

DURBAR Volume 20, No.1, Spring 2003

RANA CHINNA - MACGREGOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

As mentioned briefly in the last edition of Durbar, our member Rana Chhina has recently been presented with the MacGregor Memorial Medal, awarded for a reconnaissance conducted in 1986 (the wheels of honour seem to grind incredibly slowly at times!). We offer our warmest congratulations to Rana on this magnificent award, the press release for which appears below.

MACGREGOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

The MacGregor Memorial Medal was instituted by the USI Council at its meeting held on 3 July 1888 at Shimla, presided over by the C-in- C General Sir F S Roberts and the Viceroy being present as Chief Guest, to commemorate the memory of Maj. Gen. Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, KCB, CSI, CIE, founder of the United Service Institution of India.

Initially the award was to be given only for significant military reconnaissance; usually a silver medal, but a gold medal could be awarded in place of the silver medal or in addition to it for especially valuable work.

Subsequently, on 22 October 1986 the Council expanded the scope to include mountain/desert expeditions, river rafting, world cruises, polar expeditions, running/trekking across the Himalayas and adventure flights. First priority, however, was to be given to military reconnaissance. This decision regarding the expanded scope was again confirmed by the Council in its meeting held on 22/23 December 1994.

Personnel of the Indian Armed Forces, Territorial Army, Reserve Force, Assam Rifles, and Militias are eligible for the awards. Recommendations are received by the USI through the Joint Planning Committee. However, recommendations for non-military reconnaissance can also be sent directly to the USI.

So far, 114 medals have been awarded - 7 gold medals to officers, 59 standard size silver medals to officers including 5 JCOS (one officer winning it twice in 1938 and 1946), and 48 reduced size silver medals to other ranks. The last award to an other rank was in 1944 and to an officer in 1972. Amongst the well known British Indian officers recipients have been Capt FE Younghusband (1890) and Maj. Gen OC Wingate (1943). Ten Indian Officers have won the medal. These are Maj. ZC Bakshi (1949), Col IC Katoch (1951), Capt MS Jarg (1956), 2/Lt IB Goel (1956), Capt V Badhwar (1957), Capt SL Tugnait (1959), Brig ML Whig (1969), Maj Prem Chand (1970), Col CS Nugyal (1971), and Capt Ravindra Misra (1972).

The obverse of the medal has the effigy of Maj Gen Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, the reverse side depicts figures of Army personnel belonging to various races. The medal may be worn around the neck on uniform on ceremonial parades prescribed by the respective services.

A book on the 'History of the MacGregor Memorial Medal 1898- 1989' was published in 1994 by Lancer Paperbacks in association with the USI and authored by Maj Robert Hammond (Retd), who was himself a recipient of the award in 1939.

After due examination by the Service Headquarters and recommendation of the Joint Planning Committee, the Council of the United Service Institution of India has at its meeting on 19 December 2001, awarded a medal each to Sqn Ldr (now Gp Capt) Ram Karan Makar, Flt Lt (now Sqn Ldr) RTS Chhina (Retd) and Lt Col NJ Korgaokar, SM (Retd).

GP CAPT RAM KARAN MAKAR AND SQN LDR RTS CHHINA (RETD)

The award is for a valuable military reconnaissance carried out in the upper Karakorams in 1986.

NO. 13796-A GP CAPT RAM KARAN MAKAR

He was commissioned on 07 Dec 1974. After flying Hunters he changed over to helicopters. He served in the Air HQ Communication Squadron (VIP Sqn), Commanded 153 Helicopter Unit and was Station Commander Car Nicobar. He was commended by AOC-in-C Western Air Command in 1985, and commanded the Air Force Day Parade in Oct 1997. He has done DSSC and LDMC Courses and is a Master Green Pilot. Presently he is Director (Training) in DG Resettlement.

NO. 16389-F SQN LDR RTS CHHINA (RETD)

He was commissioned on 11 Jun 1981 and served as a helicopter pilot (QFI). He was Commended by AOC-in-C Western Air Command in 1986 for a high altitude heliborne rescue mission in Zojila Pass. He was medically boarded out on 16 Jun 1997. He has authored two books - 'IAF Memorial Book' published in 1997 and 'Indian Distinguished Service Medal' published in 2001. He specialises in British Indian Army honours and awards and IAF history. Presently he is working as a Research Associate in the USI Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research.

ELEPHANT TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Alan Harfield

It was very interesting to read the two articles on elephants, the first 'An Ad Hoc Elephant Battery in WW2', by John Randle (Vol. 19, No 1, Spring 2002, p24) and 'Elephants' by Brian D.N. Stevens (Vol. 19 No 4) Winter 2002, ppl42-145).

Elephants featured from time to time in *The Navy and Army Illustrated* and in the issue dated 11 January 1897, page 47, shows two illustrations of elephants being used by a heavy artillery battery with the caption recording that "...Each animal can carry with ease a load of 1,000lb. Its food is usually from 15-lb to 30-lb of flour mixed with sugar or molasses, and 400-lb of green food. It requires at least 25 gallons of water per diem, but works on only five hours sleep....".

In the book *The Indian Sappers and Miners* by Lieutenant Colonel E.W.C. Sandes (RE Institution Chatham, 1948) there are a number of references to the use of elephants in India however the majority of these relate to the use of the animals by the Artillery although it does state that "...four elephants had been transferred from the Royal Artillery in 1900 for Field Telegraph purposes....".

In 1885 the three Sappers and Miners Corps were reorganised and during this change the Bengal and Madras corps were each authorised to establish two telegraph sections and A Company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners was granted one telegraph section. The sections were established to have 4 British

NCOs and 18 Indian soldiers and all were to be trained to carry out line construction work. The sections had animals included in their authorised establishment and this could include horses, mules and camels. Although not included on the permanent establishment elephants were used by the Telegraph Sections generally for the carriage of airline poles and telegraph wire.



Elephant with wire dispenser and lineman, c.1895.

(Photograph from the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, 1988, by kind permission of the late Col P.S. Newton)

Two illustrations exist, c1895, showing elephants carrying two-piece bamboo telegraph poles for the airline route and one elephant has a howdah adapted to carry enough poles for 'two miles of airline'. The telegraph wire was also carried on a howdah adapted to carry a wire dispenser and telegraph wire, together with a lineman to dispense the wire evenly as the elephant followed the route of the airline.

