

## DURBAR Volume 4, No.2

---

### SOME NOTES ON THE GURKHA BRIGADE.

(Part Two of Two)

#### RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

To understand this the following facts should be borne in mind: Recruitment and Training from 1814 to 1939 was in the hands of Regiments/Battalions, and after 1939 was done by Regimental Centres. There was no centralised system as exists today in British Gurkhas. At the time of the Gurkha War, Nepal had captured and settled the Himalayan foothills from the present western boundary to as far west as Jammu. This included Kumaon, Garhwal, the Doon Valley, Sirmoor, the Simla Hills, Kangra Valley and Eastern Jammu. For clarity: "Gurkha" means a man of one of the Nepal ethnic Gurkha clans whether born in Nepal or not. "Nepal Gurkha" means a Gurkha born in and a subject of the Kingdom of Nepal. "Indian Gurkha" means a Gurkha born in and a subject of India. "Hillman" means a man of the Himalayan foothills not of true Gurkha blood, such as Garhwalis, Kumaonis, Hill Dogras etc.

#### EARLY YEARS (1814 TO 1857)

During the early years up to the Mutiny, there was very little racial purity in Gurkha Regiments and many clans were enlisted who would not be enlisted today and certainly not in the early twentieth century. Recruitment from Nepal was difficult owing to difficulties with the Nepal Durbar, then in a state of turmoil and often civil war. There was the considerable reserve of Indian Gurkhas and Hillmen, which included the children of the original soldiers of 1814. Many retired soldiers were given grants of land as a reward for good service in the areas around the original Gurkha stations, the Doon Valley for example. About 1851, the matter was considered by the Governor General's Council and the view was argued that it would be better to depend on "Indian subjects" rather than "foreigners". Guidelines were issued that Regiments should consist of 1/3 Nepal Gurkhas and 2/3 Indian Gurkhas and Hillmen. It is interesting to note that the "Suraj Gorakh" Regiment of the Jammu and Kashmir State Army was raised in 1849, purely from descendants of Gurkha invaders who had settled in Eastern Jammu in the last years of the eighteenth century.

#### MIDDLE YEARS (1857 TO 1900)

The establishment of the Rana regime in Nepal brought about stability and the good relations now existing between Nepal and Britain meant that recruits from Nepal were now coming in considerable numbers. However there was no relaxation in the rule that no European should enter Nepal, without the express permission of the Nepal Durbar, and this was not good for recruiting. Recruiting had to be done by VCOs and NCOs of Regiments.

The period up to about 1900 saw a great change in the racial structure of Regiments: polarisation of class structure, by clans, of each Regiment. Complete elimination of the Hillmen. Very considerable reduction in Indian Gurkhas, now often only enlisted as Signallers, Pipers, Buglers, etc. Complete elimination of Nepal Gurkhas of the Thakur and

Khas (Chettris) clans. This was because the strict Hinduism of the Rana regime forbade these men to eat with other (lower) Gurkha clans. While the men had no religious prejudices themselves, they could not afford to defy the Nepal regime. Indian Gurkhas of these clans continued to be enlisted in small numbers in Magar-Gurung Regiments. The enlistment of the Kiranti clans (Limbus & Rais) from Eastern Nepal.

Recruiting had now polarised. 1 to 6 and 8 GR recruited Magars and Gurungs, while 7 and 10 GR took Limbus and Rais. The conversion of the 9th Bengal Infantry into a class Thakur-Chettri Regiment in 1893, allowed these two Clans to be enlisted again.

#### LATER YEARS (1900 TO 1947)

Each Battalion decided which Nepal Districts would be recruited annually and selected the Recruiters, who were natives of these Districts. They left for Nepal in September and by the time Dasehra was over their recruits were coming down to the Recruiting Depots. The Depots, Kunraghat at Gorakhpur for Western Nepal and Ghoom near Darjeeling for Eastern, were clearing houses only. They medically examined the men; those accepted were sorted out by Regiments, enrolled, given a greatcoat and a pair of boots and sent off to the Regimental home stations.

