

DURBAR Volume 4, No.1

TWENTY YEARS ON THE FRONTIER – BATTERY SERGEANT MAJOR HENRY HOWE, MOUNTAIN ARTILLERYMAN.

This NCO has a fine group of five medals:- IGS 1854 with four bars: "Burma 1886-7", "Hazara 1888", "Burma 1887-89", "Hazara 1891"; IGS 1895 with three bars: "Punjab Frontier 1897-98", "Samana 1897", "Tirah 1897-98"; Ed. VII MSM; Victorian LSGC; and a 1911 Coronation medal.

Born in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh in 1862, he enlisted in that town for 12 years' service in the Royal Artillery in 1881. He was a labourer by trade and, at 6'1", considerably above average height for the period.

His service started in No.1 Mountain Battery, 1st Brigade, which after a reorganisation in 1889 seems to have been re-numbered 9, and he continued to serve with this unit until discharge in May 1903. Around 1901 it appears that the mountain batteries became part of the Royal Garrison Artillery, as distinct from the Royal Artillery, although still with the same title.

To give some idea of the size of the Mountain Division, R.G.A., there were in 1914 only 9 mountain batteries, all, except one in Cairo, stationed on or near the North-West Frontier. Each battery was commanded by a Major, with a Lieutenant Colonel commanding a brigade of 2 or 3 batteries.

The Indian Army, of course, had its own establishment of mountain batteries, and in the same 1914 list there were 13 of these, numbered from 21 to 32 inclusive, plus an unnumbered battery called The Frontier Garrison Artillery. All the British officers of these units were from the Royal Artillery. Again, apart from one in Burma and one in Hong Kong, all the Indian mountain batteries were on the North-West Frontier.

Howe's papers confirm all the clasps to his campaign medals as well as the award of his LSGC. The MSM is not mentioned but presumably this was not issued until after his discharge.

He was married in Rawalpindi in 1889 and had five children, all of whom were born in India or Burma. In fact he spent more than 20 years there in his total service of over 22 years.

I do not suppose there are many groups with more evidence of soldiering on the Indian frontier, and it may be slightly ironic that this one is to a soldier in British service, rather than Indian!

C. Message

BOOK REVIEW

● *THE SAGA OF LADAKH: HEROIC BATTLES OF REZANG LA & GURUNG HILL 1961-62*. Major General Jagjit Singh. Delhi: Vanity Books, 1983. Hardcover, 155 pages, 14 photographs.

The India-China War of 1962 is little known outside India. This is unfortunate, as from both a military historian's and a collector's viewpoint it is a very interesting conflict. There are some obvious parallels with the Korean War, although the Indian Army was much less prepared to fight a war than the United Nations forces were. The fighting took place on two fronts: NEFA in the east and Ladakh in the west. This book, written by the officer who was Brigade Major to 114 Brigade, which bore the brunt of the Chinese attack in Ladakh, is a fascinating account of the operations in the Ladakh theatre, culminating in the battles named in the title. The two most heavily engaged units, the 13th Bn, Kumaon Regiment and the 1/8th Gorkha Rifles each won a Param Vir Chakra, the highest Indian gallantry award. 'C' Company (Ahirs) of the former defended Rezang La; of 118 men, 109 were killed, 5 were taken prisoner (one of these died of wounds) and only 4 managed to escape.

This work examines the background to the conflict, and ends with the author's analysis of the events and recommendations for preventing any further occurrence of the 1962 errors, which sheds some interesting light on Indian para-military border defence units.

Well written and illustrated. Recommended.

MCJ



THE GUIDES; BRAVE BEGINNINGS

"The Queen's Own Corps of Guides was the first regiment to take the field... they were engaged in much harassing work and in conducting many important reconnaissances. I consider the Guides Infantry are not surpassed by any regiment in the service... The Cavalry of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides has, if such a thing is possible, surpassed its old reputation as a model of what Light Horsemen should be, ever ready, ever serviceable, ever soldierlike, this splendid body of Horsemen has never been found wanting."

