

(In the original format this was the single Journal of the year, as opposed to the newsletters then called Durbar)

Journal, 1985

MACGREGOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Two years ago, while browsing through an Indian silver bazaar, I was offered a handsome silver medal complete with what I then considered to be an outrageous price. Being unfamiliar with the item I decided to forego its purchase, dismissing it as an unofficial presentation award.

It was not until a year later, a further visit to India, and the ultimate purchase of *Traditions and Customs of the Indian Armed Forces*, that I was able to discover that the medal that I had so easily dismissed was in fact a highly desirable and worthy addition to any medal collection, being the rare and coveted MacGregor Memorial Medal.

Before going on to outline the guidelines laid down for the award of the medal, the career of Sir Charles MacGregor and the details of several recipients, I include here a description of the medal:

Obverse: High relief bust of Charles MacGregor in uniform surrounded by the inscription "Major General Sir Charles MacGregor, KCB, CSI, CIE - In memoriam 1887."
Reverse: High relief scene depicting a variety of types of the Indian Army, including a mounted Lancer, Sikh Infantry, a Gurkha, and a Scottish officer in tropical helmet, doublet and trowsers.

Composition: Silver (Special gold medals for extraordinary achievement have also been awarded.)

Suspension: silver bob and swivel ring

Weight: 3 ounces

Diameter 44.3 mm

Naming: engraved in block capitals, giving the year of award
Ribbon: details not known at present

The medal was instituted in 1888 by the United Services Institute of India in memory of Sir Charles MacGregor, who was the founder of that institution in India. The medals were awarded annually for the best military reconnaissance or journey of exploration of the year.

The awards were made in June each year to: a) British or Indian officers - a silver medal; and b) British or Indian soldiers - a silver medal and a gratuity of 100 rupees.

For especially valuable work a gold medal could be awarded in place of, or in addition to, one of the silver ones. A special additional silver medal, without gratuity, could also be awarded to soldiers for especially good work.

The award of the medals was made by the Commander in Chief in India as Vice Patron and by the Council of the U.S.I.I., who had been appointed administrators of the fund by the MacGregor Memorial Committee. The following groups were eligible for the award, if in either military or civil employ at the time of the reconnaissance in question:

- i) Officers and men of the RN, Army and RAF and Dominion Forces serving on the Indian establishment.
- ii) Officers and men of the RIN, Indian Army, IAF and Indian State Forces wherever serving, including members of the AFI, ITF, Militia, Levies and Military Police Corps.

The medal was authorized to be worn in uniform by Indian soldiers on ceremonial parades, suspended around the neck by the ribbon issued with the medal.

Personal risk to life during the reconnaissance was not-considered a necessary qualification for the award of the medal, but in the event of two journeys being of equal merit, the man who incurred the greater risk would be considered to have the greater claim to the medal. When the work in a given year had not been of sufficient value, or when notice of it was received too late for consideration before the council meeting, the medal could be awarded for any reconnaissance during previous years considered by the Commander in Chief in India to deserve it.

Like many Scots of his day, Charles MacGregor chose to follow a military career in the Indian Army as opposed to the British Army. His first posting was to the 1st Bengal European Fusiliers. During the Mutiny he served with Hodson's Horse at the siege and battle of Lucknow and in operations in the Oude and was wounded on three occasions. In 1860 he transferred to Fane's Horse, serving with them in China, where he was again twice severely wounded. Later campaigns took MacGregor to Bhootan in 1860, Abyssinia in 1867-68 and Afghanistan in 1878-80. During the first two campaigns he was employed on hazardous reconnaissance work. MacGregor ended his career a Major General with a knighthood, a KCB, CSI and CIE.

Charles MacGregor was devoted not only to the welfare and stature of the Indian Army but to the country itself, as evinced by his endeavours in organizing relief works in several parts of Bengal Province during various famines. He was a skilled soldier, administrator and explorer, and as one of Scotland's expatriate sons, it is fitting that his memory is perpetuated today in India, the country he served so well throughout his life.

Several names among the distinguished roll of recipients of the medal are especially deserving of mention. Among these would have to be Shahzad Mir, F. Younghusband, H.B. Vaughan and J.G. Bruce.

Shahzad Mir later rose to the rank of Jemadar and received the OBI and IDSM. As a "Probyn's Lancer" he did much useful work in the way of exploration and intelligence, including serving on the Afghan Boundary Commission; travelling from Ladakh to the Pamirs with Younghusband and Lord Curzon; a journey from Ladakh to Peking; a journey via Lake Rudolph and Fashoda to Central Africa and a journey to Abyssinia. In 1904 he accompanied a mission to Kabul and in 1906 ventured into Tibet.

Francis Younghusband is most celebrated as the leader of the famous Tibet "trade" mission and expedition of 1903-04. A statesman in uniform, Younghusband was an explorer and political agent who held many important positions. He received the gold Kaiser-I-Hind medal in 1901, a knighthood, the KCSI, CIE and, in 1891, the Medal of The Royal Geographical Society.

(Younghusband's medals were sold at Sotheby's in March 1982, minus the orders for £3,600.)

Henry Vaughan was one of the two 7th Rajput officers to receive the MacGregor Medal for his services. While employed in the Intelligence Branch, he carried out two daring reconnaissance missions across the Great Salt Desert of Persia. In addition he served in Egypt (1882) and China (1900), after which he wrote *St George and the Chinese Dragon*. Captain Bruce was awarded the medal for his attempt, with Finch, to conquer the Queen of Mountains, Mt. Everest - the first serious attempt at scaling the world's highest peak.

Brigadier Goadby, OBE, deserves a special mention, having won the medal in 1937 as a major and later commanded the 3/6 Rajputana Rifles. He is still active as the liaison officer of the Rajputana Rifles Reunion Association.

The Macgregor Medal is still awarded by the U.S.I. of India. Amongst the post-1947 recipients have been Captain Ravindra Misra and Subadar Bel Bahadur Pun of the 4/3rd Goorkha Rifles, awarded the medal in 1976 for carrying out a reconnaissance of the Emra Valley in the North East Frontier Agency with a platoon of the battalion. This difficult task lasted 79 days, most of the distance being through unmapped territory.

Spink's June 1985 auction contained, in lot 134, an unnamed example of the MacGregor Memorial Medal, the catalogue making no mention of its importance. Coincidentally, at the same sale, lot 261 were the medals of an officer of the Afghan Boundary Commission, the same group with which MacGregor medallist Shahzad Mir served.

To conclude my accounts on my last visit to India, after finding out the significance of the medal, I attempted to locate the medal I had been offered in the winter of 1983/84. Fortune smiled and I was able to purchase it at approximately twice the original price! The medal, now in my collection, is the award made to Havildar Gurdit Singh, 45th Rattray's Sikhs in 1900. Unfortunately, my researches to date have been unrewarding - there is no mention of my recipient in the regimental history. As Rattray's sent several drafts for service in Africa, it is my belief that Gurdit Singh received his medal for African service. This would account for the lack of mention in the regimental history. Ever the optimist, I am sure that some tangible information will turn up in the near future.

Mark Sellar

(I would like to express my appreciation to Tony McClenaghan for having supplied me with the rules of award and the list of medallists up to 1941.)

