

## DURBAR Volume 21, No.4, Winter 2004

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### NOTES ON THE MEERUT BURIAL REGISTER FOR 10 TO 31 MAY 1857

Alan Harfield

Whilst checking the details of the Bengal Army veterinary surgeons who were serving in 1857 (*Durbar* Vol. 21, No 2, Summer 2004, pp66-72) I had occasion to refer to the Protestant Burial Register of the Cantonment (St John's) Cemetery at Meerut and noted that not all of those who were buried in that cemetery during the period 10 to 31 May 1857 were casualties of the insurrection of the Indian troops in that garrison. There were, of course, a number of military and members of their families and civilians who were killed during the events of the late afternoon and evening of 10 May and these amounted to 29 individuals. Other casualties were buried later and in some cases the date and time of death is not known.

Major General W.H. Hewitt gave the total loss of life as 'about 40' but the Reverend Thomas Cartwright Smyth, the Garrison Chaplain, and the Reverend John Edward Wharton Rotton, Chaplain of Meerut, who buried 31 casualties between 11 May and 17 May, believed that the figure was higher. From various sources, such as the *Meerut Depositions*, the figure of 49 appears to be more accurate. Many of the casualties were never identified.

In the aftermath of the violence during the evening of 10 May, and the following night, the situation in the Meerut Cantonment gradually eased with many of the mutineers departing towards Delhi. The 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Royal Rifles controlled the area and the funeral service for 13 of those who were killed was held on 11 May and a further 8 services were held on 12 and 13 May. It would appear that there were also a number of Eurasians killed who were not mentioned in the 'depositions' but died in various parts of the city perimeters.

The following list, which is in the order of the entries in the St John's Cemetery Burial register, shows the cause of death as recorded in the register of those who were buried during the period under review and also notes relevant references from three *selected* publications dealing specifically with military casualties and the events at Meerut. The titles of the regiments and the ranks of individuals are shown as they have been recorded in the register at the time of burial.

- A. *Casualty Roll for the Indian Mutiny 1857-1859*, by I.T. Tavender, Polstead, 1983.
- B. *The Mutiny outbreak in Meerut in 1857*, J.A.B. Palmer, Cambridge, 1966.
- C. *Memoirs of the Indian Mutiny in Meerut*, Capt N.T. Parker, Meerut, 1914.

The list of burials has previously been recorded in the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia book *Meerut. The First Sixty Years (1815-1875)*, which was published in 1992. In this publication the cause of death and the date of burial were not included although those who were killed during 10 and 16 May were annotated as such.

<b>Died</b>	<b>Date Buried</b>	<b>Christian &amp; Surname</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Profession</b>
10 May	11 May	John Finnis	58	Colonel, Commanding the 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt N.I.
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p133; B, p77; C, pp9, 11, 23-25 & 31				
10 May	11 May	John Henry George Taylor	37	Captain in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Regt N.I.
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p118; B, p78; C, pp23 & 31				
10 May	11 May	John Philips	47	Veterinary Surgeon in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Cavalry
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References A, p118; B, pp80, 81, 94, 100, & 103; C, pp6, 23-25, 31 & 32				
10 May	11 May	Charles John Dawson	Age unknown	Veterinary Surgeon in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Cavalry
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: A, p118; B, pp88-89; C, pp4, 23, 24 & 32				
10 May	11 May	John Campbell MacNabb	19	Lieutenant in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Cavalry
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p117; B, pp92, 93 & 116; C, pp8, 11, 19, 23 & 32				
10 May	11 May	Charlotte Chambers	23	Wife of Brevet Captain R.W. Chambers, Adjutant in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt N.I.
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, pp86 & 88; C, pp8, 19, 23, 24 & 31				
10 May	11 May	Richard Frederick Mortimer	33	Lance Corporal, 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, 60 <sup>th</sup> Royal Rifles
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A (Not listed); C, p23				
10 May	11 May	William Benson	24	Gunner in the Detachment of Artillery Recruits
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p107; C, p23				
10 May	11 May	Body of a man	-	Name, age and designation unknown
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops				
10 May	11 May	Body of a man	-	Name, age and designation unknown
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops				

<b>Died</b>	<b>Date Buried</b>	<b>Christian &amp; Surname</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Profession</b>
10 May	11 May	Body of a man	-	Name, age and designation unknown
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops The reference in respect of the above three entries: C, p23				
10 May	11 May	Eliza Law	9	Daughter of Assist Overseer Law Probationer in the Ordnance Department
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References B, pp94-95; C, pp23 & 32				
10 May	11 May	John Mackinlay	75	Out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, p92 (name is shown as ‘Kinly’); C, p23				
10 May	12 May	John Markoe	51	Out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, late of the Babooghur Stud
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, p92 & 116; C, p23				
10 May	12 May	Amelia Matilda Courtney	36	Wife of Mr Courtney, Hotel Keeper at Meerut
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, pp89 & 90; C, 8 & 23. The memorial stone gives the spelling of the surname as ‘Courtneay’				
10 May	12 May	Mary Heatherly	Age not known	Daughter of Mr Thomas Heatherly, Tehsildar in the Delhi District
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: C, p23				
10 May	12 May	John Heatherly	Age not known	Son of Mr Alexander Heatherly, Resident in the Delhi District
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, p23				
10 May	12 May	Sophia Matilda Langdale	7	Daughter of Riding Master W. Langdale of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Cavalry
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, pp8, 23 & 32				
10 May	12 May	Louisa Sophia Macdonald	30	Wife of Captain Donald Macdonald of

Died	Date Buried	Christian & Surname	Age	Profession
				the 20 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, pp88 & 89; C, pp4, 8, 19 & 23			
10 May	12 May	Body of woman	-	Name and designation unknown
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, p23. There is an account of an unnamed European woman being killed whilst travelling in a palanquin gharry (C, p3)			
10 May	12 May	Body of woman	-	Name and designation unknown
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, p23			
10 May	13 May	John Murphy	About 38 years	Fife Major in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt N.I.
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A (Not listed); C, p23			
10 May	13 May	Donald Macdonald	35	Captain in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p135; B, pp63,72, 75, 77, 81 & 89; C, pp10, 11, 23 & 31			
10 May	13 May	David Henry Henderson	30	Lieutenant in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
	Cause of death - Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p136; B, p78; C, p23 & 31			
10 May	13 May	William Pattle	25	Lieutenant in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: A, p136; B, 75 & 78; C, pp23 & 31			
10 May	13 May	Vincent Tregear	45	Inspector in the Dept. of Public Instruction for the Division
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, p77; C, p9, 24 & 31. Mr Tregear is believed to have been the first civilian to be killed in the insurrection			
10 May	13 May	Eliza Dawson	45	Wife of Vety Surgeon C.J. Dawson, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Cavalry
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops References: B, pp88 & 89; C, pp24 & 32			
10 May	13 May	Body of a man	-	Name, age and designation unknown
	Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, p24			
10 May	13	Body of a man	-	Name, age and