Although four elephants were available for the Telegraph Sections they hired additional animals, when required, together with the mahout from the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The army regulations on animal care generally did not cover the care of elephants and the military unit having charge of a loaned elephant was required to ensure that its treatment and care was carried out in accordance with the Rules published by the Indian P & T Department. In January 1911 it was agreed that four Divisional Signal Companies be formed and their formation approved by Special Indian Army Order 100 dated 3 February 1911. Initially the four Divisional Signal companies were numbered and stationed as follows:

Unit	Location	Date formed
31 Signal Company	Rawalpindi/Murree	15 February 1911
32 Signal Company	Kasauli	15 February 1911
33 Signal Company	Quetta	1 March 1911
34 Signal Company	Ahmednagar	1 March 1911

In addition a Wireless Squadron, which was given the number '41', was also formed on 1 March 1911 at Saugor. The establishment had, of course, been greatly increased from the original small telegraph sections, whose personnel had been absorbed into the four new companies that had been raised. The

four companies each had an establishment of 5 British officers, 2 Indian officers (prior to 1936 VCO's were referred to as Indian Officers) 44 British and 86 Indian other ranks and an authorised number of horses and ponies. The load carrying elephant continued to be excluded from the approved establishment.

Following the formation of the Indian Signal Corps in 1920, and in the period between the two World Wars, Indian Signals units that were required to use elephants, generally this was in the Assam and Burma areas, continued to hire elephants and these units were required to hold in the 'Official' unit library a copy of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Telegraph Engineer - Line Construction Code which included a section on the 'Treatment and Care of Elephants'.

There were twenty-seven paragraphs in this instruction but, surprisingly, it did not give any indication as to the weight that an elephant could be expected to carry. The instructions, which were written for animals in Assam and Burma, included such detail as a guideline for feeding the elephants in their charge, which included the following paragraphs:

"...8. Between half a pound and a pound of tamarind and salt should be given to each animal once every ten days..... A little cocoanut oil should be applied over the forehead every other day.

12. On the line [of march] each animal should be given 8 tubbees of paddy daily with a handful, say 10 tickels, of white salt and great care should be taken that they get sufficient fodder, as each animal needs as much as 15 maunds of green fodder daily. Food should be given early so that the animals may have sufficient time to fill their stomachs and then have about 4 hours sleep....".

The food ration quoted in The Army and Navy Illustrated of 1897 is at variance with the Indian Post and Telegraphs Department recommendations but as the P&T instruction was produced as a 'working guideline' it is undoubtedly more reliable. In addition to feeding the regulations gave details of the method of loading, working hours and rest periods which were:

"...9. Elephants should be ready to start very early in the morning and no work should be given between 11.30am and 2.30pm. When carrying loads of [telegraph] wire and posts, the animals should be relieved of their loads for an hour or so halfway.

In respect of their rest days and rest areas the following guidelines were issued:

"... 4. Elephants should not be tethered in the same place for any length of time and the ground about them should always be kept clean and dry.

15. On Sundays, elephants should be given a full day's rest.

16. Elephants should be bathed twice a day, once before Sam and again before 3 and 4pm. When bathing, they should be scrubbed with a piece of over-burnt brick or some such thing.

17. Should the animal become ill or become weak through any cause, it should not be given any work..."

It should be appreciated that these regulations were written for peacetime and could, or would, not necessarily be followed during wartime conditions. In 1927 a revised edition of War Establishments, India was published which included establishments of Indian Signal Corps units showing an entitlement to pack mules and camels but again elephants were not included and it can therefore be assumed that the practice of hiring elephants from the Indian P&T Department continued through the late 1920's and the 1930's.

Although, as previously mentioned, the Signal companies had four elephants transferred to them from the Royal Artillery in 1900, the final elephant was 'struck off strength' in 1931. The details of the disposal of the four animals is recorded in the book *The Indian Sappers and Miners*:

"...The modernization of all three Corps [Bengal, Madras and Bombay] made rapid progress in 1931, when a number of 6-wheeler 30-cwt lorries were received. Most of the bullocks at Roorkee were sold; but the Bengal Sappers were allowed to keep 'Sonepat' - their one remaining elephant and, incidentally, the last in the Indian Army - until the trailers for the lorries arrived. In October the following advertisement appeared in the Press under the curious title of 'Animals and Birds'

'For Sale. One Elephant, female 65 years old, 8 feet 9 inches, healthy and staunch on *shikar*. Price Rs 3,000 or near offer' - and 'Sonepat' soon disappeared from Roorkee. She fetched only Rs 500. Her companions, 'Tuni' and 'Ragnathpur' had died in 1914, and 'Ghazipur' in 1930....".

Two illustrations exist showing a unit of the Indian Signal Corps using elephants on crowd control duties during 1937-1938 with a Wireless Set No 1 mounted on a howdah. One illustration depicts an elephant with a howdah with a platform, and handrail, containing a Wireless Set No 1 with two operators. The second image shows a different type of howdah with the Wireless Set No 1 mounted across the back of the animal with the operator sitting to the rear of the set. This type of wireless transport was used in situations dealing with crowd control as it enabled the operator to be mounted above the crowd so as to be able to send and receive instructions as the situation required and also have visual contact with other members of the Signal Section providing the communications.

In 1944 a training pamphlet was published under the title Military Training Pamphlet No 29 (India). Notes on Animal Transport, 1944 and within this 103 page instruction details of animal management, packing and loading, care of animals etc., were given in respect of the mule, pony, donkey, camel and bullock but again no information was given in respect of the use and care of elephants. However at Appendix 'A' (page 96) under the title 'Maximum pack and draught loads for Army transport animals' the elephant is listed under 'Pack' animals as follows:

"...These weights are exclusive of saddlery, line gear and unexpended portion of the days ration. They may only be exceeded when the tactical situation makes this imperative as overloading will inevitably result in heavy animal casualties...."

At the end of the list of animals the following load weight is given:

"...Elephants - 400 lbs. Not normally used. (Certain types may carry up to 1200 lbs)....".

The movement of animals to and from a unit was controlled in the same way as were the movements of Officers and Other ranks. On arrival at, or departure from, a unit the 'event' was recorded by means of the 'occurrence' being published in a unit Part II Order. The same system applied in respect of animals for admissions and discharges from Military Veterinary Hospitals. Such orders gave the unit the authority for rations to be provided for the animal, or on leaving, to cease drawing rations. The format of the Part II Order followed a sequence of occurrences relating to Officers, Other ranks and Animals which, in effect, divided the order into three sections and this document authorised entries to be made on an individuals personal and official records, in the case of officers and soldiers, and in the case of animals on the individual Animal Record sheet.