Sources

- *The History of Probyn's Horse*, C.A. Boyle, (1929)
- *3/7 Rajput Regiment*, H.G. Rawlinson, (1941)
- *Flash of the Khukri*, C.L. Proudfoot, (1984)
- *Traditions and Customs of the Indian Armed Forces*, C.N. Das, (1984)
- Indian Army List 1942 (January Supplement)

THE INDIAN ORDER OF MERIT IN THE 1914-18 WAR

According to the figures in *British Gallantry Awards* by Abbott and Tamplin, the total number of Indian Order of Merits awarded during the First World War was twenty one First Class and 1,023 Second Class appointments. They base their figures on P.P. Hypher, and include 92 posthumous awards, "posthumous" being defined as an award where it is indicated in the citation that the widow is entitled to the pension of the order. However, this number is probably an underestimate, as none of the awards for France are mentioned as being in this latter category, which seems most unlikely.¹ The Government of India List of Honours for August 1914 to August 1921 lists 1,126 recipients, the greater number no doubt a consequence of the various campaigns still being fought after the armistice with the Central Powers. A breakdown of awards by theatre of operations is as follows:

- Mesopotamia - 40%
- France and Flanders - 22%
- Egyptian Expeditionary Force, including Palestine and Syria - 22%
- Waziristan/N. W. Frontier - 11%
- W. Frontier - 11%
- Palestine and Syria - 22%
- Waziristan/East Africa - 5%
- Other - 10%

Having access to a copy of P.P. Hypher's *Deeds of Valour Performed by Indian Officers and Soldiers During the Period from 1860 to 1925* I was intrigued to see what standard of gallantry was expected of I.O.M. winners during World War One. Firstly, it seems that the majority of awards for every theatre except France and Flanders have a published citation. In the case of France and Flanders, only a minority of awards, mostly early ones, have rather terse citations. Apparently, too, all appointments to the First Class were promotions from the Second Class. To give something of their flavour, here are a few specimen citations for several theatres:

THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER

"No 4744 Havildar Kishan Singh, Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides (Frontier Force) (Lumsden's Infantry).

¹ I wonder if the deceased winner's widow was ever actually presented with her husband's I.O.M.? Perhaps not.

To be appointed to the 2nd Class - for conspicuous bravery in the field. In an action which took place in the vicinity of Rustam (N.W.F. Prov.) on the 17th August 1915. During the retirement of the Guides from the foothills east of Rustam, Havildar Kishan Singh was suddenly attacked by three Ghazis while he was carrying out the retirement of his section across a nullah. When the Ghazis fired on him, he turned about and closed with them; he bayoneted two and, although severely wounded by sword cuts in four places, he succeeded in killing the third Ghazi by clubbing him on the head with his rifle, breaking his rifle in the act."

FRANCE

"No 1810 Havildar Alam Singh Negi, 1st Battalion, 39th Garhwal Rifles.

On the 23rd and 24th November (1914). For leading three successive bayonet charges against the enemy."

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (PALESTINE)

"Jemadar Suleman Khan, 5th Cavalry, attached 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse.

For great gallantry and initiative on the 20th September 1918 when in command of the vanguard troop. He led his troop, charging the enemy five times, and captured 300 prisoners, 7 lorries and a motor car. His utter disregard of danger greatly inspired his men and his action materially assisted the operations."

TRANS-CASPIA

"No 1552 Lance Naik Muhammad Akbar, 19th Punjabis.

Showed great bravery and initiative when in charge of a Lewis gun on the 14th October 1918. He climbed to the roof of a house with his gun, 40 yards in advance of all other troops and, in spite of heavy fire and his exposed position, kept up a concentrated fire on the enemy. Later from this same position, he fired on one of the enemy's trains and forced it to retire"

EAST AFRICA

"Subadar Randhir Singh, 2nd Kashmir Rifles, Imperial Service Troops.

For his gallant behaviour in action at Tanga on the 4th November 1914, when in command of a detachment which charged and secured the enemy's trenches and captured a machine gun. In leading his men he was severely wounded."

GALLIPOLI

"No 424 Lance Naik Karam Singh, 21st Kohat Mountain Battery.

For conspicuous gallantry on 19th May 1915 during operations near Gaba Tebe. He continued to pass orders and so enabled the fire of his section to proceed without interruption,

although he was rendered absolutely blind by a bullet which passed behind his eyes. He remained on duty until forcibly removed."

As might be guessed from the small number awarded, a very high standard of bravery was expected of the Indian Order of Merit winner. These examples surely bear this out!

C. Message

NOTE:

1. I wonder if the deceased winner's widow was ever actually presented with her husband's I.O.M.? Perhaps not.



THE CLASS COMPOSITION OF GURKHA REGIMENTS

THE TERM "GURKHA"

From 1901, or even earlier, the Army List began to give the class composition of one-class Gurkha regiments² as simply "Gurkhas", although each regiment had its own rules about which clans were enlisted. These rules, although strict, were not rigid and it was possible for a man of any Gurkha or Kiranti clan to be enlisted in any regiment.

The term "Gurkha" or "Gorkha"³ comes from the present civil District of Gorkha, in West Central Nepal. It was an independent kingdom from whence, in 1769, the army of the ruler, Prithvi Narain Shah - a Thakur - captured the Nepal/ Kathmandu Valley and later the whole of what is now Nepal. The present king is a direct descendant of his.

The Army of Nepal was thus known as the "Gorkha Army" and it was this army that fought against the British in 1814. It was composed of the following clans from western Nepal:

- Thakurs - The squirearchy and officialdom of Khas (Chettris) Nepal - the hereditary Prime Ministers were of the Rana sub-class of the Khas.
- Magars - The peasantry Gurungs

The term "Gurkha" was used for those Nepali clans who fought in the Gurkha Army. The Limbus, Rais and Sumwars (Kirantis) from eastern Nepal never fought in the Gurkha Army

² After the Mutiny, most regiments of the Indian Army were re-organized as "mixed-class" units, each regiment containing two or more races or religious groups, organised in separate companies - Sikhs and Muslims; Dogras and Pathans, etc. - on the theory that such disparate groups would be unlikely to plot further mutinies together. Exceptions to this rule were some elite "one-class" units of confirmed loyalty, the various Gurkha regiments, two cavalry units and a handful of infantry regiments.

³ The second spelling, "Gorkha", is used by the Nepalese and current Indian Army. A third acceptable spelling is the early British "Goorkha".

and originally did not merit the title "Gurkha". However, after the Kubo Valley Military Police and its successor, the 10th Gurkha Rifles, started large scale recruitment from eastern Nepal, followed by the 7th Gurkha Rifles, the term came to be applied to all those Nepali clans who were enlisted in the British, Indian and Nepalese Armies.