There were in addition to the Gurkha Brigade the following who enlisted Gurkhas: Infantry of the Corps of Guides (until 1922 only), Assam Rifles, Burma Military Police, certain Indian Police Forces, (notably the armed sections of Calcutta and Chittagong), The Jammu & Kashmir Army, The Sirmoor Sappers & Miners, Indian State Forces. Various other Native State Armies. By the thirties only the Assam Rifles and Jammu and Kashmir Army were enlisting Nepal Gurkhas in sizeable numbers; the others were taking mostly Indian Gurkhas by direct enlistment.

The Recruiting Depots, as clearing houses, would direct men who could not be accepted in the Regiment of their choice to these other forces. Also, if a Gurkha Regiment had a surplus of men of a certain clan, they could be transferred to a Regiment who had a deficit. Recruiters were paid a bonus for each recruit accepted. This was on a sliding scale: Rs 10 for an exceptional recruit for the recruiter's Regiment to Rs 2 for a poor specimen for a State Force unit. The Recruits were all assembled in their respective Training Companies by the end of November. Training continued for some eight or nine months. At the end those who had made the grade were attested (took the oath) and passed on to their active Battalions.

#### WORLD WAR II PERIOD

There were two changes in this period. First the Regimental Centres took over responsibility for recruiting and training from the Battalions. Second was the formation of Training Battalions to teach battle skills to recruits who had completed their basic training in the Centres. They were staffed by the Regiments whose recruits they trained: 14 GR for 1 & 4 GR, 29 GR for 2 & 9 GR, 38 GR for 3 & 8 GR, 56 GR for 5 & 6 GR, 710 GR for 7 & 10 GR. They were all disbanded in 1946.

#### APPENDIX

##### Gurkha Home Stations

1 GR	Dharamsala
2 & 9 GR	Dehra Dun
1/3 GR	Almora
2/3 GR	Lansdowne
4 GR	Bakhloh
5 & 6 GR	Abbottabad
7 & 10 GR	Shillong *
8 GR	Quetta *

\* These three Regiments had a certain amount of interchange in these two stations.

These Home Stations became Regimental Centres after 1939 except that 3 GR set up a new Centre at Dehra Dun and the Centres in Shillong had to be moved to the Kangra Valley in 1942 as Shillong was too close to the front line.

A.A. Mains



#### INDIAN ARMY RE-UNION 1987

The Indian Army Association holds an Annual Re-union at the Hurlingham Club in London. This year was the 29th and was well attended, with representatives from most of the old (pre 1947) Indian Regiments. The years have taken their toll and many once sprightly young subalterns are now distinguished looking grey haired old gentlemen. At this 'tamasha' there is still a sprinkling of "Boom Bahadurs" and "Koi Hais" - 'brandy pani leao, jaldi, and after an excellent tea the bar was naturally well patronised. Old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made. Reminiscences were in the air - "Do you remember old so-and-so?" "What about when we were in Africa, Italy, Egypt, Syria, Burma, Iraq, Malaya?" Old familiar names surfaced - Delhi, Agra, Peshawar, Madras, Calcutta, Hong Kong, Mandalay, Rangoon, Cairo, Kuala Lumpur. The Indian Army certainly saw the world and we were in most, if not all theatres of war (viz., Auchinleck was in Norway in 1940). The talk was of Subedar-Majors, yakdhans, Kumaonis, chaguls, Gurkhas, Sikhs, pagris, Dogras, Transit Camps, Jats, Quarter guards, Rajputs, Punjabi Mussulmans, bhistis, Ahirs and 'band o-bast.' We did have a language of our own, including the dreaded Roman Urdu! Boring, terrifying, humorous and edifying experiences were recalled with gusto. Ah, nostalgia is not what it was!

Military Attaches from the India and Pakistan High Commissions were present, plus some General Officers from the Indian Regiments. Sadly, there were some faces missing from previous years - that "fell sergeant, Death, had been strict in his arrest" - and many gallant old soldiers have faded away. One scarcely dared asked after absentees. In response to our Loyal Greetings Her Majesty was graciously pleased to send us a message wishing our Association well.

In this dreadful summer the weather was for once kind and the Regimental flags fluttered bravely in the breeze. The spirit of comradeship flourished as ever it did in those old and faraway days and places.

