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CAPTAIN FRANCIS VALLANCE IZARD, RGA

AND AN UP-DATE ON THE GRAVES OF THOSE KILLED AT SINGAPORE IN FEBRUARY 1915

Alan Harfield

Much has been published in books, articles and in previous editions of *Durbar* on the disaffection of the 5th Light Infantry on 15th February 1915 while stationed at Singapore. The following is intended to bring those who are interested in the subject up-to-date with regard to the events that have affected the graves of the European military and civilian casualties that were buried in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery on the Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, in 1915.

My own interest, in what has been called the '1915 Singapore Mutiny', began whilst serving in Singapore in 1956 when I was stationed at Fort Canning. The fort was located in the area known as Fort Canning Hill, which also contained the site of Singapore's second Christian cemetery, which had been established in 1822 and remained open until 1865. The accommodation block overlooked the cemetery and therefore attracted my attention. The original burial register of this cemetery had not been traced at that time and, having found that there were a number of military memorial stones, I brought this fact to the notice of 'Staff' of the Headquarters Singapore Base District. Because of my interest I was asked to carry out a survey of the military and naval headstones that were still in existence in the Fort Canning Cemetery. The scope of my report was to include the details of any military graves located in the old Bukit Timah Road Cemetery, which had been opened from 1865 and closed during 1907, and also any that were in existence in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery from 1907 to 1919. The survey did not encroach on the sites that were maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, nor the cemeteries maintained by the Ministry of Defence.

The list of the extant headstones given in my report was eventually included in the official publication *The Dead of the British Commonwealth – Singapore - 1948-1971* which was produced by the General Headquarters, Far East Land Forces [FARELF] in 1971. For some reason, which is not explained in the publication, the list of officers and men who were killed during the 1915 Singapore Mutiny and who were buried in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery was omitted from the publication.

It was whilst compiling the list of the officers and servicemen who had died on Singapore Island during the period 1819 to 1919 that I became interested in 'The Mutiny' in order that I could annotate the list that I had submitted with some basic details of that event. I was fortunate enough to be able to have access to the Singapore newspapers of 1915 which were then held by, what was at that time known as, The Raffles Library. This was, of course, prior to the days of microfilm and readers, and it was the original copies of the newspapers that were made available.

One of the casualties of the disaffection was Captain Francis Vallance (Val) Izard of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was born on 1st December 1880 and was educated at the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, near London, and commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery as a 2nd Lieutenant on 28th August 1901. He served with No 87 Company RGA at Colombo, was promoted to Lieutenant on 17th May 1904 and moved with the company from Ceylon to Hong Kong in 1905. Returning to the UK he served with No 17 Company RGA at Alderney from 1908.

He was then posted to No 80 Company RGA, arriving at Singapore in January 1913 and promoted to the rank of Captain on 28th August 1914. He was returning, in response to a call to return to duty, to his unit on Blakang Mati Island having been playing golf in the Sepoy Lines and it was whilst returning to the ferry point and travelling along the Outram Road in a rickshaw that he was shot by mutineers. Although originally buried in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery he was later exhumed and reburied at Kranji War Cemetery in Plot 37.F.16. [The Commonwealth War Grave Commission 'Casualty details' show his date of death as 16th February 1915 which was the day on which he was buried].

Although having originally carried out research on this subject in the mid-1950s, and during later years, I was only able to find illustrations in the Imperial War Museum collection and in the National Archives in Singapore depicting the 5th Light Infantry at Singapore, and the executions of those found guilty of mutiny and murder, but was never able to locate any illustration of the British and Indian army casualties. In May this year (2005) I was shown a photograph of Captain Val Izard which was in the possession of Mrs Susan Long who has kindly agreed for it to be reproduced in *Durbar*. The photograph shows Captain Izard in 'mufti' at the door of his bungalow at Singapore and obviously dates from between January 1913, his arrival in Singapore, and 14th February 1915, the day before his death.



It was whilst preparing this article that I received a second photograph of Captain Izard which Mrs Long had only recently discovered. This second image, which pre-dates the Singapore photograph, has a note on the reverse giving the name of the person who is probably the London photographer, the inscription being:

Mr G.C. Beresford,
20, Yeoman's Row,
Brompton Road, S.W.



There is also a pencilled annotation on the reverse, of a later date, which reads:

Captain Valentine Izard
Killed Singapore – pre First World War.

Although known as ‘Val’ it is probably natural for a member of his family to have erroneously thought that it was the abbreviation for ‘Valentine’ however the *Army Gradation List* records his name as ‘Francis Vallance Izard’.

To return to February 1915, all the Christian casualties of the mutiny were buried in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery, including the military personnel. Three officers were killed during the initial disturbances at the 5th Light Infantry Barracks in the Alexandra District of Singapore, but the largest group of casualties was among those who were serving as guards at the German Prisoner-of-War Camp at Tanglin. The list of those killed is in the order as published in ‘*A History of the Singapore Volunteer Corps 1854-1937*’ by Captain T.M. Winsley, SVC, although a small number of printing errors occurred in that publication which have been corrected in the following list, and the locations where each was killed or mortally wounded have been added:

5th Light Infantry

Captain P. Boyce	Killed – body found on the Buona Vista Road.
Lieutenant H.S. Elliott	Killed at Alexandra Barracks

Royal Garrison Artillery

Major R.H. Galwey	Killed in Outram Road.
Captain F.V. Izard	Killed whilst travelling in a rickshaw along Outram Road.
Captain M.F.A. Maclean	Killed at 5 th LI Barracks.
Corporal J.R.V. Beagley	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin.

