

**British Colonial Infantry Brigades  
1939-1945**

These brigades were formed as independent infantry brigades, but were never officially given that title. The main additions were supply, transport and medical, when raised and trained, but other units were added from time to time.

**21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

- 9/3/39 - Brigade HQ formed in 8/31/39 in East Africa as  
1st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.
- 10/18/40 - Redesignated as 21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.
- 1/42 - Organized as a brigade group.
- 7/4/43 - Reverted to the role of an infantry brigade on joining  
the 11th (East Africa) Division.

Assigned Units

3rd King's African Rifles	9/3/39-12/17/39
4th King's African Rifles	9/3/39-5/2/40
5th King's African Rifles	9/3/39-10/11/39
2nd King's African Rifles	10/28/39-6/29/40
1st Northern Rhodesian Regiment	2/9/40-5/9/40
2/4th King's African Rifles	6/26/40-9/30/40
1/4th King's African Rifles	7/24/40-5/31/43
4th (Ugandan) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
2/6th King's African Rifles	8/17/40-10/1/40
1/2nd King's African Rifles	10/9/40-5/31/43
2nd (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
1st Northern Rhodesian Regiment	11/21/40-8/31/45

**22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

- 9/19/39 - Brigade HQ formed in Africa as 2nd (East Africa)  
Infantry Brigade.
- 10/18/40 - Redesignated as 22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.
- 12/41 - Became an infantry brigade group.

Assigned Units

1st King's African Rifles	10/2/39-10/17/40
6th King's African Rifles	10/6/39-10/17/40
5th King's African Rifles	10/13/39-5/31/43
5th (Kenya) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/9/44
1/1st King's African Rifles	10/18/40-5/3/43
1st (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
1/6th King's African Rifles	10/18/40-5/31/43
6th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-7/20/43
3rd Northern Rhodesian Regiment	7/21/43-8/31/45
1st Royal African Regiment	9/14/44-8/31/45

Assigned after 12/41 to form the Group

56th (Ugandan) Field Battery, EAA	4/27/42-12/26/42
9th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery	6/9/42-11/14/42
60th (East Africa) Field Company, EAE	5/12/42-7/1/43
59th (East Africa) Field Company, EAE	7/8/44-8/31/45

22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group	
Company EEASC	12/23/41-8/31/45
7th (Northern Rhodesia) Field Ambulance	12/23/41-2/17/42
5th (Kenya) Field Ambulance	3/9/42-4/30/44
110th Camp Reception Station	7/10/44-3/12/45
6th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	12/7/44-8/31/45
22nd (East Africa) Infantry Brigade	
Provost Section	12/23/41-8/31/45

**25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

10/11/40 - formed in East Africa with the title of the 5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade. On 10/18/40 it was redesignated 25th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.

Assigned Units

2/3rd King's African Rifles	10/11/40-7/4/42
3/4th King's African Rifles	10/11/40-1/2/41
	6/18/41-7/22/42
	1/7/43-5/31/43
34th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-4/9/45
4/4th King's African Rifles	10/11/40-1/3/41
3/6th King's African Rifles	10/11/40-1/3/41
2/4th King's African Rifles	10/11/40-6/29/42
2/6th King's African Rifles	7/5/42-9/18/42
	2/20/43-5/31/43
26th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
11th King's African Rifles	12/18/42-5/31/45
11th (Kenya) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
13th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	4/3/45-8/31/45
25th (East Africa) Brigade Group Coy, EAASC	3/12/42-5/16/43
6th (Uganda) Field Ambulance	12/9/40-5/16/43

**26th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

1/4/41 - Formed in East Africa

Assigned Units

2/2nd King's African Rifles	1/4/41-5/31/43
22nd (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/43
4/4th King's African Rifles	1/4/41-5/31/43
44th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
3/6th King's African Rifles	1/4/41-3/12/45
	3/1/43-5/31/43
36th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-11/11/44
16th King's African Rifles	12/28/42-2/28/43
13th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	11/8/44-4/2/45
46th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	5/21/45-8/31/45

### **27th (North Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade**

9/16/40 - formed In North Rhodesia as 7th (North Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade.  
10/3/40 - Redesignated as 27th (North Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade.  
4/42 - Formed into a brigade group.  
4/45 - Redesignated as 27th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.