Died	Date Buried	Christian & Surname	Age	Profession
	May			designation unknown
Cause of death – Murdered in the insurrection of Native Troops Reference: C, p24				
14 May	15 May	George Wheelwright	35	Sergeant in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
Cause of death – Delirium tremens References: A (Not listed); National Archives reference WO12/379, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards Pay lists. Listed as 'Armourer Sergeant'				
16 May	17 May	James Ashley	20	Private in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
Cause of death – Fever References: A (Not listed); National Archive reference WO12/379, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards Pay lists				
16 May	17 May	Frederick Kingsford	26	Private in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
Cause of death – Killed in a rising of the Sappers & Miners References: A, p5 (shown as being killed in a skirmish at Meerut); C, pp20 & 24				
16 May	17 May	Edward Fraser	34	Commandant of the Corps of Bengal Sappers & Miners
Cause of death – Killed in a rising of his own Corps References: A, p172; C, pp9, 20 & 24; see also <i>The Military Engineer in India</i> by Lieutenant Colonel E.W.C. Sandes, Chatham, 1933, pp319-320. The reference confirms that Major Edward Fraser was killed on 16 May				
17 May	18 May	Emilie Jane D'Oyly	22	Wife of Captain C.W. D'Oyly of the 58 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
Cause of death – Premature labour				
19 May	20 May	John Patrick Halloran	17 days	Infant child of Quartermaster Sergeant of 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt, N.I.
Cause of death – Convulsions				
20 May	21 May	Agnes Henderson	7 months	Child of Private Robert Henderson, of 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion of 60 <sup>th</sup> Royal Rifles
Cause of death – Fever				
21 May	21 May	George Henry Hale	11 months	Child of Trumpeter Hale, of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light

<b>Died</b>	<b>Date Buried</b>	<b>Christian &amp; Surname</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Profession</b>
				Cavalry
Cause of death – Diarrhoea				
24 May	25 May	William Orde	54	Merchant residing at Meerut
Cause of death – Apoplexy				
25 May	26 May	Henry Bowring	33	Corporal in the Meerut Artillery Division
Cause of death – Dysentery				
27 May	27 May	George Line	20	Private in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
Cause of death – fever References: A (Not listed); National Archives reference WO12/379, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards Pay lists				
28 May	28 May	Thomas Escott Sinclair	19 days	Son of Bombardier Andrew Sinclair of the Bengal Artillery Band
Cause of death – Marasmus				
28 May	28 May	Mary Ann Caldwell	15 months	Daughter of William Caldwell, Gunner in the Detachment of Artillery Recruits
Cause of death – Marasmus				
27 May	28 May	Alexander Johnston	29	Offg Magistrate & Collector of Meerut
Cause of death – Concussion of the brain Killed while assisting at an attack on a Gujar village Reference: B, p46 (shown as 'Deputy Collector & Magistrate)				
28 May	29 May	Henry Price	26	Private in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guard
Cause of death – Fever References: A (Not listed); National Archives reference WO12/379, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards Pay lists				
30 May	31 May	William Dyson	2 months	Child of Private Dyson, HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
Cause of death – Debilitus				
30 May	31 May	Flora Loudoun Shelley	26	Wife of Lieutenant P.M. Shelley, 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt, Bengal N.I.

Died	Date Buried	Christian & Surname	Age	Profession
Cause of death – Premature confinement				
30 May	31 May	Ruth Beacon	1½	Daughter of Gunner Beacon of the Artillery Band
Cause of death – Fever				

The question of lack of identification of some of the bodies is understandable when taking into account a statement made by one of the officers who had helped to identify Lieutenant J.C. MacNabb who stated that '[MacNabb's] body was only identifiable because of his unusual height and the wrong braid on his uniform coat', a fact that had been commented upon earlier in the day. From the above table it will be seen that 5 men and 2 women were buried unidentified. The following persons have been noted as having been killed during the insurrection on 10 May and their names do not appear in the Burial Register. They are:

Surgeon Thomas Smith      Invalid Establishment, Bengal Army. Not serving on the active list therefore not shown in reference A. Listed in reference B, pp54, 70, 92, & 116.

Sergeant (Assistant Overseer) Law. Bengal Ordnance Department. Not listed as a casualty in reference A. Reference B, pp94-95; C, pp23 & 32.

Pensioner Hughes      Listed in reference B, p93.

Gunner James Carens (Cairns) These two gunners are recorded as having been killed with Gunner William Benson in the Bazaar on 10 May. See reference B, p104 and *Meerut Depositions*. The entries recording their deaths in reference A, p171 state that they were killed at Cawnpore on 27 June.

Child of Sergeant Law      One account of the events at Meerut record that Sergeant Law and two of his children were killed. (See reference B, p104). His daughter Eliza was buried on 11 May (see Burial list above).

The account in reference C states that 'Sergeant Law his wife and six children were living beyond the precincts of the Cantonment and that the father and three infants were killed. The mother and three other children, though grievously mangled, crawled to the Military Hospital'. Later Mrs Law made a deposition to the effect that only two of her children had been killed. Therefore a query exists as to the number of children of the Law family that were killed; certainly the father and Eliza are known to have died.

Any of the above could have been buried as 'unidentified', or they may have been buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Cantonment Cemetery but unfortunately the RC Burial Register for that period has not been located. Until it can be located there will always be uncertainty as to the identity of the unknown persons that are buried in the Protestant portion of the cemetery.

There were three other casualties who were buried in the Meerut Cemetery following the action at the Hindun River on 31 May. The entries show the following details:

Died	Date	Forenames	&	Age	Profession
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	<u>buried</u>	<u>Surname</u>		
2 June	3 June	Stuart Moore	26	Assistant Surgeon in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
	Cause of death – Died from wounds received in action on the 31 <sup>st</sup> May Reference: A, p3. Entry gives date of action as 30 May. He was killed by 'grape-shot' wounds to the head.			
4 June	4 June	William Henry Napier	21	Ensign in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, HM's 60 <sup>th</sup> Rifles
	Cause of death – Amputation of leg from wound received on 31 <sup>st</sup> May Reference: A, p55. Entry gives date of action as 30 May			
6 June	7 June	Henry Still	40	Troop Sergeant Major in HM's 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards
	Cause of death – Amputation of leg from wound received on 31 <sup>st</sup> [May] Reference: A, p4. Shown as being wounded 'before Delhi on 31 May 1857'. National Archives reference WO12/379, 6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards Pay List. The pay list is endorsed 'Died of wounds'.			

During the period 1 to 30 June there was one other burial recorded as a result of injuries received during the insurrection on 10 May, which was:

Eliza Miller, Aged 50, the widow of the late Private John Miller, HM's 14<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons who died on 1 June and was buried on the same day. The cause of death as shown 'Died from wounds received in the insurrection of May 10<sup>th</sup>'.

A check on the Meerut Protestant burial register for June 1857 shows that there were six military deaths during that month, all of whom died of natural causes, the details being:

<u>Date of Burial</u>	<u>Rank and Name</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
13 June	Private Samuel Cole	1/60 Rifles	Debility
16 June	Corporal Jonathan Green	6 DG	Variola [smallpox]
20 June	Gunner John Robertson	Detachment of Artillery Recruits	Hepatitis
20 June	Private John Croft	6 DG	Stroke of the sun
22 June	Private Daniel Simpson	6 DG	Fever
24 June	Bugler John Smith	1/60 Rifles	Amputation of the Foot

There is obviously scope for further research into the area of the comparison of entries in various Burial Registers against written accounts and regimental records and the foregoing is only a small start on this subject that has generally been neglected.

For researchers interested in the inscriptions of those who were killed during the insurrection at Meerut the detail is contained on the following pages in *Meerut. The First Sixty Years (1815-1875)*:

Colonel John Finnis	pages 235, 258-260.
Mrs Charlotte Chambers	page 236.
Lieutenant David Henry Henderson	page 236.
Captain Donald Macdonald	page 236.
Veterinary Surgeon John Philips	page 237.
Veterinary Surgeon Charles John Dawson	page 237
Mrs Eliza Dawson	page 237.
Lieutenant William Pattle	page 237
Mrs Amelia Matilsa Courtney (Courtneay)	page 238 & 239.
Mary Heathley	page 238 & 239.
John Heathley	page 238 & 239.
Vincent Tregear	page 238
Captain John Henry George Taylor	page 240.
Assistant Surgeon Stewart Moore	page 241



Colonel John FINNIS  
 Born 28 January 1804  
 Entered Service 2 August 1820  
 Brevet Colonel 28 September 1854  
 Transferred to 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment BNI on 18 June 1856

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THE HUNZA LEVY AND ITS PART IN KELLY'S MARCH TO RELIEVE CHITRAL

23 MARCH-20 APRIL 1895

George H. Dalton.

