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THE ARMED CIVIL FORCES OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

Tim Ash

PART I

THE DIR AND SWAT LEVIES, AND CANAL KHASSADARS

INTRODUCTION

The North-West Frontier Province was created in 1901 when it was split from the Punjab Government at Lahore by Lord Curzon (Viceroy and Governor General 1899-1905). Thus, on 9 November of that year the N.W.F.P. became a fully-fledged Province of India with its own Chief Commissioner at Peshawar, responsible directly to the Viceroy at Calcutta.

The N.W.F.P. was unique in India; it had an international border with Afghanistan, the Durand Line. To the east of this lay the mountainous area of the tribal districts of the Pathans which were not administered by the Government, and beyond this the settled districts, totally administered by the Government, which stretched to the border with the Punjab marked by the Indus River, with the exception of Hazara which lay to the east of the Indus. The settled districts of the Province were in the charge of Deputy Commissioners whilst the tribal districts relied on Political Agents to exercise some form of control over the often-recalcitrant Pathans. Unlike any other Province in India the N.W.F.P. had to maintain a number of Militias, Scouts, Levies and Frontier Constabulary to preserve the peace on the border and in the tribal districts.

Lord Curzon's policy on military matters was to withdraw regular forces from perilous, and costly, advanced positions in tribal districts, and to make the tribesmen responsible for the defence and policing of their tribal districts. The regular forces were concentrated in the settled districts at strategic points as a safeguard and support in times of emergency. This policy undoubtedly gave rise to the raising, or strengthening, of the Levies, Militias, Khassadars, Scouts etc. Curzon's policy saved the Government of India considerable expenditure; in the four years prior to his arrival £5 million was spent on "frontier wars". In his seven years as Viceroy he spent only £250,000 on frontier operations.

SWAT

In May 2001 I made my first visit to Pakistan and the North-West Frontier Province. This included Dir and the Swat Valley amongst other places of interest. At Saidu Sharif is the tomb of Sheikh Hafiz Abdul Ghafoor (1794-1877) the Akond of Swat, probably remembered best in the U.K. by Edward Lear's interrogative poem, *Who or why, or which, or what, Is the Akond of Swat?* His grandson Abdul Wadud Khan (Mian Gul) became the Wali of Swat and the State was recognised by the Indian Government in May 1926. Abdul Wadud Khan was made a K.B.E. in April 1930 when the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, held a Grand Durbar at Saidu Sharif.

A SUBEDAR-MAJOR OF THE SWAT LEVIES

Earlier this year I came across an I.G.S. medal 1908-1935, clasp AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919, named to SUB-MAJ. K.B. SAIDULLA KHAN, SWAT LEVIES. This aroused my interest, particularly as the recipient had been awarded the Personal Title of Khan Bahadur (K.B.), an award which would have been Gazetted and thus provide a point of reference by which to research the Subedar Major, the senior Indian Officer of the Swat Levies.

Personal Titles were awarded in three classes by the Government of India, the title varying according to the religious beliefs of the recipient. For Muslims, 3rd Class was KHAN SAHIB; 2nd Class, KHAN BAHADUR and 1st Class, SARDAR BAHADUR. Personal Titles, accompanied by an appropriate badge, were awarded both to Indian Army Officers and Indian civilians for meritorious services.

With the assistance of our member, Miss E. Talbot Rice of TR Research, the Gazette of India entry for the award of the 3rd Class (K.S.) was found in The Gazette of India, Part I, of 27 June 1908 - *Saadulla Khan, Subedar, Swat Levies*. That of the 2nd Class (K.B.) in The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, of 22 June 1914 - *Khan Sahib Saadulla Khan, Subedar-Major of Swat Levies and Canal Khassadars, in the North-West Frontier Province*. There is an inconsistency in the spelling of his name, Saadulla for Saidulla but this is a minor point not raising any conflict of identity in this instance.

From the Civil Lists of the North-West Frontier Province (V/13/1056 et. seq.) it was possible to trace Saidulla Khan's career in the Swat Levies, if only in the basic details. His first entry was in the July 1909 List, where, as in succeeding Lists, he receives two entries - Persons holding Personal Titles in the North-West Frontier Province, and under Ungraded Subordinate Executive Officers in the N.W.F.P., under Dir, Swat and Chitral Agency. Emoluments Rs. 150 p.m. His appointment to his present post is recorded as 1 February 1902. Similar entries appear for him in each succeeding List, with the occasional notes regarding leaves etc., until he is shown as being *on long leave from 23 March 1923 preparatory to Retirement on Pension*. In some Lists he is noted as Subedar-Major of both the Dir and Swat Levies, as well as the Canal Khassadars. Dir lies adjacent to Swat on the west; both are to the south of Chitral. What services he may have performed with the Swat Levies to receive his I.G.S. medal are still unknown. It would appear that he was still living in November 1927 as he is shown as *Retired Subedar-Major, Khan Bahadur, Saidulla Khan, Swat Levies, residing at Amir, Besmear in Peshawar District*. Further research will, it is hoped, reveal more.

THE DIR AND SWAT LEVIES AND CANAL KHASSADARS

On 1 April 1914 the sanctioned strength of the Swat Levies was 217, and the Dir Levies 390. The Canal Khassadars are not mentioned in this record - *The North-West Frontier Province and the War*. (L/MIL/17/13/32). The total strength of Militias, Scouts, Levies, etc., is given as 7808; the Swat and Dir Levies therefore represented just under 8% of the total.

However, the most informative record is the *Report of the Committee on the Armed Civil Forces of the North-West Frontier Province 1926*, Confidential, vi, 70p., (L/MIL/17 /13/31), from which the following information is taken and on which I hope to base further contributions to DURBAR. In respect of the Dir and Swat Levies the following is stated. *In the Malakand Agency the Dir and Swat Levies are functioning today on the same lines as when they were raised about 1897. They are a tribal force and, if raised in recent years, would probably have been termed Khassadars, in that it functions in tribal territory. There are in reality two separate Corps, one functions in the Dir State and the*

other in Swat and Sam Ranizai. They both combine the duties of road protection and tribal police. The pay of the personnel is moderate and Government supplies the arms. The service is popular and the local Khans identify themselves closely with the Corps, either in person or through their near relatives. It is safe, therefore, to assume that Subadar Major Khan Bahadur Saidulla Khan was a person of some standing in the tribal hierarchy. The Committee also reported that the Dir and Swat Levies fully justified their existence.

Of the Canal Khassadars it is stated that the sanctioned strength was 159 Infantry of all ranks and 4 Sowars. The Force was maintained to guard the head-works of the main channel of the Upper Swat River Canal. The head-works were in tribal territory and represented a large capital outlay to Government. The cost of the Force, some Rs. 36,000 per annum, was shared equally between the Irrigation Department and the Local Administration.

* * *

Sources, other than those in the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library given in the text.

1. *India under Curzon and After*. Lovat Fraser. William Heinemann. London 1911.
2. *The History of Swat*. Hajji i Sayyed Mohd. Abdul Ghafoor Qasmi. Peshawar 1940.