A final note on the subject of elephants. These large animals were not always helpful. For example, it has been recorded that during road and line construction in Burma airline routes were occasionally demolished by wild elephants knocking down the airline poles whilst crossing a road, or moving along a road, from one area of jungle to another, thus causing a breakdown in telegraphic and telephone communications.



(From the Editor)

Perhaps a 'final' final note on the subject of elephants for now, given the number of articles we have covered recently, but it serves to introduce the subject of the Royal Armouries at Leeds. For those who have not yet ventured "north", the Royal Armouries at Armouries Drive, Leeds, Yorkshire LS10 1LT (telephone 0113 220 1999) offer a fascinating day out with an exceptional display of material. The Oriental Room would, I am sure, be of interest to most members of this Society, with its impressive collection of armour from the Indian Sub-continent, including items of Ranjit Singh. Dominating the display, however, is one of only two surviving examples of a complete elephant armour, the other being in Bikaner, Rajasthan. The Royal Armouries' own descriptive catalogue entry for this armour is reproduced here by kind permission of The Board of Trustees, The Royal Armouries.

Record: 1761

XXVIA-102

Elephant: armour (bargustawan)

Indian, Mughal, about 1600

The armour in its present state is composed of six elements: a shaffron, a throat defence, three panels for the left of the body and one central panel for the right. All the elements are of mail and plate construction, and lined with modern black fabric. The armour is displayed with the rear left panel at the front right. It now comprises some 5,840 plates, and would, when complete, comprise some 8, 439 plates.

The shaffron is composed of some 2,195 plates, arranged in vertical columns, with cusped overlapping edges, and joined by riveted mail. It extends midway down the trunk, and has flaps for the ears. There are two small holes for the eyes, and two larger holes for the processes on top of the skull, all of which are bordered by radiating plates. At the base of the trunk and at either ear is a circular plate similarly bordered by radiating plates. At the centre of the trunk is a heart-shaped iron plate with a brass border, with a central boss containing a threaded hole, probably for a hair tassel (and presently containing a red foil sweet-wrapper!).

The throat defence comprises some 1,046 plates. It has a straight rear edge, extends up to the shoulders, and its front edge has a medial cusp for the lower jaw. It is made of columns of plates like those on the shaffron, with a broad band of mail at the centre.

The side panels are composed of columns of plates interspersed with large, embossed iron plates with brass borders: the front panel has eleven of these, each central panel twelve, and the rear panel ten. The front panel contains some 948 plates, each central panel some 780 plates, and the rear panel some 871 plates. The embossed plates of the front panel are decorated, five with charging elephants, one with a lotus, one with a peacock, and the four in the bottom row with pairs of adorsed fish. The plates

of the central panel have seven elephants, one lotus, one peacock and three pairs of fish, while the rear panel has six elephants and four pairs of fish (again forming the bottom row. All the elephants would have faced forwards in the original configuration, but those in the acting front right panel face backwards.

Small fragments of the original lining survive, under the leather straps retaining the iron loops under the ears on the shaffron. Next to the mail and plate is a thick layer of cotton wadding. The lining is of beige cotton, printed with alternating bands of dark brown, eight-leaved rosettes, and of dark brown, red, brown, red and brown stripes. These bands are separated by narrow dark brown stripes.

Each element is joined to its neighbour by modern leather straps or ties fitted to original iron loops. The body panels are attached by a series of leather straps passing over the elephant's back. The armour was extensively restored in the Armouries in 1949-50, some 600 plates and some 12,000 mail links being replaced.

Marks None.

Dimensions shaffron 243x190cm (96x75in)
throat defence 251x75cm (99x30in)
front panel 167x137cm (66x54in)
centre panels 170x106cm (67x42in)
rear panel 170x134cm (67x53in)
as mounted length 485cm, height 390cm (to top of mahout), width 175cm

Weights shaffron 27kg (60lb)
throat defence 12kg (27lb)
front panel 18kg (39lb)
centre panels 19kg (42lb)
rear panel 23kg (51lb)
total 118 kg (260lb)
[total when complete about 159kg (350lb)]

Provenance Presented in lieu of death duty by the Earl of Powis, 1962. Acquired in India by Lady Clive/ wife of Edward, 2nd Lord Clive (Governor of Madras), between 1798 and 1800, and brought back to England in 1801; displayed in the Elephant Room at Powis Castle. Placed on loan to the Armouries in 1949 for conservation.

Publications *List of items for transport back to England*, Powis MS, about 1801
G Evans. *The beauties of England and Wales*, 24, 1809: 879, 'the model of an elephant with two Indians sitting upon its back; brought from India by the late Lord Clive'.
H R Robinson. *Oriental armour*, London, 1967: 120-1
P Hammond. *Royal Armouries official guide*, London, 1986: 58
M Archer et al., *Treasures from India, the Clive collection at Powis Castle*, London, 1987: 29, 72.
C A Bayly. *The Raj, India and the British 1600-1947*, London, National Portrait Gallery, 1990: 97-8, no. 105
S Z Haider. *Islamic arms and armour of Muslim India*, Lahore, 1991: 278
D Nicolle. *Mughul India 1504-1761*, Osprey Men-at-Arms 263, London, 1993: 20
T Richardson and D Stevens, *The elephant armour*. Royal Armouries Yearbook 1 1996: 100-6

Exhibitions National Portrait Gallery, London, The Raj, 19 October 1990 - 17 March 1991.

The tusk swords survive at Powis castle, see Archer et al. above. This is one of only two known examples of an elephant armour. The other apparently complete example, also of mail and plate construction, is in the armoury at Bikaner, Rajasthan (information from Les Rawlings, April 1993, and Tony Reddin, November 1993). The head defence of another, of mail on a fabric backing, was in a private collection in London c. 1991. There is also a copy of the Royal Armouries armour which was made in England, and is in a private collection in America.

Location LO 11 on display

Previous locations

Orient/el 12/10/1991
TL1990/6 25/03/1991
Orient/el 13/10/1992 HF
FBS 8

THE ARMED CIVIL FORCES OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

PART II

Tim Ash

The following information has been extracted from the 70 page *Report of the Committee on the Armed Civil Forces of the North-West Frontier Province 1926* (OIOC [BL] L/MIL/17/13/31). The Report is a comprehensive document on the conditions of the Province as they were in 1926. At its conclusion is a map showing the position of every post named in it. The Report covers the following units/organisations:

- Village Chighas, Village Arms, District Police.
- Frontier Constabulary.
- Scouts and Militias
 - (a) Waziristan Scouts
 - (b) Tochi Scouts
 - (c) South Waziristan Scouts
 - (d) Kurram Militia.
- Khassadars
 - (a) Malakand Agency [covered in Part I – DURBAR Vol. 19, No 4, Winter 2002, pp121-125]
 - (b) Khyber Agency
 - (c) Mohmand - Peshawar District
 - (d) Kohat District
 - (e) Bannu District
 - (f) Dera Ismail Khan District
 - (i) North Waziristan Agency
 - (ii) South Waziristan Agency.

