



# CHOWKIDAR

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA (BACSA)

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AIMS OF BACSA

This Association was formed in October 1976 to bring together people with a concern for the many hundreds of European cemeteries, isolated graves and monuments in South Asia. There is a steadily growing membership of over 1,450 drawn from a wide circle of interest - Government; Churches; Services; Business; Museums; Historical & Genealogical Societies. More members are needed to support the rapidly expanding activities of the Association - the setting up of local committees in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc.; the building up of a Records archive in the Oriental and India Office Collections; and many other projects for the preservation of historical and architectural monuments in South Asia.

The annual subscription rate (UK) is £2, with an enrolment fee of £8. There are special rates for joint membership (husband & wife), for life membership and for associate membership. Full details obtainable from the Secretary.

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## The Tomb On Telegraph Island

Seven years ago Chowkidar told the story of a British burial on a remote island off the Musandam Peninsula of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz. A branch of the Persian telegraph had been operated between 1864-68 and even in this short time there had been several deaths among the men working there. A contemporary photograph showed the box-like tomb of T. Morton erected in a stony, barren landscape, with a secondary burial adjoining, supposedly near the village of Maqlab. Only a miserable bush overhung the tomb, which stood in front of a distinctive rock. A search had been made in 1984 for the site, but it was not found and we wrote then that 'time has probably obliterated all traces of this remote out-station and unless any recent travellers have found anything we must conclude that the Maqlab tombs are now known only from earlier records.' How satisfying it is to have been proved wrong and to report that a determined American photographer has rediscovered the Morton tomb. Robert Vincent heard the story of Telegraph Island from BACSA member William Trousdale, and was given the old photograph by another member Timothy Ash who had made the original unsuccessful search.

Armed with the photograph Mr. Vincent set off with two friends for the village of Maqlab. 'It is the closest existing village to Telegraph Island (Jazirat al Maqlab) and I thought may have provided a landfall for a rowboat conveying a body. While searching the ridge of hills above the village and comparing the photo with the line of mountains, I realised that our perspective was too high, that we needed to be lower and in another direction if we were to duplicate the photo's view. But when I reached water's edge and was still not in position, I saw a possibility. Situated across from us, and to the east of Telegraph Island, was a larger island that seemed too rugged to provide any flat ground for burials, but which needed to be visited. We boated over and arrived at a rock ledge where we were able to jump up to the island - it was not a great place to land a body! But as we walked around a rock wall, everything fell into place and there before us was the scene from the old photo. The vertical gravestone to the left of Morton's tomb was no longer extant. Drainage had caused erosion between it and the tomb which itself had fallen into disrepair. Only one side remained standing, but the four corners were visible. A brief search showed no headstone and no slab with the inscription so clearly seen in the old photo. The inscription may simply have been lettered in ink on a plaster surface and have eroded away long ago. It was clear that the Morton grave had been found, but we regretted that the identity of the second burial could not be established.' Mr. Vincent concluded that this was an appropriate burial place, because it was easy to get to by boat, the burial area was simple to reach and above tidal level, and because in 1864 local villagers were hostile, burials could not have been made nearer Maqlab. BACSA now has photographs of the battered tomb taken by Mr. Vincent and the satisfaction of knowing that one more mystery has been solved, even if it did take a little time. (see p.32)

## Mail Box

BACSA member Sue Farrington has kindly sent in the following report: 'People who served on the North West Frontier may remember a delightful statue of a youthful Queen Victoria that used to stand at the junction of the Mall and the Murree Road, in Rawalpindi. Since her removal at the time of the Suez crisis, she has been languishing in the back garden of a PWD executive engineer's residence, standing, but covered with whitewash and bitumen. In the autumn of 1990, an article appeared in two national newspapers beseeching the authorities or the British "to do something". The British, in the person of the High Commissioner Sir Nicholas Barrington, a BACSA member, have taken up the cause and after several months of negotiation, gained permission to relocate the very fine statue. Today, cleaned up and mounted on a new marble base, she overlooks the courtyard of the High Commission in Islamabad, flanked by four cypress trees and the Union Flag overhead. (see p.33)

The statue stands some nine feet high, and the detail in the engraving is magnificent; the robes and plaited braids being particularly finely executed. The work was done by J.H. Gardner, 90 Queen Street, London. Questions naturally arose as to how a coronation statue came to be erected in Rawalpindi, which was not at that time (1837) a British cantonment.' BACSA member Mary Ann Steggle has found that the statue was not in fact completed until 15 February 1902, and was the tribute of a local committee following the death of the old Queen. The committee chose to portray Victoria at the start of her reign, rather than the more familiar image when she became Empress of India. But no-one has yet been able to say what happened to her hands, which presumably held the orb and sceptre and have been amputated at the wrists.

Everybody likes a rags to riches story and this summer rumours have been coming out of India about a spectacular piece of detective work that has uncovered a member of the English peerage living in an Indian village. The history of the Gardner family is well known, especially from the book 'Squire of Hindoostan' by BACSA member Narindar Saroop and from articles tracing the decline of this once proud Anglo-Indian family. Colonel William Gardner, the founder of Gardner's Horse, arrived in India in 1789. He was a nephew of the first Lord Gardner, who was British Commander-in-Chief in Jamaica and a peer of the realm. When the third Lord Gardner died in Britain in 1883, leaving only illegitimate sons, it was thought the title had died out, though there were several claimants. But the line continued in India through Colonel Gardner's marriage with a beautiful Indian princess. It was reinforced when Jane, the granddaughter of this happy union married a grandson of the first Lord Gardner who arrived in India as a soldier. Jane's mother was the daughter of the last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah, which means that later Gardners can claim Tamerlane and Genghis Khan among their direct ancestors.

Julian Gardner, a 48 year old farmer living near Agra had always heard family stories about his ancestry. His own grandfather Alan Legge Gardner had tried to claim the title, but was not taken seriously in Victorian England. The family descended into near poverty. Julian Gardner's blind uncle, Oswald, still lives in an outhouse of Colonel Gardner's palace fort at Kasganj, led around by a village boy and eating his food off a mud floor where the princess would come to bathe. The breakthrough came recently when Dr. Maurice Bierbrier, who had earlier appealed for help in Chowkidar, was able to show that recent Gardner marriages were Christian, not Muslim, which could have made them invalid in the eyes of the House of Lords. Now the title of fourth Baron Gardner will be granted to a bewildered Julian Gardner on the production of more documentary evidence. He is thinking of coming to live in Britain after taking up his seat in the House of Lords, in order to give his son Ashley a better start in life.

From Patna comes a timely reminder by BACSA member Satish Bhatnagar that there is no room for complacency over the condition of many cemeteries, especially in large towns. The origin of the City Cemetery (1763) has already been traced in Vincent Davies' BACSA booklet on Patna and Dinapore but there are others too, including the one almost opposite Bishop's House, south of Ashok Rajpath. This is in a distressing state, reports Mr. Bhatnagar in an article published in the Patna edition of The Times of India this July. 'Located as it is one has every right to expect that this at least would have been better preserved [but] it is in as bad a condition as any cemetery you could care to name.' A Committee for Preservation, Maintenance and Development of Christian Cemeteries of Historical Importance in Bihar has been recently formed and it is hoped that it will be able to arrest the decay of over forty years. The neighbouring Dinapore cemeteries are in better shape, with their extremely handsome 18th century obelisks and columns. One that catches the eye is to John Havell of Digha who supplied the local garrison and other cantonments with provisions. Havell was described as conducting 'his business upon a scale of magnificence which is unequalled throughout India.' His farmyards were stored with all kinds of domestic animals including Chinese and English pigs. His warehouses contained jewellery, millinery, crockery, glass, birdcages, saddlery, furniture, jams, jellies and preserves and he sold carriages, horses, wines, beer and spirits. His chutneys and sauces were exported to Europe. On his death in 1836 all this enormous enterprise vanished and today even the location of Havell's large farm is difficult to establish, although Mr. Bhatnagar believes that the present day Bata Factory stands on part of the land and that its manager lives in Havell's old house which was formerly called 'White Pillars'.