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Editor's footnote

I recently had brief access to *The Story of Swat as told by the founder Mian Gul Abdul Wadud Badshah Sahib to Muhammad Asif Khan*, translated by Ashruf Altaf Husain and published in 1962 by Ferozsons Ltd., Peshawar. I could not resist a small footnote to Tim's article, extracted from page 139 of that book.

"Great Britain. What memories are revived by this name! How can one forget these interlopers from islands six thousand miles away whose vocation is to have an oar in every man's boat?"

(He seemed to have the measure of us!

Ed.)

THE DELHI DURBAR MEDAL 1903 INSCRIPTION

Tim Ash



With reference to the inscription on the reverse of the Delhi Durbar medal 1903 (see DURBAR Autumn 2002 p.117). This is in Arabic letters giving eight words and a year in figures. The whole have been arranged so that they appear symmetrical and attractive within the confine of a circle. They are not necessarily in the order of the inscription as it should be read, nor grammatically correct in Arabic. Arabic is written right to left and the eight words of the inscription are

Date 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

بفضل ملك مالك ادواد بر سابع قيصر هند ١٩٠١

In transliteration/translation this reads,

1. *b-fadhl*/ Due to. 2. *Melik* / King. 3. *Maalik* / ruling. 4. Edward. 5. *br* / beneficent. 6. *Saabaa* / seventh. 7. *Kaiser* / Emperor. 8. *Hind* /India, and finally 1901.

This can be put into the various forms of the translation that have been given in various publications. However, no translator has mentioned word 5, "beneficent".

Reference: *Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*. Hans Wehr. Librairie du Liban. Beirut. 1980.

A FIVE-DAY AFFAIR - COORG 1834

Elizabeth Talbot-Rice

On 15 March 1834 war was declared on the Raja of Coorg. Guilty, asserted the Honourable East India Company (EIC), of 'the greatest oppression and cruelty towards the people subject to his Government.' The Company's intention was to replace him on the throne but, when it was found that the Raja had murdered all his male relatives, the Company was forced to annex the state by a decree dated 7 May 1834. This 'little war' produced pages of reports contained mainly in F/4/1465/57617 but also in other records in the Oriental and India Office at the British Library. The majority of the despatches were reprinted in full in the *Fort St George Gazettes*. Since these are considerably easier to read, it is the Gazette date and page that I have given in the footnotes. All quotations are reprinted with the kind permission of the British Library, to whom I am most grateful.

MISSION

The aim of the campaign was clearly set out in a Field Division Order of 1 April 1834 by Brigadier Lindesay CB, Commanding the Coorg Field Force. "...this is not a war of extermination, but against that part only of the Coorg Nation which may be actually in arms in support of the Rajah, whom for his cruelties it is the determination of the British Government to depose, and that the people are to be considered as enemies only so long as they offer opposition ...It is hereby proclaimed and is to be explained to Natives of all ranks, including followers, that it is the Brigadier's firm determination to suppress at once, by the severest punishment, the slightest attempt to plunder or oppress the Inhabitants ...".¹

TERRAIN

The Imperial Gazetteer of India likens Coorg to an infant's sock, heel pointing north-west and toe south-east with a narrow foot, about 12 x 6 miles. The capital, Madikeri (Mercara) is on a plateau

¹ Field Division Order of Brig. Lindesay CB, Commanding Coorg Expeditionary Force, 1 Apr. 1834. Fort St George Gazette 13 April, p.244

3,809ft above sea level. The territory's Indian name, Kodagu, by which it is now known, is said to be derived from the Manarese word meaning steep or hilly. There are two main ranges of Ghats, one 9 miles north of Mercara rising to 5,375 ft. Forming an acute angle with it, the peaks of the other range reach 5,729 ft. The summits of hills are covered with grass, the valleys with evergreen forest and the mountainside with woods.

ORDER OF BATTLE ²

Commandant, Coorg Expeditionary Force. Brig. P Lindesay ³

Eastern Division commanded by Lt Col G M Steuart ⁴

1 Company Foot Artillery with 3 x 12pdr howitzers,
2 x 5½ in heavy howitzers, 2 x 5½ in mortars, 1 x 6pdr gun
400 rank and file 39th Regiment of Foot
4th, 35th, 36th and 48th Native Infantry
Rifle Company, 5th Native Infantry
300 Sappers & Miners

Northern Column commanded by Col G Waugh ⁵

16 Brigade 6 pdr guns
300 rank and file 55th Regiment of Foot
9th and 31st Native Infantry
Rifle Company 24th Native Infantry
200 Sappers & Miners

Western Column commanded by Colonel D Foulis ⁶

½ Company Golundaury with 4 x 6pdr guns
300 rank and file 48th Regiment of Foot
20th and 32nd Native Infantry
200 Sappers and Miners

Western Auxiliary Column commanded by Lt Col G Jackson ⁷

150 48th Regiment of Foot
40th Native Infantry
50 Sappers & Miners

ADMINISTRATION

The troops were to be supplied with a full complement of field ammunition and duplicate ordnance; the infantry with 150 rounds per man with the correct proportion of flints and 50 rounds for fusils. Each column was to have two months' supply of medicines. Troops were to be paid their April pay

² F/4/1465 f. 57617 p.115ff

³ Later Major General Sir Patrick Lindesay KCH, Cmdr Guelphic Order. 1778-1839. Commissioned into the 32nd Regiment of Foot. Served in the 78th Foot and in the Peninsula with the 39th Foot. Commanded garrison in Australia, and member of Executive Council there.

⁴ 52nd Madras Native Infantry, later Lieutenant General, George Mackenzie Steuart, 1786-1855

⁵ 23rd Madras Native Infantry, later Major General, Gilbert Waugh, 1783-1844

⁶ 1st Madras Cavalry, later Major General Sir David Foulis KCH, 1768-1843

⁷ 40th Madras Native Infantry, later General George Jackson, 1782-1866

and any March arrears before departure. Each native corps was to detail a 'careful Native officer' to be in charge of the families and to arrange for the payment of family remittances.

EXECUTION

The 1st, or Eastern, Column marched from PERIAPALAM ⁸ on 2 April, entering Coorg by crossing the River Cauvery at HEBHAULY. The crossing was initially opposed by around 300 enemy but these fled when a gun was brought up. The next day, despite stronger opposition, a pagoda was captured and a passage effected across the Ghat. The road, obstructed by trees, was so difficult to clear that at one time the column took 14 hours to advance five miles. Nevertheless, VIRAJAET DERPET was reached on the 5th and the capital MADIKERI (Mercara) the next day. The Raja had fled, ordering the evacuation of the fort in which was found a cache of ordnance which included 150 guns, 42 matchlocks, muskets and pistols, 1200 lbs. of gunpowder and a great number of spears, swords and knives.

