

## DURBAR Volume 3, No.4

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HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES ARTHUR OWEN, V.D., M.D., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The purpose of this brief note is not really to show the services of a medical man - although a short summary is necessary - but to pose two questions:

1. How could a man serve in the Regular Army and the Volunteers at the same time at the turn of the century and thus qualify for two medals?
2. Was it not strange that a person so well professionally qualified could serve so long without a commission?

This all deals with Charles Arthur Owen whose three medals I possess. His career is best set out in a tabular form.

- Born October 2, 1861
- Medical training both in Calcutta and at the Middlesex Hospital
- Sub-Assistant Apothecary in Bengal Subordinate Medical Department, January 31, 1883
- Assistant Apothecary, 2nd Grade; June 5, 1886, later dated December 22, 1885
- M.R.C.S., England, and L.R.C.P., London, February 15 1889
- Assistant Apothecary, 1st Grade, December 22, 1893
- Assistant Surgeon, 2nd Class (ranking as Sub-Conductor), in Indian Subordinate Medical Dept. (Bengal), January 31, 1895
- M.D., Brussels, 1899
- F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, 1900
- Assistant Surgeon, 1st Class (ranking as Conductor), January 31, 1902
- Awarded Army L.S. & G.C. (Indian A.O. 126 of February 27, 1905)
- Senior Assistant Surgeon, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, August 22 1906
- Appointed Medical Officer to the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifles as Surgeon Lieutenant, with seniority October 1, 1906
- Surgeon Captain, 1st Punjab V.R., May 17, 1909
- Retired from Indian Subordinate Med. Dept. June 1, 1909 when he was Senior Assistant Surgeon and Honorary Captain
- Awarded Volunteer L.S. Medal. (Indian A.O. 485 of September 7, 1914)
- Major, Indian Defence Force, Medical Corps, October 1, 1918
- Awarded Indian Volunteer Officers' Decoration (Gazette of Indian, September 20, 1919)
- Promoted Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in Auxiliary Forces Medical Corps, November 10, 1929
- Resigned November 15, 1929, being permitted to retain his rank and wear the uniform of his Corps on retirement.
- Died at Topsham, Devon, April 2, 1935, aged 73

Owens' case is by no means unique as an examination of other members of the I.M.D. will show a number had similar professional qualifications. Can any member explain the 'two-service' element, or the non-Commission aspect?

J. M.A. Tamplin

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## SOME NOTES ON THE GURKHA BRIGADE

(Part One of Two)

### THE ORGANISATION OF THE GURKHA BRIGADE PRIOR TO 1947

#### ORIGINS

The various Gurkha Regiments had different origins, and in the early years of the twentieth century they were tidied up into a "Gurkha Line" of ten two-Battalion Rifle Regiments, as distinct from Indian Infantry of the Line, which, up to 1922, consisted of single battalion regiments.

#### THE TERM "GURKHA BRIGADE"

No one seems to know how or why this term came to be used. Although it was in general use, it was entirely unofficial, and indeed, still is in the Indian Army, unlike the term "Brigade of Gurkhas" in the British Army, which is official.

Some think it came about because the Gurkha Brigade was in some respects like the Household Brigade in the British Army i.e. a Corps d'Elite, which was organized differently from other Infantry, and was commanded only by its own officers. Furthermore, while the Viceroy's guard in Calcutta and later Delhi was found by any available unit, the summer guard at Vice-regal Lodge in Simla was always found by a Gurkha Battalion. All this was bitterly disputed by the rest of the Indian Army.

The term was in general use to denote those ten Gurkha Rifle Regiments, who were listed separately in the Army List, and whose men had different terms of service and leave rules from the other Infantry.

#### THE FORMATIVE PERIOD: 1903 - 1914

During this period, the five Gurkha Regiments not in the Gurkha Line - 9th, 42nd, 43rd, and 44th (Gurkha Rifle) Regiments of Bengal Infantry, and the 10th (Burma Gurkha Rifle) Regiment of Madras Infantry - came into the line as the 9th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 10th G.R. Thus all the numbers 1 to 10 were filled. They moved in this period to their "home" stations. By 1907 the complicated manoeuvres, whereby the 7th GR became the 2nd Battalion of the 8th and a new 7th G.R. was raised, were completed, and all these five Regiments had raised or received their second Battalions. The modern "Gurkha Brigade" was now complete.

