 INTREVIEWEE NAMES:
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Lamarque
4700.0599    Tape 880.1    (Tape 3 of 3)
Brigadier Frank McCallum and Mrs. Sybilla McCallum
4700.0601    Tape 880.2    (Tape 1 of 3)
Brigadier Frank McCallum, Mrs. Sybilla McCallum, Benjamin and Lady Bromhead
4700.0600    Tape 880.3    (Tape 2 of 2)

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McCallums: 6 minutes

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Tape 880, Side A
Lamarques (Part 3 of 3) (880.1)
002 in the ordinary way, one would never do more than three years at the secretary job before they sent you back into the districts again; you oscillated from one to the other
004 Lamarque enjoyed a certain amount of shooting, especially in southern India; fishing was another big thing in south India, although Lamarque never did much of it
Lamarque kept a horse, though it was mostly for pleasure at one stage; it was a nice change from tennis. The Indians were great tennis players. There was always a golf course: wherever the British go, they build one; there were no “greens” but “browns.” The golf course in Delhi was a very good one; Madras had some golf courses; some could also be found in the hill stations. India was an outdoor life because you were always touring and going out to do inspections and disputes. You could always combine the outdoor work with recreation, like going to an inspection and stopping for a shoot on the way home. For a young man, there was nothing else like India in the world; they enjoyed it and they consider themselves very lucky for the opportunity. One had to pass the Lower Standard Exam, followed by the Higher Standard Exam; these were both language tests. One had to do a second language up to the Lower Standard. The drawback of some of the languages is the length of the words; the language organizations are slightly complicated and “ties you in knots.” Lamarque had a lot of contact with the Eurasians in [Madurai?] because of their occupations. The great occupation of the Anglo-Indians was the railways; [Madurai?] was the headquarters of the South Indian Railway, so there was a large Anglo-Indian community. The Anglo-Indians lived very strict, formal lives; their social life was very much like the Victorians. The Anglo-Indian girls could be very attractive, especially when they are younger. Lamarque would occasionally go to one of the dances at the Railway Institute. The younger British tended to mingle more with the Anglo-Indians, more so in southern India. When Lamarque went to Delhi, he did not come across any Anglo-Indians except through the course of the job; there were many Anglo-Indian secretaries or junior staff members in the districts, however, one would come across Anglo-Indians, with the frequency depending on the location. One came across Anglo-Indians through subordinate jobs in the Public Works Department; they were the “blue-collar workers” because you did not see them socially. British-Indian marriages were not frowned upon, for a few people did it; it was unusual in the 18th and 19th century, there were many Europeans that had the Indian girls as their mistresses; this tended to die out in the 20th century but not all together. One great advantage of south India, especially on the west coast, it is a matriarchal society and the children would take their mother’s name; this made it easy for everyone because the children were bought up and educated by the mother. The father would provide a certain financial backing and were not seen as responsible otherwise. It was not regarded as anything “out of the way” but marriage was unusual; Lamarque does not remember any of his contemporaries in Madras who married Indians but there one or two in other provinces. Lamarque believes that would be a difficult relationship, or at least tended to be.
one had to eat a good deal of Indian food because that was served when you entertained them or were a guest at their meal

Lamarque did not mind the curry, but there were some sweet cakes that he could not tolerate

the cook would prepare European meals, unless you asked him not to; the cook would be European trained

when Lamarque first went out, he did not have electricity and there were problems finding storage for cold food items

there was an “icing bowl”, which was run off of kerosene as a type of refrigerator

the good thing was that the station was not far from the main railway line; Lamarque would send the cook and the bearer to the station to get ice from the dining car

the ice would keep them going for a few days

interesting how one grows accustomed to life without electricity; looking back, Lamarque believes it must have been pretty grim

the best thing was that all one had to do was clap their hands and the servants would come and light the lamps

