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THE MOST EXALTED ORDER OF THE STAR OF INDIA 1861-1948

J.M.A. Tamplin

No appointments to this Order have been made since 1948, and the summary below is a listing of all appointments taken from the London Gazette for the period 1861 to 1948. W. A. Shaw in his 'The Knights of England' (1906) at pages iv and xxv had some interesting remarks on the Lists he produced for his book. Be this as it may, the main purpose of the summary below is to show how comparatively rare the honour was, and bearing in mind that the insignia was always returnable during the 'life' of the Order, how very scarce insignia now is bound to be.

The Order from the outset was intended to honour Native Princes and Chiefs of India, and in the summary these are separated from those to Britons serving in India or connected with the Indian Empire. In the highest class (G.C.S.I.) it can be seen that of the total of 148, 75 were to Britons and 73 to Indians. In the other two classes the differences get progressively wider.

KSI*				
Date	Total	Britons	Indians	
1861-66	30	14	16	

* This is when it was a one-class order

Date	GCSI				KCSI				CSI			
	Total	Britons	Indians	Hon	Total	Britons	Indians	Hon	Total	Britons	Indians	Hon
1866-76	18	7 (2p)	11	4	89	57 (6p)	32	-	159	108	51	-
1877-90	30	10 (2p)	20 (2p)	6	57	42 (25p)	15 (6p)	-	114	90	24	-
1891-1900	17	10 (3p)	7 (2p)	2	42	30 (27p)	12 (1p)	-	98	90*	8	-
1901-13	26	13 (5p)	13** (5p)	1	86	62 (51p)	24 (5p)	-	215	182	33**	-
1914-20	9	7 (2p)	2 (1p)	3	58	43 (25p)	15 (3p)	2	133	127	6	3

1921-30	19	14 (4p)	5 (2p)	-	58	36 (24p)	22 (1p)	-	128	114	14	1
1931-39	16	9 (1p)	7 (3p)	2 (1p)	62	31 (17p)	31 (3p)	1	117	109	8	-
1940-48	13	5 (1p)	8 (3p)	1 (1p)	37	20 (7p)	17	1	124	111	13	1
Total	148	75	73	19	489	321	168	4	1088	931	157	5
p		20	18	2		182	19	-	-	-		-

Notes:

(1) The symbol 'p' signifies promoted in the Order, either from CSI to KCSI, or KCSI to GCSI.

(2) Honorary awards are not included in the 'total' figures.

(3) *L.G. 29 June 1897. It had been the Queen's intention to confer a Companionship on the late Mr Robert Blair McCabe, India Civil Service, in recognition of his services in Assam, and of his work of exceptional merit among the wild tribes of the North-East Frontier of India.

(4) **Intention to confer K.C.S.I. on 1 January 1903, and another on 12 December 1911, and a C.S.I. on 12 December 1911, one appointment on each occasion. These 'intentions' not included in every case in totals.

As the Honorary awards were so scarce, it might be of interest to record these. The Honorary G.C.S.I. were:

28 1868	Aug	H.H. Ismail Pacha, G.C.B., Viceroy of Egypt
23 1870	Aug	M. Ferdinand Lesseps
4 Jul 1873		H.H. Hajee Meerza Hussein Khan, Grand Vizier and Minister of War to H.M. The Shah of Persia
4 May 1875		H.H. Prince Tewfik Pasha
1 Jan 1878		H.E. Cherif Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs to H.H. The Khedive of Egypt
30 1878	Aug	H.H. Safvet Pasha, Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs to H.I.M. The Sultan of Turkey
29 Jul 1879		H.H. Mir Khodadad Khan of Khelat

- 1 May 1885 H.H. Abdul Rahman Khan, Amir of Afghanistan
- 20 Dec 1887 H.R.H. Sultan Massoud Yemin-ed-Dowleh, Zil-es-Sultan, Governor-General of Isfahan, Pars, Arabistan, Kurdistan, Yezd, etc.
- 11 Nov 1890 H.H. Seyyid, Ali bin Said bin Sultan, Sultan of Zanzibar
- 23 Feb 1894 H.H. Saiyid Hamad-bin-Thoweni, Sultan of Zanzibar
- 3 Mar 1896 H.E. Nubar Pasha, G.C.M.G.
- 1 Jan 1909 Prince and Duke Auguste Louis Alberic d'Arenberg (President, Suez Canal Co.)
- 22 Jun 1914 H.E. Sardar Arfa, Amir Nuyan Sheikh Khazal Khan ibn Haji Jabir Khan, K.C. I.E., Sheikh of Mohammera
- 22 Jun 1914 Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah, K.C.I.E., Ruler of Kuwait
- 26 Apr 1918 Hon. General H.M. Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh, G.C.B. , G.C.V.O., King of Siam
- 1 Jan 1931 Major-General H.H. Projjwal-Nepal Tara-Dhish Sri Sri Maharaja Sir Bhim Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Nepal
- 1 Jan 1935 Lieutenant-General H.H. Ojaswi R.P.N.T, A.P.G.D.B.P. S.S.S. Maharaja Sir Joodha S.J.B. Rana, G.C.I.E., Prime Minister, etc., Nepal
- 27 Nov 1945 Commanding General Padma S.J.B. Rana, G.B.E. , K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C-in-C Nepalese Army (his photograph is on page 8).

