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THE SECOND SIKH WAR

Kevin Storey

On a recent visit to the city of Multan which is situated in Pakistan's southern Punjab I was taken by my hosts to see "The Monument". This turned out to be an obelisk built of stone, on one side of which is a dedication to Mr Vans Agnew and Lieutenant Anderson who were killed there on 19 April 1848. The dedication reads:

Mr Vans Agnew and Lieutenant Anderson
were attacked and wounded by the garrison
on the 18th April 1848
and being treacherously deserted by the Sikh escort
were on the following day
In flagrant breach national faith an hospitality
barbarously murdered
IN THE EDCAH UNDER THE WALLS OF MOOLTAN

THESE TWO YOUNG PUBLIC SERVANTS
at the ages of 24 and 25
FULL OF HIGH HOPES AND RARE TALENT
AND PROMISE OF FUTURE USEFULNESS
Even in their deaths
Doing their country Honor
WOUNDED AND FORSAKEN
They could offer no resistance
BUT HAND IN HAND THEY CALMLY WAITED
the onset of their assailants
Nobly they refused to yield
Foretelling the day
When thousands of Englishmen should come
and avenge their death
and destroy Moolaj his army and fortress

HISTORY RECORDS

How the Prediction was fulfilled
Borne to the grave
By their victorious brother soldiers and country men
they were buried with Military Honour
HERE
On the summit of the captured Citadel
On the 20th of January 1849

The annexation
Of the Punjab to the Empire
Was the result of the War
of which their assassination
Was the commencement

Beside the monument there are two mounds also in stone which local folk-lore suggests were the last resting places of the horses of our heroes.

R.H. Haigh and P.W. Turner in their papers on the events leading up to the Second Sikh War of 1848 give perhaps the most reasoned account of the assassinations.

"The situation that developed in the Punjab in the Spring of 1848 could be compared to an outbreak of fire in a damp forest. Prompt action by adequate forces would put it out with comparatively little effort, if neglected for any length of time the woodland would dry out and the resultant blaze would be beyond the capacity of any force to extinguish quickly and without enormous expenditure of effort. The Punjab was the forest, Multan was to be the initial outbreak of fire.

The rulers of the Punjab were a recently defeated martial race. The fact of their defeat rankled with the sirdars and the Army of Khalsa, both they and the Maharani Gindan, mother of the child Dulip Singh, were constantly intriguing against the British. The potentially inflammable situation was damped down by the presence of garrisons of the East India Company's forces and the knowledge that these concentrations could be reinforced if necessary. Additional preventive safeguards were provided by the vigorous effective and consistent policies pursued by Sir Henry Lawrence and his assistants which gave the smack of firm government after the constant uncertainty of the rule of the Lahore Durbar.

Multan was a fortified, garrisoned town, four miles from the River Chenab. It occupied a position of natural strength, surrounded as it was by walled villages and thick belts of woodland and scrub interspersed with "nullahs", that is eroded ravines containing the beds of water courses empty in the dry season. The town itself was strongly walled with great mud ramparts which were to prove impenetrable to anything but the heaviest siege artillery; large numbers of permanently mounted guns, adequate supplies of powder in the central magazine, and a substantial garrison of Sikh regulars. Clearly the control of this, one of the strongest of the Sikh fortresses, was of the utmost importance for the rulers of the Punjab. There now took place, either by accident or design, a fact that we shall see is by no means clear, a series of events that placed Multan in hostile hands and challenged the entire British presence in the area.

Mulraj the governor, who was the son of the man Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), Sikh Chieftain and Statesman, had been appointed to the post, and one version of the story suggests that by neglecting to pay the succession fee he had placed his position in doubt. Another version suggests that like most Sikh administrators he was dishonest and his reluctance to keep proper accounts was the root of the matter. Whatever the reason for his replacement, all commentators agree on one point; in a fit of pique he tendered his resignation, and Henry Lawrence who wanted him out of the job, hastily accepted it.

A new governor Khan Singh, a man likely to be much more amenable to Lawrence's directives, was nominated for the governorship and towards the end of April his two British political advisers were despatched to organise the business of handing over command. The two officers, Mr Vans Agnew and Lieutenant Anderson reached Multan on the 17th April, 1848, and presented their credentials to Mulraj. Whatever his private feelings may have been, Mulraj received them courteously enough, and suggested that the takeover ceremony be carried out on the following day. As it happened there was some delay, but on the 19th, Vans Agnew and Anderson entered the Citadel and completed the formalities.

The business having been completed they were leaving through the main gate when they were attacked by a mob of armed Sikh soldiers. Either as a result of their own efforts, or the

efforts of their escort, they managed to beat off this assault and although both were wounded they made their way to a nearby Mosque where they sought some temporary protection while their wounds were dressed.

Both were severely injured: Anderson had sustained sword slashes in the neck and leg and Vans Agnew had sustained a nasty shoulder injury. The retreat to the Mosque did not give them much more than bare breathing space, as the Sikh attackers immediately commenced firing on the place. Finally, they broke into the building and killed the two Englishmen.

According to some accounts, their Sikh escort died with them, fighting to the last, others suggest they joined their fellow Sikhs and helped with the summary despatch. It is unlikely that their attempt at taking refuge in a Mosque was more than a despairing attempt at using the nearest available defensible building, as they knew the Sikhs were unlikely to be unduly worried if called upon to assault a Muslim place of worship. No doubt they hoped against hope that their attackers were an isolated group and that Mulraj would send aid, but their last two despatches show that they were not particularly sanguine about their chances.

