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ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BARROW'S VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

C.J. Parrett

Several months ago I received a reliable briefing on a Mutiny medal named in correctly impressed capitals to Jas. Crawford, Volunteer Cavy.

Fortunately this interesting medal has been acquired by a well-organised and experienced collector. His preliminary step in researching this new acquisition was not surprisingly to look up the Civilian Roll (L/Mil/5/86) at the India Office Library, upon the reasonable assumption that the recipient might have been a civilian volunteer. But no trace of the man was found there.

Realising from an appendix to "Barrow's Thirty-One" (Durbar Volume 5, No 1) that a Trooper James Crawford, H. M.'s 5th Regt., was listed as No 64 on the Nominal Roll of infantry drafts who served with Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry (L/Mil/5/98 folios 213/214), and believing that a separate and conventional roll of claims for medals would have been submitted on behalf of these drafts, a brief search located this roll which I had failed to uncover during my own investigation some three years ago. The I.O.L. reference is L/Mil/5/77 folios 58r to 59v and the roll, submitted by Barrow from Lucknow on 16th December 1858, is entitled:

"Roll of Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Volunteer Cavalry who have been engaged in the Suppression of the Mutiny in India"

It lists a total of eighty eight claimants including the two Madras Cavalry farriers and the eighty four N.C.O.s and men on the Nominal Roll, as well as two additional men:

William Bowden H.M.'s 84th Foot

William Walsh H.M.'s 84th Foot

Details of each claimant's infantry regiment is given, and entitlement to clasps is specified in the normal fashion. This allows a full analysis of all BVC medals and clasps to be made (see appended table). The roll also records that Q.M.S. Michael Casey (No. 23 on Nominal Roll - no unit given) and Trooper Patrick Walsh (No.123 on Nominal Roll - H.M.'s 84th Foot) were in fact both Madras Fusiliers.

This same collector has another Mutiny medal to a volunteer, a civilian who claimed a no-clasp medal for service with Barrow's volunteers. The naming, again in entirely conventional impressed capitals, is most interesting:

R.B. Manford, Barrow's Voltr. Cavy.

The recipient claimed a no-clasp medal on Barrow's roll of civilian volunteers (L/Mil/5/77 folios 51v to 56r). Whilst the spelling of the surname matches that on the medal roll, the recipient's name was actually Mumford - as shown on Barrow's nominal roll. Robert Brightmore Mumford was

based at Manowrie when the Mutiny broke out, where he was employed as an Inspector by the East India Railway Company.

The Mutiny medal issued to W. C. Thomas still remains in the family and was recently the subject of a newspaper article which described the naming on the medal as:

W.C. Thomas, Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry

His medal, issued according to the roll with Defence of Lucknow and Lucknow clasps, was reported to have a third Relief of Lucknow clasp - presumably added by the recipient.

A further Mutiny medal to one of Barrow's volunteers, with clasps for the Defence of Lucknow and Lucknow, appeared in Lot 184 of Spink's December 1990 auction. The naming on this medal is described, without reference to the style of lettering, as:

Capt. W. J. Hicks, 22nd N.I., Supt. of Bazaar

Hicks was serving with the 22nd Bengal Native Infantry when it mutinied en bloc at Fyzabad on 8 June, murdering seven of its officers. It is rather surprising, in the light of such terrible events, that Hicks should have claimed the medal on the roll of this regiment. The relevant roll is filed at L/Mil/5/98 (folio 321) and lists only one claim - presumably Hicks, although I haven't checked this. However, a claim by or on behalf of Hicks was also submitted on Barrow's roll of officers, filed at L/Mil/5/77 (folios 43v to 50r), a summary of this being appended to "Barrow's Thirty-one" (*ibid*). Research published by Spink with Hicks' s medals confirms that the Defence of Lucknow clasp on his Mutiny medal is correct (I had erroneously assumed a Relief clasp). An interesting point is that Hicks received this clasp for service between 25th September and 18th November at the Alambarg which, for the purposes of determining field service and entitlement to clasps, was officially defined as a part of the LUCKNOW RESIDENCY during that specific period.

Taking account of the Crawford / Hicks /Manford / Thomas medals and the Barrow's roll to infantry drafts, it might be helpful to restate the available information on the issue of Mutiny medals to Barrow's volunteers.

1.1 Claims of some (possibly all) NCOs and men of infantry drafts were listed on rolls submitted individually by their respective infantry regiments. Trooper John Martin's claim was lodged on the roll of the 84th Regiment (WO 100 39) and a corresponding medal named to the 84th Regiment was issued to him (see list of known medals appended to 'Barrow's Thirty-One').

1.2 Quite separately, medals were also claimed by all NCOs and men of infantry drafts on a December 1858 roll (L/Mil/5/77 folios 58r to 59v) submitted by Barrow. On the evidence of James Crawford's medal, it appears that medals were certainly issued on the authority of this roll and that such medals were named appropriately to the Volunteer Cavalry.