The Western Column marched from Cannanore, crossing STONEY RIVER on 2 April. The enemy had dug in across the river. Attacking at 0600hrs the next day Foulis found the way ahead blocked by three successive stockades, breastworks and felled trees. A seven-hour attack was eventually successful although the troops had 'had to fight our way every inch'. They struggled on, still finding the road obstructed by breastworks and felled trees every hundred yards or so, to Mootoodanoor where they encamped on 7 April.⁹

Strong opposition was encountered by Waugh's Northern Column on 3 April, the enemy holding the brow of a steep hill at BUCK. The only ascent was by a narrow defile through dense jungle obstructed by felled trees. Unable to check their locations the columns met in front rather than behind the enemy, encountering a destructive fire. Reinforcements were sent up. After 4½ hours, during which heavy casualties had been incurred, the attackers carried out a successful withdrawal although leaving behind the severely wounded.¹⁰

Advancing from Mangalore on 29 March the Western Auxiliary Column encamped some 9 miles beyond COROMBLIE on 30 and 31 March. The advance was resumed on 1 April. Hearing that a stockade some 5 miles ahead of their next encampment was strongly held by the Coorgs, Jackson sent forward a reconnaissance party under Captain Noble consisting of 40 men from the 48th Foot and 120 sepoy accompanied also by the Brigade Major. 'Feeling the way with an advanced party - winding among steep and wooded hills - with a most impracticable country on both sides - a sudden turn of the road under a high jungly bank placed Captain Noble directly in front of the Stockade. A straight and steep ascent led up to the gate, at about 100 yards distance, flanked on both sides by wooded hills crested with the prolongations of the Stockade.' Noble had finished his reconnaissance and ordered his men to retire when 'a sharp fire from the thick jungle, in every direction, was poured in on the party, killing and wounding several.' Throughout the retreat the detachment was harried by fire and 'both European and Native soldiers became harassed and dispirited at sustaining so galling a fire from an invisible foe, under a burning sun, and over a most fatiguing road.' Some 1½ miles from camp they were joined by reinforcements sent to their help.

That night many of Jackson's bearers deserted. Short of food and water he made for a neighbouring village where he hoped to recruit more bearers, but these deserted in their turn. Hearing that he was

⁸ I have been unable to find a contemporary map, nor one with relevant place names. Each source consulted has its own spelling. Generally I have deciphered to the best of my ability the version in F/4, so 'sic' should be added in every case.

⁹ Dispatches of 4 and 7 April 1834. Fort St George Gazette, p.285/6

¹⁰ *ibid.* p.286

surrounded by some 2000 Coorgs Jackson 'determined to avoid a useless encounter, the termination to which could not be any but disastrous owing to the disheartened state of the troops' by retreating 'through a deep and difficult gorge, surrounded by hills and forests of inconceivable wildness', still under heavy fire from all directions. '...not a Coorg was visible, although my skirmishers penetrated as far as the underwood admitted.' The rout continued until 5.30 pm on 6 April by when Jackson was back where he started, at COROMBLIE.¹¹ From there he was able to evacuate his sick to Cannanore and his wounded to Mangalore and there he remained on 11 April, awaiting orders.

Casualties ¹²

	killed	wounded	missing
European officers	5	9	-
European rank & file	44	95	-
Native officers	1	1	-
Native rank & file	45	90	21

THE COMPANY'S VERDICT ¹³

On 17 May the Governor General expressed his entire approbation of the way in which Lindesay had brought operations to a 'speedy and successful termination.' Steuart is congratulated for having 'successfully overcome all the obstacles opposed by the enemy to his progress and for having affected in obedience to his Orders a junction with the column under Col Foulis' command.' Foulis was praised especially for the good disposition he made for the attack on the Ghat. 'The gallantry with which it was carried reflects the greatest credit on both that officer and the officers and men under his command. Col Foulis' name will be brought to the particular notice of the Hon. Court.' Then it was the turn of all ranks of the Expeditionary Force to be thanked for 'their zealous and gallant conduct.'

However, Colonel Waugh's column, said the C in C, 'met with complete failure. The loss of many brave men is to be deplored ...'. The announcement continued 'the determined valour displayed by the officers and troops and more especially by HM's 55th is the best consolation for the misfortune.' The C in C felt that Waugh was not entirely to blame since 'all his orders and arrangements appear to have been made with sound direction and a due observance of Correct Military principles...'. Waugh must have been relieved that the C in C attributed his reverses to the 'extreme difficulty of the country and to those accidents to which the best conceived schemes will occasionally be liable.' But he was not yet in the clear. His conduct was the subject of an enquiry and it was not till 9 July 1835 that the Governor of Madras published a General Order passing on the thanks of the Military Department of the Court of Directors to Lindesay, Foulis and Steuart and concurring with the Governor General in exempting Waugh from blame and commending 'the perseverance with which the main object of the operations of this Column was followed up, as reflecting the greatest credit upon that officer.'¹⁴

One commander was, however, omitted from these laudatory remarks. The conduct of Lt Col Jackson was under review so, in May 1834, 'His Lordship refrains from the present in making any remarks upon operations of that part of the Force.' A Court of Inquiry was convened at Bangalore. It was not until 9 September 1834 that a General Order was issued declaring that the C in C had 'much satisfaction in publishing his concurrence in the opinion expressed by the Committee respecting the conduct of that Officer.'¹⁵

¹¹ Jackson's dispatch of 11 April. Fort St George Gazette, 26 April, pp303-305

¹² HQ, Adjutant General's Office, 15 April 1834. *ibid.* 19 April 1834, p.284

¹³ *op cit* p.167

¹⁴ L/MIL/17/3/375 Fort St George Order No 266 of 1835 quoting Letter No 14 dated 17 February 1835 from the Honourable the Court of Directors in the Military Department.

¹⁵ Fort St George Gazette 1834 p.653 quoting General Order by H.E. the Commander in Chief 9 September 1834.

By 1837 Jackson, having still not received word from London, wrote to the Board. Finally he received exoneration. The Court Minutes of 15 March 1857 pay tribute to Jackson's 'zealous and gallant conduct' and 'the same measure of approbation is bestowed upon (his) conduct'.¹⁶

THE RAJA

Soon after his surrender the Raja, with his family and 2,000 attendants, was escorted to Bangalore. He and his entourage were then removed to Vellore and finally, in March 1835, the royal party set out for Benares where suitable premises in which he could live in comfort were being arranged. He was granted an annual pension of Rs 60,000. 17 years after his exile he applied for permission to take his favourite daughter, Gaurshuna, to England to be christened and brought up. The baptism took place in Buckingham Palace on 30 June 1852 and was described in much detail in the following day's *Times*. The ceremony had been performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Queen Victoria has stood sponsor. Originally granted a year's leave in England, this was grudgingly extended by the Court of Directors until the results were known of an appeal to both Houses of Parliament for the reinstatement of throne and pension. He died on 24 September 1859, before a final decision was reached, and is buried in Kensal Green cemetery.



¹⁶ B/193 Court Minutes of 15 March 1857, p.586

THE HONOURABLE REGIMENTAL GHOST OF LANDSDOWNE

Ashok Nath

As a child I had often heard about the "Ghost of Landsdowne" from an uncle who had commanded the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre (GRRC) in Landsdowne. Later, when I served with 1st Armoured Brigade, 1st Bn The Garhwal Rifles (late 1/39th Royal Garhwal Rifles) was grouped with us. The older veterans of this battalion also had something to say about the ghost of a former British officer mounted on a white charger. Was this just a yarn? Or was there something to it?

