

DURBAR Volume 3, No.2

5th GORKHA RIFLES (FRONTIER FORCE) HEADDRESS BADGES WORN 1858 TO 1885

The earliest type of headdress badge worn by the 5th Gurkhas is shown in a water colour done in 1860 by a local artist. The painting depicts a British officer wearing a helmet with a star-shaped badge. The finer details are not clear but the badge is an eight-pointed star surmounted by a Gothic crown. The numeral "25" is conspicuous. It is assumed that the garter (as in Fig. "A") has "REGIMENT PUNJAB INFANTRY" inscribed within. The official title of the regiment from 1858 to 1861 was 25th Punjab Infantry or Huzara Goorkha Battalion.

An early photograph of Brevet-Major H.F.M. Boisragon, who raised the regiment, shows him in a loosely cut tunic with dark collars with a single large star. The eight-pointed star later appears as a pouch-belt plate with "Goorkhas", "Goorkha Regt" and "Goorkha Rifles" inscribed within the circlet.

Badges for other ranks appeared circa 1861 and are crossed kukris, points upwards, the handles crossed in saltire, the cutting edges of the blades inwards, and between the blades a large numeral "5" (as shown in Fig. "B"). On 29th October, 1861 the regiment assumed the official title of 5th Goorkha Regiment (The Hazara Goorkha Battalion) attached to the Punjab Irregular Force.

An attractively designed badge (Fig. "C") appeared circa 1860. It has a floriated "5", the numeral is smaller when compared to Fig. "B" and the badge is a two-piece construction. The badge was manufactured in England and continued in use until a few years after the regiment became "Royal".

In 1891 the "Goorkha" was dropped and replaced by the anglicised spelling "Gurkha". About the same time the 5th Gurkhas officially became a rifle regiment. The title "Royal" was conferred on 15th February, 1921 in recognition of the distinguished service rendered by the 5th Gurkhas during the First World War.

The great distinction of becoming a "Royal Regiment" also meant a change in the badge. This distinction was marked by the addition of a Tudor crown superimposed on the "5" (Fig. "D"). The badge was actually brought into use about 1925, being worn only by officers. It was later realized, however, that the Tudor crown was used by non-Royal units and consequently permission was accorded in 1927 to replace it with the Imperial crown and lion.

Figures "E" & "F" illustrate the type of badge worn from about 1930 till about 1951. The Royal Crest (Imperial crown and lion) varied in size, the more commonly used pattern being as shown in "F". This badge was worn by both officers and other ranks. Officers wore it on the white helmet and, on a black boss, with field service and forage caps. Other ranks wore it on a kilmarnock and later, with the introduction of the beret, as a beret badge. Badges were never worn by the "Fifth" on the felt or Gurkha hat, the unique double green lines on the pagri around the hat being sufficient to set them apart from other Gurkha regiments.

In 1947 the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) were allotted to the Indian Army after the three-way split of forces between India, Pakistan and Britain. It is interesting to note that the 5th Gurkhas are the only PIFFER regiment amongst the Infantry and Cavalry serving with the present Indian Army. The spelling "Gurkha" was replaced by "Gorkha" with effect from 1949 by all Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army.

On 26th January, 1950 India became a republic and the "Royal" was dropped. This change in status necessitated a change in the badges and crest of the regiment. Army H.Q. eventually decided that India's State Emblem (i.e. the lions from the capital of Ashoka's pillar at Sarnath) would replace the crown.

The badge illustrated in Fig. "G" was introduced by late 1951. This badge is worn on all headdress and was until November 1985 also worn on the Gurkha hat.

The Fifth always had a tradition of sobriety in uniform and devices. For a brief period, red boss, backings and shoulder titles were introduced but this was quite alien to the past history and tradition of the regiment. Those responsible for these changes seemed to have ignored General Sir Ian Hamilton who, on writing a forward to Volume I of the regimental history, said:

"The fame of the noble 5th Gurkhas will never die, and if any politician of the hereafter dreams of disbanding their cadre, or changing their number, or of any other like atrocity, may the perusal of this volume paralyse his sacrilegious hand."

With effect from November 1985, the red backing, flashes and wearing of badge on Gurkha hat were dropped. The Fifth have returned to their old tradition - sobriety in uniform.

