

DURBAR Volume 9, No.1, Spring 1992

THAT THING – A VIGNETTE

Brigadier J.P. Randle OBE MC

About the time of Kantu's sterling work with the Northamptons (Vol. 8, No 2) they were involved in another incident which could have been most unfortunate, but which thanks to a good soldierly compromise, turned out happily.

By July 1944 my battalion had been on half rations for over six months. From December 1943 to March 1944, our Division had been up in the Chin Hills, about a hundred and forty miles south of Imphal. Because the road between Imphal and Tiddim, the administrative HQ of the Chin Hills, was so bad in places and only suitable for jeeps in its final stages, the 'Q' people simply could not shift sufficient supplies of rations on a full scale, in addition to all the other needs of a forward Division, ammunition, especially for guns, petrol and other necessities. From March onwards, when the Battle of Imphal started and the main road from Dimapur to Imphal was cut by the Japs, the whole British force, equal at times to five divisions, plus RAF squadrons, perforce had to be on half rations. Indian soldiers' staple diet was 'dhal' (lentils) and 'roti' (unleavened bread baked into chuppatis), supplemented by vast quantities of "chae", strong, hot, very sweet tea. When operations permitted, the dhal was germinated, by dampening it and spreading it out on groundsheets in the sun to sprout, which added enormously to its vitamin content. Additionally almost everyone suffered from diarrhoea. Most Company Commanders adapted themselves to Indian food, but at Battalion Headquarters we were still on beef and dry Shakapura (hard tack biscuits), plus the occasional box of compo (tinned food) or American K rations. It was excruciatingly boring and one really had to be hungry to eat it three times a day. The Northampton platoon inside our position was on exactly the same rations.

One afternoon, with the monsoon rain belting down and the fighting quiescent, a runner came to the Battalion Headquarters command post dug out with a message from the Subedar Major for me as Battle Adjutant to ask if I could please come down to the south west side of the perimeter (hidden from enemy view and hence used by all patrols) where my presence was urgently required. It was so unusual for the Subedar Major to summon the Adjutant, even in very polite terms (he would always come to the Adjutant) that I realized it must be something out of the ordinary. Leaving the I.O. to man the controls, I went down quickly.

When I got to the wire, there was indeed a tense situation. Just outside the wire was the platoon sergeant of the Northamptons with a returning patrol from that platoon. Slung on a bit of bamboo, carried by a couple of private soldiers, was a dead wild pig, which somehow or other they had managed to kill or trap whilst out on patrol. Now to them this was just a bit of superb good fortune, with two or three delicious meals in prospect; metaphorically their mouths were already watering. However to the Muslim, be he civilian or soldier (and our battalion was three-quarters Muslim) a pig was an unclean animal, whose presence anywhere near them was a religious defilement.

I spoke first to the Platoon sergeant whose face was strained with tension and who said - "Sir, you know what the rations are like, we're all desperately hungry and browned off to hell with bully beef and biscuits. We've had the good fortune to catch this pig and I intend to bring it inside the perimeter to cook and eat in our little cook-house area". This was said with a determined and defiant look.

I then turned to the Subedar Major, who was with a small group of Punjabi Mussulmans from the rifle company, all standing quietly, but with grim, tense looks.

"Sahib, that thing" (he could not bring himself to use the word 'pig') "is not coming into our position to defile us".

Now, it was a very rash or foolish British Officer of the Indian Army who disregarded the advice of the Subedar Major in a religious matter. Everyone, in these conditions, was on a short fuse, and a very ugly incident, not excluding bloodshed, was in prospect. I really had not the faintest idea what to do, but felt it was essential to gain a little time. I told the Platoon sergeant to order his patrol to stay where they were, but for him alone to come inside the perimeter and talk to me. I ordered the Subedar Major to do the same. Fortunately the Subedar Major knew no English and the Platoon sergeant no Urdu. I asked them both quietly to state their views, which they did - with the same vehement stubbornness. Suddenly I saw a glimmer of light.

"Supposing", I said to the Platoon sergeant, "I was to order you to go out on patrol again, well away from the position, butcher the pig there, cut it up into small joints, put them inside the haversacks of the patrol and then return and unpack them, only when you are in the area of your own cook-house, how would you feel about that?" He thought for a moment and then, to my great relief, said "I think that would be OK, Sir".

I then turned to the Subedar Major and explained my plan to him - I reminded him that out of the line and in barracks British Officers in Indian Regiments ate bacon and other pig products, discreetly, and that this was accepted by the Muslim Mess Havildar and other members of the Mess Staff, sometimes, I understood, by an additional day of fasting added on to the annual Fast of Ranzan. I assured him that the Platoon sergeant would honour his side of the bargain strictly, to avoid any offence, and that what was hidden in the haversacks of the British patrol was no concern of ours. He thought quietly for a moment and then said he was satisfied with my proposal, and so it happily turned out.

The next day the Platoon sergeant looked in to the Battalion Headquarters dug-out and seeing I was alone, handed me a parcel. "With the compliments of the Northamptons, Sir". Delivered to our, fortunately, Christian follower cook, the contents went down very well for Battalion Headquarters supper that evening.

INFORMATION ON 2,008 INDIAN REGIMENTS, CORPS OR OTHER UNITS

Shamus O D Wade

It all began when I was in New Delhi with the Military Historical Society in 1977. I saw, on the great archway of the All-India War Memorial, column after column of war dead from

units like the Bullock Corps and Mule Corps of which I had never heard. No one else seemed to know anything about them either (or to be at all interested).

