

## DURBAR Volume 23, No.3, Autumn 2006

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We had been planning for a long time to use this edition of the journal this as a single subject issue. Unfortunately, ill health on the part of the author has meant that we have been unable to proceed as planned. I only have a couple of articles in reserve, not enough to make a full journal and, given short notice of the need for an alternative, I have decided to devote this issue to a number of photographs made available to me by Major General Chand N Das OBE about 10 years ago. The majority will be easily recognised since they comprise close-up shots of headdress and full views of the standard summer ceremonial uniforms of the post-Independence Indian Army (green shirts and trousers, regimental cravat and cummerbund and distinctive headdress). There are some, however, that are not as frequently seen. Indeed, I am not certain that some of these are still worn (e.g. The Grenadiers Regiment, The Assam Regiment) so I think they are worth publishing. I recognise that this will not be of interest to everyone but given the limited time I have to get the proof off to the printer I ask for your understanding.

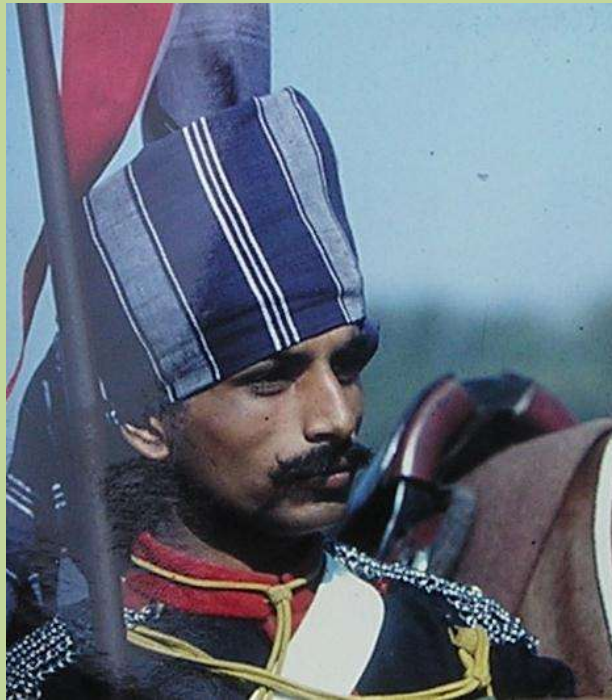
### WORLD WAR 2 STARS AND MEDALS

I published Cliff Parrett's excellent article on this subject in Volume 23, No. 1, Spring 2006. I should have made clear at the time that Cliff was anxious it should not be taken as the last word on the subject. The article was originally intended to be part of a larger piece extending through to the distribution and naming of stars and medals. Other priorities meant that Cliff only got as far as dealing with qualification/eligibility aspects, though all will agree that it was a significant contribution to the study. Since Cliff is now fully occupied, with Rana Chhina, in the production of what will undoubtedly be *the* definitive work on the IOM (my italics and description) he will not be completing the work on naming. Cliff hopes, and I second this thought, that the article will inspire other IMHS members to pick up the baton and complete the course.

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61 CAVALRY (SUMMER)



61 CAVALRY (WINTER)



THE PUNJAB REGIMENT



THE MADRAS REGIMENT

Other pictures show a predominantly red headdress. Does this indicate that different battalions within the Regiment wear different colours?



#### THE GRENADIERS REGIMENT

A seldom-seen full dress ceremonial uniform. Is it still worn and if so under what circumstances?



#### THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY

Again, the full dress tunic is not often seen. The red fringe becomes a red hackle when worn with the beret.



