PARTITION OF PERSONNEL AND UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Armed Forces of the British Raj, which was built over the past three hundred years, had to be reconstituted within a short period of less than two months. The outbreak of communal disturbances and lack of cooperation between the Congress and Muslim League leaders had made the task of division of the forces extremely difficult. Lord Ismay, who was Mountbatten's Chief of Staff, described the division as 'the biggest crime and the biggest headache'.

He was convinced it would destroy the old Indian Army and had remarked 'It is just possible that two really good armies will emerge from the process. It is true that they will not in sum total be equal to the single army out of which they have been fashioned.'

The details of division of manpower and units of the Armed Forces were drawn up by the Army, Navy and Air Force Sub-Committees of the Armed

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2 ibid.
Forces Reconstitution Committee (A.F.R.C).\textsuperscript{3} The Sub-Committees functioned in an atmosphere of co-operation. Regarding the working of the Army Sub-Committee a Pakistani General wrote:

The army sub-committees got down to their work with enthusiasm. The soldiers at that level had yet to experience the acute political pressure which was exerted later, and were not suspicious of each other. There was goodwill all round. They worked with characteristic soldierly spirit and performed the job fairly and to the best of their abilities....\textsuperscript{4}

In all cases, the recommendations of the three Sub-Committees for reconstitution had been unanimous and received prompt approval from the A.F.R.C. It was only later that differences arose on the question of division of ordnance factories and stores.

\textbf{THE JOINT DEFENCE COUNCIL}

On 22 July 1947 it was decided that the Partition Council would function as the Provisional Joint Defence Council (J.D.C.) until 15 August 1947, when the latter would come into being. The J.D.C. was set up by the Joint Defence Council Order of 11 August 1947 which was valid up to 1st April

\footnote{\textsuperscript{3}See Appendix for the composition of the A.F.R.C. and its Sub-Committees.}

\footnote{\textsuperscript{4}General Fazal Muqeeem Khan, \textit{The Story of the Pakistan Army} (Karachi, 1963), p.29.}
1948. It consisted of the Governor-General of India as Independent Chairman, the Defence Ministers of India and Pakistan and the Supreme Commander. The J.D.C. was to have exclusive control of:

(a) the division of the Indian forces between the Dominions and their reconstitution as two separate Dominion forces;

(b) the allocation, transfer and movement of officers and men belonging to the Indian forces for the purposes of such reconstitution;

(c) the allocation, transfer and movement for the purposes of such reconstitution of plant, machinery, equipment and stores held by the Governor-General in Council immediately before the 15th day of August, 1947, for the purposes for the Indian forces;

(d) such naval, military and air force establishments as the Joint Defence Council may specify for such temporary period as that Council may consider necessary or expedient;

(e) the general administration of naval, military and air force law, and the maintenance of discipline, in the armed forces of each of the two Dominions;

(f) the general arrangements for the payment, food, clothing, medical attendance and equipment of the armed forces of each of the two Dominions;

(g) any armed force which may be operating, or may hereafter be sent to operate, under joint command in such areas near the boundaries between the two Dominions as are for the time being declared by or under a Provincial law to be disturbed areas;

5For the complete text of the notification see The Gazette of India Extraordinary, 11 August 1947, pp.713-14.

6ibid, p.713.
(h) any Indian forces which are for the time being overseas.

Provided that the control of the Joint Defence Council shall not extend, -

(i) except in relation to the forces mentioned in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this Article, to the disposition and operational control within the Dominion, and the local administration, of the armed forces of either Dominion, or

(ii) to the selection and recruitment of officers and men for the armed forces of either Dominion and their training, when such training take place elsewhere than in a training establishment specified by the Joint Defence Council under paragraph (d) of this Article;

Provided further that the Joint Defence Council shall cause such measures to be taken as will enable them gradually to withdraw their control in respect of all or any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this Article with a view to the cessation of control as early as may be practicable and in any event before the 1st day of April 1948.

The J.D.C. had full powers to settle all matters relating to the Armed Forces. In case of disagreement, however, a member could refer any controversial issue to the Partition Council. The Supreme Commander was responsible for giving effect to the decisions of the J.D.C. and 'act in conformity with such directions as may be given to him in that behalf by the Joint Defence Council'. The Joint Defence Council Secretariat was set up and was headed by two Joint Secretaries nominated, respectively, by the Governor General of India and the Governor General of Pakistan.
OPTION TO PERSONNEL TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES OF EITHER INDIA OR PAKISTAN