One despatch written on the 18th April, the day before the attack on them, reported that the garrison was riddled with disaffection and they were by no means sure that Mulraj either could or wanted to control the situation. The second, a hasty note scrawled hours before their deaths, suggested that the situation was completely out of hand and that troops should be sent immediately. Given the fact that the nearest British Garrison was four days march from Multan, and Lahore two hundred miles away, they could have entertained few illusions as to their probable fate. It is still not clear to what extent Mulraj was implicated in the assassination plot; he may well have been the organiser, he may equally well have been unaware of the conspiracy, if indeed it were a conspiracy and not merely a spontaneous impulse on the part of some disaffected troops. What can be said with certainty is what Mulraj actually did; either pursuing his own plan or just carried along by the tide of events, he decided to defy the Lahore Government.

Messages were sent to the Kardars* and a holy war was proclaimed among the people calling upon them to rise, attack the British and restore the independence of the Punjab."

* Kardars - Persons entrusted with the collection of revenues as well as general administrative work of the district under the general direction of the Governor.

N.B. The monument to Agnew and Anderson is at present in a reasonable state of repair; however, one wonders how long it will be before neglect and the weather will lead to the demolition of this fine epitaph. Perhaps the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or the War Graves Commission should identify such places and provide funds for their local upkeep and preservation.

(I published a request from a non-member, M. Jacques Jost, in Vol. 12, No 2, page 79, concerning 100 Independent Light Tank Squadron and two replies from members in Vol. 12, No 3, page 114. M. Jost has now completed his research and has made a copy available to DURBAR. Ed.)

ALLIED TANKS IN THE MALAYAN AND SINGAPORE CAMPAIGN 1942

Jacques Jost

The use of armour by the Commonwealth Forces during the Malayan and Singapore campaign from December 1941 to February 1942 is one of the less well known among the numerous studies of allied armour during the Second World War. While most books about that campaign mention the use of armoured cars by British, Indian and Volunteer units, the participation of tanks in the last days of the battle for Singapore has been almost totally forgotten or by-passed. On the other side, the same books often tell about the skilful use of tanks by the Imperial Japanese Army, which was decisive in several battles against allied units.

While light tanks were tested and used in various parts of the British Empire during the inter-war years, it appears that none was ever sent to Malaya or Singapore before 1942. The cause of this was probably that the country was deemed unsuitable for tanks for a long time and that the Far East always had a low priority for the procurement of new weapons. Both arguments can be partially refuted:

both the Dutch and French forces had experimented quite successfully with tanks in the 20s and 30s in the Far East and had at least small units there at the outbreak of the War,

the lack of up to date weapons (and also of trained troops) was to have fatal consequences against a well-trained Japanese Army, which had been grossly underrated by almost everyone.

The menace of war in the Far East grew stronger in 1941, especially after Japan obtained bases in French Indo-china and now, weapons and troops were sent to Malaya and Singapore from various parts of the Empire. According to Elphick (ref 8) the C-in-C Far East made a request for tanks in July 1941. It is interesting to note that at this time the use of tanks was still not really considered as the request mentioned "old British or American tanks which are unsuitable for service in the field to protect aerodromes here". In August 1941, 2 tank regiments were among the reinforcements requested for Malaya and Singapore by Lieut.-General A.E. Percival: one for the III Indian Corps in Northern Malaya and one for Singapore (ref 4). In October 1941, the request was repeated for tanks for protection of aerodromes (4 troops) and for the 2 tank regiments for the field force (WO 193/944, 04.10.41). It was decided to use locally built armoured cars for aerodrome defence (as tanks were not available), and later scout cars, but only a handful of the former were built while none of the latter seem to have reached Singapore in time. The request for the 2 tank regiments was also turned down as both the Middle East and the shipments to Russia had a higher priority.

At the outbreak of war against Japan on 8th December 1941, the Commonwealth Forces had no tanks at all in the Far East (Borneo, Burma, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore). At the same time, there were 24 Vickers-Carden-Lloyd Light Tanks in the Dutch East Indies (plus the balance of the order and several hundred Marmon-Herrington tanks of 3 types on order from the USA), about 20 Renault FT light tanks in French Indo-china and 108 Stuart Light Tanks in the Philippines. During the first week of the war, the Japanese used their tanks with

great success at the battle of Jitra on December 11th. The Japanese 25th Army had the 3rd Tank Group attached with 1st, 2nd, 6th and 14th Tank Regiments.

On 20 December 1941 the C-in-C India sent a telegram to the GOC Malaya in which he proposed to provide "1 Independent Light Tank Squadron with 17 Mark IV and VIB Light Tanks mixed with quota of reserves" (PRO 193/944). He also proposed that the squadron should be attached to the 3rd Indian Cavalry Regiment already present in Malaya. About April 1941, the 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron had been raised in India, probably at Risalpur, from men provided by the 8th Light Cavalry (8th King George's Own Light Cavalry). It seems that all men were Jats (ref. 1 & 3). The commanding officer was Major Jack Alford. According to the Indian Army Lists of 1941 and 1942, he was born in 1904 and commissioned in 1924. He served with the 3rd Gwalior Lancers, and Indian State Force unit, until joining the 8th Light Cavalry in 1940. The vehicles referred to in the telegram of 20 December 1941 are undoubtedly the Light Tanks Mark IVA and VIB (Indian Pattern) sent to India in 1935 and 1937 respectively (ref. 16). While these tanks may be compared with the Japanese tankettes, they were no match for the light and medium tanks used by the Japanese armoured regiments. One source (ref. 1) gives the type of vehicle as Carden Lloyd tankettes, together with a picture of a pre-war example in British markings. It also mentions that these tankettes were not sent from India but from the Middle East. The author of the book "The Indian Armour", Major General G.S. Sandhu, informed me that he has relied upon (ref. 2) for the information about the sending of vehicles from the Middle East and for identification of the vehicles. It is probable that there has been a confusion between the vehicles sent from the Middle East to India and those sent from India to Malaya. As for the type, ref. 2 mentions 2-men tanks which could have been Mark IVA, but not Mark VIB which had a 3-man crew.

