

The Regiment of Loodianah

Brian Stevens

The article referring to Lieutenant Peter Gill, V.C., R.A. (*Durbar*, Vol.27, No.2, Summer 2010) pp.89-90), mentions in passing the rebellious outbreak of the Regiment of Loodianah¹ at Benares on the 4th June 1857, and also states that, prior to the outbreak, the non-Sikhs in the regiment were showing signs of disaffection.²

When the two so-called 'Seikh Battalions,' the Regiment of Loodianah and the Regiment of Ferozepore, were raised, the cadres were provided by drafts from twenty-four regiments of the Bengal Line. In the case of the Regiment of Loodianah, six out of ten subedars and seven out of ten jemadars were transferred, and of the sixty havildars and sixty naiks required, forty of each were transferred. The numbers required to complete the regiment's establishment were to be provided by promotions from within the corps. The General Order of 30th July 1846 that authorized these two regiments stated that they were to be raised on the left bank of the Sutlej but made no mention of who was to be enlisted into the other ranks.

It would certainly be interesting to know the precise class composition of these regiments, as it is probably assumed, more often than not, that only Sikhs were recruited. Evidence of a Muslim element in the Regiment of Loodianah is exemplified by the name of its senior subedar, Mahomed Khan, promoted to this position immediately after the Benares outbreak. He was clearly a loyal and long-serving officer, as in due course he was advanced to the 1st Class of the Order of British India Order (G.G.O. 384 of 22nd March 1859). By August 1862 he had been replaced by Subedar Narain Singh, another Benares veteran, although Muslim officers continued

¹ In spite of several changes in title, 'Loodianah' remained current until 1889 when the regiment became the '15th (The Ludhiana Sikh) Regiment of Bengal Infantry.'

² Although it must be treated as a secondary source, there is a detailed account of events at Benares on 4th June 1857 in Kaye & Malleeson's *History of the Indian Mutiny* (vol. II, pp.168-172). 'As regards the Sikh corps, it was said that a large proportion of the regiment – the regiment of Lodiana [sic] – were not Sikhs but Hindustanis; that they were the brethren of the regular Sipahis, and that they had come on to parade with their pieces loaded.' Sir John Kaye claimed to have been well informed on the passage of events at Benares, and was anxious to stress the veracity of his account. 'I have had before me several detailed statements made by officers present at the parade, including a full narrative written by Brigadier Ponsonby, and furnished to me by his widow, and the private journals and letters of Colonel Neill as well as his official reports.' The journal of Captain William 'Jack' Olpherts, Bengal Artillery, was also consulted. It must nevertheless be said that Olpherts may not have been an entirely objective witness, as it was his battery which first opened fire on the Regiment of Loodianah.

to be employed in the regiment until 1879 when Subedar Bahal Khan³ finally retired.⁴

The archives in London or Delhi will undoubtedly hold detailed records, whereas the unit history of the Ferozepore Sikhs provides only a tantalisingly brief reference to class composition when the regiment was raised:

The recruits enrolled were mainly Sikhs, but also included some Mahommedans. Many had served in the old Khalsa (Sikh) army.^{5 & 6}

After the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 it was decided to allow the enlistment of no more than 200 Punjabis into every line regiment of the Bengal Army, of which no more than 100 were to be Sikhs. As at the time there were ten companies of 100 men in each regiment, this would mean that in time there would be the equivalent of two non-Hindustani companies in each Corps. As the Bengal or, for that matter, Madras and Bombay regiments did not have 'class companies,' these Punjabis were scattered throughout the Corps and not segregated. At the same time, instructions were given that, in future, regiments under orders to proceed to the Punjab on relief were to suspend recruiting until they had reached their new station and then fill vacancies with Punjabis.

However, in view of the short period of time that elapsed between the issue of these orders and the outbreak of the Mutiny, no corps could possibly have managed to recruit 200 Punjabis.

Subsequent to the outbreak of the Mutiny a G.O.C.C. dated 27th July 1857 was published from which the following is an extract:

1. With the concurrence of Government, the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to direct that the Seikhs and Punjaabee Mahomedans at present attached to regiments of the line at and below Allahabad shall be embodied into a separate corps, composed exclusively of soldiers of those sects, and to be denominated the 'Seikh Volunteers.'
2. The corps will be completed with soldiers of the same description who may volunteer from other regiments. Should any men obtain admission into

³ He first joined the regiment when it was raised in July 1846.

⁴ Anon, *Regimental Lists, 15th Sikhs 1846-1900* (Inverness, 1902). This is essentially a compilation of extracts from the Bengal Army List and Indian Army List, with an appended 'list of Officers who have served in the regiment' (names, dates, ranks).

⁵ Col. F.E.G. Talbot, *The 14th King George's Own Sikhs, 1st Bn (K.G.O.) (Ferozepore Sikhs), The 11th Sikh Regiment, 1846-1933* (The R.U.S.I., London 1927.), p.2. If a unit history of the 15th Ludianah Sikhs was ever published, it must be rare as it is not recorded by Roger Perkins in his comprehensive work *Regiments of Empire*.

⁶ There was a traditional place for Muslim soldiers in the Khalsa Army. They fought steadfastly alongside their Sikh comrades.

the corps who are not in reality Sikhs, the Officer commanding is hereby authorized to cause such pretenders to be immediately discharged.

3. The 'Sikh Volunteers' will be placed on the same footing with respect to numbers, establishments, and allowances, as the Regiments of Loodianah and Ferozepore.

It would seem that official bungling was the main reason for the trouble in the Regiment of Loodianah, as its sister regiment gave no trouble at all. It was evidently thought at the time that there were sufficient loyal Punjabi sepoys in the regiments of the Bengal Line to make it worthwhile to establish a new regiment.

One might conjecture that the mixing of Punjabis with Hindustanis, in corps where there were insufficient numbers of Punjabis generally to make a difference, was bound to cause problems. It is hardly surprising that, in many regiments, the Punjabis threw in their lot with their comrades and mutinied along the rest. It was their safest option.

With the wisdom of hindsight, a better option might have been to discharge 200 Hindustanis and recruit 100 Sikhs and 100 Punjabi Muslims in each regiment which would have given 7,400 Sikhs and 7,400 Punjabi Muslims for the Bengal Line as a whole as against 59,200 Hindustanis. These relative numbers might, just possibly, have made a difference by providing a solid core of reliable sepoys around whom the loyal Hindustanis, and there were many of them, could have rallied. It might have prevented the mass outbreaks in large garrisons, as there would have been sufficient numbers of loyal sepoys for the authorities to take firm control at the first signs of discontent and disarm those suspected of disaffection. In this manner, many more fine old regiments, with plenty of life left in them, might have been saved from oblivion. But this, of course, is pure speculation.

Boer Prisoners of War in India

In round figures, a total of 25,000 Boer prisoners of war were taken. Commencing in April 1901, arrangements were made to send the majority of them overseas to camps in other parts of the Empire, while their women and children were incarcerated in concentration camps in South Africa. The largest share of 'overseas' prisoners of war went to India, where 9,000 were housed in about twenty cantonments across the country.

The general discharge of the Boer prisoners of war began in June 1902, and their release was subject to taking an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. However, many of them were skeptical about the peace terms and refused to accept this condition. There were in the region of 500 of these 'irreconcilables'

in India who were not to be persuaded until January 1904, and two strong-willed men from the Orange Free State were not discharged until May 1907. Upwards of 140 men succumbed to disease or sickness and are buried in India.



1-5TH GURKHA RIFLES – BOER PRISONER CAMP, ABBOTTABAD 1902

The 1st Battalion 5th Gurkha Rifles, located at the time in its home depot at Abbottabad, was called on to contribute part of the contingent of guards for the P.O.W. camp set up in the Kakul cantonment.

In 1902 a new experience came to the Abbottabad garrison with the establishment of a camp at Kakul for the accommodation of Boer prisoners of war. They numbered several hundred, and the duty of guarding them was between the units of the garrison and two companies of the Rifles Brigade from Rawalpindi. They proved to be harmless souls, clean in their persons but often clever with their hands, and much of their time was spent in turning out articles which they sold as souvenirs to the residents of Abbottabad. Peace having been restored to South Africa, the camp was broken up in November, but sad to relate a number had succumbed to the climate, and their bones rest in the little cemetery on the edge of the big *nullah* bordering the Kakul cantonment on the east.

It would be interesting to know whether any of the cemetery memorials commemorating these unfortunate Boer prisoners are still extant. No doubt our resident member in Abbottabad will be able to provide an answer for his own parish. And how about other locations in India and Pakistan?

Sources

History of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) 1858 to 1928, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, undated (p.161 and illustration facing p.168). Two websites have provided an unauthenticated overview of Boer prisoners sent to India: www.mkgandhi.org (article by E.S. Reddy, 29th July 1999); www.ancestry24.com

Taking the Shine off the Irregular Cavalry?

Much has been written about the relative merits of irregular versus regular cavalry. The purpose of this brief article is merely to bring to the reader's attention a specific contemporary perspective on this once controversial subject. It belongs to Brevet Major John Graves, commanding the regular 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry.¹

One might reason that, in addressing this subject, a long-serving and *pukkah* officer of the regular cavalry might not be impartial – particularly when his regiment had recently shared the battlefield and the resultant honours with a rival irregular regiment. The Poona Horse, an irregular cavalry regiment of the Bombay Army, served alongside Major Graves' regiment during the military expedition to Persia – and, arguably with the greater initiative, it was the first of the two to charge the Persian squares at Khooshab on 8th February 1857.

It is something of an enigma that the Indian ranks of the Poona Horse received the only Order of Merit awards (four) granted for this celebrated charge. The Indian ranks of the 3rd Light Cavalry received no gallantry awards at all, whereas two British officers of this regiment received the sole Victoria Cross awards for the very same action. In a fit of typical generosity, General Sir James Outram had actually recommended more than a dozen awards of the V.C. to officers and other ranks of the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, and Graves may have been disgruntled to be amongst those who were refused in spite of a strong citation:

¹ Captain John Forbes, commanding 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, was wounded at the battle of Khooshab on 8th February, and Captain John Crosbie Graves became temporary commandant.

Captain Graves, 3rd Regiment Bombay Light Cavalry. This officer succeeded to the command of the Regiment on Captain Forbes becoming disabled. He did most gallant service throughout the day, repeatedly charging the enemy, with invariable success, wherever and whenever he could get at them, and having been personally engaged in a sever struggle with one of the enemy's guns, which he finally captured after hard fighting. At the commencement of the action, Captain Graves was sent to the front to examine the enemy's line of battle, and he performed this dangerous and difficult duty in a manner deserving of great praise. Commencing at the left of the Persian line, Captain Graves, accompanied by four troopers, rode along the whole front of the enemy's army, at about two hundred yards distance, under a continual fire, and having succeeded in observing everything returned unhurt, and reported the result of his observations.²

Elsewhere in his despatch from Bushire, Outram remarks that Captain Graves was not actually engaged in the initial charge on the enemy's square and this no doubt put paid to his award. The 3rd Light Cavalry officers who ultimately received the Victoria Cross were both at the forefront of the charge. Graves' own reward for service at Khooshab and in Persia generally was a brevet promotion to major.³

Having served throughout the Persia expedition and in the ensuing Mutiny campaign in Central India, Brevet Major Graves wrote a summary of his regiment's field services. His report was understandably laced with relatively opinionated commentary. He would have been well aware that the army of the recently devolved H.E.I.C. was in the process of a major re-organisation, as it evolved into the post-mutiny Indian Army that was henceforward to be under the direct control of the British Government. No doubt he was keen to promote the interests of the regular cavalry, and so it was fortunate that he was able to make his point where the buck would henceforward stop – in London and the halls of power of the House of Commons.