The Committee comprised Chairman Lt. Col. E.H.S. James, C.I.E., I.A., and Members, Col. S.F. Muspratt, C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., and Mr A. Macleod. The Committee assembled at Peshawar on 3 April 1926 and completed its Report on 25 June 1926.

The terms of reference given to the Committee were to enquire and report upon the strength, composition, organisation, distribution and duties of Civil Armed Forces in the N.W.F.P. (except the Chitral Scouts) and to make recommendations for their better co-ordination, with a view to a reduction in strength, or - with special reference to the possibility of reducing the regular garrison of ground troops in Waziristan - and their taking over additional duties from the Military.

The Committee made certain recommendations in the Report on future establishments and deployments; these are not included.

THE FRONTIER CONSTABULARY

The Committee deplored the tragic death of Mr B.C. Handyside, C.I.E., O.B.E., the Commandant of the Frontier Constabulary, which had occurred on 11 April 1926 when he was attempting to arrest a group of outlaws in a village some 12 miles from Peshawar. Mr Handyside, *who was famous for many daring encounters with tribal raiders and outlaws*, is commemorated by a gateway erected at the summit of the Kohat Pass.

The Frontier Constabulary came into existence in 1913, replacing the old organisation of the Border Military Police which had proved to be unsatisfactory.

The Corps was officered by Police Officers, drawn from the Police Cadre of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province and appointed for service with the Constabulary, normally for a period of three years. The Corps was commanded by its own Commandant who was directly responsible to the Chief Commissioner for all matters affecting the Corps.

It was recruited, organised, trained and armed for the performance of certain special functions, the most important of which were the patrolling of the border (that is the border between the Administered Districts of the Province and the tribal territories) with the object of preventing raids and capturing raiding gangs and outlaws; the maintenance of order up to the point where the intervention of regular troops became necessary, and the collection of early and accurate information regarding border events and the movements of outlaws. The men were recruited for concentration at any threatened point, but normally it was apportioned among the various districts and located in a chain of strong posts just inside the border of the districts. The value of the Frontier Constabulary lay largely in the fact that their main function was the prevention of raids and the capture of raiders and outlaws and that their whole training was directed towards fitting them to turn out at a moment's notice to deal with any situation which may have arisen. The Frontier Constabulary was the backbone of the defence organisation on the administered side of the border.

The strength of the Constabulary in 1926 was 17 British officers and 4984 Indian ranks.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FRONTIER CONSTABULARY 1926

HAZARA DISTRICT

The headquarters of the Constabulary in the Hazara District is at Oghi. The main duty of the Constabulary in this district has been to watch the Black Mountain and Utmanzai border to the east and the tribal border to the north. In past years the Black Mountain and other tribes have frequently given trouble, but conditions have now much improved, although some show of force is still necessary in the area.

Post	Approximate strength in rifles
Oghi	207 Infantry 5 Mounted Infantry
Piquet Hill	15 Infantry
TOTAL	222 Infantry 5 Mounted Infantry

PESHAWAR DISTRICT

The principal tasks of the Constabulary in the Peshawar district are to safeguard [a] the Mohmand border, [b] the Khyber and Tirah Afridi border, and [c] the Hassan Khel (Adam Khel Afridi) border.

Post	Approximate strength in rifles
Shabkadr	305 Infantry 75 Mounted Infantry
Munda and Towers	75 Infantry
Abazai	50 Infantry
Matta	50 Infantry
Michni and Bridge Towers	70 Infantry
Peshawar	315 Infantry 80 Mounted Infantry
Kachi Garhi	25 Infantry
Bara Fort	50 Infantry 20 Mounted Infantry
Jola Talao	25 Infantry
Aimal Chabutra and Bruj Ladaur	50 Infantry
Fort Mackeson	50 Infantry
Shamshattu	35 Infantry
TOTAL	1100 Infantry 175 Mounted Infantry

KOHAT DISTRICT

The headquarters of the Constabulary are at Hangu, and although there are certain disadvantages in the District Officer, Frontier Constabulary, not being located with the headquarters of the district at Kohat, Hangu is well placed for the duties which the Constabulary have to carry out. In the years subsequent to the last Afghan War conditions in the Kohat district were very disturbed. Raids were frequent and Kohat cantonment was the scene of two outrages of an exceptional nature. Since 1923, however, the district has, on the whole, been quiet. The Frontier Constabulary in this district are employed entirely on the northern border, the protection of the southern and western portions of the district being entrusted to Levies. The Constabulary posts extend from the Kohat Pass in the east to Thal in the west, along the Orakzai and Zaimukht border.

Post	Approximate strength in rifles
Hangu	330 Infantry 50 Mounted Infantry
Kotal	30 Infantry
Ublan	30 Infantry
Kachai	25 Infantry
Marai	25 Infantry
Torawari	20 Infantry
Thal and Marghuz Tangi	65 Infantry
Chauda Ghundaj	25 Infantry
TOTAL	550 Infantry 50 Mounted Infantry

BANNU DISTRICT

The headquarters of the Constabulary are at Bannu, and their posts extend along the Wazir and Bhattani border from Kurram Garhi in to the north to Khairu Khel in the south. The Bannu district has benefited by the generally more settled conditions of the frontier during the last three years, and more particularly from our occupation of Waziristan

Post	Approximate strength in rifles
Bannu	310 Infantry 50 Mounted Infantry

Kurram Garhi	25 Infantry
Chauki Islam	35 Infantry
Jani Khel	45 Infantry
Tajauri	35 Infantry
Khairu Khel	40 Infantry
Gambila	50 Infantry 25 Mounted Infantry
Total	550 Infantry 75 Mounted Infantry

DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT

More than in any other district on the frontier, a change for the better is apparent in Dera Ismail Khan. This appears mainly due to our occupation of Waziristan, but our better relations with the trans-border Bhitanis and the more definite responsibilities that have been placed upon them and upon the inhabitants of the district have contributed materially to this result. However, the area to the west of Tank remains a weak link in our chain of defences, and until our control in Waziristan extends up to the Gomal river, it will not be possible to make any considerable reduction in the Constabulary on that portion of the border. There are at present two separate Frontier Constabulary units in the Dera Ismail Khan district, one with headquarters at Tank and the other at Daraban.