Most certainly the legend was very strong, and even today if you question an older Garhwali veteran he would certainly have heard of this. What, then, is the background of "the Ghost"? The "Ghost" in question is believed to be that of Major Warren Henry Wardell who went with the 1/39th Garhwal Rifles to France and Flanders in the First Great War. He was reported missing at the defence of Festubert on the night of November 23rd-24th, 1914, and was believed to have been killed. (His body was never found!). It was in this very same operation that Naik Darwan Singh Negi won his VC.

Major Wardell had a reputation of being very devoted to his men and to the Garhwal Rifles. One could say he was married to his regiment. He did not follow the usual practise of officers returning to England during long leave. Instead he spent it in the remote villages of the Garhwal Himalaya, which then meant hard trekking for several days before coming to a village. Most of his money was spent in buying blankets, medicines, and rum for the old pensioners of the regiment.

Warren Henry Wardell was born on 30 August 1866, the son of Major General W H Wardell of the Royal Artillery. He was educated at Kings School, Canterbury (where he held a scholarship and where he became a prefect), and later at Pembroke College, Oxford where he was 1st Classical scholar at his college. He got his commission via the Militia on December 21st 1889 in the King's Liverpool Regiment. He sought to join the Indian Army and was appointed to the 39th Garhwal Rifles in July 1891. The Regiment had just been formed 4 years earlier from the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Goorkha Regiment, and at the time Wardell joined it was known as 39th (The Garhwali) Regiment Bengal Infantry.

He took part in the operations in the Chin Hills 1892-93 - medal with clasp - and was mentioned in despatches. He also served with the Malakand Field Force in operations at Bajaur, and subsequently with the Mohmand Field Force and Tirah Expeditionary Force (medal and two clasps) on the North West Frontier. He saw action with the Mounted Infantry in the South Africa war from December 1901 to August 1902 (medal with two clasps), being one of fifteen Indian Army officers specially asked for by Lord Kitchener.

He also held appointment as Inspector, Imperial Service Troops Kashmir, and, in addition to his other medals, held the King George V Coronation Durbar commemorative medal.

Most of his service was with 1/39th Garhwal Rifles, of which he was adjutant and, for nearly six and a half years, a double company commander with the 2/39th Garhwal Rifles. He returned to the 1st battalion on 21st December 1912, as 2nd-in-command. He was in command of this battalion during

mobilisation, and accompanied it to France. Major Wardell was reported wounded and missing at the defence of Festubert.

His ghost is said to have started appearing in Landsdowne after the 1/39th Garhwalis returned to Landsdowne in 1916. He would appear mounted on a white charger at midnight and often inspect the Quarter Guard. It is recorded that he once found one of the NCOs on guard duty improperly dressed. The NCO dutifully presented himself before the centre adjutant the next day, stating that he had been ordered by an officer on a white horse to report correctly dressed. The sightings were reported on more than a couple of occasions, and raw recruits on guard duty were warned not to lose their nerve and to give proper respect should this phenomenon occur.

The last sighting was on 15th August 1947, the day India got its independence. The officer on the white charger made his last appearance and then drifted away to the North towards the great snowy Ranges of the Himalaya, never to be seen again!

Sources:

(Late) Colonel R Singha, Commandant, GRRC, Landsdowne
Historical Record of the 39th Royal Garhwal Rifles, Vol. 1
The Garhwali - Regimental Newsletter of The Garhwal Rifles.

THE GIRLS

Brigadier John Randle OBE MC

In July 1945 my Pathan Company of the 7th/10th Baluchis was dug in on a redoubt centred on a cockroach-infested rice mill near the village of Kyauktaga on the main RANGOON-PEGU-TOUNGOO road in Central Burma. Our task was to deal with bodies of Japanese soldiers from their 28th Army endeavouring to break out from the Pegu Yomas to our west, across the main road and then across the Sittang River to our east to the safety of the east bank, held by their main army. This involved rigorous patrolling to identify such enemy bodies and destroy them, both by our own resources, supported by our gunners, and by calling for air strikes.

One morning just after we had stood down from the dawn stand-to, I was having a restorative mug of char and shaving, when I heard a lot of hearty laughter and Pushtu wisecracking going on outside. I sent my orderly to find out what was going on, and he returned shortly afterwards grinning all over his face with the news that one of our patrols had captured some women, whom the patrol commander was now parading outside for my inspection. Pathan leg-pulling before breakfast did not always put me at my best, and I went outside, not perhaps in the best of humour. To my surprise there indeed was the patrol commander, also grinning widely, with six Japanese comfort girls, lined up demurely for my inspection.

Surprisingly, considering the monsoon conditions and the appalling state under which the Japanese were withdrawing, these girls looked very clean, tidy and cheerful - and not unattractive. Each girl was carrying a small cheap cardboard suitcase, which I got them to open; they all contained the same - hundreds of Japanese Burma "banana" money notes and a spare pair of knickers. I ordered my Company Havildar Major to see that they were given food and drink and then put somewhere in the rice mill under guard. I then sent a signal to Battalion HQ on the lines of "Have captured six tarts. Request disposal instructions". This provoked the response that it was a bit early in the morning for

Randle humour. I persisted and in the end got a signal to say that a party of military police would in due course come and collect them. Meanwhile my Pathans were enjoying themselves chatting up the girls, whom I began to suspect might be contemplating offering a bit of business. After all, the oldest profession is an all-embracing one - literally. I was not therefore too unhappy when eventually a posse of redcaps did arrive and took the girls away, to the patronising derision that all front-line troops, perhaps unfairly, regard military police.

That evening over my customary meal with Subedar Moghal Baz MC, my splendid 2IC, he remarked, philosophically, that it had been a unique day for him. "How so, Subedar Sahib?" I asked. "Sahib", he replied, "In all my service (and that included much hard fighting in Waziristan on the North West Frontier, as well as Burma) I have never seen either women or military police in a front-line position. Today we have had both".

In the article on Followers (DURBAR Vol. 19, No 3, Autumn 2002 pp95-101) I noted that Sushil Talwar had 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.

IAOC MOBILE WORKSHOP COMPANY - WAR ESTABLISHMENT - OCTOBER 1940

The workshop will consist of a main shop and a light repair section (LRS), and will deal with approximately 400 Lorry Units.

