

IMA : HERITAGE



Introduction

Indian Military Academy (IMA) is a premier Army Training institution imparting training to potential regular Officers of our Army. The Academy boasts of a glorious and colorful history. Its dynamic curriculum and valiant traditions are not only the integral part of the Nation's proud heritage, but also forms an indispensable sheet anchor of India's National security. The Indian Military Academy is no soft option to glamour and heraldry. It is an austere institution imparting rigorous training in leadership, self discipline and act of war. It is the core Academy for grooming the next generation of military leaders and sets the benchmark for the Indian Army. Its overall capacity, dynamic curriculum and martial traditions have consistently attracted the best Gentlemen Cadets from home and abroad. The contribution of the Academy to our Military heritage and Nation building has been immense. To a proud Nation, the Indian Military Academy is an epitome for nurturing ethical conduct, patriotism, selfless service and respect for Indian values.

The Beginning

On 25 August 1917, a significant step towards the Indianisation of the Army was initiated i.e. to establish an "Indian Sandhurst". This led to the appointment of the Skeen Committee, which recommended the establishment of the Indian Military Academy by 1933. Eventually the amplified recommendations of the Chetwode Committee to establish an Indian Military College with a training course of three years and proposed output of 60 Gentlemen Cadets (GC), was accepted and the Indian Military Academy was opened in Dehradun on 01 October, 1932 with 40 Gentlemen Cadets.

Location

The ideal location for the Academy had to be at an easily accessible place, with temperate climate the year round, adequate area for training needs, as also, to have a military garrison in the neighborhood. Hence out of the three nominated places of Satara, Mhow and Dehradun, the Doon valley aptly called the "Dronacharya Ashram" was selected for the same. Perhaps the most important consideration in favor of Dehradun was the availability of the eminently suitable building (estate of Railway Staff College spread over 153.53 acres of land). The campus was taken over on 01 April 1932.

IMA : HERITAGE



IMA 1932



IMA 2012

Climate

The Doon Valley has a short summer from mid-April to June and a long wet monsoon from July to September. It is nice and pleasant during October and March but quite cold from November to February.

Formal Inauguration and Credo

The formal inauguration of the Indian Military Academy took place on 10 December 1932, by H.E the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Sir Philip Chetwode, Baronet GCB, GCSS, CCMA, DSO. The concluding part of the historic inaugural speech of Sir Philip Chetwode on the Day gave the Academy its unmatched Credo, which to date is the functional ethos of every Officer who has passed out through the portals of the Chetwode.

Brig LP Collins, DSO, OBE, 4 Gurkhas was appointed as the first Commandant and Capt JFS MC Laren, 1st Battalion the Black Watch as the first Adjutant. The first batch of 40 Cadets reported by 30 September 1932 and on 01 October, the institution became functional.

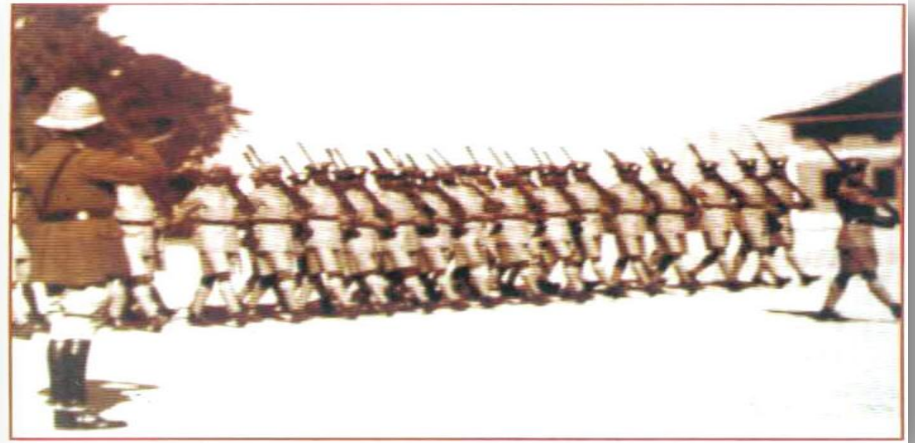


Chetwode Building in 1932

IMA : HERITAGE



CREDO (Inscribed in the Chetwode Hall)