Post	Approximate strength in rifles
Tank	620 Infantry 70 Mounted Infantry
Chowki Fakir	20 Infantry
Bain	65 Infantry
Mullazai	40 Infantry
Nasran	40 Infantry
Zam	50 Infantry
Girni	75 Infantry
Kaur Bridge	50 Infantry
Murtaza	75 Infantry
Manjhi	65 Infantry

30 Mounted Infantry

SHERANI WING

Drazinda	80 Infantry 50 Mounted Infantry
Sur Kumar and Bridge Tower	115 Infantry
Luni	50 Infantry 25 Mounted Infantry
Zarkani	70 Infantry
Daraban	420 Infantry
Burj Zam	15 Infantry
Domanda	80 Infantry
Moghal Kot	50 Infantry
Total	1980 Infantry 175 Mounted Infantry

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THE HANDYSIDE GATEWAY AT THE SUMMIT OF THE KOHAT PASS



THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE ON THE HANDYSIDE ARCH - KOHAT PASS

THIS GATEWAY WAS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF ERIC CHARLES HANDYSIDE CIE OBE INDIAN POLICE COMMANDANT NORTH WEST FRONTIER CONSTABULARY WHO WAS FAMOUS FOR MANY DARING ENCOUNTERS WITH TRIBAL RAIDERS AND OUTLAWS AND WAS KILLED IN ACTION 11TH APRIL 1926

(I am just reading R V E Hodson's *The Story & Gallantry of the North West Frontier 1849-1947*, 2002, Clio Publishing, Southampton, and hope to review it in the next edition of DURBAR. I mention it here because on page 263 there is a photograph of E C Handyside. Ed.)

CAPTAIN (later LIEUTENANT COLONEL) V.M.H.COX

AND THE MEKRAN LEVY CORPS

Kimberley John Lindsay

Vernon Maurice Hervalwil Cox was born in 1898, and eventually became the last "Resident in Waziristan" at the time of Partition. He started his Foreign & Political career (after a preliminary period of probationary training elsewhere) at Panjgur, in Baluchistan, on 4 January 1930. His so-called Substantive Appointment sounded rather grand: 'Assistant for Mekran to the Political Agent in Kalat and ex-officio Commandant, Mekran Levy Corps'. Not long after, on 19 March 1930, an 'Officiating Appointment' of 'Adjutant, Mekran Levy Corps' was added to that.

The reality behind these high-sounding titles, however, as recounted by former Political, Major Henry Hall, C.M.G., M.B.E., in 1997, was rather different:

"I was in Baluchistan from October 1934 to October 1936 at Fort Sandeman and later from April 1943 to 1947. Kalat was the only Princely State in Baluchistan and covered a large area from south of Quetta and with borders with Afghanistan, Persia, the Arabian Sea and India.

The Mekran Levy Corps and the area to the Arabian Sea usually had only two Europeans, both Captains. The Assistant Political Agent was a member of the Indian Political Service, but the other was usually seconded from the Indian Army. It was a very isolated and "primitive" posting. In Kalat, Panjgur is about 15 miles from the Persian border and Chagai and Nushki only a few miles from the Afghanistan border..."

Captain Cox, having passed out of RMC Sandhurst, in 1917, and seen active service with 90 Punjabis in Mesopotamia, Third Afghan War and Waziristan, would have had no difficulty discharging his duties as Commandant, Mekran Levy Corps, although unfortunately no information is available about that. However, his Political masters thought little of his abilities as a Political Agent, as will be seen.

After Cox had been in this posting for one and a half years, he was confirmed in the Political Department of the Government of India (21 July 1931), having transferred from the Indian Army in 1927 - although over-age - after a personal interview with the Viceroy. The latter was 'very favourably impressed' with Capt Cox, and his services were secured for the Political, despite formal protests from his regiment (2/8 Punjab). Fortunately, no less than five Reports survive, written by two

different Agents to the Governor General in Baluchistan, the last being Sir Norman Cater (obviously influenced by his Agent, Claremont Skrine):

'Sibi, 16 January 1931: ... Shaping very well, level headed, hardworking and anxious to get on. Tactful, popular with Indians and good at games...'

'Quetta, 22 March 1931: ... Has been Assistant Political Agent, Mekran, for a little more than 14 months and has done well in the appointment...'

'Sibi, 1 January 1932: ... I was pleased with what I saw of his subdivision on my recent tour of Mekran...' (Cater.)

'Sibi, 20 January 1933: ... (the Political Agent, Kalat [Skrine] reports:) Capt Cox's work during the seven months under me has been good on the whole. He shows intelligence and grasp in his treatment of a case, is capable of hard and sustained work when required, and is prompt and energetic in execution of orders. He shows independence and originality, and is if anything too prone to act on his own responsibility. His faults are that he is inclined to be hasty and even slapdash, and does not always verify his references. He is also rather nervous and jumpy, possibly owing to having lived by himself a good deal lately, and to having been nearly two years in a particularly isolated and climatically trying post, Panjgur. He is accessible and easy to get on with, though rather touchy, and his personal relations with the Sardars and others with whom he has to deal are good.'

Cater added that he considered that to be a very fair estimate of Cox's character, and agreed generally.

'Quetta, 16 November 1933: ... (Skrine, again:) Cox is very "human" and accessible, and has a personal charm which has endeared him to the tribal headmen, officials, levies and others with whom he has had to deal both in the Chagai Subdivision and at Mastung. I consider him a valuable officer, but he has got to be tactfully and sympathetically handled from above, as he still has a certain inferiority complex, due probably to his lack of an English Public School education.'

Again, agreed to by Cater, with an aside, praising Skrine!

Needless to say, some of these adverse remarks were incorporated into a 1947 "end of career" summary report, and did not help his being appointed Resident in Waziristan, the area in which he had been Mentioned in Despatches, in 1937, as Political Agent, North Waziristan.

Quite apart from that, when one reads "Envoy of the Raj", the biography of Sir Claremont Skrine, O.B.E., three things become immediately apparent: first, that he was overly conscious of his brilliance as a Winchester scholar; secondly, that he himself had a 'certain inferiority complex', due to his non-participation in the First War, and thirdly, Skrine's somewhat difficult wife Doris, rather liked the good-looking "Mervyn" Cox.

The photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Cox's medal group raises a number of questions in my mind about Second World War qualifications for award. His 1939-45 Star and War Medal are originally mounted as worn on his group of eight. In 1939/40, Major V.M.H.Cox was in Peshawar, as Home, Chief, then Home Secretary again, to the Government NWFP. "Held the charge of the Civil Air Raid Precautions Officer, NWFP from 28 Nov 1940 to 22 Dec 1940 in addition to his duties". In 1941 he was at Bannu, as Deputy Commissioner, before going to Rajkot (and out of any War Zone), in Oct 1941. Initially I thought the medals clue might be his "Air Raid" stint, or that at Bannu, until it was

pointed out to me that the 1939-45 Star was awarded for service on the North West Frontier as follows:

3 February 1940 to 24 May 1940 Ahmedzai Wazir Salient

18 June 1941 to 26 August 1941 Tochi Valley

28 July 1942 to 18 August 1942 Datta Khel

It is likely, therefore, that his service at Peshawar took him into one of the first two areas – designated 'special qualifying areas' and entry for land forces was only one day or part thereof. Be that as it may, I find it most odd that there is no India Service Medal 1939-45. He may even have qualified for the Pakistan Independence Medal 1950 (he was Resident in Waziristan at Razmak on the day of Partition and was present when the Pakistan flag was raised over the Residency, although he left Pakistani employ in 1948).

The group shows his 1914-15 War and Victory Medals, IGS 1908 clasps 'Afghanistan NWF 1919' and 'Waziristan 1921-24', IGS 1936 clasps 'North West Frontier 1936-37' and 'North West Frontier 1937-39' plus MID oak leaf, 1939-45 Star, War Medal, Jubilee Medal 1935, Coronation Medal 1937.



INDIA'S PICKED MEN

THE PRESIDENT'S BODYGUARD

George Newark.

(A version of this article first appeared in *Military Illustrated*, though the illustrations used here are different. All photographs are by George's son, Christopher Newark, and have been produced as a most attractive set of 8 postcards, available from George Newark, The Pompadour Gallery, 19, Brook Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 5QS, England, at £2.00 per set for IMHS members (half the retail price) plus UK postage of 50p. world-wide postage of £1. Tel: 01708 723742)

The President's Bodyguard of India was raised in September 1773 by Warren Hastings, then Governor of Bengal, and augmented by 50 men and horses provided by Raja Cheyt Singh of Benares. Known as 'The Governor's Troop of Moguls', the raising charter concisely set out their role — 'To act as bodyguard to the Governor in peace and to accompany him as Commander-in-Chief in battle'. Over

the next decade the corps was variously titled 'The Troop of Bodyguards', 'The Troop of Horseguards', 'The Troop of Black Cavalry', and 'The Body Troop' until 1784 when it was designated 'The Governor-General's Bodyguard'.

After the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 the administration of India was transferred from the Honourable East India Company to the Crown under the Government of India Act, 1858. The Governor-General was named as Viceroy and the regiment redesignated The Viceroy's Bodyguard, although this title appears to have been ignored. In 1944 it was known briefly as the 44th Divisional Reconnaissance Squadron (GGBG) in preparation for the invasion of Japanese-occupied Malaya. India gained independence from Great Britain in 1947 and became a republic on 26 January 1950 when the regiment assumed its present title of The President's Bodyguard.

The first commandant was Captain Sweeny Toone and under him the Bodyguard took part in the Rohilla War, 1774, and was then constantly engaged in suppressing banditry in central and north-west India. The regiment served in the third Mysore War 1790-92, then in 1801 formed part of the army sent from India to assist Abercromby in expelling the French from Egypt, the first occasion on which Indian troops served overseas. The Bodyguard served as marines on board ships of the Honourable East India Company in 1809, and took part in the conquest of the island of Java in 1811, then garrisoned by Dutch and French troops, gaining their first Battle Honour — 'Java'.

Internal operations against the Mahratta states were followed by action in the First Burmese War, 1824-26, which brought the regiment the Battle Honour 'Ava'. They fought at Maharajpore during the Gwalior campaign in 1843, and in the First Sikh War they were present at Moodkee and Ferozeshah, 1845, and Aliwal and Sobraon, 1846. Battle Honours were awarded to the Governor-General's Bodyguard for all five actions. During the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 the Bodyguard was employed in disarming mutinous native infantry at Barrackpore, and taking remounts up-country through disaffected areas. The Great War of 1914-18 saw the regiment operating as a remount training centre in India, while a detachment served with the 3rd Skinner's Horse in France and Flanders, 1914-16.

Converted to an armoured car reconnaissance regiment in 1944, the Governor-General's Bodyguard was involved on internal security duties in and around New Delhi in the tragic disturbances following the partition of the Indian sub-continent and the creation of Pakistan in 1947. During Chinese aggression into north-east India in 1962 the Regiment's armoured cars were deployed at heights of over 10,000 feet in the defence of Chushul, and saw action in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. In recent years detachments of the President's Bodyguard have served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, 1988-89; on the notorious Siachen Glacier in Jammu and Kashmir (where the sub-zero temperature inflicts more casualties than the enemy!), and with the United Nations in Somalia.

Jawans (soldiers) of the President's Bodyguard are picked men in every sense of the words. Recruits must be at least six feet tall and each man is personally selected by the Commandant during visits to the regimental recruiting areas. Service in the President's Bodyguard is greatly coveted and traditionally hereditary. Caste composition is one third Jats from Haryana, one third Sikhs from the Punjab, and one third Rajputs from Rajasthan. They are mixed within troops, but sections are composed of one caste.

The President's Bodyguard is divided into an Headquarters and two ceremonial troops comprising three officers, 14 JCOs and 161 men backed by administrative support personnel. There are 81 horses on strength which are bay in colour, except for the Regimental Trumpeter mounted on a grey, with a minimum height of 15 hands and are the only horses in the Indian Army to wear full manes. They are bred at Indian Army Remount and Veterinary Corps depots and looked after at the PBG barracks in the grounds of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's Palace, by army veterinarians. All ranks are not

only expert horsemen but qualified parachutists, armoured fighting vehicle drivers, radio operators, and gunners. Apart from its ceremonial role the PBG is an armoured regiment equipped with Russian-built BTR 60 armoured personnel carriers and PT76 amphibious light tanks.