A little known episode in British-Indian military history was brought to our attention recently by Richard Bradbury who has been working in Zomba, Malawi, (formerly Nyasaland). It was Dr. Livingstone who first explored the area and his successors established Christian missions there. 'These came into conflict with the

slave traders operating from Central Africa to the east coast and led to the establishment of a British protectorate in 1891. Its civil and military administration was based at Zomba from where the British first pursued a series of campaigns against the slave trade and against African communities which did not readily accept the extension of British rule. The European Cemetery is a few hundred yards from the still-functioning Gymkhana Club. It is about 30 by 100 yards and like the town itself, shaded with flowering trees. About half the graves are Commonwealth war graves and the remainder are of British officials, settlers and families from the 1890s to the present, with a few other Europeans'. Near the entrance lies the memorial to Lieut. Col. C.A. Edwards, 35th Sikhs, Commandant, Armed Forces of the British Central African Protectorate, who died 10 May 1897 at Zomba, from blackwater fever, aged 33. Lieut. Col. Edwards had arrived from India in 1893 in command of a hundred Jat Sikhs recruited to carry out the campaign against the slavers and other recalcitrants. By 1895 he was recruiting African troops exclusively who formed the Central African Rifles, later the King's African Rifles. Also here lies Lieut. A.H. Garden, Indian Staff Corps, 32nd Punjab Rifles who died 15 March 1898 together with A.R. Drummond Hay (1873-99) son of Sir John Drummond Hay, Minister Plenipotentiary at Tangier. Somewhere too must lie the memorials to the Indian soldiers who did not return home, but these have not yet been found.

Two extracts from old books have recently come in, both of interest to BACSA. The first, from 'A Home by the Hooghly' by Eugenie Fraser, poignantly describes a small cemetery by the Bowreah Cotton Mill near Calcutta. 'Some time during the last century when the cotton mill was started [about 1848], a group of Lancashire mill girls were brought out from home to instruct the local workers in the various techniques required to run a cotton mill. The girls did not live very long and judging by the barely discernible names on the tomb-stones some had married Muhammedans. I paused for a few moments, on one side of the road was the teeming life of an Indian bazaar, tea shops, bare footed children, pi dogs ambling around, and on the other, the neglected cemetery, broken tombstones with the English names of girls, laid to rest in alien graves so far removed from the homely scenes of their native land.' (From Margaret Cooke.)

The second is from the autobiography of General Sir O'Moore Creagh VC, who succeeded Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief in India. While a major, O'Moore Creagh reported to Colonel Macdonald of the Deoli Irregular Force, who told him: "'Deoli between April and October, is a difficult place for people of our race to live in; here death comes on them suddenly from cholera morbus and other causes. But, fortunately, it does not matter much where one dies, provided one is prepared for the final event. The first thing I did on laying out this cantonment was to select a suitable site for a cemetery, to have my grave dug in it, and to erect a tombstone. Nothing now remains but to put me into it, and to inscribe my epitaph

when necessary; this I prefer to leave for others to do. My grave is my favourite resort, for the cemetery is within an easy walk and I have now converted it into a garden, outside which all is glare, white and dust so I spend most of my life in one or the other. Come tomorrow morning, and have chota hazri with me here, after which we will walk to my grave - smoking our post-prandial cigars, and I will tell you your duties". The Colonel never occupied his Deoli grave. He retired and died in America of an overdose of medication that he had been advised to take by a doctor there'. (From Lieut. General S.L. Menezes.)

### Yet More On Kaiser-i-Hind

When Chowkidar originally requested names of recipients of the Kaiser-i-Hind medal it was intended to confine the list to relatives of BACSA members, but several people have sent other names too, which we are happy to print below. Malcolm Murray contributed a Memorandum issued on the arrangements for an Investiture held at Government House, Peshawar in 1944, when medals including the Kaiser-i-Hind were awarded. The Memorandum shows that by this time the majority of recipients were Muslims and that both Indians and British played an equal role in the arrangements for the Investiture which was held in a shamiana outside Government House. A notice stated that 'guests are requested to observe strict silence during the Investiture and not to applaud'. The last recipients of awards on that occasion were a subedar of the Kurram Militia and a Sowar of the South Waziristan Scouts and they got the Governor's 'sanad' (an illuminated address) and a 'khillat' of Rs. 200 (a ceremonial dress). Both the sanad and khillat were gifts of honour bestowed at the Mughal Court, showing how traditions were carried on up to Independence. A pencilled note on the Memorandum lists the refreshments offered after the Investiture when guests were escorted to Government House - '16 bottles of whisky and 2 in the ADCs Room, 32 bottles of beer, no brandy and Cider Cups for Ladies'. What the Muslims drank is not clear!

This is the additional list of recipients of the Kaiser-i-Hind award: Dr. Minnie Barlow nd; Lady Camilla Beresford-Peirse 1945; Lady D.M. Bird 1932; Mrs. S.V. Bobb nd; Lady Ann Butler 1929; Mrs. S. Campell nd; Lady Conran-Smith nd; Mrs. Margaret Dunk nd; Mrs. D. Farrant 1945; Lady Constance Fraser 1918 and Lady Sheila Fraser 1943 (wrongly spelt in the previous list); Mrs. M.Y. Fuller 1944; Alice Grant nd; Miss E Gregory 1944; Lady Hallett nd; Mr. P.N. Hardcastle c.1924; Lady Margaret Irving 1935 (wrongly given in the previous list); Mary Johnston c.1944; Lady Joyce Keane c.1937; Katherine Munns 1945; Walter Samuel Millard nd; Dr. Nora Proctor-Sims c.1935; Sir Henry Sharp 1900; Mrs. Doris Skrine 1933; Mary Swanzy nd; Lady Jessie Tasker 1936; Lady Sarah Thomas nd; Mrs. Beatrice Wingate-Gray 1935.

One other medal story - Margaret Neill has happy memories of time spent in Pachmarhi, in the then Central Provinces, where her father was commanding the

Indian wing of the Small Arms School in the 1930s. 'Among other Forest people we met was the legendary Mr. George. He had been seized by a wounded tiger when he left his machan too soon. His very young Gond shikari fought off the tiger and then proceeded to drag Mr. George back to camp. He had to put him down and fight off the tiger at intervals all the way. Miraculously Mr. George survived. Legend in the CP had it that the Gond boy was summoned to Government House in Pachmarhi to be presented with a medal by the Governor. There was consternation when he turned up in the normal Gond dress of a loin cloth and an axe - nowhere to pin a medal, so it had to be hung round his neck on a piece of cloth.' [This correspondence is now closed - Ed.]

