

### Commonwealth Formations In The Burma Area Of Operations Dec 1941 to Dec 1943

Formation	1941	1942												1943											
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Burma Division		I Burma Corps																							
5 Indian Division																									XV Corps
7 Indian Division																									XV Corps
14 Indian Division																									
17 Indian Division		I Burma Corps																							IV Corps
20 Indian Division																									IV Corps
23 Indian Division																									
26 Indian Division																									IV Corps
81 West African Division																									XV Corps
77 Brigade (Chindits)																									XV Corps
7 Armoured Brigade																									

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### Commonwealth Formations In The Burma Area Of Operations Jan 1944 to Aug 1945

Formation	1944												1945											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug				
5 Indian Division	XV Corps		IV Corps			XXXIII Corps									IV Corps									
7 Indian Division	XV Corps		XXXIII Corps			XXXIII Corps									IV Corps									
17 Indian Division	IV Corps			IV Corps			IV Corps								IV Corps									
19 Indian Division															IV Corps		XXXIII Corps							IV Corps
20 Indian Division	IV Corps			IV Corps			IV Corps								XXXIII Corps									
21 Indian Division															14 Army		(a short-lived lines-of-communication defence formation protecting Dimapur)							
23 Indian Division	IV Corps		IV Corps			IV Corps																		
25 Indian Division															XV Corps		XV Corps							
26 Indian Division															XV Corps		XV Corps							XV Corps
3 Indian Div (Chindits)															14 Army									
2 British Division															XXXIII Corps		XXXIII Corps							
2 British Division															XXXIII Corps		XXXIII Corps							
36 Indian/British Division															XV Corps		Stillwell's Northern Combat Area Command						XXXIII Corps	

11 East African Division							XXXIII Corps						
81 West African Division	XV Corps			XV Corps									
82 West African Division							XV Corps		XV Corps				
268 Indian Lorried Bde				21 Indian Division		XXXIII Corps			XXXIII Corps				
23 Indian (LRP) Brigade		XXXIII Corps											
28 East African Brigade										IV Corps			
50 Indian Para Brigade		IV									XV (one bn only)		
3 Special Service Brigade		XV Corps				(Redesignated 3 Commando Bde)	XV Corps						
50 Indian Tank Brigade						XV Corps							
254 Indian Armoured Bde		IV Corps					XXXIII Corps						
255 Indian Armoured Bde						IV Corps		IV Corps					

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### Commonwealth Tank, Armoured, Cavalry & Recce Regiments In The Burma Theatre Of Operations Dec 1941 To Dec 1943

Regiment	1941	1942											1943																
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
BFF Armoured Car Sqn	I Burma Corps					Rolls-Royce India Pattern Armoured Car																							
1st Gloucesters				I Burma Corps			Various looted vehicles, including Rolls-Royce India Pattern Armoured Car & M2 or M3 Scout Car																						
7th Hussars				7 Armoured Brigade			Stuart Mk I																						
2nd RTR				7 Armoured Brigade			Stuart Mk I																						
146th RAC	(Only one half-squadron was actually used in action, but the whole regiment was there)												XV Corps		Valentine Mk III/V														
25th Dragoons																						Grant Mk II (M3A5)			XV				
81st (WA) Recce Regt																										Carriers & LRCs			XV

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## Commonwealth Tank, Armoured, Cavalry & Recce Regiments In The Burma Theatre Of Operations Jan 1944 To Aug 1945

