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Author: Robert PALMER, M.A.



A CONCISE HISTORY OF:

I CORPS (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A concise history of I Corps, a British Army higher formation which saw service with the British Expeditionary Force in 1939 and 1940, and then with the 21st Army Group in North West Europe in 1944 and 1945. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1939 and 1945 are included.

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A Concise History of I Corps (History & Personnel)

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I Corps

On 8 March 1901, the Secretary of State for War announced to the House of Commons that six army corps were to be formed to command formations for service overseas. This was in response to the perceived poor performance of the British Army in the South African War, and earlier conflicts. The first three corps were to be based at Aldershot, Salisbury Plain and in Ireland, and they were to comprise Regular Army formations that would be brought up to strength upon mobilisation. The senior commanders would all be in post, as would most of the staff, with again the addition of reservists and others at the time of mobilisation. The other three corps would comprise Militia and volunteer units and formations, with just a nucleus of higher staff. It was also intended that the peacetime commander would be the commander in wartime, and that each corps would exercise annually.

General Sir Redvers BULLER was the first commander of I Corps, but the next year he was succeeded by Lieutenant General John FRENCH. The appointment usually lasted for three years from 1902 onwards. In 1904, I Corps was renamed as Aldershot Command, and in 1905 Aldershot Army Corps. In 1914, it reverted to I Corps for deployment to France at the outbreak of the Great War in August of that year. From its beginning, I Corps comprised the 1st and 2nd Divisions, plus Cavalry, Artillery and other supporting units. From 1903 onwards, I Corps did undertake annual training exercises, made possible by The Manoeuvre Act of 1897, which permitted Army training to be held on private land, even if the landowner refused. These exercises usually drew large crowds, which could hamper the purpose of the exercise.

I Corps mobilised on 4 August 1914 and embarked at Southampton on 9 August. It landed at Le Havre, Rouen and Boulogne between 12 and 17 August, and was moving towards its concentration area by 14 August. By 23 August, I Corps was deployed on the right of line of the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) north of Mons, with II Corps on its left. At this time, the B.E.F. of two corps was facing four corps of the German Army advancing through Belgium. The main force of the German advance fell on II Corps, which suffered about one-thousand, six-hundred casualties in these first encounters. Importantly though, the German advance was delayed. The B.E.F. retired covered by I Corps, but the two corps became separated by the forest of Mormal. One battalion marched fifty-nine miles in sixty-four hours with only eight hours sleep.

I Corps retreated to the River Marne, crossing the River Aisne on 1 September 1914. By this date, III Corps was now operational in France, and this enabled the B.E.F. to form a single front again. By 5 September, the whole of the B.E.F. was south-east of Paris. During these past fifteen days, the Corps had marched about two-hundred miles, and suffered about 15,000 casualties. As the line stabilised, the British and French counter-attacked. I Corps led the way, advancing north-westwards against little resistance.

The British were advancing to the left and rear of the German 1st Army, which began to retreat. The Corps reached the River Aisne on 12 September and crossed it the next day. I Corps attacked the German positions on 14 September on what was to become the stabilised front of trench systems on the Western Front. Sir John FRENCH ordered the line to be entrenched, and digging commenced. The trench system moved rapidly towards the English Channel, with the B.E.F. moving northwards as reinforcements arrived. In November 1914, I Corps took part in the First Battle of Ypres, with the Allies attempting an advance against the German positions. After making some progress, the German's counter-attacked and made some ground, but the Allies recovered most of it. On 31 October, a critical attack was made by the Germans, which fell mainly on the 1st Division. A significant defeat was only averted by committing the last British reserves, but the line held, albeit that the 1st and 7th Divisions were reduced to about a quarter of their strength of infantry. The Germans attacked again on 6 November, and they managed to advance to within two miles of Ypres, but again the line held – just! I Corps was now placed in reserve.