### Can You Help?

A letter from a Pakistani film-maker, Omar Khan, brought a story of an interesting character, John Burke, the photographer best known for his pictures of the Second Afghan War. Burke made his headquarters in Murree, though he led an itinerant life, and left behind him not only a series of fine photographs, but also a number of illegitimate children, and records of his batting scores at cricket matches. Mr. Khan is making a film about Burke, which will be 'something of a detective story, tracking him down across the globe', but also an evocation of 'the haunting beauty of Murree and what British people created and left behind there'. Specifically he is looking for letters, diaries etc. from residents of Peshawar, Murree and Rawalpindi from 1855-1900 and from Lahore 1886-1900, that describe the life of the period. He is particularly interested not just in Burke, but in his partner William Baker and their families, as well as the Powell family of Murree (1850-1930) and the Hopkins family at Murree and Rawalpindi (1870-1920). Mr. Khan hopes to be in England next year and can meet people who may be able to help. In the meantime he can be reached at Harappa Films, 6 Margalla Road, F-613, Islamabad, Pakistan. And if you are wondering how he heard about BACSA, the answer is simple, he met a BACSA member in a cemetery in Rawalpindi. Where else?

Charles Dawson from Sweden has been researching the ships of the old East India Company, in an attempt to find more about his great grandfather, Captain William Kennedy of the merchant marine. It seems that Captain Kennedy delivered the last steamship, the AVA, in 1862, for the Company four years after its dissolution by Parliament. The ship had been commissioned earlier and was built in the Dumbarton ship-yards of Archibald Denny. It was taken out to Moulmein, Burma and was one of a number of Company ships put out to private tender. The AVA then became part of the Irrawaddy Flotilla & Burmese Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., one of the greatest river fleets ever known, and immortalized by Kipling in '...where the old Flotilla lay'. Sadly the AVA was broken up in the Dutch East Indies in 1890, a relic of the Company's once great Navy. Any illustrations of the ship, or of information on the Kennedy family would be appreciated. A granduncle also William Kennedy,

who was chief engineer on the HIMALAYA, died on 3 April 1875 and is buried in Howrah Cemetery, Calcutta, although the grave has not yet been found.

A new BACSA member Alan Stewart has been tracing his Godfrey ancestors with the help of the India Office Library and Records. So successful was he that three articles were published in 'Family Tree' magazine earlier this year. He tells a detailed detective story of how a certificate of marriage dated 1884 put him on the trail of the Indian connection. William Godfrey, his five times great grandfather was the first family member to visit the sub-continent. Godfrey was born about 1750 and appears in the IOLR records in November 1765 as a name pencilled in the payment book of the East Indiaman FALMOUTH. At that time the ship was at the Cape. Unfortunately the ship's log was lost when the FALMOUTH was stranded on Sagar Bank at the mouth of the Hugli on Friday 13 June 1766. After 'forty-two days in an unexplored country.. [when] I nearly starved to death' in William's own words, he managed to reach Calcutta and became an Ensign in 1773 in the Company's Army. After a busy eleven years, an injury forced him to be invalided out. He travelled to England to put his case for reinstatement, and it was here that he met and married Bridget Elizabeth Leake and took her back to India. But a shock was in store for Bridget because William already had a 'natural son', probably by an Indian woman. It was this son, Samuel, baptised in 1786, who is one of Mr. Stewart's ancestors. William died in 1809 and was buried on 13 January in the Masulipatam Fort Cemetery, having served the Company for 39 years. Bridget and her children by William had settled in England in 1802, so the family were never united again. Although the later life of William Godfrey is well documented, his place of birth is still a mystery. It is just possible he was born in Cape Town, South Africa, although while in England he stayed at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire. Perhaps someone can provide this final clue to an adventurous life?

Alan Hardcastle is planning a publication on Addiscombe College, Croydon where East India Company cadets were trained between 1809-61. The site of the College has long since been built over, although the Canning, Clyde, Elgin, Havelock and Outram roads there recall its Indian past. The neighbouring St. James Church, built in 1827 contains many Company memorials like that to Frederick Charles Gridall, 2nd Lieut. in the Corps of Bengal Engineers who was drowned while bathing in the river Indus, at Attock, on 18 July 1849 as well as to young cadets who did not always reach India. (Mr. Hardcastle has produced a detailed book on the Church, which has been shamefully vandalised recently.) In 1894 Colonel Henry Meredith Vibart, a former cadet published a book called 'Addiscombe, its Heroes and Men of Note' and it is the manuscript and associated papers and illustrations that Mr. Hardcastle is trying to trace for his own booklet. The auctioneers Phillips held a sale of 'various military prints, paintings, etc.' from the Vibart collection in 1988-89, but not it seems, the precious papers. They are not in the IOLR. Does anyone remember buying material at auction, or have any information about the Vibart manuscript?

John Caspar Kohlhoff was an SPCK missionary of the Tranquebar Danish Mission and in 1803 he visited the church at Pallamcottah built by 'Clorinda' a Brahmin widow who converted to Christianity. Clorinda's story was told in Chowkidar Vol 2 No 5 and it was Christian F. Schwartz (not Swartz, as we printed) who baptized her in his role as Kohlhoff's predecessor at the Mission. Our enquirer, Foy Nissen of Bombay is trying to trace the Kohlhoff family in India and thinks somebody might remember Malcolm Kendall Kohlhoff, a freemason, who was born in 1882 and who died in Ooty as recently as 1958. He was Secretary and Treasurer of the local church committee, St. George's, and his gravestone identifies his father as Julius Christopher Kohlhoff. How was he related to John Caspar, Mr. Nissen asks? And perhaps someone with a little time could go through the SPG and SPCK records at the University of Birmingham to find the full story of Christ Church, Palamcottah, 'Clorinda's Church?'

Jennifer Neale of Tunbridge Wells is researching the following family members and would welcome any information on them: John Hill, who married Caroline (Primrose) Gibbs at Fort St. George, Madras on 6 March 1839. Robert Williams who married Jane Jardine at Calcutta on 23 September 1865. Henry Hann who married Emma Martin at Fort. St. George, Madras on 14 October 1865 and Robert Foreman Castellari who married Caroline Anderson at Multan on 27 March 1867.

Major Kingsill from Antwerp is seeking information on his great times three grandfather Robert Norris who was born on 13 July 1806 in Madras. He died at Grahamstown, Cape, South Africa on 28 February 1841 (more evidence of the strong links between South Africa and India). Robert visited England at least once during his life, for in 1828 he is recorded as marrying Sarah Braddock at Waltham Abbey, Essex. But tracing Robert's parents is proving difficult. It is possible that his father was a James Norris, coachmaker who appears in a list of European inhabitants in India 'not in the Company's Service'. Any further clues would be welcomed.

Chowkidar always gets at least one query an issue from an academic researcher and this time it is Jayne Shrimpton from the Courtauld Institute of Art who is writing a thesis on dress worn by British civilians in India between 1700 and 1857. As we saw in the recent 'Raj' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, clothes, shawls and accessories do survive and it is possible that members may have items of interest to Ms. Shrimpton. If so, please write to her at 12 A Topsfield Parade, Crouch End, London N8 8PP

Incidentally, Douglas Zinn who was seeking information on sola topees in our last Chowkidar got a splendid response from members including Anne Maier. She was able to confirm it was in 1943 that the compulsory wearing of topees was abandoned. Volunteering for overseas service as a WRNS, Mrs. Maier was

delighted to be issued with a topee, but had to hand it in a few days later in exchange for a 'hideous soft navy-blue "sloucher" lined with red cotton such as a Girl Guide would be ashamed to appear in.' That same year her husband on going to North Africa, got a topee with a distinguishing Rifle Brigade black patent leather chinstrap, but it was never worn 'and only used for carrying around fruit etc. and was soon abandoned.'