So said Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Browne, himself a noted soldier and leader of men, a scant three decades after the formation of what was to become one of the most famous regiments in the Indian Army. The sentiments could, however, have come from any of the men with or under whom the Guides served. Browne was speaking of their prowess at Ali Musjid while the unit was attached to the Peshawar Valley Field Force in the Second Afghan War, but the qualities he described had already come to be expected of the Corps on all occasions. At a time when regular British and Indian regiments went laboriously to war in red coats and leather collars, accompanied by hundreds of native servants and followers, the Corps of Guides could muster at full strength and march out on several hours' notice, cover several times the usual daily march and go into battle within an hour of reaching their destination. A mixed force of infantry and cavalry whose recruits were chosen by competition with rifle and lance, they marched light and without baggage, provided their own supplies,

did their own scouting and intelligence and fought with equal facility in set-piece battles and guerrilla raids. In the parlance of the twentieth century they were an elite "special force", without equal and almost unique in the armies of the British Empire.

During the 1840s the British government and the armies of the Honourable East India Company engaged in a series of campaigns against the Mahratta and Sikh rulers of north-west India. Following the defeat of a Sikh army at the battle of Sobraon in 1846, the British assumed control of that vast area known as "the Punjab". They had not yet formally annexed the territory but the Political Agent at Peshawar, Colonel Henry Lawrence, effectively ruled as guardian of the minor heir of Ranjit Singh, the last Sikh king. The area was one over which the Sikhs themselves had exercised only sporadic control, collecting taxes by force and trying with limited success to suppress raiding into the plains by the various hill tribes whose territories bordered on the Punjab district. It quickly became clear that even the 10,000 Company troops stationed in Peshawar District were unlikely to control the area. Burdened as they were by outdated tactics, massive supply trains and lines of command stretching back to Delhi and Bombay, the John Company regiments were no match for swift-moving raiding parties and recalcitrant villages in the rocky hills.

The solution to the problem of policing the territory lay in a new type of force: an irregular force composed of lightly armed and equipped troops capable of swift movement over the roughest terrain and stationed in small detachments at potential trouble spots, rather than in some inaccessible central location. Such troops would need to be of absolute loyalty, high calibre and be trained in techniques of irregular fighting quite foreign to the existing armies of the three Presidencies. Yet they must also, in a pinch, be able to mount a frontal assault or defend a post or position in the absence of regular troops or supporting arms.

In a letter to the Secretary of the Government of India, in June of 1846, Colonel Lawrence proposed the formation of an irregular force, to consist of one troop of cavalry, 100 sabres strong, and two companies of infantry of 100 men each. They would be locally raised and equipped, come under the command of the Political Agent rather than the Army and be known as the Corps of Guides. In addition to their duties in policing the district and protecting the Political at Peshawar, said Lawrence:

"I would have half of them always employed in making themselves acquainted with the localities and with the highways and byways of the Frontier."

Final sanction to raise the Corps came in December 1846 and Lawrence chose as its first Commandant a young lieutenant of the 59th Bengal Native Infantry, Harry Lumsden. Though only twenty-five, Lumsden was already a veteran of the Afghan and Sikh Wars and was to prove an ideal choice for this new type of unit. He wrote excitedly to his father in February of 1847 that:

"It will be the finest appointment in the country, being the right hand of the Army and the left of the Political. I am to have the making of this new regiment all to myself. The arming and dressing is to be according to my own fancy."

His fancy as regards uniforms ran to the loose-fitting tunics and baggy cotton trousers of the Frontier tribes from which so many of his men were recruited. The early uniforms were in fact so similar to local dress that on a number of occasions the Guides were very nearly fired on by their own side and on one memorable occasion were able to pass themselves off as

Sikh cavalry long enough to infiltrate and capture an important fortress near Amritsar. The uniforms were made in the district and dyed by the Corps, at regimental expense, until 1904. The colour which was settled on was a light blue-grey, known as "khaki", from the Persian word for "dust". The colour and the word were gradually adopted and adapted over the years by the rest of the Indian Army, later by the British and finally by most of the armies of Europe.

It changed, by 1900, to a drab brown which better matched the colour of the sun-baked Punjab hills, but the term "khaki" and the concept of camouflage for uniforms were almost universal by 1918.

