

PRESS NOTE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 1 — The withdrawal of British troops from India and Pakistan will commence shortly, says an official announcement. The first batch of British troops will be leaving Bombay on the 17th August after a ceremonial parade.

British troops in India and Pakistan will have no operational role nor will they have any responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, both of which vest with the Governments of the Indian Union and Pakistan.

Until such time as they are withdrawn, all British Army Units located in the Dominions of India and Pakistan will be under the command of Major-General L.G. Whistler, C.B., D.S.O., who will be designated General Officer Commanding British Troops in India and Pakistan from August 15, 1947.

General Whistler was born in Kasauli (Punjab) in 1898, and his association with India has been long and pleasant. His father, Col. Whistler, commanded the 16 Rajputs which is now the Training Centre of the Rajput Regiment.

Commissioned into the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1917, General Whistler saw active service in France and Belgium in the first World War, and in Ireland, China and Palestine. For nearly four years (1932-36) he was in India as Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion of his regiment.

In World War II Gen. Whistler's gallantry in Dunkirk won him the D.S.O. He was with the 8th Army in 1942 and while commanding 131 (Queens) Bde in 7 Armoured Div (Desert Rats), he was awarded his first bar to the D.S.O. and a second bar was awarded to him at Salerno. He commanded the 3rd British Inf. Div from June 1944 to Jan. 1947 and was in command throughout the Western Front Campaign from Normandy to V.E. Day. For these services he was made a C.B.

In February 1947 General Whistler was appointed Major-General, British Troops in India.