March Past During Inaugural Parade of IMA, 10 Dec 1932

First Five Courses

By 1934, the Academy had attained its designated strength of 200 Gentlemen Cadets spread over five courses. The first five courses are distinguished from the others by their specific names as well as by their historic seniority, these courses were: -

- FIRST** Pioneers. (Passed out on 22 December 1934. Only 29 Gentlemen Cadets passed out as against 40 inducted, the remaining having been relegated or withdrawn).
- SECOND** Immortals.
- THIRD** Invincible .
- FOURTH** Stalwarts.
- FIFTH** Bahadurs (This batch wanted an Indian word with a martial ring).

On Independence in 1947, the command of the Academy was taken over by Brig (later Maj Gen) Thakur Mahadeo Singh, DSO the first Indian Commandant. 20 Dec 1947 was a very special day. On this day the National Flag was hoisted at the Indian Military Academy along with the ceremonial Passing out Parade of the 2nd Post War Training Course, which witnessed, 189 Gentlemen Cadets taking the final step to become the first Batch to receive their commission in free India.

Award of Colours

Regimental colours are the ceremonial flags of military regiments. Historically, their roots can be traced back to the Roman Empire. Colours are emblem of loyalty and courage and Indian Military Academy has the proud privilege of receiving the Colours thrice in its service to the Nation and as an acknowledgment of sacrifice of its alumni. The Academy was presented its First Colours by HE Viceroy Lord Willington on 18 November 1934.



The Commandant with the first Course (The Pioneers), 1932

IMA : HERITAGE



*First : Presented by H.E. Viceroy
Lord Willington (18 Nov 1934)*



*Second : Dr S.Radhakrishnan
(10 Dec 1962)*



*Third : Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
(15 Dec 1976)*

On 10 December 1962, exactly thirty years after inception of the Military Academy, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, President of the Republic of India, presented new Colours to the Indian Military Academy in recognition of the gallant services of the Alumni of the Military Academy in various operations.

On 15 December 1976, the President of India, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, presented new Colours to the Indian Military Academy as a mark of appreciation for its services to the Nation both in peace and war. While presenting the Colours the President remarked, “ *I hope the Colours will inspire you to have strength and resilience for the purpose of welfare and safety of your country. I am sure that you will maintain these traditions and keep the flag flying*”.