The uniforms, however, were hardly the only things that were unusual in the Corps. The Adjutant, Lt. Hodson, remarked that the unit was raised "unshackled by bank and unaided by government advance." Expenses were raised by stopping the pay of recruits, many of whom actually paid for the privilege of joining, and not a few of whom served without pay and maintained horses and weapons at their own expense while waiting for a chance to compete for vacancies in the ranks. All this was despite the fact that the Guides were not a "sillidar" unit (one whose members provided their own mounts against a government allowance) and it testifies as nothing else could to the prestige attached to membership in the new corps.

Recruits for the Guides were drawn from all the races of the Punjab itself, from the mountainous regions of Nepal and Afghanistan and from as far afield as Kaffiristan and Persia. They included a company of Gurkhas and many of the tribesmen, known collectively as "Pathans", who had lately fought the armies of John Company in Afghanistan and along what was beginning to be called the North-West Frontier. The qualities of courage, initiative and soldierly skills which the regiment looked for in a recruit were, often as not, possessed by men whose previous livelihood lay in robbing and raiding. No questions were asked of such recruits, so long as all blood feuds were avoided while actually in service, and many a former bandit became a valued member of the Corps.

One noted recruit was a Khattack chieftain and robber with a price on his head, Dilawur Khan. His story is a standby in the regiment and the Indian Army: how he came in under a safe conduct to meet Lumsden Sahib, how they negotiated his pardon and enlistment in the Guides, and his rise to the rank of Subadar after twenty years of loyal service. His death, too, is a legend and his last words, often quoted, are an exemplar of a quality the regiment prized perhaps above all others: loyalty. Sent on an intelligence mission into the remote kingdom of Chitral, he was imprisoned for some months, during which time he steadfastly refused to admit his identity or the purpose of his mission, despite repeated threats of death. Finally released, he began the long trek back to India, but died enroute in the snowy passes. His last words to his companions were:

"Go to the Commissioner in Peshawar and say 'Dilawur Khan of the Guides is dead; and say also that he died faithful to his salt and happy to give his life in the service of the Great Queen.'"

The most famous recruit to the Corps of Guides, however, is one known to millions through print and film as Rudyard Kipling's "Gunga Din". The character of Kipling's "bhisti" - water carrier - was almost certainly based on that of Juma, a bhisti and later soldier of the Guides. Recruited as a regimental follower, Juma served with the Corps at the siege of Delhi. His courage in assisting the wounded under fire so impressed the rank and file of the regiment

that they took the unique step of petitioning that he be allowed to enlist as a regular soldier, despite his low caste. He was inducted as a sepoy and also awarded the "star of valour" - Indian Order of Merit - the highest award open to Indians at the time. Over the years he rose to the rank of Jemadar and led his men in the Second Afghan War, during which he won an almost unprecedented second award of the IOM.

Given such men to work with, it is not so surprising that the Guides were able to go into action within six months of their being raised. Still under the tutelage of instructors from the 60th Rifles, the recruits found themselves despatched to the Yusufzai district to assist Sikh regular troops in collecting taxes and "showing the flag" in various rebellious villages. This they accomplished competently and at small cost, more than once under circumstances in which the more seasoned Sikhs were unable or unwilling to advance. With such a start it is even less surprising that the history of the Punjab and Afghanistan is even today studded with references to the exploits of "Gad Pultan" and "Gad Rissala."

QUEEN'S OWN CORPS OF GUIDES

- raised 1846: Corps of Guides
- 1857: Corps of Guides, Punjab Frontier Force
- 1876: The Queen's Own Corps of Guides, P.F.F.
- 1904: The Queen's Own Corps of Guides, (Lumsden's)
- 1911: Q.V.O. Corps of Guides (Frontier Force) (Lumsden's) Cavalry
Q.V.O. Corps of Guides (Frontier Force) (Lumsden's) Infantry
- 1922: 10th Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides Cavalry (Frontier Force)
5th Bn (QVO Corps of Guides)/12th Frontier Force Regiment

Battle Honours:

PUNJAB	MOOLTAN	GOOJERAT	DELHI
ALI MUSJID	KABUL 1879	AFGHANISTAN 1879-80	
CHITRAL	PUNJAB FRONTIER	MALAKAND	
INDIA 1915	SHARQAT	NORTH WEST FRONTIER	
MESOPOTAMIA 1917-18			

Bibliography

- Younghusband, Maj-Gen Sir G., *The Story of the Guides*, London, 1908.
- *Historical Records of the Services of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides*, anonymous, Lahore Civil and Military Press, 1885. (in the author's collection)

P. Monahan



BANDOBAST

Over the past few years a number of articles have appeared in the Journal dealing with reference sources for medal collectors and those doing general historical research. Regrettably, there have been no lists of books forthcoming from the badge and uniform collectors. In the former case this has no doubt been due to the dearth of books on the subject.