2.1 At least one H.E.I.C. officer, Captain W J Hicks of the 22nd Bengal Native Infantry, who was listed on a Volunteer Cavalry roll, claimed a medal on his own regiment's roll. He received a medal appropriately named to the 22nd Native Infantry.

2.2 It is known that medals were issued to officer volunteers on authority of the Volunteer Cavalry rolls, these medals being impressed with unit naming in one of two styles:

BARROW'S VOLTr CAVy

or

VOLUNTEER CAVy

3.1 Several civilians (but apparently not all) who served as volunteers with Barrow claimed medals on the Civilian Roll (L/Mil/5/86) which I assume was on the basis of service fulfilled before and/or after the period in which they served with Barrow. Medals issued on the authority of this roll were impressed in conventional capital letters with only the initials and surname of the recipient. One known example, amongst others, is the two-clasp medal (Relief of Lucknow/Lucknow) named simply "R.G. Voss" who served as a sergeant with Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry in the second defence of the Alambarg and the final capture of Lucknow. It would be interesting to know how he obtained his Relief clasp.

3.2 We know from Manford's example that medals issued on the authority of Barrow's civilian roll had the unit detail impressed on their rims. What we do not know is whether all medals on this roll were actually issued.

Bearing in mind that most volunteers claimed Mutiny medals on more than one roll, and that the issuing authorities did not have an efficient mechanism for identifying and cancelling duplicate claims, it seems very likely that some of Barrow's volunteers would have received more than one Mutiny medal. Hopefully more of these relatively scarce and interesting volunteer medals will surface, so that some definitive conclusions can be drawn.

Summary analysis of medals claimed by Barrow's Volunteer Cavalry (revised 2/91)

Clasp details	Queen's officers	H.E.I.C. officers	Civilians	8th M.C. farriers	Infantry drafts	All units
No clasp	1	3	13*	-	7	24
Defence of Lucknow	1	5	3	-	41	50
D of L/ Lucknow	-	12	11	-	37	60
R of L/ Lucknow	-	-	2	1**	-	3
Central India	-	-	1****	-	-	1
Lucknow	-	-	2	1	1	4

Total claims	2	20	32	2	86	142
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* Excludes the claim of a deserter subsequently cancelled.

** Relief clasp for previous service with 93rd Highlanders

*** Central India clasp for subsequent service with 8th Hussars

BRIGADIER J P RANDLE OBE MC - A FOREWORD

A Sudlow - President IMCS

I first encountered John Randle some 10-15 years ago when he was Regimental Secretary of The Devonshire and Dorsetshire Regiment; I was researching an article on the award of the French Croix-de-Guerre to British units during the Great War, among them 2/Devons at Bois-de-Buttes, France, in 1918. Having established contact in writing, following his reply we spoke on the telephone. As old soldiers will, we chatted on days gone by, wherein it was established that we had both served with 17 Indian (Light) Division in WW2, in Burma. We had a friend in common - Tom Boyes, MC, our 1943/44 Adjutant - who lived near John Randle in Devon.

I wrote some time ago to John, asking him for a piece about Mounted Infantry - I recall 7/10 Baluch capering about the Imphal area in early 1943, in their role of Division Recce Battalion, mounted on a variety of horses/ponies. He wrote to say that he would hack out an article on Mounted Infantry in WW2, and in the interim enclosed a piece about one of the hard-working 'followers' of 7/10 Baluch, whose work was recognised by the award of a Mention in Despatches - this award was, in all probability, uniquely awarded to a sweeper 'for services rendered in his unusual Line of Duty'. Was it again Kipling who said 'They also serve who only stand and wait'?

A LATTER-DAY GUNGA DIN

Brigadier J P Randle OBE MC

Most people are familiar with Kipling's ballad about the heroic water carrier Gunga Din and its famous last line "You're a better man than I am Gunga Din." This is a true story of an even more remarkable Indian follower.

It is necessary to explain the background of that most prosaic and indelicate of subjects, the sanitary arrangements in India and of the Indian Army. Apart from the houses of the wealthier and hotels etc. in the big cities, there was no water borne sanitation in India and everyone was dependent upon the good old fashioned privy or, amongst the more well-to-do, an old fashioned commode, serviced by a sanitary man known universally as a sweeper. In the Indian Army, with somewhat heavy irony, the sweepers were often called "mehtar" - prince. Amongst the predominantly Hindu

population of India with its rigid caste system, all people engaged in menial tasks of this nature came from a class known as "The Untouchables" and to a strict Hindu contact with, or even the shadow of an Untouchable, was ritual defilement. Amongst Muslims and other faiths, although they did not have the same rigid caste system, sweepers were regarded as the lowest of the low.

There were two personal taboos, which were clearly put over to all British officers on joining the Indian Army - firstly, that one should on no account ever show oneself naked to one's men (the British Army practice of the officers and men all stripping off and plunging into the sea or into a river was "out"). The second was that excretion should be done in complete privacy and certainly not in the presence of one's soldiers. This practice was maintained even on active service, unless in close contact with the enemy, and one used the Officers' Mess commode or "thunder box" which was usually dug down and covered over, and was serviced by the Officers' Mess sweeper in Battalion Headquarters. Under battle conditions, away with one's company, one obviously did as everyone else did and went out discreetly, clear of the front line, with a shovel. In a prolonged static battle this was often inadvisable and arrangements had to be made within the defensive system.