Captain John Mackett ("Mac"), 1st Kumaon Rifles

---

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

● Mr Monahan, July 21, 1987

As a note to Mr Johnson's "BANDOBAST" in the Journal, Volume 4, Number 1, I write as both an Indian Collector and a bookseller. Mr Johnson makes several good points about Indian books, all of which I agree with except one, availability of Indian publications. As military booksellers we have sought out many varied international sources. One of them is India. We now have a good source for books from a number of Indian publishers. We usually have, in stock, a large variety of Indian publications on all aspects of Indian military history. We would be pleased to supply catalogues to members or assist them with special requests for Indian publications. We have noticed an increase in the number of books available from India recently, both new titles and reprints of older British works. Some of the older classic works are again available at reasonable prices, even though the quality is of the Indian type described by Mr Johnson.

I am enclosing one of our recent catalogues for your reference.

Would you be interested in reviews of new titles? Please let me know. We could make an attempt to get some to you, for each issue, if you like.

I have enjoyed the Journals I have seen so far and look forward to future volumes.

Regards,

Michael A. Cobb, ARTICLES OF WAR LTD., 8806 Bronx Avenue,  
Skokie, 111 60077, USA

---

#### PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER 1849-1903

(The following was originally compiled as two private monographs by G. Dalton. We are very pleased to be allowed to print them here and only regret that we are unable to reproduce the maps which accompanied the originals. PEM)

The accompanying chart labelled "The Punjab Frontier Force on the North West Frontier, 1849 - 1872" is a compilation of expeditions in which the regiments/batteries referenced along the left-hand margin were represented. The numbering system across the top follows that used by Col. Parritt up through "17"; the numbers 19-25 designate expeditions that were not recognized as qualifying for the India General Service Medal (1854 -1895) with the bar "North West Frontier". However, based on descriptions and documentation available,

particularly in Capt. Nevill's book, these expeditions did engage the tribesmen and therefore I elected to include them. The numbers have been combined and arranged in chronological order.

The PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE on the North West Frontier, 1849 - 1872

EXPEDITIONS	1	2	18	3b	5	19	6	7a	7b	8	9	10	11	20	21	12	22	13	14	15	16	23	17	24	25
<b>GUIDES</b>																									
Cavalry	X	X		X	X					X								X	X	X			X		
Infantry	X	X		X	X		X			X								X	X	X			X		
<b>CAVALRY</b>																									
1 Punjab		X	X	X	X										X										X
2 "						X										X	X		X						X
3 "																	X		X				X		
4 "								X	X				X	X	X				X			X			
5 "								X	X				X	X	X				X			X			
<b>INFANTRY</b>																									
1 Sikh							X				X					X									X
2 "																	X		X						X
3 "																	X		X				X		
4 "																		X	X			X			X
1 Punjab	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2 "						X		X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3 "								X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4 "						X		X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5 "												X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6 "								X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5 Gurkha																		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>ARTILLERY</b>																									
No.1 PLFB *			X									X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kohat (#2)								X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Derajat (#3)												X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peshawar										X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hazara							X					X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

\* This Battery was reduced in 1870

The page following the chart identifies each of the expeditions as to Tribe(s) engaged, Date(s) and Officer Commanding.

This study ends with the Dawari expedition, March, 1872, because the next major activity was against the Jowaki Afridis in 1877-78 and for that a separate bar was awarded. Expeditions "3a" and "4" appear on the description list; however they are omitted from the chart because no units of the P.F.F. were involved.

Participation by two units in two expeditions could not be confirmed in a second source and are so indicated by a "/" designation.

The PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE on the North West Frontier, 1873 - 1902

EXPEDITIONS	A	1	B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	C	1	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	1	M
GUIDES																												
Cavalry	X																											
Infantry			X																									
CAVALRY																												
1 Punjab																												
2 "			X																									
3 "																												
4 " *					X																							
5 "														X														
INFANTRY																												
1 Sikh																												
2 "			X																									
3 "																												
4 "			X																									
1 Punjab			X																									
2 "																												
3 " *			X																									
4 "																												
5 "																												
6 "			X																									
5 Gurkha			X																									
ARTILLERY																												
Kohat																												
Dera iat			X																									
Peshawar																												
Hazara			X																									

\* These Regiments were disbanded in 1882

This project was a private undertaking to meet my own requirements. There is certainly no intention of trespassing on the source works consulted. Any errors in this presentation are mine alone as it has not had the benefit of examination by a more knowledgeable or qualified authority. I do plan to share this material with individuals and organizations to whom it may be of interest and hope it will be viewed in the spirit for which it was intended.

