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Illustration From a 19th century 'Company' painting of a Watchman.

INTRODUCTION

We begin, by way of introduction, with some extracts from a BBC talk broadcast by Lord Radcliffe on 28th September 1947. When Lord Radcliffe died in April 1977, a member sent a press cutting of his obituary to the Secretary which contained a reference to 'a remarkable talk on the British graves in India', and through the kindness of his widow the full text was obtained for the BACSA archives.

'SPLENDID IN ASHES....' Extracts from Lord Radcliffe's broadcast.

'I came home from India about five weeks ago. Before I left a friend took me to visit the old British cemetery off Park Street in Calcutta. Let me see it again for a moment. It has a pleasing, but not, I think an oppressive melancholy. The trees are very green and damp, and they droop appropriately: it is wet under foot but nowadays few people pass through the stucco lodges and iron gates that so much resemble the entrances to an 18th century English gentleman's park. Sentiment soon gives way to curiosity for those who do. To begin with, no one seems to lie down in this cemetery. There is nothing of the quiet English scene - the low mounds, the sober headstones, the spacious quiet.

Here, every grave is a stone monument six foot high or more, rich in masonry and each monument is placed so close to the next that the paths in the cemetery are like streets of miniature sky scrapers and the monuments almost tower above you. You see the familiar English and Scottish names, and the obelisks, the pyramids, the temples that commemorate them, these indeed have an oriental flavour. One could conclude that our countrymen in Calcutta in those earlier times went to their long rest in rather ornate style. 'But man is a noble animal' says Sir Thomas Browne, 'splendid in ashes and pompous in the grave'. Tried by this test the citizens of Calcutta were very noble animals indeed.

Well then, what do we know about them, these men and women who made a one way passage from these islands to India? They died young in those days, as the inscriptions on the monuments show: in the 21st year, the 22nd year, the 23rd year of his age. Or her age. You can hardly pass the monument 'to the memory of the Honourable Miss Rose Aylmer', who, lovely twenty years old and beloved by a poet, died of an illness brought on by that 'mischievous and dangerous fruit the pineapple'. At least her name is in safe keeping -

Ah, what avails the sceptred race	Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes
Ah, what the form divine	May weep, but never see,
What every virtue, every grace	A night of memories and sighs
Rose Aylmer, all were thine	I consecrate to thee.

And now, that enormous pyramid - or was it an obelisk? I forget - to the right of Miss Aylmer's monument? That bespeaks the virtues and, in truth, the remarkable accomplishment of Sir William Jones, friend of Burke and Gibbon, a judge of the High Court in Calcutta, and one of the first Englishmen to become a master of Sanskrit learning. Sir William was not alone in his studies. It had not then become the habit to ignore the riches that India had to offer in literature, philosophy and the arts. The great Warren Hastings, who escaped the cemetery at Calcutta to endure seven years

of impeachment in London, himself made translations from the Indian epics, studied Hindu philosophy, and became as much an admirer of Persian literature as any Mogul prince.

Looking back over the exploits of the British in India, it is easy to turn the page and forget the story of what they did, in remembering what they failed to do. It must have called for great qualities exercised not only in crises, but day by day: courage, endurance, initiative, fortitude, responsibility. The gifts we brought (to India) were Roman: peace, order, justice and the fruits that those things bring. Men are apt to prize them the less, the longer they enjoy them. Like the Romans, we built our roads, bridges and canals and we have marked the land as engineers if we have not improved it as architects.

Like the Romans, we brought and maintained a system of justice that we tried to make even-handed and a system of administration that we hoped was impartial. Some day the long history book of the people of Britain will be closed and future historians of the world will try to assess what they stood for and what they did. I do not want to anticipate what they will say. But, if the account had to be taken today....I can think of one thing that we could at least say of ourselves:- we certainly got about the world. We have been such wanderers that the mud of every country is on our shoes.

It is quite an essay in geography to list the places in the five continents in which British soldiers lie buried; and we would need a new list for the British civilian cemeteries overseas. In all recorded history up to the present no people has ever so mixed its dust with the dust of the wide world. Eccentric, tiresome, interfering, if you like, but surely too, adventurous, ingenious, courageous and enduring. And yes, for better or worse - very remarkable'.

ACTIVITIES OF BACSA

These words of Lord Radcliffe, written exactly thirty years ago are singularly apposite when related to the present situation in Calcutta. The 'north' part of the Park Street cemetery he referred to was demolished in the 1950s and in the 'south' part the inscription tablets on Rose Aylmer's monument were shattered by vandals only a few years ago. But within the last few months a South Park Street Project Committee has been formed by the Executive Committee following Elizabeth McKay's visit to Calcutta in February and an East India Branch of BACSA formally established in June with its first task to restore Rose Aylmer's monument.

A detailed report of the work of the various Committees was given at the General Meeting on 30th March and progress since then will be referred to at the meeting on 5th October, but members may be interested to know that in its first year the Executive Committee met four times and the three sub-committees met on eight separate occasions, each steadily developing a programme of action in their particular sphere.

The South Park Street Project Group we have already referred to, and they are now in close touch with the East India Branch who have got off to a splendid start under the chairmanship of Aurelius Khan and a strong supporting committee. The other General Cemeteries Project Group, under Vincent Davies, has arranged for the restoration of 33 graves at Daudpur Cemetery,

Muzzaffarpur in Bihar and is investigating other schemes in Bihar and Bangladesh. The third group is the Records Project Group which with the active co-operation of the India Office Library and Records is gradually building up a catalogue of information, cemetery-by-cemetery with cross-references to known sources of information plus photographs and any relevant biographical information on those interred.

For the future, there is the need for more material - letters and photographs - to be incorporated in the BACSA archives at the India Office Library and Records. There is also a need for 'correspondents' to liaise with particular local Cemetery Committees seeking assistance, exploring the request in detail and putting forward a recommendation to the appropriate Committee. For example there is a proposal for saving the Hunter Graveyard at Sialkot, Punjab and other schemes for a variety of restoration work at Simla, Madras, Baroda, Mandalay and Malacca (Malaya). Any member with local knowledge and contacts who is interested in helping in this way should contact the Secretary. The intention is that each individual cemetery project (after a detailed examination of its viability and practicability i.e. with effective local contact established) should have its own self-contained Appeal and Budget.

THE MAIL BOX

One of the most interesting aspects of the many letters BACSA has received is the amount of incidental information contained in them. We shall look in a moment at the more serious work of BACSA but I cannot resist from mentioning here that we have had letters covering such varied topics as smallpox vaccination in India as early as 1787: the burning of Hindu corpses near the Military Officers' Bungalows at Cawnpore in 1909 causing 'cases of sickness' among the Officers: the lengths to which Victorian women doctors had to go to be able to practice their skills, in one case as far as Afghanistan because of prejudice against female doctors at home: and finally a highly interesting report on the early use of photography in India (in 1854), when Captain Biggs of the Bombay Army photographed the lying-in-state of Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, (the natural son of William IV), which took place in an enormous dark room, and where the exposure time of the plate lasted an hour and twenty minutes!

All kinds of fascinating little snippets have come to light and the files of BACSA will be a rich hunting ground for the future historians of Indian social life. The reasons why people write to BACSA are just as varied. Many people have had their memories jogged by Theon's book, 'Two Monsoons', and stories hitherto regarded as unimportant have come in. In one case, a new great, great, great, great, great grandmother was found, none other than Frances Watts, the famous 'Begum' Johnson, buried in St. John's churchyard, Calcutta. Another letter from Mrs. Bessie Murray of Nova Scotia, asks for information about a cemetery in Allahabad, and there is a particular reason for asking because Mrs. Murray is writing a family story for her grand-daughter, who owns a tiny Indian gold ring set with diamonds and rubies, which belonged to her great great grandmother, Mary Ann Dick, who was married at the age of 14 after her parents died of cholera.

Mary Ann had been left in the care of John Day a Warrant Officer, who, not knowing what to do with his young charge, eventually married her, and the couple had thirteen children. Mrs. Murray thinks it likely that Mary Ann's parents are buried in Allahabad cemetery. Other rather sadder letters ask if any information can be given about relatives' graves in India, often those of fathers, husbands, wives or children, who died tragically young, reminding us that the twentieth century too, took a heavy toll of British lives.

Talking of Mrs. Murray's letter from Nova Scotia reminds me of several more letters we have had from abroad, showing that the fascination with cemeteries is by no means confined to Britain and India. Mr. A. Peake writes from North Adelaide, Australia about some cemeteries he visited in Penang and Malacca, which formed the Straits Settlements, where many Europeans had been sent out from India 'as part of the Indian Army and the East India Company' in the 1830s, and we have had an interesting letter from Peter Mayne in Athens, about a cemetery he visited near Bankot, (just south of Bombay), where his great, great, great grandmother is buried. Two letters have also come from America, the first about the Rev. James Smith, a missionary in Belgaum, and his daughter, also a missionary, in the Punjab. A biography of this missionary pair has been written by the wife of a descendant of the Rev. Smith, (Mrs. Donette Smith), who kindly offers a copy of her book for our files. Another gift from America is, sadly probably the last colour photograph of Rose Aylmer's tomb before its partial destruction. The donor is William Trousdale, Curator of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

MYSTERY PICTURE IDENTIFIED

Members who attended the last meeting may remember seeing a large water-colour painting on display with other illustrated material, featuring the burial of an obvious V.I.P. with large numbers of Army/Navy Officers in attendance amid an obviously oriental setting of palm trees.

The artist was known to be James Stephanoff but long inquiries had failed to identify the subject of the picture - c. 1820. The mystery has now been solved - the scene represents the burial of the Hon. Sir William Coke who died at Trincomalee on 1st September 1818 while on circuit as Puisne Judge of Supreme Court and No. 2 in Ceylon.

The painting has now been acquired by the National Army Museum, London.

Luckily, in reading through our correspondence, light relief does break through at times, albeit of a rather macabre tone, like the tale of the Stanhope brothers of Secunderabad (related by Brigadier J.W. Kaye) when one brother boasted in the Mess he was not afraid of ghosts and would prove it by spending a night in the Church. The second brother dressed

up as a ghost in a sheet, and was shot by the watcher in the Church. Two days later the surviving brother shot himself and both brothers were buried in Secunderabad.

Another macabre tale is related by Mary Kaye-Webster, of her Aunt, Flora Butcher, (one of the Victorian doctors mentioned earlier), whom British prejudice would not allow to practise as a doctor in her own country, so after working in India, she crossed the Khyber Pass and established a Hospital in Afghanistan, in the 1920s. Dr. Annie Besant, who had kept in touch, as the Nearest White Woman, realising that Flora Butcher was late in sending her pack ponies for supplies, made enquiries and learnt on the 'grape-vine' of a small group of wanderers beyond the Khyber Pass and their new religion. The wanderers proved to be the remnants of Flora's hospital staff, all Indians, who carried with them a litter, in which reposed the doctor's body, perfectly embalmed by her faithful servants. She had been murdered by Afghan tribesmen, and most of her staff massacred, apart from a few who had been out collecting herbs. When they returned they rescued the remains of Dr. Butcher, who was finally given an honourable burial in British India. (We now have a photo of her grave and a copy of her Will in the BACSA records).

On a different note we have a recent report about the gravestone of Drummer Penfold, of the Royal Sussex Regiment, murdered by Afridi tribesmen in 1917 in the Khyber Pass. His gravestone has been found decorating the floor of a modern Afridi house at Landi Kotal, together with other gravestones and an elaborate memorial to an officer, which now stands in a store room of the Afridis house. When asked about the decor of his house, the owner replied that the British had sent their best men to fight on the Khyber Pass but that we now appeared to have forgotten our past. The Afridis on the other hand, have a perpetual reminder of it, neatly incorporated into their interior decor!

Another illustration of the continuing impact of the British in post-1947 India was related by the late Brigadier Perry, who wrote that when the British statues were being removed from Delhi in the 1950s he passed the statue of Nicholson just before its demolition. A large number of police and workmen were gathered round the statue and Brigadier Perry asked the Superintendent of Police why they needed armed men there. The man admitted rather sheepishly that 'Jan Nikalsayn' had been a very 'zubberdust' (fierce) man, and they could not be sure that his spirit would not return to mete out justice to those who disturbed his rest! (A photograph of this statue is in the BACSA records).

HOME AFFAIRS

Among our letters have been several from members who have apologised for not being able to attend our six-monthly meetings in London because of various commitments or infirmities, but nevertheless, still want to be involved in BACSA. One solution to this has been found by a West country genealogist who has compiled a list of British people with Indian connections who are either buried or commemorated in British graveyards. If we want to build up a comprehensive list of the British in India, we should not forget those that did return to Britain after a long period of service abroad, and even those that did not were often remembered by memorial

tablets here. From some Gloucestershire graveyards I have picked out a few names of 'Anglo-Indians' at random.

Sophia Elizabeth Cripps, 3rd daughter of late Chas. Cripps killed at Cawnpore, East Indies by mutinous sepoys 27.7.1857

Benjamin Henry Skelton died Bath 31.12.1912 - 38 years in India as a missionary. Chaplain A.C.S. and Principal Mount Abu High School.

Lydia Juliana Birdwood, born Belgium 27.9.1813, died Cheltenham 16.2.1892

and from the Daylesford graveyard -
Rt. Hon. Warren Hastings of Daylesford House, 1st Governor General of India, died 22.8.1818 at 85 years 8 months.

So it is well worth while looking in local graveyards and churches for similar memorials and compiling your own list of Indian connections for our records.

One gratifying feature of BACSA are the links we are slowly building up with other like-minded organisations. We now have reciprocal membership with 'The Friends of Highgate Cemetery' who are engaged in preserving the very fine monuments in Highgate; we are in contact with the Federation of Family History Society and the Society of Genealogists, and we would welcome contact with other such societies in Britain, who are engaged in recording monumental inscriptions before the zeal of the 'developers' clear many of our church yards. We also have links with the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, some of whose members have spent long periods in India and Pakistan, and we are in close touch with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the India Office Library and Records, and the National Army Museum.

Letters like the ones we have quoted above do remind us of the urgency of the task ahead in recording our history through gravestones. We have made a good start, and with the help of your letters and reports will carry on, so please continue to write in with your anecdotes, photos, family histories and inscriptions to the Secretary, T.C. Wilkinson, Esq., 76½ Chartfield Avenue, London SW15 6HQ.

SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

By a decision of the Executive Committee it was agreed that local members resident in South Asia should not be liable to subscriptions and should be classified as 'Corresponding Members'. However, it was hoped that whenever there was a Cemetery Project in their area, they would help in some practical way.

We now have Corresponding Members in the following towns and places who receive copies of the proceedings of the Association and keep in touch with the Secretary:

- Allahabad; Amritsar; Balasore; Baroda; Bombay; Calcutta; Champaran; Cuttack; Darjeeling; Delhi; Dharmasala; Hyderabad; Jabalpur; Kanpur (Cawnpore); Madras; Madurai; Meerut; Mirzapur; Mount Abu; Muzzaffarpur;

- Nagpur; Poona; Ranipet; Roorkee; Simla; Silchar (Assam); Varanasi (Benares); Visakhapatam.
- Lahore; Rawalpindi; Sialkot.
 - Dacca.
 - Brunei; Sri Lanka; Malaya; Thailand.

Will members with local contacts please put the Secretary in touch with interested residents in South Asia, particularly in any large town not at present represented.

We are also in touch with the officials - that is the National Governments in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the representatives of the British Government and the expatriates through the United Kingdom Citizens Association and their monthly journal.