The following report, written by Brevet Major Graves and published by the House of Commons in August 1860, places much emphasis on the economic efficiency of the regular cavalry:

² Despatch of General Sir James Outram, dated Bushire 13th June 1857; reproduced in *Historical Records of the Services of the 33rd (Q.V.O.) Light Cavalry*, Poona, circa 1913, pp.53-54. This exceptionally useful unit history includes a detailed account of the regiment's services in Persia, with extracts from relevant despatches.

³ *London Gazette*, 28 Jan 1859; Brevet Major with effect from 29th July 1858.

*3rd Bombay Light Cavalry: report from landing in Persia to arrival in India in 1857; J.C. Graves, Brevet Major, Commanding 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry.*⁴

...I would here be permitted to observe that one of the grand arguments brought forward by advocates and admirers of the irregular cavalry system against the utility and value of the native regular cavalry was, in this short campaign, proved to be utterly groundless and fallacious.

It has always been stated by such upholders of the irregular system, and generally in such a positive manner as to be accepted as a fact, that the regular native cavalry are comparatively useless and inefficient, from 'having to depend on the Commissariat for their forage.'

On the occasion referred to, both systems – the regular and irregular – had a fair trial, being both encamped side by side in an enemy's country, and the result was that the vaunted capability of the irregular cavalry sower to provide himself with forage under all circumstances, was proved to have no foundation in fact, as the commanding officers of these corps were obliged to fall back on the Commissariat for their daily supplies of grain and grass; and by an order issued by the general commanding the force (himself an irregular cavalry officer), they were provided with both from the Commissariat, at a rate, moreover, considerably under the cost price at Bushire of both articles, Government being the loser by the transaction.

During this period the regular native cavalry, having their reserve forage fund to resort to – a fund expressly intended for such emergencies, was enabled to purchase a certain amount of forage from the country, thereby lessening the operations and responsibility of the Commissariat, the remainder required to make good the daily consumption being supplied by the Commissariat and charged against the regiment; the debt thus incurred, though written off the accounts by order of Government, could have been eventually defrayed by the reserve forage fund.

From the above, it is evident that no advantage can be claimed by the irregular over the regular cavalry in their respective capabilities for the supply of gram and forage. It is manifest that any officer or trooper, be he regular or irregular, if provided with funds, can purchase what is necessary for his horses where a market exists; where no supplies are procurable, both are equally helpless; if anything, the irregular is more so, since, unless

⁴ *EAST INDIA (BOMBAY LIGHT CAVALRY): Return of the Brevets conferred on the Three Regiments of Regular Bombay Light Cavalry, from 1st January 1857 to the latest Date, together with detailed Reports of the Field Services of the respective Regiments, and the Distances Marched by each Regiment during the above Period; India Office, 22 Aug 1860; ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 23 Aug 1860 (private collection). This extract is taken from a report by Major Graves. No date is given but it was clearly written well after the regiment's return to India, probably between April 1859 and June 1860. It occupies seven of the total twenty pages of this self-standing document. It was not re-published in the 33rd Light Cavalry history, or elsewhere as far as is known.*

Government comes to his aid, as was done in Persia — his monthly pay cannot meet the demands upon it; his horse must therefore suffer from a scarcity of food, or the sowar be impoverished from endeavouring to supply it.

Indeed, I go further and say, the irregular system in this respect is a loss to Government, as, during the period of plenty, the sowar receives his grain and forage as part and parcel of his pay, saving, no doubt, from the money so allowed; but when the time of scarcity arrives, as in an enemy's country, he looks to a considerate Government to assist him. On the other hand, in the regular cavalry, the Government paying at all times only what the supplies cost, probably saves, during peace and plenty, more than its necessarily extra expenditure in war.

Whilst writing on this topic, I trust I may be excused mentioning another point wherein I think the irregular cavalry system faulty, and that is in the method of mounting the sowar.⁵ The Government mounts the regular cavalry trooper, the irregular mounts himself, of course receiving a much higher rate of pay in consideration. The result in many cases, I will not say in all, is that the Government service suffers fatally; as the irregular in action, if riding a somewhat valuable horse, his own property, be it observed, thinks as much, if not more, of the preservation of his horse from injury, than he does of the destruction of the enemy. Trusting that I may be excused for this digression, I return to the services of the regiment at their embarkation for Bombay...

It seems quite unreasonable for Graves, within the context of a report covering the Persian expedition, to suggest the irregular cavalry suffered from a lack of aggression. It smacks of sour grapes, as the Poona Horse had shown its heels to the Bombay Light Cavalry in charging the 800-strong infantry square of the 1st Khusgai Regiment of Fars at Khooshab. But he seems to be on safer ground when criticising the commissariat arrangements of the irregulars. Living off the land is not an ideal means of sustenance in every theatre of war.

With its leader of 1st April 1857, *The Times* had put itself in the batting order relatively early on. It looks as though one of its journalists had a premonition of Graves' later report, as the leader in the 1st April 1857 edition commented:

Some readers, we have no doubt, will be pleased to find that the regular Cavalry of India carefully compete in efficiency with those irregular comrades of whose aptitude for service so much was justly predicted.⁶

⁵ Graves here refers to the *silladar* system which required the Indian sowar to provide his own mount

⁶ *Historical Records of the Services of the 33rd (Q.V.O.) Light Cavalry*, p.63-64. The complete leader is reproduced here.

In view of the circulation that Graves' report ultimately enjoyed, it may have had some effect in the corridors of power and thus on subsequent policy decisions. But in spite of this, the irregular cavalry continued to flourish within the Indian Army long after the demise of the H.E.I.C., and it was the First World War that finally sounded its death knoll. The excessive material demands of this unprecedented conflict broke the back of the *silladar* system. It proved quite unsuitable for modern warfare, even though the Poona Horse (34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse, as it was then known) more than pulled its weight. In the fighting in France and Flanders, it suffered more casualties than any other single Indian Cavalry regiment.

The 34th P.A.V.O. Poona Horse amalgamated with the 33rd Q.V.O. Lt Cavalry in 1921, becoming briefly the 33rd/34th Cavalry. They had been comrades in arms in many conflicts and amalgamation brought an end to any traditional rivalry that may have existed between these two very competitive regiments.⁷ The following year the co-joined regiments took their place in the regular Indian Army as the 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse.



33RD Q.V.O. LIGHT CAVALRY
FIELD SERVICE CAP BADGE
1903-1921



34TH P.A.V.O. POONA HORSE
OFFICER'S SIDE-CAP BADGE
1903-1921

⁷ The evolution of the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry and Poona Irregular Horse can be followed in IMHS member Capt. Ashok Nath's comprehensive work: *Izzat, Historical Records & Iconography of Indian Cavalry Regiments 1750-2007* (New Delhi, 2009). The badges shown here, taken from Izzat, were in use prior to the 1921 amalgamation.

**57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force)
German East Africa - July 1916 to September 1917**

Harry Fecitt, MBE, TD

Introduction

In 1914 the 57th Rifles embarked as part of the Lahore Division with Indian Expeditionary Force 'A' for war service in France and Flanders.¹ On the voyage to Marseilles the regiment converted from an eight single-company to a four double-company unit, although it retained the established arrangement of an exclusive class composition per company, the classes being Punjabi Musalman, Sikh, Dogra and Pathan. It served on the Western Front until December 1915 when it was dispatched to Egypt. After six months' service of involvement in minor operations in Egypt the regiment embarked for East Africa, landing at Mombasa on 12th July 1916. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas James Willans, D.S.O., was the commanding officer and his regiment consisted of eleven British officers including the medical officer, twenty-one Indian officers, 843 Indian other ranks and forty followers. The scale of machine guns in East Africa was one for each rifle company. Lewis Guns had not yet been issued in the theatre.

Initial deployment

The British commander in German East Africa was the South African General Smuts, and he was driving his three divisions, two of them being composed mostly of South Africans, southwards towards the German Central Railway that linked Dar Es Salaam on the Indian Ocean to Lake Tanganyika on the Belgian Congo border. However the British lines of communication near Tanga were being successfully attacked by German troops operating in the British rear area. The 57th Rifles was quickly dispatched by train up the Uganda Railway to Voi, then westwards along a recently built military rail line to Kahe Junction and then down the German Usambara rail line to Mauri, the British railhead.

¹ The 57th remained a single battalion regiment throughout WWI. It did not raise a second battalion for war service – as did four of the Frontier Force regiments (and the Corps of Guides raised two such battalions).



EAST AFRICA

From Mauri the regiment marched eastwards to Korogwe and skirmished with enemy troops who were African Askari, organised into Field Companies under German officers and non-commissioned officers. On 19th July, three

companies of the 57th Rifles advanced on the undefended German port of Pangani, occupying it at the same time as the Royal Navy arrived by sea, whilst the fourth company climbed up the southern Usambara Mountains to the German research centre at Amani, taking prisoner twenty-five German officers who were mostly unfit through wounds. The Amani research centre had been used to produce many useful commodities such as quinine that the Germans could no longer import due to the British naval blockade along the coastline.

The 57th Rifles was now ordered to join the 2nd East African Brigade at Handeni. The brigade was commanded by Brigadier-General J.A. Hannynghton, D.S.O., and was part of the 1st East African Division commanded by General A.R. Hoskins, C.M.G., D.S.O. The other units in the brigade were the 3rd King's African Rifles, the 129th Baluchis, the 40th Pathans and the 25th Royal Fusiliers (Frontiersmen). On 4th August the brigade marched to join the remainder of the 1st Division on the Lukigura River.

The action at Matomondo

Two days later, the 2nd East African Brigade advanced south with the 57th Rifles forming the advance guard. After four miles contact was made, but the German Askari were adept at fighting rearguard actions to cover tactical withdrawals, and there was no serious fighting. Another two days of this skirmishing followed, until the Germans made a stand near the village of Matamondo. Here the bush was very dense and the ground mountainous. On 10th August Colonel Willans was ordered to send one company forward to reconnoitre the enemy defences. No 2 Company under the command of Major James Henry George Buller, with Lieutenant James Norman Taylor accompanying him, was tasked and advanced at dawn. Meanwhile 3rd King's African Rifles was conducting a similar reconnaissance on the left flank.

After advancing a mile, the British came under very heavy fire from the German trenches, six enemy machine guns being used against them. Nevertheless, both British reconnaissance parties attacked, and severe fighting developed. On the No 2 Company axis, Jemadar Sher Dil was killed whilst leading an attack and Subadar Arsla Khan, *Bahadur*, M.C., I.O.M., was wounded. Major Buller saw that the situation was critical and led a charge onto the enemy's left positions, but he was severely wounded in the leg and taken prisoner, every man of his party being killed or wounded. Havildar Salim Khan charged one of the enemy machine guns with his section, killed the crew and turned the gun onto the enemy until it jammed; he then withdrew

with the captured gun. Lieutenant Taylor brought the company reserve forward and tried to rescue Major Buller but was beaten back by devastating enemy fire.