Drummer – winter ceremonial



Drummer – summer ceremonial



### THE RAJPUTANA RIFLES

Orderly and two Havildars – summer ceremonial  
Note Cumberbund and palloo in full



THE RAJPUT REGIMENT

Possibly a bugler



THE JAT REGIMENT



THE SIKH REGIMENT



THE DOGRA REGIMENT



Shoulder title reads GARH RIF



THE GARHWAL RIFLES  
JCO and 2 ORs – summer ceremonial

Note the formation badge for 22 Mountain Division



Naib Subedar (JCO)



### THE GARHWAL RIFLES

Lion of Ashoka at the top (see



Naib Subedar (JCO)  
The badge is missing the  
previous page)

### THE KUMAON REGIMENT

Note: Green hackle worn with cap badge is barely visible against trees.



#### THE ASSAM REGIMENT

It is unusual to see this form of ceremonial uniform. Most pictures depict the standard Indian Army summer ceremonial (see The Kumaon Regiment on previous page) with felt hat similar to The Garhwal Rifles



## THE BIHAR REGIMENT



## THE MAHAR REGIMENT

Cravat and cummerbund colours seem to vary.  
As with The Madras Regiment, is this an  
indication of battalion?



THE JAMMU & KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY



?14<sup>TH</sup> GORKHA RIFLES REGIMENTAL CENTRE

The left badge would certainly appear to be that of 1<sup>st</sup> Gorkha Rifles. The right badge does not appear to match that of 4<sup>th</sup> Gorkha Rifles (crossed kukris with Roman numeral IV below), but both regiments have their depot at Subathu, Himachel Pradesh)



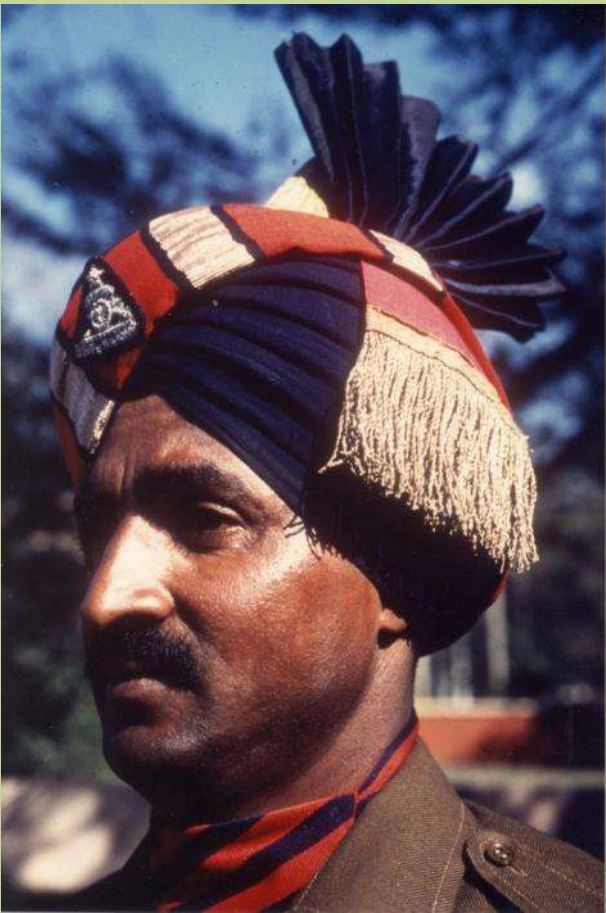
39<sup>TH</sup> GORKHA RIFLES REGIMENTAL CENTRE

The left badge appears to be that of 9<sup>th</sup> regiments have at Varanasi,



Gorkha Rifles. Both their regimental centre Uttar Pradesh.

11<sup>TH</sup> GORKHA RIFLES



REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY



CORPS OF ENGINEERS



THE MADRAS SAPPERS

The Madras Sappers celebrated their 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Madras Engineers Group & Centre, Bangalore, in October 2005.



ARMY SERVICE CORPS



ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS



CORPS OF MILITARY POLICE



## REMOUNT VETERINARY CORPS

I recall seeing a mounted troop of this Corps at a Republic Day parade. The pennant suggests this soldier may form part of that troop.



ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



## BOTH UNIDENTIFIED

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### BOOK NOTES

● *PORTRAITS OF VALOUR. INDIA'S HIGHEST GALLANTRY AWARDS AND THEIR RECIPIENTS.* Printed on art paper, the 740-page hardbound encyclopaedia has been produced as a coffee-table book (size 13"x9") by The Defence Review. Price Rs. 1500/- plus postage at cost for each country. Funds to be remitted by bankers draft in favour of The Defence Review and drawn on any bank in Delhi.

The advertising flyer for this new book describes it as a complete reference book on more than 1600 officers and men from the Army, Navy and Air Force who have been awarded with the Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra. It also profiles those Indians awarded the Victoria Cross during the First and Second World Wars. Extensively illustrated with photographs, tables and charts, the book has numerous analytical chapters both on the awards and the awardees. There are some rare pictures of mothers and wives receiving gallantry awards on behalf of their late sons or husbands. The book has two comprehensive indexes – one listing awards by Service, Regiment and Operation, the other listing awards by State. There is also a section dealing with all major civilian and military awards of India which carries pictures of all those awarded to date Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award.

The book can be ordered direct from the publishers at The Defence Review, 1605, B-1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110 070, India. Telephone +91 11 2689 1598; fax +91 11 2613 2906; Email: [defrev@nda.vsnl.net.in](mailto:defrev@nda.vsnl.net.in)

● *BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS 1914-2005* by Peter Duckers, 48 pages, illustrated in colour (81) and black and white (4), published by Shire Publications Ltd (Album 393), Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP27 9AA ([www.shirebooks.co.uk](http://www.shirebooks.co.uk)) – telephone +44 (0)1844 344301; fax +44 (0)1844 347080; Email: [shire@shirebooks.co.uk](mailto:shire@shirebooks.co.uk). £4.99.

This is another of Peter Duckers' useful introductory books for the new medal collector. It begins with the Africa General Service Medal 1902-56, the IGS 1908-35 (basic information only), the First and Second World Wars and the Naval and Army General Service Medals. Post Second World War the book covers the Korean War, GSM 1962, Rhodesia, South Atlantic, Gulf Medal 1990-1, Accumulated Service Medal, Operational Service Medal 1999 (which replaced the GSM 1962), Iraq (2003) and various UN and NATO awards. There is little here for the experienced collector but the book offers a good introduction for the beginner.

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## LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Kim Lindsay is seeking a photograph of Ronald Stuart Moberly, born 11 December 1888, who joined the Indian State Railways in 1909 and was commissioned into the Great India Peninsular Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps in November 1909. During the First World War he was attached to 32<sup>nd</sup> Sikh Pioneers, returning to the Great India Peninsular Railway Regiment, Indian Defence Force, in 1919 and promoted to Captain in 1920. He was awarded the Indian Volunteer Force Officers' Decoration (VD) in August 1925, promoted to Major in 1929, appointed OBE (Civil) in June 1931 and appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary ADC to the Governor of Bombay, the 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Brabourne, in December 1933. He died in February 1940.

If anyone has a photograph of Moberly, either in connection with the railways or, perhaps, alongside Baron Brabourne, Kim would be delighted to hear.

● We have received a letter from Mr Sergei DeSilva-Ranasinghe, P.O. Box 251, Batman, Victoria 3058, Australia. Email:sergei.desilva@optusnet.com.au. He is researching the military history of Ceylon/Sri Lanka from the advent of British rule in 1796 to the current time. In particular he is interested in:

- Ceylon Volunteers in the Burma campaign of World War II.
- The Indian Army in Ceylon in World War I and II and Ceylon volunteers in the British-Indian Army in the two world wars.
- Japanese air raids on India (in connection with the Battle of Ceylon – the Japanese air assault on Ceylon).
- Japanese clandestine operations in India and Ceylon.
- The Indian National Army's "Lanka Unit".

If anyone has any contacts, books, articles, photographs or film footage covering the above, or knows of any website covering these topics, would they please contact Mr DeSilva directly?

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