

DURBAR Volume 16, No.2, Summer 1999

“FRONTIER AND OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS FROM INDIA” - compiled in the Intelligence Branch,
Army Headquarters, India

Shamus O D Wade
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(To be continued)

DECOMMISSIONING OF THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY (1612-1947) ASSOCIATION

Rear Admiral Satyindra Singh

(This article is taken from a longer one which appeared in QUARTERDECK, the journal of the RIN Association, in December 1998. Space does not permit me to publish the whole of the article but I hope I have highlighted the salient points. Ed.)

It was on 1 March 1997 that the President of the Royal Indian Navy (1612-1947) Association, Lt Cdr E M Shaw RIN (Retd) wrote to the Chief of the Naval Staff of their decision to wind up this Association after an Annual General Meeting on 20 November 1997. He mentioned that this Association was formed 65 years ago and as all our members are getting a little older

each year, and we are not getting any new members, it had been decided that the Annual Reunion on 11 October 1997 would be the last. For many years they had been inviting the Naval Adviser to the High Commission and his wife as their honoured guests at this lunch, and this being a very special occasion, they would be making a presentation to the Indian Navy as a mark of the high esteem and affection felt by members for this service. They wished that the Indian Navy this time also send a senior officer from India as their guest. Mike Shaw in his letter had added that "Many old friendships have been maintained over the years; it is sad, but totally understandable that we eventually have to 'Pipe Down' and lower our colours. We hope we can finish with a small flourish."

I was a member of this Association for many years. Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, our Chief of the Naval Staff, kindly deputed me to represent the Indian Navy at the special function in London on 11 October 1997. For me it was a privilege to be present there and my feelings were a mix of happiness, sadness and considerable emotion. I had joined the service as a Sub Lieutenant RINVR (the 'Wavy Navy', as the RINVR was then termed!) on 14 June 1941 and was in regular correspondence with the RIN Association and also wrote a piece or two for their most interesting and illuminating annual journal.

The Reunion Lunch was attended by many, many old timers and seeing and meeting them was literally 'history come alive'. The President of the Association, Mike Shaw (a contemporary of our Admiral S G Karmarkar) chaired the gathering.....our indefatigable Hony. Secretary, Lt Cdr R L (Ronnie) Edwards.....and his superb arrangements covered the minutest details....Jack Hastings (Cdr D J Hastings OBE RINVR)....has served the Association for many long years and also as its archivist and authored a very fine volume of the history of the Royal Indian Navy.....Rear Admiral D W Kirke CB OBE RN (Retd)....had made a significant contribution to the development of Naval Aviation in the Indian Navy.....91 year old Inst Cdr Robert Mills.....had taught the erstwhile Indian princes at Aitcheson College, Lahore, and the Maharaja College in the then Travancore State....Capt Percy Learmont's daughter had a longish chat with me. Her father was the Naval Officer in charge in Calcutta (Fort William) in 1943-44 where I was then serving as a young Lieutenant. I related to his daughter an 'incident' when I took an important signal (at least this is what I thought) to him and he initialed it and handed it back to me pronto. I waited for his directions on the 'action to be taken'. He told me, "Go and do something about it", signaling me to leave. And he added, "Whatever you do, it will be right in eight cases out of ten and inaction is the worst syndrome!" I cannot help recording here a few lines Percy Learmont wrote to me when I was writing the first volume of our Naval History - "Under Two Ensigns". He said, "One young officer in command of an auxiliary vessel in Calcutta once said to me that he had got his men completely under his thumb, and illustrated his remark by pressing his thumb on the table. I immediately informed him that I was not impressed in the slightest and the sooner he released his pressure and got his men in the proper place, that is wholeheartedly behind him, the better for himself and the Service."

After lunch Cdr A B Goord DSC RIN (Retd) made a presentation of the model of HMS TRINCOMALEE to Commodore P R Franklin, Naval Adviser to our High Commissioner in London....Brian Goord.....will always be remembered by the A/S boys for what is known as the 'Goord Target': an early war device to provide an echo source for anti-submarine work as no submarines were available for dummy runs to ping on. He devised a long compressed air tube (air supplied by divers pump) at the end of which was a 'C' shaped curve full of holes through which the bubbles created a suitable target. The device was towed by a small surface

craft several yards astern. The device was taken up by the Admiralty and there is also an AFO (Admiralty Fleet Order) on the subject!

The sailing frigate, *Trincomalee*, was built in Bombay Dockyard by Jamsetjee Bowanjee Wadia in 1817. She is the oldest British warship afloat. A descendant of the Wadia family is a member of the Association. *Trincomalee's* active service did not begin until 1847 when she went to the Caribbean on a three year commission. She carried provisions, despatches and money to British ships and garrisons and was involved in quelling riots in Haiti; from 1852-1857 she undertook her longest commission of 5 years, during which she spent 944 days at sea stationed with the Pacific squadron off the west coast of North America. From 1861 she was involved in various training roles which ensured her survival until 1987 when the programme of conservation began.

Commodore Franklin made an appropriate response and also read out a fine message from the Chief of the Naval Staff. He also presented Indian Navy ties to all the members.....Cdr R Williams then presented a model of HMPS Sind (previously Godavari in undivided India) to a representative of the Pakistan Naval Adviser.....

I proposed a toast to our 'Absent Friends' and we then moved to small groups for our farewell exchanges - hopefully to meet again, sometime, somewhere. Ronnie Edwards wrote to me a couple of months later that at the November AGM it was finally decided to wrap up the RIN Association.



