

## 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Division & Defence Platoon

29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Group <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Volunteers) <sup>(3)</sup>

236<sup>th</sup> (City of Aberdeen) Field Company, Royal Engineers <sup>(4)</sup>

154<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

91<sup>st</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company and Workshop,  
Royal Indian Army Service Corps

55<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Workshop Section and Light Aid Detachment,  
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

1 Provost Section, 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Division Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

579<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Security Section

72<sup>nd</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Group (5)

Headquarters 72<sup>nd</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The South Wales Borderers

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

30<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

69<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps

169<sup>th</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company and Workshop Section,  
Royal Indian Army Service Corps

21<sup>st</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

72<sup>nd</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Workshop Section and Light Aid Detachment,  
Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

148<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

2 Provost Section, 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Division Provost Unit,  
Corps of Military Police (India)

577<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Security Section

## Divisional Troops

'C' Squadron, 149<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (6)

'D' Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment (7)

130<sup>th</sup> (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

(H.Q., Signal Section, Light Aid Detachment, 315<sup>th</sup> (Kirkcudbright), 455<sup>th</sup> & 494<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

178<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)

(H.Q. Signal Section, Light Aid Detachment, 366<sup>th</sup> & 516<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (10)

(H.Q., 168<sup>th</sup> & 321<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries and 400<sup>th</sup> & 402<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

15<sup>th</sup> Indian Engineering Battalion, Indian Engineers (11)

324<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

12<sup>th</sup> Bridging Section, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

36<sup>th</sup> Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

90<sup>th</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company and Workshop Detachment  
Royal Indian Army Service Corps

56<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Detachment, 38<sup>th</sup> Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Detachment, 436<sup>th</sup> General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Detachment, 102<sup>nd</sup> Indian Mobile Workshop Company,  
Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

22<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps

27<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Transfusion Unit, Indian Army Medical Corps

13<sup>th</sup> Indian Mobile Surgical Unit, Indian Army Medical Corps

77<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

36<sup>th</sup> Indian Division Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India) (12)

29<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section

## NOTES:

1. This division was formed in January 1943, as the Army component of the Combined Training Centre in India. The original role of the division was for seaborne operations and invasions. It was deployed to the Arakan in February 1944 in response to the Japanese offensive Ha-Go. This is the order of battle for March 1944 on the division's deployment to the Arakan. In early June 1944, the division was withdrawn from the Arakan and returned to Shillong in India for a brief period to rest and refit. In early August 1944, the division was placed under the command of the Northern Combat Area Command and moved to the Ledo area of northern Burma. Due to the number of British units in the formation, it transferred from the Indian establishment to the British Army, being redesignated on 1 September 1944 as:

36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

This order of battle is correct for the main units in the division throughout this period, however, the services units are only correct for the month of March 1944.

2. This formation was organised as a brigade group. The brigade had been formed in the United Kingdom on 14 July 1940 with the four regular battalions shown above. The 1<sup>st</sup> R.S.F. had started the war in India, but had returned to the U.K. in September 1940. The 2<sup>nd</sup> R.W.F. had also started the war in India, but returned in late September 1939. The 2 E Lancs R had left Ambala in India in September 1940 for the U.K. Lastly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Lancs R had also been in India in September 1939, returning to the U.K. in September 1940. The brigade left the United Kingdom in March 1942 to take part in the invasion of Madagascar in May 1942. It arrived in India on 26 January 1943 and came under the command of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Division.
3. The battalion was transferred from this brigade on 16 April 1944 to join 114<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade, 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Division on 29 April. It was not replaced in this brigade as it was the fourth battalion in the formation.
4. This field company was originally part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division. It transferred to 'ArkForce' and escaped from France with 154<sup>th</sup> Brigade. It joined the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade on 16 July 1940.
5. This brigade was formed circa February 1943 when the three constituent battalions reverted to the infantry role from armoured regiments. This brigade was redesignated on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1944 to become the:

72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade

The formation was constituted as an independent brigade group. Although the three infantry battalions were all British, the brigade was an Indian Army formation.

