

## DURBAR Volume 6, No.2, Summer 1989

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### THE GURKHA SOLDIER IN FRANCE 1914-15

Lt Col A. A. Mains

#### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Flanders (NW Belgium and NE France -see map at Appendix B).

#### PERIOD

Late October 1914 to early November 1915

#### UNITS INVOLVED

In the Lahore Division

1/1 GR, 1/4 GR

In the Meerut Division

2/2 GR, 2/3 GR, 2/8 GR, 1/9 GR

#### COURSE OF THE CAMPAIGN

The Lahore and Meerut Divisions mobilised shortly after the Declaration of War and by early October had arrived at Marseilles. After a brief sojourn at Orleans they went into the trenches in the last week of October. This earned them the 1914 Star with the clasp "5 AUG-22 NOV 1914". This fact is very little known.

As soon as they had been put into the line they were subjected to heavy German attacks designed to break the allied line and capture the Channel Ports. At that time the French Army was recovering from its long retreat, culminating in the Battle of the Marne, and had no immediate reinforcements. The British Army was in like case as the Territorial Army was not yet ready and the New Armies had hardly been organised. The presence of two well-trained Divisions of high morale, if poorly equipped, probably saved the Channel Ports and prevented the War being lost.

The fighting during the whole period was trench warfare, often confused with units mixed up, so it is difficult to pin point any particularly meritorious action. In general the fighting during the winter was to repel the German attempts to break through, and the later actions of Neuve Chapelle, Festubert and Loos were abortive attempts by the Allies to break the German line. Between them the six Battalions earned eleven Battle Honours besides the Theatre Honour

"France and Flanders 1914-15". Honours between units were almost equal - 9 GR earning eight Honours, 2/3 GR seven, and the others six apiece - so it would be invidious to chronicle any particular unit action (see Appendix A). The action of Rfn Kulbir Thapa, 2/3 GR, at Loos, which merited the Victoria Cross, the first awarded to a Gurkha, might well be mentioned (see Appendix C).

## CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE GURKHAS FOUGHT

### TERRAIN AND CLIMATE

Flanders is low lying and in many places boggy; this coupled with an exceptionally severe early winter (rain, sleet and snow) made conditions extremely unpleasant. Trenches were often waist deep in water and the Gurkha suffered from the damp, cold conditions, different from the dry cold to which he was accustomed in Nepal.

### CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Units arrived in France in their tropical cotton uniforms and, except for an issue of long pants at Orleans, warm clothing was not issued until December. The regulation boots made in India did not stand up to the wet conditions and cases occurred of men going barefoot in the bitter cold. The Indian Army was still using (until 1921) the 1904 leather bandolier equipment and not the superior 1908 web used by the British Army. Their rifles, the SMLE No 1 Mk IV, while the same as that of the British Army, was sighted to take the Mk VI ammunition but that in use in France was the Mk VII, so all the rifles and MG barrels had to be changed.

### TRANSPORT AND RATIONS

Units did not bring any First Line (animal) transport so they were issued at Orleans with requisitioned French carts and animals. No Drivers had been included so various makeshifts had to be adopted, such as detailing followers (Bhistis etc) as Drivers. The bright spot was that rations and M. T. were supplied by the RASC and the arrangements were agreed by all to be excellent.

### MORALE AND REINFORCEMENTS

There is no doubt that fighting in Flanders was a severe strain on the Gurkha, but morale was high and no cases of units cracking under the strain occurred. The major difficulty was that of reinforcements since any system which may have existed broke down with the very heavy casualties.

### BRITISH OFFICERS

Casualties were extremely heavy - in one action shortly after they had gone into the line, 2/2 GR lost their entire Officer strength of seven within a few hours. It was very difficult to obtain Officer reinforcements who knew the Gurkha or could speak his language, thus putting a heavy strain on the Gurkha Officers and Other Ranks.

## OTHER RANKS

In spite of most Regiments having left their other battalion behind as draft finder, to combat the huge wastage drafts had to be obtained from the para military Assam Rifles and Burma Military Police.

## HUMOUR

G.O. to B.O. - "Sahib, how far is it to Berlin?"

"I suppose about five hundred miles"

"Well, Sahib, this will be a very long war. We have been here three months and we have only advanced one mile!"

## COMMEMORATIVE MEMORIALS

Indian Army Memorial, Neuve Chapelle - Regimental panels with names of fallen.  
Brighton Chattri - Commemorates the spot where Hindu soldiers who died in the Pavilion Hospital were cremated.