1799 - SERINGAPATAM 4th MAY - 1999: 200th ANNIVERSARY

Tim Ash

Geoff Fawcett concluded his interesting article TIPOO SULTAN (DURBAR Winter 1998) with the stone memorial bearing the words THE BODY OF TIPPU SULTAN WAS FOUND HERE

There is a larger, and more detailed, monument commemorating the events of 4th May 1799 which stands at the north-west point of the bastions overlooking the Cauvery River, where the breach was formed for the assaulting columns under the command of Major General Baird.

This monument is somewhat remote from the main ruins of Tippu's fortress and is easily overlooked by the visitor but it stands on that historic site which is depicted on the reverse of the SERINGAPATAM medal. The monument was erected by the Mysore Government as late as 1907, and not by the British Government of India as may have been expected.

Mysore was the third largest of the Princely States. In 1907 the Maharajah was Colonel Sir Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur G.C.S.I, G.B.E. The Hindu family of Wadiyar had ruled Mysore from the 14th century until, in 1759, Hyder Ali, a junior Muslim officer in the Mysore army, rose in revolt, imprisoned the then Raja and his family and proclaimed himself ruler. Hyder Ali was succeeded on his death in 1782 by his son Tippu Sultan - later known as the Tiger of Mysore.

On Tippu's defeat and death in 1799 the territories of his domain were dealt with under the Partition Treaty of Mysore, 22 June 1799. The central portion, forming the old Hindu state of Mysore, was restored to an infant representative of the Wadiyar family, Krishnarajah Wadiyar. This family ruled Mysore until partition in 1947 when Mysore State joined the Indian Union. It is now a part of Karnataka State, whose capital is Bangalore, the seat of the old administrative departments of the erstwhile Mysore Princely State.



This beautifully proportioned and constructed monument has four panels on its plinth. One is inscribed:

THIS MONUMENT
WAS ERECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE
IN 1907
IN ORDER TO COMMEMORATE
THE SIEGE OF SERINGAPATAM
BY THE BRITISH FORCES
UNDER LIEUTENANT GENERAL G. HARRIS
AND ITS FINAL CAPTURE BY ASSAULT
ON THE 4TH MAY 1799.
AS ALSO
THE NAMES OF THOSE GALLANT OFFICERS
WHO FELL DURING THE OPERATIONS

The other three panels are headed:

- “FORCES ENGAGED BEFORE SERINGAPATAM 4TH APRIL TO 4TH MAY 1799 (European Troops)”;
- “FORCES ENGAGED BEFORE SERINGAPATAM 4TH APRIL TO 4TH MAY 1799 (Native Troops)”;
- “THE FOLLOWING EUROPEAN OFFICERS WERE KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS BEFORE SERINGAPATAM APRIL 5TH TO MAY 4TH 1799”.

Unfortunately the original illustrations used in Durbar do not bear reproduction on this web site.

THREE ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEDALS

Colin R. Bruce II

I thought the three illustrations of Army Rifle Association medals might be of interest to members.

The first, and larger, of the two from Bengal is 55mm in diameter, made by Pinches. On the obverse, under the lion, N.I.R.A. (National Indian Rifle Association) and the dates 1863-86. On the reverse, above the naming plaque, BENGAL PRESIDENCY, and below, RIFLE ASSOCIATION. This example is named in engraved capitals WON BY P^R G. BRITT 1889. The edge has the inscription G. BRITT, NORTHUMBERLAND FUS^{RS}.



The second piece is 36mm diameter, also by Pinches, and I have examples in bronze and silver proof. The obverse is as for the first medal. The reverse is of similar design to the first medal but, above the central plaque, ARMY RIFLE, and below, ASSOCIATION INDIA. Within the plaque, instead of the winner's name, the inscription B.P.R.A. 1887-1921.



The third medal is a post-Independence award, 54mm in diameter. The obverse has crossed rifles surmounted by the lions of Ashoka. Around the upper edge the inscription ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION and around the lower edge, INDIA. The reverse has the inscription around the upper edge PRIZE IN MATCH No and AWARDED TO.



MATCH No, and in the centre AWARDED TO with a space for the recipient's name.

PIONEER INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

DeWitt C. Ellinwood

Mike Cunningham's useful reflections on "Indianisation - a Mixed Blessing" in the Winter issue has stimulated me to write this note about the earliest Indian officers in the army. Although these young Indians were pioneers, many persons, even those interested in Indian Army history, do not know of them. The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, established the Imperial Cadet Corps in 1902 to train young princes and aristocrats in military matters, presumably so that they could use these talents in their state forces or in the Indian Army. He had not thought through the future of the Corps and its graduates carefully, so the results were less than satisfactory. Despite the fact that life in the Corps was not too strenuous, some young men dropped out. In the course of its operation to 1914 some were judged unfit, either for personal reasons or for inadequate command of the English language, and were not carried to graduation. In 1905 four young men graduated: Zorawar Singh, who returned to command the Bhavnagar Imperial Service Lancers in his home state. Wali-ud-din Khan, son of the Nawab of Hyderabad, who was appointed ADC to the GOC, Secunderabad. Aga Cassim Shah, nephew of the Aga Khan, who was appointed ADC to the GOC, Poona. Amar Singh, from a noble family of Jaipur, who was appointed ADC to General Sir O'Moore Creagh, GOC, Mhow. Only Amar Singh and Aga Cassim Shah continued in the Indian Army. Inasmuch as the purpose of the corps was vague, there was also uncertainty as to the type of commission to give these young men. In the end they were given commissions as officers, but in a fictional body called the Native Indian Land Forces. What this form of commission meant was that these young officers were in the Indian Army but did not have power of command, except over minor Army members. They were welcomed socially into the Army setting, but they were ignored professionally. The story of the Corps and of its students and graduates is narrated clearly in Col. Gautam Sharma's book, "*Nationalisation of the Indian Army (1885-1947)*" (New Delhi: Allied Publishing Ltd. 1996). Part of the story also is told in the only exhaustive study of the long debate over Indianisation of the officer corps up to 1917: Chandar Sundaram, "*A Grudging Concession: The Origins of the Indianization of the Indian Army's Officer Corps, 1817-1917*" (Ph.D. Dissertation. McGill University. 1996. This work will probably be published).

