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CENTRAL COMMAND, INDIA (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A short history of Central Command, India between 1942 and 1946, and details of the key appointments held in Central Command within that period.

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A Concise History of Central Command, India.

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Central Command, India

With the outbreak of war with Japan in December 1941, and the loss of Burma, the threat of invasion by Japanese forces increased significantly. The Commander-in-Chief of The Army in India, General WAVELL, restructured the Indian Army to meet this threat. Eastern Command and Southern Command became the Eastern Army and Southern Army respectively, giving them an operational role. At the same time, Northern Command became the North Western Army on a similar basis, with its main role remaining control of the North-West Frontier with Afghanistan and Iran. A new command, called Central Command, came into being in May 1942 to focus on internal security within central India. Its headquarters were located at Lucknow.

Central Command assumed responsibility for the Lahore District from the Northern Command, the Meerut District and Lucknow District from Eastern Command, and the Sind Brigade Area from the Baluchistan District (formerly the Western Independent District). By January 1945, it comprised the following Districts:

- Lahore District,
- Lucknow District,
- Delhi District,
- Nagur District.

By January 1945, the Sind Brigade Area had been redesignated as the Sind District and was under command of the North Western Army. The Meerut District had been downgraded to the Meerut Sub-Area within the Delhi District by this date. With the end of the Second World War, India Command was reorganised into three Commands: Southern, Northern and Eastern. Central Command was disbanded in September 1946. The Lahore District came under command of Northern Command, Lucknow District transferred to Eastern Command as the United Provinces Area, and the Meerut Sub-Area, came under command of Eastern Command.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief

26th May 1942 – 19th November 1944

Lieutenant General (Temporary) [Henry Beresford Dennitts WILLCOX](#), C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

20th November 1944 – 18th December 1944 (Officiating)

[Lieutenant General \(Acting\) Cyril Maton Periam DURNFORD](#), C.B., C.I.E., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

19th December 1944 – 4th May 1946

Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Allan Percival SCOONES, K.B.E., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

5th May 1946 – 6th September 1946

Lieutenant General (Acting) Dudley RUSSELL, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

2nd June 1946 – 19th September 1946 (Officiating)

Major General (Acting) Richard Freeman COLWILL, C.B.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

5th May 1942 – 26th November 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Thomas SCOTT, Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

27th November 1943 – September 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) George Fothergill ELLENBERGER, M.C., K.O.Y.L.I., *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 1st Grade

23rd August 1942 – 1943¹

[Brigadier \(Temporary\) Guy NADIN](#), Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

¹ It is not known when NADIN's appointment ended.

Major General in charge of Administration

29th April 1942 – August 1943

Major General (Acting) Frederick John ALFIERI, Indian Army

17th August 1943 – 11th September 1945

Major General Cyril Maton Periam DURNFORD, C.I.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

12th September 1945 – 5th January 1946

Vacant?

6th January 1946 – 1st June 1946

Major General (Acting) Godfrey Maxwell DYER, D.S.O., O.B.E., 20 Lancers, *p.s.c.*

2nd June 1946 – 19th September 1946

Major General (Acting) Richard Freeman COLWILL, C.B.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

Assistant Adjutant-General

May 1942 – 14th September 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Kenneth Alfred GARRETT, M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

Colonel (Q)

23rd May 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Acting) J. CLARK, O.B.E., (Special Unemployed List), Indian Army

23rd May 1945 – 1946

Lieutenant Colonel W. L. ALSTON, O.B.E., 6 Raj Rif., *p.s.c.*

Assistant Quarter-Master-General

26th May 1942 – 1946

Colonel (Temporary) G. R. CLARKE, 2 Punjab R.

Brigadier Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)

28th December 1942 – 27th June 1944

Brigadier (Acting) Joseph William ENGLISH, R.A.

28th June 1944 – 13th August 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Reginald George PRICE, R.A., *p.s.c.*

23rd January 1946 – September 1946

Brigadier Edward Percy Noel JONES, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Chief Engineer – (C.Eng.)

