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EXPERIENCES OF BRITISH OFFICERS AT THE TIME OF INDEPENDENCE

(The following accounts were collected by Tony Mains in the 1960s when the experiences were still fresh in Officers' memories)

MAYHEM IN THE DOON VALLEY *by a Superintendent of Police*

The Dehra Dun District comprised the Doon Valley with two outlying sub divisions - Mussoorie, a popular hill station lying at an altitude of over 6,000 feet directly above Dehra Dun town, and Chakrata, an outlying hill station some forty miles away. The population was mainly Hindu with a few scattered Muslim villages in the valley and a sizeable minority in three towns, mainly shopkeepers, servants or tailors. They provided almost the entire catering staff of the Indian Military Academy (IMA). There were also some large colonies of Gurkha ex-servicemen and a small colony of retired Europeans and Anglo-Indians. It had no history of communal trouble so the Police force was unusually small, so small that reinforcements had to be drafted into Mussoorie from other Districts during the summer season. The force had slightly more Hindus than the 50-50 ratio normal in the Province and there was an all Hindu platoon of the Special Armed Constabulary.

It was unfortunate that at this critical time the District Magistrate was a Hindu with communal bias who actively obstructed his British colleague, the Superintendent of Police, and that a large refugee camp had been established in the old war time Prisoner of War camp adjacent to the IMA. The inmates of this camp, believed to number about 10,000, were well armed with swords and spears and were extremely truculent; their so-called "Refugee Welfare Committee", which controlled the camp, had the ear of the District Magistrate, subordinate magistrates and local politicians.

Tension increased steadily during the first four weeks of Independence until, on 14 September, the District Magistrate allowed an all Hindu procession to be taken through the city; this without consulting the Superintendent of Police. As a result individual Moslems were attacked in the city and the murder of Moslems was reported in both Mussoorie and Chakrata. The Police, taking their cue from their District head, remained passive.

The IMA cadets had returned from leave in early August and it was heartening that there was no communal friction although one third of them were Moslems. The Officer Instructors were also mixed - 30% British, 50% Hindu and 20% Moslem. The Commandant had organised a mobile column of cadets to deal with any threat to the security of the Academy. They were soon in action, as an organised "commando" from the refugee camp, armed with swords, clubs and home-made bombs attacked the Moslem shopkeepers at the IMA gates. The Commandant ordered a mixed platoon of cadets to clear the village with bayonet, which they did with gusto, arresting a number of the assailants. The Welfare Committee then organised a deputation to protest at the cadets' action and succeeded in getting the arrested men released. The Army by now had been called out in Dehra Dun, so the local miscreants, foiled in the town, started to attack Moslem villages in the valley with complete impunity.

The Civil administration having come to a halt, the Army took over and imposed what the Superintendent of Police described as "martial law in all but name" and the District Magistrate was replaced. The refugee camp was then surrounded by the Army and searched by the Police; the result was disappointing but it brought home to the inmates that their period of immunity was at an end.

It was decided that it would be too dangerous to repatriate the Moslem staff and cadets of the IMA through the Punjab, so they and their young compatriots from the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College were moved by rail to Bombay and thence by sea to Karachi.

THE PUNJAB BOUNDARY FORCE

This account was written by the Commanding Officer of a Parachute Battalion which had been allotted to Pakistan. It originally comprised Pathans, Punjabi Mussulmans (PMs), Sikhs and Dogras. Right up to the departure of the Sikhs and Dogras there was complete harmony and on the night before their departure their Moslem colleagues organised a farewell feast and waited upon their guests.

To my surprise we were ordered to join the Punjab Boundary Force in July. We had a somewhat difficult trip which included picking up at Raiwind some relatives of one of my Sikh officers. We finished up at Gurdaspur after running out of water for the engine. To my surprise this problem was solved by stopping on a bridge over a river and pumping up water by some curious canvas device. We spent the night at Gurdaspur and then went back to Batala where we set up HQ in the Salvation Army compound. We were immediately surrounded by a camp of refugees numbering, it is said, between 30,000 and 100,000 Moslems. My intention was to get these over the Frontier at the bridge at Dera Baba Nanak. This was done in a somewhat dilatory way and the numbers were microscopic as the refugees were unwilling to leave the comparative safety of Batala.

We had a number of local incidents at which on every occasion there were four Sikhs in a taxi. I got weary of this as I was fully aware that these were "agents provocateurs" and put them under arrest. All the floodgates of Hindu righteousness were let loose and I was informed of the evil of my ways by everyone in any sort of authority from the Governor of East Punjab (Trivedi) downwards. My claim that the law at that time stated that four was an illegal assembly was overruled because four men in a taxi did not count. Meanwhile, at the Pakistan end of the bridge at Dera Baba Nanak a vast Hindu/Sikh camp had been set up. I asked Higher Authority to clear some of this from the end of the bridge so that there could be a clearway through. Nothing, of course, was done. The real problem was that any Moslem trying to cross from the Indian side was looted before he set foot on the bridge by the Hindu/Sikhs and all the Hindu/Sikhs who crossed had been looted on the Pakistan side. Perhaps unwisely in retrospect, I decided to try and get 10,000 of my refugees across. They set out in convoy one morning. I had expected to cover the eight miles or so by lunch but I had not counted on the India-bound Hindu/Sikh problem. Perhaps not unreasonably the Hindu/Sikhs had every intention of equipping themselves with the bullock carts, money and women that was available to the Moslem convoy. Murder and rapine was nothing new in the history of the Indian sub-continent but the attacks were fast and furious. One of the attackers was the battalion machine gun Naik who had gone on pension after the battalion's return from the war in Italy. The protective force told him to go away three times. On the fourth attack he was shot dead. I had been in Batala at this time as I was anxious for the safety of the

refugees around my HQ. Perhaps one thing which particularly struck me was that we would rescue a man who was being attacked and bring him in. He would then appeal to me for help to rescue his family. This I was only too willing to do but when we reached his village the first thing he did was to rush into his house and dig up the mud floor from which he recovered his family money and jewels. This done he gathered up the family. The size of the family always surprised me and there were always a couple of apparently very old men who were carried in a pick a back. The women had to improvise crutches.