SUMMARY OF RANKS

Detail	Main Shop	LRS	See Note
British			
Officers:			
Company Command - OME, Major	1	-	
Section Officer – OME, Captain	-	1	
Assistant OME	1	-	
Warrant Officers:			
Warrant Officers Class 1	1	1	
Staff Sergeants and Sergeants:			
Staff Sergeants	1	1	a
Staff Sergeant	1	-	b
Sergeant	1	-	
Total All Ranks British	6	3	m

Indian Ranks

Officers:

VCO 1 - m

Warrant Officers:

Military Assistant Storekeeper 1 - m

Clerks	5	-	f
Drivers			g
For Motors Cycles	2	2	
For Cars, Trucks and Lorries	26	12	
For duties	4	2	
Spare	3	1	
Spare Personnel			
Military Assistant			
Storekeeper	1	-	
Storemen (technical)	2	1	h
Cleaners	9	3	

1st Line Unit Transport

Motor Cycles, heavy	3	2	i
Cars, station wagon	1	1	
Trucks, 15-cwt GS	4	2	
Lorries, 30-cwt GS	1	1	
Lorries, 3-ton GS	6	2	p
Lorries, 3-ton Breakdown	2	1	j
Lorries, 3-ton Workshop	2	1	
Total vehicles (less motor cycles)	16	8	

Table of Weapons and Ammunition

Detail	Weapons Number	Ammunition per wagon Authorised		Reserve
		Authorised	Reserve	
Pistols	11	12		n
Anti-Tank Rifles	2	100	40	
LMGs	2	750	500	

Notes

- a. IAOC Workshop Branch: may be IAOC or RAOC, IWOs may be employed in lieu of staff sergeants and sergeants.
- b. IAOC Stores Branch, until IAOC Workshop Branch is available.
- c. Includes 18 lance Naiks.
- d. Washermen and Barbers at OC's discretion.
- e. Includes 3 fitters, 1 electrician, 5 drivers, 1 clerk, 1 cleaner.
- f. Includes one Havildar in main shop and one in the light repair section, when the latter is detached. Non-combatant clerks in proportion of one upper division assistant, four lower division clerks and two routine grade clerks are available.
- g. Includes one Company Havildar Major, one Company Quarter-Master Havildar, one Havildar, four Naiks and ten driver-mechanics. The Havildar will act as Company Quartermaster Havildar when the light repair section is detached.
- h. Includes one Havildar and one Naik. Until combatants are available civilian storemen may be employed in lieu.
- i. One is ridden by British Warrant Officer.
- j. Workshop companies maintaining tracked vehicles will be allotted one tractor breakdown, and one 4-wheeled recovery trailer in lieu of one of the breakdown lorries of the main shop.
- k. N.A.
- l. Subject to revision if other personnel of the unit are armed.

- m. The following personnel are armed with pistols: Officers, Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants, Sergeants, VCOs, IWOs.
- n. One full box (300 rounds) will be carried as unit reserve.
- o. Includes three Havildars and three Naiks in main shop and one Havildar and two Naiks in light repair section.
- p. Three of the vehicles will be provided with portable store bins on the basis of 12 bins per vehicle, or alternatively Store Lorries may be provided. In the latter case portable store bins will not be provided as Store Lorries are fitted with bins.
- q. May be a Naik.
- r. One electrician in main shop and one in light repair section must have knowledge of wireless apparatus, field telephones, lamps electric signalling, in addition to ignition and lighting sets on IC-engined vehicles.

I also mentioned Sushil's list of unusual military ranks or units on medals (we carried some of his Follower descriptions in the last issue). I shall hold his military ranks for a future issue. Ed.

ELEPHANTS

Brian D N Stevens

I was particularly interested in John Randle's "An Ad Hoc Elephant Battery in WW2" (Vol. 19, No 1, SPRING 2002, p.24) as the use of elephants by the Indian Armies has for many years been one of my enthusiasms.

His experience is a good example of history repeating itself. In 1815, during the war with Nepal, a shortage of pack animals, especially carriage bullocks, forced Army Headquarters to order the Commandant of the Bengal Artillery to send 150 Artillery Bullocks from the Headquarters of the Artillery at Dum-Dum to the Headquarters of one of the Divisions engaged in the campaign. The Military Consultation volumes for 1815 held in the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library contain a number of letters on the matter between the Commandant of Artillery and the Adjutant General's Office.

The Commandant maintained that there was a considerable difference between a Carriage Bullock and a Draft Bullock, which is what the cattle at Dum-Dum were. He stated that they were not suited for pack duties and that it took several months to train a Draft Bullock. That was the reason why he was allowed an establishment of "Breaking in Carriages". As this establishment had been authorized as far back as the 1780s, and had been the subject of investigation since then, he presumed that these carriages were deemed necessary otherwise they would have been withdrawn.

As far as I can remember he was allowed to keep his bullocks. It goes to prove that it would have been better to have consulted him on the matter before issuing any orders withdrawing the animals. John Randle's experience one hundred and thirty years later would seem to reinforce the idea that it would have been advantageous to consult the experts before deploying these animals.

I must admit that I was rather surprised by his remarks on the load carrying ability of these animals. I realise that the elephants in question had not been trained as pack animals but I would have thought that a mortar would have been an easy load and that the powers that be could have easily designed and manufactured a simple and effective pack harness.

I do not have to hand details of what the official load of a Battery Gun Mule was but I believe it to be in the region of 160 lbs. plus pack saddle. (*Charles MacFetridge confirms this figure – "Four 20 lbs. shells with brass cartridge cases were carried in a specially designed ammunition box... The box, when filled, was a two-man lift on to two hooks on the pack-saddle, and a mountain artillery mule carried two boxes as side loads". See review of The Military Mule in the British Army and Indian Army on pp. 158/159. Ed.*)

As far back as the 1780s the Elephant Contract entered into by the Bengal Army stipulated that each of the 200 Establishment elephants should be seven feet and upwards in height, not less than twelve years old and able to carry a load of twenty maunds or 1640 lbs. or roughly 14½ hundredweight. A maund is usually considered to equal 80 lbs., although I have seen it converted as slightly over 82 lbs.

A G.O.G.G. dated the 10th January 1811 included the weights of the various items of what was termed "Camp Equipage" or Tentage, either wet or dry, and the number of Elephants and Camels allowed. This for a European battalion amounted to thirty-five (35) elephants but a Sepoy battalion had to manage with six (6).

The reason for giving wet and dry weights was that often the tents would have to be loaded whilst still damp and the difference being considerable could lead to over loading the animal if the wrong weight was used. Over-loading and over-marching were covered by clauses in the Elephant and Bullock Contract mentioned in the Military Consultations of the 22nd May and 5th August 1806. For example, an elephant was considered to be over loaded if the load was in excess of two maunds above the official load of twenty maunds and a carriage bullock by more than 10 lbs. over the official load of 210 lbs. For elephants over-marching was anything in excess of two Cos in fine weather or eight Cos in bad weather (a Cos equals two miles). Should a Contract Elephant become unserviceable for any of the above reasons the Government was liable to reimburse the Contractor Sonat Rupees 783 and 12 Annas per animal.

By 1811 there were over 500 elephants on the Establishment, each of which was provided with a Mahout and two attendants who presumably disposed of the dung which, as John Randle mentioned, was a problem seeing that an elephant received a daily ration of 1000 lbs. of green fodder.

The above is taken from Regulations. Written nearly one hundred and fifty years before the Second World War, they remained in force until the use of these animals, or cattle as the contemporary Orders termed them, was phased out.