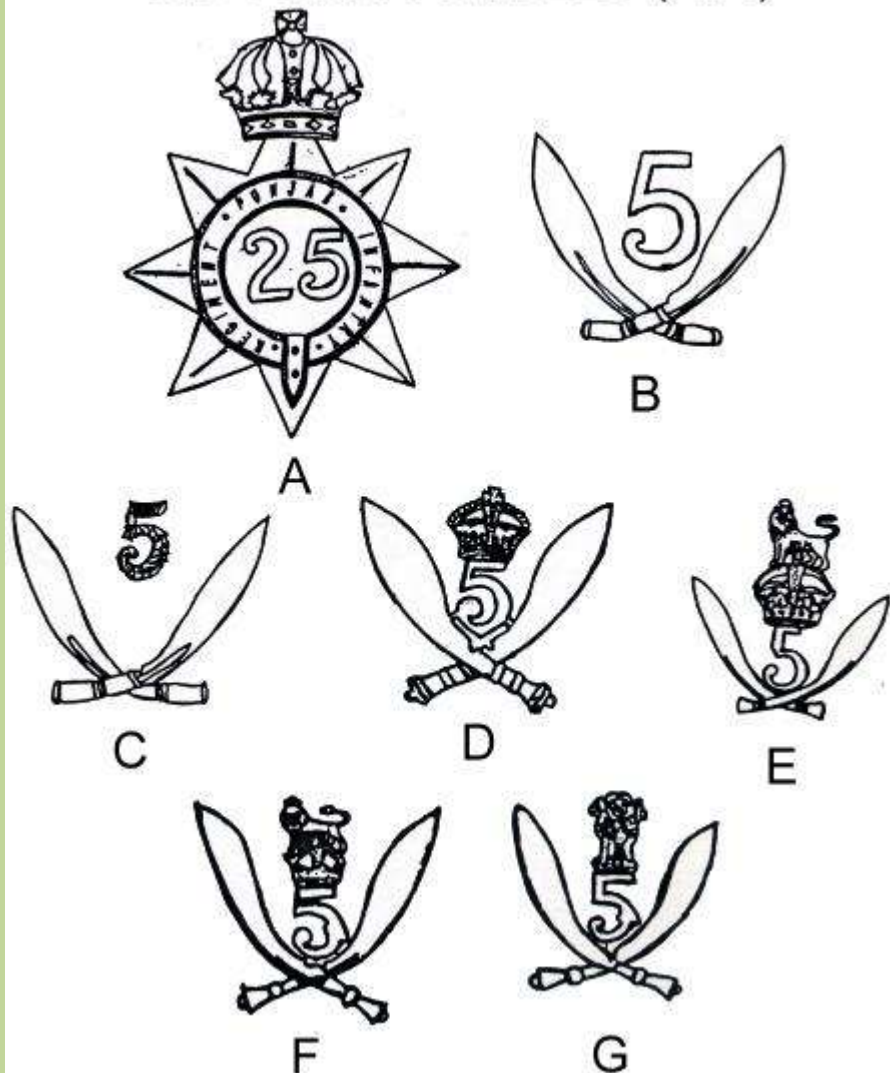
A. Nath

This paper has been researched by the author for the 5th Gorkha Rifles and is part of a forthcoming book A History of Indian Army Badges.

Sources:

- Indian Army badge collections with private collectors.
- Unpublished papers and contemporary painting of 25th Punjab Infantry / Photographs.
- *History of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (FF)* Volume I.
- *Lineages and composition of Gurkha Regiments in British service*, Gurkha Museum publication compiled by Gen. Sir J.L. Chapple.
- Interviews with serving and retired officers and Jawans of the Fifth and with old regimental tailors and contractors.

5th GORKHA RIFLES (F.F.)



NEW FROM THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

“Between Battles. The Album of Colonel James Skinner” with introduction and notes by Mildred Archer

The work of Indian artists for their British patrons has been a neglected area. However, this series of ten paintings in full colour, matched with the originals, from the album produced for the colourful founder of Skinner's Horse, Colonel James Skinner, begins to correct such neglect. It depicts scenes of his household, friends and acquaintances. £17.95/set

A postcard of drummers, and fifers, probably Bengal Presidency, c. 1800, 10p.

BUNDOBAST

Welcome back to Durbar, Bundobast, or whatever my column is called these days. In this column I'm going to depart from my usual format and join in what seems to be developing into a mild kerfuffle (or "rhubarb", for sports-oriented American members) concerning officers' memoirs.

Never having been an Animal Transport Officer, I cannot help Major Sudlow with regard to the effect of mules' kicks. On the other hand, perhaps I can shed some light on the accuracy of John Masters' accounts.

First of all, Masters makes the point in the foreword to *Bugles and a Tiger* that he was writing "a factual story, but not a history". He was writing nearly twenty years after the events took place, and was a novelist and therefore presumably more concerned with telling his story to a readership whose knowledge of the Indian Army was largely limited to "Lives of a Bengal Lancer" and "Gunga Din" at the local movie house. Fortunately, several other Indian Army officers have written accounts of the same period, and in a number of cases it is possible to check one account against the other. Brigadier Prendergast, in his *Prender's Progress*, mentions dropping into the 4th G. R. Mess and downing seven beers, and notes that it impressed Masters enough to mention it in his book. Masters only credits him with five, but the number is immaterial. Lt. Col. Stevenson-Hamilton was 1/4th G.R. at the same time as Masters was with the 2nd Battalion. One would expect there to be some overlap in their accounts, but neither mentions the other, possibly because Stevenson-Hamilton was serving as A.D.C. to the Governor of the Punjab for most of the period that Masters wrote about. There is, however, one story in common. Masters calls it "the pursuit of Lieutenant Dishington" (not the real name), and cites it as an example of "the babu mentality". He concentrates on the arresting officer's frustrating and convoluted attempts to recover expenses. Stevenson-Hamilton gives a number of details, but withholds the name and regiment. As he tells the story, it is the "Dishington's" attempt to bilk his creditors that is most important. The details of the two versions differ in a number of respects, some of them major.

