Introduction to the Diary of John Hogg Valeman, Butcher and WW1 soldier

The web-site is fortunate indeed to have received this account of the diary of John Hogg a Valeman a butcher, husband and father who like a couple of thousand of his contemporaries in the Vale went off to serve in the British Forces during World War One.

He differed from all the other Vale soldiers that we've come across so far in two respects:

Firstly, he kept a diary, which has survived, of his experiences on active service in foreign fields. Although keeping a diary was officially frowned upon, especially taking it into the front line, many soldiers did so, but so far John Hogg is the first person from the Vale to do so.

Secondly, John Hogg not only served in India but he also participated in the Third Afghan War. Then as now the whole area of Afghanistan, the Khyber Pass and tribal areas in what is now northern Pakistan were unstable and prone to outbreaks of fighting amongst themselves and anyone else who happened to be around, which of course included the colonial power Great Britain.

The Afghan War was not part of the "World War" but was essentially a local attack on the British in India lead by an Afghan Amir who had no connection or help from Germany or the other Central Powers. No doubt he saw the fighting in Europe, which had now gone on for four and a half years, as a distraction for Britain and an ideal opportunity for him. With over 1,700 British casualties of whom 236 were killed in action, 615 wounded, 566 died from cholera including the force commander and 334 died as a result of other diseases and accidents this hardly a minor skirmish and carried about the same level of risk as the fighting elsewhere.

Although the entries in his diary are brief they do throw light on what a soldier's life was like in India in 1918-19.

We are grateful to John Hogg's grandsons, Hamish and Ian McLean, for sending this document to the web-site. Although both of them were born and bred in Middleton Street Alexandria, Hamish has lived in Sydney, Australia for many years while Iain now lives in Dumbarton. Hamish started to edit the diary, investigate the events featured in it many years ago and finished the work in 2005, putting it aside when he had finished because he couldn't think of a web-site to which to send it.

That's where Iain came in. He was helping us identify people in a photo when he said "would you be interested in my grandfather's WW1 diary?" We didn't have to be asked twice so Iain contacted Hamish and now we can all share this unique story.

Biography

Of

John Miller Hogg

My Grandfather

1891-1953

Written By Hamish Mclean
Sydney NSW
June 2005

Foreword

It all started with me finding my grandfather's war medals while clearing out some boxes in a cupboard. They were in the tin as I remembered them; the "Ucla Bronchial Lozenges" tin, it was just big enough to store the medals and ribbons. I wondered if I could find out why they were awarded. This led me to thinking it would be good idea to write all my findings down for the grandchildren to read when they got older.

There were a couple of items I remembered he had from the war; I had his whip and there was also his water bottle. I asked my brother if he had any idea where the water bottle went, he didn't know, but he had a little book with his war diary written in it. That settled it; the story was under way!

The initial thoughts snowballed as I got more ideas and information; a summary of his life, a narrative based on the diary, maps to back it up, some interesting items found on the web and it was now a small booklet.

Read and enjoy the story of John Hogg, soldier, butcher and father.

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1. Biography

1. Biography

John Miller Hogg was originally from Edinburgh; he was born second youngest of four on 6th December 1890, and lived down by the Palace of Holyrood House, in the Dumbiedykes District until his family moved to Alexandria when he was about 9 years old. He married Alexandrina (nee McGowan) when he was 22, and they had one daughter Isabella Ferrie Hogg, my mother. He died in 1953, when I was eleven, so I can't recall a lot of memories.

He was a butcher to trade, working firstly at Bauchop's shop in Main Street Alexandria (it later became the Gas Show Room and is now an estate agent's) and eventually worked in a shop in Jamestown. Butchers at that time did everything, from selecting the beast, to stunning it, killing it and preparing the carcass for display in the shop window.



John the Master Butcher at the shop in Main Street Alexandria (date unknown)

He fought in the Afghan uprising of 1918 in the Royal Field Artillery based at Nowshera in the Punjab. His rank was 'Driver' and he drove a gun carriage from the front horse. I don't know if he was a horsey fellow, nothing I know suggested he was. He was short in stature so this may have convinced the army that he would be good for the job! There are old sepia photographs of various cities in India taken on the journey from Bombay to his posting on the North West Frontier. I still have his whip but the water bottle I remember has long gone. He was a good sketcher in pencil... I remember a book with drawings of pigeons and more vivid ones of battleships with guns blazing. Unfortunately when my Nanna's house was cleared while I was away on business, they must have been thrown out, my mother was terrible for that! I really regret not having them!

When he came to Alexandria his parents with their family of two boys and two girls lived in a three bedroom house in a block of four just off the main street. On the corner opposite was a

small slaughter house and beside it the local Territorial Army hall. Did these influence his life about becoming a butcher and a soldier?

Once married he moved round the corner to a similar house. It was typical of this area, two up and two down, built in red sandstone quarried locally. The bottom left was their's and the access to the back garden and toilet (yes, it was outside), was round the right side, so as boys my brother and I often went out the back window especially in summer. Inside the accommodation consisted of only two rooms and a little square hall. The living room had a sink and gas water heater in front of the window with a little bench to prepare food; a bed set into a recess, raised on blocks to lift it higher off the floor... a common practice in those days; and a fireplace with a pulley on the ceiling in front of it. This was used to dry the clothes, a necessity in the damp, wet West of Scotland. This left enough space to squeeze in a couple of easy chairs, a folding table and four chairs... Not a big room but very cosy.

Behind this was the 'room' kept good for visitors... not that I remember it being used other than to set up a bed for us boys (myself and my brother Ian who was four years younger than me), on the odd occasion we stayed overnight.

His wife, our Nanna, was a good cook, serving up great meals from minimum ingredients. Food rationing was still in place!

This was started during the war to ensure that everyone got a fair share of the necessities of life during hard times... not much could be imported due to the blockade set up by the German warships around the coast. To buy goods you needed to hand over coupons with your cash to be allowed your ration, so every way imaginable was used to serve up what was available. Meat was augmented with breadcrumbs; Irish stew was more potatoes

than meat. Nanna used to make the most amazing steak pie, meat supplied by Papa; it was juicy and full of chunks of meat and covered with a good layer of pastry held up in the middle by a little porcelain funnel. This was especially welcome on New Years Day, it



helped to soak up the alcohol. Or the 'ginger' we boys had... it is the local name for lemonade... why 'ginger'? No idea! There were many strange names with no real meaning when we were young. Maybe there still is and we are not as inquisitive when we get older.