All published accounts agree with the fact that the tanks reached Singapore in late January 1942 and that they were in need of overhaul (ref.1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15). The number of tanks is given variously as 9 (ref. 1, 2 & 12), 16 (ref. 8), 17 (ref. 6), 18 (ref. 4 & 5) or 25 (ref 15). Messages in the files of the Public Record Office give the following figures:

WO 193/944 17 Mark IV and VIB (20 Dec 41) telegram from C-in-C India to GOC Malaya

WO 193/944 17 Mark IV and VI (1 January 1942) telegram from War Office London to C-in-C Far East.

WO 193/893 17 tanks (2 January 1942) forecast of reinforcement to Far East.

WO 106/2558B 10 tanks for Ordnance Depot on board of freighter Jalakrishna (9 January 1942) telegram from Embarking Bombay to GOC Malaya.

WO 193/893 13 Light Tanks on board of Empress of Japan (19 January 1942) telegram Embarkation Commandant Bombay to GOC Malaya.

If the figures from the last two messages are exact, it seems that 23 tanks were despatched to Singapore in 2 convoys: BM 10 with 10 tanks departing Bombay on 8 January and arrived on 25th, BM 11 with 13 tanks departed Bombay on 19th and arrived on 29th. Beside the tanks both telegrams also mention other vehicles sent to Singapore with the Independent Squadron:

BM 10 : 3 motor cycles, 7 x 15 cwt trucks, 1 water tank & 1 car on freighter Rohna, 9 x 3-ton lorries & 1 armoured carrier (probably Indian Wheeled Carrier) on freighter Jalakrishna.

BM 11 : 1 x 3-ton lorry & 1 transporter on Empress of Japan.

The number of 23 vehicles is probably exact as 25 Light Tanks were to be despatched from the Middle East to India as replacement for those sent from India to Singapore (WO 193/944, 1 January 1942 telegrams from C-in-C India and from War Office London to GOC Malaya). If the squadron had the official War Office establishment of 18 tanks (5 troops each with 3 tanks + 3 tanks for the squadron HQ), the balance of 5 tanks are probably the reserves mentioned in the telegram of 20 December 1941.

The figures for the personnel of the squadron are possibly incomplete as there is nothing about convoy BM 10. BM 11 had the following: on Duchess of Bedford, 1 British Officer, 1 British Warrant Officer, 1 British Other Rank and 11 followers; on Empress of Japan, 3 British Officers, 7 Viceroy Commissioned Officers, 136 Indian Other Ranks and 9 followers. The total for the convoy was 149 military personnel and 20 followers. The only published figure I have found is 400 men (ref. 6). The latter is certainly too high for a single squadron.

Another Light Tank squadron was also scheduled for Singapore: B Squadron, 3rd The King's Own Hussars, and later a whole brigade: 7th Armoured Brigade with 2 Royal Tank Regiment and 7th Queen's Own Hussars. Both were sent from the Middle East, but neither reached Singapore before the fall: the squadron of 3rd Hussars (equipped with Light Tanks Mark VI) reached Java at the end of February and was lost there early in March while the 7th Brigade (equipped with Stuarts) went to Burma and won fame in the retreat from Burma.

After arriving in Singapore 100 Independent Light Tank Squadron stayed on the island. The last allied troops withdrew from the mainland of Malaya on 31 January 1942. The poor state of the tanks has already been quoted. This is not surprising because the vehicles had been used in India since 1935 (Mark IVA) or since 1937 (Mark IVB). After seeing service with Light Tank Companies of the Royal Tank Regiment they were used for training by several Indian cavalry regiments until their shipment to Singapore as the first Stuart Light Tanks and Infantry Tank Mark III were only seen in India in September 1941 (WO 165/89).

According to the file CAB 44/179 the 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron was at Sembawang aerodrome (on the north east of Singapore island, with 11th Indian Division) on 8 February, less a detachment at Seletar aerodrome (also on the north east, with the 18th British Division). The Japanese landed on the west coast during the night of 8/9 February and made rapid progress towards the centre of the island. Almost all published sources make no reference to the use of tanks by the Commonwealth Forces during the battle of the island except ref. 4 which mentions the tank squadron on 11 February as part of "Massy Force". The file CAB 106/70 is the principal source for the actions of the tanks on this day. "Massy Force" was an ad hoc brigade sized force commanded by Brigadier T.H. Massy-Beresford (from 55th Infantry Brigade). It was made from several units: 1st Cambridgeshire (55th Infantry Brigade, 18th Division), 4th Suffolk (54th Infantry Brigade, 18th Division), 5/11 Sikhs (2nd Malaya Infantry Brigade, Singapore Fortress), a detachment of 3rd Cavalry (attached to 18th Division) and 342nd (or 352?) Field Battery. This force was positioned south of the Mac Ritchie Reservoir, one of the important reservoirs just north of the city of Singapore. After Australian and British units on the west side of the reservoir had retreated, "Massy Force" was given an order during the afternoon of 11 February to take a feature named Swiss Rifle Club Hill on the left of the western end of the reservoir and north of the Race Course. The PRO file mentions that "3 light tanks which had just arrived were sent to hold the Swiss Rifle Club Hill pending the arrival of the 4th Suffolks....As a result of delays, the 3 tanks which had met considerable opposition, but succeeded in holding the lower slopes

of Rifle Club Hill for several hours, were forced to withdraw and 4 Suffolks never reached their position". According to the official history (ref. 4) the attack was cancelled shortly before it had to begin. The 3 tanks probably did not receive the order which cancelled the move. This is the only recorded use of the light tanks during the last days of the battle of Singapore. The last information about the tanks is that 2 medium tanks (probably light tanks) were assembled near the HQ of "Massy Force" along with some carriers to form a reserve mobile force on 11 February. The next day, 12 February, "Massy Force" was absorbed into 55th Infantry Brigade. Singapore surrendered on 15 February 1942.

