

until November, 1940. While waiting for this last Brigade to arrive, the Division was made up to strength by the 16th British Infantry Brigade, which fought alongside the 5th and 11th at Sidi Barrani. Since then this British Brigade has seen much fighting and has also gained a great name for itself.

No less than 19 different infantry regiments, British and Indian, have had battalions in the Division at one time and another. From the Indian Army there have been battalions of the 1st Punjab Regiment, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, 6th Rajputana Rifles, 7th Rajput Regiment, 10th Baluch Regiment, 11th Sikh Regiment, 14th and 16 Punjab Regiments and the 2nd, 7th and 9th Gurkha Rifles. From the British Army, including those in the 16th Brigade, there have been battalions of the Queen's Royal Regiment, the Buffs, the Royal Fusiliers, the Leicestershire Regiment, the Royal Sussex Regiment, Essex and the Welch Regiments, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

All through these campaigns the artillery has been British, although in some cases the drivers have been Indian. The 1st, 25th and 31st Field Regiments R.A.* have been part of the Division throughout most of the campaign, and at times other regiments have been attached. All three Corps of Sappers and Miners have been represented, and so it can be said that the 4th Indian Division is a good cross-section of both the British and Indian Army.

There have been only three commanders since fighting began in 1940. Major-General (now Lieut.-General) Sir Noel Beresford Piere, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. (Royal Artillery) led the Division to victory against the Italians at Sidi Barrani, Agordat and Keren. Major-General F. W. Messervy, C.B., D.S.O. (Indian Armoured Corps) was commander from April to December, 1941, and it was under him that the Division defeated Rommel's forces and advanced to Benghazi. Then Major-General F. I. S. Tucker, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. (2nd Gurkha Rifles) took command until Tunisia. Under him the Division carried out the rearguard action from Benghazi to the Gazala line, fought at El Alamein and won its great final victories.

For security reasons the names of the present commanders of the Brigades cannot be disclosed, but they also have not had many changes. Brigadier W. L. Lloyd, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., (19th Hyderabad Regiment) and Brigadier D. Russell, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. (13th Frontier Force Rifles), both of whom are now Major-Generals, commanded the 5th Infantry Brigades for considerable periods. Brigadier (now Major-General) R. A. Savory, D.S.O., M.C., and Brigadier A. Anderson, D.S.O., M.C. (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders) commanded the 11th Brigade until its capture in Tobruk. Brigadier H. R. Briggs, D.S.O. (10th Baluch

Regiment) led the 7th Brigade throughout all the fighting, until he was promoted.

The Battle of Sidi Barrani was the beginning of the Division's not unbroken run of successes, and was an easy initiation into modern warfare. It was the first campaign in Eritrea, which was a much more serious affair. Four thousand casualties were suffered, and many prisoners of war. It would, however, be wrong to say that the victories over the Italians were of little worth. The actions which cracked the morale of the Italian soldiers were made easier.

After the fall of Keren, the 4th Indian Division moved to the Western Desert, with the knowledge that it would have to meet the Germans for the first time. The Division who said that the Indian soldiers would not be intimidated by the concentrated bombing and mass tank attacks. These Jeremiahs were proved false. The Indian Army had indignantly maintained. But the Division went into action against the Germans to be met.

In Syria, against the Vichy French, the Division fought in a truly amazing fashion. One American correspondent captured made his way to Turkey. At Istanbul he decided to cramp his style, he let himself go in a cab and wrote of no less than four thousand words, telling the story of the fighting. He had covered the fighting in Spain during the winter of 1939 and in Finland during the winter of 1939 and in 1940. He wrote that he had never seen such magnificent and irresistible dash as that shown by 3/1 Punjab and 4/6 Rajputana Rifles in their capture of Kiseba. It may here be mentioned that the 4th Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles has been with the 4th Division throughout the campaign. It has also served under the command of the 5th Indian Division at times and has seen more fighting than any other infantry battalion.

During the campaign in Libya in the Western Desert the 4th Indian Division made its name. Against mass tank attacks, against heavy dive-bombing or retreating, it showed itself staunch. The Corps Commander wrote: "The ferocity which the Division variably show in every encounter with the enemy is a source of pride. The 4th Indian Division is again setting an example."