As Masters tells the story, the officer absconded with the contents of the Regimental Treasure Chest. Stevenson-Hamilton relates how the officer borrowed the contents to lure in his creditors, relieved them of his notes at gunpoint, destroyed the notes, and returned the money to where it belonged. As Stevenson-Hamilton's account is the more circumstantial, I am inclined to believe it is the more correct. Masters also tells a story which sounds remarkably like that of Lt. Eric Sheehan (related by Roger Perkins in *The Punjab Mail Murder*). Masters puts the incident in 1938 and mentions that the officer had just returned from England after recovering from the wounds he received when his compartment mate was killed; also that the person he shot was an officer in his own regiment. The murder of Lt. Hext took place in 1931. Lt. Sheehan did not go home to recuperate - he was on his way to testify in the murder trial when the second incident occurred. Lastly, it was not a brother officer he shot, but the brother of a man serving in Sheehan's Artillery regiment. Unless there were two remarkably similar incidents (and if there were, it seems unlikely that Roger Perkins would miss the second), Masters has taken an incident which happened when he was still in England, and fitted it into his story.

As a historical note, I might add that the bones that puzzled Masters on his hiking trip in Garhwal in 1945 (related in *The Road Past Mandalay*) were undoubtedly those of a Dogra

army defeated by a Chinese army from Tibet in 1841. Of an army of 5,000 men, only two Dogras are supposed to have survived. This information came from *Frontier and Overseas Expeditions from India*, Volume IV, in the section on Tibet.

Questions have been few lately, but I recently received one from Terry McCormick which casts an interesting sidelight on my search for the elusive "S.E. Asia 1945-46". Terry listed a number of GSMs to the Frontier Force in his collection, and noted that while two had five digit numbers, the rest had seven digits. All these recipients were Dogras or Sikhs. My personal belief is that the seven digit men served in the Indian Army after 1947, and that the medals show their post-'47 number (ie. seven digits) together with their wartime unit. I have a 4th Dogra GSM in my collection with a letter which says he was discharged in February of 1947. His number has five digits. This seems to indicate that discharged men received medals with their wartime number (five digit) and unit.

Finally, can anyone verify the presence of the following units in Java or Sumatra during 1945-1946: 5th Indian Division - 3/14 Punjabis, 4/7 Rajputs, 4 Royal West Kents; 26th Indian Division - 5/16 Punjabis?

M.C. Johnson

INDIAN GALLANTRY MEDALS - SOME ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES

In addition to the reference works already mentioned by Colin Message (Journal 1984) and Michael Johnson (Durbar 2 # 4), the following books will provide valuable sources for researching Indian gallantry awards.

Wilson and McEwen's *Gallantry*, printed in 1939, provides much useful information on medals most often associated with civilians, particularly the awards of the Albert Medal and the Edward Medal for Mines and Industry. It is in connection with these two awards that the book is a "Golconda" of information. As far as I can make out, all Indian military, police and civilian recipients of the Albert Medal, Empire Gallantry Medal and Edward Medal awarded up to 1938 are listed here, as the citations appear in chronological order.

Though the brave actions of Indian lascars, railwaymen, bearers and miners may not be of paramount interest to purely military enthusiasts, the book is nonetheless strongly recommended, as the stirring citations provide good insights into the everyday dangers which were thrown up in the bygone days of the Raj. The citations range from natural disasters such as the Quetta earthquake and rescuing a "Bhurra- Sahib" from a man-eating tiger to awards for foiling train dacoits and all make enthralling reading. Though long out of print, second-hand copies of 'Gallantry' occasionally appear on dealers' lists.

The definitive reference for Indian Awards of the VC and GC must remain *The Victoria Crosses and George Crosses of The Honourable East India Company and Indian Army 1856-1945*, printed by the National Army Museum in 1962. Running to some 49 pages, the book contains 9 plates, including an illustration of the gold representation VC awarded to Mrs Webber Harris by the men of the 104th Bengal Fusiliers for her nursing services during a cholera epidemic. All the VCs, GCs and EGMs awarded to the Indian Army and civilians are arranged in alphabetical tables giving name, rank, regiment, place and date of deed and the

London Gazette date. In addition, detailed accounts are given, in chronological order, for all the Victoria Crosses.

Considering her Indian lineage, it is unfortunate that the booklet does not list Assistant Section Officer Noor Inayat-Khan of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force under the George Cross winners. The oversight is no doubt due to her remarkable family background and the fact that she served in the WAAF. Awarded the GC posthumously on 5th April, 1949, she was the first woman operator to be dropped into Nazi-occupied France in 1943. Known by her code name of "Madeleine", she gathered important information for British Intelligence in London, before being betrayed and picked up by the Gestapo. In spite of torture, she refused to yield any information to her interrogators and made several bold attempts to escape. She was eventually sent to the infamous Dachau concentration camp where, on 12th September, 1944, she was shot by her Nazi captors.

Copies of the NAM booklet can still be purchased from the Museum at a very reasonable price - in fact the last copies I bought cost only 15 pence each.

A third book worth mention is *The Punjab Mail Murder*, written and published by Roger Perkins in 1979. (For a full review, refer to OMRS Journal, Summer '79, pp. 140-41). Apart from a potpourri of information about India and the Indian Army during the inter-war period, the real value of the book lies in its appendices, which list awards given for the 1930 "Red Shirt Rebellion". The awards list is, however, not complete. The book can be recommended as a quick reference source, unlike his recent, rather disappointing *Kashmir Gate*. A second edition of this book is now available from Picton Publishing (details under Book Reviews in this issue).

