CAR PROBLEMS

YOUR CAR—FOR HOME SERVICE—We distribute all makes of New Cars and keep a full range of the current popular models in stock. We can arrange from our London Branch to demonstrate any make of New Car in the London area. Free Service can be arranged by us anywhere in the United Kingdom. We always carry a very comprehensive range of good used Cars, prices from £25—£300. **Fourteen days trial and a twelve months written engine Guarantee is given with all Used Cars £50 and over.**

YOUR CAR—WHEN POSTED ABROAD—We can purchase your car for part Cash and part Credit Note, which Credit Note would be available for you to use towards a New or Used Car from our Agents abroad nearest to your Station. Our Overseas Agents are in all cases old established and reliable firms. Should you wish to take your present car overseas with you, we can arrange all matters in connection with Shipping, Import Duty, etc.

YOUR CAR—WHEN THINKING OF HOME LEAVE—If you would let us have details of your anticipated requirements for your next leave, we should be pleased to submit our suggestions with regard to the most suitable car, together with our best repurchase terms. **Should you wish to be relieved of your present car before sailing to United Kingdom, we can arrange for one of our Overseas Agents* to purchase same for a Credit Note available as part payment towards another car from us on your arrival home.** For the convenience of Officers arriving in London, our London Branch is at 245 Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, W. 12—'phone Riverside 2365. Let us send you our useful Brochure—"CAR PROBLEMS" and our monthly Used Car List.

UNITED SERVICE GARAGES

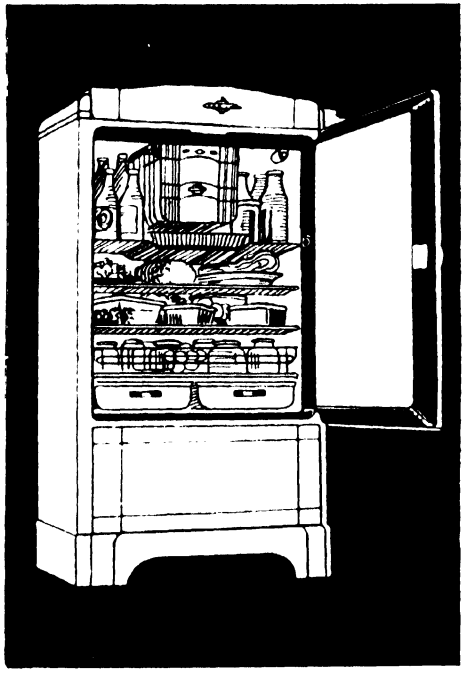
MAJOR D. C. G. SHARP, R.A. (RETD.)

LONDON & PORTSMOUTH

All Correspondence to 126 High Street, Portsmouth. Phones 2235/6.

** Our AGENTS in PUNJAB & NORTHERN INDIA :—*

DELHI, Allied Motors; LAHORE, Paris Motors; PINDI, Messrs. Hargreen & Co.; PESHAWAR, Khyber Motors; QUETTA, Shah & Sons.



FRIGIDAIRE

offers you

MORE

and

PROVES IT!

Be sure the name

Frigidaire

is on the Refrigerator
you buy

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR
PUNJAB, N. W. F. P., SIND AND BALUCHISTAN

THE

COOLING EQUIPMENT CO., LTD.

Show Room and Service Station
WEST END BUILDINGS
The Mall, LAHORE
Phone 3011

Telegrams:
"COLECO"

Office:
DEVICHANDS BUILDINGS
The Mall, LAHORE
Phone 2988

THE INDIAN STATES FORCES

ANNUAL

1938

THE INDIAN STATES FORCES ANNUAL

The Indian States Forces Annual is published yearly in April at the price of Re. 1 per copy (post/freight free) for members of the Indian States Forces and Rs. 2 per copy (post free) for non-members. Copies of this number of the Annual may be obtained from the editor.

Articles for publication in the 1939 number should be submitted to Military Advisers so as to reach them by 1st September 1938. Contributions, which are required in duplicate, should be typed on one side of the paper only, leaving a half margin on the left-hand side of the page. Names and units of contributors should be given, and these will be published unless the writer desires to write under an assumed name, in which case a pseudonym should be given.

Photographs to illustrate articles—the negative, if available, with one contact print should be forwarded. The titles of pictures should not be written on the back of the print itself.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

The advertisement rates for each issue are:

Quarter page	...	...	...	Rs. 20
Half page	...	...	...	Rs. 30
Full page	...	...	...	Rs. 50

All communications regarding advertisements should be addressed to the Manager, the Civil and Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications on all other matters concerning *The Indian States Forces Annual* should be sent to:

THE EDITOR,

"THE INDIAN STATES FORCES ANNUAL,"

HEADQUARTERS OF THE MILITARY ADVISER-IN-CHIEF,

INDIAN STATES FORCES,

SIMLA.

CONTENTS

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE I. S. F.

By THE MILITARY ADVISER-IN-CHIEF

THE welcome accorded to the first number of *The Indian States Forces Annual* has been very gratifying, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the editors of the journals of the Royal United Service Institution and of the United Services Institution (India) for their very encouraging notices. I hope that in the course of time this Annual may reach a wider circle than at present, and that it may help to remove some misconceptions as to the States Forces which appear to be prevalent to-day.

The first of these is that the States Forces are at the best merely "march past" troops.

It is a fact that officers newly appointed to the Military Advisory Staff invariably comment in terms of astonishment on the state of training, turn-out and general efficiency which our troops have reached. And I confess that on first taking up this appointment I did the same.

Considering all the handicaps of lack of money, monotony of always staying in the same place without even the chance of a change of stations, small prospects of promotion and so on, it is always a matter of wonder to me how, generally speaking, the States Forces keep up their keenness, enthusiasm and desire to improve.

This keenness is in direct proportion to the interest taken in his troops by the ruler, which in the majority of cases is great.

And here I would say to what a very great extent the States Forces are indebted to those units of the Indian Army who accept officers and N.C.Os. for attachment. Their help is invaluable.

It is the standard of the Indian Army for which we are striving, and which some day we hope to reach.

Another fallacy is the one that the Military Advisory Staff never do any work. This of course depends on one's definition of the blessed word "work."

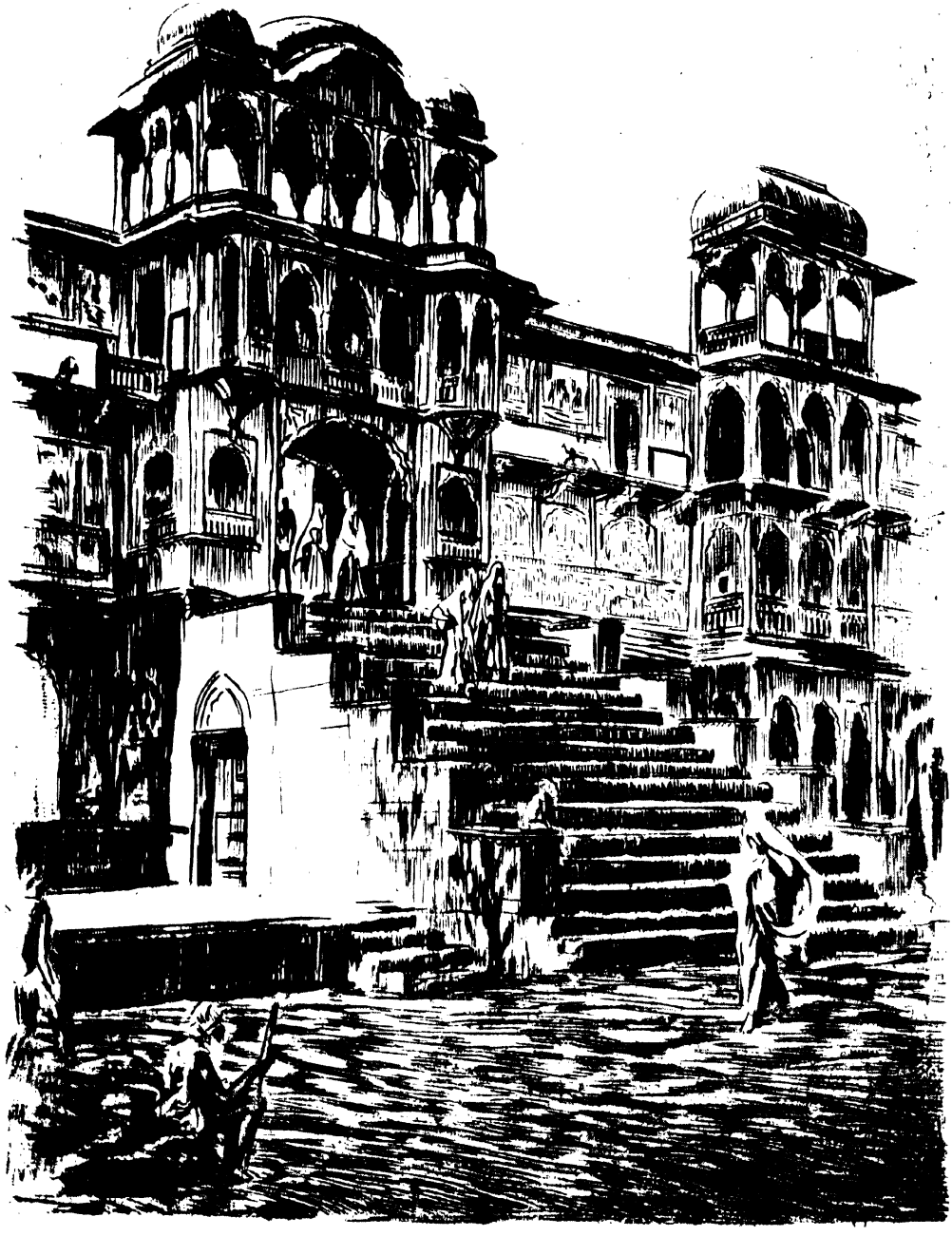
It is true that it is a job of which a man can make as much or as little as he pleases, provided always that the state of the units in his Circle satisfies higher authority.

But I am happy to think that the present Advisory Staff, who are all "hand picked," do not spare themselves. Their's is a very important part in the scheme of things. Not only do they have to tour the States giving advice and instruction, all of which requires tact, sympathy and a sense of humour and proportion, but they have to hold courses of instruction for squadron and company commanders, and arrange for camps of exercise and manœuvres,—all matters calling for a high standard of military knowledge and competence. In addition, they have a considerable amount of office work in connection with the training and administration of the States Forces.

Therefore, none but the best type of regimental officer is of any use, and those who seek to dissuade good men from coming to the Advisory Staff not only do a great disservice to the States Forces, but to the army in general, if these forces are to be of any real value.

A few years ago a well-known senior officer congratulated one of the Advisory Staff on "returning to real soldiering after his four years' loaf." "Sir," replied the officer, "during my four years I have worked twice as hard and had four times the responsibility that I have ever had with my own unit."

In December 1937, during the combined manœuvres of the Jaipur-Alwar troops, Brigadier V. H. B. Majendie, D.S.O., Director of Military Training at Army Headquarters, came down for the 24-hour continuous exercise, and he was a very welcome guest. I hope in the future that his good example may be followed by other officers in high commands, who will then be in a position to judge for themselves the state of training reached. They would be certain of a warm welcome, lavish hospitality, and, I hope, of an opening of their military eye-balls. If nothing else, it would give a tremendous fillip to the Indian States Forces, for they require all the help and sympathy they can get.



By kind permission of the well-known artist,
Professor J. V. Vyskocil.

The Indian States Forces Annual

No. 2 APRIL 1938

NOTES

HONORARY RANKS RECENTLY GRANTED

Lieutenant-General His Highness Maharaja Dhiraja Raj Rajeshwar Siromani Sri Sir Ganga Singhji, Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., K.C.B., LL.D., A.D.C., Maharaja of Bikaner, to be Honorary General.

His Highness Maharaja Shri Sir Ghanshyamsinhji Ajitsinhji, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Dhrangadhra, to be Honorary Major.

His Highness Walashan Nawab Azam Jah Bahadur, Prince of Berar, to be Honorary Major.

His Highness Maharaja Manikya Sir Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman, Bahadur, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Tripura, to be Honorary Captain.

His Highness Nawab Sir Mahabat Khan Rasulkhan, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Nawab of Junagadh, to be Honorary Captain.

His Highness Maharaja Shri Krishna Kumar Sinhji Bhavsinhji, Maharaja of Bhavnagar, to be Honorary Lieutenant.

His Highness Maharaja Rajindra Prakash Bahadur, Maharaja of Sirmoor, to be Honorary Lieutenant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul Guffar Khan, Bahadur, O.B.I., I.O.M., I.D.S.M., Commandant, Junagadh Lancers, to be Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Viceroy.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maharaj Naharsinhji, C.I.E., Chief Commandant, Baria State Forces, to be Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Viceroy.

HONOURS AND AWARDS GRANTED DURING THE YEAR

G. C. S. I.

Colonel His Highness Farzand-i-Dilband Rasikh-ul-I'tiqad-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia Raja-i-Rajagan Maharaja Sir Ranbir Singh Rajendra Bahadur, G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Jind.

RAO BAHADUR

Major Rao Raja Hanut Singh, A.D.C. to His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur.

SARDAR SAHIB

Captain Piara Singh, Assistant Staff Officer, Jaipur State Forces.

O.B.I. 1ST CLASS

Major-General Gurdial Singh Harika, Bahadur, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., Chief of the General Staff, Patiala State Forces.

Brigadier Jaideo Singh, Bahadur, O.B.I., Commandant, Bikaner Bijey Battery, and Chief of the Staff, Bikaner State Forces.

O.B.I. 2ND CLASS

Colonel Abdul Rahman Khan Chib Bahadur, Senapati (Commander-in-Chief), Alwar State Forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kalka Singh, Commandant, 1st Gwalior Lancers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Aziz Hassan Khan, Commandant, 1st Rampur (Raza) Infantry.

Captain Padamlal Chettri, Commandant, Chamba State Forces.

MILITARY ADVISORY STAFF—APPOINTMENTS

Major P. R. Tatham, Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (11th Frontier Force), appointed Assistant Military Adviser (Cavalry), Punjab States Forces, from 1st April 1937, *vice* Major H. O. W. Fowler, 18th King Edward VII's Own Cavalry.

Major B. E. W. Edmondson, 18th King Edward VII's Own Cavalry, Assistant Military Adviser, Central India States Forces, appointed Military Adviser, Central India States Forces, from 6th April 1937, *vice* Major J. A. Blood, 3rd Royal Battalion (Sikhs), 12th Frontier Force Regiment.

Major W. A. Windsor-Aubrey, 2nd Royal Battalion (Ludhiana Sikhs), 11th Sikh Regiment, appointed Assistant Military Adviser, Central India States Forces, from 6th April 1937, *vice* Major B. E. W. Edmondson.

Major R. George, The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse), appointed Military Adviser, Kathiawar States Forces, from 12th October 1937, *vice* Major D. St. V. Gordon, M.C., of the same unit.

OFFICERS SERVING WITH INDIAN STATES—APPOINTMENTS

Captain G. H. Critchley, 19th King George V's Own Lancers, appointed Deputy Chief of the Military Staff, Jammu and Kashmir State Forces, from 22nd April 1937.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. W. Foottit, Indian Army (retired), appointed Chief Staff Officer, Kutch State Forces, from 16th August 1937.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Hankin, Indian Army (retired), appointed Commandant, Datia Infantry, from 14th August 1937.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Watkis, M.C., Indian Army (retired), appointed Commandant, Travancore State Forces, from 16th July 1937.

Captain C. B. Ponnappa, Indian Army (S.U.L.), appointed Commandant, 3rd Travancore Nayar Infantry and Artillery, from 28th September 1937.

Captain Sardar Mit Singh Bahadur, M.B.E., M.C., I.D.S.M., Indian Army (S.U.L.), appointed Commandant, Faridkot State Forces, from 14th April 1937.

Major D. S. Gillespie, Indian Army (S.U.L.), appointed Military Adviser, Baroda State Forces, from 17th September 1937.

Captain D. S. Khanvilkar, Indian Army (S.U.L.), appointed Chief of the General Staff, Rewa State Army, from 6th September 1937.

INDIAN ARMY PROMOTION EXAMINATION RESULTS

The following officers have passed for promotion to Captain:

Subject (a)—practical.

Captain Mohammed Ali, Hyderabad Infantry Brigade.

Subject (b)—written.

Lieutenant Bhola Nath Dubey, 1st Jammu and Kashmir Infantry.

Lieutenant Dina Nath Thakur, 1st Jammu and Kashmir Infantry.

Lieutenant Kanwar Bag Singh, Bikaner Bijey Battery.

INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY

The following gentlemen cadets passed out of the Indian Military Academy in 1937:

June 1937—

G. C. Sultan Singh	...	...	Bikaner.

December 1937—

G. C. Ushaq Ahmad	...	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. Faizul Haq Khan	...	...	Patiala.
G. C. Wahid Bakhsh Malik	...	...	Bahawalpur.

The following gentlemen cadets passed into the academy during 1937:

February 1937—

G. C. Mohan Mukand Singh	...	...	Jind.
G. C. Mohd. Aslam Khan	...	...	Kashmir.
G. C. Abdul Majid	...	...	Patiala.
G. C. Ude Singh	...	...	Patiala.
G. C. Harnath Singh	...	...	Gwalior.
G. C. S. M. Amiruddin Khan	...	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. G. M. Sayeed	...	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. A. Hudson	..	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. M. Ravi Varma	...	...	Travancore.

August 1937—

G. C. Kanwal Singh	...	...	Kashmir.
G. C. Chain Singh	...	...	Kashmir.
G. C. Sumundar Singh	...	...	Alwar.
G. C. Sheoprasad Singh	...	...	Rewa.
G. C. Suresh Pratap Singh	...	...	Rewa.
G. C. M. S. Ansari	...	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. Mir Kasim Ali	...	...	Hyderabad.
G. C. Khusru Yar Khan	..	...	Hyderabad.

ARMY SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

Indian States Forces students who obtained distinguished certificates at army schools of instruction during 1937:

Army Veterinary School, Ambala—

Lieutenant Gurdev Singh, 1st Patiala (Rajindra) Lancers.

Subedar Abdul Subhan Khan, Alwar Jey Paltan.

No. 3069 Naik Jai Singh, Kapurthala Jagatjit Infantry.

No. 4653 Naik Rahmat Ali, Jind Infantry.

No. 1109 Sowar Khangar Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Rissala.

Army Veterinary School, Poona—

Lieutenant A. W. Chamarette, 1st (N. O.) Hyderabad Imperial Service Lancers.

No. 110 Jemadar Shaik Mohd. Hasan, 3rd (N. O.) Golconda Lancers.

No. 91 Jemadar L. M. Jejurikar, Holkar's Transport Corps.

No. 1470 Driver Havildar Abdullah, 2nd Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery.

No. 2199 Acting Lance-Daffadar Shankar Rao Bhojgadey, Mysore Lancers.

No. 424 Daffadar Jamil Ahmad Khan, Rampur (Rohilla) Lancers.

Army Signal School, Poona—

No. 589 Acting Lance-Daffadar Bhairoon Singh, Jaipur Lancers.

No. 2320 Lance-Naik Gopi Singh, 5th Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Battalion.

No. 2296 Lance-Naik Bhan Singh, 1st Patiala Infantry (Rajinder Sikhs).

Army School of Education, India, Belgaum—

Subedar K. Krishna Pillai, 2nd Travancore Nayar Infantry.

THE ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

Indian States Forces successes at the Army Rifle Association (India), Meerut, 1937.

Indian States Forces Championships

Order of merit.	*Rank, name and unit.*	*Prize.*
1.	Lance-Daffadar Lal Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Rissala.	... A.R.A. (I) Gold Jewel.
2.	Naik Bijay Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Infantry.	... A.R.A. (I) Silver Jewel.
3.	Lance-Naik Hari Singh, 1st Patiala Infantry (Rajinder Sikhs).	... A.R.A. (I) Bronze Jewel.

Medals awarded to mounted branches of the service.

2.	Lance-Daffadar Lal Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Rissala.	... Large bronze medal.

Class VII—Indian States Forces

1. Daffadar Madho Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Rissala. ... Large silver medal.
2. Havildar Lal Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Infantry. .. Large bronze medal.
3. Lieutenant Bahadur Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Infantry. .. Small bronze medal.

Class VIII—Indian States Forces

1. Lance-Daffadar Lal Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Rissala. .. Large silver medal.
2. Naik Bijai Singh, Jodhpur Sardar Infantry. Large bronze medal.
3. Lance-Naik Hari Singh, 1st Patiala Infantry (Rajinder Sikhs). Small bronze medal.

The Birdwood Vase and Chetwode Cup

3. *Jodhpur Sardar Infantry*—

Naik Bijai Singh
Havildar Lal Singh
Lance-Naik Deep Singh
Lieutenant Bahadur Singh — Large silver medal.

ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION (INDIA) NON-CENTRAL MATCHES, 1936-37

Match No. 14—The Cawnpore Woollen Mills Cup

1. No. 1 Platoon, 2nd Patiala Infantry ... Cup and silver medals.

Match No. 16—The Prince of Wales's (Malerkotla) Cup

(Category "A")

2. No. 14 Platoon, 1st Patiala Infantry (Rajinder Sikhs) ... Bronze medals.
3. No. 6 Platoon, 4th Gwalior Maharaja Bahadur Battalion.

Match No. 17—The O'Moore Creagh Cup

2. No. 3 Troop, "A" Squadron, Mysore Lancers .. Bronze medals.
3. No. 4 Troop, "C" Squadron, Mysore Lancers.

Match No. 29—The Military Advisers' Cup

1. Jodhpur Sardar Rissala ... Cup and silver medals.
2. Jodhpur Sardar Infantry ... Bronze medals.
3. 5th Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Battalion.

Match No. 30—The Scindia Cup

1. "B" Coy., 4th Gwalior Maharaja Bahadur Battalion ... Cup and silver medals.
2. "C" Coy., 2nd Patiala Infantry ... Bronze medals.
3. "C" Coy., 1st Patiala Infantry (Rajinder Sikhs).

WITH THE CORONATION CONTINGENT IN LONDON

BY MAJOR J. A. BLOOD, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

A very descriptive and complete account of the Coronation contingent appears on another page in this number, so it only remains for me to add a few personal experiences. I arrived in England three weeks before the contingent and no sooner had I reached Hampton Court on the day it was due there than I was told that I had better get into uniform at once to meet the train, which was to be earlier than was expected. While at the camp, I just had time to admire the thorough manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Newton, the quartermaster, had done his work. Everything was ready and some of the arrangements made showed a great deal of foresight.

It was a glorious morning as we marched from the station to the camp with a cheering crowd welcoming us. The attitude and conduct of the London people, of whom we were to see so much, towards the Indian contingent will be of interest to readers. The people were all along impelled by an enthusiasm to be hospitable and to make the Indians feel at home. We were acclaimed spontaneously at every turn, and I think we represented to them something of the glamour of the East which they had read about but missed in real life.

Thanks to the fine weather, we were soon settled in camp and things began to hum almost immediately. There were parties to be raised for tours, uniforms to be inspected and a hundred and one details to be attended to. Also we had to spend much time in marching and drilling, for marching in columns of eights at two miles an hour is not so easy, and sword drill with slings was something quite new to most of us. Full dress was to be an essential condition since this much was obviously expected from us in England. The Indian contingent was

to make a brave show, with the States Forces in their many-coloured and brilliant uniforms, the bravest.

Then came the rain, making camp roads boggy and everything else damp, but it was not until the 11th of May that the weather so deteriorated as to make us begin to feel really nervous. About noon on that day word came to stand by to wear greatcoats in the procession, an order which filled me with dismay. It was not alone that our glory was to be eclipsed; you see, I had seen our greatcoats, and when we had looked at them again and done what we could to make them presentable I sneaked off to my tent to say a prayer. Late in the evening, an order came through that not in any circumstances would greatcoats be worn and I think we were all quite happy at the prospect of getting our full dress ruined. Only our knowledge of the morrow's ordeal prevented our celebrating the decision suitably.

I have little to add to Colonel Abdul Rahman Khan's graphic account of the events of the 12th May, which follows, except to say that we arrived in camp happy and excited after the wonderful experience, knowing that we had not made a bad showing. The smuts of London followed by the rain had played havoc with scarlet tunics, so there was no rest, for we had to get our medals in two days time and, if our uniforms were to be fit to wear, something had to be done at once. We employed a firm of cleaners, who worked overtime for the next twenty-four hours, and we were quite presentable on the 14th for what was for us the pleasantest and the most intimate ceremony of all. On a lovely morning in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, our medals were presented to us individually either by the King or by another member of the Royal Family. We were gratified by the charming and informal way in which the whole ceremony was conducted and we put all the life we could into the march past. When that was over, we took deep breaths and prepared to enjoy ourselves.

There was a naval review, an inspection by the Field-Marshals and a big programme of organised entertainment which was supplemented by a good deal of spontaneous hospitality. I did not go to the naval review, and, during the absence of most of the others, Major Abdul Aziz and I took the followers for an outing; it was thoroughly good fun and I think we enjoyed it as much as they did. We had asked for suggestions in the camp and as we could get nothing more sensible than lunch at the Dorchester, which is a select hotel in London, we made out our own programme. The shopping in Woolworths' and Marks and Spencers' was watched by an interested crowd. I did not think the

followers could possibly be taken for typical representatives of the Indian Army; so I was rather surprised when a lady said to me, "You must excuse the curiosity of an old stay-at-home, but which of these men are the Bengal Lancers?" There were other amusing incidents such as that of the V.C.O. who got lost in the tube and when recovered was greatly upset, not about himself but on account of his British officer escort who, he said, had been left perhaps for ever somewhere under the ground.

We were now able to welcome an improvement in the weather which enabled old friends to visit and entertain the officers and men. The ruling princes who were in England all gave parties to which the officers were invited. The time moved happily enough to our last full-dress parade on the 22nd for Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood and two other Field-Marshals, Sir Claude Jacob and Sir Cyril Deverell. Our late Commander-in-Chief spoke to almost every man personally and the old soldiers were delighted to see him again.

The visit to England was now nearly over, and our last day was spent in watching the Coldstream Guards trooping the colour, and in hasty last-minute shopping. When on the Horse Guards Parade we were lucky to hear that the King would be passing later. So we lined the route and saluted His Majesty and all the Royal Family as they went by in open carriages on the way to a Thanksgiving Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The next morning saw the end of it all and I said good-bye at Hampton Court station. Some of us thought that the entertainment had been a bit too overpowering but personally I do not think so. We saw everything we could wish to see and we had gratified the people, who were sincerely anxious to please us. We had had a splendid if strenuous time which we will never forget, and it was a truly remarkable experience for us all.

THE CORONATION AND THE INDIAN CORONATION CONTINGENT

By COLONEL ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN CHIB BAHADUR, O.B.I.,

SENAPATI, ALWAR STATE FORCES

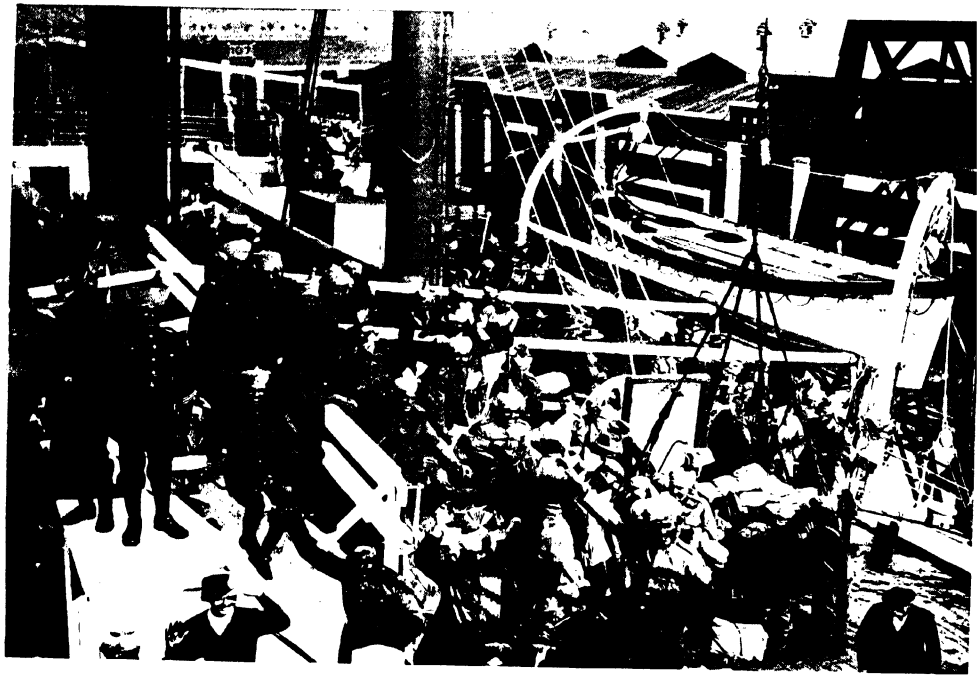
"Our King is crowned. Long live our King."

THE defence services of India, like those of other parts of the Empire, were represented at the Coronation of Their Majesties. On the occasion of previous coronations, the contingent from India has been representative of her land forces, namely the Indian Army and the troops of the Indian States. Many changes have occurred since the last coronation and this time the contingent, both from India proper and Burma, consisted of over six hundred officers and other ranks representative of every cavalry and infantry unit in the Indian Army, of its medical, supply and other ancillary services, of the Royal Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Artillery, Auxiliary Force, Territorial Force, of the Indian States, and of the police of every province including Burma. The command of the contingent was entrusted to Colonel C. O. Harvey, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., with Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Macgregor, M.C., as 2nd-in-command, Major W. M. C. Wilson, adjutant, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel A. Newton, quartermaster, and a large staff of other British officers including three officers, Major Blood, Captain Hubert and Captain Williams, of the Military Advisory Staff, for the Indian States Forces quota.

The contingent, together with the necessary menial staff, assembled at Poona on the 9th April and was accommodated in the Army Signal School, 3/8th Punjab Regiment, the Poona Horse and the Deccan College. The preliminaries were settled in two days and we left by special train for Bombay on the morning of the 12th to embark the same afternoon in H.M. Transport "Neuralia," especially chartered for the occasion. Thakur Jalim Sinh Manohar Sinh, an old soldier of the Poona Horse, very kindly provided refreshment for the contingent at Alexandra docks. The ship left for Southampton at about 6 p.m. when the bands of The Cheshire Regiment and 7th Rajput Regiment played the contingent off. The following message was received from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:

"Bon voyage and best of luck all ranks contingent," to which the commandant made the reply: "All ranks contingent much appreciate your message and will strive creditably to uphold traditions of service."

THE OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STATES FORCES CORONATION CONTINGENT. HAMPTON COURT, MAY 1937.
Photo by R. B. Fleming & Co.



ORDERLIES ON H.T. "NEURALIA" ON ARRIVAL AT SOUTHAMPTON.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT VISITS A FARM.

Photos by Sport and General.

Many in the contingent were quite new to the life-belt parade which was carried out the same evening. The sea behaved well except on one day when the Indian Ocean was rough and many had to confine themselves to bed. The ship's staff and the contingent staff spared no efforts to make it an interesting time for everybody on board. Lots of recreationary games were arranged and inter-services matches played, deck hockey being the most thrilling of all. Lectures were delivered separately for the officers and Indian other ranks. Lieutenant-Colonel McMahan, D.S.O., M.C., gave an interesting lecture on "Current events on the North-West Frontier," Lieutenant-Colonel Abraham, of the Auxiliary Force, on "Oil," Major Gough on "Current events of the world," and Mr. Finney, of the Indian Police, on "Terrorism in Bengal." Race meetings were another exciting item in the programme and *The Neuralia News,* which contained comic articles, added greatly to our entertainment. The ship arrived at Suez in the early morning of the 23rd April and at Port Said the same evening. The voyage through the Suez Canal was the most pleasant part of the whole trip. There were many in the contingent who were very familiar with the ground on both sides of the canal, having been there during the Great War, and it was very interesting to hear from them their experiences of those days. At Port Said the officer portion of the contingent was granted shore leave to enable them to see the place for a couple of hours. Malta was passed on the night of the 26th and Gibraltar two days later. The whole voyage seemed one long expanse of water. The Isle of Wight came in sight on the afternoon of the 2nd May and the "Neuralia" dropped anchor off Fawley Beacon, Southampton Water, at about 6 p.m., and when she docked the next morning the place was bathed in warm sunshine, contrary to the contingent's expectation.

Colonel C. O. Harvey, the commandant, who was already in England, was the first to meet the contingent. An official welcome was accorded by Major-General R. C. Wilson of the India Office who read out messages from His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the Secretary of State for India and Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood. These messages were then read in Urdu by Honorary Captain Hari Singh, Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

From Field-Marshal His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught to Major-General Wilson, Southampton

"Will you give my warmest welcome to all ranks of the contingents from India and Burma on their arrival in England. Please tell them how much I am looking forward to meeting them at Hampton Court on the afternoon of Saturday, 22nd May."

To Field-Marshal His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught

"All ranks Indian and Burma contingent offer our humble thanks to Your Royal Highness for the message of welcome. We are greatly looking forward to receiving Your Royal Highness on 22nd May at Hampton Court."

From the Secretary of State for India

"I am delighted to welcome to this country the contingents which are to represent India and Burma at the Coronation of the King-Emperor, and it gives me particular pleasure that on this occasion it has been possible to include the representatives of the police from all provinces of India and from Burma in addition to the detachments from the defence services. I am confident that you will all uphold worthily the traditions of your various services throughout your stay in the camp at Hampton Court."

To the Secretary of State for India

"All ranks Indian Army, Indian Police, Burma contingent and Burma Police thank you for your message of welcome. We all look forward to receiving Your Lordship at Hampton Court on 10th May."

From Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood to Major-General Wilson

"I will be very grateful if you will please give a most hearty and sincere message of welcome from me to all ranks of the contingent. Tell them how very sorry I am to be unable to come to Southampton in person to welcome them and how sincerely I hope all will have completely happy days in England."

To Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood

"All ranks Indian and Burma contingent thank you for your message. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming our old Chief at Hampton Court on 6th May."

His Excellency the Viceroy's message was also received at the same time.

From His Excellency the Viceroy

"India sends her warmest good wishes to the Indian contingent to the Coronation on its arrival in England to represent the great tradition of her fighting services on this memorable occasion."

To His Excellency the Viceroy

"All ranks Indian contingent thank Your Excellency for your message. You may rely on us to do our utmost to uphold the traditions of the services we represent."

The contingent travelled in two special trains from Southampton to Hampton Court where the trains arrived within a few minutes of each other. A very large crowd was waiting outside the railway station to give welcoming cheers to the contingent, which marched from the station to the camp, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, headed by a military band. The whole route was thronged with people who gave us a rousing reception. The contingent encamped in the Home Park at Hampton Court between the River Thames and "The Long Water" that stretches from the south front of the palace towards Kingston. Bounded on two sides by avenues of magnificent trees, with wide stretches of grass, dotted here and there with the trim putting-greens of the local golf club, the place offers an ideal site for a camp. It was the loveliest place allotted to any overseas contingent. Nor were any pains spared to make the surroundings of the camp as comfortable as they were pleasing to the eye. Bell-tents with plank floors were provided for all and the whole camp was lighted by electricity. Eleven marquees had been erected as mess tents with writing-tables and easy chairs.

The arrival of the contingent became at once an item of news in the evening papers, which published pictures of groups of officers and men taken on arrival of the "Neuralia" at Southampton.

On the morning of the 4th May everybody remained in camp busy settling in. In the afternoon Field-Marshal Sir A. A. Montgomery Massingberd, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., LL.D., Colonel, 20th Burma Rifles, paid an unofficial visit to the Burmese. The contingent had its first outing on May 5th when Lord Rayleigh's and Fordsons' farms near Chelmsford were visited and an interesting display of the various phases of farming was given at each place. The hosts provided a sumptuous tea which was enjoyed by all. The sappers and miners officers received an invitation to Chatham.

On May 6th after a visit to the camp by Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, who talked to all the Indian officers and had lunch in the officers' mess, part of the contingent visited the Morris motor works at Cowley, Oxford, and were shown round all departments of the factory and were also entertained to tea. Members of the Indian Signal Corps visited the Royal Signals at Aldershot, and the artillery officers were invited to Woolwich. In the evening a large number of officers attended a reception at "The Overseas League" in St. James' Street held in their honour by Sardar Bahadur Mohan Singh, adviser to the Secretary of State for India. On May 7th, visits were paid to Mr. Steel's farm near Southend-on-Sea, Essex, and to Mrs. Griffith's farm near Bishops Stortford.

A full dress parade was held in the camp on the 8th May at 10 a.m. when Field-Marshal The Earl of Cavan inspected the contingent drawn up in line in front of the palace. He was taken round by the commandant and was very interested in meeting and talking to various officers.

The next event was a combined Coronation contingent luncheon, with a gala programme, given by the directors of the London Casino in old Compton Street, London. This was indeed a great Empire gathering and was an outstanding social event of the contingent's visit. In addition to over five hundred officers and men of the combined contingents, a large gathering of distinguished oversea visitors and eminent members of the British and Dominion governments were also present. The afternoon was reserved for private visits and expeditions. The Gurkha members attended a reception in London given by serving and retired officers of Gurkha regiments.

May 9th was a visiting day when officers on leave or retired and other friends of the contingent visited the camp and in many cases took members of the contingent out and entertained them for the day. On the 10th of May a part of the contingent visited His Majesty the King's farm at Windsor. In the afternoon a garden party was given in the camp for The Most Honourable the Marquess of Zetland, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Secretary of State for India. The Secretary of State inspected the contingent in service dress after which followed the garden party, to which about two hundred guests had been invited.

During all these days before the Coronation the contingent had to put in a great deal of work in practising and rehearsing for the procession, in spite of the most inclement weather. They all entered into this with great keenness and vigour and maintained an attitude of cheerfulness. The Coronation week started on the 9th of May. The Empire's week of homage and rejoicing will live long in the memories of all who witnessed it, and the description of the ceremonies of the 12th May, whether at Westminster or in some modest but patriotic village, may be treasured and re-read with interest a century hence. London was full of visitors from all over the world. Sovereigns do not attend the coronations of other sovereigns, but delegate as their direct representatives their nearest royal relatives or their most distinguished citizens. With few minor exceptions every independent country sent a representative to the Coronation. Of the Empire contingents, in addition to those of India and Burma there were representative parties from Newfoundland, Southern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of Canada and from

all the smaller colonial possessions. The contingent from India was the biggest of them all.

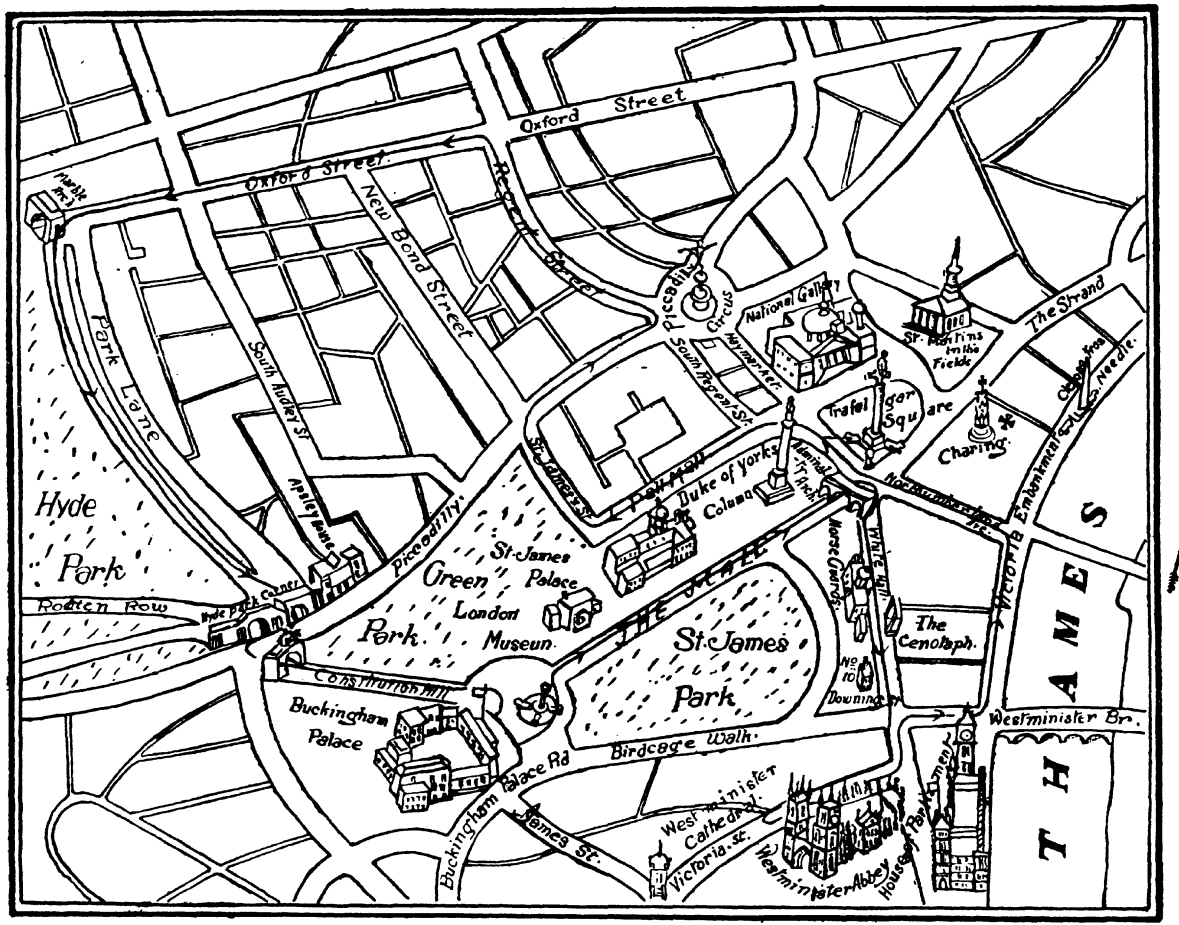
The decoration of London was practically complete. Oxford Street, one of the best known shopping streets in the world, had made great efforts to celebrate the Coronation and it may be said with truth that of all the efforts, those of Messrs. Selfridge's were the greatest and attracted the most attention. The series of historic panels that figured on the famous firm's building illustrated some of the outstanding events in the history of England. At the main entrance there was a central group which represented "The Empire's homage to the Throne."

Every day throughout the afternoon and evening hundreds and thousands of people on foot and in cars thronged the six-mile Royal route, gazing in wonder at the decorations—the breath-taking beauty of the Mall, the mediæval pageantry of Westminster, the beflowered brilliance of Whitehall and the lavish glory of Regent and Oxford Streets. The whole country was infected with gaiety and there were visible manifestations of loyal feelings on an unparalleled scale. Wherever we went we saw these emblems of national joy. The smallest villages, ablaze with bunting and decorated with patriotic devices, all put up and paid for by the inhabitants, had in their way even deeper significance than the publicly erected splendours of the main thoroughfares.

On the outward journey to the Abbey the route lay along the Mall and Whitehall, and the return by Victoria Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, Trafalgar Square, Pall Mall, St. James' Street, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Marble Arch, the East Carriage Drive to Hyde Park Corner and down Constitution Hill. The whole route looked like a fairyland with colourful bunting and red, white, and blue decorations.

Early on the morning of the 10th one of the last of many Coronation rehearsals was held over the full outward route and part of the return route, in order to afford practice to certain carriage escorts and horses. Dominion and Colonial contingents and the mounted portion of the Indian contingent were detailed for this procession, which included the State coach and the carriages to be used by the Prime Ministers of the Empire. At a nominal charge of threepence the public were invited to use in the Mall and Parliament Square those official stands and enclosures to which money, no matter how great the sum, was to afford no passport on Wednesday.