During much of the fighting in Burma our Officers' Mess sweeper was a diminutive man called Kantu. He was an enlisted follower; not armed but accompanied the battalion wherever it went and was subject to military law. He was a delightful little man, always smiling, always smart and took particular pride in his job; so much so that it was somewhat disconcerting when one had barely finished one's daily offering to hear and see it being whipped away in preparation for the next arrival. During the after breakfast period he was always on duty near the Officers' Mess thunder box tent/dug-out and on several occasions when one approached it, he would come smartly to attention, tuck his sweeper's brush under his left armpit (as an officer might his cane, in the days when officers carried a cane) and give an immaculate salute with the words "*Commanding Officer sahib pot par hai*" (The Commanding Officer is on the pot) or "*Smith sahib pot par hai*" etc.

In 1944, the battalion was back in Assam/Burma for the second time and involved in the very heavy fighting of the battle of Imphal. In the latter stages of that battle we were just above a place called Bishenpur and, because of the severity of the fighting, units had all got mixed up. The Japanese were sometimes dug in barely seventy yards from our positions, a series of wired-in picquets, most of which they overlooked, and so could bring direct fire from seventy five millimetre guns and from small arms on to us; this at times made movement by daylight somewhat hazardous. Battalion Headquarters, at which I was the Battle Adjutant, was with one rifle company and, for some inexplicable reason, which I cannot recall, a platoon of the Northhamptons, all in one such position. It was the height of the monsoon and for that reason, and because we had been for several months on half rations of bully beef and biscuits, almost everyone was suffering from diarrhoea in one form or another, including the platoon of the Northhamptons.

Sweeper Kantu was there, of course, sharing the burden of the day. He had sited the Officers' Mess thunder box in a dug-out, half submerged in water but shielded from any direct Japanese fire. He also dug his own slit trench, which like the rest of them was largely full of water, and also a crawl-trench out through the wire into the jungle. After each use of the thunder box he had to crawl away along the trench, often under fire, to deposit the contents in a pit that he had dug. Failure to do this would have immeasurably worsened the appalling sanitary conditions and led to even worse bowel diseases. Normally there were only three or four British officers in Battalion Headquarters but with the addition of the platoon of the Northhamptons, who had asked and received my authority to use our facilities, Kantu was working virtually around the clock in performing his duties. Day after day this humble little man worked away to make this vital contribution, ceaselessly crawling along the

exposed trench, with the added risk of being ambushed when he got beyond the wire. He did so without complaint for about a fortnight, until the intensity of the fighting died down.

His conduct so amazed the Northamptons that they asked that his work should be recognised. Here was this humble little man, who had started life probably in as lowly a position as any human being on earth, with no benefit of education, and yet he was risking his life day after day to do his little bit of duty as he saw it. It was a very remarkable example of the triumph of good and of the human spirit, from a most unlikely source and under appalling conditions. Our Colonel, having thought deeply about it and having spoken to the Brigadier, decided that he would put Kantu in for a "Mention in Despatches". This was duly done, with the citation setting out the circumstances. It was without parallel that anyone should get a "Mention in Despatches" for "shovelling s**t" but this was agreed by the Commander-in-Chief, that great and understanding soldier Bill Slim, and Kantu was in due course awarded with his Mention. It was and remains a heart-warming story. Kantu survived that campaign and our subsequent advance into Burma and was in due course demobbed. Somehow or other some of us were able to keep track of him, and were delighted to hear that he was resettled in his humble home somewhere in what used to be called the United Provinces. Then sadly we heard that, as a comparatively young man, he had died of tuberculosis. I wonder what Kipling would have made of this story - as fine a story of courage and devotion to duty as I know.

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THE HELIOGRAPH IN THE INDIAN ARMY, Part 2

Alan Harfield

The use of the heliograph in India, particularly within the Indian Army, gradually gained momentum and as a means of communication became an essential factor in any field operation. Heliograph training in the Indian Army became a fine art and a great deal of effort was put into the setting up and aligning drills. The standard time for this 'Drill' was gradually refined to a mere 60 seconds but a great deal of practice was required to reach that speed. Whilst operating it was, of course, necessary to keep 'light on' as the sun altered its position and bad alignment resulted in calls for 'light' from the receiving station. The drill for this was for the distant operator to send a continuous succession of 'dots' until the light had been adjusted. It has been recorded that heliograph teams operating at the Central Signalling School at Kasauli obtained the following results:

Heliograph Type	Recorded Distance
12 inch	83½ miles
9 inch	83½ miles
5 inch	52½ miles
3 inch	37 miles

Communications between the School at Kasauli and the station at Ambala were frequently established, a distance of 37 miles, using both the 3 inch and 5 inch heliograph.