The Partition of the Armed Forces was carried out in two stages. In the Partition Council meeting of 30 June 1947 it had been agreed upon that the partition was to take place on a communal basis. In compliance with this during the first stage, Muslim majority units were moved to Pakistan and likewise all non-Muslim majority units that were stationed in Pakistan area were moved to India. As a result of British policy of counterpoise of natives against natives - a protective measure against a mutiny - every unit of infantry and cavalry was a mixture of different classes and religions. This made the task of segregating Hindus and Sikh troops in Pakistan and Muslim troops in India immensely difficult. In the second stage, units were combed out on the basis of voluntary transfer. It had already been agreed by the Special Committee of the Cabinet that every Government servant, Indian or European, would be given the option to serve either of the two Dominion Governments, with a subsequent entitlement to re-option within a period of six months from the date of transfer of power. This principle was also applied in the case of personnel serving with the Armed Forces. However, a Muslim soldier domiciled in Pakistan and a non-Muslim domiciled in the rest of India had no

7 There were some exceptions, such as the Madras Regiment, the Sikh Light Infantry, the Kumaon Regiment, the Mahar Regiment, the Dogra Regiment and the Garhwal Rifles which were not mixed.
choice but to serve his respective dominion, or be discharged. This restriction in the freedom of choice was imposed to prevent the possibility of men belonging to one Dominion electing to serve in the other 'with mischievous intent'. After the outbreak of communal disturbances a large number of Armed Forces personnel wanted to change their final option. On 16 October 1947, the J.D.C. decided to allow the Muslim personnel belonging to East Punjab and the non-Muslim personnel belonging to West Punjab and the North West Frontier Province to change their option. The fresh options, however, were not given any guarantee of employment by either Dominion.

In the case of Indian Muslim sub-units, mistakes were made by the Army Sub-committee of the A.F.R.C.. Before processing their individual options, these units were assigned to Pakistan. General Menezes, in his book on the Indian Army, points out that although 'majority of the personnel of many Indian Muslim sub-units had opted for India, but because the sub-units had been erroneously allotted to Pakistan under a misconception, and who had taken it into their reckoning in their organization talks, the concerned Indian Muslim sub-units, with the majority of personnel who had opted for India, continued to be allotted to Pakistan by the A.F.R.C., despite representations,

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8 According to retired Lieutenant Colonel Mushtashad Ahmad, at the time of division, dossiers of Muslim officers, including his, who had not opted for Pakistan were taken away by the Pakistani authorities assuming that they would naturally opt for Pakistan (Personal Interview, July 1991).
except later for one Kaimkhani squadron. General Menezes recollects an instance of one such mistake when he was commanding a Muslim Rifle Company at Thal in Kurram (NWFP):

To compound our confusion, before we left Thal in September for India, two Dogra companies from regiments allotted to Pakistan reported to replace one Indian Muslim company which had opted for India but had been allotted to Pakistan. En route our Indian Muslim company was forcibly taken off our train at Lahore, and during a halt at Jalandhar we were given a third Dogra company in lieu of the same Muslim company. We eventually reached our destination in India in late October, and in due course had a fourth Dogra company allotted from a different regiment to the other three, who were then reallocated to another regiment.

Such mistakes could have been avoided had the Army Sub-Committee not assumed that the majority of Indian Muslim personnel would opt for Pakistan.

THE DIVISION OF ARMY UNITS

The plan for the division of army units was drawn up by the Army Sub-Committee under Major General Irwin as the Chairman. In the Army Sub-Committee, all problems were first considered separately by the non-Muslim and Muslim members and they then jointly compared their recommendations which were later also discussed with the British officers of

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10Ibid.
the Sub-Committee. By mid July all decisions for the division of the Army had
been made and, with the approval of the Partition Council, orders were issued
for their execution by the Supreme Commander's Headquarters.

The infantry regiments were divided between India and Pakistan in the
ratio of 15:8. 11 The Pakistan Infantry received the following regiments -
1st, 8th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Punjab Regiments.

Baluch Regiment.

Frontier Force Regiment.

Frontier Force Rifles.

The second Punjab Regiment with its regimental centre at Meerut remained
a part of India since it was expected that many Eastern Punjabi Muslims who
were serving the Forces would opt to serve in the Indian Army.

The proportion of 8 regiments to 15 was misleading since it did not take
into consideration Gurkha units. The Gurkhas had constituted an important
element of the Indian Army and British officers had generally assumed that
they would opt for service in the British Army. 12 However, when the wishes
of the Gurkhas were ascertained, more than 90 percent opted for service in the

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11 See Allocation of Armoured Corps and Infantry Units, Fourth Meeting of

12 When the 'eight units' scheme of Indianisation was introduced, the Gurkhas
were excluded, since the British felt Gurkhas would not accept Indian officers.
Indian Army. This came as a shock to Auchinleck, who wrote to General Scoones on 15 September 1947 '...there is a possibility, if not probability, that a certain amount of propaganda has been going on to dissuade the men from opting for service under HMG.' As a result of a tripartite agreement between India, Nepal and the United Kingdom, 12 Gurkha battalions were to be employed in the Indian Army and 8 in the British Army. With the abolition of Gurkha regiments the proportion of infantry regiments between India and Pakistan was 18:8. This proportion also did not reflect the actual strength since the number of battalions in each regiment varied from three to six. In the first stage of partition the actual number of battalions received by Pakistan were 45, and by India 64. All the Pakistani battalions contained some proportion of Hindus and Sikhs. When the Sikh and Hindu elements were removed from the Pakistani battalions, the strength of battalions belonging to India was 76 and Pakistan 33 and with the addition of 12 Gurkha battalions the final strength of India was 88.