The Coronation preparations were now complete and it had been ordered that whatever the weather might be the processions to and from Westminster Abbey would take place without modification. Field-Marshal The Earl of Cavan, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.C.L., LL.D., was in charge of all the military



THE CORONATION PROCESSIONAL ROUTE.

arrangements in connection with the Coronation. Nearly fifteen hundred military bandsmen provided music in the procession and for the waiting crowds. There were twenty-nine bands in all and sixteen of these were stationed along the Royal route to play light music. A thousand mounted men were detailed for the progress to the Abbey, and when in formation for the start their lines reached from Buckingham Palace to Whitehall. They waited in side-streets south-west of the Abbey during the service and at the end of it they moved forward to join the dismounted ranks for the return journey.

The whole of the Indian and Burma contingents attended the Coronation either in the procession or as spectators. The spectators were paraded in a formed body on the steps of the Victoria Memorial, just outside Buckingham Palace. This was one of the best sites from which to view the cavalcade both on the outward and return journey. A total of three hundred and twenty-two officers actually marched in the procession and, of these, forty-five were mounted including the commander and staff of the Indian contingent, the commander of the Burma contingent, the King's Indian escort and escort to the carriage of the representatives of India and Burma. The King's Indian escort and the carriage escort had to leave the camp early in the morning to be in their positions near Buckingham Palace in time. The two hundred and seventy-six dismounted officers, including twenty-four police officers, twenty-one officers from Burma and thirty-three from among the Indian States Forces, all wore a variety of the most gorgeous full dress. The dismounted portion left Hampton Court by buses at 9 a.m. and joined the infantry escorts of the Empire to the number of about five thousand; these were marshalled at Hyde Park Corner at noon and, when the Coronation ritual had been in progress an hour, passed through the gates of the park along the processional route by way of Constitution Hill, the Mall and Whitehall. In the Mall at 12-20 they halted for half an hour, a halt timed to coincide with the crowning ceremony at Westminster. The head of the procession then was near the Admiralty Arch and the tail still only half-way down Constitution Hill. The resumption of the march took them through Trafalgar Square, up St. James' Street, and into Piccadilly Circus. Finally the procession halted with the head at the junction of Regent Street and Hanover Street and the tail at St. James' Street. It was then that the mounted section moved forward from the precincts of the Abbey and formed up in St. James' Street.

Evidence of the people's enthusiasm and desire to participate in this great national sight was given by the unparalleled vigil of scores of thousands who had watched and waited through a night for which the weather forecast had been most

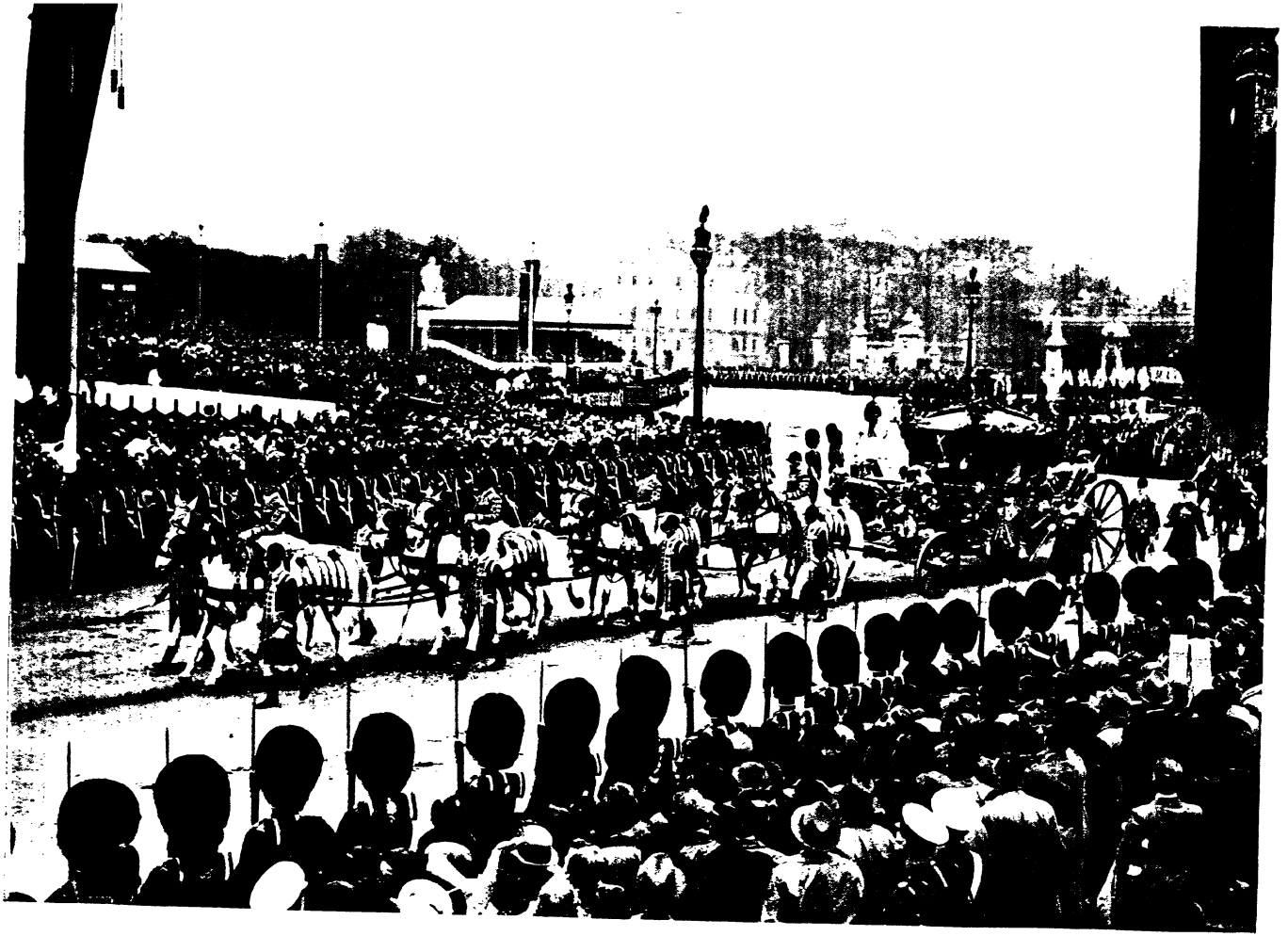
discouraging. Happily those who showed their fortitude by thus disdaining sleep had to endure nothing more serious than the chilly air of a May night. It was some relief when the morning brought gleams of "King's weather." The whole forenoon passed without rain and not until the day was well advanced were the skies unkind. Throughout the interval of waiting for the end of the three hours Coronation service in the Abbey, the movement of troops along the route provided the crowd with a welcome diversion, and no opportunity to cheer was missed.

In advance of Their Majesties own procession to the Abbey there went, with suitable escorts, the Lord Mayor of London's procession, the Speaker of the House of Commons, certain members of the Royal Family, the representatives of India and Burma, colonial rulers, and the procession of Her Majesty Queen Mary. All escorts in the outward and return processions, other than those provided by the overseas contingents, were formed by the Household Cavalry—namely the Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards, all mounted on black horses.

The Royal pageantry of the Coronation on May 12th began at about 10-30 a.m. when Their Majesties, seated in the State coach, set forth from Buckingham Palace for their processional drive to Westminster Abbey. This coach was built in the days of George III and is probably the most magnificent Royal conveyance in the wide world. It is so constructed that Their Majesties may see and be seen plainly in all directions. The procession included the King's Indian orderly officers—Risaldar-Major Muzaffar Khan, Sam Browne's Cavalry; Risaldar Dharam Singh, I.O.M., 20th Lancers; Risaldar-Major Bahadur Sher Khan, 15th Lancers; and Risaldar-Major Lal Singh, M.B.E., Probyn's Horse, with Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. P. T. Walker, M.V.O., O.B.E., 13th D. C. O. Lancers as officer in charge.

Honorary Major-General His Highness the Maharaja of Ratlam, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.; Honorary Colonel His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.; Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, K.C.S.I., being the Honorary Indian Aides-de-Camp to His Majesty, rode just ahead of the Royal coach. The fourth A.D.C., Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel His Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., was forbidden to ride for reasons of health and followed in a carriage.

Major-General His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester and Colonel His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent rode immediately behind the Royal coach while Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Gold Stick in Waiting, and the Earl of Cavan, the Field-Marshal commanding the troops, were riding on either side of the coach. In the procession the King's mounted Indian escort consisted of



THE ROYAL COACH, CARRYING

VISIT OF FIELD-MARSHAL EARL OF CAVAN TO HAMPTON COURT.

He is seen talking to Major-General Gurdial Singh of Patiala and Brigadier Ghansar Singh of Kashmir. On the left of the photograph is Colonel C. O. Harvey, the Commandant of the Indian contingent.

Photo by London News Agency Photos, Ltd.

thirty-seven officers including Brigadier Nawab Mirza Kader Yar Jung Sardar Bahadur, O.B.I.; Lieutenant-Colonel Bapubha Bahadur, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul Ghaffar Bahadur, O.B.I., I.O.M., I.D.S.M., Major R. C. R. Shitole, Captain Shama Rao Scindhia, from among the Indian States Forces. There was an escort of four Indian officers for the carriage in which rode Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan and Dr. Ba Maw, the representatives of India and Burma. The King's Indian escort moved ahead of the massed bands of the Household Cavalry not far from Their Majesties.

The vision inside the Abbey surpassed in its loveliness anything that the handiwork of man has contrived in modern times. Those whose extreme privilege it was to view this noble and sacred ceremony will ever be haunted by the recollection of its unearthly beauty. All parts of the Empire were represented in the Abbey and the Indian representatives were conspicuous in this brilliant assembly, in which Sir Firoz Khan Noon, the High Commissioner for India, bore the standard of the Indian Empire.

The bells broke into a lively peal as Their Majesties approached the Abbey amid deafening cheers, where they arrived exactly at 11 o'clock. A fanfare of trumpets told everyone that Their Majesties had arrived. The Abbey was flooded with golden light as the King's and Queen's procession began at 11-15.

The Coronation is of the nature of a solemn covenant between the King and his people—of devotion to their well-being on his part, and of responsive loyalty and affection on theirs. This assertion of the truth that kingship must be founded on order and law is brought out and emphasised at every exalted moment of the elaborate service. The Coronation service began with the Recognition—a survival of the ancient principle of popular election to the throne to fulfil a bond. The King was anointed and crowned as a constitutional sovereign at 12-30 when the whole congregation rose and gave triumphant shouts of "God save the King," which were taken up by the crowd outside. At the same time the roar of guns from St. James' Park proclaimed the crowning of the King. But the service was not yet over. It was followed by an equally thrilling part—the Homage. After the ceremonies of the King's crowning had been completed, the Queen rose from her chair of State and went to the altar for her coronation, which was simpler and shorter than the King's. The whole service, carried through with the deepest solemnity and amid scenes of marvellous splendour, concluded shortly before 2 p.m.

For the first time in history not only was the British nation able to follow the noble and stately service by wireless, but the entire world was able to gain an

idea of the majestic and age-long ritual which surrounds the consecration of an English king—a ritual in which King George VI bore himself throughout as a King indeed.

After the service there was a short interval of about half an hour, until at 2-15 p.m. the King and Queen set out on their long drive back to the palace and this was the occasion when Londoners and visitors paid to the crowned Sovereign and his consort their tribute of loyalty, as they gained a wonderful view of the pageantry of the Coronation. The overseas contingents, which were already in their position, marched at the head of the return procession. First came the Colonial contingent, then the Burma contingent, then the contingents of Southern Rhodesia and Newfoundland, then the African, Australian, Canadian and Indian. There were also detachments of the King's Own Malta Regiment, the Bermuda Militia and the Channel Islands unit in the procession. The Indian contingent was led by General Sir Henry E. ap Rhys Pryce, Master-General of the Ordnance, India, with Colonel C. O. Harvey and Major W. M. C. Wilson who were all mounted and marched in the following order: Indian Police, Indian Air Force, Indian States Forces, Indian Army, Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force. The Indian contingent's variety of picturesque uniforms, white helmets, gold-laced turbans, scarlet, khaki and grey coats, some black beards, and some white beards, formed the most attractive spectacle of the Coronation procession.

Throughout the whole route the contingent received special cheers and clapping of hands from the crowd, while the lusty cheering of school-children along the Embankment was so terrific that one could not hear one's feet on the road. The troops were marshalled and handled by the authorities in admirable order. It was the perfection of organization. From the moment when the King and Queen rode out in the State coach into the beflagged and bedecked streets until their return to Buckingham Palace over five hours passed. After the ceremony Their Majesties traversed fully six miles of London, six miles thronged with the greatest assembly of loyal men and women the Empire and possibly the world has ever witnessed. While the Royal cavalcade passed amid tempests of cheering and to the stirring notes of the National Anthem, there were spectacles to behold of unmatched splendour and glorious colour. The famous Royal coach, dating back nearly two hundred years, with its eight Windsor greys made a line of gold through the packed thoroughfares. A particularly noticeable feature among the Coronation crowds was the extensive use made of periscopes for viewing the procession. Their Majesties had a tumultuous recep-

tion from thirty-seven thousand London school-children on the Thames Embankment. The St. John's Ambulance coped with the vast crowd at thirty-five dressing stations and sixty first-aid stations and treated no less than seven thousand cases up to midday, out of which eighty-seven were sent to hospital.

The King and Queen reached Buckingham Palace at 4 p.m. after their triumphant drive from the Abbey. The Guards band played the National Anthem as the coach swept into the forecourt. There were amazing scenes of enthusiasm despite the rain, which seemed to have no effect on the spirits of the crowd. Throughout the day the universal popularity of Their Majesties was abundantly manifest, but perhaps the most striking demonstration was the scene outside Buckingham Palace after the King and Queen had returned from the Abbey. Thousands of people were massed against the railing and there were shouts of "We want the King" and "We want the Queen" and "We want our little Princesses." Eventually, during a lull in the rain, Their Majesties came out on the balcony wearing their crowns and coronation robes and then followed the Princesses, Queen Mary and several other members of the Royal Family. The enthusiasm of the crowd was unbounded and there was continuous cheering and waving. Thus King George the VI and Queen Elizabeth were crowned before the eyes of a few thousands but in the ears of unnumbered millions with a ceremony more magnificent than any of its forerunners. Never in the history of the British Monarchy has a sovereign received such affectionate demonstrations and such loyal ovations as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and never has London housed multitudes so immense and so eager.

The dismounted portion of the Indian contingent in the procession marched altogether about ten and a half miles and finished some way past Buckingham Palace, where they boarded their buses for their return to camp. The following message was received from General Sir Henry ap Rhys Pryce:

"General Sir Henry ap Rhys Pryce leading the Indian contingent in the Coronation procession desires to congratulate all ranks on their turn-out and soldierly bearing, which did honour to their units, their country and their King-Emperor, and received the acclamations of the vast crowds of spectators."

On Thursday, the 13th, nearly half of the contingent visited the Ford motor works at Dagenham. The party left camp by buses after breakfast and, embarking at Westminster, sailed down the River Thames. It was very interesting to see the extensive workshops with most ingenious machines and the rapidity with which the various parts of a motor-car could be manufactured. The Ford Company very kindly gave tea to the whole party. A portion of the contingent went to visit

the Ovaltine dairies and works at King's Langley, Hertfordshire, in the afternoon. The proprietors were generous enough to provide tea.

On the 14th May, the King honoured the troops of his Empire. In the gardens of Buckingham Palace, the King and Queen, helped by the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent, handed Coronation medals to more than twelve hundred troops from India, the Dominions, the Colonies and the Protectorates who were in London for the Coronation. The Indian contingent debussed at Wellington barracks and headed by a band, marched to the palace, where all the overseas contingents were drawn up on three sides of a square. The King and Queen with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, Queen Mary, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and the Duke of Kent, came out on to the balcony. Indian princes, including Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Kashmir, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, the Nawabs of Bahawalpur and Palanpur and other distinguished representatives of the Empire, awaited them. The King wore the dark-blue undress uniform of a Field-Marshal. The Duke of Gloucester was in the undress uniform of a colonel of the Scots Guards, and the Duke of Kent wore naval uniform. The King, with General Sir H. G. Chauvel, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., who commanded the Australian contingent and was in command of the parade, walked through the lines of the troops to inspect them. Then he returned to the steps of the palace, and the officers commanding various contingents fell out and marched up to receive medals from him. It was a colourful picture. On the King's left was our Indian contingent—the gorgeous uniforms and many-coloured turbans standing out vividly against the background of green trees. Further along were the Canadians, the Australians, the New Zealanders, South Africans and the men from Southern Rhodesia. On his right were the coloured troops from the Colonies and Protectorates.

The King and Queen and the King's two brothers walked slowly through the ranks distributing medals. The King walked through one line, the Queen through another with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret following her, and the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent each taking another rank. The troops turned inwards as the King and other members of the Royal Family walked among them, each followed by a N.C.O. bearing the Coronation medals in little red covered cases on trays. As each man received his medal he pinned it on his tunic.

When the King and Queen and the other members of the Royal Family had returned to the steps of the palace, where Queen Mary and the Duchess of

Gloucester had sat watching, the Empire troops formed into columns to march past their King and Emperor.

The parade of the soldiers of the Empire before the King seemed to have touched the imagination of Londoners and visitors alike. On the return march to Wellington barracks the contingents took a circuitous course and when the procession swung into the Mall our Indian contingent was the first to appear. Large crowds had collected along the route and the troops were applauded and cheered. Representative officers of each contingent were entertained to lunch at the Savoy Hotel by the British Sportsman's Club through the courtesy of Lord Decies, while other officers and men of all contingents were entertained to an open-air buffet lunch in the Green Park by the management and executive committee of the Oversea Troops Entertainment Fund.

On May 15th the majority of the contingent remained in camp and their friends in England had an opportunity of visiting various members. A small party of officers paid a visit to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. It was an adjutant's parade that day. The cadets were being exercised in drill and handling of arms and they were made to march past first in slow and then in quick time. It was a very smart parade. The instructors then took the party round to the barracks, the playing fields, the workshops, and the small museum and gymnasium. The sappers and miners personnel visited the Royal Engineers at Aldershot.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Willingdon honoured the officers by lunching with them in their camp mess, and various officers were introduced to them. In the evening a large number of officers had an invitation to the United Service Club and to the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue.

The next day there was a visit to camp by the cadets from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, who were given an opportunity to meet and talk to the Indian officers of the various Indian Army units. In the afternoon a big party went to the zoo at Whipsnade. On the 17th some of the contingent visited the Coronation motor race meeting at Brooklands where they saw many well-known drivers taking part in the races. Before the racing started the parties were taken over the racecourse and also visited the Brooklands School of Flying and Hawkers and Vickers works.

On the 18th all available officers attended the demonstration at Pirbright arranged by the War Office. These demonstrations were prepared with the object of showing the latest mechanical inventions. The General welcomed the contingent and made some introductory remarks after which the spectators were

organized into syndicates to view the exhibits. It was all very interesting and instructive to see these modern inventions for the first time—a troop of mechanised cavalry consisting of five light tanks and two cavalry carriers; an infantry rifle platoon with a 15 cwt. Morris truck; a motor platoon with its transport (four 15 cwt. trucks); a machine-gun platoon of five armoured machine-gun carriers and three 15 cwt. Morris trucks for the carriage of spare personnel and equipment. Some other exhibits of the kind were also shown and the contingent was entertained to drinks before it returned to camp.

The police personnel were taken over Scotland Yard and were shown all the departments of the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police. Some of the senior officers were entertained to lunch at the Royal Empire Society by retired officers of the Indian Police while others were given lunch by officers of the Metropolitan Police. In the afternoon they were entertained to tea by members of the Indian Police Association at the Zoological Gardens in Regents Park.

On the 19th May the official film of the Indian Army in France during the Great War was shown in the morning and it was followed by a film of the Coronation procession. This was very kindly arranged by the proprietors of the Court Cinema, East Molesey.

On the same day, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal received the members of the Indian Signal Corps. In the afternoon the whole contingent left Hampton Court by special train for Southampton to embark in the "Neuralia" and to participate in the naval review.

On the 20th May the King, accompanied by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, reviewed at Spithead the greatest assembly of shipping, both naval and mercantile, ever gathered together. The ships were anchored in eight lines stretching for more than five miles from a point opposite Southsea pier westward to beyond Lee-on-Solent and covering an area of twenty-four square miles. The warships ranged from the 42,000-ton "Hood," the world's biggest battleship, to the 600-ton British-built Esthonian submarine, "*Kalev.*" Among Empire warships was H. M. I. S. "Indus," the most recent addition to the Royal Indian Navy, which arrived at Portsmouth early in May to represent India at the review, while foreign nations sent altogether eighteen warships to represent them. The H. T. "Neuralia," carrying the Indian contingent, left Southampton at 9-30 a.m. and within half an hour was in its position in the middle of the sixth line of ships.

The Royal Yacht "Victoria and Albert" left her berth at 3-15 p.m. for the review and passed through the eight lines of vessels, dressed over all and with their crews lining the rails, and more than a hundred warships thundered a

salute which mingled with the cheers of the crews. When the Royal Yacht had returned to her anchorage one hundred and eight aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm flew over her, dipping in salute.

At night there was the most magnificent spectacle of all when, against the dark sea, all the assembled craft blazed into outlines of glittering light, swept the sky with their searchlights and sent up great bouquets of star shells, rockets and Roman candles. The "Neuralia" returned to her berth in Southampton docks the same night and the contingent returned to Hampton Court by special train the next morning after breakfast.

On the afternoon of May 22nd a garden party in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Strathern, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., V.D., T.D., had been arranged in camp, but unfortunately His Royal Highness was confined to bed; he was therefore represented by Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, who talked to all the officers individually and had tea with them. There were more than two hundred guests present.

The next day a large party visited Brighton to see the Royal Pavilion, once the home of King George IV and where wounded Indian soldiers were nursed back to health during the War. They also visited the *Chhatri* on the downs near Brighton, where a memorial was erected to the Indians who were cremated there. The contingent was given a civic reception by the Deputy Mayor and members of the Brighton Corporation. A portion of the contingent witnessed the guard-mounting at Buckingham Palace on the 24th and this was followed by visits in small parties to various places of interest in London.

The camp at Hampton Court was broken up on the morning of the 25th May when the contingent left for the railway station to join the special train for Southampton. There were hearty farewell scenes at Hampton Court where the members of the contingent exchanged last greetings with English friends before entraining. An English lady very kindly distributed a box of fifty cigarettes to every smoking member in the contingent and flowers to others and this was very much appreciated by all.

At Southampton the contingent, headed by the band of the Middlesex Regiment, marched from the station to the Town Hall for their last civic reception in England. The huge crowds lining the streets of the town gave us hearty cheers. After a reception by the Mayor and Corporation the contingent marched to the dockyard where the "Neuralia" was waiting, with kit already aboard. The ship sailed at 4-40 p.m. amid the cheers of hundreds of well-wishers

who sang "Auld Lang Syne" to the music of the band of the Middlesex Regiment.

The following telegrams were exchanged at the time the contingent left:

To His Majesty the King

On leaving England the India and Burma Coronation contingents offer their humble duty in bidding farewell to Your Majesties and gratitude for the wonderful three weeks they have spent in this country. Their innate loyalty is now increased by feelings of personal devotion, and May 14th, when each member of the contingent received a Coronation medal personally either from the hands of Your Majesties or from your own brothers, was the proudest and happiest day of their lives."

From His Majesty the King

"I gratefully thank you and the India and Burma Coronation contingents for your loyal message and I hope that you will carry away with you happy memories of your visit. The Queen and I send you all our best wishes for a pleasant journey and a safe return to your homes."

From the Under-Secretary of State for India

"Farewell and all best wishes all ranks India and Burma Coronation contingents."

To the Under-Secretary of State for India

"All ranks India Burma Coronation contingents thank you for your farewell message and desire me to say that they carry away happy memories of the excellent arrangements for their comfort and the hospitality they received during their visit."

The ship arrived at Gibraltar on the 29th May, where tentative arrangements had been made. The contingent landed at about 12 o'clock and, headed by a band, marched to Alemada parade ground where it was inspected by His Excellency General Sir Charles Harington, the Governor. Afterwards the officers were entertained by him and Lady Harington at Government House. Sight-seeing was enjoyed for a few hours and the ship left at 7-30 p.m. the same day.

On the morning of 2nd June the "Neuralia" docked at Malta and the contingent was disembarked at the customs house by means of a tug and lighter. The Government of Malta very kindly provided a number of buses with a guide in each to enable the contingent to visit places of historical interest. They drove first to the upper Baracca gardens whence a general view of the Grand Harbour and surrounding country could be obtained. This was followed by a trip to Pawla and a visit to the Hypogeum and Tarxiem temples. The

third stopping-place was Medina, where the contingent saw the cathedral and Rabat and visited the catacombs. At Valetta they were shown over St. John's Cathedral and the officers then proceeded to the palace where His Excellency the Governor received them at the armoury and shook hands with many of them. The party then split up for lunch. Some returned to the "Neuralia," others lunched with His Excellency at Sant Anton, six officers lunched at the Union Club, Sliema, with officers of the Royal Artillery. The Royal Engineers entertained a party at the Union Sports Club, Marsa. Six lunched at the officers mess of the Malta Artillery, six at St. George with the 1st battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment and eight with the Rifle Brigade at St. Andrews. In the afternoon some of the officers visited Marsa where a cricket match was played, others bathed at Bighi. The contingent watched a passive defence scheme carried out at about 2 o'clock. The object of this scheme was to practise first-aid and decontamination squads under more or less realistic conditions. The Royal Air Force participated in the mock air raid and three aircraft attacked Valetta.

The ship left in the evening and arrived at Port Said on the 6th June, where she anchored for a few hours, and the contingent had an opportunity of visiting the shops. After a brief stay at Aden the ship left for Bombay where she arrived on the early morning of the 16th.

Crowds had gathered at the quayside and burst into cheers as the ship docked, and the bands of the 1st battalion The Cheshires and the 3rd battalion Mahratta Light Infantry played the contingent in. The members of the contingent crowding on the decks of the "Neuralia" waved happy acknowledgments to the greetings. As soon as the gangway was hoisted a messenger hurried aboard and delivered a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy to Colonel Macgregor:

"All the members of the contingent have had the great honour of being selected to represent their various services and units at the Coronation. It has been a great satisfaction to me to hear from many sources how worthily they have fulfilled the trust and how admirable the spirit of camaraderie between the various sections of the contingent—the Royal Indian Navy, the Army, the Royal Indian Air Force and the Indian Police—has been."

The contingent was welcomed on board the ship by Commander T. M. B. Milne-Henderson, on behalf of Vice-Admiral A. E. F. Bedford, Flag Officer Commanding, R.I.N., and by Brigadier T. S. Riddell-Webster, Officer Commanding Bombay District. Refreshment was again provided on the quay for the whole

contingent by Thaker Jalim Sinh Manohar Sinh, which was much appreciated by the officers and men. The contingent dispersed from Bombay the same day.

People's interest in the Indian contingent during its short stay in England continued unabated. Large crowds, taking advantage of the weather had gathered daily at Hampton Court and the members of the contingent were beset at every turn by autograph hunters. They were overwhelmed with invitations to garden parties and receptions, and when they were not otherwise occupied they managed to put in a good deal of sight-seeing. Wherever they went, the railway officers and the police were most helpful and polite. They were greatly impressed by the tidiness and smartness of every thing in the country, the respect for law and order and the discipline of the masses, and especially by the generous and kindly hospitality and friendship shown by the British public. It was a most enjoyable trip for everybody. We all had a wonderful time in England and on the boat and returned to India rich in experience and knowledge.

TIGRESS

Obtained by stalking.

A FEW HINTS ON WILD LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

By F. W. CHAMPION, Indian Forest Service

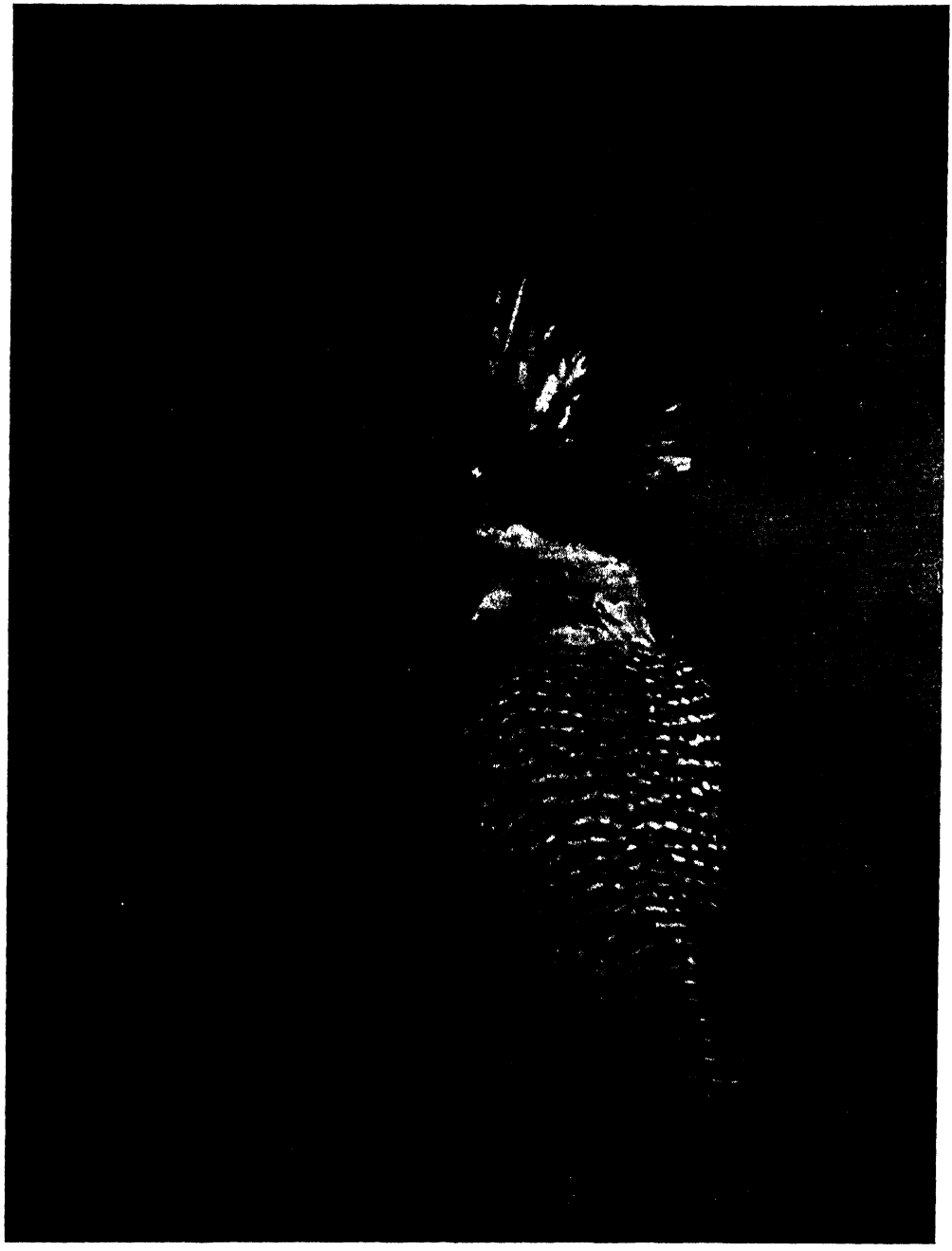
THE first issue of this magazine contained a very interesting and informative article on "Animal Photography" by ".425." The present article is intended to be supplementary to ".425's" article, more particularly on the technical side. I have over a quarter of a century of experience of wild life photography and I hold the opinion, and hold it strongly, that the key to success in any form of photography is to obtain a thorough mastery of photographic technique and to do every part of one's photography oneself. This, unfortunately, is rarely done in India and is the chief reason why the average standard of photography in this country is low. I admit that a perfect knowledge of the technical side of photography does not help in the least to teach one how to stalk animals, but it is no use stalking animals with a camera unless one is a master of that instrument. With a rifle the stalk is everything provided one can shoot straight; with a camera the stalk is part only of success. The best stalk in the world is useless from a photographic point of view unless one is armed with the right type of lens fitted in the right type of camera, unless the focusing is accurate, unless the exposure is correct both as regards light and movement of the subject, unless the right kind of plates or films are loaded into the camera, unless the development of the negative is well done, unless the printing and enlarging are of the best, and so on. Anyone who really wants to make a success of photography must realise from the very beginning that no professional can afford to give the time and care to the production of photographs, on which a profit must be made, that the expert amateur can give. To emphasise my point, I would mention that I often make a dozen or more enlargements from a single negative on different grades of paper and with different degrees of control before I am satisfied that I have obtained the best result that that particular negative is capable of producing. If a professional were to do this he would either go bankrupt or his charges would be so high that he would lose his customers. These remarks apply to the expert professional. As regards the ordinary bazar photographer, nobody with any real interest in photography would even consider entrusting their processing to such people. Hence my first advice is to master the technique of photography. You

will find it a most intriguing subject, and a thorough working knowledge of the technical side of photography will carry you more than half way along the road to success in the admittedly difficult art of photographing wild animals. And that is not all. Many people complain that photography is expensive, but a good deal of the expense lies in wastage of materials owing to ignorance and in paying for work done by professionals that you ought to do yourself. If you spend a lot of money on a camera of the wrong type, load it with unsuitable or stale films. make a wild guess at the exposure, have the film processed in the bazar and then complain that the miserable results you have obtained are not worth all the money that has been squandered, remember the advice already given that if you want to succeed in photography do everything yourself, in which case you will get far better results at far less cost.

Now let us consider the apparatus to be used. This, of course, depends upon the type of photograph that it is required to take and to a certain extent upon individual idiosyncrasies. For instance, apparatus suitable for flashlight work is quite different from that used for stalking animals by daylight, and different workers adopt different methods. Nowadays, there is a craze for the very small miniature cameras that produce negatives no bigger than a postage stamp. While admitting the advantages of lightness in weight, cheapness in running costs and easy focusing, I am definitely opposed to the use of these cameras for animal photography in a tropical country like India. Good processing of these tiny films requires filtered solutions, constant temperatures, and absolute cleanliness, all of which are difficult to obtain under the rough conditions of life in the Indian jungles. It is quite difficult enough to obtain a good photograph of any wild animal without running risks in the subsequent processing. I therefore recommend the familiar quarter-plate as being a compromise between the old heavy cameras and the possibly excessively small (but far from cheap) modern miniatures that weigh only a few ounces.

As regards daylight photography, the two essentials are a camera of the reflex or twin-lens type and good fast lenses of fairly long focal length. The great advantage of the reflex type of camera is that the subject can be accurately focused in any position and at any distance quickly, and, since the actual image is visible the right way up until the very moment of exposure, composition of the picture is much facilitated and the best moment for exposure is more easily chosen. With ordinary hand cameras the picture seen in the view-finder is too small for wild animal subjects and the distance has to be accurately estimated unless an expensive

PORTRAIT OF A LANGOOR.
Obtained by stalking.



HIMALAYAN PIED-KINGFISHER.

Obtained by working the camera from a distance with a string.

range-finder is incorporated in the camera. With focusing stand cameras a focusing cloth has to be used, after which the focusing screen has to be changed for a plate-holder by which time the subject has probably moved. Such cameras are useful for certain subjects, such as photographing birds at nests from hides, where the subject is likely to remain at or near a certain fixed spot, but they are practically useless for stalking animals.

The lens is a very important part of the animal photographer's equipment. Short focus lenses require too close an approach and tend to cause distortion; long focus lenses are difficult to use and are artistically objectionable. The human eye approximates to a lens of about 10" focal length. The most useful lens, therefore, for general animal photography, is one of about 10" to 12" focal length, but it should be of the fixed-focus telephoto type that focuses at half its focal length. It must, of course, work at a big aperture since one of the greatest —if not the greatest—difficulty in animal photography is poor light.

An essential part of any camera is the shutter, and in this respect modern apparatus is not altogether satisfactory from the animal photographer's point of view. Reflex cameras are usually fitted with focal plane shutters, which are only too often noisy. The ideal camera for the animal photographer has yet to be produced, but I would recommend the purchase of a high quality reflex of about quarter-plate size, fitted with a fast lens of about 12" focal length. If funds permit, two other interchangeable lenses of 6" and 18" focal length should also be purchased and all lenses should be fitted with between-lens shutters in addition to the focal plane shutter incorporated in the camera. Such a camera would be somewhat expensive if purchased new—although it always pays in the long run to get good apparatus—but the present is an excellent time to obtain really high-class cameras of the larger sizes very cheaply owing to the current mania for miniature cameras. I must apologise for having devoted so much space to the subject of cameras, but five out of six would-be animal photographers that I have seen in India have been trying to use wrong apparatus that doesn't give them any chance of success.

Plates or films can be used according to taste but they must be of the fastest panchromatic type, since light is nearly always poor in the Indian jungles. They must also be absolutely fresh and not purchased in the bazar. Development should be done at the earliest possible moment after exposure—I do all mine in camp—and as panchromatic plates are sensitive to red light, a desensitiser must be used or preferably the plates must be developed in a light-tight tank by the time and temperature method.

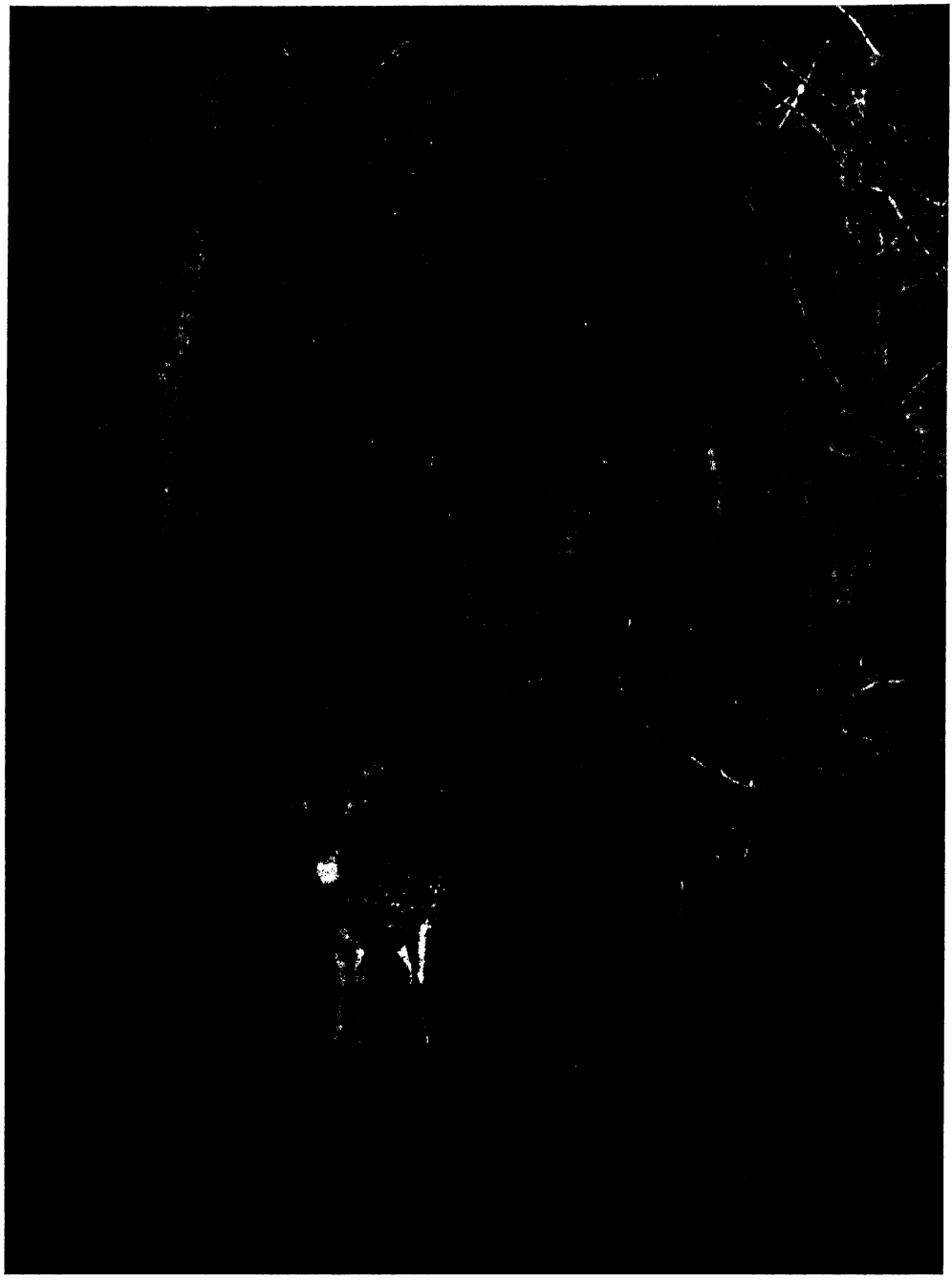
Enlarging is an extremely important part of photography and one in which a good picture may be made or marred. It is extremely interesting work, which must appeal to everyone who has once tried his hand at it. Enlarging involves retouching, which is essential, but which is liable to extend to faking. There is no real satisfaction in taking a photograph of, say, a tiger in a zoo, blocking out the bars, superimposing the photograph on to what is considered to be a natural background and then claiming to have taken the photograph in the wild. Doubtless, no reader of this journal would demean himself by doing this sort of thing, but it is surprising how often it is done.

A difficult point in photography is to estimate the exposures required. The light in the Indian jungles is usually so poor that it is difficult to over-expose, so that a very useful rule is to give the longest exposure possible consistent with holding the camera still and stopping the movement of the subject. Modern photographic plates have very great latitude, but this latitude is chiefly on the side of over-exposure. Hence, when in doubt, always add a little to what you consider to be the correct exposure. At the same time, a modern photo-electric exposure meter is invaluable and should form part of every photographer's equipment.

As regards the actual methods of taking photographs of animals in India, ".425's" article gives some useful hints. The first point to remember is that, in order to take really good photographs of wild animals, it is essential to make a close study of the habits of the particular animal that it is proposed to photograph. Don't go straight into the jungle with new apparatus that you haven't mastered and expect to take good photographs of wild animals at once. Such a course is bound to result in failure after failure and in the end abandonment of the hobby in disgust. Practise first upon dogs and cattle and monkeys and then drive some cattle into a dark jungle and see what results you can get by photographing them under unfavourable lighting conditions. Always remember that animal photography in India is difficult and do not be satisfied with the poor results you are likely to obtain at first. Maintain a high ideal and if you do obtain a fairly good photograph always remember that it is possible to get a much better one and try again and again and again.

There are numerous methods by which you can try to obtain successful photographs of wild animals. The commoner among these are stalking, remaining concealed in a hide or *machan,* fixing a camera focused on some particular spot and working it from a distance with a string or an electric arrangement, and flash-light. Of these, stalking requires great skill and is possibly the most interesting. The main principles are to move slowly and never directly towards the subject, to

SLOTH-BEAR.



PAIR OF YOUNG CHITAL STAGS.
Obtained by stalking.

approach up-wind, to wear clothes that blend with the vegetation, and, above all, to avoid any sudden or quick movements. In India the great difficulty of stalking is the tall undergrowth that makes a clear view-point very difficult to obtain. The beginner should therefore confine his camera-stalking to places where the jungle is patchy or the ground hilly or undulating, so that he can, if lucky, obtain clear glimpses of his subject without masses of unsightly grass and twigs intervening. Hides and *machans* are very useful at times, although deer are liable to scent a photographer hidden in a hide at ground level. It may also prove a little too exciting if a wild elephant, or a tiger, or a bear arrives and proceeds to investigate a hide in which a photographer armed with only a camera may be concealed! Working a previously-focused camera from a distance may on occasion prove invaluable with very shy subjects, but it is not easy to do successfully. Flashlight photography is a subject in itself and is too technically difficult to be employed by anyone who has not had considerable experience of photography. Incidentally, flashlight photography, *employed in moderation by an expert,* hardly disturbs game at all, despite the statements to the contrary made by people who have never seen a flashlight photograph taken and who use it as an excuse to explain their own lack of success in shooting.