By the time the First World War broke out in 1914 twelve young Indians had received this commission. From its beginnings in the 1880s the Indian National Congress had called for opening the officers' ranks to Indians, but this had had no effect. The entire project might have been given up in 1914 because of uncertainty about the use of these young men and doubts about their abilities. Furthermore, the various officials in the Government of India, the India Office, and the War Office could not agree about the appropriate next step toward Indianization. There had been a lively prewar debate about the matter, for almost all British Indian officials, military and civil, believed that something more must be done for Indians in this regard, particularly for the upper classes. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar twice tried to force the issue in order to get his two sons into the officers' ranks. The debate was inconclusive, or perhaps a deadlock, so nothing further was done before the war.

War brings surprises and the change in Indians' status in the officer corps was one such change. A number of young Indian officers were taken overseas with Indian Expeditionary

forces, though even then they were given little responsibility. The Expeditionary Forces contributed significantly to the Allied war effort in Europe, Mesopotamia, and East Africa, despite some minor problems with the troops in France. Appreciation of these efforts and the increasing pace of Indian national movements led in 1917 to a basic decision. In 1917, the same year that Secretary of State for India Edwin Montagu declared that self-government was Britain's goal in India, the Army granted full commissions to nine of the young Indian officers commissioned in the Native Indian Land Forces before the war. This conferred upon them the power of regular command, so that Indians for the first time began to accumulate experiences in regular army operations. Because this new policy came late in the careers of these Indian pioneers, none of them advanced to any major position in the army. It was left to the forty-two young men who attended the special army officers' training at Indore in 1919 (thirty-nine were commissioned) to provide the first generation which would rise to higher rank and then become military leaders of India and Pakistan after 1947. This group included the future Generals K M Cariappa (first Commander-in-Chief of independent India) and A A Rudra. The wartime change of heart concerning Indians as officers also led to the policy of admitting five Indian young men a year to study in the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. This began in 1919. The first Indian graduate of Sandhurst was Syed Iskander Mirza, later transferred to the Political Service and eventually President of Pakistan from 1955 to 1958. Although the records of the Indians at Sandhurst in the first decade were not outstanding, a movement had been initiated which could no longer be stemmed. Despite continued opposition and foot-dragging by many British officers and civilians, this movement led to the fuller more complex developments discussed in Mike Cunningham's article.

My work in recent years has been to write a book on the experiences of one of the first Indian officers, Amar Singh of Jaipur. A brief look at his experiences is available in DeWitt C. Ellinwood, *"Rajput Aristocrat in Imperial Service: Ambiguous Relationships"*, INDO-BRITISH REVIEW, Vol. XI, No. 2 (December 1988), pp. 91-101. He was the oldest of the first group of Indian officers. He found the employment helpful inasmuch as his family was out of favour with Maharaja Madho Singh of Jaipur, but he chafed under the regime of inaction which was imposed on him. His social acceptance was excellent, for General Creagh welcomed him heartily and became a friend and other British officers were also very friendly. This acceptance was enhanced because he was an avid horseman, hunter, and polo player. After his commissioning as a regular officer in 1917 he commanded cavalry troops and served on the Northwest Frontier. This gave him added experience, including temporary command when his Colonel was away. However, he and his Colonel fell out and he retired in disgust in 1921. His official termination of services took place in 1923. Fortunately, the situation in Jaipur had changed with the death of Maharaja Madho Singh and the succession under British tutelage of the young Maharaja Man Singh. Consequently, Amar Singh ended his career as head of the Jaipur State Forces, the post which he had coveted from the beginning. The book which I am writing is the story of his dual life - as an army officer and as a Jaipur Rajput. (I have two unpublished articles dealing with Amar Singh: "The Special Experiences of Amar Singh" and "Two Masculine Worlds: The Army Cantonment and Jaipur Rajput Male Society." I would be happy to send copies of these to any persons interested in them.)

(See Vol. 9, No 4, Winter 1992 for an article on the Imperial Cadet Corps and a list of some cadets. Ed.)

LETTERS AND QUERIES

Paul Brewster's article "Indian General Service, a Study in Miniature Unofficial Clasps" (Vol. 15, No 4, Winter 1997) elicited two responses;

● The first from Brian Stevens.