The primary source of information for the following article is Capt. G.J. Younghusband's "*The Relief of Chitral*", Chapter VII (Colonel Kelly's March), a copy of which was kindly supplied by Tim Ash. Additional sources were used, as referenced at the end, to enhance the narrative. NOTE — spelling is as it appears in the respective original text; e.g., Sangar, Sungar. Miles/feet are used for distances/heights.

This account will take the form of an imaginary personal diary. The author's name is Mohmad Dost, a member of the Hunza Levy, led by Wazir Humayun Beg (Baig), the Prime Minister of Hunza. They are part of the force assembled at Gilgit, by Lieutenant Colonel (Col.) J.G. Kelly, to relieve the fort at Chitral, which is surrounded by the local Chitrali forces of Sher Afzul and those of his ally to the south — Umar Khan. Their route covers 220 miles (130 from Gilgit to the Shandur Pass and 90 from there to Chitral) — this will include crossing several rivers and for much of the way they expect to be opposed by enemy tribesmen who are in sympathy with the forces besieging the Fort at Chitral. The time of year (late March) is very cold and storms may occur at any moment.

So the narrative begins:

My father had taken up arms against the British when Col. Durand's force attacked Hunza in 1891. However since then our people have continued to live much as we did before, so he encouraged me to join the Wazir's 'call to arms'.

Gilgit is at the 5,000 feet level and Chitral is at 4,000 feet so it should be a 'straight shot'; well, not exactly — the Shandur Pass, which we must cross, is 12,400 feet high. During a 'lull' in activity, the men of Hunza performed their 'Sword Dance' — a prologue to going off to war. During a furious beating of tomtoms we whirled our flashing blades while shouting and wildly gesturing as if falling upon an enemy — some observers may have thought this a maniacal performance, however maybe they should have reflected back on the antics of their Scottish or Viking forbears!

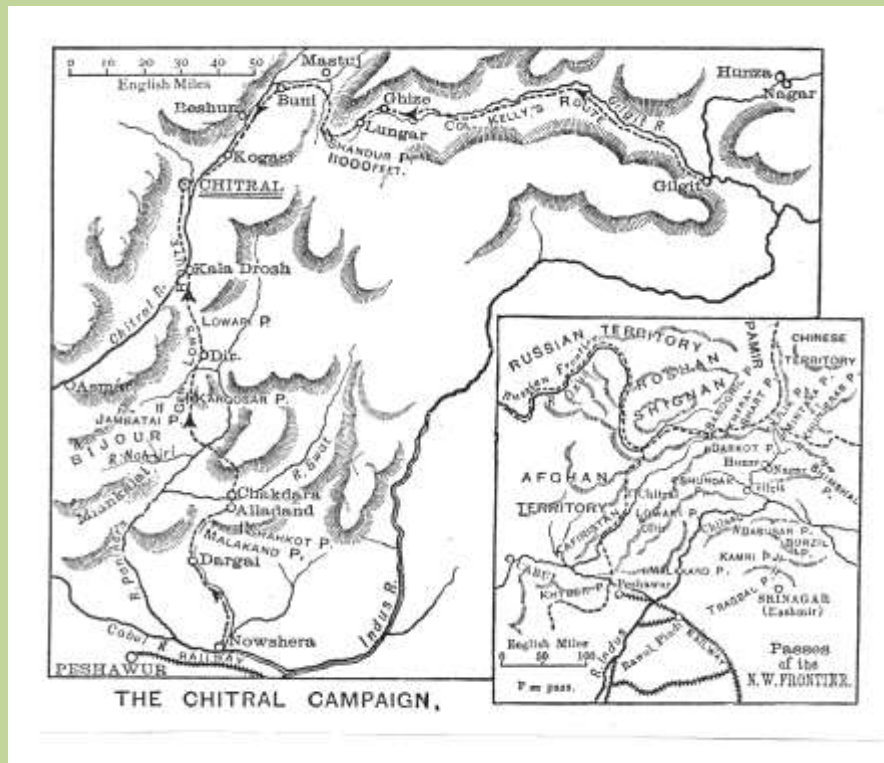
An advance party of 200 men of the 32nd Pioneers left for Gakuch on 23 March — this is 40 miles away along the course of the Yasin river and in the heart of the Hindu Kush. Today (24 March) the 50 men of the Hunza Levy, as part of the rear guard, start for Gakuch — this force includes 200 men of the 32nd Pioneers, two guns (120 men) of the Kashmir Mountain Battery, and another 50 levies from Punial — the latter are under the command of the Raja of Punial. From Gakuch we march another 20 miles to Gupis (8,000'). The road is excellent all the way, and we are joined by 100 members of the Kashmir Rifles and 40 men of the Kashmir Sappers and Miners. From here on the track changes to a narrow trail going up and down a succession of steep hills. When the advance party reaches Ghizar (10,000'), 50 miles farther on, it has been snowing for five days, and it is impossible to move forward so they wait for us to join them. From our arrival at Ghizar (25 March), until we cross the Pass (6 April), it is a very difficult time under the worst possible conditions.



Today is the first day of a new month — April, and the entire column starts for the Shandur Pass. After four miles the battery mules become hopelessly stuck in the snow, and it is useless to try to

advance until the weather has cleared; our people would have chosen to travel at night when the snow is hardened by frost!

At this point part of the force returns to Ghizar, where they can obtain food and shelter, while the remainder, including Wazir Humayun and the Hunza Levies, stay behind at a hamlet called Teru (four miles beyond Ghizar).



Extracted from Strange, T.B. "The Chitral Campaign of 1895, Battles of the 19th Century, Vol. II". Cassell & Co., 1897, p. 171.

The next day part of the Ghizar force, including the two guns, which have been carried by members of the Pioneers and the Kashmir Rifles, arrives at Teru. It is now 3 April and the Teru party starts for Langar, at the foot of the Pass; it is five miles away and at the 9,000 feet level. There is no shelter, we are out on the open snow where at night the men huddle together in groups of six, around a small fire, and beneath their pooled blankets and sheepskins — trying to keep warm and survive until dawn.

