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Tape 846 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

Brigadier Richard Gardiner and Mrs. Catherine Gardiner

4700.0578 Tape 846.1 (Tape 3 of 7)

Colonel W.H. Salmon and Mrs. Jean Salmon

4700.0582 Tape 846.2 (Tape 1 of 3)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Gardiners: 2/7/1978

Salmons: 3/6/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 33 minutes

Gardiners: 80 minutes

Salmons: 13 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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Tape 846, Side A

Gardiners (Part 3 of 10) (846.1)

001 in Delhi during war, Indians were allowed to join club, mostly ICS clubs, ICS was very Indianized

006 more segregation in commercial places like Calcutta and Bombay

009 social place of club akin to place of local pub in England

015 club activities: tennis, hockey, polo

020 his first post was at Faizabad, east of Lucknow, north of the Ganges, military garrison there, other Europeans stationed at Faizabad

032 description of Faizabad

037 club in Faizabad, tennis, polo played with government-allotted horses, forage for horses

048 shooting, pig sticking

- 058 organizing shoots, good training for a soldier, but expensive hobby
 064 amount of leave given, system of leave pay, allowance for travel to and from England
 076 “short leave” used in summer to go to hill stations, rest bungalows along walking tour of
 Himalayas outside Shimla
 084 officers transferring between Shimla and Delhi, office shut for a week while all people,
 supplies and equipment shifted from one place to the other
 109 use of horses in India
 117 Jamalpur was a special assignment
 120 January, 1934 earthquake: Gardiner thought he was just nauseous at first, slowly realized
 it was an earthquake, went on and on, heard terrible hubbub outside, colleagues fled the
 building, Gardiner not sure if he should evacuate or not, realized it was severe
 170 receiving reports regarding consequences of earthquake, including that the station at
 Jamalpur had fallen down
 181 description of railroad routes
 190 viceroy thought his train might be stranded by earthquake
 210 extent of earthquake damage, explanation of how earthquakes occur, plates under
 Himalayas, Ganges
 221 posted to Jamalpur a year after earthquake, main locomotive workshops were there
 230 workshop flattened by quake, European housing in area ruined
 236 Gardiner’s job was to rebuild workshop and colony, worked there three and a half years
 241 sizable Indian city of Monghyr (now Munger), was about seven miles away, city also
 destroyed by quake
 250 friends who had a sugar plantation in area
 256 went to Burma in 1938, where he was inspector of railroads, was a government servant
 reporting to governor
 266 rules regarding inquiries into accidents, deaths, testing new equipment
 275 Burmese have no caste system, not much religion except some devout Buddhists
 283 Burmese were attractive people, absolute villains, thought everything was funny
 289 women did all the work, men sat around smoking
 296 all the manual workers, doctors, were Indians, problems in Burma when Indians left
 Burma during WWII during Japanese bombing
 306 English lied the same in Burma as in India, Burmese cleaner and more attractive than
 Indians
 312 British community in Rangoon, climate
 318 importance of rank and precedence in India, precedence laid out clearly
 332 precedence isn’t peculiar to India, perhaps peculiar to British system, monarchy
 343 relative prestige of different regiments
 360 British family tradition of service in India
 372 public works: irrigation, railroads, bridges
 395 Gardiner family tradition of railroad work in India, father and grandfather also worked on
 railroad
 405 how marriage affected his lifestyle in India
 419 Ronald Thompson, Gardiner’s mother’s half-brother, who was railroad engineer in India,
 WWI veteran, volunteered for Gardiner’s project
 445 having multiple family members in India
 450 they make plans for tea
 456 Gardiner’s servants, mostly Moslem, their origins

- 470 servants were very faithful, especially bearer
 482 servants often came with the bungalow, but personal bearer would move with you
 490 typical staff: bearer, cook, washer up, bearer's assistant, bathroom attendant (sweeper),
 gardener, chauffeur
 506 different set up in Calcutta
 512 servants generally male, sometimes wife would have an ayah to care for kids
 526 separation from children
 530 Gardiner had a widowed mother in England who looked after his kids
 536 problems other people had being separated from kids
 544 used to take three weeks to get between England and India by ship

Tape 846, Side B

Gardiners (Part 4 of 10) (846.1)

