

## **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