Up to 1869 two mountain batteries with elephants were maintained in Assam. One was a Eurasian Battery raised in 1858 and the other, the Assam Battery, was raised in 1840 for local service in Assam. Both were converted into mountain batteries during the 1860s and were disbanded in 1869 when it was decided to withdraw artillery from that province.

The Assam Battery had eighteen elephants on charge, four for the guns (12 pound howitzers with two 5½ inch mortars in reserve), ten for ammunition boxes (56 in number), one for the forge and three spare. The driver establishment, including a grass cutter for each animal, was thirty-seven. The howitzers weighed two hundredweight.

The General Order (G.O. Military Department No.795 of 1866) converting the Assam Company into a mountain battery makes no mention of how the guns were moved but it seems likely that they were carried rather than drawn. As mentioned earlier, if an elephant was expected to carry a load of 14½ hundredweight then two hundredweight would not be a problem.

ROYAL INDIAN MARINE

Tim Ash

The following extract from the *Indian Year Book*, The Times Press, Bombay, of 1927 gives a good briefing on this Service which I thought may be of interest to Members:

"The Royal Indian Marine (the Sea Service under the Government of India) traces its origin so far back as 1612 when the East India Company stationed at Surat found that it was necessary to provide themselves with armed vessels to protect their commerce and settlements from the Dutch or Portuguese or from the pirates which infested the Indian coasts. The first two ships, the *Dragon* and *Hoseander* (or *Oslander*), were despatched from England in 1612 under a Captain Best and since those days, with slightly varying titles and of various strengths, the Government in India have always maintained a sea service.

The periods and titles have been as follows:-

Hon. E.I. Co.'s Marine	1612 - 1686
Bombay Marine	1686 - 1830
Indian Navy	1830 - 1863
Bombay Marine	1863 - 1877
H.M. Indian Marine	1877 - 1892
Royal Indian Marine	1892 [to 1927]

The Marine has always been most closely connected with Bombay, and in 1688 when the E. India Co. took over Bombay, Captain Young of the Marine was appointed Deputy Governor. From then until 1877 the Marine was under the Government of Bombay, and although from that date all the Marine Establishments were amalgamated into an Imperial Marine under the Government of India, Bombay has continued to be the headquarters and the official residence of the director.

WAR SERVICES OF THE MARINE

1612 - 1717 Continuous wars against Dutch, Portuguese and Pirates for supremacy of West Coast of India.

1744 War with France, capture Chandernagore, and French ship *Indienne*.

1756 Capture of Castle of Gheria.

1774 Mahratta War, capture of Tannah.

Later part of the eighteenth century, war with France and Dutch, Capture of Pondicherry, Trincomalee, Jafnapatam, Colombo, etc.

1801 Egyptian campaign under Sir Ralph Abercrombie.

1803 War with France. 1810 taking of Mauritius and capture of French ship in Port Louis.

Early part of the nineteenth century suppression of Jowasmi Pirates in the Persian Gulf.

1811 Conquest of Tara.

1813 Expedition against Sultan of Sambar.

1817 - 1818 Mahratta War, capture of Forts at Severndroog.

1819 Expedition to exterminate piracy in the Persian Gulf.

1820 Capture of Mocha.

1821 Expedition against the Beni-Boo-Ali Arabs.

1824 - 1826 First Burma War.

1827 Blockade of Berbera and Somali Coast.

1835 Defeat of Beni Yas Pirates.

1838 Expedition to Afghanistan and Capture of Karachi.

1838 Capture of Aden.

1840 - 1842 War in China.

1843 Scinde War. Battle of Meeanee, Capture of Hyderabad.

1845 -1846 Maori War in New Zealand.

1848 - 1849 War in the Punjab, siege of Mooltan.

1852 Second Burma War, Capture of Rangoon, Martaban, Bassein, Prome and Pegu.

1855 Persian War, Capture of Bushire, Muhammerah and Ahwaz.

1856 - 1857 War in China.

1857 - 1859 The Indian Mutiny.

1859 Capture of the island of Beyt.

1860 China War, Canton, Taku Forts, Fatshan and Pekin.

1871 Abyssinian War.

1882 Egyptian Campaign.

1885 Third Burma War.

1889 Chin Lushai Expedition.

1896 Suakin Expedition.

1897 Expedition to Imtirbe, Mombassa E. Africa.

1899 - 1902 S. African War.

1900 Boxer Rebellion in China, Relief of Peking.

1902 - 1904 Somaliland Expedition.

1912 - 1914 Suppression of Arms Traffic operation. Persian Gulf.

During the War 1914 - 1918 Royal Indian Marine Officers were employed on many and various duties. Royal Indian Marine Ships *DUFFERIN*, *HARDINGE*, *NORTHBROOK*, *LAWRENCE*, and *MINTO* had their guns mounted and served as Auxiliary Cruisers. Officers also served in the Royal Navy in the Grand Fleet, Mediterranean, North Sea, North Red Sea and Caspian Sea Fleets.

In addition to transport duties in Indian Ports, Officers were sent to Marseilles, East Africa and Egypt for such duties, and on the entry of Turkey into the War were employed on duties towing and manning River Craft and Barges to and in Mesopotamia, and it was necessary to enlist a number of Temporary Officers, Warrant Officers and men to the numbers of approximately 240, 60 and 2,000 respectively for these and other duties.

When the War Office assumed full control of Operations in Mesopotamia a large number of Regular and Temporary Officers and men were seconded to the Royal Engineers and General Service respectively for duties in the Inland Water Transport which controlled all River Transport work in that country, and these officers held many important executive appointments in that unit.

The movements of all sea transports between India and the various theatres of War were controlled by Marine Officers.

Trawlers were built in Bombay and Calcutta Dockyards and mine sweeping operations were carried out with these and launches off Bombay and elsewhere, the trawlers were also used for towing duties.

Retired Royal Indian Marine Officers were employed on naval transport duties in England and France, and also in very responsible positions with the Inland Water Transport in France.

SHIPS

Training Ship	<i>Dufferin</i>	8,260 tons
Training Ship	<i>Clive</i>	2,100 tons
Sloop	<i>Cornwallis</i>	1,200 tons
Despatch Vessel Light	<i>Lawrence</i>	1,259 tons
Surveying Ship	<i>Investigator</i>	1,185 tons
Surveying Ship	<i>Palinurus</i>	444 tons
Receiving Ship	<i>Dalhousie</i>	2,195 tons
Patrol Ship	<i>Pathan</i>	3,500 tons
Patrol Ship	<i>Baluchi</i>	3,500 tons

In addition to the above there are 38 vessels composed of steam trawlers, service launches, target towing tugs, military service launches, distributed at Bombay, Calcutta, Aden, Rangoon and Karachi.

DOCKYARDS

There were two Royal Indian Marine Dockyards at Bombay and at Calcutta, the former being the more important. The one at Calcutta has been closed. There are 5 graving docks and a wet basin at Bombay, together with factories.