I have now given a rough outline of some of the aspects of big-game photography and I can only hope that what I have written may induce some readers to take up this most fascinating hobby, which never loses in interest to the man who once really becomes keen on it. It is doubtful if anyone yet has ever obtained a photograph of any wild creature that could not be improved upon. If you shoot a record head of some animal, that animal tends to lose interest for you because you are very unlikely to obtain such a good head again. But you may take a hundred photographs of that same animal and it is still possible that one more effort may produce a picture that eclipses all your previous efforts. This, to my mind, is one of the chief reasons why animal photography is possibly the finest of all hobbies that appeal to the lover of an open-air life.

I will now close this article with a brief summary of the points to remember in animal photography:

(1) Always play fair with the subject. Never, no matter how great the temptation may be, cause unnecessary suffering or hardship to animals in your efforts to take photographs. Don't disturb the jungle too much for the animals that live there or for other sportsmen or photographers.

(2) Never fake photographs. It will give you no genuine pleasure and it brings a bad name to photographers as a class.

(3) Buy good apparatus, without which real success is impossible.

(4) Master the technique of photography and do everything yourself.

(5) Use fast panchromatic plates and remember that under-exposure is much more serious than over-exposure. Use a photo-electric exposure meter at all times.

(6) Place the camera on a tripod or rest wherever possible. Many photographs are ruined by movement of the camera during exposure.

(7) Develop soft. The shortest road to the production of good negatives is full exposure followed by soft development.

(8) Study the pictorial side of photography and try to produce *pictures* of wild animals rather than mere photographic records. This is of the greatest importance and is where many photographers fail.

(9) Always carry a loaded camera that can be readily brought into action when there is any chance of obtaining an animal photograph.

(10) Lastly, be keen and remember that animal photography is far from being easy. Don't be disheartened too readily, and, above all, start with a high ideal and don't be satisfied with indifferent results.

COMMAND AND TRAINING

By MAJOR-GENERAL A. M. MILLS, C.B., D.S.O.,

Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces

DURING the course of a lengthy career it has been my fortune to serve under or with commanding officers of very varying types.

There has been the commanding officer who has done all his commanding from an office stool through his adjutant and a typewriter, with little knowledge of his officers and none of his men.

There has been the commanding officer who, owing either to ignorance or laziness or both, has allowed his squadron or company commanders to train their companies each in his own sweet way, comforting himself with the thought that he was decentralising, and so not interfering with them.

There has been the commanding officer who is full of brains and staff experience, but who from various causes has not grown up with soldiers and therefore has been much handicapped when training or commanding his unit in the field. Making the right decisions automatically or by instinct comes from long and continuous practice. However great the book knowledge an officer possesses, when the time comes for him to take a quick decision in the field he has no time to think out what action Cæsar or Wellington took in similar circumstances, or what the text-books have to say on the matter. Such an officer, who probably has the ability to command but lacks the practice, is generally shy of admitting it and refuses to sit back and allow his unit to teach him. Which is a pity.

Then again there is the "bluffer" commanding officer, of imposing exterior and armed with a few catch phrases, but with nothing solid behind it all. And he is the biggest menace of them all.

All this reads as if my experience of commanding officers had been uniformly unfortunate, but this is not the case. As a young man I had the good fortune to serve under two good commanding officers of widely differing types, and both of whom commanded a happy regiment. The first was a commanding officer who knew his trade from A to Z, was a first-class trainer of troops, and could and did command. His one failing was that he lacked a sense of humour, was very shy, and so inclined to be pompous. He was succeeded by a man of strong character, very

human, and as straight as a die. An excellent administrator and commander, he inspired the greatest confidence. But he suffered from a want of imagination, and so found great difficulty in training troops in peace time. I have often thought since that if it had been possible to pool the best qualities of each, one would have got the ideal commanding officer. But then again ideals differ.

Nowadays, in the Indian Army, the competition for command is so great that officers are graded into different categories. The definitions of these may be of interest, and are as follows:

(*a*) Outstanding ... No definition required.
(*b*) Above average ... An officer capable of turning a bad unit into a good one.
(*c*) High average ... An officer on the border line between "above average" and "average."
(*d*) Average ... An officer capable of keeping a unit as he finds it, but unlikely to improve it.
(*e*) Below average ... A dud!

So a commanding officer, and here I am not referring to the commanding officer of a regiment or battalion but to commanders of every grade, must be a *Leader* and not a driver if he is to be a success. In the Great War I had the misfortune to serve under a high commander who had more than the normal allowance of bully in him. In his division there were some Dominion troops, and these were no respecters of persons. The story goes that on one occasion this divisional commander went up to watch these troops digging some reserve trenches. As was his wont he at once began to find fault with some private soldier for not using his pick properly. Unfortunately the man happened to be a miner by trade. Unabashed by the sight of the brass hat and red tabs, the man spat on the ground and then turned round and said, "See here now. You may be the stud duck* in the puddle, but you know nothing about my job, so get out."

The commanding officer of a unit is the one man in it who really matters. He is the brain or dynamo, or whatever simile you like to use, which supplies the energy and driving force to the whole machine. It is with the idea of helping officers to be good leaders of units that I offer the following suggestions for thought and discussion.

I am going to divide my subject into two parts:

(*a*) Morale.
(*b*) Training and administration.

---

* "Stud duck"=pedigree or stallion duck.

MORALE

Last year in this Annual I wrote an article entitled, "Duties and Responsibilities of an Officer." This year all I want to do is to indicate some of the ways in which a leader, armed with the requisite knowledge, can get the best out of his men.

The good shepherd is the one who knows every one of his flock. In the same way the leader must know every one of his men, their names, their characteristics, and all about them. It is extraordinary what a good effect it has throughout a unit if a senior officer remembers the name of a private soldier, and addresses him by it. The troops at once feel that they have got a friend. But this again has to be spontaneous and not forced. I believe that Lord Haig, who was extremely shy, found great difficulty in passing the time of day with a private soldier. His staff urged him to do it, so, bracing himself up for the ordeal, the Field-Marshal asked a soldier where he started the War. The reply he got was, "Please Sir, I never started this War."

Of course the higher the leader the more difficult it is for him to know everybody. But I do suggest that a commanding officer should know all his N.C.Os. down to the paid acting lance-daffadars or lance-naiks. For one thing he will not be entirely in the hands of his squadron or company commanders when it comes to questions of promotion. For those with poor memories a good plan is to photograph the N.C.Os. in batches, cut out each individual's face, and paste it in a page of a book, with such details as may be necessary. The book should be of such a size as can be carried about with one on parade. Such a book has its interest in after years, when one can look through it and note how many winners one was able to spot, or how many of one's selections failed to make good.

Looking after the personal comfort of the men, their feeding arrangements, visiting them in hospital, playing games with them, and taking an interest in their families, and so forth, all help towards the desired end. But the interest must be genuine, otherwise the men will soon discover that it is all merely "eye-wash," and then more harm than good will result.

Punishments.—A few words on this subject may be useful. As I have said before, always try and find out the reason for any serious crime or neglect of duty. In the army there are many opportunities for a bad or weak N.C.O. to work off a private grudge and so goad a good man into doing something which otherwise he would never have thought of doing. As an example, when I was commanding a British infantry battalion in the War, there was one young man who was brought

up before me three times in three weeks for committing serious offences. He was a decent type of lad, so on the third occasion I sent everybody out of the room and then asked the young man to tell me frankly what his trouble was. "Sir, the sergeant-major has got a down on me and I can do nothing right. He hunts me." I said that I was prepared to give him another chance to make good, dismissed his case, and transferred him to another company. The boy was quite right. Not only did he become a N.C.O. in a short time in his new company, but his evil genius himself came to grief later on and was demoted.

Try to make the punishment fit the crime. I dislike much to see a man's sheet-roll filled up with fiddling little punishments such as two days confinement to the lines for some trivial offence. There are generally other ways of making life uncomfortable for the delinquent. And remember that "pack drill" punishes two men—the guilty and the innocent. The guilty one marches listlessly up and down for an hour, while the innocent one, equally listless, calls out, "Right turn. Left turn." If this punishment is still necessary in the army, it would be well worth while for the authorities to have a gramophone record made of the necessary words of command, so that the punishment could be carried out under the eyes of the quarterguard commander without giving that worthy any extra work. As a commanding officer I made it a rule to give a really heavy punishment or none at all. Being brought up before the commanding officer ought to be a very serious prospect for any man.

Promotion.—This subject may well come in here as it affects the happiness of a great many people, and the efficiency of the whole. It is a difficult problem, as one has to balance the advantages of pushing on young soldiers likely to make good leaders against the disadvantages of not promoting worthy old gentlemen, and thus causing a certain amount of discontent. Nowadays, in the Indian Army, merit and efficiency rather than long service are the deciding factors. But my own view is that it is sound to keep, say, one vacancy in three in every rank for rewarding the old soldier. There must be some incentive for these, and one has always to remember the old saying of the French that, "the best is the enemy of the good." In the States Forces the old idea of promotion by strict seniority still holds good in many units. And generally speaking the result is that the quality of N.C.Os. is weak. The good men are promoted too late in their service when all their original enthusiasm has evaporated. When a man has three to four years service it should be possible to say whether he has the qualities to make a good N.C.O. in the future. If so, then make the man an acting lance-daffadar or lance-naik. He can then be tried out, and rejected if found wanting in character

and personality. The first essential in a N.C.O. is an ability to command. The most important step in promotion is that to lance-daffadar or naik, since these are full ranks, and once these ranks are reached it is difficult to break a man—at any rate in the Indian Army—without a great deal of trouble.

For an Indian officer I suggest that from ten to twelve years is about the correct amount of service that a N.C.O. should have before being commissioned. At that service he should still be young and full of enthusiasm, and should make a good platoon commander. To make a N.C.O. an Indian officer at twenty-six years' service, as I have seen done in one State, is of course hopeless. War is a testing business and officers, whether they be State or Indian, must be of an age suitable to their rank. And within limits the younger they are the better.

I fully realise that in States where the troops are few this promotion question is one of great difficulty.

TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION

Under this heading I propose to suggest a few ideas which are not in any way new and which have been frequently mentioned on my visits to States. I will do so from the point of view of a commanding officer of an infantry battalion, but the suggestions apply equally well to other arms.

Programmes.—All training has to have an object. And here I suggest that the answer to the question "What is my object?" should be, "To train my unit to be fit for war."

No training can be systematic without a programme. And for a commanding officer to sketch out this programme for a whole year ahead is a very difficult matter, and it requires a great deal of thought. There are questions of leave, both for officers and men, to be considered. When can companies be struck off all duties for weapon training, individual training, collective training, etc.? New signallers, machine-gunners, stretcher-bearers, all have to be selected and trained. Cadre and weapon training and also field-works courses have to be arranged, and arrangements thought out for company and battalion camps during the coming cold weather—and many more considerations of a like nature. And then unforeseen State ceremonies may crop up and disorganise the whole thing. But the making of a programme is well worth while. It should be adhered to as far as possible, but at the same time it must be elastic and allow of variations.

And here I would suggest that the question of the excessive number of holidays in the year might well be taken in hand, so as to have more days available for training.

We are very apt to divide up our military year into arbitrary periods, with the result that during the individual training period there is not a single day allotted to work off the barrack square. This I suggest is entirely wrong. Units may be wanted for service any time of the year and a potential enemy will seldom be so obliging as to wait until we are engaged in collective training to start a war. I think that out of the five working days per week, one should be set aside for a route march, and the others for work in the field. A unit that cannot march twelve miles without numbers of men falling out is of no use to anybody.

On the battalion commander's programme the company commanders make out their programmes.

Promotion Examinations.—I have always been very doubtful as to the value of these. My experience in the Indian Army was that men were seldom properly and systematically prepared for them by their company commanders, that it was very much a matter of luck whether a man got the right answer to a question, and that, feeling that his whole future depended on his ability to answer correctly, he was fairly certain to be in a state of *gabrao* and so unable to do himself justice. Again those good at examinations might pass and still be unfitted to be a N.C.O. on account of lack of personality. And yet once a man has been told that he has passed an examination it is difficult to pass him over for promotion without creating a sense of injustice.

I suggest that, where feasible, a better method is to hold tactical cadre courses for selected men likely to make good N.C.Os. These courses are held under selected officers, who not only teach but judge a man's capacity at the same time. At the end of the course the officer running it writes a confidential report on each student. With this report, backed by that of the company commander and probably the commanding officer's own personal knowledge of the man, few mistakes in promotion ought to be made. These courses are not "weapon training" courses, but deal chiefly with section leading, T. E. W. Ts. and such subjects.

In my own battalion we held, or tried to hold, three cadre courses of this type each year:

The first for riflemen and acting lance-naiks—one month.

For naiks for promotion to havildar—two months.

For havildars to platoon commanders, *i.e.*, to Indian officers—three months. The latter was always a very thorough course.

Another advantage of this system is that on his way up the military ladder a N.C.O. goes through three tactical courses at intervals of years. Here again I fully realise that such a system will only be possible in the larger State Forces, but

even smaller ones might experiment with it on a modified scale. Should anybody be interested I shall be glad to let them have a suggested syllabus for each course.

Individual training.—It is perfectly true that a soldier must be fully trained to use his weapons. But I am not certain that in the States Forces this form of training is not overdone at the expense of other and equally important forms of training. It is so easy to hang about the parade ground while men stick dummies, or do physical jerks, or use the "fluke stick" or whatever it is called, while it requires a certain amount of trouble, imagination and thought to take troops out into the country and teach them something useful. Not that I am belittling individual training; all I maintain is that the men are probably already sufficiently proficient in it.

Digging trenches, wiring, loading of pack transport, and making of bivouacs are all matters which come into individual training and are generally neglected.

Tactical exercises without troops.—These are an excellent form of theoretical training if used with a due sense of proportion, and in moderation. A good T. E. W. T. requires much thought, time, and trouble to make up, and the person who probably derives the most benefit from it is the setter. A bad or perfunctorily prepared T. E. W. T. is worse than useless. T. E. W. Ts. have very definite limitations. They are useful in teaching the use of ground, the issue of verbal orders, and the making of rapid decisions. But they can never take the place of work with actual troops in the field, where the human factor comes into account. An "illustrated T. E. W. T.," *i.e.*, one in which the troops actually carry out the various solutions as they are given out, is a valuable and instructive form of exercise. Making junior officers set T. E. W. Ts. is useful in making them think, and also in making them read their text-books.

Night operations.—These are frequently neglected in States Forces. A night march with an attack at dawn requires much practice in the keeping of touch and passing of orders, etc. The early part of the hot weather is a very suitable time for practising the drill of this.

Field firing.—This is an important part of training, but here again I think that one has to think things out. If you ask yourself the question, "What can I teach with ball ammunition which I cannot do equally well with blank?", what will your answer be?

I suggest that there are only two things you can teach with ball ammunition, *viz.*—

(*a*) to make a man a good natural shot off the range and at unknown distances. This can best be done by firing at falling plates up to 600 yards.

(*b*) Observation of fire by the section or platoon leader. In war you will seldom see an enemy with the naked eye when he has taken up a good defensive position, if he knows his business. The only person who will see him will be the section or platoon commander, through his field glasses. To teach this I suggest small and inconspicuous targets should be put out at distances varying from 400 to 800 yards. The fire unit commander is then told that bullets are coming at him from a certain direction. Directly he has picked up the target and got the fire of his section on to it he should be stopped and given a fresh target. You will then get excellent practice for the fire unit commander in—

(*i*) the use of field glasses;

(*ii*) indication of targets;

(*iii*) observation and correction of fire.

How often has one not seen tons of ammunition wasted in firing at enormous targets which would be dead or have run away after the first few rounds. I hold that the largest unit which will derive any practical benefit from field firing is a troop or platoon.

Use of red and blue screens.—This is another matter about which people seem very hazy.

In "Training Regulations," Section 71, paragraph 2, it says:

"The red screen for attacking troops implies that no movement in front of the red screen is possible for formed bodies. It does not prevent individual men from working forward from the leading section provided the ground is suitable."

These screens are not meant to cramp all initiative and movement. But how often in our exercises when troops have been "red screened" does one see lines of men lying out in the open and doing nothing when there is good cover available either just behind or to a flank. With real bullets flying about, men would instinctively crawl into this cover rather than lie out in the open and be picked off one by one. And once under cover, say in a nullah leading towards the enemy's position, individual men or sections may be able to get forward and bring off a surprise against enemy machine-guns and so forth. In reading accounts of deeds for which men have received immediate awards, it is noticeable how it is generally the initiative and gallantry of one individual which has allowed his section or platoon to get forward.

Therefore I say that initiative and enterprise should be encouraged in every way, and that red screens should not be looked on as a permissive signal for men to have a quiet "lie easy."

Drill.—A little close order drill is excellent for keeping men braced up. It should not be done for more than one period of twenty minutes, since slovenly drill is worse than useless. When called to "attention," men should stand absolutely rigid, without any swaying about or "settling down in their collars," and the eyes should look straight to the front. It is a position which entails a great deal of strain, therefore men should never be kept at attention longer than is absolutely necessary. Too much time need not be spent on the trained soldier in teaching him how to handle his arms. He should learn this as a recruit and never forget it. Whenever men handle their arms, even if they are only marching off the range, they should be made to move smartly. The time of the arms drill requires to be watched. It is generally too hurried.

Inspections.—Officers and N.C.Os. must be trained to detect faults when inspecting their sections and companies when they first come on parade. Small things such as coat-collars not hooked up, bootlaces not properly braced, and so on, are all evidence that the inspection has been perfunctory. The eye requires to be trained to spot small faults quickly. It is the same in the inspection of the Lewis gun mule and its saddlery, which is the platoon commander's responsibility. The saddlery is generally just thrown on, with breast-collars and cruppers too loose and the saddle blanket not pulled up into the arch of the saddle. This may mean that a mule gets a sore back and is as much out of action as if he had been hit by a bullet. Web equipment is an expensive article and requires a great deal of looking after. Here "a stitch in time does save nine." Therefore, one of the *mochis* should be trained in how to repair it. All grease and oil stains must be removed, and the men taught how to do it. The method of doing it can be learnt from an Ordnance pamphlet on the subject. Web equipment also requires to be carefully fitted to the wearer.

Turn-out.—This is not a question of expense, but attention to detail. Generally speaking, a dirty soldier is a bad soldier, though the converse is not necessarily true. A commanding officer should insist that, whatever the "order of dress," everything is clean and tidily put on. And it is important that the commanding officer should set a good example in this matter. A commanding officer who goes about in old and frayed uniform, dirty medal ribbons, and possibly with bad boots, cannot expect his men to take a pride in their appearance.

Tunics and shorts should be fitted to each man, and passed by the company commander before the tailor gets paid for them. Care should be taken that the material is properly shrunk before it is made up. The fit of the collar is always troublesome, and it is generally made too tight. The hooks should not show.

Shorts should be made to reach to the point of the knee and not like abbreviated "bum-bags." There is the story under the heading, "The long and short of it," immortalised in *Punch,* of the cavalry brigade order in Palestine which read: "The practice of cutting down shorts must cease. If shorts are worn any shorter they will not be allowed to be worn any longer."

In the cavalry, *kurtas* should be of such a length that, when a man kneels, the edge of the *kurta* comes down to the ground. Otherwise it is apt to look like the national garb of the Kashmiris. In the matter of boots I hold that these should be kept soft with dubbing and never blacked. Blacking rots the water-proofing of the boot, and also cracks the leather. It is only the ignorant inspecting officer who demands a shine on boots. Boots should fit not only in length, but over the instep. Every size in boots has four "fittings."

Mule saddlery.—The periodical inspection of this, say once a quarter, is one of the duties of a commanding officer. All harness should be stripped, and every bit of leather laid out separately with all buckles undone. He should see that all leather is soft, the stitching is sound, girths serviceable, and girth tabs not worn through. The company commander should carry out a similar inspection once a month, and the platoon commander once a week.

Mules.—A commanding officer should attend "stables" once a week to see that the grooming routine is being properly carried out, that the mules' feet are being properly looked after, that their condition is good, and that there are no sore backs. In case of the latter the reason must always be enquired into, *i.e.,* whether it is due to the fault of the saddle, or of the mule-driver in not girthing up his mule properly.

In some units, mule-drivers are changed every three months or so. I suggest that this is a mistake and that a year is the shortest time that a man should be with a mule. It is a specialist job and takes time to learn. A good method of creating interest in the mules and their turn-out is by holding a quarterly competition for the best turned out Lewis gun mule in the battalion, and another for the best machine-gun sub-section. Marks should be given for the condition of the mule, for his grooming, and for the cleanliness of the saddlery. Here again any form of polish should be forbidden.

Kit inspections.—A commanding officer should hold a thorough kit inspection of his unit once a year. Kit should be properly laid out according to a sealed pattern. Company commanders should hold similar inspections about once a month.

Barrack-rooms and cook-houses.—The greatest tidiness should be insisted on always. A proper system of folding the bedding should be instituted, and carried out every morning. Receptacles for waste paper, empty cigarette packets, and other rubbish, should be provided.

Guards.—It has been very justly said that the battalion quarterguard is the mirror of the battalion. A slack and badly turned out guard generally denotes a poor battalion. It means that the commanding officer is not turning out his guards every day, or that if he does he doesn't care what they look like. It means that the orderly officer (whose business it is to turn out the guards once by day and once by night) is either ignorant or slack, and it also means that the adjutant who mounts them is probably both. And again a poorly turned out guard is an insult to the personage in whose honour it is mounted.

All guards should be properly mounted and marched off by the adjutant or orderly officer. Then if there is anything wrong with the guard they are the people who should be "brought to book." In a great many Indian Army units the new guard, before being mounted, is rehearsed in its duties by the adjutant or battalion havildar-major, and it is a practice which I commend to States Forces. An extra half hour thus spent is time well laid out. When a guard turns out it should fall in, the men taking up their own dressing and then standing motionless. It should be unnecessary for a guard commander to move out to a flank to dress three men. Very often, in his anxiety, the guard commander gives the order "Present Arms" when the inspecting officer is so far away that he has no chance of returning the compliment. He should wait until the inspecting officer arrives in front of the guard and is ready to take the salute. Another very common fault is for the guard commander to shout at the top of his voice, and nearly deafen everybody within range. There is always the happy mean between the whisper and the shout. All orders for guard commanders and sentries should be made out on proper order-boards. I came across an order once which pleased me much. It was to the effect that "sentries may stand at ease but will not stand easy." And how often from a distance has one not seen a sentry, who did not realise that he was being watched, leaning on his rifle as if it was a walking-stick?

I look upon this question of guards, and more especially quarterguards, as being of the greatest importance. A good quarterguard is like "the leaven that leaveneth the whole lump." Get that good and the rest of the battalion will follow almost automatically, at any rate so far as turn-out and smartness are concerned. I have seen some quarterguards in States Forces which could not be

bettered by the Indian Army. I know others which could be very good, but they cannot or will not improve. And it is not for want of telling.

A general's inspection.—It is often useful to find out the pet fad of an inspecting general and to work it up. I am quite aware that most units of the States Forces need no teaching in this connection, but I have only dragged it in at the last moment so as to be able to push in a story on the subject. When commanding my battalion I discovered that our new general had a mania for seeing whether the Lewis or machine-gun mules would stand still when there was a considerable din going on. His method of doing it was suddenly to order the battalion to fall out, while the mules were led some distance away. They were then trotted up while all the men yelled and shouted and made as much noise as they could. We soon trained our mules to take no notice of this by giving them a handful of gram each at the end of the performance. On the appointed day everything "went according to plan," the mules behaved in exemplary fashion, and the general was very pleased. The one thing that he did not notice was the reluctance of the mules to be led away without their usual ration of gram.

It is also sometimes useful in an otherwise faultless turn-out to leave something fairly obvious, but not too obvious, which the general can discover and so find a little fault. Something like a *jharan* stuffed under the arch of a saddle. It pleases the general, and enables him to show off his quickness of eye. But for all that, it is just as well to know your man first.

Conclusion.—There may be people who will object that these are all mere matters of detail which will not win or lose the next war. And those people will be right. On the other hand I have always contended that if there are only two ways of doing a thing, one the right way and the other the wrong, it is just as easy to do it the right way if only you know how. And I have tried to explain in the foregoing what I believe to be the right way in carrying out ordinary everyday duties. My suggestions have at least one merit, and that is they do not cost money, only hard work and enthusiasm.

It is the standard that a commanding officer demands of his unit which matters. If it is only a low standard, that is all that he will get. If he aims high, he may get somewhere near having a good unit. He should demand a good honest day-to-day standard, so that if some important visitor suddenly appears without warning, he will still be proud to show him his unit, confident that the latter will not let him down. Given sufficient warning, any unit, however inefficient, can "posh up" for a given occasion, but it takes a real good unit to keep up a high average standard.

Men must be taught that at all times, but especially when they are on duty, they have the honour and good name of their unit in their keeping. That they never know when they are not being watched, and that if they are slack or slovenly they will be quoted as a true sample of their unit, whose good name will suffer accordingly.

The duties of a commanding officer which I have suggested above are by no means exhaustive.

I hope I have said enough to convince anybody that a good commanding officer cannot command from his office stool, but that he must be for ever on the move seeing that people really are doing their jobs. His task is supervision, once he has laid down the policy to be followed. He must keep his finger on the pulse of his unit. He must command by example rather than by precept, and, by his own enthusiasm and determination to excel, lead his unit up to a high state of efficiency. He must not be like the ecclesiastic who said to his flock, "Do as I say, and not as I do."

For the soldier in the ranks there are four essentials:

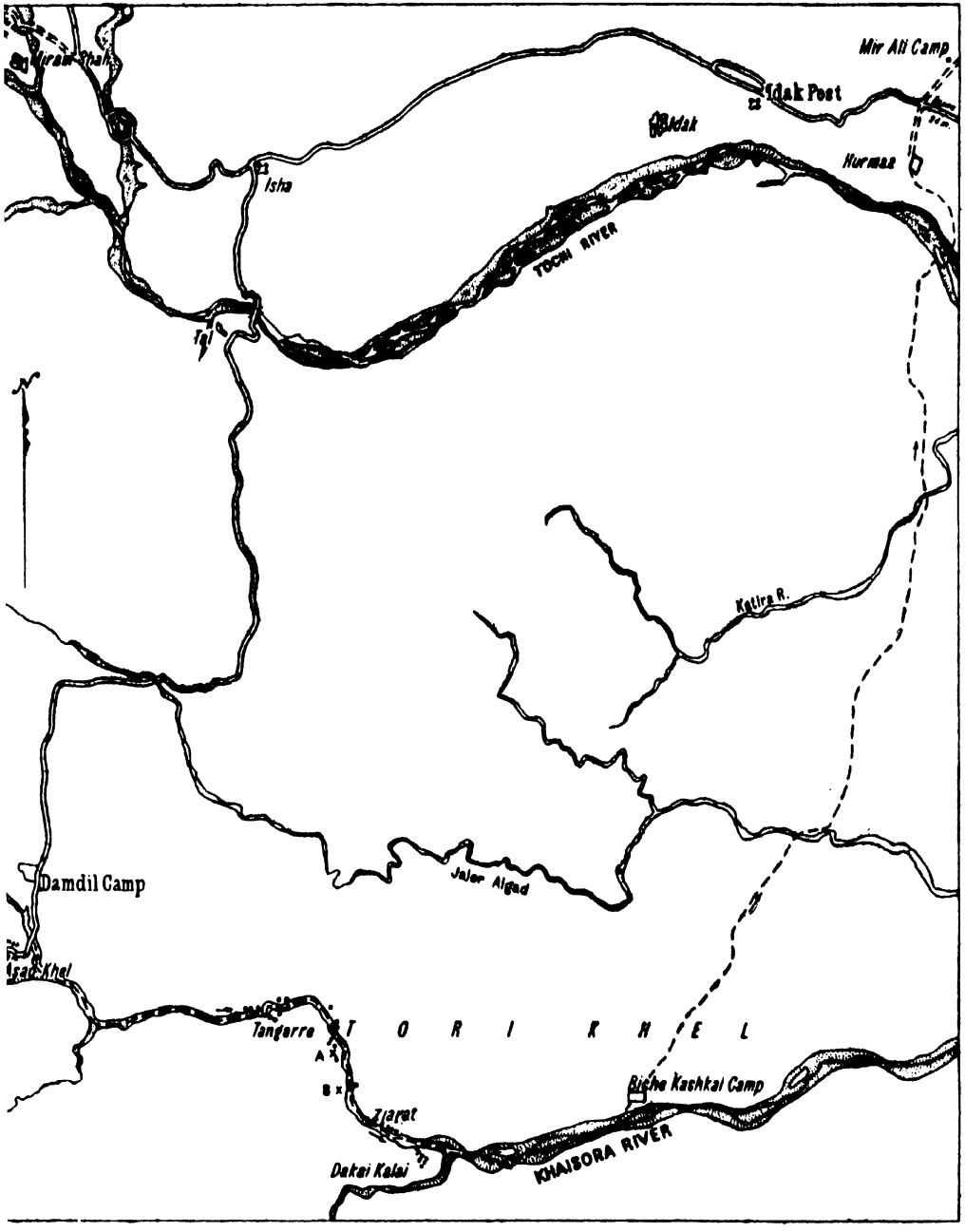
(*a*) To be well-disciplined.

(*b*) To be able to march.

(*c*) To be able to use his weapons to the best advantage.

(*d*) To have the "will to win," and be prepared to undergo any hardship.

And one last point. We are whole-time soldiers, and we have got a whole-time job. A commanding officer cannot do everything himself or anything like it. He would not be a good commanding officer if he did. He must have the whole-hearted support of all under him and they must conscientiously carry out their parts. If he is a good commanding officer he will get this support. I suggest that leading men is the finest task that can be given to any man. And it is the greatest fun!



THE KHAISORA VALLEY OPERATIONS, 1936.

Scale of miles.

FRONTIER EXPERIENCES

(Two articles by officers who have recently been attached to Indian Army units on the frontier.)

I.—The Khaisora Valley Operations, 1936

BY MAJOR GURBAKSH SINGH,

JIND INFANTRY BATTALION

IN November 1936 I was detailed to proceed to Razmak where I was to be attached to one of the units there for practical training in mountain warfare. On arrival I found myself lucky enough to be attached to the 5/12th Frontier Force Regiment (the Guides), a unit renowned for frontier fighting. This, to my good fortune, was to end in a real experience of frontier fighting for me in the Khaisora Valley operations which took place during the period of my attachment. Colonel Balwant Singh of Patiala who was also attached to the Guides was with me during this period and we had a most interesting and happy time together.

The Guides had finished their collective training and we were rather disappointed to find ourselves doing nothing for the first two or three days at Razmak. Anyhow we spent these days in going round the camp studying the defensive system and the administrative arrangements.

October and November being the relief season for Razmak, the new units had just come in and the old units were demonstrating to them the various phases of mountain warfare as carried out in Waziristan District. Colonel Grant, our commanding officer, very kindly arranged for us to go and watch these demonstrations with various units. Hence we were lucky enough to see each unit in Razmak working at its best, and thus we ourselves learnt a lot.

It was one day at the end of the second week, when we were watching the artillery practising with live shell, that a *tehsildar* of *khassadars* on duty there told us something about the Faqir of Ipi and his activities. In this connection he mentioned a place called Biche Kashkai, a name I could not remember, nor could I find it on the map till about a couple of days before the column actually started for this place—actually it was off the sheet I had. He also hinted that the next column might go in this direction and quite probably meet with opposition.

Our anxiety and keenness to get out on column was an every-day topic, but nobody could definitely tell us where the next column was going to. At last came warning orders for the column, issued a day before we were due to march. According to these I packed, weighed, and stacked my 15 lbs. kit (containing a greatcoat and a pair of light blankets) with the mess havildar the night before. My basin containing washing and dressing gear I arranged to have carried for me in the regimental *bannia's* lorry up to road-side camps. It was at midnight on November 22nd that we heard definitely that the column was marching next morning for Biche Kashkai in the Khaisora Valley.

On the following morning, the 23rd November, the Razmak column (Razcol), under Brigadier Marshal, set out for Gardai camp, about sixteen miles from Razmak on the Razmak-Bannu road. The column was composed of—

RAZCOL

H. Q. Razmak Brigade and Signal Section.
H. Q. 22nd Mountain Brigade, R. A., and Signal Section.
3rd Light Battery, R. A.
4th (Hazara) Mountain Battery, R. A., F. F.
7th (Bengal) Mountain Battery, R. A.
1st battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment.
15th Field Company (Q. V. O.), Madras Sappers and Miners.
1st battalion, 9th Gurkha Rifles.
5th battalion (Q. V. O. Corps of Guides), 12th Frontier Force Regiment.
6th Royal battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles.
Detachment, Razcol Supply Issue Section, R. I. A. S. C.
Detachment, Razcol Mobile Veterinary Section, R. I. A. S. C.
15th, 25th and 35th Animal Transport Companies (Mule), R. I. A. S. C.
Detachment, 1st Animal Transport Company (Mule), R. I. A. S. C.
7th Field Ambulance.

The general route followed was the main road, and this was protected for more than half the distance by units of the Razmak garrison (left behind for the protection of Razmak camp) and by Alexandra piquet, the remaining half of the route being protected by the column itself. The *khassadars* were also co-operating. The Guides did rear guard during the march and we were all in camp by about 2 p.m.

The camp site occupied was an old one and nothing much was required to be done in preparing the perimeter camp, except for repairs to the perimeter wall

here and there and a little digging inside. This was soon finished and everybody was settled in long before dark. Colonel Balwant Singh and I shared a small tent and were nicely dug in in two separate pits. It was my first night in camp under field service conditions. After dark the flashing lights of signal lamps from low hills occupied by camp piquets, big fires on the tops of distant high hills occupied by *khassadars,* and the humming noise of the long spluttering flames of hundreds of oil-cookers, together with countless other lights in the camp down below, presented a most thrilling scene.

The night passed off peacefully and next morning (24th November) the column marched for Damdil, another seventeen miles towards Bannu on the main road. We reached Damdil without incident by about 2 p.m. and occupied an old camp site, which was better than the last one and gave the appearance of once having been a permanent camp. This was our last camp on the main road, and on its next march of about thirteen miles through the Khaisora Valley to Biche Kashkai, the column was to enter the disturbed area. This valley was known to be the centre of trouble, and should there be any opposition it was here that it was to be expected. The country too was difficult on account of numerous water-crossings on the way and a *tangi* with steep scrub-covered high hills on either side.

The Bannu column (Tocol), which had set out from Bannu with the intention of joining us at Biche Kashkai on the 25th, had reached Mirali that afternoon (24th November), and were to march next morning to Biche Kashkai, about thirteen miles from Mirali. As the country to be traversed by them was comparatively open and easy, it was assumed that they would reach Biche Kashkai by midday and prepare camp for both the columns, so that if Razcol arrived late in the evening they could go straight in and occupy a prepared perimeter camp.

Razcol headquarters issued an operation order at Damdil for the next day's operation, dividing the whole route into various portions and allotting one portion of it to the Tochi Scouts (about six hundred strong) who had now joined Razcol to participate in the next day's operations.

We spent a peaceful happy night at Damdil exchanging visits and drinks in messes and laughing at the baseless rumours of the miracles the Faqir of Ipi was to perform on us next day. I got up early next morning and fixed up with a doctor friend of mine for my basin to be carried with the hospital kit (because the *bannia's* lorry was no longer available and I knew that only the hospital people could help me in this matter). He very kindly put the basin as a top

load on one of the hospital mules. This mule was shot later on in the day but my basin reached me all right, though badly damaged and almost empty. It was luckily picked up from the nullah by one of the brigade headquarters' personnel, and taken to be their sahib's (because only headquarters' officers could possibly take a basin like this with them on column!).

The Tochi Scouts, as far as I can remember, were to move out independently early next morning and piquet the first portion of the route, while the remainder of the route was to be piqueted by the column itself.

The column started off from Damdil for Biche Kashkai at about 7-30 a.m. on the 25th November (head of the main body passing the starting point at 8 a.m.) with the 6/13th Rifles as advanced guard and piqueting troops, 1/9th Gurkhas as rear guard, and ourselves (the Guides) as leading battalion in the main body. We did not hear any firing for the first one and a half hours of our march; when we were about a mile short of Tangerre, and everybody was longing to hear a few shots, I remember hearing one of the young officers among us remark, "I would be able to boast and write to my mother that I have been under fire, if only I could hear a few shots now." It was at this moment that we heard a few *thak—thuns, thak—thuns,* at the head of the advanced guard, replied to by the *bang—bang* of our guns. Immediately after this I heard bullets passing over our heads, a mule-leader was hit close by to me and I saw a few other casualties being brought back on stretchers. We could now see that the enemy fire was coming from a long ridge in front of us overlooking Tangerre; this fire was at once replied to by our artillery and we continued our advance. Severe fighting ensued which continued throughout the day. All my anxiety and excitement fled away after the first few shots and I felt as if I was watching a field-firing exercise.

The 6/13th Rifles were able to capture and establish themselves as far as Tangerre and the whole battalion had now been used up on road protection. We (the Guides) now came up and took up the role of advanced guard and piqueting troops. After pushing forward the advanced guard, the Guides sent out one complete company and a section of machine-guns over towards Tangerre, to work along and piquet the long ridge on the right of the route up to Ziarat; two platoons were also sent out on the left to capture hill "A" (a distant high hill). The right company did not meet any opposition. It was the left piquet which was heavily opposed, and it took over an hour to reach hill "A." These platoons suffered four casualties (one killed and three wounded) during their advance up to the piquet, which was excellently carried out with mutual support.

Bringing down casualties from such a far-off and high hill used up another platoon and wasted considerable time. It was about midday when we resumed the advance. Two more platoons were sent up to piquet the left of the route up to a bend in the nullah; these had slight opposition. After this the Northamptons took over advanced guard, and, when the column had passed through, the Guides withdrew their piquets without any casualties. We then went into reserve except for one company which was employed again for piqueting beyond Dakai Kalai.

We twice came under close sniping, once when passing through the *tangi*, which is about a mile long, narrow, and with steep scrub-covered high hills on both sides, and again near Dakai Kalai, where the column suffered a number of casualties in men and animals. It was getting dark when we (the Guides) were sitting in the nullah about 200 yards short of Dakai Kalai, waiting for the advanced guard to move on. This was being strongly opposed from the high hills overlooking Dakai Kalai. A doctor and I were looking at my map estimating the distance up to Biche Kashkai when an enemy started sniping from very close range. We all ran for cover and I made for a big boulder near by, putting myself on the wrong side, which I realised when the sniper fired another shot. Luckily we suffered no casualties, but the mountain battery which was in action close to us suffered badly. We sent out a platoon to winkle this sniper out, but could not spot him. We were told later on in the camp that he was hidden in a tree, where he was spotted by the rear guard by the flash of his bullet and was shot down.

We reached Biche Kashkai camp, an open flat piece of high ground near the bed of the Khaisora River, at about 9 p.m. and found that the early arrivals were already busy building the perimeter wall. To our great surprise we were informed by a staff officer, who had come to meet us and show us our allotted place in camp, that Tocol, who had been expected to arrive early and prepare camp for us, had not arrived and nothing was known about their whereabouts, nor could they get them by wireless.

Tasks were immediately allotted and everybody set to work preparing the perimeter camp.

Everybody was in camp by about 10 p.m. We had hardly settled down when at about midnight an order was received that we (the Guides) and the 1/9th Gurkhas with one mountain battery would march out at 6 a.m. next morning to bring in Tocol, who, being delayed by strong opposition, could not reach our camp and were camping for the night some four miles away. The remainder

of the night passed off quietly except for slight sniping of the camp and a little firing on camp piquets.

Next morning (26th November) we went out and brought in Tocol by about midday without any serious opposition. In the afternoon we remained in camp, while the Northamptons and 6/13th Rifles carried out a reconnaissance towards Dakai Kalai without incident. The second night too passed off peacefully, except for a little sniping which did not worry us much as we had dug in well during the day.

On the morning of the 27th November both columns marched to Mirali, to cover the evacuation of the wounded to Bannu. Tocol, who had seen this part of the country only a day earlier, formed the advanced guard and Razcol formed the rear guard. The rear guard marched in a box formation with the 6/13th Rifles as rear party, the Northamptons and the Guides protecting the left flank (the dangerous flank) and the 1/9th Gurkhas protecting the right flank. The withdrawal was closely followed up with continuous sniping from the flanks throughout, and it was so closely pressed near Jaler Algad that the Guides had to counter-attack to relieve the 6/13th Rifles who had sustained a number of casualties there. From now on the Guides took over the work of rear party. The withdrawal was very well organised with successive "lay backs" and worked like clock-work without check.

Both columns reached Mirali camp (a permanent camp) before sunset, having sustained and inflicted many casualties during the three days operations.

II.—The Waziristan Operations, 1936-37

By LIEUTENANT BHOLA NATH DUBEY,
1st Jammu and Kashmir Infantry

It was two months after the operations had started that I joined the 3/9th Jat Regiment at Mirali on the 11th of April 1937. Mirali, normally garrisoned by a couple of infantry battalions some motor transport and a section of post-guns, was full of troops and contained very nearly a division complete with its ancillary troops and services.

The place was full of excitement and wild rumours, one of these rumours being that Government had decided to take strong action against the Pathans, but actually everything was being kept dead secret. Most of the troops had

then been at Mirali for over a month doing road protection duties, which they found very dull. The idea of some active service was very inviting to both officers and men, and everybody was keen for a real scrap.

After a few days' stay at Mirali we were ordered to Idak, probably to make room for the incoming 2nd Indian Infantry Brigade, because we returned again to Mirali on 21st April. That very evening the long awaited orders for the Khaisora operations were received. The tasks allotted to our unit were:

(*a*) To make good the first bound, *i.e.*, up to the Tochi River.

(*b*) To cover the crossing of the above named river by the remainder of the force.

This meant a night operation and starting at about 3-30 a.m. from Mirali. We occupied our objective by about 5 a.m. without any serious opposition.

The remainder of the force, consisting of the 2nd and 3rd Brigades, arrived with the 3rd Brigade leading. The first objective of this force was a ridge, named "George," running across its line of advance. Artillery started shelling the objective and at the same time light tanks were pushed forward. Everything seemed to be progressing satisfactorily and in spite of a prolonged search of "George" with all available telescopes and binoculars no signs of the enemy were to be seen. Infantry were launched to the attack and the leading troops had hardly arrived within two to three hundred yards of the hill when to the surprise of everybody they were suddenly met with a blast of fire at close range, showing that the enemy was in occupation of the ridge all the time it was being searched; an enemy rightly reputed to be adept in the use of ground and cover. A heavy bombardment was at once opened on "George" and the enemy were forced to retire leaving some dead behind, but they too had inflicted some casualties on our troops. The ridge was at once occupied without much difficulty. The day's operation ended in the establishment of Tochi camp and its piquets.

For the next eight days we were employed on road protection between Tochi camp and Mirali, while the remainder of the force acted as a mobile column on the route to Biche Kashkai. The Scout post was evacuated and withdrawal to Mirali completed without much difficulty largely owing to the assistance rendered by artillery and light tanks.

Although the operation lasted only a few hours, it brought out certain lessons which impressed me considerably. These were:

(*a*) *Absence of a definite objective.*

The difficulty of selecting an objective and maintaining it when chosen was constantly experienced in the Waziristan operations. It was hoped that the Pathan would resist the entry of troops into the Khaisora and thereby give the troops a chance of hitting him hard and inflicting heavy casualties, the only way of bringing the Pathan to his senses. This was only partially achieved at the outset.