There has been no information about the fate of the tanks of 100th Independent Light Tank Squadron. Perhaps someone with access to Japanese sources will be successful. The fate of the personnel is also uncertain. Most of them probably became POWs and endured the inhuman Japanese treatment. Major Alford died, either at Seletar (ref. 2) during the battle or later in captivity (ref. 3). One other officer was Lieutenant Peterson who was detached from 3rd Cavalry to the Light Tank Squadron on 11 February (ref. 2). Despite the help of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association I have not been able to contact any surviving British officer and none of the members of this association remembers the unit. Unfortunately, neither the Historical Section of the Indian Ministry of Defence nor the Indian National Archives could find any information about it. The records were probably destroyed in Singapore or later lost during the partition of India and Pakistan. Pictures taken during the last days of the battle of Singapore are very rare and I have located none showing either the tanks or the personnel of the squadron.

Despite the difficulties of finding reliable sources and the small amount of information available, this research has been interesting and rewarding. I would like to thank especially Major General G.S. Sandhu (India), D. Fletcher (Tank Museum Bovington), the Editor of *Durbar* and members of the Indian Military Historical Society, Brigadier J.H.P. Woodroffe of the Indian Cavalry Officers Association, the staff of the Imperial War Museum (Department of Documents), the National Army Museum (Department of Printed Books), the Public Record Office, the National Archives of India and the Historical Section of the Ministry of Defence of India.

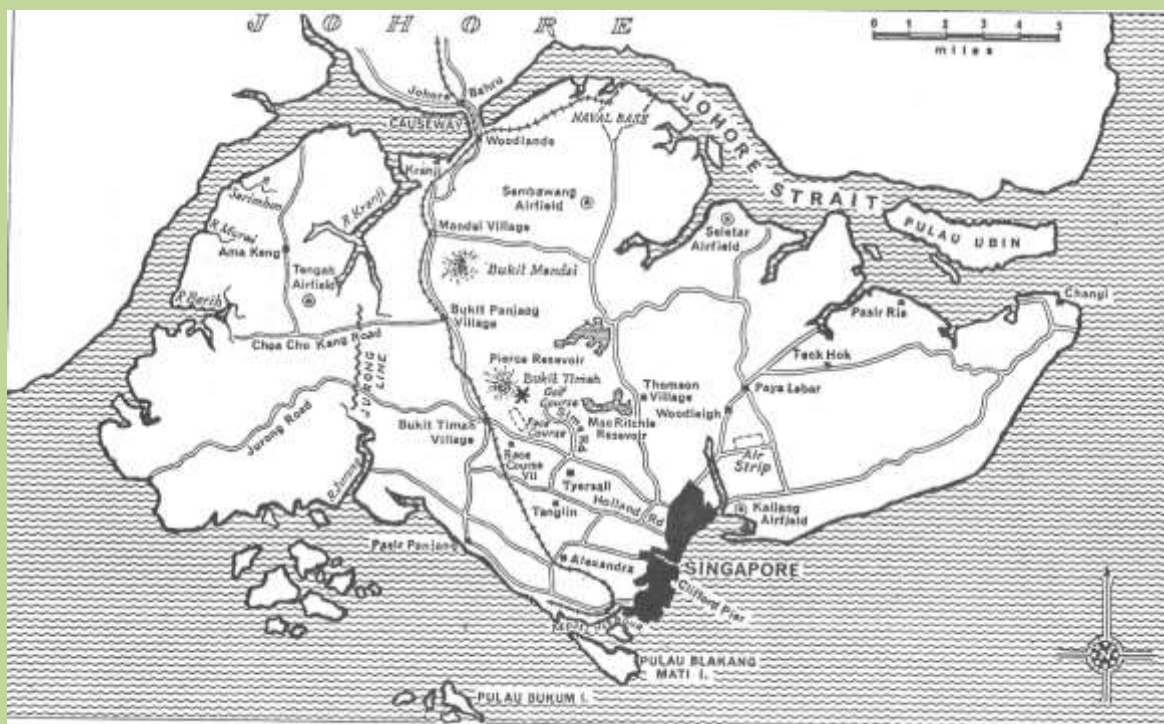
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| WO 193/892 | Reinforcements Far East December 1941 |
| WO 193/893 | Reinforcements Far East January 1942 |
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| CAB 44/179 | Campaign in Malaya and Singapore II |
| CAB 44/322 | Indian Forces Malaya |
| CAB 106/70 | History of 18th Division |



* Swiss Rifle Club Hill

Map from „Spotlight on Singapore“ by D. Russel-Roberts, Times Press 1965

CHOTI KHAS LANCERS - A lingering doubt!

Richard Head and Tony McClenaghan

The badge accompanying this note has appeared in DURBAR before. It first appeared in Vol. 3, No. 2, page 23 as a request for identification. The answer given at that time was ..." This is a state forces badge. The unit were subjects of the Jam of Nawanagar, a Rajput state whose badge was a rampant lion and the rather improbable motto "Nil Desperandum". The unit saw service in Egypt, Palestine and India during World War I". This identification as a Nawanagar unit had appeared in "*Military Badges of the British Empire 1914-18*" by Reginald H.W. Cox, published by Ernest Benn Limited, London, 1982, and has been generally accepted by collectors ever since. Tony McClenaghan added to the earlier DURBAR entry in Vol. 3, No. 3, page 15, by saying that the intertwined initials of the badge - NSC - stood for Nawanagar State Cavalry.

In the ten years since those articles appeared we have become increasingly uncertain about the accuracy of the Nawanagar identification and yet we are still unable to offer conclusive evidence one way or the other. The problem remains that, for all our combined research into the Indian States Forces, we have failed to find a formal reference to the unit name in any Nawanagar papers. We have, however, found a similar name amongst the Baroda State Army, though this would not fit the initials which appear to us to be on the badge.