It was then that I decided to produce a history of all the different individual units of the Defence Forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire (outside the United Kingdom) from 1066 to 1945.

The driving force behind my researches was partly curiosity (what was the Detachment of Madras Gardeners doing in Shaik Saad in Mesopotamia in 1917?) and partly a feeling that brave men, however small or obscure their unit should not be forgotten. Although a great deal has been written about the Armies of India, there were still many gaps to be filled. The best known work on the units raised by the Indian Princes is "*The Indian State Forces, Their Lineage and Insignia*" by H.H. The Maharaja of Jaipur. This excellent book lists 127 different units from 47 different states. Over a number of years, taking time off to visit the Indian Office Library whenever I could, I managed to trace 834 units of the Imperial Service Troops or Indian States Forces from 69 states. Although the list is pretty well complete, there is still a great deal of work to be done on the military actions in which they took part.

Over the years I found more and more gaps in Commonwealth military history that needed to be filled - and if I did not fill them, no one would. I found myself involved in a great deal of work tracing hitherto unrecorded units in Hong Kong in World War II, travelling and writing letters. The writing was on the wall when the last traceable survivor of the heroic "Donald Ducks" (the Dockyard Defence Corps) died in the middle of our correspondence.

By November 1988, I had information on 6,653 different Commonwealth regiments, corps or other units. Up to then, I had been trying to produce a history at the same time as running a one-man business. This became too much of a good thing.

I decided to close down my business (I was a dealer in old toy soldiers) and devote the rest of my time to getting this work recorded for posterity. This is why I founded the Commonwealth Forces History Trust (Registered Charity No 328423) on November 19th 1988.

At the time of writing, the Trust has information on 7,770 different Commonwealth units. We are able to answer queries on 2,008 Indian regiments, corps and other units, including the Indian Flying Corps of World War I, the Indian Corps of Submarine Lascars of 1891, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteer Corps of 1877 and the Indian Army Dental Corps of 1943.

The Commonwealth Forces History Trust has no paid staff. We survive on donations from such disparate and splendid sources as the Government of St. Lucia, the Kenya Regimental Trust, the Veterans Association of Ghana, the Societe Jersiaise, the Imperial Daughters of the British Empire in Bermuda, Mr D. Singh of Wolverhampton and Mrs H. Patel of Neasden. All queries are answered absolutely free. However, if anyone is kind enough to make a donation, we are always glad to accept it.

Shamus O. D. Wade, Director,

The Commonwealth Forces History Trust,

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Web site note - since closed down

"REGIMENTS OF THE EMPIRE" and A.F.I. ANNUAL REPORTS

J.M.A. Tamplin

"*Regiments of the Empire*" was published in 1989 by Roger Perkins who, with the assistance of his able correspondents and scouts, deserves the thanks of all in producing this pioneer work. Roger Perkins intends to publish a 2nd corrected, amplified and final edition in 1993. One aspect, which was not covered, was the series of Annual Reports produced by a variety of A.F.I. units. These ran from a simple page to quite considerable 100 page publications. From the summary below it can be seen that some were of considerable length of publication - The Assam-Bengal Railway Battalion was the 40th Annual Report. What is certain at present is that they are rare publications and from a search at the M.O.D., the N.A.M, I.O.L, B.L/B.M and A.M.O.T. libraries, the following have been traced. Can any member report any others or source of them? Please either report to me or to Roger Perkins so that an appreciation can be made regarding their possible inclusion in the 2nd Edition of *Regiments of the Empire*.

J.M.A. Tamplin, 10 Hugh Street, London. SW1V 1RP or Roger Perkins, Arundel house, Laureston Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, TO12 1HN

Known Annual Reports, giving date and location of seen copy.

Title	No.	Year	Location
Calcutta Port Defence Vol. Corps.	17th	1915-16	BL
East India Railway Vol. Rifle Corps.	12th	1880-81	BL
	20th	1888-89	BL
Rangoon & Irrawaddy State Railway Vol. Rifles	4th	1883-84	BL
	5th	1884-5	BL
Now Burma State Railway Vol. Rifles	15th	1894-95	BL
Rangoon Vol. Rifle Corps	2nd	1879-80	BL
	6th	1883-84	BL

	7th	1884-85	BL
United Provinces Horse: Northern Regt.	1st	1909-10	AMOT
Chota Nagpur L.H.		1913-14	AMOT
		1915-16	AMOT
		1916-17	AMOT
Punjab Light Horse	1st	1894-95	AMOT
	12th	1905-06	AMOT
Southern Provinces M.R.,	2nd	1907-08	NAM
J (The Scots) Company, Bombay Vol. Rifles	1st	1915-16	NAM
Northern Bengal M.R.	30th	1910-11	AMOT
Calcutta & Presidency Battalion	1st	1934	NAM
	-	1938	NAM
Surma Valley L.H.	27th	1909-10	NAM
	30th	1912-13	NAM
Assam-Bengal Railway Battalion	40th	1940-41	NAM
Assam Valley L.H.	-	1914-15	NAM
	-	1915-16	NAM
	-	1916-17	NAM
Bangalore Rifle Volunteers		1912-13	NAM

[BL = British Library, AMOT = Army Museums Ogilby Trust, NAM = National Army Museum.

Most records are numbered (as '4th', etc.) which naturally is an indication of the number of years the publication had run for.



LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Brian Ritchie writes from Oman:

Vol. 7 No.3 carries an article by A.G. Mann on Lt. Col. Charles Vernon Ommaney and refers to his father, Col. E.L. Ommaney, Bengal Staff Corps, whose medals are in my collection

- Companion of the Order of the Star of India (C.S.I.)
- Indian Mutiny Medal for Delhi as Lieutenant of the 59th N.I.
- I.G.S. 1854 for N.W.F. and Hazara 1888 as Captain in the Bengal Staff Corps.