#### THE WAR YEARS: 1914 - 1918

Four of the Gurkha home stations fell within the geographical area of the Lahore and Meerut Divisions, thus the Indian Expeditionary Force which went to France had no less than six Gurkha Battalions, one each from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, and 9th G.R. In late 1915, they were withdrawn to Egypt and Mesopotamia, 4th G.R. going via Gallipoli. Battalions of 5th and 6th G.R. went to Gallipoli and one of the 7th G.R. to Egypt for the Palestine campaign.

Generally speaking, only one Regular Battalion was overseas at one time, the other being the draft finding unit in the home station. This was not rigid, i.e. 1/9 and 2/9 G.R. crossed each other at Basra.

All Regiments raised 3rd Battalions, and a new Regiment, the 11th with four Battalions, was raised from men of Regiments in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

#### PERIOD 1918 - 1922

Peace did not come to the Gurkha Brigade until 1922, as all Regiments, including 11th G.R. and several 3rd Battalions, were involved in the 3rd Afghan War and the linked Frontier campaigns. Additionally, 8th and 9th G.R. were involved in the Moplah rebellion in Malabar.

#### THE INTER-WAR YEARS: 1922 - 1939

This was the only period when the Gurkha Brigade had a fixed routine, although this was interrupted by extraneous circumstances such as providing extra units for Frontier operations or for the emergency garrison of Bengal (1930-1934).

The major reorganization of the Indian Army in 1922 left the Gurkha Brigade untouched as two Battalion Regiments training their own recruits, unlike Indian Infantry, who were grouped in five Battalion Regiments with a 10th (Training) Battalion. Even the Cavalry ceased, in 1936, to train their own recruits, when three active Regiments were converted into training Regiments.

Gurkha Regiments were divided into two groups:

- a) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th GR were on a six year cycle of "2 & 4", i.e. 2 years Frontier Service and 4 years home service. This was arranged so that both Battalions were together for two years in six. The odd man out was 3rd GR, who had two home stations: Almara for the 1st Battalion and Lansdowne for the 2nd. The Frontier stations were the Malakand, Khyber, and Waziristan.
- b) The other group were on a six year cycle of "2-2-2", i.e. 2 years Shillong, 2 years Quetta, and 2 years Baluchistan Frontier.

When in home stations, Battalions were in the various Field Army Brigades, i.e. 2nd and 9th GR in the Dehra Dun Brigade, 5th and 6th GR in the Abbottabad, 3rd GR in the Bareilly or in Internal Security roles, i.e. 1st and 4th GR and the units in Shillong.

When a Battalion was absent from its home station, the Training Company together with duty men formed the Battalion Depot.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

All Regiments raised 3rd and 4th Battalions and in the case of 1st, 2nd and 9th GR, 5th Battalions, to replace those lost in Malaya. The home stations became Regimental Centres on separate establishments, and the Battalions were no longer stationed there. The Regimental Centres took over responsibility for recruitment and recruit training.

In addition to active Battalions, 25th and 26th GR were raised as garrison Battalions from reservists, five training Battalions were raised to give battle training to recruits after their basic training, and finally 153rd (Gurkha) and 154th (Gurkha) Para Battalions were raised.

## WINDUP

By 1947 all of the 4th battalions and the Para Battalions had been disbanded. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of 2, 6, 7 & 10th G.R. were taken into the British Army to become the Brigade of Gurkhas. The remainder in India as the Gurkha Brigade viz 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 GR, the latter absorbing the surplus Eastern Nepal Gurkhas from 7 and 10 G.R. India has considerably expanded her Gurkha Brigade, which now stands at forty battalions.

A.A. Mains

(Part Two: Recruitment and Training)



## ANIMAL TRANSPORT OFFICER

My service with the 3rd Indian Division (Chindits) was many years ago, and I no longer have any notes from the period. Nevertheless members may be interested in my recollections of the animals that we used. The only Indian troops in the 3rd were Gurkha battalions; the columns that I served with (16 and 61) were British.

For these operations columns were issued with the types of animals listed below. I no longer remember the numbers issued in each column, but believe we had three or four oxen and from eight to ten ponies.