Once you mention Cox's book on First World War badges, and Rosignoli's second volume on Second World War badges, there is a long pause, until one thinks of two other books that deal with badges as part of a greater subject. I have in mind Maj-Gen Chand Das's book, *Traditions and Customs of the Indian Armed Forces*, and the Maharaja of Jaipur's *The Indian State Forces; Their Lineage and Insignia*. A little more thinking might call to mind Donovan Jackson's *India's Army*. These three books all illustrate Indian Army badges. To my knowledge, however, only Maj-Gen Das's book is still available. Cox's book may still be in print, but is by no means cheap; the other works have been out of print for some years and are scarce, although Rosignoli's book may be more available than the others. I am not a badge collector to any great extent, but I can see the need for a new reference work, one that would deal with each of the major re-organizations of the Indian Army, and would continue past 1947.

I know of no such work at present, but if it is ever written it would not surprise me if it were published in India. The Indian military history book industry is one of the best kept secrets that I know of. In the past few years I have seen volume after volume of regimental histories, campaign histories, and defence considerations literature come out of India - all of these in English. There may be even more out there in Hindi. Yet for some reason these books are not well known, even in England. Many of these works are reprints of earlier - and now unobtainable - books by British authors.

A number of these books have been reviewed in the Journal but there are many more that have yet to be reviewed. Some of these are already in my library and I will try to review a couple per issue.

There are some drawbacks to the Indian publications. Due no doubt to the transportation costs, prices are often high. The quality of the paper and binding often leave much to be desired; paper is often recycled in India because of its high cost. On the other hand it is often a choice between accepting the quality or doing without. Like most enthusiasts, I prefer the former option.

Turing to other matters; I recently received an update from Roger Perkins regarding his *Indian, Dominion and Colonial Regimental Histories Bibliography*. As of March, thirty-eight voluntary reporters had joined his network, among them some I.M.C.S. members. After a little lobbying the time frame has been extended to take all of the included countries up to the present day; there has been much military history in the Indian sub-continent since 1947. Due to the great scope of this work, publication is not anticipated much before 1990, assuming that all goes well.

One question that I received some time ago is the identity of the rank, appointment or whatever, represented by the abbreviation "F.S.C.A." in an officer's record of service. Perhaps one of our Honorary Members can help out on this one.

M. Johnson

THE KENDALL HUMANITY MEDAL OF THE BOMBAY (INDIA) HUMANITARIAN LEAGUE

The Bombay Humanitarian League is committed to the alleviation of suffering, both in human beings and animals. The League was formed in 1910 when the Indian humanitarian Dayalankar Seth Lallubhai Deepchand Jhaveri started the Jivadaya Gnam Prasarak Fund which later became the Bombay Humanitarian League.

A staunch supporter of humanitarianism, Miss Georgiana Kendall of New York, left considerable sums, on her death in the mid-20th century, to various humanitarian organizations throughout the world. Amongst others, the Bombay Humanitarian League received a legacy of \$5,000.00. In order to perpetuate the memory of Miss Georgiana Kendall, the League, in addition to the publication of the 'Miss Georgiana Kendall Humane Publication Series', instituted the Kendall Humanity Medal to be awarded for 'noble acts of life saving', under the following conditions:

1. 'Miss Georgiana Kendall Humanity Medals' will be awarded every year for notable acts of saving human lives from deaths due to accidents in any part of India.
2. Reports of such heroic deeds of life saving and recommendations for the award of medals received from the public from all parts of India will be considered every year. Such acts of saving human lives should result under hazardous circumstances and be performed at great personal risk.
3. Such recommendation should come either from respectable members of the Public associations or Government officers. They should be endorsed by them.....
4. The Committee shall select such recipients for these awards, as they deem proper, from the cases recommended during the year. The decision of the Committee shall be final.
5. Names of selected recipients shall be announced in the first week of August every year.
6. Medals shall be presented every year to the selected recipients through the Local Public Associations or Government officials on 8th October, this being the death anniversary of the late Miss Georgiana Kendall.