I have been unable to carry out any research yet but Mr Mann's article will dovetail neatly into family history.

● G.D. Carpenter writes:

The article on Bernadotte (Vol.8. No.4) is amusing, but according to Barton's "*Amazing Career of Bernadotte*", a book much more serious than its title, is untrue, Bernadotte being "*du pays d' Henri IV et un menteur comme le bon roi*". It is not physically impossible that he could have been in India at the time, but it would seem far more likely that he was in Corsica, Pau or Grenoble. The explanation of the story, which was repeated by Wilks and Ross in Cornwallis' correspondence, according to Barton was the following: (p.165)

- When the marshal retired after the levee, his staff officers remarked that they had been surprised to hear for the first time that he had served in India. Bernadotte laughingly admitted that it was the first time that he himself had heard of it; and explained his masquerade by saying that he wished to rescue his old regiment from the imputation of ingratitude, and to discharge the obligation which his fellow sergeant owed to von Gonheim (sic. von Wagenheim?)

● Miss Jane Robinson of Oxford has written seeking assistance in researching a book on the Indian Mutiny, but a story with a difference based almost solely on the first-hand accounts of the women involved - Army and Civil Service wives and daughters, new arrivals on the so-called "fishing fleet", hapless lady travellers in the wrong place at the wrong time and so on, quite another story. She writes, "I've already been trawling library and archive collections for published and unpublished journals and letters; what I need at this stage though, is to hear the memories and anecdotes of family members who actually took part in the mutiny. I am sure there must be so many cherished great-great grandmothers and aunts whose exploits in India in the mid-nineteenth century have become family legends."

If anyone can help they are invited to write directly to: Miss Jane Robinson, M.A., F.R.G.S., 23, Harbord Road, Oxford, OX2 8LH

● R. Gilbert seeks answers to the following questions:

- When did the British Officers in the Indian Army change from the pillbox hat to the coloured forage cap for undress wear?
- Did all lancer regiments have universal pattern forage caps, welts down the quarter seams, band and welts of the colour of the facing?

● G.R. Putnam seeks research assistance from fellow members possessing one or all the following unit histories:

- 1st Punjab Regiment 1939-45:
- 3rd Gurkha Rifles 1939-45:
- 11th Sikhs 1939-45.

He is also offering to research names, free of charge from the "National Roll of the Great War", Section 8, City of Leeds, if anyone is interested.

● Ashok Nath has copies of Second World War casualty rolls of the following regiments and corps. They are detailed and list every officer and man killed or wounded, with date, place of action etc. arranged by battalion. Members seeking copies are invited to contact Ashok - it will cost £10-£15 per unit, depending on regiment/corps

17 Dogra Regt.

18 Royal Garhwal Rifles

19 Hyderabad Regt./Kumaon Rifles

Assam Regt.

Sikh Light infantry

Bihar Regt.

Ajmer Regt

Chamar Regt.

1 K.G.V.O.'s Gurkha Rifles

2 K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles

3 Q.A.O. Gurkha Rifles

4 P.W.O. Gurkha Rifles

5 Royal Gurkha Rifles (FF)

6 Gurkha Rifles

7 Gurkha Rifles

8 Gurkha Rifles

9 Gurkha Rifles

10 Gurkha Rifles

I.E.M.E.

I.A.M.C.

R.I.A.S.C. (A.T. and M.T.)

I.A.O.C.

Indian Pioneer Corps

Indian General Service Corps

C.M.P. (I)

I.A.C.C.

Indian Observer Corps.

● Hugh King poses some more unidentified badge queries covering what seems to be two units. The first group (Figure 1) has the initials E.D, whilst the second (Figure 2) has S.E. and O.

We published the E.D. cap badge under an earlier query in Vol.7. No.1.

Hugh describes all the badges as being undoubtedly of Indian make, in white metal. The larger have pin brooches for wear in a pagri, whilst the smaller badges had two small loops as fasteners, though they have been removed and replaced by short screw studs and round knurled nuts of the kind used with electric terminals. Hugh originally suggested that the initials may stand respectively for "Engineering Department" and "Signalling Equipment and Operations", possibly reflecting a link with the Indian Railway system, possibly under the auspices of A.F.I,

Our President has suggested Ecclesiastical Department for E.D. but makes the point that he does not know other insignia from this department, though he still has a liking for this identification. He continues, however, "The general format gives me a feeling of being police or Civil. There is another possibility which is that they could be geographical titles for police special reserves - "Eastern District", "Southern, Eastern and Orissa /Oudh", which could conform to the major police boundaries."

Fig1: Poor reproductions of three badges – King’s crown over wreath, monogram ED in the centre (cap and collar); shoulder title straight letters ED

Fig.2: Poor reproductions of three badges – King’s crown over wreath, monogram SE&O in the centre (cap and collar); shoulder title straight S.E.&O



THE POLICE OF BRITISH INDIA, THEIR RANK STRUCTURE, UNIFORMS AND BADGES OF RANK

Lt. Col. A.A. Mains

STRUCTURE

The Police in British India belonged to two separate services - the (Imperial) INDIAN POLICE and the PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE. It was organised on a three-tier basis.

