Jones was once approached by a man looking to see if a convicted prisoner would be allowed an appeal. He claimed that the court magistrate had closed his court too late for it to be done; Jones told him if he had all his people ready, they would be allowed to execute the document. A young officer came in later and said that he had carried out the orders: he held up the train for twenty minutes. The station master came by about ten minutes later saying that Jones could not do this and that these were not the rules of a district magistrate; claimed the railway and rail stations were under the jurisdiction of the station master, not the guard. It was then that Jones learned that they all had to keep a diary; they had to answer only for the delays that occurred during their running time. Jones apologized and the station master told him that it was alright because he was able to
there was a story of a man that saw a road full of trees; he asked the officer how many trees were there, and the officer replied that he did not know

he then asked the junior officer the same question, getting an answer of 257 (although he really did not know either)

the officer then demoted the junior officer for “going over orders”

there was a tendency toward eccentricity; there were plenty of people to humor

the word “Anglo-Indian” had various meanings at various times; it has been used to refer to those of “mixed blood” or it could refer to the British rajah; Jones used both definitions

they talk of other words in the Indian vocabulary and how such words can mean one thing but refer to two different things

they talk of how the alteration of just one or two letters in a word could change the entire meaning and use of a word

there have been several Arabic words that have migrated into their languages

the Koran would not be referred to as “Koran” by Muslims, who use a word that means noble

at the beginning of the war, Jones was moved into the Cooperative Department; he had been a district officer

the cooperative movement had started earlier that century, bought on by a found commissioner’s report

it started with legislation incorporating cooperative societies and a staff to promote them

the Punjab registrar had a staff of assistant registrars in each district; it over-flowed into the Frontier province as well

they started the first agricultural cooperation by lending money to village banks to help people finance operations

there was a slight tendency to regard cooperative organizations as a substitute for thrift; in truth, it offered a machinery through which energy, thrift and so on could be channeled to a great advantage

it came on very well in the districts in which the people were naturally thrifty; some districts were opposed to borrowing at all

those that borrowed sometimes tended to not be the thriftiest ones

decades later, they are still trying to recover those bad debts

it became extremely successful, with about 20,000 banks in the Punjab

there were union banks that were federations; there were district banks that were larger federations; there was a provincial bank that worked with the capital of several million pounds and acted as a balancing center

there were various types of moral and improvement activities that were also started because of the cooperative, such as “Better Living Societies”

the thing they could do was try to reduce the scale of expenditures for such things as weddings; a wedding could leave a family bankrupt for life

they suggested to both families to join a society that did not bind them to anything except accept standards that they themselves would lay down

the societies were registered as cooperative societies but not tied in at all; they were all very distinct

they were quite effective in some areas; you are able to mobilize the people and you give them an organization

