

DURBAR Volume 19, No.3, Autumn 2002

129th DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN BALUCHIS

Lt Col N W Poulsom

All photos this section R C Worts

LINEAGE

1846-1858	2 nd Belooch Battalion
1858-1859	Bombay Native Infantry : 2 nd Belooch Extra Battalion
1859	2 nd Belooch Regiment
1859-1861	2 nd Bombay Belooch Regiment
1861-1883	29 th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry (or) 2 nd Belooch Battalion
1883-1885	29 th (The Duke of Connaught's Own) Regiment Bombay Infantry (or) 2 nd Belooch Battalion
1885-1901	29 th (Duke of Connaught's Own) Regiment Bombay Infantry (or) 2 nd Baluch Battalion
1901-1903	29 th The Duke of Connaught's Own Baluch Infantry
1903-1922	129 th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis

BATTLE HONOURS

1858	PERSIA, RESHIRE
1861 added	BUSHIRE
1881 added	KANDAHAR 1880, AFGHANISTAN 1878-1880
1883 added	EGYPT 1882, TEL-EL-KEBIR

SECTION I : POUCH

- c. 1891 Silver bugle [DR 1891]
- c. 1901 Silver bugle with knotted cords [DR 1901]
- c. 1903-1922 Silver bugle with knotted cords [DR 1913]



SECTION II : POUCH BELT

- c. 1875-1885 Silver. Maltese Cross surmounted by a crown, encircled by a laurel wreath. '29' in centre with a crescent. 'PERSIA', 'BUSHIRE', KHOOSHAB', 'RESHIRE', on the arms of the cross. Scroll inscribed 'DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN' on lower part of wreath.



c. 1891 Silver Regimental plate [DR 1891]

c. 1901 A Maltese Cross surmounted by a crown, encircled by a laurel wreath, '29' in the centre and 'PERSIA', 'BUSHIRE', 'KANDAHAR', 'RESHIRE' on the arms of the cross. The laurel wreath is inscribed 'DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN'. A scroll inscribed 'EGYPT 1882', 'TEL-EL-KEBIR'; and a scroll below inscribed 'KANDAHAR 1880', 'AFGHANISTAN 1878-80' [DR 1901]

c. 1913 A Maltese Cross surmounted by a Tudor crown, encircled by a laurel wreath. In the centre a crescent inscribed '129th BALUCHIS' and on the arms of the cross 'PERSIA', 'BUSHIRE', 'KANDAHAR', 'RESHIRE'. The laurel wreath is inscribed 'DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN'. A scroll above inscribed 'EGYPT 1882', 'TEL-EL-KEBIR'; and another below inscribed 'KANDAHAR 1880', 'AFGHANISTAN 1878-80' [DR 1913]

SECTION III : WAIST PLATE

c. 1861-1885 '2' surmounted by a crown, surrounded by a scroll inscribed 'BELOOCH REGIMENT'.



c. 1861-1885 '29' surmounted by a crown, surrounded by a scroll inscribed 'BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY'.



SECTION IV : HEADDRESS

PART I : FORAGE CAP

c. 1903-1922 Silver bugle on red boss [DR 1913]



PART II : FOR PEACE MANOEUVRES

c. 1891 Silver bugle placed on a red cord boss [DR 1891]

PART III : FIELD CAP

c. 1901 A silver bugle [DR 1901]

c. 1903-1922 Duke of Connaught's coronet over monogram 'AWA'



PART IV : PAGRI

No detail.

SECTION V : SHOULDER TITLE

c. 1861-1885 Black metal, '2' over 'BELOOCH'



c. 1885-1901 Black metal, '2' over 'BALUCH'



Web site note – this example in brass

c. 1901-1903 Black metal, '29' over 'BALUCH'



Web site note – this example in brass

c. 1903-1922 Black metal, '129' over 'BALUCHIS'



SECTION VI : BUTTONS

c. 1846-1885 Crown over '2' and crescent. Below, 'BELOOCH REGIMENT'. Rim Gilt.



c. 1903-1922 Ball. Silver plate.

c. 1903-1922 Duke of Connaught's coronet over monogram 'AWA'.

SECTION VII : POUCH BELT WHISTLE AND CHAIN

c. ?? Silver whistle and chain fastened to a silver boss of a lion's head with circle of leaves around.



The following is extracted from correspondence dated 1862 in which the Commander-in-Chief of the time commented on the extravagant description of dress worn by officers of the Baluch Battalions.

FULL DRESS

Jacket Of invisible green cloth with scarlet facings and gold lace embroidery.

Overalls Of green cloth with gold lace stripes

Helmet Electroplated with scarlet plume.

Sword belt Of Russian leather

Sabretache Embroidered

Shoulder belt of dark green velvet, embroidered.

Light Infantry sash, with gold tassels Chain bridle and scarlet fall.

UNDRESS

Shell Jacket Invisible green with scarlet facings

Overalls Dark green with scarlet stripes

Plain belt and sabretache

Frock coat Of invisible green cloth of the old cavalry pattern

Forage cap Of scarlet cloth with gold lace and braid.

Remarks by OC 2nd Baluch Battalion.

In 1846 the uniform was chosen by the OC the regiment and approved by H.E, Sir Charles Napier GCB, Governor in Sind. The only alteration made is the introduction of two fatigue jackets, one of green cloth with scarlet facings and black silk braid for the cold weather, instead of the shell which is not worn now; and a light one of green calico for the hot season. The authority for the fatigue jackets was given by Major General Cunningham in 1861. The saddle cover is of black sheepskin with scarlet trimmings, black leather bridle.

MAGWE MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Shamus O D Wade

William Sheridan asked (Vol. 19, No 2, page 77) for information about the Magwe Military Police Battalion. To quote from *The Pacification of Burma* by Sir Charles Crosthwaite, K.C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Burma, 1877-1890, Member of the Council of India, London: Edward Arnold, 1912:

“Upper Burma was invaded and annexed in the year 1885. The work hardly occupied a month. In the following year the subjugation of the people by the destruction of all formidable armed resistance was effected; lastly the pacification of the country, including the establishment of an orderly government with peace and security, occupied four years....As head of the civil administration, I was mainly concerned with this last phase.

The beginning of 1888 saw the civil administration in a position to wage a systematic campaign against all disturbers of the peace.....The disarmament of the whole province had been systematically taken in hand; the Village Regulation had become law, the military police had been organised and now numbered 17,880 men.

A third disaster was in the Magwe district, where thirty men (of the Magwe Military Police Battalion) under an English Inspector met a large body of dacoits and were forced to retreat losing seven killed and two wounded. Six Snider rifles and two ponies were captured by the dacoits. This was an unfortunate affair for which the men were not responsible. It gave the Magwe dacoits fresh spirit....The Magwe district was a source of trouble and sorrow. Nothing seemed to succeed there. Sir Robert Low's warning that this would be the last stronghold of dacoity or organized resistance was justified by events.

I have alluded many times to the Magwe district. It was in a very bad state and was a blot on the administration, which gave me much thought. It was not until the end of 1888 that it began to be very troublesome. The leader of most influence at first was Min Maung, who was killed by a party of troops in May, 1887. Another leader, Tokgyi, rose afterwards and gave much trouble, but he was captured in April 1888. It seemed that no formidable leaders remained. Small raids and dacoities occurred here as in other parts of the province, at that time. The revenue collections had increased largely, which was a good sign.

In August, 1888, however, a pretender with the title of the Shwekinyo Prince raised his standards and was joined by a noted dacoit, Bo Lè, and others. They hatched their plots in a place on the border of the Magwe township, and began work in November, 1888. Everything in this district was unfortunate. At the very commencement the gang under Bo Lè encountered a party of thirty mounted men of the Magwe battalion, under a British Inspector of Police. The police were badly handled, and lost seven killed and two wounded, while six rifles and three

ponies were taken by the dacoits. This gave the gang encouragement, while the police, who had not much cohesion, were for a time somewhat shaken.

