

The Indian Army On The Eve Of The 1962 War: A Note

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In 1953 the Army had a strength of 350,000, two corps HQ, and

- 1 armored division
- 5 infantry divisions
- 1 (Independent) Armored Brigade
- 1 (Independent) Parachute Brigade
- 4 (Independent) Infantry Brigades

On the eve of the 1962 War the Army had a strength of 550,000, three corps HQ and

- 1 armored division
- 9 infantry divisions
- 1 (Independent) Armored Brigade
- 1 (Independent) Parachute Brigade
- 7 (Independent) Infantry Brigades

October 1962

Army HQ Reserve

- 1 Armored Division (Jullunder)
 - 1 Armored Brigade
 - 43 Lorry Brigade
- 2 Independent Armored Brigade (Babina)
- 50 Independent Parachute Brigade (Agra)
- 65 Independent Infantry Brigade (Secundrabad)

HQ Western Command (Simla)

- HQ XV Corps (Srinager)
- 19 Infantry Division (Baramula)
 - 104 Tithwal
 - 161 Uri
 - 268 Baramula
- 25 Infantry Division (Poonch)
 - 80
 - 93
 - 120
- 26 Infantry Division (Jammu)
 - 19
 - 36
 - 168
- 114 (I) Infantry Brigade (Leh)

163 Infantry Brigade (Srinager)(a new raising)

HQ XI Corps (Jullunder)

5 Infantry Division (Ferozepur)

17 Infantry Division (Ambala)¹

48 Infantry Brigade

63 Infantry Brigade

164 Infantry Brigade

27 Infantry Division (Jullunder)

64

123

U/I Infantry Brigade

82 (Independent) Infantry Brigade (Jodhpur. AOR: Rajasthan)

?? Independent Brigade (Jamnager. AOR: Rann of Kutch)

Sugar Sector (Pooh, Himachal Pradesh)

5 companies Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Armed Police forces

1 infantry battalion earmarked from 4 Division

The Command had other infantry brigades, mainly in Uttar Pradesh, which went under Central Command when it was created during the war. At this point we do not have any specifics.

HQ Eastern Command (Lucknow, moved later to Calcutta)

202 (Independent) Infantry Brigade (Calcutta; command reserve)

Central Sector (UP – Nepal – Tibet border)

9 Infantry Brigade (ex 20 Division)

4 Special Task Force (armed police) sectors (HQ Moradabad, UP)

HQ IV Corps (Tezpur) (raised October 4, 1962, AOR: NEFA)

4 Infantry Division (Tezpur) (AOR: NEFA)

5 Infantry Brigade (Along. AOR: Subansiri, Siang, Lohit FDs)

7 Infantry Brigade (Tawang, AOR Kameng Frontier Division)

11 Infantry Brigade (Darjeeling. AOR Sikkim; but was in Nagaland)

HQ XXXIII Corps (Shillong, AOR Nagaland (CI) and East Pakistan.

20 Infantry Division (moved to Gangtok November 16, 1962) ex-Ranchi;

AOR included East Bengal)

66 Infantry Brigade (raised Dinapur, Bohar August 1962)

165 Infantry Brigade (Possibly Ramgarh)

¹ New raising, replaced 4 Division after its shift to Eastern Command 1959-60)

23 Infantry Division (Nagaland) (Also Command Reserve)
73 Infantry Brigade
192 Infantry Brigade (possibly)
301 Infantry Brigade

HQ Southern Command (Poona)

65 (I) Brigade at Secundrabad was an Army HQ Reserve.
?? Infantry Brigade (Madras/Trivandrum)