Our main purpose was to stop Hindu/Sikh gangs from murdering "kafilas" - the name given to the convoys or continuous streams of refugees. We used to round up these gangs and disarm them of their many and varied weapons which we then threw into the nearest and deepest canal. I doubt if it did much good but it gave us the feeling that we were doing something worthwhile. On one occasion I was taken to Quadian as it was in my area. It was the centre of the Ahmadya sect of the Moslems. Unfortunately the religious centre of this sect had been left on the non-Moslem side. I was treated very well and then was asked to provide an escort and transport to Lahore for some of the hierarchy. I did so as it seemed a reasonable request. I never found out whether it was any good as by now I had become known as the "butcher" of Batala and General Rees (Commander of the Punjab Boundary Force) was asked by the Hindu/Sikhs to move me into Pakistan. We went to Lyallpur. I do not remember having any specific orders on what my duties were. Anyway it was little use as the Civil power on the Indian side of the border would do nothing for the Moslems. We caught one Sikh who was finishing off a Moslem. I had him tied up in his turban and sent him to Batala Police Station where he was refused. He then went on to Gurdaspur goal where he was taken in, charged with murder, but was released without a stain on his character next morning.

At Lyallpur we were stationed in the Agricultural College and were involved in escort duty and putting down riots. These happened with distressing frequency and there can be no suggestion that the Moslems were less brutal than the Hindu/Sikhs on the other side of the border. We had riots in Jhananwala, Jhang, Lyallpur and Samundi. The curious fact was that a number of influential Moslems expected us to provide them with personal guards and escorts. The (Army) Horse Breeding establishment at Sarghoda expected a platoon to guard it and its documents. My protest that they were in their own country were to no avail.

At Lyallpur there was a great flour mill. This was government property and the manager would not issue any flour without a signature, although the flour was needed for starving refugees. He had tried the District Commissioner and other members of the civil hierarchy without success. He assured me that it would become full of weevils unless eaten. As far as I know I had no authority to interfere but I signed and thousands of tons were issued and I heard nothing further about it.

THE DIVISION OF AN ARMoured REGIMENT

The Commanding Officer of a regiment allotted to Pakistan gave the following account of his difficulties

The plan, as far as I can remember, was that on Partition we were to amalgamate with another regiment in Pakistan; we being in India. We were to be a Pakistan Regiment and our Sikh

Squadron was to be replaced by a Punjabi Mussulman Squadron from the other regiment which, in turn, was going to India and would take over our Sikh Squadron. Officers opted for whichever country they wanted to go to, but they mainly went PMs to Pakistan and Sikhs and Hindus to India. We were told which Regiment we were to amalgamate with; all details were worked out including nominal rolls and promotion lists so that when this took place everything would work smoothly and all concerned would know where they would stand with regard to seniority and promotion. All this was laid out some time before Partition. In order to get all this buttoned up I went up to northern India, or what would eventually be Pakistan, to meet the CO of the other regiment. I spent some time there planning a smooth change over when the time came.

I then flew back to the regiment via Delhi where I visited Armoured Corps HQ - no indication was given as to when this change over was to take place.

On arrival at the regiment on a Thursday I was met by my second in command who informed me that he had received instructions that the regiment was to be 'IN PAKISTAN' by the date of Partition - in other words, the regiment had to move on the following Monday. This would mean Regimental HQ, two squadrons of PMs, the Officers Mess and all others going to Pakistan. This left me one Sikh Squadron, most of the Light Aid Detachment (mechanical transport), most of the office staff, the whole of the regimental equipment - tanks, transport, stores of all kind and the barrack furniture and stores.¹

What was the hurry? I presume that all regiments were faced with the same problem. Had we only waited and carried out an orderly change over with our amalgamating regiment all should have gone well. As soon as the instructions for the move were known the regiment automatically divided into two camps and as the date of the move came nearer tension rose. I was by myself with no other British officers, all Emergency Commissioned Officers having gone back to England. Any orders to be given I gave myself as I did not want to aggravate the situation by sending my Adjutant, a PM, to give orders to the Sikh Squadron in case a refusal to obey might arise. On arrival back I found the Pakistan flag flying over the Guard Room together with the regimental flag. I immediately stopped this and gave my 2 i/c (a PM) a pretty good ticking off. We always mounted mixed guards and, of course, the Sikhs would certainly have refused to mount, causing a tricky situation. This sort of thing may seem trivial now but with feelings very high at the time anything could have happened, particularly with a lot of hot heads in the area. At night in my bungalow I was constantly being visited by one or other of each faction with complaints and plots of various kinds. The regiment went off by train and not one of the Sikhs or Hindus came to the station to see them off.²

1. this reminds me of a letter which appeared in the Journal of the USII, April-June 1994, by Major General (ret'd) Partap Narain who referred to an earlier article by Major Maroof Raza in which he complained that India did not transfer the agreed proportion of ordnance stores to Pakistan (only 10% actually received) and that of the stores received some was useless - small sized shoes and clothing for Nursing Sisters. General Narain countered:

".....In fact, at the time of transfer of power, we not only shipped the stores required by Britain, we under the direction of Mr H M Patel the Defence Secretary meticulously kept on despatching train loads of materials to Pakistan even after the Kashmir operations - the flow was only cut off when Pakistan reneged on the payments" (Ed.)

2. *This was by no means the norm - in many units the parting was with great sorrow and often the men remaining feasted those leaving before their departure.*
(Tony Mains)

IMPRESSIONS

123rd Indian Infantry Brigade moved to Calcutta on 5 August 1947 where it remained over Independence Day. At the end of August it was moved to Amritsar as part of the Boundary Force. The Brigade Major gives his impressions.