Gunner J. Barry	Killed near Alexandra Road Police Station. The CWGC headstone gives date of death as '17 February 1915'.
Army Service Corps Sergeant E.H. Sexton	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin.
<i>HMS Cadmus</i> Stoker C.F. Anscombe	Keppel Golf links on the 16 February.
Singapore Volunteer Artillery Gunner P. Walton	Accidentally shot by a sentry at Mount Faber on the night of 16/17 February 1915 having failed to identify himself when challenged.
Singapore RE (Volunteers) Sergeant G. Wald	Killed on the New Bridge Road.
Singapore Volunteer Rifles 2 nd Lt J. Love-Montgomerie Corporal D. McGilvray Private F. Drysdale L/Corporal J.G.E. Harper Private A.J.G. Holt Corporal G.O. Lawson Private B.C. Cameron	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin Killed at a house on the Pasir Panjang Road. Killed at POW Camp Tanglin. Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin.
Singapore Volunteer Medical Coy Lieutenant A.F. Legge	Killed on 16 February whilst tending Gunner J. Barry.
Malay States Volunteer Rifles Captain P.N. Gerrard Private W.H. Leigh	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed whilst returning to camp on his motorcycle.
Johore Military Forces Captain H. Cullimore	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin.

In addition to the Christian military servicemen the following were also killed by the mutineers:

Johore Military Forces Captain Abdul Jaffar Corporal Salleh Private Yakub (Yaacob bin Salleh)	Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed at POW Camp, Tanglin.
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In addition to the military that were killed the mutineers attacked and killed a number of civilians. These were:

Dr. E. D. Whittle	Straits Settlements Government Service. Killed on New Bridge Road.
Mr Cecil Venn Dyson	Straits Settlements Government Service. Killed on the

Warden Harry Clarke	Telok Blangah Road. Straits Settlements Government Service. Killed on New Bridge Road.
Mr Belfield Morth Woollcombe and Mrs Margaret Catherine Woollcombe	Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. Killed on the Pasir Panjang Road in their motor car.
Mr Llewellyn Philip Casson Smith	Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. Killed on the New Bridge Road.
Mr James Brotherton Dunn	Messrs Guthrie & Co. Killed in a house on the Pasir Panjang Road.
Mr E.O. Butterworth	Messrs Guthrie & Co. Killed in a house on the Pasir Panjang Road.
Mr Douglas James Marshall	China Mutual Insurance Co. Killed on the Telok Blangah Road.
Mr Arthur Evans	The Borneo Company. Killed whilst driving past Alexandra Barracks.
Mr H.O'Shaughnessey Collins	The Straits Bulletin. Killed on the Telok Blangah Road.
Mr N. F. Edwards	Messrs Paterson, Simons & Co. Killed on the Telok Blangah Road.
Special Constable Francis Geddes	Messrs Topham, Jones and Railton. Shot during attack in Barrack Road area. Died in hospital.
Herr Friedrich Ernst Senftleben	German civilian interned in the POW Camp, Tanglin. Killed during the attack on the POW Camp.

The details of the above civilian casualties were transcribed from the memorial headstones in the Bidadari Christian Cemetery.

In addition two Malays were killed, Hassan Kechil bin Hassan and Omar bin Ahmat Kaptin as well as two Chinese civilians, Mrs Sim Soh, Mrs Lim Eng Wee, and an unidentified Chinese civilian.

As previously mentioned the complete story of the cause of the mutiny, the actual event, the courts martial and sentences and the aftermath of the events of 15th to 18th February 1915 have all been adequately covered in a number of publications and it is not intended to repeat that information in this article.

In 1959 a decision was taken by the Ministry of Defence and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to exhume and move all the military casualties of the 1915 Singapore Mutiny from the Bidadari Christian Cemetery and to rebury the remains at the Kranji War Cemetery in an enclave within created for those servicemen who were killed during the 1914-1918 war. It was noticed that the instructions for the work included the destruction of the existing headstones from each of the military graves. The headstones had been erected either by the regiment or corps in which the officer or other rank was serving or by their fellow officers. In the case of the members of the Singapore Volunteer Corps their headstones were provided by that organisation. An appeal was made to save the original headstones from destruction but to no avail and when the bodies were reburied at Kranji Cemetery they were each provided with the standard Commonwealth War Grave headstone. The original stones were then destroyed, on site, at the Bidadari Christian Cemetery.

The civilian casualties, including the German Prisoner of War, Herr F. E. Senftleben, remained buried at the Bidadari Christian Cemetery until 2002-2004, when the Singapore Government reclaimed the site of the cemetery for the building of a housing complex and an MRT railway station. The exhumations are due to be completed this year, 2005, and although a notice was published in National

newspapers informing people that families could claim the remains of any family member buried at that cemetery it is doubtful if any of the remains of the civilian casualties listed above were claimed. The details of those whose remains have been claimed have not yet been released by the Singapore authorities. It is the intention of the Singapore Government to raise a memorial somewhere on the site of the former cemetery but full details of the actual place and type of memorial is not yet known.

With the loss of the Bidadari Christian Cemetery there is now very little to see regarding the events that took place on the 15th to 18th February 1915 except for the Commonwealth War Grave Commission standard type headstones on the graves of the military casualties at Kranji Cemetery. The barracks and the bungalow of the Commanding Officer of the 5th Light Infantry have all disappeared during the post-war expansion of Singapore, as has the POW camp at Tanglin, which was of a temporary nature. There are, however, four plaques in St Andrew's Cathedral at Singapore which can be seen and which have the following inscriptions:

In Memory of Captain & 2nd in Command
HORACE CULLIMORE,
Staff – Johore Military Forces
Late Royal Marine Artillery
Born 11 November 1869
Killed at Tanglin 15 Feby, 1915
Erected by [the] Sergeants Mess, RM Artillery.

