarters Squadron Tank Troop

5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) (2)

The Royal Deccan Horse (9th Horse) (3)

16th *Light Cavalry* (4)

116th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (5)

4th Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers (6)

3rd Independent Bridging Troop, Royal Armoured Corps

18th *Field Regiment, Royal Artillery* (7)

36th Field Squadron, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

255th Indian Tank Brigade Signal Squadron, Indian Signals Corps

605th General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

590th Tank Transporter Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

9th Light Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps

255th Indian Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

255th Indian Tank Brigade Workshop, Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

255th Indian Tank Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

111th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. Raised as the 5th Indian Armoured Brigade on 15 June 1941, this formation was based at Sialkot under the command of Brigadier H. H. STABLE, C.I.E.. It was redesignated as the 255th Indian Armoured Brigade in October 1941. The brigade came under command of the 31st Indian Armoured Division at Sialkot and Poona as one of the two armoured brigades. In April 1943, the brigade moved to Bolarum and Secunderabad to join the newly raised 44th Indian Armoured Division. In April 1944, the Japanese launched their major offensive towards Imphal and Kohima, leading to the disbandment of the 44th Indian Armoured Division, so the brigade became independent. In August, it was redesignated to become the 255th Indian Tank Brigade. The brigade moved forward for active operations in October 1944, moving to the Imphal Plain to come under command of IV Corps. In what was a massive logistical operation, the brigade followed the corps down the Kabaw valley to the Irrawaddy River. Under command of the 17th Indian Infantry Division, the brigade crossed the River Irrawaddy and reached Taungtha on 23 February. It looped around to the north and east of the town, taking the important airfield on 2 March. The brigade formed a series of all-arms columns that struck out from the besieged town to strike at the Japanese attackers. This form of aggressive defence caused the Japanese to withdraw eventually, allowing IV Corps to advance down the main road towards Rangoon. Fighting down that corridor, the brigade assisted in the capture of Pyawbwe, Toungoo and Pyu, before attacking and securing the key town of Pegu. With Rangoon captured by the 26th Indian Division at the beginning of May, the brigade went into Corps Reserve. It then transferred to 14th Army command until November 1945, when it moved back to Meiktila. It travelled back to India overland in February and March 1946 to Secunderabad. In June 1946, it was again redesignated as the 1st Indian Armoured Brigade in the 1st Indian Armoured Division.
2. This was a pre-war Indian Cavalry regiment. It came under command of this brigade in September 1943 and was to remain with this formation throughout the campaign. By September 1944, it was equipped with American Sherman tanks, armed with the 75mm gun.
3. The Royal Deccan Horse came under command of this brigade with effect from September 1943 and remained with it through until partition in August 1947. By the time of the decisive battle for Meiktila in February and March 1945, it was equipped with U.S. Sherman V tanks.
4. Another pre-war Regular Indian Army cavalry regiment, it came under command of this brigade in October 1941. It left this brigade in July 1942, but rejoined on 15 February 1945 now equipped with Daimler armoured cars. It remained under command of this brigade during the Battle for Meiktila, to leave this brigade in October 1945 after the cessation of hostilities.
5. The 9th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders was a war raised British infantry battalion. The battalion moved to India where on 24 July 1942 it converted into an armoured unit being retitled the 116th Regiment, R.A.C.. After initial training, it joined the 267th Indian Armoured Brigade before joining this brigade on 31 October 1943. It remained with this brigade throughout the main Burma campaign of 1944 and 1945, although it was attached to the 7th Indian Infantry Division with effect from 31 January 1945.
6. This infantry battalion came under command of this brigade with effect from July 1942. It was absent from the brigade between September 1943 and September 1944. The 4th Bombay Grenadiers provided all the infantry support battalions for the armoured formations in the Indian Army during the Second World War. This partnership proved invaluable, as the nature of the fighting meant that the infantry had to support the tanks and vice versa.

7. The 18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was a pre-war regiment that was equipped with 25 pounder guns. It came under command of this brigade from 20 September 1944 until 9 January 1945.

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