I Corps returned to the front line in December 1914 at Givenchy, which was relatively quiet in the bad weather of that winter. In March 1915, fighting resumed at Neuve Chappelle, but little progress was made. In April, the Germans used gas for the first time in attacking the B.E.F. and French north of Ypres. Casualties were heavy in May, with I Corps in action near La Bassee. The battle of Festubert in May resulted in limited success for I Corps and the B.E.F., after which there was a long pause in offensive action by both sides.

The next action for I Corps was not until the summer of 1915, in the vicinity of Loos. The main attack by two divisions of I Corps took place on 21 September 1915, with the British using gas for the first time in action. 7th Division made some headway against strong defences that were lightly manned, but the Corps failed to break the second German line. IV Corps tried to take Hill 70, while I Corps made for Cite St. Elie, but although the British made ground, they tended to lose it again to German counter-attacks, and on 3 October, I Corps lost the important Hohenzollern Redoubt. On 11 October, the British attacked again, with the new XI Corps retaking the Redoubt, but the offensive was cancelled on 4 November due to the heavy losses incurred.

From early 1915 until October 1918, the Western Front was a scene of trench warfare. I Corps occupied a sector in the Bethune and Lens area. During this period, the Corps usually had between two and four divisions under command, but not all were deployed in the front line at any one time. Both sides engaged in small scale raids, with up to thirty within one month. 1916 was a relatively quiet time for I Corps, which continued to hold the sector opposite the Hohenzollern Redoubt. On 2 March 1916, I Corps set off three large land mines, followed by advances by the infantry from the 12th Division. Late in April, two divisions of the Corps were subjected to gas attacks, but on one occasion, the gas was blown back over German lines and the attack faltered. The last major action for the Corps in 1916 took place in May, when German infantry overran the 13th Bn. The Royal Scots and captured the first and second-line trenches.

The following year continued as the previous had finished; relatively quiet. In April, the 1st Army was tasked with capturing Vimy Ridge, which was strongly fortified. On 9 April 1917, the Canadian Corps attacked and succeeded to take most of the ridge. The Germans withdrew and established a new line and once again the position stabilised. I Corps was not involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, and in July, the Canadians retook Hill 70. During this period, Russia collapsed into civil war, and withdrew from the war. The Germans were able to withdraw divisions from the Eastern Front to the Western Front, so a new offensive was expected. The main German attack commenced in the spring of 1918, and it was to the south of I Corps positions. The Allies withdrew, but held the line. The last German attacks were made in May and June 1918, failing to break the Allied lines and exhausting their troops.

On 9 April, the Germans attacked XI Corps in a quiet sector, and began to make significant progress towards Hazebrouck. I Corps found itself holding the southern sector of the new salient. Givenchy was held by the 1st Division of I Corps against heavy, sustained attacks in mid-April, and on 29 April, the Germans halted their offensive. During August and September, the Germans south of Ypres started to give up some of their ground to shorten their front line. I Corps was not heavily involved in the final Allied offensive, moving forward from 2 October onwards against little opposition from the retreating German armies. On 11 November, I Corps was just over the Belgian border west of Mons, close to where they began the war in August 1914. I Corps remained in this area until 26 March 1919, when it was placed in suspended animation.

Post the Great War, Aldershot Command remained the home of the 1st Infantry Division and 2nd Infantry Division. On the outbreak of war, Aldershot Command formed the Headquarters, I Corps which mobilised with effect from 1 September 1939 under the command of Lieutenant General Sir John DILL. It was deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force and was in place on the French – Belgian border. Lieutenant General DILL travelled across to France on H.M.S. Skate on 14 September 1939. Advanced elements of the corps headquarters arrived on 22 September and concentrated around Laval. The 1st Infantry Division arrived in France on 20 September 1939, with the 2nd Infantry Division arriving a day later. The first Territorial Army formation that was mobilized and sent to France was the 48th (South Midland) Infantry Division. It arrived on 5 January 1940 and came under command of I Corps.