society became a legal cooperation
there was also the consolidation of holdings, in which the aid of the cooperative organization allowed for inherited lands to be pooled together into a society
land holdings were no longer scattered about; they would sort out the holdings and take other lands, but only by consent which could take years, but there were special staff appointees that understood the land and cooperative systems to aid in the agreements
it was through this that millions of acres of land were consolidated
the Cooperative Department was a political government department; Jones was a registrar for about five years
early founders had a missionary temperament that succeed very well in the best areas
there was also the problem of erosion, caused by numerous grazing goats destroying vegetation to the extent that the top soil started to wash away
Jones’s first district had a terrible erosion problem; one-tenth of the agricultural area in that district was under sand
there were the options of contour trenches, creating downs that would hold the plants and gradually bring back vegetation
local support and cooperation was necessary for any option to be successful
special staff from the forestry and other departments was brought to work in these areas
some would exercise their right to give up their grazing rights for a certain number of years to the village committee, who would control the grazing under suggestion from the various departments
these programs also had great success; there were areas that were nothing but sand, now the people are complaining that the reeds have grown up to such a height that they are suffering
it was a remarkable sight to see the insides becoming clothed with vegetation; the programs were very satisfying
Jones was in the Cooperative Department for about five years
near the end of those five years, they were swept up into trading
the Punjab was more than happy to help feed a neighboring area that had been struck by famine; they also had to feed the army
it came with warning because there were a few cooperative commission shops that were marketing grain in the different markets as commission agents
the producer would come in with his wagon load, which was negotiated for
the shops were not terribly successful because they were going against the most acute business minds, the Hindu merchants
a British officer did not shake the dominant positioning of the merchants, but they were beginning
Jones was suddenly given a check for one million pounds and told to go and buy a store of wheat because there was none left; they had to later build a storage area for it
Jones could not keep the wheat on the principle of “no losses”; the point was learning to balance of funds and price control; they did not lose too much
there was a Hindu that helped Jones out a great deal; he had a doctorate in marketing
they had to organize a system for the sampling of the wheat that was being sold; the samples were weighed and examined for tears, fallen grains, etc.; the payment was based on these samples
the testers had to be organized and had to start from scratch; they managed to survive without a major collapse or something awful going on
an accounts officer was employed to devise plans for the rules of accounting
having officers become adept to various kinds of jobs and areas was the theory of the Civil
Service; you should be able to tackle and master any problem
225 Jones studied town planning, which he never went very far in
228 the British administration was geared towards the generalists in this area; Jones does not
230 know if they are getting in touch with more specialists now
234 they all worked together; Jones does the original training of over half of his colleagues;
238 they were all of a “pretty good” quality
240 there was not much fear and anxiety associated with the job, although Jones says he would
hesitate taking on those types of jobs now
243 one would go into the jobs quite happily and cheerfully
240 Jones was asked he would like a position on the Bihar Committee, Jones asked what would
245 happen if he said no; they said he would get it whether he said yes or no; Jones accepted
248 being a bachelor there did not alter the way of living all that much; in general, those in
250 Jones position were encouraged not to get married within the first two years
252 there were always more officers than individual bungalows available; the typical way of
254 living there was to live as the paying guest of another family
254 one of Jones’s bachelor friends bought a bungalow and had a family come in and stay with
256 him and do his housekeeping
256 Jones began as an assistant commissioner and lived with his deputy commissioner, which
259 was very common
260 Jones once found a bungalow for himself, so he filled it with some of the younger officers
263 as paying guests
263 as a deputy commissioner, Jones found himself almost always having someone posted to
265 him under training who would live with him
268 one would move around, sometimes living in a club or bachelor’s quarters, sometimes
271 living as a friend of a family
274 living as a friend of a family made for very pleasant family relations
277 being a bachelor was not all bad, but it could get lonely in the those stations that were
280 farther out and more remote
283 not all wives took to moving around very well; relationships could be strained when wives
could not get along, especially with the Indians
286 where wives had good relations, things were much better and relations got along easier
289 Jones tells of the time when one woman was invited to join the Ladies Committee, but did
so in a slightly rude manner; the wife replied that she did not want to be a member and to
please remove her name
296 Jones talks of Kipling’s quote “. . . he travels the fastest who travels alone”
302 a bachelor means being free from any possible embarrassments, but there were many
309 positive points to having a wife
312 there were many Church of Scotland in India because the Scottish people tended to do that
318 rather than others
325 the government treasuries were so determined to not lose money that, if they had money to
pay to you, they insisted that you sign a receipt two days before; they had to sign a receipt
329 in order to receive their pay bill
336 one man, who had a guilty conscience, said that he could not sign the receipt because he
343 would be forging a false document; accountant general had to devise a special form for him
346 the people that came from England were typical university products; they were probably
followers of the Church of England
353 there were a number of Eurasians in the higher reaches of the provincial service, distinct
from the all Indian services; there were some in very high places in the ICS
there were some that were of a very high Indian father
Jones’s friend had trained in the Cambridge Air Squadron as a pilot and tried very hard to be released from the service to join the air force
the attitude was that it takes six months to train a pilot but it takes two and a half years to train officers for the ICS
the friend and another pressed the issue with such insistency that they could go
Euro-Asians and the domicile Europeans were hard to distinguish between
if someone was brought up in India, it may have been as simple as their parents had settled there; in settling there, they may have married someone with trace of Indian blood or not
a man like that could enter the provincial service, rarely the state services; the state services tended to recruit in London or Delhi
socially, they had their own clubs
the European attitude in India was that the club was an association of private members and they are entitled to choose the people they want to mix with
in a small station, it may so happen that the only tennis available is at the local club; the local club may or may not have complete freedom between the races
there was a degree of uncertainty or danger of embarrassment to Indians, of which the Europeans were not as conscious as they should have been
the United Service Club in Shimla made the requirement of being a member of the services army; few Indians did get in because people were afraid they would be “black-balled”
the Punjab Club in Bihar was a residential club that Jones did stay at
when the war began, some became aware that the rules of admission of Indian guests was no claim that Indians should be members; rules against admitting guests were outrageous
they could not invite the Prime Minister of the Punjab or a number of high ranking Indians as guests
the suggestion was made to alter the rules; the immediate reaction to this was the threat of immediate resignation; it was eventually accepted that they could be admitted as guests
the young officers were expected to pay a social call on various senior officers; unfortunately, some of the senior officers lived in the Punjab Club and it was not easy to get to the senior quarters
what eventually came out (although no one realized at the time) was that if one these officers had turned up at the front door, a Gorkha watchman would say, “Blackman to the other entrance”
Jones never found out about this until years later; he considers himself liberal with many Indian friends, so he was embarrassed as well
this type of thing would occur without thinking
the friend that shared a flat with Jones was related to some of those that were high ranking in the political world; a professional pianist came to stay with the friend and was playing at a club that did not allow Indians to enter as guests; the friend could not go down and listen to the concert
Jones tells of a friend’s daughter that got married
Jones remembers his deputy commissioner pointing out a scene in A Passage to India in which the girl plaintiff was put on the bench beside the district magistrate
the deputy commissioner said that could not have happened unless a telegram had gone to the chief of the high court within twenty-four hours or else the case would be transferred
another scene entails the brother going into the club and everyone stands out of respect
the relationship gradually changed more and more; they were all a little out of date, but you
grew accustomed to a certain state of affairs

