

236th MEDICAL DISPENSARY

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

236TH MEDICAL DISPENSARY

The 236th Medical Dispensary was activated February 4, 1944 at the AAF Medical Service Training School, Robbins Field, Georgia. The unit was assigned to the Second Air Commando Group June 21, 1944. Its mission was to furnish medical care, with the exception of hospitalization, for Army Air Force bases or organizations. On June 19, 1944 twenty-three enlisted men and three officers were sent to Alachua AAF Base, Gainesville, Florida to join their new group. Its commanding officer was Captain Padie Richlin.

The unit trained in Florida with the group, entrained for overseas deployment, and was based upon arrival in Kalaikunda, India, in December, 1944. Getting supplies and equipment together was the primary chore during January along with covering the crash line, supervising sanitation, maintaining treatment facilities where other medical officers could hold sick call, and distributing medical supplies.

At the end of January the major portion of personnel and supplies were designated to go to Cox's Bazaar, the combat base for the fighter squadrons. Now the unit faced operating two dispensaries simultaneously - Cox's Bazaar and Kalaikunda.

Two C-47s hauled the 236th M.D.'s equipment and personnel to Cox's Bazaar where a treatment room, X-ray facility, pharmacy, and laboratory section were maintained. Two enlisted technicians were sent to forward combat areas with Liaison Squadrons to aid in evacuation of wounded from combat zones.

May brought an end to all field operations and the entire unit returned to Kalaikunda. The 236th had more personnel in it than was needed for its operation in India and Burma. If the Second Air Commando Group had been committed to the long-range-penetration forces for which it was originally conceived, the 326th Medical Dispensary Unit had the people to perform its functions.

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Sources