

268th Indian Infantry Brigade (Lorried) (1)

Headquarter, 268th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

17th Bn. 10th Baluch Regiment

9th Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles

2nd (King Edward VII's Own) Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers

2nd Bn. The Hyderabad Infantry, Indian States Forces (2)

17th (Machine Gun) Bn. 7th Rajput Regiment

429th Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

268th Brigade Signals Section, Indian Corps of Signals

268th Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

904th Jeep Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

9th Light Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

44th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

112th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

268th Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed in August 1942 to be the infantry component of the newly raised 43rd Indian Armoured Division. In April 1943, it moved to the new 44th Indian Armoured Division, and then into G.H.Q. Reserve at Ranchi by March 1944. On 16 April 1944, with the launch of the Japanese invasion of India through Kohima and Imphal, the brigade was deployed to Dimapur. It arrived on 8 May to come under command of an emergency formation entitled the 21st Indian Division, which itself was under command of XXXIII Indian Corps. At this time, the 'division' comprised of only this brigade and the 45th Cavalry. It was given responsibility for the defence of the line of communication between Dimapur and Kohima. In mid-May, the brigade took over the responsibility for Kohima Ridge, and continued to operate in the Kohima area. On 14 July, the Corps Commander ordered the brigade to reinforce the 23rd Indian Division in operations to clear the Tamu – Palel road. In particular, the brigade attacked a feature known as Ben Nevis, which after stiff defence on 26 and 27 July, was found to be deserted on 28 July. The brigade continued on operations until being withdrawn to Imphal in early August 1944. On 10 August 1944, the brigade was reorganised.
2. This battalion from the Indian States Forces was attached to the brigade for the operations in July to clear the Tamu – Palel road and the Ben Nevis feature.

268th Indian Infantry Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 268th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4th Bn. 3rd Madras Regiment

1st Bn. The Assam Regiment

1st Bn. The Chamar Regiment

The Kalibahadur Regiment

The Mahindra Dal Regiment

429th Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

268th Brigade Signals Section, Indian Corps of Signals

268th Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

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268th Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

NOTES:

1. On 10 August 1944, the brigade was reorganised and five new battalions were posted into the brigade. Its role changed from being a lorried infantry brigade within an armoured division, to an independent brigade capable of movement across the varied terrain in central Burma. The Headquarters IV Corps re-opened near Imphal on 1 November 1944 and this brigade came under command shortly afterwards on 11 November. The brigade was tasked with capturing Maingnyaung with the intention of misleading the Japanese, and also to protect the southern flank of the 62nd Indian Infantry Brigade from the 19th Indian Division as it crossed the River Chindwin. For the next phase of the plan, the brigade was to establish a block at Yeshin in continued support of the 19th Indian Division. At 07.00 hours on 26 December, this brigade and the 19th Indian Division transferred to the command of the XXXIII Indian Corps. The brigade was ordered to advance down the Mu River and make patrols contact with the 2nd Infantry Division and 19th Indian Infantry Division. On 31 December, the Mahendra Dal made contact with elements of the 19th Indian Division in the Kyigon area. The brigade prided itself on having to navigate the more difficult country and terrain than other formations, and used mules, bullocks and elephants for transport. In late January 1945, the brigade came under Corps Reserve and then relieved the 4th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division at Sagaing. On 10 April 1945, the brigade commenced its advance from Ngathayauk in support of the 2nd Infantry Division and cooperated in capturing Mount Popa, an extinct volcano that rose from the plain to a height of 500 feet. Having assisted in the capture of that feature, the brigade concentrated at Allanmyo by 1 May 1945. The brigade advanced down the Irrawaddy River with XXXIII Corps and held the central sector around Thayetmyo. It was deployed to cut off the escape routes for the 28th Japanese Army and came under command of the 7th Indian Division. The brigade became part of the 12th Army in Burma and was used to mop up stragglers in the Allanmyo, Kama and Prome areas under the direct command of the 7th Indian Division. The brigade was relieved in July 1945 and moved to India. There it reorganised to be deployed as part of the Allied Occupation Forces in Japan.
2. This battalion came under command of this brigade on 14 November 1944.

SOURCES:

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