

DURBAR Volume 20, No.2, Summer 2003

THE ARMED CIVIL FORCES OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

PART IV [Conclusion]

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

KHASSADARS

The employment of Khassadars, as such, dates from the period of the Third Afghan War (1919) when, as an emergency measure to protect the south flank of the Khyber and to steady the tribes, a small force of Khassadars, or tribal levies on a purely tribal basis, was raised to replace the Khyber Rifles, most of whom had had to be disbanded. As an extra inducement to the tribes concerned to enlist in this Irregular Force and to ensure loyal service, the high rate of Rs.30 per mensem was offered to the rank and file. Subsequently, in connection with the construction of the Khyber Railway and for other reasons, the numbers have been increased, but the rate of pay has remained the same. During the troubles of 1919-22 Khassadar service was introduced into Waziristan. The rate of pay was Rs. 30 a month, as in the Khyber Agency. Khassadars are now employed on a very extensive scale; in addition to small bodies functioning on other parts of the border, the forces in the Khyber and Waziristan number 1334 and 3729 respectively.

The intention underlying the employment of these Khassadar forces was that they should function as a tribal police and be used as an agency which would gradually extend the British sphere of influence into the remoter parts of tribal territory. But in the special circumstances of their inception in the Khyber and Waziristan, the main duty of the Khassadars at first was to receive pay! The performance of this duty - negative though it may sound - carried with it certain positive advantages. It brought into the areas from which the Khassadars were recruited large sums of money which went far to relieve the economic pressure, and the fear of losing that income was a powerful inducement to good behaviour. Since then, as more settled conditions have supervened, the Khassadars are beginning to give a more definite return for their pay in the form of actual service. The amount and value of this service has varied at different times and in different areas, but as a general statement of the case it may fairly be said that these trans-border tribal levies have begun to make good as a protective, educative and civilising agency.

The whole force is, comparatively speaking, still in its infancy and in the nature of an experiment, more so in Waziristan than in the Khyber where it received a considerable stiffening in the personnel of the old disbanded Khyber Rifles, a large number of whom enlisted in the new Corps.

The Committee also commented on the problem of the disparity of pay between the Khassadars and the other Civil Armed Forces, the duties of the latter being considerably more onerous than those of

the Khassadars. In addition the Khassadars served at, or near, their homes. Apart from the discontent caused, the disparity of pay reacted adversely on the recruitment of local men in certain of the forces, the North Waziristan Scouts in the Tochi Valley for example. The Committee went on to propose how certain reductions in pay might be brought about. It then proceeded to report on each of the Khassadar Forces in turn.

THE MALAKAND AGENCY

This was dealt with in Part I [DURBAR Winter 2002] and covered the Canal Khassadars and the Dir & Swat Levies.

THE KHYBER AGENCY

The functions now carried out by the force in the Khyber Agency are mainly to protect the Khyber Pass and Railway, to provide escorts for kafilas [convoys] and to hold certain posts, in some cases within the Peshawar District border, to prevent raiding into British territory. It numbers 1334 all ranks. The Political Agent Khyber is, in theory, required to supervise the force. In practice, however, it would seem that his multifarious duties leave him little time for the purpose and the work devolves for the most part on the Indian Assistant Political Officer. The Committee recommended the consideration of appointing a British officer to be in charge of the force. The General Officer Commanding at Peshawar District had recommended that the protection of all railway station buildings in the Khyber, including Jamrud, should be handed over to the Khassadars.

MOHMAND - PESHAWAR DISTRICT

There exists at present a force of 212 Khassadars costing Rs. 60,000 per annum, the bulk of whom are employed as Chowkidars in the 78 towers of the Mohmand blockhouse line. They also supply Subhan Khwar post and camp with 20 men. The Subhan Khwar post is within our administered border, and, on the general principle that Khassadars should only be employed in tribal territory, the Committee considered that this post could be handed over to Chowkidars. Army Headquarters, having decided that the Mohmand block-house line is no longer required for military purpose, they could be taken over by the civil authorities or demolished.

KOHAT DISTRICT

KOHAT PASS. After the Ellis tragedy at Kohat in 1923, [see DURBAR Summer 2003 - p.64], certain Khassadar Posts were imposed on the Kohat Pass Afridis to guard the Government road, the men being paid at the reduced rate of Rs. 20 per mensem. The force, including the towers of Upper and Lower Barratt, consists of 73 men of all ranks.

BILAND KHEL. A force of 25 Khassadars are maintained at Biland Khel not far distant from Thal.

BANNU DISTRICT

The following tribes of the Bannu District proper, whose landed property is situated on both sides of the border, are in receipt of the Khassadari service indicated against each :-

Hathi Khel Wazirs

40 men

Bizan Khel Wazirs - Umarzai Wazirs	67 men
Mohammed Khel Wazirs	50 men
Bakka Khel Wazirs - Jani Khel Wazirs	104 men

The Committee did not understand why, as these were revenue paying tribes of a settled district also receiving political allowances, they were in receipt of Khassadari service as well as Levy service. The fact that a comparatively small part of their lands, mostly grazing lands, extended across the border hardly justified this concession.

BHITTANIS. The Bhattanis lie partly on the Bannu border and partly on that of the Dera Ismail Khan district. That portion in the Bannu district provides 50 Khassadars. The tribe is under agreement to prevent raiding into British territory and not to give harbour or passage to outlaws. The tribe has been made to keep strictly to its Engagements and the Khassadars function satisfactorily.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT

In this district there are 295 Bhattani Khassadars controlled by the Assistant Commissioner, Tank, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner. They protect the border north of Tank as far as the northern limits of the district and also piquet the Tank Zam above Khirgi as far as and beyond Jandola along an important sector of our lines of communication within Bhattani limits. As already stated under the Bannu Khassadars, the tribe is under special agreement and is fully meeting its obligations through the force maintained.

NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY

The Tochi Khassadars are 1584 in strength. They are helping in conjunction with the military and Scouts to protect the important lines of communication in the Agency:-

1. Mirzail Idak- Miranshah - Datta Khel road.
2. Isha - Damdil - Rezani - Razmak road.
3. Idak - Spinwam - Shewa - Thal road.

