

3rd Indian Motor Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 3rd Indian Motor Brigade

3rd Indian Motor Brigade Employment Platoon

2nd Royal Lancers (Gardner's Horse)

Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (11th Frontier Force)

18th King Edward VII's Own Cavalry

5th (Vaughan's) Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles (2)

2nd Field Regiment, Indian Artillery (3)

35th Field Squadron, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners (4)

3rd Indian Motor Brigade Signal Squadron, Indian Signal Corps

64th Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

3rd Motor Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

3rd Light Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

'A' Detachment, Field Hygiene Section, Indian Medical Service

3rd Motor Brigade Ordnance Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

13th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

27th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

3rd Motor Brigade 'A' Provost Section

3rd Motor Brigade 'B' Provost Section

28th Indian Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed at Sialkot with three Indian Army Cavalry regiments in July 1940, and was part of the embryonic 1st Indian Armoured Division. The brigade moved to Egypt in February 1941 as an independent brigade group, and was ordered to Mersa Matruh to acclimatise and train. It was equipped with light lorries, with the three cavalry regiments acting as mobile infantry. Brigadier (Temporary) E. W. D. VAUGHAN, M.C., commanded the brigade. On 3 April 1941, the brigade moved to El Mekili (or El Mechili) to support the 2nd Armoured Division in holding the front line against an anticipated German attack. Only 'A' Squadron of the 18th K.E.VII's Own Cavalry went with the brigade to El Mechili, with the rest of the unit left immobile in Tobruk. The brigade managed to hold the German advance for forty-eight hours, but the newly arrived German Afrika Corps broke through the British lines and advanced towards Tobruk. The brigade was effectively destroyed, with only a few remnants making it back to British lines. Brigadier VAUGHAN was captured on 8 April 1941. The survivors reformed in Egypt, and the brigade was rebuilt. Brigadier A. A. E. FILOSE assumed command of the reformed brigade in May 1941. In September 1941, it moved to Syria to come under command of the 31st Indian Armoured Division (the renamed 1st Indian Armoured Division). In May 1942, the brigade moved back to Egypt and came under command of the 7th Armoured Division. It was ordered to hold Point 171 at the southern end of the Gazala line, south-east of Bir Hakeim. On 27 May 1942, German and Italian armoured formations attacked this section of the British front line, and the brigade was overwhelmed. The survivors reformed at Buq-Buq, but the brigade was disbanded in July 1942. A new brigade was formed in August, which became the 43rd Indian Infantry Brigade with three Gurkha battalions.
2. This infantry battalion served with the brigade from December 1941 until February 1942, i.e., while it was based in Syria.
3. This artillery regiment of the Indian Army came under command of the brigade in February 1942 while it was based in Syria. It had been raised on 15 May 1940 with 3rd and 4th Indian Field Batteries, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel G. HORSFIELD. The regiment moved to Iraq with the 6th Indian Division in November 1941, gaining a third battery, the 7th Indian Field Battery. It moved to Egypt in February 1942, to come under command of this brigade. It fought with this brigade at Point 171, where it is stated that it destroyed several Axis tanks. The regiment managed to save eleven tanks from that battle. It left the brigade in August 1942 to return to the 6th Indian Division. It later served in Burma.
4. This unit was destroyed at El Mechili, and was not replaced until September 1941. In that month another unit was allocated to this brigade, namely:
31st Field Squadron, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners
5. .

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