

DURBAR Volume 10, No.1, Spring 1993

BARTON-ON-SEA AND THE INDIAN ARMY

Alan Harfield

Barton-on-Sea is about to lose one of its two connections with the Indian Army. Barton-on-Sea, a residential area on the south coast, overlooks the Isle of Wight and the Needles and from the turn of the century has developed from a small hamlet with a manor house, a few farm houses and coast guard cottages to being a residential and retirement area which has long been over-taken by its nearby town of New Milton.

The former Grand Marine Hotel, which later became the Barton Chase Hotel, became disused some three years ago and is now to be demolished. It was this hotel that during the First World War was requisitioned and was used by the military.

Following the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, and as the casualty numbers mounted, the need to set up hospitals and convalescent camps became imperative. The southern counties were selected to house such organisations as, by being close to the Channel Ports, the men that were to be evacuated were able to be moved into the appropriate hospitals without having to undergo long and tiresome rail journeys. When the hospital and convalescent camp sites were planned consideration was also given to the availability of transport to return the recuperated troops to France and back to the front line.

The Castle Dore Hospital at Bournemouth was commandeered by the army and accepted casualties from France, catering for both the wounded and those suffering from such illnesses as dysentery. Initially men were taken to the Castle Dore Hospital and when sufficiently recovered transferred to the Barton Convalescent Camp which had been set up in the Grand Marine Hotel at Barton-on-Sea, some eleven miles east of Bournemouth. The hotel had been taken over by the army in 1914, displacing some 250 guests from it. The Camp was initially used by men of the British Army but with the increase of casualties from the Indian Army in France, the Castle Dore Hospital was adapted for use by soldiers of the Indian Army and the Marine Hotel at Barton-on-Sea officially became the 'Indian Convalescent Home'.

Many of the Indian soldiers were evacuated from France suffering from dysentery and, having passed through the hospital at Bournemouth, were accommodated in the convalescent home set up at Barton-on-Sea.

A number of postcards were produced at this time, one showing Indian troops standing outside the hotel, with the sign 'Indian Convalescent Home' clearly to be seen on the right of the picture. Another card shows Indian troops at the local railway station of New Milton (the nearest station to Barton-on-Sea) and was published in 1915. A caption on the reverse reads:

"...At New Milton a contingent of our brave Indian soldiers left to rejoin their comrades in the firing line. After recovering from wounds they are glad to go out again to fight for their King and country."

Two officers of the Indian Medical Service were called out of retirement and were appointed Commandant and Assistant Commandant of the Convalescent Home. They were Lieutenant Colonel J. Chaytor-White and Lieutenant Colonel W.A. Mawson.

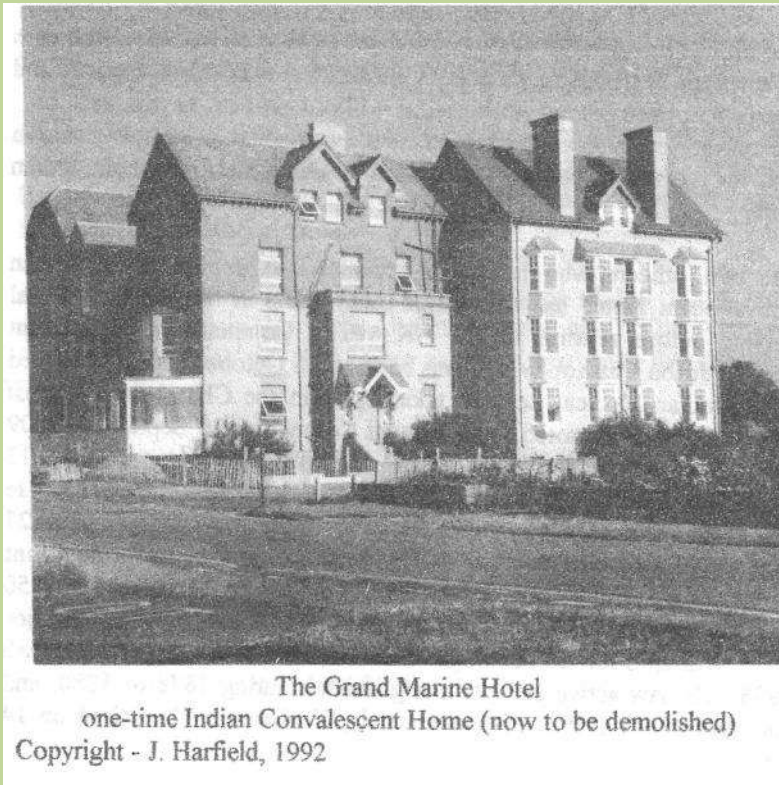
The home was situated 1½ miles from the New Milton railway station and, generally, the men marched from the railway station when being sent to the home. The Indian Army continued to use the former Grand Marine Hotel until the latter part of 1916 when the convalescent camp was enlarged, by adding a number of huts, and the camp was then placed under British Army control to house British casualties.

Following the departure of the Indian soldiers from the convalescent home the staff organised a subscription for the erection of the memorial which was placed on the sea front at Barton-on-Sea near to the commandeered hotel. The obelisk, which had been made at Plymouth, was erected by the local firm of H. Drew. A postcard made at the time of the erection in June 1917 shows civilian workers together with British troops standing by the newly erected memorial.