Postscript: Certain tribal designations have been changed at the suggestion of Maj. R.V.E. Hodson

In my continuing effort to share information with those who have a similar interest concerning the involvement of the PFF in the greater (and lesser) campaigns on the North West Frontier of India, the accompanying material includes an update to Part I (1849 -1872) and the initial release of information on the period 1873 - 1902. Campaigns for which other than an India General Service Medal/Bar was sanctioned, the Second Afghan War for example, have been passed over - as have those outside the NWF (Persia, Burma, etc.).

## TABLE

The dates 1873-1902 were used solely for the purpose of continuity between the previous compilation and what I plan to be a third instalment.

The identification scheme used here is - alpha characters for a named-bar, i.e., a 'recognized' campaign and numeric characters for the 'others'. Two sources have been required to establish verification of participation by an identified PFF unit in a specific action. Any encounter which avoided combat between the opposing forces has been excluded -except that No. 7 (against the Marris), described as a "- very arduous campaign", has been included.

R. North's book, *The Punjab Frontier Force*, obtained after Part I had been released, served as an outstanding source of new and/or corroborating information.

These compilations were originally undertaken to systematize participation by detachments of individual Piffer units in the many actions that took place on the North West Frontier of India. They represent the end-product of this research, however, the real pleasure has been derived from discovering a panorama of people and places, bravery and dedication, that figured in the events enumerated here. This is something that cannot be communicated with charts and lists.

Your comments and/or suggestions would be welcomed.

June, 1985

George H. Dalton, 6306 West 108th Street, Overland Park, KS 66211  
USA



## BRITISH OFFICERS IN INDIAN DRESS

The following photographs show three British Officers of Indian cavalry regiments in the full regimental dress of their units, including "lungis" (pagris). The photos and identification are courtesy of R.G. Harris; much of the additional information courtesy of M.C. Johnson; the mistakes are my own.

The first full figure is that of Lt-Col G.F.N. Newport-Tinley, 31st Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers. Newport-Tinley was made Lieutenant in 1876, Captain in '87, Major in '96 and Commandant of the 31st, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, on 31st March 1898. He was

involved in the Zhob Valley expedition (1884), served in Burma from 1885 to 1889 (wounded; horse shot; MID in LG 2.9.87; medal with 2 bars) and at Suakin (accompanied Dongala expedition; Sudan Medal, Khedive's Medal).

The photograph of Newport-Tinley shows that he is wearing his full complement of three medals. The uniform is probably the dark blue colour adopted in place of dark green in 1903 and the lungi gold with thin blue lines (wearer's right) and dark blue. (See Chater Paul Chater, *Indian Army Soldiers and Uniforms*, Plate 57 for the lungi colours.) Of particular interest are the Kashmir sash "of regimental pattern" worn as cummerbund, the lancer cap lines unusual in this order of dress and the cross-belt, which has a whistle in place of the commoner pickers (a peculiarity of Bombay regiments). Lastly, the belt plate, in the original, clearly shows the monogram "1 DCO", which was the regiment's 1890 title. Presumably such an expensive item was not replaced simply because it was no longer strictly "accurate".

The second, three-quarter length picture is that of Lt-Col Frank Wilson, taken when he was a Major with the 19th Lancers sometime in the 1930's. Wilson was an author and artist as well as a soldier. His own book, *Regiments at a Glance*, lists him as "Lt-Col...late Royal Scots Fusiliers and 19th King George V's Own Lancers, Indian Army." Major General S. Shahid Hamid's 1983 *So They Rode and Fought* contains a series of caricatures-"A Day in the Life of a Troop Horse" - by "the late Frank Wilson". The only service information I have is that Wilson was made Captain in Feb. 1936 and had been employed with the West African Frontier Force from Oct. 1928 to Sept. 1930 (1939 I.A. List).

The actual uniform worn by Wilson is unremarkable but for the lancer pattern girdle worn over the cummerbund and the Prince of Wales' plumes on the cross-belt. The information with the original photo says "in 18th Lancers uniform", which I take to mean the scarlet (pre-1922) of that regiment rather than the dark blue of the 19th, though of course one cannot tell for sure from a black and white picture. Again, the lungi seems to have a good deal of gold on one side of it.