ACTUAL CLASS COMPOSITIONS

1. 1st and 2nd Gurkha Rifles were raised from the defeated Gorkha Army and were thus of all four clans.
2. 3rd Gurkha Rifles were raised in the main from Nepalese garrisons and local forces in Garhwal and Kumaon when these districts were annexed at the end of the Gurkha War. This unit was for some years under the civil government and had a high proportion of non-Gurkha hillmen until 1887. (See note on 9 GR) (The enlistment of Thakurs and Khas (Chettris) gradually ceased, so that by 1857 the 1st, 2nd and 3rd GR were exclusively Magar and Gurung.)
3. 4th and 5th Gurkha Rifles were Magar and Gurung from their raising.
4. 6th and 8th Gurkha Rifles were Assam regiments, from early on composed of Gurkhas, some Kirantis and Assamese Jarwars. The latter were gradually reduced and mustered out in 1889.
5. 7th Gurkha Rifle was made up of Kirantis. (See note on 10 GR.)
6. 9th Gurkha Rifle was, from 1823 to 1861, a regular regiment of the Bengal Army - the 1/32nd Bengal Native Infantry; later the 63rd BNI - enlisting Brahmins, Rajputs and Hindustani Mussulmans from Oudh. It was disarmed in 1857, but did not mutiny or disintegrate. Re-armed in 1859, it was reorganized as a mixed-class regiment including two companies of Gurkhas and Hillmen.

The regiment moved up the Bengal seniority list, replacing mutinied units, to become 9th BNI. The two Gurkha and Hillmen companies became "Hillmen" in 1881 but were actually Nepalese Newars. The regiment became a class Gurkha unit in 1891, composed of two-thirds Khas and one-third Thakurs. The Hindustani companies were transferred to other units and the Newars gradually mustered out.

7. 10th Gurkha Rifle was formed in Burma, from the Kubo Valley Military Police and took the title of "10 (Burma Rifle Regiment) of Madras Infantry", replacing an earlier 10th Madras, whose Madrassi members were mustered out. Originally mainly Kirantis, with some Assamese Jarwars, the latter were gradually mustered out.

A.A. Mains

INDIAN UNATTACHED LIST

(The first part of this article is in answer to W.J.Sheridan's query in DURBAR, Vol.2, No.2; the second half is a personal reminiscence by the author.)

There have been all sorts of Indian Army Lists since the H.E.I.C. was replaced by the Indian Empire of Queen Victoria and I assume that the "I.U.L." was an ancestor of the "U.L.I.A." - the Unattached List Indian Army. I regret that I have no firm information concerning the

dates of IUL and ULIA but it seems that the IUL was pre-First War and that the ULIA dates from the 1930s, or perhaps from the re-organization of 1922.

Unattached lists were lists of European officers and other ranks on probation pending final appointment or transfer to their respective Indian regiments. The Indian Army's unattached list, from at least 1930, was designated the "U.L.I.A." The cap badge was the "GRI" cipher surmounted by the Royal Crown, the buttons plain but for the Royal Crown, and the lanyard drab. There was no helmet flash but two types of cap badge: polished brass and bronzed finish.

The Indian Army employed European Sergeants, Staff Sergeants and Warrant Officers in the Artillery, Signals, Engineers, Medical Service, Ordnance Corps and Indian Army Corps of Clerks. All came from the British Army and competition was stiff, as the pay and promotion were very much better than in the British Army, with a ninety per cent chance of NCOs achieving warrant rank.

Officers were normally appointed to the ULIA from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, with a very few university graduates. From 1920, Indian gentlemen cadets were also appointed from Sandhurst and, from 1936, from the Indian Military Academy Dehra Dun. There were also some transfers from the British Army and, in the '30s, transfers of short service RAF officers stationed in India. These transfers were, however, the exception rather than the rule. It is interesting to note that officers were not restricted to those with U.K. citizenship. I knew of a number of Australians, South Africans, one Canadian and, from 1920, Indians.

Officers from Sandhurst and Dehra Dun were first appointed to the Unattached List Indian Army and a year's probation was served with a British infantry regiment.

I was appointed to the ULIA from Sandhurst and attached to the 1st Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment, who were stationed in Razmak, Waziristan and on active service when I joined. I was awarded the India General Service Medal 1936 and bar "WAZIRISTAN" inscribed "Rank, Name, ULIA attached 1st Leicesters".

There were eight of us "Ulies", as we were called, with the Leicesters, six British and two Indians. All were awarded the IGSMs. It is interesting that while we were serving in the regiment the 1939 War was declared and the issue of the IGSM ceased forever, so that I was one of the last to be awarded the so-called "Frontier Medal".

The attitude of British regiments toward "Ulies" varied: some made us welcome; others did not. The Leicesters' cap badge was the Indian tiger surmounted by "Hindustan" and the Royal Crown; their motto "*Primus In Indus*", as they had served there as a regiment since the Mutiny. They were known as the "Tiger Boys" and it was understood in the regiment that until you had shot your first tiger you were not really a Leicester, while the mess was draped in God knows how many tiger skins.

The "tiger boys" considered us to be some kind of white "*****" and rather beyond the pale; we were made to understand that we were in no way part of the regiment and were accepted only on sufferance. It so happened that the six British Ulies were all following family traditions of serving in India, had spent our early lives in India and could speak Hindi. This

didn't really help our position, as the Indian mess staff treated us with respect and tended to make a fuss over us.

But, as was to be expected, when it came time for sports we were considered "tiger boys", as four of us had been awarded Sports "Blues" at Sandhurst, and we had three on the rugby team, two on the boxing team*, two on the shooting team*, and three in track and field*. (*including myself).

In December, 1939 the Leicesters were transferred to Agra, near Delhi. There I had a row with the Adjutant when I entered the Delhi Gymkhana with my own horse, called "Ulie". He wanted me to be shown on the programme as "1st Leicesters", but I said "No", that I was ULIA and "so was my bloody horse." I got my way, and also got 14 days as Orderly Officer for bloody-mindedness. I won the Novice Horse cup and the Adjutant said that he "ought to have made it a month" as Orderly Officer. As he said this at dinner in the Mess, I replied that I would be pleased to carry out a further 14 days if he wished. The Adjutant never spoke to me again - I only got messages from him, via the second-in-command.

Incidentally, we were never spoken to by the Colonel during the whole of our attachment. Apparently we did not exist. We of course reacted, and used to sing Kipling's "Gentlemen Rankers", amended to "Ulies unwanted are we" on every possible occasion. But, nevertheless, there were quite a number of Leicester officers who we respected and liked and we got on extremely well with the troops.

While in Agra the Leicesters were to be posted to Singapore and we were all posted to our Indian regiments. It is of great regret that the 1st Battalion Leicesters were all taken prisoner at Singapore, and of course today the regiment no longer exists as a regular unit of the British Army.

I have a set of ULIA cap badges (both types) and buttons and perhaps I am the only ex-Ulie who has, as most threw them away on appointment to their Indian regiments, and even that was some forty-five years ago. My set hang framed on my sitting room wall and I am always being asked what they are.

R.A. Blantern-Haine

(It is perhaps worth a second reminder here of the author's statement that some, not all, British regiments, and not all members of those regiments, reacted this way towards "Ulies". EDITOR)

BOOK REVIEWS

● *THE TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES*. Major General Chand N. Das. New Delhi: Vision Books, 1984, 500 pgs., illustrated, price: 350 rupees.

It is unfortunate for those of us interested in the Indian Armed Forces that only a few new books on this subject have appeared in recent years. Notable examples include Boris Mollo's *The Indian Army*, A. Harfield's *British and Indian Armies in the East Indies*, and a reprint of Lovett and MacMunn's *The Armies of India*. Useful as these books most certainly are, they

confine the reader to the Indian Army of the Raj and little or nothing is available outside India to inform us of the Indian Army since 1947. Thankfully, however, Vision Books of New Delhi has become the Indian equivalent of Gale & Polden and in recent years has published an extensive list of Indian regimental and campaign histories, including reprints. On my most recent visit to India, this reviewer had the good fortune to acquire a copy of their most recent publication, *The Traditions and Customs of The Indian Armed Forces*.