Baroda State was founded in the early eighteenth century and, in 1817, as part of a treaty with the British, was required to maintain an efficient body of horsemen known as The Baroda Contingent. This force was for a long time a bone of contention between the British and the Baroda Durbar due to the latter's inability/lack of will to maintain the unit to adequate standards and strength. The Contingent was disbanded in 1884 and a number of its men were transferred to a newly-organised regular cavalry unit. At about this time (1882-1884) there are references to a body guard unit and to two units of regular Sillidari cavalry.

In 1884 the State cavalry consisted of the following, all raised from the disbanded Contingent as regular troops:

- Maharaja's Body Guard
- 2 Risalas of Sillidari
- Choti Khas Paga
- Chimnaba Paga
- Kadi Paga
- Mothi Khas Paga
- Fateh Singh Rao Cavalry

*Paga = Regiment

In that same year the Choti Khas Paga, Chimnaba Paga and the Kadi Paga combined to form one unit retaining the name Choti Khas Paga.

On 1 May 1915 the units were re-designated as follows:

Mothi Khas Paga became 1st Cavalry.
Choti Khas Paga became 2nd Lancers.
Fateh Singh Rao Cavalry became 3rd Cavalry.
Maharaja's Body Guard combined with the Gold and Silver Gun Battery to become
The Guards.

1st Cavalry was probably disbanded in 1948. 2nd Lancers joined the ISF Scheme in 1941 and was re-designated The Baroda Lancers. It was dismounted in 1948 and converted to infantry. The following year the men from the regiment joined 1st and 2nd Baroda Infantry which were then integrated into the Indian Army as 20th and 21st Battalions, Maratha Light Infantry. 3rd Cavalry was disbanded in 1921 and The Guards in 1949.

We cannot be certain that CHOTI KHAS LANCERS is synonymous with Choti Khas Paga, subsequently 2nd Lancers but we offer it for further discussion. The outstanding problem remains the initials on the badge. Are they NSC? Is the letter C a G (as seen on other Baroda badges and standing for Gaekwar)? Can anyone offer firm evidence towards an identification?



"THE LAST SURVIVORS"

Peter Chapman

Newspapers, although I hesitate to say it having been a newspaper man for many years, can be wrong. Because of this one passes on yesterday's report in fear that one is perpetuating an inaccuracy. Those of you conversant with old local newspaper files will know that they contain scraps of information not to be found elsewhere. My own old-established evening paper is typical of them all and while the following jottings are only oddments, they may help some of you specifically. Papers have always been interested in "the last survivors" and when this century dawned the Indian Mutiny's veterans were shuffling off.

In 1902 the paper reported on William Gibson's death at 93 in Gainsborough Workhouse. A Mutiny gunner he was originally in the 77th Foot and was at the taking of St Jean D 'Acre.

Hackney Workhouse was where George Armstrong died in May 1903. Ex-3rd Light Dragoons and a soldier's son, he was, at the age of 10, present with his parents at the battle of Waterloo. He was 98 and had served throughout the Mutiny.

Colour Sergeant Edward Zeer died in August 1906, the last survivor of the siege of Jellalabad in 1842. He was the sentry who challenged Dr Brydon.

Two years later we reported on the death of Thomas Morris (82nd Foot) and St William Ransom, both Mutiny men and, the same year, ex-Colour Sergeant Bertram of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders who had retired in 1860!

In 1910 the retirement of Drummer Richard Hogan - 52 years in the army - was noted. He was, we said, "the oldest soldier in the army". It was to be a much used epithet.

The former Bengal Engineer General Sir Alexander Taylor died in 1912 and warranted half a column. But he - like many famous officers whose passing was noted by every paper - is a well-documented man.

The band of survivors diminished. Christopher Harding (1st European Bengal Fusiliers) died in 1917 and was typical of them. The long (and continuing) life of Colonel Osmond Barnes CB (Hodson's Horse) warranted three paragraphs in December 1922 and in 1923 there is mention of a Lincolnshire man, J P Hodgson (81) who had served in Japan in 1868 with the Corps of Armourers, a corps unknown to me.

One of the great Indian Army family of Battye, Lt Col Montague McP Battye, died aged 92 in 1929. He too had served in Japan and with the Germans at the Siege of Paris.

George Meredith's death was recorded in May 1929. He was a survivor of the Kabul to Kandahar march as a Colour Sergeant in the 60th Rifles and was at Majuba Hill. His grandfather was at Corunna and his father in the Mutiny.

As the 1930s dawned Mutiny veterans were few and far between. In late 1929, Mrs Travers, about whom I wrote an oddment in Durbar recently, died.

Sgt William Brereton, then 92, died in May 1930, the epithet 'oldest soldier' was trotted out again. He had joined the Connaught Rangers (88th Foot) as a 15-years-old drummer and had been at Cawnpore and Lucknow. He had two uncles in the Peninsular and a brother in the Crimea.

The ladies seemed to bring up a tail end.

In October 1933, Mrs Blanche Long (83), 'reducing the number of survivors of the Siege of Lucknow to eight' we reported, died. She was the eldest daughter of T H Kavanagh, the celebrated civilian Victoria Cross recipient.

In 1935 Mrs George Ring, in Meerut aged 12 in 1857, died. A daughter of the regiment (KRRC) she was born on HMS Neptune in 1845.

Aged 97, William K Bryant VC died in Queensland in 1936. He had marched on Cawnpore and had been at the capture of Delhi.

Now whether all these assorted mentions and obits are accurate I cannot say. But why not? Should you require individual elaboration on any of them, do let me know. Some will be brief, some quite substantial.

...AND ANOTHER EXAMPLE

George Webster

Members might be interested to know that a tombstone with the following inscription is to be found in a derelict Victorian graveyard less than a mile from my home near Doune in Perthshire.