The official unveiling of the memorial took place on 10 July 1917 with "...hundreds of troops on parade..." In the local area other hospitals and camps had been set up with one at Milford-on-Sea, to the east of Barton-on-Sea, and at the hutted military hospital at Brockenhurst a ghat for cremations had been organised by the authorities for the Indian Army.

The two officers who had been appointed to command the Indian Convalescent Home had served for many years in the Indian Medical Service before retiring to the UK. The Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Chaytor-White was born on 25 October 1864 and served in the Indian Medical Service, taking part in the Chitral campaign of 1895. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 30 September 1909 and retired on 22 December 1912. He re-joined for service on 13 November 1914 and remained on active duty until November 1918. He was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George on 27 July 1917. He died at Cannes on 30 January 1924. The Assistant Commandant, William Arthur Mawson, was born on 29 September 1850 and became a Surgeon on 31 March 1876. He became a Surgeon Major on 31 March 1888 and a Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel from 31 March 1876. He saw active service in Afghanistan during 1878 to 1880, and also on the North West Frontier and in Waziristan. He retired on 14 July 1906 but came out of retirement on November 1914 and served until 1919. He died at Exeter on 9 June 1925.

With the demolition (which has already started) of the former Grand Marine Hotel a link with the Indian Army has been severed, leaving only the adjacent memorial to commemorate the link between Barton-on-Sea and the Indian Army. With the many changes made to the sea front, due to development and the continual erosion of the cliff top, the Indian Army memorial now stands on an island at the road junction of Barton Court Avenue and Marine Drive.



The inscription on the Indian Army Memorial reads:

THIS MEMORIAL
IS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE
THE ESTABLISHMENT AT
BARTON-ON-SEA IN 1914
OF THE CONVALESCENT DEPOT FOR
INDIAN TROOPS WHO FOUGHT IN
EUROPE DURING THE GREAT WAR
AND WAS SUBSCRIBED FOR BY
MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

THE IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER and the VOLUNTEER DECORATION

J.M.A. Tamplin

The Imperial Service Order (together with the Imperial Service Medal) was instituted by Royal Warrant dated 8 August 1902 to reward members of the administrative and clerical branches of the Civil Service, both at Home and Overseas. At the outset the limit of the I.S.O. was set not to exceed 425, of whom 250 were to be in the Home Civil Service and 175 in the Colonies and Protectorates. In 1912 (after some changes in between) by Royal Warrant the establishment was set at 250 Home, 200 India and 250 Dominions and Colonies.

The award of the Volunteer Officers Decoration was extended to India and the Colonies by Royal Warrant of 24 May 1894; it had been instituted by Royal Warrant of 25 July 1892 for the Volunteer Force in the U.K. There were 186 awards made from 1 January 1895 to 27

December 1901. Thereafter the Indian Volunteer Force Officers' Decoration was awarded, until it was replaced by the Efficiency Decoration (India) in 1930. From 1902 a total of 1164 awards were made. Both these Volunteer Decorations were referred to as the V.D., which was the permitted post-nominal abbreviation.

Naturally there were a number of Civil Servants in India on whom was bestowed the I.S.O. Some of these also served in the Volunteers and a few - 4 have been traced - were recipients of both the I.S.O, and the V.D. These four were:

- Major Allen Mellers ANSCOMB; ISO (12 December 1911); VD (1 January 1898); KIH (2 January 1905). Born 27 February 1849; died about 1927. Municipal Commissioner, Quetta; City Magistrate in Quetta 1896-1911. Raised Baluchistan Volunteer Rifle Corps 1883, and was its Commandant for more than 20 years. Awarded I.S.O. as Extra Assistant Commissioner, Baluchistan.
- Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary Colonel Frank Dacomb BIRD; ISO (3 June 1915); VD (6 May 1905). Born 18 January 1862; died in the 1920s (?); Barrister-at-Law. Joined the Madras Presidency Civil Service 20 February 1878; eventually Chief Presidency Magistrate in Madras 1 November 1913; retired 30 November 1916. In Madras Volunteer Guards; Honorary A.D.C to Governor of Madras 10 February 1910. Awarded I.S.O. as Chief Presidency Magistrate. (His V.D, [by itself] was in Glendenning's Auction of 18 March 1981, Lot 286).
- Colonel Henry Raynor GOULDING; I.S.O. (14 June 1912); VD (24 May 1895). Born 6 April 1859; died August 1934. Joined Punjab Civil Service 15 January 1877; at Lahore; Assistant Secretary to Financial Commissioners, Punjab 1897-1916. Commanded 1st Punjab Volunteer 1906-1911. A.D.C. to the King 1909. Awarded I.S.O as Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab.
- Charles Alfred Stanley PERRY; ISO (3 June 1933); VD (21 May 1921), lived in Assam for many years and became Registrar Public Works Department, Assam Secretariat. Served in Assam Valley Light Horse; awarded Volunteer L.S.M. as Sergeant in I.A. Order No 521 of 2 September 1912; V.D. as Lieutenant. Awarded I.S.O. as Registrar, P.W.D. Died possibly after 1973 as his name was still recorded in the official list of Companions dated that year. His medals are L.S.O.; B.W.M. & Victory Medal (Lieutenant); 1902 Coronation in Bronze; 1911 Coronation; Delhi Durbar 1911; V.D. and Indian Volunteer LS.M.