... In April, 1889, the village of Myothit was attacked and the police post burnt. In May a large body of dacoits under the standard of Buddha Yaza, a pretended prince, who in preceding years had a large gathering in the Eastern Division, gathered in the Pin township.... A party of military police led by two Indian officers attacked them successfully, but they collected again in a stronger position and a second attack by one hundred rifles (military police), led by the Assistant Commissioner and the Assistant Superintendent, neither of them trained soldiers, failed; but soon afterwards the gangs were again met and dispersed.

On the 1st of June, 1899, a small body of dacoits was encountered by Mr Dyson, Assistant Commissioner, who had with him a party of police. A fight ensued, in which Mr Dyson was killed. The man who led this gang was killed afterwards and his followers surrendered. But this was no compensation for the loss of a promising young officer who could ill be spared.

Meanwhile in the north of the district Mr Todd Naylor and Mr Collins had succeeded in breaking up the small gang that still held out under two noted leaders, and the district was finally cleared. All the leaders had been killed, captured or driven out of the district. To quote once more from the Gazetteer (1908): "Since then Magwe has been undisturbed". "

The following information is taken from *Frontier and Overseas Expeditions from India* Compiled in the Intelligence Branch, Army Headquarters, India, Vol. V, Burma, pages 391-93. "Events of 1892-93":

"The programme for the open season of 1892-93 included the establishment of frontier posts at Sima and Namhkam in the Kachin Hills. On December 3, 1892 a column under the Command of Captain Boyce Morton left Talawagi on the Irrawaddy for Sima. It consisted of Lieutenants Master and Newbolt of the Mogaung Levy (consisting of Gurkha and Sikh military police), Surgeon-Major Lloyd, Lieutenant Dent, Intelligence Office, Mr Hertz, Civil Officer, Magwe Battalion 200 men, Mogaung Levy 350 men, two 7-pounder guns. The Magwe Battalion consisted of Indians and/or Gurkhas. It is possible but unlikely that it also included some inhabitants of Burma.

On December 12 opposition was met at 'Nkarang. Two sepoy and a mule-driver were killed and Lieutenant Dent was badly wounded in the neck. Sima was reached on the 14th after thirty stockades had been taken on the way. Intermittent fighting went on until January 5, while the post was being built.

On December 14 Myitkina had been suddenly raided by Sana Kachins from the north-west. A Subedar-Major of the Mogaung Levy was killed. The raiders were driven off with three killed. Meanwhile the fighting at Sima had reached formidable proportions. An attack on the fort seemed imminent so orders were given for the withdrawal of all the outlying picquets. At 6a.m. on January 6 the Kachins made a sudden attack and it was discovered that one picquet had been overlooked and was still out in a very exposed position. Captain Morton started out to withdraw them but, no sooner had he reached their position, he fell mortally wounded. He was with difficulty brought inside the fort by Surgeon-Major Lloyd who won the V.C. for his action. The disabled Lieutenant Dent was now in command, Mr Hertz and Lieutenant Newbolt having gone out with a reconnoitring party a few days before.

Later in the afternoon Lieutenant Master, who had been left at 'Nkarang fought his way into Sima and took over command. The enemy were driven off from the vicinity of the fort, but succeeded in hemming the garrison in, with the result that, except for helio communication, Sima was practically cut off. Constant sorties were made, but the destruction of stockades in one place was followed by the erection of fresh works elsewhere and the rising gained strength daily. On January 16 a party under Lieutenant Newbolt attacked Mali to the south of Sima and

destroyed it, but on their return march they encountered strong opposition. Mr Brookes-Meares of the Civil Police was mortally wounded and seven sepoy killed. After this the force acted on the defensive.

On January 30 the relieving columns en route to Sima, and the Sima garrison, made simultaneous attacks on a formidable stockade at Kamja (or Dumja). The Kachins were scattered with heavy loss, and the village burnt. British loss was five killed and six wounded, including Lieutenant Master, who died from the effect of his wound five days later. The next day Palap and Mali were burnt and many stockades destroyed by a party of men under Captain Alban. On the return to Sima the Kachins made several attacks on the Gurkha rear-guard, the behaviour of the Gurkhas on this occasion being particularly praiseworthy. British losses during the day consisted of four killed and twenty-four wounded.

On February 3 a force of 300 men under Captain Atkinson captured a bullet-proof stockade and blockhouse at Palap held by Kachins and Chinese. British casualties were two killed and six wounded, while the enemy lost thirteen killed, eight of whom were Chinese. After this the fighting was more of a desultory nature.

1ST WESTERN TRIBAL LEGION

Shamus O D Wade

William Sheridan is unfair in stating that this unit "had to be disbanded in less than a year owing to its unsatisfactory work." Possibly he has read the official history which described it in one short sentence as "a tribal irregular unit which proved unreliable and was withdrawn". There is an excellent account by its commander of what it was really like in *Prender's Progress, A Soldier in India 1931-1947* by John Prendergast, Cassell Ltd., 1979.

In May 1942 John Prendergast was given a fortnight to raise the 1st Western Tribal Legion, a force of 1,400 trans-border Pathan tribesmen, for guerrilla warfare. These guerrillas (or more accurately irregulars) were to operate to disrupt any Japanese invasion of Bihar and Orissa, which seemed imminent.

Sir George Cunningham, Governor of the North West Frontier Province was in on the scheme. He wanted the trans-border tribesmen to take part in the war. It would give them an interest and keep them out of mischief. There were to be 600 Mahsuds, 400 Afridis and 400 Mohmands. The Mahsuds would come from South Waziristan, the Afridis from the Khyber Pass area and the Tirah mountains, and the Mohmands from the area east of the Khyber - all in tribal territory. The Mohmands were later augmented by recruits from the Mullagories, a small tribe near the Khyber.

The force was to be armed with tribal-made rifles. An appeal to have real army service rifles was rejected, because of the fear that these most valuable weapons would be stolen and find their way across the border. The tribal-made rifle was either an imitation of the then existing army rifle or a less good weapon, an imitation of the old Martini-Henry with a .303 bore. The rifles, though looking authentic enough, even to having arsenal stamps on them, were made of soft metal. The rifling of the barrels soon wore smooth and the bullet then lost the imparted torque. It would then lob nose over tail (an action known as keyholing due to the shape of its impact) and shots would diminish greatly in range and accuracy.

It was arranged with the FCMA (Field Cashier Military Accounts) Poona for the bulk of the men's pay to be sent to their families through the Political Agents' offices in their respective agencies, leaving a field allowance of pocket money for themselves.

In August 1942 the Legion received orders to go to Vizianagram in modern Andhra Pradesh, some way south of Bihar or Orissa, their original destination. The authorities were now worried about the defence of Vizagapatam, then the Royal Indian Naval base on the east coast of the Bay of Bengal, where Japanese naval ships had been sighted far out to sea, and they feared a Japanese landing there.

To quote John Prendergast:

"Our role was not really clearly defined and I tried to work something out with the commander of the force at Vizagapatam. He wanted us to hold the very high ground overlooking the harbour, but I pointed out that if he could not repulse the Japanese with his better weapons, we would not be of much use in a static role and would be defeated in detail. Subsequently, I at last got orders from Delhi to delay and harass any Japanese attempt to penetrate inland to India's heart - a pretty airy-fairy instruction.

The truth was that the force was an illegitimate baby, conceived in haste and passion and which by then nobody really wanted. ... I am sure that the Governor of the NWFP was keen on the general idea of the tribes taking part in the defence of India, if only to keep them busy and out of mischief, and I think the 1st Western Tribal Legion was to some extent an attempt by GHQ, terribly occupied from day to day, to meet his request."