A triangular shield with, above, a bugle horn surmounted by a crown, the figure "32" within the bugle strings, and below, a scroll with ONE AND ALL. Below that the inscription:

IN LOVING MEMORY
JOHN EDMONDSTOUN
MAJOR GENERAL

HE WAS THE LAST SURVIVOR
OF THE 32nd LIGHT INFANTRY
WHO SERVED DURING
THE SIEGE AND IN THE
GALLANT DEFENCE OF
LUCKNOW IN 1857
BORN 12th MAY 1831
DIED 3rd JULY 1886

BOOK REVIEW

● "*POOR RELATIONS - The making of a Eurasian Community in British India 1773-1833*". Christopher Hawes. Hardback, 217 pages including a Biographical Appendix, Notes, Bibliography and Index - Curzon Press, St Johns Studios, Church Road, Richmond TW9 2QA - £25

Dr Hawes has produced a history of the Eurasian community in what might be described as the first era of their development - the second being in the forties and fifties of the nineteenth century, when their employment prospects improved with the building of roads, canals and railways, and the last, the Anglo-Indian period when industrial enterprises - railways, mills and coal mines expanded the community.

The book describes the evolution of two streams, the lowly one, the offspring of European soldiers and low class Indian women, and the superior, those of civil and military officers with high class women; in each case sometimes married and sometimes not. The former, after a rudimentary education in one of the Orphan Asylums, were sent out, the boys to be

drummers and bandsmen, the girls to be married to soldiers. They seem largely to have disappeared later and I feel that many of the "Christian bandsmen" commemorated on Mutiny memorials may have been their descendants. The latter were engaged throughout the period in a long struggle to obtain gentlemanly employment, usually in the Company's civil and military establishment.

The recruitment of Eurasians into the Covenanted Civil Service and commissioned ranks of the Army was prohibited in 1791, but for a while the community found employment in Uncovenanted civil service posts, and as apothecaries in the Army, until by 1830 these jobs were threatened as more and more educated Indians were coming forward to fill such posts at a lower salary.

Dr Hawes is to be congratulated on such a carefully written, well researched work. It was of particular interest to me as, although I had a great deal to do with Anglo Indians, particularly in the railways and the Police during my service in Security Intelligence, I was woefully ignorant of the Eurasian of this early period and have learnt a lot. Of particular interest was the part dealing with Eurasians in Indian States and the scandal of Palmer's financial dealings in Hyderabad, and the Petition to Parliament in 1830. It was tragic that the community was never really united in putting forward their grievances.

This is a first class book and thoroughly recommended to those interested in the subject, but possibly rather detailed for the casual reader. AAM

(See the letter from Christopher Hawes at page 168 regarding his next project. Ed.)

● "*QUEST FOR KIM - In Search of Kipling's Great Game*" Hardback, 274 pages, no index, line drawings in text. John Murray, £15.99

One quarter of my service in the Indian Army was in Security Intelligence - my last appointment in 1946 was in Central Command and Lahore, Lucknow, Simla, Dehra Dun and Saharanpur were all in my "manor". At this time I worked closely with the Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India and with the Police, so as a Kim and Kipling fan I was looking forward to a good read, having previously enjoyed Peter Hopkirk's "*The Great Game*". Regrettably, I do not consider this work in the same class.

The author traces Kim's wanderings from Lahore to Lucknow, with off shoots to Ambala, Simla, Saharanpur and Dehra Dun, to try and discover the locations and personalities on Kim's road, from a Eurasian urchin to a valued member of the organisation, hidden away in the Survey of India which was the predecessor of the Intelligence Bureau. There are a lot of facts and surmises which would be of interest to those who do not know India, but for me practically the only new fact was that Lahore Museum that I knew was not the one outside of which Kim sat on Zam-Zammah, but its predecessor.

Some of the author's facts and surmises I cannot agree with. He states that Lahore Station was built as a fortress, and quotes the author of "*Stones of Empire*" in saying that doors across the eight tracks could be closed to make the station into a huge bunker. This would be quite impractical and I fear that Hopkirk's informant is mixing up the blockhouses at each end of most strategic bridges which did have holed steel gates which could be closed across the tracks, usually single but exceptionally of double line.

There is more written about a pupil's harrowing experiences as a refugee than about La Martiniere itself. Hopkirk recounts the evacuation to the Residency during the Mutiny, but makes no mention of the commemorative tablet in the basement which lists only forty eight names with a footnote "and nine other boys". The author states also that each boy received the Mutiny Medal, but in fact only fifty six medals were issued while it appears that sixty seven boys were in the Residency, of whom two died of disease. The "Colour" which is mentioned was not presented to the College until much later, I believe in the early years of the present century.

One of the author's surmises is that Simla was chosen as the summer capital as it was nearer the centre of India than Calcutta - which is true - and its communications with the rest of India by road, rail and telegraph were excellent. This is nonsense as all these things came later as a result of the selection, the railway not until 1903. Further, he states that Simla was the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief for the whole year. This is not correct - Army HQ and the Defence Department moved up and down with the rest of the Government of India; one or two not very important or warlike departments remained in Simla for the whole year, notably the Board of (language) Examiners and, I think, the Controller of Military Accounts.

I was amused at the antics of the Pakistan railway officers at Lahore giving the author evasive or incorrect replies to his enquiries about the Lahore-Amritsar Express. I think that, in the climate of spy mania prevailing on both sides of the border, the enquiries of a European about a train which took three and a half hours to cover thirty miles, when taxis would have been quicker and more convenient, must have aroused the deepest suspicions.

