

18<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 18<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. 11<sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

121<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

66<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

18<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Troops Transport Company, R.I.A.S.C.

32<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

18<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Ordnance Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

43<sup>rd</sup> Indian Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

## NOTES:

1. This formation was formed in October 1940 as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division. Brigadier (Acting) Rupert Gordon LOCHNER, M.C., commanded this brigade throughout its existence. It travelled with the division to Basra in Iraq, but in August 1941, it was detached for independent duty at Abadan, in Persia (Iran), where the British had significant interests in the oil refineries located there. In June 1942, the brigade was ordered to Egypt, to come under command of the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division. This is the Order of Battle for the period of June until August 1942. The brigade arrived at El Alamein on 28 June, but was sent immediately to Deir-es-Shein, four miles north-west of the Ruweisat Ridge. On 1 July, the brigade was overwhelmed, without having the time to prepare any major defensive positions. The remnants of the brigade were placed under command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, but it was not reformed, and disbanded in August 1942.
2. At Amiriya, the roll call of the brigade gave the following returns:

Headquarters, 18 <sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section	– 1 Offr, 30 O.Rs.
2 <sup>nd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment	– 12 O.Rs.
4 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 11 <sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment	– 3 Offrs, 370 O.Rs.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles	– 12 Offrs, 580 O.Rs.
121 <sup>st</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery	– Only a few
66 <sup>th</sup> Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers & Miners	– Complete
18 <sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Troops Transport Company, R.I.A.S.C.	– Complete
32 <sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service	– One section missing
18 <sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade Ordnance Company, I.O.A.C.	– Most escaped

## SOURCES:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| BELLIS Malcolm A.                | <i>Divisions of the British Army 1939 – 1945</i> (Published BELLIS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2000) [ISBN 0-9529693-1-9]  |
| BELLIS Malcolm A.                | <i>Commonwealth Divisions 1939 – 1945</i> (England, BELLIS, 1999) [ISBN 0-9529693-0-0]  |
| BLAXLAND, Gregory                | <i>Objective Egypt</i> (London, Frederick Muller Ltd., 1966)  |
| FORD, Ken                        | <i>Gazala 1942 – Rommel's greatest victory</i> (Oxford, Osprey Publishing, 2008) [ISBN 978 1 84603 264 6]   |
| HAMMOND, Bryn                    | <i>El Alamein – The Battle that Turned the Tide of the Second World War</i> (Oxford, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2012) [ISBN 978 1 84908 640 0]   |
| HARRISON, Frank                  | <i>Tobruk, The Great Siege Reassessed</i> (London, Brockhampton Press, 1999) [ISBN 1 86019 986 0]   |
| JOSLEN Lieut-Col H. F. (Ed.)     | <i>Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945</i> (London: H.M.S.O., 1960) (Reprinted London: The London Stamp Exchange Ltd, 1990) [ISBN 0 948130 03 2]  |
| KEMPTON Chris                    | <i>'Loyalty and Honour' – The Indian Army September 1939 – August 1947 Part I Divisions Part II Brigades Part III</i> (Milton Keynes: Military Press, 2003) [ISBN 0-85420-228-5]  |
| LATIMER, Jon                     | <i>Operation Compass 1940</i> (Oxford, Osprey Publishing, 2000) [ISBN 1 85532 967 0]  |
| LATIMER, Jon                     | <i>Alamein</i> (London, Jon Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 2004) [ISBN 0-7195-6203 1]   |
| LUCAS, James                     | <i>War in the Desert – The Eighth Army at El Alamein</i> (London, Arms and Armour Press, 1982) [ISBN 0-85368-549-5]   |
| PRASAD, Bisheshwar, D.Litt (ed.) | <i>The North African Campaign, Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War 1939-45</i> (Delhi, The Government of India, 1956 – Reprinted by: The Pentagon Press, 2012) [ISBN Set 978-81-8274-660-2] |
| STEVENS, Lt Col G. R., O.B.E.    | <i>Fourth Indian Division</i> (Toronto, McLaren and Son Limited, n.d. circa 1948)   |
| THOMPSON, Julian (ed.)           | <i>Forgotten Voices Desert Victory</i> (London, Imperial War Museum and Ebury Press, 2011) [ISBN 978-0-0919-3857-4]   |