ACQUISITIONS, DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (since March 1977)

We are grateful to the following for their contributions, whether material for our records, money towards postage or clerical services:

- Materials:**
- William Trousdale (U.S.A.); microfilm of Major Hodson's annotated Rhe-Philipe/Irving on monumental inscriptions in the Punjab and photographs of South Park Street Cemetery.
 - The Stewarts Society; an article on 'Stewarts in India' at the suggestion of Mrs. J.E. Neale (Rhodesia) and through Brigadier Ian M. Stewart of Achnacone.
 - Major A.J. Edwards; loan of two Registers of Malayan/Singapore burials, for copying.
 - Hartnoll & Eyre; colour transparency of painting by Clerihew of Agra Old Cemetery (exhibited at last meeting).
 - Charles Allen; H.J. Appleby; J.H. Bishop; Mrs. A. Baylis; Mrs. K. Clark; Mr. V.E. Davies; Col. H.E.M. Cotton; Major R.E. Evans; Mr. J. Fraser; Mrs. E. Cosmo Graham; Mrs. K.M. Kaye-Webster; Mr. P. Mayne; Mr. M. Stokes; Mr. R. Trevelyan
 - for photographs and various notes on cemeteries.
- Donations:**
- Mrs. P. Boyle; Mr. T. Foster (Malta); Mr. G.A. Haig; Mr. C.A. Maclean; Mrs. J. Hugh Jones; Mr. & Mrs. G. Montgomery (Spain); Rev. J.N. Stopford. Mrs. R.H. Perry and friends of the late Brigadier Perry - for providing enlargements of his photographic negatives of Indian cemeteries.
 - Mrs. E. Cosmo Graham - for a $\frac{1}{2}$ page advertisement of BACSA in the May issue of 'The Pennant' (many inquiries and new members as a result).
- Services:**
- Mr. A. Brock; Lt.-Col. J.F. Lawrence - typing addresses for leaflets.
 - Mrs. K. Steiner - writing envelopes for Agenda & Minutes.
 - Miss D. Clay; Mrs. J. Hugh Jones - transcribing and typing faded manuscript records of Isolated Graves for the BACSA records. (For example: 'Monument within Railway premises at Podamur (Madras) to the memory of John Wilson, Engine Driver, Madras Rly. killed by a tiger at Walliah on 10.4.1863').

CAN YOU HELP?

As members are probably aware, BACSA gets a number of requests for information about relatives who lived in India, often from people who are compiling family histories or family trees. In every newsletter we will print a number of specific requests with which we hope that other members will be able to help. In this issue we have chosen seven requests from among many received. Please write to the Secretary if you can help.

A correspondent is searching for information about her great grandfather Lt. Col. John Sutherland, 4th Regt. Bombay Cavalry, who was agent to the Governor General Sir Charles Metcalfe, and was stationed at Gwalior. He died at Bhurtpore in 1848, was buried in the Military Cemetery at Agra, and a statue raised to him in Jullunder Gardens, Ajmere. His younger brother Lt. Col. Eric Sutherland, 27th Regt. Bengal, was Military Secretary to the British Resident at Hyderabad and died there in 1846. Information is requested on the tombs of these two brothers and the statue in Jullunder Gardens, Ajmere. Lt. Col. John Sutherland married a Persian princess, Ushrut Hussaini, a descendant of the Pahlevi Shahs, while this princess was on a visit to India with a trade mission about 1818. The marriage took place at Bhurtpore in 1820 and the correspondent wants information about the princess's history, and the trade mission.

B.R.E. LaBouchardiere seeks information about an ancestor of his, Maurice LaBouchardiere, who died at Alleppey, Travancore in March 1830, aged 58, and who was in the service of the Rajah of Travancore.

D.J. Isory is looking for general information about the French colony of Pondicherry in the 1880s and is trying to trace his wife's great grandfather who lived there (no name given). Mr. Isory wonders if BACSA proposes to include information about former French and Portuguese colonies which now form part of India, so perhaps we could discuss this at our next meeting.

Mrs. Dorothy Maclean wonders if anyone has any recent information about her husband's grave in Secunderabad Cantonment. Lt. Col. George Gilbert Maclean commanding the 3rd/6th Rajputana Rifles C.I.E. was drowned sailing June 17th 1928, aged 46 years, and his grave was marked by a white marble cross on a three-tier white marble base, surrounded by marble coping and covered with marble chips. Can anyone report on the present state of this grave?

Also in Secunderabad, Major R. Evans requests information on the state of his father's grave, his father having died 15th May 1912 of 'heat stroke' caused through over-exertion in running a five mile race during the Sergeants' Mess Challenge Stakes. Major Evans is concerned about this grave after reading some time ago that stones in this cemetery have been removed.

Rex Holroyd Best writes that he would dearly love to have a general view of Ambala cemetery, and a close up photo of Capt. Clifford Henry Meham's grave with the inscription made legible. He would also like photographs of the graves of other officers connected with the Mutiny, especially that of Capt. Hodson (of Hodson's Horse), and those who died defending the Lucknow Residency.

The last request in this issue is from Peter Clough who is trying to find the exact location of the grave of one of his wife's ancestors, Lt. James Frederick Greenwood, 16th Madras Native Infantry who was killed on 17th November 1886 during action against rebels at Kanhla, Upper Burma. He was buried in the neighbouring village or town of Gwebin, and it is likely that the burial took place in a private cemetery.

POSTSCRIPT

Finally we would like to record this comment from Mr. Ramsay Harvey, of Langport, Somerset, (now a BACSA member) who writes, 'I think you are doing an extremely valuable work in trying to get together an Association to look after the tombs of Servants of the Empire who are buried in Indian or other cemeteries, and I should be pleased seriously to consider membership, especially if members could thereby obtain news of the state of any monuments in which they might be interested'. This is indeed our aim, and we are extremely grateful to all our correspondents who have provided us with such valuable information.

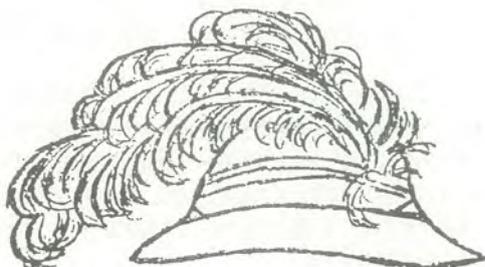
NOTICES

CINE FILMS

Members may be interested to learn of the Cambridge Project at the Centre of South Asian Studies, where the archivist, Mary Thatcher, is making a single amalgamated documentary film out of a number of home movies of the 1930s and 40s taken in India. If any members have such films or think they can help, would they get in touch with her at the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Laundress Lane, Cambridge CB2 1SD

AIR TOURS

Following the successful tours in '76 and '77 arranged by John Woodroffe, a BACSA member for former Indian army officers, wives and widows, further tours to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are being planned on the same lines for 1978, on which all are welcome, although they are designed for those mainly with family connections in the sub-continent. They allow a considerable amount of spare time and the cost is correspondingly less than other tours. Tours start in January '78 and further details can be obtained from Brigadier John Woodroffe, D.S.O. 2, Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RP



A scrimmage in a Border Station -
 A canter down some dark defile -
 Two thousand pounds of education
 Drops to a ten-rupee jezail!
 The Crammer's boast, the Squadron's pride
 Shot like a rabbit in a ride.

The flying bullet down the Pass,
 That has for text 'all flesh is grass'.

from 'Arithmetic on the Frontier' by Rudyard Kipling
 (Macmillans)

INTRODUCTION

These well known lines on skirmishes between the British and the Afghans in the Khyber Pass were chosen to begin an article by Gavin Young, called 'The Haunted Pass', published in The Observer on 16.10.1977. The reporter had accompanied a party of ex-Indian Army officers and relatives to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh on a tour organised by Brigadier John Woodroffe, a BACSA member. The object of the tour was to give such people the chance to revisit places where they lived and served in India, before Independence, and Chowkidar carried a short item on it in the first issue. During the tour, Gavin Young was particularly struck by a British cemetery in Peshawar, and we reproduce below his description of it.

'THE HAUNTED PASS'

'It was not, in the past, the happy fate of every Briton to return from Landi Kotal (on the North West Frontier), in one piece. In the sombre beauty of Peshawar's old British cemetery I saw evidence of that. Beneath massive trees, where crows and mynah birds perch in a dusty canopy of leaves, you can read the grave-stones, watched by a benevolent Pathan gardener. One impressive stone recalls how two British bank officials 'met their deaths by assassination in the Khyber Pass on April 20th 1930'. There is the unusual grave of a man 'accidentally killed in the Soda Water Factory'. One of the earliest memorials is to

George Mitchell Richmond, Lieutenant, late 54th Regt. 20th Punjab Infantry, Aged 23 years who died on 27th October, 1863 of a wound received in Defence of the Eagles' Nest Picket at Umbeyla Pass.

There are wives and babies, too: cholera did for many of them. It is hard not to be moved when you read 'Not gone from memory or from love ...' on the old tombs of 20 - 21 year old privates gunners, fusiliers and drummer-boys. You have to sweep leaves away and sometimes scrape moss off with your foot to read the inscriptions. And, by now, both the memory and the love have long ago expired'.

BASCA ACTIVITIES

'Why should there not be a CORPUS INSCRIPTIONUM BRITANNICA giving the epitaphs of the men who lived and died to build up British India? It is time that something should be done, for not only are many inscriptions becoming illegible, but, not to speak of tablets which have been converted into curry stones, monuments are always being carried away by those green wolves, the rivers of Bengal, who with privy paws daily devour apace and nothing said.'

This graphic description of decaying British graveyards comes from a book published in 1896, (List of Inscriptions on Tombs or Monuments in Bengal, by C.R. Wilson) the forerunner of the Provincial Series of Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments commissioned by the Government of India; covering Madras, U.P., Punjab, Bombay etc. and of which one of the original compilers - Lady Crofton (Hyderabad; 1941, Central Provinces & Berar; 1932, Rajputana & Central India; 1935) - and three direct descendants of J.J. Cotton's Madras (1905) and Sir Miles Irving's Punjab (1910) are BASCA members. These books provide only a selection of information, however, and much work remains to be done to compile a central register of cemeteries, which BASCA is now doing through its Records Project with help from the India Office Library and Records. Over 600 Cemetery Files have already been made up as a foundation for future collation of biographical and photographic materials, thanks to the enthusiastic work of 24 BASCA volunteers who have attended a series of Records sessions at the Secretary's house, and who have put in a total of over 250 hours of work.

Not only are Records being compiled in Britain, but practical steps are being taken abroad too, and we were pleased to receive a letter from Dr. Maurice Shellin of the East India branch of BASCA in Calcutta, telling us what they have been doing in the South Park Street Cemetery there. 'the first step', writes Dr. Shellin, 'was to clear the Cemetery of undergrowth, bricks loose stones, and the tombs themselves of plants of one sort or another growing out of them and also the branches of tall trees which were interfering with the taller tombs. The whole aspect of the Cemetery is changing. It is much brighter, more open and there seems to be a great deal more space about. The paths and the drains on either side of the paths are being cleaned'.

Apart from these practical measures, a pamphlet is being published called 'About the Cemetery' and arrangements have been made for the Master Plan of the graves as well as the registry of names to be copied, because the latter was fading badly. The East India Branch is also trying to arrange for guided tours to be made of the South Park Street Cemetery, and a leading travel agent in Calcutta is being approached to see if the Cemetery can be included in the list of tours for Europeans. This seems to be an excellent idea and one that could be well extended to other big cities in the sub Continent. As for specific tombs in this Cemetery, we are happy to report that the restoration of Rose Alymer's tomb is proceeding and the tomb will be restored to its original condition as far as possible, thanks to a very generous donation from Shaw Wallace Ltd. made to the East India Branch. We also found it particularly appropriate that a member of Rose Alymer's family, Mrs. Mona Aylmer, has been kind enough to make a substantial donation to help with restoration work

Apart from important Cemeteries like the South Park Street one, and famous people like Rose Aylmer, BACSA is of course interested in any tombs of British or European people who were buried in South Asia before 1947. In the first edition of Chowkidar, we mentioned the Daudpur Cemetery at Muzaffarpur in Bihar, as a typical project with which BACSA is involved. Vincent Davies is co-ordinating the restoration of 38 graves there, and has raised Rs. 500 (£30) for this purpose. This sum has come from various bodies, including individuals and Regimental Associations and it is encouraging to realise how much work can be done for a comparatively small sum.

Another project (that was passed to BACSA from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) concerns the Cantonment Cemetery at Secunderabad, in Andhra Pradesh. A Major Wycliffe, who has got a small Protestant prayer house built in Secunderabad, would like to take over the care of the Cemetery, which he says is occasionally raided by local villagers for the stones. We featured two queries in Chowkidar about this Cemetery, as well as the story about the Stanhope brothers, so were naturally interested in Major Wycliffe's letter, and will keep readers informed of progress here. BACSA was also pleased to receive an interesting letter from the Raja of Kanika, Sri S.N. Bhanj Deo, who hopes that in due course it may be possible to start an Orissa branch of BACSA.

One of the most exciting letters received recently was from Lady Wheeler, widow of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, who has been excavating in old Kandahar, Afghanistan. During a walk in the neighbourhood, her party came across the cemetery of British soldiers killed during the Maiwand battle in the Second Afghan War (1878 - 1880). 'There are about a thousand graves of British soldiers...and only the slight ripple of the ground indicates their presence' writes Lady Wheeler, 'the whole area is walled with a high mud brick wall and a wooden door gives access to this forlorn and abandoned area'. What Lady Wheeler proposes is that a suitable plaque should be fixed on the cemetery wall giving details of the casualties, which it should be possible to verify from records. Regiments who lost men in the battle include the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, the 3rd Sind Horse, the 66th Foot, the 1st Bombay Infantry (Grenadiers) and the 30th Bombay Infantry (Jacob's Rifles). BACSA is sponsoring this project and investigations have already started about the kind of plaque that should be erected, and whether those Regiments who suffered the greatest loss at Maiwand might be approached for a donation towards the cost of the memorial.

Graveyards in Afghanistan struck a particular chord with our Chairman, who at the end of the Second World War collected badly damaged 19th century British gravestones at Kabul and built them into the south wall of the Shar-e-Nau Foreigners Cemetery. (This is the cemetery that also contains the grave of Sir Aurel Stein, the celebrated British explorer of Central Asia).

A letter noting Indo-African links arrived recently from Rhodesia, from Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Neale, who have been researching the fate of 'Anglo-Indians' who either served in India or were born there and later lived in Rhodesia. They have found, among others, Quarter-Master Sergeant J.H. Hillier, who did two tours in India, receiving medals during the Mutiny, having already served in the Crimea, and who later settled in

Rhodesia, dying in 1893 at Matibis. One of the earliest of those recorded with Indian links, was Denis Cronly Dillon, born in Burdwan, India in 1868, who died in a violent battle during the Matabele Wars in 1893. One of Denis Dillon's brothers, Cormac, was born in Darjeeling, and later emigrated to Australia, dying there in 1940, while a brother and sister remained at home in Clapham Junction, London. (Should any members be interested in a check on Rhodesian connections, please write in.)

Finally in this section on overseas activities and contacts, BACSA notes enquiries and information from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, and Brunei, and our increasingly wide appeal is aptly summed up in a letter from Australia which starts - 'I received advice regarding the formation of BACSA from an organisation of ex-Tea Planters from India that was recently formed in Scotland':

NAMES OF CONTACTS

A BACSA member from Bombay has suggested that we publish the names of our Corresponding members in South Asia, and their names will, in future, be included in the Annual List of Members circulated before the Annual General Meeting starting in March this year.

THE MAIL BOX

While reading the letters sent to us, we are often struck by the sheer amount of information contained sometimes in just one or two sheets. We get requests for help in tracing relatives with Indian connections, queries about the graves of family members, fascinating snippets of social history, hints of family scandals and family jokes, reminiscences of service abroad, details of what the writer does now, as well as much information about graves seen in the sub-Continent.

Just such a letter is the one from John Bowen, whose grandfather, Col. Charles Hussey went to India in 1858 as an Ensign in the 20th East Devonshire Regiment, and whose parents married in Deolali in 1839. John Bowen's father served for 32 years in India, and he himself was a regular officer in the Indian Army for 15 years, losing two sisters who were buried in India. While serving in the Deccan and the Punjab, Mr. Bowen became interested in British graveyards, and sent us two fine inscriptions, one of which, from Sialkot records the death of Brigadier John Pennycuick in the battle of Chillianwala, and that of his 17 year old son, Alexander Pennycuick who died while defending the body of his father. Mr. Bowen's long interest in British graveyards in India is shared by many others, who took the time to record interesting inscriptions, like Mr. F.O. Bell, who noticed some memorial plaques at Rawalpindi, and Mr. and Mrs. D.Y. Fell from the Isle of Mull who were looking at old churches and memorials in India only a year ago.