As by then the threat to Vizagapatam seemed to have receded, it was arranged for the Legion to join V Force, an irregular body which was designed to operate behind the Japanese lines in Burma, and consisted of mainly non-Burmese hill tribesmen. At this crucial moment there was a great deal of dismay and distrust as the FCMA had failed to pay the men's families. The men had enlisted for service in India and to go into Burma would be going far beyond their terms. However all but a few agreed, on one condition; that they were to be given service rifles. This was refused. Prendergast argued with General Lloyd that his men would be incapable of making off with a rifle over more than fifteen hundred miles of unknown India, but without success. So that was the end of the 1st Tribal Legion.

We are left with one question. Would the author of the relevant line in the official history have been willing to face the machine guns of a victorious Japanese army with worn-out imitation tribal rifles, when proper rifles were readily available?

Shamus Wade also provided another piece of the jigsaw concerning the Swat Levies (DURBAR Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 2002, p.33, and Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2002, p.77). The magazine *The Military Chest*, Vol. 3, No. 6, November/December 1984, carried an article on p.17 by R V E Hodson as part of a series on The North West Frontier 1849-1947. In that article the author referred to the creation of the North West Frontier Province in 1902 and Kitchener's remodelling of the strategic control of the Frontier.

"Most troops were withdrawn from tribal areas and tribal levies were turned into Militias and Border Military Police. The extension of the road and rail system was begun. A light railway was constructed between Nowshera and Dargai. In 1902 the Khar Moveable Column in Swat was withdrawn and regulars were retained at Chakdara and Dargai. The bridge over the Swat River at the former place was still a vital link of communication with Chitral. The Dir and Swat levies were responsible for road safety on the way to Chitral. By 1904 troops were withdrawn from Gilgit and Kashmir Imperial Service Troops became responsible once more. In Chitral alone a permanent garrison was retained at Kila Drosh and Mastuj became the headquarters of the irregulars."

It seems, therefore, that some of these irregular units may not have been as short-lived as we might have supposed. From the above it is clear that the Swat Levies were in existence as early as 1902. Further contributions to the discussion would be welcome.

As a final shot for this issue, Brigadier John Randle provided an amusing anecdote concerning the Mekran Levy Corps. Sometime during the Second World War, when John was Adjutant of 7th/10th Baluchis, a signal arrived from GHQ India (a place not noted for levity), calling for a volunteer to be Adjutant of the Mekran Levy Corps. Bearing in mind that Mekran had a reputation of being the most God-forsaken place in the whole of India, somewhere along the line some light hearted staff officer had added; "Suitable qualification would be unrequited lover or incurable alcoholic". This invoked a certain amount of bogus nominations by the Mess for friends in other units – and they reckoned one particular acquaintance qualified well on both counts!

FOLLOWERS

Carl-Eric Granfelt raised a query in the last edition of DURBAR (p76) about the use of the term Public Follower on a medal, instead of the more specific title such as Bhisti, Sweeper, etc. Over the years we have published quite a few notes about Followers. For instance, the late Tony Mains provided some background to Followers in one of the earliest issues of our journal, before it was known as DURBAR – Journal 1984, p6. It is worth repeating.

The vast tail of "followers" which had characterised the Army in India for generations had been greatly curtailed by WWI. That it remained was largely due to the fact that many of the duties performed by followers were performed by soldiers in the British Army. These included the functions performed by cooks, armourers, bootmakers, etc., which could not be performed by Indian soldiers for religious and caste reasons.

Public Followers (Non-Combatants Enrolled) – most of the NCsE were on unit establishment and were an integral part of it. They accompanied the unit both on moves to another peace station or to the Frontier or active operations. These were:

Cooks (Langris)	Watercarriers (Bhistis)	Sweepers (Mehtas)
Tailors (Darzis)	Armourers (Mistris or Lohars)	Grooms (Syces)
Bootmakers (Mochis).		

Also, religious teachers:

Maulvis (Mussulman)	Pandits (Hindu)	Granthis (Sikhs)
(in mixed units all three would be present)		

NCsE were not subject to Military Law, except on active service, but could be dismissed by the CO as he saw fit. Active service in WWII meant more than service in a Theatre of Operations, as in 1941 the whole of the Indian Army was placed "On Active Service" irrespective of where it was serving.

Additionally there were Followers attached to unit lines, who did not move with the unit but who were taken over by the incoming unit on relief. These were Storemen, Labourers (Khalassies) etc.

Private servants continued to be found on service in WWI and on the Frontier up to WWII. These were Mess Staff and officers' personal servants (Bearers). They were replaced by Mess Units and Orderlies. The Orderlies were soldiers, but the Mess Units were staffed by NCsE. They were of different types according to the size of the Mess that they would have to cater; from a unit Mess up to a Divisional or Corps HQ. Personnel were:

Butlers (equivalent to a Mess Sergeant)		
Wine Waiters	Waiters	Cooks etc.

Some of the last private servants to go were the Grooms in Infantry Battalions, who lasted until the 'Free Charger Scheme' in 1938. Before that mounted officers in Infantry (CO, Company Commanders, Adjutant etc.) provided their own chargers, usually their own or someone else's polo pony or hunter. The Government provided forage and a monetary allowance to pay the Groom. With Government Chargers these last became NCsE, until overtaken by mechanisation a year or two later.

Contractors' Staff – every Indian regiment had a Regimental Contractor, who organised the Regimental Bazaar. They and their staff went everywhere with the regiment in the nineteenth century but by the inter-war years they did not go on active service, but they did go to Frontier stations in Tribal Territory.

Conclusion. One of the difficulties of identification of the naming on medals is the use of abbreviations, which seem to keep to no constant or official pattern.

Brian Stevens wrote (Vol. 16, No 4, Winter 1999, p185) "The term Follower does not appear to have been in use in the Company's Forces as the phrase used was "Establishment of People under the Quartermaster/Commanding Officer", and in the Train or Hospital establishments the individuals are listed under their occupation, for example, Bhisti, Pakhali, Fireman, Fileman, Bellowsman, Dholi Bearer, Sicleegur and Chuckler." We also had from Brian Stevens a query (Vol. 18, No 2, Summer 2001, p83), which remains unresolved, as to the meaning of the Mountain Train Battery Follower's grade of Chirkuttah.

The *Journal* of the Orders and Medals Research Society, Vol. 23, No 2(183), Summer 1984 carried an article by Lt Col A M Macfarlane RA on *Indian Army Ranks, Trades and Appointments* and this included several "Follower" grades which have not so far been mentioned above. These included:

Abdur	(Butler)	Lohar	(Blacksmith)
Babu	(Clerk)	Mali	(Gardener)
Bannia	(Storekeeper)	Malik	(Headman)
Bowarchie	(Cook 2 nd Class)	Misalchi	(Kitchen washer-up)
Chickladar	(Armourer)	Mistari	(carpenter)
Chowkidar	(Watchman)	Mistri	(foreman)
Choudry or Chowdri	(Bank clerk)	Mochi	(cobbler/leatherworker)
Chuckler	(Cobbler)	Moulvi	(teacher)
Coolie or Kuli	(Labourer or porter)	Mullah	(religious-teacher)
Conicopoly	(Accountant)	Munshi	(language teacher)
Darogah	(Policeman)	Mutsuddi	(Clerk)
Darzi or Durzi	(Tailor)	Nalband	(Farrier)
Dhobi	(Washerman)	Pakhtali, Pathalie or Pakhalli	Watercarrier with pack animals
Dooly Bearer	(Stretcher bearer)	Peon	Bazaar orderly
Duftrie	(Office worker)	Sais or Syce	Groom
Gari-wallah	(Carter)	Salutri	Farrier
Hammal	(Bearer)	Shroff	Bank clerk
Kahar	(Porter to carry a palenquin)	Sickligor	Cutler
Kassadar	(Armed tribal policeman)	Tindal	Storekeeper/weighman
Khansamah	(Chef)	Vakeel	Attorney
Khidmatgar	(Table servant)		
Kizilbash	(Tribal policeman)		

Now taking the study one stage further, Sushil Talwar has provided a list of Follower grades, and units with which they were serving, which he has seen on medals in the last few years. Any particularly unusual aspect of the naming, either with regard to the trade or the unit itself, is shown in **bold type**. You will note some variations in spellings or descriptions with those given above.

