

2020

[www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk](http://www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk)

Author: Robert PALMER, M.A.

**A CONCISE HISTORY OF:**

# **MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE BRANCH (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)**

A short history of General Headquarters India Command between 1938 and 1947, and details of the key appointments held in G.H.Q. India during that period.

Copyright ©www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk (2020)

**A Concise History of the M.G.O. Branch of G.H.Q. India**

Version: 1\_1  
This edition dated: 1 October 2020  
ISBN: Not yet allocated.

All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means including; electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, scanning without prior permission in writing from the publishers.

Author: Robert PALMER (copyright held by author)  
Assisted by: Stephen HEAL  
Published privately by: The Author – Publishing as:  
[www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk](http://www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk)

## Branch of the Master General of the Ordnance

The Master General of the Ordnance was a Lieutenant General's appointment, and his main responsibility was the provision of vehicles, equipment, artillery, shells and ammunition for the Indian Army. The head of the Branch was usually an officer from the Royal Artillery. At the outbreak of war, there was one Major General in the Branch who held the appointment as Deputy Master General of the Ordnance and also Director of Ordnance Services. In early 1940, these posts were separated with an additional Major General posted into the Branch.

There were two Directorates in the Branch, namely:

- Directorate of Armaments and Mechanization;
- Directorate of Ordnance Services.

In April 1942, the Directorate of Armaments and Mechanisation was spilt into two separate Directorates, each headed by a Brigadier. In February 1943, a new Directorate of Mechanical Engineering was established in the Branch, which became the head of the new Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1943.

### POST WAR CONTRACTION AND PARTITION

At the end of the Second World War, in November 1945 the number of officers based at G.H.Q. India was:

- Lieutenant Generals = 8
- Major Generals = 30
- Brigadiers = 83
- Colonels = 102
- Others = 2,375

With the end of hostilities, the political pressure was raised to rapidly reduce the number of personnel at G.H.Q.. There were already some vacancies as with the introduction of 'Python' leave for British Army who had served more than three years, eight months in the Far East, there was a shortage of suitably trained and experienced staff officers. In the period from August 1945 to November 1945, three Brigadier's posts had already been abolished, and by the end of the year, further reductions planned were:

- Major Generals = 2
- Brigadiers = 15
- Colonels = 20

- Others = 729

G.H.Q. India remained in existence until the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, when it was disbanded upon the partition of India and Pakistan. A new Headquarters, Pakistan Army was formed by Northern Command, and a new Headquarters of the Indian Army took over the headquarters in Delhi. A Supreme Commander of British Forces in India and Pakistan was retained for a short period of time under Field Marshal AUCHINLECK to transfer responsibilities to the new armies and to organise the withdrawal of British Army units and British former officers and men of the British Indian Army.

The office of Supreme Commander closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1947 upon the formal retirement of Field Marshal AUCHINLECK. Major General L. G. WHISTLER had been appointed the General Officer Commanding British Troops in India in 1947, and remained in command until the very last British unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) left on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1948. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) had been the last British Army unit to leave Pakistan on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1948.

Some British officers remained in senior positions in both the Indian and Pakistani Armies until well into the 1950's.

## Branch of the Master-General of The Ordnance

### Master General of Ordnance

1<sup>st</sup> April 1938 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 1942

Lieutenant General Sir Charles Clement ARMITAGE, K.C.B, C.M.G., D.S.O., Col Commd't R.A., *p.s.c.*

1<sup>st</sup> April 1942 – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1944

Lieutenant General Clarence August BIRD, C.B., D.S.O.<sup>1</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Lieutenant General (Acting) Kenneth Morley LOCH, C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

14<sup>th</sup> July 1945 – 20<sup>th</sup> August 1945 (Temporary)

Lieutenant General (Acting) William Corson HOLDEN, C.S.I., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c., g.*