Jones was warned by someone before he first went out to not go out to India because “it’s
not what it used to be”

Jones also remembers a public works engineer saying that the very same thing happened to
him; he went to see an old retired engineer

end of Side A

Tape 873, Side B
Fairbairns (Part 2 of 3) (873.2)
001 from their point of view, this time was difficult; there were not any real dangers
003 Europeans could basically be safe walking down an alley with mugging going on along
each side, unless you interfered
004 Fairbairn’s friend found this out the hard way, as he was attempting to protect one of his
servants; he was murdered
007 you looked after your own self, your own office staff and servant staff as far as you could;
when they left the office, they were under their own protection and responsibility
010 there was a growth of anti-management feelings that developed
019 Fairbairn has said that, in the early days, there was not a great deal of “coming and going”
except among the more westernized Indians; this underwent a rapid change during the war
prior to Independence
024 the effects of war seem to put aside the social rules; there was a tremendous getting
together of the two communities, which was very fortunate
027 as Independence came along, there was tremendous merging between the British and
Indian capital and enterprise
030 by the time Fairbairn retired in 1956, clubs and especially business activity were the closest
with the Indian community; on the whole, the British/white/military community was much
happier and much more content
037 the Indians would sometimes tell the British “you’re not so bad”
040 the British business community was much happier after Independence when compared to
pre-Independence
043 they were happier because they were welcomed and knew where they stood
046 the British kept quiet for a year or two after India was handed over until they found their
footing again; then there seemed to be no hesitation to tell the Indian Civil Servants and
government what they thought
048 the Indian Civil Servants and government would also go to the British to see what they
thought; they were looking for help and advice in any respect
051 there was a large number of other European nationalities besides the English; many of
Fairbairn’s friends were from places like Boston
056 there were also Swedes, Swiss, Norwegians, Italians, Chinese tradesmen and such
060 it would be wrong to say they were fighting the case on behalf of the British; they were
fighting for those that had business with and in India
066 Mrs. Fairbairn felt sorry for the Anglo-Indian community; there still seemed to be a caste
system
068 if a child was born in India and had never been sent back home to be educated and such,
they were called “country”; they had an inferiority complex
069 there was a nice girl that was once asked what part of England she was from by a soldier;
she replied that she was from Wimbledon; the soldier replied that he was from England as well and the poor girl got all tangled up in the cover up; she was “country”

the embarrassment from being “country” came mostly from educational differences; educational facilities only extended to a certain level

a great many Europeans sent their families home to be educated because of the lack of upper levels in education

those that were unable to send their family home for education were those fathers that had been in the army and decided to stay on, along with those that married into or those who were “country”

those Anglo-Indians that were educated in India did not seem to “measure up” to those senior jobs in industry and business

the Anglo-Indians were more useful in the various outdoor activities because they were so familiar with the area

Eastern India must of have about 30,000 Europeans in the business and associated communities; the whole of India must have been twice that

the Europeans were instrumental in getting the government of India to pass an act that applied to the European community; it was conscription

they all wanted conscription because they could not get away otherwise; you could not go without organization

all of the Europeans in India now are on short-term grievances; the men that are specialized in certain areas will go out for about two years to apply his knowledge and train the Indians in the particular technique

this is largely the type of employment that is preserved mostly for Europeans/whites

Mrs. Fairbairn went out in 1938; they were married in Bombay

India is an interesting country, according to Mrs. Fairbairn, and she absolutely loved it; she could not believe her eyes the first time she saw a funeral procession

they lived in Calcutta most of the time; they went up to the hill stations as well, which were a nice change

there were communities of Americans living all around them; when the war began, the area became deserted because all the Americans had gone home and the British left as well

Mrs. Fairbairn remembers that she could not get away because she was about to give birth to their second son; the eldest son only had one other little boy in the area to play with because everyone else had left

Fairbairn says he is partly responsible for this because he made the judgment not to ship them off due to the dangers of the war and attack; one could ship their family way off somewhere else in the country because it was so enormous

they remember the joy they felt when the American forces made their way into India

the riots after the changing of administrations was terrible; Partition killings were far worse in the Punjab than in the eastern part of the country

