

DURBAR Volume 10, No.2, Summer 1993

We have a new identity! At the Annual General Meeting, held in London on 22nd May, the decision was taken by unanimous vote to change the name of our society to the INDIAN MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

HEIC OFFICERS WHO DIED AT SEA 1827-1828

Alan Harfield

Whilst researching the article dealing with the loss of the ship GUILDFORD and the death of Major Edward Lake and his family (Vol. 9, No. 3) I examined the records of loss of East India Company officers who were listed as having died whilst at sea. A survey of these casualties during the three years 1828, 1829 and 1830 show that approximately 15% of those officers who died did so a sea, and so far as can be ascertained they were given a burial at sea and thus have no memorial stone in any cemetery to commemorate their passing. Some, of course, perished due to a ship foundering, such as the GUILDFORD. They may have had a memorial plaque placed in their home church by their family but without a great deal of further research this cannot be confirmed. The list in itself is interesting as it shows a complete cross-section of the military, and deaths were by no means confined to either outward or homeward bound voyages. The following list is merely an example and only covers those officers who died at sea during the one year period from 1 December 1827 to 30 November 1828. The list shows the entry made in the 'Casualty' section of the appropriate East India Register and Directory.

Date	Name & Regiment	Entry in Register
1827 5 December	Lt George Bishop 9th Bengal Light Coy	Died at sea on board the <i>Roxburgh Castle</i> .
16 December	Lt Col John Hicks Bombay Infantry	Died on board the <i>Upton Castle</i> on his passage to India.
27 December	Ensign Arthur Edmund Moor 8th Regt Madras Native Infantry	On board the <i>James Sibbald</i> on passage to England.
30 December	Lt Frederick Henry Hooper 1st Madras European Regiment	At sea aboard the <i>Childe Harold</i> .
1828	Lt Thomas Francis Baber	At sea on his passage to

21 January	44th Regt Madras Native Infantry	England
29 January	Lt Thomas Richard Dalrymple 7th Regt Bengal Native Infantry	At sea on board the <i>Roxburgh Castle</i>
28 February	Assistant Surgeon Tom Trafford Morgan Bengal Medical Establishment	At sea on board the <i>Neptune</i>
5 March	Lt Edward Kelly 5th Regt Bengal Native Infantry	At sea on board the <i>Lady Flora</i>
6 April	Ensign Craufurd Tait 28th Regt Bengal Nat Infantry	At sea on board the <i>Kingston</i>
7 April	Capt. Peter Warden Grant 34th Regt Bengal Native Infantry	At Sea
13 April	Capt. William Thompson 17th Regt Madras Native Infantry	At sea on board the <i>Upton Castle</i>
15 April	Ensign George Phillips Taylor 32nd Regt Madras Native Infantry	On board the <i>Hercules</i> on passage to England
7 May	Capt. James Forrest 29th Regt Madras Native Infantry	On board the <i>James Paterson</i> on passage to England
13 May	Major George Noble 21st Regt Bombay Native Infantry	On board the <i>Duke of Bedford</i> on passage for England
25 May	Cadet William Sidney Hodgson, Cadet for Bombay Infantry	On board the <i>Abercrombie Robinson</i> going to India
- May	Lt John Ulrick Colebrooke 43rd Regt Madras Native Infantry	On board the <i>Alfred</i> on his passage to England
17 June	Lt Col George Maunsell Madras Infantry	At sea on board the <i>Prince Regent</i>
19 June	Capt. Richard Smith 18th Regt Madras Native Infantry	Off the Cape, on board the <i>Lady Faversham</i>
3 August	Ensign Richard Elliston Jones 25th Regt Bengal Native Infantry	At sea

In addition to those listed, two other young HEIC officers were lost at sea during 1828 but the actual date has not been recorded in the East-India Register and Directory. They were:

- Ensign Alexander Napier of the 58th Regiment, Bengal Native Infantry, who is shown in the Hodson Index at the National Army Museum as having died 'at sea between Mar(ch) and July 1828, on board the *Ripley*'. Alexander Napier was born on 21 September 1805 at Molance, near Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, the youngest son of John Napier, a banker, and Elizabeth McWhinnie, his wife. He was a Company Cadet in 1825 and became an Ensign on 15 March 1826. Re-joined the 35th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry on 26 August 1826 but during the same year he was first posted to the 42nd Regiment BNI and then exchanged to the 8th Regiment BNI. On 3 January 1827 he moved to the 58th Regiment BNI and on 22 February was granted furlough on a sick certificate from 22 February 1828. He died whilst on his passage home and was, presumably, buried at sea.
- Cadet George Winn, a cadet for the Bombay Infantry, is shown as having died 'on board the *Captain Cook*, lost on her voyage to India'. George Winn was the fourth son of the Honourable George Mark Arthur Way Winn and his wife Elizabeth Mary (nee Majendie), of Hendingham Castle, Essex. He was born on 8 February 1812. The Hodson Index records the details of his demise 'at sea 6 July 1828': He had not, at that time, joined a regiment of the Bombay Army and was listed as 'Cadet for infantry'.

The twenty-one officers listed all died of natural causes, or were drowned when a ship foundered, and their deaths were not as a result of any enemy action, but they were serving officers and died 'whilst still serving'.

A survey is being prepared listing details of the HEIC officers who died at sea due to natural causes, or due to the foundering of a ship, covering the period 1810 to 1850. The result of this survey will be made available for publication in a later edition of DURBAR.

I would be pleased to hear from any member who may know of a memorial plaque in a church relating to any of the officers mentioned in this article, or in respect of any HEIC officers known to have been buried at sea.