### Deputy Master General of the Ordnance

27<sup>th</sup> May 1938 – 12<sup>th</sup> March 1940

Major General W. H. McN. VERSCHOYLE-CAMPBELL, O.B.E., M.C.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1941

Major General (Acting) Stanley Woodburn KIRBY, O.B.E., M.C. \* *i.d.c., p.s.c*

1<sup>st</sup> October 1941 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 1943

Major General (Acting) Harold PRICE-WILLIAMS, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1943 – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1944

Major General Kenneth Morley LOCH, C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

8<sup>th</sup> May 1944 – August 1946

Major General William Corson HOLDEN, C.S.I., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c., g.*

August 1946 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 1946

1<sup>st</sup> January 1947 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Major General (Temporary) Gerald BRUNSKILL, C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Created K.C.I.E. and knighted on 1 January 1943.

**Deputy Master-General of the Ordnance (Supply Department)**12<sup>th</sup> September 1945 – 16<sup>th</sup> December 1946Major General Ernest WOOD, C.B., C.I.E., M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.***Deputy Master General of the Ordnance (Additional)**12<sup>th</sup> September 1942 – 27<sup>th</sup> February 1945

Major General (Acting) Robert Hallam STUDDERT, D.S.O., M.C.

7<sup>th</sup> August 1943 – July 1946Major General (Temporary) James Noel THOMSON, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.***Assistant Master General of Ordnance**10<sup>th</sup> October 1937 – 12<sup>th</sup> March 1940Brevet Colonel Stanley Woodburn KIRBY, O.B.E., M.C.\*<sup>1</sup>**Overseas Liaison Officer**5<sup>th</sup> June 1941 – 1942/3

Major General W. H. McN. VERSCHOYLE-CAMPBELL, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.C. Retired Pay (Reserve of Officers)

---

<sup>1</sup> Promoted Colonel on 1 July 1938 and Temporary Brigadier on 3 September 1939.

**PROVISION, CO-ORDINATION and SUPPLY****Brigadier Provision, Co-ordination and Supply**

20<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) E. S. B. GAFFNEY, C.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.*

20<sup>th</sup> November 1944 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Algernon Ransome WALLIS, O.B.E., R.I.A.S.C., *p.s.c.*

**Deputy Brigadier Provision, Co-ordination and Supply**

5<sup>th</sup> February 1944 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) C. J. TOYNE, Special Unemployed List, Indian Army

**DIRECTORATE OF ARMAMENTS AND MECHANIZATION****Director of Armaments and Mechanization**

1<sup>st</sup> April 1939 – 26<sup>th</sup> May 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Roger CROFTON, M.C., Indian Army,

**Deputy Director of Mechanization**

29<sup>th</sup> August 1940 – January 1941

Colonel C. B. EVANS, Indian Army

**Deputy Director of Armaments**

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1940 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 1940

Colonel Edgar William ROGERS, I.A.O.C.

**Chief Inspector of Armaments**

10<sup>th</sup> August 1940 – 26<sup>th</sup> May 1942

Colonel Edgar William ROGERS, I.A.O.C.



## DIRECTORATE OF ARMAMENTS

### Director of Armaments

27<sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Acting) Edgar William ROGERS, C.I.E., I.O.A.C.

### Chief Inspector of Armaments

27<sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> May 1945

Colonel (Acting) Richard Clarke LYONS, M.C., I.A.O.C.<sup>1</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> May 1945 – 1946/7

Colonel (Acting) K. H. JAMES, I.A.O.C.

### Deputy Directors of Armaments

24<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – 1946/7

Colonel (Acting) R. MARTIN, M.C., I.A.O.C., *p.a.c.*

9<sup>th</sup> September 1944 – 1946/7

Colonel (Acting) H. G. PARCELL, M.C., I.A.O.C.

19<sup>th</sup> August 1945 – 1946/7

Colonel C. A. F. DRUMMOND, O.B.E.