As the title suggests, this well-presented book deals with all three armed services though, understandably, the bulk of it is given over to the Army (for those interested solely in the I.N. and I.A.F., detailed histories of both these services have already been published). The book is arranged in seven sections; Introduction; Great Traditions; Colours, Emblems and Insignia; Service Customs; Honours and Awards; Officer Leadership; and Miscellaneous. These sections are further sub-divided into thirty-five chapters that include interesting accounts of regimental battle cries, commemorative days, weapons of war, and war memorials.

For the collector of Indian medals and badges, the book is useful in listing and describing every Indian medal and bar awarded to the military. It also supplies excellent charts of pre-Independence and post-Independence cap badges. Similar charts, some in colour, illustrate naval crests, IAF squadron badges and the proficiency badges of all three services.

The author is to be commended for this mammoth undertaking, for within this one book he has succeeded in capturing the essence of the Indian armed forces by tracing their traditions and customs. It is a constant irritation to the reviewer that the Indian services are patronizingly considered excellent in the "British" tradition! Such a questionable attribute in no way gives credence or respect to the very real and unique Indian traditions, customs and history that have gone into shaping the Indian forces. In a skilled and discerning manner, the author has succeeded in fusing both British and Indian traditions to produce a sensible and balanced account.

It would be easy to promote this book as a bible for all Indian enthusiasts, however it does have several deficiencies. Though a complete list of battle honours is provided for the period up to 1947, unfortunately a list of honours awarded since 1947 is missing. A coloured plate of medal ribbons would have been preferable to the photograph that does appear, showing the medal collection housed at Army Headquarters. In general, while the uniform and insignia plates are of a high standard, the photographs tend to be of undistinguished quality (though an illustration of the awards display in the Rajput Regiment's centre was pleasing to see). The chronological chart of the evolution of Indian regiments is even more infuriating to follow than Boris Mollo's. Poor proof-reading here shows Jats merging with Rajputs and Sikhs with Dogras, while the luckless Gurkhas defy fact and we find the British Army's 10th Gurkha Rifles on the Indian establishment! Thankfully, the proof-reading elsewhere is of a high standard.

Priced at over 22 pounds sterling, it is difficult to guess the market the publishers have aimed at and it is a pity that many students in India will no doubt find the cost prohibitive. Bearing in mind the price, those interested only in medals will find a more suitably priced book, at 6 pounds sterling, in *Regimental Colours and Ceremonials in The Indian Army* by Brigadier Teg Bahadur Kapur (New Delhi, 1983).

Despite its few cosmetic errors, *The Traditions and Customs of The Indian Armed Forces* is highly recommended and will fill a gap in all libraries which are deficient in post-1947 Indian

material. Details of the purchase price and postage costs may be obtained from: Vision Books Ltd., 36-C Connaught Place, New Delhi 11001, INDIA.

A list of other military titles may be obtained from the same source.

H. Sellar

● *REGIMENTAL COLOURS AND CEREMONIALS IN THE INDIAN ARMY*. Brigadier Teg Bahadur Kapur, AVSM, Vikas Publishing House Ltd, 1983, 200 pages, illustrated.

The author of this interesting tome was the officer responsible for re-organising much of the ceremonial drill of the Indian Army after Independence and this has clearly affected the form and content of this work. Perhaps the best description of the book's contents is summarised by the final sentence of the dust jacket review: "The book... will serve as a constant companion to army officers, and open up a fascinating area of army etiquette for the interested layman." Written by Teg Bahadur Kapur, retired "Brigadier in charge Ceremonials", the bulk of the book is concerned with minutely detailed instructions on how to order such ceremonies as military funerals, awards presentation ceremonies and Army Day Parades.

Chapter Two, "Regimental Colours" includes eighty pages of the "words of command" - in Hindi (Roman letters) and accompanying actions for the presentation, display and laying up of regimental colours and guidons. Chapters Three and Four, "The Indian National Flag" and "Ceremonials in The Indian Army", are similarly detailed.

A chapter on Military Etiquette provides tips on acceptable sizes of calling cards for officers and their wives, suitable topics of mess conversation and proper behaviour towards fellow officers and mess servants.

Should you ever need to command a funeral parade for the C-in-C Indian Army, lay up your regimental colour or lead an Army Day Parade, this volume will be invaluable. If, on the other hand, you want a good description of and a few details on the award criteria for the medals instituted by India since 1947, you'll find them in Chapter 6: "Honours and Awards". Several short sections also give the interesting history of "colours" in ancient India and in the armies of Britain and India. While rather too technical to make an "easy read", and more a manual than a history, the book definitely fulfils the Jacket promise of being "fascinating... for the interested layman."

The publishers, Vikas Publishing House PVT Ltd, may be contacted at 5 Ansari Rd, New Delhi 110002. The U.S. distributor is Advent Books, 141 E. 44 St, New York, NY. Our copy was obtained from Articles of War, Chicago, 111 at a cost of \$21.50 U.S.

QUERIES

● L.B. Ryan wishes information on the badge pictured below. It is a good quality casting in the silver-coloured white metal of which Indian badges are often made.



● Several members have been able to provide identifications of three of the four items mentioned in H.J. Storer's query in DURBAR Vol.2, No. 2.

No.2 (the button) is the 1934 pattern button of the Unattached List Indian Army. No.3 is almost certainly the 1891-1909 badge of the Chota Nagpur Mounted Rifles, AFL. No.4 is the badge of the Ceylon Cadet Corps complete with mis-spelled motto. (*NUNQUAM NON PARATUS* instead of the correct *NUMQUAM NON PARATUS*).

(Our thanks to A.A. Mains and L.B. Ryan for this information.)

THE FAIRLIE BROTHERS

Lieutenant Colonel James Fairlie of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry and his wife Agnes had a large family including nine sons, four of whom served during the Indian Mutiny and received medals. Three were officers in the Honourable East India Company's cavalry and the fourth, a lawyer, served as a volunteer with the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry.

Name	Rank	Season	Regiment
James Fairlie	Captain	1840	3rd Bengal Lt. Cav.
John Robert Fairlie	Lieutenant	1846	6th Madras Lt. Cav.
Charles Hay Fairlie	Lieutenant	1855	3rd Bengal Lt. Cav.
William Fairlie	Trooper	-	Bengal Yeomanry Cav.

James, the eldest brother, died at Meerut on 9th January 1858 but his brothers survived the Mutiny. I am fortunate to have two medals issued to the Fairlies, although they present a riddle which I have not as yet been able to resolve.

Details of the two medals are as follows: (See photograph page 17)

- 1. Mutiny Medal - clasp "DELHI"
Named in correct and contemporary impressed capitals to: LT. C.H. FAIRLIE, 1ST EUR. LT. CAV. Condition is extra-fine with no contact wear and the clasp looks right and appears to have been attached to the medal for some time.