The German forces attacked the Netherlands, Belgium and France on 10 May 1940, so I Corps moved up into Belgium crossing the border at 13.00 hours. It took up its positions on the River Dyle by 15 May. On that date, attacks were made by German forces along the whole of the front held by the B.E.F.. One small penetration across the Dyle was driven back, however, a withdrawal by the French meant that I Corps had to pull back a few miles to conform. A further withdrawal was necessary due to a penetration by the Germans through French positions on the River Meuse. On the night of 16/17 May the B.E.F. dug in on the banks of the River Senne. On the night of 18/19 May, the B.E.F. withdrew again to the River Escaut.

Further south, the Germans were now making significant progress and by 20 May, they were south of Arras and had reached Amiens and Abbeville. This cut off the British and French forces north of the River Somme from those to the south of the river. On 19 May, German forces made an attack across the Escaut, and the B.E.F. was in action along the extent of its frontline. Further attacks were made on 21 May, with the Germans making some progress against the 2nd Infantry Division. During the night of 22/23 May, I Corps withdrew a few miles as the Belgians were also being driven back by the weight of the German offensive. Ammunition supplies were good, but food was running short and a large number of refugees were clogging the roads.

On 25 May, information was received that the Germans were to launch a major attack between the British and Belgian forces, and it was only by the movement of reserves that prevented the B.E.F. from being enveloped. It was at this moment that General GORT, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the B.E.F. made the decision that the British had to withdraw to the channel coast for a possible evacuation. I Corps was given the central sector of the Dunkirk perimeter, and the final retreat took place on 27 May. That night, the King of the Belgians surrendered his forces and country to the Germans, and the left flank of the B.E.F. was left undefended. The 42nd Infantry Division retired to the Yser line, while the 1st Infantry Division went back to the perimeter of the Dunkirk bridgehead.

I Corps was designated as the rearguard of the B.E.F., the last to be evacuated if that was possible. On 29 May, the 42nd Infantry Division retreated behind the Bergues – Furnes canal. The last British troops crossed the canal that evening, and the Germans reached it the next day. The evacuation began from Dunkirk harbour, and later from the beaches and improvised piers to larger ships. It was agreed that the final evacuation would be of equal numbers of French and British soldiers. On the morning of 1 June, there were still about 39,000 British troops left in the perimeter, and about four times that number of French troops. A number of attacks were made on the front held by I Corps, but they were repulsed. The French took over this sector on 2 June, and held it successfully against more German probing attacks. The last troops were evacuated from Dunkirk overnight 3 and 4 June with about 50,000 French troops were taken off. About 40,000 French soldiers were left behind to surrender the next morning.

With the return of the Corps from France, it was located in the Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire area. It retained under command the:

- 1st Infantry Division,
- 2nd Infantry Division,
- 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division.

In late 1941, as part of a reorganisation, the corps was redesignated as I Corps District, reflecting its status as a static command. In 1942, the Corps began exercising battle movement and the handling of armoured divisions. The Corps staff was also exercised to bring them up to operational standards for modern warfare. The 4th Infantry Division transferred from V Corps to join this Corps on 26 October 1942. It left on 6 February 1943 to prepare for deployment to North Africa to reinforce 1st Army. A directive in March 1943 ordered the corps to commence planning and training for an assault against a defended beach. In June of that year, a Corps training camp was established in Scotland, and this coincided with the appointment of Lieutenant General J. T. CROCKER as the Corps Commander. The training built-up from sub-unit exercises, to a full divisional exercise in September and October. There was a lot of issues to discover, identify and solve, ranging from fire support to the employment of airborne troops. Increasingly, the Corps began working with the 79th Armoured Division and specialist engineers. In March 1943, the 3rd Infantry Division joined the Corps, followed by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division in December 1943 and the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division in February 1944. The 6th Airborne Division came under command in May 1944, to complete the formations that would lead the invasion of France. The final pre-invasion exercises were held between January and May 1944, and the briefing of troops commenced.