### When They Were In Poona

(Gillian Tindall has kindly contributed the following article.) Mr. J.P. Lobo of Pune (Poona) is rather deaf these days, but he speaks the elegant English of one educated under a 'real' English master - in fact by P.G. Wodehouse's brother at the Deccan College. He is Treasurer of the local Cemeteries Committee, which is responsible not only for the main Christian graveyard still in use, St. Sepulchre's on the Sholapur Road, but also for several older grounds that shelter what must be mainly Anglican dust from well over a hundred years ago. The largest, south of the city near the Dhobi Ghat and the canal, has its wall intact and people living in the chowkidar's house - these are not employees of the cemetery but squatters who cannot be evicted. Nevertheless the burial ground, with some nice old monuments some dating back to the early 19th century, is not in too bad a state and shows signs of basic grass-cutting and tidying. There is the usual array of memorials to young military officers dying from sudden assaults by the climate or the times, and to even younger women carried off by childbirth or cholera, no doubt compounded by grief at the repeated loss of children whose brief existences are also recorded. Here lies Robert Mignon, a Colonel beloved of his brother officers: they paid for a stone recording his drowning in a mountain torrent in the Western Ghats. He must indeed have been beloved, for he also has a marble plaque in St. Mary's Church - a fine, neoclassical building. Mr. Lobo explained that though Pune is expanding fast and there is pressure on land like this, fortunately the municipality cannot compulsarily acquire this cemetery since half a dozen graves in it are still the object of tiny sums of money each year as endowments for maintenance 'in perpetuity'.

The same situation does not obtain in another, equally venerable cemetery at Kirkee, a cantonment suburb of Pune, by the Holkar Bridge. This ground is due to have a relief road put straight through it, cutting across some of the largest and most interesting tombs and sweeping away the one really substantial tree. White lines in sinister indication of the road's proposed route have already appeared on some of the stones, but Mr. Lobo hopes that its path may yet be diverted if representations are made, through the High Commission to Pune Municipal Council. Failing that, he agrees that a better-than-nothing solution would be to move the memorials in the path of the road to the other part of the cemetery. This will cost something, since the men who do the heavy work will have to be supervised by someone literate and competent to make sure that the various stones which compose the large memo-

rials end up together in the proper order. A BACSA donation made some years ago for rebuilding part of the fallen wall of St. Sepulchre's was efficiently used and photos of the result sent back to England.

Without outside help people like Mr. Lobo and his small band of assistants can do little but keep the worst dereliction at bay. Endowments made long ago are now held in trust by the High Commission in Delhi and bring in a little but considerably more has to be found to pay minimal amounts to caretakers and other labourers and to an account keeper - mainly in connection with St Sepulchre's, since this is the only ground that produces any significant revenue i.e. fees from new burials and money from the sale of grass and mangoes in the cemetery.

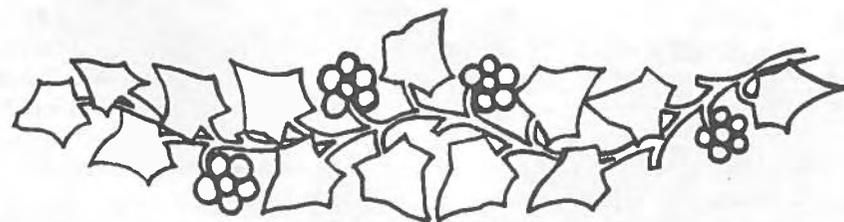
There are still older grounds that do not fall within the Committee's care. The Gazetteer for 1884 led me to another site 'five hundred yards south west of the Post Office' which a local friend told me was known in her family as the 'French tombs'. The site, under a water tower, does still contain some obviously ancient monuments eroded down to their brick skeletons and used by local people for drying cow-dung cakes. There is also one much finer mausoleum in reasonable state, with pillars and a dome (see photograph on page 33). I would guess that it is the presence of this imposing object that has prevented this cemetery from disappearing from the face of the earth. No inscriptions have survived. The Gazetteer discounts any tales about its being a monument to French officers employed as mercenaries by the last Peshwa of Pune but admits to a possible female French occupant, a lady who was at the Peshwa's court, in what capacity, one wonders, at the end of the 18th century. We wondered if we should pay a little attention to this long-forgotten lady, and what would happen if we did? Suppose we took to coming with water and brushes to clean up her gazebo? And then began decorating it with strings of marigolds... might we not then arrive one day to find that she had been adopted by the residents of some nearby shacks and that little saucers of ghee and coconut had appeared to honour her? Such things happen.

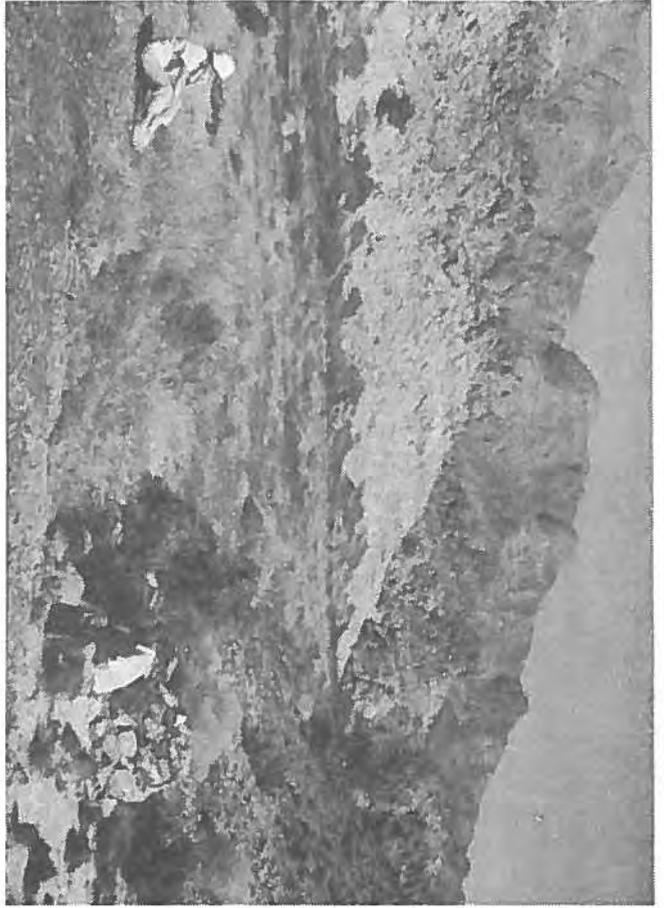
## Notice Board

December 1991 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese army. The Royal British Legion War Graves Pilgrimages has arranged a special visit to Hong Kong to mark this event. It is intended for ex-Prisoners of War, all military and other personnel who served in Hong Kong and their families and friends, and leaves Gatwick on 28 November, returning 12 December. The actual invasion day, 8th December is marked by an official Service of Remembrance at the Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery. The trip costs £1,148 per person inclusive with accommodation in a first class hotel. Those interested should write to the Royal British Legion, Pilgrimages Department, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX for more information.

