# THE PARTITION TIME LINE

**1946**

August 16 : League’s ‘Direct Action Day’ and Calcutta turned into ‘an inferno’. Clashes in the streets continued upto 20th August  

August 23 : Riots broke out in Allahabad  

August 31 : Evan Jenkins wrote to Lord Wavell about the worsened communal relations in the Punjab  

September 2 : Interim Government under Jawaharlal Nehru took office without the Muslim League  

September 14 : Extreme tension continues in the Punjab  

September 16 : The Viceroy saw M.A. Jinnah but no agreement reached  

September 25 : The Viceroy saw M.A. Jinnah, Interion Government discussed  

September 30 : Evan Jenkins underlines the strong communal hatred  

October 10-20 : Communal disturbances in Noakhali and Tippera districts in Bengal  

October 14 : The Viceroy informed Nehru of his meeting with League leaders  

: Crime figures high in the Punjab  

October 25 : Interim Government reconstituted  

: Communal Clashes in Ludhiana leaving 1 dead and 25 injured  

October 30 : Bihar outbreak : Viceroy, Nehru and Rajendra Prasad all visited the Province  

October 31 : Communal relations distinctly worse in the Punjab  

November 6-15 : Communal outbreak at Gurmukteshwar  

November 13-14 : Communal tension worse than ever  

November 17 : Clash between Hindus and Muslims left 23 people killed
November 19 : The Punjab Public Safety Ordinance (1946) promulgated
November 20 : Jinnah openly recommended the exchange of population
December 3-6 : London Conference. No agreement reached
December 9 : Constituent Assembly met without League Members and adjourned till 20 January
December 14 : Evan Jenkins toured Rawalpindi Division
December 30 : Communal situation bad in Punjab

1947
January 14 : Jenkins visited Jhang, Muzafargarh and Montgomery
January 20 : Constituent Assembly met
January 24 : Ban on Muslim League National Guards and RSS
          : Muslim League starts agitation for ‘civil liberties’ in Punjab
January 25 : Liaquat Ali Khan issued statement putting various questions to Congress
January 28 : Ban on Muslim League National Guards and RSS withdrawn
January 29 : League demanded the dissolution of Constituent Assembly
February : Communal rioting in Punjab
February 1 : Jawaharlal Nehru had interview with Viceroy
February 2 : A procession of 4000 held in Lahore
February 12 : Master Tara Singh talked of strengthening the Akal Fauj.
February 20 : British Prime Minister Lord Clement Attlee made a statement and declared the British withdrawal by June 1948. Lord Mountbatten to succeed Lord Wavell as the Viceroy
The Partition Time Line

February 24 : Clashes between the police and the Muslim League at Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ambala

February 25 : Punjab Government agreed to place before the Assembly certain ordinances containing provision prohibiting processions and militant organization

March : Food shortage, industrial unrest, strikes, communal rioting in Punjab. League organized demonstration against Congress ministry in N.W.F.P. Large scale arrest of Leaguers

March 2 : Khizr Hayat Khan resigned from Premiership of the Punjab. He justified his decision by saying that the declaration of His Majesty’s Government of February 20 had completely changed the position.

March 4 : Rioting broke out in Lahore city

March 5 : Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor of Punjab, took over administration of the Province

March 5 : rioting in the Punjab leaving several people dead

March 5 : Congress, invited League to discuss Transfer of Power; called for partition of Punjab and Bengal

March 5 : Clashes began in Multan. Eight persons killed, thirty eight injured admitted to hospitals

March 6 : Riots began in Amritsar. A train from Batala was stopped and several Hindu, Sikh passengers killed

March 7 : Amritsar was reported to be ‘veritable inferno.’ Fires were raging in various parts of the city

March 8 : 140 deaths recorded in Amritsar; the number of causalities treated at two main hospitals was 275. Actual number for exceeded

March 14 : Jawaharlal Nehru and Baldev Singh visited Lahore and were horrified to see the damage done by the hooligans

