Chinese Expeditionary Force in Burma 1942
Lieutenant General J W Stilwell

Chinese V Army
Lieutenant General Tu Tu-ming

BATTLEGROUP CH-B02
22nd Infantry Division
Major General Liao Yao-shiang
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  64th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  65th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  66th Infantry Regiment

BATTLEGROUP CH-B02
96th Infantry Division
Major General Yu Shao
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  266th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  267th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  268th Infantry Regiment

BATTLEGROUP CH-B03
200th Infantry Division
Major General Tai An Lan
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B05
  598th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B05
  599th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B05
  600th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B06
  601st Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B07
  Cavalry Regiment

MANOEUVRÉ ELEMENT CH-B08
Engineer Battalion

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B02
Field Artillery Battalion

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B04
Light Artillery Battalion

Anti-Tank Battalion

REINFORCEMENTS APRIL 1942
- FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B04
  Light Artillery Battalion

Chinese VI Army
Lieutenant General Kan Li-chu

BATTLEGROUP CH-B02
49th Infantry Division
Major General Peng Pi-shen
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  145th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  146th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  147th Infantry Regiment

BATTLEGROUP CH-B02
55th Infantry Division (Provisional) (a)
Major General Ch'en Mien-wu
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  1st Provisional Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  2nd Provisional Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  3rd Provisional Regiment

BATTLEGROUP CH-B02
93rd Infantry Division
Major General Lu Kuo Chu'an
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  277th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  278th Infantry Regiment
- BATTLEGROUP CH-B04
  279th Infantry Regiment

MANOEUVRÉ ELEMENT CH-B08
Engineer Battalion

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B02
1/13th Field Artillery Battalion

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

(a) The 55th Division (Provisional) was a replacement division, with minimal heavy weapons, transport or training.
(a) These three divisions remained in reserve in Yunnan, but in May 1942, were moved up to defend the Salween crossings between China and Burma.

(b) The 36th and 88th Divisions were German-trained, though it is not clear as to what difference (if any) this made to organisation and combat efficiency.

(a) The 2nd Reserve Division was a replacement division, with minimal heavy weapons, transport or training.
The Chinese Expeditionary Force was sent to Burma in early 1942. Chinese Infantry Regiments were generally only the strength of companies. They also had severe command and control problems, exacerbated by an almost complete lack of radios or other communications equipment. Chinese Infantry Battalions in these divisions are therefore treated as Manoeuvre Elements rather than Battle Groups.

Chinese divisional commanders were often described as riding horses, so may exchange the Commander and his escort Infantry with:

- **Cavalry CH-17**

Alternatively, they may be motorised with:

- **x4 Jeep (no MG) CH-P10**

The V Army also had a Light Artillery Battalion comprising mixed 75mm guns and US M1 75mm Pack Howitzers. A further two battalions of 75mm Pack Howitzers were delivered in April 1942, both of which seem to have gone to V Army.

The V Army, which started the campaign with around 8,500 men, was well-equipped with motor transport and even had an armoured component – see BG CH-B03. Note that 55th Division was a training and replacement division, with very poor levels of training.

(b) After the 1942 campaign, all Chinese divisions, including the 200th Division, which after fighting a series of fierce rearguard actions had lost all its transport and heavy weapons, remained very weak and short of equipment. This included the additional divisions sent to reinforce 'Y-Force' (i.e. the Chinese divisions that had retreated to China's Yunan Province, on the Burmese Border). However, 22nd & 38th Divisions, which had retreated with Stilwell into India, were lavishly re-equipped and re-trained by Britain and the USA and were brought almost up to the strength of a British or Indian Division by 1944.

(c) As with most Chinese Infantry Battalions of the period, Engineer Battalions were very weak and in BF:WWII terms, function as a single Manoeuvre Element or as attachments for other Manoeuvre Elements.

(d) Each Army had a single battalion of motorised field artillery (mainly US 105mm howitzers, but some Russian 122mm howitzers might have still been in evidence – those of V Army were definitely 105mm by 1942). V Army also had a Light Artillery Battalion comprising mixed 75mm guns and US M1 75mm Pack Howitzers. A further two battalions of 75mm Pack Howitzers were delivered in April 1942, both of which seem to have gone to V Army.

(e) The V Army had an anti-tank battalion with x4 Batteries, each of x8 3.7cm PaK 36, towed by GMC 2.5 ton trucks. It is not known if the VI & LXVI Armies had any anti-tank capability.

(f) Although called 'Armies', the Chinese Armies, like those of the Japanese, were actually Corps in terms of organisation. However, in terms of combat strength, they were only equivalent to a British Division.