One still has vivid memories of some events:

- the change from murder and arson to rejoicing in Calcutta over 14/15 August (Independence Day) was as near a miracle as I shall ever see;
- those long lines of refugees moving across Amritsar District to the Canal with dead left behind in the overnight camp site. The Old Testament was quite right - dogs don't eat faces, hands or feet; and after the floods, the smell of cholera in those same camps;
- Pensioner after pensioner who asked one what it was all about and why we had allowed it to happen. My Brigadier and I were sitting on a bridge watching one column when a pensioner, a Subadar Major of his old Battalion, climbed down from a tonga and came over, in tears, to talk to the Brigadier;
- standing on the footplate of the engine pulling the two Punjabi Mussulman Squadrons of my Regiment through Amritsar Station the night after the biggest massacre of a train that we'd had.

and a contribution from a non-member of the Society:

OUTPOST OF EMPIRE

Cecil Ritchie

It is 50 years since India and Pakistan were born although the then expression was 'partition'. Taking part in history and knowing that you could look back and say, "I was there" does not happen to many, especially a subaltern in the Army, 6,000 miles from Scotland. A second generation connection makes the event even more significant, since my late father in law also served, in his case with the 1/4th Bombay Grenadiers - the connection was a local chief known as the Fakir of Ipi.

The North West Frontier Province of India has a romantic connotation of its own with Peshawar and the Khyber Pass as backdrop.

I had served with Kohat Signals prior to a posting with a regiment of Punjabi Mussulman Mountain Artillery to Razmak in Waziristan, a few miles from the Afghan border. One of the batteries of this regiment, Number 3 (Peshawar) Mountain Battery had an entry in the visitors book proving that Kipling had composed there his Barrack Room ballad, Screw Guns -

"Smokin' my pipe on the mountings, sniffin' the mornin' cool".

The trouble was that we were in Waziristan and the Wazirs were not keen on any form of overlord, whether Hindu or British, and the personification of that disapproval was the Fakir of Ipi.

There was the usual build up in political excitement, even before we left Kohat. Hundreds of agitators would swamp the Kohat bazaar and apolitical Army Infantry would mingle with the incomers to keep the temperature under control. The District Commissioner found a solution to these intrusions. After a few days, the visitors were herded into lorries, driven out several miles to tribal territory and invited to return on foot. Their interest soon flagged.

For the ceremony of breaking the Pakistan flag a problem arose. I was British Army 'attached', the Mussulman Regiment had either British or Hindu officers of the Indian Army. With five minutes to go before eleven o'clock, a British Army Engineer was located to maintain impartiality. Moments later, we heard the familiar 'tuk dum' of rifle fire across the valley - a reminder that the Fakir of Ipi was still in charge.

Returning to the Mess, my colleague, Major Prithmi Chand was in tears. Although an emotional moment, no man likes to witness such a scene. He pointed to the trophy cabinet and was contemplating the dispersal of Regimental cups, as between India and Pakistan. Since the Army had always kept out of politics, this was a rupture in tradition too hard for him to bear.

This confirmed the unreality of the previous evening when, at midnight, first Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had intoned in his cultured voice, "Jai Hind", followed by the stubborn Mr Jinnah's "Pakistan Zinzabad" and Mr Baldev Singh, who spoke on behalf of the Sikhs. Poor Mahatma Ghandi had pleaded right up to the last minute to keep the continent whole and his worst fears have now been realised. In fifty years Pakistan has achieved little.

Our family connection with the Frontier area must be repeated for many families in Britain, either civil or military. The rifle fire across the valley reminded me of a photograph of my late father in law in his uniform as captain in the 1/4th Bombay Grenadiers. My wife had unearthed his Army record of service which showed that, at one stage, he had been posted to Wana. This could have been any posting were it not for a strange coincidence.

My research started with a tentative enquiry to the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. What could they tell me about the 1/4th Bombay Grenadiers and the Fakir of Ipi?

This gentleman was a romantic who came to fame through a Romeo and Juliet episode in 1936 when he rescued a Hindu girl from Bannu who had been forced to elope by her Wazir tribesman lover and accept the Moslem faith prior to marriage. The neighbours rose in rebellion beneath the religious unifying cries of a local hermit from the village of Ipi, near Bannu, Mirza Ali Khan who, from then on, became known as the Fakir of Ipi.

He possessed all the characteristics necessary for leadership in his society: charisma, courage, a religious cause and religious heritage. During the first year of his rebellion, the Fakir and his followers caused over a thousand deaths and casualties among British troops. I know how he acquired weapons. On one foray from Razmak, during my brief stay, seven rifles were stolen from our unit by the Fakir's followers. His headquarters were initially in caves near the

town of Wana and his mystical reputation was enhanced by the failure of all attempts to capture him there.

My wife, looking through her father's record of service noted that one of his postings with the 1/4th Bombay Grenadiers was to Wana.

The Bombay Grenadiers had a right to the title dating back to 1779 and therefore pre-dated the Grenadiers, or First Regiment of Foot Guards normally associated with the Royal Household and Buckingham Palace. The regimental badge was a grenade fired, in brass, with a white-metal 4 on the ball. In those days the Officers Ladies were much in mind as my wife showed me a beautiful powder compact presented to her mother with the regimental badge on the cover.

As Pakistan never seems to leave the starting blocks and India appears to find a new identity, one wonders how a positive outcome could be achieved. On one occasion, Nehru is alleged to have said that the only thing holding India together was the English language. What a pity about the name.

This thought prompts another, with cricket in mind. Both countries are besotted with the game and at the moment there is a world renowned former cricketer at presently unemployed. What a pipe dream - India and Pakistan reunited with a new President - Mr Imran Khan.



THE PARTITION OF THE INDIAN ARMY - On the wrong side of the religious divide - the plight of the RANGHARS, HINDUSTANI MUSSULMANS and MEOS

Tony Mains

The planning for the partition of the Indian Army at Independence introduced the principle of the "opt" - this was not a free choice of which Dominion individuals wished to serve but was restricted to those living on the wrong side of the religious divide. A Hindu living in Pakistan could opt to join India but a Mussulman could not; conversely a Mussulman domiciled in India could opt for Pakistan but a Hindu could not. The exceptions were Anglo Indians, Parsees and Indian Christians who were allowed a free vote. The principle was not exclusive to the armed forces - it applied equally to all Government services, Civil and railway service, police etc.

