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PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEW CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF

New Delhi, December 27, 1947.

Brigadier P.N. Thapar has been appointed officiating Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army Headquarters, with the acting rank of Major-General, in place of Major-General K.M. Cariappa who has become General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

Commissioned 21 years ago from Sandhurst, he spent nearly ten years with the 1st Punjab Regiment. He later attended staff courses both at Quetta and Winley-Manor, England. During World War II he saw service in Burma in 1941 and two years afterwards was in the Middle East and Italy. After a spell of duty as Assistant Military Secretary at General Headquarters, India, he was selected to serve on the Army Reorganisation Committee. With the British Headquarters in Aden he was also for some time a first grade staff officer.

In early 1946 Gen. Thapar commanded the 1st Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment in Indonesia and later commanded 161 Indian Infantry Brigade in East Bengal. He took up the appointment of Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at Army Headquarters, India, on August 15, 1947.

MJEP /SSB/DS