A correspondent who sent details of numerous church memorials from India, is F.J. McCarthy, and it is interesting to note two in St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay; one to Henry Robertson Bowers, a Lieutenant of the Royal Indian Marines who died in the Scott Antarctic Expedition, aged 28 years,

and another to the Governor of Bombay, the Honourable Jonathan Duncan, who came to India as a boy of 16, and who died in 1811 after 39 years of uninterrupted service, including the longest governorship on record, of sixteen years. His memorial includes a relief of two children holding a scroll on which is inscribed 'Infanticide abolished in Benares and Kattywar'.

Talking of long service in India brings us to the letter from Geoffrey Roome, who has found what must be the oldest Indian 'hand' recorded - John Wheeler Cleveland (Senior General in Her Majesty's Indian Army) who served 75 years including a period in the first Burmese war and who died in 1883 at Bangalore, aged 92. The General's wife, Louisa Elizabeth, lived a mere 77 years, fifty-nine of which she spent as his wife.

Comments on the shape of tombstones in India have cropped up more than once in your letters - typical is a remark by George ffoulkes, who found three tombs behind the Balasore Hospital, Orissa, two of which were irregular pyramids, 10 ft. high, quite different from each other in design, and one which was merely a flat slab in the ground. A legend claimed the graves were those of two duellists who had fought over a lady, also buried there, but Mr. ffoulkes was more interested in the shape of the tombs, having been told that the measurements of the irregular 'pyramids' were dictated by the age and sex of the person buried there. If indeed this is the case, then such memorials must be peculiar to European burials in India, since Hindus are cremated, and Muslim graves are normally flat slabs. Perhaps a reader could help to clear this up?

FILMS FROM THE RAJ

The first issue of Chowkidar carried an appeal for home movies shot in India during the 20's, 30's and 40's. Mary Thatcher at the Centre for South Asian Studies, Cambridge, has been collecting such movies for some time, and has now been able to edit a half hour film from this material. BICSA is pleased to announce that this compilation, called 'Films from the Raj' will be shown at the end of the A.G.M. on Wednesday, 22nd March at the National Army Museum.

Some of the letters we receive, while not directly connected with cemeteries, do present a vivid picture of life in India as perceived by the British. Such a letter is the one from Mrs. Marjorie Boulter, who recalled a cricket match played at Sehore, Central India over thirty years ago, in a 'ghost' Cantonment. 'We must have been the first Europeans to have visited it for many years', wrote Mrs. Boulter. 'That place still haunts me - the old maidans, parade and polo ground, those extraordinary cement sentry boxes - what heat! the old bungalows in various stages of dilapidation, the large rambling house where the big white chief lived. The little church, built by sappers was a great contrast - still cared for, and used from time to time by a Canadian mission. The old punkahs still

hung there. The cemetery really stirred one's soul - all those forgotten people - so dear, so useful at one time'. Another haunting letter is from Mrs. Mary Burn (see also under the 'Can You Help?' section). Mrs. Burn worked at the Delhi G.H.Q. during the Second World War, and apart from visiting British cemeteries in the capital, where she recalls 'the garland of decaying marigolds and the flickering oil lamp in the earthenware saucer' placed near the Mutiny Memorial at the Delhi Ridge, she was also present at Birla's house when the first attempt to assassinate Mahatma Gandhi was made. A bomb was thrown into the garden, which landed between Mrs. Burn and Gandhi, but it failed to explode. The second attempt to kill him the following Friday in the same place, of course succeeded.

Mrs. Burn ends her letter by describing the tombs of her great grandfather and grandmother in Agra. These tombs were of red sandstone, with raised plinth and pillars supporting domed cupolas. 'In 1948 the last I saw of them they were housing refugee families, mothers, fathers, elders, children, two goats, sacking draped round the pillars, the domes providing shelter from wind and weather - the inscriptions fast disappearing under cooking fires. Under the circumstances one couldn't object'.

CHOWKIDAR - YOUR COMMENTS

Six months ago we sent the first edition of Chowkidar out to BACSA members and we invited comments on it, both by letter and at the October General Meeting. We were pleased at the favourable response you gave it - 'very interesting' 'enjoyable' and 'fascinating reading' were typical comments, and one reader, Lt. Col. M.G.H. Aller (Hong Kong) said he thought 'the format was right, and should not be allowed to escalate or 'improve' into a more glossy journal' which would greatly increase the cost of production. We agree, and intend to keep Chowkidar as it is. We would also like to say that it is your letters which make Chowkidar such exciting reading, so please continue to write to us.

A useful suggestion was made by H.C.B. Mackenzie who thinks we should send complimentary copies of Chowkidar to 'the more likely Clubs in London and India' as a way of publicising BACSA and attracting new members. (Chowkidar has already been placed in the India Office Library, and a copy of each number will be sent to the British Library, London.) We suggest that perhaps BACSA members will leave their copies, after they have finished with them, in their own Clubs and meeting places, or pass them on to friends. Now to specific letters about the first issue. A correspondent had asked for information about her great grandfather, Lt. Col. John Sutherland, and we were delighted to receive a letter from Rajasthan, India, by the man who actually saved the Sutherland statue mentioned, from destruction after Independence. Jack Gibson found the statue, which originally stood in Jullunder Gardens, Ajmere, by the side of the road one day, and had it taken to the Mayo College Museum, where it now stands.

Readers will also remember our story about Drummer James Penfold whose gravestone was found decorating the house of an Afridi tribesman. A letter from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission brought us more information on the Drummer, who died fighting during the third Afghan War in 1919. Drummer Penfold was aged 29, and came from Hampden Park, Eastbourne. Though he was buried in the Khyber Pass Cemetery of Ali Masjid, such cemeteries, being in 'tribal territory' were not regarded as being safe from violation, and the names of soldiers buried there were permanently recorded on the Delhi Memorial, a wise precaution as it turned out. A fellow soldier of Drummer Penfold, Private Ernest Tidman, who also died at Ali Masjid in 1919, was buried in the Cemetery there and his gravestone is still safe, and was photographed in situ last Autumn, in fairly good condition.

A very gratifying response came to the query by Mrs. Dorothy Maclean about the condition of her husband's grave in the Secunderabad Cemetery. A beautiful photograph of the grave arrived, with a fresh wreath laid on it by General Kundan Singh, whose father, it seems, may well have received his promotion from Lt. Col. George Maclean. Also, more sadly, a BACSA member, Brigadier Hugh McKillop told us that he had been one of the people who had tried unsuccessfully to revive the Colonel after the fatal sailing accident. The Secunderabad lake, like the ill-omened one at Naini Tal, certainly exacted its toll of life and we have just heard from a new member, Mrs. Linda Sanderson, that her first husband Major Wyndham George Stover of the 3/16th Punjab Regiment met his death while yacht racing there in 1930.

CAN YOU HELP?

BACSA continues to receive a wide range of queries from members and non-members about relatives who were buried in India, and we hope that this selection of questions will provoke another good response from Chowkidar readers, who were able to provide valuable information about earlier enquiries. As before, letters will be forwarded through our Secretary.

We begin with two queries about the Cemetery at Bannu, in the old North West Frontier Province; the first from Mrs. Inez Barker, whose brother Lt. Oliver Bellamy of the Dogra Regiment, was killed by a sniper, and was buried at Bannu. The second is from Col. H.A. Hughes, whose first wife Ruth was buried at Bannu in 1938. Both correspondents would naturally like to know what kind of state the cemetery is in, and whether the graves are looked after by anyone. Col. Hughes would be particularly grateful to be put in touch with anyone who visits Bannu regularly.

Lady Braid-Taylor, whose family have long Indian connections, would like information about the state of her father's grave at Wardha in the Central Provinces. Her father, Henry Erskine Coles, of the Indian Police, was killed by a tiger in 1909, and her mother had a marble cross placed on the grave and paid for the upkeep of it, for some time. Lady Braid-Taylor's husband, Sir James, also died in India, and was buried in Bombay in 1943, after serving as Governor of the Reserve Bank, Bombay from 1936. Information on either grave would be appreciated.

Mrs. Mary Burn, whose family can trace their Indian connections back to 1684 (surely a record among BACSA members?) wants information on Nathaniel Wright, her great grandfather. Nathaniel was an Indigo planter in Agra, and he died there aged nearly 82 in 1861. Mrs. Burn has found out a great deal about his life, but still needs to know about Nathaniel Wright's parents and thinks that when he applied for a licence as an Indigo planter, he must have given details of his parentage, but has been unable to trace such a licence. Can anyone help?

A request next from Christopher Glazebrook, who has been seeking information for the last 10 years on a relative, Henry Glazebrook, who married Mary Ann Hicks in Calcutta in 1815, had two sons, Robert and Henry, born 1816 and 1818 respectively, and who died in 1835. Any details on Henry Glazebrook (spelt alternatively Glazbrook or Glazebrooke) would be appreciated. We have already discovered he was working in Calcutta as a silversmith in 1811 and later was employed by Hamilton & Co. the well-known silversmiths.

An interesting letter arrived recently from Dr. Krishnamurthy of Manipal, South India, who mentions the fact that some Boer prisoners of war were taken from South Africa to India, (presumably so they could not cause the British trouble in Africa), and that some of them died and were buried in India. It would be very exciting if BACSA was able to gather more information on this little known episode of British colonial history. Can any members recall gravestones of people of Dutch origin buried about the turn of the century at Ambala, Bellary, Ahmednagar, etc. and particularly a D.J. Smuts, cousin of Jan Smuts, the great South African leader.

Finally, we print three brief requests -

Susan Laville seeks information on an ancestor, Elie Laville, or de la Ville, a Huguenot from Gascony, who lived in Pondicherry from about 1787 to 1804 and was probably buried in a French Protestant Cemetery, though not necessarily at Pondicherry.

Mrs. Anne Quemby wants to trace her grandparents, William Edward Tristram and Mary Elizabeth Tristram, died in India, no burial place or date given, but can anyone help?

Dorothy Brierley would like information about the graveyard at Trichinopoly, Madras, where her mother, Dorothy Helen Peddie was buried in 1914. It is thought Mrs. Peddie was buried in St. John's Churchyard there.

BACSA members are also being asked for their help with three unusual requests we have received - the first is an appeal from Elizabeth Simson, who is arranging a photographic exhibition of 'The English in India' with the help of a grant from Southern Arts. Miss Simson is interested in photographs of any period taken in India, showing domestic, social, sporting and work scenes there. Any photographs you may have will be carefully re-photographed for the exhibition, so that you do not have to part with treasured photographs. The second request is from a BACSA member, Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel, who has been helping with the Records Project and thinks it would be most useful if members could provide old maps of India, especially of Indian towns, because naturally we need to know as precisely as possible where British cemeteries are located, and

this information is often not found on modern maps. Again the maps can be copied and returned to the owners.

The Sunderland Polytechnic are building up an Archive of personal experiences from the First World War. Every aspect of the War and service on every front is of interest. BACSA members with Great War experience are asked (in this case) to get in touch direct with Peter Liddle, at the Sunderland Polytechnic, 1914-18 Archives, St. Mary's Building, Chester Road, Sunderland.

ACQUISITIONS, DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (since September 1977)

Acknowledgements of the numerous kind donations of money, photographs and family histories will be made at the A.G.M. but we must single out:-

Lady Mudie's gift of Sir Edward Blunt's book of monumental inscriptions in the U.P. (1911) which will be kept in the BACSA file at the India Office Library and Records.

The Hon Lady Betjeman's beautiful photographs and negatives of the North and South Park Street Cemeteries, Calcutta, taken in 1935 and used for illustrating an article in an architectural Journal at that time.

Dr. Maurice Shellim's donation of the royalties on his book 'Patchwork to the Great Pagoda' to the East India Branch of BACSA.

Mrs. J.R. Smith's gift of the typescript of her grandmother's tape - recorded memoirs with family tree and photographs of her missionary forebears in western India.

Mrs. K. Steiner's continuous and non-stop labours in addressing envelopes for Agendas, Minutes, etc. - over 2,000 last year.

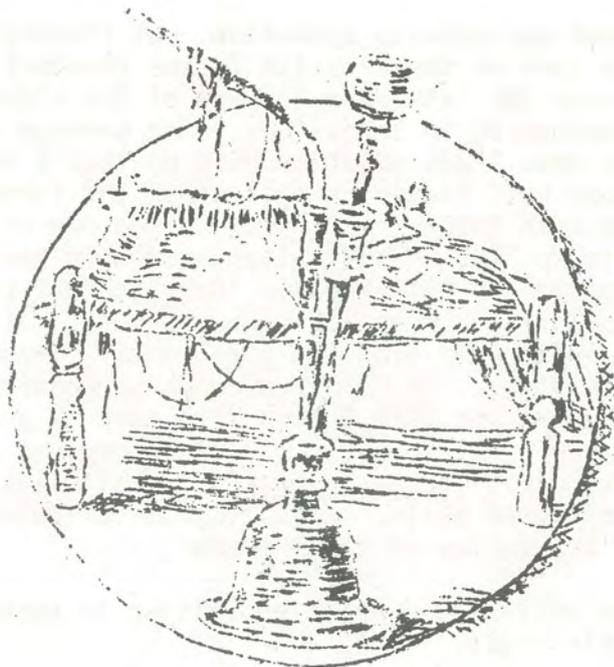
HERE AND THERE

BURMA - a Burma project group has recently been formed by Mr. R.E. McGuire and a number of interested members to build up the cemetery records of that country as a part of the BACSA archives. Mr. McGuire writes of the difficulties the group is facing, including the encroaching jungle in up-country cemeteries and the destruction of cemetery records in District offices during the Japanese invasion. 'The conditions in Burma are all against getting full and detailed information of the kind BACSA is seeking' and records can probably only be built up from the memories and personal papers of those who lived there and have since retired. Any information from BACSA members who have not already written will therefore be gratefully received.

BACSA BOOKS

The following books published over the last few years are all by BACSA members. (Our apologies for any omissions!) Other books by BACSA members are known to be in preparation, and authors are requested to let the Secretary know details of publication, for inclusion in future issues of Chowkidar.

- Charles Allen: Plain Tales from the Raj (1975) and Raj - a scrapbook of British India 1877 - 1947. (1977)
- Veronica Bamfield: On the Strength: the Story of the British Army Wife. (1974)
- Lt. Col. C.H.T. MacFetridge: Tales of the Master Gunners (1976)
- Janet Pott: Old Bungalows in Bangalore. (1977)
- J.L. Rayment: Notes on the Recording of Monumental Inscriptions
- Raymond K. Renford: Archival and Library sources for the activities of the Non-official British community in India, 1886 - 1920. (1976)
- W.H. Saumarez Smith: A Young Man's Country (1977)
- Dr. Maurice Shellim: Patchwork to the Great Pagoda. (1973)
- Jerry Speer (and Wilfred Russell) Sahibs and Sadhus - a collection of verses about India. (1976)
- Theon Wilkinson: Two Monsoons (1976)



'My father was a person of vast importance, not only in the regiment to which he belonged, but in every cantonment where it happened to be quartered. He was one of those men who are wretched unless they are overwhelmed with business.. He was secretary to the Ice Concern, an office which not only gave him his own shares of ice gratis, but threw into his hands what he was very fond of - a great deal of petty patronage, in the shape of hiring the establishment, including the baboo, or writer, who kept the accounts and collected the subscriptions. He was also actuary of the Mutton Club, which gave him further patronage in the appointment of shepherds, watchmen, etc. and increased his importance in the bazaar amongst the grain-sellers. By virtue of this office my father had certain perquisites, in the way of 'fry', 'head', 'trotters', and so forth'.

This is an extract from a little known novel The Wetherbys, by the first Australian-born novelist, John Lang, who spent much of his life in India and who died in Mussoorie in 1864. It was brought to our notice by an article in The Illustrated Weekly of India, intriguingly entitled 'In Search of John Lang's Grave' by the author Ruskin Bond. The Wetherbys and The Ex-Wife, another of Lang's novels are something of collectors' items, and they deal with British social life in India before the Mutiny, with a wealth of interest and local colour. But John Lang himself turned out to be a most elusive character, no portraits of him exist, nor any manuscripts, and his second wife, whom he married in Mussoorie in 1861 disappeared completely after his death. The few facts that are known about him show that Lang was born in Sydney, Australia, the grandson of convicts, while his father died shortly before his birth. Despite this unpromising start, Lang prospered and went to Cambridge, England, to study law. After being called to the Bar in 1841, he returned to Sydney, but found it difficult to practice there, because, it is said, of his convict origins. He decided to go to India and practised at the Bar in Calcutta but at the same time began a literary career, writing short stories and owning a newspaper.