The Calcutta Tercentenary Trust has been set up to celebrate the founding of the city and to raise funds for the restoration and conservation of India's cultural heritage. The first objective is to restore the magnificent paintings by European artists in the Victoria Memorial Hall. This is one of the finest collections of 18th century paintings in the world, and includes works by the Daniells, William Stubbs, John Zoffani, Thomas Hickey and Sir Joshua Reynolds. Pollution in Calcutta is leading to deterioration of some of these masterpieces and all of them need protection. At the same time modern techniques of picture restoration will be made available to Indian specialists to enable them to preserve our common heritage. For further information please write to the Calcutta Tercentenary Trust (Attention Mr A.G. Tritton), c/o Director's Office, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

Any visitor to the sub-continent appreciates that blissful moment at the end of the day when you sink into a comfortable cane-backed chair and call for a chota peg. Whether the waiter understands you today or not is another matter, but the important thing is the chair. Recently two young Englishmen had the bright idea of importing colonial furniture and they have set up a small shop in Fulham. Planters chairs are particularly popular, with their extendable arms, sometimes pierced by a brass holder for the said chota peg. But there are also beautiful chaises longue, almirahs, tables, carved boxes, old fashioned dhurries and in fact everything that furnished the exile's home, (except elephants' feet wastepaper baskets). The quality of the furniture is exceptional, often much better than its British equivalent, with rosewood and teak the most popular woods. Chairs and settees are newly recaned and brought to pristine condition in the workshops here. Prices are reasonable, considering the labour and cost involved in bringing furniture out of India. A visit to the shop is highly recommended, and be sure to identify yourself as a BACSA member. (The owners are interested in purchasing colonial furniture in Britain too.) Phone before a visit: William Sheppee Ltd. 77 Waterford Road, London SW6 2DT 071 371 7432.





*Above: the Morton tomb today, near Telegraph Island, Oman*

*Below: the same tomb shortly after construction in 1864 (see p21)*



*The newly restored statue of Queen Victoria at the British High Commission, Islamabad (see p22)*



*The 18th century French tomb at Poona (see p30)*

## Books by BACSA Authors

### The Indian Army of the Empress, 1861-1903 Alan Harfield

One cannot but admire the determination and dedication of BACSA member Major Alan Harfield, for the fourteen historical works he has already published (five for BACSA of cemeteries in South Asia) and now this book under review, his fifteenth. It is a perceptive, carefully researched and well illustrated book of the three Presidency armies after their taking over from the East India Company, through their reunification in 1895, till the commencement of the Kitchener era and the re-organisation of 1903. The author deftly encapsulates the Second China War 1858-60, Abyssinia 1867, the Perak War 1875-76, the Malta Expedition 1878, the Second Afghan War 1878-1880, the various North West Frontier campaigns in the period, including those of 1875-78, 1888-1895, and 1895-1902, the Burma campaigns from 1885, campaigns in East and Central Africa, and back to China again, the Boxer Rebellion of 1904. This is a splendid, finely-wrought work, of benefit to military historians in general, and medal collectors in particular. It is a very pleasurable read, suffused with the author's distinctive historical muscularity. Many of the photographs have not been published before, as neither have been the details of the award of the Indian Order of Merit. An interesting appendix is the Empress of India Medal 1877, which though awarded on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage in that year, was subsequently in 1882 not permitted to be worn with uniform. (SLM)

1990 Spellmount Ltd, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 ONX £25.00 plus postage (10% donation to BACSA) pp192

### British and Indian Armies on the China Coast 1785-1985 Alan Harfield

This book is going to be essential for the military historian, medal collector and both British and Indian Army historians as well as desirable for the general reader. This is not the first book to be written on Britain's commercial and military ventures in the Far East but it must be the most comprehensive. The vagaries of the Royal Signals Record Office were responsible for the author being sent to Hong Kong in 1949 after earlier service in India. Coincidentally, it was the Bombay Army of the Honourable East India Company which first provided military protection for the trading factories at Canton in 1785. Not all our trading in the area was entirely creditable but the reader will surely applaud the escalation in the tea trade. From 79 lbs of tea in 1670, it rose to 238,000 lbs in 1720 and, by the second half of the 19th century, the HEIC was exporting an estimated 5,000,000 lbs to London. It was the First China War in 1839-42 which saw the establishment of the British-Indian garrison in Hong Kong. Less than twenty years later, the intransigence of the Chinese led to the Second China War in which Hospital Apprentice Arthur Fitzgibbon of the Indian Medical Establishment earned the Victoria Cross at the age of fifteen years and three months. Six other Crosses were also awarded

for this campaign. The book is like that - details of the campaigns, of gallantry awards and sociological comment from officers' and soldiers' letters and their diaries. Casualties from disease were scarcely less numerous than in India and the author and his wife, during convenient postings from a considerate Record Office, found many British graves in the cemeteries of the China Coast and Hong Kong.

The story is told of the Hong Kong plague in 1894 and the subsequent Hong Kong Plague Medal which never received official approval. Perhaps surprisingly, the Hong Kong Regiment raised in 1892 was made up of Punjabi Muslims, Pathans and Hindus. However, the 1st Chinese Regiment, sometimes known as the Wei-hai-wei Regiment, was reassuringly Chinese when formed in 1899 but it did not survive beyond 1906 when it was disbanded. The Shanghai Volunteer Corps with its many and varied international sub-units is recorded, as are their badges and uniforms. The story of the Hong Kong garrison from 1900 to 1941 is told with an hitherto unpublished account of the battle for the colony in December 1941. After the Second World War, the story continues until 1985. The book also contains lists of British and Indian units who served on the China Station from 1841 to 1941, many medal rolls to local units together with a list of the Commanders of the Hong Kong and China Garrison from 1844 to 1985: the penultimate entry on the last-named is General Sir John Chapple who loaned most of the badges accompanying the text. There are abundant photographs and adequate maps. What more could one provide to satisfy both the specialist and the generalist reader? (JWFG)

1991 A & J Partnership, Plum Tree Cottage, Royston Place, Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire BH25 7AJ £39.95 plus postage pp524

### Francis Younghusband and the Great Game Anthony Verrier

After examining the Great Game played between Britain and Russia, Verrier turns his attention to Younghusband. His family background, school days, his essentially solitary nature and almost mystical belief that he was destined for some great purpose, are described in early chapters. His career in Indian intelligence was coloured by suspicion of Russian intentions in Asia inspired by what he saw on his daring, solitary journey from Peking to Srinagar in 1887. After that, on a mission to examine conditions in the Karakoram he showed extraordinary initiative and endurance, typically beyond the letter of his instructions, exploring its formidable glacier valleys. In his contact with local people he liked to display the majesty of the British Empire in full-dress durbars in even insignificant villages. Thus far his activities had not embarrassed his government but his ceremonious eviction by the Russians from territory they occupied in the Pamirs led to high-level protests and action resulting in the delimitation of the Wakhan frontier which separated Russian zones from Chitral, Gilgit and Hunza. Later, in a private capacity - for he was on leave at the time - he was present at the relief of Chitral in 1895. With the Tibet Expedition in 1903-4 came the fulfilment of an ambition and its bitter aftermath in the end of his adventurous, idiosyncratic career in India.