Sources:

- *Addiscombe. Its heroes and men of note.* Colonel H.M. Vibart, Archibald Constable & Co., 1894
- East-India Registers and Directories 1828, 1829 and 1830
- The Hodson Index. The National Army Museum, London
- Singapore Chronicle and Commercial Advertiser

13th DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN LANCERS

- with some comments on gallantry awards to the Indian Armoured Corps 1939-1946

C.J. Parrett

Regarding W.J. Sheridan's enquiry in DURBAR Vol. 10, No. 1, it seems that Muhammad Yusuf continued to serve with the 13th Lancers after 1941. He is shown as Jemadar with the Indian Armoured Corps in the April 1943 Indian Army List, his qualifications remaining unchanged (an additional reference number 60 for "qualified at the Equitation School")

appears to be a misprint). Unfortunately his war services are not given in the very last IA List Supplement to be published - the January 1942 edition, corrected up to 31 December 1941. But it is hardly surprising that the services of very many VCOs, particularly the more junior ones, were omitted from this Supplement which was put together at a time when the publishers, the Defence Department of the Government of India, had other more pressing matters to attend to.

There are several post-1942 IA Lists at the India Office Library and the National Army Museum Reading Room in which to track Muhammad Yusuf's on-going career. The 13th Lancers went to Pakistan after Partition, and I believe the NAM also keeps a couple of early post-independence Pakistan Army Lists on its shelves, in which any extension of his military service after 1947 would be recorded. It might also be an idea to write to the Pakistan Armoured Corps centre at Nowshera.

In the 1939-46 period the 13th Lancers served on the Northwest Frontier, in the Middle East and North Africa, and finally in the Dutch East Indies, and three officers and one other rank received the following Government of India gallantry awards:

Indian Distinguished Service Medal

- Risaldar Mohd Rafiq Khan LG 24 Sep 42
- Risaldar Ranjit Singh 24 Sep 42
- 1452 Dfdr Mohd Bashir 24 Sep 42
- Risaldar Sahar Khan 18 Feb 43

There were only nine awards of the highly prized Indian Order of Merit to cavalry regiments during the whole of the 1939-1946 war period - all in the 2nd Class, and none to the 13th Lancers:

Skinner's Horse	1 (gazetted Middle East)
2nd Lancers	1 (gazetted Middle East)
7th Light Cavalry	3 (gazetted Burma)
18th Cavalry	2 (gazetted Middle East)
Central India Horse	2 (gazetted Middle East)

But its four IDSMs must have been prized by the 13th Lancers, as this was also a rarely awarded recognition of gallantry: only 43 to the Indian Armoured Corps during the whole of the Second World War out of the total 1242 awards (including ten second award bars) for this period.

The extension of the Military Medal to Indian ranks in September 1943, and the simultaneous elevation of the IDSM to the level of the DCM, made a substantial difference to the number of IDSMs awarded. Yet, taking into account the distinguished service of several cavalry regiments in Burma, it is difficult to understand why the Indian Armoured Corps as a whole

received only one IDSM for this theatre - an award gazetted on 26th June 1945 to 1767 Daffadar Piara Singh, 19th Lancers.

The 7th Light Cavalry, a regiment with plenty of fight and dash who were in the thick of the campaign in Burma, won three of the nine 2nd World War cavalry IOMs, and also 3 of the total 39 MMs awarded to the IAC - but not a single IDSM did this fine regiment receive. It was indeed a rare award.

I am fortunate to have an IDSM awarded to a VCO serving with the Sikh squadron of the 11th Lancers which, equipped with armoured cars, was serving as a reconnaissance regiment with "Junecol" in the rearguard of the Eighth Army during its withdrawal from the Ghazala Line to El Alamein in June 1942. Risaldar Ranjit Singh's citation reads:

"On 5 Jun 42 this VCO's troop was in observation of the enemy in the vicinity of BIR HACHEM. Enemy Armd Cars approached and anti tank fire was opened and one of the cars of the troop was hit and immobilised. The troops were ordered to withdraw in the direction of Sqn HQ. Two did so, but Ris Ranjit SINGH remained behind and in spite of fire from the enemy anti tank gun directed at his car, made his way on foot to the damaged vehicle, set it on fire and destroyed it. By his cool bravery this VCO prevented a valuable Armoured Car and its components falling into enemy hands."

The original recommendation of the Regiment's Commanding Officer for an IOM was, at some stage in its approval procedure, signed by Lt Gen B.L. Montgomery, GOC Eighth Army, approved by Gen H.R. Alexander, C-in-C Middle East Forces, but downgraded to an immediate IDSM.

On the same topic Tony Mains writes:

In this type of enquiry, as the man was a VCO of WWII vintage, there may well be British Officers still alive who knew him. A reference to the appropriate Regimental Association might be of value. In this case as the 13th Association has lapsed, a reference to the Hon. Secretary of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association might help.

For general information there are still affiliated to the Indian Army Association - the Indian Cavalry Officers Association and eight Cavalry Associations - twenty two Infantry - ten Gurkha and nine Corps and Services Associations. The Hon. Secretary of the IAA - Lt Col P J Emerson can supply the addresses of regimental secretaries.



THE EPITOME OF THE BRITISH RAJ - A PHOTO OF MAJOR F.E. ELLIOT, RA

Kimberley John Lindsay

Taken at Ambala in 1938, the photograph shows Major Frederick Eden Elliot, Commandant of the 10th (Abbottabad) Mountain Battery, RA. He is wearing the newly-issued solar topee which superseded the Wolseley helmet, and is wearing Sam Browne belt and sword with medals up. These are the 1914-15 Star (Lt, RGA), British War and Victory Medals (Capt), the India General Service Medal with clasp 'Wazristan 1921-24' (Capt., RA), Jubilee Medal GVR 1935 and Coronation Medal GVIR 1937.