The reference to the clasp "Burma 1830-32" reminded me that, more years ago than I care to remember, whilst trawling through the annual volumes of Bengal General Orders by the Commander in Chief looking for information on Local Corps, I came across two G.G.O. in the 1830 Volume which published the promotion of members of the Assam Light Infantry for Gallantry and Good Conduct in the field. These read as follows:

G.G.O. 112 of 1830. At the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the Governor General in Council confirms the appointment of Dal Singur, Havildar of the Assam Light Infantry, to be a Colour Havildar, from the 8th March last, in consideration of good conduct in the Field, when in command of the Escort of the Agent to the Governor General on the North Eastern Frontier.

G.G.O. 131 of 1830. At the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the Governor General in Council sanctions the promotion of the undermentioned two Men of the Assam Light Infantry, in consideration of their gallant conduct on the occasion of a recent successful attack made by a small party of that Corps, under the command of Lieutenant Vetch, on a body of Cossyah (Khasia) Insurgents, in the neighbourhood of Nuncklow (Nanklao) viz Havildar Mungul Ram to the grade of Color (sic) Havildar, and Sepoy Dunraj to that of Naick, pending the occurrence of a vacancy.

Lieutenant Hamilton Vetch, 54th N.I., was doing duty with the Assam Light Infantry at the time of this action. Subsequently he was appointed Adjutant and later 2nd in command of the corps. From October 1838 to February 1852 he was Principal Assistant to the Agent to the Governor General and Commissioner North Eastern Frontier and from 1852 to April 1857 the Deputy Commissioner of Assam. Although he very rarely did any regimental duty he had reached the rank of Major by August 1854. He retired at the end of 1861 with the Honorary rank of Major General. He seems to have spent most of his service career in Assam and remained in the area after he retired as he died at Dacca in June 1865.

It will be seen that the promotions noted in the two G.G.Os were supernumerary to the established strength until vacancies occurred for them to be absorbed into the authorized Establishment. At the time there was a large backlog in promotions throughout the several Armies in India due to reductions in Establishments and the prohibition on recruiting. This meant that although the men promoted for gallantry might have to wait for some years until absorbed they at least received a financial reward. A Colour Havildar received Rs 2 per month as non-effective pay and the difference between the pay of a Sepoy and a Naick in local corps was Rs 2.8.

The story of Lieutenant Burlton's presence in Nanklao is of interest as a good example of cause and effect. It started with an incident which had occurred several years earlier at Dum-Dum, a cantonment 4 ½ miles north-west of Calcutta, and since 1813 the home of the Bengal Artillery.

In 1821 the then 2nd Lieutenant Philip Bowles Burlton took as his guest to a Regimental Dinner Night at the Artillery Mess a certain James Silk Buckingham, the editor of the "Calcutta Journal" which had published articles critical of Government policy. It should be noted that since August 1818 there had been no censorship of the Press, but instead there had existed regulations which restricted editors from publishing criticisms of the Government and the Home Authorities of any actions taken by those bodies which interfered with Indian customs or religion; also discussion of private scandal was prohibited. These regulations were, however, rather imprecise and Buckingham found several ingenious ways of publishing such criticisms and avoiding prosecution.

Present at the Dinner Night was the Commandant of the Artillery, Major General Thomas Hardwicke, an arch-conservative in his political opinions, who objected to the presence of Mr. Buckingham saying that the Mess must not be contaminated, or revolutionary ideas installed into the minds of his officers. Burlton stoutly defended his right to invite whom he liked to be his guest, saying that, so long as the person concerned was respectable, his political opinions were of no concern to anybody else. It says much for seventeen year old Burlton's courage in standing up to the sixty five year old Hardwicke who was the Senior Artillery Officer in Bengal with over forty years' service going back as far as the 2nd Mysore War of 1781-85.

The upshot of this incident was that Burlton found himself posted to Assam, at that time the most unhealthy station in the Bengal Army. He took part in the 2nd Burma War campaign in Assam.

Although Major General Hardwicke returned to England at the end of 1823, his departure would not appear to have changed the official view of Burlton as he continued to serve in Assam. Altogether he spent some seven years in that province employed on the Gunboats of the Brahmaputra River Flotilla where he, together with his companion Bedingfield, explored the sources of the Brahmaputra and Irrawaddy Rivers. This long service in Assam obviously affected their health as at the time of their death they were in the hills for the benefit of their health.

J S Buckingham, the cause of Burlton's exile, continued to annoy the Bengal Government but eventually went too far in his criticisms and was deported back to England. In 1829-32 he undertook a lecture tour which took in over 200 towns in which he agitated against the China Trade Monopoly which the Honourable East India Company still enjoyed and which was being questioned in several quarters. As the Company's Charter was due for renewal in 1834 this matter was of obvious importance to the Company. The story is far too long to tell here, but the 1833 Act of Parliament abolished all the Company's trading activities and restricted its function to governance of its Indian Territories.

Sources:

"Bengal General Orders by the Commander in Chief, 1830." British Library, OIOC. L/Mil/17/2/279 pages 255 and 291

“List of the Officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834”. Major V C P Hodson. Vol. 1, 1927, pages 121 and 252. Vol. 2, 1928, page 387. Vol. 4, 1947, page 353

“Organization, Equipment and War Services of the Regiment of Bengal Artillery”. Major General F W Stubbs. Vol. 2, 1877, pages 186 and 187. Appendix, Note A.

“List of Officers of the Bengal Artillery”. Major General F W Stubbs, 1892.