Lamarque had a large staff, which seems absurd now; there was a bearer, who stuck through him through thick and thin

all of the staff were south Indians, even in Delhi

there was a cook, waterman, gardener, sweeper (who was usually a woman), someone to see after the horses, and maybe an assistant boy

when Lamarque first went out to India, his pay was roughly 600 pounds a year, and he was better off then; he does not know how, but Lamarque says he lived very well

certain nationalities had an affinity for each other

it seems that they got along well in personal terms

in Lamarque’s experience, you immediately establish a friendship when meeting an Indian diplomat; you have them to your house to stay

somehow, they get along; there is no particular reason for it; the British are useful in this way because they act as a bridge between the Europeans and the Anglo-Saxons and the third world

the British tend to get on particularly well with the Indians

going back to the misconception that the British were turned out of India, the truth is not like that; it was a handing over that most people realized was there from the beginning

personal relationships between the British and the Indians were in fact very good

Lamarque talks of someone commenting that during the British rule, many of the best young British men went out to govern India; they went on to say that it was a pity that the best was not good enough

Lamarque does not know what he means because he is turning everything upside-down

if the British had been defeated in some war, Lamarque believes then one could say that was true

the handing over of power was a deliberate act, long planned for and thrust upon the Indians in the end, whether they liked it or not

the idea of the British being forced out of India is a falsification of history according to Lamarque

if the British had wanted, they could have stayed on in India without any great difficulty after the war; the fact was that the majority of people in Britain thought it was time to go
the British in India felt it was time to go; the Indians thought it was time for them to go
the world opinion was that it was time for the British to leave India; if they had desired, however, the British could have stayed
this story cannot be considered a complete success story because no country has been a success story; mistakes were made, but it is easy in retrospect
people, especially the troops that went to India were horrified by the intense poverty and low living standards; it was easy to turn to the British and say “that’s the best you can do?”
it is hard to know what one can do; the British built them roads, bridges, and railways, as well as educated them and gave them law and order
they did not have the basics of a civilization when the British arrived; the British gave it to them, as well as the opportunity to better themselves
it was never regarded by any country, until 1945, as the thing to do for one country to give money to another country
the British so organized things that the government of India was perfectly able to borrow money if they wanted; the railways and roads were financed in such a way
in retrospect, the thought was wondering why they did not spend more money; the fact of the matter was that the opinions at home did not accept it
now that the Indians have been independent, they are better off in economic terms than they were in the beginning
Lamarque does not know if the Indian government would be any more successful in governing themselves than the British in getting them off the ground
India is a difficult country to govern because it is so vast and the people are so different; it is difficult to remain democratic while retaining another order and keeping it running
Lamarque would not say the British rule was a failure, although it may not have been a huge success
the life of a bachelor was very much different from that of a married man
one of the problems for the British in India was when you got married and your children came of school age
it was a tough life for the British administrator until about 1947 because once the children reached aged seven, eight or nine, they had to go back to England
the children could only get higher education in England; the climate also forced families to send their children home
very often, the wife would go back with the children and the husband would stay; this was a tough life that one often forgets about
it was impossible to get the children out to India even once a year without interfering with school because of the time required to get to and from Bombay from England
once you had children, one had to face some painful partings
Lamarque’s first experience with India when he was about nine years old: three of his friends had not seen, and were not going to see, their fathers for years because they were in the ICS
during one summer term, one of the fathers came home on leave; the father taught in the school to be near his son
when they first joined the diplomatic, they were given one paid holiday a year; they saved for another and she would be at home for the third
Mrs. Lamarque went out to India at the end of the war; everything was exciting; they were shot at the moment they pulled into Bombay
Mrs. Lamarque thought this was typical and believed she should show no reaction; this was the Indian Naval Mutiny.

Lamarque’s office was in the Reserve Bank of India building at this time, in which all the gold and currency reserves for the government; his office was on the second floor.

One man got on the roof of the building to take a picture and was shot; the office car was burnt on the street below.

Lamarque was unsure whether or not the doors were closed because the mob could come at any moment and burst in; Lamarque called downstairs to question this and he was told that regulations state they were open from ten to three.

They finally agreed to shut the main doors and leave a smaller side door open for business to follow regulations.

Mrs. Lamarque enjoyed her time in India; they did go up to Kashmir after their first child was born.