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* 11th Field Regiment has been part of the Division since the summer of 1942.

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The Battle of Sidi Barrani was the beginning of the Division's not unbroken run of successes, and was a comparatively easy initiation into modern warfare. It was followed by the campaign in Eritrea, which was a much more serious affair. Nearly four thousand casualties were suffered, and none of them were prisoners of war. It would, however, be wrong to think that these victories over the Italians were of little worth. It was these victories which cracked the morale of the Italian and made later actions easier.

After the fall of Keren, the 4th Division returned once again to the Western Desert, with the knowledge that they would now have to meet the Germans for the first time. There were those who said that the Indian soldiers would not be able to stand up to the concentrated bombing and mass tank attacks of the Germans. These Jeremiahs were proved false by events, as the Indian Army had indignantly maintained. But before the Indian Division went into action against the Germans another foe had to be met.

In Syria, against the Vichy French, the 5th Brigade fought in truly amazing fashion. One American correspondent who was captured made his way to Turkey. At Istanbul, with no censors to cramp his style, he let himself go in a cable to his newspaper of no less than four thousand words, telling the story of the fighting. He had covered the fighting in Spain during the Civil War, in Finland during the winter of 1939 and in France in 1940. He wrote that he had never seen such magnificent fighting spirit and irresistible dash as that shown by 3/1 Punjab Regiment and 4/6 Rajputana Rifles in their capture of Kissoué and at Mezze. It may here be mentioned that the 4th Bn, 6th Rajputana Rifles has been with the 4th Division throughout its campaigning. It has also served under the command of the 5th and 10th Indian Divisions at times and has seen more fighting than any other infantry battalion.

During the campaign in Libya in the winter of 1941-42, the 4th Indian Division made its name. Against Germans, against mass tank attacks, against heavy dive-bombing, whether advancing or retiring, it showed itself staunch. On one occasion the Corps Commander wrote: "The ferocity which your troops invariably show in every encounter with the enemy is beyond all praise. The 4th Indian Division is again setting an example to all."

If the men of the Division the 1941-42 campaign should vote for the gunners. On nu

Field Regiments stood up to attack by large formations of panzers, supported by artillery and lorried infantry. They fought the battle out in the open desert. The 1st Field Regiment on the frontier and again at Carmusa, the 25th Field Regiment at Sidi Brehis and the 31st Field Regiment at Sidi Azeiz and Alem Hamsa saved the infantry and administrative units from heavy loss by the way they stood up to the Germans. Their guts and skill were the admiration of the infantry and the rest of the Division.

In April, 1942, the Division left the desert and had its first real rest since August, 1940. It arrived back in the Delta and promptly disintegrated. It had the mortification of being split up over three continents: Headquarters and the 7th Brigade in Cyprus, the 5th Brigade in Palestine and the 11th Brigade in Egypt. The period of rest did not last long for the 5th and 11th Brigades. When Rommel attacked the Gazala line in May, 1942, both returned to the desert once again. The 11th Brigade, with the 2nd Cameron Highlanders, 2/5 Mahrattas and 2/7 Gurkha Rifles, fell with Tobruk. The full details of what happened are not yet known. What is known is that the remnants of the Brigade were still fighting long after the fortress had surrendered. The 5th Brigade was part of the force which broke out of Mersa Matruh and made its way back to Alamein. After a week for re-equipping it returned to the line and captured the Ruweisat Ridge.

The story of the great battle of El Alamein and of Tunisia is still fresh in mind. The 4th Indian Division finished the campaign, which it had begun at Sidi Barrani twenty-nine months before, in a blaze of glory. The 11th Brigade had been avenged.

Curiosity may be felt as to why this Division has continued to show itself so very good when units have changed and it has suffered so many casualties. There can be few left who took part in the original battles. The main reason is possibly the spirit of confidence, understanding and affection that has always existed between units in the Division. New units arriving sensed this spirit and adopted it. Every man was proud of the Division and passed his pride on to the new arrivals.