Born in 1892 at Aden, the second son of a British Army officer, 'Freddie' Elliot was educated at Christ's Hospital, the charitable public school, where he did well, both in the classroom and on the playing field, representing 'Housey' in the Rugby XV of 1908-9.

At that time, F.E. Elliot's grandfather (also called Frederick Eden Elliot) had retired from the ICS, having been District and Sessions Judge, 1st grade, at Allahabad. Indeed, the Elliot ancestors went back to the Lords Minto; a politician, Sir Hugh Elliot, is in fact buried in Westminster Abbey.



In early 1911 Elliot entered RMA Woolwich, despite having been unsuccessful in the entrance exam. He failed to pass out of the 'Shop', and was removed at the end of 1912. On 23 April 1913, he was commissioned 2nd Lt (Unattached) RGA (Special Reserve) "on probation". On 10 June 1914, he was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery as a Regular Officer, 2nd Lt, Royal Garrison Artillery. On that date he was attached to No 45 Coy RGA, at Plymouth.

When the Great War broke out Elliot was sent on various courses, eventually embarking for France with 32 Siege Battery, RGA, in October 1915. He saw active service on the Somme, distinguishing himself on the night of 13 July 1916 at Maricourt when the battery was shelled, killing one officer and two other ranks, and wounding two others. Elliot, Sgt T White and Cpl F Johnson were specially mentioned in the battery War Diary for their conduct after the rest of the detachment had been either killed or wounded. They continued to fight the gun in spite of heavy shelling and gas fumes until the order to cease firing and take cover was received.

Elliot's father, Major Hugh Elliot, who had come out of retirement to re-join his regiment, was killed on 26 July 1915, when second-in-command of 11 Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt., while inspecting trenches near the Menin Road, Ypres.

On 11th February 1917, Elliot dropped his temporary rank of captain and relinquished his appointment as second-in-command of 32 Siege Bty to join the Wireless and Observers School, RFC, at Brooklands. After a very brief period of training, he was seconded as a Flying Officer (Observer) to 15 Squadron in France. The squadron was still flying the Be2c, soon to be replaced, where the Observer sat in the front seat, the pilot in the rear. On 3 May 1917, on an Artillery Patrol over Bullecourt, Lieut Elliot was wounded in the leg by rifle fire. This ended his RFC days just as they were starting. Indeed, after his lengthy convalescence, he requested to return to RGA. On 25 July 1918, he returned to France as second-in-command of 514 Siege Bty RGA, on the Arras front. About this time he became an acting

Major but reverted to captain when he joined 28 Mountain Battery in Thal, North-West Frontier Province, in late 1919.

Elliot was to remain twenty years in India, becoming quite a linguist, qualifying in Urdu, Shina Dialect and Pashto, as well as hunting big game. He earned his 'Frontier medal' with 28/9 Pack Artillery Brigade.

On 2 July 1924, Capt Elliot was posted to the Mountain Artillery Training Centre in Lucknow, and a year later was appointed Assistant Military Adviser, Kashmir State Artillery. Unfortunately I have not been able to find out any more information about his time in this rather exotic-sounding posting, let alone a photograph. Perhaps one of our members can supply a clue? He was stationed at Gilgit.

In 1928 he was able to enjoy five-and-a-half months' leave in the UK, but a year later he was at Razmak, as Adjutant of 24 Indian Mtn Bde, replacing Capt W.J. Cooper, who went to Gilgit. On 15 March 1930, when a captain with 11 Mtn Bty, 24 Indian Mtn Bde RA, Elliot was out hunting with the Quetta Hunt, at Quetta, when his horse fell and rolled on him. Elliot dislocated his shoulder. The subsequent enquiry found him not to blame. In 1933 he was promoted to major and posted to 12/25 Fd Bde RA. Charles Pooley was one of his subalterns, writing that the bulk of the Bde was stationed in Nowshera, playing polo, supplying 58 Fd Bty with fresh officers and ORs so that the Bty personnel could go on leave for a week. The Bty was in action quelling the Ipoh's Jihad. Major Elliot did not take over as Bty Comd of 58 Fd Bty in the field, so did not qualify for the appropriate clasp. Elliot wrote in Pooley's report: "This officer is more interested in Polo and Boxing, than in his Regimental Duties".

On 29 December 1934, Major Elliot was posted to the command of 10 (Abbottabad) Mtn Bty RA, stationed at Maymyo, Upper Burma. One of his subalterns was an Australian named John Wilton, who was a graduate of RMC Duntroon, but commissioned into RA. On 22 April 1935, the 'Rangoon Gazette' ran the following story: "Maymyo, 16 Apr. A Burman is said to have been killed by a tiger last night on the Mandalay-Lashio Road, 25 miles from Maymyo. A party of guns, including Major Elliot, Lt Wilton, Mr Hall, ICS, and Mr Lovett-Campbell of Messrs Steel Bros., searched for the tiger this afternoon. A quarter of a mile from the main road, in a thick jungle, the tiger sprang, [apparently over Elliot's head] pulling down Mr Lovett-Campbell. The latter got the muzzle of his gun in the tiger's mouth and kept the animal off, while Lt Wilton shot it dead at point blank range...." Elliot wrote lengthy accounts of his hunt, and Percival Verney Lovett-Campbell (who won the MC with SOE in Burma, 1944) has given me his version. The late General Sir John Wilton merely noted in his diary: "Helped hunt down and kill a tiger near Maymyo". Lady Wilton and her son John kindly helped me to obtain a photo of Lt Wilton and the dead tiger. By a great coincidence, Wilton and the author's father, AIF Capt John Lindsay, MC, both attended 6th War Course, Haifa Staff College, in early 1942.