They owned the house, not a very normal thing at that time... Wee Johnny Hogg was a shrewd Scot, who looked after his money... not miserly but he liked to have a good think about what it

was being spent on. I remember Papa coming home from work, he got the bus then walked along the road and we used to look out for him at the front door. He would be plodding along with his raincoat neatly folded over his shoulder letting him swing his arms. We were allowed to run to met him, each taking a hand, swinging arms as we strode along.

I don't recall him ever doing anything with us, my brother and me, not playing with us, taking us anywhere, or reading to us! He never told us anything about the war or India or the Army! Why was this? It's not that we didn't see him; we were regular visitors and stayed over some times. Why would I not remember? I have no reason to believe he was not a good family man. Even after he died I can't recall Nanna ever telling us stories about him... strange! All the details are gone and we can't do anything about it!

John Hogg led an eventful life and died aged 61 on 3 Jan 1953. I don't remember his funeral or anything to do with his death. I may have been sheltered from this as was the case in those days. I am told we stayed over more often after his death since Nanna didn't like staying in the house herself. She outlived him by 25 years, firstly in this house and the remainder in the Old Folk's Home in Old Kilpatrick.

2. Narrative based on the War Diary

This is the story of John Miller Hogg, my Grandfather, taken from his War Diary.

He was born in Edinburgh in 1890; I am writing this in 2005 so it was 115 years ago! The first thing I remember about him was that he was a soldier and fought in the Afghan War. I can imagine him with the Diary in one breast pocket of his uniform and his 'Woodbine' and lighter in the other. I don't know that he smoked but nearly everyone did at that time. It must have been a daunting thought to set off for war leaving your family behind not knowing if you would make it back. Equally so for his wife, my grandmother, to see him leave and have the responsibility of house and family thrust upon her.

He kept a diary of sorts giving some details of his war experiences (a transcript and photocopy is appended); from this I know that he left from Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow in October 1917. He'd be twenty five years old then. He left behind a wife and daughter, my mother, aged two.

John Hogg is pictured (right) in his soldier's uniform of the Royal Field Artillery.

I don't know what troopship he sailed on but he left from Devonport on the 11th October1917 as part of a convoy of 11 Transports, 11 torpedo boat destroyers, 2 cruisers and 1 auxiliary cruiser; a fair sized convoy.

The journey must have had its problems since the Germans were on patrol for troopships leaving the British waters. The convoy went out into the Atlantic and down the coast of Africa to avoid the German Uboats in the Mediterranean. The troopship must have been some place; there were boxing matches, concerts and no doubt card games galore!

After six days, having passed the Bay of Biscay on route for the west coast of Africa, the escort departed leaving just a cruiser in attendance. They dropped anchor off Freetown, Sierra Leone; here they exchanged mail, the first since they left Devonport. The convoy was escorted from here by HMS Kent, an armoured cruiser, out into the Atlantic, passing St Helena on route to Cape Town. On the way they saw a hospital ship and a homeward bound vessel.



He talks a lot about thunderstorms and heavy rain, monsoon rain, both unusual to him. He also mentioned a couple of burials at sea – both 'coolies' as he called them, in the common parlance of the time they would probably have been natives of India.

The Diary takes us past the major islands in the Indian Ocean on the approach to Bombay. Once there, a patrol boat was launched to guide the troopship and other ships which had tagged on

to the convoy through the minefield guarding the port. I imagine these were laid to ensuring the safety of the harbour from scavenging German boats.

Once in Bombay the troops were "entrained" and moved out to Nowshera, in the Punjab (now part of Pakistan), the regiment's new posting. It was ideally placed to cover the border from Quetta in the south to Pershwar in the north, a distance of about 500 miles.

Let me set the scene...

At this time in India the British reigned supreme 'The Raj' was the master and the Indians subservient to them. The wives of the Officers were attended to hand and foot, cooks providing meals, servants doing the menial tasks, drivers taking them wherever they wanted to go. The troops were looked after by the lascars who did their cooking and cleaning. Life was good in the towns but probably not in the villages or camps.

Russia was seen as a threat to British control of India. The North West Frontier was the passageway to attack the Punjab and onwards to the rest of the sub-continent. To strike from this direction needed the co-operation or dominance of the Afghans, hence the determination of the British to put up a defensive line in this area.

They eventually had an alliance, of sorts, with them; determining their foreign policy and providing them with arms and ammunition. However this did not stop some of the local tribesmen attacking the border forts and causing mayhem on the trading routes through the passes. This area was controlled by various tribes ruled over loosely by the Amir in Kabul.

Afghanistan had been at war with India many times; The 1st Afghan War was from 1839 to 1842 followed by the 2nd from 1878 to 1880. These disputes were over the ownership of the lands on the banks of the Indus River, a green plain providing farming land which was a great improvement over the mountainous, desert land over the border in Afghanistan. The garrisons in this area were being strengthened due to the latest uprising by the border tribes. It was into this environment that "Wee Johnnie Hogg" would have found himself!

Once on the train from Bombay it took five days to reach its destination. The railway line first went to Delhi, Lahore, and then Rawalpindi before arriving at Nowshera. He was then posted to the 90th Battalion of the Royal Field Artillery. His rank was a 'Driver'; this meant that he rode the lead horse pulling the gun carriage. Why he was assigned to this task I never did find out!

It was now the 6th of December 1917, his birthday; co-incidentally he got his first payment from the Indian Government that day. At the end of that week it was the celebration of 'Our Day' in India so a big Gala was hosted in the town. I can only guess what took place over that weekend; the first in their new barracks and after the first pay day for a while, the local beer would be sampled till it ran out! The next day they had a general inspection by the Commander in Chief, probably set up to ensure that the regiment was still capable of their duties after the night before.

