



4TH & 8TH INDIAN DIVISIONS



Indian divisions in the British Eighth Army brought together the Gurkhas, Punjabis, Sikhs, and British infantry to fight on the battlefields of North Africa, the Middle East and Italy. Trained in the mountain frontiers of India and hardened in the fighting across North Africa and the Middle East, the 4th and 8th Indian Divisions arrived in Italy as mountain-trained veterans.

RIVER CROSSINGS

The 8th Indian Division was first to arrive in Italy in September 1943. Their first six months had them fighting as part of the British Eighth Army's thrust up the Adriatic coastline. Before settling in for their first Italian winter, the 8th Indian Division fought in opposed river crossings on the Biferno, the Trigno (October 1943), the Sangro (November 1943) and the Moro (December 1943), becoming the Eighth Army's premier river crossing unit.

CASSINO

The 4th Indian Division arrived in Italy in January 1944. They were teamed with the 2nd New Zealand Division as part of the New Zealand Corps. This veteran division, fresh from a rest in North Africa, was immediately flung into the battle for the Cassino massif (mountains) and for five weeks they fought the elite 1. *Fallschirmjägerdivision* (1st Parachute Division) in hand-to-hand combat from Castle Hill and up Snakeshead Ridge to Hill 593.

THE GHURKAS ASSAULT

The Gurkhas' first charge at Cassino led them across Snakeshead Ridge and through the Germans' first line of defence to just below the Cassino monastery hill. They were stopped by the tough German paratroopers in The Thicket,

which was heavily booby-trapped with antipersonnel mines. Slowly the Gurkhas made their way around the hill to the south and secured Hangman's Hill.

Finding themselves cut-off and surrounded they dug in. The Gurkhas held against repeated counterattacks from the *Fallschirmjäger* above before finally fighting their way back to the Indian lines.

CASTLE HILL

The *Fallschirmjäger* launched three major counterattacks against the vital Castle Hill, which overlooked Cassino. After these desperate struggles, each assault was thrown back by the Indians. Both sides sustained horrific losses, but the Indians had permanently secured Castle Hill for the Allies.

