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Tape 879 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Lamarque

4700.0599 Tape 879.1 (Tape 2 of 3)

Brigadier Frank McCallum, Mrs. Sybilla McCallum, Benjamin and Lady Bromhead

4700.0600 Tape 879.2 (Tape 1 of 2)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWER: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Lamarques: 4/28/1978

McCallums and Bromheads: 4/29/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 34 minutes

Lamarques: 47 minutes

McCallums and Bromheads: 47 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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Tape 879, Side A**Lamarques (Part 2 of 3) (879.1)**

- 006 this large community made everything "that much easier" when it came to club life; there was never any racial feeling at all in Bombay because of them
- 008 there were racial feelings in north India because there were grand Indians and "hoity-toity" Europeans who would refuse to mingle
- 010 in Calcutta, which is the center of British commercial life in India, there was the British businessman and Indians were not admitted to clubs as members
- 016 when Lamarque was there just before the end of war, there was a large concession: you were allowed to take an Indian as a guest to meals
- 019 even after Independence, there are still European clubs that will not admit Indians
- 021 there were very good reasons for doing this
- 023 the Indians are very "clannish", keeping together and having their own clubs; no one

objects to this
025 in the days the British ruled India, you wanted a place in the larger cities where the
Europeans could get together in the evening and relax, talking about any subject one liked
030 Indians inhibited conversations and freedom of speech
033 the British loved going to the clubs and being sociable; the Indians find this slightly odd
039 the mistake that was made by the British was not saying yes to any Indian that wanted to
join the club; all the Indians wanted to know was that they could join if they wanted, for
they probably would have never actually joined
043 they may have joined the club, but they would have never actually gone because they do
not enjoy that type of life
044 the British should have allowed the Indians to join if they wished, gambling on the fact that
they never would have come
049 the clubs in the smaller villages varied as well; in some instances, Indians were allowed to
be members, but they never went
060 there was a European tennis club
065 Lamarque never really felt isolated, for he was the only European at times; he got so dug-in
that he would sometimes turn-down an invitation to go out to a dance
070 the roads were not very good
071 Lamarque had a planting area in one of his districts that was up in the hills; it was there that
there was a considerable European community
075 at the beginning of the war, the European men went off to war and the women were left
with some of the older men; Lamarque would go there sometimes for official business and
see how they were getting along
078 they were the only close Europeans, which was a journey itself
079 you could grow coffee from about 3-5000 feet, then tea from about 5000 onward
081 when you reached the hill station, it was absolutely gorgeous because you cooled down;
there were houses with fireplaces
085 there was a substantial European planting community in south India, growing coffee and
tea; it was all European owned in those days
095 most of the companies are now Indian;
096 the European farmers lived a pleasant life in many ways, although it was isolated; they
would gather at the clubs and such, even though they were far apart
108 there was one hill station in a farming area that would be a great place for the missionaries
to go for their holidays; Lamarque tells of other beautiful hill stations
118 the effect the weather had on your lifestyle varied from area to area
119 Lamarque began in a hot station, which was about ninety degrees all year round; there were
others that were not very hot but were very wet, some having 120 inches rain in 60 days
127 being in the tropics was somewhat depressing because you would not see the sun very often
for a few months out to the year; it would always rain around tea time
133 there was always a pleasant breeze coming off the sea; you could keep cool by jumping
into the Pacific Ocean
135 one would get up early and go off on an inspection or such about seven in the morning; he
would get back home at about half past eight and be holding court by nine in the morning
140 starting court so early was not popular with the lawyers because the lawyers did not like to
start so early
143 the idea of starting at nine was because the weather was much cooler; later in the day, one
would nod to sleep because of the heat