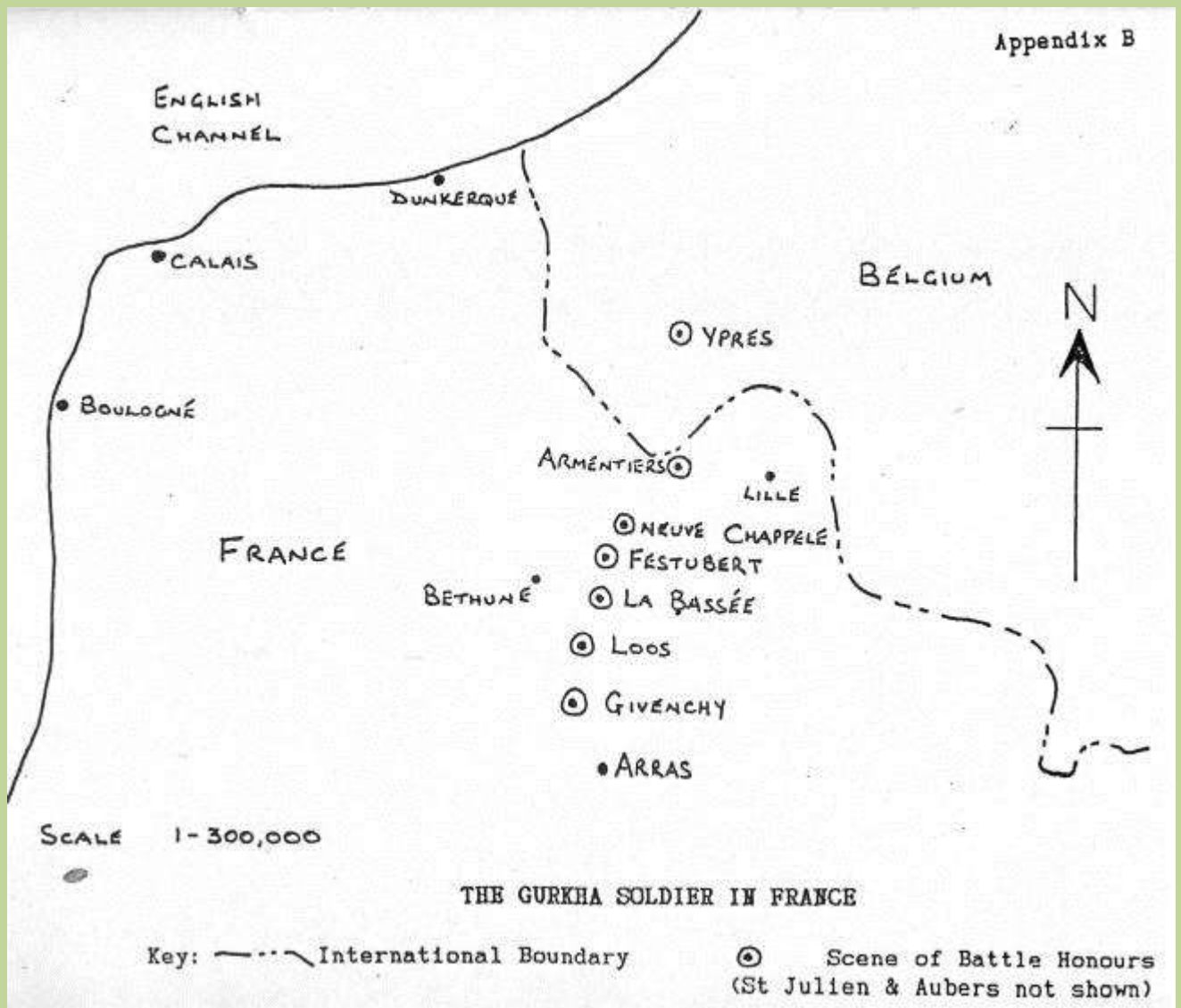
## APPENDIX "A"

### THE GURKHA SOLDIER IN FRANCE - BATTLE HONOURS

HONOUR	REGIMENT					
	1/1	2/2	2/3	1/4	2/8	1/9
GIVENCHY 1914	*		*	*		
GIVENCHY 1915		*			*	*
NEUVE CHAPELLE	*	*	*	*	*	*
YPRES 1915	*			*		
ST JULIEN	*			*		
FESTUBERT 1914	*	*	*		*	*
FESTUBERT 1915		*	*	*	*	*
LOOS	*					*
LA BASSEE 1914		*	*		*	*
AUBERS		*	*	*	*	*
ARMENTIERS			*			*
TOTAL	6	6	7	6	6	8

THEATRE HONOUR "FRANCE AND FLANDERS 1914-15", ALL

APPENDIX "B"



APPENDIX "C"

RIFLEMAN KULBIR THAPA VC

Extracted from "*The Indian Corps in France*" by Merewether and Smith.