Oxen: These were Indian draught bullocks, and had previously been used in carts as on slaughter they all had neck gall under the skin. They were not issued primarily for transport but as a reserve of foods and in fact all bar one were eaten. They carried a mule saddle but could not take much of a load. It was a job keeping them to "mule pace" and on rough going they caused delays. No-one liked them, least of all the British O.R.s detailed to them. Except for the fact that they provided food I think that their inclusion was a mistake due to their different pace and lack of ability on bad going. In any case mule tastes just as good.

Ponies: These were a variable lot and I never did discover their origins. Their purpose was to carry casualties and for this purpose they were fitted with ordinary riding saddles and bridles. Normally they were led and if carrying a casualty presented no easy task for the leader, who had to lead the pony and hold the occupant on the saddle simultaneously. As time went on, the rise in the number of sick and wounded meant that all were fully occupied and without them many men would have been lost. Occasionally they were used for mounted "recce" and

message carrying but due to the long periods of marching at column speed they lacked the endurance for speedy work. In spite of poor feeding, hard work and the carrying of casualties who sat or slumped as a dead weight, I cannot recall a case of sore back, which says much for their grooms.

Mules: These came in two classes "AT" and "MT".<sup>1</sup> If my memory is correct, the "AT" was the more numerous, and it carried a load of 90 lbs. each side on a standard pack saddle, with either the lathe and leather universal carrier, or leather panniers, according to the load carried. It was not usual to have a top load. The "MT" were larger mules, and carried wireless sets, Vickers machine gun, or mortars. The saddle attachments were suited to each of these, and top loads were used.

Each animal was the responsibility of a British O.R. Feed in grain came with the supply drops, and was issued in bulk to each animal. When this failed, as was so often the case, the muleteer, groom, etc. was expected to procure fresh forage grass, if any, or bamboo leaves. This was no small job after a hard day's marching. Both mules and ponies took any opportunity to grab forage from the side of the road at halts. Our main concerns with the mules were wounds caused either by enemy action or accident and later on surra, a disease for which we had no cure.

The transport organization consisted of the ATO (me), my Sergeant, Saddler, and Groom. We travelled with the column H.Q. and thus had responsibility directly for its animals; the other animals were allotted to platoons, and were under their control, being tended by O.R.s from the platoon and not by members of a transport company. I still had to travel up and down the column to assist, and to keep an eye on all of the animals, to deal with casualties and redistribute loads as necessary. Each Brigade HQ had a Veterinary Surgeon attached to it, but I was never near enough to meet him until we ended up in bed next to each other in hospital.

Besides the animals that I have mentioned, we captured some horses and three elephants from the Japanese. One of the latter had a bad gash under its eye. Its driver had no English, so looking at the elephant's eye beyond my reach, I said to my Sergeant, a smallish fellow, "Get on my shoulders and plug the wound with Sulphonamide." He did so, and as we completed the operation a Burma Rifles officer came on the scene and said a few words in Burmese, whereupon the driver tapped the elephant, and it sat down into reach. It took me some time to live this down.

Without the use of the ponies and mules, the Chindit operation could not have been mounted. They gave wonderful service in what became very bad conditions, and until the surra hit us we had hardly any animal losses.

R. Platt

**1. Web site note:** Although not picked up at the time, MT refers to Mechanical Transport, not to a larger Mule.



## BOOK REVIEWS

● *MOHAWKS OVER BURMA*. Gerry Beauchamp published by Canada's Wings, Inc. 273pp, plus appendices.

A very readable account of the R.A.F. pilots who flew the Curtiss Mohawk (or P 36 as it was in American service) in the early stages of the Burma campaign. The core of the book is the diary of S/L (then F/O) A.B. Dunford, a pilot with 155 Sqn., from his entry into the R.A.F. until 155 Sqn converted to Spitfires. Between chapters of his story are the recollections of other Mohawk pilots from 5, 146 & 155 Sqns. Other chapters give the history of the Mohawk's service with other air forces and squadrons, an overview of the Burma campaign, and what became of the pilots mentioned in the text. Several appendices cover almost every other aspect of the Mohawk, from marking schemes to kills and crashes. There are no less than forty pages of photographs mostly taken by the men of the Mohawk squadrons. Hard cover.