(*b*) *Pathan as a fighter.*

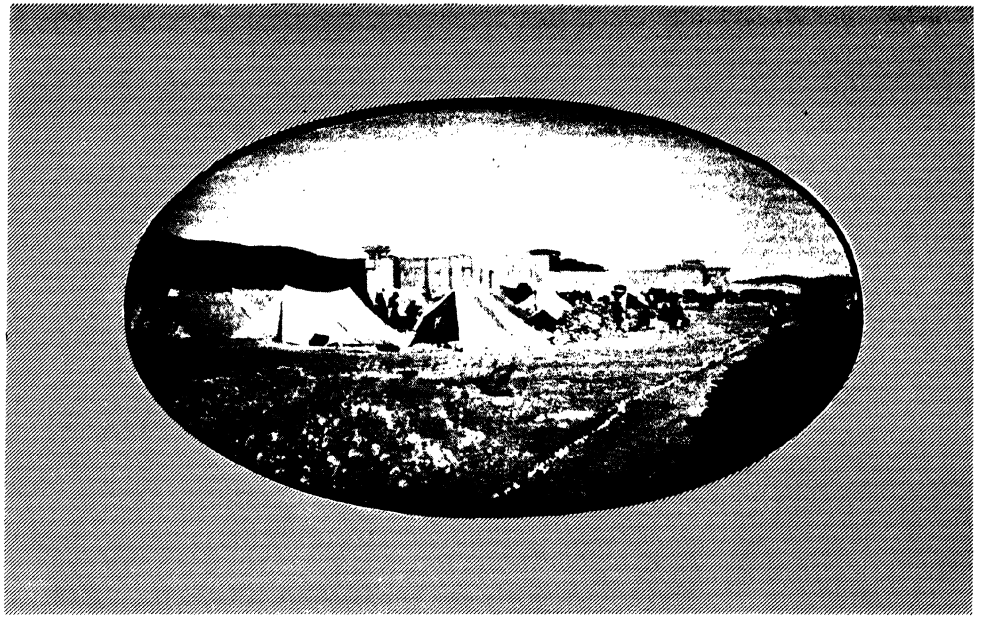
It has rightly been said of the tribesman that he is the finest individual fighter in the world. He is trained to this life from boyhood. Exceedingly independent and daring, he will brook no interference. An expert in the use of cover, which he clearly demonstrated on "George," he combines the offensive spirit with it, and is a very formidable enemy to reckon with. But he only remains bold so long as he has got the upper hand and he takes risks only if he is sure of success or of reasonable loot in return. He is an adept at guerilla warfare.

In defeat, he skulks and takes to treachery, for to him everything is fair in war.

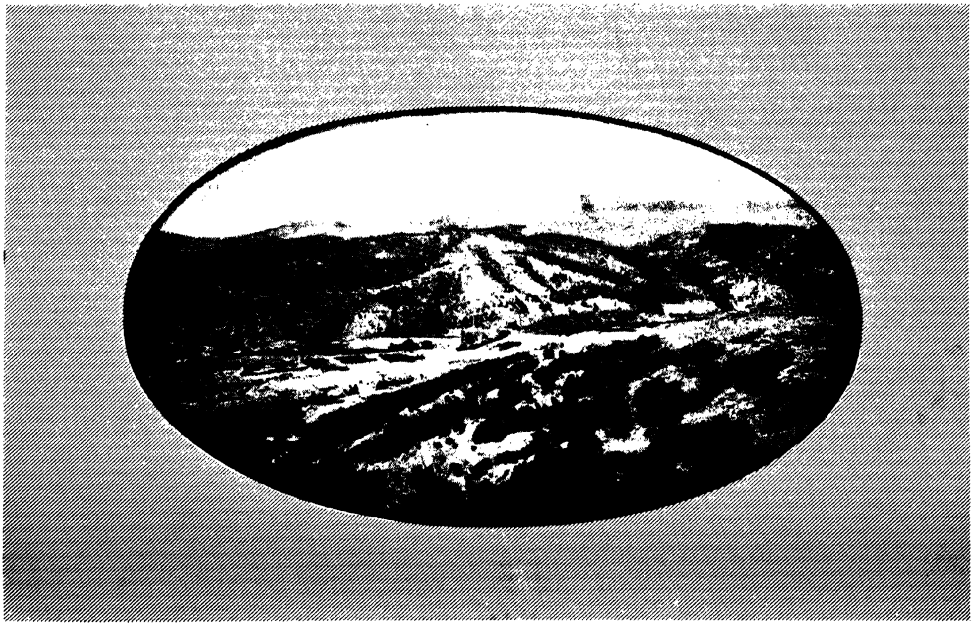
(*c*) *Indispensability of artillery in mountain warfare.*

Any force operating on the frontier must of necessity be strong in artillery, otherwise it is liable to suffer heavy casualties. Artillery fire is probably the quickest and best way of dislodging and dispersing Pathans from the hill-tops. Its indispensability is clearly illustrated by a comparison of the results obtained by two different forces operating in the Khaisora Valley. It is certain that the success which attended the April-May 1937 operations can to some extent be attributed to the greater proportion of artillery which accompanied the force on this occasion.

Machine-guns and light tanks, though they give useful support under conditions suitable to their employment, cannot replace artillery; for example, any amount of machine-gun fire on "George" could not have dislodged the Pathans. This was achieved mainly by the artillery. Machine-gun fire is not effective against targets hidden behind boulders. Light tanks fitted with machine-guns alone are considerably handicapped by the difficult terrain, for unless they can reach places from which their machine-guns can bring effective fire to bear on the hidden enemy they can do little. The ideal would be to have tanks armed with guns working in co-operation with tanks carrying machine-guns. I asked many Pathans which of the arms they dreaded the most, and the

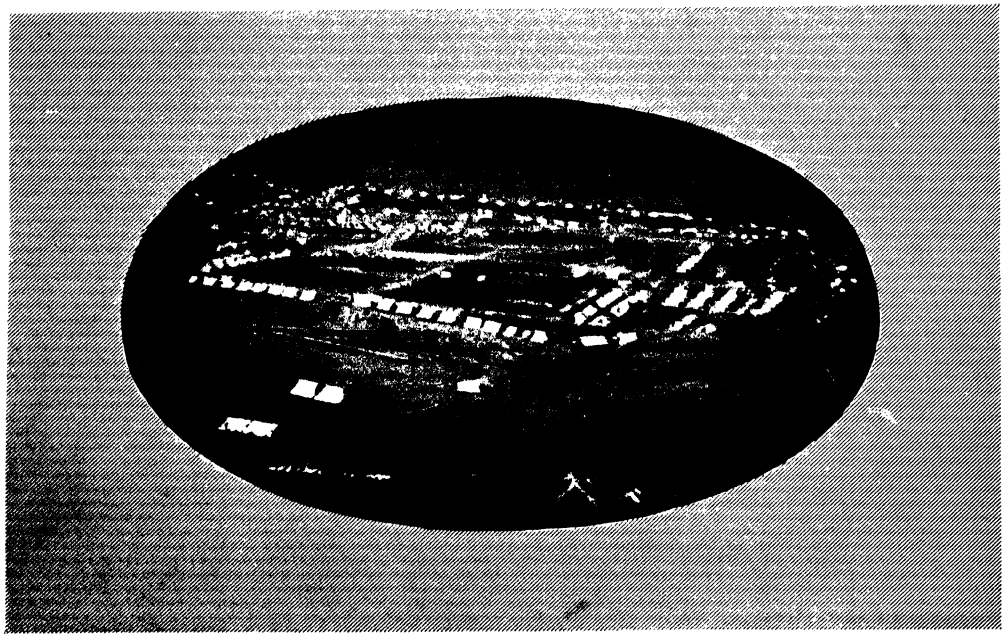


WAZIRISTAN OPERATIONS, 1936-37.
Idak camp with the fort in the background.



The country in which the troops were operating.

WAZIRISTAN OPERATIONS, 1936-37.
Machine-guns in action.



Ghariom camp.

reply was always the same—"artillery." Artillery is still the arm which is mainly responsible for our superiority over the Pathans.

(*d*) *Light tanks, if the ground is suitable for their use, are a great asset on the frontier, particularly so in withdrawal.*

The fact that there is a section of tanks protecting your rear during a withdrawal is indeed a great consolation. Instead of running headlong and then turning back and fighting the enemy, and then again nipping off and so on for miles, you can now walk back home in comfort. Withdrawal is no longer the difficult problem in frontier fighting it used to be, provided that the ground is reasonably suitable for the employment of tanks.

TACTICAL EXERCISES WITHOUT TROOPS

By BRIGADIER H. L. SCOTT, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*,

Chief of the Military Staff, Jammu and Kashmir State Forces

"TACTICAL exercises without troops are an excellent form of theoretical training if used with a due sense of proportion, and in moderation. A good T. E. W. T. requires much thought, time and trouble to make up, and the person who probably derives the most benefit from it is the setter. A bad or a perfunctorily prepared T. E. W. T. is worse than useless. T. E. W. Ts. have very definite limitations. They are useful in teaching the use of ground, the issue of verbal orders, and the making of rapid decisions. But they can never take the place of work with actual troops in the field, where the human factor comes into account. An "illustrated T. E. W. T.," *i.e.*, one in which the troops actually carry out the various solutions as they are given out, is a valuable and instructional form of exercise. Making junior officers set T. E. W. Ts. is useful in making them think, and also in making them read their text-books."

The above is a quotation from an article "Command and Training," which appears in this number of the journal. It explains, very clearly, the value and limitations of T. E. W. Ts. as a form of training. This paper tries to tell how T. E. W. Ts. can be prepared and conducted.

Good tactical exercises, whether with or without troops, are born, not manufactured. The first problem now to be considered is how to provoke this birth.

The first qualities of a good tactical exercise are that it should depict the actual conditions of war so far as this is possible in peace time, that it should suit the ground on which it is to be conducted, and that it should teach a definite lesson or definite lessons.

So that an exercise may follow the right lines, it is necessary that it should start on right lines. Therefore the three essential qualities mentioned above should receive constant consideration throughout the preparation of the exercise.

The type of operation, for example an advanced guard or an attack, and the approximate size and composition of the force, upon which the exercise is to be based, must be decided first. Then should be studied the sections in Field Service Regulations dealing with the type of operation selected, also the sections in the training manuals special to each of the arms to be employed in the exercise, the principles which should govern their actions being written down for reference at every stage of preparation.

It is now the turn of the map of the country over which the exercise is to be conducted. Taking the map, the instructor to be should study it while imagining mutually hostile troops operating in the area of country shown. He should picture to himself advanced guards or attacks passing over the ground in various directions, of a line of outposts along this feature or that, of the defence of some defile or area or town or tactical feature. This he should do, not once, but often until some area or combination of features appears to his mind's eye as "just the thing he wants." Then should he go hot-footed to the actual ground to see if it confirms the map. If it does, all is well. The idea for a good exercise has been born.

It is possible that the map may fail to bring inspiration. Nevertheless the time will not have been wasted. The seeker will at least have learnt thoroughly the lie of the country as it affects the type of exercise he wishes to prepare. He should now go to the country itself and, with the same thoughts in his mind, ride or walk about it, seeking view-points and imagining the movement of troops in operation over it. It will be surprising if inspiration does not come to him. Should it fail, he should go home and return another day to try again. Sooner or later, if he perseveres, the picture will come to him. What is more, ideas for other forms of exercise will come to him. These he can note for future use. As a last resort he can drop his original idea and prepare an exercise on some other type of operation. It is far better that he should do this than that he should serve up an exercise unsuitable to the ground.

It may happen that the examination of the ground shows that it does not suit an idea born on a map. In such a case the idea should be discarded at once. It would be fatal to try to force it to fit unsuitable ground. A fresh start must be made.

Once the idea has been born with the help of map and ground, the rôle of inspiration is over. The idea can be developed into a good exercise only by hard and detailed work. The instructor must now think out a sequence of events leading up to the troops he has in mind being in the selected area and

on the particular mission he has for them. He must ask himself "why a detachment of that size would be carrying out that particular operation, say advanced guard for example, in that area?" "Of what size and type would its main body be?" "What would the main body be doing there?" "What size and type of enemy force would be opposing it, and what sort of task would that enemy be trying to carry out?"

All this, having been thought out on broad lines, should be written down in the form of a narrative and revised carefully to ensure that it is practicable and sensible. Great care must be taken to ensure that each side is being made to act on good sound lines. Time and space, in terms suitable to the forces, should be worked out at this stage so as to make sure that the opposing troops shall meet where the exercise requires them to meet. Since the movements and actions of troops are based on the orders and instructions that they receive from their commanders, the narrative must include the orders and instructions which would have been issued to the commander of each force dealt with in the exercise by his immediate superior. It must include also the information which each commander could fairly be expected to have regarding his own troops and those of the enemy.

After that must be worked out, and written down, the plans and orders which the rival commanders would make and issue for the action of their troops for the next step in their operations. Then must come a picture of the resulting operations together with the additional orders and instructions which each commander would have found it necessary to issue from time to time in order to maintain their objectives. This involves consideration of to what extent each commander would have had to modify his original plans as the result of the earlier operations and of the information that would have reached them during the operations. It is from this picture that the instructor must pick out the situations to be considered during the exercise. Each situation and the problem set on it should bring out one or more of the main lessons to be taught in the exercise.

The result of all this will be too long and bulky to give to the students at the exercise. It will be necessary to summarise it all. What the students will need to know is "how it all happened" up to the first situation and then from one situation up to the next. Except when only very small forces are being dealt with, this summary usually can and should be issued in two parts. The first part being issued the day before the exercise and the second on the ground at the opening of the exercise.

The various "situations," the problems to be set on them, and the solutions to those problems, must be worked out with the greatest care and in great detail. The instructor must make sure that the students shall be given all the information which they would have in a similar war situation, no more and no less. The ground must be examined from every point of view and particularly from the point of view of the enemy. It is necessary that he should enter into the thoughts and feelings of every combatant supposed to be concerned immediately in the situation and judge the effect. He should question himself something on the following lines. "I am a section commander. With my section I have just reached this bank. One man has been hit. My next step is to reach that hut. Shells are bursting in front, I can see machine-gun bullets knocking up the dust to my right front, and so on. What shall I do?" The reply of this section commander, and of all commanders, each in his degree, will vitally affect the situation, the problem and its solution. In most cases more than one sound solution to each problem will occur to the instructor. He will have to select one of these as his solution (the "school solution" as it generally is called). The one selected should be that which most naturally carries the exercise on to the next situation to be considered.

Enough has been said to show the lines on which these exercises should be worked out in the first instance. The instructor can now leave the ground for awhile. He must sit down quietly at home and re-examine his exercise from start to finish, step by step, to ensure that it reads true and above all to make sure that there has been no departure from the principles laid down in the training manuals.

The last stage in the preparation of the exercise will now have been reached. The instructor would be wise to call in help. He should go through the exercise, first indoors and then on the ground, with one or more other officers who should be invited to criticise it and pull it to bits to their hearts' content. The instructor will see much hard work "go west." He will be rewarded when he finds himself actually conducting the completed exercise before a number of critical brother-officers. These assistants on whom the instructor tries out his exercise should be selected from other arms of the service than that to which the instructor belongs. This for obvious reasons. These officers too should also be employed during the exercise as assistants to the instructor, acting as group or syndicate instructors.

During this try-out of the exercise on his assistants, the instructor should make careful note of the time occupied and from it prepare a time-table for the

exercise. He should take care to allow ample time for discussion at all stages of the scheme, and particularly while the students' and his own solutions are being considered. Attention can seldom be concentrated on a T. E. W. T. for longer than three hours continuously. An exercise which is likely to take longer than this must either be cut down or divided into two parts, a day being allotted to each part.

After the try-out and the preparation of the time-table the instructor should prepare the exercise in its final form. Situations and problems which have been cut out must be replaced by narratives to cover the gaps so made in the sequence of events.

So much for the preparation of T. E. W. Ts. Now a few words on their conduct.

T. E. W. Ts. are intended to be carried out on the ground; therefore, as little written work as possible should be demanded from the students attending. Usually, however, it is as well to require verbal solutions to problems to be supported by notes handed in to the group or syndicate instructor. For the same reason situations and problems should require for their correct solution study of the ground rather than of maps.

One instructor cannot deal effectively with more than five to six students. If the number of students is greater than this, therefore, they should be divided into groups or syndicates, each syndicate being placed under an assistant instructor. So far as is practicable, officers of different arms and units should be allotted to each syndicate. This stimulates discussion and enables all to learn more than would be possible in syndicates of a homogeneous nature. Usually a syndicate should be permitted to put forward only one solution to each problem. This must be an agreed solution, no minority solutions being permitted. For this reason there should be appointed in each syndicate a syndicate leader (by no means necessarily the senior officer in the syndicate) to control and to co-ordinate discussion and decisions. Some situations and the problems set upon them require solution by individuals, and quick decision. The above does not apply in these cases.

Throughout the exercise all forms of confidential work should be forbidden. All discussions should be public so that the attention of all may be fixed on the point at issue. Only one person in each syndicate, either the instructor or one of the students, should be allowed to speak at one time. Speakers must talk in loud firm tones. The instructors must keep those speaking to the point and above all not allow them to wriggle from one solution to another. Opinions, state-

ments, and orders must be clear and definite. Solutions must take the actual form of the words and actions the speaker would use and perform in the actual war situation. Such replies as "I would tell my platoon commanders to do so and so" must be checked at once. The speaker should be required to give the actual words accompanied by the actual gestures that he would use to living platoon commanders on the spot in war. Written work too should take the actual form that it would take in war, reports to superiors, orders, appreciations, messages.

The opening quotation mentioned the value of T. E. W. Ts. as a means of teaching the issue of verbal orders. A word of caution is necessary. Instructors must realise that it is not a strict and wooden adherence to the form that makes orders good. While the importance of "a recognised form and sequence" (Field Service Regulations, Volume II, Section 15. 4) is recognised by all, the even more important "An order must contain only what the recipient requires to know in order to carry out his task" (Field Service Regulations, Volume II, Section 14. 1) is apt to be neglected.

Before giving out a situation, an instructor should collect all the students together under him in one place and should issue the situation and problem to all at one and the same time. He should explain all written situations verbally, exercising all his powers of description to paint a picture that will set the imaginations of the students working. He must be forceful, dramatic, a bit of an actor in fact. Great care should be taken to ensure that situations are described at the places in which the students would find themselves at the time pertaining to the situation if they were actually engaged in war. Often the best results are obtained by the chief instructor explaining the opening situation to the assembled syndicates himself. This ensures that all shall start with the same picture in mind.

The order for the exercise should deal with the following points: time and place of the rendezvous, transportation to rendezvous and during the exercise, order of dress, meals, requirements in maps, paper, message forms, pencils, rubbers and the like, estimated duration of the exercise and any other matters likely to help students and to increase their comfort.

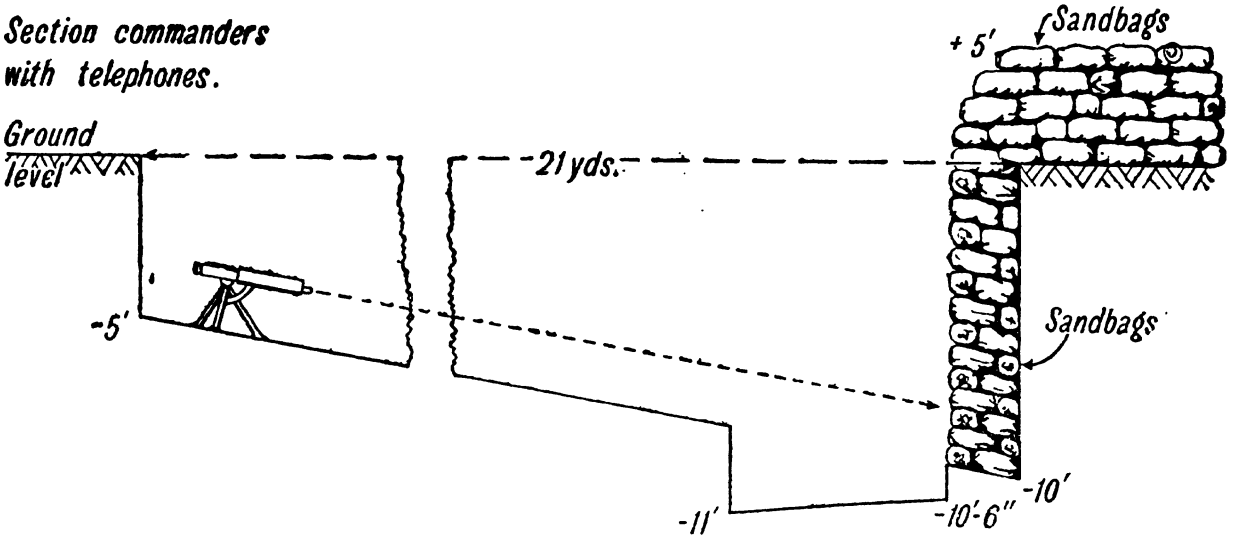
What has been said above refers primarily to exercises dealing with the operations of small mixed forces, say of the size of a battalion of infantry and attached troops and larger. In the cases of exercises dealing with smaller forces, less written work during the process of preparation of the exercises would be

necessary. In the cases of a platoon of infantry and lesser units no written work at all should be needed. But the general lines explained above should guide the preparation of all exercises.

A modification of an ordinary T. E. W. T. is an "illustrated T. E. W. T.," that is the employment of troops on the ground to demonstrate the situations and solutions.

With care and much preparation, an "illustrated T. E. W. T." can be made most interesting and instructive for young officers and men who have not seen war. An actual situation or a series of short situations, leading directly from the last and up to the next, is taken and illustrated by troops on the ground. Both sides must be represented by troops. The "enemy's" plans and actions must be worked out in advance and rehearsed with care. The opening situation is explained to the officers of "own side" troops by the director as in an ordinary T. E. W. T. and the students are the officers of the "own side" troops on the ground. These now act as they would in war or during ordinary field training. The director will have worked out the exercise as a T. E. W. T. He knows the plans of both sides. He knows what situations will arise. He takes advantage of this knowledge in order to make the situations more realistic than they would be in ordinary field training. In battle, much, if not most of the information on which plans are based, is gathered by sound, the sound of firing, and by sight, the sight of shells bursting and the like. So the director arranges to reproduce this sound and these sights at the time and in the places he needs them in order to illustrate his situations. The sound of heavy or light machine-guns or rifles firing is produced by actual weapons firing in pits, the sides of the pits being used as stop-butts (see sketch). The bursting of shells can be represented by marriage bombs. Smoke screens can be laid by smoke candles fired by fatigue men. Even tank attacks can be realistically reproduced—tongas covered by large tarpaulins or the like, representing the tanks. For the rest, the director must make sure that officers report and act as they would in war, that "Signals" work as in war, that he himself acts exactly as he would in war.

Great caution is needed to render the exercise safe. This is only a matter of care and forethought. The floors of the pits must slope downwards towards the direction of fire. The ball-firing weapons in pits must be provided by a unit other than those finding the troops for work above ground, the latter should *not* carry ball ammunition. Safety officers with each ball-firing group of weapons must be detailed with means to sound the "cease fire" at a moment's notice.



TYPE OF PIT FOR MACHINE GUNS OR RIFLES
SANDBAGS ARE ESSENTIAL TO AVOID SPLINTERS

The essentials to success are:

(*a*) Good, realistic situations.

(*b*) Much forethought and preliminary arrangement.

(*c*) Careful rehearsal by the enemy and by those who are to reproduce the sounds and sights of battle.

(*d*) Good acting by the director and his staff.

(*e*) Adequate safety arrangements.

PIG-STICKING IN MEWAR STATE

BY LIEUTENANT R. DALEEP SINHA,
MEWAR LANCERS

"If there is a paradise on Earth,
It is this; it is this; it is this."

I WRITE with some hesitation on the subject of pig-sticking, for my experience in this branch of sport is slight and has been confined to local meets in Mewar and Jodhpur States. A few notes of my experiences may, however, be of help in developing hunts in outlying districts, but those who mean to take up pig-sticking seriously should study the subject in the authoritative works of Sir Robert Baden-Powell and Major-General Wardrop.

Pig-sticking used to be very popular in Mewar State but there is very little of it now. The chief reason is that there are very few pig in ridable country and these are often in reserve forests where one can only hunt on certain days and with official sanction. Another handicap is that the *jagirdars* who used to go in for pig-sticking have substituted motor-cars for horses, so that hardly a *jagirdar* in Mewar State now keeps a horse.

Nearly all the scrub jungle in cultivated country holds pig, but the usual difficulty is to find a place from which pig can be beaten out on to ridable ground. Pig can usually be found in grass and thorny scrub during the months of September and October, and if isolated in good riding country they should give good opportunities for sport. During the cold weather they often lie up in the *ber* bushes and hedges between the fields, and if marked down should give a good run. They also lie up in the crops, but where there is one field of *juar* there are often more and the pig are loath to leave them.

I know of many places worth trying in this State but the best two are Narmagra—a State reserve—and Tana hill. Narmagra is about fourteen miles from Udaipur proper and Tana hill about thirty miles up the Udaipur-Chitorgarh road. Narmagra as a State reserve is naturally the best, and one can generally count on good sport when His Highness the Maharana Sahib Bahadur is camping there. The Tana hill belongs to the Raja Sahib of Tana—a *jagirdar* and a very nice old-fashioned gentleman. He doesn't ride himself but he likes to watch the sport and always gives the necessary permission. Now Tana hill is my favourite place, hence I must say something about it. It is too thick to beat in October, but once the crops are cut at the end of March it gives excellent sport,

because all the pig from the crops go up the hill. The beat is taken from south to north, and the pig break in the north-east corner, making for a State forest some ten miles away, the intervening ground being excellent for riding.

Both these coverts can be very comfortably beaten and are accessible by motor from Udaipur.

As I have remarked before, my experience is limited but it seems to me that the same golden rule of shikar can be applied to pig-driving. I do not believe it is of any possible use trying to drive pig the way they do not want to go; find out

IT IS OF NO POSSIBLE USE TRYING TO DRIVE PIG THE WAY THEY DO NOT WANT TO GO.

their natural line of retreat and kill them when they get into ridable country. A pig is very loath to leave a good covert, and a sulky boar often will not move unless there is a very noisy beat behind him; occasionally nothing but stones and a gun-shot will stir him. Similarly when at last he is persuaded to break cover, any suspicious sign, such as the sight of a horseman waiting for him in the open, will turn him back. When the pig breaks, he should be allowed to get well away from the covert before the spears ride him.

Dogs are a nuisance in a beat and liable to turn the pig back. Drums are useful for hill beating and I have been told that the squeak of a village pig carried in the beat has a terrifying effect on his wild brethren.

As soon as spears start riding a pig, the beat should stop where it is and remain silent until the spears are once more in position—there may be more pig in the covert. Should spears keep together or separate? This depends on the number out and the nature of the covert. To me the most agonising moment

is when one has to decide whether to ride a small boar or even a sow or to wait for a possible big boar which may not turn up. I may be bloodthirsty, but I like a ride, and I prefer a good ride after something modest than no ride at all.

As regards the actual riding, let the pig get well away first. If it is known that there is really good ground ahead, it is better to nurse him through the bad ground, merely keeping him in sight—he then thinks he has the pace of you; once on good ground you can make a sudden spurt and give him such a shock that he will tuck in his "tuppenny" and go "sixteen annas," and with luck you may get your first spear in before he realises his danger.

The true object of a proper sportsman is to kill his pig as quickly and mercifully as possible, so let there be no pin-pricks.

Occasionally it will be necessary to ride pig through grass or crops where the pig is invisible and the only indication of his movements will be the waving of the grass; in such circumstances the best policy is to nurse your pig and keep an eye on the movement of the grass. A cunning pig will often stop dead and let you ride over him and then creep away quietly, or else he will lie doggo in the smallest bit of cover; and it is perfectly marvellous what a pig can hide himself in.

It is the weight and pace of a horse behind a sharp spear that sends it through the pig, like a needle into butter, so "sit down in your saddle and ride like hell." Do not thrust with the spear but hold it steady, the weight of the horse will do the rest. It seems to me that it is better to keep a little wide of the pig and gradually close on him; more often than not a good pig will turn in to you, and then comes your opportunity of spearing him behind the shoulder with both your own momentum and the pig's in your favour. If you are riding in his tracks and he jinks across your horse's forelegs, it generally means trouble. Always remember in pig-sticking that all ride to kill the pig and not to get the first spear. It is perfectly wonderful how a wounded pig will charge again and again, fighting up to his last breath. Never let go a spear. Always ride to meet a charge and do not wait for it motionless.

An opportunity sometimes occurs, when out pig-sticking, of riding a panther. I have never had a chance but my father did on three occasions and got them all. He used to say that there is no difficulty in this, given the same good going that you would expect to kill a pig in, but it should be carried through with care. He used to say that the leader has no difficulty in spearing the panther but the spear should be as vital a one as possible or the others in

the beat or party will suffer, for a wounded panther is a disagreeable customer. Well, my father was one of the best horsemen in Mewar. But, if you are riding a very favourite pony, my advice is to agree beforehand to leave panthers for the rifle.

Discipline is essential and one spear should be in command. Never carry a spear in any way that it can possibly be dangerous to other riders. We were out pig-sticking last year and one novice made a mess of the whole show by carrying a spear on the wrong side. Although mercifully he did not kill the rider, he succeeded in killing his partner's horse.

There are hopeful signs that pig-sticking may come in again in Mewar State. The State army has been reorganised and new educated young officers, keen on sport, are being taken in. These officers can take out boarders from the State cavalry and can enjoy this king of sports. The experiment was tried last year and the commandant, who is a very keen sportsman, also joined in. The party went to a *jagirdar's* place in Jodhpur and a four-day hunt ended with a total bag of thirty-eight pig. Unfortunately the commandant and the writer could not stay the whole time.

The above notes may be of help to brother-officers with no previous experience. As I have said before, my own is not sufficient to justify my writing on the subject, but I hope it may prove of some interest and assistance to others.

In the end I may add, any criticism from brother-officers will be most welcome.

THE INDIAN STATES FORCES AND CHANGING INDIA

By SAELE

CHANGES in the atmosphere are followed by certain disturbances which the meteorologist describes as a "departure from the normal." This "departure" is not peculiar or applicable only to the weather, but is the effect of all changes, be they physical, psychological or political. Thus with the constitutional changes now being introduced in India, there is noticeable a definite disturbance of balance, particularly of Indian thought. By this it is not meant that minds are unbalanced! But that Indian thought as a whole is undergoing what may be termed an emotional upheaval. Past fears, present uncertainties and future hopes beset every mind according to the environment and circumstances in which it finds itself placed.

To us of the Indian States Forces the policies and problems of India's defence have normally been only of academic interest. But from the trend of affairs one may be justified in presuming that sooner or later India's future will also be our problem and her defence also our concern.

I am sure that, in the mind of every officer of the States Forces, the question has at some time or another presented itself as to the part they will play in the future constitution of India. They must have often speculated as to what would be the position of the Indian States Forces vis-à-vis a Federated India and our status in relation to the Indian Army of the future. Whatever the States may gain or lose, one thing seems certain and that is that their present boundaries will have widened until India's frontier will become our frontier and their protection our concern. A parallel to this may be found in the views of a very prominent English statesman, who declared that the trend of events in Europe to-day had brought the frontiers of England to the Rhine.

Before, however, we can aspire to the honour of taking a share in the defence of our motherland, it would be necessary for us to prove to those who are to-day responsible for India's protection that we are capable of taking over what is a very great responsibility. In order that my readers may better understand what is to follow, it will be necessary for me to digress and make a brief reference to the question of Indianization of the army in India.

Those who have followed the question of Indianization will know of the considerable agitation which has been going on since the Skeen Committee report was first published, an agitation which has invariably been directed towards the acceleration of Indianization. But the consistent answer to this agitation from those responsible has been that the Indianization of the officer cadre is an experiment which only time and the acid test of war can prove to be sound, and any hurrying of the process may, if it goes wrong, end in a very grave situation. Another reason given is that suitable material has not been forthcoming in sufficient numbers to warrant a speeding up of the present practice.

The first objection has been discussed at great length, and responsible Indians feel as every other Indian does that theirs is a heritage of martial traditions of which any nation may well be proud; he also knows that, for centuries, it was Indians who led India's armies and fought her battles. Where, then, does the question of experiment come in? As to the lack of material it is contended that, if given facilities and opportunities, this difficulty could very easily be overcome.

In my opinion, the whole difficulty lies in a misapprehension. Quite a large number of candidates for commissions in the Indian Army are rejected as not being up to standard. This standard has been set up by British officers of great experience and high rank, and, very naturally, is based on and influenced by an outlook peculiar to the British character. It has been and may be argued that it does not seem fair that an Indian should be judged by British standards; yet we cannot help but concede the point for the simple reason that India has adopted, in every walk of life, western ideas and methods and her armies have been and will be organized and trained on the British model; consequently we are forced to admit that their criterion is the only one by which their system could be worked and the best results obtained from their methods. Taking this into consideration, the only possible way out of the difficulty seems to be that we should accept those standards and try and study and develop those characteristics which helped them to attain those standards, and make up the deficiencies which come to our knowledge by comparison.

To return to the question of the Indian States Forces and their share in the future of India, I cannot help thinking that the problem that faces Indianization of the Indian Army to-day will apply to the Indian States Forces when they put forward their claim to-morrow. Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable struggle that is coming. We have already made a start to achieve that standard by sending our cadets to the Indian Military Academy and by introducing examinations and terms of service as obtaining in the Indian Army. We have realized

that efficiency in life is dependent on the training and atmosphere in which a child is brought up and have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the Royal Indian Military College and the King George's schools. But most important of all we have to consider other factors which are necessary in attaining that standard by which we are to be judged. This standard does not depend only on the passing of tests and examinations and on professional ability, but largely on what for want of a suitable word may be termed "outlook on life." We are not to blame if our outlook has been restricted, it is the result of our interests and activities being confined within the narrow limits of our States; but, for the widening of our boundaries, an expansion of "outlook" will be necessary.

The conclusions I have arrived at are not the results of flights of fancy and imagination, but of a careful study and comparison of the qualities which have, in the past, proved successful in satisfying the standards by which we are to be judged in the future. Neither were these qualities studied from books or idealistic theses, but as they appeared in living beings.

Living as I did in mess with several units on the frontier, I came in close contact with a large number of young British officers and it was them I studied. In mess, in camp, and on columns, at work and at play, and in a setting which gave a correct perspective, the frontier with its glamour of adventure and a life of perpetual preparedness brought to the surface qualities which may not have been visible in the humdrum distractions of places where a soldier is only recognized by his uniform.

These boys, altnough thousands of miles from their homes and in a strange country, behaved in a manner which showed that they were confident of themselves and their purpose in life, which was the service of their nation. Open-hearted, without a vestige of pride or prejudice, they took life as an adventure, and were prepared to share it equally with those who wished to join them. They sportingly and ungrudgingly gave and accepted what the world required or was prepared to offer. They lived up to their convictions with an integrity of thought and singleness of purpose. The sum total of these qualities is character and only by character can men impose their will on others and become leaders. These qualities or virtues, call them what you will, are not the heritage of any people or nation; they are the birthright of every human being. It is by these qualities that we will be measured and it is only with the help of these that our hopes and aspirations will be fulfilled.

ORDNANCE SERVICES

By COLONEL W. E. L. LONG, C.I.E.,

Late Deputy Director of Ordnance Services, Army Headquarters, India

THIS article is divided into two parts. The first to give a general bird's-eye view of ordnance activities and that of the sister services with whom we are so closely bound up, and the second part to give a short but more domestic idea of how our ordnance installations are organized to carry out what is required of them.

PART I

The putting of a modern army into the field is nowadays a far more troublesome matter than the mere raising of the troops and giving them the necessary training in the technical use of the weapons available. No nation can be completely ready for war. All it can hope to do is to maintain a striking-force fully equipped, behind which it can start the business of war preparation. The reason for this is that war material in this mechanical age is so expensive that no nation can afford to lock up money in guns, tanks, vehicles, ammunition and equipment, on a scale that would be of use in arming a nation for a national war.

The progress in design and efficiency has become so rapid that, if such a reserve were provided in peace, most of what we had spent our money on would probably be out of date when hostilities commenced. The business, therefore, of preparing for war is the planning by which the manufacturing resources of the country can be rapidly adapted to the out-turn of war equipment and to the assembling at the right place and at the right time of the vast number of widely differing materials that are required for the manufacture of the finished product. As may be imagined the preparation of such plans is a vast undertaking, and it is carried out by a series of committees, each charged with examining the potentialities of the particular trade with which they are concerned. Questions of transportation of raw materials, their sources, tonnage, and so on, have to be considered besides the

THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES IN AN INDIAN ARSENAL.
Carpenters and wheelers shop.

Gun-carriage shop.

ACTIVITIES IN AN INDIAN ARSENAL.
Electricians shop.

Welders shop.

adaptation and rapid expansion of individual factories. Meantime the engineers and the scientists and the military experts are always busy evolving new weapons and new methods, and the regular forces are our means of trying out each new idea. We cannot afford to adopt each new idea, however successful, but we record the details for production when required, until it is superseded by something even better. In all this the ordnance services have their part, since on them devolves the duty of supplying the army with every item of its equipment.

In India, the ordnance services are carried out by the I.A.O.C. arsenals placed at suitable points all over India, *e.g.*, at Rawalpindi, Ferozepore, Lahore, Quetta, Allahabad, Kirkee, etc. Their business is to meet the requirements of the fighting units and also to maintain the units' equipment in a condition fit to fight. For this purpose each arsenal is equipped with up-to-date engineering shops where all normal repairs can be carried out from rebuilding a wheel to minute repairs and adjustments to range-finders or any other optical or electrical instruments. In these shops, as well as in the storehouses and offices, the bulk of the personnel is Indian. Among these Indian employees are gauge-makers and machine operatives of all kinds whose work can compare with that of any nation.

Attached to each of these arsenals are experts in ammunition and explosives (the I.O.Os. or Inspecting Ordnance Officers), experts in rifles and machine-guns of all kinds (the C.C.M.As. or Chief Civil Master Armourers), and experts in guns and vehicles (the O.M.Es. or Ordnance Mechanical Engineers). These experts visit every unit periodically to ensure perfect efficiency of the technical equipment, and in addition ordnance officers are appointed to every district to keep in close touch with the fighting units and advise them on all ordnance matters.

Behind the arsenals we have the ordnance factories by means of which India becomes more and more self-supporting every year in the production of war stores. These factories also employ and train thousands of Indian operatives and their out-turn is second to none, whether in rifles, guns, carriages, ammunition, harness or clothing. The factories are capable of rapid expansion, should the defence of India demand it. The bulk of our less technical stores are already supplied by the Indian trade, and year by year we are becoming more able to support ourselves in respect of materials. This leads us to the question of what we call "provision."

As has been said already, no nation likes to lock up money in stocks of war-like stores beyond the absolutely necessary minimum. This "provision," therefore, has become a science in trying to foretell just what quantity of each of the thirty thousand items the army will have to consume in one year, and to foresee

just how much will be consumed during the period that must elapse during which we—

(*a*) calculate our requirements;
(*b*) get the necessary budget provision;
(c) place our orders;
(*d*) have them manufactured and inspected, and get them where we want them, so that we shall neither have our stocks too big nor too little.

All kinds of factors come in to upset our normal calculations, *e.g.*, rearmaments, changes in design or scale, small wars, earthquakes, floods, gradually increasing fatigue in equipments, which latter results in a rising wastage of components, all of which make this a most interesting study.

Then there is the most important question of seeing that everything that is bought or manufactured for the army is of a standard fit to stand the wear and tear of war, and that it is at the same time produced at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer. This setting of a standard and seeing that that standard is rightly maintained is the responsibility of a number of carefully selected inspectors. This inspection is maintained on the most up-to-date and scientific basis possible, and entails the provision of scientific testing apparatus of all kinds including up-to-date laboratories and chemists for studying our requirements in all its branches.

The administration of all this is entrusted to a Master-General of Ordnance, who is assisted by four directors:

1. *The Director of Ordnance Services,* who administers the arsenals and serves the troops. He is in touch with the fighting units through his A.D.O.S., Commands (who are also the ordnance advisers to the army commander), and his D.A.D.O.S., already mentioned, in each district, and by means of his inspecting officers the O.M.Es. and I.O.Os., etc. And it is he that must decide on the stocks to be held and the quantities to be provided from year to year.

2. *The Director of Ordnance Factories,* whose duty it is to administer the government factories and meet the demands of the D.O.S.

3. *The Director of Contracts,* who is the central purchasing agent for all the non-technical stores that we obtain from the Indian trade. The D.O.S. is also assisted in obtaining his requirements for the army by the Chief Controller, Indian Stores Department, in India, and the Director-General, India Stores Department, in London.

4. *The Director of Artillery,* on whom devolves the responsibility for seeing that the stores delivered to the D.O.S. are in every way up to the army standard. He is thus responsible for the drawings and specifications to which we work, and for the inspection of the out-turn from trade and factories and for the investigation of failures of equipments in service, and for trying out improvements. Also for drawing up the scales of equipment that each unit is allowed.

The successful maintenance of the army, therefore, depends to a tremendous extent on the loyal and close co-operation of all these parts of the M.G.O's. machine.

In war, the D.O.S. has a further responsibility, that of providing all those ordnance units that must accompany the force into the field and cater for its needs.

These units consist of:

(*a*) A suitable base for each force from which it will be fed with ammunition and stores.

(*b*) Railhead units to receive and distribute stores and ammunition to the troops requiring them.

(*c*) Field depots to maintain stocks that may be required at short notice in close proximity to the fighting troops.

(*d*) Mobile workshops, to carry out first-aid to damaged guns, vehicles, etc., as far forward as possible.

In addition, the ordnance officers with the force have the responsibility of trying to foresee the requirements of stores and ammunition, always in *advance* of the demand, and the M.G.O. and his directors are likewise always concerned with maintaining the stocks of stores, lethal weapons and ammunition in the base ready for every call. This means constant accurate forecasts by the D.O.S., built up on a mass of ever-changing statistics, and very close co-operation of all the other directors to try and meet his needs and defeat the all too important time factor.

PART II

In this part, I have been asked to give an idea of our domestic arrangements in an arsenal.

Each arsenal stores something like one or two million pounds sterling worth of stores, according to its size.

Stock groups.—A modern arsenal is laid out so that stores can be warehoused by types. Thus all the vocabulary sections dealing with materials are grouped together as one "stock group," and those dealing with artillery equipments as another stock group, scientific instruments as a third and so on. So we have usually about seven stock groups, each served, when possible, by rail.

Repair workshops.—These stock groups are in turn assisted by a general workshop, a rifle repair shop, and an instrument repair shop.

Traffic branch.—All receipts and despatches are carried out by a special branch, known as "receipts and issues" or "traffic branch," who collect the stores from stock groups, obtain the necessary railway wagons, and load and despatch the consignment. Conversely they deal with all incoming traffic, off-load it and distribute it to its destination in the arsenal.

Sales branch.—All unserviceable stores are handled by a "produce and sales" branch, which is also responsible for salving anything of which further use can be made.

Ammunition.—Our ammunition is stored in "explosive groups" according to whether it carries an explosive risk only, a fire risk only, or both, and whether it contains its own means of ignition, etc.

A laboratory is required in every arsenal to look after the periodical testing of all propellants, explosives, fuzes, etc., and to destroy all ammunition whose test results show that it is no longer up to our standards of safety.

Clothing.—In the same way the "clothing group" is served by a laundry, an inspection installation and a repair shop.

The only other branches are purely domestic and comprise for example:

(*a*) The "local purchase" branch, which arranges the hundreds of small purchases that are too petty to be made the subject of all-India central provision.

(*b*) The inspection arrangements to ensure that our purchases are up to standard.

(*c*) The "indent branch," where demands from units are scrutinized to ensure that their demands are fair ones and in accordance with what is allowed by army regulations.

(*d*) The usual labour bureau to look after our hundreds of employees and their welfare.

(*e*) The pay office who pays them.

(*f*) School of instruction for our apprentices, etc., etc.

I have also been asked to explain why the stocks in an arsenal are not, like those of, say, the Army and Navy Stores, always "new." I think the answer is that we owe it to the taxpayer that we maintain the regular forces at the very smallest annual cost possible, with the proviso that the equipment we issue shall be a hundred per cent. fit for active service and made of the finest material we can buy. On this principle such equipment as gun-carriages, which are made up of a large number of components, have an indefinite life, within limits, since to restore them to a hundred per cent. efficiency is, to a great extent, a question of replacing all components which show wear.