The Indian soldier fights his best when alongside British soldiers who believe in him. This has always been the tradition of the Indian Army since its earliest days. Given that confidence and friendliness, the men of the Indian Army will do literally anything to help their British comrade-in-arms, whether it be in fighting or in administrative work. This was realized from the first in the 4th Indian Division. In consequence, there has been no looking over the shoulder for fear that the units on either flank or in rear would break. There has been real affection between the British and Indian Units, whether infantry, artillery

or administrative. It is this spirit of confidence that makes the 4th Indian Division what it is.

There are many stories which show the friendship that has existed between units. The 2nd Bn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the 1st Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles were other in peace-time. The friendship was cemented by the final touch was given by the presentation of a pipe to the pipers of the Camerons to the 1st Bn. called "With Wellesley's Rifles at Keren."

This spirit was not confined to the infantry. A Brigadier visiting one of his forward posts was having tea with the sepoy. On his way back he was met by a Naik in charge in the post if he always gave a salute. "Oh no, Sahib," was the reply : "I am a gunner." On another occasion a subedar remarked to a Major : "If only we had the Royal Sussex in

What the future holds in store for the 4th Indian Division is known only to those at the very top. In his farewell address, saying farewell to the Division in April 1945, the Commander, Lieut.-General "Straffer" Gott said : "During the great battles of this winter you have shown that you can achieve against the German what you had already won against the Japanese. The 4th Indian Division hopes that it will be allowed to return to the front. It is brought back to help deal with the Jap

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a Brigadier visiting one of his forward posts saw two Tommies
having tea with the sepoy. On his way back he asked the Lance-
Naik in charge in the post if he always gave tea to those who
passed by. "Oh no, Sahib," was the reply: "Those were OUR
gunners." On another occasion a subedar remarked to the Brigade-
Major: "If only we had the Royal Sussex in our Brigade...."

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Day, saying farewell to the Division in April, 1942, the Corps
Commander, Lieut.-General "Straffer" Gott of fond memory,
said: "During the great battles of this winter you have proved
that you can achieve against the German troops and tanks the
same success that you had already won against Italians." The
4th Division hopes that it will be allowed to reach Berlin before
it is brought back to help deal with the Japanese.

A SHORT RECORD OF THE 4th INDIAN DIVISION

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THE FOURTH INDIAN DIVISION

BY "CAMEL."

DURING THE last war few divisions became known to the general public. Men and their relations were proud of their regiment or battalion in the infantry, or of their brigade in the artillery. Their division did not in the majority of cases mean much to them. There were, of course, some exceptions, such as the 29th Division or the 51st Highland Division. In the Indian Army possibly the best-known was the 6th (Poona) Division, but it was battalions who became famous.

In this war, on the other hand, divisions have become well-known. The doings of the 7th British Armoured, the 50th Northumbrian, the 9th Australian and, once again, the 51st Highland Divisions are watched with the greatest interest and pride. There are others which are almost equally famous, but possibly the most famous of all is the 4th Indian Division.

Some people—and there are always people ready to “crab” the famous—have suggested that the fame of the division is all a publicity stunt. It has been said that they are advertisers, or that they have good publicity agents. Publicity, it is true, does make a unit or formation known to the public, but it counts for absolutely nothing with other units in the Army. They judge solely on results, not on successes but on the fighting quality of the unit. In the opinion of the 8th Army, the 4th Indian Division is very, very good.

The record of this formation is so well-known that recapitulation is unnecessary, and anyhow impossible in a short article. It was the first infantry formation to go into the Western Desert, and it has fought throughout the campaign in North Africa, as well as in Eritrea and Syria. It has had its share in the bitterness of retreats. It ended the campaign by capturing the commander of all the Axis forces in Tunisia, and by taking more prisoners than it had in its first battle at Sidi Barrani. This time they were Germans and not Italians.

The 4th Division started its fighting campaign with three Indian Infantry Brigades, the 5th, 7th and 11th. The 5th and 7th were to go overseas, arriving in Egypt before the 4th. The 5th followed shortly afterwards, but