● *ESCAPE FROM SINGAPORE; THE WAR MEMOIRS OF M.T. MAXWELL AND F.T. THURLBY*. With Gerry Beauchamp. Published by Canada's Wings, Inc. for MOMS WORDS

In very much the same vein as *Mohawks Over Burma*, this is the story of two ground crew who were posted to 232 Sqn. which was stationed in Singapore when Malaya fell to the Japanese in 1942. Maxwell and Thurlby had the good fortune to be evacuated before the city surrendered, and the first part of their story is that of the fall of Southeast Asia, as they were progressively evacuated to Sumatra and Java, before returning to India. They were then posted to different Mohawk squadrons in Burma. Their personal accounts are supplemented by sections giving the overall campaign history. Well-illustrated with twelve pages of photos. Soft cover, 131 pages. Also highly recommended. MCJ

NOTE: Gerry Beauchamp is one of our new members and is the historian for the Men of the Mohawk Squadrons Association.

● *HOBSON-JOBSON: A GLOSSARY OF COLLOQUIAL ANGLO-INDIAN WORDS AND PHRASES*. Henry Yule and A.C. Burnell; Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985

If you have ever been puzzled by the job descriptions of the many followers of the Indian Army with ghorawallahs, puckalies, bildars and khalassies (not to mention seacunnies and tindals in the Royal Indian Marine) then this is the book for you. First published in 1886, Hobson-Jobson has long been the standard reference work for the strange amalgam of English and Hindi that was common in 19th Century India. Besides the large number of anglicized Hindi words, there is also the other side of the coin, so to speak, in the "Hindicized" English of the domestic servant and sepoy ("simkin" for champagne; "bullumteer" for volunteer). Nor is the scope of the work restricted to India; the authors deal with eastern words in general, including Japan and South-east Asian countries. An interesting book just to browse through. M C J

## INDIAN ARMY UNIFORMS FROM CARDS

(Part Two of Three)

1905. Riders of the World (50), John Player & Sons (30p each; £15/set)

Only one card in this series of Indian Army interest, No.11, Bengal Lancers. This set of fine studies is believed to be by Harry Payne.

1938. Eminent British Regiments (25), Cope Bros. Co. Ltd. £5 each; £125/set)

This is a series of 25 three-quarter length portraits of officers of British and Indian Army regiments. There are 12 figures for Indian Army and one feels that there must have been two artists responsible. The Indian Army figures are quite well done, but the remainder are poorly executed. Of the 12 figures, 9 are from Cavalry regiments, 1st, 6th (Fig.13), 13th, 18th, 25th (Fig.14), 26th, 27th, 33rd and Central India Horse; one is an Infantry regiment (14th Sikhs); and two are Lancer regiments; State Forces from Nabha. (Fig.15), and Rampur.

1912. Indian Regiments (53), W.D. & H.O. Wills, (Scissors Cigarettes), (£2 each; £100/set)

All of the 50 subjects depict the Indian Army and Indian State forces: 18 Cavalry regiments, 12 Infantry regiments, 4 of Sappers and Miners and Artillery, and 16 of State Forces. The artist was R. Simkin, and almost all of the subjects were present at the 1897 Diamond Jubilee in England where Simkin probably saw and sketched them, using the material for the mammoth series of paintings he did between 7th January 1888 and 6th September 1902, issued as supplement plates with the Army and Navy Gazette. The Indian subjects are portrayed reasonably well, and appear grouped together on these plates, numbers 157 to 168, issued between January and December 1901. Cards illustrated here are

- No.7 - Rissaldar of 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse) FIG. 16
- No.8 - Rissaldar of 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) FIG.17
- No.16 - Gunner of 21st Kohat Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) FIG.18

1914. Victoria Cross (25), John Player & Sons. (30p each; £7.50/set)

There are several examples of British officers of the Indian Army in the campaigns where they won the Victoria Cross. This specimen, card No.7 (FIG.19) shows Lieut. and Adj. (afterwards Major-General) A.T. Moore, and Lieut. J.G. Malcolmson at Kooshab, Persia in 1857. Both officers were in the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry (later 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry). The picture shows Lieut. Moore with broken sword, fending off the Persian soldiers whilst Malcolmson rides to the rescue; although they certainly would not have looked so immaculate in their French grey, silver and white uniforms in the heat of this action.

Note: There are several series of cards showing portraits of VC recipients which no doubt include some soldiers of the Indian army.