Below the Cullimore Memorial

In memory of
Stoker C.F. ANSCOMBE
Of HMS Cadmus
Who was killed in action
during the mutiny of the 5th Light Infantry
16th February 1915
Ready aye Ready
Erected by the Association of Engineers, Singapore

A plaque

To the glory of God and in sacred memory
of the under mentioned
Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men
of the Singapore Volunteer Corps,
who lost their lives during the
mutiny of the 5th Native Light Infantry
in February 1915

15th February
2nd Lieutnt [sic] J Love-Montogomerie, Rifles
Sergeant G Wald (Reserve) Engineers
Corporal D McGilvray, Rifles
Corporal G O Lawson, Cyclist Scouts
Lce Corporal J G E Harper, Rifles
Private B C Cameron, Rifles
Private F S Drysdale, Rifles

Private A J G Holt, Rifles
16th February
Lieutnt [sic] A F Legge, Field Ambulance
18th February
Gunner P. Walton, Artillery
19th February
Civilian F. Geddes, Armed Civilian
This memorial is erected by their
Comrades in the
Singapore Volunteer Corps

Brass plaque

To the glory of God and in memory of
Major R H Galwey
Captain F V IZARD
Captain M F A Maclean
Corporal R V Beagley
Gunner J Barry
All of the Royal Garrison Artillery
who were killed
in the mutiny at Singapore
in February 1915
This tablet is erected by their comrades of the
Royal Garrison Artillery at Singapore

It should be noted that not all the men of the 5th Light Infantry were involved in the mutiny and many remained at the barracks awaiting the arrival of British officers to whom they could surrender and prove their loyalty. Throughout the numerous reports that were compiled during the enquiry there are a number of accounts of European men and women who came into contact with men of the 5th Light Infantry and who assisted in their escape from the mutineers, even at the possible cost of their own lives.

Selected additional reading published in Singapore:

Winsley, Captain T.M., *A History of the Singapore Volunteer Corps, 1854-1937*, Government Printing Office, Singapore, 1938,

Moore, Donald and Joanna, *The First 150 Years of Singapore*, Singapore, 1969.

Harper, R.W.E., & Miller, Harry, *Singapore Mutiny*, Oxford University Press, Singapore, 1984.

The photograph on the following page shows the Guard of 5th Light Infantry at Alexandra Barracks, Singapore, c. 1914. The photograph was discovered in a cupboard at the Education and Training Centre at RAF Changi in October 1971. There is no indication as to who the photographer was, nor how the photograph was taken to the RAF Station. Despite local enquiries no trace of the originator of the illustration could be found.

ATTESTATION CEREMONIES OF GURKHA REGIMENTS IN BRITISH SERVICE

Colonel JR Cawthorne

Gurkha regiments have been in British service continuously for 190 years. The first Gurkha regiments were raised in 1815ⁱ and served in the Army of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC) until after the Indian Mutiny, when the Company's Army was transferred to the Crown and became part of Britain's Indian Army. By 1903, there were ten regiments of Gurkha infantry serving in the Indian Army and this number, except between 1918 – 1922, remained unchanged until Indian Independenceⁱⁱ. In 1948, following Indian Independence, four of the ten Gurkha infantry regiments were transferred to The British Army and since then Gurkha regiments have served as an integral part of The British Armyⁱⁱⁱ. Today, there are four Gurkha regiments, collectively known as The Brigade of Gurkhas, serving in The British Army. These are The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR), The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE), Queen's Gurkha Signals (QG SIGNALS) and The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR). The Royal Gurkha Rifles was formed in 1994 by the amalgamation of the four Gurkha infantry regiments, which were originally transferred to The British Army in 1948, and the three Gurkha corps regiments (QGE, QG SIGNALS and QOGLR) were raised between 1948 and 1958.

On enlistment into The British Army, Gurkha soldiers are attested at the British Gurkha recruiting depot in Nepal, where they swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown, before commencement of their training in the United Kingdom. On completion of their training and on joining their respective regiments, the newly trained soldiers, except those of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, reaffirm their oath of allegiance to the Crown and to uphold the traditions of their new regiment at a ceremony called *Kasam Khane* (oath taking). The origin of these combined ceremonies date back to the HEIC in the late eighteenth century, when recruits swore an oath of allegiance on parade in front of their company and colours. Similar ceremonies are known to have been conducted by Gurkha regiments during the second half of the nineteenth century and by the outbreak of the Second World War nearly all Gurkha regiments held attestation ceremonies, although details are sparse.

The earliest known regulation concerning the oath of allegiance to be taken by sepoys of the HEIC is contained in the *Orders, Rules and Regulations* for the Madras Army published in 1766. According to these regulations, the enlisted sepoy took an oath in front of his company, under arms, with its officers and colours at the front. In taking the oath, which was administered by a person of his religion or caste, the sepoy swore to:

...ferve the Honourable Company faithfully and truly againft all their Enemies, while I continue to receive their Pay, and eat their Salt; I do fwear to obey all Orders I may receive from my Commanders and Officers, never to forfake my Poft [post], abandon my Colours, or turn my Back to my Enemies, and that I will in all Things behave myfelf like a good and faithful Sepoy, in perfect Obedience at all Times to the Rules and Cufdoms of War. I do also faithfully promife and fwear, that whenever I have an Inclination to quit the Service I

ⁱ These were the 1st Nusseree Battalion (later 1st Gurkha Rifles), 2nd Nusseree Battalion (broken up in 1830), Sirmoor Battalion (later 2nd Gurkha Rifles) and Kemaon Battalion (later 3rd Gurkha Rifles).

ⁱⁱ In 1918, four battalions of Gurkhas were raised in Mesopotamia and Palestine, by the transfer of formed companies from the existing ten regiments of Gurkhas, and designated the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalion 11th Gurkha Rifles respectively. These battalions were disbanded between 1919-22.

ⁱⁱⁱ Following India Independence, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th Gurkha Rifles remained with the Indian Army and 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles were transferred to the British Army in 1948. The Gurkha Engineers, Gurkha Signals, Gurkha Army Service Corps and Gurkha Military Police were subsequently raised as part of The British Army between 1948 – 58. The Gurkha Military Police was disbanded in 1965.

will give a Month's Notice of it before to my Commanding Office, and when I receive my Difcharge I will return my Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition in the fame good condition I may have received them from the Honourable Company...

Having taken the oath, the colours were waved three times over the recruit's head, he was given his arms and accoutrements and he joined his company. It is probable that a ceremony of a kind had been used before and this merely regularised an existing custom.