The Honorary K.C.S.I, were:

- 1 Jan 1917 Sir Bhim Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, K.C.V.O., C-in-C of Nepal
- 7 Feb 1919 General Sir Baber Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana, K.C.I.E. Nepalese Army
- 1 Jan 1936 General Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.B.E., K.C.I.E., C-in-C Nepal
- 2 Nov 1945 Lieutenant-General Krishna Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, K.B.E, (present G.O.C.-in-C of the Nepalese Contingent)

The Honorary C.S.I. were:

- 22 Jun 1914 Sheikh Esa bin Ali al Khalifa, Chief of Bahrain
- 3 Jun 1916 H.E. Shaikh Jubar bin Mubarak bin Subah, Shaikh of Kuwait and Dependencies
- 4 Jun 1917 H.H. Saiyid Taimur-bin-Faisal, Sultan of Masqat and Oman
- 3 Jun 1929 H.E. Shaikh Ahmad bin Jabir Al Sabah, C.I.E., Ruler of Kuwait, Persian Gulf

2 Nov 1945

Brigadier Colonel Uttam Bikram Rana, C. I.E. , Commander Shumshere Dal Regt

It is natural that 'honours' reward political friends or allies. It will be seen that the trend for these Honorary awards went from the Middle East at the outset - and particularly the area around the Suez Canal - ending with a number in 1945 to reward the Nepalese neighbours of India.

The spelling of territories is taken exactly from the Gazette: Koweit in 1914, Kuwait in 1916.

As a footnote to this summary dealing with the Star of India, the India General Service Medal awarded to Robert Blair McCabe with the clasp Lushai 1889-92 is in my collection. McCabe was born in about 1854 and was educated at Victoria College in Jersey. Going to India, he served in Assam. He did sterling work for many years amongst the tribes of the Naga Hills. Unhappily he was killed in an earthquake at Shillong on 12 June 1897 when his house fell; he was 43 years of age. There was a lengthy obituary in The Times of 19 July 1897, and two memorials exist (or existed); one in Shillong Cemetery and the other a Memorial drinking fountain at Kohima.



General Sir Padma Shumshere Jungbahadur Rana, GBE, KCIE, C-in-C Nepalese Forces (see 1 Jan 1936, above) pictures during a visit to Nepal of General Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C India.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

● V.M. Thornton requests identification of the badge at Figure 1. It is in white metal. One obviously thinks of the Civil Armed Forces on the North-West Frontier, especially the Zhob Militia, South Waziristan Scouts and Chitral Scouts, each of which employed the device of a mountain goat or sheep in its badge, but none fits this badge exactly. Ed. Replies direct to Lt Cdr Thornton, please, although the Editor would appreciate a copy for publication in a future DURBAR



Figure 1

Again from W. M. Thornton is the picture (Figure 2) of the official ship's badge of INS KHUKRI. An earlier request of his for information (Vol. 3, No 1) included a badge subsequently identified by A. A. Mains (Vol. 3, No 3) as INS KHUKRI (KUKRI) (reproduced for ease of reference at Figure 3). In view of this latest identification Lt Cdr Thornton raises once more a query about Figure 3 and would be grateful for any ideas. He also advises that the original ship's badge for INS KHUKRI had the name in English. The present ship by that name is a frigate, commissioned in 1987.



INS KHUKRI
Figure 2



Figure 3

● Michael A Cobb seeks information on military turbans - length and width of a typical turban, style of wrapping and any known instructions relating to this (given the differences between cavalry and infantry).

THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY

The Military Heraldry Society was formed in 1951 to enable collectors and others interested in cloth formation signs to get together to exchange information and material.

The scope of the Society, which has a worldwide membership, includes formation signs (shoulder sleeve insignia), shoulder titles, regimental and unit flashes and similar cloth items.

Activities include regular meetings, library service, query answering service, organised lectures, displays and exchanges. Four journals are published each year.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

NEW POSTCARDS

Two more new postcards from the National Army Museum, although space precludes showing them in this issue. One is a photograph of an officer's Full Dress Uniform of the 7th Bengal Light Cavalry c. 1830. It was worn by Major General J Caulfield who served as a Lt Col with the regiment 1829-35. The second card, also connected with 7th Light Cavalry, shows the Second and Third Squadron Standards c. 1820. Both are available from the Museum at 10p plus postage.

BOOK REVIEW

● "*THE INDIAN ARMY AND THE KING'S ENEMIES, 1900-1947*". Charles Chenevix Trench, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

This, to use the author's own words, "is not a history. It is a book about the British Indian Army, its officers and men, in peace and in war, in victory and in defeat, during its last forty years". Trench tells that story with the same fine mix of concise facts and fascinating anecdotes which made his last work, 'The Frontier Scouts', so readable. While the specialist in the period or devotee of a single regiment or action may find too little detail for fresh research, both the non-historian and the general Indian Army enthusiast will find something of interest in this volume. The events dealt with here have been covered in more depth elsewhere, particularly in the regimental and divisional histories, from which Trench quotes frequently and at length. However, the selection of material ensures a fresh and exciting look at the period and there is no danger, as sometimes happens with more specialized works, of missing the forest for the trees.