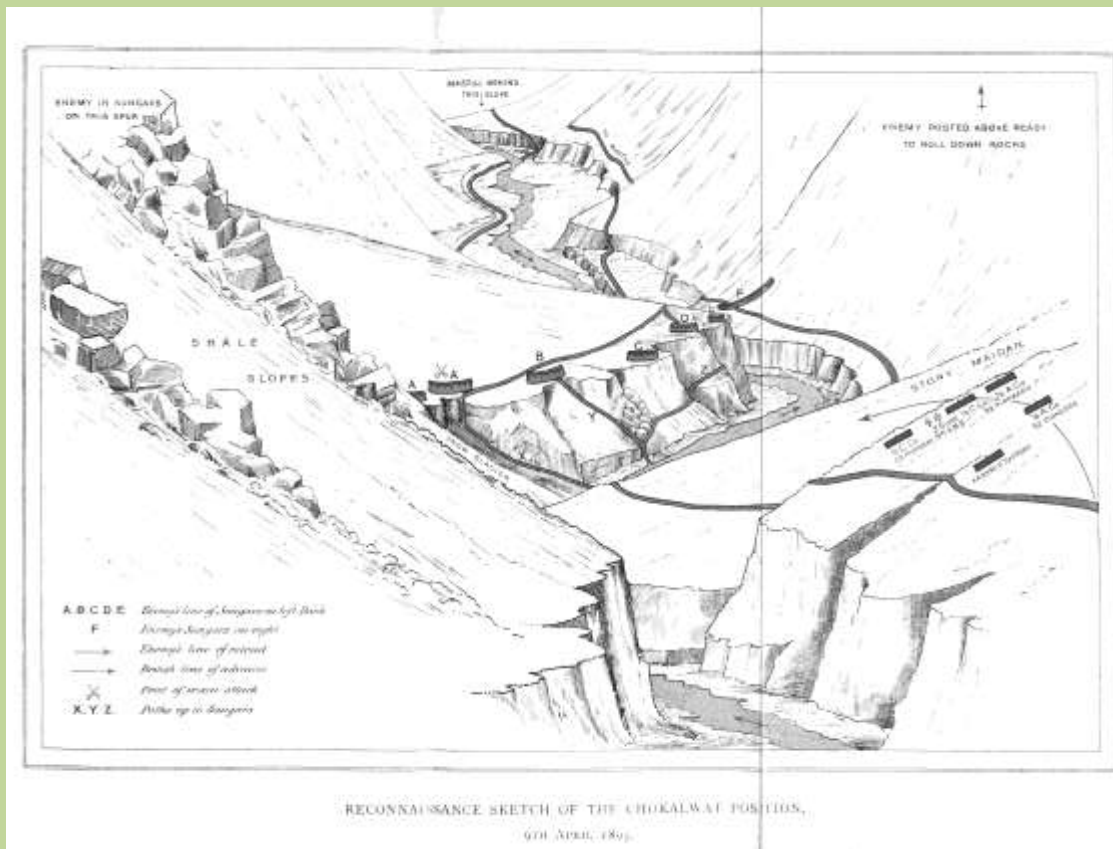
On 4 April the Pioneers, Sappers and Hunza Levy leave to get over the Pass. We struggle across to Laspur, 20 miles from Mastuj; there is a gradual ascent of 3,000 feet, the Pass itself being a level plain rather over five miles in length, followed by a gradual descent to the 9,000 foot level.

Today is 5 April and another group, including the guns, cross the Pass. During this period the troops have suffered terribly from snow-blindness and frost-bite; the next day the remainder of the column comes across the pass. On 7 April we halt to reorganize the column and collect supplies. Granted that we have suffered greatly due to the difficult terrain and severe weather, nevertheless we are also fortunate that the enemy considered it unlikely that we would continue our march in the face of such obstacles, and they have not occupied the Pass to stop our journey.

Second week of the month (8 April) and the force starts for Gasht (12 miles beyond Laspur), which is reached without incident. A reconnoitring party, including a few Hunza Levies, report that the enemy

is at work on sungars about three miles ahead. This is to be the site of the first of our two battles with the enemy – the action at the Chaklewat defile.

The road from Gasht lies across a boulder-strewn alluvial slope intersected by nullahs. The enemy's position is of great natural strength. A line of sungars stretches across the edge of the slope some considerable height above the river, blocking the paths up the cliffs from the ford below and commanding the road on the right bank. On the enemy's right is a mass of snow descending to the river, and above it a precipitous spur crowned with more sangars. The other flank is protected by shale slopes above which the enemy has prepared stone shoots. (The detail of the enemy's position come from a sketch provided by Col. Kelly's Staff Officer).

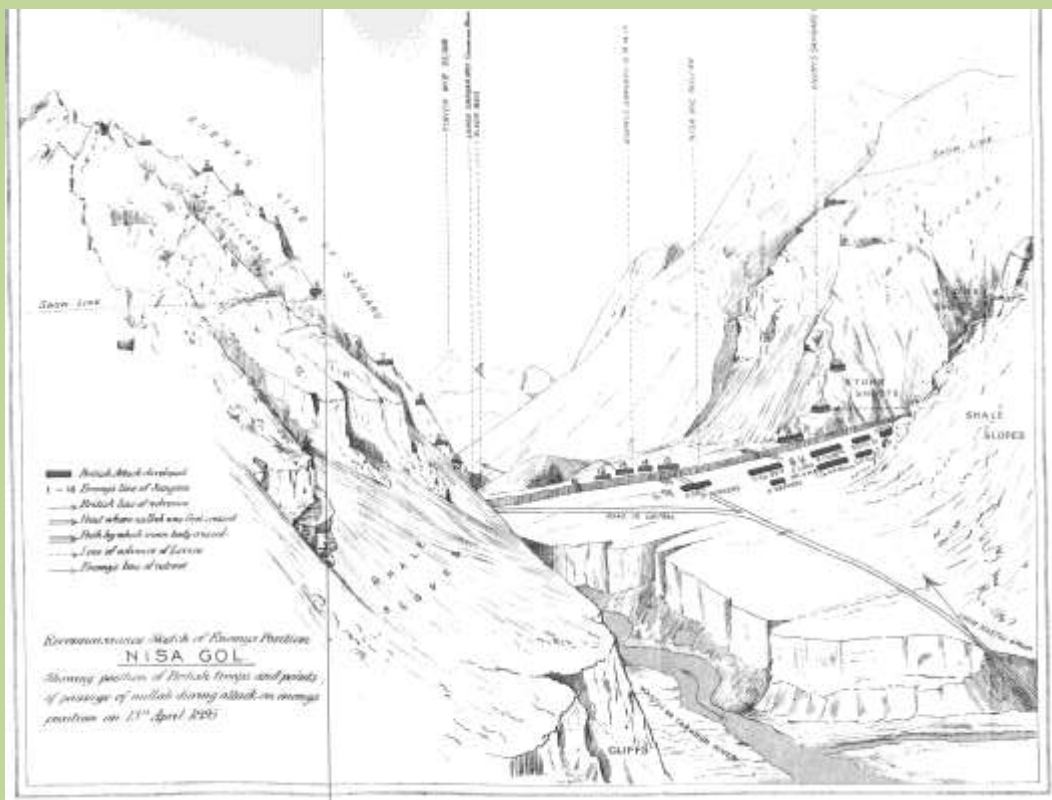


The next day (9 April) Col. Kelly leaves the baggage at Gasht with a small escort and advances with the remainder of his force. Fifty Punial Levies are sent up the hills to our right with the task of driving the enemy away from their stone shoots on the slopes above the river. Fifty Hunza men under Wazir Humayun have already ascended the heights to our left in order to outflank the enemy's position. The remainder of the force deploys for attack on the enemy's two right-hand sungars, and at about eleven o'clock the guns open up from a range of 825 yards. The enemy falls back hurriedly to another line of sungars — the guns are advanced and again brought to bear on their positions. They have now been joined by comrades driven down from the heights by the Levies, and a general flight now ensues. The enemy's force is estimated to be 400-500 men, armed with Martini-Henry and Snider rifles (the Levies are armed with the Snider) — they leave five dead behind and apparently carry off their wounded. Col. Kelly's force is comparable in size (500 men), the action has lasted one hour, and our casualties are four wounded.