Under command of 2nd Army and 21st Army Group, elements from the Corps landed at Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944, with under command:

- 3rd Infantry Division,
- 3rd Canadian Infantry Division,
- 51st (Highland) Infantry Division,
- 6th Airborne Division.

The 6th Airborne Division was dropped on high ground east of the River Orne to secure the crossings over the river and the Caen Canal. The 3rd Infantry Division landed on Sword Beach, the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on Juno Beach, and the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division was the immediate follow-up formation. The invasion was a great undertaking in so many ways, and although the objectives set for the Corps on D-Day were not achieved, by the end of the day, the Corps was firmly established ashore.

The airborne forces landed by glider and parachute soon after midnight on 5 June, including a coup-de-main plan to seize the bridges over the canal and river vital to British plan. The 5th Parachute Brigade landed and secured the landing grounds. The 3rd Parachute Brigade landed to the east of the River Orne, including the capturing the coastal battery at Merville. The seaborne landings commenced at 07.30 hours, and by midnight the Canadians had penetrated six miles inland. The 3rd Infantry Division made slower progress, but by close of the day, it was well established on-shore. Over the next few days, the British and their Allies landed more troops and materiel, and steadily advanced inland towards Caen.

By 10 June, German armoured units were facing I Corps, and the advance slowed up. The 51st Infantry Division was deployed to the east of the River Orne to support the 6th Airborne Division. There was no space for I Corps to launch the major attacks to secure Caen and force the German forces back, so XXX Corps and the newly arrived XII Corps were used on the right of I Corps. A minor attack was made by I Corps on 22 June to support a major offensive by XXX Corps (Operation Epsom). Meanwhile, the U.S. forces were in the process of capturing Cherbourg and securing the peninsula.

The focus for I Corps was the capture of Caen, with an attack made by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on 4 July towards Carpiquet airfield, with another attack taking place on 8 July by three divisions. By the end of the next day, British troops were in Caen, although the town was in ruins. The formations within the 2nd Army were reorganised with the arrival of VIII Corps, which took command of the three standard armoured divisions. 'Operation Goodwood' was the main attack launched on 18 July, with the main thrust made by VIII Corps. I Corps was on the left flank and the II Canadian Corps on the right.

On 21 July 1944, the Corps came under command of the 1st Canadian Army as that H.Q. was opened in Normandy. Following the breakout from Normandy, the Corps crossed the lower reaches of the River Seine on 30 August, the 49th Infantry Division crossing with the Royal Netherlands Brigade near Vieux Port and the 51st Infantry Division near Duclair. The 51st Infantry Division was allowed to liberate St. Valery, where the bulk of the Division had been captured on 12 June 1940, which it achieved on 1 September 1944. Meanwhile, the 49th Infantry Division moved to invest Le Havre. It was joined on the 4th September by the 51st Infantry Division, together with the 33rd Armoured Brigade and 34th Armoured Brigade. The assault on the port commenced on 10 September, with the German forces surrendering two days later.

On 23 September, Headquarters I Corps opened south-east of Antwerp and the Corps took over the front south-east of the city. The 49th Infantry Division crossed the Antwerp –Turnhout canal on 24 September, but progress was slow. On 30 September 1944, the 51st Infantry Division transferred to XII Corps. To balance this, the 1st Polish Armoured Division transferred to this Corps from II Canadian Corps on 24 September 1944. By mid-October, all offensive operations by the 21st Army Group had ceased with the exception of those to clear the Scheldt estuary. II Canadian Corps led this operation, with I Corps playing a subsidiary role. The 49th Infantry Division needed relief by the end of October 1944, so the United States 104th Infantry Division came under command of the I Corps on 23 October 1944, having landed in France on 7 September 1944. The division commenced an advance into Holland on 25 October, liberating Zudert, gaining control of the Breda – Roosendall road, and seizing the Vaart Canal. The division continued to advance to reach the Maas River on 5 November 1944. From here, it was transferred to the U.S. 1st Army on 5 November 1944 and moved to Aachen.