AN OPIUM AGENT IN THE INDIAN MUTINY 1857

Tim Ash

In March 1857 James Gibbon Anderson was appointed Sub-Deputy Opium Agent at Futtehpoore, a small civil station midway between Cawnpore and Allahabad.

He had been an Uncovenanted Civil Servant in the East India Company for the past 10 years and was born in India in 1830. His father, Andrew Anderson, was an indigo planter in the Tirhoot District and here, at the age of 17 years, J.G.A. entered the service of the Government as a Sub Assistant Revenue Surveyor in the Tirhoot Revenue Survey. Two years later he was in the Punjab employed on the Doab Canal under Colonel Robert Napier, later Lord Napier of

Magdala, Civil Engineer of the Punjab, where he remained until 1854 and was then appointed to the Opium Department.

Confirmed reports of the mutinies at Meerut and Delhi reached Futtehpore on 15 May and by the 23rd news of further mutinies decided the Europeans there that it was advisable to evacuate all the ladies and children to Allahabad, the headquarters of their district. The official narrative of events at Futtehpore quotes a total of 11 Europeans then at the station but fails to name them all. However, from various sources it appears that the following persons were there:

- R. Tucker - Judge
- J.W. Sherer - Magistrate
- E. MacNaghten - Assistant Magistrate
- Dr R.F. Hutchinson - Civil Surgeon
- J.G. Anderson - Opium Department
- R.G. Lymes - Salt Department
- B. Heathcote - East India Railway
- G. Cassens - East India Railway
- O. Swift - East India Railway
- W.A. Bews - East India Railway

With the exception of Mr Tucker, whose house was near the Guard, the others moved into a substantial house for their mutual security and camped in tents on the roof. On 6 June the distant booming of guns to the west announced that the regiments at Cawnpore had mutinied and were besieging the entrenchment there. Not long after news was received of the mutiny of the 6th BNI at Allahabad, a small detachment of which regiment was at Futtehpore for the Treasury Guard. With the population becoming daily more disaffected and the Sepoys of doubtful loyalty, it was decided on the 9th to evacuate Futtehpore by the only road of escape now left open - to the south, over the River Jumna, to the so far unaffected district of Banda.

On the evening of 9 June the party left, with the exception of Mr Tucker who refused to leave his station and was subsequently murdered the next day. As the party put Futtehpore behind them the evidence of growing pillage around them was plain to see from the glow of burning villages. Anderson later put in a claim for £850 in respect of the personal property he lost at Futtehpore, a considerable sum in those days. When they arrived at the banks of the Jumna at about three in the morning they found that the bridge of boats had been removed but on hailing the opposite shore they were answered by the native Deputy Collector of Banda who had the bridge removed as a precaution against the rebels from Allahabad crossing over it. He brought across a boat and conveyed them to the Banda side and, deciding to leave his post on the river bank, accompanied the party to Banda where they arrived the same evening, 10 June.

The Magistrate of Banda was Mr Mayne and the arrival of the Futtehpore refugees was a useful addition to his manpower for patrolling the city. He was determined not to leave Banda if it could be avoided and had his eye on an old fort, which he intended to utilise for the Europeans should the situation deteriorate. Outside the jail were two old cannons which he decided would be a great asset to his fort. He duly sent a party to the Jail to remove them but the Guard refused to allow them to be moved. Mr Mayne, not to be thwarted, applied to the Nawab of Banda for assistance to remove the cannons. The Nawab agreed, and was to lead his retainers personally. - *"This is strange! Fancy me in battle! Of course I have often*

knocked over things in the jungle, for sport, but I have never killed a cat in anger, and now imagine! - killing a man! - The Europeans and the Nawab and his party were all assembled for the fray but alas, his troops failed to obey his orders and fled the Palace in turmoil! The Nawab realised that the game was up for the British at Banda and he could no longer guarantee their safety, even though they were accommodated in his palace.

They all left immediately following the fiasco at the Palace and once again the Futtehpore refugees were on the road, just keeping ahead of the tide of mutinies, now accompanied by those of Banda which made the party up to thirty persons. Their destination was Nagode at which place they arrived safely the following morning. Most of the Futtehpore party were anxious to reach their headquarters at Allahabad, now safe in British custody, so they did not remain long at Nagode but struck onto Rewah, thence to Mirzapore on the banks of the Ganges to the east of Allahabad.

The handful of intrepid travellers from Futtehpore now comprised Messrs Shere, MacNaghten, Anderson and Bews, with possibly one or two others. At Mirzapore they heard that a steamer was proceeding up river to Allahabad and decided to board her, no doubt anticipating a pleasant change from travelling on horseback along hot and dusty roads. However, in this they were disappointed as the Officer Commanding the detachment of HM troops on board made it plain that they would overload the craft and that their presence was not welcome. They were therefore forced to cross over the Ganges and strike out along the main road from Benares to Allahabad. They left Mirzapore on the evening of 1st July and by taking but one short stop for rest and food at a dak bungalow occupied by a hospitable detachment of British troops, arrived at Allahabad by sunset the following day. They had been travelling with little respite for 23 days and had covered more than 300 miles.