At the time this article was prepared in 1995 the regiment was commanded by Colonel D. C. Katoch, the Second-in-Command was Major Ali Adil Mahmood, and the Technical Officer was Captain Rahul Singh. There is a rank structure between gazetted commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers that has no British counterpart; known as Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) this rank was introduced into the Indian Army by the British as Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. At the time this article was prepared the senior JCO in the President's Bodyguard was Risaldar-Major Milkha Singh, supported by 14 Risaldars and Naib-Risaldars. Sergeants are known as Daffadars; Corporals as Lance-Daffadars and Lance-Corporals as Acting Lance-Daffadars, Troopers are called Sowars.

The badge of the President's Bodyguard is a pair of crossed lances with an open parachute and spread wings at the intersection, with the letters PBG in English script below and the National Emblem, the Lions of Ashoka above. The regimental colours are sky blue and maroon as befits an airborne unit, and the Regimental Motto is 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' or 'Victory to Mother India'.

The ceremonial uniform of the PBG has changed little since the turn of the century and consists of a blue, white, and gold turban with a distinctive 'fan', a long red frock coat faced and piped in blue, with brass buttons on the front in a 'plastron' shape, steel shoulder chains, a yellow worsted girdle with two red stripes, white buckskin breeches and gauntlets, and high, black, 'Napoleon' boots, and steel spurs. NCOs wear gold lace girdles with two narrow red stripes. During the hot summer months a white cotton frock coat is substituted for the red frock coat. Officers and JCOs wear gold laced pouch belts, girdles and aiguillettes and carry cavalry sabres with gold lace sword slings, acorns and knots. Instead of the red frock coat, the Commandant and Second-in-Command wear scarlet tunics and carry gold embroidered sabretaches. NCOs and Sowars carry bamboo lances with red and white pennons; cavalry sabres are attached to the side of the saddle. White sheepskin saddle cloths and blue and gold shabraques are used by JCOs, NCOs and Sowars; officers' saddle cloths are of panther skin and the shabraques blue and gold with richly embroidered Regimental crests. Officers wear a black frock coat in undress uniform adorned with five flat black braid loops and olivets on the front, black overalls with red and gold stripes, and black Wellington boots and spurs. The red forage cap with heavy gold lace braid on the black peak has a gold embroidered badge of the Ashoka Lions.

Other orders of dress for officers include an olive green Service Dress tunic open at the neck and worn with a terrycotton shirt and tie, olive green trousers, and a maroon forage cap. Dismounted working dress consists of khaki shirt with white on red embroidered regimental titles at the top of the sleeves, maroon cravat, maroon forage cap, black patent leather cross belt, and khaki trousers. JCOs, NCOs and Sowars wear a maroon turban in dismounted working dress, with khaki shirt and trousers. A small black rectangular identity badge with the Jawan's name in Hindi and English is worn on the right breast by all ranks. Embroidered parachute wings are worn by all ranks in all orders of dress.

The Indian Polo Association was formed in 1891 and the secretary is always the Commandant of the President's Bodyguard. At the time this article was first prepared the then Commandant, Colonel D C Katoch, had been busy organising the world polo championships held that year in Australia. The Bodyguard plays a major part in Indian polo and fields a very efficient team of officers, JCOs, NCOs, and Sowars mounted on the same horses they use in their ceremonial role. Risaldar-Major Milkha Singh of the PBG has previously participated in the equestrian section of the Asian Games and won the three-day event for India. Tent pegging is another equestrian activity practised and perfected by the PBG, continuing the history and traditions of the Indian cavalry in this unique sport.

In the service of their country, personnel of the Regiment provide a colourful ceremonial presence in the capital of New Delhi, and take their place in the Indian Army Order of Battle in times of conflict. The President's Bodyguard maintains a close relationship with Britain's Household Cavalry; the bond between them was underlined a few years ago when a visitor to the PBG Officers' Mess was not only a serving officer in the Household Cavalry, but his father was the last British Commandant of the Governor-General's Bodyguard.



The Commandant – Colonel D C Katoch



Risaldar (JCO) Bhanwar Singh in Summer Full Dress



The Regimental Standard carried by Risaldar Major (JCO) Umed Singh



Lance Daffadar on parade at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Major General Chand N Das:

Regarding the article on the King Edward VII Delhi Durbar Medal (Vol. 19, No 4, p125) I regret the Persian inscription offered is not quite correct. Word no. 1 should read *Bafazal* (By the Grace of), not *b-fadhl* (Due to). I dispute the presence of word no. 5 *br* (beneficent). The letter *r* is taken from Edward. What was interpreted as the letter *b* is in fact a dot taken from the word Hind. (See also Vol. 19, No 3, AUTUMN 2002, pp116-118.)

● Two replies to Peter Chapman's query in Vol. 19, No 4, p153, concerning IMSM awards to European-sounding names in Indian cavalry regiments. Christopher Hawes and Cliff Parrett both point out that farriers and trumpeters were traditionally drawn from the Eurasian (later designated Anglo-Indian) community. Three of the four named by Peter Chapman appear in Cliff Parrett's *The McKinley Medals and some reflections on the services of Eurasians in the Indian Army*, published in

the journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society, Miscellany of Honours, No.7, 1985. In this article Cliff noted that, after 1861, Eurasians had a better chance of serving with the regular regiments of Madras Cavalry than those of Bengal. The 26th, 27th as well as the 28th maintained a tradition of recruiting Eurasians as trumpeters and farriers. The soldiers named served in the campaigns in Eastern Persia and Russian Turkestan between 1915 and 1920. Farrier Daffadar Peacock died of disease in Persia.

As Cliff Parrett cautions in his letter, the problem is that, from our perspective in time, we cannot specifically know whether they were Eurasians or full-blooded Indian Christians (probably the former); what is almost certain is that they were not Europeans.

Three books by officers of 28LC with plenty of anecdotal material on WW1 are:

The 28th Light Cavalry in Persia and Russian Turkestan 1915-1920, J. A. C. Kreyer & G. Uloth. Slatter & Rose, Oxford, 1926 – recently reprinted

Riding to War. G. Uloth. Monks, Woodbridge, 1993

Faraway Campaigns. F. James. Grayson & Grayson, London 1934

Regarding Peter Chapman's plea for some authoritative research on the IMSM, I know that Rana Chhina has been doing some work on IMSMs to Frontier Corps and Militia and I shall be carrying a note on that subject soon. Meanwhile Rana makes the plea that he has found absolutely no reference so far on the award of IMSMs or LSGCs to the Indian States Forces and he would be pleased to hear from anyone who can shed any light on this. (The LSGC is the unknown factor for me. They exist – I used to have some in my collection – but under what circumstances were they awarded to ISF personnel?)
Ed.