A very good gallantry reference is the lengthy list of Honours and Awards for the North-West Frontier 1936-1939 which appeared with an excellent article in A.D. Hamilton and Company's *Despatch*, Vol.2, No.4, 1979. The account of the NWF operations is perhaps the best printed in recent years and certainly far more accurate and studious than the recent poor effort made by Michael Barthorp in his mainly pictorial account of the North-West Frontier campaigns. Hamilton lists more than 1300 awards, of which the majority are Mentions in Despatches (1,126). These are the British awards (London Gazette), however, and not as comprehensive as the Indian Government's Gazette of India, which alone includes IOMs and IDSMs. Nonetheless, several hundred Indian officers and men are listed as MIDs, thus adding new interest to the IGS 1936 medal. Incidentally, awards made as late as October 1940 are also included.

Various other issues of *Despatch* contain listings of DSOs, MCs, MMs, etc., which were gazetted after the end of the Second World War and include many names of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. Other *Despatches* contain Lord Robert's despatches from the Afghan War 1878-801 sometimes mentioning the names of VCOs, Indian casualties, etc. Back issues may be available from this Glasgow-based company. On a final note, gallantry medals issued by the Republic of India are listed in the Gazette of India, often accompanied by citations. A further source of information for post-independence gallantry medals can be found in *Heroic Deeds in Free India* by S. P. Baranwal, printed in New Delhi in 1965.

M.D. Sellar

INDIAN ARMY UNIFORMS FROM CIGARETTE CARDS

(Part One of Three)

Students of Indian Army dress, in the absence of actual uniform pieces, have to rely on Dress Regulations, the occasional paragraph in regimental histories (these books now quite scarce), the more recent authoritative works by Carman, Barthorp and Mollo, and for additional pictorial material, prints and photographs, the latter being my own specialization. However, without making any of the often exaggerated claims of the genuine cartophilist, might I suggest that cigarette cards can add colour to one's pictorial records, as well as the occasional snippet of additional knowledge. Out of the thousands of cards dealing with British and overseas armies produced between 1895 and 1940, only about 2-300 deal with the Indian Army, so it may be of some interest to look at these series. I have therefore recorded all those I know, and provided representative specimens, but I make no claim that the list is comprehensive. The dates of manufacture, names of tobacco companies, numbers in series, etc., are all taken from a 1982 catalogue of a well-known British dealer, Murray Cards (International) Ltd. I have also added the prices for single cards and complete sets - when the latter is obtainable. The prices quoted for cards dated before the 1920s will probably shock the reader, but I would hasten to add that, in my opinion, some of the later series, particularly the 1937 Player's set, are amongst the best and still reasonably priced, whilst single or odd cards can often be obtained.

Badge collectors will know the perils, and possibly some of the advantages of "re-strikes". A firm in West Germany has, during the past few years, re-printed some of the fine old series of German cigarette cards of historic uniforms. More recently, a British firm trading under the name of "Nostalgia Reprints" has re-printed a very old series of 50 military cards, originally printed in 1903 entitled "Military Series" and now priced at £7.50 a card, the subjects colourful but not very accurate. The re-prints, which are very good, cost about £3 a set, so there is hope that Indian subjects may eventually reappear.

THE SERIES

- 1893. Soldiers of the World. (100/101), W.D. & H.O. Wills. £3 per card/£300 per set. Figs. 1 & 2

A Very fine series, subjects believed to have been painted by R. Caton Woodville. Ten Indian cards, Nos 17-26. We illustrate two: No.18, Bengal Lancer and No.23, Bombay Lancer. The mounted officer actually depicts the 12th Cavalry, officers of "Cavalry" regiments having plain lace shoulder-belts while "Lancers" had pricker-plates, chains, etc. The Mountain Artillery card (No. 20) shows a Gunner and not an officer, as captioned. In spite of these little slips with some of the captions, it is nevertheless a splendid series.

- 1900. Military Uniforms (Series "C") (27) American Tobacco Co., U.S.A. £1.50 per card/£40 per set, Fig. 3

Again a very fine series, figures reliable and well painted. The card selected shows No. 21, an officer of 6th Bengal Cavalry. It is interesting to note, and an indication of the trouble taken, that the Native officer of 6th Bengal Cavalry has

been faithfully copied from a photograph of old Rissaldar Major Jahour Khan, who had just retired from the regiment in December 1899.

- 1901. Colonial Troops. (30) R. & J. Hill Ltd. £7.50 per card/set not quoted, Fig. 4

