

4th Indian Infantry Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Division

5th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 5th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

3rd Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment

4th (Outram's) Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles

7th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽³⁾

Headquarters, 7th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment

4th Bn. 11th Sikh Regiment

4th (Bhopal) Bn. 16th Punjab Regiment

11th Indian Infantry Brigade ⁽⁴⁾

Headquarters, 11th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

1st (Wellesley's) Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles

4th Bn. 7th Rajput Regiment

Divisional Troops

(5)

(6)

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

1st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 11th/80th & 52nd/98th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

4th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁹⁾

(H.Q., 4th/14th & 7th/66th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

(10)

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Divisional Sappers and Miners (11)
4th Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners
12th Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners
18th Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners
(12)
11th Field Park Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Indian Army Service Corps
4th Indian Divisional Headquarters Mechanical Transport Company,
Royal Indian Army Service Corps
4th Indian Divisional Supply Column, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (13)
4th Indian Divisional Ammunition Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (13)
4th Indian Divisional Petrol Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps (13)
12th Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
13th Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
14th Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps
15th Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Divisional Indian Medical Service
14th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service
19th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service
(14)

Headquarters, 4th Indian Infantry Divisional Indian Army Ordnance Corps
17th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
18th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
19th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
20th Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
21st Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps
4th Indian Divisional Ordnance Field Park, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

17th Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

4th Indian Divisional Provost Unit, Indian General Service Corps

NOTES:

1. The 4th Indian Division was one of the four divisional formations existing in the pre-war Indian Army. It was an integral part of the Deccan District, in Southern Command, India, and comprised one cavalry and three infantry brigades. In 1938, it was designated to be the administrative unit of the three brigades designated for overseas deployment, known as Force Heron. The three brigades allocated to Force Heron were the 10th, 11th and 12th Indian Infantry Brigades. The division was ordered to deploy to Egypt in August 1939, travelling in several tranches. The first brigade to arrive was the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade Group, which arrived in Egypt on 11 August 1939. Meanwhile, the 12th Indian Infantry Brigade was sent to Singapore to reinforce Malaya Command. The divisional headquarters and 5th Indian Infantry Brigade sailed from India on 23 September 1939. The 7th Indian Infantry Brigade arrived at Suez on 12 October 1940. Major General The Honourable Percy Gerald SCARLETT, C.B., M.C., was the District Officer Commanding the Deccan District, having assumed that appointment on 27 November 1938. As the 4th Indian Division was an integral part of the District, he effectively held the dual appointments as divisional and district commander. When the division was activated in August 1939, a British Army officer, Major General SCARLETT assumed command of the division, with a new district commander being appointed. On 18 February 1940, Major General SCARLETT was recalled to the War Office in London, as Director of Mobilisation. Major General Philip NEAME, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, replaced him on 26 January, having served as Deputy Chief of Staff of the British Expeditionary Force in France. On 5 August 1940, NEAME was promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant General, so another British Army officer, Major General (Acting) Noel Monson de la Poer BERESFORD-PEIRSE, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, was promoted from Commander Royal Artillery to assume command of the formation. The offensive against the Italian forces commenced on 6 December 1940. Having effected a major victory over the Italian Forces in Egypt, the division was withdrawn to move to the Sudan on 12 December 1940, being replaced by the 6th Australian Infantry Division.
2. This brigade was formed in September 1939 by the redesignation of the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade. The three battalions all transferred from the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade. The brigade travelled with the divisional headquarters, leaving India on 23 September and arriving in Egypt on 4 October 1939. Temporary Brigadier Theophilus John PONTING, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army, commanded the brigade from September 1939 until June 1940, having previously commanded the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade since 1936. Brigadier (Acting) Wilfrid Lewis LLOYD M.C., Indian Army, assumed command in July 1940, and remained in command until 14 June 1941.
3. Formed in June 1940 from the Poona Independent Brigade, this formation was originally intended to join the 5th Indian Infantry Division. The three Regular Indian Army battalions which formed the brigade were the 4th Bn. 11th Sikh Regiment, 3rd Bn. 15th Punjab Regiment, 4th Bn. 16th Punjab Regiment. The 4th/11th Sikhs came from the Landi Kotal Brigade on the North West Frontier; the 3rd/15th Punjabis came from the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade; with only the 4th/16th Punjabis transferring from the Poona Independent Brigade. This was the last brigade to join the division, arriving at Suez on 12 October 1940. En-route, the 3rd/15th Punjabis were landed in Aden, so on arrival in Egypt, the 1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment joined this brigade from the 23rd Infantry Brigade (Canal Brigade). Brigadier (Acting) Harold Rawdon BRIGGS, Indian Army, commanded the brigade from its formation until May 1942. The brigade was not ready for operations in December 1940, so was left out of the division's involvement in Operation Compass. It did, however, deploy to the Sudan with the division in January 1941.