Our force continues the advance to Mastuj, which is reached at five p.m. the following day (10 April). The 200 Pioneers, left behind at Gasht, arrive the next day. A reconnaissance down the road to Chitral is undertaken on 12 April, and it finds that the enemy has taken up a strong position at Nisa

Gol — the site of our second battle. The road from Mastuj runs along the centre of an open plain, above the north bank of the Chitral River, which flows through a valley about a mile wide and is hemmed in on either side by steep rocky hills rising several thousand feet above the track. The Nisa Gol, a gorge 200 or 300 feet deep, cuts through the plain to the river.

On 13 April the whole of Col. Kelly's force advances against the enemy's position, where again sangars have been placed across the line of march and on the hillsides above. The Punial Levies are sent up the hill on our right to come down on the enemy's flank. The rest of the force, including the Hunza Levies, advances to within 250 yards of the gars, and the guns open fire — once again the enemy cannot stand against the artillery, the volleys from the infantry in front of their position, or the sight of the Punial Levies descending the hill and about to take them on the flank — the enemy literally disintegrates as a fighting force. The tribesmen are estimated to be 1500 in number, they leave 50 dead on the field and are seen carrying away many dead and wounded. Col. Kelly's force numbers about 700 men, and his casualties are eight men dead and sixteen wounded. We bivouac that night opposite Sanoghar, close to the scene of the action. The next day we find the road in front has been cut, so we have to make a long march of 20 miles over the hills to the fort at Drasan.



A quote here from the text — *"The Levies did splendid work throughout, they could go up the steepest and worst bits of ground without even pausing for a breadth, and at Nisa Gol they scaled an almost precipitous stone shoot to attack one of the enemy's Sangars"*.

15 April — the march continues to Kusht, and the following day to Lun. On 17 April we arrive at Bunras, where foraging parties are sent out as we have only two day's rations. The next day is very trying as we have to ford the Chitral River in flood. Many coolies would have been drowned had it not been for the pluck of the Levies, who form a line just below the ford, and when one of the coolies is carried away, we swing him around and pull him ashore.

It is 19 April and we are at Kogazai and only 13 miles from Chitral. Col. Kelly enters Chitral the following afternoon, and our force has achieved a truly magnificent feat of arms. We have marched 220 miles in 29 days — sometimes in extreme weather, over exceedingly difficult country and in the face of a determined enemy. Compensation for our services may be forthcoming, along with the possibility of a Silver Medal, so be it — we were recruited by Wazir Humayun, who said it was the right thing to do, so I am proud to have served the Raj!

So ends the Diary of Mohmad Dost — now for a few 'asides':

There was no definitive reference to the actual size of Kelly's force, therefore using what numbers were mentioned and assuming 120 men to service two guns of the Kashmir Mountain Battery, I arrived at a figure of 720 men.

There were inconsistencies in the 'head-count' of the "Levies". 50 each for the Punial, Hunza and Nagar, however nowhere were more than 100 mentioned, so I have to believe there were 50 Punial and 50 Hunza/Nagar.

The text and the other reference material was very 'fuzzy' on the movements/conditions for the period 26-31 March; also, mileage between certain points was not always given, and the maps available were not that helpful.

Tim Ash encouraged me to write this article — the main reason being that he, his wife Ruth and I, had visited Hunza in May, 2001. During our stay we met E.U. Baig, who is the Librarian/Curator of the Baltit Fort-Hunza, AND is the Great-Grandson of Wazir Humayun. He had been designated "Khan Bahadur" by Lord Elgin, then Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on 1 January 1898, and later received the 1911 Delhi Durbar Medal; copies of both citations were provided by E. Baig. Since then I have acquired the IGS '95, Relief of Chitral to Mohmad Dost, Hunza Levy (the narrator of this article). No matter which 'head-count' for the Hunza Levy is correct, it is still a truly unique item, and I am proud to be entrusted with it for the time being.

When we were in Karimabad (Hunza), our Innkeeper showed us medals awarded to his forebears — one similar to the above, and an IGS '08, Afghanistan NWF 1919, to his Grandfather, who was a member of the Gilgit Scouts, successor to the Punial Levy and now incorporated into the Northern Scouts (Pakistan).

This has been an enjoyable endeavour, and I want to thank Tim Ash, E. Baig and the authors of the various books/articles referenced below. Finally, any reader who has an opportunity (after 'things' settle down) to visit Pakistan — do so by all means — they are delightful people and there is a lot to see — after all the NWF is where it all happened so many years ago.

Salaam Alaikum (Peace be with You)

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Illustrations/Maps from Younghusband, facing pp. 134, 150, 161.

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## 2/151<sup>ST</sup> INDIAN INFANTRY

Chris Trevelyan

In early 1918, General Sir Edmund Allenby and his Egyptian Expeditionary Force were busy preparing for a major Spring offensive against the Turks in Palestine. It was here that the War Office decided that the final breakthrough would take place. As such, Allenby was told to expect two Indian Divisions from Mesopotamia, several additional Indian battalions from India, and a dozen Indian Cavalry Regiments from France. Although he had to give up some British infantry and yeomanry regiments in the process, the Indian reinforcements were to significantly add to Allenby's already formidable force.

These plans quickly changed however when the great German onslaught in France began on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. Allenby's offensive was shelved, and he soon received orders to send every available British soldier that he could spare to France. In April, both the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> British divisions left, and these were soon followed by nine Yeomanry Regiments, five and a half siege batteries, nine further British infantry battalions, and five machine-gun companies. In May, yet another fourteen British infantry battalions left for France. As a result, instead of supplementing Allenby's British troops as was planned, the arriving Indian reinforcements now had to replace them, leaving Allenby temporarily with far fewer soldiers than he had at the beginning of 1918.

The loss of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Divisions was largely compensated for by the arrival of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Lahore) and 7<sup>th</sup> (Meerut) Indian Divisions from Mesopotamia, while the nine Yeomanry Regiments were

quickly replaced by the twelve Indian Cavalry Regiments arriving from France. Replacing the other twenty-three British infantry battalions proved to be something of a greater challenge.

Between April and July 1918, the departed British battalions were only slowly replaced both by Indian battalions arriving from India, and through a process of creating brand new Indian battalions in the field. This was done by drawing one company each from four existing Indian battalions, and then joining the four separated companies together to create an entirely new battalion with a distinct name and number. Drafts from India later arrived to bring the donor battalions back up to strength. Unlike some of the newly raised and inexperienced battalions then arriving from India, the advantage of this process was that these newly created battalions began their existence with four companies of experienced officers and other ranks. The drawback however was that the four newly joined companies had never served together in action as an integrated fighting force.

Eventually, eighteen of these new Indian infantry battalions would be raised, and they were named and numbered from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 150<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry. A fourth battalion strong 11<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles and the 40<sup>th</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup> Indian Cavalry were also created in this fashion.

Of these new battalions, thirteen would go on to see service in Palestine during 1918 and early 1919. Seven of these were actually raised in Palestine,<sup>1</sup> and they may trace their origin to a Letter from GHQ 1<sup>st</sup> Echelon dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1918 which outlined the establishment of the following battalions:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry (later Punjabi Rifles)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 152<sup>nd</sup> Indian Infantry (later Punjabis)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry (later Punjabis)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry (later Rifles)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 155<sup>th</sup> Pioneers
- 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles

Self-styled as the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry “Frontier Force” as its four companies came from Frontier Force Regiments, the battalion was formed at the 28<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade dump in the 7<sup>th</sup> (Indian) Divisional Area at Sarona, North-East of Jaffa, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1918. At raising, the battalion was under the command of acting Captain A.G.A. Dunning M.C., who was the senior British officer at the time. The composition of the four parent companies were:

51<sup>ST</sup> SIKHS (F.F.)

