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Tape 886 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:
Colonel and Mrs. John. R. Hainsworth 4700.0606   Tape 886.1   (Tape 2 of 2)
Arthur Barlow 4700.0605   Tape 886.2   (Tape 4 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION:  Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS:  Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES:  British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:
Hainsworth:  7/7/1978
Barlow:  7/5/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME:  1 hour, 35 minutes
Hainsworth:  72 minutes
Barlow:  23 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS:  None

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002 return to Rawalpindi in 1969; things had not changed
005 night at hotel; horrible hotels; story concerning very smart page boys
013 reluctance by some to put Indian experience to use in Africa
018 there were two ICS members, but not many
024 Himalayan Civil Service control
029 wife was in India during war in Delhi; arrived in mumps
032 discussion of building that’s now Circuit House and resident; discussion of his office
040 old Indian postcards; people in general didn’t send postcards because weren’t places that sold them
045 many visitors to Lucknow, but not tourists as the package deal; lovely place; mutiny site
051 reactions by Britons; short period stays felt horrified
057 felt united in close-knit community of ICS; like a brotherhood
fading of topi style halfway between the wars; the use to the topi in Africa; style of hats worn in Africa

discussion of stories in his letters; several stories in letters

background of the army officer and his wife in [Resident and Tiger story?]; the resident and the stalking tiger cub story; he summons body guard from outside of room to get tiger out of his bed when he wakes in the morning

common occurrence of snakes or scorpions in bedrooms; spiders also

story of the newspaper in the Tashkurgan Garden across the frontier

common occurrence of living in tents; tent living

in 1954, left and went to Kenya until 1958; offer from Archbishop of Central Africa

in colonial service from 1948 to 1958

most of Africa experience was church related

left India during independence; in Africa’s case, saw it before and after independence

smooth transitions; transition to the Congo

skeleton of civil service was something independent states could build on; was chief contribution of British; as was justice system

looking back on British administration; was time of justice

at one post in Africa was member of Historical Monuments Commission

originally appointed as junior civil servant in 1948; numerous government appointments followed

hopes of the views of those looking back on British administration

looking at photographs; recording ends

Tape 886, Side A cont’d:

Hainsworths (Part 1 of 3) (886.1)

209 interview with Colonel Hainsworth in Lavenham begins

211 posted in [?] in 1919; then in Russia for expedition in Moscow; to [Chattum?] then to India in Royal Engineers

223 discuss area between India and Afghanistan and the tribal belt; control by independent tribes; tribes under special political control that exempts them from normal Indian laws

232 because of heavy travel in area, decided to bring tribes under closer control by establishing series of militia posts and army camps; to establish posts and army camps, first had to establish roads; discussion of road routes

246 job was to assist with the surveying and road construction; wild country required escorts and guard

258 tricky business of walking around with bodyguards, 2 separate officers killed; occasional killings in camps at night or on the road to work

263 after completing surveys, began work on roads

265 worked on roads for the first three years

267 living conditions bad because no one to cook for you or to look after you; live off tea and local bread, occasional gin and sausage

272 area came under control once roads built and military posts established

277 got leave in 1925, went to England and got married; they both went to India

280 when got to India, again posted to [Breshaw?] in northwest frontier province

285 was first posted in Landi Kotal where wives weren’t allowed; kind CRE allowed them to stay in [Breshaw?] because of situation

291 lived in military hotel for first few months; acquired a bungalow, shared with newly
married couple

bungalow had mud walls, mud floors, netting and mud roof; had electric light; no hot water or sanitation

golf club kept just inside door of bathroom because never knew what would appear

found scorpions several times; never found snakes in bathroom

from 1925 to 1929, lived in bungalow with other couple

life in [Breshaw?] was pleasant; about 2-3000 British; 800 members in one British battalion; good tennis courts and golf courses

he first began game shooting because of good duck and snipe shooting

pleasant four years there; very happy

was in charge of several miles of road, similar to previous jobs

had fun at races held; friends took part; very active station

gets very hot around mid-May; by end, temperature between 105 and 115; wives go to hills

wife was up for four months in Kashmir; men got two months leave during hot weather

during leave, would got to Kashmir; a lot of tracking and trout fishing; very pleasant

outdoor life at Kashmir

Kashmir not closest to Breshaw

local government also moved during hot weather; went to [Neargahle?]