In addition to these duties on the line of communications, they also act as escorts and carry out the administrative duties of tribal police. They are under the control of the Political Agent through his Indian subordinate staff. The Committee considered that the force justified its existence and was, within certain limits, reliable. The good offices and co-operation of the Tochi Khassadars was of great assistance to our force when Razmak was occupied in 1923.

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY

The number of Khassadars in this Agency is 2057 Infantry and 98 Sowars. This force, composed of Mahsuds and Wana Wazirs, is at present in its infancy and experience has yet to show how it develops both in efficiency and reliability. In the course of its short existence, and considering the temper of the tribes from which it is drawn, as well as the adverse and hostile elements which have had to be overcome, the progress has been very satisfactory. At the moment circumstances have necessitated that the force be employed, for the greater part, in protecting roads and acting as escorts. The same circumstances also militate at present against the Khassadars always working within their own

sectional areas. However, there are signs that they are gradually taking on the duties of tribal police when its location would be more in tribal areas than on the roads. There is little co-ordination between the Scouts and the Khassadars; in the present circumstances this is perhaps to be expected. In the Khassadars we have the only local agent whom we are at present employing. Both regulars and Scouts are alien forces and our political establishment is necessarily alien. The Khassadars must thus be the advanced guard of civilisation and the first humble instrument by which the interests of the tribesmen can be identified with our own.

[Crown Copyright material is published by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office]



Two members of the modern Khyber Khassadar Force

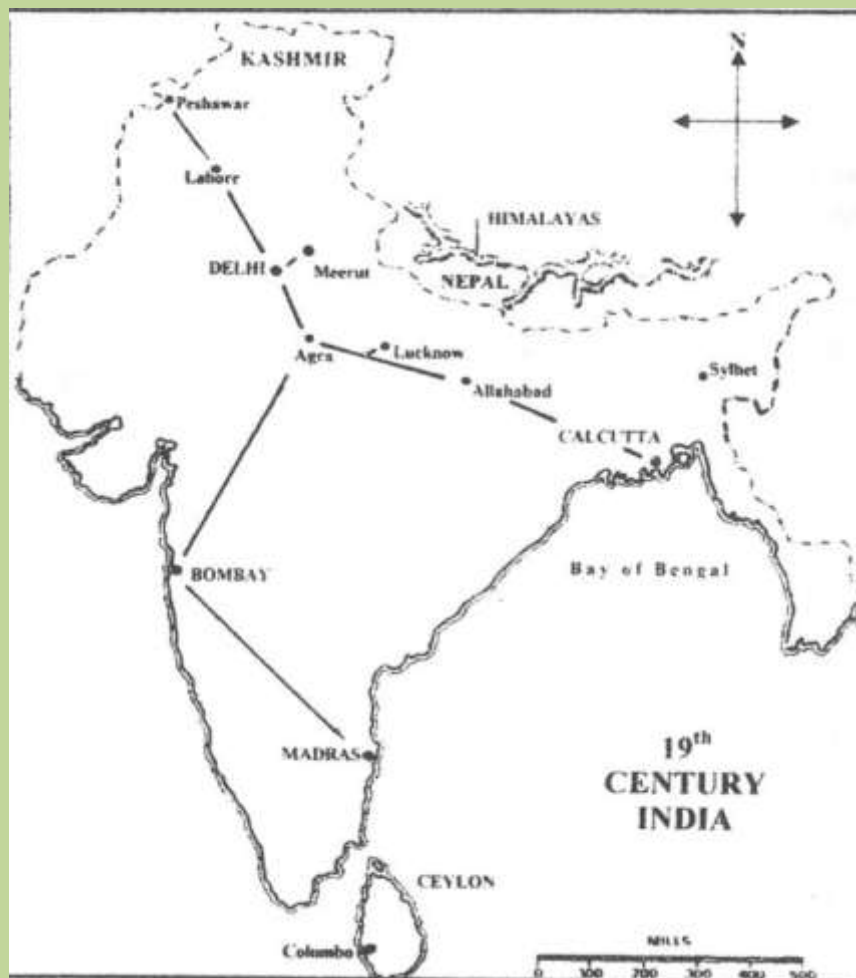
TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION IN INDIA IN MAY 1857

Alan Harfield

At the time of the outbreak of the mutiny in May 1857 by some of the regiments in the Bengal army, the telegraph communication system within India was still in its infancy. Although a great number of books, both contemporary and in more recent times, have been written on all aspects of the disaffection, there has barely been a mention of 'telegraph communications'. The trend has been towards the assumption that the only method of communication at that time was by mounted orderly, 'galloper' officer, the 'dak-gharry' or 'dak-runner'. This was not, however, the case as there was an 'electric telegraph' system which, although available, was not used officially during the initial disturbances.

Following the progress made with the development of railways, roads and inland water transport in India, it was under the progressive rule of Lord Dalhousie that the electric telegraph system was introduced in 1849 after some years of experimentation. Lord Dalhousie had been Postmaster-General at home and, following his appointment as Governor-General of India, he took a keen interest in the development of the telegraph system in India.

The officer in charge of the development was an ex-Bengal Army Surgeon, W.B. O'Shaughnessy, MD, FRS, who was appointed 'Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs to the East India Company'. The plan for the electric telegraph was well under way by the end of 1852, and by the time that Dalhousie departed from India in 1855 three main routes of the trunk telegraph system had been completed.



In 1852 the Court of Directors had sanctioned the construction of three telegraph routes from Calcutta to Bombay, Madras and Peshawar. It was decided that the northern telegraph route would follow the valley of the Ganges to Allahabad, then on through Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and finally onto Peshawar, with a branch line being constructed Delhi to Meerut. The line to Bombay diverted at Agra and followed the second Grand Trunk Road via Indore and Nasik; and the other main line ran from Bombay to Madras via Poona and across southern India.

The spur lines off the main trunk telegraph routes connected such garrison towns as Meerut, Lucknow and Barrackpore, thus providing a communications network which would allow messages to be passed quickly as the need arose. In 1853 Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, Bengal Engineers, was appointed Superintendent of Electrical Telegraphs as Dr O'Shaughnessy was in Europe. Lieutenant Stewart was mainly employed in an administrative role although he was responsible for an extensive construction programme until Dr O'Shaughnessy returned to India. The construction of the line was undertaken by a team of sixty (some sources give the figure as 'forty') enlisted artificers from the Royal Engineer Depot Battalion in England who, having completed their training at Warley Barracks, were despatched to India to build the telegraph routes using local labour.