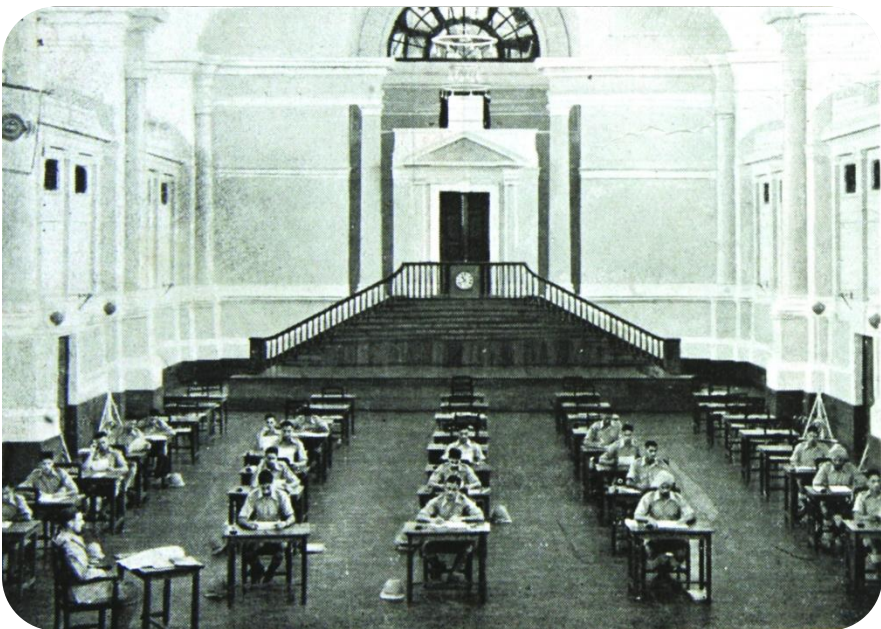
Birth of National Defence Academy

In January 1949 as a first step towards jointmanship of Army, Navy and Air force, the Inter Services Wing for training of cadets of the three Services was created and Academy was renamed as Armed Forces Academy. The Military wing continued at the present campus at Premnagar and the Inter Services Wing was established at Clement Town, about 7 miles away. To link the two wings a new road was constructed and named after the first Indian Commandant, Maj Gen Mahadeo Singh. In 1950, the Inter Services Wing was renamed as Joint Services Wing. In December 1954, the Joint Services Wing (JSW) was permanently shifted to Khadakwasla, Pune, and was named as the National Defence Academy. Consequently, on 05 September 1955 the Military Wing Dehradun was re-designated as the Military College Dehradun and in October 1959, the College once again reverted to its initial designation as, 'The Indian Military Academy'.

The Silver Jubilee of the Indian Military Academy was celebrated with traditional pomp and fanfare on 10 Dec 1957. In the wake of the Chinese aggression, Emergency Commission (EC) Courses were scheduled and the last one passed out on 01 Nov 1964. In 1974, the entry level for Regular Courses was raised to graduation. In 1975, the Battalions at Indian Military Academy were named in honour of Cariappa, Thimayya, Manekshaw and Bhagat and the tributes continue to this day. In 1977, the Indian Military Academy grew in status and size when the Army Cadet College moved from Pune and became a part and parcel of the Academy. In 1982, the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Military Academy was celebrated in style and the occasion coincided with the passing out parade reviewed by Smt Indira Gandhi. A 'Son-et-Lumière' programme highlighted the glittering Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1992. In Feb 1998, the Special Commission Officers (SCO) Course was introduced and was run in Indian Military Academy till June 2011. Now the course is being run at Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya.

IMA : HERITAGE

An experimental truncated Regular Course was introduced in Spring Term 2000 but discontinued as untenable after two courses. The University link was firmly established in Jun 2003 when volunteer Gentlemen Cadets were conferred with a Post Graduate Diploma in Military Studies and Defence Management from HNB Garhwal University on successful completion of training at Indian Military Academy. Over 50,000 Gentlemen Cadets including 3000 plus from 23 friendly countries have been commissioned from Indian Military Academy till date. Numerous gallantry awards won by the alumni are eloquent symbols of gallantry in battle spanning wars before and after independence. 7 Param Vir Chakra, 17 Ashoka Chakra, 84 Maha Vir Chakra and 257 Vir Chakra are mute symbols of valour, courage and dedication beyond the call of duty. The fact that a significant number of awards were posthumous stand testimony to the colours of the Academy, steel grey and red, signifying sacrifice and resoluteness against all odds.



Chetwode Exam Hall, 1934



Chetwode Hall, 2016

IMA : HERITAGE

Academy Crest & Insignia

Colours of the Academy are steel-grey and blood-red. Red for blood signifies the ultimate in sacrifice and devotion to duty, while Steel-Grey denotes strength and resilience.



The crest is composed of two crossed swords signifying the profession of arms, with a flaming torch symbolizing knowledge, superimposed in the middle by the Dharmachakra of Ashoka, against a background of steel-grey and blood-red. The scroll bearing the inscription 'Veerta aur Vivek' meaning 'Valour and Wisdom' is the Motto of the Indian Military Academy.