- 2. Mutiny Medal - clasp "DELHI"
Named in correct and contemporary impressed capitals to: LT. C.W.
FAIRLIE, 3RD L C

This second medal has been embellished by the following privately-commissioned and well-executed work:

The clasp has been removed and re-affixed by brazing the lower extremities of the clasp lugs to the top edges of the scroll suspender, the ground around the word "DELHI" has been filled with blue enamel, and the scroll from a miniature Mutiny Medal has been brazed to the lower edge of the clasp, this made possible by the raised position of the clasp. There is no ribbon bar, but a small suspension ring has been brazed to the reverse of the clasp.

The reverse has been machined down and re-engraved with all the original detail and the rim edge has been milled without interfering with the original naming of the recipient. The background has been filled in blue enamel and the Union Jack on Britannia's shield has been outlined in red and blue enamel.

All surfaces including obverse, reverse and suspension/clasp have been lightly gilt. The medal still swivels and the original profile of the suspension is unchanged, although the claw is slightly loose.

There is some evidence of contact under the gilt at three o'clock on the rim of the second medal which indicates that this medal may have been worn prior to its conversion into what appears to be a memorial piece - presumably by a close relative of the recipient (if not by himself).

Both medals were purchased at the same time from an established British dealer who mentioned that they were from a private non-collecting source but could supply no further information on their provenance. However, he believed (and expressed as much in his list) that the memorial piece was the incorrectly-named original issue to James Fairlie, which was sent after his death to Charles Hay Fairlie who then converted it in memory of his dead brother. This is not wholly unreasonable speculation.

Reference to the medal rolls of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry and the 1st Bengal European Light Cavalry is frustrating because the former is totally missing from the India Office Library records, whilst at least two pages are missing from the latter, resulting in the omission of 9 names from the summary total of 30 recipients on the roll. Nevertheless, this roll contains two entries of relevance to the Fairlie brothers' medals:

- LIEUT. C.H. FAIRLIE is listed No.14 in the main body of the roll as entitled to medal without clasp. There is a notation under the remarks column to the effect that his medal was received on 16th March 1861 by William Fairlie (the lawyer and volunteer trooper).
- CAPT. J. FAIRLIE is written in as a footnote on the first page of the roll together with the comment "deceased, Medal sent to Lieut. C.H. Fairlie April '61". I doubt whether James Fairlie's name appears on the missing pages as recipients are listed in order of rank and the first 21 names are all available, lieutenants commencing at No.8 on the roll (i.e., had he been there, he should, as a captain, have been listed in the first seven or eight names).

James Fairlie's medal entitlement is almost certainly recorded on the missing medal roll of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry. In drawing this conclusion, I have recognized that the 1st European Light Cavalry was not constituted until after his death. As to why the notation regarding his medal is written in the 1st E.L.C. roll, there is a reasonable explanation. The cadre of officers for this regiment was drawn from the survivors of the disbanded 1st and 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry and presumably some administrative records relating to the issue of medals to these disbanded regiments would have been filed with the 1st European Light Cavalry records.

Lieutenant J.R. Fairlie is listed on the summary roll of British officers and other ranks of the 6th Madras Light Cavalry as entitled to the medal with clasp "CENTRAL INDIA", and a notation on the roll that his medal was "made and given 19.2.61." William Fairlie is listed on the roll of the Bengal Yeomanry and received a medal without clasp. The present whereabouts of these two medals is not known, but they are clearly not to be confused with either of the medals which are the main subject of this article.

The fact that James Fairlie's medal was sent directly to his brother lends some credence to the theory that it might have been converted by Charles Hay Fairlie into a memorial piece, but I do not favour this. In attempting to determine to whom the C.W. Fairlie medal was in fact issued, there are several relevant points to consider.

James Fairlie's rank of Captain was substantive (rank in Army 14.4.1855; rank in regiment 3.5.1856) before the outbreak of the Mutiny, and it is unlikely that both his rank and his initial would have been incorrectly transcribed or even that the two initials "C.W." would have been misread from the single correct initial "J."

Many officers and other ranks - especially those serving prior to May 1857 with H.E.I.C. regiments which subsequently mutinied - served with a number of different regiments, including locally raised volunteer and police units, during the Mutiny. As a result, their services and entitlement to medals and clasps appear on more than one roll and it is reasonable to assume that such duplicated entries were the most common cause of the occasional double-issue of Mutiny Medals.

There is evidence that at least one duplicate issue was made to an officer of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry who transferred to the cadre of officers of the 1st European Light Cavalry. Lieutenant A.G. Webster received two medals without clasps as:

a) LIEUT. 3rd L.C.

b) LIEUT. 1ST EUR. LT. CAVY.

These two medals were sold as part of a group of six to Lt. Col. A.G. Webster (Hayward's Gazette No. 8, 1977). It is interesting to note that Colonel Webster also served in the Meerut Light Horse and Lind's Mooltani Horse and appears on the medal roll of the latter regiment as well as on the 1st Bengal European Light Cavalry and (presumably) the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry rolls.

The most reasonable deduction is that the C.H. Fairlie and C.W. Fairlie medals are duplicate issues (the latter with a naming error) to C.H. Fairlie. It would have been easy to misread the initials "C.W." for the correct "C.H.", as the handwritten capital letters "H" and "W" are quite similar in many instances on Mutiny-period rolls.

The "DELHI" clasps are an enigma which might be clarified by the roll of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry. Up till now, I have been unable to establish entitlement to this clasp by any of the Fairlie brothers. Whilst Charles Hay Fairlie was briefly attached to the 1st Punjab Cavalry (cf. *India Register* 1859, 1st edition) which served at and earned battle honours for Delhi, it is almost certain that this attachment was after 14th September 1857, as no Fairlie is listed on the Punjab Irregular Force medal rolls. On balance, it would appear that the recipient added the "DELHI" clasps unofficially and for reasons best known to himself.

C.J. Parrett



Sources

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- *Harts Annual Army Lists*: 1870, 1885, 1889, 1894
- *Army List January 1899*
- *Burke's Landed Gentry* - 18th Edition 1969 (Vol. 2, pp 192-94)
- *India Register* (all copies 1857 to 1863 1st edition)
- *New Calcutta Directory*: 1857, 1858, 1859
- Cadet Papers: C. H. Fairlie L/MIL/9/236 (252-258)
- Bengal Burials 1858, Volume 93, Folio 138
- Various Histories of the Indian Mutiny
- Medal Rolls:
 - L/MIL/5/82 (227R) 6th MADRAS CAVALRY
 - L/MIL/5/100 (13-14) BENGAL YEOMANRY CAVALRY