146 Lamarque would have brunch, followed by about a thirty minute break; there was then
 writing judgments and correspondence from the morning's cases
 154 if you were lucky, you would get out at about five-thirty for a tennis game; there was the
 evening meal, followed by either work or relaxation
 158 a full day was enjoyable because there was nothing else to do
 159 no one would spend more than about ten days in headquarters before going off on tour,
 staying at traveler's bungalows
 162 everything was done very comfortably; there would be a bus to take your gear and servants;
 the bungalows would normally be pretty-much furnished
 164 the cook and bearer would go ahead to prepare for the master's arrival
 168 there were no domestic worries, unless the servants were stealing or something; being a
 bachelor, one never really worried about that
 171 the term "sahib" was not used in southern India, opting for "master" instead; the servants
 tended to speak English
 175 you never heard the English use the word "sahib" except for a joke
 180 southern India did have its own jargon, it was just different from that in the north; gives
 some examples
 190 there were many differences between the northern and southern terms
 211 the British troops in southern India in the 18th century bought all of the words back to
 England
 219 the district officer was called "collector" in southern India, as opposed to being called
 "commissioner" in the north
 228 there was a definite line between northern and southern India service; in Madras, they were
 a separate caste all together
 239 the idea that the Indians were anti-British in their conduct is false; Lamarque never felt any
 such feelings towards the British
 243 the press would "let itself go" about the conduct of the British government
 248 the Indians did it only because it was the expected thing; in personal relations, Lamarque
 never came across any animosity
 251 the only time there was any real anti-British rioting was when Lamarque was in Bombay in
 1946; the Indian navy mutinied (on very good grounds in Lamarque's opinion)
 259 they turned against their officers, who were mostly British
 265 Lamarque remembers being stopped by an antique European bum that wanted Lamarque to
 take his tie off; they believed the tie was a symbol of imperialism
 270 the only way to be addressed was with an open collar; Lamarque was happy to agree
 274 it was inconceivable for the Indians to feel hostile towards the British in southern India
 281 because the Federal Constitution never came into being, the British government was still
 responsible for the foreign affairs and defense of India; the only constitutional needs of
 declaring war was with the viceroy to declare it on behalf of India
 288 this was psychologically bad because there was a British representative on the Queen's
 behalf declaring war on behalf of four hundred million people; it was much better than
 being a vote in Parliament
 293 the viceroy declared war and the congress administrators never forgave this; they came out in
 protest, starting with discouraging people from joining the war and the services
 297 this was a breach in the Defense of India contract, which had been passed during the war
 301 it was all done very politely; the local politician would ring up the police, proposing to
 make an anti-war speech in such and such square at such and such time

304 the police inspector would be sent with a notebook, writing all the offensive statements in
their notebooks; the speaker would then be arrested, which he knew he would be
311 the speaker would go up against the magistrate; there would be a quick, private trial
315 he would usually plead guilty, but always pleading guilty would get you two or three
months in jail
318 he would live in comparative comfort in jail as a Class A prisoner; his family would visit;
he would earn merit among his constituents as the man who stood up against the British
323 there was no feelings on either side, except for one of fairly good humor
326 the intense feelings were between the Indians; Lamarque believes those in the south were
fortunate for not experiencing this because of the lack of Muslims
331 in the Rebellion of 1942, the Congress “went to town” on the anti-war ticket, tearing up
railway lines and disrupting communications
339 Lamarque missed everything because he was on leave in Kashmir at the time
343 it was a serious matter because the British were put up against the wall with the Japanese
346 in the last few months, the British were just spectators of the most horrific killings between
the Hindus and Muslims
349 in 1945 or 1946, there was a horrible massacre in Calcutta; there was another in Delhi in
the last few months, in which the Muslim office staff were in fear of their lives
362 Lamarque went out by boat, like most everyone else, and went to Bombay, where he took a
train and went to Madras
365 Lamarque spent about ten days going around and meeting all the department heads and so
forth
368 Lamarque’s first station was as an assistant collector
371 your main business for the first year was to be trained; you were required to take more
language exams, law exams; you were attached to the various departments
379 you started hearing cases immediately as a third-class magistrate; simple cases
383 you eventually built up to a second-class magistrate and then a first-class magistrate
385 after about a year, you were given more responsibility; after about two years, you went on
independently
390 India was terribly strange to the newcomer; you soon got into it
396 you are kept so busy that there really was not time to see the forest for the trees; you would
worry so much about the next problem that you did not have time to think about why you
were there
407 the war killed the topi; when Lamarque first went out to India, the topi was very popular
413 the drill was to never buy a topi in London; the place to buy a topi was Port Said; when
arriving in Bombay, Lamarque leaned over the rail to see, only to be told never to do that
without wearing a topi
432 one did not much worry about the topi on the whole while in south India, although
Lamarque would wear his during the heat of the day
434 the troops came out in the fall and no one wore the topi, and no one was worse off; that was
the end and they were never seen again
441 if you were going out in the heat of the day in the hot weather, especially in north India, you
want something on your head to prevent a terrible headache
456 Lamarque joined the Federal Government when he was fairly young, they were
shorthanded during the war
463 Lamarque wishes he could have spent more time in the districts, having gone to the
government of India, he never got back; he would have preferred to be in the districts, for