Just after this Elliot had a long leave to get married. He arrived in England on 2 June 1935, and was married to Elizabeth Anne Symons on 22 July 1935 in the Servite Church, Kensington. Major Elliot was 43 years old, Elizabeth Elliot, 35, both giving residence at 129 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, no doubt the Symons' house. The bride's deceased father had been a distinguished artist and designer, having a lengthy entry in the Dictionary of National Biography, and had been a crony of Whistler. Interestingly enough, the wedding was performed in a Catholic Church, whereas Elliot was C of E. Perhaps somewhat unorthodox in

1935. At any rate, Elizabeth was an attractive and petite woman. However, the couple were not to have any children.

It is quite possible that the Elliot-Symon union had its beginnings on the Somme in 1916. The then Lieut Elliot often went on Forward Observation Officer duties with a brother officer - Lieut. J.M. Symons (who later won the MC). Two of the Witnesses at the 1935 wedding were Lt Col R.H. Farren, RA - and J.M. Symons. Furthermore, the ceremony was performed at the Servite Church by Thomas Symons, Priest.

The period that followed, at Maymyo, with his wife and duties with the Battery, were possibly amongst the happiest of his life. In early 1938 the Battery was posted to Ambala. Mrs Elliot was still in India in 1939, because I have a copy of a drawing by her, of Elliot's bearer, Mohamed Hussein, signed and dated. (Elliot himself was an accomplished water-colourist; no doubt a mutual pleasure).

By now, of course, war was imminent. He was sent to the 54th Senior Officers' Course at Belgaum, from early 1939 to March, then going on a long leave to England - no doubt with Elizabeth Elliot. This leave had almost ended when war broke out. He was then promoted to acting Lt Col and posted to command 5 Field Regiment, RA, at Nowshera. This period, not with an Indian unit and at a time when mechanisation had to be dealt with, was not a success. More active, younger commanders were required. This was perceived by the higher command and, despite a posting to the command of 23 Mountain Regiment at Abbottabad on 23 April 1940, he was called upon to retire on 6 June 1941. (As it turned out, this was, in a way, fortunate for Elliot, as the unit was mauled and destroyed by the Japs in the campaign to follow).

On 27 July 1941, Lt Col Elliot embarked on SS Durban Castle at Bombay, arriving in England on 22 September. By 7 November 1941 he had been put on Retired Pay (Indian Pension), this latter being considerably higher than the normal Army pension; the qualifying period being 18 years' service in India. He qualified for the 1939-45 Star, Defence and War Medals. It is not clear what 'Freddie' Elliot did after this perhaps unexpected retirement, in a country directly threatened by war. However, in 1944 he was employed by the Foreign Office as an acting King's Messenger. There is reason to believe he was sent to Washington, D.C., in this job, which entailed the careful supervision of diplomatic bags from country to country.

He remained in this position for the rest of his working life, retiring as a Queen's Messenger in 1957. It is possible that the Elliot's moved from 36 Molyneux Street, Marylebone, London, to Fulham, at that time. Lt Col Elliot joined the Hurlingham Club, being nominated by two colonels, one with the DSO. The Club was near their Ranelagh Gardens flat, and the Elliots attended regularly. He was also a keen member of the Conservative Party.

On 28 January 1971, Mrs Elliot registered the death of her husband at the Chelsea Registrar. He had died that day of heart failure and other causes, at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea. His occupation was listed as Lieutenant Colonel (Royal Artillery) and Queen's Messenger (retired). Mrs Elliot stayed on at the Fulham flat, but at some time she went 'down south', possibly Eastbourne, and her last place of residence is not known.

(Editor's Note: Concerning his appointment as Assistant Military Adviser, Kashmir State Artillery. Under the terms of the Imperial Service Troops scheme, and later the Indian State Forces scheme, those troops of the Indian Princely States made available for imperial use

were organised into 'Circles' for inspection purposes, the inspecting officers being drawn from the staff of the Military Adviser in Chief. Jammu and Kashmir came under the Punjab Circle. During the two World Wars additional British officers were seconded to the units as Special Service Officers, though only in a few cases did they nominally command the units. The SSOs were more properly 'advisers' to the State Force commanders. If Major Elliot spent his time at Gilgit then it is possible he actually served with what was then known as 2nd Kashmir Mountain Battery. In 1928 this became 2nd Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery. It was a Class A unit composed of Dogras and Mohammedans and, during Elliot's time, was commanded by Lt Col Saroop Singh, IOM. I would be surprised if a photograph of Elliot exists from this period - such photos of British Advisers or SSOs are very scarce).

In response to C.M. Peterson's query regarding the organisation of the Indian Signals (Vol. 10, No. 1, p 29):

THE INDIAN SIGNAL SERVICE

and

THE INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Alan Harfield

I was interested to read in the Spring 1993 edition of DURBAR (page 29) the letter by C.M. Peterson and I believe I can assist in the identification of the medal impressed with the unit title of 'B' Signals. In order to clarify the situation it is necessary to set out the various changes that occurred within the 'signals' organisation in the Indian Army. Prior to 1911 communications were provided by 31 to 34 Divisional Signals Companies, Sappers and Miners.