But now, especially now, was not the time for rest and comfort. Cawnpore was in dire straits and General Havelock had arrived at Allahabad on 1 July and was preparing for his march to its relief. Havelock was devoid of European cavalry for his force but, from the ranks of fugitive Officers and civilians gathered at Allahabad, Captain L Barrow (Madras Cavalry), himself a fugitive from Civil Employ, was busily recruiting a unit of Volunteer Cavalry. Two of the Futtehpore refugees were among the first who volunteered; J.G. Anderson, Opium Agent and W.A Bews, East India Railways.

When Havelock's force marched out on 7 July Barrow's Volunteers numbered 11 Officers and 13 Civilians, hardly an effective fighting force, but its numbers were to be increased over the next weeks and months. The first battle of Havelock's march was just outside Futtehpore on 12 July. So after 33 days and nearly four hundred miles Anderson and Bews had returned to whence they started, and only then fought their first battle. It was a fitting return, but they did not remain at Futtehpore. The imperative was to strike at Cawnpore and thence to Lucknow, by comparison a mere 100 miles against the 400 already covered, but it was a journey that was going to take considerably longer and to be fraught with dangers in numerous engagements with mutineers and rebels. Bews, however, was not destined to complete the course; by the end of July he was stricken with dysentery and evacuated to Allahabad and saw no further service. He later emigrated to New Zealand.

Anderson remained with Barrow's Volunteers throughout the march to the first relief of Lucknow and the subsequent second defence of the Residency until the final relief and evacuation of the residency by Sir Colin Campbell in November. At this time he was posted back to his civil appointment, as an Opium Agent, for a time at Cawnpore and then, in April

1858, he joined the Oudh Commission for the rest of his service in India, for many years as the Deputy Commissioner at Seetapore.

In April 1882 he left India, for the last time, on a furlough to England on the completion of which, in October 1883, he resigned the service and was granted a pension. He died on 1 April 1907, aged 77 years and was buried in Brompton Cemetery. Thus, fifty years on, passed away one of Barrow's first civilian volunteers and, as far as can be established, the only original civilian volunteer to have been appointed to Officer rank as an acting Cornet.

For his Mutiny services he received the Mutiny medal, clasp 'DEFENCE OF LUCKNOW', but it does not bear his rank, or Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry, just plain J.G. Anderson. A man whose story it has been my privilege to relate.

In DURBAR Volume 5, Number 1, Cliff Parrett produced a definitive article on the composition, services and Mutiny medals awarded to Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry. For this article, and subsequent correspondence and assistance given to me by Cliff Parrett, I am most grateful.

INDIAN ARMY UNIT ABBREVIATIONS AS FOUND ON BRITISH MEDALS

Colin R Bruce wrote to ask if we had ever published a comprehensive listing of "Asian" units by abbreviation as found on British military medals. We carried some abbreviations for the Royal Indian Army Service Corps and its predecessors in Vol. 5, No. 1 (which for ease of reference I repeat below), but apart from that we have not. I suspect no such listing exists. If members are willing to contribute to such an enterprise (though let us limit it to units of the sub-continent prior to Independence) then I would certainly be happy to publish the results, perhaps as a series of occasional articles.

R.I.A.S.C. designations taken from Vol. 5, No. 1.

- I.M.T. - Indian Mechanical Transport (IGS 1908)
- RIASC(MT) - Royal Indian Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport) (IGS 1936)
- RIASC (AT) - Royal Indian Army Service Corps (Animal Transport)
- IBT Coy - Infantry Brigade Transport Company (IGS 1908)
- DTT Coy - Divisional Troops Transport Company (IGS1908)
- DSC - District Supply Company
- SDC - Supply Depot Company
- HRS - Heavy Repair Shop
- GCC - Grantee Camel Corps (BWM)
- MC - Mule Corps

In addition to the repeated R.I.A.S.C information, and by way of setting the ball rolling, I give below some of the abbreviations relating to the Imperial Service Troops/Indian State Forces. Those units, which existed during the period when the scheme was known as Imperial Service Troops are usually, designated "I.S". Those which existed during the time when it was known as the Indian State Forces scheme are usually designated by "S.F.". For this reason, therefore, I have not included those where the identification merely gives the name of the State, followed by "I.S. LCRS", "I.S. INFY", or "S.F.", e.g. a 1914-15 Star named to

ALWAR I.S. LCRS. As long as one recognises the name of the State these are straight forward.