"During the action a deed which could hardly be surpassed for sheer bravery and self-sacrifice was performed by Rfn Kulbir Thapa (2/3 GR) -- Kulbir succeeded, after being wounded, in getting through the wire in some extraordinary way and charged straight through the German trench. In the rear of it he found a badly injured man of the 2nd Leicesters. The wounded man begged Kulbir Thapa to leave him and save himself, but the Gurkha refused to do so and remained by his side throughout the day and the following night. Luckily there was a heavy mist on the morning of 26th September, of which Kulbir took advantage to bring the man out through the German wire. He succeeded, after hairbreadth escapes, in doing this unobserved, and put the wounded man in a place of safety. Not content with this, he returned and rescued one after the other, two wounded Gurkhas. He then went back again and brought

in the British soldier in broad daylight, carrying him most of the way under fire from the enemy."

(This article was written for the appropriate exhibit at the Gurkha Museum in its new venue at Winchester. The Museum hopes to reopen there in the Autumn of 1989.)

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#### NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Following on from the previous article it is particularly relevant to report two new "postcards" from the National Army Museum. They are, in fact, facsimile reproductions of stained glass windows in the Indian Army Memorial Room at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. One is of an Indian soldier in action in France and Flanders during the First World War. The original window at Sandhurst was presented by the British Petroleum Group of Companies. The second is of an Indian infantryman in Burma during the Second World War, supported by a Sherman tank. Included in the window are the formation badges of Fourteenth Army and 11th, 12th and 17th Indian Divisions. The original window was presented by National and Grindlays Bank Ltd. In both cases the facsimile reproduction, which measures 4½ inches by 2½ inches, comes in two versions. One can be applied to your own window by peeling the cling film design from its backing sheet. It can also be recovered and re-used. The other comes in the form of a greeting card. Both versions are available from the National Army Museum, the former at 50 pence each plus postage, the latter at 95 pence each plus postage.

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#### A PROUD RECORD OF SERVICE

SUBADAR MAJOR AHMED KHAN, SARDAR BAHADUR, M.B.E. I.O.M. O.B.I.

John Brooks

Some little time ago a splendid group of medals to a 'Piffer' (Punjab Frontier Force) joined my collection, and I most gratefully acknowledge the information supplied by Major Sudlow in his article (Vol. 5, No. 2) about WW 2 citations to the Indian Army. The group, which includes three decorations (M.B.E., I.O.M. and O.B.I. (First Class), all awarded within the year, was well researched but lacked the citation for the I.O.M. Thanks to MOD Stanmore this is now available with all its signatures, from the unit C.O. to Brigadier Graves, 80 Brigade, to Maj Gen Nicholson, 33 Corps, to Lt Gen Slim, 14th Army, and finally to Gen Giffard of 11 Army Group.

The citation reads as follows:

"For conspicuous personal gallantry in the field,

At CHEPU (Assam) on 8th July, 1944, the position held by troops of a battalion of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment was heavily attacked by a force of about 500 Japanese supported by artillery, mortars and medium machine guns. The Japanese succeeded in

penetrating the defences at one point, from where they could cover all other positions of fire.

The Commanding Officer of the battalion was seriously wounded and two British Officers only remained, the others having been killed or wounded. Ammunition was running short at this stage.

Subadar Major Ahmed Khan, Bahadur, O.B.I. realised at once the critical state of the battle and that success or failure hinged upon maintaining the highest offensive spirit and morale among the men. Completely undisturbed by grenades and mortar shells bursting around him, the Subadar Major walked around the position, speaking to the men and encouraging them, by his words and his personal example of steadiness, coolness and contempt for personal safety, to remain firm and await with confidence the renewed attacks of the Japanese.