After two short introductory chapters on "Soldiers of the Company" and "Soldiers of the King", Trench launches into "Their Mercenary Calling, 1914-17", which begins to explore his central thesis that the Indian soldier enlisted and fought for honour (and pay) rather than national feeling. He describes a number of the more stirring exploits during the early years of the Great War and examines the problems encountered by Indian units in France. He relies heavily on Captain Roly Grimshaw's *'Indian Cavalry Officer 1914-15'* and is able to discuss the problems of morale and command without either magnifying or glossing over them. In a similar vein his brief references to the Indian National Army later in the book are matter of fact in tone and informative, drawing on the experiences of Philip Mason who was involved in the trials of many INA officers after the war. Other chapters make similar good use of both well-known histories and unpublished or privately published accounts.

Trench devotes a short chapter to each of the major theatres and most of the "side shows" (such as East Africa) in each war, and three chapters to the "years between". The final chapters are "Unfinished Business, 1945-46" and "Finis", the second of which includes the last order issued by Lt. Gen Sir Reginald Savoury at New Delhi, August 13, 1947, so that chapter, book and "story" all end with the same words: "THIS IS THE LAST INDIAN ARMY ORDER." To enhance this fine narrative, Trench provides 70 illustrations, very few of which are the "old standbys" one so often sees in general histories, and 20 or so excellently drawn maps and diagrams. This, in short, is one of the best written, most enjoyable and "hard to put down" general accounts of the Indian Army I have seen.

P.E.M.

● "*THE INDIAN ARMOUR - HISTORY OF THE INDIAN ARMoured CORPS (1941-1971)*" Maj Gen Gurcharn Singh Sandhu PVSM (Retd). New Delhi: Vision Books, 1987. 570 pages.

This is an ambitious work, covering as it does the evolution of the Indian Armoured Corps from the cavalry regiments of the old I.A., the various campaigns of World War Two, the growth of armoured units and organizations in the modern Indian Army, and the conflicts of 1948, 1962, 1965 and 1971. The last is covered in particular detail, due both to the involvement of tanks on all fronts and to the personal involvement of the author. The book

includes 30 pages of appendices and a fairly good index, but suffers from a paucity of photographs and clear maps. Most of the latter are unshaded, non-topographical line drawings, too small in both format and area to be clear to anyone not already well acquainted with the geography of the Indian subcontinent.

The book gets off to a slow start, with the history of various training establishments repeated for each Brigade, Regiment and Corps, thus producing a mass of repetitive and confusing data.

The chapters on the Second World War rely largely on official histories, though much of the Burma material seems drawn from *'Tank Tracks to Rangoon'* by Bryan Perrett. Sandhu spends little time on larger plans or movements, concentrating instead on the involvement of brigades and individual units in both major and lesser known skirmishes. Actions such as the heroic stand of 3rd Indian Motor Brigade against elements of three Panzer Divisions at Bir Hakeim, and the long slog across Burma in 1944 are told in the same sparse language of the official despatch and medal citation. Few are named below the rank/appointment of battalion commander, but the actions of regiments and squadrons are clearly detailed and even enemy units are identified down to the divisional level. For the serious historian/ researcher this kind of account is a gold mine, providing he is willing to read carefully, preferably with note pad and survey maps in hand.

Chapters covering equipment and organization changes are detailed and the author's balanced comments on both strength and weaknesses of the corps are interesting, as is his assessment of both Indian and Pakistani tactics and commanders in the later conflicts.

The seven appendices list all regiments and establishments, past and present, of the Indian Armoured Corps, equipment, battle honours, class compositions and commanding officers of all 28 regiments of the I.A.C.

As suggested earlier General Sandhu's work is ambitious but I think he has accomplished most of what he set out to do. The detail is excellent, though at times very dense and requiring very careful reading. With the exception of the first chapters the book is well organised. The only major complaint of this reader is the lack of good maps, but certainly Sandhu is not alone in having fallen short in this area, and I think that any serious scholar of armoured warfare or the modern Indian Army will want to obtain a copy.

P.E.M.

INDIAN CAVALRY 1857-1861

C.J. Parrett

I have often found it difficult to follow the evolution of Indian cavalry units during the turmoil of the Indian Mutiny and its aftermath, or to know with any degree of confidence their field services against the mutineers. I therefore determined to establish a series of fact sheets detailing for each appropriate unit a summary of Mutiny medal claims, and a brief history from the outbreak of the Mutiny in May 1857 to the reorganisation of May 1861. In

the hope that these sheets may be of interest to other members, I plan to submit three or four for publication in each issue of Durbar.

Particularly in the case of the Bengal Army during this period, various factors conspire to make the research trail confusing and occasionally difficult to follow. Apart from the demise of all ten Bengal Light Cavalry regiments, which either mutinied or were disarmed, there was widespread disaffection in more than half of the eighteen Bengal Irregular Cavalry regiments, and the mounted elements of contingent forces from Oude, Gwalior, Malwa, Bhopal and Kotah quickly joined the rebels. But several small and valuable remnants remained loyal, thus keeping the titles of their partially disaffected or disarmed regiments alive and in the public eye during the Mutiny, and in some cases saving them from the ignominy of disbandment after 1859 when the campaigns against the rebels finally fizzled out.

