

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Main Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Division

Rear Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Division

### 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's)

7<sup>th</sup> Bn. 14<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment <sup>(3)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Patiala Infantry (Rajindra Sikhs), Indian State Forces

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Assam Regiment <sup>(4)</sup>

### 37<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 37<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 10<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles

### 49<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 49<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Light Aid Detachment

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry

5<sup>th</sup> (Napier) Bn. 6<sup>th</sup> Rajputana Rifles

2<sup>nd</sup> (Berar) Bn. 19<sup>th</sup> Hyderabad Regiment <sup>(5)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

*2<sup>nd</sup> (Berar) Bn. 19<sup>th</sup> Hyderabad Regiment* <sup>(6)</sup>

The Shere Regiment <sup>(7)</sup>

The Kali Badahur Regiment <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Royal Artillery

158<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Field Regiment, Indian Artillery

28<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery

2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Anti-Tank Regiment, Indian Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Sappers and Miners  
68<sup>th</sup> Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners  
71<sup>st</sup> Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners  
91<sup>st</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners  
323<sup>rd</sup> Field Park Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
121<sup>st</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
122<sup>nd</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
123<sup>rd</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
21<sup>st</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
24<sup>th</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
50<sup>th</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
61<sup>st</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
7<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
10<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
18<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
12<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
13<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
14<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
15<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Indian Army Medical Corps  
24<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
47<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
49<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Field Hygiene Section, Indian Army Medical Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers  
38<sup>th</sup> Indian Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (11)  
61<sup>st</sup> Indian Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers  
23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Recovery Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Field Postal Unit, Indian General Service Corps  
117<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

605<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps (India)

## NOTES:

1. The division was formed on 1 January 1942 at Jhansi in India under the command of Major General R. A. SAVORY, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army. In March, the embryo formation moved to Ranchi where the majority of the units joined it. In May 1942, the division was transferred to Assam where it deployed in the Manipur Road area and for a period this was the only Divisional formation deployed in North-East India on the border with Burma. In August 1943, Major General (Acting) Ouvry Lindfield ROBERTS, D.S.O., B.A., *p.s.c.* assumed command of the Division and remained in command throughout the Siege of Imphal. The Division had been in reserve from June 1943 until January 1944, when elements moved into the Chin Hills. It also became responsible for the defence of the Ukhrul with the garrison at Kohima under command. In March 1944, the Division was dispersed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade at Kuntaung, another at Ukhrul and the third at Kanglatongbi. It was then sent in echelons to support the 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division as it withdrew down the Tiddim Road. In May, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Division was sent up the Shenam Saddle to relieve the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division and steadily drove the Japanese from the area, capturing 'Scraggy' on 24 July, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade taking Nippon Hill. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Division was relieved by the 11<sup>th</sup> (East Africa) Infantry Division in August and moved back to India. This is the order of battle for this period.
2. The brigade was sent from India to Assam prior to the division. When the divisional headquarters arrived in the area, this brigade was brought under command.
3. This battalion joined this brigade in February 1942, transferring from the Nowshera Brigade. It remained under command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Brigade, and then the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Division until September 1942, when it transferred to IV Corps Troops.
4. This battalion came under command of the brigade on 4 April 1942, and apart from a period from 1 March until August 1943, it remained under command in the Kohima area until the garrison there assumed command in March 1944. It played a key role in delaying the Japanese advance towards Kohima in April 1944. The battalion was replaced in the division by:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 16<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment
5. This battalion was withdrawn from the brigade and sent to rest and refit following heavy casualties from disease. It was replaced by:  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry
6. This battalion re-joined the division in February 1944 as the divisional defence battalion. It fought with the division during the campaign of early 1944 in the Imphal area.
7. These regiments were part of the Napalese Army and came under command of the division from March 1944 until September 1944.
8. In October 1942, the regiment reorganised as a jungle field regiment. It later reverted to a standard field regiment organisation.  
179<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
which transferred in from 36<sup>th</sup> Division.
9. In October 1943, the regiment reorganised as a light anti-aircraft/anti-tank regiment. It reverted to an anti-tank only role in line with other similar regiments circa October 1944.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Division (1)