By saying that relations between Tibet and India in 1902 were just as they had been for two hundred years Verrier overlooks that for about half a century before that Tibet had been in the sights of the Indian Government with the hope of bringing its nominal master, China, to open up the country to regular relations and trade. Tibetan exclusiveness since the late 18th century had meant that no Briton could speak Tibetan. The explorations of the Stracheys and the hardy pandits of the Survey of India (of whom Verrier takes a rather patronising view), not to mention the stream of adventurers in the 'Race for Lhasa' who included the politically motivated Russian Prjevalsky, had contributed some topographical information but in spite of the writings of Desideri, Bogle and Turner no-one had any insight into the Tibetan mind with its deep fear that the absorption by India of cis-Himalayan states, with which Tibet had long relationships and some religious prestige, was a danger to the integrity of religion in Tibet. Indian overtures to China and the abortive expedition of Colman Macaulay led to Tibetan intrusion into and eviction from Sikkim, over which they had claims, and to the signing with China of a Convention regarding Sikkim and Tibet (1890) and Tibetan Trade Regulations (1893) which the Tibetans consistently ignored. The Russian scare about Dorjief at Lhasa, which Curzon seemed to regard as an insult rather than a threat, provided the excuse for action to regularise relations. Once negotiations inside Tibet had been sanctioned the advance to Lhasa was inevitable for the Tibetans could take no decisions anywhere else. In that remote capital, at the end of a long communication line, Younghusband with his mixture of strong will, belief in his destiny, honesty and political innocence certainly overstepped his orders with the object of securing what he saw as advantages for his government. He paid the penalty in an official reprimand and he received only tepid support from Curzon whom he regarded as his inspiration and sponsor. For Curzon whose peculiarities and failings are illustrated by Verrier it may be said that unlike Balfour and Brodrick who gloated over the killing of Tibetans or Kitchener who demanded the destruction of the monasteries, he was sickened at the carnage.

The distillation of long and thorough research does not make this book easy to read and many sentences are overladen with meaning; but is clearly a valuable contribution to a crucial period in India's imperial history. (HR)

Jonathan Cape 1991 £18.00 plus postage

#### The Mutiny Chaplains Derrick Hughes

The number of East India Company Chaplains serving in India in 1857 when the Mutiny broke out was 135. For the majority their lives were 'impeccably dull' but for the few who with their wives were caught in the up-rising it was a traumatic experience. Five Chaplains lost their lives. The book sets out to do three things: trace the history of the Chaplains' service from early days until 1858; briefly sketch the general background of events of the Mutiny using eye witness accounts;

and against this draw in greater detail the actual ordeals and sufferings of the Chaplains and their wives who experienced the Mutiny. Not an easy task within 187 pages. The two chapters on the Chaplains' record of service includes little known nuggets of information and anecdotes of the few who fell foul of the authorities. But most of the book is devoted to the Mutiny itself.

The Rev John Rotton was taking the fateful church service that Sunday at Meerut when the outbreak occurred. He escaped to Delhi, his duties there were mostly attending to the dying and burying the dead. His colleague the Rev Midgely Jennings was one of the first to die. The Rev Edward Montcrieff survived the siege of Wheeler's entrenchment at Cawnpore, going from post to post reading prayers to those who stood to arms, only to die at the boats. The Rev Frederick Fisher was among the refugees escaping by boat from Fatehgarh to Cawnpore. He was a man of action, not afraid to take up arms, but it was to no avail. He saw his child drown and his wife, her crinoline billowing like a sail, carried away by the current. He died in the massacre at Cawnpore. The Rev George Coopland and his wife had only been a few months in Gwalior when trouble broke out. Coopland was shot and his pregnant wife wrote a dramatic account of their party's flight to Agra in 'plodding' bullock carts. Later when they reached Delhi she described a visit to the last Mughal Emperor. The Rev Henry Polehampton and his wife Emily had served in Lucknow two years and knew it well. He was hit by musket fire during the siege of the Residency and recovering in the unventilated hospital caught cholera and died. He was sadly missed, his 'bright face was enough to cheer one's heart for a week.' His duties were taken over by the Rev James Harris who attended the dying Sir Henry Lawrence. Harris buried over 500 people during the siege. He and his wife survived the Mutiny but did not live much longer.

The text is marred with many small mis-prints. More could have been made of the illustrations. An opportunity was missed to include details about the Rev Moore who served in Cawnpore during the mopping up operations in 1858/9. His attention was focussed on getting his Church back into working order and he turned a deaf ear to 'the most blasphemous oaths such as fall to the lot of few reverend divines to experience'. His diary would have made amusing reading. There is however some original and controversial material in comments by the Calcutta merchant Arthur Peppin. Throughout the book there are many incidents of drama and pathos and the four chapters on the siege of Lucknow will delight Mutiny buffs. (ZY)

Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd, The Chantry, Wilton, Salisbury. 1991 £14.95 plus postage pp187

#### War and Peacehaven Henry Lincoln

The author returned to India, after passing out at Sandhurst, only days before the start of the Second World War. He had been born in Simla and was educated at

Bishop Cotton School, only seeing his parents in New Delhi for three months in the year. At first, the outbreak of War seemed to have little effect in India, apart from hearing Churchill's speeches on the wireless. But it did mean constant movement of troops and Major Lincoln counted twenty-two moves in twelve years, which he estimated at about 25,000 miles. At Jhansi he met his future wife, Cynthia, the daughter of a sergeant-major and a 'girl of the country'. On introducing her at the Officers' Club he was requested not to bring her again. What the couple had to put up with in prejudice and snobbery makes depressing reading, but they won through. After Partition Lincoln served for three years with the 3rd Battalion Bahawalpur State Force, formerly the Nawab's private army. His story is engagingly told, with many anecdotes and illustrated on nearly every page from a very comprehensive family album. Enjoyed and recommended. (RLJ)

1990 Privately printed and available from Major H.O. Lincoln, 'Sussex-by-the-Sea', 193 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN9 7NU £8.00 including postage pp153

#### Peshawar: Monumental Inscriptions II Susan Maria Farrington

This important sequel to the author's handbook of 'Peshawar Cemetery', published three years ago, enlarges the survey from the main Taikal Payan Cemetery to include the military cemetery at Jamrud Road close by, together with inscriptions from plaques at the two churches, All Saints and St John's, and the Burj, now the chapel of the Mission Hospital. To link them all together and present a contemporary picture of life in this frontier town, the author has drawn on the Reminiscences of the Reverend Worthington Jukes, the CMS missionary in Peshawar from 1873-1890.

These two booklets on Peshawar complement each other to provide a vivid background of the lives of the men and women stationed in the North West Frontier, not only of the garrison life with its social and sporting activities but also an awareness of the real dangers of service there with the continual border skirmishes bringing their quota of casualties back to base at Peshawar.

The booklet, like its predecessor, is illustrated with an evocative selection of old postcards and charming line illustrations by Diana Farrington which illumine almost every page of text. (TCW)

October 1991, BACSA, £9.00 + 50p postage pp168

#### Forest Families Mary McDonald Ledzion

Against a background of the Forest Service in India, from the provider of teak for the early navies of Europe to the needs of the modern market, the author has collected accounts from a number of Forest families who served in different

Provinces. To these she has added her own reminiscences and those of her parents, Donald and Diana Currie. This mosaic of the Forest Service gives a seldom recorded glimpse of the way of life of a small, dedicated band of men and women, a life that was often very lonely and spartan, yet with many compensations, that provided one of the most lasting legacies of our administration in the sub-continent.

October 1991 BACSA Books £9.00 plus £1 postage. pp152

Two non-Indian books by BACSA members that may interest readers, both on architecture, are: The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry by James Stevens Curl 1991 Batsford Books, London £45.00 and New Spirit in Architecture by Peter Cook and Rosie Llewellyn-Jones 1991 Rizzoli £35.00 hard back, £22.50 paperback.