THE TOP TIER - THE INDIAN POLICE

This was a Secretary of State's Covenanted Service and provided the top tier only Gazetted Officers (equivalent to Army Commissioned Officers) i.e. Assistant Superintendents to Inspectors General. They were recruited direct in Britain and India by their respective Civil Service Commissioners. Their terms of service were fixed by the Secretary of State for India on behalf of the British Parliament and only he, and not the Government of India, could alter these terms. There was no head of the service as its various members were distributed amongst the various provinces, each with its own Inspector General.

THE MIDDLE AND LOWER TIERS

The Provincial Police Forces, the Police of Centrally Administered Areas and the Presidency Towns.

THE PROVINCIAL POLICE

Each province administered its own Police force and fixed their terms of service, subject to overall control of the Government of India. They were commanded by Gazetted Officers of the provincial cadre of the Indian Police and a District Superintendent was responsible to the Inspector General of his Province.

THE POLICE OF THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS (BALUCHISTAN, DELHI, AJMERE etc.)

These forces were administered by Chief Commissioners of their respective Areas, and commanded by Gazetted Officers seconded from the local provincial cadre.

THE POLICE OF THE PRESIDENCY TOWNS (CALCUTTA, BOMBAY AND MADRAS)

The Police of these towns were separate from the local provincial police. They were commanded by Gazetted Officers seconded from the local provincial cadre. The Chief Police Officer, the Commissioner, ranking as a Deputy Inspector General, was directly responsible to the Home Department of the local government and not to the provincial Inspector General.

THE MIDDLE TIER (INSPECTORS AND SUB INSPECTORS (EQUIVALENT TO ARMY VCOS)

Men for these ranks were recruited direct as Probationary Sub Inspectors, as it was impossible to get men of education to join as Constables. With the exception of Inspectors promoted from Sergeant, they were exclusively Indian. Sub Inspectors were promoted to Gazetted rank as Deputy Superintendents (a rank reserved for them). The lowly status and lack of education of the Constables meant that much of the work done in Britain by Desk Sergeants, Detective Sergeants and Constables was done by Sub Inspectors.

SERGEANTS [EQUIVALENT TO INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTORS - WOs I]

This rank was reserved for Europeans or Anglo-Indians, who were recruited from time-expired British soldiers, or direct in the case of the Anglo Indians. They were found in the Presidency and larger towns, where they were used to deal with Europeans. They also served in the Armed and Mounted Police sections of the larger District forces. They were eligible for promotion to Inspector and Deputy Superintendent.

THE LOWER TIER CONSTABLES AND HEAD CONSTABLES

The ordinary policeman was the Constable, a man of little or no education. He was used therefore, for beat work, crowd control and traffic regulation, but not normally for detection or investigation. He was eligible for promotion to Lance Naik, Naik and Head Constable; the latter the equivalent of an Army Havildar

CHOWKIDARS

The chowkidar was the village watchman who had certain rather vague police powers. He was appointed by the village Headman, and his usefulness varied.

LEGAL POSITION

The police in India were not 'Servants of the Law' as in Britain but Government Servants, so at each stage the Police were responsible to the Civil Authorities; a District Superintendent was responsible to, and under the orders of, the District Magistrate. Gazetted Officers were very much aware of their civilian status. They were not addressed by their rank, but as 'Mr' and written to as "E Smith Esq, Indian Police, Superintendent of Police, X District".

ORGANISATION

Police work was based on the Civil District and each District had a Police force under a Superintendent.

THE POLICE STATION

This was the lowest unit and varied from a small station in the countryside comprising a Sub Inspector and about a dozen Constables, to the larger ones in towns and cantonments, which would have an Inspector in charge and a considerable force of Sub Inspectors and Constables. The Officer in charge was officially known as the "Station House Officer", but more often by the old Mogul title of '*Darogha*'. The Inspector in charge of a larger station would often be known as the 'Civil Lines Inspector' or 'Cantonment Inspector', according to the location of his police station. The Station House Officer of the City Police Station was usually known as the "*Kotwal*", the Mogul title, and his police station as the "*Kotwali*".

THE CIRCLE

A number of village police stations would be grouped into a 'Circle' under a 'Circle Inspector'.

THE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

The composition of the District HQ varied with the size and importance of the District. At the lower end of the scale a small District would have a Superintendent in charge, a Deputy-Superintendent as second in command, and the inspector in charge of the Armed Police Reserve. A very large District would have, besides the Superintendent, an Additional Superintendent as second in command, and a number of Deputy Superintendents in charge of either an area (Deputy Superintendent City), or some aspect of police work (crime detection, traffic etc.). There was no detective staff in a District, but a small intelligence section.

THE RANGE

A number of Districts were grouped into a "Range" under the supervision of a Deputy Inspector General. Ranges usually coincided with the civil "Divisions" of a Province.

PROVINCIAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS

This was the Headquarters of the Inspector General of the Province, who was responsible to the local Government for the efficiency of his Force. It contained also the Provincial Criminal Investigation Department under a Deputy Inspector General. This was usually split into Intelligence and Crime sections, each under a "Special Superintendent".

GAZETTED OFFICERS - INDIAN POLICE AND PROVINCIAL FORCES

An officer of the Indian Police on appointment was gazetted as an Assistant Superintendent and posted to a Province in whose cadre he would remain for the whole of his service. He would probably do a course at the Provincial Police Training School, before being posted to District for practical training, where he would be junior to Deputy Superintendents belonging to the Provincial Force and gazetted from Inspector. He would be on probation for a period, during which time, if a European, he would be required to pass the obligatory language test. In due course he would be promoted direct to Superintendent and posted to a large District as an Additional Superintendent; there he would have the legal powers of a Superintendent but without charge of a District. After a time he would be given charge of one of the smaller Districts. As an encouragement to the Provincial Force, a small number of Deputy Superintendents would be promoted to Superintendent and given charge of a District, usually a smaller and easier one, shortly before retirement. Only Officers of the Indian Police were promoted to Deputy Inspectors General and Inspectors General.