March 7 : Muslim mob torched the non-Muslim houses in Kahuta village in Rawalpindi district
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March 10 : Muslim mob burnt alive some Sikhs inside a Gurdwara at Bewal village in Rawalpindi district
          : 500 non-Mulsims killed in village Doberan
March 11 : Over a hundred men killed at Nara village
March 12 : 200 Sikhs killed at Thoa Khalsa
March 15 : Total number of killed was 1036 and 1000 injured upto this date
March 17 : The Governor visited the riot affected areas in Attock and Rawalpindi districts and reported 25,000 refugees
March 22 : Lord Mountbatten arrived in Delhi, wrote to Gandhi and Jinnah inviting them to Delhi for discussions
April 1  : Evan Jenkins suggested the partition of the Punjab to be achieved by force.
Mid April : Chief Secretary gave the alarming figure of National Guards standing at 39,000
April 12 : Trouble restarted in Amritsar, 15 killed, 32 injured. Now onwards there was no peace in Lahore and Amritsar
April 15 : Joint appeal for peace made by Mahatma Gandhi and M.A.Jinnah
          : Lord Mountbatten met Jenkins; discussed partitioning of the Punjab
April 18 : Lord Mountbatten interviewed Sikh leaders who insisted that the Punjab must be partitioned
Mid April : Official estimates put the number of dead at 3500. Mayhem counted approximately six Hindus and Sikhs for every Muslim murdered
May 8   : A recrudescence of communal trouble in Amritsar
May 14  : Riots broke out in Lahore During the night. An exchange of brickbats and bottles containing explosive material had taken place and a number of fires were started
May 15  : City of Lahore seemed on ablaze with fire raging in different localities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Over 20 villages in the Gurgaon district in Southern Punjab had been burnt</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Lord Mountbatten announced the Plan. Date of Transfer preponed to August 15, 1947.</td>
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<td>Three bomb explosions in Amritsar: About 250 houses were burnt</td>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td>The Partition Plan was announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>Five deaths and fires reported from Lahore alone</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Disturbances in Lahore and Amritsar</td>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>Police recovered 18-20 bombs from a cart in Lahore</td>
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<td>Bengal Legislative Assembly opted for partition</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Lord Mountbatten, “Amritsar is a city of ruins”</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
<td>Punjab Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution in favour of partition</td>
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<td>M.A. Jinnah demanded use of force to suppress violence in Lahore and Amritsar</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
<td>Pandit Nehru met Lord Mountbatten and demanded martial law in Lahore and Amritsar districts; Lord Mountbatten rejected it</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>Communal riots in Lahore, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Multan and Jallandhar</td>
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<td>June 27</td>
<td>The Partition Committee gave way to the Partition Council of wider authority. Council decided that Cyril Redciffe should be invited to serve as the Chairman of Punjab and Bengal Boundary Commissions</td>
<td>Lord Mountbatten reported to London if violence not stopped in Lahore and Amritsar, both the cities would be burnt to the ground.</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Punjab Boundary Commission was constituted comprising four judges</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Jenkins observed that communal feeling was now unbelievably bad. Sikhs most uneasy.</td>
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<td>July 2</td>
<td>Mountbatten showed the draft of Indian Independence</td>
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The Partition Time Line

Bill to Indian Leaders

- Communal uneasiness extreme in the Punjab
- M.A. Jinnah told Lord Mountbatten that he himself wished to be Governor General of Pakistan

July 5
- Liaquat Ali asked Lord Mountbatten to recommend M.A. Jinnah’s name as the Governor-General of Pakistan. He hoped that Lord Mountbatten would remain as the Governor General of India.

July 8
- Cyril Redcliffe arrived India
  - Clement Attlee consulted opposition leaders over question of Lord Mountbatten remaining as the Governor-General of India. All agreed.
  - Giani Kartar Singh warned Sir Evan Jenkins of violent action if the Boundary Commission Award went against the Sikhs.

July 10
- Cyril Redcliffe visited Punjab

July 20-30
- The Punjab Boundary Commission held public meetings in Lahore

July 19
- Lord Mountbatten announced establishment of two separate provisional governments one for India and other for Pakistan

July 20
- Lord Mountbatten visited Lahore; met the Punjab Partition Committee

July 27
- General situation worsening owing to refusal of Sikhs to await Boundary Commission Award and their apparent unwillingness to accept it

July 29
- General situation unchanged and unsatisfactory

July 30
- Lahore and Jalandhar divisions increasingly nervous

July 31
- Evan Jenkins warned about the ‘danger of communal situation.’ Attacks increased with rapidity and on a large scale

August 1
- The Punjab Boundary Force set up under Major-General T.W. Rees with Brij D.S. Brar from India and Col. Ayub Khan from Pakistan to be second-in-command
The Partition Time Line

August 3 : Amritsar seriously disturbed with stabbing and bomb explosions

August 6 : The Partition Council met for last time

August 7 : Amritsar seriously disturbed

August 9 : The first fully organized train attack on ‘Pakistan Special’ attack took place near Amritsar

August 11 : The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met and elected M.A. Jinnah as President

: General situation worsened with growing exodus of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs

: Lord Mountbatten refused to own the decision of Boundary Commissions

August 12 : Lord Mountbatten informed Evan Jenkins that the award for the Punjab would not be ready before August 15th evening or 16th morning

: Jenkins wrote that the strength of Punjab Boundary Force is not adequate for present and future tasks

: Around 40 people killed in Lahore

: The Lahore Railway station became ‘a veritable death trap’.

August 13 : The Redcliffe Award was ready

: Communal disturbances overshadowed

August 14 : Pakistan was officially born

: Communal riots broke out throughout the province

August 15 : India and Pakistan became independent

: Lahore railway station became a scene of wholesale carnage

August 16 : Lord Mountbatten handed the Radcliffe Award to leaders of both dominions; none was satisfied

August 17 : The Radcliffe Award was published

: New ferocity in the Punjab
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<td>August 26</td>
<td>A band of Baluch soldiers organized a huge massacre on non-Muslims</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>The Indian High Commissioner criticized the Boundary Force and Govt. of the Western Punjab for doing nothing to counter the attacks on Hindus and Sikhs</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>Decision was taken to abolish the Punjab Boundary Force</td>
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<td>August 31</td>
<td>Punjab Boundary Force dissolved; replaced by two Military evacuation operations</td>
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<td>September 3</td>
<td>The Joint-Dominion Conference held in Lahore</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>Attacks on trains and refugee columns in Amritsar and Jallandhar districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>A large number of non-Muslims including women and children were slaughtered in Jhelum</td>
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<td>Upto Mid November</td>
<td>About 10-12 million crossed the Redcliffe Line in either direction, one million killed, 1 to 1.5 lac women abducted.</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>The Inter-Dominion Conference, Lahore; Operation to recover and restore abducted women agreed</td>
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<td>December 16</td>
<td>Governor Mudie wrote to M.A. Jinnah that ‘our exchange of populate is practically over now’</td>
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