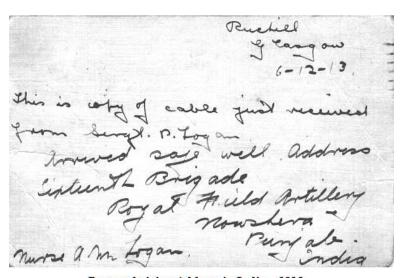
Christmas was the next item noted in the Diary; a sad time with loved ones so far away but a 'Big Dinner for the Garrison' would probably have helped. New Year's Day 1918 was just a brief entry with a drive to the sports day at Risalpur situated just a few miles outside Nowshera.



Retreat from Waziristan from Khyber website

Between then and Easter the regiment was on manoeuvres in the surrounding area including a trip to the Khyber Pass; the access route through the mountains to Afghanistan and onwards to the Middle East. Apart from mentioning a couple of drafts leaving for France nothing much worth reporting seems to have taken place. The Diary is very skimpy on detail with only one-liners for each day. No mention is made of conditions, food, day to day action or pals! The next significant entry is the anniversary of him leaving Glasgow, followed by the announcement of the Armistice on November 11th. This was cause for a big celebration with a 101 gun salute, followed by ten days leave with a big program of sports arranged.

The battalion marched to Rawalpindi over four days and stayed for Christmas and New Years Day 1919. After this it was time for manoeuvres from the camp at Singh Johan then from Johng a Din up until St. Patrick's Day in March. That week was the Great North India Horse Show and the Rawalpindi races. This must have been a grand affair since the horse was the main mode of transport!



Postcard giving Address in India - 1913

Lieutenant Governor Sir Michael's 'Durbar' took place this weekend. A Durbar is a traditional court ritual from the Murghal dynasty which ruled India in the Middle Ages. The British revived it to express dominance over their colonial subjects. The Royal Durbars were grand processions and parties on the ascension of new sovereign's e.g. Queen Victoria.

Afghanistan invaded India when the new ruler Amir Amunullah took power at the start of this year, 1919. He declared a 'jihad' against the British and appealed to the Muslim Indians to rebel against British Rule. This started the 3rd Anglo-Afghan war! 50,000 troops were deployed to the North West Frontier; of including 70 Artillery Batteries totaling 280 guns.

Good Friday saw the regiment mobilized for the frontier. From the list of villages in the Diary they must have patrolled from north right down to the south of the area near Quetta. During May 1919 they were in action on numerous raids and took "many prisoners & material captured".

June was a month of leave taken up by visiting the area around Rawalpindi.

By the end of this month a peace conference was called and the Treaty of Rawalpindi was signed on 8th August 1919; this recognized Afghanistan as a nation. After prolonged negotiations both sides committed themselves to maintain peace in the region. Britain discontinued subsidies to the Afghan Government and stopped the import of arms through India. Afghanistan accepted the Durand Line as the border, an unmarked area to be settled later by British Boundary Commission.

However, this peace initiative didn't seem to stop the carnage on the frontier. "Tribal risings in the Khyber Pass" in August and "Chora Fort demolished" the Diary relates in September!

Johnnie Hogg was called up for demob in November and left for Deolali just outside Bombay. He left from Bombay on the 1st of December 1919, having served here for just over two years, arriving on the 26th November 1917.

The return journey home was via the Suez Canal; all hostilities in the Mediterranean had finished at the end of the War in 1918. The Diary finishes with a list of places he sailed passed, ending with Gibraltar and Cape St. Vincent at the southern tip of Portugal.

After two years in this foreign environment he makes no comments, he just relates the facts on a day to day basis, and we must imagine the conditions; the heat, the flies, the smells, the rifle fire, the explosions, comrades killed, sleepless nights, and forced marches over rough terrain. Moving guns and ammunition carriages pulled by horses over the rough boulder covered tracks, up over passes covered with snow in winter, and down through rivers of mud and glaur; must have been arduous work both in the heat of summer and the cold of winter. (See picture in appendix). I can imagine his relief at being told to collect his gear, board a train for Bombay to get the troopship to sail for home for demob, back to his wife and daughter and a life of normality.

His army career may have been more than just the posting to India but despite having researched extensively on-line, and by mail to the National Archives and Army Records I have been unable to get his Army records, his medal card being all that I could find (see appendix).

Some of the records from the First World War, stored in London were destroyed by bombing raids in the 1940's. All I can ascertain is that he was a serving soldier prior to October 1917, when he left Maryhill Barracks for India, and returned to England on a troopship in December 1919 for demob.

It is so easy to imagine a pleasant trip in such an exotic land while we sit in our comfortable arm chair reading this journal of events. This was no walk in the park for Wee Johnny Hogg!

He returned to live in Alexandria and worked as a butcher in Jamestown until his death in January 1953, aged 62.

3. Transcript of the Diary

This is a transcription of the diary written by **John Miller Hogg**, Regimental Number 193318, serving with the Royal Field Artillery in the Punjab of India (now Pakistan) during the Afghan Uprisings of 1917-18 and the 3rd Anglo-Afghan War of 1919.

He entered a lot of Sunday dates with no details after them; these I have left out for clarity. I have also added a column of comments hopefully to give more information. The diary begins with him leaving Glasgow and finishes at Gibraltar on the return journey. The troopship was routed round The Cape of Good Hope to avoid the war in the Mediterranean, the way back was clear since it was after the end of World War One.

The original is a small breast pocket journal held by my brother, Ian McLean, in Scotland.