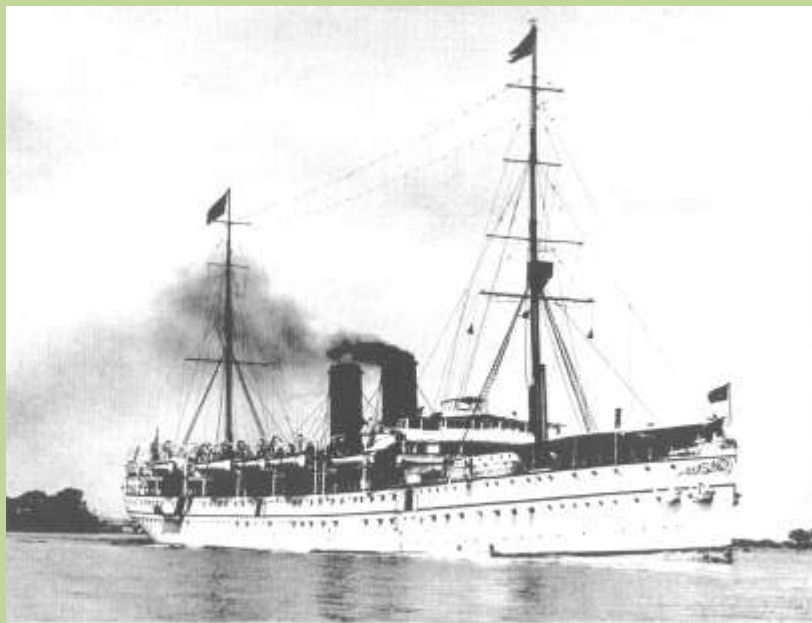
THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

The official announcement of the proposal to reconstruct the Royal Indian Marine as a Government Department, to be called the Royal Indian Navy, was made by the Viceroy in the Council of State in February, 1926. He said that the creation of an Indian Navy had been under the consideration of the Government of India for some time past, and the intention of Government to take measures was strengthened by the recommendations of the Mercantile Marine Committee to reorganise the Royal Indian Marine on the lines of a combatant naval service."

History of the Indian Navy (1613 - 1863) by Charles Rathbone Low in two volumes, first published in 1877, and re-published in 1990 by the Royal Naval Museum Portsmouth, in conjunction with the London Stamp Exchange Ltd., is probably the definitive history of the Indian Navy over the period which it covers. However even this very detailed work has failed to answer a question I have. The Second China War medal was the last to be issued to the old Indian Navy before its disbandment in 1863. The last clasp for this medal is that for Pekin 1860 and only the officers and crew of one Indian Navy vessel qualified for that clasp, the *Zenobia*. Nowhere have I been able to establish what part the *Zenobia's* complement played in that march to Pekin. Should any Member know the answer I should be most grateful to hear.

Acknowledgement. India Office Library and Records.

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R.I.M.S. *DUFFERIN* built at Barrow-in-Furness 1903/4. A troopship convertible to an armed Cruiser.

Maitland Thornton had also coincidentally sent in a list of key dates of the Indian Navy and its descendants which complements the above article:

1612 (5 Sept) Marine Service of the HEIC formed. (Surdat Squadron and Bombay Squadron).

1686 Re-titled Bombay Marine.

1830 Re-titled Indian Navy.

1858 On transfer to the Crown re-titled Her Majesty's Indian Navy.

1863 (30 April) Reduced to a non-combatant role. Reorganised into Bombay and Bengal Marine and formation of Survey Department.

1865 Re-titled Bombay Marine.

1877 Re-titled Her Majesty's Indian Marine and combatant role restored.

1892 Re-titled Royal Indian Marine.

1928 (6 Jan) First Indian to be commissioned, Engineer Sub Lieutenant D J Mukerji.

1934 Re-titled Royal Indian Navy.

1950 (26 Jan) On India becoming a republic re-titled Indian Navy.

1956 (2 Oct) First Indian officer to be elevated to Flag Rank.

1958 (22 April) Vice Admiral R D Katari became first Indian CNS.

1977 (1 Feb) Indian Coast Guard formed (originally manned by Naval personnel on loan). Incorporated Customs duties.

PAKISTAN

1947 After partition, on August 15, Royal Pakistan Navy formed.

1956 (23 March) on becoming an Islamic republic, re-titled Pakistan Navy.

1987 (1 Jan) Maritime Security Agency (Coast Guard) formed.

BANGLADESH

1972 (31 March) Bangladesh Navy formed.

1994 (8 Dec) Bangladesh coast Guard formed.

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Peter Chapman writes:

We have had, in recent years - and we are all grateful - books elaborating on the IOM and the IDSM, the first from Peter Duckers, the second from Rana Chhina. Both expand the basic facts of Honours and Awards of the Indian Army with which many of us have had to be content for many years. It may well be too much to hope that the IMSM may receive the same devoted treatment.

Until then is anyone able to explain those extra-ordinary awards to be found in the lists of the 28th Light Cavalry? How was it that the IMSM was awarded to Farrier Major Vivian Wilson Bird, to Farrier Daffadar Edward Richard Peacock, to Trumpet Major Richard Terrence Holding (all for Salonika) and to Farrier Daffadar Richard Samuel Alderson (Egypt)?

All appear - by name - to be Europeans. And although I do appreciate that, on occasions, losses in Indian cavalry regiments were made up by the insertion of English other ranks, this seems odd to me. I know that the 28th LC had a very unusual war (1914-18). Is the Secret Service the right place to look for an explanation of these curious awards? There are many books on the episode relevant. And do the medals exist?

● Shamus Wade writes:

I enclose a small postscript to Mike Cunningham's very interesting article on "Auxiliary Force (India)" (Vol. 19, No 3, Autumn 2002, p.101) in which he states that it was composed of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The note is taken from "The Auxiliary Force (India)" by Tony Mains which appeared in *The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 1983.

"The A.F.I. were classed as British units and therefore did not as a rule enlist Indians. A number of fringe ethnic groups were enlisted in certain units. The Bombay and Karachi units enlisted Parsees and indigenous Jews: the Karachi units also showed Goans as a separate ethnic group. Goans were almost certainly enlisted as Anglo-Indians in a large number of other units as many of them were Indian citizens. The Chota Nagpur Regiment and the Nagpur Rifles also had Parsees; the latter unit also showing in their returns "including eight Indian Christians" - again Indian Christians may well have been enlisted in other units as Anglo Indians, particularly if they had European names. The East Bengal Company had a sizeable number of Armenians engaged in the Jute trade. The Eastern Bengal Railway Battalion had an Indian Officer, their Honorary Colonel, who was also the General Manager.

Finally some of the Burma units were known to have enlisted Christian Karens, if they were acceptable to the remainder of the rank and file."

● On the same topic, Terence Rochford writes:

I worked in Calcutta for Guest, Keen, Williams, a subsidiary of GKN, from 1957-69 and the Calcutta Light Horse Club was a lively haven. In the early-mid sixties, however, they had to give up their premises on Park Street due to a failing membership and lack of funds. The Saturday Club took over their memorabilia and it still remains in their Light Horse Bar.