This much Ruskin Bond was able to establish, but finding Lang's grave was another matter. 'It took me three visits to the cemetery. Over a hundred monsoons had worn away the lettering on many of the older tombstones. Some graves had disappeared in landslides. One terrace was now a mustard field. It was only when I was about to give up that I noticed a small cluster of old graves half hidden by tall grass and ferns. The grave-stones were covered with thick green moss, but on one of them I was able to make out the letters 'BAR' - Australian enough in their connotations! John Lang usually gave his profession as 'Barrister at Law' and was so described in the Mussoorie Burial Register. Carefully I removed the carpet of moss and soft earth from the grave until I was able to make out the entire inscription: 'In Memory of John Lang Barrister at Law Who died at Mussoorie on the 20th August 1864 aged 47 years'. Being probably the only professional writer living in present day Mussoorie I make it a point to visit the grave once in a while just to make sure that it hasn't disappeared again. A sentimental tribute from one writer to another, across the valley of the shadows'.

We hope Ruskin Bond will make a point of getting in touch with BACSA so that we can share his vigil.

BACSA ACTIVITIES

This is not a complete summary of progress that is being made under the auspices of BACSA, because happily we receive increasingly lengthy reports from the sub-continent, which would fill a whole issue of Chowkidar, if printed in full. The following items should therefore be seen as only part of 'work in progress'.

AFGHANISTAN

Lady Wheeler is now acting as our 'correspondent' and will be revisiting Kandahar this Autumn. She will investigate the British cemeteries there thoroughly, take photographs, and start to explore political channels of communications with the new regime. William Trousdale, (Curator of the Smithsonian Museum, Washington) will also be in Kandahar this winter, and he has found photographs and watercolours of the two cemeteries there and the one at Maiwand. BACSA is planning on erecting appropriate plaques in commemoration of the centenary of the battle at Maiwand (27th July 1980) and representatives of two Regiments involved there have already shown an interest in the scheme.

MALAYA AND PAKISTAN

Major A.R. Harfield has been invited to join the Executive Committee as the Corresponding Member for Malaya, Singapore and Pakistan - he is starting to prepare Record Files for each major town, similar to files already prepared for India, now in the India Office Library and Records.

BIHAR AND ORISSA

Vincent Davies continues to make progress here, assisted by a number of generous donations from members of the Bihar & Orissa Association. A Report on the cemetery at Bettiah shows how well the Indian Christian community has faced up to the problems of keeping walls, gates and graves in fair condition. This was mentioned briefly at BACSA AGM as deserving our special congratulations and we hope to make a small contribution. Preliminary letters have been sent out to establish contacts at Patna, Dinapore, Arrah, Buxar, Bhagalpur, Ranchi etc. and in Orissa, as mentioned before, the Raja of Kanika has expressed his interest and has now been joined by Raj Bahadur Samuel Das, who has offered to help BACSA. At Monghyr there is a small cemetery of unusual historical and architectural interest (graves dating from 1768 - 1862) which is in a very dilapidated condition and has recently been brought to the attention of the British High Commission; BACSA along with APHCI our Indian sister organisation, are jointly seeking to persuade a local industrial Company to sponsor the permanent upkeep of the Monghyr cemetery if we can carry out some essential restoration first.

ASSAM

George Walker has been in correspondence with Shillong over the removal of the memorial plaques from the Silchar Protestant church. £100 is needed to cover the cost of repair of the plaques and installing them in the cemetery wall of the Old Military Cemetery, Shillong. Some of them are of historical interest being over 100 years old and commemorating some of those killed during the Manipur and Lushai campaigns.

HIMACHAL PRADESH AND UTTAR PRADESH

We are in touch with the Simla Cemetery Committee over possible improvement to two cemeteries there, and a volunteer is invited to take on the work of 'corresponding' with Father Lewis, the President of the Committee. We are also trying to form a local branch in Lucknow to provide a focal point for all cemeteries in the U.P. which will come under APHCI's umbrella. The Secretary is in touch with the church authorities in Allahabad over a proposal to clear a very dilapidated cemetery (Kydganj), remove legible tablets to the Cathedral grounds and convert the area to a playing field for the adjacent Intermediate College. An estimate by a local contractor has indicated his willingness to do the job for the cost of the stones.

MERCARA, Coorg

General Cariappa (formerly C-in-C) has been in touch with the British High Commissioner over a local cemetery at Mercara. The area was recently cleared to make a public garden, in spite of the strongest possible protests from the General, and the gravestones have been dumped on the surrounding fields, near the Golf Course. BACSA, on hearing this sad news made the following proposals - that all legible inscriptions and church registers should be copied; the original site and any interesting gravestones should be photographed; the cost of moving the stones to the nearest church or to a small part of the Golf Course reserved for the purpose should be established; two plaques should be made and installed at the original site and the new site giving brief historical details of the cemetery and where the stones now rest.

BOMBAY

It is hoped a local Branch will be formed in the near future. The Rev. J. Correia-Alfonso, S.J. of the Heras Institute of History and Culture, (founded in 1926 as the Indian Historical Research Institute) at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, is particularly interested in our activities; as is Mrs. King-Holford, who was very active in the South Park Street project in Calcutta, and who has now joined her husband in Bombay, following his transfer to the Bombay Branch of his Bank.

CALCUTTA

Through Mrs. M.L. Rome, Secretary of APHCI, we have received very prompt and helpful answers to a number of queries from members seeking information about relatives buried in and around Calcutta, including copies of Burial Certificates and photographs of graves. The restoration work in the South Park Street cemetery continues to make spectacular progress - as referred to at the BACSA AGM - and sales of the booklet issued about the Cemetery have been very encouraging. Any member who would like a copy of the booklet, which is illustrated, should send 50 pence (plus 7 pence postage) to the Secretary, and copies will also be on sale at the next General Meeting in October.

CORRECTION Our apologies to Major J.C.E. Bowen (not Mr.) and the date of his parents' marriage should read 1893 not 1839. C.H.T. MacFetridge and J.P. Warren are the editors of The Mountain Gunners not the Master Gunner as printed in Chowkidar Two.

BRITISH INSCRIPTIONS - INDIAN CONNECTIONS

In the first number of Chowkidar it was suggested the BACSA members, in Britain, especially perhaps those 'up country' who could not easily get to the London meetings, could nevertheless contribute a lot just by looking in local graveyards and churches for inscriptions of people with Indian connections. The result of this suggestion has been quite gratifying, and a steady stream of inscriptions has started to come in. Obviously it is important that such records should be filed and referenced in a standard format, and Miss Joan Lancaster, one of the BACSA Council members very kindly offered to organise these British inscriptions, a job she looks forward to with relish on her retirement as Director of the India Office Library and Records.

It may seem rather strange for BACSA to concern itself with British inscriptions when there is still so much work to be done abroad, and when the majority of inscriptions here are usually in little danger from decay or vandalism. But it should be remembered that British inscriptions can often help to fill in important gaps in our knowledge of Indian relatives, and that such people commemorated here often spent the greater part of their lives serving in India, their memorials adding considerably to our knowledge of Indian history. Another important reason for our collection of British memorials is that they frequently commemorate some one who died in India, perhaps in circumstances where their graves there could not be marked, like many Mutiny victims, or soldiers killed in remote areas. Even when tombstones were erected in India, and a memorial put up here, there is of course no guarantee that the Indian inscriptions are still extant.

A recent query BACSA received illustrates this graphically. Mr. K.E. Curtis who is writing a book about a British officer, Cornet William G.H. Bankes V.C. killed in the Mutiny, had been trying for some time to locate that officer's grave, but with no success. All he knew was that Cornet Bankes had been buried by his Commanding Officer in the churchyard of the Old Cantonments, Lucknow and that a 'strong and solid, huge square piece of masonry was erected over the grave to protect and mark the spot until something better could be got from Cawnpore, Calcutta or England'. Mr. Curtis wanted to know if the grave could be located and photographed, but the Chowkidar Editor who had visited this particular graveyard last year knew that all the inscriptions there had been effaced by time and weathering, and that no one grave could be identified. Quite by chance Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel, a BACSA member who has already collected an impressive number of British inscriptions, sent us one she found in Wimbourne Minster, Dorset, which reads - 'Sacred to the Memory of William George Hawtry Bankes V.C. Cornet 7th Hussars the fifth son of the late Right Hon:ble George Bankes M.P. of Corfe Castle, and Kingston Lacy, County of Dorset, He fell mortally wounded whilst charging a body of rebels near Lucknow on the 19th of March and died on the 6th of April 1858, aged 21 years. This tablet is erected by his brother officers as a token of personal regard and esteem'.

The value of the work done in British graveyards and churches is thus clearly demonstrated and inscriptions sent in by BACSA members are greatly appreciated. To make Miss Lancaster's task easier she has asked us to publish the following notes on how British inscriptions should be set out:-

- a. At the top left-hand corner set out the surname of the soldier or civilian concerned, followed by all christian names.
- b. At the top right-hand corner set out the presidency or, if you do not know it, the place of service and below that the service, e.g. forestry, Bengal army, etc.
- c. Provide an exact copy of the complete inscription, if possible placing an oblique to indicate the beginning and end of each line of the inscription as it appears on the memorial.
- d. At the bottom right-hand corner indicate the place, the dedication of the church (or other name) and the location of the memorial in the church.

Photographs would be welcome, but if you are unable to provide one, it would be helpful to have brief notes on any portrait sculpture, coats-of-arms, or any other decorations. Batches of entries should be sent to Mr. A.J. Farrington (Inscriptions), India Office Library and Records, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 197 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NG, who will pass them on to Miss Lancaster. From time to time Chowkidar will print a selection of some of the most interesting memorials found in Britain.

THE MAIL BOX

Although BACSA's main interest lies in the graveyards of South Asia and Britons who served and died there, it also provides, through Chowkidar, a chance for members to tell us something about their lives abroad, and to help build up a record of the rich social fabric that existed not so very long ago. Although the hardships of service abroad are not minimised, the unfailing vitality, devotion and courage of Britons abroad comes through most vividly in readers' letters. 'It is so easy to step into the past when one has so enjoyed it', writes Mrs. Mary Hickley from Somerset, and she adds that having spent the best part of her life in India and Pakistan she is always thrilled to find books which give a true picture of life as it was rather than modern travesties of the Raj. 'I wish they could have seen some of the things we did, digging my own garden in Assam and running a poultry farm - even if it was up-sticks and away before one sometimes gathered the fruits of ones Labours! Mrs. Hickley also wonders if anyone has recently the grave in Madras of Laurence Hope, the author of Indian Love Lyrics, etc.

Mr. W. Biss, (who has a query in the Can You Help? section) tells us that he was a Commercial traveller in Engineering in India 'and knew the Internal Combustion Engine from its infancy to its modern equivalent. The 'Oil Engine' eventually displaced the Steam Engine, and oil fired furnaces replaced coal as fuel'. He also relates a strange coincidence - 'I was absorbed in the book of India Past (Two Monsoons): I went to my favourite hairdresser, and in the course of our conversation, he showed me a letter written in 1858 by James Napier from a place outside Bareilly -

Phillabet. The hairdresser was a Napier of the original family who received the letter, which he came across when turning over some old junk. He sent a copy to the Military authorities concerned, and they confirmed these details among other things'.

Another member, Martin Wynne, was a Settlement Assistant Commissioner in Port Blair, Andaman Islands before the war, where there was a fairly large Christian Cemetery on the main island adjacent to the Gymkhana Club House, but Mr. Wynne does not know if the Cemetery survived the Japanese invasion. He has also sent us a report on a visit he made to the battlefield of Argaum, in the Akola district of C.P. and Berar, while he was on tour as a District Superintendent of Police. It was at Argaum that Sir Arthur Wellesley defeated the Mahrattas in 1803, and a monument to some British officers who fell in the battle was placed some way from the village. The inscriptions were still legible in 1941, though surrounded by vegetation and scrub, and it would be interesting to know if they still survive today.

An interesting anecdote was related by Mr. P.E. Richardson, who described a deserted estate he found some way outside Calicut, with a lake, a club, bungalows, and bachelor quarters, all empty. The estate had belonged to two elderly ladies, the Misses Browne, who had returned to England, and because of the remote situation, no new owners could be found. The Tamil watchman showed Mr. Richardson a swimming pool built under the floor of the main bedroom of the bungalow 'where, in Victorian times, the ladies had besported themselves in privacy while at the same time watching the lecherous gentlemen bathing in the lake. In the club chambers was a mammoth iron bath with a double bottom, the space to take the heating charcoal. Presumably one moved one's seat fairly frequently! On the far side of the lake was a small Cemetery with 10 or 15 graves, dating back to the very early 1800s.

Miss Morris from Gwent has a fascinating tale about her Aunt, Mrs. Eva Martin, who, some time during the late 1890s had to undertake a dangerous journey to Kabul to join her husband, a British advisor to the Emir of Afghanistan. Mrs. Martin and her 18 months old son were taken to Landi Kotal under British protection and then handed over to the Emir's Afghan guard. She was carried in a litter, with her baby, for several days and nights, camping en route, while a Pathan stood guard over her tent, with his back to the interior. She was treated with every honour and dignity and on her arrival in Kabul learnt that the Emir himself had supervised the arrangements for her long journey - by telling his Guards that had she and the child not arrived safely, they would all have been put to death - hence their solicitude. Miss Morris also wrote 'Our Chowkidar did not dress like the one on your paper! He was wrapped in a large shawl and when he did his prow round he coughed and spat with great vigour! and very loudly - it was one of the comforts of my youth!'

A ghostly tale came from Lady Braid Taylor who lived for a time in Warren Hastings' house at Alipore, where mysterious red spots frequently appeared on one of the doorsteps. The servants would scrub the step clean only to see the spots reappear after a short time. The old Muslim Butler told her that by tradition this was where Philip Francis had retreated after his famous duel with Warren Hastings, and that he had lurched and staggered up these steps while going indoors to have his wounds treated. Lady Braid Taylor's young son Robin, then aged two and a half described a soldier in red and white uniform that he saw wandering about the house, obviously a visitor from the past, but despite these

ghostly events the family became very fond of the house. Finally a note from Lt. Col. J.A. Cameron on some of his relatives who served in India including his grandfather Lt. Col. Alexander Cameron, C.B. Commanding the Black Watch, who died at Bareilly in 1858 from fever brought on by a wound received from a poisoned dagger during the Mutiny; his uncle Captain Ewen Hay Cameron, Royal Engineers who died of cholera in the Bolan pass in 1885 while working on road constructions there, and who was later reburied in Quetta; and his first cousin Lt. Louis Macdonald Jackson, drowned while sailing in Trincomalee harbour in 1903. This last relative had sailed single-handed, accompanied only by his dog, from Trincomalee to Singapore, and ironically was drowned while taking part in a Regatta on his return, his faithful dog being saved.

COINCIDENCE On the 9th of May this year, Theodor Wilkinson, the Secretary received an enquiry from Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Jordan, two new BACSA members, about the burial place of a Henry Weir, her grandfather. All they knew was that Henry Weir had worked on a Tea Estate at Cachar, and had been buried near Shillong sometime during the First World War. A search at the India Office Library and Records had produced no information so BACSA's help was requested. A day or so later a letter arrived from Shillong 'out of the blue' with a list of 13 memorial plaques from a redundant church in Silchar which had been rescued and taken for temporary storage in the Shillong Anglican Cathedral. Among the names was that of Henry Weir of the Kalline Tea Estate, who died in Shillong 19th June 1917 aged 74. This information was immediately passed on to his grand-daughter who is now in touch with the Shillong correspondent. BACSA cannot unfortunately promise such speedy service over every enquiry but it is gratifying to record this fortunate coincidence.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

The abiding fascination of graveyards, wherever they be, is a powerful motive in prompting our 'foreign correspondents' to write to us, and though our primary concern is understandably for South Asian Cemeteries, we receive such interesting letters about those in other parts of the world that it is difficult to refrain from quoting them. Our Malta correspondent, Thomas Foster sent us a very colourful and moving account of the execution and burial of a young Marine, Thomas McSweeney, in 1837, as well as a report on British Cemeteries there. Mr. Foster also volunteered to answer queries BACSA members may have about Maltese graveyards. From Nigeria comes a letter about 'The fighting Battyes', of the Guides, the Regiment which fought mainly in the NWFP. Our correspondent Mr. John Phillips also tells us that his father, who was first a soldier then a clergyman, in India, was at one point attacked by a leopard, and was only saved by the quick action of his Indian bearer who shot the animal. Another letter, this time from Assam, reports some of the British gravestones found in the tea plantations there, including one that reads 'In Memory of Dr. George Dunbar Milne of Aberdeen, Scotland who died at Hattyghur, Assam 17th July 1865 age 28 years'. This grave was found in the labour lines on the Duklingia Tea Estate, and the writer of the letter, Mr. M.W. Griffiths, thinks that Dr. Milne must have been one of the first doctors on the tea plantations. Sixteen more gravestones have been noted by Mr. Griffiths, including one that records a Charles Greig

Milne, died in 1913 aged 26, also of Aberdeen, presumably a descendent of Dr. Milne. He also reports that 'Bruce's grave is deteriorating'. This is Charles Bruce the discoverer of the indigenous tea plant in Assam.

