

## 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, Employment Platoon & Signal Section.  
5<sup>th</sup> Indian Divisional Anti-Tank Company

### 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry <sup>(3)</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> (Royal) (Sikhs) Bn. 12<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Regiment <sup>(4)</sup>

### 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) <sup>(6)</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> (Duke of Connaught's Own) Bn. 10<sup>th</sup> Baluch Regiment

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 18<sup>th</sup> Royal Garhwal Rifles <sup>(7)</sup>

### 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade <sup>(8)</sup>

Headquarters, 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment <sup>(9)</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Punjab Regiment <sup>(10)</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> (Royal Scinde) Bn. 13<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Rifles <sup>(11)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

Skinner's Horse (1<sup>st</sup> Duke of York's Own Cavalry) <sup>(12)</sup>

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Artillery <sup>(13)</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(14)</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(15)</sup>

144<sup>th</sup> (Surrey & Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(16)</sup>

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Divisional Sappers and Miners  
2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners  
20<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners  
21<sup>st</sup> Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners  
44<sup>th</sup> Field Park Company, Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners

5<sup>th</sup> Indian Divisional Signals, Indian Signal Corps

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Divisional Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
20<sup>th</sup> Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
32<sup>nd</sup> Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
33<sup>rd</sup> Supply Issue Section, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
52<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Headquarters Mechanical Transport Section, R.I.A.S.C.  
14<sup>th</sup> Indian Mechanical Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
15<sup>th</sup> Indian Mechanical Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps  
29<sup>th</sup> Indian Mechanical Transport Company, Royal Indian Army Service Corps

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Divisional Indian Medical Service  
3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Casualty Clearing Station, Indian Medical Service  
10<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service  
20<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Medical Service  
7<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Hygiene Section, Indian Medical Service  
12<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Hygiene Section, Indian Medical Service

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Divisional Indian Army Ordnance Corps  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps  
24<sup>th</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps  
25<sup>th</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps  
26<sup>th</sup> Mobile Workshop Company, Indian Army Ordnance Corps

15<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps  
23<sup>rd</sup> Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps  
24<sup>th</sup> Field Post Office, Indian General Service Corps

5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division Provost Unit, Corps of Military Police (India)

## NOTES:

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division was raised in India, and sailed for the Middle East in late 1940 under the command of Major General Lewis Macclesfield HEATH, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., Indian Army. At this stage, the division consisted of two brigades, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. On arrival in the Sudan, three British battalions that formed the 21<sup>st</sup> British Brigade in the Sudan were transferred to this division. A new third brigade was formed, the 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade. One British battalion was posted to each of the three brigades, with the Indian battalions distributed amongst the three brigades. On 12 April 1941, Major General Ashton Gerard Oswald Mosley MAYNE, D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army, assumed command of the division with the promotion of Major General HEATH to command III Indian Corps in Malaya. The division began to leave East Africa on 20 June 1941, moving to Suez, with the exception of the 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade which stayed for another month. The division did not stay in Egypt long, being deployed to Iraq in August 1941. On arrival, the division was sent to Kirkuk. It was only located there for one month, being sent to Cyprus to relieve the 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Infantry Division. It took over responsibility for Cyprus on 3 November 1941. On 12 March 1942, the division returned to Egypt, concentrating at El Hamza. Major General (Acting) Harold Rawdon BRIGGS, D.S.O.\*, Indian Army, assumed command of the division on 8 May 1942 from Major General MAYNE. On 17 May, the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade moved to Tobruk, Divisional H.Q. and 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade were located at El Hamza, and the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade was based in the Sollum area on Lines of Communication duties. On 27 May, the Germans launched their offensive. On 5 June, the division was involved in Operation Aberdeen, a divisional attack on 'The Cauldron'. Both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigades suffered heavy casualties. On 19 June, Divisional H.Q. was withdrawn back to Bagush, with the remnants of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Brigades. The 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade rejoined on 22 June, and on 27 June, the division was ordered to form the rearguard for the withdrawal of XIII Corps. On 14 July, the division took the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade under command from the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division for an attack on Ruweisat Ridge. The next day, the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade took heavy casualties, and was forced off the ridge in a counterattack. On 20 July, the division took the 161<sup>st</sup> Indian Brigade under command, and two days later, the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade again suffered heavily in another attack to stabilize the line at Alam Halfa. On 9 September, the division was withdrawn from the line and moved to Iraq with only the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade under command. In Iraq the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade and 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade joined.
2. This brigade travelled with the division to Iraq and onward to Cyprus. Brigadier (Temporary) Ashton Gerard Oswald Mosley MAYNE, D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army, commanded the brigade from its formation until February 1941. When he was promoted to command a division, he was replaced by Brigadier (Acting) Frank Walter MESSERVY, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army. He remained in command until 13 April 1941, when he was promoted to command a division. Brigadier (Acting) Bernard Campbell FLETCHER, M.C., *p.s.c.*, a British officer in the Highland Light Infantry, assumed command on 13 April 1941, and relinquished command in July 1942. Lieutenant Colonel William Henry LANGRAN, M.C., the commanding officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The West Yorkshires, was promoted to the rank of Acting Brigadier on 23 July 1942 to assume command of the brigade. He remained in command until 22 January 1944. It sailed direct for Egypt from Cyprus in April 1942 when the division left the island.