	Diary Entry	Comments
	IF LOST	
	Return to J.M.Hogg	
	25 Overton Street	
	Alexandria	
	Dumbartonshire	
	Scotland	
1917	Diary of Journey to India	
6 th Oct	Left Maryhill Barracks	Glasgow, aged 25
7 th	Arrived Devonport, remained there for 4 days	
11 th	Sailed at 9pm	
	Passed Land's End 5pm	
	11 Transports 11 TB Destroyers	Torpedo Boat
	2 cruisers 1 auxiliary cruiser	
	Very rough weather in the Bay of Biscay	
14 th	Ran into fine weather	
17 th	Hot weather begins	
	Escort leaves except 1 cruiser	

20 th	Saw shoals of Flying fish about	
22 nd	First thunderstorm & very vivid lightening	
	Inoculated	
	Burial at sea 10am	
	Sighted land 12 noon	
	Dropped anchor off Sierra Leone (Freetown)	
	4pm	
	First mail collected and taken back by auxiliary	
	cruiser	
24 th	Another severe thunderstorm	Armoured cruiser
	After coaling and watering sailed under escort of	
	HMS Kent	
25 th	Heaviest rain ever seen	
	Numerous sharks now seen every day rolling in	
	the water	
26 th	Coolie buried at sea	
	Crossed the equator 5pm	
29 th	On guard 4pm 28 th till 4pm 29 th	
30 th	Coolie buried at sea	
31 st	Halloween	
ct	Weather much cooler and windy	
1 st Nov	Saw some peculiar birds	
	Sighted first home-ward bound vessel(passed	
a nd	within hail)	
2 nd	Passes St Helena	
5 th	Passed an hospital ship 9pm	
5	Paid up by British Govmt.	
6 th	Passed convoy proceeding north	
O	Sighted Table Mountain	
	Docked Cape Town 10:30am Had route march on shore 1pm – 4pm	
	Very fine town; some fine buildings;	
	Sent cable home Weather very warm in	
	daytime; cold at night; but enjoyed it all	
7th	Went ashore on police duty from 9:30am	
7 (11	till11pm. Good day	
8 th	Tugged out of dock & sailed 9am	
_	Still steaming in sight of land	
9 th	Some ships pass; opposite way	
	Still in sight of land. Dull	
10 th	Torrential rain. Inoculated (2 nd time)	
11 th	Lovely day in Indian Ocean	
12 th	Passed another large vessel	
13-14 th	Big boxing contest on board	

+h		
14 th	Passed sailing vessel 6pm	
+h	Off coast of Madagascar	
15 th	Passed Mauritius & Reunion	
17 th	Crossed the Equator (2 nd time)	
	Saw school of Black dolphins dipping in and out	
	of the water.	
19 th	Passed Laccadive & Maldives islands	
20 th	Torrential rain. Inoculated (3rd time)	
23 rd	Some glorious sunset now seen.	
	Big concert by Officers party	
	Glorious weather. Warm but breezy	
(24 th)	Large numbers of jellyfish seen.	
	Seven other ships join us in the night.	
	Escorted through minefield by patrol boat 8am	
	Sighted land 8:30am	
25 th	Anniversary of wedding.	
	Anchored of Bombay. 2pm	
26 th	Docked at 9am	
	Entrained at 9pm	
	Very busy sea-port	
	Passed first night in train very comfortable in	
U.	splendid weather	
28 th	Stopped at Bulsar, Rutlam, Kota, Delhi; fine city	
11.	and station.	
29 th	Jind, Kaljak, Bhatinda, Feroyepore, Lahore,	Should be Firozpur
	RawalPindi, Campbellpur, and then Nowshera,	Campbellpore
+b	our new station.	
30 th	Posted to 90 th Batt. 16 th Bde	
6 th Dec	1 st payment by Indian Govmt.	
+b	Anniversary of birthday	
12 th	Indian (Our Day) Celebration	
15 th	Big Gala in Nowshera	Saturday
16 th	General Inspection by C in C	Commander–in-Chief
24 th	Christmas Eve	
25 th	Christmas Day	
-1	Big Dinner for Garrison	
31 st	Hogmanay	
	Saw the New Year in 12pm	
1918		
st .		
1 st Jan	Drove to Risalpore to the Sports	Maybe Risalpur
4 th	Posted to 'E' sub-section	
7 701	Went to Peshewar by train	

3 rd Feb	Received 1 st letter from home	
9 th	Went to Akora to camp for manoeuvre	
10 th	Had some big Field Day	
17 th	Still on Manoeuvre	
24 th	Returned to Monnhera	
3 rd Mar	Big church parade	
15-16 th	Other two days manoeuvres	
22 nd	Had trip to Khyber Pass	
29 th	Good Friday	
31 st	Easter Sunday	
25-26 th	Brigade Sports	
Apr		
7 th May	Draft left for France	
14 th	Draft left for France	
29 th	Another draft left for France	
14 th July	Glasgow Fair holiday	
4 th Aug	Anniversary of Great War	
14 th	Slight Earthquake shock	
4 th Sept	Very severe Thunderstorm	
6 th Oct	Anniversary of leaving Maryhill	
11 th Nov	Armistice signed	
16 th	Big celebration (101) guns fired	
22 nd	10 days leave granted Big program of sports	
	arranged	
16 th Dec	Commenced march to Rawal Pindi	
17 th	Rhiarabad	
18 th	Atti	Probably Hatti
19 th	Abdul Hassan	
20 th	Rawal Pindi	
25 th	Christmas day	
4040		
1919		
1 st Jan	New Years Day Co C's inspection (Cont	Can't find any reference
1 Jan	New Years Day; G.o C.'s inspection (Genr.	Can't find any reference to him.
10 th	Dobell) Marched	to min.
10 th	Marched out for camp Singh Johan; Hassan	or Abdul Hassan
TT	Abdul	or Abdul Hassall
12 th	Hatti	
13 th	Manoeuvres commence	
27 th	Very heavy rainstorm	
28 th	Left camp for Rawal Pindi ; weather so wet only	
	one day on the roads	