The Kendall Humanity Medal is bronze, circular, one and five-eighths of an inch in diameter, with a ring suspender to take a ribbon one and one eighth of an inch wide, being red with two dark blue narrow stripes. The obverse shows the figure of a man carrying a clothed woman in his arms. A band around the circumference carries the words 'THE BOMBAY HUMANITARIAN LEAGUE' above, and 'KENDALL HUMANITY MEDAL' below. The reverse has a wreath within which are the words 'AWARDED TO (space for naming) FOR NOTABLE BRAVERY IN LIFE SAVING'.

In 1975 four awards of the Kendall Humanity Medal were made, one such recipient having the following citation:

"To Inspector Sr. T. Krishna Reddy, Nandyal, Karnoor District.

On 31-8-1975 the River Kunda welled due to floods between the railway track and I.L.T.D. Company and four victims, named: 1) Balhala Prasad Rao, 2) K. Pratap, 3) D. A. Sudhakar, and 4) M. Balusunder Rao, were held up on an island surrounded by floods where they climbed up an electric pole. Deputy Superintendent of Police, with several officers and expert swimmers, went on the spot, put up a temporary ropeway and saved victims No.2 and 4. But during the rescue operations the boy Balhala Prasad while being brought to the bank slipped off the rope and was washed away by the flood waters. Sr. T. Krishna Reddy jumped into the turbulent water, struggling for about 15 minutes against the heavy flood. He saved the boy at great personal risk.

Submitted by: Inspector of Police, Nandyal, Hyderabad, (A.P.)"

J. Boddington



INDIAN ARMY UNIFORMS FROM CARDS

(Part Three of Three)

1924/1925. ARMY CORPS and DIVISIONAL SIGNS. (1-50 and 51-150). John Player & Sons. (10p. £2.50p.) (Figs. 1,2,3) (10p. £7.50p.)

After the 1914-1918 War military subjects were almost taboo and so it was not until 1924 that anything about the Indian Army appeared, i.e. 9 cards in a series of 150, the series issued late enough to avoid trouble with the censor. These three cards, Nos. 101, 104 and 107, have been chosen to show Corps, Division and Brigade signs respectively. The elephant sign was taken from the badge of the 19th Hussars, the Divisional Commander, Major-General S.H.D. Fanshawe's former regiment. The fleur-de-lys sign of the 7th (Indian) Cavalry Brigade was white on a red ground. Others in the series are as follows:-

No.102. 3rd (Indian) Corps.

No.105. 14th (Indian) Division

No.106. 15th (Indian) Division

No.103. 17th (Indian) Division

No.108. 6th (Indian) Cavalry Brigade

No.109. 11th (Indian) Cavalry Brigade

1929. WARRIORS of ALL NATIONS. (25). W.A. & A.C. Churchman.(40p.each; £10/set)

This series consists of 25 normal sized cards and two series of larger sized cards, the latter with same illustration but allowing for more background. The three cards of Indian Army interest are:-

No.8. The Gurkha Rifleman (Fig.4)

No.9. The Pathan of Pathan Company, 20th Punjabis,

No.10. The Sikh. Sepoy of 15th (Ludhiana) Sikhs.

