INTERVIEWEE NAMES:
C.J. Pelly 4700.0580  Tape 845.1 (Tape 2 of 2)
Fergus Munro Innes 4700.0579  Tape 845.2 (Tape 3 of 3)
H.P. and Margery Hall 4700.0581  Tape 845.3 (Tape 1 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION:  Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS:  Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES:  British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:
Pelly: 2/15/1978
Innes: 2/14/1978
Halls: 3/1/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME:  1 hour, 32 minutes
Pelly: 55 minutes
Innes: 16 minutes
Halls: 21 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS:  None

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Tape 845, Side A
Innes (Part 3 of 3) (845.2)

002  even Britons born in India “came home” to England
007  in Britain, he sought others who’d lived in India
011  Britons who didn’t live in India can’t understand
015  re-adapting to life in England, felt like all his years of training for his job in India had been a waste
023  frequency of visiting with other ex-Anglo Indians
031  brought few souvenirs back from India, few photos
036  his mother never threw anything away
Innes has four children, some born in India, and he’s been married twice
son who wishes to go back and serve in India
talks about who else they’ve interviewed
located Innes by looking in *Who’s Who*
preparing a wardrobe for India
acquiring his topi, or helmet, usefulness thereof
types of topees, dressing formally
warned of dangers of sunstroke if he didn’t wear topi
Anglo-Indian slang
reactions of Britons to India, mostly positive
many women never became more than English housewives in the wrong place
his grandmother hated India because she was torn between being with her husband in India or in England with the children
health dangers, dysentery, malaria
childhood memories of India; snakes by side of road, listening to howling of jackal
role of servants, two ayahs that cared for children, one ayah came home to Norfolk with them, prejudice of neighbors
called Anglo Indians in old days, until that became the term used for Eurasians
term “the Raj”
Innes interview ends

**Tape 845, Side A cont’d**

**Pelly (Part 1 of 3) (845.1)**

start of Feb 15, 1978, interview with C.J. Pelly at London House

Oxford colors: dark blue, Oxford supplied many men to India
talks about recording interview
Pelly studied history
de Caro offers Pelly sherry

Pelly wanted to go overseas, might have preferred diplomatic service
accepted into Indian Civil Service on his second application
posted to Punjab, better climate than other places
mostly Muslims and Sikhs in Punjab
Hindu predominance in other areas
relatives who were Catholic missionaries in South India
expectations of India, spent year at university in Oriental Studies after accepted into service, exams in Muslim and Hindu law
this was called “probationary year”
persistence of Victorian tradition; also had to pass exam in horse riding
mentions show called “The Americans” to make point about remoteness of Anglo-Indian life
tradition of going out on tour on horseback
suggests people to talk to who served in the same province
ships to India
boats that came alongside to sell leather goods, clothing, etc.
duty-free goods
ship called at Marseilles, Cairo
origin of word “posh”: port outward, starboard home

“Fishing Fleet”: young British ladies who went to India to try to find British husbands

it was desirable to marry a civil servant, pension was as high as regular pay

recalls scene in bar with Fishing Fleet girls

girls went out at beginning of cold weather in India

Pelly also served in Persian Gulf, met oilmen from Texas, names towns in Texas

charming manager from Texas he knew while in Kuwait

air conditioning only known in railroad cars

spent time in hills during hot season

prickly heat, or heat rash

sent wives and children to hill stations during hot season

mentions names of hill stations near various large cities

train journey to hill station

bribery, buying witnesses, hit-and-miss justice

negotiations in Saudi Arabia about boundaries of countries

cavalry station at base of Kashmir hills

Pelly bicycled to court every morning, station seemed to be populated solely by horses

offers to show photos, tries to locate them

Victorianism; had sabers as well as rifle

exchanging calls with an American in the Gulf

persistence of Victorian ideals

emphasis on classics at Oxford

how old-fashioned ideals carried over into British administration, tradition of district officer being autonomous maybe wasn’t good, pros and cons

old-fashioned mail delivery to camp, slow communication

feeling of being cut off from Europe, but good life in many ways, lots of independence in his work

Tape 845, Side B
Pelly (Part 3 of 3) (845.1)

wealth and effectiveness of maarajahs

we could either rule or get out, autocracy

tradition of reverence for a ruler, obeisance

Pelly’s marriage and children

children growing up in India, sending them to England for education

generally accepted that children should go to England for schooling

strain on women of having to choose between children and husband

18th century man was more tolerant than those that followed, less racist

division became deeper after Mutiny

India as a young man’s country, type of person who thrived in India

difficulties for women in India, need to have their own interests

man who preached “village uplift” such as better yields for wheat, sanitation, impact was minimal on country of 400 million people

using camels to help build roads

eccentric man in Shimla

ceremonious nature of British, phrase “putting up a good show”
British affection for India, feeling that it couldn’t last
doesn’t talk much about India these days, younger people aren’t interested
as Kipling said, India was the paradise of upper class Britons
backlash against British hypocrisy
element of British hypocrisy in Kuwait
living in Indian bungalow, Pelly found it adequate, description of bungalow
relationship between India and Persian Gulf, interests of British in Persian Gulf
Turkish invasion of Gulf
before oil, Britons tried to keep peace in Gulf, without interfering, important as a naval route
Pelly worked in Persian Gulf after India’s independence
uniforms, topees, political and civil services had uniforms as well as military
parallel to Czarist Russia regarding uniforms
eccentric gentleman he knew in Punjab
end of Pelly interview

Tape 845, Side B cont’d

Halls (Part 1 of 7) (845.3)
March 1, 1978, beginning of Mr. and Mrs. Hall interview
Mr. Hall’s father was in Indian Army, parents reluctant, thought India already had its day, but Hall joined Army anyway
joined Indian Army because he wanted adventure
arrived in India November 2, 1933
living in tents and huts, area surrounded by barbed wire at his first posting, locals raiding camp and shooting
stayed at Peshawar his first night
moved down to Ambala in the Punjab, big military station there, stayed a couple of months
staying in hill station in summer, training [Kulka?]
Mrs. Hall reminds him of their lunch date
Hall born in Clifton, sub-hill station in what is now Pakistan, mother was a nurse
trip aboard ship home to England as child
attended school in Darjeeling, then moved to Madras, attended school in Bangalore, then home to England at age eleven
remembers playing hockey with children of Indian servants, views from volcanic crater
was junior tennis champion in Southern England, practiced tennis on verandah in India
learned to shoot very young
sadness of being away from family for nine-month school terms
Indian school where kids wore suits in Eaton colors, mostly Europeans, prayers every morning, attended church in Darjeeling
rivalry between Protestant and Catholic European schools, boys expelled for spying on convent girls
disadvantage of schooling in India; weak in languages, Hall never learned French or Latin, found this a great handicap when transferred to school in England
Hall was very good at games, athletics, because of Indian outdoor experience
preparing a wardrobe for India, suitable clothes were very expensive if you bought them
in England
414  relearning language of India
420  his puppy that got rabies, went mad, infected thirteen people who had to get shots
432  Pasteur Institute in [Kasabi?], provided all the rabies and snake bite antidotes for India, had
to get shots every day for two weeks
442  info on rabies virus, serum produced from goats’ brains
460  joining the Cheshires in the Indian Army, one of his cronies got hit by a car while chasing
a tennis ball, had his leg amputated
475  Christmas Eve drinking whiskey in Bangalore because he and one other man, who’d been
forgotten by everyone, not invited to any parties
503  choosing unit, considering Gorkhas, applied and got his friend’s position, declined when
he found out, Gorkhas determined to have Hall in their ranks