The Armoured Corps regiments were allotted between India and

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13 Auchinleck Papers (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), File LXXX, MUL 1259. General Scoones was the Military adviser at the Commonwealth Relations Office.

14 This agreement provided for the employment of Gurkhas from Nepal and did not include Gurkhas of Indian domicile.
Pakistan in the proportion of 12:6. The Pakistan Armoured Corps received the following regiments\textsuperscript{15} -

6 DCO Lancers; II PAVO Cavalry (Light Armoured Regiments)

5 Horse, 13 Lancers, 19 Lancers (Medium Armoured Regiments).

Guides Cavalry (Heavy Armoured Regiments). The remaining 12 Regiments were to constitute Indian Armoured Corps. In the distribution of Armoured Corps, the Army Sub-Committee had tried to ensure that there was minimum redistribution of personnel based on the then class composition.

The Artillery and Engineer units had been constituted largely on a communal basis as a result of the reorganisation which had been going on for some time prior to the partition. Following was the recommendation of the Army Sub-Committee for the distribution of Artillery and Engineer units:\textsuperscript{16}


\textsuperscript{16} ibid, pp.37-38.
### Artillery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Distribution between India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Field Regiments (Self-Propelled)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Field Regiment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Field Regiments (Parachute)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Mountain Regiments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Anti-Tank Regiment (Self-Propelled)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Anti-Tank Regiment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Anti-Tank Regiment (Parachute)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(j) Medium Regiments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(k) Survey Regiment</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>1**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18½  8½

* less one battalion; ** battalion
### Engineers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Distribution between India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Headquarters Engineer Brigade</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Headquarters Engineer Group</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Field Companies</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Assault Field Companies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Parachute Field Companies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Field Park Companies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Airborne Park Company</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Construction Companies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Workshop and Park Companies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(j) Electrical and Mechanical Companies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(k) Headquarters Plant Companies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(l) Plant Platoons</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(m) Well Boring Platoons</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n) Printing Sections</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(o) Maintenance Platoon of Bridging Company</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the Partition Council meeting Major General Irwin explained that the distribution of artillery units between India and Pakistan reflected the actual number of Muslim and non-Muslim units as they then existed in the Army. The distribution had resulted in a properly balanced force of artillery, with the exception that Pakistan was required to convert one Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment to a Field Regiment, and one Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment to an Anti-Tank Regiment, and India was required to convert one Field Regiment to a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As far as the allocation of Engineer units was concerned, adjustments of class composition within the units had to take place.

The Engineering Service constitutes an important part of the Army because, in a war engineers are required to overcome any obstacles preventing the rapid progress of the Army. In the early days engineer units developed as Corps of Sappers and Miners and in 1923 it was designated "the Military Engineer Services." At the time of the division of the Armed Forces the Military Engineer Services were involved in erecting and maintaining such buildings and works as were required for the Armed Forces. The Military

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17 ibid, p.44.

Engineer Service layout was on an area basis and was the responsibility of Commanders of Royal Engineers in each Command. The Army Sub-Committee had recommended the retention of the then existing military engineer service layout and its allotment to the Dominions within whose boundaries it fell.\textsuperscript{19} This recommendation was accepted and cross posting of personnel was carried out for its implementation.

The Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (IEME) included some major workshops which were capable of carrying out large scale repairs and renovations. These workshops were allotted between India and Pakistan as follows:\textsuperscript{20}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>801 Command Workshop, Chaklala Rawalpindi</td>
<td>507 Command Workshop, Ferozepore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503 Command Workshop, Quetta</td>
<td>505 Command Workshop, Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504 Command Workshop, Bannu</td>
<td>508 Command Workshop, Allahabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>509 Command Workshop, Agra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\textsuperscript{20}Eighth Meeting of Partition Council, \textit{Recommendation of AFRC}, ibid, p.73.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>601</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Karachi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Meerut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Jubbulpore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>512</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Kirkee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>515</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Bangalore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>516</td>
<td>Command Workshop, Secunderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engineer Equipment Workshop Kakinara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Director of Mechanical Engineering was instructed to make necessary redistribution of machinery and personnel in the above workshops to ensure that each Dominion was able to deal with all types of repair work within these units. Since these workshops were organised on a non-communal basis, cross-posting of personnel had to take place after their allotment to the two Dominions.