With the popularity of the heliograph in the Indian Army it became necessary to restrict its use. Officers and pressmen, who frequently accompanied the army on campaign, wrote and required longer and longer messages to be sent. In order that some form of message control could be established signals were limited to 100 words and only one message of that length could be sent in a 24 hour period by the same person, and that message had to be approved and signed by the Staff Officer of the originating station.

The Whistler Smith report, which was quoted in Part I of this article, made a number of recommendations, which were adopted by the Indian Army. The report made the following comments on Pay and Rations:

"...Pay. All pay should be drawn through the Superintendent of Army Signalling, and on no account should signallers be allowed to obtain any money whatsoever except through him or his Assistants.

As regards to pay of cooks, purchase of tents, cooking pots, books, pencils and other stores that I have to get locally, I apply for a division order authorising the 'Treasure-chest' officer to advance me whatever the sum may be and then forward the accounts in the form of a contingent bill.

Rations. The order is that rations for signallers should be drawn direct from the Commissariat, but this, for the following reasons. I have seldom been able to carry out. At stations where there are large Commissariat depots, the Commissariat seldom have anything to do with petty issues (having no establishment for the purpose), and the indent is passed on to the gomashtha of some European regiment for compliance, and to which there is always a baker and butcher attached; the consequence is that it is very much simpler in the end to get the signallers attached to a regiment or battery ' for rations' . . . "

The major problem facing the Heliograph Section was that it was generally required to operate independently from its parent unit and therefore there was frequently a requirement to set up a station in a remote area where rations had to be taken in by the team. There is an interesting comparison between the requirement by Heliograph Sections in the Indian Army and the Heliograph Sections that operated in the United States Army during the operations in New Mexico in 1886. A report on the 'Geronimo Campaign' records that:

"...34 heliographs, 10 telescopes, 30 marine binoculars and 11 men were seconded to the force to supplement the signallers already with the Field Force. Lieutenants Alverado M Fuller and Edward B Dravo were placed in charge of the Arizona and New Mexico districts respectfully. These officers, with the aid of the Signal Corps detachments and fort commanders, established training sessions at various forts, located station spots, and built their systems by connecting stations one by one. Dravo's New Mexico system comprised 13 stations, and Dravo reported

"...I ran my line into the Black Mountains (and a) branch line into the White Mountains, so as to cover the routes which the Indians usually took on leaving or going to the Agency..."

His system was manned by 29 men, covering 313 miles, including a main line from Steins Peak on the state border to Hillsboro, New Mexico, a northern branch line, and two short lines towards the Mexico border.

The stations were usually located on high mountains, some of which were six or seven thousand feet above sea level. The stations were manned by two or three operators according to the amount of traffic to be passed, and were provided with a guard of up to five soldiers dependent upon the degree of danger from marauding Indians. It was sometimes necessary to establish the station a mile or two away from water and in these situations water was 'packed' in by mule. Rations were provided on a monthly basis from the most convenient military post.

The average distance between stations was, in a direct line, about 25 miles, but Fort Huachuca communicated with three stations, the nearest of which was at a distance of 31 miles. In the Arizona Division the total number of messages passed between 1 May and 30 September 1886 was 2,264. The greatest number of messages from one station - the Fort Bowie relay station - was 802. The next highest figure was 284 by the Rucker Canyon station and 241 by the Antelope Springs section near the southern end of the Dragoon Mountains. The average number of words in each message was 50 although in some cases messages in excess of 200 words were signalled. From this account it can be seen that the use of the heliograph was being used as a means of reliable communication by both the British and Indian Armies and the Army of the United States of America.

To return to the North West Frontier of India, the report of the Afghan Campaign shows that four different patterns of heliograph were used, these being the 4 inch 'old Roorkee' pattern with a double tripod, the 4 inch Roorkee pattern with a single tripod, the 3 inch Roorkee saddle heliograph, favoured by the cavalry, and Mance's patent 3 inch heliograph. The report comments:

"...The new pattern 4 inch instrument is different to, but superior to, the old in the following respects; the old pattern had a separate light stand for the sighting vane. This is done away with in the new, and the instrument works perfectly well without it, the sighting vane being supported on legs are plated with brass and a more perfect joint is obtained; the old tripod legs have no brass caps and the wood is continually shrinking and in some cases so much so that in order to get a steady stand signallers dip it into boiling water, and thus cause the wood to swell; this, however, is not a practice to be recommended... "

As the heliograph system of communications became a recognised means of transmission for messages an 'Army Form' was introduced so as to make handling of messages easier. It also ensured that the originator complied with the instructions relevant at the time. It was in 1880 that the 'Heliogram' was brought into use in India. During the Second Afghan War the report of the battle of Ahmed Khel in 1880 was telephoned up to the helio station on a hillside and then transmitted by heliograph signal to the field telegraph head. The message then passed by field telegraph to the junction of the field telegraph and the civil system and thence to London, thus enabling the news of the battle to be published in 'The Times' on the following morning.