The Indian Signal Service was raised under the authority of Special Indian Army Order which was published on 3 February 1911 (later designated IAO 100 of 1911). The composition of the service was authorised as follows:

Unit	Date of formation	Station	Command
31 Signal Coy	15 Feb. 1911	Rawalpindi/Murree	Northern
32 Signal Coy	15 Feb. 1911	Kasauli	Northern
33 Signal Coy	1 Mar. 1911	Quetta	Southern
34 Signal Coy	1 Mar. 1911	Ahmednagar	Southern
41 Wireless Sqn (title later changed to 41 Wireless Company)	1 Mar. 1911	Saugor	

British Officers of all arms of the Service were eligible for appointment to the signal companies for four years during which time they were to be seconded from their parent regiment.

During the First World War the Indian Signal Service expanded and by 1920 the service consisted of fifteen units, these being:

Unit	Location in 1920
31 Divisional Signal Company	Mesopotamia
32 Divisional Signal Company	Egypt
33 Divisional Signal Company	Mesopotamia/Quetta
34 Divisional Signal Company	Bangalore/Quetta
35 Divisional Signal Company	Egypt/Kohat
36 Divisional Signal Company	Peshawar
38 Divisional Signal Company	Waziristan
39 Divisional Signal Company	Peshawar/Rawalpindi
40 Divisional Signals	Waziristan/Ambala
Corps Signal Company	Rawalpindi
14 Divisional Signal Company	Mhow/Karachi
3rd Wireless Signal Squadron	Rawalpindi
1 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop	Risalpur
8 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop	Bareilly/Meerut
12 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop	Meshed/Sialkot

On 15 April 1921 a conference was held at Jubbulpore to discuss the re-organisation of the Signal Service and the formation of the Indian Signal Corps. The position of the Indian 'signal units' at that time was vague. In April 1920 the signal units had been formed as a Corps in the Indian Army Act rules and given the designation 'Indian Signal Corps' but this fact was virtually ignored by the 'Staff' who continued to refer to signal units in Indian Army Orders and Indian Army Staff Lists as 'Signal Service, Sappers & Miners'. Within the British Army a Corps of Signals was formed under the authority of a Royal Warrant dated 28 June 1920 (and was given the title 'Royal' by HM King George V from 5 August 1920). Therefore the Indian Signal Corps pre-dates the Royal Corps of Signals.

In an attempt to clear up the confusion within the Indian Army an Indian Army Order dated 12 November 1922 drew attention to the Indian Army Act Rules and laid down that the new designation would be taken into general use accordingly. The revised designations approved by the conference in April 1921 saw a renaming of units, and also a relocation. The re-organisation of the signal units of the Indian Signal Corps resulted in the formation of the following units:

Former title	1921 Designation	Location	Class composition
31 Div Sig Coy (later absorbed 1 (Line) Company C Corps Signals)	1 (Line) Coy, A Corps Signals	Karachi	Punjabi Mussulmans
32 Div Sig Coy	A Div Signals	Meerut	Punjabi Mussulmans/Sikhs (half each)
33 Div Sig Coy	B Div Signals	Jubbulpore/ Waziristan	Mixed Madrassis
34 Div Sig Coy	C Div Signals	Quetta	Mixed Madrassis/ Mahrattas (half each)
35 Div Sig Coy	D Div Signals	Kohat	Pathans/Rajputana Rajputs (half each)
36 Div Sig Coy	E Div Signals	Peshawar	Punjabi Mussulmans/ Sikhs (half each)
38 Div Sig Coy	F Div Signals	Waziristan/Jubbulpore	Rajputana Jats/Dogras (half each)
39 Div Sig Coy	G Div Signals	Rawalpindi	Garhwalis/ Gurkhas (half each)
40 Div Sigs	H Div Signals (Absorbed into A Div Signals in 1922)	Ambala/Meerut	-
Corps Sig Coy	1 (Line) Coy B Corps Signals	Rawalpindi	Sikhs (other than Jat)
14 Div Sig Coy	1 (Line) Coy C	Karachi	

	Corps Signals (Absorbed by 1 (Line) Coy A Corps Signals 1921)		
3 Wrls Sig Sqn	2nd (Wireless) Coy, A Corps Signals (for Western & Southern Commands)	Karachi	Hindustani Hindus (UP Ahirs and Gujars)
3 Wrls Sig Sqn	2nd (Wireless) Coy, B Corps Signals (for Northern and Eastern Commands)	Rawalpindi	Hindustani Hindus (UP Ahirs and Gujars)
1 Cvy Bde Sig Tp	A Cvy Bde Sig Tp	Risalpur	Punjabi Mussulmans
8 Cvy Bde Sig Tp	B Cvy Bde Sig Tp	Meerut	Hindustan Mussulmans
12 Cvy Bde Sig Tp	C Cvy Bde Sig Tp	Sialkot	Punjabi Mussulmans

In addition to the above field units two training units were established, these being the Signal Training School at Jubbulpore and the Army Signal School at Poona.