In practice, except for Officers, things did not work out quite like that - both sides expected and desired complete transfers of sub units. A Hindu or Sikh company of a Pakistan regiment would be exchanged for a Mussulman company of an Indian regiment. This was, of course, a much easier and more effective way to divide the Army; while no Sikh or Hindu was likely to opt for, or be accepted into, the Pakistan Army, there were some north Indian Mussulman martial classes who were in a different category - Ranghars, Hindustani Mussulmans and Meos.

Ranghars, or Mussulman Rajputs, came from the traditional States of Rajputana (now Rajasthan), particularly from Jaipur and Jodhpur, and the people loosely described in recruiting parlance as Hindustani Mussulmans from around Delhi. The former were

ethnically Rajputs and the latter had a fair admixture of Jat blood. Both groups had served in the Indian Army for a hundred years or more, especially in the cavalry, as they were natural horsemen. They were recruited into seven of the twenty one cavalry regiments, and into two infantry regiments. Their position became extremely precarious at Independence because they lived in India and had no desire, unless the pressures became too great, to emigrate to Pakistan. The constitutional position allowed them to opt for continued service in the Indian Army, but they became a pawn in the bargaining between the two Dominions. Pakistan, whose very existence was founded on the premise that no Mussulman would wish to live under Hindu rule, could not tolerate their desire to remain citizens of India. Pressure was put upon those units stationed in Pakistan to remain there, and where this failed, the Pakistan military authorities simply forbade their departure. Their British officers tried to sort out the tangle but as soon as they had left the Ranghars and Hindustani Mussulmans had to fend for themselves. The officers of the new Indian Army would do nothing to help them and even acquiesced in their retention in, or removal to, Pakistan. This attitude is understandable when one considers that the two Dominions were in a state of undeclared war and few Hindu or Sikh officers would be prepared to lead Mussulman troops into battle against their co-religionists. For a time many former British officers were convinced that these racial groups had ceased to exist in India, but happily this is not so. A large proportion still live in Rajasthan and are again enlisted into the Armoured Corps, and into one of their original infantry regiments, The Grenadiers, as well as into India's horsed cavalry regiment, 61st Cavalry.

To the south east of Delhi lies the Mewat, an area of arid hills, mainly in the Gurgaon District of the Punjab and the adjacent (former) State of Alwar and cutting across the boundaries of the former Bharatpur and Jaipur States. The origins of the Mussulman inhabitants, the Meos, are obscure and, although classified for enlistment as Hindustani Mussulmans, few were in fact enlisted. They were poor, ill-educated cultivators, but this notwithstanding, they were a truculent people, especially where their land or religion was concerned. They constituted an island of Islam in a Hindu Jat sea, and if they felt threatened they used guerrilla tactics. The authorities considered them to be a people who would meet out rough justice to anyone rash enough to try and attack them in their barren hills. They were well armed and believed themselves a match for the Jats. The Meos excelled in hit-and-run raids and for years past if the Jats riled them they would retaliate by raiding the Jat villages, decamping before the police could arrive. However, unfortunately for them, in 1946 they misjudged the extent to which communal passions had been aroused and when the Jats attacked Mussulmans at Gurmukteswar in Meerut District, they raided the Jat areas contiguous to them. The Jats then set about them in earnest, and although an uneasy peace was sustained during the winter of 1946-47, by the summer of 1947 fighting had restarted and the Indian Army, hard pressed as they were in other areas, found the situation hard to control. To make matters worse, they were actively hindered by the State authorities of Alwar and Bharatpur, and to a lesser degree those of Jaipur State. These States took an overtly communal attitude and refused to allow the Indian Army to cross into their territories either to pursue Jat raiders or to protect Meo villages, and there is evidence that the troops of the States concerned themselves attacked and sacked Meo villages. The final outcome was that the Meo community disintegrated and has ceased to exist.

REGIMENTAL SILVER

A Book

The history and spirit of every regiment is to be seen in three tangible forms - its Roll of Battle Honours, its Colours, and its regimental silver. There are numerous publications which list the Battle Honours of the British and Indian Armies, and others which deal with the subject of Regimental Colours, Guidons or the Gurkha Truncheon. Almost nothing has been published with regard to regimental silver.

Our Society member, Roger Perkins, is writing a book on the subject. He wishes to hear from anyone who is able to provide information of any kind. He particularly wishes to know what happened to the Mess silver owned by units which were amalgamated or disbanded at various dates between 1861 and 1947; by units which were lost or captured in the Far East in 1942; and by units which were passed to the new armies of India and Pakistan in 1947.



REGIMENTAL COLOURS

The Editor

Despite the point made in the previous note, and recognising that we published a review of Major Sarbans Singh's book "*Battle Honours of the Indian Army 1757-1971*" which listed those Honours now permitted to be carried on the Colours of Indian Army regiments (Vol. 11, No 2, page 57), I am not aware of a detailed description of each of those Colours. "*Regimental Colours and Ceremonials in the Indian Army*" by Brigadier Teg Bahadur Kapur AVSM, published by Vikas Publishing House PVT Ltd, New Delhi in 1983, refers to the laying up of the old King's Colours on 23 November 1950 at the Indian National Defence Academy, Dehra Dun (they had not been carried since 26 January 1950, the date on which India became a Republic). He mentions that, following the deliberations of the Sant Singh Committee, a decision was made in November 1954 that old Regimental Colours would be replaced with new Colours as and when the occasion arose. He goes on to give a general description of such Colours and from this it ought to be possible to work out what each Regimental Colour should look like. But there are no illustrations and no details of the Battle Honours borne.

Major General Chand N Das OBE has made available to me a set of coloured photographs of a number of the Regimental Colours and if there is sufficient interest I would be prepared to run a series of articles in DURBAR displaying these, though the detail is somewhat indistinct.