- Alwar Jey Paltan S.F. (Jey Paltan being the name of the regiment)
- Alwar Pratap Paltan S.F. (same comment applies)
- Bahwlpr. Caml Cps. (Bahawalpur Camel Corps)
- 1st Bahr Sad Inf (Bahawalpur Sadiq Infantry)
- Bikaner C.C. (Bikaner Camel Corps-the Ganga Risala)
- Bikaner I.T. (Bikaner Imperial Troops - on a China 1900 medal. The Ganga Risala served there in an infantry capacity)
- Bikaner Sadul L.I. (Sadul Light Infantry)
- Faridkot I.S. S&M (Sappers and Miners)
- Gwalior I.S.T. Corps (Gwalior Imperial Service Transport Corps)
- 4. GLR INFY. (4 Gwalior Infantry)
- GLR. ARMY ATTD. H.S. "LOYALTY" (Gwalior medical man serving on the Hospital Ship "Loyalty")
- HOLKAR's MTD. ESCT. (Indore - Holkar's Mounted Escort)
- H.I.S. TRANSPORT CPS. (Indore - Holkar's I.S. Transport Corps),
- 2nd Infy H.C. (Hyderabad Contingent - not strictly speaking a State Force unit, of course, but part of the Indian Army)
- JAIPUR S.T. CPS. (Jaipur Supply and Transport Corps)
- Jeypore I.S.T. Corps (Jaipur IS. Transport Corps)
- I.T.C. JAIPUR S.F. (Since this appears on an Africa Star it is too late to be "Imperial Transport Corps". I think it is "Indian Transport Corps")
- JAK RIF (Jammu and Kashmir Rifles)
- J&K B.G. CAV. S.F. (Jammu and Kashmir Body Guard Cavalry)
- 2 K. RFLS (2 Kashmir Rifles)
- 2 K.M.BTY (2 Kashmir Mountain Battery)
- KAPUR. INF. (Kapurthala Infantry)
- KAPJIS INFY (Kapurthala Jagatjit I.S. Infantry)
- NAKALINF (Nabha Akal Infantry)
- R.I.S. LCRS (Patiala Rajindra IS. Lancers)
- PAT RAJ LCRS) Ditto
- 8 PATIALA C. CPS. (Obviously Camel Corps, but I have never been able to identify the unit)
- Tehri I.S.T. (Tehri Garhwal IS Transport)

I have no doubt there were others, but that is the extent of my knowledge. So, how about those with special knowledge of other areas - can we develop this project further? All contributions gratefully received.

AN UNUSUAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Cyril Walters

Whilst researching some aspects of early naval history relating to the Colony of New South Wales I was surprised to see the publication of Indian affairs relating to the British Army in India during the 2nd Maratha War 1803. The extracts as printed in Madras originally,

appeared in the Colony's first newspaper, "The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser", which began publication on 5 March 1803.

Extract:

"From the Madras Government Gazette we select the following interesting particulars respecting the progress of the British Army in India.

"A Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary of the 29th of last August states that authentic Accounts had reached Fort William, of the successful Re-commencement of Operations against Dowlut Rao Scindiah, by the forces under the command of Gen. WELLESLEY. On the 8th of August the large fortified Pertah of Ahmednuggur was carried by Esoalade (sic) with great gallantry and rapidity. The loss sustained by the British had not officially been announced, but appeared from private information to be as follows:

- 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 11 Rank and File killed.
- 1 Subaltern, 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 30 Rank and File wounded.

The Names of the Officers stated to have been killed in the Assault are, Captains Grant and Humberstone and Lieut Anderson of His Majesty's 78th Regt; Lieut Wilson of the 74th; and Lieut Plendersleath of the 3rd Madras Regt of Native Infantry stated to have been wounded.

Extract - MADRAS GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY, Monday, Oct 10, 1803

Yesterday Letters were received from the Camp of the Hon. Major-General Arthur Wellesley, giving an Account of a most signal and glorious Victory obtained over the united Forces of Scindiah and the Rajah of Berar, commanded by the former in person, at Assaye, on the 23rd ultimo.

The Enemy were completely dispersed, and upwards of 23,000 men, it is said, were left dead on the field of battle. Ninety pieces of cannon fell into the hands of our victorious troops, together with the whole of their camp equipage.

So great and important a Victory could not of course have been obtained without great loss on our part; the names of the Officers who have fell covered with honour, in the Cause of their King and Country, are the following:

- 19th Dragoons. Killed. Lieut Col. Maxwell, Captain Boyle; Wounded Captains Cathcart and Sale, Lieutenants Wilson and Young.
- 4th Regt. Native Cavalry. Killed, Captain Mackay; wounded. Cornet Meredith
- 5th Regt. Native Cavalry. Killed, Lieut Bonomi; wounded, Capt. Colebrooke, Lieutenants Macleod and Darke.
- 7th Regt. Native Cavalry. Wounded, Capt. McGregor
- 1st Battalion of Artillery. Killed, Captain-Lieutenants Steele and Fowler, Lieuts. Lindsay and Griffith
- 74th Regt. Killed, Captains Aytone, Dyce, Macleod and Maxwell; Lieuts J. Campbell, I.M. Campbell, I. Grant, R. Neilson, L. Campbell, M.P. Morris and Volunteer Tew; wounded, Major J. Swinton, Captain Moore, Lieuts Mein, McMurdo, Shawe and Ensign Kernan.

- 78th Regt. Killed, Lieutenant Douglas; wounded, Captain McKenzie, Lieutenants Kinlock and Larkin, and Ensign Bethune.
- 1st Battalion, 2nd Regt. N. Infantry. Killed, Lieut. Brown.
- 1st Battalion, 4th Regt. N.I. Killed, Lieut Mavor
- 1st Battalion 8th Regt. N.I. wounded Lieuts Davie, Fair, Hunter and Desgraves
- 1st Battalion 10th Regt. N.I. Killed, Lieutenant Pierrie; wounded, Lieut Taylor
- 3rd Battalion 12th Regt. N.I. Wounded, Lieut. Colonel Macleod, Major McCally and Lieuts. Bowdler, Harvey, Smith and De Crez.