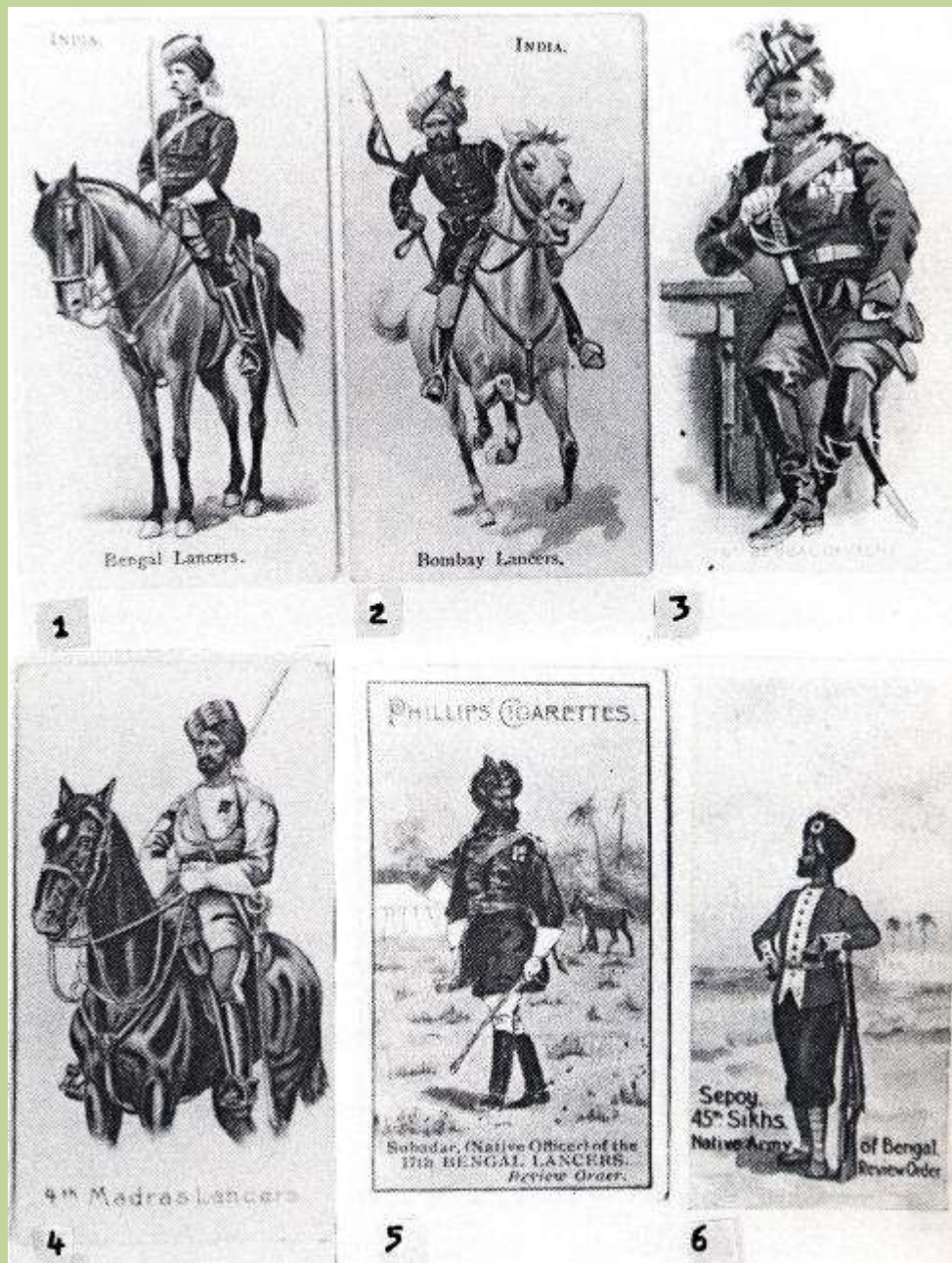
Not so pleasing in general but nevertheless another rare and reasonably accurate series. The card chosen as illustration is No. 13. The 4th Madras Lancers had been disbanded since 1891. The card is from the first part of this set, Nos. 1-30, containing 8 Indian Army subjects, but there is a second part, Nos. 31-50 which has three cards of State Forces regiments: Bhavnagar Lcrs., Jodhpur Lcrs., Patiala Lcrs. Captions of all three wrongly spelt.

- 1901. Colonial Series. (25) J. & F. Bell Ltd. £1.2.50 per card/set not quoted

I do not have any of this series but a colleague who is fortunate enough to own a set tells me that the pictures are very well done and seem accurate. He goes on to say that the style is similar to Ibbetson, but better. There are four Indian Army subjects and two Volunteer regiments: No.7 Bihar Light Horse; No.10 Surma Valley Light Horse; No.17 Risaldar Major of the 11th Bengal Lcrs.; No.18 45 Rattray's Sikhs; No.19 Havildar 1st Madras Lcrs.; and No. 24 3rd Gurkha Rifles.

- 1900. Types of British Soldiers (25) Godfrey Phillips Ltd. £5 per card/£25 per set, Figs. 5 & 6

A very fine series by the well-known artist Harry Payne. Only three subjects of Indian Army; No.13, 44th Gurkhas; No.19, Sepoy of 45th Sikhs; and No.22, called "Subadar (Native Officer)" of the 17th Bengal Lcrs. - rank should of course read "Rissaldar". There are 13 issues of this series. Our illustrations show one by Phillips and the other an Anonymous series made for a tea company.



R. G. Harris

BOOK REVIEWS

● *A SAPPER IN THE FORGOTTEN ARMY*. John Henslow. Privately printed. Available from The History Bookshop or, presumably, from the author (Durleighmarsh Farm, Petersfield, Sussex GU31 5AX, UK).

The author served with 421 Indian Field Company (Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners), 114 Bde., 7th Indian Division. A good account of his experiences including Kohima and the Irrawaddy crossing, plus occupation service in Thailand. Includes some excellent photographs taken by the author on active service.

● *SUPPLEMENT TO THE INDIAN ARMY LIST 1939*, London Stamp Exchange, 1986.