### **Books By Non-Members (that will interest readers)**

#### Edwina Mountbatten - A Life of her Own Janet Morgan

To many people who only knew of Edwina Countess Mountbatten in the closing years of her life, she seemed a quintessentially English woman, married into a family who were connected to nearly all the crowned heads of Europe. Her years of war work for the St. John Ambulance and the Red Cross were fittingly crowned when she became the last Vicereine of India, providing invaluable support to her husband, Lord Louis. Gradually, as with most of our childhood heroes and heroines, the myth was demolished. Edwina was only second generation English, her grandfather, Ernest Cassel, being a Jewish banker from Hesse in Germany. Although her early marriage to Dickie Mountbatten seemed at the time to be a genuine love-match, only a few years later the couple were seriously contemplating divorce because of Edwina's affairs with other men. As Vicereine she carried out her official duties by day but made her husband's life a misery in the evenings, with tearful scenes and accusations. When Mountbatten sought consolation with women friends, Edwina moved in with the subtlety of a Panzer Division, although gradually a compromise was reached between the warring couple. As one of the richest of the Bright Young Things in the 1920s and 30s, Edwina reads more like a character from Dorothy Parker than anything else. Life was a ceaseless round of parties, nightclubbing, fast cars, breathless trips to amusing places abroad, and friends like the Chaplins, and the Fairbanks in the U.S.A. Edwina's language matches the vapidness of the times. Recording the birth of her first child, she writes 'A divine little daughter. Too thrilling. Baby too sweet' then packs her off with a nurse for most of her childhood.

Of course all this stopped on the outbreak of War, when Edwina exchanged her pearls and satin for uniform and began an exhausting round inspecting hospitals

and facilities for soldiers and in assisting welfare organisations. She taught herself public speaking and undoubtedly brought hope and comfort to many ordinary people, working and fighting in dreadful conditions. Unfortunately little of this comes over in Morgan's book. The author is so anxious to give us a breathless itinerary to demonstrate just how hard Edwina worked, that her war chapters read more like a travelogue. ('Too exhausting' as Edwina would say.) But what did she actually do? Morgan does not evaluate her work, so we cannot judge how effective Edwina was, as she badgered Prime Ministers and nagged at hospital administrators to improve conditions. As Vicereine the dizzy round intensified, while the hastily departing British sought to minimise the damage that Partition caused (and is still causing today). Naturally much interest focusses on Edwina's relationship with Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. Did she or didn't she? Morgan has left several veils undrawn in her book, none more frustrating than whether Edwina and Jawaharlal had a ten year long affair. Certainly they behaved like a couple in love and their combined correspondence is said to weigh over 30lbs. Their obvious closeness led to accusations from Muslims that Mountbatten was less than fair towards the emerging State of Pakistan. Relations with the Jinnahs always remained frosty, and there is subsequently considerably less interest in the Mountbattens in Pakistan than there is in India, where this book has been serialised. It is a pity that Morgan's bland presentation ultimately fails to get to grips with the real Edwina. She comes over, in this book, as rather a selfish woman, in spite of her later do-goodery. Yet she must have been immensely charming. The photographs add to this impression of unreality, for in all except one, she has been almost airbrushed to death. (RLJ)

1991 Harper Collins £20.00 plus postage pp509

Raven Castle - Charles Napier in India 1844-1851 Priscilla Napier

This is a remarkable book by a remarkable author about a very remarkable man. The book is remarkable, because it is such a splendid read - unputdownable. The author is remarkable, not because she is eighty-two and this her eleventh book (with several more in the pipeline), but because she writes with such gusto and humour. Charles Napier was very remarkable in his own right as the evidence presented here shows. This book, based on Napier's innumerable letters and contemporary records, is a follow-on to I have Sind - Charles Napier in India, 1841-44 (Chowkidar, Spring 1990), which I had reviewed, the author describing me in her present Foreword as a 'critic [who] has written (in the politest possible manner) to suggest that this book goes against the version of events given by Sir Henry Lawrence, and more recently by E.T. Lambrick and Sir Penderel Moon'. In the book now under review, she develops her arguments as to these three authors, and their comments on Napier. I defer to her lucid exposition, I was not a critic, only a reviewer mentioning other points of view expressed as to the years 1841-44. In fairness to Sir Henry Lawrence, it must be stated that he was talked into the

disastrous sally at Chinhut by Commissioner Gubbins, even though Sir Harry Smith concluded 'Our Mogul is non compos'.

Napier returned reluctantly to India as Commander-in-Chief in 1848 in place of Gough, Thackeray writing an hilarious piece at the time, reproduced in this book, about 'Napeer Singh' being sent to replace 'Goof Bahadur'. Napier disliked to have to report continuously to Dalhousie, the Governor General, who was only half his age. Napier took it upon himself to suspend for a month Dalhousie's regulation stopping the Punjab allowance for Indian soldiers. Publicly reprimanded by Dalhousie, Napier resigned after a tenure of eighteen months, and returned to Britain. In St. Paul's, his epitaph reads, 'A prescient soldier, a beneficent ruler, a just man'. The 1857 uprising in the Bengal Army occurred four years after his death. He had had premonitions about it, hence his action in the Punjab. Had Napier continued as Commander-in-Chief in India, the events of 1857 may not have occurred. As this book brings out admirably, Charles Napier could not control his tongue nor his pen.

The twenty-five page biographical index at the end of this thoroughly enjoyable book, which portrays all the intrigues in British India at the time, is wonderfully innovative, featuring most of the personalities mentioned in the narration. The following entry about Miss Ulrica Wheeler, however, needs some comment, 'She was saved from the massacre by an Indian officer who took her home and raped her. She arose in the night and killed him and several members of his family with his own sword, and then flung herself down the well to drown, thus disposing forever of the myth of the helpless Victorian miss'. Actually, it was this story that was a Victorian myth. Recent research published by Peter Taylor in 1990, and a little earlier by Zoë Yalland in her Traders and Nabobs, explains how this story arose and the subsequent inquiries which established beyond doubt that Miss Wheeler was not so much abducted as rescued; she married her rescuer, became a Muslim and lived in the Cawnpore bazaar to a very old age, never betraying her husband. On her death bed, she sent for a Catholic priest. (SLM)

1991 Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd, The Chantry, Wilton, Salisbury. £17.95 pp305

Steaming East Sarah Searight

Sarah Searight has taken a large canvas, spanning the territories from England in the west, to Calcutta in the east, and a hundred years or more in time. On it she has painted a colourful picture of the many attempts, by sea and land, to accelerate and improve travel and communication between England and India following the development of the steamship and the steam locomotive. Do not be discouraged by the somewhat lurid dust-jacket; this is not just another 'railway book'. Her first chapter, 'The Power of Steam', is, on her own admission, not her most authorita-

tive, though she tackles it competently. But thereafter she is on surer ground and her style becomes more confident and fluid. She deals with the early attempts to develop steamships capable of making the journey round Africa and across the Indian Ocean. Next come the attempts to develop the so-called overland routes, initially across the Mediterranean and overland from Alexandria to Suez and then via the Red Sea. There were some ill-fated routes, including rail and river to the Persian Gulf. Finally, the opening of the Suez Canal established the sea link. But woven into the picture is 'the Great Game', as rails extended eastward from the Caspian Sea, and westward from the North West Frontier with Afghanistan as their goal.