A Royal Salute was fired at four o'clock yesterday afternoon, in honour of the above Victory.

Intelligence was this morning received from Poonah stating His Excellency, General Lake had taken Delhi and Agra, and that General Perron was his prisoner. The particulars of these important conquests we do not understand have arrived at this Presidency.



COMMEMORATIVE POSTAL COVERS - THE DOGRA REGIMENT

Cyril Walters

The three postal covers depicted with this article relate to the centenary of 7 Mechanised Battalion (1 Dogra) in 1987 and the Silver Jubilee celebrations respectively of 7 Dogra (5 January 1991) and 10 Dogra (5 December 1991).

The last of these features the Dera Baba Nanak Bridge. During the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 along the entire Punjab border there was minor activity. The Pakistanis took the Hussainwala enclave on the Western bank of the Sutlej River near Ferozepore while the Indians returned the compliment by taking the Pakistani enclave in the Dera Baba Nanak area further north.

Accompanying the cover for 7 Mechanised Battalion (1 Dogra) was a useful note prepared by the Department of Posts.

"The 7th Battalion the Mechanised Infantry Regiment was raised as 37 DOGRAS by Lt. Col. V. Rivas on 30th May 1887. The Battalion saw action within three years of raising as part of Black Mountain Expeditionary Force in March 1891. All ranks were awarded Indian General Service Medal with clasp 'HAZARA 1891'. As a part of the Chitral Relief Force of 1895, the unit crossed MALAKAND pass and earned its first battle honour 'CHITRAL'. In the gallant action at Kut against the Turks 1915-1916, the battalion earned a Victoria Cross for then Capt. I. A. Sinton.

During the First World War, the battalion was employed in Mesopotamia and won laurels for the gallant action against the Turks. The battalion was awarded the battalion honour 'DAHRA BEND' and the entire battalion was mentioned in Commander-in-Chief's despatches, a unique honour. The unit was one of the first to enter Baghdad in 1917.

The Battalion was re-designated as the 1st Battalion (Prince of Wales Own) the 17th Dogra Regiment in 1922. During the Second World War the unit was employed in the Arakan campaign and acquitted itself with distinction on the battle of 'COX BAZAAR' and 'ADMIN

BOX' against the Japanese. Some of the battles that brought great honour to the battalion are the capture of the 'NUNG SHIGUM', 'TIDDIM' and 'MEIKTILA'. On surrender of the Japanese, the battalion had the unique honour of providing a guard of honour to Lord Louis Mountbatten at Rangoon.

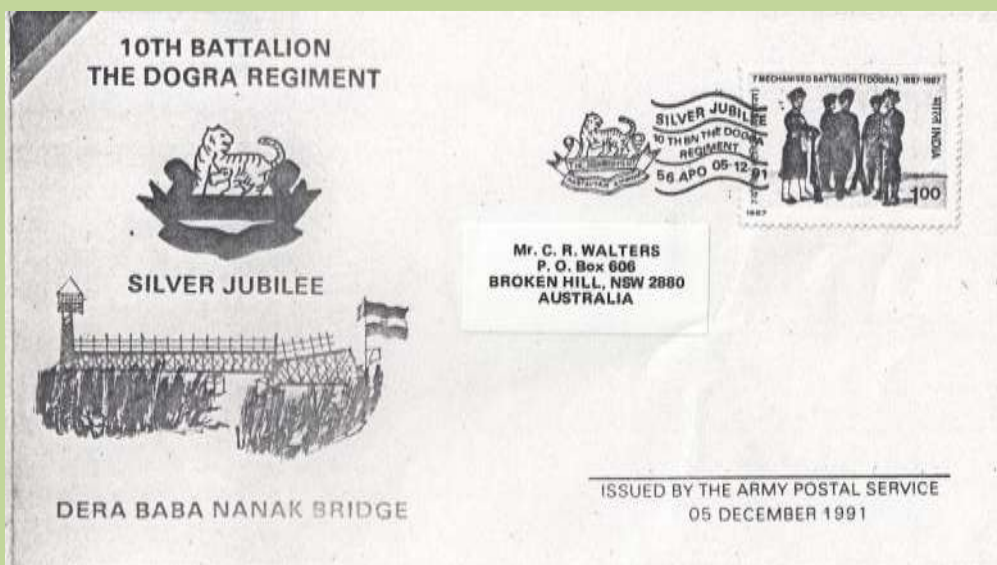
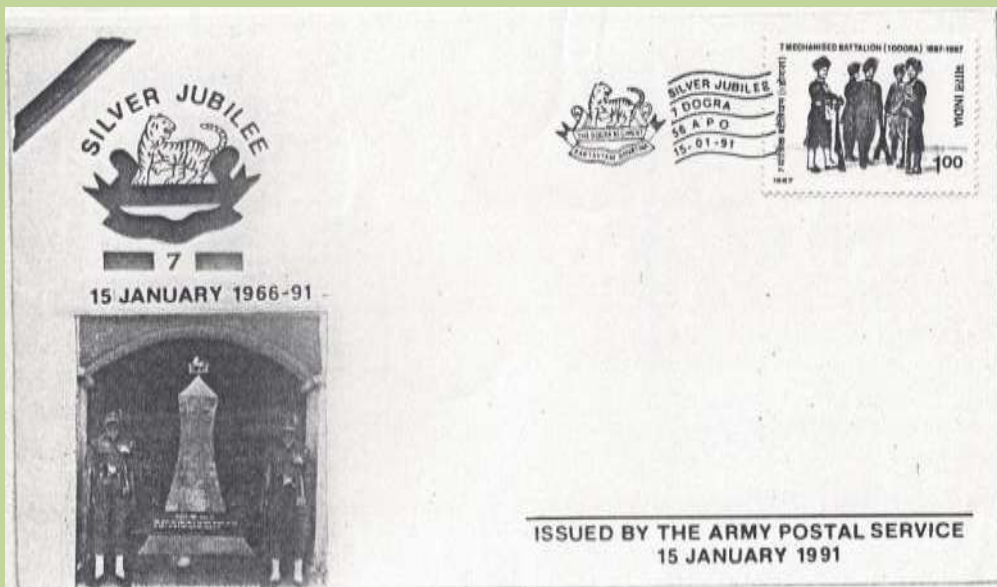
The task of exchange of refugees with Pakistan after partition was carried out by the battalion commendably. The unit was re-designated as 1 DOGRA after Independence. From March 1961 to April 1962 the battalion formed a part of the UN peacekeeping force at Congo. It earned the admiration of the International set up and a number of decorations. During 1965 operations, the unit took part in Operation 'ABLAZE' and Operation 'RIDDLE'. They earned a number of decorations and captured a lot of Pakistani equipment. During 1971 operations, the unit had the distinction of being one of two mechanised battalions that saw action.'