The Winter months were relatively quiet, with patrolling the main activity undertaken by the Corps. I Corps did not have a major role in Operation Veritable, intended to clear the Maas and Waal riverbanks in February 1945. Neither did the Corps have any role in meeting the Ardennes offensive at the earlier in the year. On 1 April 1945, the Corps returned to the command of 2nd Army. Its role was to take over the administrative area in the rear of 2nd Army for the crossing of the River Rhine. With the cessation of hostilities in North West Europe, the Corps was converted to a static role, being redesignated as I Corps District with effect from 21 May 1945. The I Corps District assumed responsibility for the Rhineland area of Germany, with its headquarters at Walbeck; later moving to Rhede and Iserlohn in mid-June 1945. It had under command during this period the following formations:

- Guards Infantry Division,
- 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division,
- 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division,
- 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division.

The Guards Infantry Division had been formed by the conversion of the Guards Armoured Division immediately after the cessation of hostilities. In August 1946, the 5th (Guards) Infantry Brigade was deployed to West Berlin. The 6th (Guards) Infantry Brigade was based around Hamburg. The third infantry brigade in the division, the 32nd (Guards) Infantry Brigade disbanded in December 1946, together with the divisional headquarters. The 52nd Infantry Division started to run down at the beginning of 1946 and was formally disbanded in August 1946.

The Corps was kept busy with dealing with displaced persons and freed prisoners of war. Transit camps were set up for various nationalities. Trains were organised between July and September 1945 taking people back to their home countries. The Corps had to organise food, clothing, medical facilities, and fuel. German prisoners of war and internees were released gradually. There were about 175,000 displaced persons repatriated by September 1945, but there were still over 70,500 other awaiting transport. The headquarters I Corps District disbanded on 1 June 1947. It was reformed in Germany in June 1951 as part of the British Army of the Rhine.

Corps Commander

3 September 1939 – 22 April 1940

Lieutenant General Sir John Greer DILL, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

22 April 1940 – 31 May 1940¹

Lieutenant General Michael George Henry BARKER, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

31 May 1940 – 15 December 1940²

Lieutenant General (Acting) Harold Rupert Leofric George ALEXANDER, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C*,
i.d.c., *p.s.c.*

15 December 1940 – 11 May 1941

Lieutenant General (Acting) Laurence CARR, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12 May 1941 – 13 May 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Henry Beresford Dennitts WILLCOX, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

14 May 1942 – 12 April 1943

Lieutenant General (Acting) Frederick Edgworth MORGAN, C.B., *p.s.c.*

15 April 1943 – 29 July 1943

Lieutenant General (Acting) Gerard Corfield BUCKNALL, M.C., *p.s.c.*³

1 August 1943 – 15 May 1945

Lieutenant General (Temporary) John Tredinnick CROCKER, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

10 June 1945 – 23 September 1945

Lieutenant General (Temporary) Sir Sidney Chevalier KIRKMAN, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

18 September 1945 – June 1947

Lieutenant General (Acting) Gwilym Ivor THOMAS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

¹ With the evacuation of the B.E.F. from Dunkirk, I Corps was designated as the rearguard to maintain the line whilst the British and French forces were evacuated. On 31 May, Lieutenant General BARKER was relieved of his command and returned to the U.K.

² Major General ALEXANDER was commanding the 1st Infantry Division when he was appointed to command the Corps at Dunkirk. At this time, he retained the rank of Major General, with his appointment and promotion confirmed on 8 June 1940 when he was promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant General. He was promoted to the substantive rank of Lieutenant General on 1 July 1940.

³ Awarded the C.B. on 2 June 1943.