To meet the urgent need for cavalry, many new irregular units were raised. In some cases these rapidly recruited bodies were disbanded within months of being formed, or were soon absorbed by other units in order to bring them up to strength. Others were ultimately disbanded in 1859 and 1860 following the extinction of the Mutiny. But a significant number survived these reductions and the major reorganisations of 1861 which followed the transfer of the Indian Army in 1858 from the authority of the East India Company to that of the Crown, and which were announced in G.O.G.G. No. 494 of 31st May 1861.

To convert complexity into confusion, titles frequently changed - in some cases retrospectively - and regiments were more often known to contemporary reporters by the names of their founding officers or commandants, be they British or Indian, than by their official titles. It is not surprising, during this period of great change and considerable turmoil, that contemporary reports and subsequent narratives frequently contained inaccuracies and conflicting information. The challenge is to sift these out and get to the truth.

The Mutiny medal rolls are a most useful primary source. Not surprisingly, some rolls are missing or incomplete whilst others contain only brief summaries, or omit details of clasp entitlements and names of Indian claimants. However, many of them give clear and comprehensive details of the medal claims of all ranks, and are crammed with useful information on field service, decorations and casualties. I have also used regimental histories, several of which have been invaluable in unravelling conflicting names and dates, and delved through the standard histories of the Mutiny and many personal narratives of the period. I have received help from Brian Turner who is making progress in establishing a better understanding of the role of mounted police during the Mutiny. He is also working on the civilian rolls which contain useful information on mounted volunteer units.

As a minimum, I have tried to provide the following information on each fact sheet:

1. List of medal claimants - officers and British other ranks by name, other ranks summarised.
2. Total number of medals and clasps issued.
3. Brief history of the regiment or unit from May 1857 to May 1861.

Where possible I have included interesting notations from the roll in the remarks column of the fact sheet. Most abbreviations are self-evident other than the following:

RANKS

Rsal	Ressaldar
NRsal	Naib-Ressaldar
R sai	Ressaidar
NDoc	Native Doctor
NCom	Native Commandant
WM	Woordie Major
BO	British Officer
NO	Native Officer
BOR	British Other Rank
NOR	Native Other Rank

Medal clasps

F	1st Defence of Lucknow
S	2nd Defence of Lucknow
R	Relief of Lucknow
C	Central India
M	No Clasp
K	Defence of Lucknow (not known whether 1st or 2nd)

Others

Ress	Ressala (or troop)
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THE PATHAN HORSE, INCLUDING THE RESSALAS OF SIRDARE MHD. AFZAL KHAN, SHAZADEH SOULTAN JAN SADOZAI & MAHAMED TYFOOR

The Pathan Horse, including the Ressalas of Sirdare Mhd. Afzal Khan, Shazadeh Sooltan Jan Sadozai & Mahamed Tyfoor				ICL L/Mil/S references		
Title of units written at the head of the rolls, and names of commandants.	Ranks	Classes				77 (1847) 56(1847-1851) 56(1847-1851) 56(1847-1851)
		L	M	S		
Remarks						
One summary roll lists all the British officers (Stokes, Armstrong, Tivian and Smith) under a single unified regimental title "Pathan Horse"						
Also known as the Pathan Horse of Mahomed Afzal.						
Mattew Commandant						
Roll dated 7th October 1858 (signature of Commandant not available)						
Also known as the Pathan Horse of Sooltan Jan.						
Roll signed/dated "Andrew Smith Commanding the Pathan Horse 20th October 1858"						
Also known as the Pathan Horse of Mahamed Tyfoor.						
Slightly wounded 1st March 58 Disabled by wound 1st March 58 Roll signed/dated "A. Tivian Lt. Colt. Pathan Horse 11th Nov 58"						
Total known claims						

[Click on the small image to see a larger version]

COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Some independent Pathan rissalas volunteered for service in India and were organised as three separate entities under HEIC officers. Unusually for the period, they were known by the names of their senior native officers rather than their HEIC commandants, and collectively they seem to have been known as the Pathan Horse although they never served together. The Pathan Horse of Mahamed Afzal served in the Meerut and Boolunshur District in 1857 and in Oude in 1858, largely in a policing role, although they joined Colonel Seaton's column in the Allyghur District in late 1857. The Pathan Horse of Sooltan Jan served in the Mozuffurnugger District before/after the fall of Delhi and then joined the Roorkee Field Force in Rohilkund. The Pathan Horse of Mahamed Tyfoor served in the Gugaira District in 1857 and at the capture of Lucknow in March 1858 - and subsequent policing of the road to Cawnpore; also with Kelly's Column on the Nepal Frontier 1859. All three units were removed from Government service in 1859 following the extinction of the Mutiny.

