

77th Indian Infantry Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 77th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

13th Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) (2)

3rd Bn. 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) (3)

2nd Bn. The Burma Rifles (4)

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed in June 1942 in the Saugor area. It was reformed into columns for the Long Range Penetration role on 21 July 1942. The brigade was deployed to Imphal on 27 January 1943 and entered Burma on First Chindit expedition (Operation Longcloth) on 10 February 1943. It disrupted Japanese activity in the Shwebo area before withdrawing to Imphal on 29 May 1943. The brigade suffered significant casualties, so was concentrated in the Bombay area to refit.
2. The battalion arrived in India for garrison duties. In order to make the battalion effective for the L.R.P. role, a selection process took place with many officers and soldiers being weeded out, to be replaced by drafts from within India. The battalion left the brigade on 10 September 1943 after Operation 'Longcloth', moving to Karachi under command of Sind District.
3. This battalion left the brigade circa September 1943.

3rd Indian Infantry Division (Special Force) (1)

14th Infantry Brigade (2)

59 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

16 and 61 Columns

(1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment)

47 and 74 Columns

(7th Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment)

42 and 73 Columns

(2nd Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment))

65 and 84 Columns

(2nd Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment)

54th Field Company, Royal Engineers (16)

16th Infantry Brigade (4)

99 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

21 and 22 Columns

(2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey))

17 and 71 Columns

(2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment)

51 Column

(51st (Westmorland & Cumberland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) (5)

69 Column

(69th (Duke of Connaught's – Hampshire) Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery) (5)

45 and 54 Columns (6)

(45th Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps)

2nd Field Company, Royal Engineers (15)

23rd Infantry Brigade (7)

32 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

33 and 76 Columns

(2nd Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding))

44 and 56 Columns

(1st Bn. The Essex Regiment)

34 and 55 Columns

(4th (Westmorland) Bn. The Border Regiment)

60 and 88 Columns

(60th (North Midland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) (8)

12th Field Company, Royal Engineers (15)

77th Indian Infantry Brigade (9)

25 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

81 and 82 Columns

(1st Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool))

20 and 50 Columns

(1st Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers)

38 and 80 Columns

(1st Bn. The South Staffordshire Regiment)

36 & 63 Columns

(3rd Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles)

57 & 93 Columns

(3rd Bn. 9th Gurkha Rifles)

Morris Force (10)

49 & 94 Columns

(4th Bn. 9th Gurkha Rifles)

40 Column

(3rd Bn. 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles)

111th Indian Infantry Brigade (11)

48 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

41 & 46 Columns

(2nd Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster))

26 & 90 Columns

(1st Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles))

30 Column

(3rd Bn. 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles)

3rd West African Brigade (12)

10 Column

(Advanced Brigade H.Q.)

39 and 66 Columns

(6th Bn. The Nigeria Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force)

29 and 35 Columns

(7th Bn. The Nigeria Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force)

12 and 43 Columns

(12th Bn. The Nigeria Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force)

Divisional Troops

Dah Force

2nd Bn. The Burma Rifles (13)

'R', 'S', 'T' & 'U' Troops

(160th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) (14)

'W', 'X', 'Y' & 'Z' Troops

(69th Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery) (14)

219th Field Park Company, Royal Engineers (17)

NOTES:

1. This formation was initially called 'Special Force', but, was redesignated 3rd Indian Division on 12 March 1944, for deception reasons.
2. This brigade deployed to 'Aberdeen' on 23 March 1944. It moved to 'Blackpool' in May 1944, to be involved in heavy fighting in that area, eventually being withdrawn to India in August 1944. On 1 November 1944, the brigade was redesignated:

14th Air Landing Brigade

2nd Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) (3)

2nd Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

4th (Outram's) Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles

3. This battalion left the brigade on 12 February 1945. It was replaced by:
6th Bn. 16th Punjab Regiment
4. The brigade was tasked with walking into Burma and attacking Japanese units in the Indaw area.
5. These units were formed from Royal Artillery regiments, which converted to the infantry role for the period of the existence of Special Force. The H.Q. of the regiments were placed in suspended animation when the units converted to 51 Column and 69 Column.
6. This unit was formerly the reconnaissance regiment for the 70th Infantry Division. The Reconnaissance Corps became part of the Royal Armoured Corps on 1 January 1944.
7. This brigade did not deploy with the rest of Special Force, but it was used to support the flanks in the Kohima area when the main Japanese Ha-Go offensive was launched in March 1944.
8. This unit was formed from 60th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which converted to the Infantry role for the period of the existence of Special Force. The H.Q. of the regiment was placed in suspended animation when the unit converted to 60 and 88 Columns.
9. The brigade was flown into Broadway. It then made its way to cut the railway line and road, establishing a block called White City. When White City was abandoned, the brigade made its way north to 'Blackpool'. This block was soon overrun, and the brigade went north again and was tasked with taking Mogaung. It lacked the support to do so, but the brigade persisted and eventually won the battle, but at a heavy cost in casualties. The remains of the brigade were evacuated.
10. Morris Force (so named after its commander) landed at Chowringee. It then made its way up the River Irrawaddy valley, eventually ending up at Mogaung. It was evacuated from there.
11. The brigade was due to fly into Piccadilly, but that location was unusable, so it was flown into Chowringee and Broadway instead. This left the brigade dispersed and ineffective until it was reunited at White City. It fought its way north with 77th Brigade, being evacuated from Mogaung.
12. The 12th Bn. Nigeria Regiment was flown into Broadway, and it made its way on foot to Aberdeen. The other two battalions were flown directly into Aberdeen. The brigade reformed at Aberdeen but was disbanded on return to India on 30 November 1944. The brigade reformed with the same units in India on 1 March 1945 and came under command of the 81st West Africa Division on 20 March 1945.

13. This battalion was not deployed as a battalion with Special Force but was used to provide reconnaissance platoons for each of the columns.
14. These two regiments each provided four troops intended to act as defensive support for the Strongholds established by the Chindits. Elements of these Troops were deployed at Broadway in this role.
15. These companies reformed into commando platoons and deployed with Special Force in support of the 14th Infantry Brigade.
16. This company was reformed into sabotage platoons and deployed with Special Force.
17. This company allocated to Special Force, but it did not deploy with the formation and remained at Ranchi.

SOURCES:

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