Col. A. Green, writing from Australia after a recent tour in India, has sent a valuable report on cemeteries visited there. Most of them were in Cantonment areas like the Rawalpindi cemetery which is in reasonably good condition. At Wellington, near Ooty, the cemetery which lies behind the Staff College is in quite good order, as are the two cemeteries at Ooty, the small central one, and the modern one overlooking the race-course, which is still in use. Col. Green also put BACSA in touch with a retired Briton in Ooty who has catalogued all the significant British burials in the region, including those at Seringapatam. The letter finished with a conversation that Col. Green had with the wife of an Indian General. When he suggested that some of the British cemeteries should be cleaned up and the land put to public use 'she objected that they ought not to be disturbed as they are part of India's history'.

Finally a letter from Mr. Hudson in Thailand, who reminds us that the first recorded monument to a British traveller dying in India is almost certainly that of John Mildenhall who died in Ajmer, Rajputana in 1614, and whose body was taken to Agra to be buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery there, known locally as 'John Sahib's Cemetery'. Mr. Hudson suggests that the next BACSA member to visit Agra might care to photograph the stone, which was in good condition in 1933, and we are pleased to say this has been done and a copy of the photo resides in the BACSA archives. Mr. Hudson notes that although John Mildenhall was probably the first Briton to be so commemorated in India, he was not the first Briton to die there, this dubious distinction belonging to John Newberry, a merchant who started home from Fatehpur Sikri in September 1584, but was never heard of again. It is assumed that he was either murdered or became ill and died somewhere in the Punjab.

CAN YOU HELP?

As before we invite readers who may be able to help to write initially to the Secretary who will forward all letters. The first enquiry is from Mr. R.R. Langham-Carter who has long been interested in the career of Major General John Pigott Nixon of the Bombay Army, and has written several articles about him for the South African periodicals. Mr. Langham-Carter would like to know if the tomb of the Major General still survives, if so what the inscription on it is, and whether there is also a tablet in one of the Bombay churches. John Pigott Nixon died in Bombay on 9th June 1906 and was survived by a son, John, (later Sir John) and a daughter who married Sir Sayyid Ali Khan, the noted Muslim theologian.

A request has come from the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, who are seeking two 19th century portraits, the first of Major Henry George Raverty, (born 31st May 1825) of the East India Company's 3rd Bombay infantry, and the second of James Lewis, the explorer, traveller and author who wrote under the name of Charles Masson. Any information on these portraits would be much appreciated by Mr. Schuyler Jones, who is preparing an anthology of 19th century writings on Kafiristan.

Mr. W. Biss, who travelled extensively in India is seeking information on relatives, both alive and dead. His grandfather, Webster Thomas Biss was married at Serampore and worked for nearly 31 years in the NWP Uncovenanted Service, retiring about 1880. His father was a Valance Welbore Biss and as this is an uncommon name, both in India and England, Mr. W. Biss would appreciate information on any family connections, because he was orphaned at an early age, and has no details of his ancestors' lives in India.

A prompt reply came to a query in February's Chowkidar, from the British Embassy in Islamabad. Brigadier K.C. Came O.B.E. visited the Cemetery at Bannu, NWFP and was able to reassure the two BACSA members who had enquired, that the Cemetery is very well maintained with the graves and headstones in good order, and has very kindly offered to photograph the graves in question. The Brigadier also reported on a visit to Razmak, near the Afghanistan frontier, which had been completely deserted by the Army in the 1940s with the result that tribesmen stripped the camp of practically everything. However, the Shawal Rifles and a new Cadet School have recently moved into the area, and the Commanding Officer has collected as many headstones as he could find from the old Cemetery, and is putting them together in a Garden of Remembrance within the Camp perimeter. Brigadier Came expressed his thanks to the Commanding Officer and will photograph the Garden on his next visit, and has also offered to help readers with queries about Cemeteries or Churches in Pakistan, an offer which will be greatly appreciated.

Finally some brief queries that readers may be able to answer. Mr. Alan Dickinson seeks information on the grave of an ancestor, George Dickinson, who was the 'first person to be buried in the new Cemetery' at Howrah, in May 1866.

Mr. N.E. Plenty wants the inscriptions (if still extant) from the graves of his great grandparents, Jonas Widdick, died 1876 and Eliza Mary Widdick died 1865. Both great grandparents were buried in Bangalore, possibly in the Fort Cemetery. Other relations with the same name, Widdick, are buried at Colaba, Bombay.

Nigel Hogg is enquiring about Mrs. Elma Hogg, died 1913 and buried in the Birpur Cemetery, Dehra Dun, also Major J.M.T. Hogg.

A query has come from New York about the Watts family. The writer's great great grandfather was Edward Watts, who arrived in India about 1788, and married twice. His first wife was Louisa Villers Popham, whom Edward Watts married in 1794 at Fort St. George, Madras, and who was buried there in 1804. The second wife was Alice Burghall, daughter of George Burghall Major in the Army, and this marriage too, took place in Madras.

BACSA EVENTS

At the end of May this year, a small BACSA party went on a day-trip by train to Colne in Lancashire, under the arrangements of John Wall, to see the 'British in India' Museum there. It was a short but very interesting visit thanks largely to the proprietor, Henry Nelson, a BACSA member who showed the party round and provided hospitality. Any member passing that area is strongly recommended to have a look for themselves and a Leaflet

is inserted with these papers. The day, however, was marred by one of the party being taken ill and dying subsequently in Hospital. This was the Secretary of the Old Sanawarian Society in the U.K. (ex Lawrence Military School), the octogenarian Mrs. V.M. Tilley who had been very active in her support for BACSA and our sympathy is extended to her family, a number of whom were also on the trip.

The BACSA General Meeting held on 22nd March gave members a chance to see a fascinating film compiled from a collection of 'home movies' made by the British in India. Entitled 'Films from the Raj' and produced by the Centre for South Asian Studies, Cambridge, the film showed many aspects of life before the war, from domestic scenes to the construction of dams and power stations. The film was introduced by Mary Thatcher, the producer and now a BACSA member, and a spontaneous round of applause at the end of the film showed the audience's appreciation and enjoyment. Another film will be shown at the October meeting of BACSA (details with Agenda papers) showing the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Some confusion has arisen at BACSA meetings over the area of responsibility that belongs to the Commission, especially when 19th and 20th century military cantonment cemeteries are discussed, and the Director General, A.K. Pallot, C.M.G. who was present at the March meeting has kindly offered to arrange a talk and show a film outlining the work of the Commission.

BACSA TRAVEL

Brigadier J.H.P. Woodroffe, a BACSA member is organising another series of tours of India and Nepal, during the cold weather (1978/79), following the success of his earlier tours. The itineraries are carefully worked out and members who are interested can contact the Brigadier at:-

2 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W. 8. Phone (01)727 1713

BACSA also has a new member, Col. K.K. Khanna who arranges special internal tours in India for small parties. Examples of his tours include ones for Rail enthusiasts, Wild Life and Bird Watching, The Valley of Flowers, (Kulu), Yoga Tours, Riding & Polo, and Fishing.

The Colonel will also assist individual members with hotel bookings, passes, etc. and can be contacted at: Saha & Rai, Travels Pte. Ltd., Dynamic Tours Division, 9A Connaught Place, Middle Circle, New Delhi 110001

BACSA BOOKS Books written over the last few years by BACSA members, that have come to our notice recently, are printed below.

As I Saw It by Jack Gibson (1976) Records of a Crowded Life in India 1937 - 1969). Published by Mukul Prakashan, India.

The Golden Pomegranate by Major J.C.E. Bowen. (A Selection from the poetry of the Mogul Empire in India 1526 - 1858). London 1976.

Simla by Pat Barr & Ray Desmond. (A Hill Station in British India). 1976
Scolar Press, London.

'Sahib, Your Pony is Ready' by Johann Rudolf Hug, trans. by Jill Hugh Jones.
Swallow Publications, London. 1975

THE VOYAGE TO INDIA

For the same wave that meets our stem in spray
 Bore Smith of Asia eastward yesterday,
 And Delhi Jones and Brown of Midnapore
 To-morrow follow on the self-same way.

Linked in the chain of Empire one by one.
 Flushed with long leave, or tanned with many a sun,
 The Exiles' Line brings out the exiles' line
 And ships them homeward when their work is done.

The Exiles' Line by Kipling (1890)

Although BACSA is primarily concerned with graves in the sub-continent, we should not forget that some of Kipling's 'exiles' met their deaths either on the voyage out or home from India, and were buried at sea. By Kipling's day, of course, the long voyage had been considerably curtailed chiefly due to the opening of the Suez Canal in the 1850's, but as early as the 1830's travellers to India often preferred to take a boat to Port Said, travel overland to the small town of Suez, then pick up another boat that would take them to India, thereby avoiding the dangers of a journey round the Cape.

Before this route became popular passengers could suffer for months on end during the voyage, the discomforts and privations adding to the other perils of the journey. Warren Hastings wrote feelingly about 'The Want of Rest, the violent Agitation of the ship, the Vexation of seeing and hearing all the Moveables of your cabin tumble about you, the Pain in your Back, Days of Unquiet and Apprehension, and above all the dreadful Fall of the Globe Lantern'.

Even when the weather was good, India bound travellers often had other worries including the high incidence of scurvy, caused by lack of Vitamin C, which was so prevalent especially among crew members that as Dennis Kincaid relates in his book 'British Social Life in India 1608 - 1937' 'gentlemen had to work like common sailors'. There was also, during the last part of the 18th century, the risk that British ships would be captured by French privateers, who, because their Indian ports were often in British hands, sent their prisoners to the dungeons of native princes. There is no doubt that the mortality rate on board ships sailing to and from India was equally high, if not higher than that in India. Unfortunately unless relatives or friends erected memorials in India or Britain for those buried at sea, there is little that can be done to trace them once the ship's records and log books are lost.

A BACSA member, Mrs. K. Hodson, has sent us an interesting account of a sea voyage to India made in 1819 by Elizabeth Cordiner, the wife of a Surgeon going out to Madras, which was first published in the London Flotilla Bulletin. Elizabeth Cordiner kept a diary and the first entry for 28th May, the start of the journey was 'the Captain has a plentiful stock of every thing, his live stock are very numerous. He has from 40 to 50 dozen fowls of one kind and another, it is not unpleasant to hear the cocks crow in the morning and the bleating of the sheep. The pigs are at the other end of the ship from us. There are likewise two goats that supply us with new milk'. Letters that Elizabeth Cordiner sent to her mother and sister in Peterhead were usually picked up by passing ships headed for Britain, though the arrangement was fairly

casual, and letters often waited for three weeks or more before a suitable ship was encountered. By June, the weather was becoming tropical - 'I have not felt the heat so great as I expected, some of the gentlemen were quite overcome, but for some days we have had a great deal of rain, like your thundershowers. We have seen numbers of flying fish, one lighted upon the quarter deck the other day, about the size of a grey fish, the wings quite transparent, sometimes they take long flights'.

There is a long account of the ceremonies that took place as the ship 'crossed the Line', crew members dressed up as Neptune and his attendants and dances were held, with a fair amount of horseplay among the young men present. In September of 1819 the ship was nearing India, having negotiated the African coast, and the last entry says 'on the whole we have made a very quick and most delightful passage, we are today (5th September) only three months and a week from England, we have both enjoyed excellent health'. It is therefore all the more poignant to record the death almost on arrival at Madras of Elizabeth Cordiner, and the fact that her husband, Macduff Cordiner was invalided home in December 1819 and died two years later. The last letter that Elizabeth wrote to her relatives was not received till May 1820, seven months after her untimely death.

BACSA ACTIVITIES

(Work completed by BACSA in the last few months is covered in the Annual Report - this summary adds a commentary on future activities).

ANJENGO (Kerala). A report has been received that the English Cemetery there has been cleared to make way for a new Panchayat building for the village. The Executive Committee are in touch with the authorities to ascertain the facts and then decide what constructive rescue operations are feasible. This is one of the earliest cemeteries, dating from 1704, with literary connections to Sterne's 'Eliza' and Orme the historian. Thus, in a strange way is prophecy fulfilled, for the Abbe Raynal, writing in the 18th century has this to say: 'Territory of Angengo, you are nothing, but you have given birth to Eliza. One day these commercial establishments founded by Europeans on the coasts of Asia will exist no more. The grass will cover them, or the avenged Indians will have built over their ruins: but if my writings have any duration, the name of Angengo will remain in the memory of men. Those who read my works... will say, - It is there that Eliza Draper was born; and if there is a Briton among them, he will hasten to add with pride, - and she was born of English parents'.

DUM DUM (Bengal). Steps are being taken to assess the practicability of saving the tall and striking monument to the 1st Bengal Horse Artillery, erected in 1844. An estimate has been obtained amounting to close on £1,000. Unless the growth of plants embedded in the brickwork is checked, it is very likely to split apart as one side has a large vertical crack in it. While investigations were in progress - through the agency of APHCI our sister organisation in Calcutta - a second military memorial came to our attention. The Rev. T.A. Richir, SJ, reported he had removed two or three tablets from old graves which were disintegrating and stored them in the caretaker's house. One of them was to all ranks of the Sherwood Foresters who died between 1886 and 1889. We are now in touch with the Colonel of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and considering the possibility of resiting the tablet in Calcutta.

BURMA Now that the first stage of compiling the Records is complete there are plans to reproduce a few copies in draft form with an invitation to interested members to borrow and return with comments and additions. A final illustrated version incorporating as much information as possible from all available sources will then be published for sale.

FEROZESHAH Another military monument in urgent need of repair has been brought to our notice by Brigadier G. Wort. The obelisk commemorates those that died there in the First Sikh War (1845). It is interesting to note the opening of a new Anglo-Sikh Memorial Museum (1976) not far from the Ferozeshah obelisk.

THE MAIL BOX

Chowkidar has received several interesting family histories from members recently, which were originally compiled for circulation only within the various families, but which have now been kindly passed on to a larger audience. We begin with the story of the Dyce family, a name which will undoubtedly stir some memories among most people with a passing interest in Indian history.

This well established Scottish family, by a curious set of circumstances became closely associated with the famous Begum Sombre or Somru, an Indian woman who married a Swiss adventurer, Walter Reinhardt in the late 18th century, and who, on her husband's death became a very powerful thorn in the flesh of the East India Company. The Begum adopted one of the great grandchildren of her husband (by another wife) on condition that the boy, David Ochterlony Dyce would incorporate the name 'Sombre' in his own. This the boy did, and it was the Begum's intention to settle her considerable estates on him and his heirs, but her plans were frustrated by the British authorities who disputed whether she could bequeath land which they argued had only been left her for her own life time.

A Court case was started in the mid 19th century over the affair, but unfortunately the chief appellant, David Ochterlony Dyce Sombre died intestate and a lunatic before it was heard. A collateral member of the family, Marion Hamilton Dyce wrote out a short history and family tree which her grandson Ronald Dyce has kindly lent us. Marion Dyce collected her information from various sources and wrote that she was able to confirm much of her evidence from family tombs at Sardhana, which were in a good state of preservation at the beginning of this century. She also used oral family tradition and a register of births kept in a family Bible from 1810 to 1825. The earliest member of the family recorded was born in 1757 or 8.