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

3 September 1939 – 4 February 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur Ernest PERCIVAL, D.S.O.*, O.B.E., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

5 February 1940 – 7 June 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) William Corson HOLDEN, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

22 June 1940 – 31 May 1941

Brigadier (Acting) William Duthie MORGAN, D.S.O., M.C., R.A., *p.s.c.*

10 May 1943 – 2 July 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Philip Maxwell BALFOUR, M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

3 July 1945 – 29 October 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Barrington De FONTBLANQUE, C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

Deputy Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General – (D.A. & Q.M.G.)

1 September 1939 – 20 January 1941

Brigadier (Acting) John Gregson HALSTED, D.S.O., M.C.

21 January 1941 – 1 May 1942

Not currently known.

2 May 1942 – 8 November 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Cecil Francis DREW, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

9 November 1942 – 11 July 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Harry Hamilton DEMPSEY, *p.s.c.*

10 June 1943 – 27 February 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Harry Leicester LONGDEN, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*, Dorset R.

1 March 1945 – 19 April 1945

Not currently known

20 April 1945 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Patrick George TURPIN, O.B.E., R.A.S.C., *p.s.c.*

1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Peter Hugh de HAVILLAND, C.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.*

Corps Commander, Royal Artillery – (C.C.R.A.)

2 September 1939 – 18 June 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Francis Henry Norman DAVIDSON, D.S.O., M.C.*

19 June 1940 – 19 October 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) John Redmond BARRY, D.S.O., *g*.⁴

October 1941 – 7 March 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Gwilym Ivor THOMAS, D.S.O., M.C.* , *p.s.c.*

8 March 1942 – 30 June 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Eric Grenville EARLE, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

1 July 1943 – 12 December 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) Lionel Charles MANNERS-SMITH, *p.s.c.*⁵

22 June 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Neutville CROSSE, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Corps Commander Medium Artillery – (C.C.M.A.)

2 September 1939 – 25 June 1940

Brigadier (Acting) Fendall William Harvey PRATT, M.C., R.A., G.

Chief Engineer – (C.Eng.)

3 September 1939 – 25 November 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

26 November 1940 – 12 April 1942

Brigadier (Acting) John Drummond INGLIS, O.B.E., M.C.

13 April 1942 – 30 August 1942

Not currently known

1 September 1942 – 28 January 1944

Brigadier (Acting) John Talbot GODFREY, *p.s.c.*

25 January 1944 – 25 October 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) Alexander Douglas CAMPBELL, D.S.O., M.C., B.A., R.E.

26 October 1944 – 21 May 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Harold Elwis PIKE, D.S.O., R.E.

Chief Engineer, I Corps District

21 May 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Acting) Harold Elwis PIKE, D.S.O., R.E.⁶

⁴ Awarded the C.B.E. on 27 August 1940

⁵ Awarded the C.B.E. on 28 September 1944

⁶ Awarded the C.B.E. on 24 January 1946.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

2 September 1939 – 9 August 1940

Colonel Courtney William FLADGATE.

29 June 1943 – 20 May 1945

Colonel (Temporary) Christopher CHILDS, R.Sigs⁷

Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)

2 September 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Claude Le Bas GOLDNEY, M.C.

Deputy Director of Medical Services – (D.D.M.S.)

2 September 1939 – June 1940

Colonel Francis Romney COPPINGER, O.B.E., M.B.

26 June 1940 – September 1941

Brigadier (Acting) Alexander Dickson STIRLING, D.S.O., M.B.

12 June 1943 – 13 January 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Quentin Vaughan Brooks WALLACE, O.B.E., M.C., M.B., R.A.M.C.

14 January 1945 – 30 October 1945

[Brigadier \(Acting\) John Travers McCONKEY, R.A.M.C.](#)

31 October 1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Acting) Frederick Knowles ESCRITT, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.

Deputy Director of Ordnance Services – (D.D.O.S.)

Brigadier Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

1 April 1945 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) Frederick Maurice HEXT, R.E.

⁷ Promoted Acting Brigadier on 7 September 1943, and Temporary Brigadier on 7 March 1944. He was awarded the C.B.E. on 1 February 1945, and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 15 February 1945

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