UNIFORMS

(For badges of rank see Appendix). Gazetted Officers - Indian Police and Provincial Forces

Uniforms were generally identical to those of Army Officers - khaki tunic with collar and tie, khaki helmet or cap, breeches and boots, or shorts with boots and puttees or stockings, or trousers as appropriate, Sam Browne belt. Shirtsleeve order was worn in hot weather. Rank badges - crowns and stars were in silver and the stars were five-pointed. Inspectors General and Deputy Inspectors General wore blue and silver gorget patches and blue cap bands.

INSPECTORS AND SUB INSPECTORS

Uniforms were generally akin to those of Army VCOs - khaki tunic with stand-up collar, shorts or trousers, boots and puttees or stockings and shoes, Sam Browne belt. Shirtsleeve order in the hot weather. Pagri of same type and colour as rank and file, but sometimes a helmet. Anglo-Indian Inspectors never wore a pagri but always a helmet or cap.

SERGEANTS

Uniforms were generally akin to those of Inspectors, except for a cap and never a pagri. Those in the mounted branch wore breeches and leggings. Shirtsleeve order in the hot weather. Sergeants had the greatest variations of uniform of any rank. For example - I saw a sergeant in the (all Gurkha) Chittagong District Armed Police wearing khaki shirt and shorts, khaki stockings, black shoes, black Sam Browne belt, sergeant's stripes, a black dress cap with a shiny peak, a khaki cap cover and a crossed kukri badge on black boss.

CONSTABLES - PROVINCIAL FORCES

There was considerable variation between Provinces, but the uniform colour was almost invariably khaki, usually in khaki drill but in serge for winter in some Provinces. Several Provinces dressed their Constables in Army type uniforms of 1914 vintage - khaki frocks with knickerbockers and long puttees, while others wore shirts and shorts with puttees and boots. Pagris were almost universal, either red or with red in them (red was the Government colour). All Constables wore their number, for easy identification, in large brass figures on the breast.

PRESIDENCY TOWNS

Their uniforms were much more colourful. Calcutta Constables wore white frocks and knickerbockers with long puttees (I think blue) and red puttees. Bombay Constables wore blue drill frocks and knickerbockers with bare calves and black chapplies, together with a bright yellow Mahratta style cap with a black chinstrap, worn at a jaunty angle (they were often known as 'buttercups'). This was replaced about 1939 by a blue side-cap with yellow piping. Inspectors, Sub Inspectors and Sergeants in both Forces wore white rather than khaki, and in Bombay they wore white helmets with a yellow pagri or a cap with a yellow cap band. I regret I have no knowledge of Madras.

SHOULDER TITLES, ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

SHOULDER TITLES

Officers of the Indian Police wore 'I.P.', irrespective of the Province in which they were serving. All others wore Provincial titles, i.e. 'P.P.' = Punjab Police, 'D.P.' = Delhi Police, 'C.P.' = Calcutta Police.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Police in India were essentially a civil unarmed force and, other than weapons carried for self-defence by the Officers, the only arms and armed units were the dozen or so antiquated smooth bore muskets kept in each police station for its defence, and the District Armed Reserve of about platoon strength armed with service rifles. These men wore leather belts and bandoliers.

GAZETTED OFFICERS, INSPECTORS AND SERGEANTS

These officers were armed with the Army type .455 Revolver carried in a leather holster on the Sam Browne belt. They were only carried for self-defence at times of riot and civil commotion.

CONSTABLES

The standard weapon was a short truncheon carried in a frog on the leather belt. This had the District name on the buckle. The long bamboo pole (lathi) was only carried at times of civil commotion. Traffic police, in the hot weather, wore a leather harness to which was clipped an

open umbrella. This gave protection from the sun, while leaving the arms free to direct the traffic.

APPENDIX

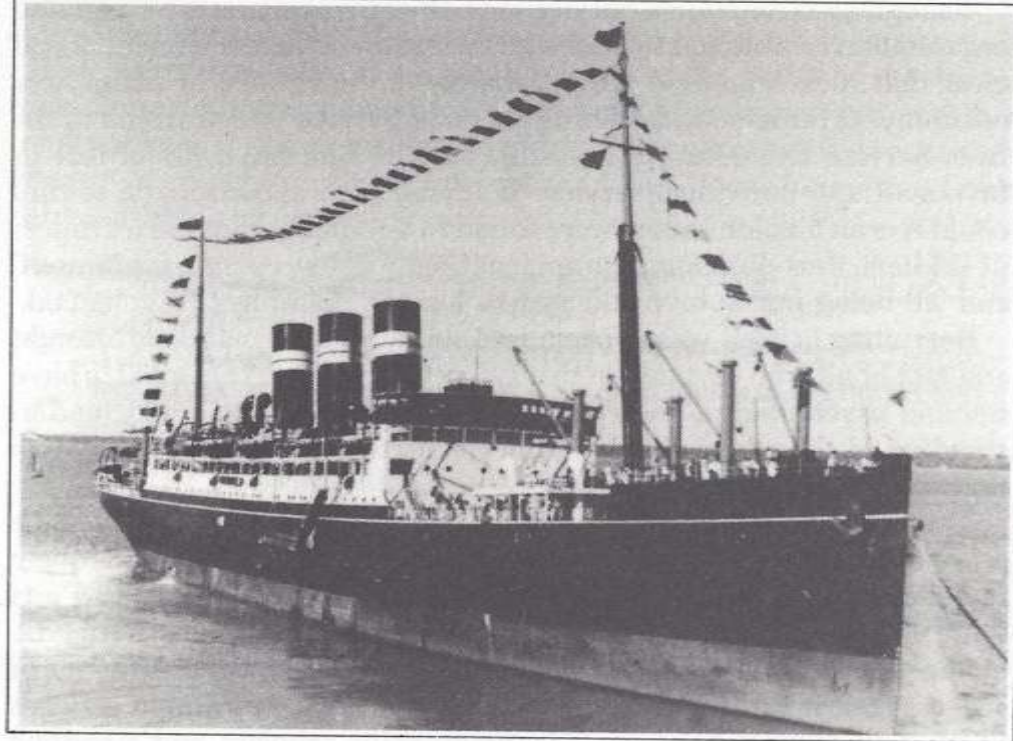
BADGES OF RANK (All worn in the same positions as in the Army)