No 2 Company, and the King's African Rifles on its left, pulled back. The 5th and 6th South African Infantry Battalions came to assist and were deployed on a left flanking attack, which eventually drove in the German right flank, but the enemy maintained his aggressive defence until nightfall, when he withdrew. The German Commander-in-Chief, Colonel Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck, later wrote in his reminiscences:

Captain Stemmerman's Detachment, which had been pushed out a short day's march due north of Tulliani, was attacked at Matomondo by a strong force of Europeans and Indians. The enemy was very skilful. A machine gun of the 6th Company, placed on a rocky slope, was seized by a few Indians, who had crept up to it from the front unobserved, and thrown down the steep slope, so that it could not be found again. The enemy, who had penetrated our lines, was thrown out again with heavy loss by a counter-attack by the 21st Company. At close quarters the English Major Buller, a son of the well-known General of the South African War days, put a bullet through the hat of the Company Commander, Lieutenant von Ruckteschell, but was then severely wounded by the latter. Major Buller was got away to the German hospital at Dar Es Salaam and nursed back to health by the wife of his opponent, who was working there as a nurse. During the actions at Matomondo, English horsemen had worked round further to the west, and suddenly appeared in one of the mountain passes leading from the west to Tulliani. In the dense bush the 2nd Mounted Brigade, which had come from South Africa under General Brits, apparently sustained heavy casualties.

For his gallantry that day, Major Buller was later awarded a Distinguished Service Order with the citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He gallantly led his men against superior forces of the enemy and captured a machine gun. He succeeded in penetrating to the enemy's second line, where he was wounded.

Lieutenant Taylor was awarded a Military Cross with the citation:

For conspicuous gallantry in action. He displayed great courage and devotion to duty in attending to the wounded under very heavy fire.

Major Buller was later recovered by British forces when Dar Es Salaam was captured. The total of the 57th Rifles' casualties in the action was: one Indian officer and four sepoy killed in action, one sepoy died of wounds, one Indian

officer and twenty-one sepoy wounded in action, and one British officer and three sepoy wounded and taken as prisoners of war.

The advance beyond the Central Railway

The 2nd East African Brigade, now including an Imperial Service Troops unit, the 3rd Kashmir Rifles, and also the King's African Rifles Mounted Infantry Company and the 27th Mountain Battery, Frontier Force, Indian Army, continued pushing the Germans southwards. On 27th August the brigade captured Mikese Station on the railway line, but by now re-supply problems were slowing the advance. General Smuts believed in first moving rapidly, as he had visions of finally defeating the whole German *Schutztruppe*² near the Central Railway, and then worrying about logistics later, if at all. The result was that the British troops had to exist on half-rations because the supply chain of African porters could not bring enough supplies forward quickly enough. This debilitated the men and reduced their resistance to tropical ailments such as bush sores and ulcers, malaria and blackwater fever. Also jigger worms buried themselves under toenails, snakes bit unwary soldiers, and sometimes sentries were attacked by lions. Tropical rain was another discomfort as tentage was not issued. The African machine gun porters with the regiment showed the sepoy how to quickly build night-time shelters from leaves, poles and bark found in the bush. A steady stream of officers and men from the regiment had to be medically evacuated. Even though drafts were arriving from India, the effective strength of the 57th Rifles steadily decreased.

Meanwhile, Colonel von Lettow Vorbeck had no intention of being trapped by the British and he continued to withdraw, standing to fight only when the ground favoured his defence and where he could cause maximum casualties amongst his attackers. As the brigade approached the Missambissi River, No 1 and No 4 Companies of the 57th Rifles formed the advance guard. On reaching the wooden bridge crossing the river, it was seen to be alight. The leading sepoy ran across the burning bridge and No 4 Company engaged the withdrawing enemy, while No 2 Company successfully extinguished the flames and saved the bridge. As the Germans withdrew, they harassed the advancing British brigade with artillery fire. The Indian mountain guns, carried on mules, did not have the range to engage the enemy gunners. However, the terrain and small bush tracks gave the enemy gunners problems during their withdrawal and the brigade came across an abandoned and destroyed 4.1-inch

² The term used to describe the African colonial armed force of Imperial Germany.

naval gun (removed from the sunken German cruiser *Konigsberg* in the Rufiji River delta) that the enemy could not drag any further south.

As the brigade approached the Ruvu River on 31st August, the 57th Rifles led the advance with No 3 Company forward. Enemy skirmishers sniped but did not impose delays and the riverbank was reached, but no bridge was found. The only aid to crossing was an intact rope support stretching across the river. Under cover of machine gun fire, No 3 Company used the rope to wade through the breast-high water, and then advanced to picquet the facing hills whilst the remainder of the regiment crossed. No 3 Company took two enemy Askari prisoners who told the British intelligence officer with the regiment that an enemy attack was planned for that night. At 02.00 hours the Germans opened heavy machine gun fire from a range of 600 yards on the regimental bivouac position near the river, accompanied by Verey Lights for illumination. No 3 Company picquets successfully returned effective fire, and regimental casualties were limited to one other rank killed, three other ranks, three African machine gun porters and two African stretcher bearers wounded. At dawn, No 4 Company advanced to take the crest to the front and came under enemy artillery fire. Later in the day, a South African field battery arrived and neutralised the German guns with counter-battery fire. The remainder of the brigade, plus the newly-arrived Gold Coast Regiment, now passed through the 57th Rifles' positions and fought the enemy through the Uluguru Mountains that lay ahead. The 57th Rifles provided support on the left flank.

From the Dutumi River to Mssanga

The next position on the brigade axis where the Germans stood and fought was at Nkessa's Village, forward of the Dutumi River. This action commenced on 10th September. The enemy force was *Abteilung Stemmerman*³ once again, consisting of four companies totaling 900 men with ten machine guns. More enemy troops were known to be across the river. When the advance guard, 3rd Kashmir Rifles, made contact, the 57th Rifles and the 27th Mountain Battery were quickly deployed onto the prominent Kitoho Hill on the right flank. 3rd King's African Rifles moved through and beyond the 57th, whilst, on the road below, the Kashmiris and the Gold Coast Regiment advanced on the enemy trenches supported by fire from the Loyal North Lancashires' Machine Gun Company. The British advance, hampered by tangled elephant grass, made little progress against the enemy fire. The 57th Rifles arrived on Kitoho Hill

³ Abteilung translates as detachment – thus 'Captain Stemmerman's Detachment.'

just in time to break up an enemy counter-attack, and received support from the mountain guns. Two of the 57th Rifles companies then descended to support the Kashmiris' right flank. When darkness fell the British maintained their positions.

At dawn 3rd King's African Rifles and the Gold Coast Regiment developed an attack on the right flank that was met by a strong German counter-attack. Kitoho Hill was the vital ground on the battlefield, and at 14.00 hours a determined enemy assault supported by artillery and machine gun fire was made on the hill. The 57th Rifles held its ground and after an hour of fighting the Germans were beaten off. More British troops now arrived including the 29th Punjabis, a South African field battery, and the machine guns of the 129th Baluchis which were attached to the 57th Rifles. Nevertheless Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck, using companies brought up from Kisaki, attacked again in the late afternoon on both British flanks, while Stemmerman's men fought from their trenches. However at dawn on 12th September British patrols discovered that the Germans, true to form, had made a clean break during the night and were withdrawing south of the Dutumi River.

During September the 57th Rifles remained in close contact with the withdrawing enemy who inflicted several casualties on the regiment. One of those killed in action was Sepoy Bhan Singh of the Guides, who had first been attached to the 57th Rifles in France and decorated twice for gallantry.⁴ On 27th September, No 2 and No 4 Company under Captain J.A. Glegg penetrated an enemy outpost line. Captain Glegg was later mentioned in dispatches. On 28th September, the 130th Baluchis of 1st Brigade relieved the 57th Rifles which withdrew to the 2nd Brigade camp at Nkessa's Village for two weeks of rest. As a result of casualties and medical evacuations, Lieut-Colonel Willans now had under his command only two British officers and 180 other ranks.

The British had recently seized Dar Es Salaam and were developing the harbour and town as the main British East African supply base. Roving German companies were threatening the town, and so the 57th Rifles received orders to march towards the coast to engage any enemy troops that could be found. One section of the 27th Mountain Battery and one section of an Indian

⁴ In the unit history of the 57th, the I.O.M. has been incorrectly attributed to Bhan Singh. This sepoy was with one of the two drafts from the Corps of Guides Infantry that joined the 57th Rifles in France in January and April 1915. He was awarded the IDSM, and the Russian Medal of the Order of St George (3rd Class), for gallantry at Ypres in attempting to carry out of action the body of Capt. P.d'A. Banks.

Field Ambulance accompanied the regiment. The trek through thick bush was rugged and difficult, especially for the battery mules and the African porters in the column. River crossings were dangerous, supplies as usual were very meagre, and guides were sometimes untrustworthy. Msanga was reached on 21st October and contact made with the garrison, the Jind Imperial Service Infantry. As enemy posts were close by, an intensive period of patrolling and counter-patrolling commenced and skirmishes occurred daily. Although drafts from India arrived, the flow of medical evacuations continued unabated.

During one small action, Lieutenant Ronald Leslie Piper, out on patrol with fifty men, confronted a German patrol about forty strong near Mkwata and dispersed it, inflicting several casualties and capturing a number of rifles. On the following day, the body of the German commander was discovered in the bush where he had crawled to die of his wounds. Lieutenant Piper was later awarded a Military Cross. In a similar incident, Captain E.K. Fowler, M.C., with two Indian officers and seventy rifles, attacked an enemy position at Makuka. When it was realised that the enemy was in superior force with machine guns, a skilful withdrawal action was fought with the loss of only one sepoy killed. Captain Fowler was later awarded a brevet majority.

Operations in the coastal region

From January 1917 onwards, the 57th Rifles operated against enemy units near the Indian Ocean coast. Reconnaissance missions were often carried out in columns that might also contain, variously, the Jind Infantry, a South African white infantry battalion, the South African Cape Corps of mixed-race soldiers, the 27th Mountain Battery, or the 16th Field Battery. Skirmishes and fire-fights were the norm, as the Germans preferred to mount ambushes rather than make attacks. For actions during this period, Lieutenants Edward Edleston and Evan Bertram Charles Preston were later both awarded the Military Cross. Heavy rains hampered movement and re-supply, and periods of extremely hot sunshine exhausted the sepoys. By the end of March 1917, the 57th Rifles was reduced to 198 other ranks, a large proportion of whom were quite unfit for active service due to recurring attacks of malaria.

In March, at Utete, the regiment had re-joined 2nd Brigade, which two months later was re-designated as No 2 Column. The other units in No 2 Column were the 129th Baluchis, 1st and 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles, 11th (Hull) Heavy Battery, Royal Field Artillery, and the 27th Mountain Battery I.A. Aggressive patrolling continued, but by mid-May the 57th Rifles was reduced

to company strength due to further casualties and medical evacuations. As a result, from the end of July, the regiment was placed on 'lines of communication' duty because of its low strength, although contacts with enemy patrols occurred regularly. The Germans rarely patrolled with less than twenty men and on two occasions they quickly overwhelmed small standing patrols or observation posts manned by the 57th Rifles.