When these attacks developed, he was again in the fore, encouraging and spurring on the men, all the time shouting various war cries of the different classes of the battalion, and urging them to save their scarce ammunition for the shot that kills.

His vigour and personality dominated even in battle, and the success with which the Japanese attacks were beaten off, during the remainder of the day, was in no small measure due to the inspiration and unflagging energy of the Subadar Major.

The courage and conduct of this Viceroy Commissioned Officer during this action were well in accord with the obligations and duties of his position as senior Indian rank in the battalion and in the highest traditions of the Indian Army."

Subadar Major Ahmed Khan was a Punjabi-Mussalman, from the village of Maghian, in the district of Cambellpur, and he was born in 1899 (all this from the citation), and joined the Frontier Force Rifles as a sepoy in 1918, just too late for W.W. I. In addition to his decorations his British medals are:

I.G.S. 1908-35; Geo V with 4 clasps, Afghan 1919, Mahsud 1919-20, Waziristan 1919-21 and Waziristan 1921-24.

I.G.S. 1936-39: clasp N. W. Frontier 1937-39.

4 W.W.2 Stars: 1939-45, Africa, Italy and Burma.

2 W.W.2 Medals; War Medal (with Mention in Despatches), Indian Service Medal,

General Service Medal; clasp S.E. Asia 1945-46 (for service in Indo-China)

Jubilee Geo V: 1935

Coronation Geo VI; 1937

Pakistan Independence Medal

His Pakistan medals, issued for service after the P.F.F. was divided between India and Pakistan, are:

Medal for Kashmir; 1948

Pakistan Republic Medal: 1956

A group of 17 medals, such as this, showing continuous service over at least 37 years, speaks for itself and for the men who have served the Indian Empire and its successors so well and in so many parts of the world.



## TWO IMPORTANT SURVIVING MEDALS

Nimrod Dix

I thought readers of the journal may be interested to hear of the survival of two medals of some interest and importance.

Q.S.A. SILVER, 6 CLASPS

C.C., Paardeberg, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Driefontein, Belfast.

Impressed naming as usual to QSAs.

2366 DAFR. YUSAF ALI KHAN, HEAD QR. STAFF

When I purchased this medal it was intimated that he may have been one of Lord Roberts' orderlies in South Africa. In the OMRS Journal, Winter 1985, page 259, he is shown under the 3rd Bombay Cavalry with 5 clasps (not Belfast). His medal being named as it was, it made some sense that he was acting in some unusual capacity. A search in the Indian Army Lists of 1906, 1910 and 1918 provided the following information:

Enlisted in 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry 2nd July 1887, Commissioned, Jemadar, 33rd Q. O. Lt Cavy., 1st November 1903. Risaldar, Governors Bodyguard, Bombay, 1st July 1906, a position he still held in 1918. War Service - South Africa 1900 - medal with 6 clasps.

Cliff Parrett provided the final proof with an extract from "*Historical Records of the Services of the 33rd (Queen Victoria's Own) Light Cavalry*" which states:-

'Dafedar YUSSUF KHAN was one of Lord Roberts' Orderlies during the South African War, and was presented by his Lordship with a silver watch on his returning to India'.

WATERLOO 1815 awarded to Ensign Hon. GEO. ANSON, 2nd Batt. 3rd Reg. Guards.

The recipient of this medal became none other than General Hon. George Anson, Commander in Chief in India at the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny. He died of cholera on the 27th May 1857 before the assault on Delhi got underway and sadly he does not appear to

have received the Indian Mutiny medal. There were exceptionally few Waterloo veterans who saw service during the Mutiny but, coincidentally his brief successor, General Thomas Reed, was another.

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## LETTERS

Replies to previous articles & correspondence.

● Scouts Badge. Reference Vol. 6, No 1, page 9. Figure 1 pertains to the Kumaon Scouts, raised on 1 November 1981 and presently based at the Kumaon Regimental Centre.  
Maj Gen Chand N Das

● Mohmand Operations, 1934-35 - 'Kila Hari'

Reference Vol. 5, No 3, page 37. I stand, corrected. It was the machine gun platoon of 3/2 Punjab which played an important role in the defence of Kila Hari and the platoon commander, Jemdr Mohd Baksh was awarded an I.O.M. There was no Gurkha unit in the Nowshera Brigade at the time. Please make the following amendment to page 37, line 20. For "4 Gurkha Rifles" read "the Battalion".  
Maj Gen Chand N Das

