

34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse

Introduction

Inspired by reading the book *Indian Cavalry Officer 1914-15* by Captain Roly Grimshav I found the following information about his regiment.

History

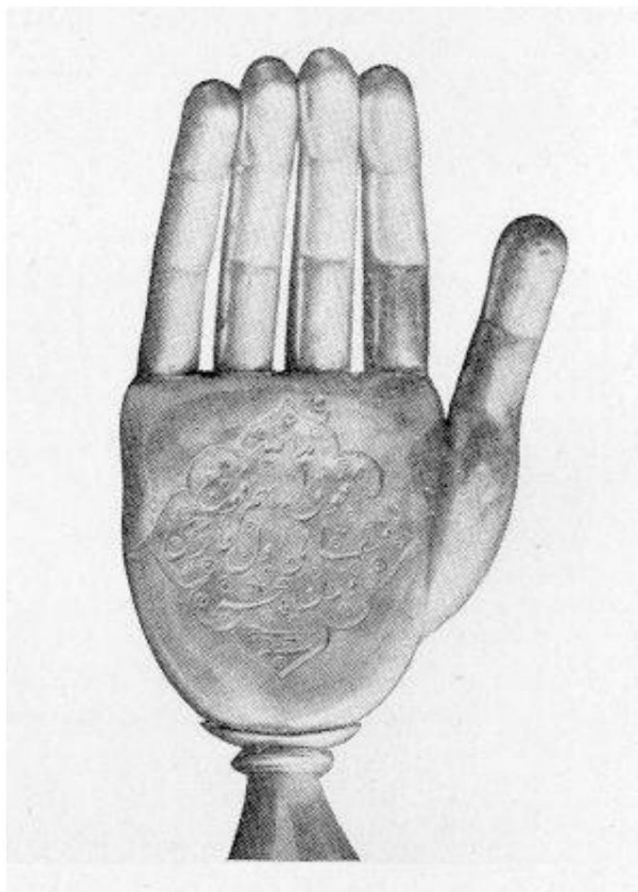
The 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse was established in 1817 as part of the East India Company's military forces in the Bombay region.

Year	Name
1817	Auxiliary Horse
1818	Poona Auxiliary Horse
1847	Poona Irregular Horse
1861	4th Regiment, Poona Silladar Cavalry
1862	1st Regiment of Poona Horse
1885	The Poona Horse
1890	4th Bombay Cavalry (Poona Horse)
1890	4th (Prince Albert Victor's Own) Bombay Cavalry (Poona Horse)
1903	34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse
1921/22	17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse (sammenlagt med 33rd Queen Victoria's Own Light Cavalry)
1926	The Poona Horse (17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry)

1947 On the partition of India, the regiment became part of the new Indian Army.

The Poona Horse was one of the last Indian cavalry regiments to be motorized. In November 1940 , *The Poona Horse (17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry)* and *19th King George V's Own Lancers* exchanged their horses for armored vehicles, as it was no longer deemed necessary to retain mounted units, even for police-like operations in India.

Standard regiments



From Source 1.

During the Battle of Kooshab , *The Poona Horse* captured the banner of the Persian *1st Khusgai Regiment*.

The Persian flag spear was shaped like a hand - the hand of Allah - in silver and bore the inscription *Yad Ullal Faulk Idebim*, which translated means something like the *hand of God watches over everything*, as well as a year that corresponds to 1066 according to our era.

In the East India Company's military forces there was a tradition for units to be awarded special distinctions in the form of banners or e-standards and on 18 May 1859 *The Poona Horse* was thus given permission to replace the spear on their e-standard with the Persian silver hand.