+h		
30 th	Arrived back in Rawal Pindi	
17 th Feb	Marched out for camp Johng a Din	
18 th	Hassan Abdul	
19 th	Johng a Din	
20 th	Machine gun manoeuvres	
23 rd	Demonstration before Sir Charles Munro & Sir Arthur Barrett.	Gen. Barrett commanded forces on the frontier.
17 th Mar	St Patrick's Day	
22-24 th	Great North India Horse Show	
25-29 th	Pindi races	
26 th	Lieu–Gov (Sir Michael O'Dwyer's) Farewell Durbar	Durbar is traditional court ritual or celebration.
18 th Apr	Good Friday	
20 th	Easter Sunday	
12 th May	Mobilized for Frontier	Afghans attached in May
13 th	Marched out; Arrived Peshawar	
18-25 th	Abazai	North of Peshawar
	Chap Kadar	
	Mardan	North of Nowshera
	Utmanzai	
	Bara Fort	
	Kohat	South of Peshawar
	Johal	
	Parachinar	Almost on the border west of Peshawar
	Chaman	On border NW of Quetta
	Fort Sandeman	
	Janirnd	Jamrud in Kyber pass
	Ali M usfed	Ali Masjid
	Landi Kotal	On border W of Peshawar. Big Battle here!
	Dakka	
25 th	Numerous raids, many prisoners and material captured. Sniping at night	28 th Armistice
9 th June	Leave granted (1 month) Went to Rawal Pindi, Gharial. Upper Topa, Topa,Muree Arrived back in August	North of Islamabad Probably Gharibwal
29 th	Still making night raids, Peace conference begins at R.P.	
19 th Jul	Peace concluded	
3 rd Aug	Tribal risings in Kyber Pass	
24 th	Attached to G.I.C staff (temporary)	8 th - Treaty of Rawalpindi
		,

	Landi Khana Dakka	
26 th	Arrived Jamrind	
27 th	Ali M usjid –Landi Kotal	
17 th Sep	Chora Fort demolished	
28 th Oct	Joined battery at Kacha Garki	
8 th Nov	Left for Demob	
9 th	Arrived at Pindi	
14 th	Left for Deolali	Just NE of Bombay
18 th	Arrived at Deolali	
30 th	Left Deolali for Bombay; arrived 5pm	
	Sailed Dec 1st	
8 th Dec	Arrived Aden	
12 th	sailed	
13 th	Passed Perin, Hell's Gate	Perim = Barim island off
		Yemen in Red Sea
18 th	Arrived Port Said 10pm	
19 th	Sailed after coaling, noon	
21 st	Passed Crete	
23 rd	Passed Malta	
25 th	Passed Cape Bon & Sicily	
27 th	Passed Cape Gata	
28 th	Passed Gibraltar 1pm	
29 th	Passed Cape (St)Vincent 8am	Southern most point of
		Portugal

4. Photocopy of Diary

Return to	Diary of Jonney to India
J.M. Hogg	Self Maggiorely Darrados Od. 6" sunday arrang Devor front Od. 7"
Celephanding	or Remained there 4 days
Decottand	Passiof Lands End Sp.m.
	11 transports 11 T.B. destroyer
	Very rough weather in the
	Bay of Biscay. Ran wito
	Hot weather begins 14th Oct. sunday
	e sent claves everyor it orange

Runday 28 Mi Daw Shoals of Thomas Inh about On quard 4 p.m. 26 " till 4 p.m. 29" thest Thunderstorm & very & 22 nd Od boolie broug at rea vivral Lightning Inoculated weather much cooler and windry. Burnal at Reg 10 a.m. Daw some peculiar books Noo, 13 Righted Land 12 noon righted first homeward bound ... Sierra Lexus (Freton) 34 pm .. Parsed Daril Heling Nov. 2 -First mad collected and 23th " another severe Thunderston, 23-24 Passed an hospital sluf- 9pm. " Dunday 4 th Nov. after coaling and watering & O sailed a plan mider used Paid up by British Gont. 5thm. 87 A.m. S. Rent Heavilal tain ever aller Paraed convoy proceeding north . proved muse more enhance consumers orghited Table mountain 4 am. 6. day rolling in the water. Doolard Coper John 10, 30 am. " looky buried at seg 26. Had route march on where Ipm. - 4pm. brossed the Eguator 5 p.m.

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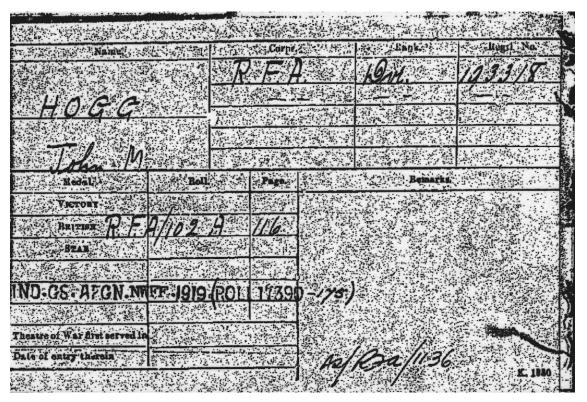
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5. Medals