● Chilas. Reference Vol. 6, No 1, pages 32 and 33. The article raises the point of gallantry medals being issued without any other medals. This was not unusual early in World War II. We had a Lieutenant in the Gordons with an MM only and our ship's M.O. on the trooper to India (Major Morgan Evans, RAMC) had the MC alone, won at Dunkirk. I have also seen an invitation to an investiture at Buckingham Palace of the DSO to a Naval officer dated December 1940. "Mentions in Despatches" had to wait for the War Medal to be issued, otherwise the Oak Leaf was worn on the uniform where the medal would have been. John Mackett

(I take the point that John Mackett makes although by my reckoning such gallantry awards would eventually have been "supported" by various W.W.2 Stars and Medals, even if the latter were not issued until five or six years later. Having said that, I have three Mention in Despatch certificates awarded to the same person during W.W. 2 which were never "supported" by an entitlement to a medal.  
Tony McClenaghan

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## BOOK REVIEW

● *'THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE KUMAON RIFLES'*. Major J F A Overton. The Light Infantry. Published privately. (The Editor holds Major Overton's address for those who might be particularly interested in obtaining a copy. Members are advised that copies may be in short supply).

This is a comprehensive history of the Regiment from its raising in 1917 until the handing over to independent India in 1947.

The subject is treated exhaustively and few regimental histories can contain so much detail. Not only British Officers and VCOs are recorded, but individual NCOs and Riflemen are mentioned. We follow the fortunes of the Regiment from India to Egypt and Palestine, fighting the Turks under Allenby. The Battle of Sharon, 19th February 1919, in which the Regiment distinguished itself, is still kept as a Regimental Day. Awards included 2 DSOs, 2 MCs and 5 IDSMs.

There followed service in Egypt and Turkey and then back to India. Duties here included Aid to Civil Power in Bareilly in January 1924. A spell on the Frontier at Chitral came next. Up to 1930 1st Kumaon Rifles carried out the normal peacetime duties of an infantry battalion at Lucknow, Jhansi and in Waziristan. In 1932 they were based at Delhi and sent to quell disturbances in Alwar and Lohar in 1933. Subsequently they were Escort Battalion to the Viceroy. As a result of the good impression they had made they were allowed, surely uniquely, to choose their next posting. Thus in 1936 they went to Hong Kong. Here they rendered sterling service, as several commendations quoted show. The Regiment was posted back to India in 1940, fully aware of the inadequate defences of the Colony due to shortages of material.

The war having spread to the Middle East, the Indian Army was making its contribution in this theatre. The German threat from the Caucasus to our oil supplies from Persia was becoming serious. The Kumaon Rifles sailed to Iraq in June 1941 and subsequently took part in one of the earliest Combined Operations of the war, viz., the capture of the oil refinery at Abadan on 25th August 1941, and then the installations at Ahwaz on 28th August. Then followed arduous, if somewhat boring, years in the Iraqi desert, guarding the Persian Railway and guard duties in Teheran. All this kept the vital "Aid to Russia" supplies going through safely. Extremes of heat and cold were stoically endured. (Until I read this account I didn't realise that I had taken our M.T. through Russian-occupied Persia up to a height of 9,000 feet.)

In June 1944 the Brigade was sent to Tripoli in the Lebanon to train in Mountain Warfare (it was rumoured that we were going to Greece). This was a very strenuous period but compensations were the nearby "fleshpots" of Beirut, now sadly destroyed. Owing to the changing situation in Europe the "powers that be" decided that the Regiment should start Jungle Warfare training forthwith, which was done in the mountains of Syria. Posting back to India followed and, after the whole battalion had had leave from the Depot in Agra, the Regiment proceeded to Coimbatore, in South India, and continued its interrupted Jungle Warfare training - then back to Combined Operations again. (We had to dye our khaki into "jungle green". Due to my incompetence in such matters the Mortar Platoon appeared in blue uniforms causing Col. "Laurie" Loch to remark, "Mac, I didn't realise we had an RAF detachment with us".) The landings at Port Swettenham, in Malaya, were undertaken just after the A Bombs had been dropped and it was uncertain if the Japs had completely surrendered. In fact they had withdrawn. The Regiment served in Malaya - a period of "alarums and excursions" in the general unsettled conditions of the country, before they returned to Allahabad, India, in November 1946. They were involved in the vast upheaval of "Independence" and acquitted themselves well.