1914. Allied Cavalry, (10), John Player & Sons, (£3-50 each; £35/set)

This is a magnificent set of ten cards in large size only (80 x 110 mm). It is also unique in supplying the information that they are taken from original watercolours by Harry Payne. There are three Indian Army subjects: 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers (Watson's Horse); 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry and Imperial Cadet Corps (FIG.22).

1916. War Pictures (100), Home & Colonial Stores Ltd., (£1 each; £100/set)

The Home & Colonial was a national chain of grocery stores and these cards were no doubt issued as advertising matter during World War I with one of their products called "Perfect Margarine". I know of only one Indian Army subject, No.95 - 26th KGO Lancers. An article in Cartophily Britannica describes the series as "having many original pictures, but rather crudely printed.

1917. Allied Army Leaders (50), W.D. & H.O. Wills, (40p each; £20/set)

Our illustration is No.13 of this well produced series, showing Lieut. General Sir W.R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I. Only three other cards in the series are of Indian Army interest "the late" Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, one time C-in-C India; Major-General Sir C.V.F. Townshend, one time Central India Horse; and Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh. These pictures would have been taken from photographs and subsequently coloured. The effect of colour on Lord Birdwood's uniform is rather misleading, showing apparently an all scarlet General's tunic, whereas actually the scarlet is the plastron front of the blue British officer's Lancer dress of the 11th (Prince of Wales's Own) Bengal Lancers, but distinguished by the gold lace shoulder-belt with scarlet line running through, and the Lancer cap lines.

1917. Colonial and Indian Army Badges (25) John Player & Sons, (16p each; £4/set)

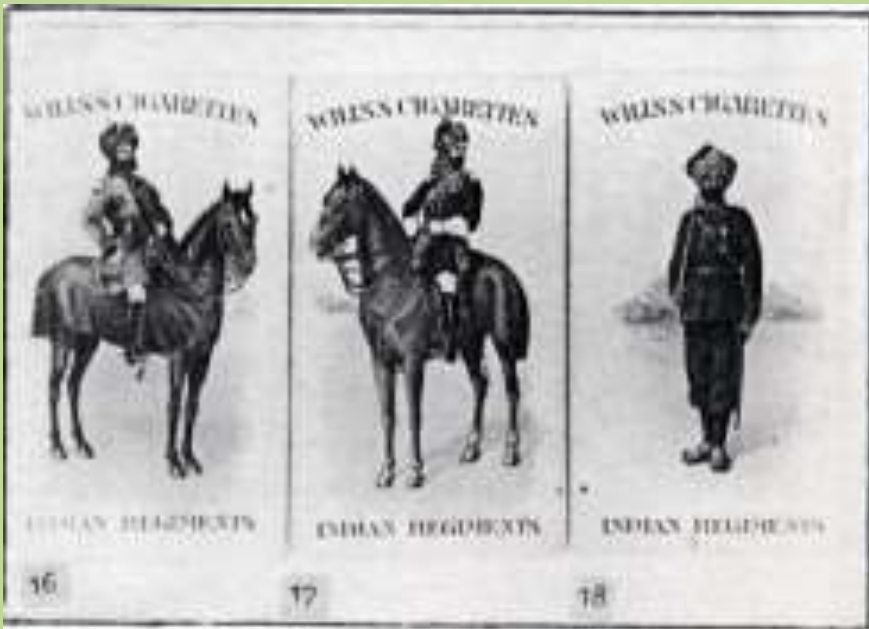
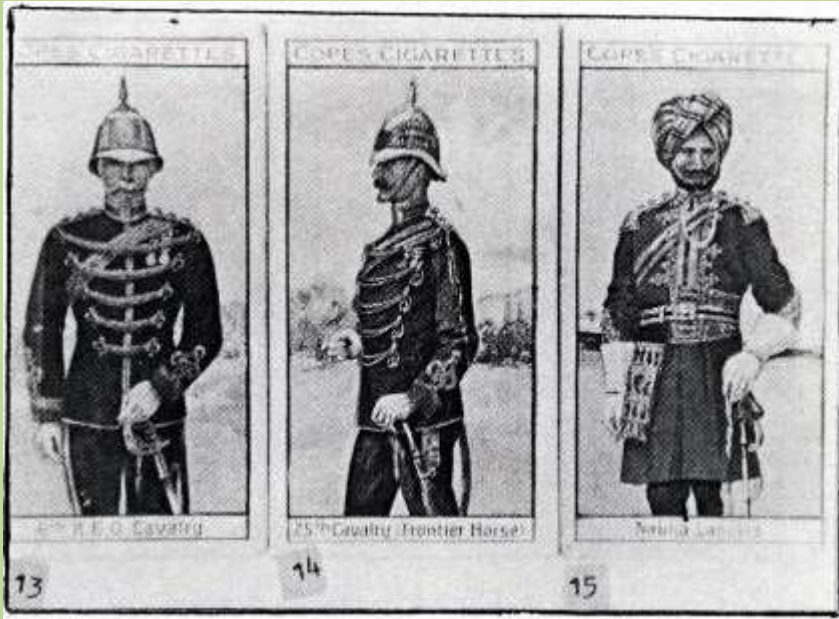
Of the 25 cards, 7 show badges of the Indian regiments, our examples being cards No.19, 10th D.C.O. Lancers (Hodson's Horse), FIG.24, and No.24, 23rd Sikh Pioneers, FIG. 25. Shadows behind the badges suggest that actual specimens have been photographed, although the bronze-like finish is rather misleading. A useful series nevertheless.

