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# **NORTHERN COMMAND INDIA (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)**

A short history of Northern Command, India, between 1930 and 1947 and details of the key appointments held in Northern Command during that period.

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**A Concise History of Northern Command (History & Personnel)**

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## Northern Command, India

Northern Command in India was a pre-war formation, with its headquarters located at Rawalpindi. It comprised the:

- Peshawar District;
- Kohat District;
- Rawalpindi District;
- Lahore District;
- Waziristan District.

On 21 April 1942, it was redesignated as the North Western Army. The Lahore District transferred to the newly formed Central Command, and the Rawalpindi District was absorbed by the Army Headquarters.

In November 1945, it reverted to the title of Northern Command and the Rawalpindi District was reformed. When Central Command was disbanded circa June 1946, the Lahore Area and Sind Brigade came under command. On 15 August 1947, with the partition of British India, Headquarters Northern Command formed the new Headquarters, Pakistan Army.

**General Officer Commanding-in-Chief**

6<sup>th</sup> June 1936 – 5<sup>th</sup> June 1940

General Sir John Francis Stanhope Duke COLERIDGE, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*, *A.D.C. General to The King.*

6<sup>th</sup> June 1940 – January 1942

Lieutenant General Alan Fleming HARTLEY, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

21<sup>st</sup> January 1942 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 1942

Lieutenant General Cyril Dupre NOYES, C.B., C.I.E., M.C., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

**General Officer Commanding, North Western Army**

21<sup>st</sup> April 1942 – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1943

Lieutenant General Cyril Dupre NOYES, C.B., C.I.E., M.C., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*<sup>1</sup>

24 April 1943 – 20 August 1943

General Sir Edward Pellew QUINAN, K.C.I.E., C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

21<sup>st</sup> August 1943 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 1945

Lieutenant General Henry FINNIS, C.B., M.C., Indian Army,<sup>2</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> June 1945 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1945

Lieutenant General Cecil Wotton TOOVEY, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.\*

**General Officer Commanding-in-Chief**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1945 – May 1946

General Sir Richard Nugent O'CONNOR, K.C.B., D.S.O.\*, M.C.

28<sup>th</sup> May 1946 – 14<sup>th</sup> October 1946 (officiating)

Lieutenant General Douglas David GRACEY, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.\*

15<sup>th</sup> October 1946 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Lieutenant General Sir Frank MESSERVY, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

<sup>1</sup> Created K.C.S.I. on 1 January 1943 and retired on 24 October 1943.

<sup>2</sup> Promoted General and created K.C.B. in 1945. Died in service on 31 May 1945.

**Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)**

1<sup>st</sup> August 1939 – July 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) John Fullerton EVETTS, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

27<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Cyril Maton Periam DURNFORD, C.I.E., Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> October 1941 – 18<sup>th</sup> October 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Malcolm GLOVER, M.B.E., 14<sup>th</sup> Punjab R., *p.s.c.*

19 October 1943 – 10 August 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) John Steventon BALLENTINE, I.A.C., *p.s.c.*

11<sup>th</sup> August 1944 – late 1946

Brigadier (Acting) Maurice Scott BENDLE, 6 Lancers, *p.s.c.*

Late 1946 – August 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Frank McCALLUM, O.B.E., M.C., 9<sup>th</sup> G.R., *p.s.c.*

**Major General i/c Administration**

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

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1938 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 1940

Major General George de la Poer BERESFORD, C.B., M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

21<sup>st</sup> April 1940 – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1941

Major General Roland Debenham INSKIP, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., Special Unemployed List, Indian Army, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> May 1941 – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1944

Major General John Fagan Henslowe NUGENT, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> May 1944 – 21<sup>st</sup> October 1945

Major General (Acting) Douglas BEANLAND, O.B.E., 14 Punjab R, *p.s.c.*

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1945 – 1947

Major General (Acting) Francis James WALSH, R.I.A.S.C., *p.s.c.*<sup>3</sup>

1947 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Major General (Temporary) Thomas SCOTT, C.B., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

**Assistant Adjutant General**

30<sup>th</sup> September 1937 – 1941

Colonel N. G. R. COATS, Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> May 1941 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel H. SHUKER, 1<sup>st</sup> Punjab R.

29<sup>th</sup> October 1942 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) E. R. S. DODS, M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

25<sup>th</sup> June 1943 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel W. S. FURNESS, M.C., Indian Army

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<sup>3</sup> Awarded the C.B.E. on 15 November 1945.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Temporary) J. A. LOWES, A.E.C.