Mrs. Lamarque could not think of a better place to raise a child because of all the help from the servants; one could sit back and enjoy their children.

Young babies strived in the warm climate.

At breakfast, the [marley?] would get a basket of vegetables and arrange them in the basket; the bearer would bring it in every morning while Mrs. Lamarque was having breakfast.

When they were coming home in 1947, Mrs. Lamarque remembers Mr. Lamarque standing on the rails of the ship making the comment, “Well, there goes my career. From now on, it will be a job.”

Nothing like India for the intelligent men now, which is sad; the jobs now are not the same.

They look at the various pictures and comment on some.

The houses on the corner seemed to always be the grandest because they seemed to have a “double garden.”

There was no air conditioning; the houses were built as winter homes, so summer in the house was terrible and forced them to sleep in the garden.

There were insufficient ways to keep cool; the boy would normally fall asleep.

End of Lamarque interview.

Tape 880 Side A cont’d

McCallums (Part 1 of 3) (880.2)

Beginning of McCallum interview, April 29, 1978.

McCallum’s father was a soldier.

During World War I, one got the feeling one ought to go; McCallum’s brother was killed in 1915.

McCallum was longing for some sort of revenge; McCallum’s father was not too keen about McCallum going out.

His father asked why McCallum wanted to spend his life killing people instead of getting on the Armistice then came along.

In those days, it was expected of a member of the British army to have some money; McCallum joined the Indian army.

It was expected that a soldier could live off his pay in the Indian army.

Going to India was no picnic; when he arrived, McCallum realized the weather was very cold.

McCallum arrived by boat to Bihar; he was then told to get on a train.
in those days, the train was a combination of carriages and box wagons; one box wagon could hold thirty horses and thirty men
there was a first and second class carriage; McCallum and others tried to get into the first class carriage, but there were too many senior officers
there was the option of the second class carriage; after one night with no glass in the windows to keep out the cold, they all decided to set up camp in the box wagons
the train ride lasted ten days
before going, they had been issued some ugly, red drill clothes that did not fit the bill at all

Tape 880, Side B
McCallums and Bromheads (Part 2 of 2) (880.3)
no one ever thought the worse of participating in the religious ceremonies
there was a bamboo enclosure near the triangle that contained all the officer’s swords, a portion of each company’s arms and the medals
there was a guard who was asking for blessing on the arms for the next year; many say one should not do it, but McCallum saw nothing wrong with it
McCallum had the greatest respect for the men in the religious ceremonies
Mrs. McCallum does remember some of her early days in India; she went out the second time just after World War I, when she was about eleven years old for two years
she went out a third time when she was about seventeen or eighteen for a few years; she went a fourth time in 1938
Mrs. McCallum was fortunate to have the opportunity to go back out when she was eleven; she was happy to be back with her father because they had been separated during the war
it was not normal for an eleven year-old British girl to be in India; they were usually at school
she remembers being taken up to Kashmir when she was about four or five by her mom and English nanny; she remembers eating lunch with the Prince of Wales
Mrs. McCallum remembers being served two dinners, having to eat both; she remembers going riding and hunting with her father
McCallum tells of how one of the regiments walked all over the man that was in charge while the General was away
when Mrs. McCallum’s father went away, the guard moved his bed into their dining room to keep watch; he would fall asleep and they would creep around him and got in the guard did not like his wife though; when on leave, he goes to the townhouse and his wife goes to the country house; when he goes away, she would go back
McCallum tells of the trip to the General’s Conference when their train car became disconnected from the rest of the train, leaving them halfway
there only possibility was to hire an engine; they went into the bar, had a few double whiskeys, went back and rented their own engine
they spent the night in a baggage car
once they arrived in Delhi, Freddie and McCallum went out and washed up; the General came out at about half past nine, asking about their night; they replied it was a good night
when the story got out, the General wanted to know if his command flag had been flown on the engine
everyone had plenty fun and games with the others
there were many feuds on the Frontier, ranging from intra-family to tribal feuds

there was one tribe that was troubled because they did not have a shrine of their own