practically everyone did
 468 working in Delhi was interesting because you were concerned with high political matters
 and were able to meet the great men of the time; one felt they were “at the center of things”
 473 in terms of independence of operations, there was none; you were one of the team
 477 it was a hard, slow day of pushing the file around, signing your name and writing minutes
 480 it was interesting but it lacked the variety that life in the districts had; on the other hand,
 there was the bonus of getting a slightly better pay
 487 most of the Indian Civil Servants preferred to work with the peasants, which has always
 been said by people
 491 it was easier to get along with the simple peasant versus the highly-educated; Lamarque
 does not know why this is so
 498 one always felt that the politician or businessman was arrogant or appeared as such; the
 politicians and businessmen tended to think the ICS was arrogant
 505 they seemed artificial and unattractive in terms of character; the Indian villager was the one
 that deserved admiration because he had very little but had a great sense of humor, great
 courage and great resources
 518 the villager showed the very basic, natural life; they displayed how life should be lived and
 never seemed to be worried
 532 the villagers were likeable people
 538 Lamarque supposes that those in the ICS came from professional backgrounds, not
 necessarily humble ones; they were the sons of lawyers, doctors and such
 546 those in the ICS had to be highly educated, indicating that their parents had to have some
 wealth
 557 Lamarque does not think those in the ICS were necessarily from royal backgrounds
 560 when you reached India, one would engage in the type of rural sports that would have
 never been possible in England, like shooting, riding or such
 566 end of Side A

Tape 879, Side B

McCallums and Bromheads (Part 1 of 2) (879.2)

010 upon arriving in India, McCallum was told that he was heading for a good regiment and
 they wished him well and luck getting there
 012 no one seemed to know where his destination village was
 016 he could not find anywhere to spend the night because everything was so crowded; he went
 back on board the ship and slept there for the night
 019 he was sent to another station, who knew nothing about him
 021 there were ten Gorkha regiments during peace time, all being gradually reduced
 028 they left without any arms because the battalion was being rearmed
 030 this was the beginning of 1919; McCallum was nineteen years old
 034 they were very badly treated, having old-fashioned equipment; they had a canvas pack,
 rather than a normal pack
 039 the pay was three hundred rupees a month (or about 20 pounds); you fed yourself, clothed
 yourself, etc.
 050 there was one station that had no garrison
 053 McCallum assumed it was safest for him the less he said, for he was only nineteen years old
 056 McCallum’s regiment decided to stay at one station, even though the British there were
 being beaten and left for dead in the city

062 the only problem was that they had no rifles
063 a group went off to the fort; it was an experience
072 the British families had been evacuated; there was a hushed silence upon looking at camp
080 McCallum was told to return at midnight, along with a British civilian; they spent the night
in a ditch on the side of the road
086 upon returning, there were three or four more white ladies that had been rescued from the
city
094 the next morning, they sat outside the gates but nothing happened; they returned to the
station to be greeted with reinforcements
100 the next morning they moved camp around a club
106 there was a civilian doctor there that said not to allow the men to fire the guns from the fort
because there were bees
112 McCallum was told to stay at the police station with about thirty men
114 no one trusted anyone else
118 the police were very good to McCallum, feeding him and such; McCallum was told that
there were prisoners in the cell and there may be a rescue attempt
124 McCallum was then told to open fire if the crowd assemblies, shooting to kill
133 at the end of 1922, the brigade was encamped and reconnaissance was made on the road
ahead
141 a group of local “scallywags” and a Sapper went ahead to survey the road; they were shot at
by some locals because the locals did not like the way they looked
148 the Sapper was hit; the bullets bounced off of Ben’s head
158 there was a disagreement between two men over some work one did while building the
roads
168 one of the men destroyed some of the work and the other hired someone to “bump him off”
171 one of the camps began shooting at McCallum, hoping to frighten them; the attackers were
held off and McCallum’s group continued on
192 according to McCallum, all Sappers are “mad”
208 McCallum was “too stupid to be scared” when he tried to cross a clearing on the way home;
one of the men he was with was shot in the pelvis and died
220 McCallum dodged behind the nearest bush or rock; he was shot in the finger and never
noticed it until someone made mention about it
230 McCallum did not know what to do, so he just laid there; he was unable to get his revolver
out to use it
233 once the firing seemed to settle, McCallum lifted his head and was nearly missed by a
deflected bullet
237 McCallum laid back down and did not know what to do next, although there was not much
else to do; he suddenly heard voices and noticed their escort arriving
249 a Sikh came out on his own two miles out to check on McCallum
273 McCallum joined the Indian army because one always thought there would be some
excitement; they also joined because you could afford to live off your salary from the
Indian army
282 mosquitos were terrible
285 it was alright, until you would hear a “Bang!” in the middle of the night; McCallum would
say to himself, “Oh, here comes the crowd.”
297 in the morning, McCallum would go back to the club; everyone was there
301 there were leather easy-chairs in the club, where McCallum would take a nap