Lieut. (acting Capt.) A.G.A. Dunning MC  
Lieut. (acting Capt.) A.W. Harris  
Subadar Shibu Ram  
Subadar Dilal Khan  
Jemadar Gul Muwaz (Jemadar Adjutant from 31<sup>st</sup> May 1918)  
Jemadar Munshi Ram  
2 Platoons Punjabi Mussulmans

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<sup>1</sup> The other six battalions that served in Palestine in 1918 were raised in Mesopotamia, and then soon embarked for Palestine. These were the 1/153<sup>rd</sup> Punjabis, 1/152<sup>nd</sup> Punjabis, 2/152<sup>nd</sup> Punjabis, 2/154<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 3/154<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 1/155<sup>th</sup> Pioneers.

The 1/150<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 2/150<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 3/150<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 1/154<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 1/156<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry, 1/11<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles, 2/11<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles and 3/11<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles were also raised in Mesopotamia, but did not serve in Palestine. The 1/151<sup>st</sup> Sikh Infantry was raised in India.

## 2 Platoons Dogras

### 53<sup>RD</sup> SIKHS (F.F.)

Lieut. (acting Capt.) C.N. Heathcote  
Subadar Galodu Ram (temp. Subadar-Major until 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1918)  
Jemadar Hira Singh  
Jemadar Hukam Dad (Subadar from 19<sup>th</sup> October 1918)  
1 Platoon Sikhs  
1 Platoon Dogras  
2 Platoons Punjabi Mussulmans

### 56<sup>TH</sup> PUNJABI RIFLES (F.F.)

Lieut (acting Capt.) H.G. Inglis MC  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. A.E. Watson  
Jemadar Karam Dad (promoted Subadar on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1918)  
Jemadar Hosham Khan  
4 Platoons Punjabi Mussulmans

The fourth company did not join until the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> June.

### 1/54<sup>TH</sup> SIKHS (F.F.)

Captain N. Hugh-Jones  
Captain S.F. Martin  
Subadar Hira Singh  
Subadar Sadda Singh (temp. Subedar Major from 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1918)  
Jemadar Sajawal Khan (promoted Subedar 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1918)  
Jemadar Bhola Singh  
2 Platoons Punjabi Mussulmans  
2 Platoons Sikhs

When transferring to the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry, each other rank brought his personal arms, personal and public clothing, personal equipment, ammunition on the man, blankets, bivouac shelters and cooking utensils. Each company also brought all of its own bombers, signallers and other specialists, as well as one or two private servants to form the Battalion mess. In addition, each company temporarily brought four cooks, two bhistis, two sweepers, and their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line transport, although these were to be replaced in the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry by reinforcements as soon as possible. The battalion transport establishment was set at 11 riding horses, 48 pack mules, 50 light draught animals, and 4 donkeys, while Lewis guns were to be issued in early June.

All other ranks were considered officially transferred to the Battalion for the duration of the war and received new regimental numbers from 1-1100. They were also issued new identity discs. The battalion depot was to be located in Jullundur, India, and was allocated number 1101 and onwards to be assigned to new recruits. Later, in July 1918, Captain Stuart-Prince, 59<sup>th</sup> Rifles F.F. was appointed to command the Depot, but owing to building difficulties at Jullundur, the depot was temporarily established at Dhond near Ahmednagar.

Three civilian clerks were to join from India, but until they could arrive two British clerks were attached; 11770 L/Cpl H. Smith and 204442 Pte. T. Kinnock, both of the 1/Seaforth Highlanders. Naik Chandu Khan was made Quarter-Master Naik, and Naik Mir Khan was made Transport Naik. The medical equipment was drawn from the Base Medical Store Department in Kantara, and amounted to one pair of medical panniers, one field companion, one surgical haversack and two water bottles. An 80lb single fly General Service tent was also picked up from ordnance. The appointed medical officer was Lieutenant Khera, IMS.

The month of June was spent preparing to enter 'the line'. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the battalion marched to an area around Ramleh. While there, the very first parade of the battalion took place. The men were also to receive baths and have their clothing disinfected, but this had to be put on hold when the battalion received orders to march to Harith by 8<sup>th</sup> June.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June Lt. Col. A.A. Smith arrived to take over command of the battalion. A veteran of several pre-war Frontier campaigns in addition to his Great War experience, Smith would command the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry until the end of hostilities.

Parties of the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry were soon sent to visit the 101<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers and 58<sup>th</sup> Rifles (F.F.) to learn local conditions and establish 'bhai-bandi', or camaraderie with their fellow battalions. On 17<sup>th</sup> June, the entire 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry marched to Beit Rima, where bathing parties were finally arranged.

Ten days later, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry moved up to the front and took over a section of the line between Kufr Ain Hill and Ghedideh Hill. It would only take a couple of days before the first casualties began to roll in, as four Sepoys were wounded on the night of 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> June.

Over the next couple of weeks, the battalion was subjected to intermittent Turkish shelling with little result. Routine patrols were also carried out. On one such occasion, a party of sixty Turks was encountered, but the patrol managed to extricate itself with the loss of only one man wounded.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry withdrew from the line with the rest of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and marched roughly 20 miles to a rear area around Janiya. The battalion was joined at this time by Major R.D. Beadle, who arrived from the Senior Officers Cadre in Cairo to serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> in command.

For the next three weeks, the entire Brigade then carried out preparations for a large scale raid on 'Gharabeh Ridge'. Held by over 600 rifles of the Turkish 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Division, the objective of the raid was nothing short of the complete destruction of the enemy. It was also to be the most significant assault on the Turkish line since the re-structuring of Allenby's Force, and a test for his new Indian troops.

The Turkish position was a formidable one. Assaulting it required navigating a steep descent followed by a steep ascent and then overcoming wire. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was also one of the better Turkish units in Palestine, with few deserters thus far. As such, the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, under the command of Lt. Col. Wildblood of the 1/Leinsters, carried out extensive and very detailed preparations. The enemy's defences were re-created as closely as possible, and the Brigade soon began practice assaults during the day and later at night<sup>2</sup>.

Every detail of the advance and withdrawal was rehearsed. The men were trained on defeating the Turkish wire with 'Bangalore torpedos' and special ladders, attack routes were marked, advanced

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<sup>2</sup> Not all of these rehearsals were successful. During a daylight attempt on 1<sup>st</sup> August that was observed by the Corps Commander as well as several other Generals, the 'right' practice attack ended in failure.

telephone wires were laid, and the men were even issued boots with felt or rope soles to help with the element of surprise.

The raid called for the 1/101<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers and two companies of the 1/Leinsters to assault the left flank while the 1/54<sup>th</sup> Sikhs and the other two companies of the 1/Leinsters were to assault the right flank. The 2/151<sup>st</sup> was to remain in reserve, but elements were detailed to provide support. These included:

- 3 British Officers, 6 Indian Officers and 198 Other Ranks for prisoner escorts
- 1 British Officer, 1 Indian Officer and 64 Other Ranks for runner services
- 1 Indian Officer and 64 Other Ranks for stretcher bearers with 1/Leinsters
- 1 Indian Officer and 96 Other Ranks as fighting men and signallers with 1/154 Sikhs
- 12 Other Ranks for signallers with Brigade Headquarters

The raid began at 19:50 on 12<sup>th</sup> August, and was over within forty minutes. The detailed preparations and planning had paid off as nearly every objective was met. For the loss of 107 killed and wounded, the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade captured 239 prisoners, 14 machine guns, 10 ponies, and inflicted an estimated 450 Turkish casualties. Of the British losses, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry suffered 2 Indian Other Ranks killed and 3 wounded. All four battalions received congratulations on a job well done from both Brigadier-General C.L. Smith V.C., M.C., commander of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and Major-General J.R. Longley C.B., C.M.G., commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Division.