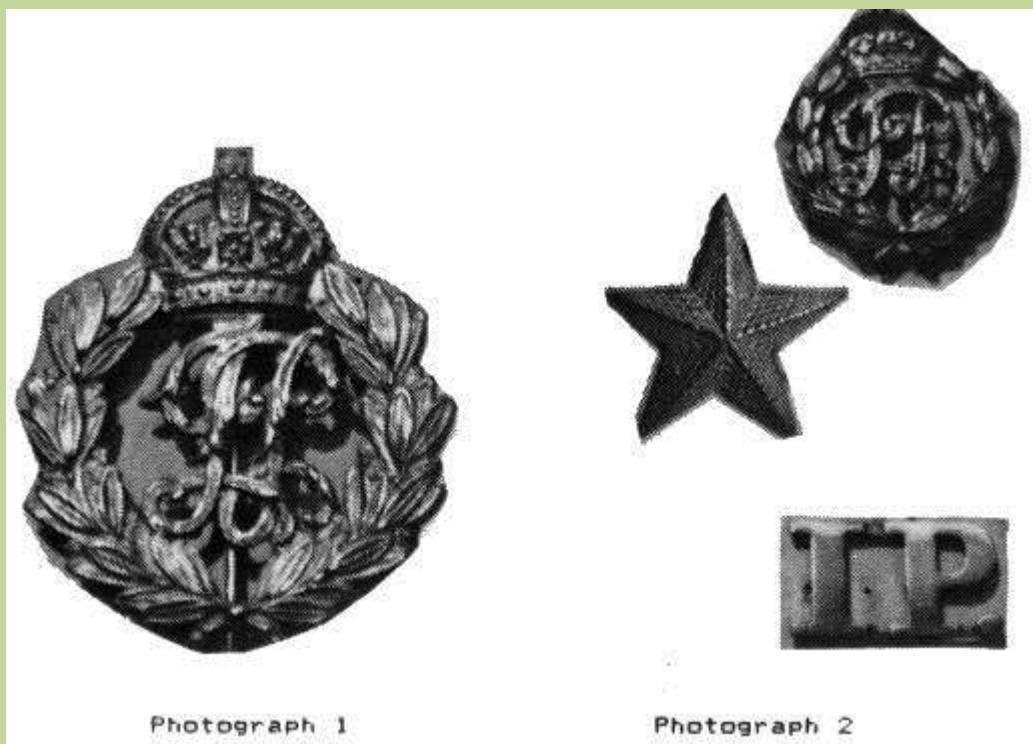
- L/MIL/5/77 (12-17) 1st EUR. LT. CAVALRY

(The Editors would like to express their gratitude to Mr Parrett for his extremely generous gesture in providing us with the photograph which accompanies this article.)

THE POLICE OF BRITISH INDIA

(PART TWO of an article published in DURBAR, Vol.2, No.2)

Photograph 1: cap badge of the Indian Police, silver, pin-back Photograph 2: (top to bottom) collar badge, rank star, shoulder title, all silver, with loop fasteners.



UNIFORMS

The uniforms of the Indian Police were, with a few variations, almost identical with those of Army officers: khaki tunic and Sam Browne belt; khaki cap or helmet; with breeches and boots, shorts and puttees, or trousers, as appropriate. Shirt sleeve order was worn in hot weather. Badges of rank were the same as the Army except that the stars were pointed; very senior officers wore blue and silver gorget patches and blue cap bands.

Sub Inspectors and Inspectors wore uniforms akin to those of VCOs in the Army: khaki tunic or short with shorts, usually stockings and shoes rather than puttees and boots; S.B. belt; usually pagri in the same colour as the men, but sometimes helmet or cap. Anglo-Indian Inspectors invariably wore helmet or cap rather than pagri.

Sergeants dressed like Inspectors, except that they never wore a pagri. They always wore a Sam Brownes. As an example, I once met in Sealdah Railway Station in Calcutta an

individual looking like a European, wearing a khaki shirt and shorts, stockings and shoes, a black S.B. belt, sergeant's stripes and a black dress cap with shiny peak and crossed kukri badge on a black boss. He was a Sergeant in the Chittagong District Armed Police Reserve, composed mainly of Gurkhas.

The dress of the rank and file varied considerably among the different provincial Police forces and also between them and the forces of the Presidency Towns. The most usual uniform was khaki drill. Several provinces dressed their Police in Army type uniforms of 1914 vintages: khaki frock with knickerbockers and long puttees. Some wore shirts and shorts with puttees and boots. Except for the colourful Bombay Police, pagris were almost universal. These were either red or had red in them - red was the Government colour. So that they could be readily identified, all rank and file wore their numbers in large brass figures on the breast.

The Calcutta Police wore white uniforms with red pagris, while the Bombay Police were commonly known as "buttercups". This was because their uniform consisted of a blue drill frock and knickerbockers, bare calves, black chappies and a Mahratta type pillbox cap in brilliant yellow with a black chin strap, worn at a Jaunty angle. About 1939 this was replaced by a blue sidecap with yellow trimmings. Yellow was very much the Bombay colour: Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Sergeants wore either helmets or caps, the former with a yellow pagri, the latter with a yellow band.

SHOULDER TITLES, ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

Gazetted Officers of the Indian Police wore "I.P.", irrespective of the province in which they were serving. All others wore provincial titles, for example: "P.P." for "Punjab Police": "C.P." for "Calcutta Police", etc. One province - I think the United Provinces - used "P.F." for "Police Force". These officers, with Inspectors and Sergeants, were armed with an Army type .455 calibre revolver carried in a standard leather holster on the S.B. belt. These were only carried when necessary for self-defence - during periods of rioting and civil disturbance.

The Police in India was essentially an unarmed civil force. Other than weapons for self-defence, the only arms were the dozen or so antiquated smooth-bore muskets kept in each police station for its defence. The District Armed Reserves - about platoon strength - were armed with service rifles. The standard weapon carried at all times was a truncheon, worn in a frog on the leather belt, which had the district name on the buckle. The "lathi" (iron shod bamboo staff) was only issued and carried during times of civil commotion.

Traffic police in the summer wore a leather harness to which was clipped an open umbrella for protection against the sun. This allowed the men to use both hands to direct the traffic.

APPENDIX: PARA-MILITARY FORCES AND FRONTIER CORPS

It is difficult to generalize on the role and organization of these force, but it can be said that most of them were in existence to deal with tribal people who rejected any idea of peaceful co-existence with the peoples of neighbouring administered areas. (The Crown Representative's Police and the Special Armed Constabulary were in a somewhat different category.) Their organisation and equipment varied. All were armed with service rifles and organized in platoons commanded by subordinate officers - usually the VCO ranks "Subadar" and "Jemadar" were used, rather than "Inspector" and "Sub Inspector". The platoon was the

basic tactical unit, higher formations such as "company" being administrative terms. Some units wore Army type uniforms and equipment, others police type with leather belts and bandoliers. The Frontier Corps wore a uniform akin to the normal clothes of the Pathan tribesman.

These Forces were raised and controlled by a variety of agencies, detailed below:

ASSAM RIFLES

The oldest and largest of the para-military forces, it consisted of five battalions in 1947 but has continued and been much expanded since Independence. Formed from individual military police or frontier police battalions, it had three battalions raised prior to 1870, the oldest having been raised in 1834. It was composed mainly of Gurkhas, officered by Army Officers seconded almost exclusively from Gurkha regiments.⁴ Controlled by the government of Assam, it provided reinforcements for regular Gurkha regiments in World War I and fought against the Japanese in World War II.

EASTERN FRONTIER RIFLES

Like the Assam Rifles, they were originally raised as frontier police to deal with the tribesmen on the Bengal-Burma border, notably the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Under the government of Bengal, they were officered by Army Officers.

FRONTIER CONSTABULARY

An armed police force, part of the police establishment of the North West Frontier Province raised to deal with armed raiders from tribal territory, officered by Police Officers.