Over 100 years later, the following description of a pre-1914 attestation ceremony of an Indian Army infantry regiment, recounted in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*^{iv}, shows how little the ceremony had changed:

As far as I remember, the battalion was drawn up in column, or quarter column, in full-dress scarlet. The recruits were to the left, and between them and the battalion were stationed the crossed King's and Regimental Colours. My battalion composition was one double company of Mohammendans and two double companies of Hindoos. The boys grouped themselves around their priests, and I can remember distinctly the clear tones of the good old Moulvie and the Pundit as they read out the solemn words of the oath, which words were repeated sentence by sentence by the recruits. I cannot recall the exact words of the oath, but they swore to obey orders, to go wherever ordered by land or sea, and to be true to their salt. After taking the oath the boys (who were wearing the scarlet full dress for the first time) filed under the crossed colours and joined their companies by taking their place in blank files that had been left for them in the ranks. The parade terminated by a march past in column, the C.O. taking the salute.

This was the only time that the writer saw such a parade. He transferred soon afterwards to an Indian cavalry regiment in which this was not held, possibly because standards were not carried. It was an unforgettable scene. The beautiful full dress had remained almost unchanged since the days of the Company, and consisted of a long scarlet upper garment, blue trousers, white spats and green lungi, which was built up to resemble a shako and made the men look very tall.

Although the histories of some Gurkha regiments make reference to recruits being attested or sworn-in, there is very little evidence as to when the attestation ceremony began and how it evolved. The history of 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)^v records that:

... up to a few years ago it had been the practice of the 1st Battalion to swear recruits on the Colours, which were actually touched in the ceremony by the recruit. When recruits were to be sworn in, a Guard with two Gurkha Officers proceeded to the Mess and carried the Colours up to the parade ground for the ceremony, which was very imposing. However, it was obvious that the Colours must eventually be worn out by this use and, at the request of the 2nd Battalion, the 1st consented to abandon the custom in order to preserve them.

The history does not record when this ceremony was first introduced or abandoned^{vi} and what replaced it.

^{iv} Volume XXXII, 1954, p 139.

^v *The 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles The Malaun Regiment 1815 – 1921*. F Loraine Petre, Royal United Services Institution, Whitehall, 1925.

^{vi} As the 2nd Battalion was raised in 1885, it is assumed that the 1st Battalion's attestation ceremony with colours would have been discontinued sometime after this date.

The 6th and 8th Gurkha Rifles also used colours to attest their recruits. Volume I of the history of 6th Gurkha Rifles^{vii} records that:

Although there are no records to authenticate the statement, Colours were presented to the 42nd Assam Light Infantry about the period 1870-80. In March 1891, the Regiment became a rifle regiment, and, in accordance with the custom, the Colours ceased to be brought on ceremonial parades. All recruits, however, continue to be attested on the King's Colour, for which purpose the Colours are brought on parade. They are treated with great reverence by all ranks, and on the occasion of the Dussera they are allowed to be carried uncased by two Gurkha officers, escorted by the usual Colour escort, the whole party being in uniform.

The history has two photographs of recruits being attested at Abbottabad in India in 1914. The second volume of the regimental history^{viii} goes on to relate that in 1927:

... the old Regimental Colours, originally presented to the Battalion when it was the XLII Assam Light Infantry in about 1870, became too fragile for use. They were therefore placed in a frame and, after a petition to the King by the men, replicas were presented by the Colonel of the Regiment. Although as a rifle regiment the 6th Gurkhas normally would not carry Colours, His Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the old custom of swearing-in recruits on the Colours to be continued.

In 1960, the replica colours also became too fragile to be unfurled and were placed in frames in order that recruits could continue to be attested on them until 1994, when 6th Gurkha Rifles was amalgamated into The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The history of 8th Gurkha Rifles^{ix} records that:

The Colours have always been treated with great reverence by all ranks, and although on their becoming Rifle regiments the Colours no longer formed part of the ceremonial equipment of our battalions^x, they were always used to attest recruits on. Escorted by band and Colour escort of one hundred rank and file, the Colours were received by their battalion with the traditional Royal Salute. The Colours were kept in the Officers' Mess, being uncased on Guest Nights or other special occasions.

The history goes on to state that in later years the colours of the 2nd Battalion had become so frail that a silver kukri was used to attest recruits.

The 2nd, 3rd and 9th Gurkha Rifles also carried colours before being designated rifle regiments, but their histories do not record the use of colours to attest recruits. In 1863, 2nd Gurkha Rifles was presented with the Truncheon to commemorate its services at Delhi during the Indian Mutiny. The regimental history^{xi} records that on the 14th September 1907, the 50th anniversary of the capture of Delhi, both battalions paraded and:

^{vii} *Historical Record of The 6th Gurkha Rifles Volume I 1817-1919*. Major DGJ Ryan, Major GC Strahan & Captain JK Jones, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1925.

^{viii} *Historical Record of The 6th Gurkha Rifles*, Volume II. Lieutenant Colonel HRK Gibbs, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1955

^{ix} *History of the 8th Gurkha Rifles 1824 – 1949*. Lieutenant Colonel HJ Huxford, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1952.

^x The 1st and 2nd Battalions 8th Gurkha Rifles were formed in 1907 and originated from the 44th and 43rd Bengal Infantry respectively.

^{xi} *History of the 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifle Regiment)*. Colonel LW Shakespear, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1912.

...forming three sides of a square the recruits, some 200 in number, were advanced into the centre facing the saluting flag, in front of which stood Captain and late Subahdar-Major Judhbir Thapa with the Queen's Truncheon, supported behind by a large gathering of Mutiny veterans, British and native. The recruits were then sworn in, and each, stepping forward, touched and saluted the Truncheon...

This was the first occasion that recruits of 2nd Gurkha Rifles were attested on the Truncheon and the tradition continued until 1994 when the Regiment was amalgamated into The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Although the histories of 3rd and 9th Gurkha Rifles do not make any reference to the attestation of recruits, former officers of both regiments recall recruits being sworn-in at their respective regimental centres during the Second World War^{xii}. The oath to the King Emperor was administered to the recruits, either by the Bhawan (Hindu priest) or a senior Gurkha officer, at a simple ceremony and usually in the presence of the regimental centre commander and his staff.