“The East India Company 1784-1834”. C H Philips, 1940, reprinted 1968. Pages 223 and 289

● The second response was from Brigadier John Randle:

I am writing wearing my other military hat, as an officer late The Devonshire Regiment, to which I was fortunate enough to transfer on leaving the Baluch Regiment of the Indian Army.

As a minor student of the Devons' history, WUNTHO rang a faint bell, and pursuing it, I was reminded that 2 Devons took a very full part in the Wuntho Expedition of 1891. In particular, a famous regimental officer Captain (later Colonel) T A H Davies was awarded a DSO for his part in that expedition and other incidents in the Third Burma War. There are no less than five pages in the Regimental History about the Wuntho fighting.

A friend also reminded me that Colonel Davies' medals are on display in RHQ Exeter and when I was there recently I had a look at them. Amongst no less than three Indian Service medals he has the IGSM with clasp BURMA 1889-92 (his other medals are clasp for the 2nd Afghan War and TIRAH 1897), but no WUNTHO clasp. If anyone was entitled to a WUNTHO clasp I am sure that he was.

Nowadays on Old Comrades' parades there are always a few old soldiers sporting, perhaps for reasons of male coquetry, some of these unofficial medals for DUNKIRK, NORMANDY etc. One wonders if the unofficial WUNTHO clasp was not a Victorian equivalent of this male coquetry, perhaps produced by an enterprising Indian contractor to make a rupee or two.

● Brian Stevens also responded to the article on The Chillianwala Table (Vol. 16, No 1, page 5):

One statement in the article is incorrect.

The 1st Bengal Light Cavalry was not disbanded in 1861, having mutinied in 1857, the HQ and Left Wing at Nimach on 3 June and the Right Wing at Mhow on 1 July. None of the officers at Nimach were harmed and only Major Martin was killed at Mhow.

In 1858 the remaining officers were posted to the Right Wing of the newly raised 1st European Light Cavalry which was one of four European cavalry regiments raised under the authority of G.G.O. 736 dated 11 May 1858. The Left Wing incorporated the Officers of the mutinied 3rd Light Cavalry.

In 1861 the 1st B.E.L.C. became the 19th Light Dragoons, and in 1862 the 19th Hussars. However, not all personnel came from the 1st as, due to the mishandling of the transfer of the Honourable East India Company's European regiments to the Crown, many men took their discharge. Consequently out of five European Light Cavalry Regiments there were only enough men to form three Royal Regiments. As Skinner's Horse was at Multan at the outbreak of the Mutiny, there was little chance of them coming in contact with the 1st which headed for Delhi.

Many years ago, while carrying out some research on another matter at Orbit House, I came across some correspondence dealing with the Mess property of mutinied or disbanded Regiments and, as far as I can recall, it was ruled that the ownership of the property was vested in the Officer Corps of each regiment and it was up to them to decide how to dispose of what remained. This, I imagine, would not apply to mutinied corps as the Mess property would have been looted or destroyed.

In any case the size of the Chillianwala Table would seem to indicate that it would be far too large for any Indian Regiment, regular or irregular, to own, as even with a pre-1857 Officer Establishment of 25, there were rarely as many as 15 present. Its carriage would also seem to present a problem in logistics, and it would surely require elephants or possibly bullock carts to transport it in the Field or when marching. Even broken down into several loads it would seem unlikely that camels could safely move it.

● Major General Chand N Das responded to my query about the Trumpet Banner of the President's Bodyguard (Vol. 16, No 1, page 31):

The motif and inscription - K R N in Hindi (initials of the President of India) are in gold on a maroon (not red) background, edged with gold and a golden fringe. The reverse is exactly the same and not the regimental badge as it is his personal banner. The Regimental Colour is maroon as all troops are now qualified parachutists.

● Two responses to Tony Mains' article on the ULIA, DURBAR Vol. 16, No 1, page 37.

Major General D K Palit wrote:

I have two comments to offer on Tony Mains' (my Regiment and a close friend for 50 years and more) article. He is a great source on Indian Army lore - including post-Independence days, having served with us from 1947 to 1952. He has, however, slipped up on three minor matters:

Page 36, second para. Neither General Rajendrasinhji (no 'g' in his name) nor Srinagesh went to Daly College Indore with Cariappa and Rudra. The latter were commissioned in 1919. "Reggie" (of Nawanagar family) was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1922 and Srinagesh (I think) the next year in 1923. Both, in succession, became Army Chiefs after Cariappa (though the latter, curiously, was given only a two-year tenure).

Page 37, second para. We ICOs from the IMA were not placed on the ULIA List, but another new list called "Special List Indian Land Forces" (SLILF), during our British attachment.

Page 40. VCOs began to return to the old Indianised battalions when the "Indianisation of Units" scheme was scrapped after the Fall of France in 1940. It was then decided by the

powers that be that the Indian Army might be required to fight in Europe and North Africa after all. (Till then we had not begun modernisation of weapons or equipment, or been trained for anything but Frontier Warfare). We Indians were suddenly all plucked out of our “ghettoes” and sent to other battalions of the regiment, particularly newly-raising ones. From my Battalion, the 5th K.G. V’s Own 10th Baluch - till then an “Indianised” unit - two of us, Pat Dunn (a Eurasian) and myself, were sent to the newly-raising 7th Battalion as QM and Assistant QM respectively. Soon many others were sent to the other Battalions.

The pay of ICOs however was not made up to that of British officers and KCIO scales till November 1943 (at the insistence of The Auk.)