The fact that we do not have to show a dividend like a commercial firm makes it even more important that the officers entrusted with the running of these very big arsenals should be always on the watch to ensure the most advantageous expenditure of the public funds. The chief ordnance officer commanding an arsenal has, for example, immense labour bills to watch, for here tremendous waste can take place. He has to ask himself, am I employing a highly paid fitter on a job where a lower grade man could do the work? How can I adjust my work to avoid peak loads at one time of year and have my skilled men semi-idle at another time? And also bear in mind that every fighting unit wants *its* work done immediately. Are my costs being inflated by double handling? Am I carrying needlessly heavy stocks and so locking up money? And above all can I improve the service to the units dependent on my arsenal?

These are only a very few of the anxieties of a chief ordnance officer commanding an arsenal and there are probably very few units in the army which provide a more searching test of the ability of its commanding officer.

SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL, I. S. F.

By "DANGER-SHOOT"

THESE "Save our Souls" (S.O.S.) courses held every year in different States are a blessing in more than one sense:

(*a*) We travel first class in first-class weather.

(*b*) We get comfortable accommodation with not too lethal food.

(*c*) We rub shoulders, who knows?, with future generals.

(*d*) And last but not least we get a hall-mark of being capable of fighting in a manner that would make a great war appear child's play, provided of course that we are given ample time, enough space, fire-power, numerical superiority and the latest editions of ordnance maps, preferably with a scale 1" to 1 mile.

The 1936 course decidedly brought forth and developed what there was in us in the shape of:

(*a*) military imagination,

(*b*) quick thinking and action, and

(*c*) a workable knowledge of all arms, though it is said, and with truth, that much more is still required in the way of practical application of the theory laid down in our training manuals.

We have learnt how to prepare and conduct our peace-time schemes of such phases of war that fall to our lot in our career in the army and I do trust and pray that our test in war will justify our training in peace.

The S.O.S. at Patiala which I had the privilege to attend last year was a well-thought-out and well-arranged course and the following points which I consider to be an improvement on previous courses deserve special mention:

(*a*) We were given one general sort of narrative on which all the official schemes were based, and this made the setting very realistic and created an atmosphere of war.

(*b*) *Complete lectures were issued* to students instead of precis, which left no room for brain-waves to fill up gaps later in case memory failed, as it always does.

(*c*) On some occasions, in the case of important lectures, question papers were set and students were required to answer them before lectures were delivered. In the commandant's opening address we were given an assurance that unlike some other courses we would be given as few home tasks as possible; but this was very carefully devised camouflage, which came to us as a pleasant surprise, and everyone conscientiously or otherwise started studying the training manuals due to fear that some day our answer papers might be collected and form the basis of our reports. But this was never done. It also cut down the monotony, the greatest enemy of all training.

Another very interesting feature of this course was a number of demonstrations elaborately arranged, especially the light tank demonstration, and one will never forget the thrills of those rides. Some of us were so badly shaken that we made a solemn pledge that whatever may happen we would never serve with the Tanks.

Also a Royal Air Force demonstration was arranged at Ambala and we moved out of Patiala for a long week-end—most essential after one has been nearing a nervous breakdown.

Finally the activities in the State, such as the reception given by His Highness the Maharaja, the Dussehra durbar, review of the Patiala army, the Yuvaraj's party, dinners and lunches, made time interesting and enjoyable. For all this we feel very grateful to His Highness himself, the school staff and officers of the Patiala army, who went out of their way to make our time happy.

Now as regards future courses, I beg to make a few suggestions which I hope will be taken in the constructive spirit in which they are made:

(*a*) These courses are, as everyone knows, for senior officers, and from the nominal rolls, badge-laden shoulders and in some cases grey hairs and wrinkles, it is evident that the students are senior officers. Working on this hypothesis, it can be presumed that they are senior enough to know from A to X about their profession. All they have to learn at these courses is the employment of their own arms with a working knowledge of other arms thrown in.

And, therefore, they attend the course just to learn the Y and Z, which really means a finishing touch. At the same time it is an excellent opportunity for testing the application of theoretical knowledge under up-to-date instructors and in different surroundings.

In these circumstances, in my humble opinion a little change is needed with regard to the last portion of the preceding paragraph to put students to some really acid test. So first of all, apart from the demonstrations and staff

T. E. W. Ts. which have to be perfect and quite faultless, the school should also run one or two faulty schemes with certain important principles of war or methods either completely ignored or wrongly applied. This should be done in a very clever manner so that outwardly it is not detected by a mediocre student. Let each individual be practised in his criticism of the scheme and if possible not in the presence of others. Undoubtedly, this will require time but it is worth it. This would give the staff a clear idea of the students to start with. Written answers and syndicate solutions are all right but then you give the man the opportunity and time he would not get in war and, besides, just to show what he knows and what his pals know he stuffs them with ridiculous padding.

As already mentioned, the issue of a general narrative this year was a definite improvement and made matters lively. Now, if each day a sort of a narrative or special idea based on the general narrative is dished out on the spot and a student is asked to prepare a scheme in about an hour's time bringing out not more than two simple lessons, it should be invaluable for practising *quick thinking*, which is of the greatest consequence in tactics.

An hour gives ample time for reconnaissance and making a useful little scheme. This may sound "bolshevik" and perhaps may irritate our "army pundits" to the extent of swallowing their pipes in rage but then I ask, in the name of fair justice, will a battalion or company commander ever have more time than this in real war? Would anyone, with even twelve hundred years of impending war, have a chance of assigning an ideal rôle for himself on ideal ground under ideal conditions, by preparing and correcting his well-thought-out plan after laming a couple of horses or perhaps after also knocking one or two bicycles out of shape in going up and down his ideal ground several times and then placing the enemy where he likes and setting problems that have been set in the same sequence, order and language from the time of Julius Cæsar?

If the instructors only knew (Thank God they don't!) how schemes are prepared and how much there is of students' very own in them they would get the shock of their lives.

The present system has many loop-holes enabling a student to escape with a report containing the usual remarks:

"Came blank—worked hard—shows promise—ought to do well in his unit—*fit for promotion provided plague breaks out in the State.*"

Next day, another narrative is issued, in continuation of the previous one for another scheme to another student, and he prepares a scheme and so on. Of

course, the students should be asked to criticise individually and not in syndicates since this only encourages fish-market talk and creates an ideal atmosphere for training people for a legislative assembly, which unfortunately is not our goal. About four to five heads of different sizes and construction hailing from different hemispheres, with as many sharp tongues, will easily tear any problem to bits and could transform Heaven into Hell. If this suggestion is given a trial I am sure we will have efficient 2nd-in-commands and C. Os., and I think this school will turn out practical soldiers, which is the real aim, dependent on their own brains and knowledge, also it will considerably reduce the weight of students' luggage which nowadays you find consisting mostly of old files and schemes right from the stone age to the schemes held at the S.O.S. the previous year.

If time permits, one exercise with troops should also be carried out. This would greatly assist in learning how to "paint a picture" in which the best student may be a novice as compared with those who have actually seen war.

The system of reports should be done away with as in spite of every effort on behalf of the staff it makes students extremely nervous and forgetful of the object of the course. *Examinations,* in which students should be classified as either "passed" or "failed," may if necessary be substituted.

The students should be restricted to senior officers holding the appointments of C.O. or 2nd-in-command and if a sufficient number of such officers are not available it is suggested that the course during that particular year should not be held at all.

It is also a humble suggestion of mine that two or three weeks' courses should be held for the more senior officers like brigadiers and colonels in the States Forces.

To give more practice in lecturing, *students* should be made to deliver two lectures, one long lecture of about forty-five minutes and another short one of about ten minutes' duration on some military subject. The subject for the former should be notified some time beforehand but in the case of the latter it should be handed to the student ten minutes before he has to lecture.

If possible a purely military library should also be made available for the students on the course. This would encourage outside study and improve general knowledge. Borrowing books is certainly better than borrowing T. E. W. Ts.

Finally I must again thank everyone responsible for the arrangements for the last S.O.S. at Patiala and for giving us such an excellent and enjoyable time.

THE JODHPUR SARDAR RISSALA IN THE GREAT WAR

By R. C. D.

THE news of the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Germany was received at Jodhpur on August 5th, 1914. This intelligence was soon followed by a telegram received on August 20th that the Government of India had accepted the patriotic offer of His Highness the Maharaja and had selected the Jodhpur Lancers to proceed on field service overseas at a very early date.

Mobilisation orders were immediately put into force and the two regiments of the Jodhpur Sardar Rissala were amalgamated to form one regiment to be known as the Jodhpur Lancers under the command of His Highness Maharaja Colonel Sir Partap Singh, Regent of Jodhpur State, with Lieutenant-Colonels Maharaj Sher Singh and Thakur Partap Singh of Sankhwa, the commandants of the original two regiments. His Highness Maharaja Sumer Singh, who was then a minor and only sixteen years of age, insisted on being allowed to accompany the regiment. Maharaja Sir Partap Singh's grandson, Thakur Pirthi Singh of Bera, the late commandant of the Sardar Rissala, whose untimely death occurred at polo last year, also pleaded earnestly to go with the regiment. Sir Partap Singh at first refused the request as he considered him to be under age. However, so persistently did Pirthi Singh urge his claims that Sir Partap took him as a syce and it was in this humble capacity that Pirthi Singh of Bera served the first few months of the War until he was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant.

On August 29th, nine days after mobilisation orders had been received, the Jodhpur Lancers entrained for Sabarmathi and, after a few days, embarked at Bombay. The great adventure had begun. Only to get a glimpse of the sea was for the men an adventure; to sail on it, to see fresh countries the other side, and there to fight against a civilised enemy comprised a succession of unexpected happenings outside the day-dreams of the most imaginative sowar.

After a rough but otherwise uneventful voyage the ship arrived at Marseilles on October 12th and the regiment went into a camp flooded by heavy rain. Except during the monsoon months, rain is conspicuous by its absence in Jodhpur State, so that the men had a somewhat rude introduction to the vagaries of the

European weather and climate. The regiment remained at Marseilles for nine days and during that time rain fell almost incessantly, causing much discomfort both to men and animals.

On October 21st the regiment left Marseilles arriving at La Source Orleans whence it proceeded by train to Croix Mormanse and joined the 9th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade. Here the regiment went into billets about four miles behind the front line and the sound of gun and rifle fire, heard for the first time, forced the men to realise that the Jodhpur Lancers had really made their entry into the Great War. After a stay of a few days the regiment moved to Vendine near Bethune where a detachment was sent forward for duty in the front line trenches. This detachment had its first taste of shell and rifle fire and suffered some casualties.

It is possibly worth recording that it was at Vendine that the men saw snow for the first time in their lives. The idea of being in a country where it was known to snow often during the winter months filled many of the men with dread and they thought they must surely die. However, the sight of British soldiers and also Indian sepoys taking part in snowball fights and thoroughly enjoying themselves in the snow greatly reassured them. They soon realised that if others can behave in that way, the snow can do no real harm.

The regiment was then sent to Busnes, where two squadrons under Major Strong with the remainder of the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade carried out a dismounted counter-attack on December 21st. Heavy rain had fallen and the men had to stand for hours in water before the attack was launched at 4-30 a.m. It was in this attack that five men were killed and Major Strong, one Indian officer and six men were wounded. At this time snow fell continually and the men, unaccustomed to this sort of climate, felt the bitter cold intensely and there were many cases of frost-bite. However, Sir Partap Singh, although seventy years of age, set them a wonderful example, deliberately wearing khaki drill uniform instead of serge and helping them in no small way to remain cheerful.

Early in January 1915 the regiment left the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade and proceeded to Witernesse where it remained for three months as corps troops, moving later to Linghem, where it did duty in the trenches and incurred a few casualties.

Moving to Flixecourt in September the regiment again occupied a sector in the front line trenches for a considerable time. Here the men were issued with box respirators as a defence against gas, which the Germans had now started to use. While holding this sector the men were heavily shelled and all were glad

when the regiment's turn for relief came and it was sent to Doullens as part of the mobile reserve.

In March 1916 the Indian Cavalry Corps ceased to exist as a corps and the Jodhpur Lancers were attached to the Lucknow Cavalry Brigade and moved to Villeroi and later to Abbeville. It spent the remainder of the year either in the trenches or moving from place to place. Full of incident as were the days for those taking part, there is not space in this article to record events in any detail. Trench duty was both wearisome and dangerous. By day, the enemy's artillery gave considerable trouble; and both by day and night snipers were active. Constant spadework was necessary both for the repair and improvement of existing trenches and this provided exercise and employment for all ranks. Completely bewildered and amazed when they were first introduced to the network of trenches, the men had by now become quite accustomed to living in what they described as a veritable city of trenches. There were some who disliked the idea of spending long periods underground in dugouts, but this, too, soon became a habit. They never failed to be impressed by the efficiency of the sappers, who did all the skilled labour and under whom they carried out much of the work in the trenches.

Early in 1917 the regiment was ordered to provide one company for the Sialkot Brigade pioneer battalion and this company proceeded to Warlincourt on January 13th, but, to the great delight of all, rejoined the regiment in March.

There is little to record of the doings of the Jodhpur Lancers until December of 1917. The regiment was kept constantly on the move, often receiving orders to be ready to pursue a retreating enemy but never getting the longed-for chance.

On December 1st, 1917, the regiment took part in a dismounted attack against the Germans at Villiers Guislain. Nine tanks were to lead the attack (but for some unknown reason failed to materialise), followed by the 36th Jacob's Horse and the Jodhpur Lancers, the 29th Lancers being in reserve. The attack was due to commence at 6-30 a.m., the 36th on the right and the Jodhpur Lancers on the left. Owing to the non-arrival of the tanks, the brigade was halted under cover and during the wait some casualties were incurred from shell-fire. The attack commenced at 10-30 a.m. and the troops were subjected to fairly heavy gun and machine-gun fire in their advance, but by 3-45 p.m. the Jodhpur Lancers had reached Vaucelette Farm just short of Villiers Guislain with the 36th on their right and the Canadians on their left. The regiment that day incurred the loss of five other ranks killed and two officers and eighteen other ranks wounded.

After a short period in reserve at Devise, the regiment again took its turn in the trenches.

1918 came in with rumours of the departure of the Indian cavalry from France and these rumours were confirmed in February. On February 27th the divisional commander bade farewell to the Jodhpur Lancers, who had served for nearly three and a half strenuous, anxious years in France. On March 18th the Jodhpur Lancers sailed from Marseilles and disembarked in Egypt on the 29th, proceeding to Tel-el-Kebir and joining Indian Expeditionary Force "E."

It remained then, to go and fight elsewhere and this time against the Turks.

Having spent all those years in Northern France and endured and become accustomed to the rigorous winter climate there, the men felt the heat of Egypt greatly and many went sick for a while.

The time spent at Tel-el-Kebir was fully occupied in making adjustments imposed by the new theatre of war. After one month there the regiment was sent to Palestine and joined the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade under Brigadier-General Harbord in the Jordan valley relieving a New Zealand unit, the Wellington Mounted Rifles. Expecting and greatly wanting the chance of mobile warfare, they were surprised and disappointed to find that the troops were occupying trenches similar to those they had left behind in France.

The men were now called upon to do a great deal of hard work making communication trenches and roads, strengthening the wire and clearing the scrub. Patrols were frequently sent out and came under machine-gun and shell-fire. On one occasion a patrol from the regiment captured four prisoners close to the Turkish trenches.

On June 3rd, 1918, the Jodhpur Lancers with the remainder of the brigade marched to Ras Dieran where it joined the 5th Cavalry Division. After carrying out mounted and dismounted training for nearly a month it again marched to the Jordan valley to Wadi Ninemieh.

During the night of 13/14th July a small detachment guarding the bridge-head at Henu was attacked but resisted stoutly and on a squadron of the regiment being sent out the enemy retired. Next morning the whole brigade moved out to engage the enemy. The rôle of the Jodhpur Lancers was to envelop the enemy's southern flank and secure the approaches to Wadi Rameh with the Mysore Lancers and Sherwood Rangers on their left. A combined charge was to be carried out on a given signal. The advance of the regiment was made in line of troop columns up the Wadi Jorfe. On reaching open ground, deployment was made in echelon in extended troops and the high ground in front was galloped.

On reaching here the regiment right shouldered and galloped down the left bank of the Wadi Rameh where it rallied. The Mysore Lancers and Sherwood Rangers advanced, at the same time being ably supported by the Hyderabad machine-gun section which did great damage to the enemy. The enemy retreated hurriedly to their original position in the foothills, the Hyderabad Lancers following them up and remaining in touch until the evening. The casualties in the Jodhpur Lancers that day amounted to two Indian officers and eleven Indian other ranks killed and one Indian officer and seven Indian other ranks wounded.

A few days later the brigade moved by night marches to Zernukah. During the two months spent there, nothing occurred to disturb the routine of training. It then marched to join the rest of the division at Sommeil and bivouacked there in orange groves secure from observation by enemy aircraft and ready to move forward in the big advance on Haifa.

The brigade moved by night to El Jelil, Hudeira, Abu Shusheh and El Afule; the route straight across the Carmel Range was hilly and stony and told seriously on the horses. Sir Partap Singh, now seventy-two years of age, accompanied the regiment, but, to that splendid veteran's great disgust, he got a bad bout of fever and was forced to go to hospital, being evacuated later to Alexandria.

At 3 a.m. the brigade moved from Afule for the attack on Haifa. On reaching Beled Esh Sheikh the enemy announced the fact that he had become aware of the presence of our troops by heavily shelling the advanced squadron of the Mysore Lancers from Mount Carmel and by machine-gun fire from the hills, so a reconnaisance of the enemy position was made. At 2 p.m. the final attack commenced. The Jodhpur Lancers moved forward at a trot in column of squadrons. Artillery supported them and two squadrons of the Mysore Lancers with two machine-guns covered their advance with fire.

The enemy's machine-gun and rifle fire became intense as the regiment crossed the Acre railway line but it moved on without a check. Many casualties occurred at this time including the officiating commanding officer, Major Dalpat Singh, who died of wounds later. A *wadi,* in which were many enemy machine-guns and snipers, was found to be impossible, so on the advice of Colonel Holden, senior S.S.O., the regiment was ordered to change direction left.

The leading squadron was directed across the railway, capturing several machine-guns, killing the gunners, and opening the defile along the main road for the passage of the regiment. The leading troop of this squadron was commanded by the present commandant of the Jodhpur Fort Guard, Major Umed

Singh. As soon as the defile was passed, the second squadron was sent half right and charged a mound capturing two machine-guns and three guns further on.

The remainder of the Jodhpur Lancers were led straight into and through the town. Shots were fired by Turks from behind the walls of houses but the fight was practically finished. At the far end of the town the regiment was joined by the other two squadrons, one of which had made its way along the lower slopes of the town and captured two guns while the other had worked its way along the shore. The Mysore Lancers (less two squadrons), who had supported the Jodhpur attack by fire, mounted as soon as the Jodhpur Lancers masked their fire and followed them through the town.

So ended the attack on Haifa.

General Allenby sent the following telegram to Lieutenant-General Sir Partap Singh at Alexandria:

"Congratulate you on the brilliant exploit of your regiment, the Jodhpur Lancers, who on the 23rd September took the town of Haifa at a gallop killing many Turks with the lance in the streets of the town and capturing seven hundred prisoners. Their gallant commanding officer, Dalpat Singh, fell gloriously at the head of his regiment."

On September 29th the advance was resumed, by October 17th Homs was reached, and at 7 a.m. on October 27th the final advance on Aleppo commenced with two squadrons of the Jodhpur Lancers as advanced guard. At 11 a.m. the advanced guard topped the ridge overlooking Haritan and was heavily fired on from the village. The two squadrons immediately took up a dismounted position on the ridge. An attack was delivered by the Mysore Lancers with much dash but the position was held by the enemy in great strength, so they were forced to rally to the rear and take up a dismounted position in observation.

When Colonel Holden was giving a signal to the Jodhpur Lancers to take up position on the left of the Mysore Lancers, he was shot through the head. By his death the Jodhpur Lancers suffered the loss of a most gallant and capable officer who had been of incalculable value to the regiment.

The enemy advanced as if to attack the position but when within eight hundred yards halted and began to dig it. The next day the brigade was relieved by the 14th Cavalry Brigade. At noon on October 31st an armistice with Turkey came into force.

Ten days later General Allenby inspected the Jodhpur Lancers and said: "I wish to record how much I appreciate the splendid work of the Jodhpur Lancers during the summer and during the advance on Aleppo. I consider their record

both in the Jordan valley and in the capture of Haifa as second to none. This I believe is the first time in history that a fortified town has ever been captured by cavalry at the gallop. I was very sorry to hear of the valuable lives that you have lost but this must be expected in war."

The total number of casualties incurred in action by the Jodhpur Lancers during the war amounted to:

3 British officers, 2 State officers, 2 Indian officers and 38 other ranks killed, and 1 British officer, 1 State officer, 9 Indian officers and 77 other ranks wounded.

The regiment remained at Aleppo for just over one year and on November 11th, 1919, marched by easy stages to Beirut. Embarking there on December 7th it reached Kantara where it remained for three weeks. Eventually marching to Suez, it embarked for India and returned to Jodhpur early in 1920 after an absence of nearly five and a half years.

A TREK IN THE HILLS

By LIEUTENANT GOBINDER SINGH,

2ND PATIALA INFANTRY

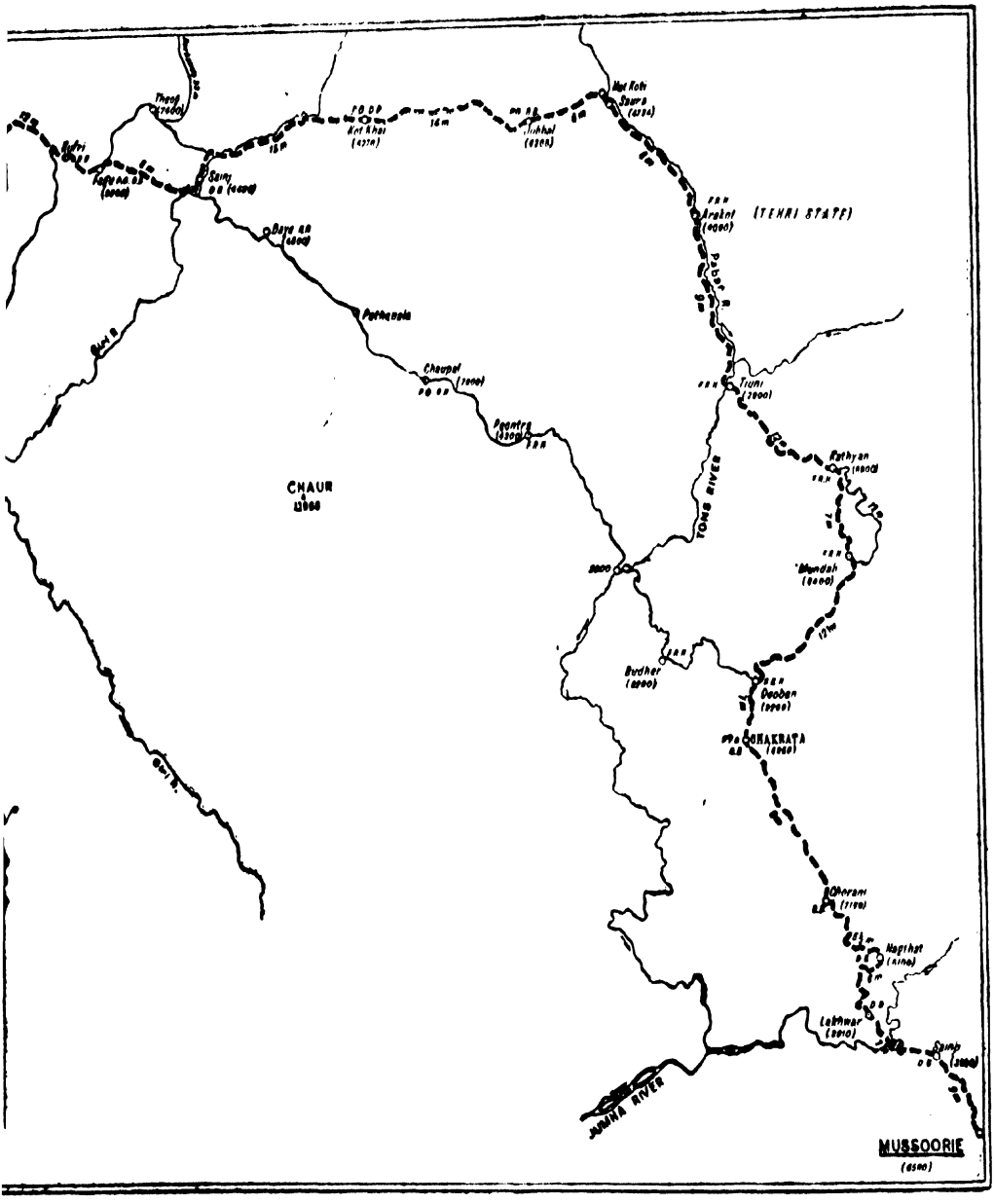
ONE rather hot afternoon about the middle of May my friend and I were considering how we could best spend our furlough which we were getting at the same time. After a long discussion we decided to join forces and trek from Mussoorie to Simla *via* Deoban, Mandali, Kathyan, Hat Koti and Sainj. This we considered an excellent way for a soldier to spend his leave.

Our next step was to make our preparations for the journey. The first thing to decide was what kit and food to take with us. The latter we decided to buy in Mussoorie. As regards kit we arranged to take as little as possible, more or less the same as one takes to camp.

Well, two days later, on the 16th May, we were off. We travelled in the midnight train to Saharanpur, where we took a taxi to Dehra Dun which we reached just before breakfast on the 17th. A whole car from Saharanpur costs you only Rs. 8, which is very much cheaper than the train, and it is very pleasant motoring in the early morning through the Mohan pass. We spent the whole of that day in Dehra Dun and left for Mussoorie the next morning, a two hours run in a bus.

During our stay of three days in Mussoorie we were busy collecting all the information available concerning our journey and buying food—most of which was tinned, and other requirements. We bought a map of the Mussoorie-Simla road from the Mussoorie Book Society, and, acting on their advice, we applied to the District Forest Officer, Chakrata, for permission to stay in the forest rest houses on the route. Also we engaged three coolies at Re. 1 per man per day to carry our luggage. This was, as we discovered later on, the greatest mistake we made; we should have taken two mules instead.

Our arrangements completed we marched off at 11 a.m. on the 21st. It was a nice cool day to start with, but got fairly warm towards the afternoon. In about an hour we were at the Gimti Falls where we met a big picnic party, who very kindly gave us a drink. After spending a very pleasant quarter of an



A TREK IN THE HILLS.

THE ROUTE TAKEN IS SHOWN THUS.....

hour with them we took to the road again. It took us another hour and a quarter to reach Sainji, our first bound. Our luggage arrived an hour later.

We left Sainji at 7 a.m. the next morning. Our pace was rather slow this day, because we were feeling a bit stiff after the previous day's journey, and to add to our difficulties it got very hot after we crossed the Jumna river. It was not surprising therefore that we took about two hours to do the last three and a half miles into Lakhwar. We had our lunch at Lakhwar, and as it was useless to continue in such heat, we decided to rest there till three in the afternoon, sending our coolies on ahead, for otherwise they could never have reached Nagthat until late that night. We eventually reached Nagthat at about 7 p.m. and the coolies arrived an hour later.

Nagthat struck me as the most beautiful spot I have ever come across in the hills, and we liked it so much that we decided to spend the next day there. The *dak* bungalow is almost on top of the hill, and from it one gets a wonderful view of the snow. It struck us as being a very good place for shooting provided one goes there in the right season.

Our next bound was Chakrata. Leaving Nagthat on the 24th in the early morning we arrived there about 11-30. It was again very hot on the way, especially the last three miles. The *khansamah* at the *dak* bungalow provided us with mutton chops, eggs, bread and butter, and beer. Our coolies turned up about five hours later!! We asked them the reason for this delay and they complained that they were overloaded. We decided to take another coolie from Chakrata to ease the loads, but we did not quite spot that they were up to some *badmashi,* which we realised only too well the next day.

We bought some more foodstuffs at Chakrata and left for Mundali about 7 a.m. the next morning. There is very steep climbing up to Deoban (9,200 ft.). The road from Deoban goes through the beautiful *deodar* forests of the Bawar Range. There are some experimental forests in this area, where the students from the Forest College, Dehra Dun, go every year to study research work. We reached Mundali about 6 p.m.—very hungry and tired—and to our great delight found a forest officer staying there. He gave us tea and biscuits, and asked us to join him later for dinner—an invitation we could not possibly refuse.

Next morning our coolies refused to go any further. They thought that by doing this they would blackmail us into increasing their wages, as there isn't a village within six miles of Mundali from where we could get others to replace them. We were prepared to stand anything but this *chalaki* of theirs, so we told

them to go. We had to stay that day in Mundali, and if it hadn't been for the forest officer, who lent us his coolies up to Kathyan the next morning, we might have had to wait another day.

At Kathyan we were fortunate enough to obtain two mules at Rs. 1-8 per mule per day. We reached Tiuni about 8 p.m. that day, and our luggage arrived half an hour later. So the advantage of mules over coolies was soon made apparent; from now onwards we never had to wait long for our luggage. Tiuni, in spite of its rather low altitude, was remarkably cool at night. The roar of the rushing water of the Tons river, which flows past the rest house, is heard unceasingly. I gather from what I heard that this is a good place for fishing, though we didn't do any ourselves. The following day we reached Arakot, stayed there for the night and left for Jubbal early next morning.

We got into Jubbal about 3 p.m. On our way we passed through Hat Koti, a place of worship for the hill tribes. It has got several small temples and is considered very sacred. The administration of this place is run by a committee of representatives from the adjoining States. The *dak* bungalow in Jubbal was occupied but the State authorities very kindly put us up in their guest house.

The next morning we marched off about an hour earlier than usual for we intended to do a rather long march that day. We came upon several *kalij* pheasant and *chikor* on the road, having their morning feed; most of them would have dropped to our gun had it been the shooting season. I believe there is very good small game shooting in Jubbal State, and it is not very difficult to obtain a shooting permit; you may get it free if you are lucky. We had our lunch at Kot Khai and after a short rest in the *dak* bungalow started off again. We had done fourteen miles and there were still fifteen to do. However, we had become so hardened by now that it looked too easy. We arrived at Sainj about half an hour after sunset, not very tired considering that we had done twenty-nine miles.

There is a nice little *dak* bungalow at Sainj belonging to Theog State. It is only twenty miles from Simla and is a good place to spend a week-end. There is quite good small game shooting here also and I believe you can get good fishing in the Giri river, which is not very far from the *dak* bungalow. There now remained only one more march to Simla, and we left Sainj about 9 a.m. the following morning. The stretch up to Fagu was easily the worst climb we had to do during the whole journey. It was very hot, practically no shade the whole way and not a drop of water anywhere. However, we reached Fagu about a quarter past one. How thankful we were to get some beer at Fagu!

We felt much better after it. From here a motor road runs up to Simla, and so the rest of the journey was comparatively easy. We reached Simla about 6 p.m.

The whole journey had taken us eleven days including two days halting on the way—a day each at Nagthat and Mundali. I must say we thoroughly enjoyed the trip, though it would have been better still if we had done it in March or September, since we could have then combined some shooting with it and this would certainly have made it more interesting; also it would have been a bit cooler.

FIRE AND MOVEMENT IN THE ATTACK

By "MISSFIRE"

I ONCE asked a few officers what they understood by the expression "fire and movement." 2nd Lieutenant *A*'s reply was, "Oh, just short rushes." On being further pressed for something more definite he said: "Well, No. 1 section fires and No. 2 advances, then they change over and continue like this until they reach the enemy position when they both charge."

Well, this reply at least showed that 2nd Lieutenant *A* understood the principle that movement on the battlefield can be helped by, and to a great extent depends on, fire. His method of applying the principle was the method which at some time or other he had been taught; which, moreover, has been accepted by many much more experienced officers than himself and which, as I hope to show later in this article, is not only quite impracticable but is also unsound teaching.

The reply of another officer, Captain *B*, was, "Fire and movement I understand to be a principle by which movement on the battlefield is impossible without fire." Well of course Captain *B* had got it wrong in more ways than one. Firstly, nothing should be impossible to a good soldier. Secondly, although he understood that a relationship existed between fire and movement, he greatly exaggerated the importance of this relationship. Certainly fire *does* help movement, but movement, provided the troops are determined and well trained, is always to some extent possible without fire; on occasions even a great deal of battlefield movement is possible with little or no fire. Each situation must be judged on its merits and to teach that movement is impossible without fire is an extremely dangerous doctrine. For instance, although it might not be impossible, it would certainly be extremely foolish to move without fire support against a well-sited, carefully prepared position manned by well-equipped and seasoned German troops. It would be quite a different matter moving with no fire support against an ill-sited, hastily prepared position manned by badly trained and ill-conditioned Chinese levies. Blind adherence to the dependence of movement on fire has on more than one occasion lost us battles and cost us many casualties. There is, for instance, the Mesopotamian example of the attack on the Dujailah redoubt in March 1916.

Briefly what happened here was that, after a most remarkable night march, the British Indian forces appeared at dawn in front of the Dujailah redoubt. The Turks holding the redoubt were few in number and, what is more important, completely surprised. An immediate determined advance and we could not have failed to capture it. Instead, delays occurred to enable the artillery to come into action and help the forward movement. When the attack eventually took place some hours later the Turks had been reinforced and the attack, though carried out with the greatest gallantry, was a costly failure. This is an extreme example of the result of attaching exaggerated value and giving blind adherence to a principle without considering the peculiarities of a particular situation.

A correct answer in my opinion to the question "what do you understand by fire and movement" is:

> "While movement to a great extent depends on and is facilitated by fire, the chief movement impetus of troops, however, must come from their own determination and their skill in the use of ground."

So much for the broad discussion of the principle. As the Chinese levy situation previously mentioned is more often the exception than the rule it will be necessary to apply the principle of "fire to support movement" to its fullest measure.

I now propose to study in outline the method by which this principle is normally applied and, whatever our organisation, the basic method will remain the same. I intend, however, to deal with organisations as they exist at present in the Indian Army and States Forces, since these organisations are well known and understood by all; moreover, whatever changes in organisation are taking place in England are not likely to affect the Indian Army for some time.

Most military formations are composed of two types of troops, namely, those equipped primarily to fire and those equipped primarily to move and close with the enemy. For instance an infantry division has infantry and artillery brigades. Infantry brigades have no fire-producing units but are able to brigade some of the battalion machine-guns and, on occasions when a brigade is operating independently, some divisional artillery is decentralised to brigade control. The battalion is composed of three infantry companies and one machine-gun company. The company like the brigade has no fire-producing units but it is usual to detail a sub-unit of the battalion machine-gun company to support forward companies

likely to meet opposition. The platoon has three rifle sections and one light machine-gun section. The application of the principle is thus simple and, stripped of all its frills, boils down to this:

Movement troops.—There is your objective, you will get on to that objective.

Fire-producing units.—Make a fire plan to help the "movement troops" on to their objective by firing on enemy located on that objective and on any enemy obstructing movement towards that objective, *e.g.*, enemy artillery.

Right, this sounds simple enough and, provided the fire plan is perfect, all the "movement troops" have to do is to move direct on to the objective and take it over. For perfection, however, the fire plan requires two conditions which it seldom gets.

The first condition is an *exact knowledge of the location of all the enemy posts.*

The second condition is *enough fire to neutralise all these posts.*

Under circumstances of siege warfare in France such conditions did sometimes exist. Troops who had sat within a few hundred yards of the enemy positions for weeks or months on end naturally knew the exact location of the more forward part of the enemy's defensive system; it was also usually possible to concentrate an overwhelming amount of artillery and ammunition at any selected spot. As a result it was not unknown for the "movement troops," covered by an overwhelming bombardment, to move straight on to their first objectives with few or no casualties.

Mobile warfare is, however, very different from this and the conditions necessary for a perfect fire plan will seldom exist. The result will therefore be that as "movement troops" get forward, gaps will appear in the fire plan and provision must be made to fill these gaps. Field Service Regulations, Volume II, section 57 (2) and (3) envisages success at some points as the result of the initial fire plan and failure at other points as the result of the gaps in the fire plan. I now propose to study the application of the fire plan in detail and see where it fits in with the movement plan.

F. S. R. Vol. II, 57(1) states that the attack will fall into two stages. The same applies to the fire plan. The initial stage is planned, prepared, and timed on to targets whose location is reasonably well known, and under cover of this initial plan troops advance from the starting line. The second stage is looser, less organised and dependent more on improvisation; in short, this stage is the method of dealing with gaps in the initial fire plan which have resulted in

failure of movement. Now what are the fire arrangements to keep movement going at this stage? They are as follows:

Artillery F. O. Os., who have been detailed to accompany forward troops. F. S. R., Vol. II, 57 (3) states, "Artillery support of the leading troops should now be direct and rapid, and the problem is mainly one of good liaison and intercommunication."

The machine-guns allotted for the close support of the forward troops. These must get into position as far forward as they can. The commanders get out their glasses and locate enemy posts that are holding up the movement of the troops and of course they engage these posts.

The light machine-gun sections of platoons. These act similarly to the machine-guns, but owing to their more limited range must get into action in even more forward positions than the machine-guns. As they are less conspicuous and more mobile this is quite possible.

The guiding principles for both the machine-guns and light machine-guns should be, "Fire as much as possible, as long as you have something to fire at. Move as little as possible, for after every move it is difficult to pick up one's targets again and frequently targets which are visible from one place become invisible from another. While you are moving you are helping no one."

So much for the "fire" arrangements during this, the second stage of the attack.

The "movement" arrangements sound simple but require good leadership, determination, and skilled use of ground. They consist of "get on at all costs and halt as little as possible." Sections moving up a nullah here, along a hedge there, rushing across an exposed open space, men crawling one by one through an exposed defile and so on, in short stalking but *rapid stalking* and taking more risks than in ordinary stalking, the stalking to continue until near enough to the enemy to close with him. This second stage of the attack is the stage which popularly used to be dealt with by our old friend "short rushes." Previously in this article I said that the method was quite impracticable. I now propose to propound why. There are many reasons.

Firstly, anyone who has ever been shot at knows perfectly well that he does not know where the shots are coming from. One's partner in the "short rush" business, who is probably also being shot at, has an even vaguer idea. So it is difficult to see how he can help you. The mere firing off of ammunition, even if in approximately the right direction, is not going to worry a good enemy.

Secondly, enemy fire does not come from one post but intermittently from God knows how many posts. The "short rush" partner can only keep down the fire of one post at a time even supposing, as I said before, he knows where the enemy posts are, which of course he does not.

Thirdly, it is not practicable amid the confusion of battle for "short rush" partners to yell or signal to one another "I am now going to advance, help me."

Fourthly, if one is alternately moving and halting, one cannot pick up targets. So do not try to pick up targets. Leave that to the fire support troops (machine-gun and light machine-gun sections) and concentrate on getting forward until you are right up against a target that you can stick with a bayonet.

Fifthly, the "short rush" system involves much halting under fire since fire positions, especially when hastily selected, must be fairly exposed. Troops halted under fire are difficult to get moving again, therefore do not halt but keep moving, avoiding exposed places as much as possible.

To conclude, I believe it is usual to apologize before or after writing an article. I have never written an article before (obviously not), and the editor won't accept this, so I don't suppose I shall ever write another, but neither shall I apologize, for though everything I have said is obvious and has often been said before, none the less it always seems to me that this principle of "fire and movement" is most imperfectly understood.

[*The editor hopes that "Missfire"* will *write another.*]

THE IMPERIAL SERVICE INFANTRY IN SINAI AND PALESTINE, 1914—1919

By LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. C. POWELL-PRICE, A.F.I.

THERE were two Imperial Service brigades on the Sinai and Palestine front during the War. The cavalry brigade consisted of the Patiala, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers, while the infantry brigade had the Patiala, Gwalior and Alwar Infantry, and the 33rd Punjabis. Brigadier-General H. D. Watson commanded the infantry brigade and his brother the cavalry brigade. The former is now Major-General Sir Harry Watson, K.B.E., C.B., C.I.E., M.V.O., Equerry to the King. He was, before the War, Inspector-General of Imperial Service Troops and returned to the same appointment, which was later changed to Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces.

The infantry brigade arrived at Luig towards the end of 1914 after a period of concentration at Deolali. Colonel Daud Khan commanded the Alwar Infantry, Colonel Girdhari Singh the Gwalior Infantry and Colonel Gurbakhsh Singh the Patiala Infantry. Major Bogle of the Guides was senior S. S. O. with Alwar, Major Routh with Patiala and Major Ferguson Davie with Gwalior. Other officers were Major Campbell, also of the Guides, with Patiala and later Alwar—he was subsequently himself Military Adviser-in-Chief—and Captain Shepherd also with Alwar. Captain Hyde Cates, who was with Patiala, afterwards became senior S. S. O. and has just retired after completing command of his unit, the old 45th Sikhs. The first staff captain, Captain Pollock, has recently retired as a full colonel after being A.Q.M.G., Eastern Command. Major Bannatyne who was at one time brigade-major is now Major-General Bannatyne, C.B., C.I.E., Military Secretary, Army Headquarters, where the writer met him lately and found him as young and cheerful as ever. The brigade was in time to take a small part in repelling the abortive Turkish attack on the Suez Canal at Tussoum in 1915 and it then settled down to a long and somewhat dull time of post duty. The canal defences in 1915 consisted of entrenched and wired posts on the Sinai side of the canal spaced at about three-mile intervals. The usual model was a large post for headquarters and two companies, with a company post on each side. The main idea was to prevent the enemy from approaching the canal and interfering with shipping, and there were occasional contacts, but nothing very serious. About this time most of the troops on the canal proceeded to France or Gallipoli and their

place was taken by Territorials, who later moved on again. About March 1915, the writer recalls Alwar being sent to Kantara to serve as guides and mentors to a newly arrived brigade of Lancashire Territorials. The battalion had to initiate them into the routine of war, and a platoon of Alwar was attached to each company of the Territorials to show them how things were done. The writer, then a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indian Army reserve of officers, remembers being detached to show the stockbroker colonel of one battalion how to dispose his men on the usual covering force jaunt to Hill 70.

After this followed a period of more or less peaceful service in every post from Port Said to Suez. Attempts to place mines in the canal became more frequent and after the P. & O. "Kaisar-i-Hind," H.M.S. "Ocean" and the French warship "Montcalm" had passed unscathed over a mine which was anchored just too deep, the device of the "swept track" was put into force. This was the invention of General Cox and was as follows: every evening a balk of wood like a railway sleeper was harnessed to a mule and dragged lengthwise along the canal bank from post to post. This swept a smooth track about six feet wide. If anyone crossed this at night the tracks would be clearly visible and at dawn an officer and two sowars rode from post to post along the track all along the canal. If any suspicious tracks were found, all shipping was stopped at once and the tracks investigated, and if necessary the Navy were called on to sweep. In this way several mines were found. In actual fact no ship was blown up in the canal though a Holt boat did strike a mine in the Bitter Lakes, where the Navy was responsible for protection. The man chiefly responsible for these efforts was a German archæologist called Count Von Oppenheim but known to the troops by a less polite name. He had been all over the country before the War and had a following among the Bedouin of Sinai. At this time, too, began the exploits of Franck, the German spy, who used, it was said, to swim across the canal between posts and patrols, dress himself as a British officer from a hidden cache, and go up to Cairo in the leave-train listening to all the unguarded remarks which were made. At this time officers on leave in Cairo and Alexandria had to write their names, units and *stations on the canal* in the hotel registers on arrival. Such folly seems incredible but such were the orders and the enemy got a very clear idea of the disposition of troops on the canal sent them by their agents. When the Gallipoli adventure was begun, the canal was naturally denuded of troops and for a long period the whole portion between the Bitter Lakes and Suez was held by the 20th Indian Brigade consisting of the three Imperial Service battalions together with the 9th Bhopal Infantry, who had been more than decimated in

France and consisted of drafts from sixteen different battalions, and for a time the Garhwalis, and later the 2/3rd Gurkhas. It was understood that there was a rifle club of six members in Port Tewfik and these were the only support. Of course there was the Navy, which consisted of a couple of ancient cruisers, H.M.S. "Fox" and H.M.S. "Venus," also H.M.I.M.S. "Dufferin" and the French battleship "Montcalm." When the writer, with a company of Alwar, was at El Shatt at the end of the canal the French Admiral used to row up the canal in a skiff and bathe under the guard of an Alwar sentry. He was bearded like the pard and complained that the sentry looked at him, not at the desert. The "Montcalm" supplied the barrage for the post, and practices were carried out in a variety of languages—Hindustani to the troops and French to and from the battleship, which used its searchlight to signal.