The Signal service of an army is constituted for the purpose of giving the commanders in the field the means of communicating with each other. The Indian Signal Corps which was modelled on the Royal Corps of Signals of the British Army expanded during the First World War. The Indian Signal Corps was divided into static units and units which formed part of field formations such as divisions, brigades etc. The static layout originating from General Headquarters, New Delhi, covered the whole of India. Communications consisted of:
1. Radio telephones and telegraphy controlled and manned by the services.
2. Line telephone and telegraphy rented from Post and Telegraph Department and manned by the services.
3. Courier system by rail and air.\textsuperscript{21}

The A.F.R.C. accepted the recommendation of the Army Sub-Committee for retaining the then existing static layout until reconstitution was complete, when it would be open to the Commanders-in-Chief of the two Dominions to make any readjustments they considered necessary.\textsuperscript{22} The Director of Signals had to rearrange the class composition of static signal units by cross-posting of appropriate personnel.

The Royal Indian Army Service Corps (RIASC) had two main branches - the supply units and the Animal and Mechanical Transport Corps. The supply units of the R.I.A.S.C. were divided into -
(a) static units located at supply depots organised to correspond with military area;
(b) supply units forming part of field formations.

As far as the allocation of supply units of the R.I.A.S.C. was concerned, the then existing static layout remained unchanged between the two

\textsuperscript{21}Seventh Meeting of Partition Council; Recommendation of AFRC, ibid, p.67.

\textsuperscript{22} ibid.
Dominions. However, cross posting of personnel had to be undertaken. Regarding the allocation of Animal Transport units of the R.I.A.S.C. it was decided that Pakistan would receive 3 regiments and India 4. Animal transport units had already been reorganised on the basis of class composition and it eliminated large scale cross posting of personnel.

Although Animal Transport units in a modern war were uneconomical, they were considered necessary in certain areas of North West and North East frontiers where mules were found. The needs of Pakistan for such units were found to be greater than those of India. The Mechanical Transport units of the R.I.A.S.C. were allocated between the two Dominions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Transport companies</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibian companies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank Transporter companies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridging companies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulances Platoons</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23: ibid, p.68.

24: First Meeting of Provisional Joint Defence Council; Recommendation of AFRC, ibid, p.85.

25: ibid.

26: ibid.
General Transport companies were unspecialised transport of the Army, each consisting of 120 load carrying vehicles. The Amphibian companies were equipped with vehicles which travelled on land and also had limited performance in water. They were used for the carriage of stores and equipment during landings on enemy beaches and also for carrying stores during river crossing operations. Tank Transporter companies were equipped with heavy trailers and were used to move armoured regiments. Bridging companies carried mobile bridging equipment to replace bridges destroyed by the enemy or required in areas where bridges did not exist. During the movement of major units of the Army between the two Dominions, the Mechanical Transport units had to work in full capacity for carrying stores and equipments of such units. For this reason the reconstitution of mechanised transport units was deferred until the movement of major units was complete.

The 'Indian Medical Corps', primarily concerned with the health care of the soldiers, had evolved as a highly professional unit of the Army. Indianization had progressed more rapidly in the Medical Service than in any other Indian service. During the First World War, although no Indians were commissioned in the combatant arms, nearly seven hundred Indian doctors were commissioned and in 1923, out of the 681 King's commissioned doctors,

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150 were Indian recruited after 1915.\textsuperscript{28} At the time of partition there were 116 military hospitals in the whole of India including 12 British military hospitals. There were 82 hospitals located in India and 34 in Pakistan. It was decided that the hospitals together with their equipment would be allotted to the Dominion in which they were located\textsuperscript{29} The reserve equipment held in medical stores was divided between the two Dominions on an agreed basis irrespective of the location of the stores. Since there was shortage of civilian hospitals throughout India, it was suggested that surplus military hospitals should be handed over to civil authorities.

As in the case of hospitals, 'Military Farms' were allotted to the Dominions in which they were located together with their stock or farm appliances.\textsuperscript{30} The role of the Military Farms was to produce certain perishable foodstuffs which constituted part of the ration of men and animals belonging to the Armed Forces. The allotment of assets of the Military Farm Department was as follows.\textsuperscript{31}

\textsuperscript{28}ibid.

\textsuperscript{29}Tenth Meeting of the Provisional Joint Defence Council; Recommendation of the AFRC, \textit{Partition Proceedings}, Vol.V, p.135.

\textsuperscript{30}ibid, p.141.

\textsuperscript{31}A.F.R.C./47, ibid, p.142.
### Allotment of Assets of the Military Farms Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Farms</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Store</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Military Farms</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Farms Depots</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk and Cream Purchasing Depots</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Purchasing Centres</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder Baling Depots</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Farms</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Farms</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck Unit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit Unit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Farms Department Training Centre and Record Office</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>@</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Dairy Factories</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>@@</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* One Cattle Purchasing Centre was to be established in India (Meerut).
** All pig farms were closed down.
+ Duck unit was closed down.
++ Rabbit unit was closed down.
@ One Military Farms Department Training Centre and Record Office was to be established in India (Sabathu).
@@ One factory (Lahore) was closed down.

