

44th Indian Armoured Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 44th Indian Armoured Division

254th Indian Armoured Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 254th Indian Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

16th Light Cavalry

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

9th Royal Deccan Horse

3rd Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers

255th Indian Armoured Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 255th Indian Armoured Brigade & Signal Section

16th Light Cavalry

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

9th Royal Deccan Horse

4th Bn. 4th Bombay Grenadiers

268th Indian Lorried Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 268th Indian Lorried Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

17th Bn. 7th Rajput Regiment

17th Bn. 10th Baluch Regiment

9th Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles

Divisional Troops

43rd Cavalry, Indian Armoured Corps ⁽⁵⁾

48th Cavalry, Indian Armoured Corps ⁽⁶⁾

19th King George V's Own Lancers ⁽⁷⁾

18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

123rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

8th (Mahratta) Anti-Tank Regiment, Indian Artillery

33rd Field Squadron, King George V's Bengal Sappers & Miners

40th Field Park Squadron, King George V's Bengal Sappers & Miners

44th Indian Armoured Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

606th General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

7th Light Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps

3rd Indian Light Field Hygiene Section, Indian Army Medical Corps

44th Armoured Division Recovery Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

2nd Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

44th Armoured Division Provost Unit, Indian Corps of Military Police

595th Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps

98th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. The division was formed on 1 April 1943 in India from merging elements from the 32nd Indian Armoured Division and 43rd Indian Armoured Division. A British Army officer, Major General (Local) Cameron Gordon Graham NICHOLSON, D.S.O.*, O.B.E., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the new formation with effect from 23 May 1943. There was no requirement for an armoured division to be deployed in North East India or Burma, nor was this formation required in the Middle East, so it remained at Secunderabad, in Southern Army in India in a training role. In January 1944, the division is listed as being G.H.Q. General Reserve. In March 1944, G.H.Q. India accepted that the use of armour in Burma would be provided by independent brigades, and so the division was broken up. The Headquarters formed the new Headquarters, 44th Indian Airborne Division with effect from 1 April 1944. This is the order of battle on 15 January 1944.
2. This brigade was formed at Risalpur on 1 April 1941, under the command of Brigadier (Acting) William Thomas GILL, M.C.*. Initially, it came under command of the 2nd, later the 32nd, Indian Armoured Division. It came under command of this division in April 1943 until November of that year, when it became an independent armoured brigade with the 14th Army. In this month, Brigadier R. L. SCOONES replaced Brigadier GILL as brigade commander. In December 1943, the brigade sent a detachment to form an 'Armoured Group' for service in the Arakan. The brigade later fought in the 1944 – 1945 Burma Campaign until returning to India in June 1945.
3. This brigade was formed at Sialkot on 15 June 1941 as the 5th Indian Armoured Brigade under the command of Brigadier (Acting) Hugh Huntington STABLE, C.I.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*. The brigade was renamed as the 255th Indian Armoured Brigade in October 1941, and it came under the command of the 32nd Indian Armoured Division at Sialkot and then at Poona. It joined this division in April 1943, and it remained with it until the division disbanded when it became an independent brigade. As such, it served in the Imphal Plain under IV Corps. It was involved in the battle for Meiktila in March 1945, and then it advanced down to Rangoon. Brigadier R. L. SCOONES had assumed command in June 1943 from Brigadier STABLE. In November 1943, Brigadier SCOONES transferred to the command of 254th Indian Armoured Brigade and Brigadier C. E. PERT, D.S.O., assumed command of this brigade until May 1945.
4. This brigade was formed in August 1942 to be the infantry component of the newly raised 43rd Indian Armoured Division. Brigadier (Acting) Godfrey Maxwell DYER, 13th Lancers, *p.s.c.*, commanded this Brigade from its raising right through the Burma Campaign. 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.

5. This regiment was raised in April 1941 at Rawalpindi as an armoured car regiment. In May 1942, it came under command of the 32nd Indian Armoured Division as the divisional armoured car regiment, and it transferred to this division when the two armoured divisions merged in April 1943. In January 1944, it converted to become the 3rd Armoured Delivery Regiment.
6. This regiment was also raised in April 1941 in the Lahore Area and was also equipped as an armoured car regiment. It also served with the 32nd Indian Armoured Division from May 1942 until April 1943, and then transferred to this division. It is believed to have left this division in September 1943, but is shown on the order of battle for 15 January 1944 listed as 'To disband'.
7. This unit was a pre-war cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army. In September 1939, it was stationed in the Lahore Area. In April 1941, it came under command of the 31st Indian Armoured Division at Sialkot, and later Karachi. It spent between May 1942 and April 1943 under the command of the 19th Indian Infantry Division, and then spent the rest of 1943 on internal security duties in the Madras area. In December 1943, it came under command of this division, and in April 1944, when this division disbanded, this regiment transferred to the 255th Indian Armoured Brigade.

SOURCES:

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