The type of line that was constructed was vastly different to that which was built and used in Europe since the terrain, climate and general conditions dictated it had to be more durable, with a different type of wire and poles being used. The wire used on European telegraph routes was usually of galvanized iron wire of about 450 lb. per mile. In India the Telegraph engineers used No 1 gauge galvanized iron wire (almost a rod) at 1,120 lbs. per mile so that the route could withstand the fierce weather and other hazards. However, one of the problems encountered during the construction was the thickness of the wire, which prevented it being cut with the normal wire cutters. Heavier cutting tools therefore had to be carried by the construction teams.

The method of constructing a route was for an initial 'flying' route to be built with a temporary single wire, to be run across country. This was supported on bamboos, palm trees, and light posts, without insulators, spaced at about 50 yards apart with the wire being hooked onto a convenient notch or groove, or in a fork of a tree. The 'flying route' was then gradually replaced by a permanent line, a task that was classified as 'making safe'. The permanent route was constructed of 'best timber' posts placed 3 ft. into the ground and spaced at approximately sixteen poles per mile, or about every 110 yards. The wire was then braced so that its sag remained at 16 ft. from the ground at the centre of the span. Each post was fitted with a lightning conductor and a sturdy short cross-arm on which were mounted two porcelain insulators to carry the telegraph wire.

The telegraph wire was supplied by arsenals in coils of 4 ft. in diameter, each containing a quarter of a mile of wire. During the early stages of the building of the trunk telegraph routes, teams of four or five men could deliver ten miles of straightened wire per day. Although the routes were mainly 'air line', that is wire suspended from poles, it became necessary to traverse some areas in towns and market places by placing the wire underground. Rivers were, during this early stage of construction, usually crossed by using specially adapted strong poles, although some of the wider rivers were crossed by means of a submarine cable.

By 1856 four thousand miles of telegraph line had been erected, at a cost of £217,000, but to help offset this expenditure there was an annual income from the use of the network by civil organisations.

The apparatus at the telegraph terminal station is described by Brigadier D. StJ. Hoysted, CBE, in his article "*Communications in the Indian Mutiny 1857-1858*" as follows:

"The apparatus of a telegraph terminal comprised the 'turn-plate' (send or receive switch), the 'reverser' (transmitting instrument), the 'single needle' galvanometer (the signal indicator) and the ... battery. The signalling alphabet consisted of differing numbers of galvanometer kicks to right or left dependant upon the manipulation of the 'reverser' at the distant station. For example, the letter A might be one left kick, B two left kicks, and other letters a combination of right and left kicks. An alphabet can thus be constructed not exceeding five kicks for each letter, the second half of its letters being the reverse of the first."

The staff of the Telegraph Offices, generally located in the Post Offices, were Europeans although the delivery and collection of messages to units and offices was by local peons. The Telegraph Offices were not manned on a 24 hour day basis and, for example, on Sunday 10 May 1857 the office at Delhi closed at 9am and reopened at 4pm. Although all the apparatus was there to be operated, with the Calcutta-Peshawar line covering a distance of approximately 1,600 miles, and with a spur line to Meerut available, it was surprisingly not immediately used by the military to alert other garrisons.

Although the revolt by the cavalry and infantry took place without warning, as did the riot in the nearby Suddar Bazaar, an unidentified party of sepoys cut the telegraph line going to Delhi which followed the Grand Trunk, or Bulandshahr Road, sometime before 4pm. For some reason they failed to cut the route to Agra. The operator on duty at the telegraph office in the Delhi Post Office checked the line before closing down at 9am and found that Meerut was 'online', but when the station reopened at 4pm Meerut could not be raised. The operator sent out two linemen to check the river crossing at Delhi where they established that the 'line break' was beyond that point and so returned to Delhi.

Although the line to Delhi had been cut, communication to Agra was still possible. Presumably, due to the suddenness of the military uprising and the civil disturbances, the Meerut Brigade Commander not only failed to send a message to Agra notifying the disaffection of the Bengal regiments, but he also failed to issue orders to secure the telegraph office at Meerut. With hindsight it is easy to criticise Major General W.H. Hewitt and Brigadier Archdale Wilson, the two senior officers in station, but we cannot know what other problems were more pressing at that time. It should also be remembered that in 1857 the telegraph was still in its infancy in India; many senior officers regarded it as a 'new-fangled' piece of equipment and were not used to using such a system.

Despite the confusion in the city the Meerut postmaster sent a private telegram to his aunt in Agra at about midnight. The message, which is often referred to as the 'first message' regarding the mutiny, gave the situation as follows:

“cavalry have risen setting fire to houses having killed or wounded all Europeans they could find stop if aunt intends starting tomorrow please detain her.”

Fortunately this telegram was shown to Mr John R Colvin, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Province who, on the morning of 11 May, relayed the gist of it to Lord Canning, the Governor-General in Calcutta, and probably to all intermediate stations on the telegraph route.

Lieutenant A.R.D. Mackenzie, 3rd Light Cavalry, later recorded that he had been knocked off his horse by a 'severed telegraph wire', which must have been the wire of the Delhi line as the Agra line remained open until well after the Postmaster had sent his message.

At Delhi on 11 May Mr Todd, the 'Telegraph Master' at the Post Office, set out to repair the Delhi-Meerut line and was never heard of again. On the same day the mutineers from Meerut reached Delhi and by mid-afternoon they had joined with the men of the native regiments of Brigadier Graves'

brigade and took possession of the city. Fortunately in 1856 an emergency telegraph office had been established against such an event at Hindu Rao's House on Delhi Ridge. It was from this station that two vital messages were despatched to warn other garrisons in North India of the crisis. A closing message was despatched to Ambala and repeated to Lahore and Peshawar which read:

Timed - 111500 hrs. May 1857

"we must leave office Stop all bungalows are being burned down by sepoy's of Meerut stop we are off stop Mr Todd is dead we think he went out this morning and is not yet returned stop we learned that nine Europeans were killed stop goodbye"

This message has been referred to as the 'second message' alerting people to the events at Meerut and Delhi and a copy was delivered to the Commander-in-Chief at Simla. As there were no telegraph facilities to Simla at that time, Captain William Andrew M. Barnard, the son of Major-General Sir Henry Barnard, rode from Ambala to Simla arriving at 'dinner time' (5pm) on 12 May and en-route warned the British detachments at Kasauli, Dagshai and Sabathu of the revolt.