IGS 1854 (BRONZE)

CLASPS

Grasscutter Gonda
Jharowala Mauree (Sweeper)

5th Punjab Cavy
2nd Madras Lancers

Hazara 1888
Burma 1885-7

AFGHANISTAN 1878-80

Store Lascar Cheda Khan

C Bty. 4th Bde. R.A.

none

IGS 1895 (SILVER)

Mutsadi Lingaiyah (Native Accountant) 2nd Infy. H.C. PF

IGS 1895 (BRONZE)

Cook Kirpa 45th Sikhs PF/Samana/Tirah
Grasscutter Nadoo 18th Bl. Lcrs. PF/Samana/Tirah
Govt Syce Lahat Khan 9th Bl. Lcrs Relief of Chitral

QUEENS SUDAN (BRONZE)

Syce Kaloo (3) 1st Bo. Lancers none

CHINA 1900 (BRONZE)

Syce Maula 16th Bl. Lrs. none

QSA (BRONZE)

124 Syce Arian P & T Corps Saboo District none

AFRICA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL

Bhistee Jamuad-Din 16th Bombay Infy. Jubaland
Servant (details N.A.) **Baluch Camel Corps** Somaliland 1902-04 (Br)

TIBET 1903 (BRONZE)

Orderly Kunga **Political Dept.** none
Bania Meghraj Ram 8 Gurkha Rifles Gyantse

IGS 1908 (SILVER)

Bearer Mansukh **No 2 Co. AB Corps** NWF 1908
80 Tindal Ghulam Mohd. Ordnance Dept. ANWF 1919
Aib Tehsildar Sultan Mohd **Political Department** 4 clasps
Clk. Ram Saran Dass **M.W.S.** ANWF 19/NWF 33
Mochi Punna 23 P. Bty ANWF 1919
Pakhali Ram Singh (Bhisti) 23 P. Bty ANWF 1919
Pesh-1920 Agent Ganpat Rai S & TC ANWF 1919
Ram Lal Dutta **Postal Dept.** ANWF 1919
S.M. Bishan Dass **Rlys** ANWF 1919
Subovsr. Noor Mohammad **M.W.S.** ANWF 1919
WD-Swpr Luchman Singh **A.H.C.** ANWF 1919
Bhisti Pollo 1-4 GR Waz 1919-21
Langri Khoju 28 Pjbis Waz 1919-21
Lascar Jagrup **I.O.D.** Waz 1919-21
M. Baker Abdul Ellahi S & T Corps Waz 1919-21
Swpr. Umida **Consvy Estabt.** Waz 19-21

Duftri Rakha Mall	Mily. Farms	Waz 1921-24
Mochi Finun	2-2 K.I.S. Rifles	Waz 1921-24
Meter Rdr. Punnu Ram	M.E.S.	NWF 1930-31
Peon Kishori Lal	2 R. Sussex R.	NWF 1930-31
1132 W-Man Bhagwan Das	I.A.S.C.	Mohmand 1933

IGS 1908 (BRONZE)

2' Grasscutter Guyana (2)	21 st Cavy	NWF 1908
Bearer Kollan Pte. Sewt.		NWF 1908
Tempy. Dooly Bearer. Nawab	23 rd Sikh Pioneers	NWF 1908

BRITISH WAR MEDAL 1914-18 (SILVER)

5407 Mohd. Arim	Tel. Dept.
7068 Dr. Sr. Mut Saddi Lall Sharma	no further details
7648 Ftr-Mist Arjuna	I.W.T.
Clk. Mohd. Sadiq	Pol. Dept
CrtDvr. Qurban Ali	2nd Lahore Labour Corps

BRITISH WAR MEDAL 1914-18 (BRONZE)

1104 Cooly Mikrang Tang Khul	2 Manipur C.C.
225 Cooly Baber Ali	1 Lahore Labour Cps.
2339 Lab. Athonba	22 Manipur L.C.
43 Labr. Abdul Karim	71 Lab. Coy.
512 Porter Atma Ram	6 Ptr. Cps.
98199 Khal. Mokoor Singh	I.W.T.

VICTORY MEDAL

6866 Carp. Sunder Singh	Wks. Dte.
OVSr Thakur Dass	Mily.-Grass Farms

IGS 1936

488 W-Carr Wadhawa	5-12 F.F.R.	NWF 1936-37
Barber Nizan Uddin	8 Lt. Cav.	NWF 1936-37
F-446 Saddler Bhuru	12 Mtn Bty	NWF 1936-37
S-3464 Issuer Madan Gopal	R.I.A.S.C.	NWF 1936-37
Tailor Khushi Mohd.	3-7 Rajput R.	NWF 1936-37
Cons. Svpr. Sochan	M.W.S.	NWF 1937-39
Moharrir Sahib Nur	Pol. Dept	2 clasps

Sushil Talwar's list also contains some interesting military ranks or units but I shall leave those until another issue. He has also provided an extract from the book *The Formative Years – History of the Corps of the Electrical And Mechanical Engineers* by Lt. Col. R. Simon, which gives the 'IAOC Workshop Company War Establishment - Oct. 1940', an interesting insight into an often forgotten, but essential, element of the modern army. Again, I shall leave that until another issue.

AUXILIARY FORCE (INDIA)

Mike Cunningham

The AFI, as its name suggests, was a part-time organisation. It came into existence in 1920, but it was the successor to a number of volunteer forces. It was composed of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The Auxiliary Forces Act, 1920, restricted membership to any person who "(a) is a European British subject as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure, or (b) is a British subject of European descent in the male line; shall, subject to the provisions of the Act, be eligible for enrolment thereunder". Its' role was support of the Civil Power. It was a locally recruited and based force. There was never any suggestion that it was deployable in defence of the borders, or even outside its' particular geographical location, unless it was actually engaged in operations, and "hot pursuit" was tactically necessary.

The AFI had permanent staff assigned. Adjutants were normally officers of the Indian Army assigned for a three-year tour, and were usually volunteers. Permanent subordinate instructional staff (WOs and SNCOs) were British Army personnel who had volunteered for service with the AFI. They remained on the books of their parent regiment, but were supernumerary and "absorbed in the India Unattached List"; in other words they were transferred permanently to the AFI. All appointments were as Staff Sergeant Instructors (SSI). Any appointment above this rank was on an acting, paid basis. Instructors were required to be attached to a suitable British unit for one month a year, to be updated on latest developments.

In addition to its IS role, it provided a valuable source of potential officers for the Indian Army. It was possible to enrol at age sixteen and become liable for military training. It was not possible to be eligible for military service below the age of eighteen. Those who were in the former, but not the latter category were classed as cadets, and served in cadet companies. These fulfilled a role similar to the Junior OTC in the UK. The force was predominantly infantry and cavalry. There were some artillery units and a few other specialist elements. The standard of proficiency was variable, and some units were more social than others. The ORBAT is shown below.

The AFI, as a whole, was never mobilised. Elements reported for local protection duties at the outbreak of war, but were not permanently embodied. Units were called-out during the various IS situations that punctuated the War as Nationalists demonstrated, and sometimes rioted, for independence. Many AFI joined the wartime army as officers. The only example of the AFI at war was the brief operation to sink a German ship in Portuguese Goa. The ship was being used as a base for clandestine operations. Volunteers from the Calcutta Light Horse were persuaded to carry out the operation (subsequently made into a film starring David Niven and Gregory Peck). It was successful, and the officer responsible eventually became a Major General in the British Army.

It was obvious that the restricted recruitment base was intended to provide a force to protect the British/Anglo-Indian communities against the Indian population. This meant that there was no place for it in the post-Independence arrangements.