On the 18th August the regiment was ordered to concentrate prior to embarkation for India. Two companies of the 40th Pathans relieved the 57th Rifles at Chemera, and the regiment moved to Kilwa Kisingani. Here it met a draft of 135 ranks from India that raised the regiment's strength to ten British officers, nine Indian officers and 206 other ranks. The regiment sailed up the coast to Dar Es Salaam on 2nd September and sailed again from there twenty-six days later, arriving in Bombay on 10th October 1917 and then moving to Rewat in the Murree Hills.

Thirty-five members of the 57th Rifles were buried in East Africa. They are commemorated on the British and Indian Memorials, both at Nairobi in Kenya and Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. Sepoys from other Frontier Force units were drafted into the 57th Rifles in East Africa as attached personnel, and any who died are commemorated under the titles of their parent regiments. The battle honour 'East Africa 1916-18' was awarded to the 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). In the 1922 reorganisation of the Indian Army, the regiment became the 4th Battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles (Wilde's).

57TH WILDE'S RIFLES (F.F.)	
JEMADAR	SEPOY
KATHA SINGH	BISHN SINGH
HAVILDAR	DEWA SINGH
MANGTU	INDAR SINGH
NAIK	JOGI
LACHHMAN SINGH	MUHAMMAD WALI
SEPOY	MUNSHI
AKSAR KHAN	NADAR KHAN
AMAR SINGH	RAM DITTA
BAKHSI RAM	RANJIT SINGH

DAR ES SALAAM MEMORIAL

Four officers stayed behind in German East Africa. Lieutenants R.L. Piper and N.G. Guy were attached to the 129th Baluchis. Lieutenant Piper gained a bar to his Military Cross before he was killed fighting on the Lukuledi River on 10th October 1917. Lieutenant H.H. Wadeson was attached to the 40th Pathans. Lieutenant J.N. Taylor, M.C., was attached to the 33rd Punjabis and died of wounds during the fighting at Narungombi on 27th July 1917.



NAIROBI MEMORIAL



Sources:

Anon, *Regimental History of the 4th Battalion 13th Frontier Force Rifles (Wilde's)*, printed privately by Butler & Tanner Ltd., circa 1930; Anon, *History of the Guides 1846-1922*, Gale & Poldne Ltd., Aldershot 1938; Lieut-Col. Charles Hordern (compiler), *Military Operations East Africa, Volume I, August 1914 – September 1916* (in the series of official histories of WW1); Gen. Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck, *My Reminiscences of East Africa*, Hurst & Blackett Ltd., London circa 1920; Major Donovan Jackson, *India's Army*, Sampson, Low, Marston & Co. Ltd, London 1940; *Record of the 3rd Battalion, The King's African Rifles During The Great Campaign in East Africa 1914-1918*. (Public Records Office); *Honours and Awards, Indian Army, August 1914-August 1921* (first published as Roll of Honour, Indian Army 1914-

1921, reprinted by J.B. Hayward & Son, London n.d.); Rana Chhina, *The Indian Distinguished Service Medal*, Invicta, New Delhi 2001; *Hart's Annual Army List*, 1915 edition; *The London Gazette*; Medal Index Cards.

Awards received by the 57th Rifles for service in East Africa

Distinguished Service Order

Major J.H.G. Buller

Military Cross

Lieutenant E. Edlestone

Lieutenant R.L. Piper

Lieutenant E.B.C. Preston

Lieutenant J. Taylor

Order of British India

1st Class

Subadar-Major Arsla Khan MC IOM

Order of British India

2nd Class

Subadar Bahadur Khan, Corps of Guides

Brevet Majority

Major E.K. Fowler

Mentioned in Dispatches

Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Willans DSO

Major L. Forbes

Captain J.A. Glegg

Lieutenant R.L. Piper MC

Subadar Rabel Singh,

Jemadar Zargir

Havildar Rahmat Khan

Naik Ran Singh

Indian Order of Merit

2nd Class

2172 Havildar Salim Khan⁵

3839 Naik Sher Baz

Indian Distinguished Service Medal

Jemadar Hira Singh

2069 Havildar Bhagwan Singh⁶

2624 Havildar Mangtu

2594 Naik Kala Khan, att'd 55th Rifles

2614 Havildar Kapur Singh

3591 Sepoy Sher Muhammad

Indian Meritorious Service Medal

2308 Colour-Havildar Feroz Ali

2155 Havildar Ali Badshah

2842 Havildar Gobinda

5132 Havr Jaimal Singh, Corps of Guides

2471 Havildar Prabh Dayal

3009 Havildar Uddham Singh

3296 Naik Amar Singh

2673 Naik Amir Shah

5984 Naik Sharif Ulla Khan

3227 Lance-Naik Khewa Khan

♦ L-Naik Tayab Singh, 55th Rifles

3459 Sepoy Masadi

♦ Sepoy Nand Singh

2611 Sepoy Ruldu Singh

3550 Sepoy Sher Singh

⁵ Havildar Salim Khan, I.O.M., was later murdered by Zakkha Khel tribesmen when proceeding on pension in 1921.

⁶ Also entitled to the Italian Bronze Medal for Military Valour.

♦ Not listed in *Honours & Awards, Indian Army 1914-1921*.



TROOPER, GORAKHPUR LIGHT HORSE VOLUNTEERS, GORAKHPUR, FEBRUARY 1894
Portrait by 'Bourne & Shepherd' reproduced here by courtesy of Brian Turner.

Captain Theodore Bailward, victim of Arab duplicity

The Ooty Club at Ootacamund is one of India's oldest and best preserved clubs. Amongst its other claims to fame, it is the place where, in 1882, Colonel Sir Neville Chamberlain invented the game of snooker. Two or three miles away, at the premises of the Ooty Hunt kennels,, there is an enigmatic memorial tablet to officers who fell during the Great War.¹ The only officer recorded on this memorial with an apparent Indian Army connection is Captain Theodore Bailward. Although he was on the strength of the 26th K.G.O. Light Cavalry,² he was also associated with two other Indian cavalry regiments.



The 26th Light Cavalry traced its origins back to the Honourable East India Company's 5th Madras Native Cavalry, first raised in 1787. After WW1 it amalgamated with the 30th Lancers (Gordon's Horse) to become 8th K.G.O. Light Cavalry, and is still serving in India today as the 8th Light Cavalry.

¹ During a recent visit, Capt. Roddy Sale had the privilege of a day's hunting with the Ootacamund Hunt. While there he found the time to take some interesting photographs, including the memorial tablet illustrated here, which he kindly sent to the Editor.

² The officer whose unit is not given is Capt. Ernest Harry [sic] Gilpin, 2nd Bn Durham Light Infantry. He died on 21 Mar 1918 and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Prior to the outbreak of WW1, the 26th Light Cavalry was stationed in Bangalore, although Lieutenant Bailward was probably not with his regiment at the time. In 1913 he had been appointed A.D.C. to the Governor of Madras,³ and he must have had a full diary as he was simultaneously Master of the Ootacamund Hunt. No doubt he forged some good connections because, not long after war was declared, he managed to get an attachment to the 7th Haryana Lancers which was due to accompany Expeditionary Force 'D' in Mesopotamia early in February 1915. In this way he was able to join the war effort earlier than his fellow officers of the 26th Light Cavalry. They had to wait a little longer before being mobilized for field service in the Aden Hinterland.



OFFICER'S FULL DRESS
CAP BADGE 1906-1920

The 7th Lancers landed at Basra as part of the 6th Cavalry Brigade. On the 13th April the regiment was heavily involved in the battle of Shaiba on the west bank of the Euphrates river, its commandant Major G.G. Massey Wheeler receiving a posthumous Victoria Cross for his outstanding gallantry during the action.

On 21st April the 7th Lancers marched out of Shaiba for Basra and two days later crossed the Shatt-al-Arab into Persia. At the time the 6th Cavalry Brigade, with two infantry brigades, formed the force under Major-General Sir G.F. Goringe. It had two main objectives: clear the eastern flank of the main force advancing along the Euphrates; relieve Ahwaz in order to restore oil supplies from the Persian oilfields.



OFFICER'S CAP BADGE 1904-22

On 29th April 1915, Major M.H. Anderson of the 33rd Light Cavalry,⁴ with a squadron of his own regiment and one other from the 7th Lancers under Bailward, were sent out from the encampment at Braikheh on a reconnaissance

³ *De Ruigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1924*. The A.D.C. appointment is mentioned by De Ruigny. This source also includes a photographic portrait of Captain Bailward.

⁴ Major Macclesfield Heptinstall Anderson, 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry.

mission. They proceeded for about twelve miles until reaching the River Karun, about eighteen miles from Ahwaz and close to an Arab encampment known as Imamzadeh Ali-Ibn-Husein. The Arabs pretended to be friendly, warning them that a Turkish force was approaching and advising them to go back. They retired about one mile and watered their horses at a spot pointed out by the Sheikh. Although patrols were watching both flanks, and a further textbook precaution was taken insofar as the horses were watered by detachments, Major Anderson made the fatal error of trusting the friendly overtures of his unreliable hosts who suddenly began to close in on his column in increasing numbers and in an ominous manner.

While Anderson attempted to parley with the Sheikh in an effort to diffuse this threatening situation, he ordered his main body to retire. He simultaneously sent Bailward and Lieut. C. Le Messurier, I.A.R.O. att'd 33rd Light Cavalry, to



FIELD SERVICE CAP BADGE 1903-21

bring in the two flank patrols. When these movements were observed, the Arabs, by now around 1,500 strong, opened fire on the retiring troopers. They also attacked the small rearguard (including Anderson) and the flanking patrols as they attempted to fall back, and the three British officers with these isolated units (Anderson, Bailward, and Le Mesurier) were all killed. They must have been singled out, as the level of casualties suffered by all other ranks does

not appear to have been significantly high. One source reports a lance-dafadar and two sowars of the 33rd Light Cavalry killed and several wounded. Another reports that the 7th Lancers had four men wounded and three missing.

The following day, a strong force of cavalry was sent out to recover the bodies. They were brought in to the camp at Braikeh where they were buried in temporary graves.⁵ Some details of the demise of the three British officers can be found in a memoir of Major H.M. Anderson compiled by his brother, Captain E.S.J. Anderson.⁶

⁵ Their bodies were not recovered by the Commonwealth War Graves Committee. Although they died together in Persia, their deaths are recorded on different memorials: Captain Bailward on the Basra Memorial, and Major Anderson and Lieutenant Le Mesurier, more appropriately, on the Teheran Memorial;

⁶ Capt. E.S.J. Anderson (compiler), *With the 33rd QVO Light Cavalry in Mesopotamia*, published privately in Quetta, October 1915. E.S.J. Anderson had been working as a

At least one other Indian Army connection can be found among the names on the Ooty Club memorial tablet. Captain Stephen Cox, the donor of the memorial, was himself for a time a captain in the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles, having been first commissioned in this volunteer regiment in December 1905. He joined the volunteer movement in 1905 and was commissioned in 1912, retiring as a captain eight years. The services for which he was awarded the C.I.E. were probably ‘civil’ and have not been traced.