#### Assigned Units

2nd North Rhodesia Regiment	9/18/40-8/31/44
3rd North Rhodesia Regiment	9/18/40-7/20/43
4th North Rhodesia Regiment	11/26/40-2/26/43
2/3rd King's African Rifles	2/26/43-5/31/43
3rd (Kenya) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-8/31/45
6th (Tanganyika Territory King's African Rifles	7/21/43-8/31/45
1st Mauritius Regiment	12/20/43-6/28/44
21st (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	12/1/44-8/31/45

#### Assigned to form the Group

4th East African Armored Car Regiment	11/15/44-4/9/45
55th (Tanganyika Territory) Light Battery	4/28/42-12/23/42
57th (East Africa) Field Battery	12/19/42-12/26/42
59th (East Africa) Field Company, EAE	4/4/42-6/7/42
31st (Nyasaland) Independent MG Company, King's African Rifles	7/24/44-10/31/44
31st (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles (MG)	11/20/44-4/9/45
41st (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles (Reinforcement)	11/20/44-4/9/45
27th (North Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade Group Company, EAASC	2/10/41-8/31/45
7th (North Rhodesia) Field Ambulance	5/10/42-7/23/44
4th Independent Brigade Workshop, EAEME	9/16/44-8/31/45

### **28th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

7/9/41 - Brigade formed in East Africa.  
4/43 - Became an independent Infantry Brigade  
4/18/45 - Brigade HQ ceased to command any units.  
6/1/45 - Brigade HQ disbanded in India.

#### Assigned Units

4/6th King's African Rifles	7/15/41-5/31/43
46th (Tanganyika Territory King's African Rifles	6/1/43-4/17/45
2/1st King's African Rifles	7/16/41-3/18/43
7th King's African Rifles	10/15/41-5/31/43
7th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-10/10/43
	11/30/43-4/7/45
1st (Somalia) King's African Rifles	1/4/43-5/31/43
71st (Somalia) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-4/17/45
2nd (Somalia) King's African Rifles	4/18/43-5/27/43
63rd (East Africa) Field Coy, EAE	11/7/44-4/17/45
28th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, EAASC	1/1/42-4/17/45
8th (East Africa) Field Ambulance	3/18/43-12/31/43

108th Camp Reception Station	1/15/44-4/17/45
9th (East Africa Infantry Brigade Workshop, EAEME)	10/24/43-7/17/45

**29th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

3/42 - Brigade HQ formed in East Africa.  
 10/1/44 - Redesignated 29th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade.

Assigned Units

2/6th King's African Rifles	4/2/42-4/19/42
5/6th King's African Rifles	4/2/42-5/31/43
56th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-1/30/44 6/3/44-8/31/45
5th North Rhodesia Regiment	4/2/42-5/4/44
2/4th King's African Rifles	7/1/42-5/31/43
24th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-10/22/44
72nd (Somalia) King's African Rifles	6/1/43-4/30/45
73rd (Kenya) King's African Rifles	2/29/44-5/1/44
64th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	5/3/44-5/1/44
14th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	5/3/44-7/30/44
17th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	11/13/44-4/10/45
9th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	4/24/45-8/31/45
16th King's African Rifles	5/26/45-8/31/45
61st (East Africa) Field Company, EAE	5/29/42-11/14/42
29th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, EAASC	4/2/42-8/31/45
1st (Tanganyika Territory) Field Ambulance	6/16/42-12/7/42
5th (Kenya) Field Ambulance	7/10/44-11/29/44
7th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	7/1/43-2/4/44
5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	5/15/44-9/14/44
8th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	9/18/44-8/31/45

**30th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

8/24/42 - Brigade HQ formed in East Africa.  
 8/15/45 - Brigade HQ disbanded in East Africa.