(I shared these views with Tony Mains who replied - I agree with General Monty’s criticism, memory is fallible but the errors are, as he says, minor and do not detract from the sense of my comments. Ed.)

●The second response came from Kimberley John Lindsay who wrote:

Unattached List Indian Army: An Exception?

Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Mains was very clear on the point that no British cadet from the RMC was commissioned directly into a unit of the Indian Army, but that such cadets were commissioned into the Unattached List Indian Army. They were then attached to a British unit in India for one year (as, for example, John Masters recounted in his book “Bugles and a Tiger”).

This was obviously standard procedure and, as my great medal-collecting ally Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell Macfarlane has put it: ‘...the peace-time arrangement was so that they could gain practical hands-on experience and make their mistakes, not in front of native troops - and learn the appropriate language before being let loose on Indian troops.’ Maxwell had responded to my request as to what “my” V.M.H. Cox, whose medals I had acquired, was doing between 12 Sep 1917 (passing out from RMC Sandhurst) and 12 Sep 1918 (attached 90 Punjabis, in Mesopotamia). He concluded: ‘No doubt, the Indian Army List of 1918 would reveal the answer.’ However, in the meantime, I have a perhaps rather better source of information: copies of Cox’s Indian Army Service Records.

These Records reveal that Cox was apparently an exception to the rule, having passed out of RMC Sandhurst, gazetted to the ULIA, but proceeded directly to 89 Punjabis at Malakand.

Before going into further detail, it may first be of interest to describe the group of medals to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon Maurice Hervalwil Cox: British War Medal 1914-1918 (LIEUT.V.M.H.COX.); Victory Medal 1914-1919 (LIEUT.V.M.H.COX.); India General Service Medal 1908, clasps ‘Afghanistan N.W.F. 1919’, ‘Waziristan 1921-24’ (LT. V.M.H.COX, 90-PUNJABIS.); India General Service Medal 1936, clasps ‘North West Frontier 1936-37’, ‘North West Frontier 1937-39’ with Mention in Despatches oakleaf (MAJOR V.M.H.COX, POL.DEPT.); 1939-45 Star (unnamed); War Medal 1939-45 (unnamed); Jubilee Medal GVR 1935 (CAPT. V.M.H.COX, POL.DEPT.); Coronation Medal GVIR 1937 (unnamed). These are originally Court-mounted as worn. It is somewhat surprising that the India Service Medal 1939-45 is not included, but that may have been yet another exception in Cox’s career.

It is certainly worth mentioning that V.M.H. Cox was “country born”, on 28 August 1898, being baptised at the Roman Catholic Chapel at Murree, Punjab. His mother, Jane, was Irish; his father, Dr Herbert William Cox (later I.S.O.), was “English” but of “Irish family”, and born at Darjeeling. Young Vernon was educated at St. Joseph’s College, Naini Tal, from 1909 to 1915, receiving a final polishing at Blackrock College, Co. Dublin, in 1916, before applying for entry to RMC Sandhurst September 1916 intake. He was a good-looking man with a pleasing manner, and, most importantly a “useful” horseman (keen on polo) and good at all sports. He subsequently won Blues at Sandhurst and in 1926 toured with the Indian Army Hockey XI in New Zealand. Indeed, the Governor of NWFP, Sir George Cunningham, and Major Cox, Indian Political Service, won the men’s doubles Tennis at the Peshawar Club in 1939. In 1947 he was appointed - as it happened, the last - Resident in Waziristan.

But to return to the ULIA. According to the Records mentioned, some entries made out in Cox’s own hand, he was appointed to the Indian Army with effect from 12 September 1917. That was the date of his First Commission upon passing out of Sandhurst and into the Unattached List Indian Army. His date of ‘first arrival in India’ is given as 10 December 1917. (Cox himself wrote ‘Arrival in India: 11.12.17’). The next dates shown are ‘Regimental Duty with 2/89 Punjabis from 12 December 1917 to 2 February 1918 (50 days)’. Cox himself wrote ‘Malakand: 11.12.17 to 31.1.18’ (his next remark being: ‘Mesopotamia. Promoted Lieutenant. 12.9.18’.) Before this, however, his Records noted: ‘Left Peace Station: 2-2-18; Embarked at Karachi: 7-2-18; Disembarked at Basra: 13-2-18; Arrived for duty, Field; 6-3-18 (‘2/89 attached 90 Punjabis’).

Apart from a week in a Field Ambulance with Sand Fly Fever, during the campaign he was appointed Company Officer, officiating Quarter Master and Regimental Transport Officer in addition to his other duties. He took part in the battle of Khan Baghdadi, as Company Officer, on 25-26 March 1918.

The National Army Museum holds pictures of Lieut Cox and he is included in the “Hodson’s List” index-card file, which states: ‘COX, Vernon Maurice, HERVALWIL- [he called himself V.M. Hervalwil-Cox in earlier life, then V.M.H. Cox]: born 1898 Aug 28; bap. (no entry); son of (no entry); 2nd Lieut. ULIA. 1917 Sep 12; IA. 1917 Dec 10; Lieut. 1918 Sep 12; 89 Punjabis; Captain 1922 Sep 12; 8 Punjab Regt’.