The main helio artery during the war was the PESHAWAR to KABUL link, which consisted of 20 stations covering about 180 miles. The longest helio range recorded in this war was 56 miles using a 44-inch mirror. Another instance of the work of the heliograph can be quoted. After the battle of Ahmed Khel it was considered vital to communicate with the column under the command of Sir John Ross. A reconnaissance was made from Ghazi to the Sher-i-Daton Pass and, in the absence of cavalry signallers, three officers accompanied the heliographs. On reaching the Pass the heliographs

were set up and within a few minutes both the advance and rear guards of Sir John Ross's column were picked up at a distance of about 30 miles. Lists of those killed and wounded at Ahmed Khel were transmitted.

It was during the Second Afghan War that heliograph signalling by lamplight was used, particularly during the siege of Sherpur when a signal was sent by moonlight over a distance of 12 miles. Later, communication by 'Lime light' was also introduced, thereby enabling the military to communicate at night when there was no visible moon. Training of signallers was essential if accurate communications were to be established and to this end the following note was written as a guide to those intending to train 'Regimental heliograph signallers'.

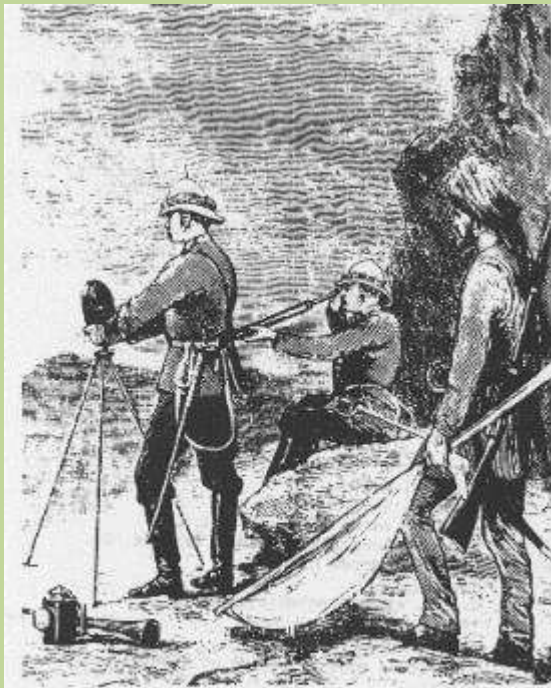
"...Training and practises (*sic*) should be made as interesting as possible and frequent opportunities should be given to the men to keep up the knowledge they have acquired and to obtain a high state of efficiency. With the heliograph a speed of from ten to twelve words a minute should be the minimum - a lesser speed has been proved much more inaccurate; therefore from the earliest instruction, signallers should be taught to work quickly, otherwise they contract an imperfect style and disregard to time, which is the essential of good signalling. They (the signallers) require being fairly educated men and none but first rate signallers should be entrusted with the charge of a station. Every signaller should be a good walker, and accustomed, if possible, to look over hill country. He should also be able to ride - (it is not necessary) that he should be an expert horseman, but he should be able to sit in a saddle and guide his beast. . ,"

The term used in the report 'to look over hill country' refers to a signaller's ability to locate suitable 'heliograph sites' from a distance and assess if the hill provides a clear line of sight.

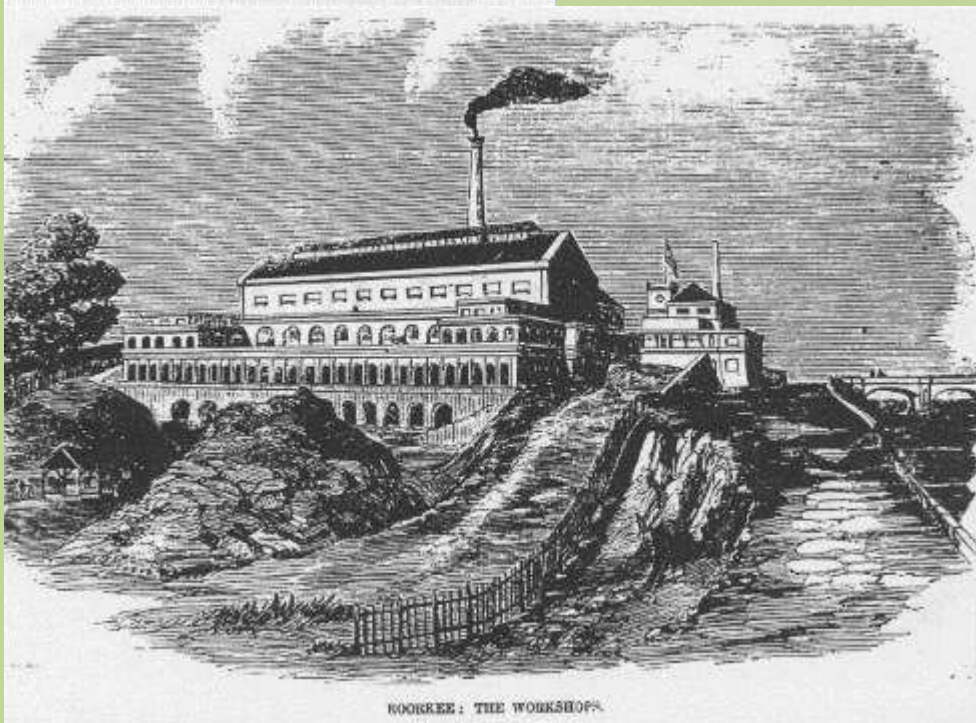
Another consideration given to the signallers was 'extra pay' for having reached a proficiency in operating the heliograph and signalling flags. To return once again to the Afghan Campaign, the report written on this aspect reads:

".. .Extra pay to signallers at the rate of eight annas for non-commissioned officers and six annas for privates, per working day, was the rate fixed by the Government of India to Signallers during the Afghan Campaign. This extra-duty pay is most desirable, for the men were generally kept employed, and the wear and tear to clothing and boots far exceeded what it would have been under ordinary circumstances..."

Heliograph communications were dependent on clear line of sight and also having the necessary elevations available to provide the optical range in relation to the earth's curvature. It was at times restricted by climatic conditions. During the period 1889 to 1901 the 3-inch, 5 inch and 10 inch mirror heliographs were in use in the service and it has been recorded that heliograph communications have worked over a range of 100 miles by using the larger 10-inch mirror. Distances of this range have been recorded in both the Third China War and the South African War, but the most commonly used mirror was the 5-inch. The longer the heliograph remained in service so the expertise of the operators grew and a number of impressive communication records were established. One such record was accepted when a heliograph signal was worked over a distance of 85 miles between Washab Kon and Kirtaka Point in 1903. The soldiers on this link were of the Baluch Regiment engaged in the protection of the Siestan Boundary Commission where the frontiers of Persia, Baluchistan and Afghanistan met.



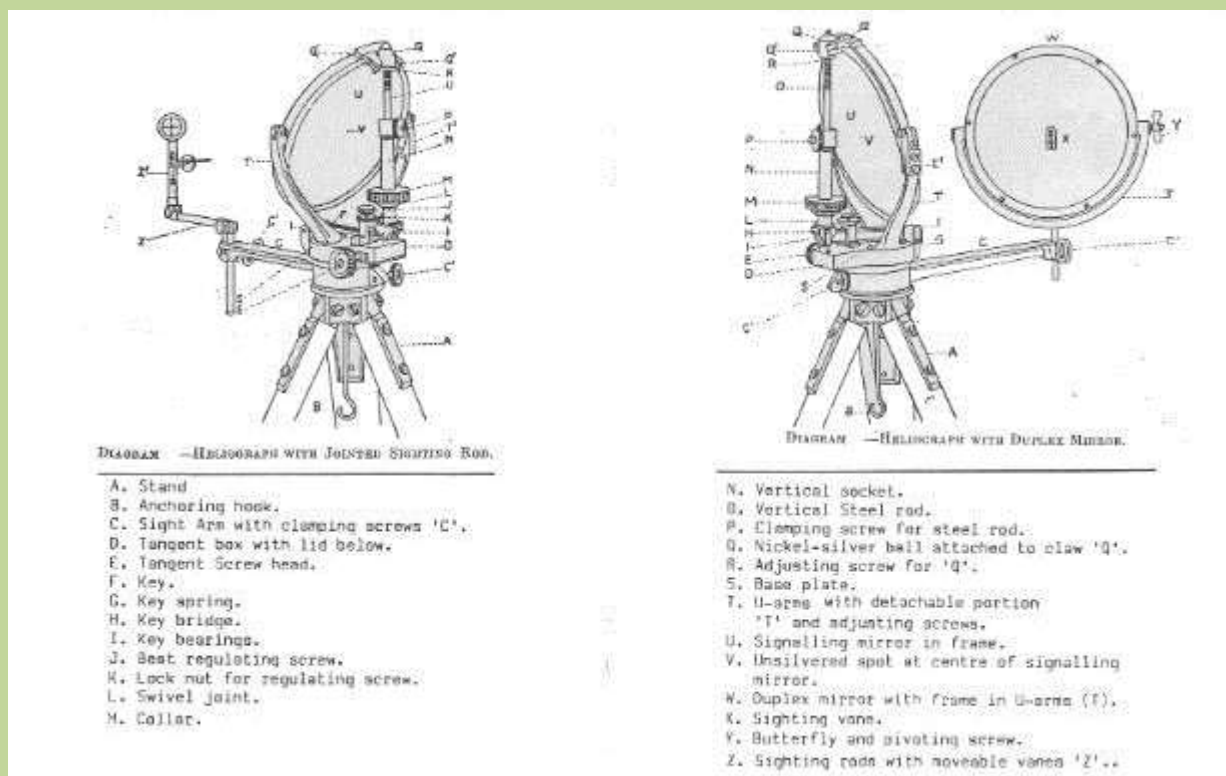
Signalling with the heliograph - Jowaki Expedition
1877-1878



ROORKEE: THE WORKSHOPS.

A few years later, during 1908, the operators with the Zakka Khel expedition set another record when a cipher message of 884 words was despatched by visual means through two transmitting stations, in other words, four separate signal stations. It was transmitted in two and a half hours with only one mistake; a great credit to not only the 'sender' but also the operators receiving the long message.