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Medal Record Card Images

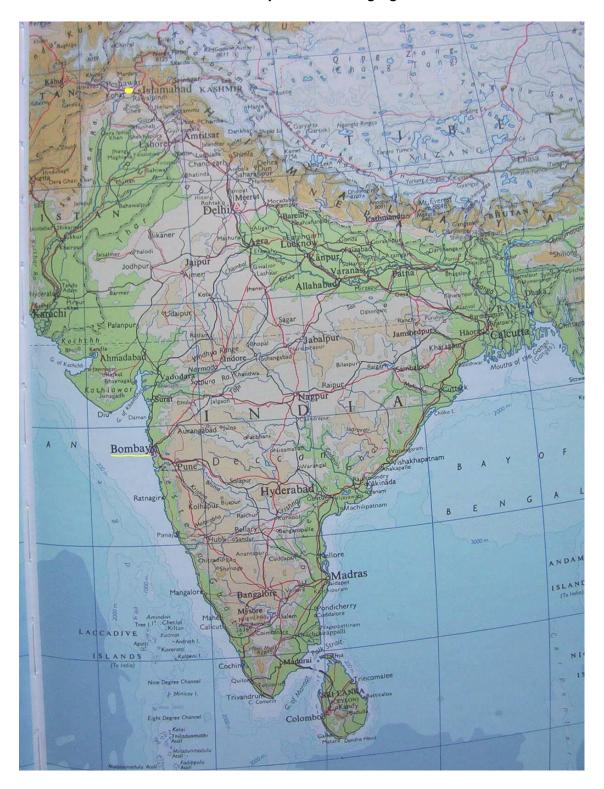




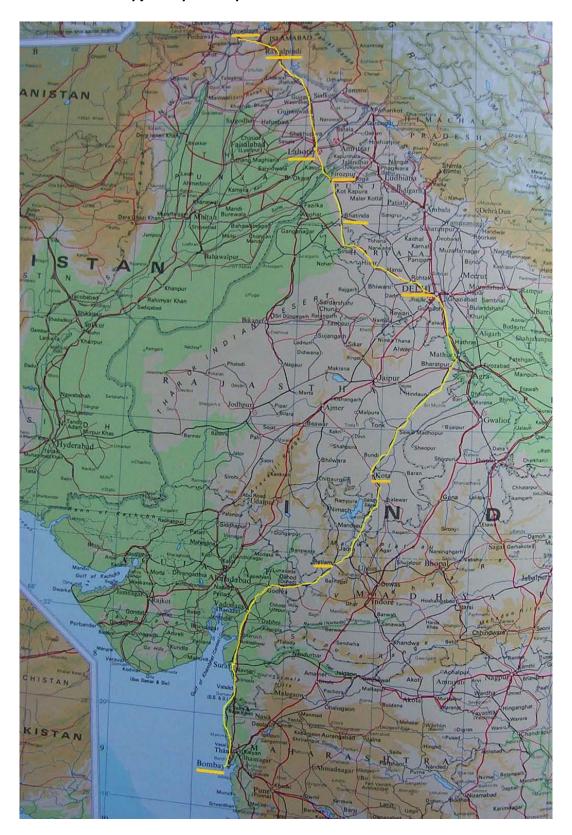


6. Maps of the area.

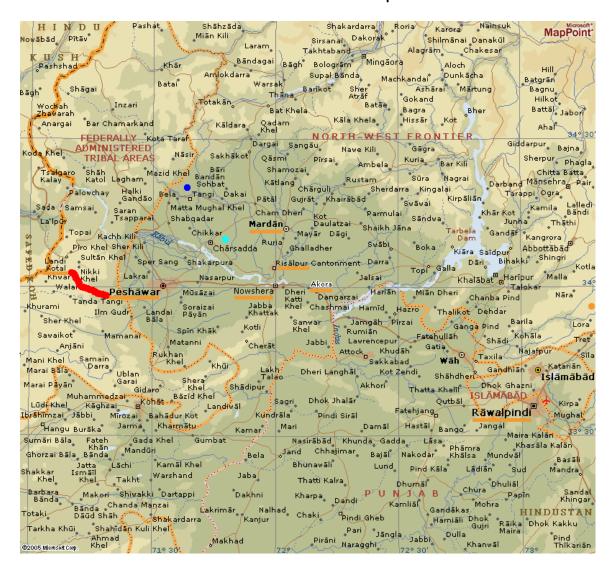
India – Bombay & Nowshera highlighted



Railway journey Bombay to Nowshera 26th - 29th November 1917



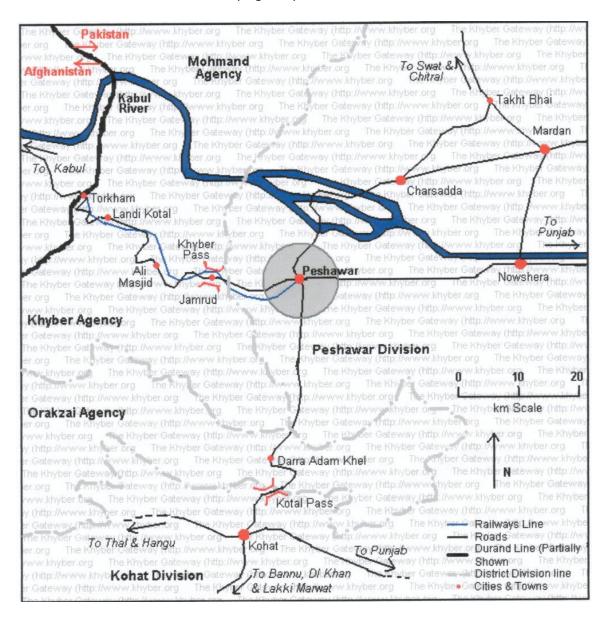
Nowshera - Peshawar - Rawalpindi



Khyber Pass

- Abazia
- Utmanzai
- Muree

Campaign Map of Frontier area



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8. Appendices

Khyber Pass

(Khyber" means "Across the river" or "divide" and is derived from "Habar" in Aramaic, which also translates to the word "Hebrew")

The Khyber Pass is a 53-kilometer (33-miles) passage through the Hindu Kush mountain range. It connects the northern frontier of Pakistan with Afghanistan. At its narrowest point, the pass is only 3 meters wide. On the north side of the Khyber Pass rise the towering, snow-covered mountains of the Hindu Kush. The Khyber Pass is one of the most famous mountain passes in the World. It is one of the most important passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is the best land route between India and Pakistan and has had a long and often violent history. Conquering armies have used the Khyber as an entry point for their invasions. It was also been a major trade route for centuries.

Khyber Pass, mountain pass in western Asia, the most important pass connecting Afghanistan and Pakistan, controlled by Pakistan. The Khyber Pass winds northwest through the Sefid Koh Range near Peshawar, Pakistan to Kabul, Afghanistan, varying in width from 3 to 137 m. The mountains on either side can be climbed only in a few places. The pass is walled by precipitous cliffs that vary in height from about 180 to 300 m. The pass reaches its highest elevation at the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The history of the Khyber Pass as a strategic gateway dates from 326 B.C., when Alexander the Great and his army marched through the Khyber to reach the plains of India. From their, he sailed down Indus River and led his army across the desert of Gedrosia. In the A.D. 900s, Persian, Mongol, and Tartar armies forced their way through the Khyber, bringing Islam to India. Centuries later, India became part of the British Empire, and British troops defended the Khyber Pass from the British Indian side. During the Afghan Wars the pass was the scene of numerous skirmishes between Anglo-Indian soldiers and native Afghans. Particularly well known is the battle of January 1842, in which about 16,000 British and Indian troops were killed. The British constructed a road through the pass in 1879 and converted it into a highway during the 1920s. A railroad was also built here in the 1920s.