● A further response to Tim Ash’s article “*The Sappers and Miners at Meerut 1857*” (Vol. 15, No 3, page 100) and Brian Stevens’ follow-up comment (Vol. 15, No 4, page 150) from Alan Harfield:

Details of burials at the Meerut Cantonment (St John’s) Cemetery have been published in the book *Meerut. The First Sixty Years (1815-1875)* produced by the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia in 1992. It was decided that, because of the amount of detail given in the St John’s Church burial registers, only an abridged version could be included in the BACSA publication. The details of the burials from the St John’s Church registers for the period 1876 to 1913 will be included in the second volume which will be issued under the title *Meerut. The Cantonment Cemetery Part II (1876-1939). The Race Course Cemetery and Military Memorials* and is due to be published by BACSA during 1999. Following the publication of Volume 2 the photocopies of the St John’s Church burial registers, which were obtained from the church in Meerut, will be deposited in the BACSA archives in the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library.

The actual entries in the register give the following information in respect of Captain Edward Fraser and Mrs. Emily Jane D'Oyly and show that there was one British army casualty in the incident when the Sappers and Miners mutinied.

When died	Christian Surname	Quality, Trade or Profession
1857 May 16th	Frederick Kingsford Age 26 years	Private in HM's 6th Dragoon Guards
When buried	Cause of death	
1857, May 17th	Killed in a rising of the Sappers & Miners	

When died	Christian Surname	Quality, Trade or Profession
1857 May 16th	Edward Fraser Age 34 years	Commandant of the Corps of Bengal Sappers & Miners
When buried	Cause of death	
1857, May 17th	Killed in a rising of his own Corps	

When died	Christian Surname	Quality, Trade or Profession
1857 May 17th	Emilie Jane D'Oyly Age 22 years	Wife of Captain C W D'Oyly of the 58th Regt N.I.
When buried	Cause of death	
1857, May 18th	Premature Labour	

Each entry was signed by the Reverend Thomas Smyth, MA, Garrison Chaplain and by the Reverend John Edward Wharton Rotton, Chaplain.

In a booklet on Meerut compiled by Captain N T Parker, Cantonment Magistrate, published 1904, and updated and reprinted in 1914, he quotes briefly from an eye-witness account following the shooting of Captain Edward Fraser. Mr. J C Roberts, who, together with his sister, had gone to the Artillery Lines for safety during the outbreak on 10th May and, together with his parents, took up residence in the Dum-Duma was "on sentry on the North wall - saw Major Fraser carried by on a kus-kus-tatti [a screen or mat made from koosa grass] to the Artillery, now No 2 Section Hospital..."

In the same publication the following extract is from a report which deals with the death of Edward Fraser and Private Kingsford:

"...On the evening of the 15th May the Native Sappers and Miners from Roorkee marched into Meerut. Next afternoon, whilst I was parading at the Barracks in which General Hewett had taken up his quarters, I heard a single shot, rapidly followed by two or three more, from the direction of the Sapper Camp.

The shot which I heard had been fired, as I subsequently learnt, by an Afghan, and had killed the Commanding Officer, Major Fraser. The action of this one man compromised all his comrades. They fled towards the sand hills on the Bijnor Road. My little party galloped after them.

A correspondent wrote to the "*Pioneer*":- The Carabineer who was killed just outside Meerut in the Sapper Affair was a Trooper, named Frederick Kingsford, who rode an untrained horse, which became unsteady at the time of charging the rebels..."

The extract is attributed to Colonel A R D Mackenzie, CB, and published in the "Pioneer" on 9 December 1890, and later in a book entitled "*Mutiny Memoirs*" which was published by the Pioneer Press, Allahabad, in 1891. Alfred Robert Davidson Mackenzie became a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment Bengal Native Cavalry at Meerut on 22 June 1856.

Whilst this information does not add anything new to what is already known it does confirm that the deaths of Fraser and Kingsford were related to the same incident.

● We advertised a 1955 reprint of "*Military Memoirs of Lieut. Col James Skinner, CB*" being sold by St James's Church, Delhi in Vol. 15, No 1, page 37. Brian Ritchie, who notified us of the book sale, was able to forward Rs 7000 (not all from Society members, I should add) to the Reverend Collin C Theodore of St James's Church who has written to express his thanks.

By a sad coincidence Brigadier Michael Alexander Robert Skinner, who was responsible for the publication of the reprint, died in England in March this year. Brigadier "Mike" Skinner was the last of the legendary line of James Skinner and had commanded the Regiment founded by his ancestor. A memorial service was held for him at St James's Church on 9 May when his ashes were interred there. I am grateful to Brigadier Sukhjit Singh MVC (who gave an address at his memorial service), Brian Ritchie and Rear Admiral Satyindra Singh for this information.

● Further to Ernest Gardner's letter and my footnote about the Teen Murti Memorial (Vol. 16, No 1, page 34), Major General D K Palit wrote:

In the early 1920s, when General Rawlinson of the British Army was appointed C-in-C India, Field Marshal Lord Allenby, a good friend, wrote to him with a request that he erect a memorial to commemorate the sterling services rendered by three Indian State Forces cavalry units - the Jodhpur Lancers, the Gwalior Lancers and the Mysore Lancers - under his command in Palestine during the war against the Turks, particularly at the capture of Haifa. The C-in-C duly passed the request to the Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces (a British Officer of the Indian Army serving in the States Department of the Government of India).