3. This battalion left the brigade in May 1942 to transfer to 25<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade based in Persia. It was replaced by a unit which transferred in from Persia & Iraq where it had been used on Lines of Communication duties. The replacement battalion was:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 9<sup>th</sup> Jat Regiment.
4. This battalion left the brigade on 6 June 1942 whilst the division was employed on Operation 'Aberdeen', to transfer to the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, with which it was destroyed on 15 June 1942. In July 1942, it was replaced by a battalion formerly employed on garrison duties, namely the:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 14<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment.
5. This was a peacetime brigade and part of the Deccan District. It joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division when that formation was raised. Temporary Brigadier Hugh Robert Charles LANE, D.S.O., O.B.E. was in command of the brigade until 23 September 1939, when Temporary Brigadier William Joseph SLIM, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army, assumed command. He was wounded in Eritrea on 22 January 1941, with Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Charles FLETCHER officiating, until Brigadier (Acting) Thomas Wynford REES, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, 6<sup>th</sup> Rajputana Rifles, assumed command in March 1941. A year later, he was promoted to command the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, to be replaced by another Indian Army officer, Brigadier (Temporary) Charles Hamilton BOUCHER, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*. This brigade was deployed forward during the battle for Gazala. The brigade commander, Brigadier BOUCHER, was captured on 6 June 1942, and the brigade effectively destroyed. Only details escaped capture and returned to Allied Lines. The brigade left the division and reformed in the Delta, where it later came under command of the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division and then served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in Italy.
6. This battalion had joined the brigade in The Sudan. It left the brigade on 23 June 1942 to transfer to the 29<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade. It was replaced on 16 July 1942 by the:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
7. In January 1942, whilst based in Cyprus, this battalion transferred to the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade which was based in Persia. It was replaced by a battalion that joined in May 1942 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade, namely the:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 4<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles
8. This brigade was formed on 12 October 1940 in the Sudan by the redesignation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade. A British officer, Brigadier (Acting) John Charles Oakes MARRIOTT, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., was retained in command of the brigade. He left in October 1941, to be replaced by an Indian Army officer, Brigadier (Acting) Denys Whitehorn REID, D.S.O.\*, M.C.\*. When the division moved to Iraq, this brigade remained in Eritrea until July 1941. It then moved to Egypt as an independent brigade group. It operated in the Western Desert on the Gazala line and at Tobruk. It rejoined the division in April 1942. Part of the brigade was captured on 6 June 1942 at El Adem. The remainder of the brigade moved back and provided the rearguard on the Fuka escarpment on 28 June 1942, where the brigade commander was captured. The brigade was destroyed, and was disbanded with effect from 28 June 1942.
9. The battalion was detached at Gazala, being captured on 22 June 1942 at Tobruk. It was replaced by the:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)  
This battalion transferred in from 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade on 23 June. It was captured on 27 and 28 June 1942.

10. This battalion was virtually destroyed on 25 June, and left the brigade to reform in Egypt. It was replaced by the:  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry  
This battalion transferred in from 25<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade in Iraq, coming under command on 18 May. It was captured on 27 and 28 June 1942.
11. This battalion left the brigade in May 1942 transferring to 19<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade in Iraq. It was replaced by a unit that transferred in from 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade on 6 June, namely:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 12<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Regiment.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> FFR was largely destroyed at El Adem on 15 June, with the remnants captured on the 27 and 28 June.
12. This regiment left the brigade in April 1942. It was not replaced until the division arrived in Iraq in November 1942.
13. Brigadier (Acting) Claude Max VALLENTIN, M.C., *p.s.c.*, was the Commander Royal Artillery from the formation of the division until June 1942. He acted as divisional commander between 8 and 15 May 1942. In June 1942, Brigadier E. C. MANSERGH, O.B.E., M.C., assumed the role as C.R.A. in June 1942, and remained in post until September 1944, when he was promoted to become a divisional commander in Burma.
14. This regiment started the war with the 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade in Egypt, having recently arrived from India. It served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division and this division in Egypt and Eritrea. It then served with BTE and the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division before joining this division in November 1941 whilst stationed on Cyprus. It left this division on 8 September 1942 to transfer to the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division. It later returned to this division on 25 February 1943, and served with this formation in Burma.
15. Starting the war with the Mhow Brigade, it joined this brigade in September 1940, serving in Eritrea and Egypt with the division. It left the division on 16 October 1941 to serve with the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade and 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade in Egypt, Cyprus and Iraq, where it rejoined the division on 19 June 1943 in India.
16. A Territorial Army unit, it was entitled as the 144<sup>th</sup> (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiment in February 1942. It joined this division in December 1940 in The Sudan, but left on 28 August 1941, transferring to BTE. It rejoined this division on 27 April 1942, but left again on 10 May to transfer to Iraq, where it eventually joined the 31<sup>st</sup> Indian Armoured Division. When it left in May 1942, it was replaced by the:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery  
This regiment joined the division on 18 May from 10<sup>th</sup> Indian Division in Iraq. It left on 15 July 1942, serving in Egypt and later in Italy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division.

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