4. This was a pre-war Indian Army formation, which had been formed in the Rawalpindi District under Force Heron, the plan to reinforce British possessions in time of war. It was the first Indian formation to arrive in the Middle East, landing in August 1939. Brigadier (Temporary) Alan Bruce MacPHERSON, M.V.O., M.C., Indian Army, commanded the brigade from August 1939 until 16 March 1940. Brigadier (Acting) Reginald Arthur SAVORY, M.C., *p.s.c.*, Indian Army, then assumed command, remaining in post until September 1941.
5. This unit joined the division as reconnaissance regiment in August 1940:
The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)
6. A British Regular Army unit came under command of the division in April 1940 as the divisional machine gun battalion:
1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers
This battalion was attached during Operation Compass, but remained in Egypt when the division left to move to the Sudan for the campaign in Ethiopia.
7. The Commander Royal Artillery was Brigadier (Temporary) Noel Monson de le Poer BERESFORD-PEIRSE, D.S.O., from his appointment in August 1939. On 5 August 1940, he was promoted to the rank of Acting Major General to assume command of the division, with Brigadier P. MAXWELL, M.C., replacing him as Commander Royal Artillery. He was not in post long, as Brigadier (Acting) William Henry Buchanan MIRRLEES, M.C., a British Army officer, replaced him in September 1940, to remain in post for the next eighteen months.
8. A Regular Army regiment, which in September 1939 was based at Nowshera, under command of the brigade based there. The Nowshera Brigade was part of the Peshawar Area, located on the North West Frontier. It left India in September 1939 and travelled to Egypt, where it joined this division. It remained with this division for the duration of the war.
9. This regiment was a pre-war Regular Army unit which was based in India. It moved to Egypt with the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade in August 1939. It left the division in August 1940, transferring to British Troops in the Sudan, being replaced by:
25th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
(H.Q., 31st/58th (Kirkee-Maiwand) & 12th/25th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
This was another pre-war Regular Army regiment which had arrived in the Middle East from India with the 9th Indian Brigade in September 1940, but transferred to the 4th Indian Division on its arrival in the area.
10. The third field regiment joined the division in October 1940.
31st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
(H.Q., 105th/119th & 116th/118th Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)
This unit had been formed in 1936 in Egypt. At the outbreak of war, it came under command of 7th Infantry Division in Egypt, transferring to H.Q. R.A. Group (Reserve) in Egypt in October 1939. It joined this division from H.Q. R.A. Group.
11. The Commander Sappers and Miners was Lieutenant Colonel R. V. CUTLER, M.B.E., M.C., R.E., from September 1939 until 20 December 1940. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Patrick CAVENDISH, R.E. replaced him, remaining in post until 3 July 1942. During his tenure, he was awarded the D.S.O. and O.B.E..
12. An additional field company joined this division in September 1940. This was:
21st Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners

13. These three units were formed by the 25th, 26th and 28th Mechanical Transport Companies, Royal Indian Army Service Corps. The designation of a supply section, ammunition company and petrol company was in line with British Army practice at the time. It is not known which numbered company formed which role specific company.
14. Another field ambulance joined the division in November 1940, being the:
17th Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service

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11th Indian Infantry Brigade

Headquarters, 11th Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2nd Bn. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

1st (Wellesley's) Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles

4th Bn. 7th Rajput Regiment

16th Infantry Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 16th Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

2nd Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment

1st Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

Divisional Troops

The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse)

1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers ⁽³⁾

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1st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

25th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

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NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle for the division on the commencement of Operation Compass, the counter attack on the Italian troops in Egypt. The 7th Indian Infantry Brigade was not yet ready to join the division, therefore, the 16th Infantry Brigade was attached to the 4th Indian Division for the duration of the operation. Following the initial success of the operation, the 4th Indian Division was withdrawn from Egypt at the end of December to move to East Africa. It was replaced in Operation Compass by the 6th Australian Division. The 16th Infantry Brigade left the 4th Indian Division at this time.
2. The 16th Infantry Brigade was a British pre-war formation, which was based in Palestine under the command of the 8th Infantry Division. It left the command of British Troops in Palestine and Trans-Jordan on 6 September 1940, and moved to Egypt where it arrived on 9 September 1940. On arrival, it came under command of the 4th Indian Division. It participated in the initial actions of Operation Compass, but left the division on 14 December 1940 as the division prepared to move to The Sudan. It came under command of Headquarters, Western Desert Force as an independent formation before joining the 6th Infantry Division on 19 February 1941. The brigade later served in India and Burma as part of Special Force.

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