From a note provided by General Chand Das it would seem that the first replacement Colour was not awarded until 8 April 1961 when President Rajendra Prasad presented a new Colour to 4 Kumaon at Ranikhet. The next was Scinde Horse on 9 November 1961, again presented by President Rajendra Prasad at Nabha.

I know nothing of the Colours of the Pakistan Army and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any information.

Responses on whether such a series of articles would be of interest to the Editor please.

ISF UNITS INCORPORATED INTO THE INDIAN AND PAKISTAN ARMIES

Richard Head and Tony McClenaghan

During a visit to India last year Tony met Major General U C Dubey who, as GOC Rajasthan 1950-51, was responsible for integrating the Indian States Forces in his area into the Indian Army. He recalled that he had to select 5,000 from a strength at that time of 15,000 and so introduced a rigorous selection programme based on age, health and fitness. As far as he could recall no complete battalion was taken into the Army, though several States units formed the core of a new battalion supplemented by troops from other States. States Forces officers accepted for the Indian Army often had to drop a rank or two initially, though several subsequently regained or even enhanced their former ranks.

Following the integration of the States Forces into the armies of India and Pakistan, both countries adopted a positive attitude to the various units and the different and, in some cases, older campaign histories and traditions of these units. Indeed, some regiments have now been granted raising dates based on their States Forces components which go back far beyond the old Indian Army element. As with the Indian Army, many of the old Colours were laid up at Dehra Dun in 1951, though some are still retained by the former ruling families of the relevant States.

The details which follow are taken from our forthcoming book, *"The Armies of the Indian Princely States"* and show those States Forces units which survived integration and the current Indian and Pakistan units which represent them. Some units merely had their personnel absorbed into new formations, whilst others had their history, traditions and achievements accepted to such an extent that they form an essential part of the current units' attributes. In some instances units and personnel were transferred into the Armed Police of the States and Provinces of the new Dominions.

INDIAN ARMY

	Current Title
<u>Cavalry</u>	
1st Gwalior Lancers	} 61 Cavalry
2nd Gwalior Lancers	
Jaipur Kachhwaha Horse	
Jodhpur Lancers	
Mysore Lancers	
'B' Squadron, 2nd Patiala Lancers	
Saurashtra Horsed Cavalry	
Indore Mounted Escort	Mounted Police, Madhya Pradesh Special

Armed Force

Jammu and Kashmir Body Guard	60th Heavy Regiment, Artillery
Jodhpur Lancers	D Squadron, 7th Light Cavalry

Artillery

Bikaner Bijey Battery	83rd (Bikaner) Field Battery
Gwalior Scindia's Field Battery	84th (Scindia) Field Battery
Gwalior Mountain Battery	74th (Gwalior) Mountain Battery
Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery	76th (Jammu and Kashmir) Mountain Battery
Patiala Mountain Battery	75th (Patiala) Mountain Battery
Patiala Field Battery	85th (Patiala) Field Battery

Engineers

all of the units listed below are part of the Bengal Engineer Group

1st Faridkot Field Company	368th Field Company (Faridkot)
2nd Faridkot Field Company	94th Field Company (Faridkot)
Malerkotla Field Company	369th Field Company (Malerkotla)
Mandi Field Company	95th Field Company (Mandi)
Sirmoor Field Company	100th Field Company (Sirmoor)
Tehri Garhwal Field Company	84th Field Company (Tehri Garhwal)
Sirmoor Brass Band	Bengal Group Brass Band

Infantry

Bikaner Sadul Light Infantry	19th (Bikaner) Battalion, Rajput Regiment
1st Cochin Infantry	17th (Cochin) Battalion, Madras Regiment
Cooch Behar Band	Band, 4th Gorkha Rifles
4th Gwalior Infantry	5th Battalion (14th Kumaon) (Gwalior), Mechanised Infantry Regiment

2nd Hyderabad Infantry	22nd (Hyderabad) Battalion, Maratha Light Infantry
1st Indore Infantry	15th (Indore) Battalion, Kumaon Regiment
Jaipur Sawai Man Guards	17th (Sawai Man) Battalion, Rajputana Rifles
1st Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	1st Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
2nd Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	2nd Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
3rd Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	3rd Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
4th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	4th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
5th Jammu and Kashmir Light	5th Battalion, Jammu and Infantry Kashmir Rifles
6th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	6th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
7th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	7th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
8th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	8th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
9th Jammu and Kashmir Infantry	9th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
Jind Infantry	13th (Jind) Battalion, Punjab Regiment
Jodhpur Sardar Infantry	24th (Jodhpur) Battalion, Mechanised Infantry Regiment
Kapurthala Band	Artillery Centre
Kolhapur Infantry	19th (Kolhapur) Battalion, Maratha Light Infantry
Mewar Infantry	} 9th (Mewar) Battalion, Grenadiers
Alwar Jey Paltan	
Bharatpur Infantry	
Kotah Umed Infantry	
1st Mysore Infantry	18th (Mysore) Battalion, Madras Regiment
Nabha Akal Infantry	14th (Nabha) Battalion, Punjab Regiment
1st Patiala Infantry	15th (Patiala) Battalion, Punjab Regiment
2nd Patiala Infantry	16th (Patiala) Battalion, Punjab Regiment
1st Travancore Infantry	9th (Travancore) Battalion, Madras Regiment

2nd Travancore Infantry		16th (Travancore) Battalion, Madras Regiment
1st Tripura Manikya Rifles		6th Battalion, Assam Rifles
1st Baroda Infantry	}	10th Battalion (20th Maratha Light Infantry) (Baroda), Mechanised Infantry Regiment
2nd Baroda Infantry	}	
	}	
Baroda Lancers	}	
Bhavnagar Lancers	}	11th Battalion (18th Rajputana Rifles) (Saurashtra), Mechanised Infantry Regiment
Bhavnagar Infantry	}	
Dhrangadhra Infantry	}	
Nawanagar Infantry	}	
Porbander Infantry	}	
Bikaner Ganga Risala	}	13th (Ganga Jaisalmer) Jaisalmer Camel Corps Battalion, Grenadiers
	}	
Chamba Infantry	}	16th Battalion, Dogra Regiment
Mandi Infantry	}	
Sirmoor Infantry	}	
Suket Infantry	}	
Kutch State Forces		9th Battalion (7th Grenadiers), Mechanised Infantry Regiment
Baria State Forces	}	8th Battalion, Grenadiers
Idar State Forces	}	
Lunawada State Forces	}	
Rajpipla State Forces	}	