Mrs. Fairbairn was on the mobile canteen during the war, who took provisions to the various American and British troops

the governor of Bengal’s wife wanted to go around with them one day and they were instructed not to let the troops know who she was

they got stuck in a mud hole that had formed from the monsoon rains; the soldiers came and pulled them out, while complaining about women drivers

after they got the van out and up to the gun site, the soldiers were told that the woman they were cursing was the governor’s wife
the governor’s wife felt so bad that she rang up the other women that night to ensure they were all alright
living in Calcutta was a very luxurious lifestyle; there were lovely houses
the Fairbairns had the lower part of a house and then moved to the top, which had the better view; many of the houses were divided
there would be a cook that required an assistant; there was the personal servant or “bearer”; there would sometimes be a woman’s servant; there would be a man in charge of the table, silverware, cutlery, etc.
there was a man in charge of cleaning the house; there was one who was responsible for carrying water; there were also one or two gardeners
the type of job went according to caste position; no one would do someone else’s job
religious principles are still very important
Mrs. Fairbairn did not have a difficult time adapting to India; she loved it immediately and thought it to be a wonderful, interesting country
she believed the Indians were a fine people; she would be infuriated when she saw them being treated unkindly or unfairly
the language barrier made it difficult for one to get to know the “general run”
Indian women are extremely shy; the Persian women were especially pretty because of their skin tone
there is no one language in India; they had to learn Hindustani, which was slightly universal but did not do you any good if you were dealing with those people in Bengal
the other languages could probably understand Hindustani, but all the languages were different
English is still the universal and government language because one language would not understand the other, more or less look at it
there was no one language
they were encouraged to study the languages; many had to pass a lower and higher Hindustani examination, which applied very strictly to the civil services
children seemed to pick up the languages very quickly because of the exposure to the servants; the Fairbairn’s eldest son picked it up rather quickly
there was a difference in the attitude of the two sons; they were more cautious with the first son while the second son played in the sun and gained such a tan that he resembled an Anglo-Indian
while on the boat, the youngest son drew much attention from the men on the boat because of the way he looked and the Hindustani he spoke
upon arriving home, the family wanted to hear him speak Hindustani; he knew then there was something wrong because no one else spoke it
the son once locked himself in the bathroom and spoke Hindustani to himself
when Fairbairn arrived home, his son came running up to him, yelling in Hindustani, “Here is someone who will understand me!”
people in Calcutta did not wear topees, except for in the earlier days; people would sell them to you on the way out because they knew you did not know any better
the troops would wear body shields all the way down their spine to keep the sun from beating on them
heat strokes were more of a threat than sun strokes
they would always wear a topi while playing golf in the earlier days to keep the sun off of them
the topi went out during the war and never came back; it was hard to wear it
[chummery?] is more of a British-Indian term; there were many American [chummeries?] that would go out and have a drink with
it normally referred to a mess of bachelors; if a husband was alone, he would look to his friends to join him to help with expenses
the staff also made life easier; they would take turns interviewing the cook and altering the meals and such; cooks had a tough time
in the chummery, there may be men of different services; the different groups of Calcutta mixed fairly freely
a lot of the mixing was done intentionally; it allowed for the men to discuss things that would come up in their own business worlds and to learn
they ate their meals together; they would eat breakfast fairly early in the morning then go off to their respective professions; they would not come home until the early evening and then dine again together
as bachelors, they would have “guest evening”
the mess president would not be an official posting, but everyone took turns serving as the president; the duties included paying the cook, financing the organization and recovered from the others’ share
they typically ate a European-style meal; they would go out and have dinner with friends
they would eat a lot of curries, particularly at lunch on the weekends
the European dishes were passed down from generation to generation; the cooks would not have to be taught the dishes; unless someone wanted something new
it was very easy from the bachelor’s point of view; the women would normally supervise over the delicacies and such, like a soufflé
they ate well and the cooks were marvelous; “no complaints”
wines were difficult to keep, were kept more in the clubs than in the domestic homes
there were no refrigerators, only ice boxes; the iceman would arrive with large chunks of ice that would be put in the icebox; you would normally keep cold drinks in there
after refrigeration, wines were easier to keep
there were large numbers of European goods in Calcutta; it was a big community convention, sometimes having strawberries and oysters
Mrs. Fairbairn and their sons went out to India, after being at home, for holiday before Fairbairn retired; it was the first time the sons had been back to India since they were small
[Alistair?] (the eldest son) is in a business firm that goes out to India, but Fairbairn does not think his sons are that interested in India
they would never be stationed out there, but the Fairbairns would like to go back for a visit
end of Side B