AUXILIARY FORCE (INDIA) ORBAT -1939

REGIMENT	LOCATION	COMPOSITION
CAVALRY		
Bihar Light Horse (LH)	Muzzafpur	HQ/2 Tps/5 Mot Tps
Calcutta LH	Calcutta	HQ/1 Sqn/4 Mot Tps
Surmar Valley LH	Sulchar	HQ/2 Sqns/2 Mot Tps
Assam Valley LH	Dibrugarh	HQ/3 Sqns/12 Mot Tps/1 WT Sec
United Provinces Horse (Southern Regiment)	Cawnpore	4 Mot Tps (Allahabad) 3 Mot Tps (Cawnpore) 1 Mot Tp & 1 M/C Tp
North Bengal Mtd Rifles	Darjeeling	HQ/2 Sqns/4 Mot Tps
Punjab LH	Lahore	HQ/2 Tps/4 Mot Tps
Southern Provinces Mtd Rifles	Madras	HQ/1 Tp/1 Ac Sec/ 10 Mot Tps
Chota Nagpur Regt	Ranchi	HQ/1 Sqn/1 Inf Coy/1 WT Sec/5 Mot Tps/1 Ac Sec
Bombay Lt Patrol	Bombay	HQ/2 Tps/8 Mot Tps
ARTILLERY		
The Bengal Arty	Barrackpore	HQ/2 Bty/2 Coys
No 3 (Madras) Bty RA	Madras	2 Secs
No 10 (Bombay) Bty RA	Bombay	1 Bty
No 13 (Lucknow) Bty RA	Lucknow	1 Sec
No 15 (Kirkee) Bty RA	Kirkee	1 Sec
No 17 (Agra) Bty RA	Agra	1 Sec
No 18 (Bareilly) Bty RA	Bareilly	1 Sec
No 20 (Cawnpore) Bty RA	Cawnpore	1 Sec
ENGINEERS, (RE (AFI))		
No 1 (Calcutta) Fortress Coy	Calcutta	HQ/3 Secs/2 WT Secs
No 3 (Bombay) Fortress Coy	Bombay	HQ/2 Secs/1 WT Sec
No 4 (Karachi) Fortress Coy	Karachi	HQ/3 Secs/1 WT Sec
SIGNALS (RCS, AFI)		
No 1 (Madras) Sig Coy	Madras	
INFANTRY		
East India Railway (RW) Regt		
1st Bn	Lillooah	HQ/4 Coys
2nd Bn	Lucknow	HQ/2 Coys

Eastern Bengal RW Bn	Sealdah	HQ/1 Coy
Great India Peninsula RW Regt		
1st Bn	Parel	HQ/4 Coys
2nd Bn	Jhansi	HQ/2 Coys
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India RW Regt		
1st Bn	Lower Parel (Bombay)	HQ/2 Coys
2nd Bn	Ajmer	HQ/3 Coys
Bengal & NW RW Bn	Gorakphur	HQ/1 Coy
NW RW Bn	Lahore	HQ/4 Coys
S Indian RW Bn	Trinchinopoly	HQ/3 Coys
Madras & Southern Mahratta RW Rifles		
1st Bn	Perambuz	HQ/3 Coys
2nd Bn	Hubli	HQ/2 Coys
Bengal Nagpur RW Bn	Kharagpur	HQ/3 Coys
Assam Bengal RW Bn	Chittagong	HQ/2 Coys
Madras Guard	Madras	HQ/2 Coys
Nagpur Rifles	Nagpur	HQ/2 Coys/1 Mot PI
Punjab Rifles	Lahore	HQ/1 Coy /2 Mot PI
Simla Rifles	Simla	1 Coy
Calcutta & Presidency Bn	Calcutta	2 Coy/6 Mot PI/1 M/C PI/3 Armd Car Sec
Bangalore Bn	Bangalore	HQ/1 Coy/1 WT Sec
Allahabad Rifles	Allahabad	1 PI
Dehra Dun Contingent	Dehra Dun	HQ/2 PI/1 WT Sec/1 MG Sec/4 Mot PI
Bareilly Contingent	Naini Tal	HQ/1 Coy/1 WT Sec/4 Mot PI
Bombay Bn	Bombay	HQ/2 Coys
Cawnpore Rifles	Cawnpore	HQ/3 PI/1 WT Sec
Nilgiri Malabar Bn	Ootacamund	HQ/2 Coys/2 LMP
Sind Rifles	Karachi	HQ/3 PI
Hyderabad Rifles	Secunderabad	HQ/1 Coy/1 Mot PI/1WT Sec
East Bengal Coy	Dacca	HQ/1 Coy/1 MG Sec/1 Mot PI
East Coast Bn	Vizagapatam	HQ/1 Coy/1 MG Sec/1 WT Sec
Poona Rifles	Poona	4 Mot PI
Kolar Gold Fields Bn	Oorgaum	HQ/4 Coys/1 WT Sec
Calcutta Scottish	Calcutta	HQ/2 Coys/4 Mot PI
Delhi Contingent	Delhi	HQ/1 Tp/1 Coy/3 Mot PI
Coog & Mysore Coy	Mercara	HQ/3 Mot PI
Lucknow Rifles	Lucknow	HQ/1 Coy
Yercaud Coy	Yercaud	1 PI
Bhusawal Coy	Bhusawal	1 PI
MISCELLANEOUS		
2 (Karachi) Coy, MGC	Karachi	HQ/Ac Sub-Sec/MG Sec/2 LMP

5 (Agra) Coy, MGC	-	HQ/PI/2 LMP/MG Sec
Bangalore Armd Car Coy	-	2 Secs

CONTINGENTS (grouped together for admin purposes)

Agra	Agra	HQ/17 Fd Bty/5 Coy MGC
Allahabad	-	HQ/UPH(SR)/Allahabad R
Bangalore	-	HQ/Bangalore Armd Car Coy/ Bangalore Bn
Bombay	-	HQ/Bombay Lt Pat/10 Bty/ 3 Fortress Coy/ Bombay Bn
Cawnpore	-	HQ/UPH(SR)/ 20 Fd Bty/Cawnpore R
Karachi Corps	Karachi	HQ/4 Fortress Coy/Sind Rifles/2 Coy MGC
Lucknow	-	HQ/UPH(SR)/13 Fd Bty/ Lucknow Rifles
Madras	-	HQ/3 Fd Bty/Madras Gds/1 Sig Coy
Poona	-	HQ/15 Fd Bty/Poona Rifles
Punjab	Lahore	HQ/Punjab LH/Punjab Rifles

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Several replies, including from Sir John Chapple and Martin Fuller, to Jack Boddington's article on the poem about the death of Lieutenant Esmitt Sahib (Vol. 19, No 2, Summer 2002, p67). As our correspondents have pointed out, the poem is actually Rudyard Kipling's *The Grave of the Hundred Dead*. Some of the verse quoted by Jack Boddington is incorrect – possibly altered for the benefit of an audience not familiar with terms that old India hands would use. The definitive version of the poem shows the regiment (purely fictitious) to be the First Shikaris, not the 1st Madrassi, and the name of the dead officer is given as Eshmitt, not Esmitt. Sir John Chapple makes the point that the names of the Indian officers used in the poem are not typical of South India, although at the time of the Third Burma War many Madras regiments were in the process of changing their class composition. Martin Fuller believes the details of the young officer's death resemble those of one of Kipling's old school friends, from his days at the United Services College at Westward Ho! This young man, and his future demise, is mentioned in *Stalky & Co*, Kipling's story based on his school days. He does not use peoples' real names, but Martin recalls that he does mention the same friend and the circumstances of his death in private correspondence, though Martin cannot trace the exact reference.

● Chris Kempton would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a copy of the formation sign of 34th Indian Division 1941-1943, India & Ceylon, and would be grateful for a copy or drawing, if possible with colour details. It is the only sign Chris has not been able to find in connection with his forthcoming book on the Indian Divisions of WWII.