1938. BRITISH EMPIRE FLAGS (48) John Wix & Sons Ltd., (20p. each; £10/set)

The example shown is from a set of 'silks', believed to be from the above name series. Silks are difficult to identify, often as in this case, without makers name or series number. They can be quite useful additions to one's collection as very little has been recorded about Indian Army Colours. Much care seems to have been taken to show an accurate representation. This regiment, 53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force) had a drab uniform with black facings inherited from the old 3rd Regiment of Sikh Infantry. The Regimental Colour is black with scarlet cross and the five battle honours as in the pre-1914 Indian Army List. Other known specimens show the Colours of:- 2nd, 6th, 7th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 66th, 69th, 74th, 101st, 102nd, 121st and 127th Infantry Regiments. These sets are known to have been exchangeable for coupons and then issued as a sheet. (Fig.5)

1938. MILITARY UNIFORMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE OVERSEAS. (50) John Player & Sons.(10p. each; £4/set) (Figs.6,7, 8) Although amongst the last of the series of military cigarette cards, this set in my opinion is one of the best, fortunately still obtainable at reasonable price and has the distinction of being presented in a specially printed album. The artist responsible was Lance Cattermole of Sussex, who photographed and sketched these overseas soldiers when they were in this country in 1937 for the Coronation of King George VI. 14 cards are devoted to the Indian Army, and 15 to Indian State Forces. All show officers, drawn with accuracy and charm, against an Indian background. So little has been recorded about the uniforms of the Indian State Forces that the larger proportion dealing with these regiments is particularly useful.

1939. SOLDIERS OF THE KING. (36) Godfrey Phillips Ltd.,(15p. each; £8/set)

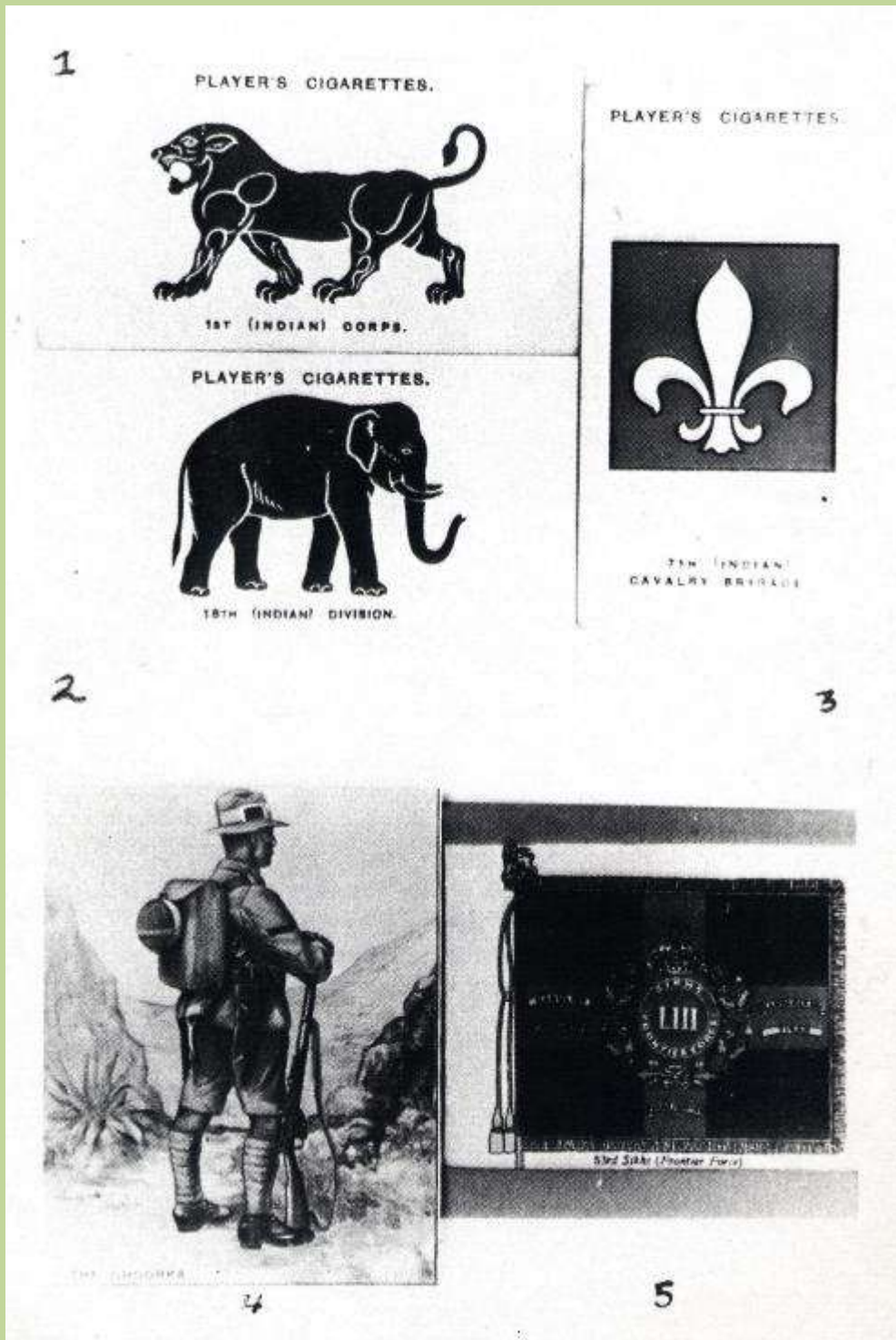
Probably the last of the pre-war military series, based on soldiers at the 1937 Coronation, but not as attractive as the 1938 Player's set. There are 6 cards of Indian Army and 3 of Indian State Forces. The examples show No. 24, Governor General's Body Guard. No. 26, 8th K.G.O. Lt. Cav., From the old 26th Lt. Cav., a Madras Regt., and 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse), a Hyderabad Cavalry Contingent Regiment; this officer of the amalgamated regiment wearing the dress uniform of the 26th, French grey with buff facings and silver lace. No. 30, Gwalior Lancers.(Figs. 9,10,11)