**Assistant Quarter-Master-General(s)**

4<sup>th</sup> June 1940 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 1943

Colonel (Acting) Herbert HANNA, O.B.E., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

1<sup>st</sup> April 1941 – 1945

Colonel R. J. WILKINSON, O.B.E. Retired Indian Army

26<sup>th</sup> June 1941 – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1942<sup>4</sup>

Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur Blair GIBSON, 13<sup>th</sup> F.F.Rif, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> April 1942 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel H. D. WHITTICK, I.A.C., *p.s.c.*

4<sup>th</sup> April 1943 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 1944

Lieutenant Colonel M. S. BENDLE, I.A.C., *p.s.c.*

27<sup>th</sup> January 1944 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel M. P. P. REEVE, 13<sup>th</sup> F. F. Rif, *p.s.c.*

**Brigadier Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)**

15<sup>th</sup> April 1938 – 21<sup>st</sup> April 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) James Noel THOMSON, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

10<sup>th</sup> May 1941 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 1941

Brigadier (Acting) Godfrey de Vere WELCHMAN, O.B.E., M.C., R.A., *g.*

11<sup>th</sup> August 1941 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Arthur Joseph Thomas FARFAN, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., retired pay, *g.*

1<sup>st</sup> January 1943 – 18<sup>th</sup> April 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) John Hugh Bates BIRBECK, R.A.

19<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) G. HORSFIELD, R.A.

**Chief Engineer – (C.Eng.)**

1<sup>st</sup> August 1939 – 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) Horace Eckford ROOME, M.C.<sup>5</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) E. W. PERT, M.C.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Cyril Gordon MARTIN, V.C., C.B.E., D.S.O.

<sup>4</sup> Retired on 22 August 1942 on grounds of ill-health.

<sup>5</sup> Promoted Acting Major General on 21 November 1941.

**Deputy Chief Engineers**

30<sup>th</sup> July 1939 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1941

Colonel Cyril Gordon MARTIN, V.C., C.B.E., D.S.O.

1<sup>st</sup> December 1940 – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1942

Colonel (Acting) G. R. GILPIN, M.C., R.E.

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) W. F. HASTED, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., R.E.

25<sup>th</sup> August 1942 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) G. R. GILPIN, C.B.E., M.C., R.E.

25<sup>th</sup> March 1945 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) J. W. D. MALLINS, M.C., Employed List.

**Commander, Royal Signals – (C.R.Sigs)**

26<sup>th</sup> June 1939 – January 1940

Colonel Ralph E. VYVYAN, M.B.E., M.C. 16/01/41 Acting Brigadier.

16<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – 28 April 1942

[Colonel William Tuxford HOWE, O.B.E.](#)

29<sup>th</sup> April 1942 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel H. R. FIRTH, R. Signals

27<sup>th</sup> October 1943 – 1946

Brigadier (Acting) R. T. WILLIAMS, R. Signals

1947 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

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

**Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport**

1938 – 1940

Brigadier G. E. TOYNBEE

26<sup>th</sup> December 1940 – March 1943

Brigadier (Acting) Leonard William Henry MATHIAS, D.S.O., R.I.A.S.C.

18<sup>th</sup> March 1943 – 26<sup>th</sup> February 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) George William Clement HICKIE, C.B.E., Indian Army

27<sup>th</sup> February 1944 – 26<sup>th</sup> October 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) John Henry SYKES, Indian Army

27<sup>th</sup> October 1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) George William Clement HICKIE, C.B.E., Indian Army

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

9<sup>th</sup> February 1937 – 11<sup>th</sup> March 1940

Major General William Haywood HAMILTON, C.B., C.I.E., C.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service, K.H.P.

6<sup>th</sup> May 1940 – 12<sup>th</sup> July 1941

Major General Archibald Campbell MUNRO, M.D., Indian Medical Service, K.H.P.

4<sup>th</sup> September 1941 – 1945

Major General Heerajee J. M. CURSETJEE, D.S.O., M.B., Indian Medical Service, K.H.S.

12<sup>th</sup> July 1945 – 1946

Major General William Ross STEWART, C.B., C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), F.R.C.S.(Edinburgh), Indian Medical Service.



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

1938 – 1940

Colonel F. H. TOWNSEND

17<sup>th</sup> April 1940 – 1942/3

Colonel H. G. HAYES.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 – 16<sup>th</sup> April 1944

Colonel F. S. CLARKE, Indian Army

**Brigadier, Indian Army Ordnance Corps**

17<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 1946

Brigadier (Acting) H. PATERSON, O.B.E., I.A.O.C.

**Assistant Director of Ordnance Services**

17<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 1945

Colonel F. S. CLARKE, Indian Army

**Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer**

11 April 1939 – 1941

Colonel R. J. WILKINSON, O.B.E., Retired, Indian Army

1<sup>st</sup> April 1941 – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1942

Colonel William HESKETH, I.A.O.C.

29<sup>th</sup> April 1942 – 1943

Colonel William Auchinleck STACK, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E, R.E.M.E.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) William Auchinleck STACK, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E, R.E.M.E.

**Brigadier Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

17<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 10<sup>th</sup> April 1945

Brigadier (Acting) W. A. STACK, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E, R.E.M.E.

11<sup>th</sup> April 1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Acting) Robert Charles HERRON, C.I.E., O.B.E. (IA/594)

**Deputy Director of Veterinary Services**

1938 – 1940

Colonel I. O. ANDREWS

18<sup>th</sup> January 1940 – 1943

Colonel E. G. TURNER, D.S.O.

18<sup>th</sup> January 1944 – 1946

Colonel G. F. STEVENSON, O.B.E., R.A.V.C.

Sources:

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