As with the reprint of the 1924 edition, a very useful work. War services coverage goes up to the N.W.F. campaign of 1936-37 although some units and individuals may have been slow to send in details. Unfortunately, the roll of IDSM winners still serving was omitted after 1931. The war services of warrant officers, other than VCOs of the Ind. Medical Dept., also disappeared from the Supplement between 1924 and 1939. MCJ

● *THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR CASUALTY ROLL*. A. Farrington. London Stamp Exchange, 1986, 190 p., £24.95

A truly excellent production by Anthony Farrington of the India Office Library and a definite "must" for any serious Afghan War collector. What distinguishes it from many other medal and casualty rolls is the author's success in achieving his "primary aim of producing a properly referenced compilation." The book begins with fifteen pages of sources, including all the Gazette dates and I.O. record numbers and a good bibliography. All casualties, killed or wounded, include the relevant source either at the top of the page or after the individual name.

After the "Sources" are fifty pages of photographically reproduced despatches from various of the general officers involved in the campaign. The rolls themselves are arranged into British and Indian sections, the latter divided by Presidency and followed by thirty-five pages of VC, DCM and IOM citations. These last include both chronological and alphabetical indexes. The list of Indian casualties is, of course, the most welcome aspect of the whole project and the author cannot be faulted for not having the superhuman fortitude necessary to list deaths due to disease or accident or the casualties among native followers.

This must have been a mammoth undertaking and one whose successful completion deserves a large vote of gratitude from the Indian medal-collecting fraternity. Let us hope that more works of similar quality lie ahead! PEM

NEW BOOKS

● *HINDU HORSEMAN*. Lt. Col Denzil Holder. Chippenham: Picton Publishing, 1986. £12.95.

Though the author served with Skinner's Horse in both World Wars, the publisher's flyer says that "it is not really a book about 'the army', it is a book about people, places and polo." It appears to have some photographs and may be interesting as a depiction of what are referred to as "the balmy years between the Wars", and for the anecdotes of the author's years of travelling the world playing polo.

● *THE PUNJAB MAIL MYSTERY*. R. Perkins. Chippenham: Picton Publishing, 1986, hardcover (A5 format), 112 p., 42 photos, 2 maps, £11.95 "EXPANDED SECOND EDITION"

Some extra photographs and possibly more entries to the honours and awards for the 1930 "Red Shirt Rebellion".

(Picton Publishing: Citadel Works, Bath Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 2AB, UK.
Postage: UK - £1.00; Overseas - £7.00 airmail; £1.50 surface. Sterling only)

ONLY A SCRAP OF PAPER?

Selected items from the Archives of the National Army Museum

As the press release tells us, the Museum, during its 25 years, has accumulated a lot of paper - enough to fill 800 feet of shelving in fact. This includes diaries, letters, newspapers, and almost any item which has been written on or collected by soldiers, a very small portion of which is to be placed on display. The main themes are life in the army, from recruiting, through daily life to final discharge; eye-witness accounts of famous battles and documents relating to famous soldiers. Items range from a medical prescription for Lord Kitchener and a letter describing the death of Wolfe (from the man in whose arms he died) to a letter describing the sexual appetites of a Victorian general.

The exhibition will run from October 1st, 1986 to January 18th, 1987. Further details on the display and on the archive collection may be obtained from Archivist, Peter Boyden (01-730-0717, ext. 47).

"KINKI", BARODA, 1914.

This is another "problem picture". Like the two photographs submitted by R.G. Harris in the last issue, it is certainly Indian but little else is known. Anyone who has any definite information or even inspired guesses on any of the three is strongly encouraged to drop the editors a line.

This photograph, 12" x 7" and framed in oak, was purchased in a Toronto antique shop a few years ago. The only useful information was the inscription itself, though the vendor suggested that the original owner was "an officer" who settled in Canada.

The horse wears the Pattern 1932 bridle and bit with a dark, possibly black, halter rope, while the sword mounted on the saddle seems to be infantry pattern. The officer's tunic is so dark in the original that it is very probably "rifle green" or something of a similar shade. The heavy frogging on the chest and crows-foot braiding on the sleeves, is also very dark. His cross-belt plate has a Maltese cross and the pagri badge may be a bugle horn. The pagri itself is dark and of a single colour.

Without a list of units stationed at Baroda, it is impossible to be exact, but the possibilities seem to be a British Rifle Regiment; an Indian Rifle or Light Infantry unit or an A.F.I. battalion. In the last category is the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Regiment who in 1887 amalgamated with the Rajputana-Malwa Vol. Rifle Corps and may have retained Rifles' style uniforms and appointments.

Any suggestions or definite identifications will be gratefully received.



P.E. Monahan

IDENTIFICATIONS

● W.M. Thornton has provided us with some drawings of badges about which he would like information. He has identified some of them already and the editors were able to place several, but any information will be gratefully received.

N.B. Answers are most useful to the general membership if sent to the DURBAR as well as to the individual making the query.