The third photograph, head and shoulders only, is of one "Captain Binney, 5th Bombay Cavalry, 1899". I have found no information on this officer in my limited library, though an A.J.M. Binny (no "e") served with Skinner's Horse in 1910, after being with the Bedfordshire Regt in 1898.



The original of Binney is less clear than the other two pictures. The shoulder device seems to be crossed swords (with, presumably, the silver "hand" standard of the Scinde Horse) below a single "pip". The pouch belt plate is quite blurred: only the crown and wreath are really visible but the centre device should be "S.H.", for "Scinde Horse". (See Chater Paul Chater, Plate 7.)

Again, there is gold material on the lungis, though in Binney's case on the opposite side from that of the other two officers. (A "lefty"?) All three wear the pointed Muslim kulla, heavily embroidered, under their lungis. One is told that British officers always did so, for ease of tying the cumbersome headdress, but it would be interesting to find out if this "rule" was ever breached and whether there was in fact some significance to which "side" the lungis was tied on.

Three interesting photographs, which show some of the myriad small facts which may or may not be verifiable by dress regulations and therefore make the study of uniforms both fascinating and frustrating!

P.E. Monahan

---

Do the names/a roll exist for the original twenty volunteers of Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry who left Allahabad with General Havelock?

Does a roll exist for the fifty men of Rattray's Sikh Police who were part of the "Garrison" at the siege of Arrah? How exactly were their medals named? Do rolls exist for either or both of the relief expeditions to Arrah, and if so, where?

(The editors apologize for omitting this query from our last issue.)

P.E. Monahan has two badges which he believes to be Army of Pakistan Armoured Corps. One consists of a tank (front view) backed by crossed lances, with a scroll below reading "LANCERS". The second is similar but the lances are replaced with swords and the scroll reads "CAVALRY". Are they general issue to all Pakistan Armoured Corps units? If so, as headdress or collars or for some other purpose? The size seems to suggest the first, but both have "lugs" for a split pin fastener where one might expect a slider for berets or a pin for pagris.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

L.E. Bishop has a number of queries with which he hopes members can assist.

First, how were bronze IGS Medals awarded? Where rolls prepared? Might they still exist at the India Office Library or Calcutta Mint? Were medals named at the mint and distributed on parade, or was some other system used?

---

#### ORIGINAL SKETCHES - I.A. UNIFORMS

The editors have just received a letter from Mr Boris Mollo, Deputy Director and keeper of Records of the National Army Museum, regarding R. G. Harris's article on 'Indian Army Uniforms from Cards', Vol.4, No.1.

Mr Mollo suggests that the members might be interested in knowing that the NAM has the original sketches for Lance Cattermole's card series "Military Uniforms of the British Empire Overseas". These include several Indian subjects which were not finally published, and may be inspected in the Reading Room of the museum.

Our thanks to Mr Mollo for his kindness in passing along the information.

PEM

---

#### BITS AND PIECES - THE KULLAH

While those who collect badges and medals to the Indian Army often complain about the scarcity of material on the market for their collections, those who are uniform collectors are in even worse case, as for them material is almost unobtainable. The odd officer's tunic may appear, but very little from the ranks. Last summer I was fortunate enough to obtain two kullahs of the Second World War period at a convention here in Canada.