LIND'S MOOLTANI HORSE

Lind's Mooltani Horse		COL L/MIL/S REFERENCES					
Names on Roll	Ranks	CLASS				1795/1811/1851/1852 1853/1854/1855/1856/1857 1858/1859/1860/1861 1862/1863/1864/1865 1866/1867/1868/1869/1870 1871/1872/1873/1874/1875 1876/1877/1878/1879/1880 1881/1882/1883/1884/1885 1886/1887/1888/1889/1890 1891/1892/1893/1894/1895 1896/1897/1898/1899/1900 1901/1902/1903/1904/1905 1906/1907/1908/1909/1910 1911/1912/1913/1914/1915 1916/1917/1918/1919/1920 1921/1922/1923/1924/1925 1926/1927/1928/1929/1930 1931/1932/1933/1934/1935 1936/1937/1938/1939/1940 1941/1942/1943/1944/1945 1946/1947/1948/1949/1950 1951/1952/1953/1954/1955 1956/1957/1958/1959/1960 1961/1962/1963/1964/1965 1966/1967/1968/1969/1970 1971/1972/1973/1974/1975 1976/1977/1978/1979/1980 1981/1982/1983/1984/1985 1986/1987/1988/1989/1990 1991/1992/1993/1994/1995 1996/1997/1998/1999/2000 2001/2002/2003/2004/2005 2006/2007/2008/2009/2010 2011/2012/2013/2014/2015 2016/2017/2018/2019/2020 2021/2022/2023/2024/2025	Remarks
		D	L	M	S		
Lind J.B.	Lieut	1				Commandant	
Russell J.J.	Lieut		1			2 L/c	
Chadwick E.A.	Lieut		1				
Caulfield H.W.	Lieut	1				4 Regt	
Mahar A.	Lieut		1			2 Regt	
<u>All ranks</u>							
Atah Mahomed Khan	Seal	1					
Shaze Khan	Jedr	1					
Wazir Mahomed Khan	Jedr	1					
<u>All ranks</u>							
Govind Khan	Seal	1					
Mohamed Khan	Jedr	1					
Latif Khan	Jedr	1					
<u>All ranks</u>							
Mizan Khan	Jedr	1					
Das Khan	Jedr	1					
<u>All ranks</u>							
Mulladan Khan	Seal	1					
Ali Khan	Jedr		1				
Mullick Sarfoora	Jedr	1					
<u>All ranks</u>							
Deer Mahomed Khan	Seal	1					
Ashik Mahomed	Jedr	1					
Shahmohamed Khan	Jedr		1				
All other ranks		373	55				
Total known claims		407	347	59			

[Click on the small image to see a larger version.]

COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Following an early initiative by Col. John Nicholson in reacting to news of the Mutiny outbreak, Herbert Edwardes, Commissioner at Peshawar, approved on 15th May 1857 the raising of a moveable column to maintain order in the Punjab, this to include 1,000 Multani horsemen from the Dejarat. Several Resselas were mobilised immediately, serving under Lt. J.B. Lind as Lind's Mooltani Horse. After helping to destroy the mutinous 14th Bgl NI at Jhelum, Lind proceeded to Delhi with Nicholson's column arriving on 14th August 1857 and serving during the remainder of the siege. The regiment went on to serve in the pacification of Oude in 1858/9. Reconstituted as the "Pathan Cavalry Regiment" in 1859 following the extinction of the Mutiny (two resselas transferred to Cureton's Multani Cavalry, these being replaced by drafts from independent Pathan resselas), it was subsequently mustered out during the reductions of May 1861. Some native officers and other ranks found alternative employment (i.e.: 11th Bengal Cavalry).

MOOLTANEE REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Mooltanee Regiment of Cavalry		TOE L/Mil/S references				
Named on Roll	Ranks	Companies				REMARKS
		O	M	S		
Cureton C.	Capt	1				
Dixon E.	Lieut	1				
Williams E.	Lieut	1				Adjutant
Smith E.S.	Lieut	1				
* Gaulting F.G.	Lieut	1				Signed KIA 21.9.58.
* Fremington G.A.	Lieut	1				
* Russell P.W.	Lieut	1				Joined up & near Delhi with
* Thomas C.M.	Lieut	1				English of Jilind's forces, and
Mellie M.S.	Surg	1				unique certificate award/capture
Sho'ah Hussain Khan	1st Troop	1				of Delhi under Col Dunford
1st Troop						I.O.M.
Suloh Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M.
Surreop Sing	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
Swan Bak Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
2nd Troop						
Suloh Mahomed Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M.
Azoo Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
Ahmed Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
3rd Troop						
Hik Nawaz Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M.
Mahomed Bevan Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
Colah Nubere Khan	Jedr	1				later Lind's Pathan Cavalry on
4th Troop						then in 1861 15th Reg Cavalry
Mahomed Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M.
Muston Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
Mowladad Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M. (Walid Khan?)
5th Troop						
Mahomed Muter Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M.
Sydey Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
Qoolzar Khan	Jedr	1				I.O.M.
6th Troop						
Secordie Khan	1st Troop	1				I.O.M. 1st in Regl History,
Mohammed Khan	Jedr	1				which was 1st Lt Abdul Karim
Musgraves Khan	Jedr	1				Khan as Sepoiler of the 5th
7th Troop						Troop (he is not on the medal
						roll).
All other ranks		2	294			
Total known names		296	294			* Supernumerary officers

[Click on the small image to see a larger version.]