The contents of the third message also confirmed the position in Delhi and was again sent from the temporary telegraph station at Hindu Rao's House, with the operators having been ordered back to their post by the military. The message was again sent to the Commander-in-Chief and gave more detail than the previous short 'panic' telegram.

Timed - 111600 hrs. May 1857.

"cantonments in state of siege stop mutineers from Meerut 3rd Light cavalry numbers not known said to [be] 150 men cut off communications with Meerut and taken possession of bridge of boats stop 54th N.I. sent against them but would not act stop several officers killed and wounded stop city in a considerable state of excitement stop troops sent down but nothing known yet stop further information will be forwarded".

Following the receipt of the 'second' and 'third' message the Commander-in-Chief established an advance general headquarters at Ambala on 15 May and from that time telegraphic communications were used regularly by the military authorities. The remainder of the events of 1857-1858 have been well documented and do not need to be repeated.

Later in the campaign a captured mutineer is alleged to have remarked that it was the telegraph that helped defeat the mutineers commenting "the telegraph was the accursed string that strangled us".

Following the campaign of 1857-1858 the telegraph system continued to be developed throughout India and, once accepted as a reliable means of communication, was widely used by both the military and civil authorities until the system was finally handed over to the respective Governments in 1947.

Additional reading:

The Military Engineer in India, Volume II, Lieutenant Colonel E.W.C. Sandes, Chatham.

"Communications in the India Mutiny 1857-1858", by Brigadier D. StJ. Hoysted, CBE, *The Journal of the Royal Signals Institution*, Vol. III, No 3, May 1959.

10th BALUCH REGIMENT

Lieutenant Colonel N W Poulson

All photos this section R C Worts

- 1st Battalion [Formerly: 124th Baluchistan Infantry – 1st Battalion]
- 2nd Battalion [Formerly: 126th Baluchistan Infantry]
- 3rd Battalion [Formerly: 127th Baluch Light Infantry]
- 4th Battalion [Formerly: 129th Baluchis]
- 5th Battalion [Formerly: 130th Baluchis]
- 10th Battalion [Formerly: 124th Baluchistan Infantry – 2nd Battalion]

SECTION I : POUCH

No illustration

SECTION II : POUCH BELT

No illustration

SECTION III : WAIST PLATE

1922-1947 Piper.

Rectangular silver plate. In centre a crown above a crescent containing the Roman numeral X. Around the edge a wreath of thistles and leaves.



SECTION IV : HEADDRESS

PART I : CAP

1922-1947 In silver on a cherry boss, the Roman figure X.
[DR 1931]



1944-1947 White metal, X within a crescent, King's crown above, below scroll inscribed BALUCH REGIMENT.



PART II : FULL DRESS

1922-1947 1st Battalion:

The Cypher of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught [DR 1931]

3rd Battalion:

The Cypher of Her Majesty Queen Mary [DR 1931]



4th Battalion:

The Cypher of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught [DR 1931]



5th Battalion:

The Cypher of His Majesty King George V [DR 1931]



SECTION V : SHOULDER TITLE

1922-1939 Khaki drill shirt shoulder strap, embroidered X

1922-1947 Black metal, 10 over BALUCH



1922-1947 Khaki drill uniform. Cloth slip on title. BALUCH in black letters.



c. 1944-1947 Battle Dress. Cloth. Semi-circle design. Rifle green background inscribed in cherry red THE BALUCH REGIMENT

1922-1947 2ND Battalion:

Black metal, 2 over BALUCH

SECTION VI : BUTTONS

1922-1947 British and Indian officers: Silver, plain round ball button [DR 1931]

1922-1947 Indian Ranks: White metal round ball button [DR 1931]

1922-1947 Blazer: Within a crescent X. Crown above, below scroll inscribed BALUCH REGIMENT. White metal. Flat. Engraved.

1922-1947 2nd Battalion:

Mess Waiter: Crown over crescent. Below, scroll inscribed BALUCH REGIMENT. Above, 2ND BN. Flat. Engraved. No rim. White metal.



SECTION VII: POUCH BELT WHISTLE & CHAIN

No illustration

SECTION VIII: COLLAR BADGE

1922-1947 1st Battalion:

The Cypher of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught [DR 1931]

3rd Battalion:

The Cypher of Her Majesty Queen Mary [DR 1931]

4th Battalion:

The Cypher of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught [DR 1931]

5th Battalion:

The Cypher of His Majesty King George V [DR 1931]

SECTION IX: BADGES OF RANK

1922-1947 Black with red cloth background



SECTION X: MESS WAITER/BEARERS PAGRI BADGE

1922-1947 White metal. X within a crescent surmounted by a King's crown. Below scroll inscribed BALUCH REGIMENT.



1922-1947 White metal. X within a crescent surmounted by a King's crown.

c.1922-1947 Within a scroll type belt X over scroll inscribed BALUCH. On the belt in Roman numerals the pre 1922 Regiments.

SECTION XI: MISCELLANEOUS

PIPER'S PLAID BROOCH

1922-1947 4th Battalion:

White metal. Circular design with hollow centre. Around the inner edge a wreath of thistles; around the outer edge an inscription in the upper half DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN and in the lower half 4th BATTALION BALUCH REGIMENT



BLAZER BADGE

c.1943-1946 Green cloth. In gold thread a King's crown over a crescent containing the Roman numeral X. Below on a scroll BALUCH REGIMENT.



CAR BADGE

c.1945-1947 Chrome wreath surmounted by a King's crown. In centre a cap badge, X within a crescent, King's crown above, below scroll inscribed BALUCH REGIMENT mounted in a rifle green enamel background.