The huge tally of decorations of the Battalion speaks for itself. The battalion has the proud privilege of having won more than one third of the decorations earned by the Dogra Regiment before Independence. The battalion feels proud of its long list of battle honours, which runs as follows:

CHITRAL 1895	PUNJAB FRONTIER
MALAKAND	TIGRIS 1916
BAGHDAD 1917	MESOPOTAMIA 1915-18
KUT-AL-AMARA 1917	AFGHANISTAN 1919
DONBAIK	NUN SHIGUM
KENNEDY PEAK	ASAL UTTAR 1965
PUNJAB 1965	PUNJAB 1971

Text courtesy 7 Mech. Battalion (1 Dogra)

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a commemorative stamp on 7 Mechanised Battalion (1 Dogra)"



BOOK REVIEW

● *ACROSS THE THRESHOLD OF BATTLE - Behind Japanese lines with Wingate's Chindits - Burma 1943*". Harold James, published by The Book Guild at £12.95

Harold James is no stranger to those interested in Gurkhas, but here he has written only partly about them, as they shared the honour of being part of the first Chindit expedition with British and Burmese troops. This is a blow by blow account of the actions of a junior British Officer in one of the columns, is well written and with considerable detail. It would be inconceivable today to think of mounting an SAS type of operation with a British battalion which had done nothing but garrison duties, and a newly raised Gurkha battalion in which most of the soldiers had about one years' service and the junior officers were young and inexperienced; only the Burma Rifles battalion could be considered trained and hardened soldiers.

Wingate's charisma was such that he was allowed to mount the first Chindit expedition with such troops. They, with a certain amount of luck, got into Burma and created mayhem on the Jap L of C before having to retire in the face of strong Japanese pressure. The casualties on the retreat were very heavy. Wingate's detractors said that he was the only man who caused a complete Gurkha battalion to be lost. The only immediate military advantage was that it stopped the Japanese advance on Fort Hertz but the long term gains were considerable, and it showed that such an operation was possible and paved the way for the larger and better planned operation of the following year. It also caused the Japanese to revise their opinion of the morale and fighting qualities of the British and Indian forces.

It is a story of unbelievable courage, endurance and loyalty and Harold James is to be congratulated on presenting it in such an interesting and readable manner. A.A.M.

THEY ALSO SERVED IN INDIA - RAMC, RIAMC

Cyril Walters

Over the next few issues of DURBAR, I shall offer a few very old obituaries and other notices concerning officers who served in India in either the RAMC or RIAMC.

DEATH OF SURGEON MAJOR GENERAL HOYSTED

Surgeon Major General Thomas Norton Hoysted, late of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and a brother of the Rev. J.D. Hoysted, rector of Ramsden Grays, has died at Willow Grange, Sidcup, at the age of 68. Admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, in 1835, he joined the medical service of the Army in September and served in the China war of 1857 with the 59th Regiment in the operations before, and the capture of Canton in December, for which he had the medal with clasp. With the 54th Regiment he took part in the Indian Mutiny campaign at the last advance into Oude, under Lord Clyde, in 1858, including the capture of Fort Amestie, for which he received his second medal, and also saw service in the field in 1878-9 during the Afghan war, when he was present at the capture of the Peiwar

Kotal, and was awarded another medal with clasp. He became a Surgeon Major General in 1892, and was placed on the Retired List in 1894.

Spotted in "*Medals by John Pinches. A Catalogue of Works Struck by the Company from 1840 to 1969*" by John Harvey Pinches. "The partition of India, in conjunction with independence, delayed the claims of Pakistan for their India Service and Defence Medal of the Second World War (1939-1945) until after the Royal Mint factory at Woolwich for this and other war medals had closed down. John Pinches (Medallists) Ltd were awarded the contract for more than 300,000 of these cupro-nickel medals struck from dies prepared from matrices supplied". Ed.