---

<sup>1</sup> Promoted Colonel on 26 August 1942.

**DIRECTORATE OF MECHANIZATION****Director of Mechanization**

12<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) E. McGUINNESS, M.I.Mech.E, R.A.O.C.

15<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) William HESKETH, A.M.I.C.E., I.A.O.C.

**Deputy Director of Mechanization**

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1944 – 1946/7

Colonel (Acting 14/11/43) Thomas Vernon HARRISON, I.E.M.E.

**DIRECTORATE OF SALVAGE****Controller of Salvage**

16<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Acting) George De Le Poer BERESFORD, C.B., M.C., *Indian Reserve of Regular Officers.*

**CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INSPECTION**

**Controller General of Inspection**

15<sup>th</sup> December 1940 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Dean Townsend WOOLFE, M.C.<sup>1</sup>

**Deputy Controller General of Inspection**

4<sup>th</sup> August 1941 – 1945/6

Colonel A. F. F. THOMAS, C.I.E., Indian Army

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1944 – 1945/6

Colonel (Temporary) R. G. CHRISTIE, R.E.

28<sup>th</sup> November 1944 – 1946/7

Colonel (Temporary) S. T. WILLIS, I.A.O.C.

---

<sup>1</sup> Awarded the C.I.E. on 1 January 1942.

## Directorate of Ordnance Services

### Director of Ordnance Services and Deputy Master General of the Ordnance

27<sup>th</sup> May 1938 – 12<sup>th</sup> March 1940

Major General William Henry McNeile VERSCHOYLE-CAMPBELL, O.B.E., M.C.

### Director of Ordnance Services

13<sup>th</sup> March 1940 – 4<sup>th</sup> June 1941

Major General William Henry McNeile VERSCHOYLE-CAMPBELL, O.B.E., M.C.

5<sup>th</sup> June 1941 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 1945

Major General (Acting) George Ledsam Seymour HAWKINS, C.B., M.C., Indian Army

5<sup>th</sup> January 1945 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Major General (Acting) Robert Stedman LEWIS, O.B.E., Indian Army<sup>1</sup>

### Deputy Director(s) of Ordnance Services

24<sup>th</sup> March 1940 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 1940

Brigadier (Acting 1/6/40) Richard Dean Townsend WOOLFE, M.C., Indian Army

15<sup>th</sup> December 1940 – 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Herbert Edwin Abrahall MORRIS, O.B.E., I.A.O.C.

11<sup>th</sup> September 1941 – 1944

Colonel (Acting) R. M. JONAS, Special Unemployed List, Indian Army

19<sup>th</sup> June 1942 – 1944

Colonel (Temporary) H. PATERSON, I.A.O.C.

18<sup>th</sup> November 1943 – 29<sup>th</sup> December 1943

Colonel (Temporary) Seymour Willoughby ANKETELL-JONES, O.B.E., M.C., I.A.O.C.

9<sup>th</sup> June 1943 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Robert Stedman LEWIS, O.B.E., I.A.O.C.

18<sup>th</sup> February 1944 – 14<sup>th</sup> January 1945

Brigadier (Acting) C. G. REYNOLDS, R.A.O.C.

15<sup>th</sup> January 1945 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur Victor Douglas JONES, Indian Army

---

<sup>1</sup> Awarded the C.B. on 13 June 1946 in His Majesty's Birthday Honours List.

**Deputy Director of Ordnance Services (Stores)<sup>1</sup>**

9<sup>th</sup> June 1943 – 14<sup>th</sup> January 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Arthur Victor Douglas JONES, I.A.O.C.

15<sup>th</sup> January 1945 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) C. G. REYNOLDS, R.I.A.S.C.

**Inspector Indian Army Ordnance Services**

1<sup>st</sup> April 1939 – 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) A. H. CRAINE, M.C., I.A.O.C.

5<sup>th</sup> July 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) H. PATERSON, I.A.O.C.