- Fig.1 - The Januk Battalion - brass, with lugs; apparently quite old; well made; void centre, perhaps missing a centre device which would have been separate.
- Fig.2 - brass, with lugs; title buffed away so that the only letters visible are "RLY TOUI."
- Fig.3 - 2nd Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regt. - brass, with lugs. Is this Indian? (Quite unlike British regt. of same name)

- Fig.4 - brass, pin back. A version of the Ind. Ordnance Corps pagri badge with the title removed?
- Fig.5 - Choti Khas Lancers - brass, two lugs. ***This is a state forces badge. The unit were subjects of the Jam of Nawanagar, a Rajput state whose badge was a rampant lion and the rather improbable motto "Nil Desperandum". The unit saw service in Egypt, Palestine and India during World War I.
- Fig.6 - The Chamar Regiment - brass, with two lugs. The unit was raised in 1941 and disbanded shortly after WWII ended.
- Fig.7 - Indian Artillery - brass with lugs; this usually has a star above. Perhaps a sergeant's sleeve badge?
- Fig.8 - white metal. Brahman police?
- Fig.9 - Indian Overseas Service Badge bronze, pin badge, thinner at the edges than in the middle, plain reverse except for the fastening pin. ***Gordon deals briefly with this badge and says that the orders governing its issue "make most confusing reading", but that it was given to VCOs, NCOs and ORs, and enrolled and unenrolled non-combatants who served beyond the Eastern Frontier or in the 14th Army. It is pictured in the Dogra Regt. history being worn in the centre of the left pocket (below a row of medals) by one sepoy, which seems to accord with the regulations.
- Fig.10 - H.M.S. Canning - white metal; Officer's Servant on the R.I.M. despatch vessel Canning (was the "Lawrence" until 1919-1922)
- Fig.11 - First Brahmans - brass, pin back. Raised 1776 as 30th Bengal N.I.; 21st B.N.I. by 1857; 1901 - 1st Brahman Infy; 1903: 1st Brahmans; 1922: 4/1st Punjab Regt. Any other information appreciated.
- Fig.12 - blue embroidery on olive drab
- Figs.13 & 14 - blue embroidery on khaki drill. Probably police.

Remaining badges are all brass. P2G, ISN & BTTC have lugs. Others are pin back and said to be Artillery units.

*** This information supplied by editors.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6



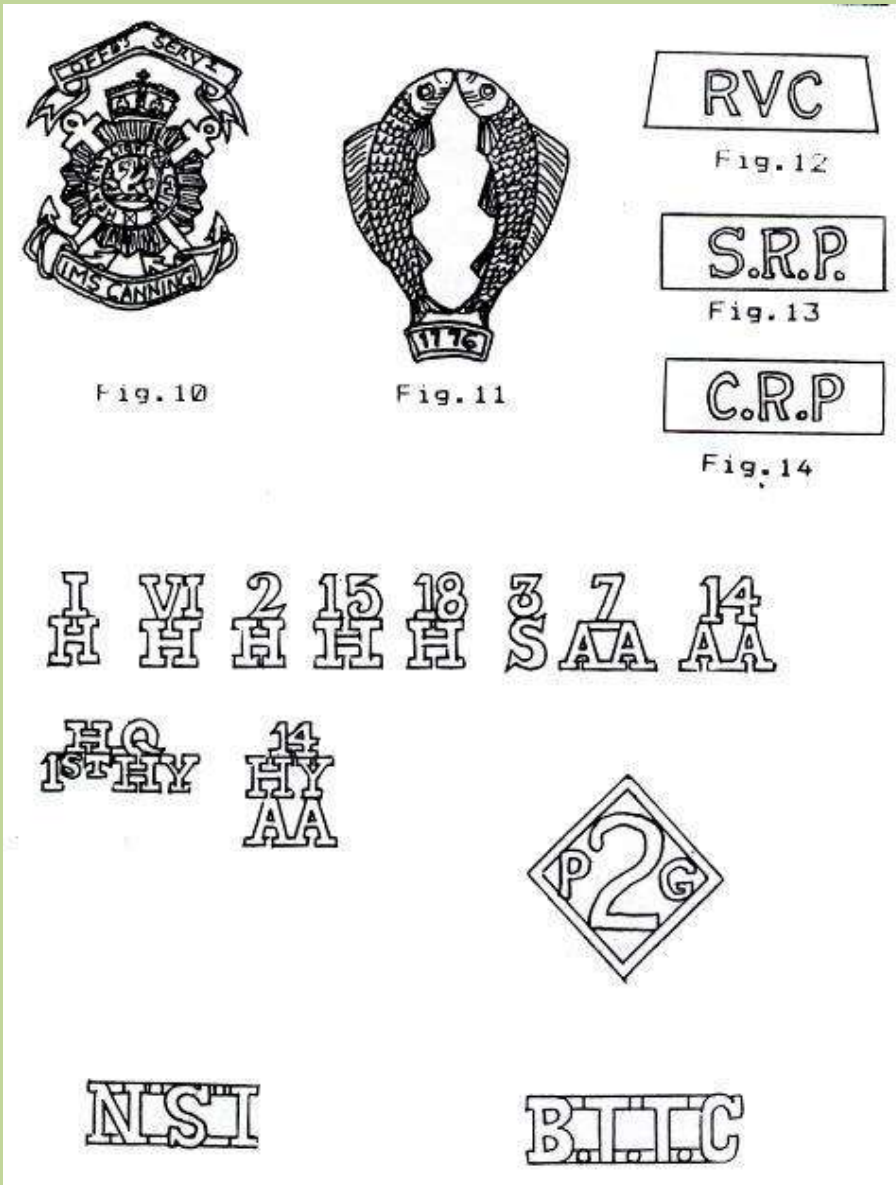
Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9



MORE IDENTIFICATIONS OF STATE FORCES BADGES

I have recently acquired about thirty small badges, probably collars, though several have cap badge style sliders. They consist of a couple of regular I.A. units (e.g. R. Garhwal Rifles), most of the Frontier Scouts units (in their post '47 form) and a number of States Forces. A very mixed bag in terms of quality and there were even a couple of "ringers" in the form of an Order of St. John of Jerusalem shoulder title and what I feel sure is a Saudi Arabian cap badge - crossed scimitars and a palm tree, identical to the crest of the Saudi Royal Family.