The 5th Gurkha Rifles was one of four Gurkha rifle regiments that never carried colours^{xiii}. Its ceremony for swearing-in recruits, prior to the First World War, is described in '*Villiers-Stuart on the Frontier 1894 – 1914*'^{xiv} as follows:

In a Gurkha battalion the ceremony of '*swearing in*' recruits at the end of their training is very short, though solemn. As there are no 'Colours' in a Rifle Regiment there is nothing to 'worship', so to speak, or to salute – except the battalion! So the recruits parade for the last time under their instructors on their own parade ground. For the first time they are wearing a complete rifleman's uniform. The battalion parades 'every person present'. When the Colonel gives the sign the recruits are marched down to the inner flank of the battalion, and halted. The battalion turns to a flank to face them. The recruits are ordered to shoulder their arms and then, sentence by sentence, the oath of allegiance is read out by the assistant adjutant [Jemadar Adjutant], the recruits repeating this word by word. At the end the recruits are ordered to 'Present Arms' to their Battalion, the Battalion Presents Arms in return, and then the final order is given by a sign: 'Recruits will join their companies' - and in a moment they are gone.

In some regiments of course a tremendous business is made of it. But as the 5th is a Frontier Regiment, and there are no complications of being somewhere else before they became riflemen, the ceremony is kept very simple, as are all matters in that sort of regiment.

In 1924, 5th Gurkha Rifles was granted the 'Royal' title and the regimental history records^{xv}:

...the introduction, by command of His Majesty, of a 'Royal' cord, red in the case of regiments whose uniform is green, and worn on the right shoulder. No unattested recruit may don it; he receives it on the day he is 'sworn in', personally from the hand of the Commanding Officer. A rifleman is deprived of his Royal Cord for such unrifleman-like behaviour as letting off a round through carelessness; and naturally, no man undergoing a sentence on account of a military crime is allowed to wear it.

^{xii} Up until the Second World War, each Gurkha battalion was responsible for training its own recruits. Following the outbreak of the Second World War and to meet the rapid expansion of each Gurkha regiment from two to four/five battalions, regimental centres were formed with the task of training all recruits.

^{xiii} The other regiments were 4th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles.

^{xiv} Robert Maxwell, The Pentland Press, Edinburgh, 1989.

^{xv} *History of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) 1858 to 1928*. Regimental Committee, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1927.

The histories of 4th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles make little or no mention of the attestation of their recruits in the pre-1947 Indian Army. The history of 4th Gurkha Rifles^{xvi} has a photograph of its 2nd Battalion's recruits' swearing-in ceremony in front of their war memorial at Razmak in the 1920 – 30s, while the history of 7th Gurkha Rifles^{xvii} refers to its 2nd Battalion purchasing a silk Nepalese flag in the 1930s to be used for the ceremony of swearing in recruits.

Following the transfer of 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles to The British Army in 1948, all recruits enlisted into The British Army were, and still are, attested at recruiting depots, in India and later in Nepal, before the start of their training. Initially, this was a low-key ceremony at which the recruits swore their allegiance to the Crown. Only later did it develop into a formal Recruits' Induction Parade. Notwithstanding recruits being sworn-in at the recruiting depots, 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles conducted their own attestation or *Kasam Khane* ceremonies. The newly joined riflemen of 2nd and 6th Gurkha Rifles continued to make their oath on the Truncheon and colours respectively, while 7th Gurkha Rifles used their drums bearing the Regiment's Battle Honours and 10th Gurkha Rifles used piled drums draped with the Regimental and Mahabir Swami^{xviii} flags.

Of the three Gurkha corps regiments, The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment^{xix}, which was the last of the regiments to be raised in 1958, was the first to introduce the ceremony of *Kasam Khane* in 1962. The format of the ceremony adopted was similar to that of 6th Gurkha Rifles, with recruits touching the regimental flag whilst marching underneath it. The Queen's Gurkha Signals, although raised in 1948, only introduced *Kasam Khane* in 1986, at which their soldiers are attested by touching the Union flag. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers has, however, never conducted *Kasam Khane*, on the basis that their soldiers were attested on enlistment at the recruiting depot.

The Royal Gurkha Rifles, on its formation in 1994, initially used piled drums to attest their new soldiers. In 1997, the Truncheon of 2nd Gurkha Rifles, which had been lodged in the Indian Army Room of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1994 prior to the amalgamation of the four Gurkha infantry regiments, was handed over by HRH The Prince of Wales^{xx} to The Royal Gurkha Rifles and is now used once again to attest newly joined riflemen.

Today, under the guidance of the Gurkha Major (the senior Gurkha officer of a regiment or battalion) or Bhawan, newly joined soldiers of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, Queen's Gurkha Signals and The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment swear...

... by Almighty God, that [they] will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second, Her Heirs and Successors and that [they] will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, in person, Crown and dignity against all enemies and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over [them]. [They] further swear, [they] will be loyal and uphold the tradition of their [Regiment].

^{xvi} *A History of The 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles 1857 – 1937*, Volume II. R Macdonnell and M Macaulay, William Blackwood & Sons, London, 1940.

