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bri·gade  (brī-gād)

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n.

1.

a. A military unit consisting of a variable number of combat battalions or regiments.

b. A US Army administrative and tactical unit composed of a headquarters unit, at least one unit of infantry or armor or both, and designated support units. A brigade can be commanded by a brigadier general or by a colonel.

2. A group of persons organized for a specific purpose: *formed a bucket brigade to carry water to the fire.*

tr.v. **bri·gad·ed**, **bri·gad·ing**, **bri·gades**

To form into a brigade.

[French, from Old French, company, from Old Italian *brigata*, from *brigare*, to fight, from *briga*, strife, of Celtic origin; see **g^{Wera}**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

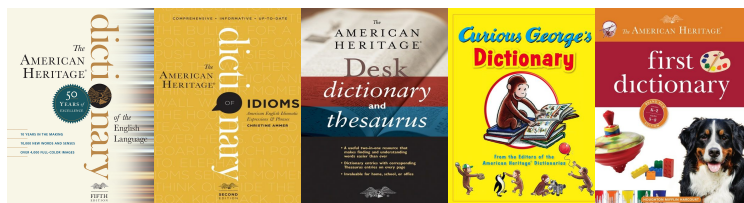
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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