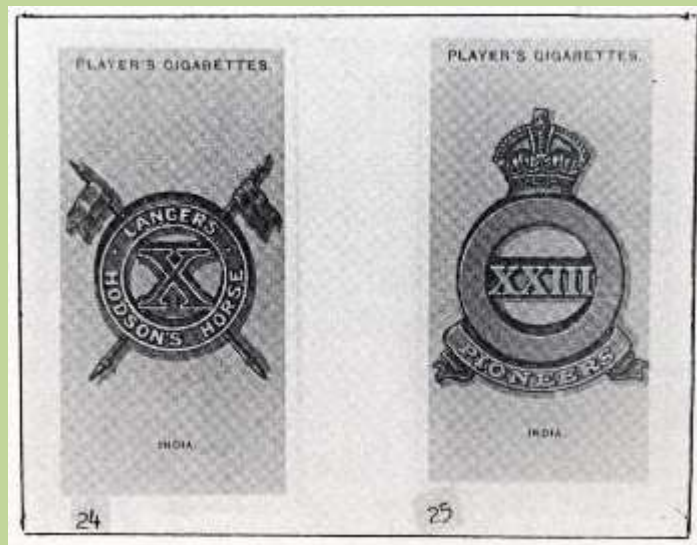
Note:

Printing of cigarette cards ceased in 1917 and was not to commence again until about 1922.

R.G. Harris

(Figures 19, 24, and 25 are reprinted with the kind permission of Imperial Tobacco Limited) (Players)





#### INDIAN CAVALRYMAN IN THE CRIMEA

Last year I had the opportunity to acquire a group to Major William Henry Frederick Sykes, 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry. The medals by themselves were interesting; Crimea Medal, clasp: Sebastopol; India General Service Medal, 1854, clasp: "Persia"; and the Turkish Crimea award. The naming on the medals is what proved to make this, for me, an exciting find. The Crimea is impressed "Lieutenant 10th Hussars" and the India General Service "Aide de Camp & Private Secretary to General Commanding". I felt this had to be a career Indian Army officer. Luckily some information came with the medal group and I have slowly gathered a little more. I am sure there is more out there, and would be anxious to receive any new leads. I would particularly like to get a photograph.

An Indian Army officer in the Crimea is unusual in that Lord Raglan clearly states: "I want no Sepoy officers", when it was suggested to him that experienced field commanders from India be used in the Crimea when the campaign dragged on through the first hard winter. Nevertheless, many Honourable East India Company Officers made their own way to the Crimea, some commanding Turkish troops, and others getting themselves attached to British Regiments as volunteers. Sykes was one of the latter. He is shown on the East India Company Register as "on furlough" from his unit, the 3rd Regiment Bombay Light Cavalry in 1854/55. He would have gone to the Crimea at his own expense, to get into the fighting. To date this is the story I have been able to uncover on Major Sykes.