19<sup>th</sup> June 1942 – 17<sup>th</sup> November 1943

Colonel (Acting) Seymour Willoughby ANKETELL-JONES, O.B.E., M.C., I.A.O.C.

18<sup>th</sup> November 1943 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) Harold Goldsmid HAYES, Indian Army

**Principal Ordnance Mechanical Engineer**

1<sup>st</sup> April 1939 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) F. MORRIS, C.B.E., M.C., A.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1941 – 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Alfred Travers Fairtlough SMITH, M.C., Indian Army

---

<sup>1</sup> Role also shown as Brigadier Ordnance Stores.

**DIRECTORATE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

**Director of Mechanical Engineering**

5<sup>th</sup> February 1943 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 1946

Major General (Acting) David Robertson DUGUID, M.B.E., A.M.I.E.E., A.I.Mech.E, R.E.M.E.

1<sup>st</sup> March 1946 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 (Partition)

Major General (Acting) Alfred Travers Fairtlough SMITH, M.C., A.M.I.C.E., Indian Army

**Deputy Director of Mechanical Engineering**

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1941 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 1946

Brigadier (Acting) Alfred Travers Fairtlough SMITH, M.C., A.M.I.C.E., Indian Army

12<sup>th</sup> December 1942 – 1945/6

Colonel (Acting) Luther Gladstone SMITH, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1943 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 1945

Colonel (Temporary) Gordon Drummond YOUNG, O.B.E., M.C., I.A.O.C.

30<sup>th</sup> August 1944 – 1945/6

Colonel (Temporary) E. H. APPS, R.E.M.E.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES:

The Monthly Army List January 1930

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps

<http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

The Monthly Army List July 1937

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps

<http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1938

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea>

The Monthly Army List April 1938

Available From: S & N Genealogy

<http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>

The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1939

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1940grea>

The Monthly Army List April 1940

Available From: S & N Genealogy

<http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>

The Quarterly Army List July 1940

### **Services of British Army Officers & cc 1939 – 1945**

Published by Savanna Publications 1999 as reprint of the Half-Yearly Army List January 1946 90, Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, LONDON. SE23 3HZ [ISBN 1 902366 02 6]

### **Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives – Location Register**

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lhcma/searchlocreg.cgi>

[Last Accessed 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011]

### **The War Against Japan**

By: Major General S Woodburn KIRBY, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., O.B.E., M.C. and others

Volume I – The Loss of Singapore

Volume II – India's Most Dangerous Hour

Volume III – The Decisive Battles

Volume IV – The Reconquest of Burma

Volume V – The Surrender of Japan

First Published: H.M.S.O. (1958)

This edition published by: The Naval and Military Press Ltd (2004)

### **Who Was Who**

Volume III 1929 – 1940

Volume IV 1941 – 1950

Volume V 1951 – 1960

Volume VI 1961 – 1970

Volume VII 1971 – 1980

Volume VIII 1981 – 1990

Volume IX 1991 – 1995

Volume X 1996 – 2000

Cumulative Index

Published by: A & C BLACK Publishers Ltd.

**Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945**

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O in 1960

Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd

[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

**'Loyalty and Honour' – The Indian Army September 1939 – August 1947**

Part I Divisions

Part II Brigades

Part III

By Chris KEMPTON

Published by the Military Press (2003)

[ISBN 0-85420-228-5]

**Companions of The Distinguished Service Order 1923 – 2010 Army Awards**

By; Doug V. P. HEARNS, C.D.

Published by: The Naval and Military Press Ltd, Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Estate, UCKFIELD, East Sussex (2011).

**For Conspicuous Gallantry – Winners of the Military Cross and Bar during the Great War – Volume I Two Bars and Three Bars**

By: Scott ADDINGTON

Published by: Matador, 9 De Montfort Mews, LEICESTER. (2006)

[ISBN 1 905237 43 X]