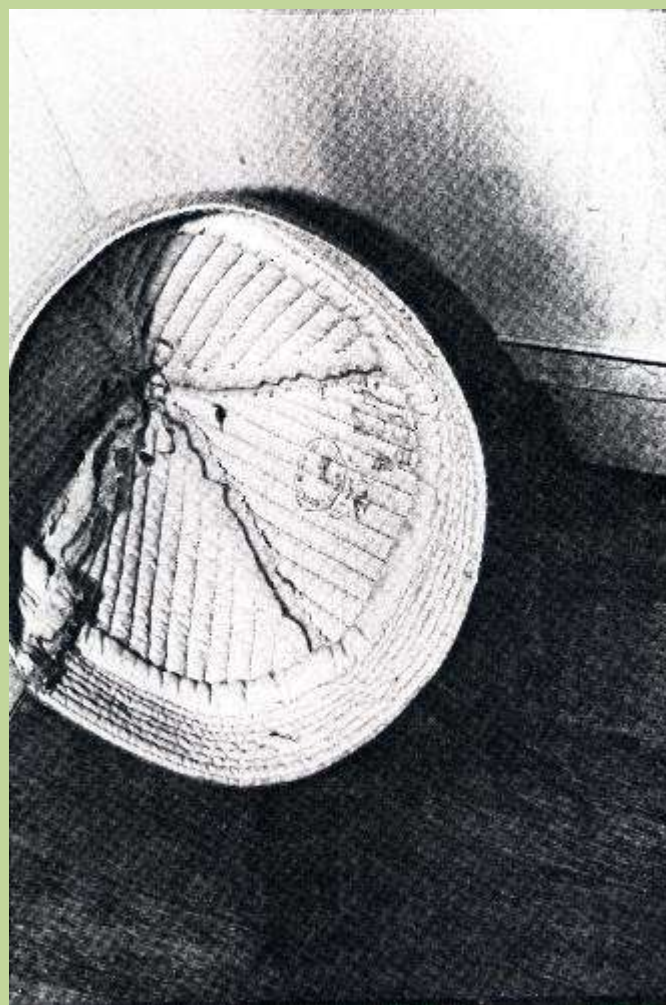
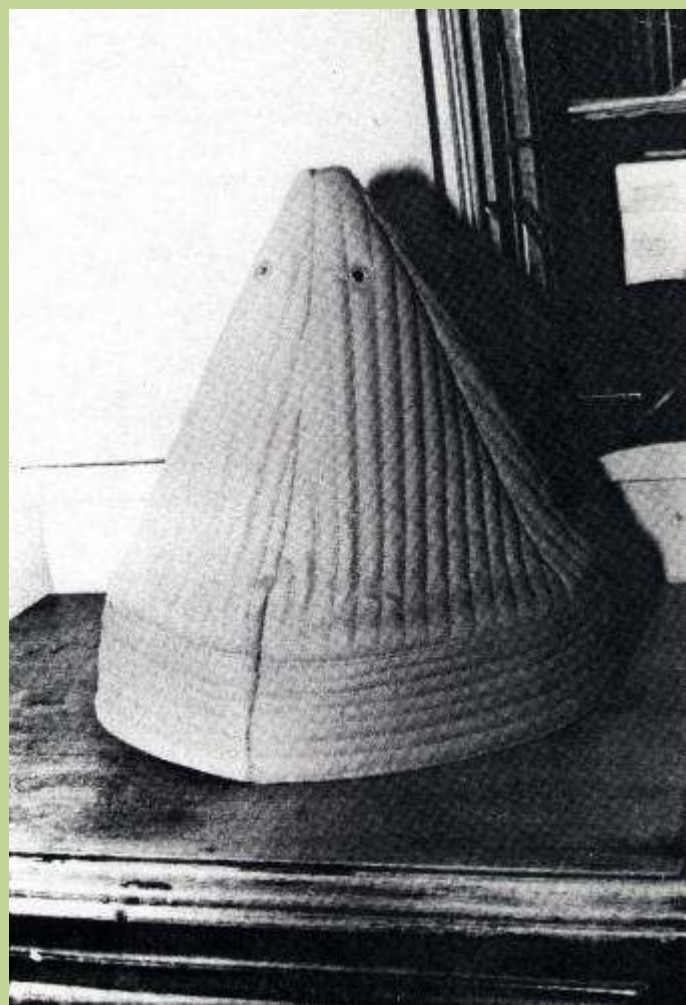
The kullah is basically a quilted, pointed cap worn by certain classes in the Indian Army. For these classes the pagri is worn wrapped around the kullah, with the pointed cone end of the kullah showing above. The kullah was often in the regimental facing colour, although practice varied considerably from regiment to regiment - especially with those who wore khaki - and Viceroy's Commissioned Officers might have theirs adorned with gold tracing. My example, however, is of the later variety, after full dress had disappeared from the ranks - other than the Band, in most cases.