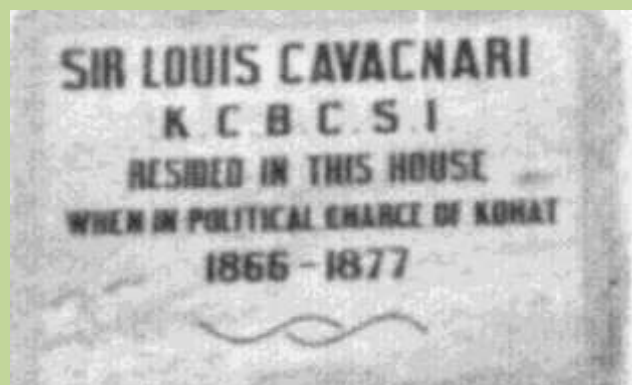
CAVAGNARI'S HOUSE AT KOHAT

Tim Ash

At the conclusion of the "The Armed Civil Forces of the N.W.F.P. Part 1 – The Frontier Constabulary" (DURBAR, Spring 2003) there appeared a photograph of the Handyside Gateway at the top of the Kohat Pass. This was taken on 15 May 2001 en route to Kohat from Peshawar. We had hoped to proceed west from Kohat along the Samana Range but due to unsettled tribal conditions were unable to do so.

Kohat itself, apart from several churches and cemeteries, seemed to have little to offer. However, as we were driving back towards Peshawar through the Cantonment area, one of our number spotted a sign which read, "Cavagnari House". We halted and peered over a closed gateway with uniformed guards, one of whom rushed off to the house vaguely seen through the trees. A few minutes later we were invited to enter and conducted to the house where we were greeted by the Commissioner of Kohat whose residence it was. This courteous gentleman greeted us warmly and proceeded to give us a guided tour of the house - his family home.

Over the front entrance inside the veranda is a plaque which reads:



SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI
K.C.B. C.S.I.
RESIDED IN THIS HOUSE
WHEN IN POLITICAL CHARGE OF KOHAT
1866 -1877

The house had been built by Cavagnari as his residence when Deputy Commissioner from April 1866 to May 1877. Kohat was the only place at which he appears to have spent any length of time in his relatively short life. It was here that he must have brought his young wife, Emma, (Graves), whom he had married in November 1871.

Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari was born at Stenay, France on 4 July 1841, the son of the French General Adolphe Cavagnari who had served under the Emperor Napoleon. His mother, Caroline (Montgomery) was Irish. During 1851, aged ten, Cavagnari entered Christ's Hospital London and in 1857, the year that he obtained British naturalisation, he passed the East India Company's Military Academy's examination and was granted a direct entry Cadetship for the Bengal Army. Arriving in India in July 1858 he was posted to the 1st Bengal European Fusiliers and served during the Mutiny campaign in Oudh. In July 1861 he entered the Bengal Staff Corps and was appointed a Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab. In this service he progressed rapidly and served as Political Officer in various hill expeditions on the North West Frontier.

In June 1877 he was made a Companion in the Order of the Star of India and took up the appointment of Deputy Commissioner at Peshawar. Later, on 30 May 1879, Cavagnari negotiated and signed the Treaty of Gandamak with Yakub Khan, the Ruler of Afghanistan, for which he was made a K.C.B., on 19 July. Cavagnari then took up his post as British Resident at Kabul 24 July 1879 but on 3 September he, Lieutenant Walter Hamilton V.C., of the Guides, with an escort of 77 men, Cavalry and Infantry, all of the Guides, and the other Europeans of the Embassy were murdered by mutinous Afghan troops. Cavagnari was 38 years old at his untimely death.

George H. Dalton, of Kansas U.S.A., and I were the two members of the I.M.H.S., of our little party of three, to be privileged to visit Cavagnari's House and to be so warmly received by the Commissioner of Kohat in May 2001.



REGIMENTAL CRESTS

Peter Chapman

Many of us are collectors and all of us have focused on India in its infinite variety. The things that we collect – or in which we take a great interest – have a military flavour. By that I mean that I have never yet seen a new member express an interest in native costume...or stamps. We are, indeed, members of the Indian Military Historical Society. Most of the things we collect or which take our interest are readily available – medals, uniforms, and so on.

But ‘collecting’ lost a facet to its jewel many decades ago when the firms of both William S. Lincoln of 2 Holles Street, Oxford Street, London, and that of Marcus Ward & Co, also of London and Belfast, closed down ...the former, I believe, due to bomb damage.

Lincolns of Holles Street sold stamps and stamp albums, and many survive. But their second stock in trade was crests and crest albums, armorials, and with albums to cater for them.

Now, before the 1914-18 War many families aspired to, and used, crests on their envelopes and writing paper – and not just ennobled families. And graphic and complex they were. People ‘knew their place’ years ago and many invented a place for themselves to be known. The letter-head provided the perfect solution.

In blank-paged books, a section of society collected the crests and monograms of the famous and would-be famous. Lincolns of Holles Street and Marcus Ward provided the albums in which to paste the snippets from envelopes and letters.

But there were more legitimate heirs to crests and monograms than the aspiring socialites. They included government departments, hotels, shipping lines, insurance companies, university colleges, public schools, famous London clubs and so on. And they also included British Army regiments and Royal Naval ships – and Indian Army regiments.

Now, there were a limited number of people involved with the latter. One had to have a relative to receive, in Britain, letters from Madras or Nowshera, and rare events they might have been. It would have been churlish, surely, to have discarded all of such a missive, it having travelled so far. Thus the regimental crest was retrieved. Thus Lincolns of Holles Street.

However, just in case you did not have a relative in Madras or Nowshera, and just in case you very much wished to have a memento of Hodson’s Horse, for instance, Lincolns of Holles Street very kindly provided a sheet of Indian Army crests so that you could complete your album (provided by them) with the requisite ‘armorials’. Snip them off the sheet, paste them in your album. In 1914 they were just threepence a sheet...eight crests at a time, sometimes more. But only fractionally.

They were mixed lots...infantry, mountain artillery, Punjabis, Bengalis, Madrassis. To buy the whole lot would have cost you five shillings and sixpence (5s 6d) and would have included regular units and State and frontier militia units. A bargain!