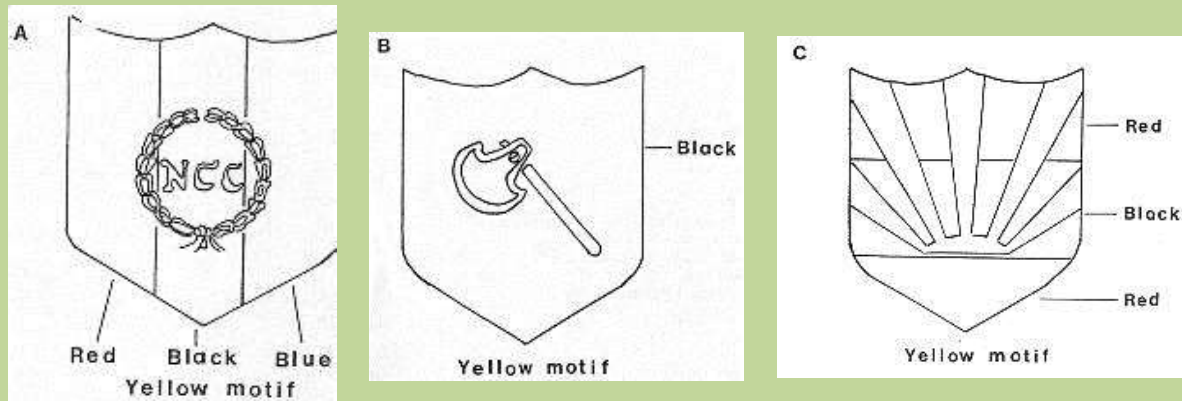
Kumaonis, cheerful little hillmen, have soldiered in the Indian Army for many years, often serving in the Gurkhas and the Royal Garhwal Rifles. They now have a Regiment of their own and the Kumaon Rifles are the 3rd (Rifles) Battalion. They retain the kukri and the Terai hat. This was always a happy Regiment with a series of first class COs and a fine spirit of

camaraderie between officers and men. Major Overton is to be congratulated on a great effort which will be read and enjoyed by all ranks who had the privilege of serving in the 1st Kumaon Rifles.

"mac". John Mackett

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### SOME POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIAN FORMATION SIGNS



## INDIAN CAVALRY 1857-1861

Cliff Parrett

Continuing the article started in Vol.6, No.1, fact sheets follow for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Bengal Irregular Cavalry. (See Page 19 of Vol.6, No.1 for abbreviations used in the sheets).

### 1ST BENGAL IRREGULAR CAVALRY

1st Bengal Irregular Cavalry		ICL L/M11/5 references					
Names on Roll	Ranks	Clasps					77(107R) 80(118-138) 96(108R-109R)
		D	M				Remarks
Chamberlain C.T.	Major		1				Brigadier i/c Gwalior District
Ekina C.C.	Lieut		1				
Thomson C.C.	Lieut	1					
Strover F.M.	Surg		1				
Crawford J.D.	Surg		1				
Sewdial Doobay	MDoc		1				
Shahik Ghalua	Rzal		1				OBI(2nd)
Elahes Buksh Khan	Rzal		1				OBI(2nd); severely wounded.
Ishiyar Khan	Rzal		1				
Shydad Khan	Rzal		1				OBI(2nd)
Shers Allee	Rzal		1				
Shahik Koutubdeen	Rzal		1				OBI(2nd)
Mirza Shudee Beg	Rzal		1				ICM(2nd)
Mazr Shakat Allee	Jedr		1				OBI(1st); promoted Rzal.
Hookus Singh	Jedr	1					ICM(2nd)
All other ranks		1	259				
Total known claims		270	3	267			

[Click on the small picture to see a larger version]

COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Remained loyal throughout the Mutiny although some evidence suggests a few officers/men joined the rebels (Forrester p462). Stationed in Multan in June 1857 and helped to disarm the 62nd & 69th Bgl NI. During following September whilst policing the Gogaira District, a wing (150 sabres) was attacked by a large rebel force and besieged in the fortified serai at Chichawatni until relieved by a column from Multan. Operated on the west bank of the Ravi in October against another body of rebels, and then maintained the line of communications between Multan and Lahore, returning to the latter station end-November where it remained until moving to the relief of Jullunder in April 1858. Meantime, a small detachment of 16 British and native officers and men had served with the Harriannah F.F. restoring order northwest of Delhi in September 1857. In February 1859 a wing moved up to Ferozepore to operate against a band of rebels in the area of Sirsa for two months before returning to Jullundur. In May 1861 its designation changed to the 1st Bengal Cavalry.