With the communication organisation of the Indian Army being in its infancy a number of re-organisations took place during the 1920s and 1930s. On 1 April 1927 approval was given for a general reorganisation of the Indian Signal Corps and it was at this time that three of the divisional signal units were converted into District signal units, and the remaining four Divisional Signals were changed from an alphabetical designation to the numerical one. The changes were as follows:

Old designation	New Designation (1927)	Location
A Divisional Signals	Peshawar District Signals	Peshawar
C Divisional Signals	Waziristan District Sigs	Dera Ismail Khan
F Divisional Signals	Kohat District Signals	Kohat
D Divisional Signals	1 Divisional Signals	Rawalpindi
B Divisional Signals	2 Divisional Signals	Quetta

E Divisional Signals	3 Divisional Signals	Meerut
G Divisional Signals	4 Divisional Signals	Jubbulpore (later Trimulgherry)

The establishment of a divisional signals, at the time of this reorganisation was:

British Officers	11
Indian Officers	6
British ORs	163
Indian ORs	303

On 1 July 1927 a change was made in respect of the method of manning the British section of the units in that the British portion of the Indian Signal Corps was amalgamated with the Royal Corps of Signals of the British Army. British other ranks had previously been supplied partly by Royal Signals and partly by regimental signallers from British units serving in India, with the latter being shown on the rolls of the Indian Unattached List for service with the Indian Signal Corps. In addition, in order to equalise promotion, Royal Signals personnel were transferred temporarily to the Indian Unattached List. The change meant that henceforth any officer or man of the "British" Royal Corps of Signals was liable to serve with the Indian Signal Corps and during the years leading up to the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 a large proportion did serve in India.

A further reorganisation was made in 1933 and by this time a Signal Officer-in-Chief department had been set up at the Army Headquarters, and the four commands each had a Chief Signal Officer and staff. The Indian Signal Corps units were:

- A and B Corps Signals
- Peshawar, Waziristan and Kohat District Signals
- 1, 2, 3 and 4 Divisional Signals
- 1,2, 3 and 4 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troops
- Signal Training Centre
- Army Signal School

In addition a Wireless Experimental Section was established at Cherat and the Zhob Signal Section formed within Western Command.

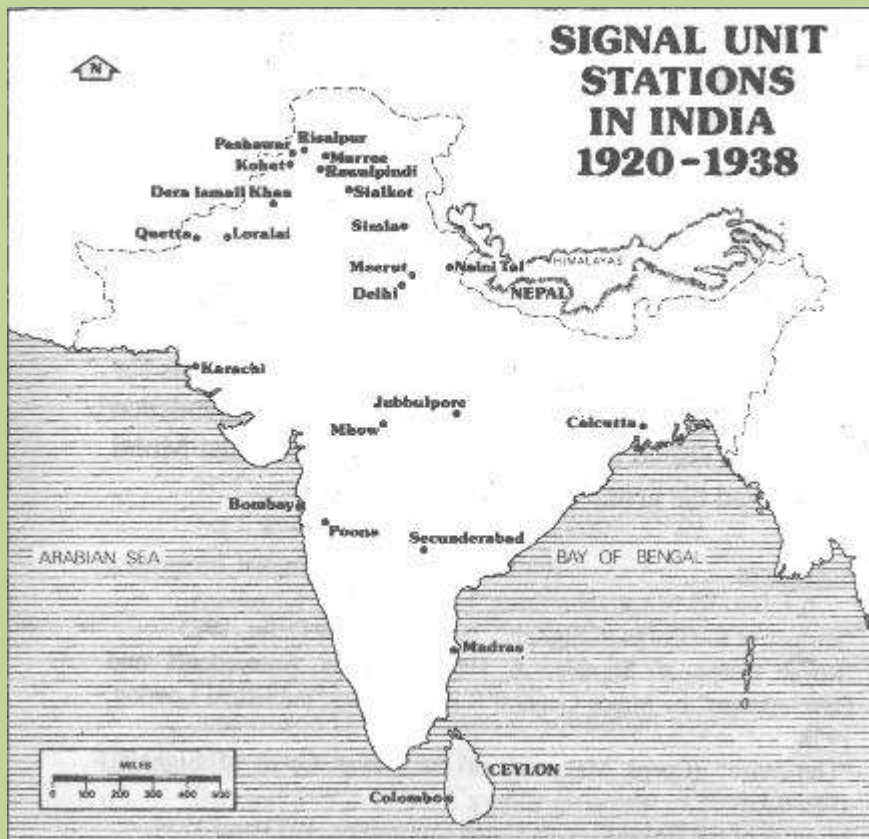
Although the Indian Signal Corps had been officially formed in 1920 it was not until 1934 that the devices for the Indian Signal Corps buttons and badges were authorised, and prior to that date no official crest had been accepted for the Corps. The British Royal Signals colours (pale blue, dark blue and dark green) were adopted by the Corps for the flag and for pagri fringes, which prior to this had been blue and white. At that time a Colonel Commandant was sanctioned and later, in 1936, HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal, became the Colonel-in-Chief of the Indian Signal Corps.

At the commencement of the Second World War in September 1939 the following units were serving in the Indian Signal Corps:

Unit	Location
A Corps Signals	Rawalpindi
B Corps Signals	Karachi
1st Divisional Signals	Rawalpindi
3rd Divisional Signals	Meerut
4th Divisional Signals	Trimulgherry
Western (Independent) District Signals	Quetta
Peshawar District Signals	Peshawar
Waziristan District Signals	Dera Ismail Khan
Kohat District Signals	Kohat
1st Cavalry Bde Signal Tp	Risalpur
3rd Cavalry Bde Signal Tp	Meerut
4th Cavalry Bde Signal Tp	Bolarum
Signal Training Centre	Jubbulpore
Army Signal School	Poona
Wireless Experimental Sect.	Quetta
1 (Madras) Signal Company Auxiliary Force (India)	Madras

The strength of the Corps at this time was:

British Officers	142
Indian Officers	7
Viceroy's Commissioned Officers	73
British other ranks	1948
Indian other ranks	4241



From the foregoing, and in answer to the query by Mr Peterson, 9761 Sigm Mohd Enayat was serving with B Corps at the time that he was awarded his India Service Medal. The Medal was generally issued unnamed and it would therefore seem probable that Mohd Enayat had his own medals named. P Signals probably stands for Pakistan Signals. Again, the Pakistan Independence Medal was issued unnamed, another indication that Mohd Enayat had his group named himself.