Murray was another hill station; also other hill stations to stay at for hot weather

had to ride last miles to [Gomogen?] on ponies because couldn’t get a car up there

discussion of which government officials stayed and who moved to the hills

in early days, stayed in Breshaw during hot weather; terrible glare; dry heat

received 700 rupees a month to live off of

had to have number of servants in bungalows because no one would do another’s job; names different servant roles and duties

shared servants, except for bearer

fairly common to share bungalows; sitting room, bedroom and bath; shared kitchen

spent all of spare time shooting; wife rode and went packing

hunted jackals; no foxes; discusses hunting jackals

could do a lot on little money; many things available because don’t cost as much as they do “in these countries”

daughter used to ride in [pasha hunts?]; was on a famous hunt were she and another girl were the only ones that killed anything

Tape 886, Side B

Hainsworths (Part 3 of 3) (886.1)

Indian life and shooting appealed to him; previous assignments were not as interesting

sure that most British that went to India enjoyed the experience; never met anyone in his service that did not like it; there were always those few that did long to go back home though because they liked doing the things they always did at home; wives get difficult when children had to go back home

they had their children with them longer than most; didn’t have to leave them for very long

first time Mrs. Hainsworth left, her son was in bed for the first term, she had to return to nurse him back to health after three months; he was seven at the time

believes her son remembers very little about India; older daughter was in India at age when she could remember and she doesn’t really remember much either

still receive letter from their driver at Christmas; he was with them for many years
after British left, many Indian servants wanted them to return; servants were not treated the same by their own people the same as they were treated by the British
didn’t have any idea about what to expect in India on his first tour; not really difficult to adjust, even though he went to very wild parts; didn’t have a social life in India; no amusement for the first three years
healthy life in India; could climb up two or three thousand feet three or four times a day
not very common for people to stay in one area for extended amount of time; stayed because of position in public works
people in public works tended to stay in same area because public works was prevention
they found their friends tended to come and go; usually there for about three years and then moved on; friends made back then are their chief friends now
when first returned back to England, kept up with many friends made in India
during the war, people were concerned about Japanese being close, but at the same time felt as if they were very far away; knitted for troops; couldn’t really grasp anything going on with Japanese, apart from being surrounded by troops
he had a lot to do with American airplanes and pilots when first arrived in 1942; was in charge of building airfields; built five concrete airfields; 1000 yard runways
many families had Indian family relatives
was not much rivalry between the Indian and British soldiers, they all got along fairly well; if there was competition, it was not anything personal
He did not have anything to do directly with the army
did not see much of British troops; there was not a great deal of things for them to do; soldiers had their own clubs
Polo was played, but hunting was main attraction
Mrs. Hainsworth accepted a ride on a friend’s polo horse that took off with her; ended up with a concussion
Frontier life was more confined to canton; would very rarely travel after dark
Governor of the province asked Colonel Hainsworth to shoot with them; by evening, had killed 399 and everyone wanted to go home; Colonel Hainsworth and friend stayed behind to make it even 400 (because it was a record); had just missed gang of robbers
no woman was allowed outside barbed wired surrounding Peshawar; no man was either unless for important business or special reason because of threat of gangs
one gang attacked [Kahark?]; killed an officer and carried off his daughter
never knew what was going to happen in India; had to keep your guard up at all times
were few Eurasians, mostly on railway or telegraph department
discussion of railways and routes
Anglo-Indians kept to themselves; were a community within themselves; never saw any in main clubs
after Partition, they carried on with work on railroads
watched series about India on T.V.; discuss their opinions about them; thought they exaggerated it some; portrayed how British in England saw India
in England, believed India was no work and all play; British in India had plenty of work, at least on engineering side
don’t think people in England were interested in affairs in India because it was so far away
discuss Staying On by Paul Scott; thought it was ridiculous because never met anyone remotely like the main character; exaggerations
British made many contributions while in India; brought peace, canals and irrigation,
communications, railways; present day conditions is based on what British brought to India

391 Colonel Hainsworth found it hard to return to England after war years in Pakistan and India; was absorbed in high responsibility job; had to adjust to being concerned with matters around the house

411 in India, tremendous skills required more energy when compared to England; learned to do many things, instead of one or two specific things

439 part of India’s appeal was to go out and work on new jobs; once arrived in India, realized the scope of engineering duties verses military work

454 discuss a man interviewers met that was in the engineers; Colonel Hainsworth never met him; ask Colonel Hainsworth if he knows various people that they have come in contact with

468 survey of India done by engineers; railways originally under engineering department; discuss different departments that dealt with engineers or engineering department

498 lighthouses were under separate small service

509 talk of military posts; discuss what positions composed them

520 buildings are left in Woolwich; not sure what is left; it has always been the headquarters of the artillery, so it is probable that they make some use of it

531 engineering headquarters are at [Gatton?]; trained there for two years

550 never had any ghost stories in India; never came across any haunted houses

572 daughter lives in London

577 son has administrative job in Canada; likes Canada very much

600 end of interview