Barracks of the Governor’s Body Guard, Bombay

Two large and impressive memorial tablets, one above the other, grace the entrance archway to the erstwhile lines of the Bodyguard of the Governor of Bombay in Tardeo, now a residential and commercial locality in South Mumbai (Bombay). They are illustrated on the following page, with transcripts of the inscriptions. The barracks themselves are currently occupied by a department of the Mumbai Corporation responsible for issuing driving licences.

The Governor’s Bodyguard Bombay was raised at Poona in 1865, and retained this title until it was disbanded upon the Independence of India in 1947. During WW1 it acted as a remount centre. Although it did not serve in the field, it sent drafts to France for war service. Major Nethersole, 25th Cavalry (Frontier Force), commanded the Bodyguard from December 1918 to January 1924. His M.C. was awarded for France, where he was attached to the 2nd Life Guards (*London Gazette*, 23rd June 1915).



CAP BADGE IN SILVER
WORN 1903-1947

Thanks are due to Roddy Sale for the photos and to Captain Ashok Nath for the badge illustration

Military Accountant since October 1910 with the Military Accounts Department. His memoir is based on the letters and diary of his brother, Major M.H. Anderson, and accounts by two unidentified officers and No. 2904 Trumpeter Ram Rikh [sic] - all of the 33rd Light Cavalry.

Upper memorial (with pigeon)

‘To commemorate the unfailing interest in their welfare which resulted in the erection of these lines evinced by His Excellency Sir George Lloyd G.C.I.E. D.S.O., Governor of Bombay, this tablet was erected by the Officers and Men of his Body Guard as a token of their abiding gratitude. 1st December 1921.’

Lower memorial

‘At the wish of H.E. Sir George Lloyd this tablet has been erected to commemorate the period December 1918 to December 1923 during which the Bombay Body Guard was re-organised with great ability after the war under the command of Major J. Nethersole M.C. to whose initiative and energy the erection of these lines was due.’

18th (P. W. O.) TIWANA LANCERS

JUBILEE.

It had originally been intended to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the raising of the 18th (P.W.O.) Tiwana Lancers in the autumn of 1908, but manoeuvres interfering the dates had to be changed and eventually the Jubilee was held on the 18th, 19th and 20th of January 1909.

Many guests were invited including all pensioners, of whom about 200 came. Their travelling expenses were paid and they were made very welcome, and being well feasted and looked after, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and one and all expressed their delight at again meeting their old corps in which many had sons or grandsons now serving.

Proceedings were opened with a review order parade on the morning of January 18th, at which Major General J. E. Nixon C. B. Commanding the Meerut Division, an old member of the Regiment took the salute. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Brigadier General Peyton D. S. O. Commanding the Meerut Cavalry Brigade and many others were present. The Regiment marched past by Squadrons, then trotted and then galloped by, and afterwards advanced in Review order.

After the parade a Darbar was held, at which General Nixon speaking in Punjabi, referred to the good name of the Regiment and the honour conferred on it in January 1906 in having been selected as one of the Regiments of which H. R. H. The Prince of Wales was made Colonel in Chief on the occasion of his visit to India.

In the afternoon a Garden Party was held at the Circuit House which was attended by the residents of Delhi both European and Native.

In the evening a Cinematograph entertainment in the Lines gave much amusement.

On the 19th January in the morning the Smeaton cup competition for inter $\frac{1}{4}$ Squadron Tentpegging took place; the afternoon was occupied in a Polo Match, and in the evening the officers gave a Ball at the Delhi Club. The decorations were chiefly red and white, the Regimental colours, and numerous trophies of arms and weapons of sport and chase were arranged round the dancing room. A Nautch for the entertainment of the Native ranks took place in the Lines the same evening.

The 20th was taken up in sports both morning and afternoon, and there was a very large attendance of guests and spectators who appeared to thoroughly appreciate the tentpegging and various feats of horsemanship. In the evening there was a dinner party at the Officers Mess, after which all repaired to the Lines, where another night's Nautch brought the Jubilee festivities to a close.

Band of Pipes and Drums 19th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment

These splendid images of the drum-major's sash (on the following page) and elements of the pipes and drums (below) of the 19th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment, were taken by Roddy Sale when the Bombay ex-Servicemen's Association held its annual Remembrance Sunday service on the 14th November 2010 at the Afghan Church in Colaba, Bombay. The drum-major's sash carries many (but not all) of the battle honours granted to the combined battalions of The Sikh Regiment, commencing with the 'Defence of Arrah 1857.' This unique honour was awarded to the 3rd Battalion, which only the previous year had been raised at Lahore by Captain Rattray as the Bengal Military Police Battalion. Following sterling service during the Indian Mutiny, it was taken into the line as a regiment of regular infantry, and went on to gain further laurels as the 45th Rattray's Sikhs. It became the 3-11th Sikhs in 1921-22 during the post-WW1 reorganisation of the Indian Army.



DETAIL OF PIPES AND DRUMS, 19TH BATTALION, THE SIKH REGIMENT

Correction to Earlier Badge Identifications

Tony McClenaghan

I am compiling a thirty-year index to *Durbar* with some excellent input from Lieutenant-Colonel Neville Poulson. Working through some of the earlier editions, I have found two badge identifications that I made at the time, but which I would now wish to correct in light of more recent information to be presented in my forthcoming book, co-authored with Richard Head and entitled: *The Maharajas' Paltans – A History of the Indian State Forces 1888-1948* (Manohar in association with the United Service Institution of India, Delhi 2011).

In *Durbar*, Volume 3, No.2 (page 25) we published a sketch of the diamond-shaped badge shown here. In Volume 7, No.1 (page 27) I identified this as a shoulder title worn by the Paigarh (sic) Guard of Hyderabad. In the twenty-one intervening years, we have been able to do much to identify the Paigah units of Hyderabad and these are covered in the book.



Readers will be aware that the Nizam of Hyderabad attempted to go for independence in 1947. After protracted negotiations, the situation in the State deteriorated until, on 13th September 1948, Operation Polo¹ was launched by the Government of India and was concluded within five days. Subsequently General K.M. Cariappa, the first Indian C-in-C of the Indian Army, visited Hyderabad and addressed the policy of officer absorption into the Indian Army through selection boards, though only seven out of a total of 362 officers were found suitable.² Only the 2nd Battalion, Hyderabad Infantry was accepted into the Indian Army, the remaining units being disbanded with the exception of the Arab Battalion and 4th Golconda Infantry. Representations were made to Delhi for the retention of these as guards for the Nizam's palaces, paid for out of the Nizam's Private Estate. General El-Edroos, the last C-in-C of the Nizam's Army, was permitted to serve as Chairman of the Fauji Committee of the Nizam's Private Estate (i.e. head of his small retained army) from 1953 to

¹ Actually re-named Operation Caterpillar shortly before action commenced, for fear the Hyderabad authorities had learnt the codeword, but still today largely referred to by the original codeword POLO.

² Major-General El-Edroos, ed. Omar Khalidi, *Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society*, p.205

1959.³ I now believe the diamond-shaped badge may have been worn as a collar badge or shoulder title by one of the two post-Independence Palace Guards units. We have identified a cap badge for '1PG' as well as an identical badge to that shown here, but with the numeral '1' instead of '2'.

Also in *Durbar*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (p.23) we published a sketch of this next badge, shown here. The Editors at that time identified the badge as belonging to the Choti Khas Lancers of Nawanagar and I confirmed that identification in Vol. 3, No.3 (p.15) in which I said that the intertwined initials represented Nawanagar State Cavalry. This was the accepted wisdom among collectors at that time. Research for *The Maharajas' Paltans* has identified the correct State for this unit as Baroda.



Under the terms of a treaty of 1805, Baroda had been required by the British to support a Subsidiary force in the State, raised and officered by the H.E.I.C. but paid for by Baroda. Starting with 2,000 troops and a battery of artillery, the cost of which was eight lakhs of rupees a year to Baroda, the strength of the Subsidiary force gradually increased over the years so that by 1817 it numbered 4,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry and a regiment of artillery.

In 1817, a supplementary treaty was concluded with the British which led to the ceding of territory in Gujerat to support the maintenance of the Subsidiary force. The new treaty imposed on the Gaekwar a requirement for the co-operation of his troops with the British in time of war, and it also imposed a new requirement on Baroda to raise and maintain a Contingent of 3,000 horse to be held at the disposal of the British Government.

This Contingent was finally disbanded in 1884-85, though by a strange twist of logic the British demanded that part of the money saved by its disbandment should be paid to them for the maintenance of law and order in the Tributary Mahals, a duty which they had in any case been performing for years, having brought those areas under direct British control. The disbanding of the Contingent led to another reorganisation of the Baroda State army in 1885 by which the Contingent units, Choti Khas Paga, Chinnabai Paga, Kadi

³ He died in Bangalore in 1962.

Paga and Moti Khas Cavalry were incorporated into both the regular and irregular units of the Baroda Army as Choti Khas Paga, Moti Khas Paga and Fateh Singh Rao Cavalry.

Baroda did not join the Imperial Service Troops scheme of 1888 and therefore was not subject to regular inspections as other States, so information about the Army does not appear in the usual sources. We know from the 1899 State Administration report that the authorised strength of the Mothi Khas Cavalry, Choti Khas Lancers and FSR Cavalry was given as 479 for each.

The early class composition of the Choti Khas Lancers is unknown but during the period 1928 to 1940 it was composed roughly of one third Muslims, one third Hindus, later described under ISF returns as Marathas, and the final third undefined. At a date that we have been unable to determine, but probably in 1915, the unit was re-designated as 2nd Lancers. In 1941 the Regiment was brought into the ISF scheme and organised as a full regiment of cavalry with the title Baroda Lancers. It did not serve outside the State. In 1948 the regiment was dismounted and in the following year men from the regiment were absorbed into 1st and 2nd Baroda Infantry, which in turn were absorbed into the Indian Army as 20th and 21st Battalions, Maratha Light Infantry. They were subsequently amalgamated as 20th Battalion, Maratha Light Infantry and later re-designated 10th Battalion (Baroda), Mechanised Infantry Regiment, which still exists.

I suggest the badge dates from the period 1888-1915 and the initials probably stand for Sayaji Rao Cavalry, Sayaji Rao III being the ruling Gaekwar at the time.

They Also Serve – Camel Transport in East Africa

Keith Steward, FRGS

A broad interest in researching campaigns in Africa, in this case the military expedition for which the 'East Africa 1913-14' clasp was authorised, inspired me to acquire an Africa General Service Medal, fitted with this clasp and named to 'Wali, S&T Corps I.A.' The relevant roll (WO 100/408, ff.45-60) confirms that Wali claimed the medal for service as the personal servant of Risaldar Khuda Bakhsh of the 53rd Silladar Camel Corps. The officer commanding the 53rd was Lieutenant *Kanwar* Pritthi Singh,¹ although Major

¹ Lieut *Kanwar* Pirthi [sic] Singh, 2 Lt. Native Indian Land Forces 1 Jan 1907, Lt. 1 Apr 1909. Both 1/1913 and 10/1914 I.A. Lists show him as Asst Comdt 51st Camel Corps, and in the latter: 'On service, B.E. Africa Protectorate.' He transferred to the Unatt'd

G.E.M. Hogg was in overall command of all expeditionary transport assets.²

In 1910 the uneasy calm of the Northern Frontier District (NFD) of British South African Protectorate was disturbed by armed Marehan raiders who attacked the neighbouring Aulihan tribe (Rer Afgab section), carrying off 100 camels and killing seventeen men. The offended tribe then raided Marehan territory, removing quantities of stock from a different clan village. Quite separately, it was reported that Abyssinian hunters had raided the Samburu near Mount Nyiro and stolen cattle. It was not a situation that was acceptable to the British administration.