### DIVISION OF ROYAL INDIAN NAVY (RIN) UNITS

Unlike the Army, the Indian Navy was a small body and its division did not constitute a major problem. The division of RIN was based on actual needs.
of the two Dominions rather than the proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims which was 40:60. The Government had laid down that the RIN would be divided in the ratio of 2:1 between India and Pakistan. On the basis of the recommendations of the Naval Sub-Committee, division of the RIN units was as follows.\(^3^2\)

**Division of Seagoing Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name of ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloops</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sutlej Jamuna Kistna Cauvery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frigates</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tir Kukri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Minesweepers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Orissa Deccan Bihar Kumaon Inder Rohilkhand Carnatic Rajputana Konkan Bombay Bengal Madras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corvettes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey Ship 1 Investigator - -
Trawlers 4 Nasik Calcutta Cochin Amritsar 2 Rampur Baroda
Motor Minesweepers 4 2
Motor Launch 1 -
Harbour Defence Motor Launch 4 4
Landing Craft All existing major and minor landing, craft.

India received 4 sloops because her trade merchant fleet and coastline were considerably larger than those of Pakistan. The four sloops assigned to India comprised of two best and two oldest sloops. Jamuna and Sutlej were completed in 1941 and were Bittern class sloops; Kistna and Cauvery were Black Swan sloops completed in late 1943 and were more powerfully armed than Bittern. The Naval Sub-Committee had unanimously agreed to allocate Narbada and Godavari to Pakistan since one ship of any class was considered unsatisfactory for a navy to have long endurance sea-going units. While the Narbada was an improved Bittern class sloop which was completed in mid 1943, the Godavari was Narbada fitted as a flagship. Pakistan thus received two good ships of one class.

As far as the distribution of Frigates was considered, it was decided that both navies had legitimate demand for two each. India needed a Boy's Training Ship as, upon partition, it was without a shore training
establishment. Tir, which was assigned to India, was fitted as a Boys’ Training Ship. The other ship received by India was Kukri which had already been working as an anti-Submarine ship. Shamsher, the best ship as regards conditions, was made available to Pakistan to act as Senior Naval Officer in its Eastern region: Dhanush which had been allotted to Pakistan was a seagoing training ship. It could easily be reconverted to combine the duties of Anti Submarine, Radar and Communication Training Ship.

Since India’s need for Fleet Minesweepers was far greater than that of Pakistan, it was allotted in the proportion of 3:1. India invited Pakistan to choose whichever Minesweepers it wished to take as its share. Out of the two pairs of ships chosen by the Pakistani representatives Oudh and Malwa were built in Calcutta in 1944/45 and Kathiawar and Baluchistan were built in the United Kingdom in 1943.

Corvette and Survey Ship were allotted to India. Since India had 3,000 miles of coastline it was imperative to allot ‘Investigator’, the only survey ship, to India. It was felt that Pakistan could not afford to maintain a survey unit and that, except for harbour and river surveys, she could call on India for surveys on a repayment basis. Since the Motor Launch (ML) was attached to the Torpedo School, it was allocated to India where the school was located.

As India had two bases at Bombay and Vizagapatanam, her need for trawlers was greater than Pakistan. As trawlers are required for target towing and multifarious odd jobs on the coast, India received four trawlers as against two to Pakistan.
Commander Jefford, Chairman of the Naval Sub-Committee, explaining the division of the Navy had said that it was made on commonsense lines since it was based on the actual needs of the two Dominions rather than on an exact arithmetical split. However, with division, the Indian Navy lost excellent training establishments located at Karachi, and also a lot of senior sailors, who being Punjabi Muslims, went to Pakistan. As a result, 'the Indian Navy was suddenly denuded of senior gunnery, engine room and communication personnel.' The Indian officers of the Navy were too junior in rank and service and it was imperative to obtain the services of some British officers for a period of three years. Moreover, since India lacked a training establishment, in December 1947, the United Kingdom agreed to accept 46 Indian cadets for training each year for the next three years in place of the 16 per year admitted previously.

DIVISION OF THE ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE (RIAF) UNITS

Unlike the division of the Army and the Navy, in the division of the RIAF there were differences between Indian and Pakistani representatives of the A.F.R.C. In the R.I.A.F., the communal proportion of Muslims and Hindus

33 ibid, p.45.

34 Commander K.Sridharan, A Maritime History of India (New Delhi, 1965), p.112.

was 2:8. Eight squadrons of single-engined fighter aircraft (Tempests) and two squadrons of twin engined medium transport aircraft (Dakotas) were available for division. All squadrons were approximately 50 percent under establishment. If division was on communal principle, India had to be allotted eight squadrons and Pakistan only two.