The Khyber, in its checkered history, has seen countless invasions. It witnessed the march of Aryans and victorious advance of Persian and Greek armies. It also saw the Scythians, White Huns, Seljuks, Tartars, Mongols, Sassanians, Turks, Mughals and Durranis making successive inroads into the territories beyond Peshawar Valley and Indus. The very sight of the Khyber reminds one of the conquerors who forced their way through its dangerous defiles. It is this Pass through which the subcontinent was invaded time and again by conquerors like Timur, Babur, Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali. Again, it was through this Pass that the Russian invasion of the subcontinent was feared by the British in the 19th century. The story of Khyber Pass is composed of such colour and romance, such tragedy and glory that fact really looks stranger than fiction in this case. The Khyber Pass has been a silent witness to countless great events in the history of mankind. As one drives through the Pass at a leisurely pace, imagination unfolds pages of history.

The Aryans descending upon the fertile northern plains in 1500 BC subjugating the indigenous Dravidian population and settling down to open a glorious chapter in history of civilization. The Persian hordes under Darius (6 century B.C.) crossing into the Punjab to annex yet another province to the Archaemenian Empire. The armies of Alexander the Great (326 BC) marching through the rugged pass to fulfil the wishes of a young, ambitious conqueror. The terror of Genghis Khan enwrapping the majestic hills and turning back towards the trophies of ancient Persia. The White house bringing fire and destruction in their wake, the Scythians and the Parthians, the Mughals and the Afghans, conquerors all, crossing over to leave their impact and add more chapters to the diverse history of this subcontinent.

The Muslim armies first passed through in 997 AD under the command of Subuktagin and later his celebrated son, Mahmud of Ghaznawi, marched through with his army as many as seventeen times between 1001-1030 AD. Some of his campaigns were directed through the Khyber Pass. Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghaur, a renowned ruler of Ghauri dynasty, crossed the Khyber Pass in 1175 AD to consolidate the gains of the Muslims in India. He used Khyber Pass again in 1193 to measure strength with Pirthvi Raj Chouhan and show his mettle on the field of Tarain. This battle helped Muslims carve out a Muslim Kingdom in India.

In 1398 AD Amir Timur, the firebrand from Central Asia, invaded India through the Khyber Pass and his descendant Zahiruddin Babur made use of this pass first in 1505 and then in 1526 to establish a mighty Mughal empire. In 1672, it was the Khyber Pass where the Afridis under the able leadership of Ajmal Khan defeated Muhammad Amin Khan's army and besides inflicting losses, both in men and material, on the enemy, the Afridis captured about 10,000 Mughal soldiers. Nadir Shah Afshar of Iran used the Khyber Valley in 1739 AD to attach Delhi.

The famous Afghan King, Ahmad Shah Abdali, crossed the Khyber Pass in 1761 AD and crushed the Marattha confederacy on the field of Panipat (India). The Khyber Valley saw a great deal of fighting between 1839-1919. During the First Afghan War (1839-42) General Pollock used the Khyber Pass on his way to Afghanistan to retrieve the British honour. Again, in 1878, the British forces marched through the Khyber Pass to launch an offensive against the Afghans in the Second Afghan War (1878-79). In 1897 a revolt flared up on the frontier region and the valleys of Khyber started vibrating with the echoes of war.

The year 1919 again saw the movement of British troops through the Khyber during the Third Afghan War. The valiant sons of Khyber converged upon Peshawar in 1930 to give vent to their feelings of resentment against the indiscriminate firing of the British troops on freedom lovers in the famous Qissa Khawani Bazaar. The chapter of fighting in Khyber, however, came to a close with the dawn of Independence in August, 1957. Since the establishment of Pakistan, the situation has changed altogether and the sentinels of Khyber are now interested in the welfare of their country-Pakistan - with which is linked their own future. But one thing remains unchanged. The invasion of the Khyber Pass is still on. Conquerors no longer traverse it, tourist do. The Khyber Pass is attracting thousands of tourists every year, besides a large number of foreign dignitaries, including Heads of States and Government leaders.

For hundreds of years, great camel caravans travelled through the Khyber Pass, bringing goods to trade. These ancient merchants and traders brought luxurious silks and fine porcelain objects from China to the Middle East. Often, they stopped at Herat, the great oasis in western

Afghanistan. The traders travelled in caravans as a protection against the hazards of travel. Even so, they were often robbed by local tribesmen when travelling through the Khyber Pass.

The Khyber Pass today......

Today, two highways thread their way through the Khyber Pass-one for motor traffic, and one for the traditional caravans. A railway line also travels to the head of the pass. Recently, the Khyber Pass has been used to transport refugees from the Afghan civil war into Pakistan, and transport arms into Afghanistan. The highway over the Khyber Pass links Kabul to Peshawar. Villages lie on each side of the Khyber Pass. The people of the Khyber Pass are mainly Pashtuns.

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1919 - THE THIRD AFGHAN WAR

By Paul Hinson

In the preface to his book AFGHANISTAN 1919, Lieutenant General G. N. Molesworth, adjutant of the 2nd Battalion Somerset Light Infantry during the war, admits that "in comparison to the fearful slaughter which took place in World War I ... this campaign was a sideshow..." He then qualifies this statement saying 'in normal times from the casualties alone it would have ranked as a major war."

By the scale of other operations on the Northwest Frontier, this last statement is not too inaccurate. Admittedly incomplete statistics show 1,751 casualties suffered by British and Indian troops, including over 500 dead from cholera.

Operations in the Third Afghan War ranged along much of the border area. Fighting occurred in Chitral, in the Khyber Pass, through the Kurram Valley, in the Tochi Valley, in Waziristan, and in Baluchistan. Although the scenes of fighting were not new, this was not simply a refight of earlier wars and frontier campaigns. Strategically, the Afghans and their Pathan allies took the offensive at the outset on each front except in Southern Baluchistan, where a pre-emptive British strike into Afghanistan forestalled any planned or potential Afghan incursions into India. The only other front on which the British conducted significant offensive operations was in the Khyber Pass, where British and Indian troops advanced into Afghanistan to seize the town of Dakka.

The Afghan Army

The Afghan army, on paper, posed a significant threat to the thinly spread Northwest Frontier Force in 1919. 50,000 troops were organized into 75 infantry battalions, 21 cavalry regiments, and roughly 70 batteries (280 guns). The purpose of the army was to provide a core of regular troops around which the tribal lashkars, possibly as many as 80,000 fighting men, could form.