She quotes extensively from contemporary travellers and writers and succeeds in evoking the atmosphere of hardship and endurance which beset those early travellers; a surprising number of single women amongst them. And throughout the story runs the eternal vein of political intrigue and manoeuvre. This book is not a primary source of reference and there are some factual mistakes. Two examples suffice. The locomotive depicted in the portrait of the Stephensons on p11 is not Rocket, it is one of their much later designs. On p85, 'The Great Indian Peninsular Railway (not Great Peninsular Railway) was opened in 1853, 'linking the Bombay islands....with British India's other cities, eventually Calcutta. Now it was quicker to cross the sub-continent by train....' In fact, the link across the subcontinent was not completed until 1867. The book is well illustrated, and the strategically placed maps are of great assistance in following the progress, or lack of it, of the many schemes. One minor grumble. Your reviewer wishes that people and things could have been allowed to 'meet', rather than 'meet up with'; surely more in keeping with the times. There is a good index, and the whole story is well told. It refurbished your reviewer's rather rusty knowledge of the history and geography of the Middle East, and deserves a place on the book-shelf. (MGS)

1991 The Bodley Head, London £20.00 + postage pp294

Mad Tales from the Raj: the European Insane in British India 1800-58 Waltraud Ernst.

This fascinating book sets out to examine British Politics, the Raj mentality, and the needs and care of European psychiatric patients during the first half of the nineteenth century. Its weakness is that it is the product of intensive research, and because the author has so much knowledge she is in danger of overwhelming the reader with rather heavy prose. However, this is a good fault, and the information provided is of unique value. For example, the book reveals that the Company tried to develop for its 'European lunatics a system of care... very much the equal of the more salubrious institutions in the British isles'. We are conditioned these days to think badly of most aspects of the Raj, and to emphasise the poor treatment meted out to many Company servants. Hence such a statement tends to redress the

balance. The amount of Parliamentary time and British money expended indicate that there was serious and informed concern for the welfare of mentally ill personnel. The book describes in some detail the numbers of 'poor whites' and drop outs who created such severe problems for the authorities if they became mentally ill. I would like to see further writing on the origins of these people, for we are so used to thinking only in terms of the typical Sahib and Memsahib that we tend to ignore what must have been an ever growing number of unfortunates.

The strength of the book is not only its impeccable research, but also the evidence of many similarities between the psychiatry of that period and of today. Arguments about causation have changed little, although classification has moved on. The book touches on what we would now call culture shock, although the author does not like this term. The stress of difficult living conditions, and of coping with basically uncongenial companions for a long period are still potent causes of expatriate stress. Over indulgence in alcohol, sexual problems, and the results of a whole gamut of tropical illnesses remain hazardous today. There appears to have been a clear understanding of the difference between psychological (then called moral) causation and organically induced illness. However, little could be done for the 'moral' aspects, and doctors tended to concentrate on the organic problems. But the spin off was that the lucky patients were treated as people, their care being person centred and flexible. This, of course, is not the whole story, but the author thought it frequent enough to comment on. The section on medical theory and practice is the best in the book, and I commend it to those interested in the care of the mentally sick. Despite the heavy prose, the whole book is worth more than a cursory study, and should remain a standard reference source. (MF)

1991 Routledge, Chapman & Hall. £35.00 pp195

"...and we thought the war was over." David Lee

This is a vivid account of a little-known sequel to the last war which took place in Indonesia during the eighteen months after VJ-Day. David Lee was C.O. of the RAF's 904 Wing in September 1945, when the unit was transferred from India (Ulunderpet and Tanjore) to Djakarta (Batavia, as it then was). The Wing's function was to work with RAPWI, the body responsible for locating and helping the 120,000 Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees who had been incarcerated in camps throughout Java. Local nationalists, armed with weapons surrendered by the Japanese, were harassing those carrying out these operations; it was 904 Wing's task to provide air cover for RAPWI teams and to evacuate the POWs and others, many of them stretcher cases, to Singapore, as soon as they could be found and freed.

Besides telling this astonishing and moving story, the author describes, most sympathetically, the problems of maintaining the morale of a unit made up largely

of veterans of the Burma campaign, whose only wish was to go home as quickly as possible. His narrative is also punctuated with lively descriptions of flying many types of aircraft, which - unsurprisingly, perhaps, in someone who subsequently rose to the very top of the RAF - obviously gave him the greatest pleasure. In a moving postscript, David Lee describes the ceremony at which a memorial plaque which had been made in the Wing's workshops, recording the names of 32 of its members who had died while carrying out this rescue work in 'peacetime' Java, was installed and dedicated in the church at RAF Tengah (Singapore) in March 1947. Does the plaque still exist, one wonders, and, if so, where is it today - can anyone tell us? (HMS)

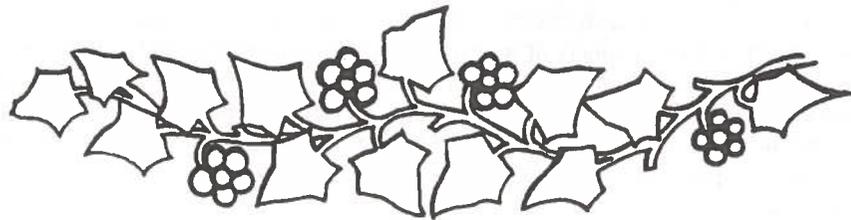
Thomas Harmsworth Publishing Co., Stoke Abbott, 1991. £15.95 pp225

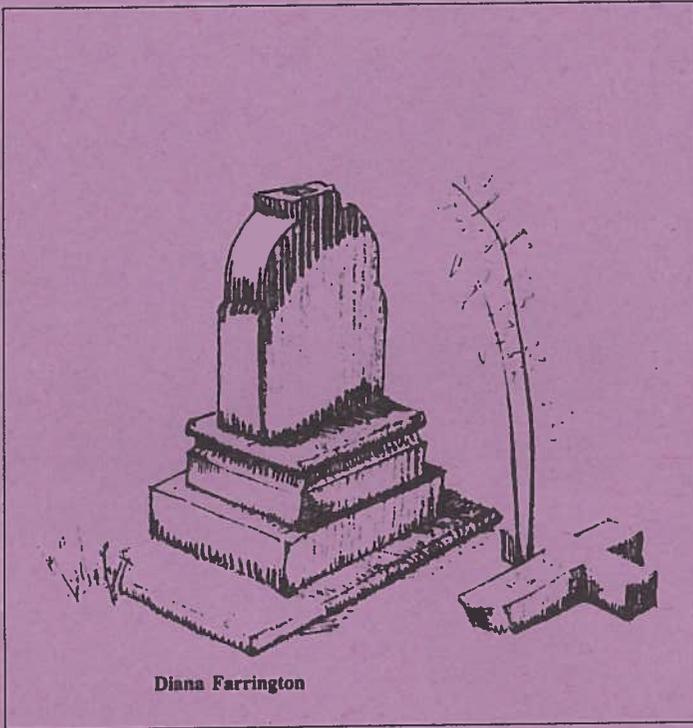
### **Colonial Service Memoirs**

BACSA is occasionally asked by members to advise on publishers, especially now that so many people are writing their memoirs. Radcliffe Press, along with others familiar to members, will read and consider such manuscripts and if they decide to publish, the author is asked for an outlay of £5,000 of which about half should be recoverable in royalties. The hardback books are produced to an extremely high standard with some photographs and a dust jacket. The manuscripts must be of sufficient interest and style to attract a readership. For more information write to Dr. Lester Crook, 5 Royal Oak Drive, Wickford, Essex SS11 8NT.

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Following an article in the last Chowkidar we wish to point out that while Hong Kong Island was ceded in perpetuity to Britain in 1841 and the Kowloon peninsular was similarly ceded in 1860, it was the New Territories that were leased for 99 years from 1898. The whole of Hong Kong will revert to China in 1997.





Diana Farrington

*From Peshawar Monumental Inscriptions II by Susan Maria Farrington*