

**Japanese Forces in Burma
1944**

LAND FORCES: Lt. General M. Kawabe (HQ at Maymyo)¹

15th Army: Lt. General R. Mutaguchi

15th Division

15th Reconnaissance Cavalry Regiment (730 men)
15th Field Artillery Regiment (2,380 men)
15th Mountain Artillery Regiment (950 men)
15th Engineer Battalion
51st Regiment (5,680 men)
52nd Regiment (5,680 men)
53rd Regiment (5,680 men)

31st Division:

31st Reconnaissance Cavalry Regiment
31st Field Artillery Regiment
31st Mountain Artillery Regiment
31st Engineer Battalion
125th Regiment
123rd Regiment
244th Regiment

33rd Division:

33rd Reconnaissance Cavalry Regiment
33rd Field Artillery Regiment
31st Mountain Artillery Regiment
31st Engineer Battalion
125th Regiment
123rd Regiment
244th Regiment

53rd Division: (Garrison Division)²

53rd Field Artillery Regiment
178th Infantry Garrison Regiment
167th Infantry Garrison Regiment

I.N.A Brigade

24th Independent Mixed Brigade (Maj Gen Hyashi)³

139th Infantry Battalion
140th Infantry Battalion
141st Infantry Battalion
142nd Infantry Battalion
1 Battery Mountain Artillery (4 Guns)

28th Army: Lt. General Sakurai⁴

¹ The Japanese had much greater battle experience than the British and Indian units, and had recently been brought up to strength with reinforcements.

² This Division was never formally attached to 15th Army, but was sent from Formosa via the Burma - Siam Railway to act as a reserve.

³ Stretched out in an anti-airborne role along the railway from Tennasserim to Mandalay.

55th Division: (Opposing Allied XV Corps)

55th Reconnaissance Regiment (Col Tanahashi)

(Less Tankett Company)

55th Field Artillery Regiment

55th Mountain Artillery Regiment

55th Engineer Battalion

112th Infantry Regiment

1st Battalion (Less One Infantry Company)

2nd Battalion (Less Machine Gun Company)

3rd Battalion

213th Infantry Regiment

1st Battalion (Less One Infantry Company)

2nd Battalion

3rd Battalion

214th Infantry Regiment

1st Battalion

2nd Battalion

3rd Battalion

54th Division:⁵

54th Cavalry Reconnaissance Regiment

54th Field Artillery Regiment

54th Mountain Artillery Regiment

54th Engineer Battalion

357th Infantry Regiment

298th Infantry Regiment

167th Infantry Regiment

2nd Division:⁶

2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Regiment

2nd Field Artillery Regiment

2nd Mountain Artillery Regiment

2nd Engineer Battalion

189th Infantry Regiment

154th Infantry Regiment

153rd Infantry Regiment

33rd Army: Lt. General M. Honda⁷

18th Division: (Facing Stilwell on Ledo road.)

18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Regiment

18th Field Artillery Regiment

18th Mountain Artillery Regiment

18th Engineer Battalion

114th Infantry Regiment

143rd Infantry Regiment

⁴ Responsibility stretched along the coast from Akyab to Bessein in the Malay Peninsula.

⁵ The 54th Division was responsible for coastline from Akyab to Taungup, including Ramree Island.

⁶ The 2nd Division covered the Irrawaddi delta and the coastline the Malayan border.

⁷ The 33rd Army was responsible for the Northern & Eastern Front.

118th Infantry Regiment
56th Division⁸
56th Cavalry Reconnaissance Regiment
56th Field Artillery Regiment
56th Mountain Artillery Regiment
56th Engineer Battalion
146th Infantry Regiment
148rd Infantry Regiment
149th Infantry Regiment

AIR FORCES

5th Air Division

5 x Fighter Regiments (100 aircraft)
2 x Light Bomber Regiments (60 aircraft)
2 x Heavy Bomber Regiments (30 aircraft)
2 x Reconnaissance Regiments (30 aircraft)

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⁸ The 56th Division opposed the Chinese Nationalist Force "Yoke" on the Salween.