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Division

### 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's)

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 16<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment

1<sup>st</sup> Patiala Infantry (Rajindra Sikhs), Indian State Forces

### 37<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 37<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 10<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles

### 49<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 49<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry

5<sup>th</sup> (Napier's) Bn. 6<sup>th</sup> Rajputana Rifles

### Divisional Troops

5<sup>th</sup> (Burma) Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment (2)

6<sup>th</sup> Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment (3)

2<sup>nd</sup> (Berar) Bn. 19<sup>th</sup> Hyderabad Regiment (4)

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Royal Artillery

158<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)

3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Field Regiment, Indian Artillery

*28<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Regiment, Indian Artillery (6)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Anti-Tank Regiment, Indian Artillery (7)

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Sappers and Miners  
68<sup>th</sup> Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners  
71<sup>st</sup> Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners  
91<sup>st</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners  
323<sup>rd</sup> Field Park Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
121<sup>st</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
*122<sup>nd</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (8)*  
123<sup>rd</sup> Indian General Purpose Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
*21<sup>st</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
*24<sup>th</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
*50<sup>th</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
*61<sup>st</sup> Animal Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (8)*  
*7<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
*10<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
*18<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance Troop, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (6)*  
12<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
13<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
14<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
15<sup>th</sup> Indian Composite Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Indian Army Medical Corps  
24<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
47<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
49<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps  
23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Field Hygiene Section, Indian Army Medical Corps  
68<sup>th</sup> Anti-Malaria Unit, Indian Army Medical Corps

3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Mobile Veterinary Section, Indian Army Veterinary Corps

Headquarters, 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers  
38<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (9)  
61<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (9)  
135<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Workshop Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (9)  
23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Recovery Company, Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Field Postal Unit, Indian General Service Corps  
117<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisional Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

605<sup>th</sup> Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps (India)

## NOTES:

1. The division was moved back to India in August 1944 and concentrated in the Bombay area. It refitted and reequipped in India, until it was designated to form part of Operation Zipper, the reconquest of Malaya. Major General D. C. HAWTHORN, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army assumed command of the formation on 15 March 1945. It landed in Malaya in September 1945. From there the division was deployed to Java, where it fought fierce battles against the Indonesians. The last elements of the division left Indonesia in late November 1946 and moved to northern Malaya to relieve the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. There were several changes in formations during the division's stay in Malaya, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade being disbanded. The division itself was formally disbanded in April 1947 in Malaya.
2. This battalion joined the division in February 1945 from the N.W. Frontier whilst the division was in India. The unit had the role of divisional reconnaissance battalion.
3. This battalion also joined the division February 1945 from the N.W. Frontier whilst in India. It had the role of divisional machine gun battalion, and sometimes appears designated as:  
6<sup>th</sup> (Machine Gun) Bn. 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment
4. This battalion was the original divisional battalion, which joined the division in February 1944. It fought with the division during the campaign of early 1944 in the Imphal area. When the other two divisional support battalions joined the division, this battalion assumed the role of divisional headquarters battalion.
5. In October 1942, the regiment reorganised as a Jungle Field Regiment. It later reverted to a standard Field Regiment organisation. It left the division in July 1945 transferring to 36<sup>th</sup> Division. It was replaced by:  
179<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
This war raised Regiment transferred in from the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
6. These units were left in India when the division deployed to Malaya in September 1945.
7. In October 1943, the regiment reorganised as a light anti-aircraft/anti-tank regiment. It reverted to an anti-tank only role in line with other similar regiments circa October 1944.
8. These units remained in Burma when the Division returned to India.
9. By September 1945, the Indian Mobile Workshop Companies had been redesignated as Indian Infantry Workshop Companies, and a third unit (the 135<sup>th</sup> Ind. Inf. Wksp. Coy) had joined the Division to allow one Workshop to be allocated to each Brigade.