2ND BENGAL IRREGULAR CAVALRY

2nd Bengal Irregular Cavalry			IOL L/M11/5 references			
Names on Roll	Ranks	Clasps				99(150V-153R) 103(84V - 87R)
		M				Remarks
Jackson G.	Rt-Major	1				
Ehnickh Mohamed Noassin	NDoc	1				
Jaffer Khan	NSal	1				
Mucka Singh	NSal	1				
All other ranks		57				
Total known claims		61	61			

[Click on the small picture to see a larger version]

COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Stationed at Gurdaspur in the Punjab when the Mutiny broke out, and remained in this district until November 1859 when it moved to Peshawar. One Daffadar and three sowars received the IOM for service against a band of rebels in the Gurdaspur swamps where they saved Jackson's life when he got into difficulty and had been twice wounded. The regiment as a whole was not directly in conflict with the mutineers, but a detachment of fifty five native officers and men served against a rebel force in the Multan District with the Lahore Moveable Column under Colonel J.S. Paton between September and November 1857. In May 1861 its designation changed to the 2nd Bengal Cavalry.

### 3RD BENGAL IRREGULAR CAVALRY

3rd Bengal Irregular Cavalry (often referred to during the Mutiny period by its pre-1851 title 'Tait's Horse')			IOE L/Mil/5 references			
Names on Roll	Ranks	Clasps				Remarks
		L	M			
Mayne R.G.	Capt	1				77 (838). A summary roll with only 802 named.
Cory A.	Lieut	1				
Rice W.R.	ASurg	1				
All other ranks			216			Not listed by name.
Total known claims		219	1	218		

[Click on the small picture to see a larger version]

#### COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Although not officially disbanded until 1861, in reality it ceased to exist as a regiment on 1st July 1857 when it mutinied at Saugor. Sixty men remained loyal and helped drive their mutinous comrades out of the station, being joined by at least an equal number of loyal troopers riding in from out-station detachments on the following day. The main body of the regiment joined the Nana Sahib's army, sharing his defeat by Havelock at Bithor on 15th August 1857. There were probably other loyal remnants in remote detachments or on leave who could not get back to Saugor but nevertheless served against the rebels and were entitled to the medal, hence the relatively large number of 216 claims by other ranks. However, contrary to the records of several standard works on the Mutiny which tend to confuse the facts by using unhelpful abbreviations of regimental titles, it was not the 3rd Bgl IC but the 3rd Cavalry Oude Irregular Force (and a remnant of only twenty) which marched out of Cawnpore with Havelock's relief column en route for Lucknow on 19 Sept '57.

### 4TH BENGAL IRREGULAR CAVALRY

4th Bengal Irregular Cavalry			IOE L/Mil/5 references			
Names on Roll	Ranks	Clasps				Remarks
		D	M			
Martin A.P.	Major	1				77(838). Summary roll listing only British officers by name.
Hall G.W.K.	Capt	1				
Allen F.F.	ASurg	1				
All other ranks		137	16			Summarized but not listed by name.
Total known claims		156	140	16		

[Click on the small picture to see a larger version]

#### COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

In May 1857, the regiment was stationed at Hansi, with one troop at Hissar and a smaller detachment at Sirsa, and a large number of officers and men were at home on furlough. The detachment at Sirsa mutinied, as also did a small party of men under Lieut. J. Smith sent to guard the treasury at Mazaffarnagar. Lieut. Smith was murdered and the Treasury plundered. Major Martin called in the Hissar detachment and, in view of the general level of disaffection in the Hansi area, marched all fit men rapidly to Kurnal, the staging point selected by General Anson for his offensive against Delhi. By June 11 there were 107 native officers and other ranks under 3 British officers at Delhi. As a precautionary measure, on July 26 the regiment was disarmed and some men may have opted to return to their homes. But two additional

troops raised by Sirdar Salah Muhamed were incorporated into the regiment, which continued to perform police duties in the Delhi camp. On Sept 11 arms and horses were returned to the regiment which then served with Greathead's column (as escort to the heavy guns) in his pursuit of the Delhi mutineers in the Doab. The regiment was reconstructed in March 1858 from Rajputs (Haryana & Mynpuri districts) and Mussulmans (Delhi & Gurgaon), after which it served in mopping-up operations in Oudh from Oct '58 to July '59 (medals apparently not included in above roll). In May 1861, the regiment survived the reorganisations and became the 3rd Bengal Cavalry.