By 1913 the growing frequency of Marehan raids caused the Protectorate administration to mount an expedition to disarm them. It was estimated that the Marehan were able to assemble 1,150 fighting men, though this was later found to be an exaggeration. The Marehan had tried the patience of the colonial administration too far. Three British officers had either been killed or seriously wounded in the previous three years: Mr Richard Corfield, Captain L. Aylmer and Lieutenant Lloyd Jones. The Marehan had also become a refuge for malcontents in the north of the British East Africa Protectorate. Secondly, their tribal lands overlapped the main caravan routes north, south and west. This uncertain situation impaired the development of commerce in the territory and consequentially the subsidy from the Treasury remained unacceptably large. This situation could not be allowed to continue indefinitely.

A key element in campaigning against Abyssinian predators and Somali tribes was the provision of transport animals, as sources of supplies, particularly water, were few and far between. The NFD was a huge territory of some 102,000 square miles, with one medium size river and a small number of minor ones. The River Juba in the northeast was generally the boundary between British interests and Italian and Abyssinian although, even after a defeat at the battle of Adowa,³ a substantial Italian presence and influence

List IA as Capt. on 25 Aug 1917, and was posted to the 5th Cavalry. He remained with this regiment until retirement as Major *Thakur* Pirthi Singh in 1926. His only war service recorded in IA Lists was on the N-W Frontier in 1908 (for which he was m.i.d.).

² Capt. G.E.M. Hogg was in overall command of all transport assets involved in the expedition. He claimed his medal and clasp as 'Captain' on the roll of the 53rd Silladar Camel Corps, but signed off the roll himself as 'Major [sic], Inspector of Camel Corps.'

³ At the battle of Adowa on 29th February 1896, 196,000 Abyssinian regular and irregular forces routed a modern Italian army of 25,000. The Italian forces had become lost and disorientated in the mountainous terrain, the delivery of supplies from the east coast was a serious problem, and it is doubtful that the troops were highly motivated. The casualties were enormous: 3,200 Italian officers and other ranks and 2,000 local levies killed; thousands more wounded, captured or missing (www.rastaites.com).

remained that was not necessarily favourable to the British administration.

The basic water supply required for the troops was loaded astride camel's backs in large 120-gallon baths. Horse transport was out of the question, as a horse has special dietary requirements (about eight pounds of oats per day), failing which it loses condition quickly. A camel can survive for between eight and ten days without water in a hot climate, although it does require to be fed. It will eat dried leaves, seeds, plants, thorny twigs, bones, fish, meat, leather and even the officer's tent if it is not adequately fed.⁴ The role of a syce was vital: to procure the necessary fodder for the camel and thereby save the officer's habitat from certain destruction. If his task was a tough one, it must have been equally challenging for a servant to see to his officer's comforts in such a harsh environment.

The expedition to disarm the Marehan tribe lasted 15th December 1913 to 31st May 1914. The military commander was Lieutenant-Colonel Bertram Robert Graham, 3rd King's African Rifles, on extended secondment from his parent regiment, The Queen's Own Corps of Guides. The fighting troops consisted of 838 men from the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions, King's African Rifles (773 combatants with machine gun carriers, 65 servants and boys). They were supported by two transport elements: the locally raised Serenli Military Transport Company (114); the 53rd Silladar Camel Corps (150), which was an element of the highly efficient Supply & Transport Corps of the Indian Army.⁵

53rd Silladar Camel Corps: 'East Africa 1913-14' clasp

Captain (European)	1	Palam Maker	2
Lieutenant (Indian)	1	Palam Tree Maker	1
Risaldar	1	Bhisti	1
Veterinary Assistant	2	Veterinary Dresser	2
Sub Asst Surgeon	1	Syce	3
Kot Daffadar	3	Hospital cook	1
Naik	6	Followers:	
Clerk	1	Commandant's servant	2
L/Naik	29	Risaldar's servant	1
Sarwan (Driver)	91	Interpreter	1

Total claims on the roll: 150

⁴ *The Camel Farm*, sourced from Google.com

⁵ R.B. Magor, *African General Service Medals*, 2nd ed., London 1993 p.193. Magor records 250 claims for the 53rd Silladar C.C. that appears to be way off the mark. His figures regarding the KAR entitlement are also somewhat different from the rolls consulted carefully at the National Archives (UK) in January 2011.

Subedar-Major Kulpatti Gurung, 4th Gurka Rifles, and family

“Kulpatti enlisted in 1850 in the Nasiri Battalion of the Bengal Amy. This was the first Goorkha regiment to be raised in the service of the East India Company in 1815. General



SUBEDAR-MAJOR KULPATI GURUNG WITH
SON KIRURAM GURUNG AND THEIR WIVES

Ochterlony, the only successful general in the Nepal Wars of 1814-1816, recognising the qualities of the Goorkha, caused the raising of four regiments. He named the most senior, which became the 1st Gurkha Rifles, the ‘Nasiri’ battalion, the ‘Friendly’ battalion.

“In 1872 Kulpatti’s eldest son, Kiruram Gurung, seen seated with the family pet, enlisted in the 4th Goorkhas, which were raised in 1857 for the Indian Mutiny as the Extra Goorkha Regiment. He was killed as a jemadar, gallantly leading his men near Imphal in the Manipur expedition of 1891.

“Kiruram’s son, Senbir Gurung, *Sardar Bahadur*, I.O.M., O.B.I., was given a direct commission in 1904, and as subedar-major of the 1st Battalion of the 4th went to France in 1914. He was severely wounded on a

hazardous reconnaissance in No Man’s Land at Festubert, and was awarded the Indian Order of Merit for gallantry.

“When I left the Regiment on transfer in 1939, there were the fifth and sixth consecutive generations serving. There may very well be the ninth and tenth still doing so.”

This note and accompanying photograph are in the personal papers of the late Major M.A.L ‘Tony’ Bowyer, 4th Gurkha Rifles (reproduced here courtesy of Tom Donovan).

Lieutenant Trevor Farquhar

Brian Stevens

In their most interesting article entitled 'Five Early Military Graves at the Old Christian Cemetery Abbottabad' in the Autumn and Winter 2009 editions of *Durbar*, Messrs Omar Tarin and Sarkees Najmuddin inquire if the family of Lieutenant Trevor Farquhar still exists.

The 106th edition of 'Burke's Peerage and Baronetage' published in 1999 covers the Baronetcy of Farquhar of Cadogan House, Chelsea in the County of Middlesex (date of creation 1st March 1796). It states that the present (7th) Baronet is Sir Michael Fitzroy Henry Farquhar, and furthermore the website 'Burke's Peerage and Gentry' confirms that Sir Michael is still alive.

The Baronetcy was created in March 1796. The first incumbent was Sir Walter Farquhar, M.D., Physician to The Prince Regent, subsequently King George IV. His younger brother Robert died while on a mission to the Rajah of Berar authorised by the Right Honourable Hugh Elliot, Governor of Madras 1813-14. Hugh Elliot was a Privy Councillor and brother of Gilbert Elliot, 1st Earl of Minto and Governor-General of India from 1807 to 1813. It would seem that Robert Farquhar was in the Civil Service of the Madras Presidency, although I do not have access to the East India Register for these years to confirm this.

Robert, second son of the 1st Baronet, was in the Diplomatic Service and at one time the Commercial Resident at Amboyna. At the Peace of Amiens, in 1802, he was appointed Commissioner for adjusting the British claims in the Moluccas and was to deliver these Islands up to the Batavian (Dutch) Republic. He served as Lieutenant-Governor of Penang (Prince of Wales' Island) in 1804-1805, and as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius from 1810 to 1817). He was at various times a Member of Parliament for Hythe and Canterbury, and a member of the Court of Directors of the East India Company. He changed his name to Townshend-Farquhar by Royal Licence of 19th July 1824 and was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom on 21st August 1821 under the designation Townshend-Farquhar, of the Mauritius.

The third son of the 2nd Baronet of this branch of the family, Sir John Henry Townshend-Farquhar, succeeded as the 5th Baronet in 1872. He was originally an officer in the Bengal Army, having been commissioned as a Cornet in the 7th Bengal Light Cavalry on the 4th November 1856 and promoted to

Lieutenant on the 23rd January 1857. This regiment was stationed at Lucknow when the Mutiny broke out. Over half deserted whilst the loyal remainder were given two months pay and discharged. Lieutenant Townshend-Farquhar took part in the Defence of Lucknow until the final relief but was dangerously wounded at Chinhhat on the 30th June 1857.

The formation of four regiments of European Light Cavalry was authorized by G.G.O. No.735 of 1858, and the officers of eight of the former Bengal Light Cavalry Regiments were transferred 'by wing' to these new entities. Thus the 2nd European Light Cavalry took officers of the former 2nd (posted to the Right Wing) and officers of the former 7th including Townshend-Farquhar (posted to the Left Wing). This arrangement was intended to prevent disputes between these officers over seniority, as their promotions would be within the Wings to which they were posted. However, all future postings would be to the Right Wings only.

In 1861 all the Company's European regiments were transferred to the Royal Army and the 2nd Bengal European Light Cavalry became the 20th Light Dragoons, subsequently re-designated 20th Hussars. Lieutenant John Henry Townshend-Farquhar opted to remain on the Bengal Army establishment. He was advanced to Captain in January 1862 and held various Staff appointments in the Bengal Stud Department until at least June 1871. He probably retired the following year when he succeeded to the Baronetcy. On his death on the 14th August 1877, being unmarried, he was succeeded by his younger brother Robert as the 6th and last Baronet of this line.

Robert Townshend-Farquhar was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in December 1859 (Kane's List No.2745) and resigned on the 9th November 1866. On his death on the 30th June 1924 the title became extinct. He never served in India, his only foreign service being in Malta between 1861 and 1864.

To return to the Baronetcy created in 1796... Another member of this branch of the family who served in India, also with the same Christian name as the officer buried at Abbottabad, was Cornet Trevor Graham Farquhar, 1st Bengal Light Cavalry. Born in 1826 and the third son of the 2nd Baronet, he died on the 31st January 1846 of wounds received at the Battle of Aliwal on the 28th of that month. The 1st was part of Brigadier Stedman's Cavalry Brigade which also included the Governor-General's Body Guard, the 5th Light Cavalry and the Irregular Cavalry Regiment of the Shekhawati Brigade.