(a) Most Chinese divisions sent to Burma were very weak in all regards, being regarded as being equivalent in strength to a British/Indian Brigade (though weaker in motor transport, heavy weapons and training). For example, the 22nd & 96th Divisions of V Army each had around 6,000 men when they marched into Burma in 1942, while the 49th, 55th & 93rd Divisions of VI Army each had around 5,700 men. However, these totals also include coolie labour. The exception in 1942 was 200th Division (V Army), which started the campaign with around 8,500 men, was well-equipped with motor transport and even had an armoured component – see BG CH-B03. Note that 55th Division was a training and replacement division, with very poor levels of training.
The 200th Infantry Division was the only such division in the Chinese Expeditionary Force. Regarded as something of an élite, the division had fought hard against the Japanese since 1939. However, the division lost all its AFVs, transport and heavy equipment during the fierce rearguard action at Taunggyi Burma in April 1942 and thereafter was essentially the same as any other Chinese Infantry Division.

It is not clear as to exactly how much motor transport was held by the three Infantry Regiments of 200th Division. It may be the case that only a portion of each regiment (e.g. HQ, logistics, heavy weapons and maybe the odd infantry company or battalion) was motorised, with troop-carrying trucks being shared (as in British/Indian Infantry Brigades).

The Chinese 1st Tank Regiment was originally a large, three-battalion regiment, equipped with T-26B Light Tanks, BT-5 Fast Tanks and CV-33 Tankettes. However, following hard battles in 1940 and a complete lack of replacements or spares following the entry of Italy and the USSR into World War Two, this number was likely to be greatly reduced. It is our guess that the regiment had probably been reduced to a battalion by the time it entered Burma in 1942.

The only source regarding tank types, numbers or organisation circa 1942 is a single Wikipedia mention of 6 CV-33 tankettes. This Battlegroup organisation is therefore completely conjectural.

As discussed, this organisation is completely conjectural, so the numbers and types of companies is a complete guess. An alternative might be to remove the Tankette Company and have 3 or 4 equal companies, each including a single Tankette Platoon.

In 1940 the division had by 1942, lost the 122mm howitzer battalion it had in 1940. Like the other divisions, it probably had an 82mm mortar battery, though in this case it was probably motorised rather than mule-packed. There are also records of the USA supplying self-propelled 81mm mortars, based on M3 Scout Cars, to the Chinese via Rangoon in 1941 & 1942 (some of which were appropriated by the British), so perhaps these were used by 200th Division?

In 1940 the division also had an AA unit equipped with 45mm AA guns, but there is no mention of this for 1942.
The 200th Division’s Cavalry Regiment (originally designated in 1940 as an ‘Armoured Car Regiment’) is known to have had approximately 15 (at 1:3) Russian BA-6 & BA-20 Armoured Cars and 9 German Sdkfz 221/223 Armoured Cars in 1940 and also acquired an unknown number of American M3A1 White Scout Cars circa 1940-1942. However, it suffered heavy losses to the Japanese in 1940. It seems to have been a single battalion-sized unit in 1940 and there are references to armoured cars, a Motorcycle Squadron and more than one horsed Cavalry Squadron in Burma, 1942, so it seems likely that the regiment replaced some squadrons with horsed cavalry and motorcycles as the supply of armoured cars ran out. There is also a reference to the regiment having an organic anti-tank section, with 3.7cm PaK 36.

Command may replace transport with:
- Sdkfz 223 Armoured Car
- Cavalry
- Jeep (no MG)
- BA-20 Armoured Car
The Armoured Cars may alternatively be split up or swapped for Cavalry in the Cavalry Squadrons.

(b) We have no information on what (or how many) armoured cars may have been present with the Cavalry Regiment in 1942, beyond a single Sdkfz 223, which was photographed at Toungoo. The numbers listed above should only therefore be used as a rough guide and the armoured cars may have been any (or all) of the following types:

- Sdkfz 221/223 Armoured Car
- BA-6 45mm Armoured Car
- M3A1 White Scout Car
- BA-20 Armoured Car

(c) We have found no listings for anti-tank weapons of any type in 1942, but it seems likely that there were at least some present. Boys .55" Anti-Tank Rifles had already been supplied to China to replace and supplement the Soviet and Italian types that were already in service and for which ammunition was no longer obtainable. Note that the card CH-16 has Early and Late stats for the different types, with the Late (Boys) stats being slightly worse.

As previously discussed, due to the very weak strength of the battalions, allied to the near-complete lack of communications systems and unimaginative massed tactics, we have designated the Infantry Battalion as a single ME. However, if you disagree, feel free to split the battalion into three equal Infantry Company MEs and add a Commander unit to each company. The MGs and 60mm Mortar may be grouped into a Battalion MG Company ME (again, add a Commander unit), or they may simply be attached directly to the Infantry Companies.

The Chinese Expeditionary Force was very well-supplied with LMGs of various types when it marched into Burma in 1942, so class all Chinese infantry as being armed with LMGs.