William Henry Frederick Sykes was born on September 19, 1829 in Poona, India and was baptized October 29, 1829. His parents were Major William Henry Sykes of the 17th Bombay Native Infantry and Elisabeth Sykes (maiden name unknown). On May 6th 1854, at age 16 he was nominated to the East India Company Military College in Addiscombe, England, by his father, who was by then a director of the Company.

He entered Addiscombe on February 6th, 1846, and graduated on December 10th, 1847. He was appointed to the Bombay Cavalry on January 26th 1848.

Leaving England in February, he arrived in Bombay on the steamer "Acbar" on May 6th and joined the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry at Sholapur on June 24, having been commissioned Cornet of Horse on April 3rd. He was stationed at Sholapur from June 1848 to March 1850, when he moved to Nimach.

On August 23rd, 1851 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was posted to Nasirabad from then until December 1854. He departed Bombay on January 17th, 1855 and joined the 10th Royal Hussars in the Crimea in June of 1855. He saw action on Tchernaya and was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol. He was issued the Crimea War Medal with clasp 'Sebastopol' and the Turkish Crimea Medal.

He returned to Bombay on February 17th, 1857 and was made Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to Lieutenant General Sir James Outram on February 17th, 1857. He served with Sir James through the Persian Campaign and was present at the fall of Mohammerah, for which he was awarded the India General Service Medal 1854 with clasp: 'Persia' and was mentioned in dispatches on May 27th 1857 (Outram to Adjutant Gen. of the Army, Bombay, 11/1/59). Replying to the C-in-C's request for Outram's opinion of claims for promotion and reward to be entered against a list of officers who served in Persia, Outram wrote: "and I have ventured to record 'recommended' opposite to the names of Lieutenant Sykes and Clark. With reference to whom his Excellency had merely written 'Personal Staff'.

Sykes left Bombay for England on sick leave on January 23, 1858. On July 25, 1860, he was promoted to Brevet Captain, and on September 5th, 1851 to full Captain. He returned to Bombay on November 18, 1861 and was attached to the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry until 1863 when he was appointed Second Squadron Officer of the Southern Mahratta Horse, taking the post on New Year's Day 1864 at Sholapur.

He was made Aide-de-Camp to Major General M.W. Smith who was commanding the Poona Division. This post lasted from August 1864 to April 1867 when again he returned to England on sick leave. He was promoted to Brevet Major on April 3, 1868 and resigned from the Army in England on October 3, 1869. He died March 2, 1877.

Major Sykes had married on his return from the Crimea. A daughter and son died within the first months of their lives. His only surviving child was Edith Louise Julia Sykes, born in England on November 21st, 1860. She married Surgeon Major, later Sir John Godfrey Rodgers on September 27th, 1883.

P. Williams

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#### INFORMATION REQUESTED

● Gerry Beauchamp is trying to locate a former 155 Sqn. Mohawk pilot, J. (Jack) Brinnand. He was last known to be in the Calcutta area in the middle 1950s, and was in the aviation business, having married and stayed on in India. If any of our members are travelling to or through Calcutta, a couple of minutes with the telephone book might locate Brinnand or a member of his family. Any leads to Mr Beauchamp (his address appears with the book reviews). The Men of the Mohawks Society is working against time to locate former

squadron mates; one man was at last traced to Argentina, but had died a few months previously.

Mr Beauchamp also writes: "In the diary of 146 Sqn. R.A.F., I read the following entry for 30 March 1942, at Dinjan in Upper Assam: 'Practice "Blitz" on aerodrome, dive bombed and machine gunned, and attacked by Assam Valley Light Horse. Defended by Garrison Co. and Squadron personnel.' He would like any information on the Assam Valley Light Horse and the identity of the Indian unit which was guarding the strip. At this time 146 Sqn. had recently arrived at Dinjan from Calcutta for air protection of the Digboi oilfields. They were training on Mohawks, having Audax biplanes. The Station Commander was S/L Barthold.

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## IDENTIFICATIONS

● Paul G. Williams has acquired two interesting badges, which he feels are probably Indian and wishes to identify.

The first is in brass, with very fine detail, stamped rather than cast and with a split-pin fastener running horizontally. It represents the "golden galley" of the 2nd Punjab Regiment, within a wreath which is topped with a crown (King's ?) and bears on it the battle honours "CARNATIC", " SHOLINGHUR", "MYSORE", "AVA" and "PEGU".