Transport

Gwalior Pony Company	10th Animal Transport Company
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The 61st Cavalry, Indian Army, is now a mounted ceremonial unit based in Jaipur and it is usually to be seen in the Republic day parades in New Delhi. Originally it had three squadrons and a mounted band but is now reduced to two squadrons, one in Jaipur and the other in New Delhi. Its badge, a double headed bird above a scroll with SIXTY FIRST CAVALRY, is based on the mythological Gandabherunda of Mysore. The Bikaner Ganga Risala was integrated as a camel mounted battalion but was subsequently converted into a regular infantry battalion. It has recently been converted back into a camel mounted role. It will be seen from the above details that, by coincidence, no less than five battalions of the elite Mechanised Infantry Regiment are descended from Indian States Forces units.

PAKISTAN ARMY

Artillery

Bahawalpur Mountain Battery 14th (Abbas) Field Regiment

Infantry

1st Bahawalpur Infantry 8th Battalion, Baluch Regiment

2nd Bahawalpur Infantry 9th Battalion, Baluch Regiment

3rd Bahawalpur Infantry 20th Battalion, Baluch Regiment

4th Bahawalpur Infantry 21st Battalion, Baluch Regiment

It is almost certain that other units of the Indian States Forces were integrated into either the army or the police of both India and Pakistan but details are not to hand. What is clear is that the present day units of both countries listed above are very proud of their origins and maintain a tradition that in some cases pre-date the oldest of the pre-1947 Indian Army regiments.

MEDALS COMMEMORATING INDEPENDENCE

Tony McClenaghan

Both India and Pakistan instituted medals to commemorate Independence and these have been well documented. Being Dominions at the time the medals were, of course, approved by King George VI. India's medal was instituted in 1949 and Pakistan's in 1951.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1947

Instituted by King George VI and announced in October 1949 to commemorate India's Independence on 15 August 1947 (Army Instruction 13/490), the medal was granted to:

1. All Indian nationals, male and female, on the strength of units/formations of the Indian Armed Forces on 15 August 1947;
2. All ruling Princes of the States Forces States¹ (this qualification not repeated in Dorling²) acceding to the Dominion of India by 1 January 1948.
3. British officers, ratings, other ranks, and airmen, male and female:
 - (i) Serving on 1 January 1948 with the Armed Forces of the Dominion of India.
 - (ii) Serving on 1 January 1948 on the Active List in a Government House or in Central and Provincial Governments (in civil employment).
 - (iii) Who proceeded on leave before 1 January 1948 pending retirement but had volunteered and were serving with the Indian Forces between 15 August 1947 and 1 January 1948.
 - (iv) Officers and other ranks of the Transport Squadrons and Communication Flights of the Royal Air Force which had been lent to and were serving in the Dominion of India.

The medal is circular, of cupro-nickel. On the obverse the Imperial Crown and Asoka's Chakra surrounded by the inscription "GEORGIUS VI D: G. BRITT: OMN: REX: FID: DEF:" and on the reverse the representation of Asoka's three lions as depicted on Asoka's Pillar at Sarnath, with the inscription "INDIAN INDEPENDENCE" and "15th AUGUST 1947". (I have seen a medal chart produced in India which shows the order reversed).

The ribbon is 32mm, saffron, white and green in equal stripes, worn with saffron stripe farthest from the left shoulder.



POLICE INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1950

Established under President's Secretariat Notification No 9-Pres/51 dated 4 May 1951, the medal, despite its name, was awarded to all members of the Police Service only to mark the occasion of India becoming a Republic on 26th January 1950.

The ribbon is 35mm wide divided into three equal stripes, each 10mm wide, of red, light saffron and red. Between the red and light saffron is a dark blue vertical stripe 2.5mm wide.



PAKISTAN MEDAL

Instituted by King George VI and announced in December 1951 to commemorate the establishment of Pakistan on 15 August 1947 (Army Instruction (Pakistan) 255/51), the medal was granted to:

- All who were on the strength of units/formations of the Indian Armed Forces in Pakistan, India or any other country on 15 August 1947, who opted for service in Pakistan and subsequently became members of the Armed Forces of Pakistan;
- The Ruling Princes and members of the Bahawalpur States Forces who were continuously serving on full time engagement on the day of the accession of Bahawalpur State to Pakistan.
- Boys (enrolled) of the Royal Indian Navy or Indian Army who were serving on 15 August 1947 in either Pakistan or India and subsequently served in the Armed Forces of Pakistan, provided they were 16 years of age or over on that date.
- British officers, WOs and other ranks who on 1 January 1948 were serving in the Armed Forces of Pakistan or India and who volunteered for, and were accepted for and subsequently served with, the Armed Forces of Pakistan.
- Full time members of the Police Forces of Provinces of Pakistan and the Capital of Pakistan, the Frontier Constabulary, the Civil Armed Forces and the East Pakistan Rifles who were serving on 15 August 1947 and subsequently served in those forces in Pakistan.

The medal is circular, of silver. There is contradictory reference as to the obverse and reverse. Dorling² describes the obverse as the Imperial Crown and Royal Cypher 'G.VI.R.' surrounded by the inscription "GEORGIUS VI D: G. BRITT: OMN: REX:" and on the reverse the flag of Pakistan surrounded by a wreath with inscriptions above and below. Documents from Pakistan show them in reverse order. The Urdu inscription at the top of the medal reads (top line) *26 Ramzanul Mubarak 1366 Hijri* (Ramza is the month, Mubarak a blessing on that month and Hijri (Hejira) the name of the Mohammedan era (A.H. - anno Hegirae); (second line) *Tamgha-i-Pakistan* (Pakistan Medal). The inscription under the flag reads *Eisa* (Christian calendar) *14 August 1947*

The ribbon is 32mm, dark or Pakistan Green divided by a central white stripe.



