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Tape 851 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:
Colonel W.H. Salmon and Mrs. Jean Salmon
   4700.0582    Tape 851.1    (Tape 3 of 3)
Brigadier Richard Gardiner and Mrs. Catherine Gardiner
   4700.0578    Tape 851.2    (Tape 4 of 7)

IDENTIFICATION:  Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS:    Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES:          British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:
Salmons: 3/6/1978
Gardiners: 3/8/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME:  1 hour, 33 minutes
Salmons: 68 minutes
Gardiners: 25 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS:  None

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Tape 851, Side A
Salmons (Part 3 of 5) (851.1)
  001 looking at photos of garden, well, panther Salmon shot
  010 party in Kashmir, shooting
  022 hunting parties with friends, scouting for birds
  035 preparing for morning shoot
  044 paying people to do landscaping
  060 went to Haileybury College of old East India Company, trained men to become governors of India
  070 Somerset
more photos, uncle’s home, photos of relatives
photos of his first station at Malta
pictures of Suez Canal, India
cow he shot, photo of vultures on the kill
photos of his company
description of his bungalow
his pay, could afford grand lifestyle
running into old Anglo-Indian families living in tucked away places, and old missionary
woman doctor he met
lodging when traveling
dealings with tribesmen
Going out on column, when they showed their flag, had to form pickets to protect column
how to protect yourself as a picket
time spent on frontier, four years
six battalions in Razmak, including Indian battalions
companies of different ethnic/religious groups made up each battalion of Indian Army
British tradition was the mortar that held different Indian ethnicities together
stupidity of handing India over to Indians, will bring trouble
after Mutiny, British announced goal of India’s eventual independence
Gandhi was a wretched nuisance, but Salmon had some sympathy for him
Gandhi antagonized Muslims, before he came along, the different religious factions got
along fine
Mohammed Ali Jinnah was also a nuisance, wanted Muslims to have their own state
ridiculous idea of partition, distance between Pakistan and Bangladesh same as between
London and Moscow, darn silly
ethnic mixture of army, police force
problems of getting all people into appropriate regions for partition
Salmon saddened by the shambles of India
India was a very happy place under British
never had much regard for Louis Mountbatten
praises British Navy when sailing, not so useful ashore
training of sailors
old viceroy's, Lord Halifax was a great man, people liked him
Lord [Willingdon?]
process of bringing Indians into government
Indianization of Indian Army, Indian Army in old days
training of Indian Army in old days, wonderful chaps
Salmon considered transferring to Indian Army because he’d get three times the pay
Indian Civil Service was considered your whole life, got good pension
drawbacks and compensations of service in India
magic of India, Salmon tremendously fond of Indians
Indians are natural gentlemen, friendly; strangers invited him into their houses
British women had to find something to do with their time to be happy, such as work in
hospitals
exhibition they saw on British India saddened them, scenes of bloody nasty battles,
inaccurate portrayals of daily life, no credit given to British for their improvements
388 British women were unprepared for life in India
397 Henry Holland, founder of Overseas Trading Center, worked to prepare men and women for their new country
406 British women generally didn’t shop in bazaar, sent servants
419 British people not wearing their topees, getting sunstroke
436 drinking in India, whiskey and soda
444 couldn’t drink water until chlorinated
448 regimental uniforms, winter and summer kit
460 photos of January 1 parade, uniforms
482 Salmon is wearing tie of Joint Services Staff College
497 cooking method using oil and water
503 pictures of columns, guns
515 good relations with political agents
530 snipers
542 formality of mess life, protocol of dinner

Tape 851, Side B
Salmons (Part 5 of 5) (851.1)
002 reads note addressed to “Your Excellency,” governor of Simla
007 shows them crocodile eggs, he shot the mother
010 letter to a mayor regarding a race horse
020 airmail service to India, landed at Karachi, other stops
035 getting clothes made in India
038 marriage of governor’s daughter
043 continue to look at photos
084 children’s parties
103 lost two good friends who rode horses without protective hats, were thrown, advantages of topees
110 clubs in Karachi
121 socializing with Indians
132 attending church in India, every garrison had a church
138 padres, bishops, division of India into dioceses
150 Church of England in India has become Church of India, affiliated with Anglicans
163 church as a social occasion, church parades
169 men brought arms to church in case of ambush after service
179 his father’s interest in Indian religions, languages
188 father studied Indian culture

Tape 851, Side B cont’d
Gardiners (Part 5 of 10) (851.2)
213 second interview with Brigadier Gardiner at Shamley Green March 8, 1978
215 derivation of term “sappers” royal engineers
230 sapping was digging of earthworks, dropping mine into it
240 expression “mad, married, or Methodist”
hierarchy of engineers on engineering projects, lengths of line
duties of engineers, maintenance, safety
subordinates on railway
specialized track work, other tasks on railways
traveling by carriage to do inspection work
shooting your supper while working on length of line
living in bungalow at work site while being in charge of project
sent to Jamalpur to rebuild locomotive workshops after Bihar earthquake
facilities at Jamalpur, rebuilding
usual work for senior engineers, bridges, special projects, stations rebuilt
working on new construction
planning, costing, new construction
supervising contracts, earthwork, supervising buildings and bridges, eventually the laying
of track
lots of new railway construction in those days
Gardiner worked as assistant to engineer in charge of opening up a coal field
no shortage of Indian workers, a tough lot of chaps
steel supply
skills of Indian contractors
Mrs. Gardiner talks about how meticulous Americans are, terrific at entertaining, feels
awful to have Americans over because her house isn’t as tidy
meeting a gorgeous bulldog of whom she was very fond, dog liked to swim, but had to be
lifted in and out of water
she was served a steak much rarer than she could eat, so fed it to bulldog
next day the people had an orchid delivered to her from the bulldog
publications of India office
lived in Mughalsarai, had friends in Benares they visited
getting used to seeing corpses in India and Peru
no toilets available when she went shopping