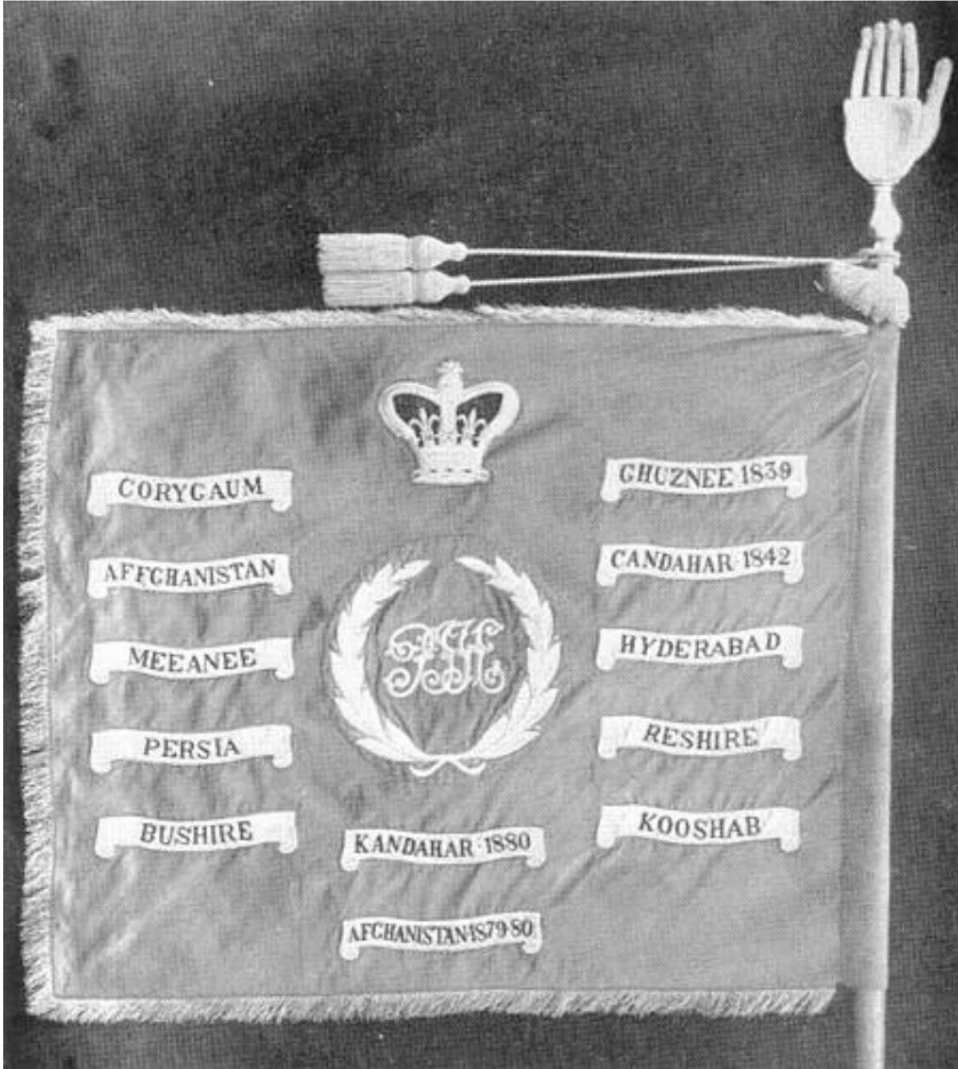
The prehistory

The Shah of Persia, against all treaties, invaded Afghanistan in 1856 and captured the city of Herat. He refused to retreat, so war was declared against Persia.

An expeditionary force was sent out and this included *The Poona Horse* along with another cavalry regiment *the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry*. The Company's maritime units assisted in the transport and subsequent capture of Bushire in December 1856. The Anglo-Indian Expeditionary Force was assembled in January 1857, under the command of James Outram.

Intelligence reports indicated that reinforcements were on their way to the Persian forces, and James Outram decided to attack before they arrived. The Anglo-Indian forces, numbering approx. 4,500 men, on 8 February 1857 attacked the Persian forces (about 7,000 men).

The Poona Horse nearly wiped out the Persian *1st Khusgai Regiment*, nailing its guns and capturing its banner. *The 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry* successfully attacked another square and the Persian forces were left totally demoralized. They only avoided annihilation, as there were no fresh forces to follow up the two cavalry attacks.



From Source 1.

The attacks have since been described as two of the best executed horse raids in history.

Two officers from 3rd *The Bombay Light Cavalry* was awarded the Victoria Cross for their efforts - Lieutenants AT Moore and JG Malcolmson.

Tabernacle (1940)

On the standard, *The Poona Horse (17th Queen Victoria's Own Cavalry)* bore the following streamers:

Corygaum, Ghuznee 1839, Afghanistan 1839, Candahar 1842, Ghuznee 1842, Gabool 1842, Meanee, Hyderabad, Reshire, Bushire, Kooshab, Persia, Central India, Abyssinia, Kandahar 1880, Afghanistan 1879-80, China 1900, La Basse 1914, **Armentieres 1914, Somme 1916, Byzantium, Flers-Courselette, Cambrai 1917, France and Flanders 1914-18, Megiddo, Sharon, Damascus, Palestine 1918, Shaiba**, Ctesiphon, Tigris 1916, Mesopotamia 1914-16, Afghanistan 1919.

Banners listed in bold type, date from the efforts of *the 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse* in the First World War - first in France and from March 1918 in Palestine.

Sources

1. *Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces* af T.J. Edwards, Gale & Polden, Aldershot 1953.
2. *India's Army* af Donovan Jackson, Purnell and Sons, London 1940.
3. *Indian Cavalry Regiments 1880-1914* af A.H. Bowling, Almark Publications, London 1971, 0-85524-026-X.

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