The A.F.R.C. recommended the following division of the RIAF.36

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fighter Squadrons</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Squadrons</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The recommendation was not unanimous and the Indian representatives insisted that only one fighter squadron should be allotted to Pakistan. They argued that the division should be on a purely communal basis and it should not take into account Pakistan's responsibility in regard to the North West Frontier Province. When the matter was referred to the Partition Council, Lord Mountbatten as Chairman of the Council suggested that if the then existing reserve equipment was sufficient for the creation of a ninth fighter squadron, two should be allotted to Pakistan. The Commander-in-Chief later reported that there was sufficient equipment available to create a ninth fighter squadron. The J.D.C., therefore, decided on the following allocation of squadrons of the RIAF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fighter Squadrons</strong></td>
<td>7 (Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10).</td>
<td>2 (No.9 and one new squadron)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport Squadrons</strong></td>
<td>1 (No.12)</td>
<td>1 (No. 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Squadron Number 9 allotted to Pakistan was composed exclusively of Pakistani personnel and was positioned in Peshawar. In order to avoid the movement of equipment from depots in India to Peshawar, the new Pakistani squadron was to take over the aircraft and equipment of the Indian squadron located in Peshawar. The Indian squadron then moved to India and received its aircraft and equipment at its new station there. In the J.D.C., Jinnah maintained that as a compromise he had accepted the allocation of seven fighter squadrons to India and two to Pakistan.\(^\text{37}\)

On the recommendation of the A.F.R.C. the following division of RIAF units was accepted.\(^\text{38}\)

\(^{37}\)Ibid.

\(^{38}\)Recommendations of AFRC, ibid, p.782.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Station Headquarters at Peshawar, Poona, Ranchi and Agra</td>
<td>Station Headquarters at Risalpur, Chaklala and Kohat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.2 (Equipment)Depot, Bombay</td>
<td>No.1 (Aircraft Repair) Depot, Lahore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Flights Artillery Observation Posts (AOP) Squadrons (It was equipped with Auster aircraft and employed to control artillery fire).</td>
<td>One Flight AOP Squadron (equipped with Auster aircraft and employed to control artillery fire)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also, India was allotted: Initial Training Wing, Coimbatore; Elementary Flying School, Jodhpur; and Advanced Flying School, Ambala. Pakistan was allotted the Parachute Training School at Chaklala.

As far as the division of Aircraft was concerned, they were allotted to India and Pakistan as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auster V</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Used for Air Observation Post Flights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auster VI</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiger Moth</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Training Aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Training Aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tempest</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Fighter squadrons were equipped with it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Medium Transport Aircraft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The partition of the Air Force had created bitterness between the two Dominions. Pakistan complained that out of the 35 Tempest aircraft allotted to it, 5 were beyond repair and two untraceable. Zafar A. Choudhry, who later became the Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan accused India of choking with sugar the filters of three Tiger Moth aircraft allotted to Pakistan. These charges, although unsubstantiated, reflected the prevailing animosity between the two Dominions. However, even in the midst of this hostile atmosphere, there were instances of cooperation between the officers of the two countries. Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in his memoir relates one such instance.

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39 Eighteenth meeting of Joint Defence Council, ibid, p782.


Wing Commander Januja was a great personal friend of mine. He was the seniormost officer in the newly formed Pakistan Air Force.

The Tempest, fitted with the Centaurus engine, was the main aircraft with the RAIF before partition. The overhaul line for this engine was at 307 MV, Lahore. We had no tools for their repair. I rang up Januja and he very sportingly invited me to go personally to Lahore and collect whatever engine overhaul tools I required. So towards the end of October I flew to Lahore in a Dakota.

Little did we know that the invasion of Kashmir by Pakistan was to start on the same day. As soon as I landed at Lahore, Januja came to see me and his first words shocked me. He said 'Harjinder, I hold myself responsible for your safety. Our countries may be at war soon, over Kashmir. Please send your Dakota out of Lahore and recall it when you have collected your Centauras tools.' I saw the Governor General of Pakistan's Dakota lined up on the tarmac. I knew that time was against us and that if we did not collect the tools immediately we might never be able to do so.

The P.A.F. officers were exceedingly generous and hospitable...

On partition, the Air Force establishment in India was elementary and disorganised. Many flying and ground instructors, senior non-commissioned officers and technicians had opted for Pakistan. In fact, on 15 August 'there was no such thing as an organised and well knit IAF'.

TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

The training establishments of the Armed Forces were allotted to the Dominions in which they were located. While India received the majority of

the Army Schools, important naval schools were located in Pakistan. The Air Force establishments located in India were elementary. The A.F.R.C. had to deal with the question of duplication and joint use of the training schools. There were schools which could be split up only partially and in stages. On partition, both India and Pakistan found themselves short of training establishments.