Postscript

To conclude these notes I add details of two single cards with an Indian Army connection. The 2nd series of "Well known Ties", produced by W.A. and A.C. Churchman in 1935,

contains one card, No. 13, showing the tie of the Punjab Frontier Force, broad green and red diagonals, the red with a narrow gold running through, set against a background photograph of the Khyber Pass.

One card in the 1937 Coronation series, 'Ceremonial Dress', produced for John Player & Sons is entitled 'The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire'. This is No.27 and gives a coloured illustration adopted from a photograph of one of the ruling Princes, a military style uniform just visible below the rich mantle of a Knight Grand Commander.





6



7



8

Figures 6,7,8 reprinted with the permission of Imperial Tobacco Limited.



9



10



11

R.G. Harris



IDENTIFICATIONS

SOME ANSWERS

Some suggestions about the two badges described by Paul G. Williams in 3#4:

"The badge described is either the helmet or cap badge of the 9th Madras Infantry. It appears in two sizes and should have a QVC, thus pre 1901. There is no known example with a King's Crown; if there were it would be for 1901-1903, after title change to '69th Punjabis' and the badge of the galley with title scroll which was the forerunner of the 2nd Punjab Regt badge." Thanks to J. L. Chapple (165). ... (text missing) the same information, adding that she has a similar badge in her collection. Her example is "not exactly the same - shows the galley inside a circlet bearing an Urdu inscription - this is within a wreath", etc. (as described by Williams).

"The Taj Mahal badge is to the Agra Volunteer Rifles... most likely pouch belt plate; the central device of which was the Taj Mahal. The cap badge was a Maltese cross with title round the central design. A plain Taj might have been worn on side cap or as a collar badge. This unit was reduced to a company in 1917 and became 17th Field Battery (AFI) in 1920.

The Delhi Contingent badge mentioned was quite different - white metal with a King's Crown over a circle on which was the motto "Pro Patria" and a sprig of laurel. In the centre were the initials "DC" interlaced. The collar badges were the same design." J.L. Chapple

INDIAN SOLDIERS IN THE BRITISH ARMY

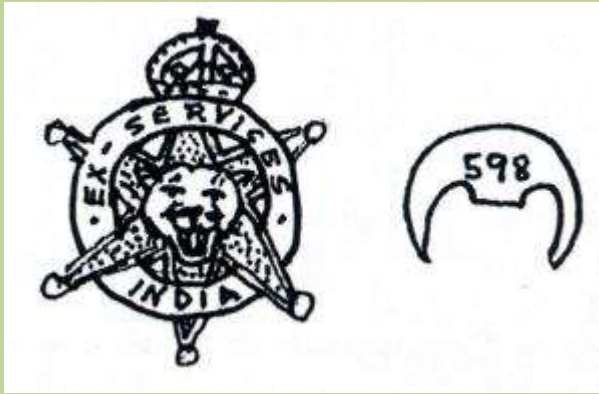
L.B. Ryan adds the following information to A.A. Mains' article in 3#3:

"Among the 1936 King's Indian Orderly Officers was Sub Major and Hon Lt Bhagat Singh of the Support Company, Royal Fusiliers. He appears in a photo in British Army full dress tunic with Royal Fusiliers collar badges and a turban in the Sikh style, into which he has inserted a Fusilier hackle (on his right). Certainly a puzzling uniform for the unwary. I am much indebted to R.G. Harris for this information.

Also I recently acquired a copy of the Standing Orders of the 2nd Battalion of The York and Lancaster Regiment, printed in Karachi in 1923. There was an Indian Company attached and para. 129 reads as follows: "The dress for Indian Officers will be as laid down for British Officers except for Head dress which is a turban with a flash on the left side worked in silk with the Regimental Colours."

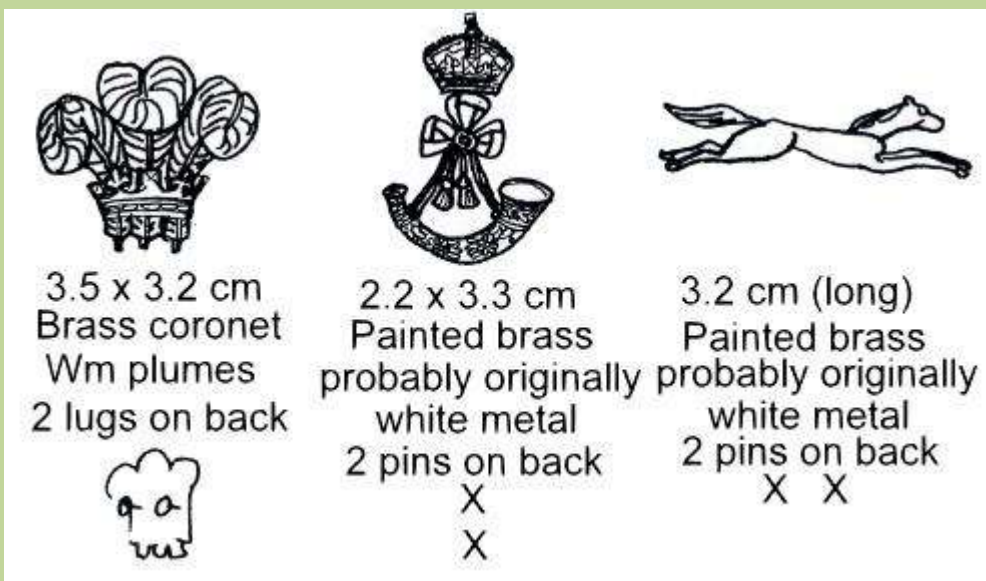
INFORMATION REQUESTED

● M. Johnson asks for any information on this badge, which appears to be for a veterans' association. It is gilt, with the ring in orange enamel. Does anyone know the period for this badge? Also, was this a British or an Indian group? The reverse is numbered as shown.



● John Laidacker would be pleased to learn why and under what circumstances, a native soldier received the conventional Victorian Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal normally reserved for issue to British troops. He has in his collection such a medal, awarded to Bugler Ghulam Hasan, Serial Number 30, of the 4th Punjab Infantry. It has the characteristics of the later type variant with scroll suspender and small letter reverse; inscription in thin, delicate running script typical of Indian naming. To reiterate: this medal is of the Pistrucci "stand of arms" design, not the veiled bust/lotus reverse normally issued to native troops.

● W.M Thornton wishes to identify the badges pictured below, which he believes may be Indian. The first has two "lugs" on the back, horizontally placed; the second two pins placed vertically and the last two pins placed horizontally.



● Finally, on behalf of a Dutch collector, Lieutenant Commander Thornton wonders if any members can identify the accompanying picture. (Not the original, so quality not great. Ed.) It seems to be an officer of the British Indian Army, taken perhaps in the 1890s.



E. del Sur & Co



**BANGALORE.
MADRAS.**

