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Tape 849 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:
H.P. and Margery Hall 4700.0581   Tape 849.1 (Tape 4 of 4)
John Shattock 4700.0583   Tape 849.2 (Tape 1 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION:   Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWER:   Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES:   British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:
Halls:  3/1/1978
Shattock:  3/30/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME:   1 hour, 31 minutes
Halls: 72 minutes
Shattock: 19 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS:   None

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Tape 849, Side A
Halls (Part 6 of 7) (849.1)
001   bad feeling about house, turned out it had been inhabited by Gestapo, Japanese
009   Japanese occupation of Borneo, damage to North Borneo
020   consecration of cathedral in Borneo, Chinese bishop
027   story of string of heads in a Borneo long house
035   young son of headman was ordained, then thought the heads should get proper burial
045   loaded all eleven heads into boat, including one Japanese head, set out for consecrated burial ground, Japanese head disappeared along the way; elders said it wouldn’t have been happy in Christian ground
055   houses on stilts
061   display of heads in long houses
064   visiting Borneo woman who was such a lady, had a four poster bed with muslin drapes, covered her bosom
woman tried to make the Halls take her daughter with them, for more civilized life
met some school children in Borneo wearing uniforms, contrast to topless old women
grinding corn
doing laundry, bathing themselves, bathing fighting cocks and getting drinking water
from same place
went out to Malaysia on special assignment in 1962, traveled around, meeting with
Chinese, asking their opinions on Sukarno
people’s opinions on Malaysia’s future
Brunei revolt
threat of a takeover by Sukarno; thought he’d go after Borneo next
Malaysian politics
Hall trying to prevent Indonesian takeover of Malaysia
explanation of Brunei revolt, failed attempt to capture sultan
drunkard who was involved in revolt
troops flown in from Singapore, rebellion contained
Indonesian terrorists, two conversations going on at once
comparison to Vietnam
came home to London in 1963, persuaded British government of his plan for Malaysia
helping locals in Malaysia, improving water supply, helping women with pregnancies
program to win hearts and minds of Malaysians
British worked in teams of four, medical, communications and weapons experts
West [Irian?] situation
North Borneo, prior to war, run by North Borneo Company, withdrew after war
relationship between North Borneo Company and British government
British government took over after war
Roger Books Company ran Sarawak before war; big exports were timber, lumber, black
and white pepper
first governor of Sarawak was assassinated
had to cross river in boat to go to dinner at Books palace
went to Borneo because interested in witnessing rapid change come to a primitive society
changes that happened while they were there, widespread corruption
Margery worked in Borneo hospital full time, poor, sick and lonely people there
poor white shopkeepers, Anglo Indians who were white, too poor to keep up any
standards, Halls never met them much
Halls mostly lived in out of the way places where there were few whites
Hall’s positions, promotions
abbreviation XOS, meant extra large
importance of rank, status, relationships with people of higher rank
dressing formally for dinner even in out of the way places with no white women
bearers helped you dress, drew baths
high ranking man who supposedly traveled with blue silk sheets
playing tug of war, led to riot, one man killed
frightening riots in Quetta
Margery was scared someone would come to her and ask her for help during a riot, but
she never heard of a Muslim or Hindu ever asking a European for shelter during a riot
surprised that religious riots never turned on British
religious factors in job advancement
bitterness, slaughter, caused by religion
honorary titles given by government, man who wanted to be consul
whiskey
Hall was popular because he had access to petrol when it was being rationed
murder cases he tried
ritual murder allowed, could kill old woman for talking to stranger
Hall had to determine if cases were genuine ritual murders or just regular illegal murders
murder case of chief’s daughter who’d become pregnant outside marriage
case where body picked out of canal

Tape 849, Side B
Halls (Part 7 of 7) (849.1)

mayhem at their post
marriage between locals, woman wanted annulment
tape is hard to hear
parents returning from India
beauty of India
Associated States of West Indies set up in 1967
political race on island of Anguilla
Miss Anguilla beauty queen contest, rioting
attempts to capture rioters
Hall went into hills to meet with rioters, lectured them on gentlemanly behavior, told them they were interfering with their girls’ chance at winning
addressing the rioters’ concerns
more commotion a few months later, attempt to eject police force
associated statehood festivities
trouble between political parties
introduces son who just arrived
Hall diverted from Bermuda, spent night in Barbados, governor of Bermuda arranged to meet him in Barbados
Hall driven to sleazy waterfront hotel in Barbados
heard about demonstration of 5,000 people at airport waiting to meet assistant of high commissioner who was meeting with Hall
arriving into demonstration, Hall couldn’t get out of aircraft
Hall asked to speak on public address system to crowd
Hall met with both political parties
couldn’t get a flight back to London because it was Easter weekend, but chief minister had asked for Hall’s removal after his address at airport, Hall was on assassination list, also had list of assassins, one of whom committed a murder while Hall was there
called upon governor of Barbados to help him get flight, but told they were solidly booked
big turnout at airport for him when he returned to Barbados
eventually worked out the political turmoil
had to wake up female politician, didn’t know if she slept in the nude or wore clothes
Hall was confident he wouldn’t be assassinated
got used to walking around in places where he might be shot, but didn’t think anyone would have the guts to shoot him since he was a senior official
begin interview with J. S. H. Shattock in Kingston St. Mary, Somerset, March 30, 1978

Shattock was son of poor clergyman, had exceptionally wealthy godfather who was in business in Ceylon, tea estate

Shattock asked godfather for job, godfather said to hell he would, didn’t believe in giving anything to people in family, but gave him 1000 pounds to go to Oxford

family connections to India, government in Bengal, railways

entered civil service, chose India on advice of a professor

year of preparation after passing exam, studying Indian law, language of province

Shattock posted to Bengal, learned Bengali

took horse riding examination

horse riding and two language tests were compulsory before getting pay raise

buying clothes for India, bought most of his khaki wardrobe in Calcutta

evening wear in Bengal, black trousers and a black alpaca coat

sailed on the Viceroy of India, took train to Calcutta

staying at United Services Club in Calcutta

assigned very old Mohammed as personal bearer, formally bearer for a high commissioner

bearer wanted to do everything for him, wanted to dress and undress him, followed him to and from bathroom

after the first day, told bearer that he would dress himself

arrived in India in 1931

expectations versus reality of India

posted to a district which is now in northern Bangladesh, area as big as Belgium, population nearly 7 million, was village district magistrate

Shattock and another young man sent there to be trained together, duties

terrorism rampant in district at the time, magistrates being assassinated

his manager was a target for the terrorists

Shattock warned to buy a revolver in Calcutta before arriving at post

Shattock’s magistrate was very hard on wrongdoers, had sweet wife

Shattock had a wonderful six months tramping around countryside, reassuring villagers who were mostly Muslim, Hindu terrorists were a small minority of population

then magistrate went back to England, Shattock assigned to work under an Indian official and live with an Indian junior magistrate

learned a lot about India this way, Indians thought this was an unusual set up, got along well, lots of Indian visitors

Shattock was told he was too small time to be assassinated, didn’t need to worry

career of Indian roommate, a Brahmin, his mother was first Indian woman in Madras to get driver’s license

still in touch with his Indian roommate, reads letter he just got from him a few weeks ago

learned all about private lives of Indians

wouldn’t eat food with his hands, he made too much of a mess

believes Indians and British could live happily together

spent two hours each morning studying language, did revenue work in office, began trying cases