Constables	Lance Naik	1 chevron
	Naik	2 chevrons
	Head Constable	3 chevrons
Sergeants		3 chevrons or shoulder title 'Sergeant'
Inspectors		
Sub Inspector		1 miniature star or shoulder title 'Sub Inspector'
Inspector		2 miniature stars or shoulder title 'Inspector'
Gazetted Officers		
Assistant Superintendent		1 Star
Deputy Superintendent		2 Stars
Superintendent		3 Stars
(according to length of service)		Crown/Crown and Star
Deputy Inspector General		Crown and 2 Stars
Inspector General		Crown and 3 Stars

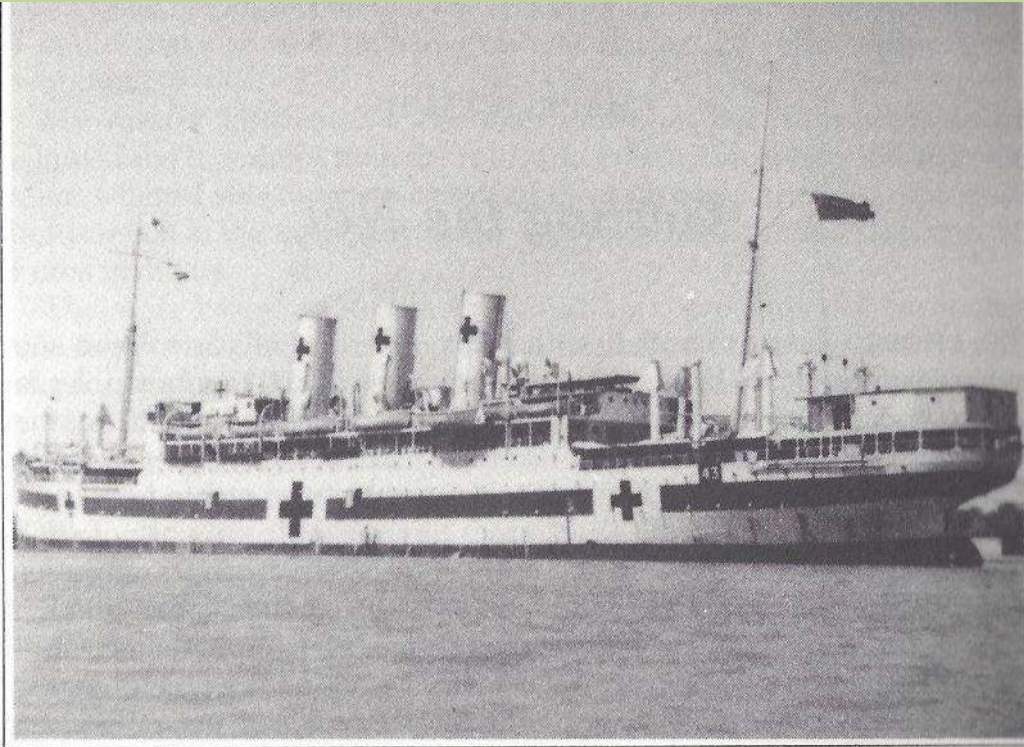
THE ROYAL INDIAN MARINE/ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

[I am painfully aware that the standard of reproduction of illustrations with the article by Maitland Thornton in Vol. 8 No 3 was well below what we would desire, and detracted from the article. (Not shown in the web site version – illustrations have been improved). Maitland has since been in correspondence with Commander Reverend E C Streatfeild-James OBE who has kindly provided copies of further photographs, all taken from his book 'In the Wake - The Birth of the Indian and Pakistani Navies'.