Mrs. Dorothy Everett, a BACSA member from Hampshire has sent us a record of her family, the Westropp's, who had a long connection with India, the first Westropp dying in Madras in 1791, and Mrs. Everett herself was the last member to leave India in 1946. Several members of the Westropp family served in prestigious positions in India, including that of Chief Justice of Bombay; Commander in Chief, The Bombay Army; and Major General serving on the N.W. Frontier in the 1930's.

Mr. George Watts, from New York has sent us as much information as he can gather about his ancestor Edward Watts who arrived in Madras in 1788 and who appears to have been a free merchant, i.e. not connected with the

East India Company. Edward Watts left India in the early 1800's, later becoming British Consul at Cartagena in Colombia, and he died in Brazil in 1840, again as British Consul there. Incidentally, a query about Edward Watt inserted in Chowkidar 3 brought a letter from Mrs. Katherine Clark who had noted an entry in the East India Register & Directory, 1814 - 'Madras Births 1812. To the Lady of E. Watts Esq. a daughter - 1st Nov. 1812.

There are many readers who have similarly interesting family histories, sometimes recorded in old papers, Bibles etc. or which can be pieced together with the help of inscriptions from family tombs and we would welcome others from members too.

Tombstones of a different sort were noticed by Mr. Satiesh Bhatnagar of Patna who visited the Railway Cemetery at Chakradharpur in Bihar which he says is 'fascinating not because of any famous personality being buried there but for the beautiful headstones, in marble, carved in the shape of railway engines!' Mr. Bhatnagar adds that cemeteries have interested him since childhood 'and I have had to endure much ridicule for the hours I spend visiting cemeteries, taking photographs and making notes'.

A report on the cemeteries at Shikarpur and Jacobabad in Upper Sind was sent to one of our Committee members by Sir Sidney Ridley who visited India last year with his wife. Sir Sidney noted that the Shikarpur site is now completely derelict, the wall round it having largely disappeared and the head stones taken as building materials. At Jacobabad however, the Sind Government's interest in the tomb of General John Jacob's tomb has preserved it, albeit in altered form, with a slab of white marble on which is inscribed a verse in praise of the General by his sister. An arch has been built and a pathway constructed leading to the tomb.

Sadly, few tombs or cemeteries receive such appreciation and a letter from Mr. R.V. Fenton points out that many cemeteries had fallen into disrepair long before the British left India in 1947. Mr. Fenton was at one time Sub-Divisional Officer of Ellichpur in the Amradhi district of Berar and found the place 'somewhat melancholy but evocative'. It had previously been the Cantonment of the 'Hyderabad Contingent' (a British force supplied to the Nizam of Hyderabad) but the Cantonment had been abolished in the Kitchener reforms of 1903. By 1941 the Ellichpur Mall was a sad street of half dead trees, the Billiard Room of the old Club was in ruins, the swimming pool filled with debris and leaves. 'Above all there was an old Cantonment cemetery which had been neglected for many years' where Mr. Fenton often walked.

An unusual letter to BACSA came as a result of a newspaper article on a London policeman's hobby. The Police Officer in question, David Harvey has been trying for several years to find out what happened to survivors of the disastrous Light Brigade Charge in the Crimean War. He has tracked down many of the soldiers who took place in the Charge including ten who subsequently went on to fight and die in India. David Harvey has been able to find where most of these soldiers, including General Sir William Morris of the 17th Lancers died, and he assumes that in most cases they were buried where they died. He has not however been able to locate many of their graves and would be particularly interested to know where Private Thomas Foster also of the 17th Lancers is buried. All he knows is that Private Foster died on 26th February 1860 whilst marching 'somewhere in India'. Readers may remember seeing tombstones which would almost certainly mention soldiers who had taken place in the Charge. It is David Harvey's ambition to visit India one day 'and maybe take photographs of the plots or stones; not only tracing all the survivors but recording the spot'. There is a report of a Light Brigade grave at

Mussoorie, of which David Harvey was previously unaware. A long letter came from the Rev. B.G. Fell, Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, who wrote that the care of British graves in India is 'rather still on my conscience. It was as if one hadn't finished one's job, when compulsorily retired'. The Chaplains of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment had spiritual charge of all the Government Servants and the Crown Forces in India and Burma as well as the charge of all Government Churches and Cemeteries, both military and civilian. The Rev. Fell has kindly loaned BACSA a copy of 'The Handbook for Chaplains' 1926, a fascinating collection of Ecclesiastical rules and instructions.

A newspaper cutting of 1901 found among the papers of an old friend was sent in by Alan Reed and records the death of a Mr. J.T. Christie, late District Superintendent Police in the Punjab. Mr. Christie's part in the 'tortuous ways and various cross-currents of Afghan policy during the years 1878 - 1882' are noted and the article goes on 'there is a second-hand sovereign living now somewhere in India who owes his life to J.T. Christie, and who, if he had the slightest spark of gratitude, would spend some of his pocket money in a monument for the departed. There are others, in very high position, who owe more to Christie than they would care to acknowledge, and who might privately subscribe to a tablet in Dharmasala Church'. Was a memorial ever in fact erected to Mr. Christie. Can any readers from Dharmasala recollect one?

Finally an amusing anecdote from Mrs. Sanderson whose father-in-law Colonel Augustus Stover was Commissioner of Upper Burma in the 1880's. Because of the size of the Colonel's family the P. & O. Steamship Company 'brought in a rule that one could not travel free with more than three children under three, as my mother-in-law set off with trip-lets and two others making five children under three; also two ayahs, a bearer; all on one first class ticket!'

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

Letters both from Britain and abroad continue to extend our knowledge of British graves in out of the way places. Rev. D. Allen Easton from New York worked as a Presbyterian locum in Malaya and Kalimpong during the 1930's and during that time visited Tibet and saw 'the little cemetery at Yatung, and another, by the wayside which must date back to Younghusband days'. The Rev. Easton worked for two years in Peking as well, and remembers the foreign cemetery there. He would be interested in information on his wife's father, John Ramsay Longmuir, Manager of the Midnapore Zemindary Co. in Bihar and Orissa, who died in 1929. Mr. Longmuir was buried in India but whether at Ranchi or Calcutta is not known.

Our regular correspondent from Thailand, Major Roy Hudson has information on the Foreign Cemetery in Chiang Mai, Thailand which contains some 60 graves, including those of British nationals who have died since 1891. 'Those buried there include consular and military officers, teak-wallahs of the Siamese Forestry Department and of timber firms, as well as merchants and missionaries. A British resident of Chiang Mai since 1948 is preparing a pamphlet on this cemetery which it is hoped will duly find its way into the BACSA archives.'

From Cachar District in Assam comes a letter from 'the last Britisher in Cachar', P.V. Wallerstein, who is compiling a list of names of Europeans buried in the Silchar European Cemetery, though unfortunately a great number of gravestones have been badly damaged there. Mr. Wallerstein kindly offers to answer queries from readers about deceased Europeans buried in the Assam region.

Professor Francis A. de Caro, of Louisiana State University, U.S.A. explains how British-Indian cemeteries have appealed to him not just for the facts and dates that they provide but for the information contained about the society and culture which they represent. Professor A. de Caro suggests that a general information pamphlet might be sent to as many British persons who served in India as addresses might be found for. This would obviously be a mammoth task, but the Executive Committee is looking into it and suggestions from readers would be welcome.

From Angasion, South Australia comes a copy of a letter from Mhow, Central India, dated 1863 sent in by a descendant of the writer, Kingsley Ireland. The author of the old letter, W. Brown, after a 'romantic attachment' with a young lady, served in India for nearly 20 years, and received the Indian Mutiny Medal, returning after his long service to Dunfermline, where he married in 1881, though not to his young love. In the letter from Mhow, W. Brown asks to be remembered by his relatives at home 'when you are all gathered around your little ingle and toasting the glass to those you hold dear, and absent friends'. Mr. Ireland says this letter was sent to his great grandmother Mary Cavenett (nee Brown) and wonders if any readers have come across this unusual surname of Cavenett or Cavinett and would appreciate information on it.

William Trousdale, the Curator of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, who together with Lady Wheeler, has supplied much valuable information on the Kandahar cemetery in Afghanistan, has now confirmed that there were several cemeteries or burial places in and around the city, at least two areas being inside the town walls and at least another two outside. Very few of the casualties of the Maiwand battle, (see Chowkidar 3) were brought back to Kandahar for burial, the majority being interred by burial parties near the battlefield. A few of the fallen were given individual graves, including Major Blackwood but the majority were buried in groups, which makes the BACSA proposal to erect a commemorative tablet near the site all the more important. Plans are being co-ordinated with various Regiments and interested parties and authorities concerned for appropriate centenary commemorations of the Maiwand battle in July 1980 with the triple aim of: a) erecting a lasting memorial in Afghanistan, b) organising a function in the U.K. and c) publishing a booklet with details and a roll of honour. Incidentally, William Trousdale also writes that about 15 years ago the American Branch of the Sherlock Holmes Society was granted permission to erect a memorial plaque to Dr. Watson at Maiwand, and enquiries are being pursued about this.

THE BISS STORY

Most BACSA members who write to us with queries, can usually tell us quite a lot about their families, sometimes right back to the 18th century, but a correspondent in Chowkidar 3, Mr. W. Biss only knew the name of his grandfather and the fact that he has been married in Serampore. Mr. Biss was orphaned at an early age, and was anxious to

find out about relatives both dead and living. Although Biss is an unusual name we did not expect such a flood of information, and we are pleased to report the following letters from members.

George Eoon whose father-in-law was District Magistrate of Azamgarh U.P. during World War I remembered meeting a Mr. Biss who was Opium Agent at the Government Factory, Ghazipur, U.P. and who used to meet other Europeans at the Magistrate's house to drill as members of the local equivalent of the Home Guard. After the War Mr. Biss went on leave to Europe where he married an Austrian woman, and they eventually settled down in Switzerland. Mrs. Denise Coelho from Essex wrote to say that an Aunt of hers was in correspondence with a Miss Biss, and that although her Aunt was now dead, she would try to find out something from a surviving brother. Mrs. Coelho thought that the connection between her Aunt and Miss Biss was probably a religious one, as there was a Baptist Mission in Serampore, and her Aunt was also a Baptist and the Organist for 30 years at Christ Church in Simla.

This hint that the Biss family may have been connected with the Baptist Church was completely confirmed by two letters received from Serampore College which told us that the first Biss recorded in India, the Rev. John Biss 1776 - 1807 married a Miss Hannah Osmend and sailed for India, arriving in Serampore in 1804. John Biss had to leave India due to ill health and died at sea, but he left two sons, John Sutcliff and Isaiah Birt, a daughter Deborah Cauldwell, and his grandson Dr. Cecil Yates Biss died in London in 1912. The letters also mentioned two infant daughters called Biss who died in 1837 and 1842, but their parentage was not noted. Finally, Isaiah Birt Biss was one time Deacon of the Circular Road Baptist Church in Serampore and enquiries are going ahead to see if a memorial tablet exists to him in the Church. It is believed that the father of our original enquirer, Mr. Valance Welbore Biss, was probably the son of John Sutcliff Biss.

It is very gratifying, not to say exciting when a chance enquiry can produce such a wealth of information about hitherto unknown relatives. Mr. Biss has written again to us saying 'I was very surprised at the long arm of the BACSA and its ability to dig so deep into the past; when records were irregular and scanty, especially the early days of the East India Co. when people had quite a lot on their minds'.

CAN YOU HELP?

After the success story of Mr. Biss's enquiry it is good to note that a fair number of other queries in our 'Can you help?' section have also been answered, and an increasing volume of questions are being received. In Chowkidar 2 we published two queries about the cemetery at Bannu, N.W. Frontier Province and not only did we receive a kind offer from Brigadier Came in Islamabad to check the state of the cemetery but also a very detailed letter from Lady Wheeler, who enlisted the help of Professor and Mrs. Allchin, archaeologists working in Bannu, who in turn sought information from Dr. Ruth Coggan, medical missionary at Bannu. Dr. Coggan was able to reassure one of the enquirers about the condition of the grave of his first wife, who died in 1938. Unfortunately a second grave of the brother of one of our members could not be identified because although 'on the whole the graveyard looks fairly neat and pleasant I am afraid someone must have got in and destroyed many of the headstones, maybe especially those with a cross on'.

A helpful letter came from John Gaylor, Hon. Secretary of the Military Historical Society who wrote that some of their members plan to go to India and Pakistan in January 1980 and while they will not have time to undertake any extensive researches, 'if there are any simple chores which we can undertake such as verification of gravestones, photography, etc. we'll certainly be glad to try to fit them in. Our tentative route is Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Lahore, Delhi, Agra, Dehra Dun, Mussoorie, Madras, Ootacamund and Seringapatam'. (Letters to Mr. Gaylor can be sent via our Secretary, Theon Wilkinson).

Queries from BACSA members for this issue start with a letter from Terence Maddox, of New Zealand, who is a descendant of the celebrated Sleeman family, a member of whom, Sir Henry Sleeman was responsible for suppressing the fanatical Thugs of India in the early 19th century. Mr. Maddox is asking for information about his great great grandmother, Margaret Slater, (nee Stone) who he thinks married about 1858, possibly in India, to William Slater. After the death of her first husband in 1864, Margaret married a Walter Brett in Auckland, but nothing more is known about her. The son of her first marriage, the ancestor of our correspondent was born in Allahabad on 5th November 1860.

A note from Lt. Col. Hugh Travers just before he left England to attend a memorial service in Delhi for Col. James Skinner (of Skinner's Horse fame, who died in 1840) wonders if readers have any information on the graves or memorials of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who fought during the Mutiny and were decimated by cholera somewhere on the road to Peshawar after fighting at Cawnpore. Lt. Col. Travers would be specially interested in an inscription to Lt. or Captain Middleton who was either killed in action or died from cholera.

A query about a French family in Pondicherry comes from Mr. Dennis Ivory, who seeks information about the Grollets of Djibouti, who were in Pondicherry in the late 1800's and in Batu Gajah, Malaya in the early 1900's. Mr. Ivory would be interested also in any details of French Civil Servants working in Pondicherry. Our article on the destruction of the graveyard at Mercara, Coorg, (Chowkidar 3) was particularly sad for Lt. Gen. Sir John Worsley, of Dorset, because one of his great grandfathers was buried there. His name was Duncan Macpherson, and he died aged 55 in 1867 'in his travelling coach between Santa Caspa and Fraserpet in the Province of Coorg, and was buried at Mercara'. Gen. Worsley still hopes that some details might be forthcoming about Duncan Macpherson.

Three short queries now from members:-

1. Information is sought on Philip Anstruther (1807 - 1884) of the Madras Army, who according to the writer was a 'fascinating character'.
2. G.W.V. Holditch DSO, RA died on 13th April 1921 and was buried in the Military Cemetery at Meerut. A friend seeks details.
3. John Christopher Fink, a Baptist Missionary for many years in the Chittagong area, and after whom it is thought 'Fink's Bazaar' was named, was possibly buried in the area. His great grand-daughter would welcome any news.

Finally a query that has nothing to do with cemeteries, but which should certainly stir some memories among BACSA members. Jill Hugh-Jones has recently met a Mr. Holloway whose father and grandfather ran a touring theatre company that went round the east in the early years of the

century, and who is writing a book about it. Mr. Holloway seeks information about the kind of theatres and suchlike places that a company of that kind (quite a substantial one), might have played in, in India.

BACSA EVENTS

Film At the conclusion of the General Meeting in October, a film was shown by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission entitled 'I Will Make You a Name'. The 40 minute film was introduced by Mr. Alistair Laing, their Deputy Director-General, and reviewed the First and Second World War cemeteries in all the different theatres of war. The film was followed by a short talk explaining the position in regard to the cantonment cemeteries in the sub continent. Apart from the spontaneous appreciation so obviously shown at the meeting, a number of members have since written to say how beautiful and moving they found the film.

Knebworth House The Secretary and his wife recently visited the Centenary Exhibition of the Delhi Durbar at the home of the Lyttons. As well as a round tour of the house and the India Room, there is a fascinating Audio-Visual presentation of the Durbar itself and cameos from the life of the two Lyttons, the first Earl as Viceroy in the 1870's and his son the second Earl as Governor of Bengal in the 1920's. There is the possibility of turning this into a permanent exhibition of the British Raj with the addition of items of historical interest from wider sources. The Association has been honoured by an invitation to hold a gathering at the House combined with a tour of its premises and this will be discussed in further detail at the Annual General Meeting.