There is much of interest to a reader who does not know India now or pre-Independence, but compared with "The Great Game" it is a poor book. AAM

● *HISTORY OF THE SUDAN CAMPAIGN*. Sir Henry Colvile. Originally published in 1889 by HMSO and now re-issued by The Battery Press Inc at \$69.95 plus \$3.50 for domestic shipping, \$5 for overseas (i.e. outside the USA)

I mentioned in Vol. 11, No 4, Winter 1994, the same company's reprint of the China 1900-1901 operation. Once again the advertising leaflet arrived too late to take advantage of a pre-publication price offer. The original text was in two volumes with ten maps. This new edition is combined in one volume and includes four of the key maps - plan of Jakdul, Action of Abu Klea, Position at Gubat and Suakin, and Defences. 648 pages of text, 8 maps in the text plus seven other maps. I have yet to see the book but if the quality is as good as "China 1900-1901" it will be worth having. Other titles in preparation include *The Second Afghan War and Operations in Somaliland 1904-1907*. Anyone interested should write directly to The Battery Press Inc., P.O. Box 198885, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, USA.

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Further to Christopher Peterson's query in Vol. 13, No 3, page 127, about the meaning of F.C.M.A. Poona, Tony Mains has written to say that it stands for Field Controller of Military Accounts. The great war-time expansion of the Indian Army, especially in officer strengths starting generally in 1940, caused the hiving off of certain functions of the office of the

existing Controller of Military Accounts (C.M.A.) at Meerut. One of the main functions of the new office was the maintenance of Officer's accounts and their monthly payments.

The C.M.A's department was not a part of the Army but a civilian organisation, part of the Defence Department of the Government of India staffed by civil servants. When for some reason a department was split, usually temporarily and located in a different place, the detached part, in their jargon, became a "Field Office", hence "Field Controller".

Although the F.C.M.A. was considered a temporary war-time expedient, he existed well after the end of World War II (probably still exists today). Tony Mains explained how he stayed on with the Indian Army after Independence and his pay was still being issued by the F.C.M.A. in December 1952.

● I published a request in Vol. 13, No 3, page 129, for an example of the 9 and 10 Para Commando's beret badge and commented on its similarity to the British SAS badge. I also mentioned having seen a reference to this being a flaming dagger, not a winged dagger as commonly referred to. The Reverend Robin McDowall restored my sanity by providing a copy of the extract I knew I had read but could no longer find! The article appeared in The Times newspaper on 27 July 1996 and referred to research commissioned by the SAS Regimental Association and detailed in their newsletter. The researcher discovered that the badge was designed by the late Bob Tait and represents Damocles' sword of retribution surrounded by flames. The researcher cites a book by the late Major Roy Farran, "*The Winged Dagger*", for starting the oft-quoted reference to the badge being a winged dagger. This clarification must surely now carry over to 9 and 10 Para Commando and all other units which wear, or have worn a similar badge. Ed.

● On the same subject, John Gaylor has written to say that the badge continues to be worn by suitably qualified personnel in the Indian Army today and is worn on the right breast-pocket; the Parachute Regiment badge continues to be worn in the headdress. When a party from the Military Historical Society visited the President's Bodyguard in Delhi in October 1996 their MO was wearing just such a badge on his shirt, with an AMC badge on his cap.

● John Gaylor has also written another letter with regard to the request for badge identification submitted by Christopher Peterson and published in Vol. 12, No 3, page 121. John and Ashok Nath had queried the tentative identification of 91st Punjabis in Vol. 13, No. 2, page 84. John now writes to say that just such a badge featured in a catalogue issued by Geoffrey Hoare in Toronto in October 1996. It is the badge of the 91st Manitoba Light Infantry.

● W J Wyatt seeks contact with anyone who served in the Iraq war of mid-summer 1941 in 10th Indian Division or any other unit which was there. He is researching this and other small theatres of war during the Second World War.

● Christopher Hawes is working on a sequel to his recently published "*Poor Relations*" (see the review at page 160), to cover the later 19th and 20th century. He writes:

I am interested in any member's knowledge of Eurasians as either bandsmen or combatants in the British Army in India. I should also welcome any specific information on:

The Lahore Light Horse
The Peshawar Eurasian Regiment
East Indian Regiment

All three were raised at the time of the Great Mutiny of 1857, and recruited Eurasians. They were disbanded shortly after the Mutiny's suppression. If any member can help I should appreciate it very much.

● Mrs Jean Ames writes:

My great grandfather, Adolphus Lee HURLEY, was born on 4 November 1859 (I do not know his place of birth). He was an apothecary in the Army 1884-1888. He had a daughter (my grandmother), Clementine Eileen May Hurley, born 20 March 1888 at Bareilly, India. In 1890 at Quetta Adolphus was dismissed from the Army.

Can any member help me with the following questions?

- where would Adolphus Hurley have received his medical training in India?
- if he was dismissed from the Army would he have continued to have worked in the Medical Department in hospitals?
- he and his wife Mary were apparently slaughtered in some riots in India. He was in Quetta in 1890 so obviously the riots were after this date. Does anyone have any idea where these riots might have been and, therefore, where the Hurleys might be buried?

(nothing has been found on these questions in the British Library, Oriental and India Office Collections)

● George Webster writes:

I am currently researching on a forebear who served with the 59th (Scinde) Rifles Frontier Force from the mid-1890s until his death in action at Kut-al-Amara in January 1917. I have a variety of regimental and private papers as well as confidential intelligence branch publications, once the property of the Chitral Scouts, and the "Confidential War Diary of 59th Scinde Rifles, F.F." covering the period August 1914 to March 1915. I am attempting to use this core material as a basis for a unit history covering the closing of the 'Great Game' on the frontier up to 1907 and to contrast this period with their service during the Great War in both Europe and Mesopotamia.

I would be grateful for any information relating to this unit, particularly the years 1900-1918. I would also like to know the whereabouts of the current RHQ of the old 6/13th FF Rifles - did it go to India or Pakistan and does anyone have an address?