Formation	1944												1945										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug			
25th Dragoons	XV Corps									50 Indian Tank Brigade			A Sqn remains with XV Corps						Grant Mk II (M3A5)				
3rd Carabiniers	254 Indian Armoured Brigade											254 Indian Armoured Brigade						Lee Mk II (M3A1)					
116th RAC										255 Indian Armoured Bde			7 Indian Division			Flewforce (1 sqn)		Sherman Mk V (M4A4)					
146th RAC										50 Indian Tank Brigade			A Sqn - XV Corps							Lee Mk II & Grant Mk II			
149th RAC			254 Indian Armoured Brigade																		Grant Mk II		
150th RAC										50 Bde	254 Indian Armoured Bde		254 Indian Armoured Bde							Grant Mk II			
5th (Probyn's Horse)										255 Indian Armoured Bde			255 Indian Armoured Brigade						Sherman Mk V				
7th Light Cavalry		254 Indian Armoured Brigade											255 Indian Armoured Brigade						Stuart Mk III (M3A1)				
8th (KGVO) Light Cavalry															19 Indian Division Recce Regt						Daimler & Humber Armoured Cars		
9th (Royal Deccan) Horse										255 Indian Armoured Bde			255 Indian Armoured Brigade						Sherman Mk V				
11th (PAVO) Lt Cavalry			XXXIII Corps Recce Regiment									XXXIII Corps Recce			254 Brigade						Daimler Armoured Cars		
16th Light Cavalry														255 Indian Armoured Brigade						Daimler & Humber Armoured Cars			
19th (KGVO) Lancers									19 Div	50 Indian Tank Brigade											Sherman Mk III (M3A2)		
45th Light Cavalry			XXXIII Corps								50 Indian Tank Brigade										Stuart Mk III		
81st (WA) Recce Regt	XV Corps Recce Regiment								Dismounted and returned to 81 (West African) Division in August 1944												Carriers & LRCs		
82nd (WA) Recce Regt	No information																						Carriers & LRCs
2nd Recce Regiment			2 British Division											2 British Division			XXXIII Corps Recce Regt				Approx 1/3 Carriers rest dismantled.		
11th (EA) Recce Regt	No information																						Carriers & LRCs
400th Ind Scorpion Sqn										50 Tank Bde		254 Indian Armoured Brigade								Valentine or Grant Scorpion?			
1 Ind Bridging Tp RAC										50 Indian Tank Brigade											Valentine AVLB		
2 Ind Bridging Tp RAC		254 Indian Armoured Brigade																			Valentine AVLB		
3 Ind Bridging Tp RAC										255 Indian Armoured Brigade										Valentine AVLB			
2(KEO)/4 Bombay Grens										50 Indian Tank Brigade											Motor Bn		
3/4 Bombay Grenadiers		254 Indian Armoured Brigade								254 Indian Armoured Brigade										Motor Bn			
4/4 Bombay Grenadiers										255 Ind Armd Bde		255 Indian Armoured Brigade								Motor Bn			

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## **Notes**

N.B. When Armoured Regiments were operating independently they could often have a company of the Bombay Grenadiers with them. For example, while 25th Dragoons were attached to XV Corps they had a company of 3/4th Bombay Grenadiers attached.

With the fluid tactical and strategic situation in Burma, Armoured Regiments were frequently swapped between formations. This does not mean that they changed markings every time they moved! For example, 25th Dragoons was originally a part of 254th Indian Armoured Brigade, but was attached to XV Corps for the Second Arakan Campaign. It probably kept the marking of the 254th until it was adopted by 50th Indian Tank Brigade in October 1944.

Note that the dates listed here show the actual time spent actually in the front or as tactical reserve. For example, 50th Indian Tank Brigade is recorded as being a part of 14th Army throughout this entire period, but I have only listed the time it spent deployed as a complete brigade (from October 1944 to March 1945). Where armoured regiments were detached independently to divisions and corps, I have listed this above, even though they would still officially have been part of their Armoured Brigade.

Many Infantry Brigades were swapped between divisions and even corps on a temporary basis (for example 5th and 7th Indian Divisions both had brigades fighting simultaneously in IV and XXXIII Corps during the Imphal/Kohima Battles). It would be a pointless task to track every single movement of brigades, so I have only listed those brigades that operated in a truly independent capacity.

My quality ratings are entirely arbitrary and are only intended to represent an average for the formation. By and large in the earlier period British and Gurkha units (particularly British-only and Gurkha-only brigades or desert veteran brigades) could be considered to be a quality class or two better than the line Indian units. As time went on though, most Indian battalions became the equal of their British counterparts and sometimes even better. Royal Artillery and Indian Artillery units also tended to be rather steadier in action than the raw infantry battalions they were supporting in the early days of the war.

For a good example of how quality could vary within a formation, take a look at the Burma Corps TO&Es. My averages above show them as Raw to Trained (1 Burma Division and 17 Indian Division), but some units within those divisions could be better (or worse) than the divisional average.