This article dealing with the heliograph will be concluded in Part III, which will show the variety of signals despatched during the frontier operations, and will finish with the concluding phase of heliograph communications during the years between the two World Wars



AWARDS OF THE INDIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (1939-45)

Terry McCormick

My interest in Indian Army gallantry awards for the Second World War has led me to research the various campaigns in which Indian troops participated.

The Indian Distinguished Service Medal has always fascinated me, and I have numerous examples of this gallantry medal in my collection. For some time I have been curious as to how many IDSMs were actually awarded for the 1939-45 period and in particular the numbers won in the major theatres of operations.

Abbott and Tamplin's '*British Gallantry Awards*', a valuable and interesting research tool for any collector, lists 1155 awards of the IDSM, plus ten bars, for the period 1940 to 1947. The book does not provide a breakdown of awards by campaign, as it does for World War One medals.

By referring to issues of the London Gazette for the World War Two period, I have come up with the names and dates of award of 1171 members of the Indian forces. This total includes ten recipients of bars to the IDSM. In addition, it has been possible to determine the theatre of operations for the vast majority of the medals. From this procedure it can be seen that some awards of the IDSM must certainly be regarded as scarce or even rare.

The lone IDSM for the defence of Hong Kong in 1941, presented to 7514 Havildar Amanat Ali, 7th Rajput Regt., must surely be considered rare, as must the medal given to Seaman Sheik Yeassin, Second Cook, IWT Idar, Mercantile Marine, in 1943. The six awards to members of the Royal Indian Navy must rate highly, and the ten recipients of the IDSM and bar would be very special individuals indeed. The IDSM has always been considered the Indian Army equivalent of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and imagine the price that a World War Two DCM and bar group would bring at auction!

A further examination of London Gazette entries will serve to compile numbers of IDSMs awarded by regiment or corps. It must be remembered that some units saw much active service, and received appropriate recognition, while other units saw little or no action. My own interests lie in the Piffer units such as the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, and 13th Frontier Force Rifles, so I have been fortunate enough to acquire a good selection of medals covering most of the fighting in the Middle East, Italy and Burma.

Any comments or constructive criticism would be greatly appreciated.

AWARDS OF THE INDIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (1939-45)

Awards by year

1940	4
1941	124
1942	196 + 2 bars
1943	198 + 1 bar
1944	330 + 4 bars
1945	258 + 3 bars
1946	45
1947	6
Total:	1161 + 10 bars = 1171 awards

Awards by campaign

Burma	510	43.6%
Middle East	349	29.8% (1)

Italy	221	18.9%
NW Frontier	23	2.0% (2)
Malaya 1942	21	1.8% (3)
Far East	13	1.1%
Naval	7	0.6%
In the Field	7	0.6% (4)
NE Frontier	5	0.4%
Persia/Iraq	4	0.3% (5)
SE Asia	4	0.3%
Somaliland	3	0.25% (6)
Hong Kong 1941	1	0.1%
Not Shown	3	0.25% (7)

Notes:

1. Includes awards for North Africa
2. IDSMs awarded on the Frontier during the period 1939-November 1940 are not listed as they are considered to be peacetime awards.
3. These are usually stated as "Malaya" or "South West Pacific" awards.
4. These were for various activities; at least two went to escapers.
5. More than four IDSMs were awarded for Persia/Iraq/Syria, but the others were listed as "Middle East" awards.
6. These 1940 IDSMs are actually listed as "Middle East" awards.
7. Three IDSMs are listed to members of the RIASC In the London Gazette of 29 Nov., 1940; could these be for K Force, the Indian mule transport unit attached to the BEF in 1940?

Awards of the Indian Distinguished Service Medal by Regiment or Corps

Ind. Armoured Corps	42	RIASC	32
Ind. Artillery	33	Ind. Sig .Corps	29
Ind. Sappers and Miners	58	Ind. Hosp. Corps	8
1 Punjab Regt.	59	Ind. Ord .Corps	2

2 Punjab Regt.	44	Ind. Med. Dept.	2
3 Madras Regt	1	IAMC	10
4 Bombay Grenadiers	4	Ind. Gen. Service Corps	1
5 Mahratta Light Infantry	53	Ind. Army Vet. Corps	1
6 Rajputana Rifles	62	Ind. Mil Police	1
7 Rajput Regt.	26	S. Waziristan Scouts	3
8 Punjab Regt.	24	Tochi Scouts	3
9 Jat Regt	10	Assam Rifles	19
10 Baluch Regt.	31	Assam Regt.	2
11 Sikh Regt.	42	Naga Levies	1
12 Fr. Force Regt.	31	Mahindra Dal	1
13 Fr. Force Rifles	50	Gwalior ISF	1
14 Punjab Regt.	21	1 Hyderabad Inf. ISF	2
15 Punjab Regt.	42	Tripura Rifles ISF	10
16 Punjab Regt.	38	Bihar Regt.	2
17 Dogra Regt.	18	Patiala Inf. ISF	4
18 Royal Gar. Rifles	18	Jammu & Kashmir ISF	1
19 Hyderabad Regt.	8	Nabha Akal ISF	2
1 Gurkha Rifles	15	Malerkotla S & M ISF	1
2 Gurkha Rifles	45	ISF (unspecified)	1
3 Gurkha Rifles	28	152 Para Bn.	1
4 Gurkha Rifles	22	153 Para Bn	3
5 Royal Gurkha Rifles	52	Ind. Army Pnrs.	4
6 Gurkha Rifles	12	Royal Ind. Navy	6
7 Gurkha Rifles	31	Merchant Marine	1
8 Gurkha Rifles	27	Indian Army	12 *