6. This squadron was attached to the division during its deployment in the Arakan. It did not move with the division when it was deployed to Assam and then Myitkyina. The squadron was equipped with Sherman Tanks.
7. This company was detached from the battalion, which was under the command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. The company had been attached to the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Group, but came under divisional command when the brigade joined the division.
8. This regiment joined the division in August 1943 from XV Corps. This regiment was equipped and designated as an assault field regiment. During the Arakan campaign, 315<sup>th</sup> Battery was equipped with 25 pounder guns, with 455<sup>th</sup> and 494<sup>th</sup> Batteries being equipped with 3.7" Howitzers as light batteries.
9. This regiment joined the division in July 1943 from XXXIII Corps. It was designated as an assault field regiment in August 1943. 366<sup>th</sup> Battery was equipped with 3.7" howitzers as a light battery, with 516<sup>th</sup> Battery equipped with 25 pounder guns.

10. In 1936, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment was converted into a searchlight unit. The headquarters were based at the Drill Hall, Thorp Street, in central Birmingham. All four companies were also based in Birmingham. In January 1940, the regiment was redesignated as the 45<sup>th</sup> (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. (which was based in Birmingham) was converted into the 45<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment. In August 1940, it became part of the Royal Artillery, and in February 1942 it converted to become the:  
**122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment**  
It served with this brigade until February 1942, when it converted into the 122<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, with the 400<sup>th</sup>, 401<sup>st</sup> and 402<sup>nd</sup> L.A.A. Batteries under command. Posted overseas, it arrived at Bombay on 10 June 1943. There it reorganised as the 122<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, retaining the 400<sup>th</sup> and 402<sup>nd</sup> Batteries, and gaining the 168<sup>th</sup> and 321<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries from the 100<sup>th</sup> (Gordon Highlanders) Anti-Tank Regiment. It came under command of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division, deploying with that division to the Arakan in March 1944. In May 1944, it reorganised again as an anti-tank regiment, with thirty-six, 6 pounders anti-tank guns and thirty-six, 3" mortars. It continued to serve with the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (as it was now designated) in Burma and India until the end of the war.
11. This battalion was attached to the division during the Arakan campaign.
12. This unit was less two sections, one section being deployed with each of the two brigades.

## 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

### 26<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment <sup>(3)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> (Russell's) Bn. 19<sup>th</sup> Hyderabad Regiment <sup>(4)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)

### 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment

### 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The South Wales Borderers

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

### Divisional Troops

(5)

'D' Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

130<sup>th</sup> (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 315<sup>th</sup>, 316<sup>th</sup> & 494<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

178<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 122<sup>nd</sup>, 366<sup>th</sup> & 516<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

(H.Q., 168<sup>th</sup> & 321<sup>st</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries and 400<sup>th</sup> and 402<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

12<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section  
236<sup>th</sup> (City of Aberdeen) Field Company, Royal Engineers  
30<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners  
(8)  
324<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

36<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section  
34<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
69<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps (9)  
154<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section  
21<sup>st</sup> Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
55<sup>th</sup> Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
56<sup>th</sup> Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
38<sup>th</sup> Divisional Troops Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
436<sup>th</sup> General Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps  
90<sup>th</sup> General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
91<sup>st</sup> General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (10)  
169<sup>th</sup> General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
33<sup>rd</sup> Animal Transport Company (Mule), Royal Indian Army Service Corps

36<sup>th</sup> Division Ordnance Sub Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

102<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers  
107<sup>th</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

36<sup>th</sup> Divisional Postal Unit  
77<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office, Royal Engineers

36<sup>th</sup> Divisional Provost Unit,

29<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps  
577<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps (India)  
579<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps (India)

## NOTES:

1. The division was formed on 1 September 1944 by the redesignation of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division  
At this time, the division was fighting its way down the 'railway corridor' to join up with 14<sup>th</sup> Army. It was under command of the Northern Combat Area Command, a joint American and Chinese Formation. This is the order of battle for December 1944 until April 1945.
2. This brigade was formerly part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Indian Division stationed in Iraq. It left the 6<sup>th</sup> Division and arrived back in India on 11 July 1944, being stationed at Bangalore as a brigade group. At this time, the units in the brigade were:  
26<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

1<sup>st</sup> (Russell's) Bn. 19<sup>th</sup> Hyderabad Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)

In September 1944, the following battalion joined the brigade group:-

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment had gained operational experience as part of the 26<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in the First Arakan campaign. The rest of the brigade had no battle experience having served in Iraq. The brigade was flown into Myitkyina airfield to come under the command of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division on 14 December 1944. In February 1945, the 1<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Gurkha Rifles came under command of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, returning to this brigade in March 1945. The brigade was redesignated on 6 April 1945 as:

26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade

3. This battalion left the brigade on 13 April 1945 transferring to the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment  
This battalion transferred in from 80<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade, 20<sup>th</sup> Division.
4. This battalion left the brigade on 19 April 1945 transferring to the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. It was replaced by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment  
This battalion transferred in from 32<sup>nd</sup> Indian Brigade, 20<sup>th</sup> Division.
5. On 10 April 1945, this battalion joined the division as the reconnaissance unit:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Border Regiment
6. This regiment lost its light anti-aircraft batteries on 15 September 1944 and was redesignated as:  
122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery  
with the 168<sup>th</sup>, 321<sup>st</sup> and 402<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries, Royal Artillery.
7. These two mountain batteries joined the division on 3 December 1944. On 6 February 1945, a new mountain regiment was formed which incorporated the two batteries, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Mountain Battery. The new regiment was designated:  
32<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery
8. A third field company joined the division on 15 November 1944:  
58<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners  
having returned from Iraq with the 26<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade.



9. This unit joined the division at the same time as 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade that is December 1944.
10. This unit was absorbed by the 169<sup>th</sup> G.P. Transport Coy in 1944.

## 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

### 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Devonshire Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment

### 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(3)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

### 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade <sup>(4)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The South Wales Borderers <sup>(5)</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment <sup>(6)</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment <sup>(7)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Border Regiment <sup>(8)</sup>

'D' Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment <sup>(9)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment <sup>(10)</sup>

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

130<sup>th</sup> (Lowland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

178<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

122<sup>nd</sup> (Royal Warwickshire) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

32<sup>nd</sup> Indian Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery

Headquarters 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Brigade Group, Defence Platoon & Signal Section

236<sup>th</sup> (City of Aberdeen) Field Company, Royal Engineers

30<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners (13)

58<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners (14)

324<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners (15)

36<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. The division returned to India on 13 May 1945. It came under command of the XXXIV Corps on 26 May 1945 in preparation for the invasion of Malaya. Following the election of the Labour Government in June 1945, the Minister of War announced the qualifying period for repatriation back to the U.K. after military service abroad was to be reduced from 4 years to 3 years and 8 months and then 3 years and 4 months. This meant a large number of service personnel suddenly qualified for home leave. Many units lost a significant number of personnel, which led directly to this division being withdrawn from XXXIV Corps on 19 June 1945. It passed to the command of Southern Army and was broken up in India and disbanded in September 1945. The 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade was disbanded, and the 29<sup>th</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> Brigades became independent, continuing to serve in India.
2. The brigade was now on the British Army establishment (see above).
3. This brigade returned with the division from Burma to India, however, its three constituent battalions all left the brigade immediately on its return to India. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. East Lancashire Regiment transferred to 101 Line of Communication Area. Three new battalions joined the brigade on 25 May 1945, all three of which had served with the Chindits.
4. This brigade became independent in September 1945.
5. This battalion left the brigade on 18 July 1945, transferring to the 26<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. It was not replaced.
6. This battalion remained with the brigade.
7. This battalion left the brigade on 16 July 1945. It was not replaced.
8. This battalion had joined as the divisional reconnaissance battalion on 10 April 1945.
9. This company left the division on 15 May 1945. It was replaced as a machine gun battalion on 22 June 1945 by:  
17<sup>th</sup> Bn. 7<sup>th</sup> Rajput Regiment  
This battalion left the division in October 1945, moving to Bombay to join the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Division on its return from the Middle East.
10. This battalion joined on 20 May 1945 as the divisional defence battalion.
11. On 13 June 1945, this regiment left, being replaced on 22 June 1945 by:  
145<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
The 145<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment transferred in from 39<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. In turn, this regiment left the division on 13 July 1945 transferring to 25<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. It was replaced on 20 July 1945 by:  
8<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
This regiment transferred in from 26<sup>th</sup> Indian Division.
12. This regiment left the Division on 5 July 1945 transferring to 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Division. It was replaced on 8 July 1945 by :-  
158<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
which transferred in from 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Division.
13. This company left the division on 21 June 1945. It was replaced by:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers
14. This company left the division on 21 June 1945. It was replaced by:  
54<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers.
15. This company left the division on 21 June 1945. It was replaced by:  
219<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> London) Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

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