Among the training institutions of the Army lost to Pakistan were: Staff College at Quetta; Army/Air Transport School, Chaklala; Paratroopers’ Training School, Chaklala; Anti-Aircraft Artillery School, Karachi; Royal Indian Army Service Corps School, Kakul; Royal Indian Army Service Corps Training Centre (Supply), Lahore; Intelligence Training School, Karachi; General Stores and Clothing Training Cell, Lahore; and Driving and Maintenance Specialist Training Cell, Karachi. The Staff College at Quetta was the most important establishment of the Army lost to Pakistan. The purpose of the College was to give selected officers higher instruction in the art of war and its system of training was similar to the Staff College of the United Kingdom located at Camberly. As far as the Air Force was concerned, the training establishments located in India were: Elementary Flying Training School at Jodhpur; Advanced Flying Training School at Ambala; Initial Training Wing at Coimbatore; No.1 Ground Training School, Jalalhali, and No.2 Ground Training School at Tambaram. In the case of the Navy, while the important Naval Training schools were located in Karachi, the principal training centres located in India were INS Shivaji at Lonavla near Bombay and INS Valsura near Jamnagar. The INS Shivaji was a mechanical training
establishment for the training of engineer officers and artificers for the Navy, while the INS Valsura was an electrical school.

The majority of the training establishments were located in India and Pakistan had to start from scratch. Auchinleck was convinced that in schools and training establishments where all communities had lived and worked in complete harmony, an immediate split was neither necessary nor desirable.\(^43\) The majority of members of the A.F.R.C. had agreed that schools which had served the needs of both the Dominions during reconstitution should continue as joint training establishments under the control of the Supreme Commander up to 1 April 1948.\(^44\) This concession was made since the formation of duplicate training schools would have required some time.

With the outbreak of communal disturbances, India felt she should assume immediate control of training establishments in her area. In some training establishments there was a risk of open conflict amongst the trainees. In late September 1947, Major General Cariappa in his talk to Indian officers had urged men hailing from the disturbed areas to control their natural feeling of bitterness and retaliation, since as officers it was imperative that they should 'take every possible step to see that their feelings of retribution and


\(^{44}\) General Ayub Khan in his memoir mentions that when Lt.Col. Akbar, the Pakistan representative of the AFRC, informed him about the proposal to have joint training establishments, he was convinced it would not work because 'Two nations had emerged and each must have its own instrument of power'. *Friends Not Masters* (London, 1976), p.20.
retaliation do not get the better of them....' He admitted:

Many cases of growing unfriendly relationship between young officers of our Army and those of Pakistan Army still in India awaiting move ex-India have been reported. If true, this is most unbecoming of us as officers whether those of India or Pakistan. We have lived, worked, played and fought together for years before this division of the Armed Forces was decided.... Please stop this.45

In order to prevent an open conflict amongst the trainees, the immediate withdrawal of trainees and staff belonging to one Dominion from all joint training establishments in the other Dominion was unavoidable.

Although Auchinleck had desired the continuance of joint training establishments, in his letter to General Scoones, the Principal Staff Officer in the Commonwealth Relations Office, he wrote:

...the idea that the coming of partition and the grant of Dominion autonomy would cause communal feeling to die down has proved entirely false. Communal feeling today, from the highest to the lowest, is, in my opinion, as bitter as it possibly could be... there is no doubt, now, I fear that the Army has been infected with the communal virus, and it has become so hot in those establishments like schools of instruction which are still joint, that we are taking steps to separate Pakistan trainees in such schools from the Indian trainees, even though this means disintegration of training for the former. Our original idea was to keep these schools and establishments joint until such time as they could be duplicated in the other Dominion; this has now, I am afraid, gone the way of many other dreams.46

45 'General Talk to Indian Officers of the Indian Army' by Major General K.M.Carippa, Cariappa Collections (National Archives of India, New Delhi), File 'Pamphlets, Notes etc.', serial no.3.

46 For the personal information of the Prime Minister, the Chief of Naval Staff, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the Chief of Air Staff only', September 1947, Auchinleck Papers (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), File LXXXI, MUL 1262.
By the end of September joint training establishments had come to an end. In the Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehra Dun, the Cadets were due to finish their course by the end of December 1947. In the J.D.C. meeting of the 1st October 1947, Auchinleck had recommended the stay of Pakistani cadets at the IMA till the completion of their course. However, Sardar Patel drew the attention of J.D.C. members to a telegram he received from the Prime Minister of the United Provinces and stated that as the relations between Muslims and non-Muslims were strained, the responsibility for preventing any conflict was that of the Indian Government. He was of the opinion that the split of the IMA should be undertaken forthwith. Consequently, it was agreed that the Muslim staff and trainees would be withdrawn from the IMA as soon as the Supreme Commander could arrange their move.