(According to John Gaylor's "*Sons of John Company*", p 177, it was allotted to Pakistan. Ed)

● Stuart Smith is seeking to identify the recipient of the miniature VC and Mutiny Medal clasp 'LUCKNOW' shown below. One suggestion was that it might be Troop Sergeant Major David Rushe, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, but the Derby City Council Museum and Art Gallery, to whom Mr Smith forwarded details, cast doubt on this for the following reasons:

1. Although bearing some similarities to known photographs of TSM Rushe, the NCO in this photograph is wearing a Hussar pattern pill-box hat (circular decoration on the top) rather than a Lancer one which has cross-welts on the top. Could TSM Rushe have been seconded to a Hussar unit at the time of the photograph?
2. TSM Rushe was entitled to three clasps to his Mutiny Medal. He was also entitled to the Sutlej Medal, the Punjab Medal with clasps for Chillianwalla and Goojerat, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, so why only two miniatures?

Any ideas?



● A non-member, Mr Robin Hodson, is seeking information about the services of Afridis, in particular:

1. The regiments in which they served. Did they serve in 12th Frontier Force Regiment and 13th Frontier Force Rifles and, if so, in which battalions? What awards for valour did they receive? The same questions apply to the Baluch Regiment, 14th Punjab Regiment and any Indian Army cavalry regiments in which they may have served.
2. Which battalions did they serve with in German East Africa during the First World War? Were there any rewards for valour?

3. One Afridi pensioner told Robert Warburton, Intelligence Officer for the Tirah Expeditionary Force in 1897, that some Afridis had fought at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, in 1882. Can anyone say with which regiment?
4. is it true that, during the First World War, some Indian Army regiments in Mesopotamia and Palestine faced desertions or mutinies because of an unwillingness to fight the Muslim Turks?

● Lieutenant Colonel N W Poulson is seeking to borrow any photographs of the Baluch Regiment and its pre-amalgamation Regiments so that he can have copies made. Colonel Poulson provided two excellent photos of Sepoy Bandari Ram VC, Baluch Regiment, c. 1946, and Subadar Major Allah Baksh OBI, Regimental Training Centre, Karachi, c. 1946. Unfortunately space does not permit me to use them in this issue but I shall publish them in Spring 1997 (Ed).

● David Harvey writes:

I am just about to complete a 32 year project, with a book due out late 1997, on the graves of all 1,320 deceased Victoria Cross holders (31 still happily alive!)

Approximately 65 are interred in the Indian sub-continent and I am now 'desperate' to obtain photographs of them all - where known - to complement the text. I had intended to visit India in late 1992 for a six month period, but early that year I was struck by a hit and run driver whilst researching in France, and am now a paraplegic and virtually housebound - hence no trip and the reason for this letter!

If any members have any photographs of the graves, I would welcome copies and naturally will be happy to pay for film costs and postage. I will also acknowledge any help in the forthcoming book, and any photographs used will be credited to the photographer.

As time is now running short - deadline c. June 1997 at the very latest, I would be obliged if any member having such items could contact me at their earliest convenience.

My follow up book, to be published early 1998, relates to a similar theme, i.e. photos of graves, but to 'survivors' of the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava during the Crimean War. Of the approximately 670 chargers, just over 500 later returned to duty with two regiments, the 8th Hussars and 17th Lancers serving in India during the time of the Mutiny. Once again, any locations/photographs would be of immense help.

OBITUARY

Gian Singh, VC (see Vol. 12, No 3, Autumn 1995, page 89, for a mention of the action on 2 March 1945 which earned him the VC while serving with 4/15th Punjab Regiment.) After Independence he served with 11th Sikh Regiment. Born on 5 October 1920, he died in Jullundur, Punjab, on 6 October 1996

PUBLICITY

RAF MAURIPUR ASSOCIATION

RAF Station Mauripur, Sind, officially opened on 26 April 1943 although working parties of the Equipment and Signals Sections had been on the site for a considerable period prior to this. The Station incorporated Station HQ, No 317 Maintenance Unit (Servicing Unit), No 21 Ferry Control, Main Ferry Crew Pool, Training Flight (Ferry Crews), Transit Ferry Pool and Servicing Party. 317 MU was disbanded in March 1944 and a Terminal Staging Post established within the Station ORBAT. Many other changes took place over the next few years until, in 1947, a new headquarters, HQ RAF Mauripur, was established with the objective of effecting the final withdrawal of the RAF from the sub-continent. This was disbanded on 31 December 1947 but an element of the staff stayed on as RAF staff at Headquarters British Forces, Pakistan, and RAF Mauripur Staging Post continued to provide an important link between the UK and Far East until 1957 when RAF Gan re-opened.

An association has now been formed for those who served at Mauripur and details may be obtained from either Langtom Moore, 12 Leadale, Lea, Fylde, Lancashire PR2 1YU or David Holman, 6a South Road, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9NN.

THE AUCHINLECK MEMORIAL APPEAL FOR DESTITUTE VETERANS OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

Six years ago the Auchinleck appeal was launched by the Indian Army Association with two aims - to finance a bust of the Field Marshal to be placed in Wellington College (since achieved) and to raise money to alleviate the distress being suffered by many former Indian soldiers who had served pre-1947 but who are not entitled to receive British Army pensions or charity funds.

In July of this year the appeal featured on BBC Radio 4 in its "Week's Good Cause" slot. Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House of Commons and a former captain in 19th King George V's Own Lancers, spoke of the debt owed to many an old soldier from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh who now live in dire circumstances, but pointed out that the greatest need will arise in the next ten years as more and more reach advanced years. As a result of the radio broadcast about £78,500 has been raised, bringing the total of the appeal fund to £181,000. The money is being distributed by the British Commonwealth Ex-Services' League, a registered charity - and the appeal remains open for donations which may be sent to The Auchinleck Memorial Appeal, British Commonwealth Ex-Services' League, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICES

Honoured - Lieutenant Colonel Patric Emerson was awarded an OBE in the Birthday Honours List for his services to the Indian Army Association. Our warmest congratulations.