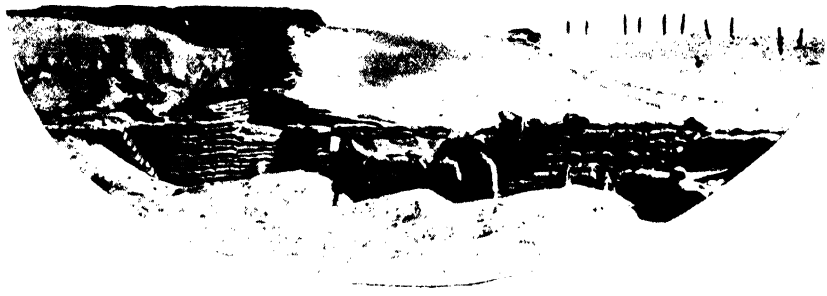
But soon came Lord Kitchener with the unkind remark that the canal was defending us not we the canal—and we moved out into the desert and dug more and better positions, such as the strong-point on Gebel Mar defending the wells of Bir Mar—Moses' Marah so called because the waters were bitter (and so they were, brackish in the extreme but good enough for mules), and Ain Musa (Moses' wells), which one may see from Suez Bay through the mirage. Here an Alwar sepoy emulated Moses in getting water from the rock, for his crow-bar slipped through a layer of rock when digging a trench and up bubbled a cool stream of fresh water—anywhere else it was salt and brackish.

Soon after this began the advance through the northern portion of the Sinai desert where the pipe-line and railway were being pushed on behind a covering screen of troops. The evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula had caused a concentration of troops along the canal and after an interval for reorganisation and training it was decided to attack the enemy in Palestine and not adopt a passive defence. The troops were now mostly Territorials and of a very different type from those whom Alwar had instructed at Kantara. These men had seen war and were hardened. Lancashire, Eastern Counties, Scotch and Welsh divisions together with Yeomanry and Australian Light Horse and New Zealand Mounted Rifles. All Indian troops had by now left for India or Mesopotamia except two infantry brigades, the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade and the Bikaner Camel Corps. This last under the command of Colonel Rawlins and Major Chope had done remarkable work in the early days on the canal and were a very fine body of men indeed. When the canal was our defensive line, a section of Bikaners and a section of Imperial Service cavalry were attached to each post for patrolling purposes, but now they remained to watch the southern end of the canal where the

hills offered possibilities of a Turkish raid. Heavy fighting now followed the advance to the north where the Turks under the German commander, Kress Von Kressenstein, attacked the troops covering the construction of the railway and pipe-line near Romani. Here Brigadier-General Cox of the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade won back his title of "Fighting Charlie" which he had won first in the Boer War. Reinforcements were called for and first Alwar and then the other battalions of the brigade were moved from the southern sector. Gradually the pipe-line and railway pushed their way further and further towards El Arish until after a remarkable march over silver sandhills on a moonlight night the troops were in the town—if town it can be called. There had been some fighting on the way but mainly cavalry affairs. At El Arish the troops were beginning to get out of the desert where they had lived for two long years and the first sight of some red poppies blowing in a patch of green in the lee of a sandhill excited choruses of great approval.

Now began the preparations for the real attack on Palestine and Gaza the gates thereof. The Cavalry and Camels cleared the way in two preliminary actions which were models of how to mop up opposing enemy pickets between dawn and dusk. The first was to clear the right flank at Maghdiba and the second to force the outposts of Gaza at Rafa. Alwar remained at El Arish while this was going on but the first battle of Gaza did not go too well and once more there was a forced march in support. The second Gaza affair betrayed a poverty of generalship which failed to utilise the opportunity and led to serious casualties and to a period of stalemate in which the opposing forces settled down to trench warfare.

Alwar, Patiala and Gwalior were now formed into a composite brigade in which Alwar and Gwalior provided two companies each to form one battalion, and a battalion of Bersaglieri made up the third. Alwar had before this been strengthened by the accession of reinforcements from Bahawalpur and Khairpur amounting to the strength of one whole company, mostly Khattaks, and a most useful reinforcement they turned out to be. The balance of Alwar and Gwalior remained at Rafa. A brigade of French and Italian troops was on the extreme right of the British trench system at El Mendur where it bent back towards the south. The country in front was broken up by deep *wadis* which led up to the Turkish positions of the Atawineh and Hairpin redoubts, excellent practice ground for strong fighting patrols at night. The ground to the flank was held by the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade who patrolled well out during the day. Here the summer of 1917 passed, varied by a certain amount of liveliness between patrols and a major attack by a German storm-troop company on an Alwar



TRENCHES AT GAZA.

WATERING CAMELS IN THE WADI GUZZEE.

ON THE ROAD TO AMMAN.

AMMAN STATION ON THE HEDJAZ RAILWAY.

COL. DAUD KHAN, WHO COMMANDED THE ALWAR IMPERIAL SERVICE INFANTRY, AND MAJOR ABBAS ALI.

advanced post, which was overwhelmed after a gallant stand. It might here be mentioned that this post should never have been placed in an exposed position in advance of the defence position like this at night, but higher authority would not listen to warnings. It was then that Major Chait Ram of Alwar was with difficulty restrained from rushing forth revolver in hand and taking on the Hairpin redoubt singlehanded. A grand character this whose example was an inspiration to the whole battalion. Allenby had by now taken command—a man who knew what he wanted—and the somewhat faltering policy that had preceded was changed. The name Allenby in itself was a weapon because the Turks read it as Al Nebi—the prophet—and there was a prophecy that when "The Prophet" came the Turkish domination would come to an end. This prophecy is old in Palestine for we read in the New Testament that John the Baptist was asked whether he was "That Prophet." But the name was even more potent still. Reversed it read Ybn Ella and this was soon transposed to Ibn Allah. Another prophecy of the termination of Turkish rule was that it would happen when Nile water flowed into Gaza, and the water in the pipe-line was Nile water.

Allenby was moving his troops for an attack on Beersheba and on the enemy left, since a frontal attack through cactus hedges on Gaza would prove expensive. Thus a big concentration gradually took place on the right of the line held by Alwar, Gwalior, Patiala and the Bersaglieri. The latter with their cocks' feathers and their band, which played at a run, were an interesting sight, but they were somewhat depressed at the news of the disaster at Caporetto. There was also a French contingent in the Composite Force but this regarded itself more as a diplomatic mission than a fighting force.

There is no need to recapitulate the story of the defeat of the Turks at Gaza. Suffice it to say that the 20th Indian Brigade played its part and Alwar captured the Hairpin redoubt but had to dispute its possession with the 10th Irish Division who came up on the right and calmly suggested it was theirs. The writer was able to get a helio message to brigade headquarters describing what had happened but they did not get the message through quickly enough, and in the books the capture of this trench system is put down to the Irish. This was a lesson on the necessity of quick claims if you are to get your share in the history of a war and also shows the unreliability of war histories.

Then the tide of war flowed on in pursuit of the flying Turks. The 20th Indian Brigade was left behind to clear up the area and lived an uneventful life on a hill behind Gaza for several months, varied by the excitement of being blown up when any of the Turkish booby traps in the trenches vacated by them in such

a hurry erupted. Here was started the Gaza Vale Hunt which chased the Palestinian "jack" over trenches and *wadis* with considerable enthusiasm but little result.

When Jerusalem surrendered, the brigade furnished the guard on the famous Mosque of the Rock. The following March of 1918 found the brigade in the Jordan valley but by now restored to its previous composition of Alwar, Gwalior and Patiala. The march down to this famous rift valley, which stretches in one form or another half across Asia and Africa, was full of interest but the valley was no health resort. When the troops first reached it in March, Jordan in Biblical parlance "had overflowed her banks" and the first crossing was a perilous business. Finally bridgeheads were formed and the 20th Brigade set to hold them. Alwar and Gwalior first held the Ghoraniyeh bridgehead with Patiala lower down towards the Dead Sea. The Jordan valley was a queer place. Below the hills on either side stretched a sandy barren plain with weird hillocks of mica and sulphurous-looking earth rising in strange formations here and there. Beyond was a green streak which was the tropical vegetation hiding the Jordan, a slow and muddy stream which had in the course of ages cut a yet deeper channel for itself. The Turkish positions were well back from the river at Shunet Nimrim and on the slopes of El Haud, the mountain that dominated the scene, and on part of the mountains of Moab. In no-man's-land was an expanse of scrub which effectively concealed any movements and which was the scene of many a skirmish during the ensuing months.

The Turks made one big attack not on Ghoraniyeh but away to the left, where the Australian Light Horse held a series of posts. Here the famous "Fighting Charlie," General Cox, was in command and though the attack led by two German battalions penetrated the line he refused to lose his head and soon had them surrounded and prisoners. The Turkish divisions who were to consolidate the gains judged it wiser to stay where they were, so the much heralded thrust to regain Jerusalem failed. Then came the turn of the British to attack and the raids on Amman were put into effect. Later accounts have suggested that these were meant to give the enemy the idea that the great push was to come over Jordan but there is little evidence for this. Allenby was simply trying the enemy's front and Lawrence had given him promises of support which, as so often happened, failed to materialise. You can never rely on the Bedouin. Lawrence won his success by refusing to plan ahead and by letting himself be carried on by the course of events and then turning them to advantage. But collaboration in

any set scheme with him was bound to fail as it did in the raids across Jordan. In one of these the Patiala machine-guns did well and Lieutenant Clarke, I.A.R.O., was awarded the Military Cross.

On the whole the Jordan valley was monotonous except for malaria and jungle-cleaning fatigues. The enemy aircraft dropped placards in June: "This month flies die, next month men die." Even the Bedouin of the valley do not remain there in the hot weather, but the troops had to. Later, Alwar moved to the Auja bridgehead further north where they had the 49th Royal Fusiliers on their left. These were all Jews and they were known as the "Jordan Highlanders." They were under the command of the well-known Colonel Patterson, hero of the "Manslayers of Tsavo." An unkind story was that their badge was three brass balls and their regimental motto, "No advance without security." When at last the final push came, Alwar, Gwalior, Patiala and the 2/110th Mahrattas, who had now joined the brigade, were to advance each from its bridgehead on a front of about ten miles and concentrate in the scrub jungle about Shunet Nimrim, where the road led up to Es Salt and ultimately to Amman and the Hedjaz railway. El Haud defended the narrow defile through which the road ran and this must first be taken. Here was seen the folly of these approach marches with an assembly position close in front of the position to be attacked. Alwar on the left, the El Haud flank, never found the Mahrattas, who had emerged from Ghoraniyeh and were to have been in the centre, while Patiala on the right flank never got in touch with anyone at all. Thus Alwar found themselves in front of El Haud and still out of touch with the centre which had, it was later discovered, lost direction in the thick scrub jungle. It was getting on in the day and it was important that the defile through which the road passed should be secured at once. It was, therefore, decided to rush the slopes of El Haud without waiting for support which might never come—and which actually never did. Accordingly, necessary dispositions were made and a company of Alwar reached the summit while the balance made good the crest overlooking the road. The company which gained the far summit found a few enemy, who faded away, and the Alwar signallers were just in time to get the setting sun and helio the news to Force headquarters at Jericho. Gradually the scattered brigade collected itself. It was found that the retreating enemy had blown up the road where it went over galleries along a cliff face. Patiala and fatigues from the others working all night had this ready for transport by the morning and the advance to Amman was resumed. The brigade was now part of Chaytor's Force which had orders to move on Amman and cut off the Turkish forces retiring from the Hedjaz. The remainder of the

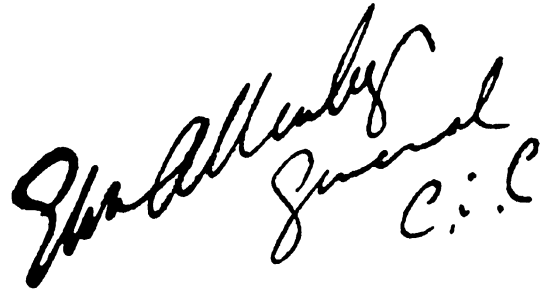
force was composed of New Zealand and Australian cavalry and Territorial gunners and it was their advance on Es Salt by a route further north which had induced the enemy to abandon their very strong position about Shunet Nimrim and on El Haud. The line of march led along a defile and then up by corkscrew turns, reminiscent of many a road to a hill station in India but bare of vegetation to Es Salt. At the entrance to the defile below El Haud was found the Turkish big gun "Jericho Jane"—a naval gun which used to annoy Jericho and divisional headquarters—upside down in a pool. Es Salt, which was reached at nightfall, is a pretty town mostly inhabited by Syrian Christians, with all the hill-side terraced for vines. This is where the sultana raisins come from. Never had we seen such large and lovely clusters. But we could not stay. The Turks had been driven over the plateau of the Hauraun between Es Salt and Amman and had finally stood in force on the natural ramparts of ridges which defended the valley of the Jabbok and Amman. The Mahrattas were left to hold Es Salt against any attack from the broken country south-west while Alwar was sent on to join in the attack on Amman. They marched through the night through this high and grassy upland, lit up by a full moon, passing now and then a village where the Turk had left his traces in burnt and broken buildings and here and there the bodies of men, women and children who had been massacred by the Circassian irregulars who formed a colony about Amman—a sickening sight. But the New Zealanders and Australian Light Horse had not waited and after a stiff fight their remarkable élan had broken the enemy, and Amman fell before the Imperial Service battalions could reach the scene.

The next few days were spent in mopping up. Finally the remnants of the Fourth Turkish Army coming up from the Hedjaz saw the hopelessness of their plight and wisely surrendered. They had been reduced to less than twelve thousand by the attacks of Lawrence and his Arabs, and finally a company of Alwar was sent out to bring them into Amman. The night when they reached the Jabbok was one to remember. They had been without water for long and, with the exception of an Arab battalion, when they saw the water they rushed in—no longer an army but a mob. Some were drowned but finally all were marshalled and got away. The Arab battalion gave an example of what discipline will do. They stood and waited for the command and then each third man took the water-bottles, filled them and brought them back, and then they drank. The night before, all the bakeries of Amman had been taken over and the bakers given flour while sentries stood over them to see they did their job so that there was food for this starving multitude when they came in. Allenby's order printed in

facsimile overleaf was issued before this inglorious surrender of the 4th Turkish Army but it is worth recording. They were got away by lorries to Jericho as soon as possible but many died from privation and from the terrible epidemic of influenza which now broke out. This was the end of all active campaigning for the brigade and for a time they remained in occupation of Amman. One episode deserves mention. The brigade held an outpost line on the ridges guarding Amman on the south and west. There were bands of Arab marauders, the rag tag and bobtail of Lawrence and Feisal's army, intent on plunder, and it was necessary to keep them out. The troops had instructions to let none through, but not to use the rifle or the bayonet, for these plunderers were our allies. The General had been trying to get into touch with Lawrence but failed, and there was a story that shortly after the capture of Amman one company commander found a bunch of Bedouins trying to pass, and remembering his orders he threw stones at them to drive them off. These it was later declared included Lawrence and Feisal trying to get in touch. No names, no pack drill, so we will not divulge what troops these were, and of course it was probably not Lawrence and he says nothing about the episode in his "Seven Pillars of Wisdom," but he certainly did seem to have a certain amount of prejudice against the Indian Army. Soon came the orders for a return to Jerusalem, and as Alwar passed the traditional site of the inn of the Good Samaritan on the Jericho-Jerusalem road a Bedouin shouted out "Turkey *mafish.*" This was confirmed when Jerusalem was reached. So the war on this front was over. Alwar and Gwalior marched by slow stages to Tulkaram; here it was possible to follow the details of the break-through on the coast which rolled up the Turkish resistance. At Tulkaram came the news of the Armistice, and the remaining Verey lights contributed to the rejoicing. Finally in early 1919 came orders to proceed to Suez and embark for India. We walked from Kantara to Amman but now we went down like gentlemen in a train. It was sad parting from many old friends. Over four years of campaigning together had formed friendships which still leave pleasant memories. Colonel Daud Khan is dead—a very fine gentleman of the old school who knew his men and held them together well. His adjutant, now Lieutenant-Colonel Zulfiqar Ali, was another who was a tower of strength. Then Major Jodh Ram, a lion in courage, whose great regret it was that he had not died in action like a man. Major Puran Singh left us at Gaza; he too has carried on the tradition and was, I believe, *Senapati* after the War. Major Abbas Ali is also dead. He was an officer of the best type, quiet and unassuming and thoroughly reliable. Others who come to mind are Major Ram Singh, and Jemadar Kothiari who ran the signallers

I desire to convey to all ranks and all arms of the Force under ıy command, my admiration and thanks for their great deeds of the past 'eek, and my appreciation of their gallantry and determination, which have ɜaulted in the total destruction of the VIIth and VIIIth Turkish Armies pposed to us.

Such a complete victory has seldom been known in all the history f war.



6th September, 1918.

FACSIMILE OF THE ORDER ISSUED BY GENERAL ALLENBY

with great efficiency. But the whole battalion was a fine body of men who improved remarkably as time and experience had their effect. The Bahawalpur and Khairpur detachment who joined on the canal formed a company under Captain Isar Khan, and won a very good name for themselves. Subedar Khan Mohammad, Khairpur, won the Indian Order of Merit at Gaza for a very good piece of work. Finally we must not forget Havildar Chhaddamital who kept the battalion office in such good order and was always ready to exchange "pen for rifle" as he put it. A great spirit, in spite of physical disabilities, who always refused to go sick and finally had to be carried off to hospital almost by force in the Jordan valley. *"Haec olim meninisse iuvabit."*

A TALK ON THE TIGER

By ".425"

THIS treatise attempts to describe the writer's own tiger-shooting experiences accumulated during a period of seventeen years—experiences gained in the beautiful *sal* forests of Mandla and Balaghat districts; in the deciduous mixed teak forests of Seoni, Betul-Narsingpur districts, and of Bastar State in the Central Provinces; in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions touching the Central Provinces and in Berar; in Morwan, Neemuch, Pahadgarh of Scindia's Government, in Bhopal and Panna in Central India; and in the Nilgiri Raj forests in Orissa.

These notes can in no wise be termed exhaustive and exclusive since numerous shikaries and naturalists, British and Indian, throughout the twentieth century and before, have produced volume after volume on the shooting of carnivora and gramnivora of the plains and mountains of India and Burma and of the deserts of Africa. These have done much to complete our store of knowledge. Distinguished among them may be mentioned the names of Sir John Hewitt, General Wardrop, Colonel Stockley, Colonel Ward, Sir S. E. Riddley-Wimlet, A. A. Dunbar Brander, the Honourable J. W. Best, and the Maharajas of Cooch Behar and Gwalior. I make no claim to a perfect knowledge of any of the branches of the sport on which I write. "When Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands, who am I to talk too much of my beggarly score"? I must apologise for my literary style as my experience of writing is limited and I owe much to friends for advice and information generously given towards compiling these notes.

It is a well-known fact that different geological zones in India as elsewhere have got their own peculiar flora and fauna. For instance, in the Central Provinces, track and volcanic formations have mixed forests and teak and are devoid of fauna such as buffaloes and elephants, whereas sandstone and metamorphic rocks and crystalline formations where *sal* forests (*jhanps*) are met with, interspersed with large grassy *maidans*, have *barasingas* and buffaloes, not found in the first mentioned zone, beside other big game common to both. It will be seen, therefore, that the geological cleavage and consequent difference in the type of vegetation have had some appreciable effect on the distribution of fauna.

I would confine myself to the tiger only out of the wonderful fauna, though it has been my fortune to meet numbers of bison, elephant, *barasinga, sambhar, chital* and other deer, besides wild boar, sloth-bear, wild dog; in fact almost anything but wolves.

"Country life is to be preferred, for there we see the works of God but in the cities little else but the work of man, and the one makes a better subject for our contemplation than the other."

The tiger belongs to genus Felis to which also belong leopard (F. Pardus), fishing cat (F. Vivertina), Indian desert cat (F. Ornata), jungle cat (F. Chaus), and carcal (F. Carcal) known as *siahgosh* (black-eared).

The tiger has not always been an inhabitant of India though most people are inclined to regard him as a resident of India, and, hearing so much of tiger-shooting in India and Burma, people are apt to think that he originated in India. His original home, or shall we say the cradle of the race, was probably in the far north towards the Arctic. Not only the fauna but the flora of the Pleistocene regions of Northern Asia were appropriate to a temperate zone; trees, shrubs and grass furnished food for hoofed (herbivorous) animals known as ungulates, and these oxen, deer and antelopes in their turn attracted the great carnivorous animals which preyed upon them. Thence the tiger extended his habitat, not only to the south and east but to the south-east and south-west. There is no mention of him before Alexander penetrated far into Asia when lions but not tigers harassed the baggage caravans of his army. The tiger is still found in Eastern Siberia, Korea, Mongolia, Manchuria and Northern China, extending to Southern China, the Malay Archipelago and the islands of Java, Sumatra and Bali, reaching as far as Singapore in recent times. He is found throughout Burma and up to 10,000 feet above sea level in the Himalayas. (In the Himalayas a man-eating tigress was shot by Mr. Osmaston, I.F.S., U.P., in Mandali above Deoban near Chakrata in 1889.) In Western Asia they still linger in the Elburz (southern shores of the Caspian Sea) and Tabriz in Persia, Daghestan (west of the Caspian Sea), and Georgia. They used to inhabit parts of Afghanistan but there are none to be found there now. That is to say, the habitat of the tiger extends across Asia from the foot of the Caucasus, north-east to the confines of the Arctic Circle, eastwards to Manchuria and south-east to Persia, India and Malaya.

It is interesting to speculate whether the tiger did not expel the lion from a great part of India after the migration, which was probably gradual, from Central Asia into India (sub-tropical region) at a period which coincided with the incoming of the great Aryan race which came to settle down in the plains of the Punjab and

Gangetic valley and at a period of the receding of the temperate zone before the southward flow of the ice-cap. Within the last five thousand years when Sanskrit became a written language there was no Sanskrit word for tiger. Again out of excavations of the famous Mohan-ja-Daro in the Indus valley, seals engraved with figures of lions were found. Camels and horses appear to have entered India subsequent to the emigration of the tiger. Traces of the presence of lion, but never of tiger, in regions from which they have disappeared are to be found in many parts of India. One of the incarnations of Vishnu is the man-lion (Narsingh) of Hindu mythology (Prahlad and the tyrant Hirnakishab). Further, the tiger does not figure in the sculptures of Egypt and Babylon, nor is he mentioned in the Bible. Also he is not found in Ceylon though the fauna there resembles that of Southern India; strangely enough the plant-life differs considerably from that of the Peninsula. Perhaps the inference is that Ceylon was separated from the mainland before the tiger reached Southern India. In the Punjab, tigers were seen last in the reed-beds of the Indus about eighty to a hundred years back.

The tigers of Persia in the west and of Burma in the east are comparatively small. They are at their best (in bulk and length) at the foot of the Himalayas, in the Nepal Terai and Sunderbans of the Gangetic delta of Bengal, where they are sometimes called Royal Bengal tigers. Besides the great Indian Peninsula, and the Central Provinces and Central India where they are so plentiful, they are to be found in Rajputana (Udaipur and Kotah). Those of the Central Provinces and Central India may be called fair-sized specimens when compared with the fine animals in the Terai.

The true coloration is of value for purposes of protection (camouflage); stripes lend to the tiger a marked protective coloration both by day amid bush, boulder, or grass in the light and shade of sunlight and shadow, as well as by night in the open. As nature abhors a vacuum so also she in general rejects a uniform coloration. The purpose of protective coloration is to conceal herbivorous specie from their enemies and to enable carnivora to approach their prey unobserved.

The ground colour of the tiger varies from a bright sienna to a rufous tint, tending to a deeper hue in young immature animals and perhaps a darker tone in those inhabiting dense and marshy forests, to a paler yellow in old age. The tiger is darker in dense forest than in open jungle but all stripes, whether of irregular form or arranged in loops or in black bands, generally assume a roughly parallel formation; the belly stripes on their white ground are often in the form of broad black bands. In some tiger, stripes are far more broken up than in others and they vary much in pattern.

White tigers are known to have existed. They have been shot in Rewa State and are met with in the charming *sal* forests of Bilaspur and Mandla districts of the Central Provinces, and in Rewa State round about Amarkantak, though one was shot in Dinajpur in the Marquis of Wellesley's time. A good few are reported to have been shot within the last twenty years according to the Bombay Natural History Society's journal, which asks whether variations are tending to a new race and whether they are bred white. Rewa State white tigers appear to have bred white for several generations just as the black panthers of Kolhapur zoological gardens have bred black. His Highness of Cooch Behar shot two white tigers, one of which was shot in Bilaspur, Central Provinces, with dark brown and white whiskers and pink eyes. The "Indian Forester" for May 1909 contains a description of a tigress having been shot in Orissa, the ground colour of which was pure white with stripes of a deep reddish black; it was in good condition and with no signs of disease. One white tigress was shot in Bhagalpur on the 26th December 1926 by Mr. F. B. Robinson. The most interesting record is that of a captive described in the Bombay Natural History Society's journal, caught in the jungles of southern Rewa near Barsingpur in December 1915 when about two years old. The then Home Member of Rewa State said that there were at the time two more white tigers related to this one, but it was believed that the mother was not white.

Black tiger are exceedingly rare and are not known to me at all. Colonel W., however, says that in Travancore there are two distinct species of black tiger, one kind with streaks like the royal monster and the other with spots like a panther, the skin jet black. They are diminutive but excessively fierce and strong, not hesitating to attack anything they meet. Captain Capper of the Central India Horse saw a black tiger in 1905 in Travancore. Mr. Buckland, F.Z.S., wrote in his diaries for 1889 that he saw a dead black tiger in Chittagong on the side of the road from Chittagong to Tipperah.

Speaking of the tiger of Central Asia I personally have not shot any, but have seen a number of skins, which were considerably larger and more hairy than their Indian brethren. Messrs. Roland Ward, Ltd., once showed me a skin of a very large Manchurian tiger. It was a far larger skin than that of the largest Indian tiger. There is every reason to believe that the Manchurian tiger is a really bigger animal than the Indian tiger. For so large an animal with such a thick coat the climate of India would be a great handicap. The animal found in India now is comparatively smaller than the Manchurian tiger, and rightly so because game in India being more scarce and agile it would be impossible for such a large heavy-

coated beast to prey conveniently on game and flourish in the Indian climate. The natural result has been that the present Indian tiger is a much more agile and a lighter animal than his ancestors; were it otherwise he would have become extinct. Not knowing much about tigers of other countries I do not wish to go into further details and must keep to my subject which is the present tiger in India.

It is to be expected that in a country as big as India and under such varying conditions the size of the tiger should vary in different places. For example, I believe that the tiger in Southern India is comparatively small and the tiger of the Central Indian jungles is larger, while those of the Terai and Bengal are bigger still. Why tiger should vary in size like that is a difficult problem to tackle but I am inclined to believe that in certain places, which are further away from human habitation and are in the denser jungles, there is more game for tiger to prey upon than in the sparser jungles. On three different occasions I have seen and also shot distinctly large tigers in the *sal* forest of the famous district of Mandla. Here I know that besides there being plenty of game there was a constant rush of cattle from other districts for grazing. What with plenty of game and such large herds of cattle the average tiger does not have to go long without food. Secondly, this and similar places being out of the way they are not slaughtered by man—small wonder that they are bigger than those of other places. I believe that just before this, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught shot a very large tiger in a place near that to which I am alluding.

Just before revising these pages I was fortunate enough to join a shoot in these same parts of India, though not the same districts. Again we ran across some very large tigers. Among those we shot the biggest was 9 feet 6 inches.

It is interesting to note that the tiger is very intolerant of the sun and hates moving about in the daytime. Usually he commences moving shortly after sunset and continues doing so throughout the night. His rounds in search of game are more or less fixed. On many occasions you will see a tiger passing through a certain place every ten or fifteen days. In the night he moves about in open beds of nullahs and rivers, and on jungle paths and roads. In the cold weather, especially when it is wet under foot, he prefers open ground. He prowls as quietly as possible and covers long distances in the night. His action while moving seems to be very slow and it is surprising what great distances he covers in the night. One frequently comes across small scratches where a tiger has performed his call of nature; this clearly indicates that he is a very clean animal, and he is found to be so when shot; you will hardly ever find a dirty tiger. Though while actually

eating game he may become dirty, he goes out of his way to sit down and clean himself as soon as possible after the meal.

During the rainy season he is much troubled by mosquitoes and bugs, and, in *sal* forests, he moves in daylight from one place to another in search of solitude and rest. While sitting quietly or resting he constantly flaps his ears, which clearly indicates that he tries to get rid of the flies. I believe that when he is drowsing the movement of the ear is automatic. During the hot weather he will often plunge into a quiet pond or stream and will either remain cool in the water or lie down in the cool sands in a shady place. In this position he can be approached if extreme caution is observed.

I have known a tiger actually climb up a forked tree during the rainy season. In the Mysore Zoo there is a tigress for whom a platform has been built in a tree. The tigress often sits up on this platform, which is twenty-one feet high, and she generally takes her meals up there.

Once when we were out shooting in the districts a tiger came out of a beat looking very much darker than usual and dirty. Afterwards we discovered that he had been actually lying in the small pond which we had included in the beat, and our shikari swore that he had some difficulty in getting him to move from the pond.

The age of the tiger has been discussed by many. I believe they live to twenty-five years, but after six or seven years stop growing in length though they keep on growing in bulk till they are nearly twelve or fourteen years old. After the age of fifteen years one can safely say that the tiger is past middle-age and getting old. The human being is the tiger's only mortal enemy. I do not remember hearing of or finding a full-grown animal dead but I have come across a few dead cubs. Cubs sometimes perish when they are very young and the mother is killed, because they cannot yet hunt for themselves, and I have sometimes found dead cubs near a water-pool but the death of the cubs in general can be attributed to the male tiger. Dead cubs when found are usually males (as I have found on three occasions) and it is obvious that the father of the family being either jealous or annoyed comes and kills the male cubs. It may be due to this or to the inability of the mother to rear more than a limited number of cubs at a time that generally not more than three cubs have been known to survive in one litter, although once a tigress carrying five cubs was unfortunately shot and I have heard of as many as seven fœtus being found in a dead tigress.

Cubs are born blind with a hairy coat. The fur is noticeably long, which indicates again that they are prepared for a colder climate by nature. As the cubs

grow, so the coat improves in colour, and the stripes, very dense at first, become further apart, and the coat becomes thin. The period of gestation is only fifteen weeks and there are at least four or five fœtus; the newly born cub is surprisingly small when born. The tigress drops them anywhere in the jungles but prefers a shelter of rocks or a cave as a home for the young ones. If they are dropped away from such a home she brings them to a shelter by carrying them one by one in her mouth at night. For the first eight weeks she will not take them about and wanders long distances in search of food for them, bringing it back in her mouth. When she kills a long way from the lair she gorges herself and then brings up the meal for the cubs. When the cubs grow older they gradually extend their wanderings and finish up by hunting with the mother. They are very impatient little beasts and will always try to head the mother in search of prey. She frequently growls at them as a warning to keep close at hand.

It has become the fashion of late to call in question the moral character of the tiger because he kills cattle and to depreciate him as a beast of the chase to the greater glorification of the lion. As to the first charge, he only takes to killing cattle in places where the balance of nature has been upset and game is scarce. Well, after all, one must live! The tiger generally is a somewhat stronger and more powerful beast than the lion and needs none to teach him how to hunt and kill the heaviest game. The last word has not been said about the character, habits and attributes generally of a beast so unjustly stigmatised as cruel and bloodthirsty merely because he pursues a perfectly natural instinct in sustaining life.

Tigers are not always a curse. Though at times they do a great deal of damage, turn man-eaters and so on, yet they have their uses in preserving the balance of nature. In tracts where tigers have become depleted in numbers, it is found that other game such as deer, *nilgai* and pig, now no longer menaced by tigers, have multiplied rapidly and ravaged the crops to such an extent that cultivators have had to abandon their fields, with a consequent loss to the cultivators and in turn to Government and State revenues. This proves that tigers can be a boon to agriculturists and that their undue extermination should not be permitted.

Further every man's hand is against the noble tiger and to-day the odds are against him owing to the efficiency and widespread use of modern arms, the employment of electric torches, and the use of cars, which extend and accelerate the means of communication.

He has no close season, there is no protection for his females or young, a reward is on his head and lastly he is the target for the local shikari, who, owing

to modifications in the Arms Act, is afforded greater and increased facilities for slaughter. He cannot even find sanctuary in reserved forests. The recent inauguration of the Conference for the Preservation of Indian Wild Life, which is under the patronage and in the hands of distinguished people, gave great satisfaction to all naturalists and lovers of game.

Against this there is the darker side of the picture. Tigers take toll of human life to the extent of some two thousand human beings annually and destroy a large number of domestic cattle (horrifying exploits) making it necessary to keep down their numbers. The killing of domestic cattle may generally be attributed to a scarcity of game and the taking of human life to bad shooting by so-called shikaris who leave a wounded animal, which, no longer capable of hunting game, takes toll of human life as well as of domestic animals. It would, however, be a great pity if for this reason so splendid a beast as the tiger were to be exterminated.

THE EQUITATION SCHOOL, SAUGOR

By MAJOR A. F. DAVIDSON,
Probyn's Horse, Instructor, Indian Wing

IT having been decided that training schools be started for the mounted branches of the services in India, Saugor was selected for that of the cavalryman. After much building, rebuilding, and reappropriation of existing lines and quarters, the Cavalry School opened in 1910. At that time it was commanded by a brigadier-general with a large staff, and the students were divided into four British officer rides, four British N.C.O. rides and four Indian N.C.O. rides. Thus it remained until 1914 when war broke out and the school closed down, becoming for the time being a remount depot. In 1919, however, the school opened again on its original scale but by 1924 we find the commandant to be of the rank of colonel and from this time began the gradual reduction in the size of the school owing to the need for economy.

In England it had been decided to combine the Cavalry School and the Royal Artillery School, and India followed suit in 1923 from which date the school became known as the Equitation School. At about this time a few students from the Iraq Army attended the school with a view to the eventual formation of the staff of an equitation school in Iraq, and they continued to attend the course until 1934.

In order to keep the methods and standard of training uniform throughout the army in India some vacancies on the course were allotted from 1922 onwards to State officers, Indian officers and N.C.Os. of the Indian States Forces and, as the number of vacancies gradually increased, there were enough States Forces students by 1932 to justify their being formed into one ride under an Indian States Forces instructor.

At about this time, however, the school was reduced in size owing to the need for economy, and rides at present consist of two British officer rides, one Indian States Forces ride, two British N.C.O. rides and three Indian Army N.C.O. rides, all working under the Chief Equitation Instructor.

The course at the school commences on the 15th September and continues for eight months until the 15th May. During this time there are three breaks to give the students a well-earned rest; ten days in November, ten days at Xmas and

ten days during the Delhi horse show week. In addition, there is a long week-end every month when students are encouraged to go away from Saugor and refresh themselves.

Besides equitation, the syllabus includes tactics, topography and field engineering, also a comprehensive veterinary course which carries a special certificate of its own.

The subject of equitation is divided into a recruits course and a remount training course, and for this each British Army and Indian Army student is issued with one trained horse, one half-trained remount and one raw remount. Each States Forces student, however, brings his own trained horse, which is used for nothing but parade work, and on its good qualities and state of training depends much of the student's enjoyment of the course and his chances of doing well. In addition, the school provides each States Forces student with both a half-trained and a raw remount.

Tactics and topography are taught throughout the course and include demonstrations and T. E. W. Ts. An officer of the Royal Engineers is attached for two months late in the course to give instruction in field engineering. During his stay the school goes out to the annual camp where instruction is given in rapid bridging, rafting, and in swimming horses.

The object of the course is to train all students in the above subjects as instructors and assistant instructors, especially in all mounted work, and to inculcate sound principles of horsemanship, horsemastership and skill-at-arms on uniform lines. While this object is kept constantly in view every effort is made to help students in other branches of equitation such as show-jumping, race-riding and training polo ponies.

The students are divided into three messes: the officers mess, the British warrant officers and N.C.Os. mess and the Indian wing mess. Officer students are allotted single quarters with quarters for their servants near by, while the Indian officers are provided each with a furnished room with accommodation for an orderly behind it. Four stables and four syces quarters are allotted to each officer. Thus he has accommodation for his trained horse and for three private horses.

There are many competitions at the school both for private and government horses and it is pleasing to see the keenness with which the States Forces students join in them and the high proportion of successes which come their way. Students are encouraged to bring as many polo ponies as they can and it is good to note the increasing number from the Indian States who play polo at Saugor. They

are a very welcome addition to the numbers playing and even more welcome is the entry of their team in the inter-ride polo tournament held in April. From December onwards a race meeting is held about once a month and the States Forces race on the card usually produces a good field and keen riding, while States Forces students are usually to be seen riding in the 'chases. The yearly point-to-point meeting proves that the States keep and send good horses to Saugor, and this is further borne out by the large and ever increasing entries in the States Forces classes in the annual horse show. As well as with the games and sports already mentioned students may find relaxation in pig-sticking, shooting (both big and small game), fishing, football, hockey, squash, tennis and cricket.

The course at Saugor is a strenuous eight months for the student but it is hoped that the Indian States Forces students along with the others get a lot of pleasure while acquiring the knowledge necessary to qualify.

"HAMESHA TAIYAR"

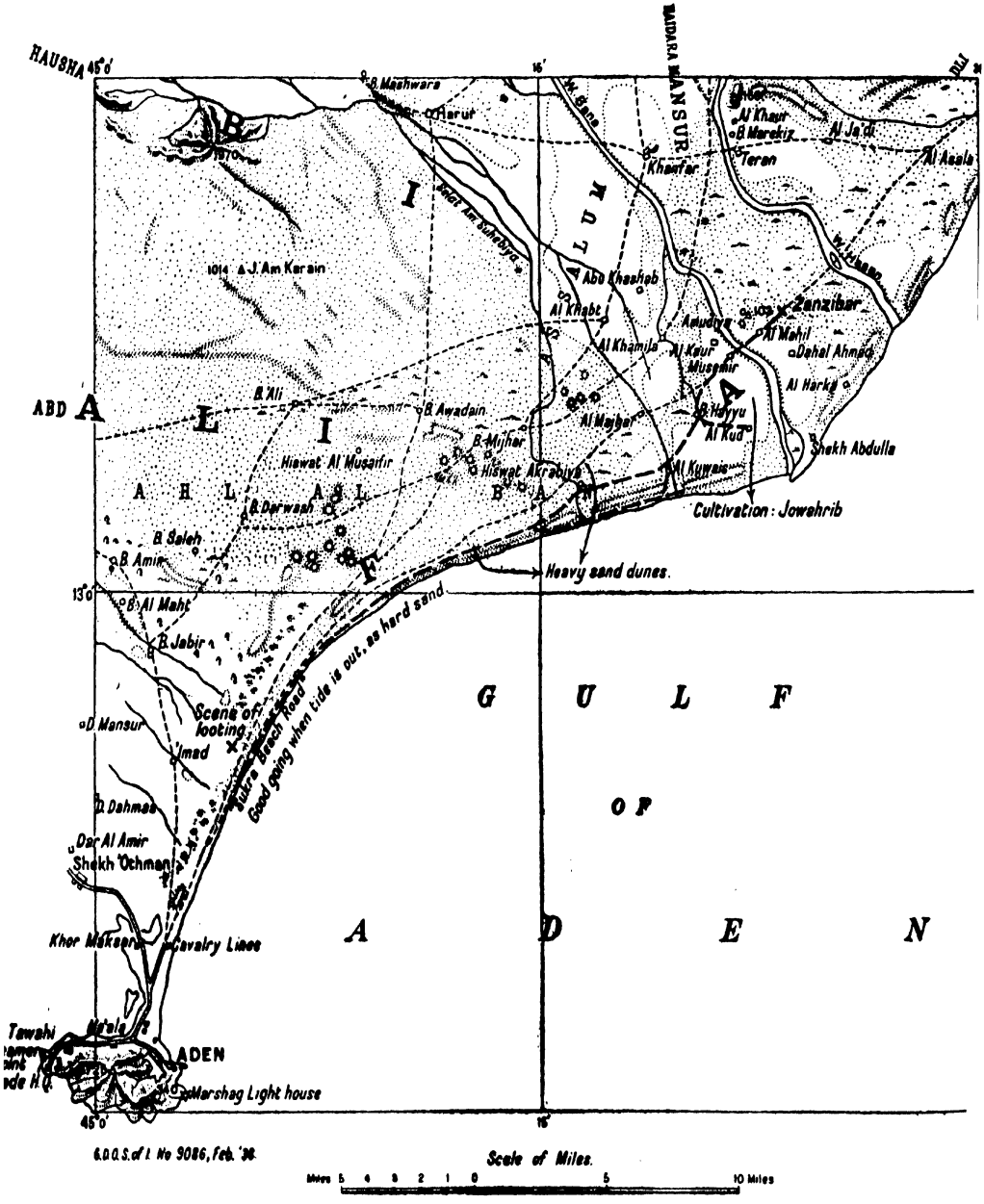
By T. M. C.,
Indore

CAVALRY as such is fast being replaced by mechanised units and especially is this so in Europe. Those of us, however, who still retain our allegiance to and affection for the horse and the mounted branch know that occasions are bound to occur when cavalry in their true rôle will come into their own again, and it behoves us to be ready for such occasions when the call does come.

The accompanying official report of a minor operation carried out by the Aden Troop in 1925 may perhaps afford an instance of the necessity of cavalry employed on such duties being so organized and trained that even under the most peaceful conditions they are ever ready or, in the words of the motto of the Aden Troop, *"Hamesha taiyar."*

Since the report only contains a bare narrative of events, I shall preface it with a few comments which I hope will enable readers to derive some lessons from the operation.

I would emphasize that at that time the Aden Troop were living under normal peace conditions; no trouble was expected with the local tribes nor was any such raid as that described in the report ever even dreamt of by the local authorities. The unit was in no way in a state of readiness and was carrying out its normal peace-time routine work. The usual morning parades were over, stables had just finished and horses were on their way back from watering, which owing to the difficulties of water-supply at Aden took place some time after "stables" had ended. Horses' feeds were all ready and the men's food was being prepared in the cook-houses. So in some ways we were fortunate in receiving the news of the occurrence at the moment when we did. Even so, it required but little calculation to estimate that the raiders had some thirty miles start of us and it was essential to move fast to catch them up. Sunset was about 7 p.m. and it would be essential to catch the raiders before nightfall or they would get away into the foot-hills where it would be impossible to trace them. These calculations had to be made while the troop was getting ready and while the commanding officer was changing back from office "slacks" into marching order. He had also to work out at what pace to travel, since he knew the Sukra Beach Road should afford excellent going for



G.D.O.S. of I. No 9086, Feb. '98.

SKETCH MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE ROUTE TAKEN BY THE ADEN TROOP.

some twenty-five miles whereas beyond that heavy sand or broken ground might be encountered, for the country through which the raiders had made off was unknown.