● Harry Fiyalko seeks identification of a badge – standard bugle horn with a numeral "1" between the strings, a double scroll below with battle honours "DELHI" and "AFGHANISTAN 1878-79". It is of crudely cast white metal with a gold-coloured wash on the front and horizontal brooch pin on the back.

● Peter Freeborn in Japan has written in response to Jim Froggett's article on pig-sticking (Vol. 19, No 2, Summer 2002, p58). "As can be appreciated from Jim's article, The Kadir Cup was the ultimate achievement. There was, however, another prize within the reach of most competent riders, the Meerut Tent Club Button. It was awarded to members of the Club who got ten first spears. I have an example. It is a slightly convex gilt rimmed button. A boar's head is depicted in the centre with MTC below in capitals."

● Colin Cummings has written to announce a breakthrough in the quest to identify the Indian soldiers killed at Bekasi on 23rd November 1945 (Vol. 19, No 1, Spring 2002, p31, and Vol. 19, No 2, Summer 2002, p50). RAF Historical Branch records suggest that the soldiers in question were, as Cliff Parrett correctly surmised, from 2nd Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment (a Lance Naick and 19 Sepoys). More to follow once details have been confirmed. Meanwhile Colin Cummings has asked me to pass on his thanks to those members of the Society who responded to his query.

● In response to Mike Taylor's query on formation signs for 73rd British Infantry Brigade Group and 16th British Independent Brigade Group (Vol. 19, No 2, Summer 2002, p79), Chris Kempton has written:

"...both Brigades passed outside the 'Indian' sphere in '46. 73rd British Brigade was formed in May 1946 by re-designation of the 116th Indian Infantry Brigade. At the time of changeover it was in Eastern Command and the Brigade Commander was Brigadier J A Salomans DSO OBE, who continued to command the 73rd. The only Battalion under command was 1st Rajput Regiment which was replaced almost immediately as it moved to Razmak. I am afraid I do not know which British Battalions took over. 16th British Brigade was with 3rd Division/Special Force to March 1945 as an LRP Brigade and I have no other information except what you already have from Joslen."

● Mike Taylor now poses four more formation badge queries.

1. Very similar in design to that listed in Howard Cole's *Formation Badges of World War Two* (Arms & Armour Press, 1973 edition, p. 87) as belonging to 52nd Indian (*sic?*) Brigade, a training brigade. However, in this case the design is entirely green on a white ground (no black), the crown at the top of the device surmounted by a shape reminiscent of a stylised human figure and the leaves below the castle and fish replaced with what appear to be crossed flowers (lilies, or perhaps even flaming torches?) with narrow banners on either side. The whole design is surrounded by a dotted line in the shape of a simple shield. I wonder whether this is in fact the badge of the Bhopal ISF.

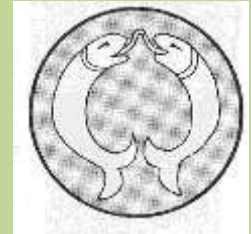


(I have already written to Mike with the following, but would welcome further input. "As for the green flash belonging to Bhopal, it certainly looks similar to some Bhopal badges (as does the flash in Cole for 52nd Indian Infantry Brigade – not surprising given its place of raising), but I have an example of the flash shown here supposedly for Bhopal. Above the scroll the colour is dark green and below the scroll it is black. The emblem is white and the lettering is black. It is described as a lily argent resting on a vizier with 3 arrows reversed, supported on scroll in Arabic *Nasru minallah wa Fate Qarib* (Success is from God and victory is near). This device was also used on a couple of Bhopal medals, so from that point of view I am reasonably happy with it. I have a whole set of these supposed ISF formation badges, however, and so far have only seen reference to one of them being worn. Similarly, my ex ISF contacts in India tell me that they never wore them – so, a mystery".

Ed.)



2. Similar to the sign listed in Cole (1973, p. 119) as for the United Provinces Area. In this case the fish are in gold silk thread and are on a bright red shield. I would welcome comments on whether this has any connection with the ISF, whether it is simply a variation, or whether it is a post partition sign.



3. A large green shield, 4½ inches high by just over 3½ inches wide, poppers to reverse. On the shield, all worked in silver gilt bullion thread, is a column topped by a Chinthe in profile with red eye and mouth, at the bottom of the pillar what may be wings either side of a circle, the centre of which is blue and with the figure XXIII in black, below all of which is a scroll with the word PROPERLY. I have tentatively identified this as a blazer badge for 1 RWF. This would account for the size of the badge and the XXIII on the blue ground (23rd of Foot, blue facings). The Battalion was apparently not a part of the Special Force/Chindits, the most obvious explanation for the Chinthe, but there is a strong Burma connection as the unit participated in the latter stages of the first Arakan campaign in March 1943, in the battles around Kohima and the Imphal Road in the following months, and the recapture of Burma in 1945. I cannot, however, reconcile the PROPERLY motto.



4. A dark red circle 3 inches diameter with a thin gold bullion edge containing a map of India, Ceylon, Burma, Siam and Malaya, all worked in gold thread. This example has no hooks or poppers on the reverse.



BOOK NOTES AND REVIEWS

This book note, by Ashok Nath of Stockholm, Sweden, first appeared in **Post Horn Gallop**, the Journal of the Cavalry Officers Association, India, and has been reproduced here by permission of the author.

● *VALOUR HONOUR TRADITIONS - vignettes of the Indian Armoured Corps 1773-2000*. Published by D.G. Mechanised Forces. New Delhi: Nov 2000. 199 large page format.

I have acquired a copy of this book and am delighted of course that such a book has eventually come out and a salute to Binny Shergill whose driving force made this possible. Having said that, I must say that there are many historical and factual errors in this book. Was it not possible to form a Cavalry Historical Committee who could have scrutinized the book prior to publication? Thus putting to rest, false facts and claims to battle honours and seniority by regiment's etc.?

It is sad and unfortunate that generally our people have a dismal view of history and through sheer carelessness do not care to check important facts like award of Battle Honours, correct dates, etc. Some examples will help illustrate the point: Take the example of one of my favourite regiments The Poona Horse. Its very first battle honour shown as "Corygaum 1838" is incorrect. The battle of Corygaum was fought in 1818, and should therefore read "Corygaum 1818". There is then the question of the "Hand of Allah". This is not known to everyone, but the antiquity of this famous relic does not date back to 1066 AD (much as we would like to believe it). The question of the dating of the silver hand of The Poona Horse was not long ago settled by the curator, (an expert on Islamic antiquities) of the Department of Oriental Antiquities of the British Museum. After examining good close up photographs sent to him of "The Hand", including the writing on the palm. His report read:

"An alam (standard) surmounted by a hand recurs frequently in Iran and other Muslim countries. It refers to the Sura of Victory in the Koran specifically to the part of the verse inscribed on the hand "Yad Allah Fawqa Aydhim" (The hand of God is over their hands) from the Koran chapter 48 verse 10.

'Verily those who plight their fealty to thee do so no less than plight their fealty to God: The Hand of God is over their hands; then anyone who violates his oath, does so to the harm of his own soul, and anyone who fulfils what he has covenanted with God - God will grant him a great reward.'

At the bottom is the date in numerals 12(7D) 2AH which is equivalent to 1855 AD of the Christian calendar. It is believed that this is the date of manufacture of that hand."

Thirdly the title "Fakhr-e Hind" was not given exclusively to Poona Horse. It was actually given to the 1st Armoured Division in 1965. The Poona Horse was then serving as part of 1st Armoured Div. This title therefore by right belongs to the 1st Armoured Division. The Poona Horse were smart enough and with their splendid *esprit de corps* could manoeuvre this to their advantage, they certainly deserved it. While as our poor "Black Elephant" is still in the dark, unaware of this fact. I have had this confirmed from reliable Pakistani sources in 1995 when as a co-leader (along with the late John Gaylor) we took care of the Military Historical Society's Study tour to Pakistan. Sacrifice has always a price - Colonel Tarapore's tank is a battle trophy, kept at Kharian cantonment, HQ of Pakistan's First Armoured Division. It had to be abandoned by the Poona Horse on its failure to start when they withdrew from area Buttur Dograndi. Subsequently I am told a sowar from 25th Cavalry could get it started and drove back the intact tank to their own lines.

