

50th Indian Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 50th Indian Tank Brigade & Signal Section

146th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (2)

149th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (3)

150th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (4)

400th Independent Scorpion Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps (5)

37th Field Squadron, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

50th Indian Tank Brigade Signals Section, Indian Corps of Signals

50th Indian Tank Brigade Troops Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)

554th Indian Tank Transporter Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

50th Indian Tank Brigade Workshop, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

50th Indian Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

50th Indian Tank Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

96th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps (7)

NOTES:

1. This brigade was raised in October 1941, as the Indian Heavy Armoured Brigade at Dhond near Poona. It comprised three British infantry battalions (see below) that converted to armoured units over the following months. In July 1942, the brigade moved to Lohardaga to come under the command of XV Indian Corps. Brigadier (Acting) Derek Shuldham SCHREIBER, M.V.O. assumed command of the brigade on 16 June 1943, having been promoted from command of the 3rd Carabiniers in India. He remained in command until 15 March 1944, when ill-health forced him to relinquish command of the brigade. Brigadier (Temporary) George Herbert Norris TODD, M.C. took over command of the brigade with effect from 16 March 1944, i.e., just prior to elements of the brigade being deployed to Imphal and Kohima.
2. Converted from the 9 Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, this regiment came under command of this brigade with effect from 22 October 1941. This regiment remained with the brigade throughout the campaign in the Arakan, even though only one squadron was deployed on Ramree Island.
3. As the 7th Bn. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, this battalion came under command of this brigade on 24 October 1941, but only converted formally to an armoured regiment on 22 November 1941. 'C' Squadron was detached to serve with the 36th Indian Infantry Division in the Arakan in February 1944. 'A' and 'B' Squadrons deployed to Dimapur in April 1944, where they came under command of the 2nd Infantry Division during the Battle of Kohima. Having advanced down the road to Imphal clearing the route of Japanese troops, this regiment transferred to the command of the 254th Indian Tank Brigade on 4 July 1944 at Imphal.
4. This unit was formed in 1941 by the conversion of the 10th Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment. It was detached from this brigade between September 1942 and 16 April 1943, during which time it came under command of the 19th Indian Infantry Division. It returned to the command of this brigade on 30 April 1943, and remained until 4 November 1944. On that date, it transferred to the 254th Indian Tank Brigade. In April 1944, the regiment was placed under orders to move to Imphal, with one squadron being flown into Imphal while other personnel brought the ranks by rail to Dimapur, from where they were to proceed to Imphal by road. The Japanese launched their main offensive in March and April 1944, cutting the road at Kohima. The squadron at Imphal became YL Squadron of the 3rd Carabiniers, using spare tanks based there. When the tanks arrived at Dimapur, scratch crews were formed and the tanks moved up the road to become involved in the fighting at Kohima. After the siege of Imphal was lifted, the regiment concentrated at Imphal which is why it then joined the 254th Indian Tank Brigade.
5. This company was redesignated as the 607th General Purpose Transport Company, R.I.A.S.C. in 1942.
6. This unit left the brigade in May 1943.

50th Indian Tank Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 50th Indian Tank Brigade & Signal Section

146th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (2)

19th King George V's Own Lancers (3)

45th Cavalry (4)

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

1st Independent Bridging Troop, Indian Armoured Corps

37th Field Squadron, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

50th Indian Tank Brigade Signals Section,

170th General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

171st General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

554th Indian Tank Transporter Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

50th Indian Tank Brigade Ordnance Field Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

50th Indian Tank Brigade Workshop, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

5th Indian Tank Recovery Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

50th Indian Tank Brigade Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

136th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This brigade came under the command of XV Corps in the Arakan for the post monsoon offensive of late 1944 and early 1945, and this is the Order of Battle for this formation from 1 December 1944 until the end of the campaign in August 1945. The problem was that the nature of the country in the Arakan precluded against the use of large tank formations. In consequence, for specific operations it was usual for the brigade to be split up into squadrons and attached to a battalion or an infantry brigade. Brigadier G. H. N. TODD, M.C. until 28 June 1945, when Brigadier R. O. CRITCHLEY assumed command. The brigade moved back to India and then in September 1945, it landed in Malaya as part of Operation 'Zipper'. In February 1946, the brigade headquarters was sent to Sumatra, but after just about one month, it left to return to India where it disbanded.
2. This regiment was formed from the 9th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1941 and, was equipped with Lee tanks for the campaign. Only 'A' Squadron saw active service, being deployed in support of the 26th Indian Division during the invasion of Ramree Island. Elements of this regiment also saw active service on Sumatra.
3. This regiment was equipped with Sherman tanks for the campaign. 'A' Squadron from this regiment saw active service in the landings on the Myebon peninsula and at Kangaw. This regiment left this brigade in August 1945 to be replaced by the 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers.
4. This regiment was equipped with Stuart tanks. It left this brigade in May 1945 and was replaced by Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (11th Frontier Force).

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