● Terence Rochford also writes:

I am sure members will be sorry to hear that Major General Rafiuddin Ahmed SI(M), S.Bt., died recently. He had been ill for some time and was eventually taken to Saudi Arabia for a kidney transplant – his eldest son was the donor. All went well after the operation but then some problems started which led to his death.

For some time I have been arranging the publication of his *History of the Baloch Regiment 1820-1939* which came off the press not long before he died.

(This was the first of a planned trilogy on the history of The Baluch Regiment. We published a review of the second volume – *History of the Baloch Regiment 1939-1956* in Vol. 18. No 1, Spring 2001, p.35, in which the reviewer Dr David Gould, himself a former Baluch officer, wrote "It is a fine sequel to the first volume 1820-1939." Both volumes have been difficult to obtain outside of Pakistan and Terence Rochford's timely reprint is to be welcomed, though sadly the future of the planned third volume must now be in some doubt. Ed.)

● A recently joined member, Jon Latimer, writes:

I am currently engaged in writing a book on the Burma Campaign 1941-45. This will be my third book having had *Deception in War* published by John Murray in 2001, and *Alamein* this year. I expect this book – *The Forgotten War* – to be published (again with Murrays) in the autumn of 2004 and I am keen that the contribution made by India soldiers should be properly recorded. If any member has any material/anecdotes/information that would be relevant to the book I would be pleased to hear.

● We have received a request for information from a non-member, Ms Yvette Barrington, who is seeking to identify one William (Bill) Morgan, a member (possibly a Captain) of the United States military forces. The questions posed are: were any units of the United States military forces in India at the end of World War II (July/August 1945) based in Agra or surrounds? Is it possible to identify individual servicemen who might have been there?

BOOK NOTES

● *SIR HUGH ROSE AND THE CENTRAL INDIA CAMPAIGN 1858*. Selected and Edited by Brian Robson. Stroud: Sutton Publishing Limited for the Army Records Society. 2000. 323pp. £50. ISBN 0-7509-2541-8.

This is Volume 16 of the series of publications of the Army Records Society and covers the largely neglected yet vital campaign in Central India in 1858. By a judicious selection of original documents – letters, telegrams, diaries and operational orders – Brian Robson sets out to fill the gap. The documents are linked by a series of introductions to the various sections which constitute in themselves a connected history of the campaign. The documents reveal vividly the brutality on both sides and the harshness of the conditions in which the campaign was fought. They reveal much about the extraordinary character of Sir Hugh Rose, a name almost unknown to military historians. Without the experience of commanding troops in action, he fought a campaign in which he revealed himself to possess the qualities of a great commander – quickness of perception, boldness, decisiveness, physical

courage, determination and thoroughness, and luck. But the effort lasted only six months, after which he never commanded again, so what he was really capable of forms part of the enigma that is Rose. He was not a popular commander and criticisms of him persisted among his officers, as is well documented in this book.

Meticulously annotated, with a detailed bibliography and biographical notes, the book is a major contribution to the history of the British and Indian Armies and to the history of the Raj.

● *STROLLING ABOUT ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD The First Hundred Years of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (formerly Royal Central Asian Society)* Hugh Leach with Susan Maria Farrington. Foreword by Lord Hurd of Westwell. Published by Routledge Curzon on 1 November 2002 Hardback, 212 pages, 190 illustrations, index, ISBN 0-415-29857-1.

The Society has a rich history tracing its *fons et origo* within the Central Asian Question at the turn of the last century. The chronology of the first one hundred years begins this work, from early struggle to a golden period between the wars and on to a long span post-Empire when it was involved in more than thirty countries. It outlines how its early membership and distinguished Honorary Officers were drawn largely from the armed services, the Indian Political Service and the Diplomatic and Consular services, before enlarging into business, commerce and the oil industry.

The second part carries vignettes of its more remarkable, even eccentric, members and their exploits. They included not only the Presidents of some Asian countries and world religious leaders, but adventurers and spies, explorers, missionaries and medics, scholars, engineers, journalists, businessmen and a thriving Junior Membership.

The final section has individual chapters covering the Society's various activities, archival collection and medal awards. The latter includes the Lawrence of Arabia Medal with accounts of the medal-holders themselves, Lawrence's family links with the Society, and its members who worked with him in the Hejaz and Palestine campaigns.

With its considerable factual content the book will be a work of reference for all interested in Britain's involvement with Asia during the last century. Of particular current relevance is the Society's long fascination with Afghanistan and concern for Islam. The volume is generously illustrated and includes many of the Society's unique archival photographs not previously published.

The Society is most generously offering this book to members of IMHS at the same price as is being offered to their own members - £18 (US \$37.50) plus p&p – UK £3.50, Europe £4.20 (US \$7.35), Other zones: surface £4.10 (US \$7.20), airmail £9.00 (US \$15.75). Sterling or US dollars cheques (no credit/debit cards), made payable to The Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ.

● *THE MILITARY MULE IN THE BRITISH ARMY AND INDIAN ARMY – An Anthology.* A trilogy, printed on A4 sized paper, bound with soft cover and plastic ring binder. Available in limited numbers and therefore on a first come, first served basis from Lt Col C H T MacFetridge, 6 Vicarage Gardens, South Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9DX. Cost within the UK is £22, inclusive of p&p. I suggest overseas members contact Colonel MacFetridge to determine availability and postage costs before ordering.

This is indeed a tour de force on the subject of the mule – we have carried a couple of articles on this animal in recent years – but this work, in three Parts, must answer just about any question anyone

would ever want to ask. With a total of 321 pages, Part 1 by Brian Nicholls (pages 1 to 215) is entitled "Over Two Hundred Years of Invaluable Service" and provides a general history of the subject, much of it with an Indian bias. It includes eleven pages of photographs (the one of the mule having just completed a parachute drop suggests the animal was not too enamoured of the experience!).

(Brian Nicholls was a National Serviceman in 19 Field Regiment in 1950-52. His grandfather served in the Life Guards in the Boer War and an uncle served in the 4th Dragoon Guards in the Great War. He has a keen interest in the history of mules in the British Army and Indian Army and has built up over many years an extensive library on the subject, including letters from British officers and soldiers who have served with mules in many countries.)

Part II (pages 1 to 76), by Philip Malins, is entitled "The Indian Army Animal Transport Mule" and includes three pages of photographs.

(Philip Malins MBE MC served in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps during World War 2, both at Jullundur and in Imphal and Burma where he commanded 43 Mule Company, 20 Indian Division, in 1944-45.)

Part III (pages 1 to 30), by Charles MacFetridge, is entitled "The Mountain Artillery Mule" and includes ten pages of photographs.

(Charles MacFetridge served in the Royal Artillery with mules on Salisbury Plain in 1934-35, on the North West Frontier in 1938-41, in Imphal in 1943-44 and in Greece in 1948.)

This Trilogy has taken six years to complete and contains little-known information, such as the devoicing of mules and, as indicated above, dropping mules by parachute. There are no less than twenty-four pages of photographs. Valuable and fascinating research, and well worth the modest outlay. ANM.