The authors of the article mention that Robert Burns was married by a Farquhar of Gilmilnscroft, in Ayrshire. It should be noted that marriages at that time were conducted by clergymen and not by lay officials. The family of the 1st Baronet of the 1796 creation was a Cadet (Junior) Branch of the family of Farquhar of Gilmilnscroft, being descended from a Sir Robert Farquhar, Knight of Mounie, the younger son of the then head of the family. He was the Deputy Receiver of Scotland in 1644 and Provost (Mayor) of Aberdeen, which town he defended in the Royal cause in 1646. He died in 1676. His great-grandson Robert, who was a Minister of the Church of Scotland, was the father of the 1st Baronet and so it is possible he was the minister who married Robert Burns.

The last member of the Senior Branch of the Family of Farquhar of Gilmilnscroft was a Miss Jane Farquhar who left her estate to her distant cousin Sir Thomas Henry Farquhar the 4th Baronet, who was born in 1838, and who succeeded his father in 1900. He died in 1916 and was the father of the officer buried at Abbottabad.

The estate in question could not have been extensive, as John Bateman's 'The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland,' published in 1879, purported to list all owners of three thousand acres producing an income of £3,000 per annum together with an additional list of owners of two thousand acres. Neither Miss Jane Farquhar nor her cousin is listed, so one is left with the impression that the estate consisted of less than two thousand acres.

Although strictly speaking only marginally concerned with India, but mentioned in the article, was the 4th Baronet's second son, Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Douglas Farquhar, D.S.O., Coldstream Guards, who was killed in action 20th March 1915 whilst commanding Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. It is possible that he secured this command because his wife, Lady Evelyn Hely-Hutchinson, the eldest daughter of the 5th Earl of Donoughmore, was Lady in Waiting to H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, the mother of H.R.H. Princess Patricia of Connaught who was Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Princess Arthur of Connaught was the wife of the son of Queen Victoria's third son, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, who at the outbreak of the 1st World War was the Governor-General of Canada. Princess Arthur was, before her marriage, H.H. Princess Alexandra of Fife. She succeeded her father as the 2nd Duchess of Fife, being the daughter of the 1st Duke and Louise the Princess Royal, eldest daughter of King Edward VII.

In passing it should be noted that the Duke of Connaught had served in Bengal

between 1883 and 1886, and had been the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army from 1886 to 1890. He was also Colonel-in-Chief of four Indian Army regiments. His wife was by birth a Prussian princess. Although not appointed the regiment's Colonel in Chief, she gave her name from 1895 to the 24th (The Duchess of Connaught's Own) Baluchistan Regiment of Bombay Infantry, subsequently the 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry, and the 1st Battalion The Baluch Regiment (Duchess of Connaught's Own) upon allotment to Pakistan in 1947. Royal affiliations were retained until 1956 when Pakistan became a republic.

Readers may also be interested to note that one of the other officers buried at Abbottabad, Lieutenant R.G. Fitzgerald, Royal Artillery, was commissioned on 19th July 1865 and served in India from 27th December 1865 to 27th November 1872. He is recorded as No. 3021 in Kane's List.

Authorities consulted

List of Officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery from the Year 1716 to the Year 1899, R.A. Institution, 4th edition, 1900 (otherwise known as Kane's List.);

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The Book of Dignities, Joseph Haydn, 3rd edition (Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. Baltimore 1970);

A Sketch of the Services of the Bengal Army to the Year 1895, Lieutenant F.G. Cardew, 1903;

The British Imperial Calendar 1821, published by John Debrett;

Debrett's Baronetage of England, 5th edition, 1824;

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Indian Army and Civil Service List, July 1871 edition.



**Lieutenant-Colonel Bapubha Narainji Gohel, *Bahadur*, O.B.I., I.D.S.M.
Commandant, Bhavnagar Lancers, Imperial States Forces**

The portrait on the facing page was probably taken soon after Lieutenant-Colonel Bapubha had traveled to London to attend the 1937 coronation celebrations. In addition to the neck badge of the 2nd Class Order of British India, he is wearing the Indian Distinguished Service Medal (GV 1st type), British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal with m.i.d. oak leaf,¹ and medals commemorating the 1935 GV Jubilee and 1937 GVI Coronation.

In February 1899 the young Bapubha joined the Bhavnagar Lancers, which had been established eight years earlier as part of the Imperial Service Troops scheme. He was commissioned in April 1905, the first significant step in a progression that led to eventual command of the regiment.

The Bhavnagar Lancers served extensively in Egypt, Palestine and Syria during the 1914-1918 War as part of the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, and received battle and theatre honours for: Suez Canal, Egypt 1915-17, Gaza, Megiddo, Sharon, Damascus, Palestine 1917-18 (*Gazette of India*, No. 194 of 20th February 1926). In various I.S.F. Army Lists, including the January 1938 edition, Lieut.-Colonel Bapubha's war services are recorded as: 'Mesopotamia 1916-18, Egypt 1918-20, twice mentioned in dispatches.' The inclusion of 'Mesopotamia' infers that, at some stage, he joined the detachment of fifty-four combatants who went to Mesopotamia for remount duties in August 1915, being employed at Basra, Amara and later Baghdad. In March 1919 the detachment returned to Bhavnagar. It was in the Mesopotamia theatre of operations that Risaldar (Squadron Commander) Bapoo Bhai [sic], Bhavnagar I.S. Lancers, earned his I.D.S.M. (G.G.O. No.1360 of 18th August 1917).²

At some stage in the period 1927 to 1928, Major Bapubha retired from the service. He rejoined on 19th February 1930 as Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant, Bhavnagar Lancers, Indian State Forces. On the 3rd June 1935, in the Silver Jubilee honours list, he was appointed to the 2nd Class Order of British India. In 1939 he was appointed Hon. A.D.C. to the Viceroy (173-M dated 28.1.1939), his rank being given as 'Lieutenant-Colonel, Lancers.' It is likely this appointment coincided with final retirement from military service.

Two sons became King's Commissioned Indian Officers, one in the 16th Cavalry, the other in the 1st Rajputs. The photograph has been kindly loaned by his grandson, Lieutenant-Colonel Hardeep Singh, Poona Horse (Retired).

¹ *Gazette of India* 1013, dated 18th May 1918: mentioned by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Stanley Maude, KCB, for Mesopotamia for the period to 2.11.1917.

² The ISF Army List records (incorrectly): IDSM, *Gazette of India* No. 2005, 28.5.1919.



**Subedar Abdul Subhan, I.D.S.M.
King's Indian Orderly Officer, 1933**

The photograph on the facing page was taken in 1933, in London, by the renowned court photographer 'Vandyk' of 41 Buckingham Palace Road. It depicts Subedar Abdul Subhan, I.D.S.M., in the uniform of the Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Madras Sappers & Miners. He was serving at the time as Indian Orderly Officer to H.M. the King, and is therefore wearing an 'A.D.C.'s royal lanyard.' His medals include the Indian Distinguished Service Medal, 1914-15 Star trio, and India General Service Medal with two clasps.

Abdul Subhan enlisted in the Indian Army on the 19th June 1906. He served with the Madras Pioneers in East Africa from 13th November 1914 to 1st December 1914 (wounded), and subsequently in the Afghanistan 1919 and Waziristan 1921-24 campaigns. His I.D.S.M. was awarded for gallantry in Waziristan as a jemadar with the 1st Battalion, Madras Pioneers, (G.G.O. No. 902 of 1924). He transferred to the Madras Engineers when the Corps of Madras Pioneers was disbanded in February 1933.

He was appointed to the Royal Victorian Order (R.V.M.) in 1933 as a reward for his Orderly Officer services (*London Gazette*, 20th July 1933), and was promoted to the 1st Class Order of British India in 1937 (*Gazette of India*, 15th May). He retired as Honorary Captain on 7th June 1938.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir Charles Frossard has written... 'I would like to offer a comment on an item in the latest edition of *Durbar*. The Indian Army Association, of which I was president until we closed down in 2006, used to combine with the Brighton branch of the Royal British Legion to hold an annual service at the Chhatri in June of each year. I attended on some occasions, and the chairman, John Hewitt, was a regular attendant.'

Note added by the Editor

In 1969 a Committee was established to arrange for the erection of an Indian Army memorial plaque in St. Paul's Cathedral, which was unveiled by the Queen two years later. Thereafter, it was determined that the Committee would continue as a 'federation' of surviving Indian Army regimental and corps dinner clubs. It came to be known as the Indian Army Association. It was wound up in November 2006 due to the increasing age and, consequently, the diminishing numbers of surviving members. This detail is taken from an article by Philip Malins in *The Burma Campaign Newsletter*, March '07, No.10.

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple... has sent in the badges illustrated in the six figures reproduced on these two pages (not to the same scale), and asks whether anyone is able to identify them. Sir John believes they may all have Indian Army connections. Answers via the Editor will be gratefully received.



FIG.1



FIG. 2



Fig.3

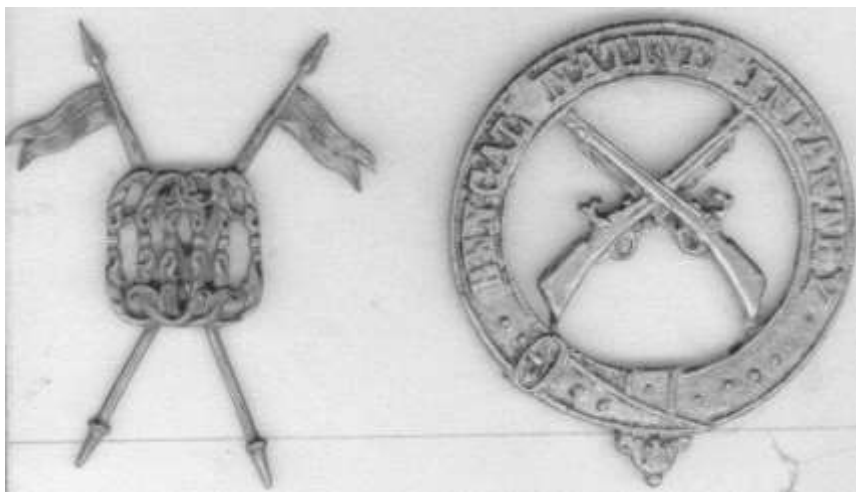


FIG.4



Patch colours: yellow and dark blue

FIG. 5



FIG. 6

Trevor Lindley has written... to say that, on reading Dr C.S. Sundaram's article on the Imperial Cadet Corps and the description of its uniform in the Summer 2010 edition of *Durbar*, he remembered that he possesses an illustration of a member of the Corps on a cigarette card issued by John Player & Sons. One of a set of ten featuring Allied cavalry, the text on the reverse informs the reader:

Indian Army - Imperial Cadet Corps

The Imperial Service Corps consists of various regiments which are raised and maintained by the rulers of the Independent Native States. The force came into being about 1888 when Lord Dufferin was Viceroy and received the unqualified support of Lord Roberts. Although the various regiments are under Native command, certain British officers are appointed as Inspectors to the force. Some years later another regiment sprang into existence, known as The Imperial Cadet Corps, and composed entirely of Indian Native Princes. They wear a gorgeous white uniform richly embroidered with gold, each member wearing an officer's leopard skin on [the] saddle and [a] white throat ornament from the bridle. Mounted on tall black horses, they form a most imposing spectacle. Many of these brave Princes are now serving with the Indian Troops in France against the common enemy.