Over the next three weeks, the battalion carried out only routine parades, tactical exercises, and musketry practice. In early September, the first draft of 71 Indian Other Ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot, and their appearance and physique was deemed satisfactory.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, the battalion was granted the privilege of providing a guard of honour to the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Edmund Allenby, at Nebbi Saleh, while he presented awards to the 10<sup>th</sup> Division. The guard consisted of 2 British Officers, 5 Indian Officers, and 72 Indian Other Ranks. Amongst them were representatives of five different fronts during this war and eight different earlier wars, which gives some idea of the wartime experience of this ‘newly-raised’ battalion.

While the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry honour guard was with General Allenby at Nebbi Saleh, ‘A’ Company of the battalion returned to the line, and took over Kufr Ain Hill. The rest of the battalion followed the next day. From then until 19<sup>th</sup> September, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry made final preparations for the forthcoming offensive and received all special stores and equipment required. Brigadier-General Smith, V.C., M.C., visited the battalion on 18<sup>th</sup> September, and wished it the best of luck.

Allenby’s plan for 19<sup>th</sup> September was a fairly simple one. Using his greatly overstrength XXI Corps, which comprised five of his seven divisions and a heavy concentration of artillery, Allenby sought to push aside the entire Turkish right along the coast. His three cavalry divisions would then proceed through the gap created, and cut off the enemy’s lines of communication and supply, thereby leaving the rest of the Turkish frontline positions untenable.

To the right of the XXI Corps was the XX Corps, which was made up of Allenby’s two remaining divisions; the 10<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup>. Holding the line through the Judean Hills up to the Jordan Valley, the XX Corps was to assault the entrenched Turks and Germans in front of them, and then advance towards Nablus. Next to the XX Corps was Chaytor’s Force, which held the Jordan Valley at the extreme right of the British line.

As part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Division, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry along with the 1/Leinsters were chosen to spearhead XX Corps’ attack. Supported by the rest of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, (1/54<sup>th</sup> Sikhs and 1/101<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers) the

2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry and 1/Leinsters were to break through the Turkish line and capture Furqa Ridge. They were then to continue their advance on Selfit.

At 1945 on 19<sup>th</sup> September, the artillery barrage began. Shortly afterwards, the 1/Leinsters and the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry began their advance on Furqa Ridge under heavy enemy fire. The 1/Leinsters were soon held up at 'Follies Hill' by German troops, which put them behind schedule. They were eventually able to take the hill with the bayonet and the help of a second artillery barrage. The 1/Leinsters then went on to capture the trenches around Furqa village by 0200.

The advance of the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry was more successful. By around 0100, 'A' Company 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry had captured 'Topee Hill', 'Figure Hill', and even Furqa village itself, which was supposed to be taken by the 1/Leinsters. This decision to take the village without orders was perhaps overzealous, as it was scheduled to be bombarded by British guns only ten minutes after the 2/151<sup>st</sup> captured it, though this was averted at the last moment. 'B' Company followed 'A' Company, and after crossing the Wadi el Mutwy, also exceeded its orders by taking Kufr el Mutwy, which was supposed to be the objective of the 74<sup>th</sup> Punjabis of the 31<sup>st</sup> Brigade. 'D' Company passed up the Wadi Rashid, and itself took two hills. The Battalion Headquarters and 'C' Company followed 'D' Company, and were soon joined by 'A' Company which had come from Furqa village. The three Companies and HQ then continued to advance, and captured another two hills by 0200.

At 0700, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry (less 'B' Company) received orders to continue north-east towards Sejarah Ridge near Mt. Ephraim. As the battalion advanced towards its objective, it soon encountered heavy German and Austrian machine-gun and rifle fire that began to inflict serious casualties. Despite the battalion's best efforts, it was held up, as were the 1/101<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers and 1/Leinsters. Eventually, at around 1500, the 1/54<sup>th</sup> Sikhs F.F. arrived, and advancing between the pinned battalions, succeeded in carrying the Ridge, albeit at the cost of 110 casualties.

Now joined by 'B' Company and with Sejarah Ridge taken, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry continued its advance. Fighting eventually began to slow during the late afternoon until it eventually ceased at dusk. This was due to the enemy retreating under the cover of darkness. At 2330, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry received orders to advance yet again, although three of the companies needed a couple of hours of rest first. Marching through the night, the Battalion reached Balata at 1500, just as the last enemy rear guards were about to surrender. The 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry was however, machine-gunned by an enemy aeroplane while *en route*. Finally, the battalion encamped at Azmat by 1600, after marching 25 miles in 45 hours without a single man falling out. Casualties during these operations amounted to 143, over 100 of which were sustained at Sejarah Ridge.

#### 2/151<sup>st</sup> INFANTRY CASUALTIES - 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 1918

	KILLED	WOUNDED	MISSING
'A' Company	2	18	0
'B' Company	3	14	1
'C' Company	4	76	3
'D' Company	2	18	2
TOTAL:	11	126	6

By 21<sup>st</sup> September, the infantry's role in the 'Battle of Armageddon' was essentially over. As the cavalry pushed on far ahead towards Damascus, all that was left behind for the 2/151<sup>st</sup> and the rest of the infantry was salvage operations and prisoner escort duties.

Allenby's offensive was a complete success. The entire Turkish front in Palestine was broken, and the haul in captured equipment and prisoners was impressive. The four battalions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade alone captured 380 Germans, 100 Austrians and over 3500 Turks.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, Temporary Subadar-Major Galodu Ram applied for his pension and was evacuated sick to hospital. His place was taken by Subadar Sadda Singh.

Over the next five months, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry carried out only routine parades, practices, and other duties. Col. A.A. Smith went on leave on 1<sup>st</sup> November. His place was taken by Major R.D. Beadle for the duration of the battalion's stay in Palestine and Egypt. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, the battalion left for Cairo by train, where it remained for the next two months.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, a party of 3 Indian Officers and 30 Indian Other Ranks joined over 2000 Muslims from the Indian Army on a pilgrimage to Mecca as guests of the King of the Hedjaz.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, unexpected orders were received for two companies to proceed to Somaliland, while the rest of the battalion was to journey over 180 miles up the Nile. These orders were soon cancelled however and replaced by the much more welcome news that the entire battalion was to proceed home to India as soon as shipping permitted. The advanced party left for Karachi on 31<sup>st</sup> January, while the rest of the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry finally set sail in early February.

Only a few months after it had returned to India, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Infantry was again called to active service during the Third Afghan War of May-August 1919. Seeing no significant action, the battalion soldiered on for another year until it was finally disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1920.

Over its brief existence, the 2/151<sup>st</sup> Indian Infantry gave a good account of itself on active service, and well represented the four Frontier Force Regiments from which it sprang. Those officers and men still with the battalion at its end either retired from the Indian Army, or returned to their original units to serve and fight another day.

#### BRITISH OFFICERS JOINED IN JUNE 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. R.R. Wilkinson, 3/Guides  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Riles, 1/Leinsters (for Lewis Gun duty)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walkden

#### BRITISH OFFICERS JOINED IN JULY 1918

Major R.D. Beadle, 46<sup>th</sup> Punjabis  
Lt. L.R. Terry, 2/54<sup>th</sup> Sikhs F.F.  
2/Lt. Kendall, RE (Signals Work)  
Lt. K.W. MacMillan, 2/54<sup>th</sup> Sikhs F.F.  
Lt. J.W. Reynolds, 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry

#### BRITISH OFFICERS WHO ADVANCED WITH THE BATTALION 19<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1918

Lt. Col. A.A. Smith, Commanding  
A/Capt. A.G.A. Dunning M.C., Commanding 'A' Coy.  
A/Capt. H.G. Inglis M.C., Commanding 'C' Coy.  
A/Capt. S.F. Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, 'A' Coy.  
A/Capt. N. Hughes-Jones, Commanding 'D' Coy.  
A/Capt. R.A.B. Freeland, M.C., Adjutant  
A/Capt. C.N. Heathcote, Commanding 'B' Coy.

