

Late Lt.-Gen. D.R. THAPAR
(Former Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services)

Born at Lahore in 1894, Lt.-General D.R. Thapar, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.D. and D.T.M. son of late Dewan Bahadur K.B. Thapar, O.B.E., was educated at the Government College, Lahore, and later at the University of Edinburgh (1911-16). He graduated with M.B. Ch.B. in 1916 and became M.D. in 1930.

On the outbreak of World War I in 1914, whilst still a student at Edinburgh, Lt.-Gen. Thapar organised the Scottish Wing of the Indian Volunteers Ambulance Corps under the patronage of Mahatma Gandhi. As a Sergeant-Major, he recruited 120 Indian students from various Scottish universities into this Corps. After three months' training, these volunteers served as dressers and interpreters in medical units in the U.K. and France.

Commissioned into the I.M.S. in March 1918, Lt.-Gen. Thapar saw service for two years with the B.E.F. in France. On returning to India in 1920, he served mostly on the north-west frontier as a specialist and in various staff appointments. He also commanded a hospital during the Burma Rebellion in 1931-32.

On the outbreak of World War II, Lt.-Gen. Thapar commanded the I.H.C. Training Centre at Rawalpindi from 1939 to 1942 and was awarded the O.B.E. in January 1942. During the period 1942-46, he was Commandant of HQ, I.A.M.C., and did much to improve the organisation by working for the amalgamation of the I.M.S., I.M.D. and I.H.C. He served as a member of the Bucher Committee and the Roy Committee and was awarded the C.I.E. in July 1946.

Lt.-Gen. Thapar was the first Indian to be appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services at G.H.Q. in May 1946. He was promoted to Maj-Gen. in October 1947 and was appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services, Southern Command.

In 1950, Lt.-Gen. Thapar represented the Government of India at the meetings of International Committee on Military Medicine held in Mexico. During his stay in Mexico he was awarded the "Visitante Distinguido" medal and certificate, conferring upon him the title "Distinguished Visitor". On his way back, he attended the Congress of Military Surgeons of America in Washington.

In October 1950, he took over as the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services in the rank of Lt.-General.

He relinquished that appointment in June 1954 after completing
a period of 20 years' service. Lt.-Gen. Thapar continued
to be the Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps till
April 6, 1956.

Lt.-Gen. Thapar was one of the founder members of the
All India Ex-Services' Federation during the year 1957 and became
the senior Vice-President of the Indian Ex-Services League on
its formation in May 1964. In the absence of General K.S. Thimayya,
the President of the League, Gen. Thapar was discharging the
duties of the President.

Lt.-Gen. Thapar has written a book on sanitation and
medical pamphlets on malaria and trachoma. He was the editor
of the I.A.M.C. Journal since it was founded in 1943. He was
interested in cinematography.

New Delhi, 15 December 1965

543/2

the rank of Lt.-General

S/...

the rank of Lt.-General