#### 5TH BENGAL IRREGULAR CAVALRY

5th Bengal Irregular Cavalry		IOE L/Ril/5 references					
Names on Roll	Ranks	Clasps					Remarks
		M					
Grant N.J.	Asurg	1					89(2328). A late claim dated 29.12.68 filed under 11 Bengal Cavalry. No other rolls traced.
All other ranks		-					Served in operations in the Bihar district in 1857 and attached to H.R.'s 37th in 1858 (exporting ammunition).
Total known claims		1	1				

[Click on the small picture to see a larger version]

#### COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Three 5Bgl IC sowars assassinated their commandant and wounded two other British officers (including Grant - this being the "service" for which he claimed his Mutiny medal) on 12.6.57 at Rohni, the location of regimental H.Q. at that time. Public execution of the assassins kept the regiment in check until, following its move to Bhagulpore, it deserted in its entirety during the night of 14.8.57 to attempt to join the mutineer army. Its subsequent progress is not clear, but it probably made its way to Central India as a 5BglIC standard was captured at Chota Adampur on 1.12.58, indicating that at least a remnant served with Tantia Topi's army. The regiment was officially disbanded in 1857.

#### THE ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Tony McClenaghan

The 1984 edition of, what was at that time, the annual publication of the Journal of our Society, carried an article by Michael Johnson describing a number of campaign medals issued by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Recently Peter Monahan forwarded from Canada copies of various documents describing other orders, decorations and awards and I thought it would be useful to include two or three descriptions in each issue of DURBAR until we have covered them all. I shall concentrate initially on the military awards only and shall start with the three top operational awards.

## NISHAN-I-HAIDER



This is the premier award and takes precedence over all other Orders, Decorations and Medals. It is given only to those members of the Forces, of any rank, who have performed acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger, have shown bravery of the highest order, or devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy on land, at sea, or in the air. Recipients are entitled to the letters N.H. after their names. The award may be conferred posthumously, in which case the insignia will be given to the recipient's nearest relative. Recipients below the rank of commissioned officer receive a monthly financial allowance.

The insignia of the award (Figure 1 - left) comprises a five-pointed star made of gunmetal, with white enamelling and cupronickel metal edging. It is suspended from a ribbon one and a half inches wide of plain green silk. The colour is officially described as Pakistan Green and seems to equate most closely to a bottle green or deep grey-green. When worn alone a miniature replica of the star is attached to the -ribbon, with a second award indicated by another miniature replica of the star. The reverse is plain with the exception of a circle in the centre. It is assumed that the name of the recipient is engraved within this circle.

## HILAL-I-JUR'AT

Conferred upon officers only for acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty performed on land, at sea or in the air in the face of the enemy. It may be conferred posthumously. Recipients are entitled to the letters "H.J." after their names.

The insignia (Figure 2 - right) comprises a gold medal with the inscription "Hilal-i-Jur'at" on its bar. The reverse is plain except for a circle in the centre, again assumed to be for the name of the recipient to be engraved within. The ribbon is one and a quarter inches wide plain silk with red, green and red stripes in equal proportion. A second award is denoted by a gold bar one eighth of an inch wide worn across the ribbon nearest to the medal. When ribbons alone are worn a second award is denoted by a miniature crescent and star.



## SITARA-I-JUR'AT



Conferred upon all ranks of the Pakistan Armed Forces, the Frontier Corps and the Frontier Constabulary (NWFP), the Frontier Corps (Baluchistan), the Pakistan Rangers, the Coast Guards and the National Guards when serving under the Federal Government, for gallant and distinguished service in combat. The award may be conferred posthumously. Recipients below commissioned rank receive a monthly financial allowance. Recipients are entitled to the letters "S.J." after their names.

The insignia (Figure 3 - left) comprises a silver medal with the inscription; "Sitara-i-Jur'at" on its bar. The ribbon is one and a quarter inches wide plain silk with white, green and white stripes in equal proportion. A second award is denoted by a silver bar one eighth of an inch, wide worn across the ribbon nearest the medal. When ribbons alone are worn a second award is denoted by a miniature crescent and star.