The men had not yet had their morning meal, so the commanding officer had to arrange for this and the necessary extra water to follow us in the troop car, an old but serviceable Ford. Orders for this had to be issued as we moved off, and the necessary arrangements for the immediate issue of food to the men when we halted and the rapid refilling of water-bottles and haversacks were made as we cantered along, there being no time for any issue of verbal orders in the approved fashion before we started. The total lack of confusion and the rapidity with which all these arrangements were carried out were proof of the value of the discipline and that sense of initiative and quick thinking on the part of both troop leaders and N.C.Os. which is essential for every cavalry soldier.

The value of horsemastership was brought out by the fact that without any warning of what was to be done and while in ordinary "line-fatigue" kit this troop was able to turn out fully equipped for a show within thirty minutes of getting the order, to cover forty miles in seven hours, much of it over heavy sandy country, and to carry out the whole operation lasting some three days without a single sore back or gall of any description. Also there was no auxiliary transport except for the camel troop which followed them up with greatcoats and grass but had to be used on the return journey for the transport of the retrieved ammunition.

The value of co-operation with other arms was brought out by the excellent information supplied by the Royal Air Force, without which it would have been difficult to follow the moves of the raiders; also their aircraft the following morning, laden with very conspicuous bombs, undoubtedly staved off an attack on our troop by some two hundred to five hundred tribesmen. On the other hand, the Air Force alone could not have recovered this ammunition, which would have soon been distributed among other tribes to the detriment of our friendlies for whom it was destined. The Aden Troop has now been abolished and Aden is controlled by the Air Force, but this incident may serve to hearten up those who feel depressed at the thought that the days of cavalry are over and may, I hope, inspire them with the necessity of keeping themselves, their horses and their equipment *"Hamesha taiyar."*

At 12-16 p.m. on the 7th February, 1925, I received a telephone message from brigade headquarters to the effect that some ammunition had been looted from a party of friendlies by a section of the Nukhais tribe at about a mile north of

the boundary pillar* on the Sukra Beach Road early that morning. The Air Force had been informed and I was to proceed with twenty-five sowars in pursuit, with the object of recovering the ammunition.

Owing to the horses being out at water and the camels being out grazing, slight delay occurred in starting but I moved off at 12-45 with a troop consisting of Risaldar (Honorary Lieutenant) Mohammed Issa Khan and twenty-five Indian other ranks, and accompanied by a guide named Sheikh Nisar, who had been with the caravan when looted. I at the same time left instructions for extra water and cooked food for the men to be sent after me as soon as possible along the Sukra Beach Road in the troop car; I also gave instructions for the camel troop to be recalled and to follow later that evening with the men's greatcoats and 10 lbs. grain and 10 lbs. grass per horse to Hiswat Akrabiya, twenty-two miles from Khor Maksar, where information would be available as to their destination.

The scene of the looting, as pointed out to me, was exactly two miles north of the boundary pillar on the Sukra Beach Road and therefore nine miles from Khor Maksar. The caravan had been looted at about 6-30 a.m. and the raiders had moved off by 6-45 a.m. They had therefore six hours clear start from the scene of the looting, or a start of twenty-four miles, taking the speed of the caravan as two and a half miles per hour and adding the distance of nine miles from Khor Maksar. Allowing for accidents this would take the Aden Troop four hours to cover, during which the raiders would move another eight to ten miles, equivalent to a start of over thirty miles. It was essential therefore to move fast in order to catch them up by daylight. By dint of trotting fifteen minutes, walking dismounted seven-and-a-half minutes and trotting for the same period, fifteen minutes canter, walk ten minutes and halt five minutes, each hour, we reached the beach south-east of Hiswat Akrabiya by 3-45 p.m., *i.e.*, twenty-two miles from barracks in three hours. Up to here the going was first class, for the tide was out and we had a broad stretch of firm sand to move over. This excellent progress was only possible owing to the condition of the beach road and to the fact that the tide was out; if the tide had been in, the road would have been along the edge of sand-dunes and very heavy going.

We had been kept in constant touch with the movement of the raiders by the Royal Air Force, who reported their moves respectively as Akrabiya, Al Kud,

*NOTE.—This boundary pillar was eight miles distant from the Aden Troop lines. The Sukra Beach Road referred to was a track along the beach which, when the tide was out, afforded excellent going and could be used even by motors.

Wadi Bana and Al Mahil. Here at about 4 p.m., during the fifteen minutes delay that occurred in taking over food and water from the troop car, the Royal Air Force dropped a message informing us that the raiders were moving up to the cultivation in Wadi Bana (some ten miles on). Some delay occurred in crossing about three miles of heavy sand-dunes towards Hiswat Akrabiya, where the raiders had been seen, and it was not till past 5 p.m. that the troop got on to the track from Hiswat to the Wadi Bana. At 5-25 p.m. a message was dropped by the Royal Air Force to the effect that the raiders were halted at Al Mahil and had unloaded the ammunition. Al Mahil according to the map was over eight miles away, so I pushed on at a steady trot *via* Al Kud, reaching Wadi Bana at 6-30 p.m. From here we had to move in single file owing to the height of the crops.

It was noticeable that once within the cultivated area of the Wadi Bana, local villagers passed on our progress by means of their curious alarm signal, and when we halted to reform and reorganize in the Wadi Bana several armed men tried to push past us with the obvious intention of warning their friends.

Some one hundred yards west of Zanzibar two encampments with numerous camels were passed but no ammunition was seen. At Zanzibar (which consists of two villages some forty yards apart), we found in the open in the gap between the villages, two separate piles of ammunition boxes but there were no men or camels within fifty yards of them. A guard was placed over the ammunition, and the parties which had been detailed at once surrounded both portions of the village to ensure that none of the raiders escaped. The headman was sent for and he stated that he was sending Fadthle Askaris after the raiders, who had got warning of our coming and had just made off. He was told to search the villagers for the *badmashes* and it was not until his report was received that they were not in the village that the circle of men surrounding it was withdrawn. In the meantime two more boxes of ammunition were brought in by local inhabitants bringing the total up to eighty-three. I informed the headman that I would hold them responsible for finding the *badmashes* and their camels. I, in the meantime, had collected all the ammunition into one stack and had taken up a strong position against the village in case of attack. At about 3 a.m. on the 8th the camel troop arrived with forage and greatcoats, having left Khor Maksar at 4 p.m. the previous day. This troop was under Jemadar Mohammad Sidiq who had done very well in marching all night with only our tracks to guide him, for no guide was available at Akrabiya. Fortunately it was bright moonlight or I doubt if he would ever have reached us, and if he had not arrived I would not have been able to get the ammunition away since all the local villagers were up against us and they

would not provide camels or help us in any way. They were, too, gradually collecting an unpleasantly large number of armed men.

I can only attribute their failure to attack us to the moral effect of the aircraft which had been over us three times that morning, and to the rather ostentatious way in which we loaded our rifles and had one man with a loaded rifle standing by their headman. Early on the morning of the 8th, it became obvious that little or no help was to be expected from the local inhabitants whose promises the previous evening had been lavish as regards supplies, men, food, and other assistance. Also it was apparent that no reliance could be placed on them to escort the ammunition to its destination. I therefore had already decided to bring back the ammunition with me to Hiswat Akrabiya, where orders were dropped by aeroplane to remain with the ammunition pending further orders.

The headman had already been instructed to have seventeen camels ready at 11 a.m., but by midday no camels were forthcoming although many were available in the vicinity. Also a large number of armed men had been quietly gathering round the village, and the attitude of the local sheikh, M. N. Sultan Nisar, appeared to me so unsatisfactory and unfriendly that I deemed it advisable to keep a careful watch on him. I then had the ammunition loaded up on the Aden Troop riding-camels and, escorted by the camel sowars, some dismounted and the remainder mounted, we marched off to Hiswat Akrabiya (about ten miles), where we arrived about 4 p.m. I had at one time considered the advisability of bringing along the Sultan and the two headmen with me as hostages for the good behaviour of the rest of the tribesmen, but both Risaldar Mohammed Khan and Sheikh Nisar (our guide, and custodian of the ammunition) warned me that any such action would probably precipitate an attack and that in view of the smallness of our force it was advisable to get away without fighting if possible.

We halted for the night in a strong position about one mile from the beach near Hiswat Akrabiya, where we obtained enough pack camels for all the ammunition. Water was very scarce and the only well had to be dug out before sufficient water could be obtained for the animals. Marching at 4 a.m. we reached Khor Maksar with the ammunition (twenty-two miles on) by 3 p.m. on the 9th, without further trouble.

I would emphasize the fact that the success of the operation was in large measure due to the excellent co-operation of the Royal Air Force whose systematic stream of information enabled me to follow the movement of the raiders without

any delay, and whose aircraft flying at low altitudes over the village of Zanzibar had a great moral effect and on the morning of the 8th probably prevented the local inhabitants from making an attack to recover the loot.

I cannot condemn too strongly the attitude of the inhabitants of the village of Zanzibar. I am firmly convinced that these villages were implicated in the loot of the ammunition for the following reasons:

(*a*) Two boxes were suddenly produced from the village on my checking the ammunition immediately after our arrival.

(*b*) The ammunition was found in an open space between the division between the two villages.

(*c*) The camps which I passed through only about a hundred yards from the ammunition are reported to be those of the identical parties who were with the ammunition in the morning. All the local villagers therefore must have known who were the offenders.

(*d*) The headman of Zanzibar actually requested me to hand back certain sacks of rope which we found with the ammunition, on the grounds that the owners wanted them back.

(*e*) A report was made to me by one Abdoo Ali Buddin, a lance-corporal of the 1st Yemen Infantry, who was staying in the village on his way back to (or from) his home, that it was common knowledge that these Fadthli people had determined that the ammunition should not get through to the Abdali country but that it should be seized on the way.

(*f*) Risaldar Mohammad Issa Khan received two warnings from friendly villagers that it was advisable to get away as early as possible without fighting as the Sultan had collected some two hundred armed men to prevent the ammunition being taken away. The risaldar had bluffed them with a tale that there were by then a couple of guns and a company of infantry behind us at a short distance.

No supplies were handed over to us until payment had been promised or actually made in cash, and the prices were very high.

The so-called "bread" supplied to the men was quite uneatable, and the grass for the horses was very inferior. On our arrival at Akrabiya the local villagers offered us pack camels for the ammunition at so much a head. Shortly afterwards the headmen of Zanzibar came up to the camp, and the price of everything was promptly raised.

NOTE:

The amusing side of this consists in the fact that the people who charged us so heavily for all we purchased had to refund to us every anna paid to them and had in addition been fined Rs. 1,000. The Fadthli tribe wrote in to say they viewed our recovering the ammunition as "an unfriendly act"—of course, the cupidity and cheek of the Yemen Arab is astounding. The ammunition was a large consignment which was being sent up to a friendly tribe (the Abdalis) on the border of the Protectorate to enable them to meet another very powerful combination. The value of this ammunition in that part of the country was approximately Rs. 24,000 and undoubtedly the loss of this to the local tribes was a bitter pill for them to swallow.

GENESIS

By W. J. BROADBRIDGE,

Headquarters of the Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces

"YOU promised to enlist with me and are now backing out because you are windy." These words were addressed to me by my friend, Fred, outside the recruiting office in my home town about 10 o'clock on the morning of December 27th, 1921. It is true that I had promised to enlist with Fred, but my promise had not been made in all seriousness nor had I given the matter much reflection afterwards. His words aroused my anger, they touched me on the raw. Fred was a couple of years older than I and could give me about two stone. Still, I had to show him I was not windy so struck out at him—and missed. I couldn't convince him that way, so I said, "Come with me and I'll prove that I'm not windy." Fred didn't argue the point, he followed me into the recruiting office. Thus I joined the army, or rather took the initial steps that would make my enlistment a *fait accompli*. I enlisted, not because I had any real desire to lead the life of a soldier, but because my friend's taunt had caused me to lose my temper. It marked an epoch in my life and led me to many adventures and through many experiences.

We entered the recruiting sergeant's office. He must have been glad to see us for we were a potential ten shillings to him. In those days, recruiting sergeants received five shillings for each man they enlisted, or were responsible for enlisting. The war-time army had been demobilised and most units were very much under strength. "Hello," said he, "you are going to tell me that you want to enlist. You couldn't do a better thing and I give you a hearty welcome. This is a day you will never regret. I have been in the army twenty-three years now and it's a good life. Good food, good money, plenty of sport and a chance to see the world. What more could any lad wish for?" So said the sergeant and much more as well. The outcome of it was that we promised to enlist, whereupon the recruiting sergeant made out railway passes to enable us to reach the next town, a garrison town, and wished us the best of luck.

The recruiting sergeant had painted an enticing picture for us and we intended to lose no time in getting to the railway station and from thence to our destination.

As I stepped out of the recruiting office I saw my father. He saw me and was angry; also, I think he was sorry. When Fred had first broached the subject of our enlisting I had confided in my father, but he was against it and had told me so in no measured terms. When he saw me coming out of the recruiting office with my friend he naturally concluded that I had enlisted. I decided not to give him a chance to talk me round—moreover, I feared his anger. So wishing him as cheery a good morning as I could manage I hastened after Fred to the railway station.

We experienced no difficulty in exchanging our passes for tickets and the journey was uneventful. I believe I was somewhat sad as I realised that the train was taking me farther away from my home and parents, but I put these thoughts from me as soon as the train pulled into the station where we were to alight. We inquired our way to the depot, at which the recruiting sergeant at home had told us we were to report. Outside the depot, on the walls, were pasted a number of posters depicting army life and its amenities. We studied these for awhile and as we were doing so a squad of soldiers—young recruits we subsequently learnt—marched out of the depot to the training grounds. This was our first thrill, our first sight of real soldiers. Or perhaps I should say young soldiers in the making. Anyway, they were real to us, were dressed in khaki, were carrying rifles and, to our minds at least, were the essence of smartness. But I believe, looking back, that their instructor, a pre-war non-commissioned officer, had different views from ours concerning their smartness.

If we had any lingering doubts before, the sight of this squad of soldiers removed them. We approached the sentry at the gates, who had smartly presented arms to the squad as it had marched out, and told him we had come to enlist. He grinned, then gave us a pitying smile and said, "Don't be bally fools. Run away home whilst you have the chance." Apparently his and our ideas about soldiering didn't coincide! We said, "Sorry chum, but we really mean to enlist." "You know best," he replied, and pointing to the adjutant's office said, "Go there and they will do the trick for you." We raised our hats to the sentry and at this he called us another kind of fool. We went up to a sergeant standing outside the adjutant's office and told him we had come to enlist, calling him Sir. He took us into the adjutant's office, and saluting told him our business. The adjutant said he was glad to see us and handed us over to the recruiting officer—let his name be Captain Stone.

The recruiting sergeant at our home town had spun us some pretty tall yarns. But Captain Stone beat him easily. This officer had joined the Loamshires long

before we were born and had risen, step by step, to his present rank. He asked us what regiment we desired to join. I had not considered the matter. I told him, "The Royal Artillery, Sir." "Now sonny," said the Captain, "you don't know what the Royal Artillery is like. Do you know anything about horses or guns?" I confessed that I did not, but would like to do so. He then said that if I joined the artillery I should have to look after a horse, perhaps two, and even a gun. When I went out marching or on training I should have to see to my horse and gun on return before I could get away to my own meals. "Now," he continued, "if you join the infantry you won't have to do that. You will have to look after a rifle and when you return to barracks you can dump it in the rack, go and have your meals, and then come back and clean it. You can't do that in the artillery, your horse must come first. If I had my time again I would join the Loamshires. That is my own regiment. I joined it as a boy and now I am an officer. Who knows, you too may one day be officers! It's a good regiment, was formed in 1572, has taken part in countless battles, and it won five V.Cs. during the War. The 1st battalion is in Ireland—wouldn't you like to go to Ireland? The 2nd battalion is in India, and the depot is here where you can have a good old time." In the end, after much talk and praising the regiment he wanted us to join, he convinced us that the infantry was the best arm of the service and the Loamshires the best regiment in the infantry. I have since left that regiment but was of his way of thinking long before that event took place. He had us beat. Gone was our vision of horses and guns.

We passed the medical examination and reported back to the adjutant's office to find that Captain Stone had left for the day.

The civilian on the recruiting staff, an ex-soldier and one of the biggest grumblers I had met up till then, took us to the regimental tuckshop, the N. A. A. F. I., and told the manager there that we were to be fed until the next day when we would be taken on the ration strength of the depot. He then took us to the recruits' reception room and showed us our beds. He told us we were free until 9 o'clock the following morning, when we would be sworn in. He asked us not to leave barracks—probably he thought that if we got out we might not return.

That night the N. A. A. F. I. gave us dinner—the *pièce de résistance* came out of a tin, a war-time relic.

The following morning we saw Captain Stone again and he swore us in, that is, we took the oath of allegiance and received one day's pay. But before this was done he convinced me that I was born a year before I actually saw the light

of day. Lads of seventeen could join as band boys but I had no desire to blow a trumpet. Then what a change! I had become No. 6812457 Private X.Y. Blank of the best regiment in the British Army. We were quickly initiated into military discipline.

It seemed as though the word "go" had been given as soon as we stepped out of the adjutant's office after being sworn in. We were ordered to join a squad of soldiers, some in uniform but the majority still in civilian clothing. Then the fun started. My friend formed up on the right of the squad, and I in the rear rank behind him. Captain Stone had frustrated our purpose to join the Right of the Line but we joined the right of that squad! However, the incident passed without comment. "NUMBER," shouted the corporal in charge. My friend, the right-hand man, looked at the corporal and the corporal looked at my friend, the right-hand man. "NUMBER, you b . . . . y fool," again shouted the corporal, "say ONE." "ONE," said my friend. "You say TWO, idiot; you say THREE you damn fool," said the corporal, going down the line. He got no farther, for number four in the line evidently knew his job as I heard a timid voice say, "And shall I say four, corporal?" However, after awhile we were numbered and then we tried to form fours. 'Twas a failure and the corporal gave it up. "RIGHT TURN," he shouted. Some did and some didn't.

Somehow that corporal got us to the quartermaster's store (later I was to get an insight into this particular mystery, but not this time) and there we were dished out with clothing that partly fitted and with all the other odds and ends that go to make up a soldier's kit. From there we were marched to the tailor's shop where we were measured and gave in our uniforms to be altered to fit. Thence to the barber's shop where we underwent the tortures of a regimental hair-cut. This was a simple operation. It merely consisted of the barber running a pair of horse-clippers over our heads until we were bald, or nearly so. What a metamorphosis! From the barber's to the regimental baths was a short step. Here we got into hot water—two to a bath. These minor discomforts came to an end and we emerged clean, dressed in army underclothing—thick itchy flannel—and canvas fatigue suits.

I'm afraid we did not resemble the mothers' darlings we formerly did (?)—ugly ducklings would be more appropriate.

And our bath and our hair-cut was the end of the first day, or nearly so. We had only to draw our bedding from the company quartermaster's store. This was done, but our mattresses caused a flutter of consternation. These consisted of three "biscuits" two feet by three feet filled with coir, and when placed on the

bed formed a mattress six feet by three feet. After being in use for a week we swore they were filled with cement. Unless one was adept at bed-making one usually woke up next morning with one's body on a mattress four feet by three feet, the bottom "biscuit" having parted company during the night and found its final resting place on the floor.

That night we had a sing-song, but it lasted beyond "lights-out." Eventually the regimental sergeant-major turned up. "What's all this noise?" And his voice rose superior to the din we were making. What a pair of lungs he had! A burly chap named Cole, who was a sergeant long before I left the regiment, replied, "Who the hell are you?" Pat came the answer: "I'm R. S. M. Dare, as you will shortly realise. Who the hell are you?" Cole recognised the voice of authority and piped down. So did we all and were soon asleep.

THE BATTLE OF MERTA

(The last but one, 15th September 1754)

By MAJOR-GENERAL RAO BAHADUR THAKUR AMAR SINGH
OF KANOTA

MAHARAJA Bakhat Singh of Jodhpur was a most powerful ruler, with a very strong character which overawed not only his own *sardars* but also all the neighbouring princes. He had added a great deal to his kingdom and was very well educated. He had, however, to contend with his nephew, Maharaja Ram Singh, whom he had ousted from the throne.

Ram Singh, though eccentric, was no mean opponent. He was very energetic and in all fought twenty-two battles to regain his patrimony. The one here described was his last effort. He had tried to get help from Jaipur but Maharaja Ishri Singh was too frightened of his powerful neighbour and this sent Ram Singh to seek help from Maharaja Scindia, the then rising power. Bakhat Singh did not wait for the enemy to enter his territory and marched off with his troops to Senolia, near Diggi, on his frontier to await the Mahrattas. He asked Maharaja Ishri Singh to come as his ally, and if not, to declare himself his enemy. Ishri Singh found himself in a very awkward position; he is reported to have said, "I cannot afford to be an open enemy of Bakhat Singh, because if I do he will ruin me." Consequently he showed great willingness to be an ally and sent his wife, who was a niece of Bakhat Singh, ostensibly to allay all suspicions but really to poison him, which she succeeded in doing. Thus came to an end a most remarkable man who, but for the awful blot on his character of having murdered his own father, would have gone down to posterity as one of the greatest princes that Rajputana had produced.

The object of the Mahrattas had always been plunder and glory and they saw no prospect of either from Marwar. Madhaji Scindia was also not at all inclined to measure swords with a man like Bakhat Singh and he first refused to help Ram Singh. Bakhat Singh's death, however, changed the situation and he was at last prevailed upon to move against the Rathors by Ram Singh.

Bijey Singh, who was twenty years old and the only son, succeeded his father Bakhat Singh and as is always the case it was difficult for him to step into the

shoes of such an outstanding man. He was at the frontier town of Marote at the time of his father's death and moved on to Merta where he was installed on the *gaddi*. He then proceeded to Jodhpur, and from here he made his arrangements for meeting the Mahrattas. This was to be a great trial of strength for him. Scindia was advancing with a large force and had with him the Rathor partisans of Ram Singh and the Raja of Roopangarh. As Ram Singh had been ousted from Jodhpur so had been Maharaja Sanwat Singh of Roopangarh by the Maharaja of Kishengarh. Sanwat Singh forsook his State and retired to Brindaban to lead a holy life and he considered himself very lucky to escape from the cares of rulership. He advised his son, Sardar Singh, to do the same but the boy would not agree and said to his father, "You have enjoyed your life and there is nothing but asceticism left for you, but what about me who am quite young and have not yet tasted the pleasures of life." He joined Ram Singh with his small contingent and went over to the Mahrattas, who were advancing through Kotah and Jaipur. Maharaja Ishri Singh, being freed of the dread of Bakhat Singh, sent in his contingent to help Ram Singh and the Mahrattas. The combined army halted at Pushkar whence a summons was sent to Bijey Singh to renounce the *gaddi* of Marwar. This was read in the full assembly of the *sardars,* who were naturally very furious at it and shouted, "Battle, battle, who is this *happa* to dictate such terms. We will even hold the firmament if it falls." (In Marwar language, "A" usually is pronounced as "H" and hence *"happa"* instead of *"appa."*)

Bijey Singh had collected his Rathors to the number of about two hundred thousand men, but although the odds were very much against the Rathors they had no opinion of Kachhwahas as fighters. They were fighting for a better cause than the Mahrattas and their moral was consequently higher. The Mahrattas advanced and a most sanguinary battle was fought at Merta.

There was no question of any manœuvring in this battle for manœuvring was not known in those days. The Rathors had merely assembled and awaited the coming of the enemy at a spot which was obviously convenient to both sides. It was like two wrestlers coming to an appointed *akhara* (cockpit or a boxing-ring).

The first day's operations were confined to artillery duels and skirmishes and the same applied to the second day except for the addition of a few charges in which the Rathors had the best of it. The Mahrattas dreaded the five thousand Rathor curraisseurs (mailed cavalry) for they had no means of resisting them. The Mahrattas were superior in strength and Bijey Singh had to keep open a way

of retreat to Nagore in case he should suffer a reverse. On the third day of the battle when the Rathor curraisseurs were returning after a successful charge, they were mistaken by their own side for Mahrattas and were mown down by grape-shot from their own guns to the cries of *dagha* (treachery). The Mahrattas were much too frightened to take advantage of this mishap but the whole of the Rathor army was struck with horror when these dead and wounded curraisseurs were brought in. Bijey Singh, being only a boy of twenty years, now collected the older and more experienced men to advise him what to do. The Maharaja of Bikaner who had come with his contingent advised a retreat. He saw in this accident the Will of Heaven; it is more probable, however, that he wanted to save his men for the defence of his own State in case the Mahrattas advanced in that direction. It required a man like Bakhat Singh to deal with the situation, but alas, Bakhat Singh was no more. The Maharaja of Kishengarh had also come with his contingent, and he too favoured retreat in order to save his own men.

While this was happening in one part of the field, in another the Mahrattas were being hard pressed, and Jey Appa, the Commander-in-Chief, had made up his mind to leave the field and was on the point of doing so. Turning to Sardar Singh he said, "Your star, young man, is united with that of Ram Singh but fortune does not seem to favour it. What more can be done before we retire?" Sardar Singh, young and inexperienced though he was, knew his countrymen, their habits and characteristics. He begged Jey Appa to stay on a little longer and he obtained permission to try a ruse. This being sanctioned, he promptly sent one of his own adherents over to the enemy with instructions to give a message to the chieftain who was opposing them most strongly. In a big horde like this where there were no uniforms or distinguishing marks, this man was able to get in among the Rathors. Being himself a Rathor he had no difficulty in doing so. He went up to a chieftain pretending to be one of the latter's own side and asked, "Who are we fighting for? Maharaja Bijey Singh is lying dead, killed by a cannon shot, in another part of the field." This worked like magic. There were no questions asked and the news spread like wild fire. All control was lost and it was a case of every man for himself. There was no question of another man taking Bijey Singh's place and Ram Singh was the only possible successor. This was always a very common failing in Indian armies which had never been properly organised and Indian history is full of such instances.

While these events were taking place, Bijey Singh, confident of victory, was calmly performing his *puja* in his tent when suddenly finding himself deserted by everyone he fled with only five horsemen as a personal guard.

The loss of the battle and the dispersion of the Rathors opened the way and Merta soon fell to the Mahrattas, whereupon they proceeded to Nagore whither Bijey Singh had fled. The horses of Bijey Singh's small party were heavily armoured and, having worked the whole day long, were unable to keep up the pace and Bijey Singh's horse was the first to fall. He mounted another horse and the party pressed on but their horses were too exhausted and Nagore was still sixteen miles away. Soon after midnight when he found that his horses could move no further he hired a bullock-cart from a Jat and promised to pay him five rupees if he would get him to Nagore before daybreak. The Jat stipulated on taking the money in *Bijeyshahi* coin, the new currency recently started by Bijey Singh. This being agreed to, they pushed on. What a change in fortune! A man who commanded two lakhs of Rathors in the morning was now fleeing in a bullock-cart. Bijey Singh was over-impatient and kept on telling the Jat to drive fast, until eventually the Jat lost his patience and, turning round, said, "A young man like you should be with Maharaja Bijey Singh at Merta; you seem to be so frightened that one would think the Southerners were after you. (The Mahrattas were always known as the Southerners or *Dekhanis*.) I am going as fast as my bullocks can go and I will not drive them faster, so you keep quiet." Day broke as they were approaching Nagore when the Jat, looking back, discovered to his great horror that it was Maharaja Bijey Singh himself who was his passenger. He begged forgiveness for the great breach of etiquette of sitting on the same level as his master and refused to do so any more. He was, however, induced to drive on by being told that etiquette was not necessary on this occasion and that he should carry out the order.

The Mahrattas, finding that Bijey Singh had fled to Nagore, pursued him and, reaching the town soon after him, laid siege. After six months the Mahrattas had not succeeded in taking the place and they laid the country waste all round them indiscriminately with the result that supplies became very scarce. Bijey Singh was in no better case. He, however, managed to break through with a thousand chosen Rajputs mounted on five hundred of his best camels and made straight for Bikaner which he reached that very day and asked for help. That prince had no wish to embroil himself with the Mahrattas any more and refused assistance, so Bijey Singh went to Jaipur to obtain help from Maharaja Ishri Singh, covering the distance in under twenty-four hours. His action was rather curious because the Kachhwahas had sided with Ram Singh and had sent an auxiliary force with the Mahrattas against Bijey Singh. Most probably Bijey

Singh had counted on the characteristic chivalry of a Rajput, whose one principle is never to refuse help to another Rajput who is in distress and asks for succour. He must have judged Ishri Singh by his own standards and here he made a great mistake. Ishri Singh played a really low and dirty trick for he made up his mind to capture Bijey Singh at the meeting, and he kept his plans very secret, divulging them only to some of his very confidential *sardars* among whom was the Thakur of Achrol. As luck would have it, this man had married his daughter to one of the nobles of Jodhpur who was with Bijey Singh. He did not want to see his son-in-law killed in this affair and told him under pledge of secrecy that treachery was afoot and that he should not accompany his Maharaja. This son-in-law, a Rathor chieftain, was a man of high character and he kept his pledge of secrecy, for when he attended Bijey Singh on his visit to the Maharaja of Jaipur, instead of taking his place on the right which was his due, he sat behind Ishri Singh and on the folds of the latter's garment. When asked why he did not sit in his proper place, he said, "This is my proper place to-day." He had drawn his dagger and was ready to plunge it into Ishri Singh if Bijey Singh was molested in any way. Ishri Singh, seeing the situation he was in, desisted from his treacherous act. When the visit was over and Bijey Singh was leaving he asked the Thakur to come along with him but the latter replied that he would wait until Bijey Singh was safely mounted and ready to move. Bijey Singh naturally guessed that there was something wrong. As this Thakur left the durbar, Ishri Singh could not help exclaiming that a prince who has such nobles need fear nothing. Disappointed at obtaining no help from Jaipur, Bijey Singh rode back with the same celerity and managed to get through the Mahratta siege and into Nagore.

The siege wore on and eventually Bijey Singh had to try a ruse. He had Jey Appa, the Mahratta Commander-in-Chief, murdered by two men, of whom one was a Rathor and the other a Mohammedan. These two men both opened grocer's shops and one day started quarrelling and abusing one another most fluently in their own languages to the great amusement of the bystanders. Jey Appa, hearing this, had them brought in to hear their case and, while still abusing one another, one of these men plunged his dagger into Jey Appa saying, "This for Nagore," and the other when doing the same said, "This for Jodhpur." The Mohammedan was killed on the spot but the Rajput managed to escape by shouting "Thief, thief" continuously as he ran, so that people did not know whom to capture. Maharaja Bijey Singh paid the stipulated reward but would not see the face of the murderer. This murder changed the whole aspect of affairs; the Mahrattas, who up to this had been auxiliaries, now became the principals and

they demanded vengeance for the death of their leader. Suspicion fell on all Rajputs. Even the representative from Udaipur who had gone to try and bring off a reconciliation was murdered. In the heat of battle, when Sardar Singh had gone to Jey Appa to congratulate him on his winning the battle, the Mahratta chief was so very pleased at the success of his ruse that he had offered to instal him at Roopangarh immediately, but this prince, young as he was, was clever enough to realise that he would only be secure in his place if Ram Singh became the Maharaja of Jodhpur. So he suggested to Jey Appa that he should first settle the claims of Ram Singh. Even he was now looked upon with suspicion. Bijey Singh finally got rid of the clamorous Mahrattas only by paying a heavy indemnity and an annual tribute and by restoring Ajmere to them. The Mahrattas having gained their point left Ram Singh to his own devices and deserted him. Ram Singh went to Jaipur to his father-in-law, Maharaja Ishri Singh, who allotted him his share of the Sambhar lake, while Bijey Singh gave him the Jodhpur share of the lake. Ram Singh spent the rest of his life in Jaipur and there he died.

SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL, INDIAN STATES FORCES, HYDERABAD, 1937

By MAJOR J. H. GRADIDGE, O.B.E.,
COMMANDANT

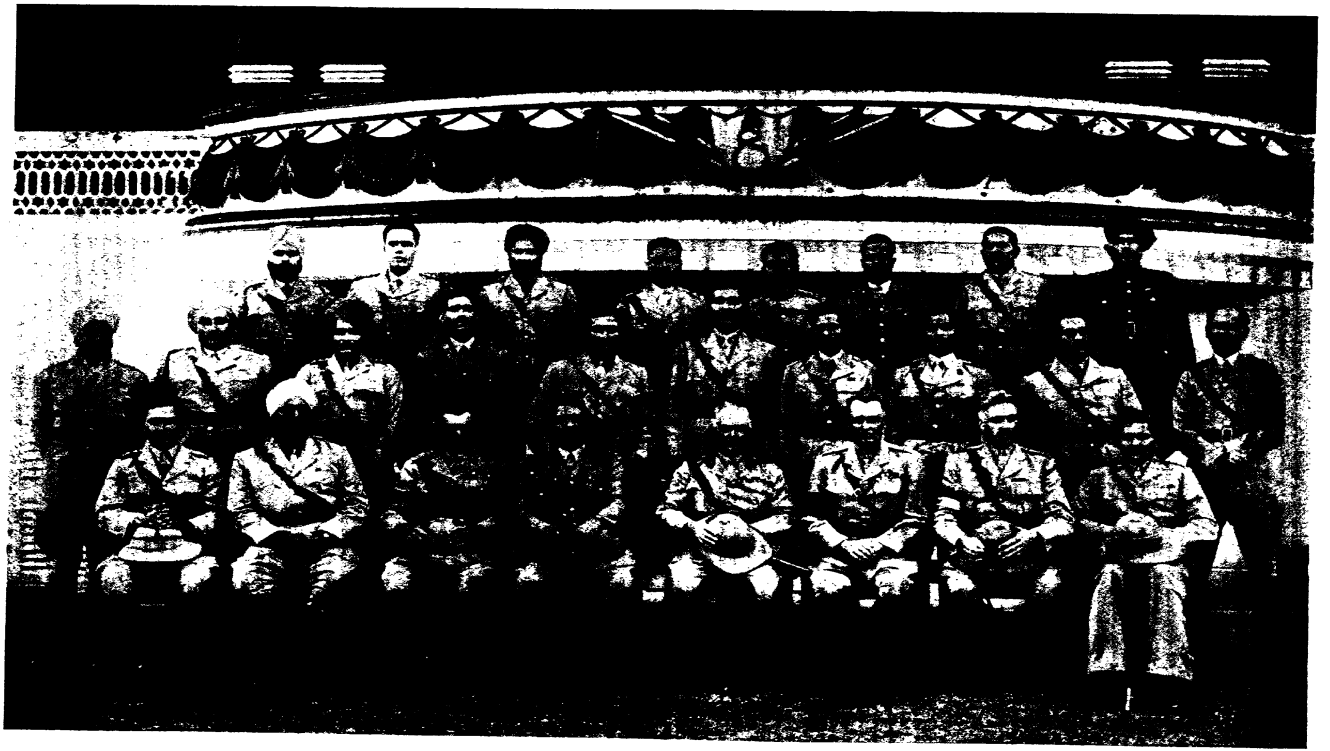
HYDERABAD was chosen this year for the Senior Officers' School and students assembled on October 15th and left on December 15th, 1937. The school staff consisted of:

Major J. H. Gradidge, O.B.E., Military Adviser, Southern India Circle	Commandant.
Major L. James, Assistant Military Adviser, Punjab States Forces	Assistant Commandant.
Lieutenant Jafer Ali Khan, 3rd (Nizam's Own) Golconda Lancers	Adjutant and Quartermaster.
Sub-Assistant Surgeon Rama Menon	Medical Officer.

Major W. A. Windsor-Aubrey was originally appointed assistant commandant but he was unfortunately unable to come to Hyderabad owing to sickness. Major L. James was detailed in his place and arrived in Hyderabad on October 6th. This would have been rather late had it not been for the fact that the commandant knew most of the ground round Hyderabad, so that on the arrival of the assistant commandant it only remained for the staff T. E. W. Ts. to be prepared over ground already reconnoitred.

The course followed the lines of previous courses, except for the fact that it was possible to arrange more demonstrations and outside lectures than usual owing to the strength of the Hyderabad regular forces and to the close proximity of the Secunderabad garrison, both armies giving very generously of their time and troops.

It would take up too much space to give the full list of all who so kindly helped in relieving the monotony of having the same old voices of the school staff day after day, and it suffices here to say that from outside sources we were able to collect three demonstrations and fourteen lectures. These lectures covered a vast



SENIOR OFFICERS SCHOOL, HYDERABAD, 1937.

Back Row.

Lieut. Zorawar Singh (Mysore) | Capt. Bayley (Hyderabad) | Capt. Prem Singh (Patiala) | Major I. S. Awad (Gwalior) | Lieut. Jawahar Singh (Jodhpur)

Capt. Inayatulla (Hyderabad) | Capt. Madho Singh (Bikaner) | Capt. Ranbir Singh (Rewa)

Middle Row.

Capt. Sudhan Singh (Jind) | Capt. Aziz Ahmad (Kapurthala) | Capt. Vikram Singh (Alwar) | Capt. Habib Zainulabedin (Hyderabad) | Lieut. Ajit Singhji (Bhavnagar)

Capt. Thakur Devi Singh (Jaipur) | Major Zahoor Hussan (Kashmir) | Major Bhagwan Singh (Kashmir) | Major Kunwar Shemsher Singh (Udaipur) | Capt. Mohd. Hassan Khan (Hyderabad)

Front Row.

Lieut. Jafer Ali Khan (Hyderabad), Adjt. and Q. M. | Major Bikram Singh (Nabha) | Major J. H. Gradidge Commandant | Brigadier Nawab Kadir Yar Jung Commander (Hyderabad) Regular Force. | Major-General A. M. Mills

Lieut.-Col. F. A. Macartney, Chief of the Staff (Hyderabad) | Major L. James Asst. Comdt. | Major Mir Mohd. Ali (Hyderabad)

SENIOR OFFICERS SCHOOL, HYDERABAD, 1937.

A T.E.W.T. being conducted by Major Mohammad Ali. Golconda fort is in the background.

A mounted T.E.W.T.

array of subjects, including among other matters of general interest, tanks, the Golconda fort, civil police, and lectures and demonstrations given by officers of the Military Advisory Technical Staff, who very kindly paid us a visit. Special mention must, however, be made of three of the demonstrations given since they were quite unique of their kind in the experience of State Forces officers. The first to be mentioned was a most interesting and instructive demonstration produced by Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Macartney, O.B.E., M.C., Chief of the Staff, H. E. H. the Nizam's regular forces, who incidentally, in addition, gave two very interesting lectures and also the greatest help to the commandant throughout the course. This demonstration was carried out by "A" Battery, Nizam's Horse Artillery, the machine-gun troop of the 2nd (N. O.) Hyderabad I. S. Lancers, and the 3rd battalion (N. O.) Hyderabad Infantry, and it aimed at showing, in the most interesting manner possible, the effect of fire-power in the defence. It is safe to say that few officers who have not been on active service have had the opportunity of seeing so clearly the effect of fire-power. A demonstration could not have been better planned and carried out.

The second demonstration worthy of special mention was an indoor exercise carried out by Major G. M. Dyer, brigade major, 4th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade. His subject was "Troops in Aid of the Civil Power." All students were agreed that this, apart from being extremely instructive, was both interesting and amusing.

The third was a little joke between the commandant and Lieutenant Randir Singh of the 4th battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, and this was for all students to pass through a gas-chamber wearing gas masks. The commandant hopes that this joke was appreciated but has his doubts.

Some students were also able to get a ride in a light tank and all were present at "A" Battery, Nizam's Horse Artillery, practice camp and saw the battery in action.

In addition to all the above, excursions were arranged to various places of interest in Hyderabad State including various technical institutes.

All officers attended the Armistice Day parade at Secunderabad, and a wreath was laid on the cenotaph by Major Bikram Singh on behalf of the students. On December 4th, 1937, the 4th battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, were presented with new colours to which ceremony we all went and much enjoyed.

All work and no play not being the motto of the course, the question of accommodation for students was a difficult one. Apart from the cinemas, clubs, and other places of amusement which abound in Hyderabad, another diversion

was the hospitality of the local officials, civil and military, who all wished to entertain the students; for this reason it was decided that instead of putting up a camp, which of necessity would have had to have been some way out of the town, it would be more convenient for the students if some form of accommodation could be obtained in Hyderabad itself. After a prolonged search round the town it was eventually decided to take a hotel by the name of Golden Lodge. Golden Lodge was a much discussed place and it is believed that some students had names for it which were not quite as complimentary as the owner could have wished for. Being in the middle of the town there were no "rooms with a view," however it was cheap and served its purpose very well indeed, for it was close to the lecture hall in the Fatteh Maidan pavilion and within walking distance of the Himayat Military Club, the shops, and the cinemas. The Hyderabad Government made a most generous donation for transport expenses of students to and from their work, and Headquarters, H. E. H. the Nizam's regular forces, provided horses on every occasion they were asked for.

The interest shown by His Highness the Prince of Berar was much appreciated, and all persons connected with the Hyderabad army lived up to the reputation of Hyderabad for generous hospitality.

All students left Hyderabad on the evening of December 15th and the feelings of the commandant as the trains went out was a mixture of relief that the course was over so successfully and of regret to see so many friends departing.

"THE TAIL"

By 2nd LIEUTENANT BHOM SINGH,
Alwar Pratap Paltan

A DOG stood wagging his tail before me. This brought to my mind tales, and tales of tails. I thought of Darwin's Theory, which tells us that men had tails in ancient times, but that due to the evolution of ages they have become extinct.

I thought how the tails of dogs and pups are cut off by their masters. These creatures lose their tails, but they have the good fortune of sitting in ladies' laps. How wonderful, I thought, was the glorious tail of Hannumana that burnt Lanka to ashes. I thought of the tiny tail of a glow-worm that kindles in the darkness of night. Of the light and electricity that some of the fishes of the deep seas carry at the end of their tails. This wondrous tale does possess some wonders of its own. How a tail of a lizard, when severed, remains in motion for several minutes, how the tail of a mad dog becomes pointed, how scorpions, bees, and wasps sting with their tails. The swan when nearing death spreads out its tail on the surface of the water and sings its death song in consonance with its tail.

I thought of a certain bird, called the Phœnix, who collects a heap of straw before his death and sets it on fire with his tail. When the flames are thoroughly ablaze he jumps, with his tail cocked up, into the fire, emerging out of it as a small animal rekindled with a new life. The seal and many other aquatic animals use their tails as rudders while swimming in water. The crocodile knocks down its prey in water with a sweep of its tail. An ape uses his tail as a whip and lashes his enemy with it. Cattle use their tails to ward off flies. Some animals wrap their tails round them using them as a warm blanket and hibernating in them during winter. The hair from the tail of a horse is used by mankind for many purposes.

I thought how some people have a special aptitude and fascination for tails. They attach tails of the English alphabet, arranged in diverse manners, to their names. They pay due appreciation to the tail in the form of university degrees, *e.g.*, B.A., M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., etc. Some people add to their names the tail of M.P. (not Member of Parliament but probably Middle Plucked). Others add F. F. A. (Failed in Faculty of Arts). Some physicians are D. D. and H. M. B. G. but probably it means Doctors of Deaths and Honorary Members of Burning

Ghats. Others might be M.D.O.P.P. (Most Distinguished Order of Pick-Pockets). God save people from such tail-bearers and missing links of Darwin's theory. Their tails are tell-tale of hypocrisy, fraud and conceit. Some students are the tails of their classes. Hail to such men. But they must not take it into their heads to lead a class, otherwise their fate would be the same as that of the lamented snake who was crushed against an obstacle when guided by its tail.

I remembered that the last players in a cricket team are known as the tail, and how some English words carry tails at their ends, *e.g.*, "entail," "detail," etc.

Ozone makes the mercury "tail" or stick to glass, owing to the formation of a film of oxide of mercury. I thought of the tail of an aeroplane and that of a kite. I depicted to my mind the comet, a heavenly body, which consists of a tail of light attached to a bright head.

As this tale of tails is getting lengthy, like the proverbial tale of an owl, I must curtail it and bid farewell to the readers of this article on the tail.