Asia Tours As a number of members visit India each year, it has been suggested that a special BACSA Chartered Flight should be organised, tailored to suit the wishes of the party. Details of a possible itinerary have been worked out by Hermes Tours, a Company which does the actual organising of Brigadier Woodroffe's Indian Army Tours and details will be available at the A.G.M. or on application to the Secretary. Alternatively members may prefer to join one of the advertised Indian Army Tours or the special tours organised within India by Col. K.K. Khanna (another member) as mentioned in the last number of Chowkidar. Col. Khanna is also very willing to help with any individual travel arrangements and he can be contacted at: Saha & Rai, Travels Pte. Ltd. Dynamic Tours Division, 9A Connaught Place, Middle Circle, New Delhi 110001

POSTCARDS

One or two members have kindly sent in some very interesting old postcards of churches, monuments and cemeteries. More would be welcome - addressed to the Secretary.

BRITISH INSCRIPTIONS

This issue of Chowkidar contains a separate sheet noting churches and cemeteries in Britain that have already been checked to see if they contain inscriptions of people with Indian connections. In order to avoid duplication of the listing of such inscriptions it is suggested that BACSA members should check with this separate sheet before noting inscriptions in the U.K. As before, new inscriptions should be sent to Tony Farrington at the India Office Library and Records, Orbit House, Blackfriars Road, London SE 1 who is co-ordinating them.

A MAUGHAM GRAVE IN CUTTACK

Following Chowkidar 3's article on the re-discovery of an Australian novelist's grave in Musoorie we were sent a letter published in the Times of India about another 'literary' grave that was also re-discovered recently. The author of the letter, 'Koneti' from Cuttack (Orissa), describing the local European cemetery says it is called 'Gora Kabar' (once used only for white skinned people) where 'anyone with a sense of the past is struck by the poignant epitaphs on tombstones. Mostly they are of infants and women and men below forty who had succumbed to enteric fever, cholera, heat-stroke or some other tropical malady.

Robin Maugham (nephew of the late Somerset Maugham) mentioned in his book 'Somerset and all the Maughams' that the maternal grandfather of Somerset was Major Charles Snell who was listed in the service of the East India Company. He had a son named Charles Snell, Junior 'but there seems to be no trace of who the mother was or when the boy was baptized'. Charles Snell, Junior was described as a 'native of Madras' and died in Cuttack where he was buried on March 5th 1857. 'I think Uncle Willie would have been delighted at the idea of a black sheep in the family', wrote Robin. 'It seems that Major Snell atoned for his indiscretion by caring for his son until he was old enough to fend for himself and may even have set him to work in his own 'survey' office.

Out of curiosity, 'Koneti' went to the Gora Kabar and after a patient search was able to locate the tombstone which read 'Sacred to the memory of Charles Snell, surveyor, who departed this life 5th March 1857, aged 39 years'. The writer concludes that 'had Somerset Maugham been alive and aware of his Madrassi uncle dying in Cuttack, perhaps Cuttack would have become the locale of one of his oriental stories'.

BACSA BOOKS (Books written over the last few years by BACSA members)

Built in Remembrance (Mausolea in Ulster) by James Stevens Curl. July 1978. A small, handsomely illustrated book on 18th and 19th Irish tombs. Pub. Ulster Architectural Heritage Society. £1

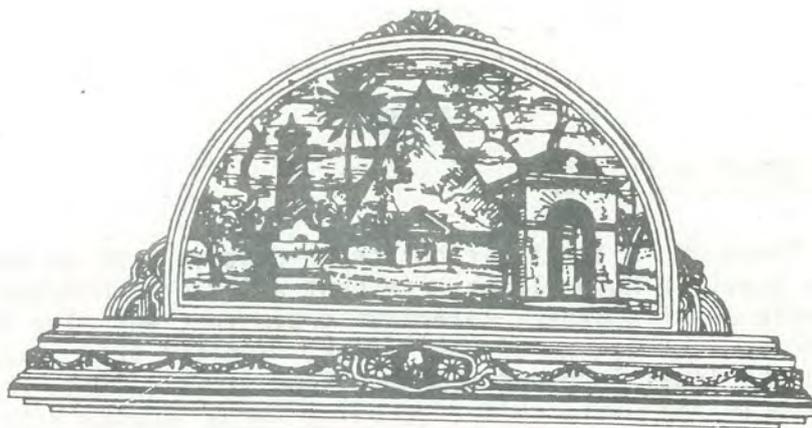
Fort Canning Cemetery, Singapore by Major A.G. Harfield. An excellently researched book which should serve as a model for future publications on individual cemeteries. Major Harfield has published this book for BACSA.

Far Pavilions by M.M. Kaye. An exciting and romantic story with an Indian setting. Pub. Allen Laing. 1978. £5.95

Concise History of India by Francis Watson. London 1974.

Return to Gilgit by Raleigh Trevelyan. December 1978

Family Life - A Stranger's Child by Alan Ross, pub. in 'The New Review' Feb. 1978. A touching article on a young boy growing up in India during the 1930's.



When the idea of a newsletter produced by BACSA was first suggested in the summer of 1977 it was thought that there might possibly be enough information to produce an annual bulletin on work done by the Association, which would supplement the report issued at the Annual General Meeting. The first issue of Chowkidar was very much in the nature of an experiment, and BACSA members' comments were invited on the contents, the lay-out and general presentation.

The name 'Chowkidar' was chosen deliberately, not only because it would be immediately recognisable to readers with Indian connections, but because the role of BACSA is somewhat akin to a watchman whose duty it is to guard over areas and to report developments there. Although Chowkidar was launched with high expectations, few people could have anticipated the enormous response it was to provoke, and the great interest and support forthcoming for it. Chowkidar is now sent all over the world, as well as to people in Britain and copies are forwarded by members to their friends, which in turn often produces new members for the Association.

Readers' letters and notes have provided a great amount of the material published in Chowkidar and we soon realised that there was sufficient information to produce a twice-yearly edition. Even so there is not always enough room to publish everything that we would like, and the final selection of material is always difficult. Since 1977 the actual appearance of Chowkidar has been changed and improved and this issue is the first to be entirely printed instead of duplicated, making it easier to read and allowing us to reproduce more line drawings. This issue, Vol. 1, No. 5 will conclude the first volume of Chowkidar and the second volume will begin in February 1980. The first five numbers are now being printed and issued together as a bound volume, with a comprehensive index kindly provided by a BACSA member, Basil Labouchardiere, and they will be on sale before the end of this year through the Secretary.

Probably the main decision that has to be taken by the Editor is whether Chowkidar should concentrate solely on reporting news of cemeteries in South Asia or whether it should extend its coverage to other aspects of the sub-continent. Gradually this question has been answered by letters from the readers themselves, who have provided such a wealth of information about life in South Asia, past and present, that Chowkidar has been able to publish many different articles covering a wide range of topics. Of course our main aim will always be to pass on information about cemeteries and those buried in them, with requests by relatives and answers where possible, to queries. But Chowkidar will also continue to look at other items of interest in South Asia (as for example the following article on Indian noblewomen who married European officers) and it is hoped that with the support of members' letters, we will continue to provide a lively forum for Asian topics.

'BEGUM' BRIDES

'Helena Bennett. Buried Jan 4. 1854. Aged 81' - from the Burial Register of St. Mary's Parish Church, the Causeway, Horsham.

Few people coming across this 19th century entry in a Sussex Burial Register would pause to think twice about the history of an old woman with a very English-sounding name. But behind the sparse entry lies a fascinating story which began in Lucknow in 1772 where Helena (as she was later known) was born to a respectable Muslim family. Her father was a Persian colonel of cavalry working for the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam I and as was the custom, he betrothed Helena and married her off at a very early age. It appears that her husband, the Nawab of Pundri died before the marriage could be consummated and Helena was left a widow before she was fifteen.

During a visit to Delhi in 1788 she met a French soldier of fortune, Benoit de Boigne, who was then working for a native prince, as so many European adventurers did during the 18th century. The following year a daughter was born from the liason between Helena and de Boigne, though it seems unlikely that they ever went through a form of marriage. It was at this time that de Boigne named his Indian mistress Helen or Helena after his mother, with his own Christian name 'Benoit' as a surname. This was anglicized into Helena Bennett. A son was also born to the couple and in 1796 the four of them left India for good, with de Boigne suffering from chronic malaria. On arrival in England, he took lodgings for his 'family' in London, but the following year he became anxious to hide their existence when he met the young daughter of the Marquise d'Osmond. After a brief courtship de Boigne and the young woman were married, but the marriage was not a success and in 1798 de Boigne left England and settled in his home town of Chambéry in France.

Helena retired to Enfield, then a quiet country village, where she brought up her two children with money provided by de Boigne. He had also bought a house for her, but the couple never seem to have lived together again. Tragically both children died young, before their mother, who became something of a recluse. A female servant employed by Helena when she lived near Horsham has left a vivid picture of her Indian mistress, with her sallow complexion, strange dark eyes, shabby dress, but magnificent rings. Helena smoke 'long pipes', presumably a hookah, and lost her temper very easily, but was well known for her kindness to the poor in the area, and also exceedingly fond of animals and birds. She died in Horsham, having outlived de Boigne by 23 years and was buried in the Protestant churchyard, although she had been a devout Catholic for many years.

Strangely enough, Helena's elder sister, Faiz-un-Nissa, also formed a liason with a European, William Palmer, who was Secretary to Warren Hastings at the end of the 18th century. 'Fyze' as she was affectionately known, had several children by Palmer, one of whom became 'King Palmer' founder of the prosperous firm of Palmer & Co. in Hyderabad. Fyze never went to England to visit her sister, but remained living with Palmer in India until his death in 1816. (By chance, as this article was being prepared, a query came from a direct descendant of Palmer's, Major William Ackworth, who wanted to know more about the portrait of his ancestor and Fyze which was believed to have been painted by the artist Zoffani during a visit to Lucknow in 1784.

It was possible to establish, thanks to a new book by Dr. Mildred Archer (see BACSA BOOKS) that the portrait was in fact by Renaldi)

Another romantic story is that of an Afghan woman, Mermanjan, daughter of a nobleman and a beautiful Circassian mother. Mermanjan was born about 1833, probably in Kabul and at sixteen fell deeply in love with a British soldier, Captain Thomas Maugham, who was pursuing the re-treating Afghans through the Khyber Pass in 1849. Mermanjan's love was returned by the Captain and the couple went through a form of marriage, but fearing her family's revenge if she accompanied her husband back to India, after the cessation of hostilities between the British and the Afghans, they parted sorrowfully.

After some months, when Mermanjan felt that suspicion would no longer fall on Captain Thomas, she decided to join him in Karachi and undertook the long and dangerous journey through the Khyber Pass, with only one servant. After great hardship, when Mermanjan was forced to sell some of her jewels to buy food, she was reunited with her husband and in 1858 went through an English marriage ceremony with him in Bombay. The couple lived briefly in England before a return to India, and sadly Captain Maugham died in Poona in 1861 after taking a dose of medicine which had been wrongly made up and which proved lethal.

Mermanjan was heartbroken at her husband's death, but after some years of intense loneliness she contracted a second marriage to an Irishman, O'Kearney, who was attracted by her wealth and beauty. The marriage was not a success. The couple quarrelled constantly and finally Mermanjan was left alone in Satara, almost blind with an incurable disease. She remained surrounded by a few friends, including Beatrice Dimmock, an Englishwoman, whose daughter Gertrude has written a book called 'Mermanjan' based on Beatrice's memories. (See BACSA BOOKS) The old Afghan noblewoman died at the age of 85 in June 1917. Although her burial was recorded in the Register at Satara church, the inscription on her grave, (for she was buried as a Christian), is not recorded, and any BACSA member who could supply this, would add a poignant footnote to this rather sad story.

BACSA ACTIVITIES

'Ten years ago the South Park Street Cemetery, opened in 1767 and abandoned for lack of space a mere 50 years later, was in ruins. During the most crucial years of its development the dead of Calcutta were buried here after dark by lighted torches and the variety and grandeur of the monuments housing them - ornate mausolea, vast obelisks and pyramids, Grecian urns, domes, cupolas - made the area an astonishing sight, even in its overgrown and delapidated state. Now, after several abortive attempts at restoring them, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia has taken it over and it looks as splendid as it can ever have done. The tombstones have been cleaned, paths weeded, flower beds dug. Women in saris and malis hurry purposefully from plot to plot.

Few tasks are more worthwhile, for this is one of the truly historic sites of British India, a testimony of extraordinary confidence in the face of horrifying living conditions and perpetual tragedy. Half of the graves are those of children, of the other half few of the incumbents reached the age of 40. Veterans of Pondicherry and Manila, of battles against Tipu Sultan and the French, lie side by side with historians, botanists, naval officers, aristocrats, attorneys, planters and merchants. The tiny tombs of the children - sometimes three or four

from the same family, victims of cholera, yellow fever, typhoid - are the saddest of all, dwarfed by the imposing relics of successful administrators'.

Alan Ross. The London Magazine. July 1979

The recent restoration in South Park Street was one of BACSA's first major projects and it is good to know that visitors like Alan Ross can now see this large and important cemetery without the sense of regret and even shame that often mars a visit to British cemeteries abroad. Not all BACSA's projects are as comparatively straightforward as the South Park Street one however, and our involvement can take many different forms, from alerting Indian officials about the decay of British monuments, to the removal of memorials from a disused church and their installation elsewhere, with an explanatory plaque for visitors. Below we note some of BACSA's 'work in progress'

MERCARA (MADIKERI), Coorg

In consultations with the local authorities concerned it has been agreed to raise a plaque at the site of the original cemetery explaining the transfer of the gravestones to the new site; and another plaque in the 'new' cemetery together with a cattle barrier to protect the remaining stones. An appeal to meet the cost was launched at the Centenary of the Coorg Planters' Association (1879 - 1979) held recently at the Royal Commonwealth Society, where BACSA was present by special invitation. The Indian Ambassador was present as guest of honour and there was a BACSA tables with booklets and leaflets laid out, as well as an appeal for funds for the Mercara project.

As a result of contributions from ex-Coorg families, local Planters and a very generous grant from the British High Commission, it is hoped that the target of £210 will be reached, but BACSA is still some £80 short and any further contributions (a figure of £5 as a maximum has been suggested) would be very appreciatively received. In the meantime BACSA is underwriting the project and has sent a first instalment of £50 so that work can start on engraving the plaques. (The Burial Registers of the old cemetery have been found and plans are being made to have them micro-filmed for BACSA records).

DUM DUM, Bengal

Chowkidar 4 reported that several decaying tables from the cemetery, including one to the Sherwood Foresters who died between 1886 and 1889 were being stored in the caretaker's house at Dum Dum. Arrangements are being made to have this tablet re-sited at the nearby Bhowanipore Cemetery in Calcutta which is very well maintained - and the Regiment have made a generous donation to BACSA funds.

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh

A donation of Rs. 1,000 has been sent for repairs to the cemetery by BACSA and a letter from the Rev. W.J. Bromley, the Chaplain, who has been co-ordinating the work there, reports that the path has been relaid, a section of the boundary wall rebuilt, a new gate installed linking the Baptist plot with the 'new' cemetery opened in 1851, and a mausoleum restored. In addition a list has been prepared from tombstones where possible (many inlaid plaques of bronze or marble have been stolen) and a new Burial Register is being prepared from the old ones which were very badly damaged by damp and insects.

THE MAIL BOX

Not all the letters that eventually find their way into 'The Mail Box' are addressed directly to BACSA, but are sometimes sent on to the Association by the recipients who ask for our help. Such a letter was recently forwarded from the British High Commission in Delhi, signed by three Naga chiefs, on behalf of the village of Khonoma in Nagaland. The Chiefs explained that their village was built round a memorial to British soldiers killed at the battle of Khonoma in 1879. This little-known encounter took place during British expansion into Nagaland when the local inhabitants were actively defending their territory. 'There were casualties on both sides and brave men from both sides laid down their lives for the cause of their respective country' wrote the chiefs.