Lieutenant K.W. Macmillan, Quarter-Master  
2/Lieutenant A.E. Watson, Transport Officer  
2/Lieutenant R.R. Wilkinson, Intelligence Officer

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## LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Shamus Wade writes:

May I add a small footnote to Brian Stevens' extremely interesting article "The Malay States Guides" (Durbar, Vol. 21, No. 3 pp. 98-101)?

The Perak Armed Police was formed in 1876. It became the 1st Battalion Perak Sikhs on May 15, 1884. By 1895 it was decided to disband the Battalion. To quote Patrick Morrah's "The History of the Malayan Police" Vol. 36 Pt. 2 (No. 202) *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* "The anomalous status of the Perak Sikhs - neither wholly military nor wholly police - had become more and more evident". Although the word "Sikh" in Malaya at the time was a fairly wide term covering anyone from North India, Malays were understandably unenthusiastic about joining a body called the 1st Perak Sikhs.

On July 1, 1896 the police forces of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang became officially contingents of the new Federated Malay States Police. A Perak Police Force, separate from the Perak Sikhs, had already been raised in 1895 by H.C. Syers.

A selected number of the officers and men of the disbanded 1st Perak Sikhs were used as a nucleus for the new Malay States Guides, formed for service in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States. Sikhs were also transferred to the Guides from the other state police forces. These, with the possible exception of Pahang, continued to include Sikhs in their ranks.

● Also from Shamus Wade:

National Archives file CO 820/71/1 "Brunei Volunteer Force defence medal and campaign stars HONOURS AND AWARDS 1947" has unfortunately been lost (a very rare occurrence). Does anyone have a copy of this file or have any information on the Brunei Volunteer Force, especially Leong Chung Fah, who was killed on 19 June 1945, the day before the Australians arrived in Labuan?

● George Morton-Jack is presently at Oxford University researching the Indian Army in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is trying to locate the diaries, or any other papers, of General Sir James Wilcocks GCB GCMG KCSI DSO, who commanded the Indian Corps in France in WWI. The Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives at King's College, London, lists a few letters from Wilcocks contained in other collections, but no reference to his main papers. If anyone knows of their whereabouts, or knows of any descendants of Wilcocks, George Morton-Jack would be delighted to hear.

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## BOOK NOTES

● *BATTLE TALES FROM BURMA* by John Randle. 150 pages. Photos, maps, index. ISBN 1-84415-112-3. Pen & Sword Books Limited, Barnsley, South Yorkshire ([enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk); [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)). £19.99.

We circulated an advertising leaflet for Honorary Member Brigadier John Randle's book with the last edition of *Durbar*. If you haven't already bought a copy, and if Burma in the Second World War falls within your sphere of interest, I urge you to do so.

The book consists of a series of twenty-three separate stories, some humorous, some tragic, some very sad, all centred around the activities of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Baluch Regiment with which John Randle served. "There is", as the author says in his Preface, "one central thread to this rag-bag of reminiscences.....and that is the always sustaining, and often uplifting, strength we derived from the unfailing loyalty, courage, uncomplaining and cheerful endurance in hardship and comradeship of the men we led."

A few of the stories have appeared in the pages of this journal over the last few years, others appeared in the journal of the Burma Star Association, the newsletter of the Indian Army Association, and in the journal of the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, with which John Randle served after he left the Indian Army. Others have not previously appeared in print.

John Randle was commissioned in September 1941 and joined his regiment that same month. Within two months he was commanding a Company, experienced the virtual annihilation of his Battalion in

February 1942 at Pa-an, on the banks of the River Salween, but went on to unbroken service with his Battalion throughout the Burma campaign until after the Japanese surrender in August 1945.

Interspersed between the stories, and by way of placing some of them in context, are a number of brief background notes to events at the time. The book concludes with four Appendices; one lists a number of regimental personalities with brief biographical detail, one describes a 1976 visit to the Baluch Regiment in Pakistan by John Randle and one other former Baluch officer, one describes a reconciliatory visit to Japan in 1991, and one an anniversary dinner in 1992 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the disastrous battle at Pa-an.

This book is a joy to read.

ANM.

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## OBITUARY

We regret to record the passing of Lieutenant Colonel C R D (Duggie) Gray OBE, an Honorary Member of this Society since 1989 and a contributor to our journal, including contributions to a story about The Chillianwala Table (Volume 16, No. 1 Spring 1999), a story written by his first wife, Joan, about a flood in India in 1942 (Volume 18, No. 2, Summer 2001) and a fascinating article on pig sticking, a great love of his life, written by a close friend of his, Jim Froggett (Volume 19, No. 2, Summer 2002). President of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association, Duggie was born in Peking on 31 December 1909 where his father was Medical Officer to the Ambassador to China. Commissioned into the Indian Army in 1930, he spent his obligatory British Army secondment with the Seaforth Highlanders before joining Skinner's Horse in 1932. In 1935 he was appointed ADC to Sir Hugh Stephenson, the Governor of Burma (the photograph on the following page is one of many he gave me and dates from that period). He later served with his regiment in Waziristan and, in 1940 as a squadron commander, served in East Africa where he was wounded at the Battle of Keren. Following Staff College, Quetta, he was appointed GSO 2 at GHQ, New Delhi, but re-joined his regiment in Italy in 1944 as second in command and served with them until the end of the war in Europe. He then transferred to the Army Remount Department and saw further service in Burma with 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, and later in Thailand, before returning to GHQ New Delhi as GSO 1 Remount Directorate.

An outstanding equestrian sportsman, he won the Kadir Cup in 1934, took part in prestigious races such as the Grand National, and after his army days were over was heavily involved in equestrian matters in the UK, including chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board and Director of the National Stud.

He also worked tirelessly on behalf of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association and was appointed OBE in the Birthday Honours List in 1998 "For services to the Indian Cavalry Association", was heavily involved in welfare work on behalf of Indian Army pensioners, was active in the Royal British Legion, and also worked behind the scenes to persuade both the India and Pakistan Army polo teams to visit the UK.

His first wife died in 1997 and he married again in 2001. I wrote to his widow on behalf of the Society.

Ed.



Capt. Martin Hicks  
ADC  
Royal Sussex Regt.

Major Denis Macnamara  
Military Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Lancers

Capt Douglas Gray  
ADC  
Skinner's Horse

Sir Hugh Stephenson  
Governor of Burma

Government House, Rangoon, 1935

## VICE PRESIDENT

You will have noticed inside the front cover the addition of a new name as Vice President. Tim Ash, who has been our Vice President since 1997, nominated Rana Chhina to replace him as Vice President. Your committee considered the matter and Field Marshal Sir John Chapple queried why we need limit ourselves to one Vice President. Accordingly, Rana was invited to become an additional Vice President and, we are delighted to say, accepted. He will, of course, be known to many members of the Society, if not in person then through the pages of this journal, both as a contributor and as a subject (the award of the MacGregor Memorial Medal) as well as through his book *The Indian Distinguished Service Medal*. We are delighted to welcome him to the committee.