318 McCallum talks of the famous shooting in 1923; the Gorkhas and the ["Cookies"?] went on
firing, killing many
332 the Hunter Commission came out to investigate; none of the officers were asked to give
evidence, which is considered to be disgraceful to McCallum
338 a guard and others had been taken down from their garrisons
346 one of the British men decided on his own that if any of the locals wanted to go past a
certain point, they would have to crawl
359 McCallum was then sent to Bihar with six men
361 they were told that all of the trains coming up would have guards aboard; McCallum was
told to take the guards off and put his six on
366 no guards ever turned up; McCallum got rid of his six men, being left with an old man and
a cook
370 the station was extremely comfortable; it did not matter that McCallum had no money, all
you had to do was sign the check and everything was all right
376 McCallum went to the local headquarters after about two days at the station, asking to go
back; he was allowed to do so
382 McCallum appointed himself as the next escort for the next train down
386 by the time he returned, everything had calmed down and they were on their way to
Peshawar
390 McCallum maintains that the leader knew things were bad and the Frontier militia was
revolting
399 there were a number of rifles that had disappeared
403 around the fifth of May, they were told to send a flying column up
411 the Punjab was very lovely; some people said they would be disappointed, but that was not
the case
412 the most memorable were the beautiful Indian women that were seen everywhere; there
was a tremendous amount of hospitality and affection shown to the British by the Indians
416 people were always pleased to see you and could never seem to do enough for you
423 everything in the mess was left immaculate; all of the photographs were framed on the wall
426 there was no feeling of resentment anywhere, even in Pakistan
430 none of them had served with British officers, but the tradition continued none the less
432 some of the things that were carried on had been started by the British officers but had
improved, like a better hospital with a female doctor that had been taught in America
437 many of the things that had been started in a modest way had been improved as well
442 the difference between the rich and poor Indians was more apparent as one grew older
448 Mrs. McCallum had both grandfathers serve under India Company; McCallum's
grandfather served with a British battalion, going out just after the mutiny
454 his grandfather married a missionary's daughter named Smith; his grandfather was later
forced to leave the service because the pay was inadequate for a married officer
467 Mrs. McCallum had an uncle that worked on the railway in India, whose brother became a
famous engineer in India; they were a "white subordinate" family
480 one brother would save enough money to have the next brother sent back and become
educated; the third brother became a doctor
481 when the McCallum's returned for a visit in 1972, they went up by road; they were met by
a very smart major at the top of a pass and a very smart lieutenant
501 there was an old library that had been transformed into a guest house
505 there was an officer that told McCallum, "This is your ADC." McCallum replied, "I've

never had an ADC in my life!”

514 McCallum was given guards that helped to make thing much easier and made them very comfortable

517 the major suddenly produced a medal from his pocket, telling of how his father received the medal at one of the mutiny sites; his father was a French and the major was extremely pleased that he had the medal

530 the major is now settled in Australia; this amazes McCallum

537 before the McCallums finally left India, they received an album of all the photographs taken during the visit; they were able to attend one of the popular festivals

545 in Mrs. McCallum’s younger days, the wives were never able to attend some of the festivals

552 there was a tradition in that the British officers that had joined the regiment since the last festival had to participate in the next

564 for one festival, they had to cut the head off of the pagan goat; if they did not get it on the first try, the crowd would rush in and smear your face with the blood

568 the British officers joined in all of the Indian religious ceremonies

570 there was a great slaughter of a buffalo, which was tied to a pole in the middle of a rectangle area