- 002 his early days as a gunner, rose at dawn, only worked in the morning
 009 couldn't handle the building materials except in the AM, too hot to touch
 016 had to keep yourself healthy to survive the heat
 019 Gardiner stayed healthy by living sensibly
 023 railroad's medical system, Indian doctors stationed on line
 028 dental care not widely available, had to go to bigger city
 032 India was a very good life for Britons
 037 importance of railroads
 041 importance of irrigation works built by British in North India
 048 British at home admired work done in India back then, but now such causes are
 unpopular, people disapprove
 056 hand over at time of India's independence, terrible massacres not much talked about
 067 wars and emergencies since, religious problems of Bangladesh, Muslims versus Hindus
 077 after war, went to Germany as director of transportation
 082 then came home to England, would have liked to return to India but then came
 Independence
 086 Britons don't retire to India, except tea planters
 093 Gardiner always considered England home
 096 nothing to stay on for after retirement there
 108 type of person who thrives in India is healthy, can work with and like Indians
 113 differences between Indians and Africans, skin coloration
 118 education of Indians
 126 opinion of radio program that aired about Anglo-Indians
 140 Indians have never been as backwards as Africans, they're cleverer and better bred, better
 artists
 145 nobody could've done better than the British in uplifting India, with the Mutiny as a
 hiccup in the middle
 152 Mrs. Hall tells about bomb that fell on her sons' prep school, everyone miraculously safe
 160 headmaster suggested boys go to US during war, but her sons chose to stay in England
 167 her son's friend regretted going to US during war
 172 Mrs. Hall liked India back then, lived in railroad post, traveled around
 181 recalls shooting expedition where they rode elephants
 184 the Raj looked upon as awful now, but she's not so sure
 187 Indians were wonderful cooks, better than the Peruvians, dishes they specialized in,

- including custard
 199 inferior cooks in Peru, Halls had best cook in area
 204 primitiveness of Indian kitchens: brick ovens, charcoal
 211 de Caro's stint in India
 214 Mrs. Hall thinks Kashmir is the most beautiful place
 223 women's activities: swimming, shopping, jolly good fun, though modern women would call it a wasted life, selfish
 235 her mother-in-law had three young children with her in India, gave Mrs. Hall many tips
 240 how to ensure you're getting fresh milk in India
 246 Mrs. Hall would have been scared to have her children along, worried for their health
 252 warned against eating fish, someone who died after eating fish in Mughalsarai
 260 glad she saw these places, not sure she'd like them now, sees Indian poverty on TV now
 267 Calcutta was an extraordinary place, great stores, clubs, but squalor on back streets
 275 disparity in price of cotton and silk in India, Britain
 284 increase in cashmere sweater prices at Marks & Spencer, difficulty in finding pure wool these days
 295 Mrs. Hall knits heirloom sweaters for her family
 302 prices of sweaters, descriptions of sweaters, Guernsey sweaters
 326 Mr. Hall models his Guernsey sweater, discusses advantages of sweater
 342 difficulty of finding woolen stockings, horror of cold feet
 351 end of interview

Tape 846, Side B cont'd

Salmons (Part 1 of 5) (846.2)

- 353 March 6, 1978, interview with Colonel W.H. Salmon, at Turnbridge Wells
 357 family tradition of Indian Army service, five generations dating back to 1760
 363 postings of great-great grandfather, 42 years in India
 375 family came from Cheshire, Salmon enjoys tracing its pedigree, were landed gentry, hid during Restoration
 395 shows family portraits in gallery, recounts their Indian service
 405 great grandfather who was a great adventurer commissioned as ensign in Madras at age fifteen, fell in love with general's daughter, to general's displeasure, eloped with daughter, general sent him to Fort William as punishment, couple remained there for six years
 440 great grandfather sent wife and three kids back to Madras so he could fight in Afghan War, traveled across territory disguised as a native
 460 he and his regiment's attempt to capture fort, great grandfather led victorious attack
 470 greatly impressed another general
 479 great grandfather walked all the way back to Fort William, served in Mutiny and took part in siege of Delhi
 491 grandfather also served in Madras, eventually retired in Cannanore, in southern India
 505 grandfather's awe for his own father
 515 great grandfather more or less ruled whole Cannanore area
 519 grandfather joined Hyderabad Contingent, commanded 3rd infantry battalion through two Burmese wars
 530 grandfather captured the [Bo?], famous outlaw in Burma, was rewarded with gong
 548 grandfather died just before war, house bombed during war