Assigned Units

11th King's African Rifles	9/1/42-12/3/42
13th King's African Rifles	9/10/42-4/14/43
14th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	9/1/42-6/20/44
12th (Kenya) King's African Rifles	3/28/43-8/14/45
15th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	4/23/43-8/14/45
2nd Royal African Regiment	1/28/44-9/3/44
2nd North Rhodesian Regiment	9/1/44-8/14/45
61st (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	9/19/44-8/2/45
63rd (East Africa) Field Company, EAE	12/3/42-5/16/43
30th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, EAASC	9/1/42-8/14/45
1st (Tanganyika Territory) Field Ambulance	12/8/42-8/14/45
8th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	8/11/43-9/17/44
5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	9/18/44-7/30/45

### **31st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade**

3/1/43 - The Brigade HQ commenced to function, although the effective date of the formation is 1/15/43. The brigade commander joined on 3/2/42.

#### Assigned Units

9th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	3/1/43-2/13/45
16th (Kenya) King's African Rifles	3/1/43-5/24/45
4th North Rhodesia Regiment	3/3/43-2/13/45
29th (Tanganyika Territory) King's African Rifles	3/24/45-4/9/45
30th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	4/15/45-7/22/45
17th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	5/4/45-8/31/45
18th (Nyasaland) King's African Rifles	6/25/45-8/31/45
24th (Uganda) King's African Rifles	8/6/45-8/31/45
31st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Group Company, EAASC	3/1/43-8/31/45
9th Field Ambulance	2/25/44-8/31/45
9th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	9/14/43-10/23/43
7th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade Workshop	2/5/44-8/31/45

### **1st (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

10/3/39 - Formed by the redesignation of the Regimental HQ The Nigerian Regiment in Nigeria.  
6/24/40 - Redesignated 3rd (Nigerian) Infantry Brigade.  
7/18/40 - Redesignated 23rd (Nigerian) Infantry Brigade.  
9/4/41 - Redesignated 1st (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Group.  
8/44 - The brigade reverted to the role of an infantry Brigade.

#### Assigned Units

1st Nigerian Regiment	10/3/39-8/31/45
2nd Nigerian Regiment	10/3/39-8/31/45
3rd Nigerian Regiment	10/3/39-3/12/41
	9/25/42-8/31/45
1st (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Company	11/1/4-17/31/42
1st (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Squadron	8/1/42-10/31/43
11th Nigerian Regiment	2/20/43-5/24/43
3rd Sierra Leone Regiment	2/20/43-5/24/43
5th (West Africa) Auxillary Group	7/12/43-8/31/45
1st (West Africa) Light Battery	9/4/41-8/44
WAASC Ancillary Units	9/4/41-8/44
1st (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section	9/4/41-8/44
1st (West Africa) Field Coy, WAE	9/4/41-8/44
1st (West Africa) Field Ambulance	9/4/41-8/44

### **2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

9/39 - Formed by the Gold Coast Regiment with the Title 4th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade in West Africa.  
10/18/40 - Redesignated 24th (Gold Coast) Infantry Brigade.

12/1/41 - Redesignated 2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Group.  
 4/44 - Reverted to the role of an infantry brigade.

Assigned Units

1st Gold Coast Regiment	9/3/39-8/31/45
2nd Gold Coast Regiment	9/3/39-8/31/45
3rd Gold Coast Regiment	9/3/39-8/31/45
2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Company	12/1/41-7/1/42
2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron	7/1/43-10/31/43
6th (West Africa) Auxillary Group	10/1/42-10/8/42 2/5/43-8/31/45

Assigned when a group

2nd (West Africa) Light Battery  
 WAASC Ancillary Units  
 2nd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section  
 2nd (West Africa) Field Company, WAE  
 2nd (West Africa) Field Ambulance

**3rd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

12/10/40 - formed in Nigeria  
 5/41 - Became an infantry brigade group.  
 11/43 - Reorganized for long range penetration role under Special Force.  
 11/30/44 - Brigade disbanded in India.  
 3/1/45 - Brigade HQ reformed in India.