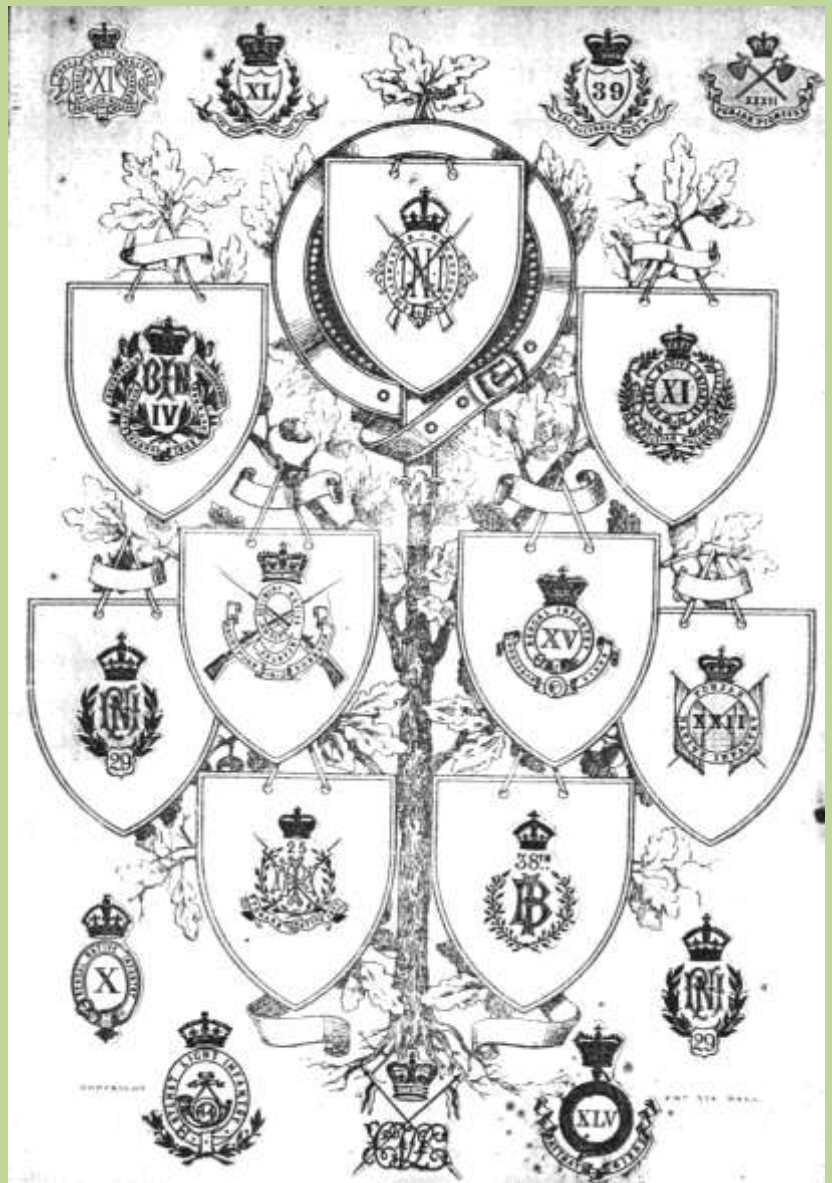
Few, in my opinion, took advantage of the rates offered. For years I have sought out crest albums – I have a hoard – but few were contributed to by Lincoln’s generous offer. In the main they were compiled by ‘honest’ acquisitions, legitimate acquisitions...but the rarer for that.

We all know, all of us, that concern for and about the Indian Army is a ‘minority interest’. I recall, some 15 years ago, having returned to the fray following the fleeing of the nest by my own children, being quizzed by a certain well-known London medal dealer. “So,” he enquired, “what have you decided to specialise in?” “The Indian Army,” I replied, “but private soldiers.” “Natives”, he said in horrified disbelief. And that only 15 years ago! But to return to the subject.

If you are assiduous and condescend to attend country auctions and pursue your interest to the full, you will discover among the more astute rural auctioneers, a concern for thee and me. Now the illustration on the following page is but one page of many such albums should you be as concerned as I am. Further, should you consult the Indian Army Museum in Chelsea, my interest and concern is long appreciated. The archivist there has sheets and sheets of Indian Army crests, sorted out by regiment, which relate to your particular interest. They are, as I understand, available to you, for a small fee, copied out or you in black and white (as is the way with copying machines). However, they are, in their originals, in other colours, notably red, blue and green.

Now, if I may, I come to the nub of this protracted piece. It is expensive enough for us to buy the campaign medals in our collections without having to consider the further price of the appropriate regimental badge. I know, and so do you, the prohibitive cost of Indian Army badges. But, if in the display of your medal collection, you wish to alleviate the monotony of silver, ribbon and typed nomenclature with, say, a regimental badge, a printed-out crest of the regiment involved offers a convenient – and attractive – solution.

The Indian Army Museum will do this for you for a small fee from their stock-in-hand. Better, you should have your own collection of crests or badges, sometimes cheaply acquired, sometimes not. The ham-fisted drawings of badges and crests which appear in books are simply not acceptable when compared with the excellent drawings of badges and crests of British Army regiments in, for instance, Chichester and Burges-Short’s 1895 *Records and Badges in the British Army*. Perhaps the omission has been remedied with regard to the Indian Army. If so, I should like to know of it.



LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Brian Stevens writes:

I have been re-reading the Spring 2001 number of DURBAR and think that the following may shed some light upon Lieutenant Colonel Poulson's question about the Jemadar attached to a Royal Artillery unit in 1917.

(In summary – came from Cimilla, Bengal, and in late 1917, aged 20, arrived in France as a Jemadar with the Indian Artillery Unit. Attached to 55th (West Lancs) Division. Talked of being at Ypres and Arras. Photographs show him in uniform of officer's tunic, Sam Browne, breeches and puttees, no rank badges visible on either sleeve or epaulettes, but RA cap badge and Divisional emblem of the red rose are visible. Demobbed at Marseilles in 1920 and settled in England. Ed)

Except for the Mountain Batteries there were no Indian Artillery units at the time, except for the Ammunition Columns with the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery Brigades, serving in India which had Indian Drivers. These arrived in France in 1914 with the Indian Corps and Indian Cavalry Corps, and there were Indian Officers with these Columns. I do not at the time of writing have ready access to any Establishment Tables. I know that the annual Establishments for every unit in the British Army were published in Army Orders about the middle of each year, but whether these included units on the Indian Establishment I am not sure.

However, I do have a copy of the 1914 edition of the Field Service Pocket Book which includes War Establishment Tables including troops in India, and a Cavalry Brigade Ammunition Column included one Indian Officer and 62 other ranks, whilst a Divisional Ammunition Column included two Indian Officers and 227 other ranks.