References:

- *"History of the Corps of Signals"*, published New Delhi, 1975
- *"Royal Corps of Signals, A History of its Antecedents and Development"* by Major General R.F.H. Nalder, published London, 1958
- *"The Wire"* (Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals), 1920-1939
- Minutes of the Royal Signals Corps Committee. 1933 and 1934.

Denis Francombe writes:

I enclose an organisational listing taken from the INDEX OF REGIMENTAL TITLES compiled by Anthony Farrington. (Should any member of the Society wish to avail themselves of this Index I would be happy to supply the information they require (SAE please):

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS 'A' Corps Signals

formed 1927 by amalgamation of No 1 & No 2 Coys.

- No 1 = raised 1911 as No 31 (Div 1 Sig) Co, 1914 No 31 (Corps Sig) Co, 1920 No 1 (Line) Co 'A' Corps
- No 2 = raised 1917 as No 3 Wireless Signal Squadron, 1921 No 2 (Wireless) Co 'A' Corps

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop

- formed 1917 as 5th Cav Brigade Signal Troop
- 'B' Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1920
- 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1929

Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

- formed 1918 as 12th Cavalry Brigade Signal Tp
- 'C' Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1920
- 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1929

- Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron 1939

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop

- formed 1922 as 'D' Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop
- 4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1929

1st Indian Divisional Signals

- formed 1914 as No 35 (Div. Sig) Co
- incorporated No 44 Signal Co (raised 1918) to form 'D' Divisional Signals 1920
- 1st Indian Divisional Signals 1927

Western (Independent) District Signals

- raised 1911 as No 33 (Div Sig) Co
- 'B' Divisional Signals 1920
- 2nd Independent Divisional Signals 1927
- Western (Independent) District Signals 1938

4th Indian Divisional Signals

- formed 1916 as No 36 (Div Sig) Co
- 'E' Divisional Signals 1920
- 3rd Indian Divisional Signals 1927
- 4th Indian Divisional Signals 1939

Lucknow District Signals

- formed 1927 by amalgamation of No 1 & No 2 Coys "B' Corps
- No 1 = raised 1917 as No 1 (Line) Co 'B' Corps

- No 2 = raised 1917 as No 3 Wireless Signal Squadron. No 2 (Wireless) Co 'B' Corps Signals 1921

Also three District Signals for Peshawar, Waziristan and Kohat which I do not think are relevant to your enquiry. On second thoughts P Signal might be for Peshawar as under:

Peshawar District Signals

- raised 1911 as No 32 (Div Sig) Co
- incorporated 'H' Divisional Signals 1922 (raised 1917 as No 40 (Div Sig) Co, became 'A' Div Sig 1920)
- Peshawar District Signals 1927.

On the same topic Tony Mains writes:

The main point here is the engraving on WWII medals - mine do NOT have my name on them, whereas my Indian Independence Medal has (only name and number - NO unit). I understand that a number of WWII medals have surfaced with names and units on them and that these were put on unofficially by the recipient. "P Signals" would certainly mean Pakistan Signals, but "B Signals" defeats me. If the WWII medals had been officially inscribed, I would have thought that they would have been "ISC" or "Ind Signals" rather than a sub unit. The Hon. Secretary of the ISC Association is - A Trueman..



LETTERS AND QUERIES

(Subjects other than Indian Signals)

● Tony Mains comments on the article by Cyril Walters on page 27 "They Also Served in India - RAMC, RIAMC";

I presume that Cyril Walters means Royal Indian Army Medical Corps for RIAMC. If so, NO Corps with that name ever existed. The Indian Army Medical Corps (IAMC) was formed in 1944 or 45 by the amalgamation of the Indian Medical Service (IMS) and the Indian Medical Department (IMD). The title was changed after Independence (India only) to Army Medical Corps (AMC).

The peace time set up of medical care of the Army in India was extremely complicated as there were four categories of medical officers.

RAMC

Posted from England for medical care of British troops and staffed British Military Hospitals in India. Held British medical qualifications.

IMS

Probably in its day the finest medical service in the world; the pioneers of tropical medicine and hygiene; provided medical officers of the Indian Army and for the Civil Government

(District Civil Surgeons). Held British medical qualifications. The first Corps to grant full Commissions (1912) to Indians.

IMD

These medical officers held (lower) Indian medical qualifications and could loosely be equated with the "feldshers" of some Continental armies. The Corps was split into:

- British Wing - Assistant Surgeons ranking as WOs I and recruited from domiciled Europeans or Anglo Indians. They were employed in British units and hospitals.
- Indian Wing - Sub Assistant Surgeons, ranking as VCOs, and recruited from Indians. They were employed in Indian units and hospitals.

(Editor's Note: Cyril Walters has written to say that, in light of his correspondence with Tony Mains, he realises the error was made and is grateful for having had it pointed out).

● In response to my own note on IST/ISF unit abbreviations on medals in Vol. 10, No. 1 (pages 15-17) Richard Head writes:

I suggest that Tehri IST translates as Tehri Garhwal Imperial Service Troops. To my knowledge Tehri did not have an organised IST/ISF transport unit. Its only IST unit was the Sappers. There was a transport section (State Troops) in 1946/47.

