

## FIRST INTERIM COURSE OF 1948

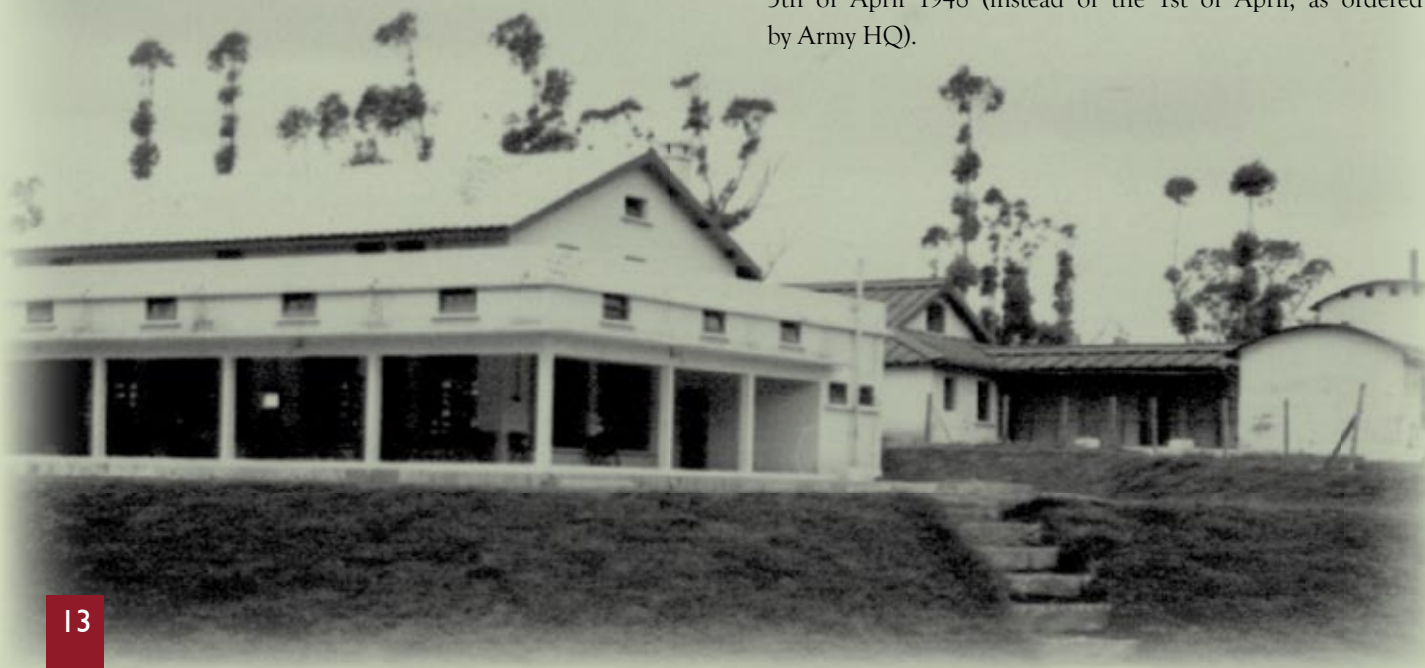
The Staff College, Wellington, started off as an Army Category 'A' training establishment. The initial organisation comprised a Commandant, an Assistant Commandant, one DS (Coordination), who was also to function as the personal staff officer of the Commandant, three Training Team DS, one DS per syndicate of seven to eight students, an Adjutant and a Quartermaster. A Medical Officer was also sanctioned.

Now that the course had to be started, Brig Verma's requirement was that of experienced DS. Three British officers, who were awaiting repatriation to UK from Quetta, were the first to come aboard the staff at Wellington, while the first Indian DS arrived only in the last week of January 1948. By April, the required number had been posted and the spadework for the précis and exercises commenced in right earnest. They prepared the précis in the day and proof-corrected them during the night. Soon enough the hard labour could be seen bearing fruit when the course started on Monday, the 5th of April 1948 (instead of the 1st of April, as ordered by Army HQ).

This first Indian Staff College Interim Course of 20 weeks duration had a strength of 50, selected by the Service HQ, on the basis of their reports from the units and qualification (not less than B grading) at the Tactics and Administration School. Another pre-requisite for selection to the course was a recommendation by the Infantry School Commandant. Officers qualifying the interim course were to be awarded the certificate "isc".

The interim course was designed to 'qualify officers for third grade appointments, and to permit the selection of outstanding students for second grade appointments'. This policy was to continue with these courses till it was possible to resume full courses, 'with the object of training officers for command and second grade employment'.

Maj TN Raina and Sqd Ldr H Moolgavkar of this course went on to become the Chiefs of their respective Services. The foundation had been laid. The first course of the Indian Staff College ran smoothly and successfully, the credit for which should go to the untiring efforts and exuberance shown by Brig Verma and his staff. But for them the Institution would not have been what it is today.



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### GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FIRST DIRECTING STAFF AND STUDENTS - APRIL 1948

- Fourth Row** Lt RB Aibara, Capt OP Bahri, Maj V.J Vohara, Maj KC Soni, Maj Jaswant Singh, Maj Niranjn Singh MC, Maj PS Sidhu, Sqn Ldr H Moolgaukar, Maj Shamsher Singh, Maj TN Raina, Maj SK Velu, Maj C Sundrarao, Maj BN Sarkar, Flt Lt MB Naik, Lt Dang, Capt GS Sandhu,
- Third Row** Capt KD Verma, Capt Pal Singh, Lt Col Veigas, Capt MM Sindhi, Lt Col KAS Raja, Maj Ramachandra Rao MC, Lt Mohan Singh, Capt MS Jaspal, Capt D Dwarkadass, Maj Ahluwalia, Maj RL Puri, Maj SS Padda, Capt WG Bhide, Capt Preetham Singh, Capt UK Gupta, Capt Ran Singh, Maj SH Kapoor.
- Second Row** Maj HS Bains, Maj Inder Sethi, Maj J Guha, Maj Balwant Singh, Maj Sultan Singh, Maj KK Metha, Maj KAA Raja, Capt SD Agarwala, Capt Amar Singh Rai, Capt KK Khanna, Maj PLN Choudhry, Capt RS Woodeyar, Capt Satwant Singh Mand, Capt Amarjeeth Anand, Maj DS Rao, Maj DK Iyengar, Capt P Ragawan.
- Front Row** Wg Cdr HS Darey, Lt Col AD Martin Sperry, Lt Col SPM Kent, Lt Col CG Bucher, Lt Col AC Srinivasan, Capt J Wilkie, Lt Col MS Verdi, Col L Sowhny, Maj Gen WDA Lentaigne, Lt Col PH Sergeant, Lt Col CD Addison, Lt Col Rab Brown, Lt Col FJ Britoo, Lt Col KR Coorlawala, Maj WS Rasalam, Capt B Krishnchar.