The second badge is a "chocolate colour", has a split-pin vertical fastening and is stamped "J.R. GAUNT, LONDON" on the reverse. It depicts a domed building flanked by minarets (?), which is probably the Taj-Mahal.



Photo RCW

According to Colonel Mains' excellent article on the A.F.I., The Delhi Contingent, A.F.I. was created in 1921 by amalgamation of the Delhi detachments of the Punjab Light Horse and the Punjab Rifles. Could this be its badge?

● M.C. Johnson has some further information on a badge mentioned by P.E. Monahan in Vol.3 # 2 (p26). The badge includes a winged sun above a shield supported by two elephants, the whole resting on a bugle horn. The motto, incorrectly rendered in the initial description, is in fact "HAR HAR MAHADEO" formerly the battle cry of the Mahratta Light Infantry. Might this be the badge of a Mahratta princely state?

● Captain John Mackett, 1st Kumaon Rifles, points - regarding a comment by A.A. Mains in Vol.3/3 (p.17) that the 1st Kumaon Rifles were a separate battalion of the old 19th Hyderabad - not a training unit - and are now the 3rd Battalion, Kumaon (Rifles) Regiment.

A member suggests that the crests of Indian Navy ships follow the pattern of the Royal Navy. This makes it unlikely that a badge shown in Vo.3/1 - crossed kukris below a "knot" - is that of I.N.S. Kukri.

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## MILESTONES

Captain T. McCormick, CD, has recently assumed command of 89th Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery (Militia) in Woodstock, New Brunswick.

Major General James H.S. Majury CB, MBE is the new president of the Indian Army Association, replacing the late General Creasey. General Majury was commissioned in 1941 and joined the 15th Punjabis. In 1943 he was seconded to the South Waziristan Scouts and served with them until 1947. He then returned to the British Army, serving with the Irish Regts. and Parachute Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel A.A. Mains is, regrettably, retiring as secretary of the I.A. Association. The post will be filled by Major H.E. Hewitt, late the 4th Bombay Grenadiers.

(These two items courtesy of Lt. Col. P.J. Emerson)

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## INDIAN SOLDIERS SERVING IN BRITISH UNITS

(Additional information to the article in Volume 3, No.3, p.22)

Indians serving with the various Artillery and Infantry units of the British Army (as drivers and muleteers) had the usual Indian Army NCOs - L/Naiks, Naiks, and Havildars - and VCOs. The VCOs, as commissioned officers, were listed regimentally, after the British Officers, in the Indian Army Lists. The 1933 Army List shows the following establishment:

### Horse Field and Medium Artillery

- Subadar Majors - 1
- Subadars - 14
- Jemadars - 27
- (incl. 7 serving in the RATC)

### Heavy Artillery:

- Subadars - 1
- Jemadars - 3

### Light (British Pack) Artillery

- Subadars - 6
- Jemadars - 7

## Infantry

- Subadar Majors - 2
- Subadars - 20
- Jemadars - 27
- (incl. 3 serving in the British Infantry Training Centre)

Class composition of Indian soldiers serving in the Royal Artillery and British Infantry as of October, 1935 was as follows:

### Royal Horse Artillery (4 batteries)

- all Punjabi Mussalmans

### Field Batteries (38 batteries)

- Punjabi Mussalmans - 17 batteries
- Ahirs - 2 batteries
- Jats - 5 batteries
- Sikhs \* - 6 batteries
- Rajputs - 8 batteries

### Medium Batteries (8 batteries):

- all PMs and Sikhs

### Heavy Batteries (4 batteries):

- all PMs and Ahirs

### Light Batteries (6 batteries):

- PMs and Sikhs\* - 2 batteries
- PMs and Ahirs - 3 batteries

\* Other than Jat Sikhs

In Field Brigades the composition was mixed: two batteries of PMs and two of Hindus or Sikhs.

### British Infantry Platoons (38 platoons)

- Lobhana Sikhs - 13
- Ramdassia Sikhs - 1
- Ramdassia and Mazbi Sikhs - 4
- Ahirs - 1
- Rajputs - 3
- Meos - 7
- Jats - 1
- Ranghars (Rajput Mussalmans) - 3

The Sikhs and Meos had come from the Bombay and Sikh Pioneer Regiments disbanded in 1933.

A.A. Mains