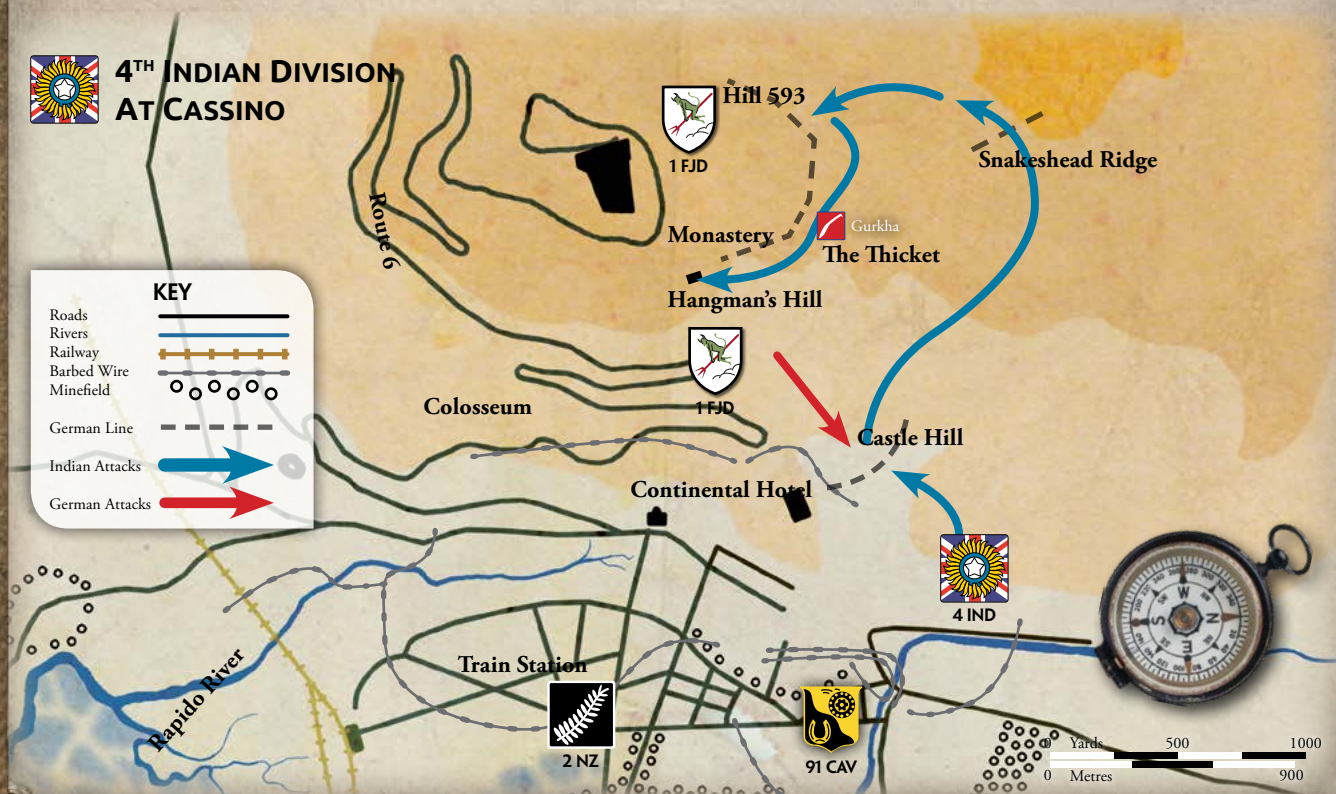
ONE MORE RIVER

For the final Cassino battles the 8th Indian Division was called upon for another river assault. This time it was to cross the Rapido River at the same place where the 36th US Infantry Division had suffered horrendous casualties in January 1944. The German defences had only become stronger in the months since the American assault. Under cover of darkness the Indians tried once more. Despite casualties nearing those of the Americans, the 8th Indian Division accomplished their crossing, secured the needed bridgehead, and opened a hole in the Gustav Line for the Canadian Corps to breakthrough.

Some 50,000 Indian troops fought for the British Empire in Italy with nearly half becoming casualties. Inscriptions in Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi adorn the tombstones of the Cassino memorials. Of the twenty soldiers who received the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest honour, in Italy, six were from the Indian divisions.



4TH INDIAN DIVISION AT CASSINO



INDIAN COMMAND CARDS

Indian Formations and Units use all the normal British rules found in *Liberation of Italy*. In addition, they can use a variety of different command cards to field various Formations and Units.

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INDIAN

Indian regiments shout their war cries to gain the blessings of the gods and intimidate their enemies as they charge into battle. Weak-hearted foes hearing this fearsome cry will flee without a fight.

Italy Rifle Company HQ and Rifle Platoon Units in this Formation lose Bulldog, their Motivation becomes Fearless, and they gain the War Cry rule for +2 points per Rifle Platoon and +1 point for the HQ.

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+

War Cry: Enemy Units must re-roll their first successful Motivation Test to Counterattack an Infantry Unit in this Formation.

British, Build, Formation (Italy Rifle Company), Title
0 POINTS

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GURKHAS

The Gurkhas of Nepal have a superb reputation as first-class fighting men. They are recruited from hardy hill tribes in the Himalayan mountains. Their ferociousness when using their heavy-bladed Khukuri knives in close combat is legendary. So too is their determination not to abandon their weapon while still alive.

GURKHAS
GURKHAS

The Gurkhas were additionally equipped with their Khukuri (a heavy-bladed recurved knife), which made a vicious hand-to-hand weapon.

Italy Rifle Company HQ and Rifle Platoon Units in this Formation lose Bulldog, their Motivation becomes Fearless, and they gain the Mountaineer and War Cry rules (see reverse of this card), and have an Assault rating of 2+ for +3 points per Rifle Platoon and +1 point for the HQ.

MOTIVATION
FEARLESS 3+

SKILL
TRAINED 4+
Khukuri Assault 2+

A Force using the Gurkhas title may also use the 4th & 8th Indian Divisions title.

British, Build, Formation (Italy Rifle Company), Title
0 POINTS

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GURKHAS
GURKHAS RULES

Mountaineers: Teams that start their Movement Step adjacent to a cliff or mountain side (or similar terrain feature) roll a Skill Test. If successful, the team may move using Terrain Dash across the terrain.

War Cry: Enemy Units must re-roll their first successful Motivation Test to Counterattack an Infantry Unit in this Formation.