We have found no listings for anti-tank weapons of any type in 1942, but it seems likely that there were at least some present. Boys .55" Anti-Tank Rifles had already been supplied to China to replace and supplement the Soviet and Italian types that were already in service and for which ammunition was no longer obtainable. Note that the card CH-16 has Early and Late stats for the different types, with the Late (Boys) stats being slightly worse.
MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CH-B07
Machine Gun Company (a)

Command
- x1 Commander CH-10
- x1 Jeep (no MG) CH-P10
- x2 Browning M1917 .30 Cal HMG CH-12

Fire Support
- x1 60mm Mortar CH-14
- Up to x1 Boys Anti-Tank Rifle (c) CH-16

Transport
- x2 GAZ AA Light Truck CH-P07

(a) The company may be split up as direct unit attachments to the battalion's other companies.

Close Air Support

Close air support for the Chinese Expeditionary Force in 1942 was extremely limited. However, the Allied Air Forces did their best with what they had available. RAF and IAF Lysanders did the bulk of the close air support work in the earlier part of the campaign, while the Flying Tigers of China's American Volunteer Group were busy trying to fight off the Japanese Army Air Force.

However, with successive defeats through March and April 1942, the AVG was eventually ordered to mount 'shows of strength', to encourage the ground troops. These were generally limited to strafing attacks by P-40B & P-40C Warhawk fighters ('Tomahawk' in British parlance), though fighter-bomber attacks were eventually possible once P-40E Warhawks ('Kittyhawk' to the British), fitted with bomb-racks, started to be delivered to the AVG from the middle of March 1942.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CH-B07
Anti-Tank Company

Command
- x1 Commander CH-10

Transport
- x1 Jeep (no MG) CH-P10

Up to x8 3.7cm PaK 36 Anti-Tank Gun CH-19

Transport
- Up to x8 GMC 2.5 ton Truck CH-P17

(a) The company may be split up as direct unit attachments to other MEs or BGs.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CH-B08
Engineer Battalion (a)

Command
- x1 Commander CH-10

x9 to x18 Combat Engineers (no flame) CH-P01

(a) As previously discussed, due the very weak strength of the battalions, allied to the near-complete lack of communications systems and unimaginative massed tactics, we have designated the Engineer Battalion as a single ME. However, if you disagree, feel free to split the battalion into three equal Engineer Company MEs and add a Commander unit to each company.

MANOEUVRE ELEMENT CH-B09
Motorcycle Squadron

Command
- x1 Commander CH-10

x6 Light Machine Gun (a) CH-11

Transport
- x7 Motorcycle Combination (a) CH-P14

(a) Motorcycles may only move or fire when troops are mounted. The LMGs may also fire while mounted.
FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B01
Mortar Battery (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander CH-10

- Fire Support
  - Up to x8 82mm Mortar CH-14

- Transport
  - Up to x8 Pack Mules (b)

(a) The Mortar Battery may be split up as individual unit attachments to MEs or BGs in the Division. Note that the Chinese lack the fire control techniques and signals capability to perform true Indirect Fire, so the unit lacks FOs and may only engage targets during preparatory barrages or those that are visible to the mortar crew.

(b) Some divisions – particularly the 200th Division – may motorise the battery. Replace mules with:
- x1 Jeep CH-P10
- Up to x4 GAZ AA Light Truck CH-P07

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B02
Field Artillery Battalion (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander (b) CH-10

- HQ

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B03
x3 Field Artillery Battery (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander (b) CH-10

- Fire Support
  - x2 105mm Howitzer (c) CH-P20

- Transport
  - x2 Horse Limber (d)

(a) The battalion, or individual batteries, may be split up as individual unit or battery attachments to MEs or BGs within the Division. Note that the Chinese lack the fire control techniques and signals capability to perform true Indirect Fire, so the unit lacks FOs and may only engage targets during preparatory barrages or those that are visible to the gun crew.

(b) Commanders may be mounted on horseback. May therefore replace with:
- Cavalry CH-17
- Alternatively, the unit may be motorised, in which case add:
  - Jeep CH-P10

(c) The USA was rapidly equipping the Chinese with modern 75mm pack howitzers, but some units may have still been equipped with older artillery. May therefore replace the guns in one or more batteries with:
  - 75mm Infantry Gun CH-08
  - 75mm Field Gun CH-P06

(d) May replace limber for 75mm Pack Howitzers or Infantry Guns (but not 75mm Field Guns) with:
- Pack Mules CH-17
- In motorised units, replace limbers with:
  - GAZ AA Light Truck CH-P07
  - Weapons Carrier CH-P14

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B04
Light Artillery Battalion (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander (b) CH-10

- HQ

FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CH-B05
x3 Light Artillery Battery (a)

- Command
  - x1 Commander (b) CH-10

- Fire Support
  - x2 M1A1 75mm Pack Howitzer (c) CH-P16

- Transport
  - x2 Horse Limber (d)

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- Pack Mules CH-17
- In motorised units, replace limbers with:
  - GAZ AA Light Truck CH-P07
  - Weapons Carrier CH-P14