COMMENTS ON HISTORY OF REGIMENT 1857-1861

Six rissalas (troops) of Multani Pathans and Baluchis from the Derajat and the Sind Sagar Thal volunteered for service in India and were formed into the Mooltanee Regiment of Cavalry by Capt. C. Cureton (Punjab GO of 14.1.1858). The regiment marched out of Lahore on 1st February 1858 and subsequently served in the Rohilkhand and Oudh campaigns. After the Mutiny, two rissalas left the regiment to take up police duty in the Punjab, and were replaced by another Multani troop previously on police duty at Amritsar known as 'Ghulam Mustafa Khan's Khwakwani Rissala' (April '59) and a troop from Lind's Pathan Cavalry (June '59). A further troop from Lind's Pathan Cavalry was received in November 1859 followed in 1860 by drafts from 'Musgrave's Hazarah Horse' and 'Tiwana Horse'. The right wing served against the Mahsud Waziris in April '60. Its title became Cureton's Multani Regiment of Cavalry in 1860 (back-dated to January 1858) and 15th Bengal Cavalry in May 1861.

CHILAS - March 1893

Tony McClenaghan

The Summer 1986 Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society contained a most useful article by our member Cliff Parrett on I.O.M. and I.D.S.M. awards. In this he concluded that figures contained in the principal publications on the subject, notably P.P. Hypher's *Deeds of Valour performed by Indian Officers and Soldiers 1660-1925*, Abbott and

Tamplin's *'British Gallantry Awards'*, and J.B. Hayward's reprint of *'The Roll of Honour, Indian Army 1914-1921'* were at variance with each other, even if only in minor detail. Mark Sellar produced a follow-up article on the same subject in the Summer 1987 edition of the OMRS Journal with details of previously unpublished awards. In his Appendix B (2), which listed awards by year, campaign and class of I.O.M., Parrett mentioned five 3rd Class awards for the North West Frontier (CHILAS) in 1893. My own researches into the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces had turned up references to Chilas, but without any detail. More recently, while carrying out other research in the India Office Library, I came across the original despatch concerning the action. This shows that there were seven awards of the IOM for the action, not five. Since British-Kashmir relations were not always cosy it is, perhaps, worth considering some of the early history in order to place the action in context.

Until the fourteenth century Kashmir had been ruled by a series of Buddhist and Hindu dynasties. In 1587 it became a part of the Moghul Empire and remained so for two hundred years until taken over by the powerful Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan, governed by a series of almost independent Pathan governors. In 1819 it was conquered by the great Sikh ruler, Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Gulab Singh, a Dogra general in Ranjit Singh's army, was given the state of Jammu as a jagir in 1820 in recognition of good service and was subsequently given the title of Raja. While putting down minor insurrections within his area Gulab Singh also took the opportunity of Ranjit Singh's death, in 1839, and the growing turmoil in the Punjab, to further his own territorial expansionist interests in neighbouring small kingdoms to the north. The British were dismayed by this but, pre-occupied with the First Sikh War, found themselves unable to do anything about it. Indeed, Gulab Singh then acted as mediator in the subsequent peace treaty between British and Sikhs. Following the Sikhs' inability to pay the agreed indemnity they were forced to surrender further territory, including Kashmir and Hazara, but Governor-General Lord Hardinge, reluctant to take on direct rule of such areas, ceded to Gulab Singh under the Treaty of Amritsar (16 March 1846), all hill areas north of the Beas River and recognised him as independent ruler of the "State of Jammu and Kashmir". In return Gulab Singh recognised the supremacy of the British Government and agreed to pay an annual tribute. The Treaty did not, however, make any mention of stationing a British Resident in the State and Gulab Singh resisted such moves for some time to come. It was not until 1852 that he agreed to the appointment of an 'Officer on Special Duty' in the State, ostensibly to look after the interests of British visitors to the area.

In the meantime Gulab Singh had not found it easy to take full possession of Kashmir and had relied on the assistance of British troops under Sir Henry Lawrence to help overcome Sikh resistance. There followed a few years of peace but Gulab Singh still faced occasional opposition from neighbouring chiefs, including the Raja of Hunza. One such incursion into Gilgit in 1852 led to a substantial military defeat for Gulab Singh's forces and while this was going on tribesmen from Chilas raided the Astore Valley, abducting many of the inhabitants. In the Spring of 1852 Gulab Singh sent a strong force into Chilas and, despite stubborn resistance, was able to bring the Chilasis to surrender, whereby they recognised his suzerainty. Gulab Singh issued a medallion for bravery and loyal service in Gilgit and Chilas in 1854, the first instance that I have so far found of a 'war medal' being issued by an Indian ruler.

In February 1856 Gulab Singh placed his son Ranbir Singh on the gadi, although he continued to advise him and was largely responsible for the assistance given by Jammu and

Kashmir forces at the siege of Delhi during the 1857 Mutiny. Ranbir Singh's rule, until his death on 15 September 1885, witnessed a number of military engagements, particularly in Yasin, Punial and Hunza, but Chilas remained quiet.

