

8th Indian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 8th Indian Division and Employment Platoon

17th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters 17th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section and Employment Platoon

1st (Prince of Wales's Own) (Sikhs) Bn. 12th Frontier Force Regiment

5th (Vaughan's) Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles

1st Bn. 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)

18th Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 18th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section and Employment Platoon

3rd (Queen Mary's Own) Bn. 10th Baluch Regiment

1st Bn. 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)

2nd Bn. 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

19th Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters 19th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section and Employment Platoon

1st Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment

3rd Bn. 8th Punjab Regiment

2nd Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles

Divisional Troops

3rd Cavalry

11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

7th Field Company, King George V' Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

47th Field Company, Sappers and Miners

66th Field Company, King George V' Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

8th Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

8th Indian Division Headquarters Transport Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

8th Indian Divisional Troops Transport Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

17th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

18th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

19th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

3 x Field Ambulances, Royal Indian Army Medical Corps

1 x Field Hygiene Section, Royal Indian Army Medical Corps

11th Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Company

15th Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Company

2 x Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Companies

41st Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

42nd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

43rd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

44th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

8th Indian Division Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

NOTES:

1. The 8th Indian Infantry Division was raised in October 1940 in Meerut, India under command of Major General C. O. HARVEY. This is the order of battle for the division in January 1941 as the division was still being formed. It spent the first months becoming organised and sources equipment, with the new units undertaking an intense training programme. The division was earmarked for deployment to the Middle East as part of Force Sabine. The division followed the 10th Indian Division to Iraq, with the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade being the first element of the division to land at Basra at the end of May 1941. The Divisional Headquarters landed at Basra in June 1941, moving to Kirkuk. The divisional headquarters left the 17th Indian Brigade at Basra with the 10th Indian Division, but, took under command the 24th Indian Brigade from the 10th Indian Division as a replacement. The division returned to Basra in July 1941 to prepare for the invasion and occupation of Persia. For this operation, the divisional headquarters had under command its own 18th Indian Infantry Brigade, together with the 24th Indian Infantry Brigade and 25th Indian Infantry Brigade transferred from the 10th Indian Division. The 18th Brigade was directed to Khurramshahr, the 25th Brigade to Qasr Shaikh and then Ahwaz; with the 24th Brigade being moved by ship to attack and secure Abadan. The operation was successful with the Persian government agreeing an armistice on the 28th August 1941. With the arrival of the 19th Brigade, the 25th Brigade returned to the 10th Indian Division.
2. This brigade had been formed in Meerut in November 1940 as part of the 8th Indian Division under command of Brigadier J. G. BRUCE. In May 1941, Brigadier D. D. GRACEY replaced Brigadier BRUCE. It served with this division throughout the war, except for a period in July and August 1941 when it came under command of the 10th Indian Division for the occupation of Persia. It was also detached from August 1941 until October that year when it was based in Aleppo in Syria. The brigade rejoined the rest of the division in November. The brigade remained with the division for the duration of the war, including the fighting in Italy.
3. This brigade was raised in October 1940 as part of this division under the command of Brigadier R. H. LOCHNER. It arrived at Basra on the 26th July 1941 in preparation for the invasion of Persia. The brigade's objective was the capture of Khurramshahr, which it secured at about 07.30 hours on the 25th August 1941. The brigade then launched an assault alongside the Karun River until the Armistice at 05.15 hours on 28 August. The brigade moved with the division to Kirkuk and then Mosul.
4. This brigade was raised in October 1942 as part of this division under the command of Brigadier C. W. W. FORD. It did not arrive at Basra until 18 August 1941 just prior to the armistice with the Persian government. It did not join the division until 30 August, moving to Kirkuk and Mosul. The brigade remained with this division throughout the rest of the war.

8th Indian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 8th Indian Division and Employment Platoon

17th Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 17th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Employment Platoon

1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) ⁽²⁾

1st (Prince of Wales's Own) (Sikhs) Bn. 12th Frontier Force Regiment

1st Bn. 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)

18th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 18th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Employment Platoon

2nd/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment

1st Bn. 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)

2nd Bn. 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

19th Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 19th Indian Infantry Brigade, Signal Section & Employment Platoon

1st/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment

3rd Bn. 8th Punjab Regiment

2nd Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles

Divisional Troops

6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's Horse) ⁽⁴⁾

11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

32nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

7th Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

47th Field Company, Sappers and Miners

66th Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

47th Field Park Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners

8th Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

8th Indian Divisional Headquarters Transport Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

17th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

18th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

19th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

8th Indian Divisional Troops Transport Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

31st Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

32nd Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

33rd Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

20th Indian Field Hygiene Section, Indian Medical Service

11th Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Company

15th Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Company

49th Indian Army Ordnance Corps Mobile Workshop Companies

41st Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

42nd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

43rd Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

44th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

8th Indian Division Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle for the division on 1 February 1942. The divisional headquarters moved to Kirkuk and then Mosul. The 17th Brigade was detached to Aleppo in Syria, the 18th Brigade was sent to Egypt, leaving only the 19th Brigade under command until November 1942. In that month, the division was brought back up to establishment with the 17th Brigade rejoining and 21st Brigade transferring in from the 10th Indian Division in Egypt. The division remained in Iraq until the end of March 1943, when it moved to Syria. It was earmarked for operations in the Aegean Islands (Dodecanese), but, these did not take place and the division moved to Alexandria for embarkation for Italy in September 1943. It served throughout the Italian campaign, returning to India soon after the German surrender in May 1945.
2. This battalion joined the division on 15 December 1941, replacing the 5th Bn. 13th Frontier Force Regiment. The 1st Royal Fusiliers had formed part of the 5th Indian Infantry Brigade during the campaign in Syria of June 1941. Most of the battalion was captured on 16 June 1941, so the battalion was reconstituted in Palestine.
3. This brigade was sent to Egypt in June 1942 to reinforce the 10th Indian Division, where it was over-run on 1 July 1942. The remnants of the brigade disbanded a month later.
4. This regiment had started the war under command of the Delhi Independent Brigade Area. It had joined the 10th Indian Division in January 1941 as the divisional reconnaissance unit. When that division deployed to Iraq, the regiment remained in India and did not arrive in Iraq until October 1941. On its arrival in Iraq, it came under command of this division. It remained with this division until June 1942, when it transferred to the 6th Indian Division. The regiment returned to this division in January 1943 and served with this formation in Italy throughout that campaign.
5. This was a Regular Army field regiment, which at the start of the Second World War was based at Meerut in India. It came under command of this division in August 1941 when it arrived in Iraq. It transferred to the 1st Armoured Division in July 1942, later serving with the 4th Indian Division in North Africa, Italy and Greece.
6. This was also a Regular Army field regiment, which had been formed in 1936. It had been based in the United Kingdom at the commencement of the war, and served in France in 1940. It sailed for India in March 1941, arriving in May of that year. Almost immediately, because of the shortage of artillery units in the Indian Army it was dispatched to Iraq to join the 8th Indian Division. It left this division in June 1942 to move to Egypt to join the 8th Army. In September 1943, it was redesignated as the 32nd Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

SOURCES:

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