In the case of the Deccan Horse there are two (a battle and theatre honour) listed, "Chamb" and "Jammu and Kashmir 1971". Was the regiment officially awarded these honours by the battle honours committee? Certainly, there is no mention of them in the original BH list, so where do they come from and how were they authorised? Perhaps the DH has the AO number verifying this claim? The other question is the official date of raising of a regiment on which seniority is thus granted.

The senior of the two regiments which made up the Deccan Horse (i.e. late 20 D.H, late 1st Nizam's Cavalry) was actually formed in June 1826 from Nawab Jalal-ud-daula's, Capt Davis and Capt Clarke's risallahs of The Nizam's Reformed Horse, originally raised in 1790 (by Asaf Jah). On the order of precedence and seniority of The Deccan Horse. Up to 1947 the seniority of this regiment was 20th out of the 21 Cavalry Regiments of the Indian Army. In "Valour Honour Tradition", the Deccan Horse has suddenly jumped the queue and its place of seniority is shown immediately after the 8th Light Cavalry. On what grounds did this sudden change of precedence take place? Did the late General Vaidya (God bless him) have a hand in this? Seniority of a regiment in the Indian Army was determined from the time the regiment joined the regular forces, in the case of Deccan Horse this would be calculated from 1826, not 1790. Take the example of 9th Gurkha Rifles, officially the senior regiment of the Gurkha Brigade and having precedence over the others - junior in years to the 1st and

3rd Gurkha Rifles, but senior to them. The same rule applies, that the 1st and 3rd Gurkhas did not become part of the regular army until much later, while 9th Gurkhas were raised as a regular regiment of the Bengal Army. Or take the example of certain State Forces units, some of them have raising dates going back to the 13th century, does it mean that seniority should be given to those regiments from that date?

There are important omissions as well, and for this I will blame the senior regiments who sent in their entries. For example, the 1st Class Indian Order of Merit (IOM), the oldest gallantry award of the Commonwealth, which even pre-dates the VC, and in some cases is far more interesting than the VC. (Incidentally the IOM 1st class was the highest gallantry award for an Indian Soldier up to 1912). Why were the names of these awardees omitted? There were only 43 IOM first class awarded between the year's 1837- 1912; members of the Indian Cavalry won several. Frankly, it will not surprise me in the least if our regiments do not even know about these valiant soldiers. Not too long ago, one such award belonging to Risaldar Man Singh, a legendary soldier, and Hodson's right hand man, came up for sale at an auction in UK. An all out effort by Hodson's Horse should have been made to buy back this important and historical award. No such effort was made! I believe it now rests in a private collection of an oil rich, ignorant, sheik somewhere in the Middle East, who certainly bought it more for its rarity than for its history!

The tale is pathetic. There is a great need in our officer corps for allowing constructive criticisms, and spirit of self-enquiry, if we are to develop intellectually and maintain high standards. Bootlicking and bureaucratic stiffness, which has long existed in our army to camouflage incompetence and corruption, should be actively discouraged. A mindset which is open to constructive criticism, not just blind obedience, will pay in the longer run and gear us to face the new order required for the 21st Century. As regards recording and preserving our great military traditions, the Ministry of Defence Historical Section looked after by "babus", needs a thorough cleansing. I am told that several old medal rolls amongst other documents were put to the flame for want of space, and are now lost to us forever. The Historical Section of MOD have also not allowed serious researchers or historians access to the old records stored there (did I hear termite fodder?) under the false claim of security! There is a grave danger that our heritage of a rich military history is doomed unless we do something about it. Records of the Historical Section exceeding 25 years and hence posing no security risk should be handed over to the United Services Institute (Armed Forces Historical Research Cell). The U.S.I in turn should have professional researchers and historians who can look after them, document, and index them properly so that our records and traditions are preserved for posterity and for the future generations to come.

Perhaps I am being harsh, and these reflections might ruffle some feathers, but that's precisely what it is meant to do. If the pill gets too bitter to swallow, take solace in the fact that the scribe has a tremendous fondness and affection for the Indian soldier and the Indian Army - the sole purpose being the study, preservation and accurate recording of our Military History.

● *THE WILL TO SURVIVE*. Arthur Godman, with contemporary sketches by Ronald Searle and Philip Meninsky. Staplehurst: Spellmount Limited. 2002. 176pp. £16.99. ISBN 1-86227-111-9.

Arthur Godman was a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery who had served in Belgium and France before being evacuated from Dunkirk. Volunteering for duty in Iraq, he was taken off the troop ship at Bombay and posted to a regiment in Nowshera. A few months later the regiment was posted to Singapore and then Malaya where the author fought in various retreating actions down the peninsula until finally falling back on Singapore. There, on 16 February 1942, he went into captivity, starting life as a POW in Changi. He ended his period of captivity, also in Changi, in August 1945 but in the intervening three and a half years he worked on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway and this book tells the story of that experience.

Graduating with a first class honours degree in chemistry just before the outbreak of the war, Arthur Godman had been trained to observe and analyse. These skills have been used to good effect to

record, and in some cases, analyse the position in which he found himself during various phases of his captivity. There is much in the way of detailed descriptions of various items utilised by the men, of the properties of bamboo and its uses, and the details of construction of their accommodation. He also recalls in some detail a brief period when his skills in chemistry found him repairing a broken anaesthetic machine, which in turn led to his temporary attachment to the camp surgeon as anaesthetist while the genuine article was recovering from malaria. The description of operations to remove tropical ulcers in the few minutes that the anaesthetic lasted are graphic and inspire a sense of awe in the skills of the surgeon involved. A pity, therefore, that he, like so many other players in the plot, is not identified by name. From the description given one might assume this to have been Lieutenant Colonel (now Sir) Edward 'Weary' Dunlop of the Australian Army, but he was in Java. Whoever it was merits recognition.

Arthur Godman's linguistic skills stood him in good stead and he became chief negotiator for his camp in bartering for food with local Thai traders. But he also spent more than his share of time felling trees and clearing ground for the railway, and his description of the state of men after such exhausting work on pitifully low rations is evocative. He avoids too much detail of the 'brutality' usually associated with accounts of Far East POWs, and explains this in an early part of the book by analysing differing western and eastern approaches to the subject. He credits one of his Japanese guards with saving his life by having supplied reasonable food to him when the author was suffering from the effects of dysentery, and for having shown other aspects of human kindness during a previous stay in a different camp.

Even now, the statistics of prisoners who died or were missing cause one to pause, and this book is a fitting testimony to the suffering of so many, and the sheer determination of others to make it through to eventual freedom.

The book is illustrated throughout with drawings by Ronald Searle, who subsequently gained fame as a cartoonist, and Philip Meninsky, who went on to develop a specialisation in the work of the stage. Both artists, at great personal risk, made drawings during their captivity. Philip Meninsky's were used in trials of war criminals and a number are now held by the Imperial War Museum. Ronald Searle has described his as 'the *graffiti* of a condemned man, intending to leave a rough witness of his passing through, but who finds himself – to his surprise and delight – among the reprieved'. ANM.

● *BY GRACE OF THE LORD OF THE REALM – The medal roll for the Delhi Durbar 1903.* Compiled by Malcolm Rouse. Honiton: Token Publishing Ltd. 2002. Card covers, 84pp, illustrations. £12.95 + £2 p&p from Token Publishing Ltd., Orchard House, Duchy Road, Heathpark, Honiton, Devon EX14 1YD. E-mail: orders@tokenpublishing.com or buy on line at www.tokenpublishing.com.

