

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

Tape 851 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

Colonel W.H. Salmon and Mrs. Jean Salmon

4700.0582 Tape 851.1 (Tape 3 of 3)

Brigadier Richard Gardiner and Mrs. Catherine Gardiner

4700.0578 Tape 851.2 (Tape 4 of 7)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Salmons: 3/6/1978

Gardiners: 3/8/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 33 minutes

Salmons: 68 minutes

Gardiners: 25 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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INDEX

Tape 851, Side A

Salmons (Part 3 of 5) (851.1)

001 looking at photos of garden, well, panther Salmon shot

010 party in Kashmir, shooting

022 hunting parties with friends, scouting for birds

035 preparing for morning shoot

044 paying people to do landscaping

060 went to Haileybury College of old East India Company, trained men to become governors of India

070 Somerset

- 073 more photos, uncle's home, photos of relatives
 078 photos of his first station at Malta
 094 pictures of Suez Canal, India
 097 cow he shot, photo of vultures on the kill
 107 photos of his company
 110 description of his bungalow
 115 his pay, could afford grand lifestyle
 123 running into old Anglo-Indian families living in tucked away places, and old missionary woman doctor he met
 133 lodging when traveling
 147 dealings with tribesmen
 150 going out on column, when they showed their flag, had to form pickets to protect column
 160 how to protect yourself as a picket
 176 time spent on frontier, four years
 179 six battalions in Razmak, including Indian battalions
 185 companies of different ethnic/religious groups made up each battalion of Indian Army
 190 British tradition was the mortar that held different Indian ethnicities together
 195 stupidity of handing India over to Indians, will bring trouble
 200 after Mutiny, British announced goal of India's eventual independence
 206 Gandhi was a wretched nuisance, but Salmon had some sympathy for him
 214 Gandhi antagonized Muslims, before he came along, the different religious factions got along fine
 223 Mohammed Ali Jinnah was also a nuisance, wanted Muslims to have their own state
 229 ridiculous idea of partition, distance between Pakistan and Bangladesh same as between London and Moscow, darn silly
 237 ethnic mixture of army, police force
 245 problems of getting all people into appropriate regions for partition
 252 Salmon saddened by the shambles of India
 258 India was a very happy place under British
 270 never had much regard for Louis Mountbatten
 274 praises British Navy when sailing, not so useful ashore
 278 training of sailors
 286 old viceroys, Lord Halifax was a great man, people liked him
 294 Lord [Willingdon?]
 299 process of bringing Indians into government
 305 Indianization of Indian Army, Indian Army in old days
 315 training of Indian Army in old days, wonderful chaps
 325 Salmon considered transferring to Indian Army because he'd get three times the pay
 330 Indian Civil Service was considered your whole life, got good pension
 335 drawbacks and compensations of service in India
 342 magic of India, Salmon tremendously fond of Indians
 349 Indians are natural gentlemen, friendly; strangers invited him into their houses
 357 British women had to find something to do with their time to be happy, such as work in hospitals
 370 exhibition they saw on British India saddened them, scenes of bloody nasty battles,

- inaccurate portrayals of daily life, no credit given to British for their improvements
 388 British women were unprepared for life in India
 397 Henry Holland, founder of Overseas Trading Center, worked to prepare men and women for their new country
 406 British women generally didn't shop in bazaar, sent servants
 419 British people not wearing their topees, getting sunstroke
 436 drinking in India, whiskey and soda
 444 couldn't drink water until chlorinated
 448 regimental uniforms, winter and summer kit
 460 photos of January 1 parade, uniforms
 482 Salmon is wearing tie of Joint Services Staff College
 497 cooking method using oil and water
 503 pictures of columns, guns
 515 good relations with political agents
 530 snipers
 542 formality of mess life, protocol of dinner

Tape 851, Side B

Salmons (Part 5 of 5) (851.1)

- 002 reads note addressed to "Your Excellency," governor of Simla
 007 shows them crocodile eggs, he shot the mother
 010 letter to a mayor regarding a race horse
 020 airmail service to India, landed at Karachi, other stops
 035 getting clothes made in India
 038 marriage of governor's daughter
 043 continue to look at photos
 084 children's parties
 103 lost two good friends who rode horses without protective hats, were thrown, advantages of topees
 110 clubs in Karachi
 121 socializing with Indians
 132 attending church in India, every garrison had a church
 138 padres, bishops, division of India into dioceses
 150 Church of England in India has become Church of India, affiliated with Anglicans
 163 church as a social occasion, church parades
 169 men brought arms to church in case of ambush after service
 179 his father's interest in Indian religions, languages
 188 father studied Indian culture

Tape 851, Side B cont'd

Gardiners (Part 5 of 10) (851.2)

- 213 second interview with Brigadier Gardiner at Shamley Green March 8, 1978
 215 derivation of term "sappers" royal engineers
 230 sapping was digging of earthworks, dropping mine into it
 240 expression "mad, married, or Methodist"

272 hierarchy of engineers on engineering projects, lengths of line
290 duties of engineers, maintenance, safety
295 subordinates on railway
305 specialized track work, other tasks on railways
319 traveling by carriage to do inspection work
333 shooting your supper while working on length of line
339 living in bungalow at work site while being in charge of project
343 sent to Jamalpur to rebuild locomotive workshops after Bihar earthquake
348 facilities at Jamalpur, rebuilding
362 usual work for senior engineers, bridges, special projects, stations rebuilt
370 working on new construction
380 planning, costing, new construction
392 supervising contracts, earthwork, supervising buildings and bridges, eventually the laying of track
402 lots of new railway construction in those days
409 Gardiner worked as assistant to engineer in charge of opening up a coal field
425 no shortage of Indian workers, a tough lot of chaps
435 steel supply
439 skills of Indian contractors
442 Mrs. Gardiner talks about how meticulous Americans are, terrific at entertaining, feels awful to have Americans over because her house isn't as tidy
455 meeting a gorgeous bulldog of whom she was very fond, dog liked to swim, but had to be lifted in and out of water
464 she was served a steak much rarer than she could eat, so fed it to bulldog
479 next day the people had an orchid delivered to her from the bulldog
492 publications of India office
500 lived in Mughalsarai, had friends in Benares they visited
508 getting used to seeing corpses in India and Peru
522 no toilets available when she went shopping