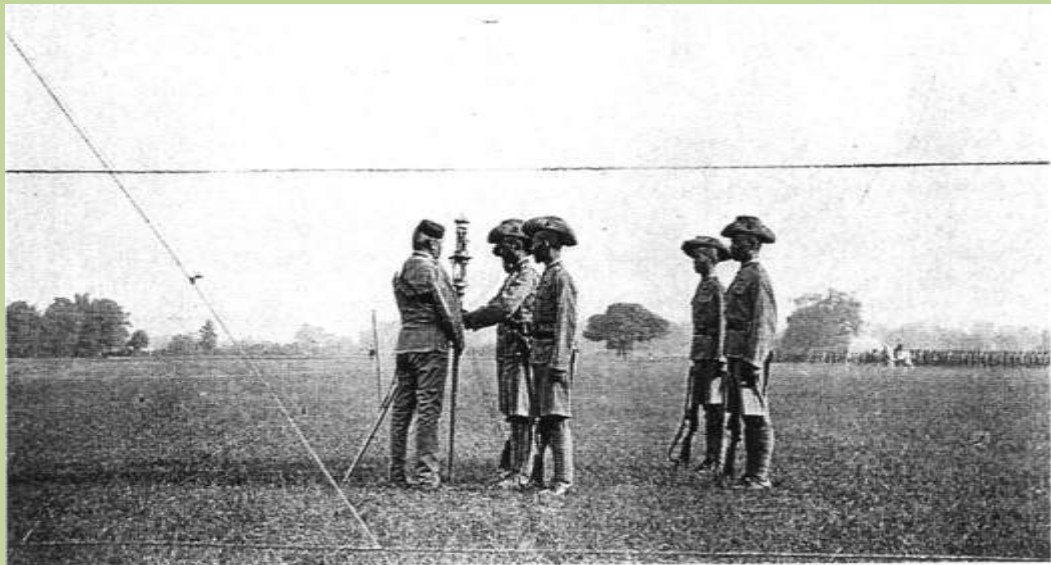
^{xvii} *History of 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles*. Colonel J N Mackay, Blackwood & Sons, London, 1962.

^{xviii} This flag is based on the Mahabir Swami stone, which was presented by the Hindu sepoy of the 10th Madras Infantry to 10th Gurkha Rifles when the Regiment was reconstituted in 1890.

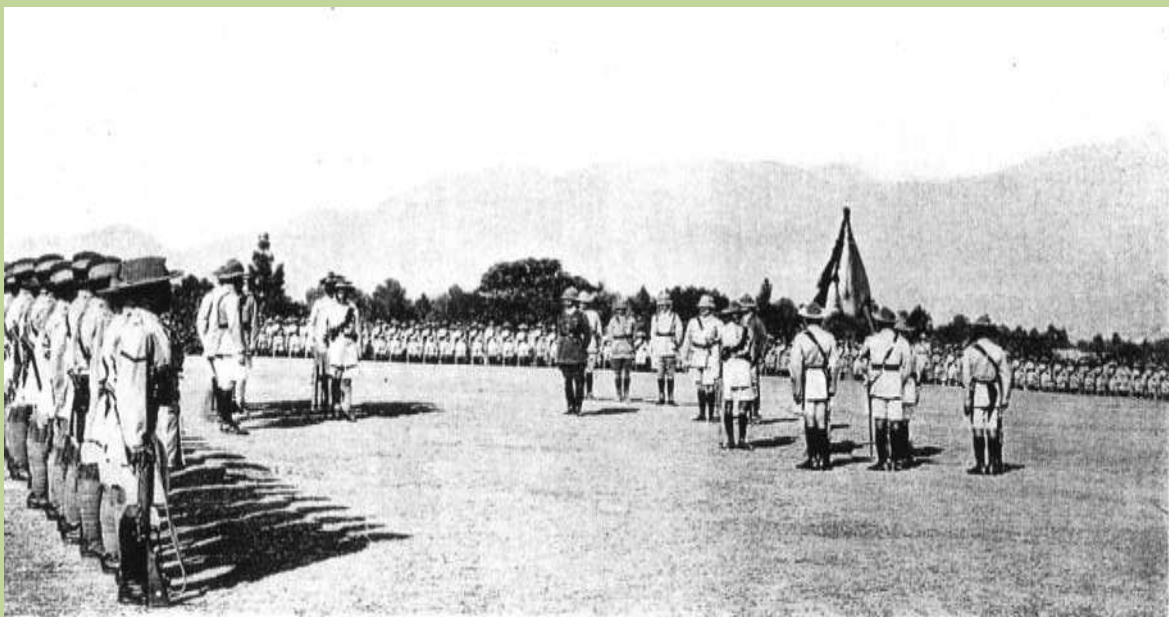
^{xix} Raised as the Gurkha Army Service Corps (Gurkha ASC), it was re-designated The Gurkha Transport Regiment (GTR) in 1965, became The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment (QOGTR) in 1992 and the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) in 2002.

^{xx} HRH The Prince of Wales was Colonel in Chief 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) 1977 – 1994 and is the Colonel in Chief The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

In The British Army, the ceremony of *Kasam Khane*, with its origins dating back to the HEIC over two centuries ago, is unique to its Gurkha regiments. It is a very imposing ceremony, orientated to the family of the regiment, which is not widely known about outside The Brigade of Gurkhas. For the newly joined Gurkha soldier, it is a very proud moment as he takes his oath of allegiance in the presence of his officers and comrades and is formally admitted into the ranks of his regiment as a trained soldier. *Kasam Khane* is therefore a custom that is cherished by Gurkha regiments and guarded jealously for future generations of Gurkha soldiers.



**Recruits of 2nd Goorkhas being sworn in on the Truncheon
India 1907**



**Recruits of 6th Gurkha Rifles, having taken the oath, about to pass under
the crossed colours to join their respective companies
India 1914**



**Newly joined soldiers of 7th Gurkha Rifles are attested by touching the drums bearing the Regiment's battle honours as they are marched through their ranks
Hong Kong 1989**



**The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment Kasam Khane Parade
Aldershot 2004**

“UNIFORM”

WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL of ‘THE TIMES’

Peter Chapman

Following his revelatory reporting for The Times, William Howard Russell went to India from the Crimea. And when the Mutiny was over commented on an obsession of the Army ... uniform.

I came across his observations the other day. For those of you fascinated by uniforms and accoutrements, it is delightful stuff.

“I have often thought”, he wrote, “how astonished Horse Guards or the clothing departments or whoever it may be that is interested in the weighty matters of uniform and decides on the breadth of cuffs, the size of lace, the nature of trowser-straps and the cut of buttons would be at this aspect of the British Army in India.

