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WESTERN INDEPENDENT DISTRICT, INDIA HISTORY & PERSONNEL

A concise history of the Western Independent District, India between 1938 and 1942 and details of the key appointments held in this .District during this period.
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A Concise History of the Western Independent District in India

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Western Independent District, India

This District had its Headquarters based in Quetta. It had four brigades under command namely:

- Quetta Brigade: HQ Quetta,
- Khojak Brigade: HQ Quetta,
- Zhob Brigade: HQ Loralai,
- Sind Brigade Area: HQ Karachi.

This District covered the south-west of British India where it borders Afghanistan and Iran. Parts of the region are mountainous, while in the Sind Province, the area is dry, arid desert. The objective of the military presence in the region was internal security, and also maintaining peace amongst the tribesmen who controlled the area.

In April 1942, it was redesignated as the Baluchistan District and came under command of the North Western Army.

General Officer Commanding

20th August 1938 – 19th July 1940

Major General Thomas Jacomb HUTTON, M.C.*

27th July 1940 – 13th February 1941

Major General (Acting) John Fullerton EVETTS, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

12th March 1941 – 15th May 1941

Major General Edward Pellew QUINAN,

16th May 1941 – April 1942

Lieutenant General Edward Felix NORTON, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

General Staff Officer 1st Grade

1st January 1939 – 16th October 1939

Colonel Christopher Michael MALTBY, M.C., Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

17 October 1939 – 30 May 1941

[Colonel Kenneth Arthur GOSNELL, 6 Raj Rif, *p.s.c.*](#)

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

31st May 1941 – 30th April 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Guy NADIN, Unattached List, Indian Army, *p.s.c.*

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

18 December 1938 – 31 July 1940

[Colonel James Dunbar MacKENZIE, Indian Army, *p.s.c.*](#)

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

1 August 1940 – April 1942

[Brigadier \(Acting\) James Dunbar MacKENZIE, Indian Army, *p.s.c.*](#)

Commander Royal Artillery

1939 – 30th January 1941

Colonel H. PRICE-WILLIAMS

Brigadier Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)

1st February 1941 – 30th June 1941

Brigadier E. W. GOODMAN, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.

1st July 1941 – August 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Granville Henry JOHNSTONE, D.S.O., R.A., *g.*

Chief Engineer

1938 – 1939

Colonel H. G. PYNE,

Commander, Royal Engineers (Baluchistan)

1938 – 1939

Lieutenant Colonel T. W. R. HAYCRAFT, R.E.

Commander, Royal Engineers – (C.R.E.)

1st August 1940 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) A. H. B. PAPHILLON.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

1939

Post held by Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command.

Commander, Royal Signals – (C.R.Sigs)

25th October 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel E. V. F. McSWINEY, R. Signals.

Assistant Director Supplies and Transport

1938 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel D. V. BLACK, R.I.A.S.C.

23rd April 1940 – 1941

Lieutenant Colonel R. H. STUBBS, R.I.A.S.C.

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

1938 – 1940

Colonel A. C. MUNRO, Indian Medical Service

8th August 1940 – 1941

Colonel A. A. C. MacNEILL, M.B., Indian Medical Service, K.H.S.

At June 1941

Major General A. A. C. MacNEILL, M.B., Indian Medical Service, K.H.S.

27th March 1941 – 1942

Colonel R. V. MARTIN, C.I.E.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services – (A.D.O.S.)

1939 – 1940

Colonel F. S. CLARKE, I.A.O.C.

4th April 1940 – 1941

Major W. A. F. GRAYSTONE, M.C., I.A.O.C.

8th July 1941 – 1942

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

Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer

19th March 1941 – 18th May 1942

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Theodore JAMES, M.C., I.A.O.C.

Assistant Director of Veterinary Services

1938 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel G. A. KELLY,

Quetta Reconstruction

Chief Engineer

1938 – 1940

Colonel A. H. B. PAPILLON,

Commander Royal Engineers – (C.R.E.)

1938 – 1939

Lieutenant Colonel G. MacL. ROSS, R.E.

1938 – 1939

Lieutenant Colonel W. D. M. CHRISTIE, R.E.

Sources

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