On his death, Ranbir Singh was succeeded by his son, Pratap Singh. By this time Russian expansionist policy in Afghanistan had made the area of greater concern to the British and the 'Officer on Special Duty' was made the British Resident. By methods which were certainly open to criticism of the day, the British forced the resignation of Pratap Singh on 18 April 1889, and Government of the State passed into the control of a Council of Regency, with the Maharaja's brother as President but effective control in the hands of the British Resident. (Maharaja Pratap Singh remained a figurehead only, although he was honoured in other ways, such as GCSI in 1893, but it was not until 1905 that the State Council was abolished and its administrative functions conferred on the Maharaja. It was not until March 1921 that Maharaja Pratap Singh regained full restoration of his powers). During the period of his "Resignation" the British increased their control on one particularly sensitive area by the establishment of the Gilgit Agency in 1889.

It was at this same time that the British, concerned by Russian activities in Afghanistan and wary of their own ability to despatch a large Field Force to the North West Frontier, started to consider the use for Imperial defence of elements of the State armies. The Imperial Service Troops scheme was established in 1889 and Jammu and Kashmir provided the largest contingent of such troops for the scheme; one squadron of lancers, two mountain batteries and three infantry battalions, subsequently increased by the addition of two more infantry battalions. Other elements of the State Army were separately maintained. The Kashmir Imperial Service Troops were used largely to maintain frontier stability in the Gilgit area although there were, of course, elements of the Indian Army present as well. It was this combined force which, in 1891, was used to suppress insurrections by the Rajas of Hunza and Nagar (IGS 1854, clasp 'Hunza 1891', and the Hunza Nagar Badge, 1891, given by the Maharaja in spite of his enforced resignation] to those of his troops who had taken part in the action).

South of Hunza and Nagar lay the state of Chilas. This in turn bordered three tiny states; Gor, Darel and Tangir. The Chilasis had periodically attacked their neighbours and, although recognising the suzerainty of Kashmir State as a result of their defeat by Gulab Singh's forces in 1852, it had not served to lessen their belligerency. Shortly after the suppression of the Hunza-Nagar insurrection there arrived in Kashmir a deputation from Gor seeking protection from Chilasi aggression. A detachment of 50 men from the Body Guard Regiment (2nd Jammu and Kashmir Rifles) was despatched to the area, subsequently reinforced by a further 250 men of the same Regiment. A line of posts was established between Bunji and Chilas, the whole being placed under the command of Major A. Daniell, 1st Punjab Infantry, who was also second-in-command to Lieutenant Colonel A.G.A. Durand, C. B., commanding the Troops in the Gilgit Agency.

For about a year all remained quiet but then intelligence started to be received of a planned uprising of the tribes of the Indus Valley, including the forces of Darel, Tangir, Chilas and the neighbouring valley of Kohistan. The attack was to take place on the night of the Muslim feast of Shab-i-Barat but for some reason Major Daniell made a mistake in calculating the night. He thought it was 2/3 March and, when nothing happened, gave his second-in-command, Lieutenant F.J. Moberly, 37th Bengal Infantry, permission to go shooting from 4th March, a permission of which Moberly did not avail himself. Also on 4th March Major

Daniell suspended a daily patrol which, for some weeks, had been operating west of the camp where it had extended views across the Indus Valley. It was decided at a subsequent enquiry that had the patrol operated as usual on the afternoon of 4th March it would undoubtedly have seen the build-up of enemy opposite the Hodar stream.

At about 0300 hours on 5th March Lieutenant Moberly was awoken to be told that a large force of men with drums beating and flags flying was advancing on the fort. The troops were stood to and, firing by volleys, caused the enemy to withdraw. Major Daniell then ordered Lieutenant Moberly to attack Chilas village with a force of 35 men (enemy numbers had been estimated at between 1,000-1,200!). Moberly advanced at about 0330 hours, charging from a distance of about 70 yards during which two sepoy were wounded. The village was full of armed men but the first line of houses was cleared with the loss of about 12 or 15 enemy, and many more wounded. Jemadar Gan Singh of the Body Guard Regiment captured a standard at this point. The party started to advance again when Moberly suffered a scalp wound from a bullet. On regaining his senses he realised that the advance had not progressed and so ordered a withdrawal. One sepoy was wounded and one of Moberly's personal orderlies was found to have been killed at the same time as Moberly was wounded, but his body had been missed in the dark.

On regaining the fort the troops stood to and came under incessant fire until 0830 hours when enemy action ceased. Major Daniell decided to attack the village with as many men as possible but since, by this time, the enemy had crossed the Botogah Nala and taken up position on a hill to the south-west of the fort, thereby surrounding it. Daniell was limited in the number of men that could be spared. He set off with a force of 140 men, leaving 120 in the fort, and advanced in two parties. Half the sepoy under Subadar Man Singh went straight to the village and gained the outer edge where they remained throughout, engaging the enemy within the village. The other half, under Major Daniell, passed below the village and then advanced up its eastern side, passing the mosque which was full of men. It was about this time that Major Daniell was shot dead. Adjutant Nain Singh, attempting to surround the village and link up with Subadar Man Singh's company, was also killed, as was Subadar Bir Singh. Subadar Man Singh was then wounded and brought to the fort where he died. On learning of the Adjutant's death Jemadar Gan Singh ordered a withdrawal. The time was now about 1100 hours.