MEWAR BHIL CORPS

The sole survivor of a number of "local" regiments, it was raised to protect the roads and assist the rulers of small Native States to keep order. Under the Political Department, Government of India, it was controlled by the Agent to the Governor General for the Central India Agency (at Indore). Raised from the central Indian, aboriginal tribe of Bhils to keep their compatriots in order, it was officered by Army Officers. It was disbanded at Independence.

CROWN REPRESENTATIVE'S POLICE

Raised in the late 1930s by the Political Department of the Government of India, they acted as Armed Police in very small Native States, mainly in Rajputana, which had no forces to deal with internal disorder. They were officered by Army and/or Police Officers.

SPECIAL ARMED CONSTABULARY

The disadvantages and lack of training of the static Armed Police Reserve in the Districts led the Government of the United Provinces to raise an armed force as part of the Police

⁴ "Officers", as used in this context, refers to Commissioned or Gazetted Officers. Subordinate officers were usually promoted from the ranks, like VCOs in the Army.

establishment, on the lines of the Frontier Constabulary, in 1939. Several other provinces later followed suit. They were officered by Police Officers.

FRONTIER CORPS

Listed from north to south along the Frontier, all were under the Political Department of the Government of India, through the appropriate agency.

- Gilgit Scouts - under Resident in Kashmir
- Chitral Scouts - Under Governor of N.W.F. Prov. acting as Agent for Gov. Gen. (in his role as Agent, N.W.F. Prov. Tribal Territory)
- Kurram Militia - as above
- Tochi Scouts - as above
- South Waziristan Scouts - as above
- Zhob Militia - under Agent to Gov. Gen. in Baluchistan
- Mekran Levy Corps - as above

The famous Khyber Rifles were disbanded after mutinying in 1919 but were re-raised in 1945 (and continue to serve with the armed forces of the Republic of Pakistan)

A.A. Mains



ISMAIL KHAN - SOLDIER OF SKINNER'S HORSE

When it was decided that Queen Victoria would open the new Imperial Institute in South Kensington in May 1893, it was also resolved that her cavalry escort should be drawn from Indian regiments. Indian soldiers had been very popular on the few occasions when they had visited England on duty. Native Officers had formed a cavalry escort at the 1897 Jubilee and, prior to that, NOs, NCOs and men of the Indian regiments which had taken part in the Sudan Campaign had proceeded to England, where the Officers were presented to Her Majesty at Windsor.⁵

Lt. Col. G.L.R. Richardson, CIE, 18th Bengal Lancers, was selected to command the escort. Captain H.L. Dawson was his 2 i/c, whilst Rissaldar and Wurdi-Major Ahmed Khan of the 11th Bengal Lancers was chosen as the Indian Officer. The ranks comprised representative senior NCOs from the regiments of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, as well as the Hyderabad Contingent Cavalry, Punjab Cavalry and Guides Cavalry. The NCO chosen from the Bengal command was Daffadar Ismail Khan of the 1st Regiment (Skinner's Horse), a smart Hindustani Mussalman who joined the service and his regiment in July 1881.⁶

⁵ Bulletin of the Military Historical Society; August 1960 and November 1960

⁶ Full page photograph in The Navy & Army Illustrated, Vol.I, 5th June 1896. A coloured head and shoulders painting by Chater Paul Chater published in 'An Assemblage of Indian Army Soldiers and Uniforms', London, Perpetua Press, 1973.

The uniform worn by Ismail Khan in Figure 1 is not the bright yellow kurta usually associated with the full dress of this regiment, but a dull yellow or mustard shade. The front opening panel, collar and cuffs were black with gold lace piping or edging on a red ground. The three gold lace rank chevrons were mounted on red cloth backing. The cummerbund and lungi were deep red, the latter with broad gold and narrow black striping, the kulla black, pointed and made of quilted cotton material. The rectangular waistbelt plate had the numeral "1" over the joined letters "B" and "C", with the same device on the steel shoulder chains. Although not seen in the picture, there are probably crossed rifles on the right forearm, a musketry certificate having been issued after he passed the course.

On his return to India and his regiment, he received the coveted promotion to Jemadar in July 1893 and seven years later the next step, to Rissaidar, on 1st April, 1900. The regiment was one of those chosen for active service in China and Figure 3 is from a photograph of officers, British and Indian, taken at Lucknow in June 1900 before leaving for Calcutta and embarkation.⁷ It will be seen that he now wears service dress of khaki drill with brown leather belts, gauntlet gloves and boots. The only splash of colour is from the lungi and cummerbund, both different in colour to those of 1893. In 1896, when the regiment was designated 1st Regiment of Bengal Lancers, the red lungi and cummerbund were replaced by black, the lungi still with black and gold striping but the only red appearing in the kulla.

The regiment returned from China to Lucknow in June 1901 and Rissaidar Ismail Khan subsequently received a China Medal with clasp for his part in the Relief of Peking and the actions at Peitsang and Yangtsun. Meanwhile, in England, Queen Victoria had died and Edward Albert, Prince of Wales succeeded to the throne. In consequence his son, George, Honorary Colonel of Skinner's Horse, became the new Prince of Wales. His former title, however, had been incorporated in the designation of the regiment since 1899: 1st (Duke of York's Own) Bengal Lancers (Skinner's Horse). A further rearrangement took place in 1903: 1st Duke of York's Own Lancers (Skinner's Horse). It was an important day, therefore, when the Prince visited his regiment whilst on an official tour of India with his Princess in 1905-06. The visit took place at Peshawar, where an historic photograph was taken by the well-known Calcutta firm of photographers, Johnston & Hoffman.

Figure 4 is a section from this large photograph. HRH, in a General's uniform, has the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. C.H. Hayes, on his left and the Rissaldar Major, Abdul Gafir Khan, on his right. Ismail Khan is seated in front of the CO. The officer in the blue undress uniform on the Colonel's left is Major H.L. Roberts, Honorary ADC to the Prince of Wales. With the exception of Major Roberts, the Medical Officer and a newly joined subaltern still in the uniform of his former regiment, the Royal Irish Fusiliers, all other regimental officers are in the striking yellow review order dress peculiar to the regiment. Whilst it is interesting to note that Ismail Khan still has his lungi tied right over left, as he had in 1893 and 1900, a method used by only one other Indian Officer in this 1905 group, it is believed that this is of no special significance, being simply the method chosen by these two as most convenient for them, possibly because they were left-handed. The full dress kurta is more lemon yellow than Khan's 1893 garment and has the elaborate loopings of gold lace on black with scarlet cloth backing on either side of the front opening panel. The shoulderbelt and waistbelt are of gold

⁷ The Navy & Army Illustrated; 4th August, 1900.

lace, on black leather, with a black velvet centre stripe. The pouchbelt is very fine, in addition to the normal pricker plate, boss and chains it had silver mountings, best described by the official Dress Regulations: "On a silver star the monogram "D.Y.O." and a scroll inscribed "The Help of God and The Bravery of Man". Over the monogram a mounted lancer and a scroll bearing in Urdu characters the same motto. Above the star a Tudor crown. Above the crown a scroll inscribed "Skinner's Horse". Below the star, scrolls bearing the honorary distinctions of the regiment, all in silver."

A further promotion followed for Ismail Khan on 1st March, 1906 to Risaldar, and by 1911 he was the senior Risaldar in the regiment and was appointed ADC to King George V for the duration of His Majesty's tour of India following his coronation in London.