In reality, the Afghan regular army was not ready for war. As in past years, the upper levels of the officer corps were riddled with political intrigue. General Molesworth gives the following evaluation of the Emir's army:

"Afghan regular units ... were ill-trained, ill paid, and probably under strength. The cavalry was little better than indifferent infantry mounted on equally indifferent ponies. Rifles varied between modern German, Turkish and British types, to obsolete Martinis and Snyders. Few infantry units had bayonets. Artillery was pony drawn, or pack, and included modern 10cm Krupp howitzers, 75mm Krupp mountain guns and ancient 7 pounder weapons. There were a few, very old, four-barrel Gardiner machine guns. Ammunition was in short supply and distribution must have been very difficult. For the artillery much black powder was used, both as a propellent and bursting charge for shells. The Kabul arsenal workshops were elementary and mainly staffed by Sikh artificers with much ingenuity but little real skill. There was no organised transport and arrangements for supply were rudimentary."

Probably the best of the Afghan units were those in the Kabul-Jellalabad area, most of which would see action in the Kurram Valley and in the Khyber Pass. These units included 7 cavalry regiments, 31 infantry battalions, 1 pioneer battalion, a few antique machine guns, and 92 artillery pieces of various calibres and ages. Probably the poorest quality front-line regulars were those sent against Chitral.

In support of the regulars, the Afghan command expected to call out the tribes, which could gather up to 20,000 or 30,000 fighters in the Khyber region alone. In stark contrast to the regulars, the tribal lashkars were well or "excellent fighting quality," well armed, and with plenty of ammunition.

The British Army

On the British side of the border, the Northwest Frontier Force could utilize, initially, two horse-mounted cavalry brigades, two infantry divisions, and three frontier brigades as well as a number of frontier militia and irregular corps. Technologically, British equipment was relatively up to date, although in short supply in some cases. Instead of the 9 batteries of 18-pdrs and single 4.7-inch battery with which Indian divisions had been equipped during World War One, the two divisions on the frontier each had only 8 18-pdrs, four 4.5-inch howitzers, and 8 2.75-inch mountain guns.

The field and howitzer batteries were served by elements of the Royal Field Artillery while the mountain guns were manned by the Royal Garrison Artillery. The cavalry brigade-were each equipped with four 13-pdr guns served by the Royal Horse Artillery. Machine guns, at least on the Khyber front, were old .303 Maxims. The British gained a command and control advantage with their use of motor transport and wireless communications while armoured cars and RAF detachments increased the Frontier Force's firepower and reach, the latter being demonstrated to the Afghans by a bombing raid on Kabul itself.

The great problem for the British was manpower. Although the manpower of the Indian army reached 750,000 during the Afghan war, only a fraction of this was on, or reached, the frontier. Many of those units on the frontier were under strength, a problem compounded in some areas where the frontier militia units proved unreliable and were disarmed and disbanded.

A further complication arose due to the Great War. Of the 61 British regular battalions and regiments stationed in India in 1914, all but two cavalry regiments and 8 infantry battalions were shipped to the killing fields of France, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. Replacing them on garrison duty in India were elements of the Territorial Army. Unhappy with garrison life, the Territorials were only interested in a quick return to civilian life. Only a direct appeal from the C-in-C India prevented potential trouble in some Territorial battalions.

Among the Indian units, many of the premier regiments and battalions were still abroad, their places having been taken by second or third line reserve battalions. Of those regiments and battalions which had returned to India, the ranks of many were filled with many recent recruits.

Campaign Dispositions

The two campaigns which I find most interesting were the Upper Kurram and Chitral fronts as much of the fighting was done by reliable, well-led militia units supported by small numbers of regulars.

In the Upper Kurram, the British, initially, were deployed as follows: 500 Kurram Militia and regular infantry in the Peiwar Kotal area; 200 Kurram Militia at Karlachi; 200 militia and 80 mounted infantry at Lakka Tigga; 230 militia in 7 smaller posts; Headquarters 60th Infantry Brigade, 37th Lancers (1 squadron), No. 28 Mountain Battery (2 sections), No. 22 Motor Machine Gun Battery, 57th Rifles (less one company), 3/Guides Infantry, and 400 Kurram Militia in reserve at Parachinar. Opposing this force were 2500 Afghan regular infantry, 7 mountain guns (mixed quality), 2 obsolete machine guns, and about 3500 Pathan tribesmen.

In Chitral, regular units consisted of 1/11th Rajputs (450 rifles), one section of No. 23 Mountain Battery and one section of 2/Sappers and Miners. Locally raised troops included the Chitral Scouts (1,000 rifles) and the Mehtar's Bodyguard. The Scouts were an organized local infantry battalion commanded by British officers and lacked both artillery and mounted units. The Mehtar's Bodyguard was primarily armed with muskets and matchlocks, although some men had Martini-Henrys. The Bodyguard also had a Russian machine gun, which had been hauled through the passes by a refugee fleeing the Bolsheviks. Molesworth doubts the weapon had any ammunition.

Opposing this British/Chitrali force were 3 infantry battalions, 8 mountain guns, and 4 machine guns at Birkot on the frontier about 40 miles south of Chitral City. There were another 3 battalions and 4 mountain guns further south at Asmar. The Afghan high command may have also ordered 5 more battalions into the area from Jellalabad. After an initial invasion of Chitral was repulsed, both sides received reinforcements. Kafir and Kunar tribesmen, in addition to Chitrali tribesmen joined the Mehtar's forces. By June 1, 3 more Afghan battalions had moved into the area and about 6, 000 Dir tribesmen gathered in the hills on the British side of the frontier ready to descend into Chitral. Although the armistice ending the fighting elsewhere was signed on June 3, 5-6 battalions had moved from Badakshan and Wakhan toward the Baroghil and Manjan Passes northwest of Chitral City. South, near Asmar, were concentrated another 7 battalions, along with Mohmand and Bajaur tribesmen. On July 28, 100 Afghan cavalry and a battalion of infantry moved toward the northwest passes into Chitral.

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