Several things about the query are unusual:-

1. The age quoted, 20, seems very young for him to be a Jemadar.
2. His place of birth – Cimilla. I wonder if this a mistake for the place the British used to call Comilla? In any case, it was unusual to recruit from Bengal.
3. If he did not arrive in France until 1917 he must have been part of a Draft, which is strange as the Infantry Divisions were transferred to Mesopotamia at the end of 1915, leaving only the cavalry, who stayed in France until March 1918 when they were transferred to Palestine. As far as the, admittedly limited amount of material that I have available is concerned, I cannot discover any reason why he should have been with the 55th (West Lancashire) Division as they were never serving alongside the Indian Divisions, but as I said earlier my information on this matter is rather limited.

4. After the infantry and cavalry were withdrawn from France the only Indian units remaining were Labour Corps Companies, but if he served with one of those I would not have expected him to wear R.A. badges etc. Also, why was he demobilized in Marseilles, and as late as 1920? The 55th Division started to demobilize in the Brussels area in December 1918 and by the end of April 1919 was down to about 2500 all ranks.

I do not know if any of this is of any help. It seems to raise more questions than answers.

Regarding Sir John Chapple's article in the same issue on Officers' side caps, I remember being on Waterloo Station (London) sometime in late 1945 or early 1946 and seeing an Officer wearing a side cap with the word "Guides" worn as a badge. I am not absolutely sure after this length of time but I think the cap was khaki, but again am not sure whether there was any red piping.

I have also been re-reading some of the articles in earlier numbers of DURBAR including that entitled "What happened to the Bronze Medallist?" which appeared in the Winter 2000 issue. It included a name which rang bells, but it was some days before I could place it. The name in question was Lieutenant, subsequently Lieutenant Colonel A. A. Filose, 39th Central India Horse. He rejoiced in a rather splendid list of Christian names, - Anthony Aloysius Emmanuel. According to his entry in "*Soldiers of the Nile, A Biographical History of the British Officers of the Egyptian Army 1882 - 1925*," he was originally commissioned into the King's Liverpool Regiment on the 3rd May 1915, and as mentioned in the article, served in the Egyptian Army from 1921 to the 20th January 1925. The terminal date indicates that his Egyptian Army service must have ceased as a result of the murder of Sir Lee Stack, the C in C of the Egyptian Army, and the mutiny of some Egyptian and Sudanese troops in the Sudan in November the previous year. These incidents led to all the Egyptian troops in the Sudan being withdrawn and the Sudan Defence Force being formed. British Officers were also removed from Egyptian units.

Filose served in the 2nd World War and ended up as a Temporary Brigadier. However, his name seemed familiar in another context. Unless I am much mistaken, his forbears in India served in the Army of Daulat Rao Scindia. The first of that name was an Italian, reputedly a muleteer, named Michael Filose. He raised a Brigade, which he left to his sons, Fidele and Jean-Baptiste de la Fontaine. Some battalions of the Brigade were incorporated in the 4th Brigade of Perron's Army of Hindustan. Four of Jean-Baptiste's battalions were engaged at Assaye, although he was not. Jean-Baptiste de la Fontaine Filose was the Commander in Chief of the State Army of the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior when, in 1843, it became involved in a dispute over the Regency of the State which led eventually to the joint Battles of Maharajpore and Punnar. Filose, however, was in the British camp.

Fidele, the other brother, who commanded an independent brigade in the service of Daulat Rao Scindia, committed suicide having been captured after the Battle of Indore on 14th October 1801 (after having been bribed by Jaswant Rao Holkar to desert Scindia).

Presumably Brigadier A.A.E. Filose was a descendent of Jean-Baptiste. Can any member confirm this? (*Lt Col C Filose, Military Secretary to Scindia, was awarded the MVO 5th Class (London Gazette 15.5.1906) in respect of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to India in 1905. Perhaps a brother or cousin? Ed.*)

The Central India Horse would appear to be the ideal regiment for a Filose, having been raised to police Central India with cantonments at Goonah (Guna) and Augar (Agar).

With all the articles on the subject of animals that have appeared recently in DURBAR, members might be interested to learn that as far back as the last decades of the 18th century, the Bengal Presidency maintained a Stud Department which was under the control of "The Board of Superintendence for Improving the Breed of Cattle", with the Quarter Master General of the time as its President. In 1826 the Board consisted of four Members: The Commissary General for the Upper Provinces, the Deputy Adjutant General, the Deputy Military Auditor General and the Commandant of the Governor General's Body Guard. There was also a Permanent Secretary who seems to have transacted most of the business of the Board.

Originally set up to improve the Breeding of Cattle for Draft and carriage purposes, eventually it came to concentrate on horse breeding, maintaining Studs in the Central and, what were then known as the North Western Provinces. One was at a place called Pusa; there was also the Haryana Establishment at Hissar. All of these had a Captain as Superintendent, with Assistants and Sub Assistants. There were also Veterinary Surgeons.

One of the earliest British officers to become involved in what became known as the "Great Game", the secret duel with Tsarist Russia over the control of Central Asia and the passes into India, was one William Moorcroft, who was sent out in 1808 to be the Superintendent of the Company's Stud. In all he made three long distance journeys into Turkestan in search of Turkoman horses. His story is too long to relate here but he reached Bokhara on 25th February 1825 only to find that a Russian Mission had been there four years earlier. Having learned that the horses he sought no longer existed in the numbers he required, he retraced his steps before the snows closed the passes into India. However, he made a lone trip to a village near Balkh where he understood some horses might be available. He died, it is believed of fever, on or about 27th August 1825. His badly decomposed body was fetched by his companions back to Balkh and buried there. His grave was last seen by Alexander "Bokhara" Burnes in 1832. By one of those quirks of fate, his grave was situated not far from the spot where, one hundred and fifty years after his death, Russian tanks and troops crossed the Oxus en route to invade Afghanistan just as he had predicted.

● Shamus Wade writes:

In answer to Maitland Thornton's request for further details of the Indian Harbour Defence Force, I will quote from "*The Royal Indian Navy 1612-1950*" by Commander D.J. Hastings R.I.N.V.R., published by McFarland & Company in 1988, ISBN 0-89950-276-8, pages 28-29:

"In 1871, the Government of India purchased two Coast Defence vessels, the Magdala and the Abyssinia, as the nucleus of an Indian Defence Force. In 1889, seven torpedo-boats were added to the strength and, in 1892, two torpedo-gunboats, the Assaye and Plassy. These together made up an Indian Defence Squadron – they were commanded by a Captain R.N., the officers and men being drawn partly from the R.N. and partly from the Indian Marine. In 1903, however, this squadron was abolished and the I.M. went back to its other duties."