Lord Cardigan in his most sagacious moments would never light on the fact that those dark-faced bearded horsemen in snowy white with flagless lances are the war-hardened troopers of Her Majesty’s 9th Lancers. Not a corps that I have seen sport a morsel of pink or show a fragment of English scarlet.”

The sun and “the assaults of innumerable entomological enemies by night” had forced their own solutions.

“The infantry for the most part are dressed in line frocks, dyed carky or grey slate, shakoes protected by puggeries or linen covers. The peculiarity of carky is that the dyer seems unable to match it in any two pieces and that it exhibits an endless variety of shade, varying with every washing. The effect is various rather than pleasing.

But the officers do not confine themselves to carky or anything else. It is really wonderful what fecundity of invention in dress there is. Take the head-dress.....the favourite is a helmet of varying shape but of uniform ugliness.

In a moment of inspiration some Calcutta hatter conceived, after a close study of antique models, the awe-inspiring head-piece of Pallas Athens and it became the prototype of the Indian topee which looks simply ludicrous.

Whatever it might be in burnished metal it is a decided failure in felt or wickerwork or pith, fabricated with interior ducts and passages leading to escape-holes for imaginary hot air; around it are twisted forms of turbans with fringed ends and lace fringes, with a peacock’s feather inserted in the hole in the top or stuck into the puggery around it.

Shooting jackets hold their own in the highest posts with a few inches of iron curb chain sewed on the shoulders to resist sabre cuts.

The sword is of all descriptions except the regulation which is not in vogue and is slung in many belts. There are native tulwars with English handles and old guards, old cavalry sabres with new hilts, Damascus blades in leathern sheaths some of which depend from iron hooks in board buff waist belts.

The revolver, scarcely a regulation weapon for the army, is universally worn, stuck in a cummerbund or long sash which some officers wear in the oriental fashion. Long stage boots of buff leather, for which Cawnpore is famous, are pulled over leather knee breeches and officers wear their Wellingtons outside their pantaloons. The baggy trowsers of the Zouave officer are not unknown....”

William Howard Russell was, of course, a famous man and I am not sure whether he approves or disapproves of what he saw. I suspect the latter after his experiences in the Crimea. He described Sir Colin Cambell, of whom he heartily approved, as in “sola helmet, shirt sleeves, Tartan waistcoat with cotton sleeves, and moleskin trowsers” and noted his “bright, piercing, friendly blue eyes.”

What a change, in every respect, must the Mutiny have been from the Crimea? How he must have wished that Captain Nolan had been spared to return to his unit.

JAIPUR ARTILLERY

The Editor

Whilst on the subject of uniforms, I wonder what Russell would have made of this Jaipur Artillery



officer’s interpretation of dress regulations? I do not have a date for the photograph – it came to me from the late Ron Harris in about 1986. Jaipur had maintained artillery units from the earliest times but we know little about them. The British authorities first started collecting data on State armies in 1872, at which time Jaipur fielded 768 artillerymen, 24 field guns and 270 other guns, of which only 150 were serviceable. They were deemed to be inferior troops. By 1908 there were 860 artillerymen but only 60 small calibre guns recorded. In 1911 the record shows one bullock battery, maintained as irregular troops (not part of the Imperial Service Troops scheme) equipped with obsolete muzzle loaders, and classified as having no fighting capacity. The period 1920-39 saw significant improvements in the fighting elements of the Jaipur Army whilst the irregular artillery was substantially reduced in strength in 1930.

LETTERS AND QUERIES

The last edition of *Durbar* (Volume 22, Number 2, Summer 2005), with the account by Lieutenant General Sir Charles Godwin of the forming of the North Waziristan Militia (later Tochi Scouts), elicited a number of interesting letters.

- Sir Charles Frossard wrote to say that he had served with the Tochi Scouts for a year in 1943.
- Frank Leeson, whose book *Frontier Legion. With the Khassadars of North Waziristan* we reviewed in Volume 21. Number 1 (Spring 2004), page 34, noted the parallels between Godwin's experiences and his own nearly half a century later. The manuscript on which his book was based has now been passed to the National Army Museum along with his Khassadar Album containing photographs, maps, graphs, diagrams, signals and leaflets covering the Partition period. A large section of this work is devoted to the Tochi Scouts, with whom the officers of the North Waziristan Khassadars lived and collaborated. He makes the point that the term 'Levies' must have long since disappeared from use since his Khassadars referred to the Tochi Scouts as the 'militia' – and the Frontier Constabulary as the 'bardar'.
- Peter Freeborn wrote from Japan enclosing a number of crests from letterheads associated with the North West Frontier Province and these are reproduced below, though all have been enlarged for the purposes of this journal.



Khyber Rifles



Kurram Militia



North Waziristan Militia
(Dates from just before WWI-
note the crossed guards at
the hilts, slightly different to
the badge shown in Vol. 22,
No. 2, page 84)



23 Cavalry (F.F.)



Khyber Agency



HQ 5th (Mhow) Division

● And finally, Terry Barbour drew to my attention a book – *The Guardians of the Frontier – The Frontier Corps NWFP*, by Major (Retd) Mohammad Nawaz, published in 1994 by Headquarters The Frontier Corps (NWFP), Peshawar. At the time of publication it cost Rs.600/-. Terry Barbour obtained his copy in Pakistan and I am in the process of making enquiries there to see if the book is still in print and, if so, whether copies can be purchased outside of Pakistan. If there is sufficient interest from within the Society it might be worth trying to place a bulk order so if anyone is interested the Editor would be pleased to hear.

● William Sheridan writes:

Can any member help with any information regarding 3rd Mandalay Battalion, Indian Territorial Force (Burma), and the Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant, A.L. Smith, who earned the following medals for service with the Battalion: IGS '08 clasp BURMA 1930-32, and GVR Territorial Efficiency Medal, bar INDIA, crowned head? Any information would be most appreciated.