9 Gurkha Rifles	26	Guerrilla Group Commander	1
10 Gurkha Rifles	31	Total:	1171

*The entry for "Indian Army" consists of twelve names, which appeared in the London Gazette entries for late 1943 and 1944 (one for Burma and the remainder for Italy). It would be possible through further research to determine the particular units these individuals served with. The Gazette entry for Sept. 21, 1944, for example, lists a Havildar, a Naik, and four riflemen. Obviously these six individuals were infantrymen, and not that many non-Gurkha rifle units served in Italy.

INDIAN GALLANTRY AWARDS

A N Pamm

Apparently one award of the IDSM has been made to the Union (South African) Defence Forces. The recipient was Pte L J Singh of the 1st S. A. Indian Bearer Company. The award was for the East Africa Theatre during World War One and was promulgated in East African Orders of 24 November 1916.

(*Honours and Awards - Indian Army - 1914-1921* lists (p 124) 74 Private Lalbahadur Jhadhu Juior Singh, Army Bearer Corps, East Africa. Ed.)

As IOM and IDSM combinations are not common, it may be of interest to record the survival of the pair awarded to Subadar Major Umar Khan, 126th Baluch Infantry. The present whereabouts of his other medals (exact entitlement presently uncertain) are not known. Both awards were for Mesopotamia and were gazetted as follows:

IDSM L.G. 6.12.1919, Indian Gazette 6.12.1919

IOM L.G. 20.11.1920. The citation read "For conspicuous gallantry on 13th March 1920. While commanding a half company he took them across a branch of the river and cleared a wooded island of enemy snipers. Throughout the operations he showed fine soldierly qualities and untiring zeal."

The citation for the IDSM has so far proved untraceable despite research efforts. Career and service details have yet to be researched/obtained.

LETTERS AND QUERIES

● Gary R Putnam seeks information on a China 1900 medal in his collection. The medal in question was awarded to Pte Muhammad Azim (#1134), Hong Kong Regt. The naming appears to be Mint Impressed. Contacting indicates star shaped medals were worn on both sides at one time.

1. Were all medals to the Hong Kong Regt. Mint impressed?
2. Could Pte Muhammad Azim be a possible recipient of the Indian Order of Merit?

● SFC Daniel M Sebby is doing research on shoulder titles of "the military forces of the British Empire and Commonwealth but, with the exception of Mr Cox's book on World War I badges, can find no references to shoulder titles of the Armed Forces of India, Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh and the Indian States, both pre and post-independence. The following information is requested:

1. The name of the regiment, corps, service etc. (This could also include police, para-military and auxiliary forces)
2. When it was worn.
3. A physical description and if possible a drawing of the title.
4. Any information on regimental name changes that occurred when the title was worn.

● W M Thornton writes: The two photographs accompanying this letter appeared in the Navy and Army Illustrated of September 1896. They show two groups of the Calcutta Naval Volunteers, formed in 1883. I have little information on the unit other than the caption below the photograph of the group of officers. Should any member have additional details I would like to hear from him. I assume they were similar to the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers of 1873 to 1892. It is interesting to note that the officers wear wavy stripes but with an oval curl, a design later adopted (but with a wavy curl) by the R.N.V.R. in 1903. Moustaches seem to be worn by the majority, including the Commanding Officer who was ex R.N. The C.N.V. were preceded by the Bombay Naval Volunteers who were formed in 1857 during the Indian Mutiny. Further information on them would also be appreciated. Both volunteer units appear to have been formed of Europeans only.



COMMANDER PETLEY AND THE OFFICERS, C.N.V.

THE illustration at the top of the page gives a good idea of the smart appearance and turn-out of the Calcutta Naval Volunteers. Below we show the able and popular Commander in charge (the officer wearing three stripes on his sleeve), Commander EATON WALLACE PETLEY, R.N., Deputy Conservator of the River Hoogly, Port Officer of Calcutta, and Hon. A.D.C. to the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, a retired Naval Officer of twenty years' service afloat, together with some of the other officers of the corps. The establishment of the Calcutta Naval Volunteers in commissioned officers comprises, in addition to the Commander, three Lieutenants, six Sub-Lieutenants, one Chief Engineer, one Medical Officer, and an honorary Chaplain. The Honorary Captain of the corps is the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.



ONE of the GUN DETACHMENTS of the CALCUTTA NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.