● Several members wrote to me following the announcement in Vol. 19, No 4 of the passing of Major General Rafiuddin Ahmed, concerning the availability of his two volumes of the history of the Baluch Regiment. Volume 1 (1820-1939) was reprinted by The Naval & Military Press Ltd last year and can be obtained from them at Unit 10, Ridgwood Industrial Park, Ickfield, East Sussex TN22 5QF at a cost of £12.95 excluding postage and packing. Whether or not Volume II (1939-1956) will ever be similarly reprinted depends on whether another editor can be found to take on the task. Efforts continue in this regard. As I said in the last edition, the future of the proposed Volume III must now be in some doubt.
Ed.

● Gerry Douds writes:

I would be most grateful to fellow IMHS Members for any assistance in tracing Indian POWs who experienced captivity in Axis/Japanese hands, either in Europe or the Far East. While my researches to date, within British and Australian archives, have uncovered much relevant material, the project would gain substantially from the input of surviving Indian POWs, resident in the U.K.

OBITUARY

On the day that I despatched the last DURBAR containing on pp158-159 the review of Charles MacFetridge's *The Military Mule in the British Army and Indian Army*" I learnt of his passing. The following obituary, which first appeared in *The Gunner* in February 2003, was made available by The Revd A C McDowall AKC CF(R) to whom I am indebted.

LT COL CH T MACFETRIDGE 1913-2002

Born and brought up in the Curragh and living there in a close-knit Irish family Charles MacFetridge grew up in 'character-forming' times with many fond memories of family life, a family of which he was always a proud and integral part.

He had a long and interesting army career. After passing out from 'The Shop' in 1934 his first posting was to a light battery stationed at Bulford. It was here as a young subaltern that he first encountered the military mule, to which he devoted much time in later life.

In 1938 he moved to India, joining the Mountain Artillery, and in 1939-40 was in Razmak on the North West Frontier. In the 1930s and early 40s this was the place guaranteed to keep the army on its toes and often dodging bullets. In December 1940 Charles was Bty Capt of 13 Mountain Bty in Razmak. As the BC was ill the CO, Lt Col John Birbeck, ordered Charles to take 15 Bty 'on column' an operational taskforce into hostile tribal territory.

This was Mahsud country, a most warlike tribe then, and still today. At the end of the first day there was great difficulty getting the piquets down and finally a night battle arose. The infantry suffered heavily under the Pathan attacks, but the Indian officer in the piquet afterwards told Charles that his artillery fire had caused heavy casualties among the enemy and forced them to flee.

After service on the frontier Charles was directed by Army HQ to raise the 3rd Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Bty in Bombay. This he did most successfully and then took it to the Arakan. This was the dark period of the war in Burma in 1941-42, when our armies were driven out by the Japanese. In May 1942 his battery was supporting the rearguard defending the crossing point at Shwegyin, having covered 600 miles in the retreat from Arakan to get there. His efforts that day, conducting the direct fire of both his own and a number of miscellaneous mountain guns, mortars and a solitary 25-pdr down to as little as 4-500yds, undoubtedly saved many lives and it was felt by many people that Charles was unlucky not to have received an award. In 1944 he was serving as second-in-command of a mountain regiment in the battle of Imphal, one of the most severe and important battles of the war in Burma.

Charles left India in 1946 to return to the UK, and in 1948 he received one of his most interesting appointments. At the time he was Brigade Major of 10th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in Portsmouth. He was to join the British Military Mission in Greece as a liaison officer at one week's notice. He served there for six months as British Liaison Officer to a Greek infantry brigade in the war against the communists, later, publishing a booklet recording his experiences.

After the Greek episode he went on to command 49 Field Regiment, taking it to Suez and then Hong Kong. He finally retired from the army in July 1960 at the age of 47. In 1995 he was awarded the Royal Artillery medal for outstanding service to the Regiment. This is a high honour and Charles was deeply touched to receive it.

Charles was one of the first to join the Indian Army Association after the war, where he was always consulted when a question about gunnery arose, often being referred to as "Mr Gunner" or "Mr Mule". He became secretary of the Mountain Artillery Dinner Club in 1967, and joined other members on three trips to India and Pakistan, including the Khyber pass and travelling the old Silk Road to Chitral and almost to China.

He had a great capacity for keeping in touch with people and for absorbing information. Like all true Irishmen he had the gift of story-telling with a fund of fascinating tales. He was also a very kind and generous man, with a strong sense of duty, based on his Christian faith.

Among his many interests Charles had two to which he gave high priority. The first was his boundless admiration for the military mule with which he had served on the North West Frontier of India before the Second World War, then in the Burma Campaign and in Greece at the end of the Second World War, where it was said he was the last British officer to go into action mounted on a mule. He was Vice-President and former Chairman of the British Mule Society.

It was Charles' wish that this noble animal should be fittingly commemorated. To that end he was responsible for initiating an anthology on 'The Military Mule in the British Army and the Indian Army.' This major tribute to the mule, the result of six years work, was completed last year. The Anthology has deliberately not been copyrighted to encourage authors writing about the mule in future to make full use of its contents.

He and one of his co-authors were involved in the early negotiations for the design and planning approval of the Animals in War Memorial to be erected at Brook Gate, Park Lane. London, backing on to Hyde Park. When David Backhouse, the sculptor, agreed that a full sized Mountain Artillery Mule and an Animal Transport Mule would be the centre piece of the Memorial, with a full sized horse with a dog at heel at the rear gazing out on to Hyde Park, Charles was delighted.

Charles' second major interest was reconciliation with his former enemies He believed that harsh reparations, continuing hatred and lack of reconciliation after the First World War helped cause the Second World War. The Japanese battle code required its soldiers to fight to the death, which resulted in fighting of the utmost savagery in which few prisoners were taken on either side. Because of the terrible treatment of our prisoners of war and other atrocities, reconciliation with the Japanese has proved far more difficult than with the Germans.

He and about 100 others, many with decorations for gallantry, were members of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, comprising those who had fought in the Burma Campaign, some prisoners of the Japanese, and Japanese who had fought against us in Burma. The Group may have been the only one from both World Wars embracing former enemies within its membership. Major General Renichi Misawa, President of the All Burma Veterans Association of Japan, was also a mountain gunner battery commander, and it is quite possible that they were firing at each other across the Chindwin at Shwegyin in Burma in 1942.

Charles was married twice, first to Evelyn who pre-deceased him and latterly to Elaine who survives him. His Memorial Service was a moving and well-attended event, which demonstrated to all how well-loved was this man in all the facets of his varied life – family, army, charity, the local community and especially in his local Parish Church of All Souls in Ascot.