OBITUARY

WILLIAM YOUNG CARMAN, FSA, FSA (SCOT), FRHistS.

William Young Carman died suddenly on Wednesday 9 July 2003 after having been taken ill at his home at Sutton.

William, known to all his friends and acquaintances as Bill, was born in Ottawa on 21 May 1909. His family lived in Canada and, during the First World War, his father served in the Canadian armed forces. It was not until 1922 that Bill and his parents returned to England. He was a gifted artist and, apart from teaching art at both public and private schools, he worked on film posters for the increasingly popular motion picture industry.

Even at this early stage he became interested in model soldiers and soon mastered the art of producing his own models which contained meticulous uniform detail. He was one of the founder members of the British Model Soldier Society and later became President of the Society, and then Life Vice President. Bill volunteered to serve in the Territorial Army and enlisted into the Essex Yeomanry. He married Consuelo, a fellow art student, in 1936 in London. With the start of the Second World War his unit was embodied and he served in England and Egypt. He was then transferred to the Royal Artillery and due to his artistic skills he was posted to a unit specialising in camouflage and deception. He was involved in the planning and operation of the 'phantom' force which was set up in order to divert the attention of Rommel's Afrika Corps away from El Alamein where General Bernard Montgomery's 8th Army was preparing to attack the Germany Army. Whilst in Egypt he became the Assistant Editor of the British Army's Middle East Land Forces magazine. It was also whilst he was in Egypt that he gathered material for his second book, "*History of the Egyptian Army*", which was published in Cairo in 1945.

He had already had one book published in 1940 entitled "*Naval Uniforms Past and Present*", a subject he never returned to although his knowledge of naval uniforms was extensive.

Bill was released from the army and joined the Imperial War Museum in 1950 as a Museum Assistant where his interest in military dress and embellishments quickly developed. During the 1950's he became an associate of many of the well-known military authors and researchers of that period including Cecil C.P.Lawson, Colonel P.H.Smitherman, Major R.Money Barnes, Brigadier R.G.Thornburn, Arthur S White and many others. In fact he completed the final checking of Volume 5 of Lawson's *A History of the Uniforms of the British Army* following Lawson's demise.

In 1962 he became a member of the Indian Army Museum Committee and in 1965 joined the staff of the newly-formed National Army Museum. He worked with Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer and the newly-appointed Director, William (Bill) Reid, FSA, in the setting up of the museum and the acquisition of the library and archives. Bill was appointed Deputy Director and continued in that post until his retirement on 23 May 1974. Apart from his duties at the National Army Museum he researched and wrote a number of books and spent a great deal of time and energy in collecting information on uniforms, headdress and equipment of the British Army, as well as amassing a vast library and archive on the subject. He was able to assimilate a great deal of the information that he had collected so that he became much sought after as an adviser and consultant on all periods and forms of British army dress and insignia. He built up a unique collection of badges and formation signs and became a founder member, and later President, of the Military Heraldry Society.

His research and writing inevitably led him to join the Society for Army Historical Research and his first item in the Journal was a Note on the 'Uniforms of the Artillery trains', published in Volume XVIII in 1939. Over the years Bill served the Society as a Council Member and Vice President. He continually wrote for the Journal, providing a great number of articles, notes and book reviews and he was still writing for the journal in 2003 - a few items remain to be published.

Over the past forty-seven years Bill has had 24 books published covering a variety of military dress subjects but he will probably be best remembered for four distinctive volumes: *Indian Army Uniforms Volume 1 - Cavalry* and *Volume 2 - Infantry and Corps*, both of which are still much sought after. His

other two-volume work was *Richard Simpkin's Uniforms Cavalry and Infantry* which were published in 1982 and 1985 respectively.

In addition to his other books he wrote a series of five Special editions for The Military Historical Society completely covering all aspects of the British army sabretaches, regarded as the definitive work on this subject. He was also a founder member of the MHS and a life Vice President.

Bill and his wife, Con, were ardent travellers and fitted in at least one foreign trip a year, gathering material not only on military subjects but also on art, period furniture and ceramics etc. Following the loss of his wife, and after a period of time, Bill recommenced travelling and frequently went on research and lecture tours to Canada and the United States of America. In 2002, at the age of 93, he visited Turkey on his own to see some of the archaeological and historical sites that he and his wife had not previously visited.

His devotion to research and writing on historical subjects brought him a number of Fellowships and he was made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1958, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1959 and, preceding these, he had been awarded a Fellowship of the Company of Military Historians of America in the Class of 1957.

Due to his great knowledge of the detail of military dress he was often asked to act as adviser by film and television companies and he gave advice on such films and programmes as *55 Days in Peking*, *Khartoum*, *Night Runners of Bengal*, *The Great Churchills* etc. In addition he was frequently asked by the main London auction houses to give advice on items of military dress and paintings depicting uniforms of both the British and Indian armies.

In the last two years Bill was co-author of the book *Headdress of the British Lancers* and what was, regrettably, his final book, *The Ackermann Military Prints - Uniforms of the British & Indian Armies 1840-1855*, a book he had long wished to write. It was published earlier this year by Schiffer of America.

From the time that he joined the Imperial War Museum his whole life was devoted to his great interest, military uniform, and such was his expertise that many present day writers owe their start in this subject to the help given by Bill who always found time to answer queries and to advise. He liked nothing more than to be able to meet and exchange information with people with a like interest and was always the helpful adviser on the subject of which he was undoubtedly the master.

Unfortunately there is now nobody with such a vast knowledge and his passing leaves a great void in the area of military research.

Bill only recently joined the Indian Military Historical Society. His knowledge of Indian army uniforms was exceptional. Although he used to comment that he wanted to concentrate on the 'British Army', many researchers still came to him with queries relating to the Indian Army, and he was again very much involved with this subject during the earlier part of this year.

He will be greatly missed by all his personal friends and by those who frequently sought his advice on a wide range of military subjects. The Committee and members of the Indian Military Historical Society extend their sympathy to his daughter Liz and his son John and their families at this time.

Alan Harfield.