8th Patiala Camel Corps - this was an Indian Army unit raised during WW I as part of the Indian Supply and Transport Corps; it was like a number of others recruited from Patiala State. It was a transport unit equipped with camels.

ITC Jaipur - The Jaipur Pony Coy did not serve in the Middle East 1939/45; the unit served in Burma. A possible translation is Jaipur Infantry Training Centre. Two Jaipur units (Sawai Man Guards and 1st Jaipur Infantry) served in the Middle East and Italy. At this time States units rotated 4% per month of their personnel back to the State so it could be, therefore, that the recipient served there but was back in the Training Centre later.

● Shamus O.D. Wade writes:

Eric Neil in his *"With Pegasus in India, The Story of 153 Gurkha Parachute Battalion"* on page 41 writes; "Like everyone else the infantry were suffering from manpower problems and were reluctant to yield many volunteers, as in addition to maintaining five or six battalions of their own they were continually being pressed for bodies for extraneous organisations such as ourselves, the R.I.N. and even the Balloon Barrage".

Can anyone provide any information on the Indian Balloon Barrage in World War II?

● Kimberley John Lindsay seeks help in unearthing a photo of the late Colonel Geoffrey Valence Comyn, OBE, MC, late Suffolk Regt., 95th Russell's Infantry, S&T Corps, IASC and RIASC. Born in 1885, he joined the Indian Army in 1905. During the Great War he was mentioned thrice: once at Gallipoli and twice for his efforts during the Mesopotamian campaign (MC 1918, Capt, S&T Corps, I.A.) OBE 4 Jun 1934: "Lt-Col Geoffrey Valence Comyn, MC, Indian Army Service Corps, Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport,

Peshawar District, India". In Jan 1935 he became Deputy Director of S&T, India, in the rank of full Colonel, retiring in Jan 1939.

● Alan Harfield writes:

I have been invited to up-date the Early Signalling Equipment pamphlet 'The Heliograph'. There is on record three instances of the 5-inch heliograph being used by moonlight. Communications were established by this method during the advance of the Expeditionary Force in Palestine in 1917. In Egypt, because of the relatively flat countryside, a heliograph station was set up on the 'Great Pyramid'. This allowed the communicating distance to be increased considerably and that station, which was part of the Cairo defence organisation during World War I, was able to communicate during the day and also by night by the use of moonlight. I have one other record of moonlight heliograph signalling which was in Palestine in the 1930s and was completely successful.

I have yet to find an authenticated distance record for signalling by heliograph using moonlight in India. I would be interested to learn of any such record, or of any recorded working of moonlight signalling other than in the Middle East, where this method of signalling has already been documented.

● Colin R Bruce (324) seeks help in identifying initials on two sporting medallions. Both have the inscription A.S.C.B. India (is this Army Sports Control Board?). One has on the reverse Rawalpindi District Boxing. The second has, in addition to ASCB India, B.D.H.T. (Indian) 1923 on the obverse and, on the reverse, Winners 1/4th Hazara Pnrs, Sepoy Mohd. Hussain.

BOOK NOTES

- *Uniforms of the Indian Army* by Richard Simkin
- *Types of the Indian Army* by Frederick Bremner
- *Indian Cavalry Standards* by Capt H Bullock
- *Indian Infantry Colours* by Capt H Bullock

I am sure that none of the above publications require an introduction to members of this Society, though few members may be lucky enough to own copies of the originals. An advertising leaflet from DP&G of Doncaster was circulated with the last edition of DURBAR and we have now had an opportunity to review the publications in question. The first point to make of them all is that these are reproductions of the originals, not reprints and certainly not the originals.

Uniforms of the Indian Army consists of 12 colour photographs of the original series of plates published as supplements to the Army & Navy Gazette between 1888 and 1902, covering a total of 72 different regiments. Each photograph measures 7"x 5" and is mounted on thin card, the whole mounted within spiral bound card covers. I am not aware of a similar publication, with all twelve plates, having been available before, and from that point of view it may be of value to those interested in uniforms. To my mind, however, the photographs seem under-exposed and faint, with the legends barely discernible. £15.00 plus postage.

Types of the Indian Army similarly consists of reproduction photographs of the Bremner plates, the sixty pages of A4 size spiral bound in hard covers in a limited edition of fifty copies. Your reviewer saw only one example of a photograph, rather than the complete book, and this at 7"x5" rather than the full A4 size. I have a copy of the reprint published by The Bell of Arms Ltd in 1964 and, by comparison, these latest photographs are a little 'blue' in their finish. Nevertheless, Bremner's photographs are the ultimate study of the uniforms and equipment of the late Victorian Indian Army and for those unable to obtain an earlier copy, this may be a satisfactory substitute. £37.50 plus postage.

Indian Cavalry Standards /Indian Infantry Standards both by Captain H Bullock.

The former published in 1930 and the latter in 1931, both are exceedingly rare as originals. The reproduction of text within these spiral bound card covers is fine and the fact that it is now readily available is to be welcomed. One should be aware, however, that these are photocopies and the illustrations vary from good (for line drawings) to very poor for some of the actual Colours, with the detail virtually unrecognizable. If it is pictures of the Colours that you are after then it may be better to keep your name on the 'wants' lists of military book dealers. Both at £15.00 plus postage. The same company offers a large selection of individual 7"x5" glossy photographs of Indian military subjects, a number of which I recognise from Navy & Army Illustrated and other similar publications. All at £1.50 plus postage.

DP&G, PO Box 186, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England DN40HN