LETTERS, QUERIES AND NOTICES

● W J Sheridan seeks help in unravelling the mystery of Jemadar Muhammad Yusaf, 13 Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers. Muhammad Yusaf (or Yusuf) enrolled with the 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers 22 September 1922. Jemadar 16 May 1938. He is also listed in the Indian Army Lists as Woordie-Major of the regiment in October 1940 and January 1941.

- Qualified: AFV Armament Course, Ahmednagar
- School of Education course
- Chemical Warfare School course, Belgaum
- Small Arms course, Pachmari
- Assistant Instructor in Physical Training
- Intelligence Bureau course

From the April 1941 issue of the Indian Army List, all cavalry regiments are subsumed into a single section 'Indian Armoured Corps'. His name appears in issues April 1941, July 1941 and October 1941. He is no longer shown from January 1942 onwards. No trace in the Regiment, or in casualty returns for the period. Can anyone suggest an answer?

● C.M. Peterson writes:

Can anyone help me in further identifying the following group, which I obtained here in the States?

39/45 Star, Burma Star, Indian Service Medal, War Medal, Pakistan Independence Medal.

Named in very small impressed capitals 9761 SIGM MOHD ENAYAT "B" SIGNALS. Last medal - P-9761 HAV. MOHD ENAYAT P. SIGNALS

How was the Indian Signals organised? What does "B" mean? Has anyone else run into this kind of naming? Any suggestions for reference/research?

● A. N. Pamm writes:

“THE MILITARY SERVICES IN THE BOMBAY ARMY OF THE BENE ISRAEL OF INDIA, 1750-1918, AND THE HONOURS AND AWARDS GRANTED TO THEM”

A 90-page compilation and analysis has been produced by me in a limited edition of 5 photocopies in November 1992. Of these one has gone to Bombay and three to Israel to: 1) The Diaspora Museum, Tel Aviv; 2) The Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem; 3) The Association of Indian Jews in Israel, Netanya.

Information relating to recipients of Honours and Awards is still welcome, especially regarding recipients of the Indian Order of Merit.

(I am sure there are other members of the Society who would find this research of interest. In line with the Constitution and aims of the Society I invite Mr Pamm to share his results with us. I would certainly be happy to consider a separate "Special" publication to carry this or similar article of detailed research. Ed.)

● Tony Mains writes in response to several of the articles in Vol. 9, No.4

IMPERIAL CADET CORPS

Dehra Dun was the "home station" of the 9th Gurkhas and I served there in the 2nd Battalion from 1935 to 1939. At that time the old ICC lines were occupied by the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College (R.I.M.C.) a militarised form of fee paying Public School designed to educate Indian boys and fit them for entrance later into Sandhurst. The College was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1922.

It appears from the 9th Gurkhas' Regimental History that the ICC was in situ when the Regiment arrived in Dehra Dun from Landsdowne in 1905. There was in one of the old photograph albums in the Mess, a group photograph of the cadets in full dress taken in the winter 1913-14, and the Regimental History states that the ICC lines were in use as a hospital in the Great War. This seems to suppose, therefore, that the Corps faded out in late 1914 or early 1915.

One of the three polo grounds in the cantonment was still known as the ICC Ground.

SOME INDIAN SHOULDER TITLES - c 1950

I would agree with the designations given except for:

- H.P.F. Himachel Pradesh would not have had any "forces" of its own except for its Police. I think that this was more likely to be worn by Forest Guards, i.e., "Himchel Pradesh Forests"
- R.P. The normal designation of the Railway Police in the old British India was "Government Railway Police" i.e., GRP so I am suspicious of R.P. as "Railway Police" - suggest "Rajasthan Police"?

- P.R.P, - I think that this is more likely to be "Patiala Railway Police" as the Railway Police in the Punjab would have worn GRP.

I have no exact knowledge of these three and thus give educate guesses.

INDIAN CAVALRY (13th Bengal Irregular Cavalry)

It is interesting to note that while Captain Guise's original regiment, 28th BNI, mutinied and Lieutenant Simpson's, 39th BNI, was disbanded in 1857, Lieutenant Paliser's 63rd BNI, is still in existence today, albeit under a different title:

- 1857 63rd Bengal Native Infantry - disarmed as a precautionary measure, but neither mutinied nor disintegrated.
- 1859 Rearmed
- 1861 Moved up in seniority replacing mutinied regiments to become 9th Bengal Native Infantry (one company Gurkhas)
- 1885 9th Bengal Infantry
- 1893 Converted to a Gurkha regiment as 9th (Gurkha Rifles) Regiment of Bengal Infantry
- 1901 9th Gurkha Rifles
- 1948 9th Gorkha Rifles (at present in Indian Army with five Battalions)

● John Gaylor writes:

Retrieved from Pakistani military tailor: a number of officers' shoulder-sleeves and/or actual shoulder-straps carrying badges of rank, mostly in khaki/brown thread but some in regimental colours. All are from the infantry regiments which went to Pakistan in 1947 plus a couple from the East Bengal Regiment. Details from John Gaylor.

● Colin R. Bruce is interested in obtaining picture post cards of Rajas and military units of the expired Indian Princely States.