Nobody could receive both the Indian and Pakistan Independence Medals

In addition to these medals a couple of the former Indian Princely States struck medals of their own.

(BAHAWALPUR) INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1947

An octagonal medal, 37mm in cupro nickel, with the suspension mounted at the centre of the uppermost of the eight sides. The obverse has the bust of an older Sadiq Muhammad Khan V, facing left, in full dress military uniform with Fez or Tarbush headdress but without tassle. Around, the Arabic inscription *ba-Fazlah taalah [or] toali Sadiq Mohammed Abbasi Khamis. Farman rawai mamlakat khudadad Bahawalpur* (By the Grace of God Sadiq Mohammed Abbasi Fifth. Ruler of God Gifted Kingdom of Bahawalpur).

The reverse has on three lines the inscription taken from the Holy Quran *ya-Allah* (Oh God) *Nasru minalla wa Fateh Qarib* (Success is from the God and Victory is near) *ya-Mohammed* (Oh Mohammed). Leaf fronds on either side

The ribbon is 32mm; black with a 1mm white stripe 2mm from each edge. In the centre three equal stripes of red, yellow and green. Some references show the ribbon reversed but there is no doubt red is to the left.



BAHAWALPUR-PAKISTAN ALLIANCE 1947 also seen referred to as ACCESSION TO PAKISTAN MEDAL, 1947

An octagonal medal, 37mm of cupro-nickel, with the suspension mounted at the centre of the uppermost of the eight sides. The obverse is as for the Independence Medal. The reverse has the crossed flags of Bahawalpur and Pakistan with star and crescent at the point of intersection. Five stars to either side. Above the Persian inscription *Ittehad Bhawalpur-Pakistan 1947* and below the inscription *17 zu-al-q'adah 1366 Hijri* with the date 1947 above. (Bahawalpur-Pakistan Union 1947)

The ribbon is 32mm; divided into the two national colours (green with central white stripe for Pakistan), (red, yellow and black for Bahawalpur), the two divided by a 2mm brown stripe.



(DHRANGADHRA) ACCESSION TO INDIA MEDAL, 1947

Authorised under Huzur Hukum No 28/2004 dated 3 March 1948, the eligibility date for the medal was 25 March 1948. Both the Huzur Hukum and a booklet issued by the State maintain that it was issued in one class only, in cupro nickel, although I have seen an article describing two different issues and a commemorative list of Recipients Designate makes a confusing reference to three classes. In general the medal was awarded in recognition of State, Public and General Services. The Huzur Hukum order named 128 intended recipients and referred to an unspecified number of third class recipients. It has not been possible to resolve this anomaly.

The medal is circular, 32mm of silver alloy. The obverse has the Ashoka Chakra with diadem above and the date 9 Aug 1947 below, with the motto in Sanskrit script, *Jai Hind/Sukhino Bhavantu Dhararya* (Hail to India. May the people of the land be happy). Around, above, in English, ACCESSION TO THE DOMINION OF INDIA and below DHRANGADHRA. The reverse has the Jhaladhip Arms (Three Jhala Oriels) with diadem above and, in English, HALVAD DHRANGADHRA STATE JHALAWAR KATHIAWAR INDIA. Around the outer edge, above in Gujarati, *Sam Halvada Dharangadhara*, and below, in Sanskrit, *Jhala Raj Rupam Sarva Bhadraya Rajate* (The Jhala ruler's nature [splendour/silver] shines for general welfare)

The ribbon is 30mm. Shaded pink (8mm) and pink (7mm) to the centre and then reversed. Although the example shown has no suspension the medal was designed with a ring attached to an ornate top extension to the medal

Those recipients of the Accession to India Medal who had not received the Dhrangadhra Rajyabhishek (Coronation) Medal were to wear the medal reversed, i.e. the Jhaladhip Arms as obverse and the Ashoka Chakra as reverse.

A miniature medal, 19mm of silvered cupro nickel, similar in design to the main medal was authorised, though with a slightly different design. The obverse had the Ashoka Chakra with diadem above. On the left, in English, ACCESSION, on the right TO INDIA. Below, 9.8.1947. The reverse had the Jhaladhip Arms with diadem above. On the left, in Gujarati, *Sam Halavada*, on the right *Dharangadhara*, below in English DHRANGADHRA



(JIND) INTEGRATION MEDAL 1948

There is a medal ribbon which some collectors attribute to an Integration Medal for Jind. I have found no proof of its existence and doubt the attribution.

I have not found any other Independence or Integration (Accession) Medals.

1. *"Regimental Colours and Ceremonials in the Indian Army"*. Brigadier Teg Bahadur Kapur, Vikas Publishing House PVT Ltd, New Delhi, 1983
2. *"Ribbons and Medals"*. H Taprell Dorling, revised by Francis K Mason; George Philip, London, 1974

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Brigadier John Randle writes:

I have just read Colonel Daljit Singh's article about "D Day - Why did Indian troops not take part?" (Vol. 14, No 2, pp58-67), which I found interesting. His article, however, contains a number of errors of fact.

Shortly after Slim formed 14th Army in August 1943 from the old Eastern Command of India, responsibility for Burma was handed over, NOT to India as he states on page 60, but to SEAC and 11th Army Group. There were also, for a substantial period, three Corps in 14th Army - 4, 15 and 33, and an additional Indian Division - 19th.

Page 65, para 2 states "Indian Divisions were traditionally formed of two Indian Brigades and one British Brigade". This was never so. An Indian Division had three identical brigades, each of two Indian or Gurkha battalions and a British battalion**.

(**see footnote after next letter - Ed)

● On the same subject Major J G H Corrigan writes:

While Indian troops had been excluded from the South African War, to their considerable annoyance, partly on the grounds that it was unsporting to use them against a European enemy, this stricture had disappeared by 1914 when the only professional troops available to reinforce the BEF were those of the Indian Army. The two divisions of the Indian Corps began to arrive in France in September 1914 and were thrown straight into First Ypres. They, and the two Indian Cavalry divisions, fought superbly against the Germans and this was recognised at the time.

