

10th Indian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 10th Indian Division

20th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 20th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The South Wales Borderers
3rd (Rattray's) Bn. 11th Sikh Regiment
2nd Bn. 7th Gurkha Rifles

21st Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 21st Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
4th (Wilde's) Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles
2nd Bn. 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles

25th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 25th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)
1st Bn. 5th Mahratta Light Infantry
2nd Royal (Ludhiana Sikhs) Bn. 11th Sikh Regiment

Divisional Troops

The Guides Cavalry (10th Queen Victoria's Own Frontier Force)

Headquarters, 10th Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾
3rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
157th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
1st Indian Anti-Tank Regiment, Indian Artillery

Headquarters, 10th Indian Infantry Divisional Sappers and Miners (6)
9th Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners
10th Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners
61st Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners
41st Field Park Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

10th Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

Headquarters, 10th Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Indian Army Service Corps
10th Divisional Headquarters Transport Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
10th Divisional Troops Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
20th Indian Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
21st Indian Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
25th Indian Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
35th General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
49th (Bikanir) General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
52nd (Bhopal) General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
7th (Bahawalpur) Motor Ambulance Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
10th Motor Ambulance Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 10th Indian Divisional Indian Medical Corps
26th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps
29th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps
30th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps
1st Field Hygiene Section, Indian Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 10th Indian Divisional Indian Army Ordnance Corps
14th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
16th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
29th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
10th Indian Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

53rd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

10th Indian Divisional Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

NOTES:

1. The 10th Indian Infantry Division was officially formed on 15 January 1941 at Ahmendnagar, India. The new formation commenced training in anticipation of the possibility of being deployed to Iraq, but the coup by Rashid Ali in Iraq in April 1941 cut the training programme short. The divisional headquarters and the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade were dispatched to Iraq, landing at Basra on 18 and 19 April 1941. The 21st Indian Infantry Brigade landed in Iraq on 6 May 1941. The division was involved in subjugating Iraq, with brigades from the formation being used in the invasion of Iran and Syria. With the political and military situation in Iraq, Persia (Iran) and Syria now stable and under control from a British perspective, the division concentrated around Erbil, near Mosul. Major General (Acting) Thomas Wynford REES, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, 6th Rajputana Rifles, commanded the division during this period. The threat of a German advance into Persia and Iraq through the Caucasus Mountain receded by mid-1942, but as the military situation in Libya and Egypt had grown considerably worse, the 10th Indian Infantry Division was ordered to move to Egypt. Leaving Erbil in mid-May 1942, the division travelled the 1,500 miles by road in two weeks. It concentrated in the Halfaya Pass with effect from 4 June, guarded the escarpment. The divisional headquarters and 25th Indian Infantry Brigade were located at Gambut, and the other two brigades at Halfaya. Soon after arrival, the 1st Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry were detached to move into the 'Cauldron', where it was destroyed. On 7 June, the 20th Brigade moved to occupy a 'box' at Sidi Rezegh, 21st Brigade moved to Gambut, and the 25th Brigade moved to Sollum. The German and Italian forces attacked the Sidi Rezegh box on 16 June, and after some fierce fighting, the division was ordered back to Mersa Matruh on 22 June. Major General REES was relieved of his command on 21 June, to be replaced by a British officer, Brigadier J. S. NICHOLS, D.S.O., M.C., who was known as 'Crasher' NICHOLS. The remnants of the 20th Brigade had been sent back to the Delta to rest and refit on 18 June, with the 5th Indian Brigade being attached to this division from the 4th Indian Division. Under command of X Corps, the division deployed with the 5th Brigade on the south of the perimeter, the 21st Brigade holding the coastal sector, and the 25th Brigade the escarpment to 'Charing Cross'. The Axis forces attacked on 26 June, circling around the garrison. Effectively surrounded, the division broke out on 28 June, with about 60% reaching safety at El Alamein. Inevitably, the remains of the division were sent back to the Delta in Egypt to rest and refit. Elements of the division were deployed on Ruweisat Ridge until 9 July (see below), but the division was not in a position to be deployed as a formation. An Indian Army officer, Major General A. B. BLAXLAND, O.B.E., assumed command of the formation on 6 July 1942, with Major General W. L. LLOYD, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, succeeding him in July 1943. It moved to Cyprus in August 1942, and the division was earmarked to be deployed to the Dodecanese Islands, but this was not proceeded with. It did provide units for internal security duties in Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Major General D. W. REID, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army assumed command of the division in January 1944. In mid-March 1944, now reorganised and trained, the division concentrated in Egypt, and on 27 March 1944, it began disembarking at Taranto in Italy.
2. This brigade arrived in Egypt on 2 June 1942. Temporary Brigadier Donald POWELL, D.S.O. commanded the brigade from its raising in September 1940 until March 1942, when Brigadier (Acting) Lewis Eric MacGREGOR, O.B.E., 12 F.F.R. assumed command. It appears that Brigadier POWELL was ill when he relinquished command of the brigade, as he died in August 1942 in a hospital in the U.K.

3. This brigade was formed in October 1940 under the command of the 9th Indian Division. It transferred to the 10th Indian Division in March 1941, and deployed to Iraq with that formation. Temporary Brigadier Joseph WELD, M.C., *p.s.c.*, commanded the brigade from its formation. In May 1942, he was replaced by Brigadier (Acting) James Jarvie PURVES, M.C., 11 Sikh R., who was promoted to the rank of Acting Brigadier on 22 April 1942.
4. With the transfer of the 15th Indian Infantry Brigade to Malaya, a new brigade was formed to replace that brigade in this division. The 25th Indian Infantry Brigade was raised in February 1941, and immediately came under command of the division. Brigadier (Acting) Reginald Gervase MOUNTAIN, D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, commanded this brigade from its formation until July 1942, when he was captured at Mersa Matruh. A British officer (although South African by birth) Brigadier (Acting) Eustace Alford ARDERNE, D.S.O., assumed command in July 1942, and remained in command until June 1945. He was awarded a Bar to the D.S.O. and the O.B.E. during his period in command of the brigade.
5. Brigadier (Acting) Robert Peel WALLER, D.S.O., M.C., was the Commander Royal Artillery for the division during this period. He had assumed command on 27 December 1941, and remained in post until 2 August 1942, when the appointment was left vacant as the division had no artillery allocated to it. Between 30 June and 9 July 1942, Brigadier WALLER commanded an ad hoc battlegroup called 'Robcol' and another called 'Wallgroup'. The battlegroup was sent urgently to the west end of Ruweisat Ridge on 1 July. They managed to hold off an Axis attack on 2 July, and reinforced by another company from the 1st/4th Essex, they managed to hold their positions until relieved by the 5th Indian Division on 9 July. Brigadier (Acting) Walter Rutherford GOODMAN, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. was appointed the new Commander Royal Artillery with effect from 30 March 1943.
6. Lieutenant Colonel L. I. JACQUES was the Commander, Sappers and Miners of the division from its formation in January 1941 until June 1942. Lieutenant Colonel John MacLean SAEGERT, R.E., replaced him, but was captured later that same month. He was awarded the D.S.O. in 1945. Lieutenant Colonel H. E. G. St. GEORGE, R.E., was appointed in July 1942, and remained in the role until February 1944.
7. The order of battle for RobCol was:

RobCol

One company, 1st/4th Bn. The Essex Regiment
11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
xx Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment

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