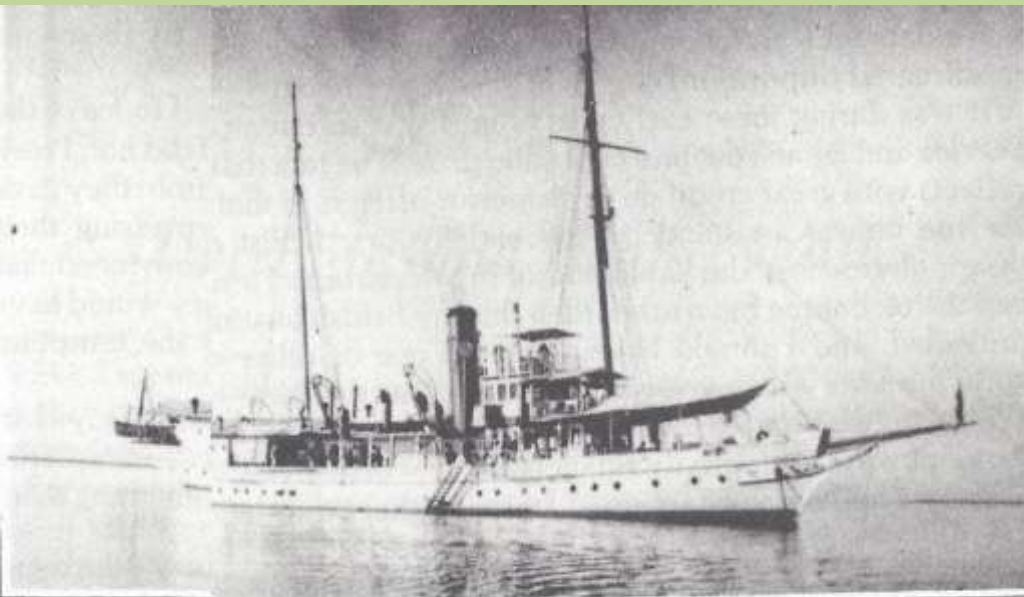
All are self-explanatory, though it is worth adding to the caption accompanying H.M.I.S PATIALA that this was a replica of a Fairmile Motor Launch made of bricks and mortar within a tank of water. It was made at the suggestion of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala (in his State 1000 miles inland) as a wartime aid to recruiting. Editor



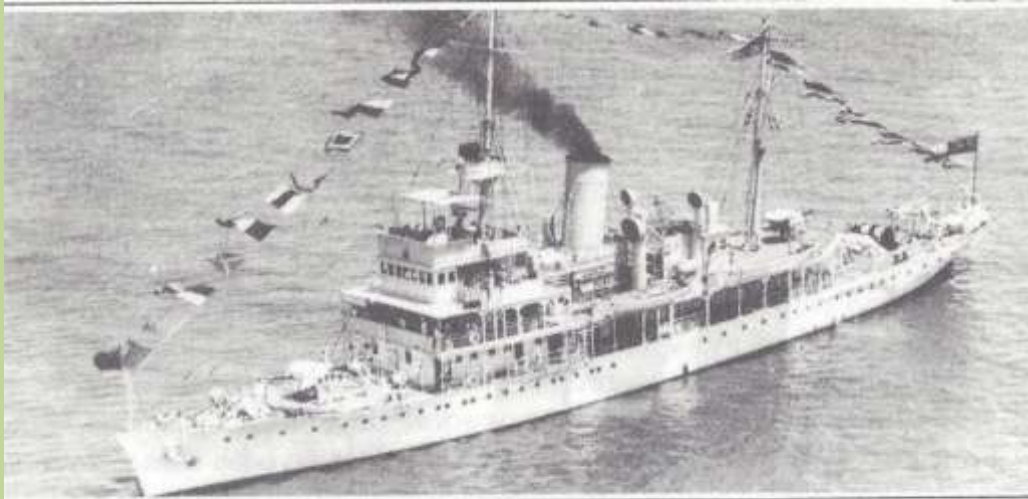
British India Steam Navigation Company S.S. Talamba before conversion, 1941 under the auspices of Sea Transport at Bombay



*The Hospital Ship, Talamba after fitting out in Bombay
(later sunk by enemy action)*



R.I.M.S. Palinurus, Survey Ship, 1926



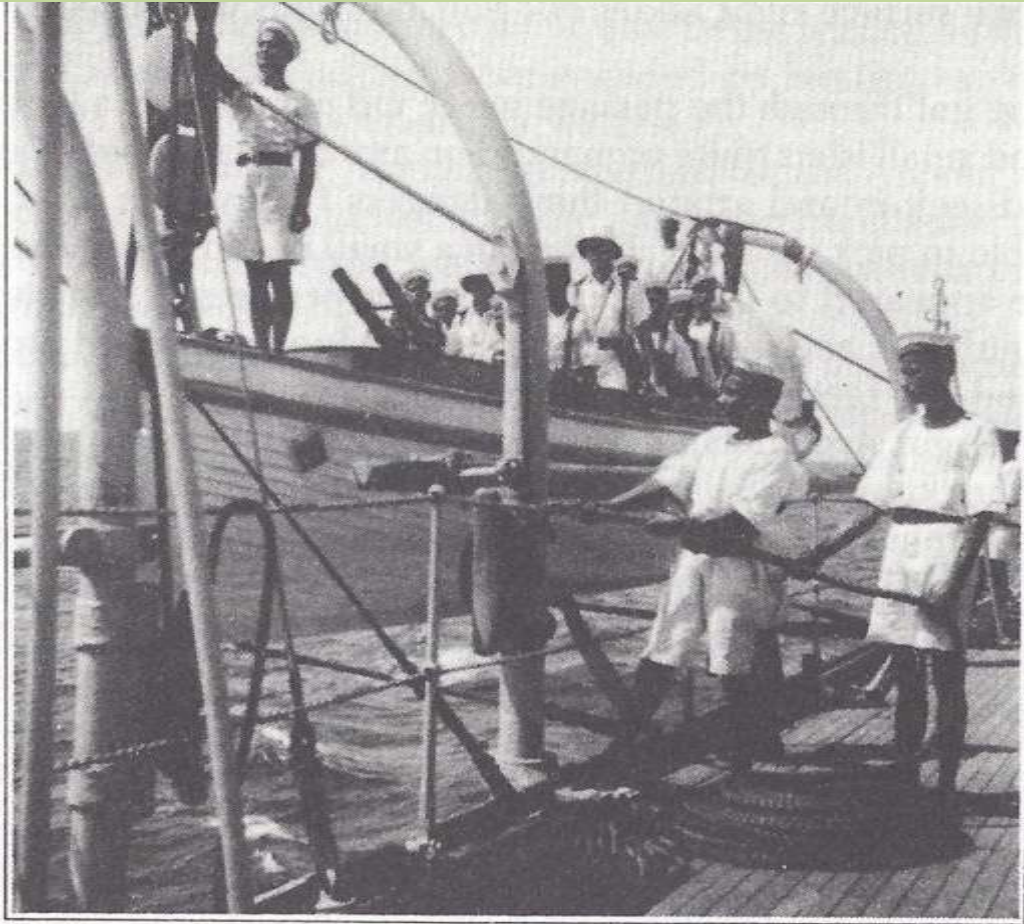
H.M.I.S. Lawrence, converted for minesweeping, 1935