**BRITISH PERSONNEL RETAINED**

Both India and Pakistan agreed that the services of British officers were required during the period of reconstitution. In his appeal to British officers on 12 July 1947, Mountbatten said:

> The Indian armed forces have now to be reconstituted in accordance with the policy agreed by the Indian leaders. All concerned are convinced that British officers are needed for the period during which the armed forces are being divided and

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48 Ibid.
reconstituted.... The strain which will be thrown on officers of the
Indian services in carrying out this reconstitution, in addition to
ordinary administration and training, will be considerable and if
a large number of highly trained and experienced British officers
are suddenly removed the risk of a serious breakdown will be
very real. Pandit Nehru and Jinnah have expressed the desire
and hope that the requisite number of British officers and other
ranks, including technical specialists, will stay on. I share their
feeling and hope that sufficient British personnel will volunteer,
although I want it to be clearly understood that no one will be
compelled to serve on if he does not wish to do so. 49

In response to this appeal, some 2700 of the 8400 British officers of the Indian
Army and some 100 of the 200 British officers of the Royal Indian Navy
volunteered to serve after 15 August 1947. These officers were placed in a
special British Army or British Navy list under the Supreme Commander's
Headquarters. They were to serve for a period of one year and their contract
was terminable at three months' notice. The officers of the Royal Navy, the
British Army and the Royal Air Force were also to serve for one year and their
contract was also terminable at three months' notice by the Supreme
Commander. Both India and Pakistan, being confronted with lack of officers,
not only retained a considerable number of British officers but also appointed
British officers as Commander-in-Chief of their armies. On 15 August 1947,
General Sir Rob Lockhart was appointed the Commander-in-Chief of the
Indian Army. In Pakistan, General Sir Frank Messervy became the
Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The Air Force and the Navy in India were
headed by Air Marshal Thomas Walker Elmhirst and Rear Admiral J.T.S.

49Quoted in V. Longer, Red Coats to Olive Green: A History of the Indian Army
When the closure of the Supreme Commander's Headquarters appeared imminent, three months' notice was served to all British officers then serving with effect from 1 October 1947. Consequently, the services of British officers were to be terminated by 31 December 1947. India and Pakistan had to negotiate directly with the British Government to retain the services of British officers from 1 January 1948.

The ferocity of communal disturbances had shocked many British officers who had volunteered to serve in India and an increasingly large number wanted their services terminated. In his report of 28 September 1947, Auchinleck wrote:

> When the decision to partition India was announced, British officers of the Indian Armed Forces were asked to volunteer to serve on during Reconstitution.... Those who volunteered did so in the general desire to help in a fair and efficient division of the Armed Forces.... These volunteers are now asking to be released from their contracts under the three months notice clause in rapidly increasing numbers. One of the chief reasons for this is because they hold that they volunteered to help in Reconstitution and not to help the new Governments to keep law and order in their own territories. The conditions of massacre and bestiality of the worst kind in which many of these British officers have been working continuously for many weeks have sickened them. They have lost faith in their cloth and in their men, of whom they were so proud a short two months back.  

However, in spite of the prevailing conditions of unrest, a considerable number of British officers continued to serve in India. When the terms of services of

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British officers who were to serve after 1 January 1948 were renegotiated. Pakistan made a request for a greater number of British officers than India. Also, the number of British officers who volunteered to serve in Pakistan was far greater than those who volunteered to serve in India. This was partly due to the fact that in Pakistan British officers had enjoyed exemption from local jurisdiction. In India, British personnel were liable for trial or action in Indian courts.

While India was keen to retain the services of some British officers, regarding the presence of British troops in India Nehru is reported to have said, 'I would sooner have every village in India put to the flames than keep the British army here after 15 August'.\(^{51}\) Auchinleck had favoured the retention of British troops and had argued that since the Armed Forces were being divided, if there was any outbreak of hostilities in the North West Frontier Province, the Indian Army would need the backing of British troops.\(^{52}\) Mountbatten disagreed with Auchinleck and maintained that it could jeopardize the primary objective of granting complete autonomy. Mountbatten, while forwarding Auchinleck’s proposal to the British Government for the retention of British troops in India, had in his note of disagreement emphasized that the withdrawal of British troops should commence on 15 August 1947 and should be complete by the end of February.

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\(^{51}\)Farwell, n.27, p.360.

The British Government accepted Mountbatten's point of view and the withdrawal of British troops was spread over a period of six months. Despite his initial hostile reaction Nehru accepted the gradual withdrawal of British troops from India. The last batch of British troops - the 1st Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry, sailed from Bombay on February 28, 1948.

**CONCLUSION**

Since the Navy and the Air Force were small services, their reconstitution was completed by the end of October 1947. The division of the Army was a more complex issue. The inter-Dominion movement of troops was obstructed by the outbreak of communal violence and subsequent mass migration of refugees from both sides of the border. The communal passion was so inflamed that the withdrawal of battalions 'became an operation of war'. The fleeing of refugees had led to a breakdown of road and rail communication. The railways were choked with refugees and military specials carrying troops were subject to attack and sabotage. Since troops were

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55 Menezes, n.9, p.240.
deployed in assisting the evacuation of refugees, there was always the danger that as they saw the slaughter of their co-religionists they might join in the communal carnage. Also, similar danger was perceived from the units in transit. However, although the units were infected with the communal virus such incidents rarely occurred. Despite hurdles the division of Army units and personnel had progressed steadily since it was not a contentious issue between the two Dominions.