The kullah was worn by the following classes: Punjabi Mussalmans, Pathans, and Jats. I believe that certain other classes - not including Sikhs - wore a similar, but much lower form of the kullah, which did not show above the pagri. The type of kullah illustrated in Fig. 1 can be seen in many of the photographs that appear in the editions of 'The Tiger Strikes' and 'The Tiger Kills' produced in India, which show individual gallantry award winners. Some of these photographs appear to have been taken at investiture ceremonies, where the pagri is being worn. Later in the war, all troops other than Sikhs wore either helmets or Caps G.S. for all duties other than ceremonial duties, and for this reason photographs of Indian troops wearing the kullah and pagri are harder to find.

My example is made of quilted khaki drill material, lined with a natural coloured lining, and stands 9 inches tall. It is made up of four triangular sections, each with an eyelet ventilator near the top. The bottom section is a 2 inch band of quilted material, with the quilting running horizontally. The interior of the kullah is shown in Fig. 2. The stamps inside are the maker's mark - the name of the manufacturer is not quite readable due to the quilting, but it is a London company - together with the date 1944 and the Ordnance broad arrow. The second stamp has "M" - presumably the size - above the "WD" broad arrow mark, and below the number "821". These markings show distinctly. The kullah appears to be in un-issued condition.

Several interesting questions do arise from the markings, however. The presence of British ordnance markings, coupled with a London manufacturer, strikes me as somewhat unusual, as I would have thought that most Indian uniforms would have been contracted to Indian manufacturers. Supply problems for the North African campaign might explain an alternative source being used, but by 1944 that campaign was over. There were Indian troops fighting in Italy, but there would have been little call for what was at that time becoming almost exclusively parade dress. The British Army, as explained in two articles that recently appeared in the Journal, did enlist some Indians, but these were not very numerous, and half of them - at least - were Sikhs who did not wear the kullah. By 1944 the Indian personnel serving with the British Mountain Artillery Batteries and Field Regiments had been transferred to the Regiment of Indian Artillery, the former in 1939 and the latter in 1941, so why the War Department markings?

Still, despite these questions, I am very happy to have this piece of uniform represented in my collection. Now if I can find the regulation length of pagri material and some instructions on how to tie it properly...



M.C. Johnson

---

#### BOOK REVIEW

● *FRONTIER AND OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS FROM INDIA*. Intelligence Branch, Army Headquarters, India. Reprint edition Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1983. Seven volumes printed in eight books.

For anyone whose interest is the history of the Indian Army, this is the reference work. It was originally compiled by Army Headquarters to chronicle the past campaigns on the Frontier and outside India, and in doing so serve as a reference source for army commanders who might find themselves in action against the same enemy again. For this reason the accounts, especially for the last two expeditions covered, the Mohmand expedition of 1908 and the Abor expedition of 1911, give many details concerning the inhabitants and the terrain of the lands in question. These last two expeditions are covered in marvellous detail, including the dispatch listing the casualties incurred, by name, number and unit. The former even lists the number of rounds of ammunition expended by each unit.

The work is broken down into seven volumes: I. Tribes North of the Kabul River (Part 1.) and Operations against the Mohmands in 1908 (Part 2); II. North-West Frontier Tribes

between the Kabul and Gumal Rivers; III. Baluchistan and the First Afghan War; IV. North and North-Eastern Frontier Tribes (Sikkim, Tibet, Nepal, Assam); V. Burma; VI. Overseas Expeditions (Africa, Ceylon, Arabia and Persia, Malay Peninsula, and China); and VII the Official Account of the Abor Expedition.

Volume VI is especially useful, with good coverage of all three wars with China, and the volume on Burma helps to untangle all the minor punitive expeditions. Marginal notes are usually given, setting out the compositions of the forces taking part in each expedition. Forget Gordon, this is where you'll find your unit. I've already accounted for two of my medals in this way: bronze IGS 1895 medals with the "Relief of Chitral 1895" bar will be found to many units that took no part, as a massive amount of transport was collected for the expedition, basically wherever the Army could find it. A final sentence at the end of the chapter on the Soudan campaign of 1885 notes that about fifty men of the 45th Sikhs served with the 15th Sikhs, replacing the sick. I have a medal to one of them in my collection.

Admittedly the books are not cheap, selling in London for varying prices per volume from £41.95 for the two parts of Volume I to £14.95 for either Volume IV or III (or £175.00 for the set). These prices may change or vary depending on the dealer or due to many factors such as exchange rates. Nevertheless, this is an essential reference source for the serious student of Indian Army campaigns.

M.C. Johnson