This card typifies much of the publicity material used in the promotion of cigarettes during the early twentieth century. A significant proportion was of a relatively jingoistic nature – reflecting national pride in the British Empire and its industrial, cultural and military achievements. The reference to the service of India's troops in France may well have given the contemporary reader a shot in the arm – but the colourful dress depicted on the card belies a more realistic image: that of an Indian soldier in field service kit, wet and cold and in grave danger in the mud and grime of trench warfare. The title 'Imperial Service Corps' is inaccurate. When introduced in 1888, the scheme to employ princely states' armies was referred to as 'Imperial Service Troops' (IST) – and in 1920

this evolved to 'Indian States Forces' (ISF) which was current until 1947.

In addition to the cigarette card, Trevor Lindley mentions another illustration of the Imperial Cadet Corps: the image of Lieut.-Gen. Maharaja Sri Sir Pratab Singh, Sahib Bahadur, of Idar, GCB, GCSI, GCVO, KIH (1845-



1922), who was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Corps in 1903. The portrait of Sir Pratab Singh on the left, in the full-dress uniform of the Corps, was reproduced in *The Armies of India*, compiled by Major G.F. MacMunn, DSO, and illustrated by Major A.C. Lovett (Adam & Charles Black, London 1911).

Sir Pratab was a member of one of India's most important royal dynasties, and by the vagaries of succession he served as regent to four successive maharajas of Jodhpur. In spite of a high political and social profile (close friendships included the Empress of India herself, and also Edward VII whom he served as A.D.C. from 1887 until 1910), he was very much a fighting soldier. He served with the Jodhpur Risala on the North-West Frontier in

1897-98, commanded the contingent of the Jodhpur Imperial Service Troops in North China during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, and during the First World War, by then in his seventies, he commanded the Jodhpur regiments in France and Flanders, and in Palestine at Haifa and Aleppo.

Trevor has also remarked in a subsequent message...

'On a recent visit to India I was amused to read in a local newspaper that there is apparently a backlog of havildars in the Indian Army awaiting promotion. The reason for the hold-up is a British pre-independence regulation which has to do with age and time served. I wonder how many other British regulations are still in place?'

Tony McClenaghan writes...

‘Omer Tarin’s article on the Northumberland Fusiliers and Abbottabad 1879 (*Durbar*, Vol. 27, No. 4, p.160) reminds me of another link with that regiment and India. The accompanying picture will be familiar to many members of the Society as one of a series of cigarette cards produced by John Player & Sons and issued under the title “Military Uniforms of the British Empire, 1938.” Most, if not all of the series, were painted by Lance Cattermole and featured officers and men who had attended the 1937 Coronation in London.

‘This particular officer is Captain Bijay Singh of the Mewar Sajjan Infantry. Mewar, also known as Udaipur, was a Rajputana State whose ruler was recognised as the highest in rank and dignity among the Rajput Princes of India.

I met Bijay Singh’s nephew while on a research trip to India in 1995. Although he could not show me the actual uniform worn by his uncle, which was apparently especially made for the Coronation since the Sajjan Infantry did not have a dress uniform, he did show me the sword carried by Bijay Singh, bearing Queen Victoria’s cypher and the badge of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Apparently Bijay Singh arrived in England without a sword and so this one was made available for him to use in the Coronation parade, after which he was permitted to keep it. So, a small memento of the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers resides in the safe care of a proud family in Udaipur.’



Chris Kempton seeks help with the following enquiry...

‘[The photo on the facing page] came to me as the result of following up an enquiry in a recent journal of the Society for Army Historical Research. I have managed to identify the location as Edinburgh Castle, and most of the units as WAC(I) or FANY. However there are several things I have been unable to clarify. I wonder if there is anyone in the Society who might be able to help.

1. Are the Naval personnel WAC(I) Naval Branch or WRINS [I cannot see any WAC(I) flashes]?



2. What is the lettering on the dark shoulder flashes of the Air Force tunics?
3. What is the identity of the person slightly to the front and left (her left) of the Naval girl in the centre? Only the cap and shoulder are visible, but the badge is clearly not WAC(I) or FANY. She is an officer and is possibly wearing an aiguillette, so I thought she might be the British Army conducting officer. But I cannot identify the cap badge, and it does not look like ATS.
4. Can anyone provide information on the visit? The owner of the photo suggests it was taken in August 1945 during a visit by a group of WAC(I) and FANY from India.'

Answers via the Editor will be gratefully received.

Omer Tarin has written...

'The little tribal enclave of Kala Dhaka (Black Mountain), abutting the Hazara region, has formally been notified as a 'Settled District' of the North West Frontier Province (now Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa) in Pakistan, on 28th January 2011. It is the 25th District of this province and has been renamed 'Tor Ghar.' It is a rough, mountainous, cis-Indus Pukhtun/Pathan district approx 2,000 sq kms in area with a population of nearly 400,000, mostly a conglomerate of local tribes. It was originally recognised as a 'provincial tribal zone' in 1849-1850 by the then Punjab Government, and attached to the Hazara, which is a Hindko/non-Pukhtun ethnic majority region, Pukhtuns/Pathans proper being only about 12% to 13% of the total population. It was a long standing demand, in fact a dire need, that this enclave be assimilated into the settled areas in order to benefit from general socio-economic development. As far as Indian Army military historians are concerned, the Black Mountain long remained a hotbed of crime and sedition, and a whole series of momentous campaigns from the 1850s to the 1920s attest to this. Over the years, a number of articles have been published in *Durbar* concerning some of these events.'

BOOK REVIEW

Cliff Parrett and Rana Chhina, *Indian Order of Merit 1837-1947, Historical Records, Volume One 1837-1860*; Tom Donovan Editions, Brighton 2010; 916 pp, case-bound in slip case, including 48 plates, 10 appendices, 2 indexes, and a folding polychrome military map of India dated 1857 in end-pocket; ISBN 978-1-905968-04-6. Available from the publisher at 8 Rugby Road, Brighton BN1 6EB, U.K. or <www.tomdonovaneditions.com> for £145; and, within India, directly from Sqd Ldr Rana Chhina at the U.S.I.I. in Delhi for Rs 9,900.

This volume, the first of three, ushers in a distinctly new and exciting genre of medal reference work. Meticulously researched and exhaustive in scope, the

conception and origins of the I.O.M., as well as the Order of British India, are presented in the context of the wide ranging services of the H.E.I.C. armies. Primary sources from the National Archives of India are used to illuminate all aspects of the evolution of this 'Reward of Valor.' The authors even present a fascinating examination of the manner in which all three Presidencies sought to recognize the gallant actions of their soldiers prior to 1837.

Of great interest is the section on the actual design, manufacture and supply of the insignia of the Order. Mint records and a private manufacturer's correspondence are cited, with particular care given to noting the differences in the quality, construction and appearance of the various badges in question. In this regard, quite a number of mysteries have been solved and a few myths exposed. This detailed study of the various permutations of the physical characteristics of badges is particularly satisfying to the reviewer, as hopefully, it will lead to more accurate descriptions by auctioneers and dealers alike. The first section of plates immediately follows this discussion, thus enabling the reader to easily refer to the excellent photographs of the several badge types.

The authors next deal with the early campaigns and various incidents from 1834 through to 1860 under the aptly titled heading, 'Guarding the Empire.' The capture of Ghuznee and the blowing of the Kabul Gate begin this overview which continues through actions both great and small, finally ending up with service on the North-West Frontier. In between, we witness the great battles of Sind, Gwalior, Sutlej, and the Punjab. All awards are noted in the context of the actions fought by the various regiments involved, with detailed information on the part played by the recipients themselves. Great eyewitness accounts are included in these descriptions, supplemented by insightful analysis. Indeed, one can't help but marvel at the sheer magnitude and variety of the combat situations which arose for the H.E.I.C. armies. The hardiness, esprit-de-corps, and gallantry of the Indian soldier are amply chronicled during this early period.

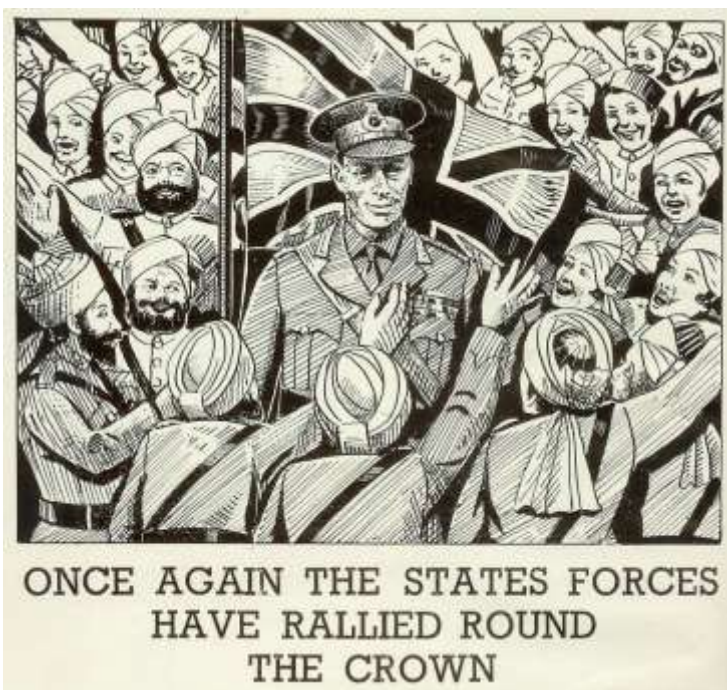
As one might expect, the vast majority of this work is devoted to the period of the 'Devil's Wind' and comprises a staggering 487 pages. All aspects of the Mutiny and Rebellion are dealt with from the outbreak at Barrackpore in March 1857, through to the bitter end of the final pacification of Oudh in August 1859. Again, the authors provide much useful analysis of units engaged, casualties suffered, and very detailed descriptions of the conditions encountered by all combatants involved. Special emphasis is placed on the difficulties faced by the loyal elements of the Bengal regiments who mutinied, and their trials and tribulations throughout. In particular, the blanket grant of the Order to all the Lucknow Residency defenders is dealt with in a very cogent manner, taking us step by step through the correspondence and

subsequent General Orders which authorized this unprecedented case. Furthermore a most impressive chart is provided at the end of this chapter which details the rewards granted and promotions made, with effective dates with respect to the Lucknow garrison.

Tucked within the study of Mutiny awards are thirty-two delightful plates illustrating various I.O.M. recipients wearing their hard won awards. Some of these images are rarely seen and they convey the great sense of stature and pride that was associated with the acceptance of this reward. Mention must be made of the plethora of appendices, all designed to provide greater understanding of this wide ranging survey of the individual gallantry of the Indian soldier. These range from a glossary, abbreviations and bibliography, to summaries and lists of awards. Last but not least, the authors have provided two massive indexes of both British and Indian personnel mentioned within the text. The index of Indian personnel alone consists of over 2700 names.

In my opinion, this magnificent work, over eight years in the making and sumptuously produced, is an absolute must for the serious student of the Indian Army. With this publication, the authors have elevated the humble 'Jawan' to his rightful place in the pantheon of the military history of the Indian sub-continent.

[Chris Peterson]



INDIAN STATES FORCES ANNUAL 1940