THE IMPERIAL DELHI HORSE SHOW, FEBRUARY 1937.

"B" Battery, Gwalior Horse Artillery, which carried out a musical drive on the last day of the show.

H. E. H. THE NIZAM'S SILVER JUBILEE SPORTS, FEBRUARY 1937.

"A" Battery, Nizam's Horse Artillery, which carried out a musical drive at the sports.

CIRCLE NEWSLETTERS

ARTILLERY CIRCLE.

BIKANER

On the occasion of His Highness' Golden Jubilee, the following promotions were made in the Bikaner Bijey Battery with effect from 30th October 1937:

Colonel Jaideo Singh, Sardar Bahadur, to be Brigadier.

Captain Kishen Singh to be Major.

Lieutenant Kanwar Bag Singh to be Captain.

The Bijey Battery won the Bikaner football tournament for the third consecutive year.

GWALIOR

"B" Battery, Gwalior Horse Artillery, carried out a musical drive most successfully on the last day of the Imperial Delhi horse show in February 1937 and received much praise. The horse show committee presented the battery with a very handsome silver cup.

Captain Ram Chandra Rao Shitole was promoted Major with effect from the 15th April 1937 and posted from the Mountain Battery to command "B" Battery, Gwalior Horse Artillery. He rode in His Majesty the King's Indian mounted escort in the Coronation procession.

HYDERABAD

"A" Battery, Nizam's Horse Artillery, won the inter-unit football tournament for the second consecutive year and was beaten in the final of the inter-unit hockey tournament by 1-0.

The battery won two first prizes at the Secunderabad horse show for gun teams, and for section tent-pegging.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The artillery brigade hockey team was beaten in the first round after extra time by the eventual winners of the Punjab States Forces hockey tournament at the Punjab Circle sports in Ambala.

The 2nd Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery marched from Jammu to Kashmir in May returning to Jammu in November. The battery had very bad weather at the beginning of their return march to Jammu and were caught in a severe snow-storm on the Banihal pass.

BAHAWALPUR

His Highness the Nawab proceeded to England for Their Majesties' Coronation and returned to the State in August.

On the 6th December 1937 the State Forces celebrated the centenary of the 1st Afghan War. In the morning the 1st Sadiq Battalion trooped the colours and in the evening a brigade sports meeting was held. The same evening a banquet was given in honour of the Honourable the Resident, Punjab States, when His Highness, in a speech, summarized the war services of his forces. The following day the party moved to Jajjah where a very enjoyable two-day duck shoot took place.

The 1st Sadiq Battalion were in camp at Bahawalnagar in mid-February 1938, where they remained for one month carrying out company and battalion training.

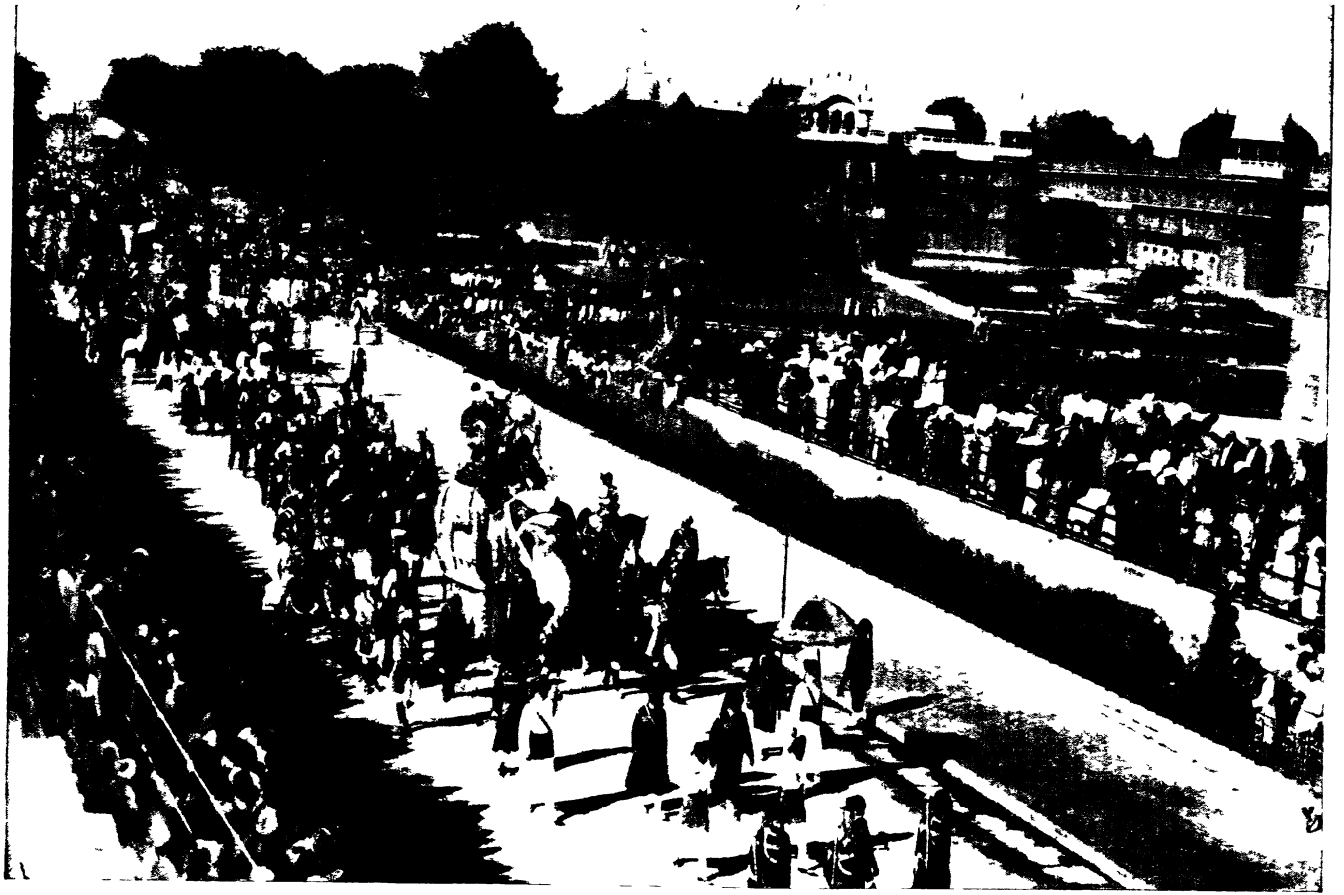
BIKANER

His Highness the Maharaja, who is an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King-Emperor, attended Their Majesties' Coronation, and, in accordance with his usual practice, His Highness returned to his State before the rains had broken.

The year in Bikaner has been memorable for the great rejoicing on the occasion of His Highness' Golden Jubilee. The celebrations commenced with religious observances on the 11th September 1937 and terminated in His Highness' State procession to the temple of Sri Lakshmi Narayanji on the 18th September, the anniversary of his accession to the throne, and the occasion was also marked by a State banquet on the following day.

His Highness' birthday celebrations, which were held in October during Dussehra with the customary religious observances, included a review of the State army, a military tournament and torch-light tattoo in the new King-Emperor George VI stadium, and a military display at the club.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Linlithgow arrived in Bikaner on the morning of the 4th November 1937. They were received at the railway station by His Highness the Maharaja and proceeded in state to the fort where they dismounted and continued the journey to Lallgarh palace by car. The elephant procession presented a scene of unusual brilliance, and the pageantry of it will be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to witness it. Since a full and detailed account of the procession has already appeared in the Press, it will be sufficient here to give only a brief description of it.



THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT BIKANER.

The State procession, showing His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness of Bikaner passing down the King Edward Memorial Road.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT BIKANER.

His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness of Bikaner leaving Bikaner railway station.

General view of the elephants ready to move off in procession.

His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness the Maharaja led the procession on the first elephant, and this was immediately followed by another elephant on which rode Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow and the Honourable the Resident, Mr. A. C. Lothian. The remaining elephants followed in pairs and carried Bikaner chiefs and nobles and the staff of His Excellency the Viceroy. Then followed elephants carrying standards and ancient insignia bestowed on former rulers of the State by the Moghul Emperors, and one elephant carried a standard presented to the State by the Queen-Empress Victoria in 1870. The procession also included horses, mounted minstrels and bullock chariots. The horses and minstrels were followed by the Golden Howdah or *Ambadi,* presented by a Moghul emperor. All the units of Bikaner State Forces were represented.

At Lallgarh palace a guard-of-honour furnished by the Sadul Light Infantry awaited His Excellency, who, after inspecting the guard, moved into the palace grounds. This marked the conclusion of the State arrival ceremony.

On the evening of the same day there was a review of the State army, at which His Highness the Maharaja personally commanded the troops on parade. After the walk past and march past, the Bijey Battery and Camel Corps trotted past, followed by the Bodyguard and Dungar Lancers who galloped past. After the parade His Highness the Maharaja received the following letter from His Excellency the Viceroy, which was published in brigade orders:

"I feel I must write to Your Highness at once to thank you for the very excellent parade which you showed me this evening. It was a great pleasure to me to see such a fine body of men and so well mounted on horses and camels, commanded by Your Highness in person. I admired the turn-out, the steadiness of all ranks, and the condition of the animals; I thought the march past, the trot past and the gallop past were all three admirable, and I am extremely grateful to Your Highness for showing me such an excellent parade. I am sure that you must be proud to command such troops. If Your Highness sees fit, I should be glad if you would pass on my appreciation to all concerned."

That night all public buildings and parks were beautifully illuminated and later Their Excellencies witnessed a fire-dance and Indian dancing and singing. On the following day His Excellency opened the Ganga Golden Jubilee museum.

On the 6th evening a military tournament and torch-light tattoo took place in the King-Emperor George VI stadium. The tournament started with a physical training display by recruits of the training company followed by a demonstration of apparatus work by the training company instructors. As soon as they had marched away, a musical ride of the Bodyguard Lancers entered the arena

from either side of a club building opposite the Royal stand. The various evolutions were very well carried out and the sparkle of accoutrements and the colour of their "French grey" full dress made a goodly sight in the flood-lighting.

As soon as they had galloped away, their place was taken by the Bijey Battery drawing a six-gun battery, each gun team consisting of four camels. They carried out a musical drive, the evolutions of which were similar to those in the musical drive performed by the Royal Horse Artillery. The pace was a fast trot, and the timing of the various evolutions was excellent despite the fast speed which was maintained throughout. It was in fact an excellent example of camel driving, a performance unique to Bikaner, and it was carried out excellently in every detail. The battery is in fact a pack battery armed with 2.75" guns, which reflects still greater credit on the efforts of the gun teams, for "draft" is not their usual practice. After the battery had left the arena, the pipe band of the Sadul Light Infantry played for a short period. When the pipe band finished, the arena was plunged into darkness and Indian club-swingers of the Ganga Rissala (Camel Corps) entered the arena carrying flares made in the form of Indian clubs. The effect of the flares whirling in synchronized time was most enjoyable to watch.

After the club-swinging, two hundred torch-bearers (men of the Sadul Light Infantry) bearing red and white-coloured lanterns commenced carrying out various evolutions to the strains of marches played by their pipe band. The various evolutions were performed with perfect precision.

The tournament finished with a parade of detachments of each unit of the Bikaner State Forces which took part in the tournament. The Maharaja's standards and colours were marched on parade under escort of one company of the Camel Corps. The troops gave a Royal salute after which they marched past the Royal stand.

The same evening His Highness gave a banquet for which some one hundred and eighty invitations were issued. In reply to His Highness' speech after dinner, His Excellency the Viceroy concluded with the following:

"It is a source of profound satisfaction to me to-night to be able by the Command of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor to announce that His Majesty has been graciously pleased on this auspicious occasion to recognise the eminent record of His Highness the Maharaja alike in peace and war as ruler, as soldier, and as statesman, by the promotion of His Highness from the rank of Lieutenant-General to the rank of General. . . ."

The promotion of His Highness the Maharaja to the rank of General is unique, for this rank has never before been conferred on any ruling prince.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT BIKANER.

His Highness of Bikaner with his grandsons. From left to right: Prince Kanni Singhji; His Highness; Prince Amar Singhji.

BIKANER.

Captain Raju Singh of the Camel Corps takes a jump.

Typical Rajputs.

On the 7th morning the Viceregal party proceeded to Gajner where His Highness the Maharaja's shooting palace is situated.

Their Excellencies left Gajner privately on the evening of the 9th November 1937.

Of the ruling princes who visited Bikaner the first to arrive was His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior, on the 24th November 1937. Their Highnesses of Jodhpur and Jaipur arrived by aeroplane. Other ruling princes who visited the State were Their Highnesses of Benares, Bundi, Cutch, Danta, Datia, Darbhanga, Khairagarh, Kotah, Narsingarh, Palanpur, Patiala, Sayla, Sitamau, Udaipur and Wankaner.

The programme of entertainment of Their Highnesses included a review of the State army, a torch-light tattoo, and a military display. The military display included numerous feats of horsemanship, and trick-riding both on horses and camels.

The novel feature of camels jumping 3 feet 6-inch hurdles was a very popular item. Other items included show-jumping and tent-pegging by the Dungar Lancers and various evolutions by the same regiment done at the gallop. A demonstration of a modern battle action, including the employment of improvised tanks, was given by the forces as a whole.

A State banquet was held in honour of Their Highnesses to which two hundred and fifty invitations were issued.

After spending two days shooting at Gajner Their Highnesses left Bikaner on the 3rd December 1937.

CENTRAL INDIA CIRCLE

GWALIOR

Major-General G. R. Rajwade, C.B.E., the Army Minister, has given up the appointment of Inspector-General of the army, a post which he had held for twenty-four years. As Inspector-General he was responsible for the introduction of many measures for the welfare of the Gwalior army. We wish him a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

Colonel Shambhaji Rao Bhonsle, O.B.E., has been appointed Inspector-General of the army, and is also officiating as Army Minister during General Rajwade's absence on sick leave.

As the Jhansi Brigade were in Waziristan, training with Indian Army units could not be carried out this year; however, training camps for all units were held in December and January, followed by a few days manœuvres in which His Highness took a very great personal interest.

During the year, detachments from the 1st and 2nd Gwalior Lancers, in co-operation with the State police, took an active part in operations against dacoits.

The 3rd Lancers again won the Gwalior army football cup, but only after some very closely contested matches.

An active part was taken in the Imperial Delhi horse show. In addition to displays by "B" Battery, Gwalior Horse Artillery, and a detachment of the 2nd Lancers, there were entries in the jumping and tent-pegging classes. Lieutenant-Colonel Fateh Singh was second in the tent-pegging, and one of His Highness' teams won the driving competition for four-in-hands.

His Highness the Maharaja Scindia held a review of his troops on the occasion of his birthday, the 10th November, and the army maintained its high reputation for smartness on ceremonials.

The foundation-stone of the new lines for the 1st Gwalior Lancers was laid by His Highness. In his speech His Highness pointed out that no soldier should be wanting in the duties of good citizenship, and he expressed his anxiety to do all that was in his power to extend to the army the amenities of comfortable living.

INDORE

The death of Her Highness the Maharani Sanyogibatai Holkar is an irreparable loss to Indore, especially to the army, in which she took such a great interest.

We should like to express our deepest sympathy.

There are many items of sporting interest this year. A very successful horse show and handy hunter trials were held by the Indore army. They attracted many competitors from the Mhow garrison. It is hoped that the horse show will become an annual event and that it will draw entries from other States Forces.

Paper-chases and meets of the Mhow tent club, which were well attended by spears from the Indore army, were also features of hot weather training. Polo is flourishing. The Indore army "A" team won the Alirajpur cup at Mhow and Holkar's Escort, after closely contested games with the gunners from Mhow and the Maharani's Own Bodyguard, won the Indore cup.

BHOPAL

We were all very sorry to hear of His Highness' unfortunate polo accident in England. This was particularly unlucky as it disorganised the Bhopal team, which we hoped would have a most successful season in the open cup tournaments.

His Highness has got together a very strong and well-mounted team for this year and we wish him the best of luck.

We deeply regret the sudden death of Captain Shahzada Sultan Aziz Jan, Bhopal Sultania Infantry, a brother of Her Highness the Begum Sahiba.

A most successful regatta was held in August. Among the visitors were members of the Poona, Mhow and Jodhpur yacht clubs.

The Bhopal Bodyguard was disbanded on 1st April 1937 and the Gohar-i-Taj Own Company was converted from a training company into an active company.

The machine-gun platoon of the Bhopal Sultania Infantry attended the machine-gun concentration of the Mhow Brigade Area in December, where it won the "fire control" cup. The battalion again took part in Mhow Brigade Area battalion and brigade training.

REWA

We welcome Captain D. S. Khanvilkar, M.C., late of the 2/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, who has been appointed Chief of the General Staff.

The Circle sports, which by the kind invitation of His Highness were held for the first time in Rewa, has been the outstanding event of the year. Owing to unavoidable circumstances Gwalior was unable to take part. Tripura, too, which lies so far from the centre of the Circle, found it impossible to send representatives. About two hundred competitors in all were put up in the guest houses and the very luxurious camp.

The Indore army contingent was very successful. In addition to gaining nine first, five second and six third places out of a total of twenty-two events, they won the unit challenge cup, tug-of-war challenge cup and championship cups for both Indian officers and Indian other ranks. We congratulate them on this very fine performance.

His Highness the Ruler of Bhopal very kindly presented a handsome challenge cup for inter-unit hockey to replace the one which his Bhopal Sultania Infantry had won for three years in succession. This was won by the 1st Benares Infantry.

The easy win of the Rewa Venkat Battalion in the team cross-country race was very popular.

His Highness very kindly opened the sports and presented the prizes at the end of the meeting. We all thank His Highness for his hospitality and for the keen personal interest which he took in the sports. We are also very grateful to the State officials and the Rewa army for all their hard work which made it such a successful meeting.

TRIPURA

We are all glad to be able to congratulate His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura on his appointment as an Honorary Captain in the Indian Army.

Major Rana Jodha Jung Bahadur, M.B.E., M.C., the commandant of the State Forces, has very kindly presented an inter-company challenge shield for sports. This was won by "A" Company.

A fortnight's company training camp was held at Melaghar. His Highness attended this camp for four days and took a very keen personal interest. As the country is densely wooded and marshy, umpires were mounted on elephants for some of the operations.

BENARES

There is very little news from Benares, but the hockey teams are having a successful year and continue to win all the local tournaments.

Captain Bijay P. Singh took leave after the Coronation, and toured most countries in Europe in what is believed to be record time.

DHAR

We deeply regret the death from meningitis of Captain Ram Rao Puar (late 31st Lancers I. A.), commandant of the Dhar Light Horse.

The Dhar Light Horse, as usual, co-operated in the Mhow Brigade Area training.

On two occasions small detachments from the Dhar Infantry were most successful in helping the police to round up gangs of dacoits in outlying districts.

DATIA

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. W. Foottit, I.A. (retired), has left us to take up a new appointment in Kutch State. In his place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Hankin, I.A. (retired).

We are glad to congratulate His Highness on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

His Highness held a review of his troops on the occasion of his birthday. At the conclusion of the parade he presented Coronation medals. Two silver cannon and other guns drawn by bullocks and camels, pikemen and caparisoned elephants, not to mention black powder, certainly add to the gaiety of a "ceremonial;" but, although khaki looks dull against the uniform of some of the irregulars, the turn-out of the Govind Infantry was extremely good.

The Govind Infantry have had another successful year hunting dacoits. Naik Ram Bharose took a prominent part in the despatch of the dacoit Bhagirath.

In August, His Highness broke away from old tradition when he approved of the admission of his son Rao Raja Jaswant Singh to the Lord Reading High School, Datia, where he has every opportunity to come into close and personal contact with the sons of his father's subjects both in work and play.

PANNA

We congratulate the Raja Bahadur on his marriage with a Nepalese princess. Many of the ruling princes came to Panna as guests of His Highness to greet the marriage party as it returned from Nepal. There were many celebrations ranging from a magnificent torch-light procession to a light-hearted gymkhana and sports meeting.

GUJERAT CIRCLE

It is with great pleasure that we record that Baroda has joined the I. S. F. scheme. In the first instance the State is reorganising one infantry battalion under the direction of Major D. S. Gillespie, late of the 5/13th F. F. Rifles, who has been employed by the Baroda Government as Military Adviser, Baroda State Forces. But the number of States in the Circle remains unchanged for, unhappily, Lunawada State withdrew from the Indian States Forces in October 1937.

Training has proceeded apace and generally speaking more time has been spent on training in the field than in past years. In December 1936 all States except Lunawada were represented at the training camp at Sant Road. This year the camp was held from 14th to 28th November 1937. Unfortunately only the following units attended the camp:

Cavalry—Baria Subhag Risala.

Infantry—Alirajpur Pratap Infantry.
Baria Ranjit Infantry.
Ratlam Lokendra Rifles.

The attendance of the Idar Sir Pratap Infantry was cancelled at the last moment owing to the death of the second Maji Sahiba. Lieutenant-Colonel Maharaj Naharsinhji, C.I.E., chief commandant, Baria State Forces, who was present the whole time, did much to ensure the smooth running and success of the camp. His Highness of Baria's occasional visits to the camp were very welcome and much appreciated. The States Forces co-operated in various schemes with the 5/7th Rajput Regiment, who were also in camp, and watched their field firing, which included a machine-gun demonstration. Field firing was also carried out by Indian States Forces units.

Rainfall this year was above the average, and the crops on the whole were very good. This is a gratifying state of affairs after the dearth experienced during

the last two years. In times of drought there is always liable to be discontent or trouble and during the lean months before the arrival of the monsoon, the Lunawada State Rifles found themselves employed in preventing dacoities on the outskirts of the State; they did good work in this respect. In Ratlam the Lokendra Rifles were called out by the Dewan sahib in aid of the civil power to quell a disturbance between two factions in the city. In March and May 1937, the Baria State Forces were successful in putting out fires that broke out in the city.

In conclusion we offer our thanks to the 5/7th Rajput Regiment, who have been stationed in Baroda Camp during the past two years, for their co-operation in work both on and off the parade ground. They have always been only too willing to have Indian officers and N.C.Os. attached to the unit for training and courses and have thus considerably contributed to the efficiency of units in the Circle. It was with regret that we bade them farewell in December 1937 when they left Baroda for Mhow.

KATHIAWAR CIRCLE

I believe a sage once remarked that the nation without a history was a happy one, and if this applies equally to the Kathiawar States Forces in the past year, our lot has indeed been pleasant, for of news we have little to relate.

Owing to another year's bad monsoon it was not found possible to hold a combined camp of exercise. Junagadh and Bhavnagar States, however, held their own camps, and very interesting and instructive they proved to be. Other States did collective training from their headquarters, and the Dhrangadhra States Forces, thanks to intensive night work, affirm that they can see almost as well by night as by day (we won't mention the question of certain whitewashed guiding marks!). Nawanagar State was unfortunately severely hit by the general drought, and until the rains broke the State Lancers calculated that they had to march thirty miles a day to get their water. This was perhaps a slight exaggeration, but the situation was fraught with the gravest anxiety for all who had the welfare of the horses at heart.

The annual horse show took place in Rajkot in March 1937 and a cattle show was held in conjunction with it. This is almost a purely agricultural community, and it is interesting to note that in 1935 we had already set an example, which was followed, we hear, at the horse show in Delhi in 1938.

The annual race meeting, under R.W.I.T.C., Ltd., rules, took place in December 1937. The races are mainly supported by the R.W.I.T.C., Ltd., States Forces, and contributions from ruling princes in Kathiawar. The entries for the

races were fairly good and included three well-known Bombay horses which swept the board.

The Kathi and local Indian-bred races were interesting, the outstanding entries being the Maharaja of Bhavnagar's Ch. I. G. Pebble and the Thakore Saheb of Dhrol's B. K. M. Kundan.

These races were unique, for it is seldom that you will find English, Australian, Indian, Arab and Kathi horses running in one race. Needless to say it is impossible to bring them together, since the English horse generally wins in a canter. The object of the races, as of all races, is to improve the breed, and in Kathiawar there are two kinds—the Kathi bred and the Indian bred. Although there are many studs in the area it is a pity that more do not race their stock, for the project is deserving of more support.

Two polo tournaments were held during the week—the open polo tournament and the Kathiawar polo tournament (handicap). The former was revived after a lapse of four years and by the generosity of the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, who kindly presented a challenge cup.

The results were as follows:

OPEN POLO TOURNAMENT (KNOCK-OUT)

Junagadh *vs.* Bhavnagar Nawanagar	Junagadh	Junagadh. (Winner.)

Kathiawar Polo Tournaments
(American Pool System)

Bhavnagar *vs.* Junagadh "A"	Junagadh "A." (Winner.)
Junagadh "B" *vs.* Junagadh "A"	Junagadh "A." (Winner.)
Bhavnagar *vs.* Junagadh "B"	Bhavnagar. (Winner.)

The standard of polo was fair and team-work was not of a high standard, the general tendency being to hit round the ground. This was due to an influx of young players who were also unacquainted with the rules. The material on the other hand was good.

Junagadh won on experience and, taking into consideration their sporting entry of two teams in the handicap tournament, they deserve to be congratulated. Bhavnagar were unfortunate, for two of their regular players were out of action. K. S. Nirmalkumarsinhji was the outstanding player on their side. The Nawanagar team produced four very good ball hitters, and the general opinion is that next year they will sweep the board.

The "week" brought several visitors from the States: His Highness the Maharaja Raja Sahib of Dhrangadhra was present for the second day's racing, and Lieutenant-Colonel Zorawar Singh journeyed specially from Panna State. In addition several State officers took an active part in both races and polo.

The success of the "week" was in a large measure due to the keen and personal interest taken by the Resident, the Hon'ble Mr. E. C. Gibson, C.I.E., I.C.S., who also kindly presented the cups at the races and polo.

The signallers foregathered at Rajkot in January for collective training under Lieutenant Musaf Khan, with excellent results.

The junior officers' course was held in Rajkot during October.

The combined camp of exercise was held in Rajkot in January 1938, and, this year, it assumed special importance, for the Military Adviser-in-Chief was present during the last four days.

In October we lost our Military Adviser, Major Gordon of the Central India Horse, who had to return to his regiment of which he has been appointed second-in-command, and in his place we received Major George of the same regiment.

Major Uddey Singh of the Porbandar State Forces retired during the year after long and faithful service, and we all wish him long life to enjoy his well-earned pension.

PUNJAB CIRCLE

The past year witnessed the celebration of two jubilees in this Circle, the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala and the Golden Jubilee of His Highness the Maharaja of Jind.

In Kapurthala, the jubilee durbar and procession were one of the main features of the celebrations; the processional route was lined by the troops of the Jagatjit Infantry, while the Bodyguard acted as escort for the elephant procession. The military sports, which were held to mark the occasion, included among many interesting events a very clever display of trick-jumping by Risaldar Karam Singh and Dafadar Pritam Singh, and a well carried out physical training display. "Retreat" was very well played by the fifes and drums. The celebrations ended

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF KAPURTH
His Highness reviews the Jagatjit Infantry.

The Durbar.

TYPES OF THE KAPURTHALA JAGATJIT INFANTRY.

(1) The War Memorial of the Kapurthala State Forces, (2) State officer in full dress, (3) The Subedar-Major, and (4) The Drum-Major.

with a review of the Jagatjit Infantry on the 20th of December, 1937. Among the guests who were invited to Kapurthala for the occasion were the Maharaja of Benares, the Hon'ble the Resident for the Punjab States, His Highness the Raja of Mandi, and Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Fisher, C.I.E., who relinquished the appointment of Chief Minister, Kapurthala State, in April, 1937. The new Chief Minister, Sir John Coldstream, I.C.S., took up his appointment in November, 1937.

In Jind, the celebrations included a torch-light tattoo and a review of the State Forces. The torch-light tattoo, in which representatives from all units of the State Forces participated, was a most successful display and it reflected the greatest credit on the organizers. Those spectators who had not before seen a tattoo are still wondering how the set pieces were arranged; these were most effective. At the review of the State Forces, His Highness, after inspecting his troops, made a short address to the men in which he expressed satisfaction at all he had seen.

The Punjab States Forces hockey tournament and athletic meeting were held at Ambala in March and they were attended by teams from Kashmir, Rampur, Nabha, Jind and Kapurthala. Nabha carried off the tug-of-war and the cross-country race, while the 1st Rampur (Raza) Infantry won the hockey. The Jind Infantry Battalion gained the highest aggregate points for all events and thus were champions at the meeting for the third year in succession; the Nabha Akal Infantry were the runners-up. The general standard of athletics was high and the following new records for the meeting were set up:

Event	*Time or distance*	*Winner*
220 yards	.. 21·9 secs.	.. Havildar Baboo Singh, Nabha Akal Infantry.
880 yards	.. 2 mins. 2·1 secs.	.. Sepoy Jagir Singh, Nabha Akal Infantry.
Discus	.. 107 ft. 10½ ins.	.. Havildar Duman Singh, Jind Infantry Battalion.

The Patiala State Forces athletic championship meeting was this year held on the lines of the Olympic sports. His Highness the Commander-in-Chief honoured the army with his presence throughout the sports and was graciously pleased to attend the "At Home" and award prizes.

The Jammu and Kashmir Bodyguard Cavalry, although they have so far won no polo tournament this year, have had a very successful season. They got two teams into the semi-final of the Queen's Bays cup in Sialkot, one team into the

semi-final of the Hodson Horse cup during Lahore Xmas week and one team into the final of the 12th Royal Lancers in Sialkot.

During the individual training season tactical courses were held by officers of the Advisory Staff at both Patiala and Kapurthala. In the collective training period practically all units of the Punjab States Forces went into camp. The Jammu Brigade carried out a most interesting and instructive period of battalion training in camp some sixteen miles from Jammu, while equally good work was put in by battalions from Patiala, Nabha and Jind, the Patiala and Jind troops moving out some seventy miles by road to their training areas. The 1st Patiala Rajindra Lancers took part in the 3rd Indian Divisional manœuvres and derived great benefit from this experience.

RAJPUTANA CIRCLE

Thanks to the hospitality of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur and his Government, the ninth annual Circle military tournament was held at Jaipur, during the early days of March. We were lucky in that His Highness returned from Europe for the final day and was present at the prize-giving.

The Jodhpur forces carried away both the "mounted" and "dismounted" trophies while Jaipur Lancers "A" won the States Forces inter-regimental polo tournament. The junior polo tournament (an innovation this year) was won by the Jaipur Lancers "B." The athletic shield was won for the fifth year in succession by the Bharatpur Jaswant Household Infantry.

A short course for junior officers was held in Jaipur in September under Captain Paterson, Assistant Military Adviser. The Jaipur State Forces and their senior officers were most helpful in permitting demonstrations and lectures to be given to students.

In December a combined camp of the Jaipur and Alwar forces was held on the borders of the two States. This camp is the first big camp of tactical training that has been held in this Circle and its value has been undoubted. It is to be hoped that this camp will become an annual feature. The Military Adviser-in-Chief attended the camp for five days, while officers from Bharatpur, Jodhpur and Udaipur attended and assisted as umpires. The Director of Military Training, Army Headquarters, spent forty-eight hours in camp, and R. A. F. aircraft helped us by co-operating.

During the winter months the Military Adviser-in-Chief visited all the States in the Circle with the exception of Kotah.

Colonel His Highness Sawai Maharaj Sir Jey Singh, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., of Alwar, died in Paris in May and was succeeded in July by His Highness Maharaj Sewai Tej Singh. As has been mentioned above, the Alwar forces joined those of Jaipur in a combined camp which was a great success and most beneficial to all ranks. The Alwar Mangal Lancers entered polo teams for a number of smaller tournaments and their standard is improving. Alwar now boasts a race-course, and regular meetings are held. In these meetings the forces take a lively part.

In Bharatpur, the Spring saw the presentation of new colours to the Bharatpur Jaswant Household Infantry. His Highness the Maharaja, who returned to his State in December 1936, presented the colours on March 18th, 1937. The time-honoured ceremonial of the parade was carried through faultlessly, the new colours were consecrated by the Raj Purohit, and His Highness addressed the battalion, as the new colours were given into their keeping. Later on in the year the old colours were laid up with due ceremony in the Bihariji's temple.

In Jaipur all loyal subjects were more than thankful that His Highness has completely recovered from his polo accident of last year, and he is now playing first-class polo again and has led his Jaipur team in all the big tournaments.

The Sawai Man Guards are expanding fast and in a year or so should form a complete battalion.

Retirements include Major Thakur Hukum Singh Bahadur, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., an officer with most distinguished war service behind him. He commanded the Jaipur State Transport Corps for the whole time that they served in Mesopotamia during the Great War and has been commanding the corps for the last five years. He is succeeded in command of the Jaipur State Transport Corps by Captain Thakur Ganpat Singh of the Jaipur Lancers. Major Lakhi Ram Bahadur, M.V.O., M.C., O.B.I., I.D.S.M., has also retired after eleven years service in the State; an officer with a great military record and a cheerful personality, he was liked and respected by all.

His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur attended Their Majesties' Coronation in his capacity of Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty.

The Jodhpur forces, in addition to their successes at the Circle military tournament, had an excellent season in the Army Rifle Association competitions, as will be seen from the list of their results which is given under "Notes" in this number of the journal. His Highness the Maharaja has presented a cup for the Indian States Forces aggregate championship in the non-central matches.

The Jodhpur Sardar Rissala were attached to the 3rd (Meerut) Cavalry Brigade for regimental and brigade training. The camp was held at Larsauli,

some thirty miles north of Delhi, and the regiment were railed to Delhi in two trains and thence they marched to camp. This is the first occasion that the regiment has left its State since its return from the Great War. The value of this attachment has been obvious and all ranks seemed thoroughly to enjoy the camp and the contact with units of the British and Indian Armies.

His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, visited the camp on December 4th. They saw a scheme in which the Jodhpur Sardar Rissala were opposed to the Central India Horse, and after lunching in camp His Excellency walked round the lines of various units including those of Jodhpur and then was photographed with His Highness, the brigade staff, and officers of the Sardar Rissala.

This year has seen some expansion of the Kotah State Forces and their inclusion in some events of the annual military tournament.

In Udaipur the rains, though reasonably good throughout the State, were sparse in and around the capital and as a result the lakes are low.

The Mewar forces have had a good pig-sticking year and quite a number of boar have been accounted for. Diversion was added to one of the meetings by the attendance of a French and a German film star, who were engaged in "shooting" a film in Udaipur. Though they were not experienced enough to carry spears these gallant actors rode with the beats the whole day with only one toss between the pair of them. The lady film star followed on a camel.

The Mewar army polo team entered for a number of tournaments and won the subsidiary of the Kotah cup played at Ajmer.

Retirements include two fine officers, Colonel Thakur Anop Singh of Rodla, Sardar Bahadur, M.C., O.B.I., I.O.M., A. D. C. to the Viceroy, and Colonel Thakur D. Samrath Singh. These two officers rendered invaluable service while commanding the Mewar Lancers and the Mewar Bhupal Infantry in the difficult years of the reorganisation of the Mewar State Forces.

Honorary Lieutenant K. Shamsher Singh (late of the 3/17th Dogra Regiment) has joined the Mewar Sajjan Infantry as commandant in the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Kishen Singh Bohra, Sardar Bahadur, O.B.I., I.O.M., transferred to command the Bhupal Infantry.

His Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, A.D.C., accompanied by the Nawabzada, attended Their Majesties at the Coronation and subsequently underwent medical treatment in Europe for an injury incurred at polo some years ago. All his subjects are glad to see that this treatment has been most beneficial to His Highness, whose health has been greatly restored.

Captain Gul Muhammad Khan (Subedar-Major, I.A.) has taken over command of the Palanpur Iqbal Infantry.

SAPPERS AND MINERS CIRCLE

The Military Adviser-in-Chief visited Malerkotla during January, 1937, and Tehri-Garhwal during March, 1937.

One section of the Sirmoor Sappers and Miners was attached to the Dehra Dun Infantry Brigade from the 18th November to the 19th December, throughout its combined training, which was carried out in Sirmoor State. In addition to improving and maintaining three miles of tracks for the continuous use of seventy motor lorries and a hundred A. T. carts, the section was entirely responsible for erecting and maintaining, between three different camps and bivouacs, the camp water supplies for this force of three thousand men and eight hundred and twenty animals.

It is sad to have to record the death of two serving officers of the Sirmoor Sappers. Subedar Waryam Singh died on the 1st May, 1937 and Jemadar Madho Singh, a very promising officer, on the 13th April, 1937. Subedar Waryam Singh was about to retire after more than thirty-eight years distinguished service in the Sirmoor Sappers, during which he had won six medals, and the Meritorious Service Medal, a mention in despatches and a *Jangi Inam*. Many officers from other States who attended the field engineering courses at Nahan will remember Subedar Waryam Singh as a very efficient and painstaking instructor.

His Excellency the Viceroy and party visited Mandi during October 1937. The visit being informal, no guards of honour were furnished and the Mandi State Forces lined the road on the arrival and departure of the Viceregal party.

It is with regret that we record the death of Captain Mian Nihal Singh, who commanded the Mandi State Forces from the 28th March, 1928, to the 11th May, 1929.

His Highness the Raja of Faridkot has decided to increase the strength of his Sappers and Miners. The forces of this State will now be composed of H. H.'s bodyguard and one full company of sappers and miners with a strength of 233 and a depot. Captain Mit Singh, M.B.E., M.C., I.D.S.M., late 47th Sikhs, arrived in Faridkot in April, 1937, to command the State Forces. During the last frontier operations, His Highness of Faridkot was attached for several weeks to the 1st battalion 11th Sikh Regiment, of which he is an honorary officer.

SOUTHERN INDIA CIRCLE

HYDERABAD

This year has seen the celebration of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Silver Jubilee. The celebrations, which lasted over ten days, were opened with a parade of all the Hyderabad regular forces on the Fatteh Maidan. Some idea of the ingenuity displayed by the staff can be gathered when it is realized that five thousand troops took part in the parade which was held on a polo ground and consisted, among other things, of a march past and advance in review order.

The Secunderabad horse show, which was held in July, proved a very successful one for the Hyderabad army, who were competing on open terms with the units of the 4th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade and Secunderabad District. The following is a list of the successes gained by members of the Hyderabad State Forces:

Jumping, Indian other ranks	...	1st and 2nd.
Section tent-pegging	...	1st and 2nd.
Individual tent-pegging	...	1st and 2nd.
Troop horses, Indian other ranks	...	1st.
Chargers, Indian officers	...	3rd.
Handy horse (2nd pool)	...	1st.
Jumping, officers (Continental)	...	1st and 2nd.

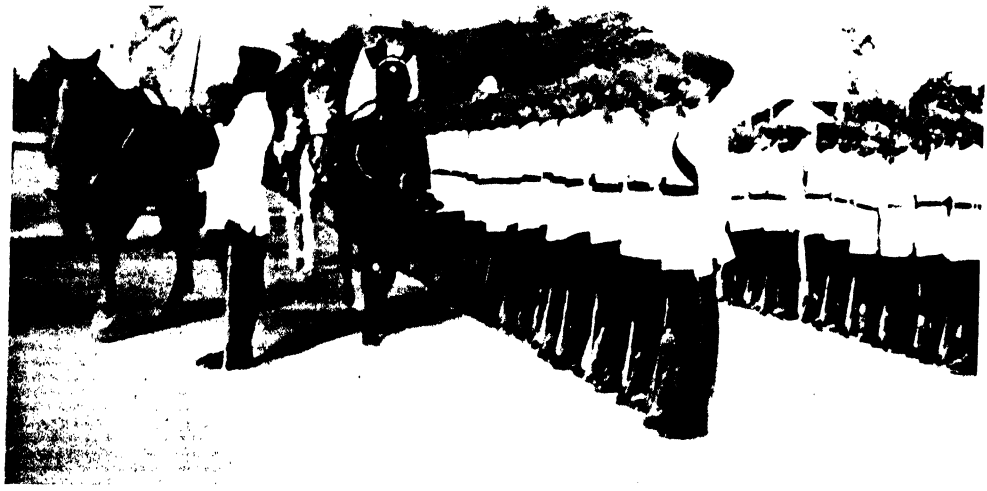
Apart from the various successes of the Golconda polo team both in Bombay and in the local tournaments, the polo year has not been a very successful one for units. The standard of regimental polo is not as high as might be expected from the material available.

MUDHOL

We regret to report the death of Lieutenant Meherban Raja Sir Malojirao Vyankatrao Raje Ghorpade, *alias* Nanasaheb, K.C.I.E., Raja of Mudhol, at Bombay, in November 1937.

MYSORE

The Mysore Lancers have again achieved success in Southern Command and non-central Army Rifle Association (India) matches. The Harris cup was won for the second year in succession. Four teams, one from each squadron, were entered, and took the first four places. Last year's winners were "A" squadron with 77 points. In the O'Moore Creagh cup one troop from each squadron entered



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF HIS HIGHNESS OF TRAVANCORE, 1937.
His Highness inspecting the troops. His Highness is seen nearest the troops and on his right is Lieut.-Col. Watkis, Commandant of the Travancore State Forces.

His Highness taking the salute during the march past. His Highness is in the centre with the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Watkis, on the right.
The Elaya Raja is in the foreground.

a team and these teams were placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Three teams were also entered for the Cawnpore Woollen Mills cup, but none of these succeeded in obtaining a place.

The unit was awarded a Southern Command aggregate cup for the combined results of the matches fired.

Polo teams from the Mysore Lancers and from the Mysore Cavalry (*i.e.*, Mysore Lancers and Mysore Horse combined) entered for a number of tournaments during the year and had considerable success. The following are the results:

Captains and subalterns tournament

Played at Bangalore in December, 1936. Five local teams competed and the Mysore Lancers won, defeating the Q. V. O. Madras Sappers and Miners team in the final.

The Bangalore junior handicap tournament

Played at Bangalore in January 1937. Seven teams entered including two from the Mysore Lancers. Mysore Lancers "A" won the tournament, Q. V. O. Madras Sappers and Miners being the runners-up.

The novices tournament

Played at Bangalore in March, 1937. Four local teams entered including one from the Mysore Lancers which won the tournament, beating the Q. V. O. Madras Sappers and Miners team in the final.

The Bangalore junior handicap tournament

Played at Bangalore in May, 1937.

Six teams entered.

Winners—Mysore Lancers.

Runners-up—Moonrakers.

The Bangalore limited handicap tournament

The tournament was only started last year and is played for a cup presented by the Raja of Kolanka. Played between 30th May and 6th June, 1937.

Nine teams entered including two from Mysore Lancers.

Winners—Kolanka.

Runners-up—The King's Dragoon Guards.

TRAVANCORE

His Highness the Maharaja, accompanied by Her Highness the Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai and His Highness the Elaya Raja, left the State in April, 1937.

for a tour of the Netherlands and Dutch East Indies, and returned to their capital in June.

His Highness the Maharaja's birthday was on 2nd November, 1937, and the events in celebration of it included a ceremonial parade by the State Forces, a Scout rally, an all-Travancore athletic meeting, a State banquet, and a garden party. His Highness the Maharaja, accompanied by His Highness the Elaya Raja, reviewed the troops on the birthday parade which was held on the 3rd of November, 1937. The birthday festivities concluded a few days later with a procession in which His Highness took part escorted by the troops. The gold head-dresses and the howdahs of the richly caparisoned elephants which headed the procession were very conspicuous.

In December last His Highness the Maharaja and Her Highness the Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai were the recipients of academic honours from the Andhra university. Before a distinguished gathering from all parts of India, at which His Excellency the Governor of Madras was present, the university conferred on Their Highnesses the honorary degrees of LL.D., making them life members of the Andhra University Senate.

The 5th of January, 1938, was a day of special rejoicing on the occasion of the birth of an heir presumptive to the Travancore *gaddi*.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Watkis, M.C., arrived in July, 1937, to take over the duties of commandant, Travancore State Forces.

Printed by E. G. Tilt, at the Civil and Military Gazette, Ltd., 48 The Mall, Lahore, and Published and Edited by Major A. B. Bartrop at the Headquarters of the Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces, Simla.