Only later were criticisms levelled. One canard often repeated since, and alluded to by Colonel Daljit Singh, was that they could not cope with the cold. Indian troops on the Western Front arrived in khaki drill uniforms designed for India and were not to be issued winter serge until December 1914/January 1915. Some battalions (such as 1/9th Gurkha Rifles) had to endure the coldest winter for years clad in shorts. Despite the inability of the textile industry to produce uniforms any faster, at around 14 men per thousand the daily sick rate of Indian units was very much the same as that for the rest of the BEF. The men who really did suffer from the climate were the British soldiers in the Indian Corps (one British battalion in each four-battalion brigade**) where the figure averaged 45 per thousand. As some of the British battalions had spent up to 7 years in India by 1914, their very high sick rate was thought to be due to the debilitating effect on Europeans of the Indian climate.

Food was not a problem in 1914 and need not have been in France in 1944. On arrival in France in 1914 Indian troops, through their Subadar Majors, were asked whether they would accept frozen meat (mutton and goat) to which they agreed. They were then asked whether they would accept tinned meat, which again they agreed to. It was unfortunate that the contract for tinned mutton and goat was arranged by officers of the British service with no knowledge of India, for the firm to which it was awarded had as its logo a rampant bull, a picture of which appeared on each tin! Thereafter flocks of goats and sheep were transported to the railhead at Lillers and each major unit told off four men to supervise slaughtering. All other items of food could either be obtained locally or imported from India. Indian troops actually preferred the British Army 'dog biscuit' to chapattis made from imported atta. Indian troops were in fact remarkably flexible about food in the First War, even Brahmins (of which there was one company in the 9th Bhopal Infantry and, later, half a company in the 89th Punjabis) being prepared to compromise. Europe in 1944 would have been no different.

Despite the activities of the INA in WW2 (always a tiny minority of POW, hardly ever committed, and which when it was committed lost much of its strength in reverse desertion back to the British) there was no doubting the loyalty of Indian troops. I suspect that the real reason Indian troops did not take part in the D Day landings was simply because the Indian Army was fully committed against the Japanese, which campaign was considered at the time to be likely to go on for years, and to a lesser extent in Italy.

(note: ** to avoid confusion between this and the preceding letter it should be remembered that Indian Brigades in the First World War consisted on 1 British and 3 Indian battalions - in the Second World War it was 1 British and 2 Indian battalions. Ed.)

● Lieutenant Colonel Tony Mains writes:

Further to Durbar, Vol. 14, No 2, p74 regarding Major G C Wheeler's Victoria Cross. Besides the award of the VC to Major Wheeler, the following awards were made for the same action to men of Wheeler's company:

The 2 i/c, Lieut R T Russell - a gallantry DSO
The senior Gurkha officer, Sub Kishen Singh Bohra - an IOM

This must be close to a record for one company in one action. Shumran Day is still observed as a "Regimental Day" by the battalion in India.

Colonel Wheeler commanded 1/9th Gurkha Rifles 1923-27. It has been discovered this year that his grave at New Milton has been extensively vandalised, actually beyond repair. Negotiations are in hand with Old Bedfordians Club (Bedford School) to replace this by a simple headstone.

● Colonel Graham Edwards writes:

I wonder if any of the Society's members who live in India might be able to advise me on the best way to obtain a copy of the medal rolls which list the non-European soldiers and followers who served in the many campaigns undertaken by the Presidency Armies and the Indian Army after 1800 and before Independence.

As one of the very many students and collectors of awards, decorations and medals, I find the lack of such medal rolls a serious gap in an ability to compile details of the units which participated and to verify any medals which might come one's way.

It would be of great benefit if it were possible to obtain photocopies of any medal rolls which exist in the official records in India and I should be happy to commission someone to obtain and send me a photocopy of each roll.

J Carlisle seeks information concerning a source of ribbon for post-independence Indian campaign and service medals. Also, information is sought for a good reference book for current Indian medals.

"Traditions and Customs of the Indian Armed Forces" by Major General Chand N Das, published in 1984 by Vision Books Ltd, New Delhi, has a chapter on medals and medal ribbons, including a colour plate of post-Independence awards at that time. General Chand is working on a new book about India's post-Independence awards.

"India's Highest Gallantry Awards and the Men who won them 1947-1995" published by Defence Review in 1995 has over 100 pages showing India's post-Independence awards before its main theme, short biographical notes of the recipients of the top awards for gallantry.

"Pakistan Army - Badges of Rank, Dresses, Honours & Awards" is an extremely valuable coloured brochure produced by Personnel Services Directorate, Adjutant General's Branch GHQ and published by Inter Services Public Relations which contains good photographs of a number of Pakistan's post-Independence awards. Ed.

Web site note - *"Medals and Decorations of Independent India"*. Edward S. Haynes and Rana T.S. Chhina. New Delhi: Manohar, 2008 – ISBN 978-81-7304-719-0 should now be regarded as the authority on post-Independence Indian medals.

● W J Marsh writes:

Lieutenant General Richard Buckley PRETTYJOHN - 14 Light Dragoons

My son in law, who is descended from General Prettyjohn, is seeking help in researching his military career. We think he was born around 1811 and know that he served with the 14 Light Dragoons (or 14 Hussars as they subsequently became) for 25 years, 20 of which were spent in India. He took part in at least four cavalry charges - Rammenggur (?), at the Battle of Betwa, at Koonch and at Ranode where he was seriously wounded. He served under Sir Hugh Rose at Betwa and Koonch and under Sir Robert Napier at Ranode. For each of these battles he was mentioned in despatches.

Would anyone who has any information about General Prettyjohn, particularly his military service, please contact me.

● P Humphrey seeks information on Regimental Colours and Standards for the Indian Army or Indian States units (1861-1910) in order to model Colour parties for his collection of model soldiers.