Another important appointment followed in November 1912 when he was made ADC to the Governor of Bengal and subsequently admitted to the Order of British India, 2nd Class. Figure 2 is from a photograph⁸ taken during this period of his service and it will be seen that he has, in addition to his Order and China Medal, what is thought to be a Royal Victorian Medal and another for the 1911 Delhi Durbar. He was an Honorary ADC on the staff of the Governor of Bengal from 1st July 1914 and is to be found in the Army List holding that appointment, through the war years. In the 1919 Indian Army List he is listed as "re-employed" from 7th March, 1918 and the final entry against his name is c. 1920-21 as senior Risaldar, 28th Light Cavalry.

Thus ends the distinguished forty year military career of a very fine Indian soldier.

R.G. Harris

⁸ Original photograph owned by R.J. Marrion



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 3



Figure 4



LIEUTENANT J.W.J. Le MARCHAND, WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

I have recently been able to acquire at auction a medal with a most interesting story attached. The medal itself was quite common - an I.G.S. 1908 with the "North West Frontier 1908" clasp named to "2nd Lt. J.W.L. Le Marchand, 1st West Yorks. Regt." (An engraver's error has "J.W.L" for "J.W.J.")

When I first noticed the medal, in a lot with two I.G.S.s to the Royal Tank Corps, the name struck a chord and I began to do some research. I turned up my copy of *Gallipoli* by Robert Rhode James and looked in the index. Yes, page 149! I turned the pages and what a story unfolded. Subsequent research has filled it out and this is it.

Le Marchand was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in January 1908 and attached to the 1st West Yorkshire Regiment, who were then serving in India. He served with the British battalion in the Mohmand operations of 1908 and in March 1909 was posted to his regiment, the 56th Punjabi Rifles (Frontier Force).

He was with the Punjabis when they sailed for Suez in November 1914 but in July 1915 was sent to the 1/6th Gurkhas, who were fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He had been with them a mere two weeks before the Gurkhas' epic attempt to seize the Sair Bair ridge, a feature which dominated the whole area.

The Gurkhas had orders to take Sair Bair and at 5.20 a.m. on the 9th August, 1915, after the artillery preparation, Lt. Col. Cecil Allanson, the Gurkha CO, led his men up the hill toward the Turkish positions, only 100 yards away. "At the top we met the Turks, Le Marchand was down, a bayonet through the heart. I got one through the leg and then for about ten minutes we fought hand to hand. We bit and fisted; rifles and pistols (were used) as clubs; blood was flying about like spray from a hair-wash bottle."

The Turks broke and ran, but victory was frustratingly short-lived. Shells, perhaps British, began to fall all around the remnants of the Gurkha Battalion, who were forced to retire all the way back to their start line. Only one officer was left standing after the battle; the MO and half the men had fallen.

Allanson was recommended for the Victoria Cross, but it seems that the authorities were not feeling generous and he was only awarded what must have been one of the hardest earned D.S.O.s of the war. The general commanding, Major General Cox, said that he would also have recommended Le Marchand, "had he lived". (Cox seems to have been unaware that it had been possible to make posthumous recommendations since 1902 and that several such awards had already been made in the Great War.)

An officer in a British battalion who watched this attack whilst lying wounded was so struck by the bravery and élan of the 6th Gurkhas that he determined to apply to join that regiment. He did so and served out his regimental career with them. His name was William Slim, later a Field Marshall and the only Indian Army officer ever to be Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

C. Message



THE MEDALS OF INDIA SINCE 1947

For those interested in modern medals to the Indian Army, it may be desirable to have a basic knowledge of post-1947 Indian medals, since many Indian soldiers continued their service after Independence, though with a different regiment if their original one was not allotted to India.⁹ All those serving at Independence would have qualified for the Independence Medal.

⁹ The regiments which were allotted to India were: 2nd Punjab Regt.; (3rd) Madras Regt.; (4th) Indian Grenadiers; (5th) Mahratta Light Infantry; (6th) Rajputana Rifles; (7th) Rajput

The 1947-48 clash with Pakistan over Kashmir brought about the issue of the first Indian campaign medal, the General Service Medal 1947. This medal, in cupro-nickel, has a sword within a halo of rays on the obverse and a lotus flower and the inscription "General Service Medal" in English on the reverse. It does not swivel. There are seven bars:

- JAMMU AND KASHMIR 1947-48
- OVERSEAS KOREA 1950-53
- GOA 1961
- LADAKH 1962
- NEFA 1962
- MIZO HILLS
- NAGA HILLS

The ribbon is red with five thin green stripes.

The mid-1960s produced a number of new campaign medals. These are rather hard to identify because they are inscribed in Hindi (Nagri script) only. The first two relate to the 1965 War with Pakistan. The first, the Samar Seva Star is a five-pointed bronze star, the circular centre of which is inscribed with the Hindi name of the Medal, around the national emblem, the Lions of Ashoka, with the national motto below, also in Nagri script. The suspension is by a ring and the ribbon is in equal widths of the armed forces' colours: red, navy blue and sky blue overlaid with five thin white stripes. (In India the Army, not the Navy, is the senior service.)

With the Samar Seva Medal was awarded the Raksha Medal, also awarded alone to those who did not see active service. This medal is also cupro-nickel, with a straight bar suspender. The obverse has the Lions of Ashoka and the reverse a rising sun with rays, over laurel branches and the name of the medal in Nagri script around the edge. The ribbon is saffron, with three thin stripes in the armed forces' colours.

The Sainya Seva Medal was introduced for non-operational service in strategic areas. It too has a straight bar suspension and is in cupro-nickel. The obverse shows Nandi Devi peak, with a clump of bamboo in the foreground and a fort on the reverse. The following bars have been authorized, but I do not know if all are in Nagri script or not (that for Jammu and Kashmir is):

- JAMMU AND KASHMIR
- NEFA
- HIMILAYA
- ANDAMA AND NICOBAR
- BENGAL - ASSAM

The ribbon is saffron with two thin stripes of white and green.

Regt; (9th) Jat Regt.; (11th) Sikh Regt.; (17th) Dogra Regt.; (18th) Garhwal Rifles; (19th) Kumaon Regt.; Sikh Light Infantry; Chamar Regt.; Mahar Regt.

There were three medals authorized for the 1971 War, two Stars and the Sangram Medal. For active service in the Western Sector, the Paschimi Star was awarded. It is similar to the Samar Seva Star except that the inscription is in both Hindi and English. The ribbon is carmine with three white stripes. Service in the Eastern Sector (Bangladesh) was rewarded with the Poorvi Star, identical to the Paschimi Star except for the inscription and the green/gold/green ribbon. The equivalent of the Raksha Medal was the Sangram Medal: the obverse shows the Lions of Ashoka while the reverse is identical to that of the Raksha Medal except that the inscription reads, in English and Hindi, "Sangram Medal 1971". Suspension is by a ring rather than a straight bar and the ribbon is a deep claret or maroon with three white stripes.

Web site note: We have deleted the rather poor quality illustrations that were used with this article. Good quality illustrations and details of the order of wear can now be found in Edward S. Haynes and Rana T.S. Chhina. *Medals and Decorations of Independent India*. Delhi: Manohar, 2008

M.C. Johnson