Our member Malcolm Rouse has compiled and published, with the permission of the British Library, this most useful index to the gold and silver medals issued for the 1903 Delhi Durbar. Three very short introductory chapters about the event and the medal are followed by distribution lists for the gold and silver medals, conveniently broken down into the various sub headings used in the official medal roll. For the gold medal – Royal personages and others, Members of the Governor-General's Council, Heads of Local Governments and Administrations, Ruling Chiefs, Special Guests of Government, Institutions. For the silver medal it is divided into Civil Lists (further sub-divided into many different categories), and Military Lists. There is a separate list of British military personnel who received the medal. The book concludes with extracts from the Official Directory, essentially the main planning document and order of proceedings for the Durbar.

In his foreword the author cites as his bibliography Lt Col Howard N Cole's *Coronation and Commemorative Medals 1887-1977* and, as already mentioned, *The Coronation Durbar, Delhi 1903, Official Directory*. The former deals only briefly with each occasion and the latter, as mentioned, is the planning document for this particular event. It is, perhaps, surprising that the author did not consult the official history compiled after the event, *History of the Delhi Coronation Durbar.....compiled from official papers by order of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India* by Stephen Wheeler, published by John Murray, London, in 1903. To do so, for instance, might have led to the addition of a useful note about the Mutiny veterans who received the medal (just over 400 out of a total of over 1400 then living in India – see DURBAR Vol. 11, No 3 Autumn 1994, p97). It might also have better informed the brief debate concerning the inscription on the reverse of the medal. The author refers to some dispute as to the language used and its meaning and states:

"Officially, the inscription is in Persian, and reads "By the Grace of the Lord of the Realm, Edward, King, Emperor of India, 1901". However, according to Cole, W.J. Hocking who compiled *The Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, Medals etc., in the Royal Mint Museum* in 1910, records this as an Arabic inscription, translating as "By Favour of the King of the Country Edward VII Emperor of India 1901". According to the medal roll this inscription was written by Lieutenant Colonel G S A Ranking, IMS, who also translated the Viceroy's Durbar speech, and the attractive design-work is the work of Mirza Rahat Ju."

The description in Wheeler is rather more precise (pp236-237):

"Transliterated into English characters this reads "Ba fasl-i málik-i mulk Edward-i sábi' Kaisar-I Hind"; that is to say – "By the grace of the King of the Country, Edward VII, Emperor of India." This, it should be explained, is an *Abjad Toghra* or chronogram, in which the numerical values conventionally assigned to each letter give, when added together, a date, in this case A.D.1901, the year of His Majesty's succession. Chronograms of this description abound in Arabic, Persian, and Indian literature: and, as a method of recording dates, they have often been made use of by Oriental historians.

The chronogram adopted on this occasion was devised by Colonel Ranking, IMS, Secretary to the Board of Examiners. It is written in the Royal Turkish or Rumi character, which was considered more suitable than the Ajami or Persian.....The whole design for the reverse of the medal was prepared in Srinagar by Rahat Ju, a Kashmiri seal engraver, under the personal supervision of Mr Dane, then Resident in Kashmir, who was responsible for the original suggestion of the chronogram. The floral wreath shows the rose, thistle, shamrock, and lotus intertwined."

The book contains some fascinating photographs. I was particularly taken by one on page 16 captioned *The Viceregal Camp as seen from the roof of the Viceregal Lodge* (the same photograph appears opposite page 56 of Wheeler, though is captioned *The Viceroy's Camp from the Circuit House*), and a similar one at page 66 which shows the same view, but after the camp has been struck. I am afraid, however, that the caption for the photograph opposite page 1 is wrong – these soldiers certainly do not represent the Imperial Cadet Corps.

The Delhi Durbar medals were all issued unnamed, although unofficially named medals turn up from time to time. This most useful and attractively produced reference book will be of immense value to medal collectors attempting to confirm whether or not that particular medal is properly included in a group of which they are now the proud possessor. ANM.

● *ARMIES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY : ASIA – 3: India's North-East Frontier. Organisation, warfare, dress and weapons.* Ian Heath. Guernsey: Foundry Books. Casebound. 168 pages. Illustrations. Maps. £29 (UK), Euros 54.50, £35 (Australia), \$50 (USA), all inclusive of postage. ISBN 1 901543 04 8.

As the sub-title might suggest, this is not the only book in this series of A4 sized books, produced initially for the wargamer but actually of far wider interest as military history reference books. Perhaps the subject is on the periphery of those areas listed for study in our constitution, but nevertheless it is a key aspect to understanding some of the campaigns or punitive military actions that involved the army in India. I first came across their existence by accident several months ago and, in addition to this work, now have Volume 1 (Central Asia and the Himalayan Kingdoms), and Volume 2 (China) in the Asia series. All follow a similar format and, I am delighted to say, there are more to come. The author's original plans for the project have been revised as it has evolved and so, whereas this volume was originally intended to include the Far East (excluding China), this is now to be subdivided into separate works. Volume 4 will include Burma and Indo-China, though the Chins are included here in Volume 3. As the author comments; "Britain's conflicts with the Chins, for instance, could be argued to be more relevant to Burmese than Frontier history, but they have nevertheless been included here because of this people's close links with the Lushais and the Kukis.

The scope of the work is best described in the words of the author in his preface. "My intention...is to provide information on the armies fielded by all of the major, and many of the minor, independent powers and peoples of 19th-century Asia, whether tribes, kingdoms or empires – not just those against whom the European powers fought, but also the indigenous peoples attacked, conquered, or utterly destroyed in the course of interminable wars with their own powerful neighbours. In each case the intention is to piece together a picture of their military organisation, fighting-style, and appearance, in as much detail as contemporary accounts, modern research, and – above all – space, will permit."

This particular volume covers the Abors, the Akas, Assam, Cachar, the Chin-Lushais, the Daflas, the Garos, the Khantis, the Khasis, Manipur, the Mikirs, the Miris, the Mishmis, the Nagas, the Singphos and Tripura. The book contains some early photographs, either of the people or of some of their warrior equipment, but otherwise the sections are complemented by some extremely good drawings by the author.

The series is extremely well produced by Foundry Books, who have now relocated from Guernsey to Nottingham. They are starting a pre-subscription service for some of the forthcoming titles (including, for example, in the Asia series, Vol. 4 [Burma and Indo-China], Vol. 5 [Japan, Korea and the Philippines], Vol. 6 [Malaya and the East Indies], Vol. 7 [The North-West Frontier], and separately, *The British in India 1826-59*). Anyone interested in this book, or future editions, can contact them at Foundry Miniatures Ltd., 24-34 St Marks Street, Nottingham NG3 1DE. Tel 0115 841 3000, fax 0115 841 3253. Website on www.wargamesfoundry.com. ANM.

● Just as we are going to press, news from Osprey Publishing of a forthcoming work *WARRIORS & WARLORDS – The Art of Angus McBride*, to be published in hard cover, cased and jacketed, 144p with 1 black and white and 45 colour artworks. Angus McBride has illustrated more than 80 Osprey books and these illustrations are drawn from that work. The cost will be £20 and the ISBN number will be 1 84176 640 2. See www.ospreypublishing.com for more details or contact Osprey Publishing Ltd, Elms Court, Chapel Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LP, tel: 01865 727022.

● News also from Bob & Judy Ruman of Articles of War Ltd., concerning their own series of reprints (I have covered some of their work in previous issues). From a recent list I note in particular, in the Victorian reprint series, No. 6, *CAMPAIGNS ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER, 1851-1908* by

Captain Hugh L. Nevill DSO. Originally published in 1912, this is probably the single best one volume account of British campaigns along India's North-West Frontier. More details from Articles of War Ltd., 3 Rodeo Road, Silver City, NM 88061-8710, USA. Tel: 505 534 8840. Fax 505 534 8842. Email: warbooks@aol.com. Web site: www.articlesofwar.com.