I have identified most of them with help from Cox's book on badges of the Commonwealth and a small volume entitled *The Indian State Forces*, published in 1967 by Longmans and written by H.H. The Maharaja of Jaipur. Some of the identifications, however, are sketchy at best. Many Native States used a common collar - the state or ruler's coat of arms - for all units, and many of these badges are of that type. I have, for example, the state arms (collar) of the state of Bahawalpur and a larger badge to the 1st Bahawalpur ____! The numeral is the Arabic "1", but the inscription is in Devanagri script and not very clearly cast at that. Possible units are: the Bah. Mounted Rifles, 1st Bah. Infy., Bah. Camel Corps or some post Partition unit not listed in my sources.

Units whose devices I have identified but require more details about include: Dir Scouts, Sibi Scouts (Pakistan militia units?), Amb State Forces and a small badge labelled "Tonk". The latter is probably another Pakistani militia/border unit, as the badge features star and crescent and is of the same (poor) sand-cast quality as the other Frontier units. One suggestion, probably correct, is that "Tonk" is the modern spelling of "Tank", a not unknown name to those familiar with the N.W. Frontier campaigns of the Raj.

Badges about which I know nothing at all are:

- 1. "Rewa Vankat Bn." - well cast brass, two lugs. Two tigers "rampant", facing inwards but with heads turned out, clutching between them a staff with a plain pennant on it. Scroll below has the title, in English.
- 2. At the top, a winged sun; a shield supported between 2 elephants who hold fronds in their upraised trunks; arms on shield: two elephant heads above a dancing figure (Shiva?); the whole resting on a large bugle horn (L.I. pattern) with a Devanagri inscription which seems to read "___||_ " ___||_ "Mahrao". Clearly State Forces, collar. Well cast brass, two lugs.
- 3. Crossed kukris, blades down, above a "99". Poorly cast in wh. metal, two lugs; quite possibly a bazaar "makeup" of a non-existent badge. The 99th were Deccan Infantry, and an ex-Gurkha officer suggested that the knives were "Rajput knives", of which I had not previously heard. Any information on badge or knives?
- 4. A lion or tiger, full figure, facing left on a twisted wreath base; no lettering at all. Poorly cast white metal, two lugs; very light, almost like the British "Stay-Brite" badges
- 5. A tower, seemingly made of dressed stone and timber, topped by a 5-pointed star, the whole within a large crescent bearing an inscription, that above a scroll also inscribed; both in Devanagri script. Probably Pak.? Perhaps militia.

I would be very happy to get facts, or even guesses, on any of the above. Also a description of the badge of the Karkoram Scouts, to confirm my identification of another badge. I would be happy to provide a list of what I've got to anyone who asks and describe or copy same for anyone who wishes.

P. Monahan

NOTICES & NOTES

J.W.L. LE MARCHAND, WEST YORKSHIRE REGT., 56TH PUNJABIS, AND 6TH GURKHA RIFLES

Members may be interested to read an article on J.W.L. Le Marchand in the June 1986 issue of *The Military Chest*. It was written by A. Harfield (H19), based on some newly available documents and photos and provides a very interesting complement to a short piece on the same man by C. Message (149) in the Journal of 1985. The former article contains a number of photographs of Le Marchand and more details, some slightly different, on his heroic death. An interesting example of two differing approaches to the same subject.

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF IOM AND IDSM AWARDS

Another article which will be of great interest to medal collectors among the membership is C.J. Parrett's article on I.O.M. and I.D.S.M. awards in the Summer 1986 issue of the *O.M.R.S. Journal*. It consists of an exhaustive analysis of the number of awards made from 1860 to 1847, updating and supplementing Hypher's work in the same field. It contains no less than seven appendices and, while requiring careful reading due to its complexity, is an invaluable supplement to the work of Hypher himself and the data in Abbott and Tamplin's *British Gallantry Awards*.

BRITISH BATTLES AND MEDALS

Spink & Son are presently working on another edition of Major Gordon's landmark work on British medals and are interested in receiving corrections and additions to the existing editions from interested collectors. M. Johnson is working on some notes on the "S.E. Asia 1945-46" clasp to the GSM. It has been noted by numerous people that the lists of units entitled to various clasps of the IGS 1908 and GSM 1918 are particularly incomplete and even inaccurate when dealing with the Indian Army.

This, surely, is an area in which some of our members can provide useful data - based on examples, regimental histories and other records - on Indian units who were entitled to medals but whose names do not appear in current lists. In so doing they will have not only the personal satisfaction of doing valuable research but the knowledge of having made the whole field of Indian Army history at least a little more accessible to the average collector.