The M.A-in-Chief considered the matter and advised the Chief that it would be invidious to single out three units for commemoration, when so many State Forces units had served with great distinction in all the theatres of war - in Europe, East Africa and Asia. He proposed instead to seek permission from the Government to erect a memorial to the Indian States Forces as a whole. However, what he could do, he offered, was to depict in it three troopers from the three cavalry units mentioned by Lord Allenby - and he would erect the memorial right in front of the gates of the C-in-C's house.

And that is where the ISF Memorial stood for over fifty years - till it was usurped by the Army Chief for the Indian Armoured Corps sometime in the early 1980s, and renamed "The Indian Cavalry Memorial", at which an Armoured Corps function has since been held every year on their Corps Day.

The State Forces had been disbanded after Independence, so there is no organisation that has the clout to represent against this gross act of misappropriation. (The approval for the "takeover" was informally obtained from the then P.M., Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, but he was not

formally informed about this act of “highjack” by the then C-in-C, General Vaidya, who was himself an Armoured Corps Officer). At one stroke the only remembrance of the State Forces of the Maharajas was removed from India’s military history.

When General Vaidya took this step a strong protest was sent to him in writing by the senior living pre-war Cavalry officer, Lt Gen M S Wadalia (late 16th Cavalry and subsequently Colonel of Regiment of 61st Cavalry - a horsed Regiment). General Wadalia pointed out in his letter that not only was the appropriation of an honoured monument an illegal act, it was also a misrepresentation of Indian military history; the ISF Memorial commemorated numerous battles and campaigns fought by the regiments of the erstwhile Nizams, Maharajas and other Princes, not those fought by Indian cavalry regiments.

General Vaidya neither replied to General Wadalia’s letter nor took any steps to rescind the misappropriation. Several protests have since been made informally by erstwhile members of the ISF, but of course they are a dying breed - with no-one to take up their case formally and their voices have been lost in the wilderness.

● Carl-Eric Granfelt writes:

My interest is still very much in the titles of Indian followers of Company, British and Indian Army units. I assume that during the HEIC period titles for duties were variable and more numerous than in later periods. Is it possible that somewhere in the HEIC archives there is a list of titles and duties of the followers employed by the Company in its military operations? As the Company was very much a “for profit” organisation I am sure that someone had to account for how money was spent on followers - and some accounting was no doubt required after the passing of the Company.

After viewing various campaign medals to followers I have a few questions:

- Were followers whose medals featured only a title and name paid the same rate as those who had a number before their name? I assume there was some permanence to the position of the latter which may not have applied to the former.
- In an article in the OMSA Journal The Medal Collector (Vol. 49, No 6) Irvin Mortenson cites the strength of various Australian and New Zealand Wireless units in Mesopotamia during World War I. The term Public Follower (Indian) is shown as well as a breakdown of them as Bhisti, Sweeper and Cook. I have in my collection medals with the term Public Follower on them. When was this term first used and was it reserved only for Indians serving with British (*and Commonwealth? Ed.*) units? Or was the naming left up to the unit and might they use Public Follower or the more specific Bhisti, Sweeper, Cook, etc.?
- I assume a Private Follower was paid for by the person he was following.
- During the elephant period in transport was the term Mahout used in naming on campaign medals, or was Driver used regardless of type of animal? I would have thought a Mahout would have received a higher rate of pay than a horse, mule, oxen or even camel driver.
- Has anyone published a book on the various turban patterns/styles worn by Indian units? (“*Bengal Cavalry Regiments 1857-1914*” by R G Harris and Chris Warner, “*Indian Infantry Regiments 1860-1914*” by Michael Barthorp and Jeffrey Burn, “*Indian Cavalry Regiments 1880-1914*” by A H Bowling, and W Y Carman’s “*Indian Army Uniforms - Cavalry*” and “*Indian Army Uniforms - Infantry*” all have this sort of detail. Ed.)

- Has anyone published a work on all the badges of the various Princely States? (Not yet, but Richard Head and I intend the final volume of our series on “Armies of the Indian Princely States” to cover badges - the first three volumes have now been published. Ed.

Web site note – we did not proceed with the original publisher but badges have now been included in “*The Maharajas’ Paltans – A History of the Indian State Forces [1888-1948]*”. Richard Head and Tony McClenaghan. New Delhi: United Service Institution of India in association with Manohar, 2013).

● PAINTING OF THE STORMING OF THE KASHMIR GATE AT DELHI by Vereker M. Hamilton.

The Archivist of Wellington College, Berkshire, has written with a request for assistance concerning the above painting.

“Wellington College is fortunate to own a preparatory study for this painting, and the artist is one of our alumni. We would be interested to know where the main picture has got to. Records show that it was last exhibited in an exhibition of naval and military works at the Guildhall Art Gallery in London in 1915, when it was owned by the East India United Services Club. It is a large work, measuring 181” by 122”, but no trace is to be found of it now. I wonder if any member of the Society might be able to help me track it down.”

I suggest anyone who can help should write directly to Mr. N B Ritchie, Archivist, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU.

● I mentioned in the Spring 1998 edition a notification from the Illinois based company, Articles of War Ltd that they intended reprinting some out of date Indian titles. They have now reprinted Hugh Nevill’s “*Campaigns on the North-West Frontier*”, originally published in 1912, and covering 27 campaigns from the Black Mountain Expedition (1852) to the Mohmand Field Force (1908). The price is US\$49.95 plus \$2.50 postage and packing. Articles of War Ltd, 8806 Bronx Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077-1896. e-mail:warbooks@aol.com