3rd May 1942 – 12th August 1943

Brigadier Cecil Vivian Staveley JACKSON, C.I.E., C.B.E.

13th August 1943 – 7th February 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Walter Donald Morris CHRISTIE.

8th February 1945 – June 1945

Brigadier Sir Millis Rowland JEFFERIS, K.B.E., M.C.

13th June 1945 – September 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Charles de LISLE GAUSSEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Deputy Chief Engineer

24th May 1942 – 1943

Colonel (Temporary) E. V. BOWRA, O.B.E., R.E.

13th June 1942 – 1946

Colonel K. J. LEE, M.C.

24th March 1943 – 1944

Colonel (Acting) F. E. CHIVERS, R.E.

20th October 1943 – September 1946

Colonel (Temporary) R. S. HORNER, R.E.

29th November 1944 – September 1946

Colonel (Acting) R. V. M. BUCHANAN, M.C., R.E.

Director of Works

8th February 1945 – 1946

Brigadier Serald John ARMSTRONG, O.B.E., M.C.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

13th July 1942 – 1945

Colonel E. V. F. MacSWINEY, R. Signals

3rd July 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) William Charles Vernon GALWEY, O.B.E., M.C.

1946 – September 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) John Frankland CHARLESWORTH, O.B.E.

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

28th April 1942 – 1st November 1943

Brigadier (Acting) John Stephen Osborne ELLISON, R.I.A.S.C.

2nd November 1943 – 24th July 1945

Brigadier (Acting 06/11/43) Robert Hindmarsh STUBBS, R.I.A.S.C.²

25th July 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Acting 28/03/45) B. S. SOWTON, O.B.E., R.I.A.S.C.

January 1946 – March 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Freeman COLWILL, C.B.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*³

Deputy Director of Supplies

12th February 1944 – September 1946

Colonel (Acting) J. R. BROWN, O.B.E., Special Unemployed List, Indian Army

Deputy Director of Remounts

1st September 1944 – 1946

Lieutenant Colonel T. J. COMERFORD, Indian Army

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

31st July 1942 – 4th December 1942

Major General (Acting) Treffry Owen THOMPSON, C.B.E., M.D.

5th December 1942 – 5th March 1945

Major General John Simson Stuart MARTIN, M.B., Ch. B (Edin), M.R.C.P.

6th March 1945 – September 1946

Major General David Vincent O'MALLEY, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., B.Ch.

² Awarded the C.I.E. on the 1st January 1946

³ COLWILL was absent on STIFF leave between March and 16th April 1946.

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

At July 1943

Colonel A. V. D. JONES, I.A.O.C.

Brigadier Indian Army Ordnance Corps

14th August 1942 – 1st January 1944

Brigadier (Acting) Walter William LINNEY, O.B.E., Indian Army

2nd January 1944 – February 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Frederick William STEVENS, Indian Army

4th February 1945 – September 1946

Brigadier (Acting) W. T. SANDY, I.A.O.C.

Deputy Director of Ordnance Services

4th February 1945 – September 1946

Colonel (Acting) L. VERRIERES, I.A.O.C.

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

1st May 1942 – 30th April 1943

Brigadier (Acting) William HESKETH, I.A.O.C.

Brigadier Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – (I.E.M.E.)

1st May 1943 – 14th May 1943

Brigadier (Acting) William HESKETH, I.E.M.E.

15th May 1943 – 21st June 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Alexander Gunn DUNLOP, Indian Army

15th July 1943 – September 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Gervase Mignon Boriase COOKE, O.B.E., A.M.I.A.E., Indian Army

Deputy Director of Veterinary Services

1945 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) W. SINTON, M.B.E., R.A.V.C.

Command Education Officer

4th September 1944 – 1946

Lieutenant Colonel W. T. LUNT, M.B.E., B.Sc., A.E.C.

Deputy Judge Advocate-General

19th January 1944 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) D. D. W. HUTCHINSON, R.I.A.S.C.

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