they invited a holy man to come and stay with them; they murdered him and made a shrine in memory of him

there was a man who could never go on leave without a guard and could never take the direct route home; they thought nothing of this because it was a way of life

there was a major disturbance and the army “butted-in”; McCallum protests

McCallum tells of the various militias and scouts; these people were located in forts along the Frontier, beyond the normal border

their job was to patrol the Frontier to make sure things remained quiet

behind them was the army; although, sometimes the army was in front of them

comment on the scouts and how they believe they are “the cat’s whiskers”

tell the story of a political officer returning back to the mess one evening, talking of how he thought the boys had fought very well

he was not talking about their troops

when in the scouts, they were allowed to wear ordinary clothing; McCallum would always wear a tweed jacket instead of a tunic

early one morning, the brigadier was giving orders and was taking a rather long time; McCallum made an impatient remark, to which someone replied “Who’s that fellow in the rat catcher?”

Alex Moore was the second-in-command; his response was, “That’s my commanding officer!”

in 1936, the [Kishor?] Operation was on; it “was a bit of a party”

McCallum tells of the [Kishor?] Operation; the idea was for one of the regiments to come around and meet McCallum’s regiment

McCallum’s regiment was opposed; the other regiment never made it

no one ever wanted to be shot at or shoot because there was a fear of starting a blood bath

one spent a lot of one’s time on the Frontier

the Afghan War was not much, but there was vicious fighting for about three days; they wanted to be assured that the regiment established themselves

McCallum remembers it being extremely hot; the temperature was about 124 degrees under the tent; the flies were terrible

the great joy was that they were close to the river; they could go down and bathe, but there was always someone set-up on the other side to take “pot-shots” at you

one day they went out foraging; they were stopped because the Afghans came down another line

there were few officers in the Indian Army Battalion; the maximum was thirteen

they were told to go out and pick a site; it started at four in the morning but then “the heat got going”

they eventually decided they could not continue on

they then had lunch, which was a baked potato; they were all terribly thirsty

McCallum was about nineteen at the time

they reached the bottom and it was there that McCallum learned his first lesson of war

one of the things to do was to never let people guard water under certain circumstances

the sand fly could get through any mosquito net; they caused shaking

it was right on the Afghan border that there was a picket, through which you could look
down on the Afghan frontier

there were two tribes, one of which owned the territory

every year, the Afghans would go down for trading and grazing with an enormous amount
of camels; the people that owned the land would levy money on them but the Afghans
refused to pay the levy

there was a railway and two roads at the time; the people started going up both roads and
the railway

Dehradun was a hill station that was very pleasant; McCallum spent for years there and two
years on the Frontier; something always blew-up and you were always sent off

the 2nd Battalion of India had to go to Southern India to one of the rebellions there; it was
Hindu verses Muslim

one never knew where you were going next

the McCallums moved a great deal; when Mrs. McCallum was on her way out to meet
McCallum, McCallum was put under orders to go down to Bengal for the terrorists

about a week after she arrived, he left her and went to Bengal; no ladies were allowed to go
to Bengal

there were no barracks and no troops in Bengal; McCallum was amazed at how the locals
“got busy with bamboo”

they would split the bamboo and chop it; they would open it flat, leaving the pieces to be
woven together to make the walls and roof

the officers requisitioned a bungalow from the mess; when the women were allowed to go
down, the men wondered where they would put them

there were some funny things that were typically Indian; there was a great archway with a
veranda and a tiny circular room on each side

there were two rooms only; there was a wonderful porch that reminded Mrs. McCallum of
a palace

the place was surrounded by barbed wire and lights shining down; there was a bungalow
further up that had been taken over by the terrorists

there was a Gorkha guard at night

when McCallum went out, he had to have an orderly with a revolver behind him; they were
given automatics; McCallum is thankful they never had to use them

when the wife went out, she had to have two armed orderlies behind her

one of the most terrible things was the number of flying insects and bugs; it did not matter
what you did because you could not keep them away

they would have their evening meal without any light to try to keep the bugs away

end of Side B