

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

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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Tape 886, Side A

Barlow (Part 4 of 4) (886.2)

- 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

- 061 fading of topi style halfway between the wars; the use to the topi in Africa; style of hats worn in Africa
- 071 discussion of stories in his letters; several stories in letters
- 077 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
- 125 common occurrence of snakes or scorpions in bedrooms; spiders also
- 129 story of the newspaper in the Tashkurgan Garden across the frontier
- 146 common occurrence of living in tents; tent living
- 151 in 1954, left and went to Kenya until 1958; offer from Archbishop of Central Africa
- 161 in colonial service from 1948 to 1958
- 163 most of Africa experience was church related
- 165 left India during independence; in Africa's case, saw it before and after independence
- 166 smooth transitions; transition to the Congo
- 170 skeleton of civil service was something independent states could build on; was chief contribution of British; as was justice system
- 173 looking back on British administration; was time of justice
- 179 at one post in Africa was member of Historical Monuments Commission
- 182 originally appointed as junior civil servant in 1948; numerous government appointments followed
- 198 hopes of the views of those looking back on British administration
- 204 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
 296 bungalow had mud walls, mud floors, netting and mud roof; had electric light; no hot water or sanitation
 306 golf club kept just inside door of bathroom because never knew what would appear
 311 found scorpions several times; never found snakes in bathroom
 314 from 1925 to 1929, lived in bungalow with other couple
 317 life in [Breshaw?] was pleasant; about 2-3000 British; 800 members in one British battalion; good tennis courts and golf courses
 332 he first began game shooting because of good duck and snipe shooting
 334 pleasant four years there; very happy
 338 was in charge of several miles of road, similar to previous jobs
 351 had fun at races held; friends took part; very active station
 359 gets very hot around mid-May; by end, temperature between 105 and 115; wives go to hills
 365 wife was up for four months in Kashmir; men got two months leave during hot weather
 369 during leave, would go to Kashmir; a lot of tracking and trout fishing; very pleasant
 376 outdoor life at Kashmir
 378 Kashmir not closest to Breshaw
 385 local government also moved during hot weather; went to [Nargahle?]
 387 Murray was another hill station; also other hill stations to stay at for hot weather
 397 had to ride last miles to [Gomogen?] on ponies because couldn't get a car up there
 408 discussion of which government officials stayed and who moved to the hills
 433 in early days, stayed in Breshaw during hot weather; terrible glare; dry heat
 444 received 700 rupees a month to live off of
 451 had to have number of servants in bungalows because no one would do another's job; names different servant roles and duties
 476 shared servants, except for bearer
 481 fairly common to share bungalows; sitting room, bedroom and bath; shared kitchen
 501 spent all of spare time shooting; wife rode and went packing
 507 hunted jackals; no foxes; discusses hunting jackals
 519 could do a lot on little money; many things available because don't cost as much as they do "in these countries"
 526 daughter used to ride in [pasha hunts?]; was on a famous hunt where she and another girl were the only ones that killed anything

Tape 886, Side B

Hainsworths (Part 3 of 3) (886.1)

- 002 Indian life and shooting appealed to him; previous assignments were not as interesting
 010 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
 017 they had their children with them longer than most; didn't have to leave them for very long
 019 first time Mrs. Hainsworth left, her son was in bed for the first time, she had to return to nurse him back to health after three months; he was seven at the time
 026 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
 031 still receive letter from their driver at Christmas; he was with them for many years

035 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

043 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

055 healthy life in India; could climb up two or three thousand feet three or four times a day
 062 not very common for people to stay in one area for extended amount of time; stayed
 because of position in public works

067 people in public works tended to stay in same area because public works was prevention
 072 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

085 when first returned back to England, kept up with many friends made in India
 092 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

116 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

146 many families had Indian family relatives

153 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

163 He did not have anything to do directly with the army
 175 did not see much of British troops; there was not a great deal of things for them to do;
 soldiers had their own clubs

194 Polo was played, but hunting was main attraction

204 Mrs. Hainsworth accepted a ride on a friend's polo horse that took off with her; ended up
 with a concussion

215 Frontier life was more confined to canton; would very rarely travel after dark
 220 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

247 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

254 one gang attacked [Kahark?]; killed an officer and carried off his daughter
 260 never knew what was going to happen in India; had to keep your guard up at all times
 266 were few Eurasians, mostly on railway or telegraph department
 274 discussion of railways and routes
 280 Anglo-Indians kept to themselves; were a community within themselves; never saw any in
 main clubs

299 after Partition, they carried on with work on railroads

311 watched series about India on T.V.; discuss their opinions about them; thought they
 exaggerated it some; portrayed how British in England saw India

332 in England, believed India was no work and all play; British in India had plenty of work, at
 least on engineering side

337 don't think people in England were interested in affairs in India because it was so far away
 349 discuss *Staying On* by Paul Scott; thought it was ridiculous because never met anyone
 remotely like the main character; exaggerations

366 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