By this time word was received at the fort that the troops on the ground were running short of ammunition and so a party was sent out with boxes of ammunition to cover the general retirement. Sepoy Mangalu of No 1 Company distinguished himself by crossing through heavy fire with ammunition boxes and sustaining a leg wound. He was awarded the IOM for this action, as was Sepoy Bahadur Gurung of No 4 Company who rushed back alone some 50 yards to within 100 yards of the enemy where he rescued a wounded colleague. Once inside the fort all men were collected to line the walls where they continued to come under fire until 0200 hours on 6th March.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Moberly had summoned Munshi Gulab Khan and asked if there was any way of getting word to Bunji. The Munshi volunteered to go himself at night, if a sepoy would accompany him. Volunteers were called for and three stepped forward - Sepoy Nariban, Tikaru and Neola. Separate letters were written by Moberly and given to the men. Munshi Gulab Khan and Sepoy Tikaru arrived at Ges at 1900 hours on 6th March, having managed to evade various enemy picquets in the Botogah and Thak nalas. All three sepoy were awarded the IOM, although at the time of writing his despatch Lieutenant Moberly had

been unable to ascertain the fate of Sepoys Nariban and Neola, the two having split from Munshi Gulab Khan and Sepoy Tikaru after leaving the fort.

The troops in the fort stood to all night of 6th March expecting another attack but nothing happened. By morning there was no sign of the enemy but Moberly was reluctant to advance with tired troops, fearing an ambush. He therefore ordered sleep, with a further stand-to at 1300 hours, determined to mount a reconnaissance at 1400 hours if nothing had been heard by then. At about 1300 hours a Chilasi was captured. He said that the enemy had retired down river taking with them a messenger from Ges who had been captured the night before. Moberly ordered an advance on the village where 40 enemy bodies were found lying on the ground, in addition to a large number of freshly dug graves.

Subsequent enquiries suggested that the enemy forces had been in the region of 4,000-5,000. They were known to have carried away a number of their casualties but estimates put their dead at between 180 and 250, with numerous wounded.

Fourteen officers and men were recommended by Lieutenant Moberly for the IOM. All but one was from the Body Guard Regiment (2nd Jammu and Kashmir Rifles). Seven of the recommendations, indicated below by an asterisk, were approved:

Jemadar Gan Singh (*) - for conspicuous gallantry on two separate occasions; for the way in which he managed the general retirement after all the senior officers had been killed; and for general assistance to Moberly since the retirement when he encouraged the men and kept them up to mark.

Havildar Partiman, Naik Parsimal, Lance Naik Man Singh - for conspicuous gallantry in action. Lance Naik Parsimal, although wounded, continued to do his work.

Sepoy Bahadur Gurung (*) - for carrying a wounded sepoy out of action.

Sepoy Mangalu (*) - for conspicuous gallantry (carrying the ammunition).

Sepoy Balu - For carrying Subadar Man Singh, who was wounded, out of action. In doing so he was wounded himself.

Sepoy Bahadur, Sepoy Jai Bhaddar (*), Sepoy Indra Lal - for conspicuous gallantry.

Sepoy Nariban (*) Sepoy Neola (*) Sepoy Tikaru (*) - for carrying the dak through, the enemy's picquets at imminent danger to themselves.

Sepoy Kharkubir, 4th Kashmir Rifles - Moberly's orderly who stayed with him when he was wounded, at great personal risk.

A further 20 officers and men, including Munshi Gulab Khan, were mentioned by Lieutenant Moberly as being deserving of an award, although I have so far been unable to trace any such awards. Since no campaign medal was awarded for the action this must be one of those rare occasions when a gallantry award can be found to a soldier with no other medals to support it.

Chilas force casualties were:

Killed

1 British Officer (Major Daniell)

3 Indian Officers

20 Indian soldiers

Severely wounded

1 Indian Officer

21 Indian soldiers

Slightly wounded

1 British Officer

5 Indian soldiers

Lieutenant Moberly was highly commended by Lieutenant Colonel Durand for his handling of the situation. As with the Kashmiri troops, he would not have received a campaign medal for this action but just two years later, at the Relief of Chitral (7th March-15th August 1895) he was in command of troops at Mastuj . He was by this time a Captain with the DSO and, although I have yet to prove it, it seems likely that his DSO was awarded for Chilas.

Lieutenant Colonel Durand's examination of the ground after the incident led him to the conclusion that Major Daniell's attack, although extremely gallant, was faulty in conception. In order to reach the point at which he was killed he had led his men through a raking cross fire. Moreover, the attack forced a cessation of covering fire from the fort. Apparently confident that he could defeat the enemy, Major Daniell's attack became an encircling one and led to own losses without substantially increasing those of the enemy. It was felt that if the enemy had been attacked only in front and flank they would have been driven through the ruined fort and into the open beyond.

It was discovered that the enemy had come from as far as seventy miles down the Indus below Chilas and comprised levies from Koli Palas, Patan, Jalkot, Sao, Kotgala, Sazin, Tangir, Darel, Harban, Hodar, Thur and Chilas. It raises the question of why those who sought protection from Chilas, such as Darel and Tangir, should then side with Chilas against their protectors. Were they forced into it?

(*) Citations in Army Department Notification No.466, Gazette of India, 20 May 1893 (IOLR V/11/110, reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.)