● Mike Taylor writes:

17th Indian Division, WW2. The standard colours for this formation's sign are given as black on khaki. However, I know of a variation where the black cat is printed on a white square background. The feel and appearance of the item suggests, to me at least, that it is not from a recent litter, although the design is more highly stylised than usual and the printing very sharp-edged. The background is also of a suspiciously pristine whiteness.

Leaving aside the physical state of this particular item, can anyone advise whether there is a known variation of this badge that might meet the above description?

● Reference Peter Chapman's article on Sir Arnold Talbot Wilson (Durbar, Volume 22, Number 1 (Spring 2005) Peter Freeborn has drawn attention to Sir Arnold's reference to himself as Air Gunner Officer rather than Pilot Officer in his book *S.W. Persia: A Political Officer's Diary*, and asks if there is a difference. I am not well informed on matters RAF but my guess would be that the former is a job description, the latter a rank, but if anyone knows differently I would be pleased to hear. Finally, Peter mentioned a 32nd Sikh Pioneer contemporary of Sir Arnold and fellow holder of the MacGregor Memorial Medal, the famous explorer and secret agent, Colonel F.M. Bailey.

● Peter Chapman writes:

In my article on Colonel Henry (Harry) Ernest Connop DSO of 35th Scinde Horse (Durbar, Volume 21, Number 3, Autumn 2004, page 95) I wrote that I thought he had died at Yaxley, Suffolk, in July 1943 (based on information from the British Library, Oriental and India Office Collections).

And then I bought a copy of the absolutely vital Home Guard lists being offered by (among others presumably) Chris Dixon of Bridlington. And there was Henry E. Connop, 2 i/c 4th Suffolk Battalion, adopting the lower rank of Major (for he was a Lieutenant Colonel on retirement) and thus entitled to the Defence Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal.

These lists are surely vital to medal collectors. I don't have any group other than Connop's, but to those with deeper purses than mine the knowledge these lists impart is wonderful. Ducker's Durbar lists are in the same category.

● Sushil Talwar writes:

Almost a year after I wrote the article on 5th (Musalman) Bengal Native (Light) Infantry (Durbar, Volume 21, Number 2, Summer 2004) recently per chance I discovered that there is in fact a published regimental history of the 5th Light Infantry. This small book entitled '*A Short History of the 5th Light Infantry from 1803 to 1913*', was written by Major CS Stooks and printed in January 1914 by The Pioneer Press, Allahabad, containing 93 printed pages. Amongst other details the book also contains the casualty list and roll of its officers. None of the experts on the Indian Army that I know knew about the existence of this book, nor is it listed in either of the volumes of Roger Perkins' book.

The book brings to light some interesting facts about the regiment. Two companies of the regiment were based at Damoh when the bulk of their rank and file mutinied at Saugor on 1st July 1857. These two companies remained loyal to their colours right through the troubled times of 1857-58. The author goes on to explain that Havildar Ranjit Singh (who is also mentioned in the Official History of the Mutiny in Central India) was responsible for these two companies remaining loyal and it is therefore to Ranjit Singh that the regiment owes its 'present' (1914) position.

The gallant conduct of Havildar Ranjit Singh ensured that the treasure at Damoh was saved, and that the whole of the men of the detachment of the 42nd Bengal Native Light Infantry remained faithful to the Government. The incident in question was the demand of the Saugar mutineers for handing over the entire treasure in the Damoh fort. Not only did Ranjit Singh refuse to do so but he, along with the Subedar Major and the detachment, attacked and drove off the mutineers from the town. The Subedar Major of the 42nd, aided by the Munsiff, whom Havildar Ranjit Singh had kept in the fort with him, managed to carry on their duties. They also succeeded in keeping all the prisoners in jail and the police at their posts. The name of the Subedar Major is not mentioned but is believed to be Mir Hazari who, according to the Indian Army List of 1858, was the Subedar Major of the regiment in that year.

These, according to the author, are the reasons of how and why the 42nd Bengal Native Light Infantry survived the 'first' mutiny amongst its ranks.

BOOK NOTES

TO FREEDOM THROUGH CHINA. ESCAPING FROM JAPANESE OCCUPIED HONG KONG 1942. Anthony Hewitt. 228 pages. ISBN 1 84415 229 4. Pen & Sword Books Limited, FREEPOST SF5, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2BR. £19.99 plus postage £2.50 (UK/EEC), overseas £4 surface, £6 airmail.

This is not really a new book but a reissue, under a new title, of his book *Bridge with Three Men*, first published in 1986. The reissue follows Hewitt's death in 2004.

The book tells the story of an escape by three officers, one of them the author, then Adjutant of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, from Shamshuipo POW Camp on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong on 2nd February 1942, about a month after their capture by the Japanese following the occupation of Hong Kong. The other escapers were an eccentric, monocled Indian Army Medical Service doctor, Douglas Scriven, and a tough RNZAF pilot, Tony Crossley. The remarkable account of their hazardous journey, initially on foot whilst being pursued by the Japanese and harassed by bandits, to the safety of the British Military Mission in Kukong, with help from both Chinese Communist and Chinese Nationalist groups, is told in a very readable and attractive style. Photographs and maps add to the interest, though the lack of an index is unfortunate.

Tony Hewitt was a brother-in-law of Sir John Mills, the actor, who contributes a Foreword to the book.

Their group was the second to escape from Shamshuipo. The first, led by Lieutenant Colonel Lindsay Ride, Commandant of the Field Ambulance, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, was early in January. His escape, after which he set up the British Army Aid Group based in Chunking which assisted in further POW escapes between 1942 and 1945, is told by his son, Edwin Ride, in *The British Army Aid Group – Hong Kong Resistance 1942-45* (ISBN 0 19 58125 1). After the war, Lindsay Ride became Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University in 1949, was knighted in 1962 and died in 1977.

Duggie Scriven returned to Hong Kong after the war and practised as a psychiatrist. He was often seen by this reviewer, still monocled and as eccentric as ever, at the bar of the Hong Kong Cricket Club.

Geoff Fawcett