Assigned Units

7th Nigerian Regiment	12/10/40-11/6/40 3/12/45-8/31/45
11th Nigerian Regiment	12/10/40-6/11/41
12th Nigerian Regiment	12/10/40-11/13/44 3/10/45-8/31/45
9th Nigerian Regiment	12/20/40-2/8/42
3rd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Company	9/1/41-7/31/42
3rd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron	8/1/42-3/31/43
6th Nigerian Regiment	2/9/42-11/8/44 3/12/45-8/31/45
1st (West Africa) Auxillary Group (Nigerian)	10/1/42-1/16/44

Assigned when a group

3rd (West Africa) Light Battery - to 5/15/43  
WAASC Ancillary Units  
3rd (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section  
7th (West Africa) Field Company, WAE  
3rd (West Africa) Field Ambulance

**4th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

2/24/41 - Formed in Nigeria.

Assigned Units

5th Nigerian Regiment	2/24/41-8/31/45
6th Nigerian Regiment	2/24/41-2/8/42
10th Nigerian Regiment	2/24/41-8/31/45
4th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Company	10/10/41-7/31/42
4th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron	8/1/42-10/31/43
9th Nigerian Regiment	2/9/42-8/31/45
2nd (West Africa) Auxillary Group	10/1/42-8/31/45

Assigned when a group

4th (West Africa) Light Battery  
4th (West Africa) Field Ambulance  
4th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section  
4th (West Africa) Field Company, WAE  
WAASC Ancillary Units

**5th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

3/3/42 - Brigade HQ formed in the Gold Coast.

Assigned Units

5th Gold Coast Regiment	3/9/42-8/31/45
7th Gold Coast Regiment	3/9/42-8/31/45
8th Gold Coast Regiment	3/9/42-8/31/45
5th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Company	3/9/42-7/31/42-
5th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron	8/1/42-8/31/45
4th Nigerian Regiment	10/17/42-1/8/43
3rd (West Africa) Auxillary Group	10/1/42-8/31/45

Attached when a group

5th (West Africa) Light Battery  
5th (West Africa) Field Ambulance  
5th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section  
5th (West Africa) Field Company, WAE  
WAASC Ancillary Units

**6th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

4/3/41 - Formed in Sierra Leone  
10/41 - Brigade formed into a group.  
8/44 - Reverted to the role of an infantry brigade.

Assigned Units

1st Sierra Leone Regiment	4/3/41-8/31/45
2nd Sierra Leone Regiment	4/3/41-2/19/43
11th Nigerian Regiment	6/22/41-2/19/43
4th Nigerian Regiment	6/22/41-8/31/45
6th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Company	8/18/41-6/30/42
6th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron	7/1/42-3/30/43
1st Gambian Regiment	4/4/43-8/31/45
4th (West Africa) Auxillary Group	10/1/42-8/31/45

Assigned when a group

6th (West Africa) Light Battery to 5/14/43  
3rd (West Africa) Light Battery from 5/14/43  
6th (West Africa) Field Ambulance  
6th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade Provost Section  
6th (West Africa) Field Company, WAE  
WAASC Ancillary Units

**7th (West Africa) Infantry Brigade**

4/29/42 - Brigade formed in Gambia  
2/26/43 - Brigade HQ disbanded in Gambia.

Assigned Units

4th Gold Coast Regiment	4/29/42-1/20/43
1st Gambia Regiment	4/29/42-2/25/43
2nd Gambia Regiment	4/29/42-2/25/43

Joslen, Lt. Col. H.F., Orders of Battle, Second World War, 1939-1945, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1960.

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