*At Patiala: H.E. The
Commander-In-Chief India,
Field Marshal Sir Claude
Auchinleck with H.H. The
Maharajah of Patiala aboard
H.M.I.S. Patiala*

*H.M.I.S. Patiala dressed
overall for the State Visit
of His Highness*





*Dispatch of armed motor cutter
to investigate suspicious craft*

A MODEL SOLDIER AUCTION

I have not previously included in DURBAR details of auctions but one particular auction recently caught my eye and I thought that a few words about it would not go amiss.

I am not a collector of model soldiers but could not help being intrigued by an article in *The Times* (of London) on the 13th January reporting a forthcoming auction of three model displays, one of which featured the Delhi Durbar of 1911. The vendor was identified as George Palmer, aged 72, a retired Lloyd's underwriter, who had spent 20 years putting it together.

The auction house, PHILLIPS, West Two, of Bayswater, London and their consultant, James Opie, were most helpful and allowed me to view the collection prior to auction.

The lots, 417 in all (though not all related to the Delhi Durbar display), featured 54mm figures, a majority being of "Britains" manufacture, some original and some embellished or converted, together with a proportion of New Toy Soldiers.

For instance, the sale catalogue described how Mr Palmer, wishing to retain the original "Britains" heads for his British Infantry of the Line figures, while enabling them to endure the hot sun of the Durbar day, commissioned from Andrew Rose a Wolseley foreign service helmet with a hole in the top, which, placed over the top of the "Britains" spiked helmet, converts them to sun helmets without any damage to the original.

For me, however, the highlight was undoubtedly the sets created by William Cranston. I was particularly interested in the detail that he had included in his figures representing the Imperial Service Troops (later the Indian State Forces), especially the Nizam of Hyderabad's African Cavalry Guard, the Maharaja of Kashmir's Cuirassier Bodyguard and the Mysore Lancers.

Other Indian Army regiments represented included the Viceroy's Bodyguard 1876, the Imperial Cadet Corps 1911, Colour Party of the 117th Mahratta Light Infantry 1903, 17th Bengal Cavalry 1900, Skinner's Horse 1895 and the Colour Party of 15th Ludhiana Sikhs 1910. The Delhi Durbar model was exhibited at Sledmere House, Yorkshire, in 1986.

Unfortunately, I was serving in the Caribbean at the time and so missed it but it must have been a magnificent sight. Ed.



THE LAFAYETTE PROJECT

Russell Harris

This portrait of Thakur Hari Singh is one of the portraits of Indian military personalities which has turned up in the Lafayette Collection, a trove of some 3,500 glass plate negatives, discovered in 1988 and now held by the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The Lafayette Project, named after the Bond Street photographic studio which made the plates, was set up with the purpose of cataloguing the glass negatives, most of which have no more identification than a hurriedly scratched name. Many of the plates show a wealth of costumes, uniforms and decorations.



Thakur Hari Singh, one of India's top polo players, is seen here in the full dress uniform of the Jodhpur Imperial Service Lancers. Previously the only known images of Hari Singh in military uniform have been found in "*The Army and Navy Illustrated*" of 1902.¹

"*The Times*"² reported that he accompanied his Commanding Officer, Sir Pertab Singh, to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London and it was then that this plate was made. The medal worn by Hari Singh appears to be the India Medal 1895-1902. However, the Jodhpur Lancers were awarded this medal for services on the North-West Frontier later than the Jubilee celebrations. It must therefore be the India General Service Medal 1854-95, and as such, could be the first instance of Indian State Forces having been awarded this medal.

Notes:

1. 1st March, p.588 and 22nd March, p.11
2. 29th June 1897, p.8 and 1st July 1897, p.6

THE LAFAYETTE PROJECT- EDITOR'S NOTE

I have since had a chance to check the photograph more closely and the medal is indeed the I.G.S. 1854-95. The only reference I had to this medal being awarded to Indian State Forces (Imperial Service Troops, as they were known then) was the clasp HUNZA 1891, to Kashmiri troops. Further research has now suggested that Hari Singh's Clasp is HAZARA 1891, awarded for operations of the Hazara Field Force in the Black Mountains under Major General W.K. Elles C.B.

The clue lies in van Wart's biography of Sir Pratap Singh¹, which mentions the attachment of Hari Singh and others from the Jodhpur Sardar Rissala to 11 Bengal Lancers for the Black Mountain Expedition of 1892 (sic). I have yet to check the medal roll but if this hypothesis is correct then it is, indeed, the earliest recorded example of this medal being given to Indian States personnel.

1. R.B. van Wart *The Life of Lieut-General H.H. Sir Pratap Singh*. London: 1926