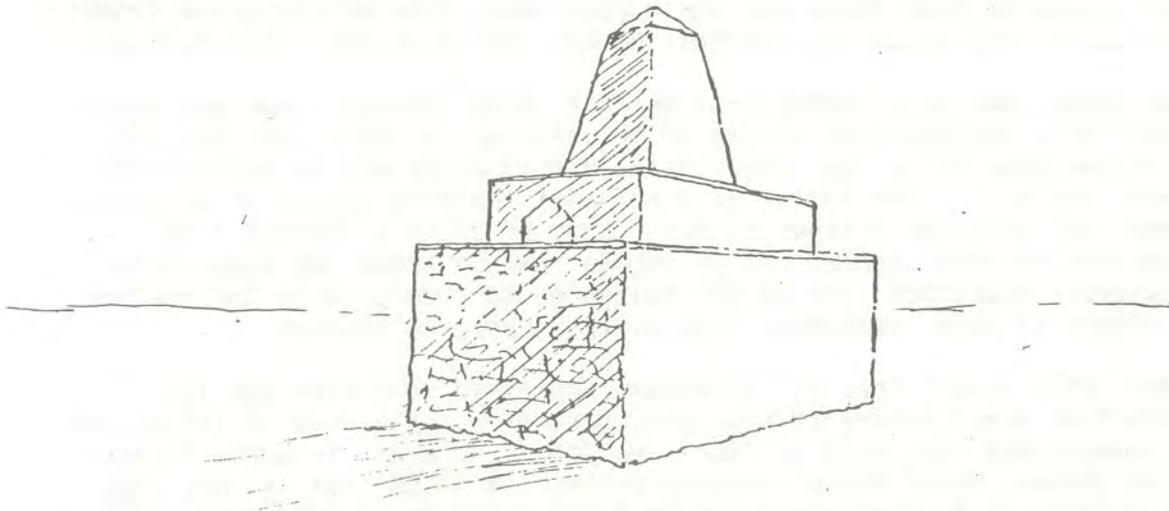
Their request to the High Commissioner was two-fold. The memorial which consists of a plot measuring about thirteen and a half feet by thirty feet and containing four stone monuments and the actual grave of Major Cock, is in a dangerous state of repair. 'Once it falls, it will cause unwanted casualties to the people who are dwelling around it because the memorial structure and the actual monument are on the apex of the village'. Secondly, because the battle of 1879 is a significant one in the history of the Angami tribes who live there, the Chiefs would like to issue a centenary publication. The British High Commission believe they can help with the repairs to the monument but were unable to provide any information about the battle there. On their letter being forwarded to BACSA the Association was not only able to promise a small grant towards any approved restoration work, but is also preparing some notes about the battle for the proposed publication - a good example of the way BACSA can help both practically and with information. Does any member perhaps have a photograph of the memorial or even further information on the battle?

Following Chowkidar's article on family histories a lively account arrived from Mr. W.H. Lewis of his wife's great-grandparents, Elias Weeks Boys and Annie Stone Major who lived in the North Andamans in charge of the lighthouse there and the convict settlement in the 1860's. After the birth of two daughters the family moved to Burma, but when the girls, Mary and Annie, reached the ages of five and seven, they were taken home to England, as was the custom in those days. Annie Stone Major took advantage of her trip to England to take a midwifery course for which she got a Diploma. She returned to Burma and nursed casualties there during the Second Burmese War. After the death of her husband in 1893 she retired to Bangalore with her unmarried daughter Annie and eventually settled in Newbury, England where she died. Our correspondent concludes 'She had a great deep laugh. A most charming and laughter loving old lady'.

From Srinagar has come the sad story of a family drowning in 1944 when a car carrying a father and his three daughters aged five, three and one-and-a-half, went into the River Jhelum near the Amirakadal Bridge. The family were buried together in the Sheikh Bagh at Srinagar, sheltered by an apple tree. Our correspondent John Ray, Hon. Sec. of the Srinagar and Gulmarg Cemeteries Committee, recently visited the grave at the request of the mother of the family, (a BACSA member) and is kindly arranging for some repairs to the grave. The cemetery itself is fairly well maintained on the whole and Mr. Ray also told us that his Cemeteries Committee has recently been raising money in a logical if slightly unusual way. 'With the in-

crease of tourism and travel, folk (usually not Christians) often die here, and their relatives want to fly them home - to Bombay or Delhi - for cremation. We are the only people who have coffins ready, which we sell at a modest profit, for use not as a coffin but as a box for carriage. I wonder if some other cemeteries in South Asia might be interested!' he adds.

During the 1930's a BACSA member Frank Nangle photographed some tombs in Jallozai to the south of the vale of Peshawar and at Hoshiarpur in the Punjab.



The sketch reproduced here is a memorial to a Colonel of a Highland Regiment who had died of cholera in the 1860's at Jallozai near the road to Cherat. The site, Mr. Nangle believes, had been that of a cholera camp. Unfortunately neither the name of the Colonel nor the Regiment can be recalled by our correspondent but perhaps the distinctive memorial may be identified by readers.

A tragi-comic story of a Regiment in modern times was sent in by Terence Molloy from Somerset, about two battalions from the Northamptonshire Regiment who were stationed at Dinapore during the war. The troops were told they were to be mobilised, first of all to rescue Rangoon, but they got no further than the mouth of the Hoogly, then they were prepared for posting to the Middle East.

'However, in the night, the train took a left turn and we ended up in Secunderabad, which we left later for a year in Ceylon before the Burma campaign'. Before the battalions left Dinapore, there had been a spate of accidents during the space of three weeks, at the end of 1941. One man committed suicide, another was electrocuted and five men were drowned. Our correspondent does not say where the seven men were buried, but it is probable it was in the Cantonment Cemetery at Dinapore and any BACSA members travelling through Dinapore might care to see if they can locate the graves.

As a tail-piece, one of our readers has drawn our attention to what must surely be the first mention of a cricket match in India. It was played at Bombay in 1797, the 'Military against the Island. Of the Gentlemen who played, six of the latter have their mortal wickets still standing; of the Military not one exists'. This quaintly worded description was printed in the Oriental Sporting Magazine in 1829 and the names of the cricketers are given, with their scores.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

'Let me try and explain the reason for my interest in British Cemeteries in India. I have spent the last three years in Hong Kong from where I had the opportunity to travel around the Far East quite extensively, getting acquainted with European history in this part of the world. One place I visited often because it was easily accessible from Hong Kong was Macao, a city with a very lovely cemetery of the East India Company. It was there I realized how little is known of the hardships European traders, settlers and soldiers had to go through to literally survive, like climate, diseases, personal living conditions and worst, total isolation from their own world back home. Some of the grave stones there carry very touching, interesting and even humourous inscriptions'.

These lines came in a letter from Austria, from Theresa Traun who hopes to publish a photographic record of gravestones in India and the East, for as she goes on to say 'there is a wave of nostalgia on anything to do with the Raj'. Her letter also reflects the wide appeal of graveyards abroad, not only for Britons either. Many of BACSA's letters from abroad are in fact sparked off by people reading about the Association in overseas magazines, and we are delighted to receive more information and offers of help, sometimes from quite unexpected sources.

Readers will recall that Dr. Krishnamurthy asked some time ago for information about graves of Boer prisoners of war who died in India, and his request was reprinted in 'Africana Notes and News' in South Africa. The War Graves Board there have now written to BACSA stating that they have records of 31 separate sites in India where these prisoners were buried, like Ambala, with 14 graves and Nainital with 17. The Board believes that there may be further unrecorded graves too. 'Any assistance your Association can render in the way of confirmation of the existence of the graves, their present condition and the names reflected on the headstone or memorials, would be appreciated very much indeed'.

From America comes a letter telling us that an article on BACSA was published in a magazine called 'American Cemetery'. John Feeney, who wrote to us, and who works in a cemetery at Syracuse, U.S.A. kindly offered BACSA his experience and knowledge in restoration and maintenance of cemeteries abroad. Also from America came an account by Joseph Malone of New York relating how touched he was to see the headstones of British officers and civilians at Julfa, near Isfahan in Persia. 'Their bodies had been brought there for burial from Shiraz, where they had been stricken while attempting to combat the plague which was rampant in that region in the 19th century'. The most renowned was Claudius James Rich, who had served as political Resident in Baghdad. BACSA has little information as yet on Persian graveyards containing British burials, but it may be possible in the future to build up a dossier on them with the help of readers' recollections.

From the 'Lucerna' a Cunard ship sailing to Venezuela, came a fascinating letter about a visit to Cochin made by the writer, Second Officer Christopher Haughton in 1973. 'An old church near Bazaar Road was quite thought provoking' he wrote, 'it's disused now and the churchyard was overgrown. But the gravestones are still legible and there's still a War Memorial standing. Every single headstone was that of a British soldier. The sudden evidence of the hundreds, thousands, of men who must have died during Britain's obsession with gaining territory was staggering'.

In contrast to the decay at Cochin, Mr. D.M. Hacking from Coonoor reports that the two Anglican cemeteries in Ootacamund are in good order, and that

the cemetery at Wellington where a number of British soldiers lie, is also well maintained.

Finally, a highly unusual temple at Cawnpore was described by Mr. J. Stewart, grandson of Captain John Stewart, the man to whom the temple was dedicated. It was built probably in the 1860's by a Hindu contractor named Bhagwatdas, as a token of respect for the way in which the Captain had saved many Hindu temples from demolition after the Mutiny. The contractor's temple is four-sided and contains statues of Captain Stewart on horseback, his son William Stewart with his wife and his dog called Chickai, and General Havelock and Dr. Neill, both Mutiny heroes. Surely this must be the only Hindu temple in India to be embellished with statues of British people? Can readers recall any other examples of European features in Hindu temples?

CAN YOU HELP?

One of the best things about BACSA's steadily increasing membership, now well over 500 strong, is that each member is a potential source of information for the Association. Some members apologise for the fact that they cannot take an active part in BACSA but just by writing to us with their recollections of life in India they are contributing a great deal to the Association and the exchange of information is of real value not only in building up the picture of British life abroad, but also in helping other members with their queries. In Chowkidar 4, for example, the Rev. Allen Easton from New York sought information about his father-in-law, John Longmuir, the Manager of the Midnapore Zemindary Company in the 1920's. A BACSA member, Vincent Davies was able to get in touch with an old friend of his (also a BACSA member) who had worked as an assistant to John Longmuir when he was in Bengal fifty years ago, and who had known him well. Another BACSA member from Calcutta, Mrs. L. Rome, not only found John Longmuir's grave in the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta but was able to send a copy of his burial certificate to the Rev. Easton, showing that his father-in-law had died at the comparatively young age of 48, from diabetes and pneumonia.

Perhaps BACSA members will be able to provide similarly useful information to the following queries in this issue:-

A new BACSA member, Roger Perkins has written the true-life story of Lieut. George Hext of the Indian army, who was murdered by political extremists in 1931 while on board one of India's crack express trains. The book 'The Punjab Mail Murder' was inspired by the chance find of Lieut. Hext's India General Service Medal in a local antique shop by the author, and the book is of particular interest to students of India, military and aviation history, as well as railway enthusiasts. Lieut. Hext was buried at Sewri Cemetery in Bombay and although the author has full details of the funeral there, he has not been able to visit the cemetery and would greatly appreciate a photograph of the grave and any information about its condition.

An interesting letter arrived from Vernon Ellis, whose ancestors have a long tradition of service in India. His great-great-grandfather, James Ellis was killed in the battle of Deig in Rajasthan in 1804, his great-grandfather, also called James Ellis served in one of the East India Company's European regiments and was buried probably in Chunar in the late 1830's. His grand-father and great uncle were both Mutiny veterans and were buried respectively in Allahabad and Landour. Mr. Ellis would particularly welcome in-

formation about the James Ellis whom he thinks was buried in Chunar, after being invalided there and placed on garrison duty.

Another detailed letter about a family with extremely long Indian connections, came from a new member, Henry Wollaston. The first link with India was made by John Wollaston, a portrait painter, whose works hang today in the National Portrait Gallery, London. John Wollaston was born about 1707 in England and after emigrating to America in 1758 he then travelled to India and worked for the East India Company, and he left descendants living in both India and Burma. Our correspondent has compiled an intriguing family tree which has obviously involved much research and he would be interested to learn more about any Wollastons who live abroad. He wonders if any branches of his family still live in India or Burma, and it would be exciting if new relatives could be discovered there. (The Editor can supply details of names and dates, if readers think they can help).

A family tree which has entries going back to the 12th century was mentioned in a letter from Patrick Stevenage, who has been able to connect every living Stevenage onto this tree. The Stevenage family now span the world from San Francisco to Australia and Patrick Stevenage's particular interest in India stems from a John Stevenage who joined the Madras European Regiment in 1779. Any information on Stevenages, particularly in the Madras area would be welcome, especially from church records there.

A query that will intrigue BACSA's military historians is about Capt. Lewis Brown, Commander of a Company of Mahrattas, who were besieged for four months at Kahun, Afghanistan, in 1840 by Baluch tribesmen. The Company was awarded a Battle Honour for their resistance and Capt. Brown was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. But mystery surrounds his death. His widow Georgina Brown claimed in 1842 that her husband had died during the siege, but our correspondent A.E. Cocksedge, in Australia, thinks it more likely that he died during subsequent operations in the First Afghan War which ended in October 1842. Ideas would be welcome, but any reports of the actual grave or inscriptions about Capt. Brown, probably from Afghanistan, would be especially valuable. To conclude this section, here are some brief queries which readers may be able to answer.

John Stewart seeks information about the children of his great-uncle, Major or Colonel Robert Stewart, one time Commissioner of Assam. Three or four of his children died in Assam, Shillong and Silchar.

Lt. Col. H.B. Dalrymple-Hay wonders if the grave of a relative, Col. G.J. Dalrymple-Hay, who died in 1881, still exists in Poona. He saw the grave in 1922 when it was well cared for, but does not now recall which cemetery it was in.

Information on Harry Byrne, born 1832, a dancing teacher; Oscar Byrne, born 1829, assistant surgeon; or George Cliffe Jones, born 1840, woollen draper, would be welcomed by Mr. S.B. Jones. One or other of these ancestors are believed to have been buried in a Calcutta cemetery, though not the South Park Street cemetery.

Major A.H. Grylls would be glad to learn of the condition of the grave of his first wife, Catherine Mary, who was buried in Kirkee Cemetery in 1942. He would also welcome information on the grave of his parents-in-law who were buried together in Bareilly Cemetery in the 1930's. His father-in-law, Colour Sergeant T. Strong, was 'a real old soldier who served under General Wolsey in Burma' Major Grylls tells us.

WHO WROTE THIS?

The following lines were sent to us by a BACSA member, Francis Watson, who warns us that they are not what they seem!

'For not in quiet English fields
Are these, our brothers, laid to rest,
Where we might deck their broken shields
With all the flowers the dead love best.

For some are by the Delhi walls
And many in the Afghan land
And many where the Ganges falls
Through seven months of shifting sand...'

Not poetry of a high order, perhaps, though the language is quite vivid. However, Mr. Watson writes 'No, not Kipling this time, but verses (believe it or not) from Ave Imperatrix, an early poem by Oscar Wilde, in completely different vein from many of his later works.

BACSA BOOKS

- 'A Brief Guide to Biographical Sources' Ian Baxter. London 1979. An invaluable reference resource for those wishing to trace relatives in India both in civilian and military life. 95 pence from the India Office Library and Records.
- 'The Celebration of Death' James Stevens Curl. To be published in October by Constable. An illustrated book covering architecture in British, European and American and some Indian graveyards. (Mr. Curl will be giving an illustrated lecture at BACSA's AGM on October 31st)
- 'India and British Portraiture, 1770 - 1825' Mildred Archer. London 1979. £40. A very handsome volume covering one of the most interesting periods of British history in India.
- 'The Punjab Mail Murder' Roger Perkins. Published privately by the author, at £5. Details from Arundel House, Laureston Road, Wolborough Hill, Newton Abbott Devon
- 'Mermanjan - Star of the Evening'. Gertrude Dimmock. Published by a BACSA member, Henry Nelson at Hendon Publishing Co. Nelson. 1970

Please draw our attention to forthcoming books by BACSA members about India and the East. They can be fiction or non-fiction.

The proposed BACSA/HERMES tour of India this November has been dropped for lack of support, but the alternative schedule in April 1980 is still a possibility if we can get a few more names. Anyone interested should write to the Secretary for further details.

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Prepared by Basil La Bouchardiere

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