

# The Indian Expeditionary Force C in East Africa, 1914

## Introduction

This article, to be read in conjunction with my descriptions of the landing operations at Tanga in November 1914, deals mainly with the Indian units sent to East Africa at the end of 1914 to reinforce the relatively weak units in English East Africa.

## Indian Expeditionary Force C (Kilde 1)

*Commander:* Brigadier-General JM Stewart (appointed Brigadier General as of 2 September 1914) 29th

Punjabis (*Lieutenant-Colonel ABH Drew*)

Bharatpur Infantry (half a battalion)

Jind Infantry (half a battalion) (*Major-General Natha Singh*)

Kapurthala Infantry (en half battalion) (*Major-General Pooran Singh*)

Rampur Infantry (half a battalion) 27th

Mountain Battery (6 pcs. 10-pdr mountain guns) (*Major OK Tancock*)

Calcutta Volunteer Artillery (6 stk. 15-pdr feltkanoner) (*Major G. Kinloch*)

Calcutta Volunteer Machine Gun Battery (4 Maxim machine guns) 120th Field

Ambulanced



*General JM Stewart here  
as Major General and  
Commander-in-Chief in Aden, 1916.  
From Source 8.*

The force numbered: 27 English officers, 200 English non-commissioned officers and privates, 2,000 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and privates and 400 Indian auxiliaries.

On 19 August 1914 the vanguard consisting of: General Stewart and staff, 29th Punjabis and a platoon of the 120th Field Ambulance, set sail from Karachi on board the S/S Nairung 1), arriving at Mombasa on 1 September 1914. Due to scarcity on transport vessels, the main force first arrived at Mombasa on 3 October 1914 (vessels not known).

Immediately after the arrival of the vanguard, half of the 29th Punjabis were sent to the town of Voi, from where they were to secure the southern part of the rail line from Voi to Nairobi.

## 29th Punjabis



*Regimentsmærke*

*29th Punjabis.*

From Source 3.

## 29th Punjabis - Historical Summary

1857: Jullundur Punjab Battalion 1857:  
21st Regiment of Punjab Infantry 1861: 33rd  
Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry 1861: 29th  
Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry 1864: 29th (Punjab)  
Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry 1885: 29th (Punjab) Regiment  
of Bengal Infantry 1901: 29th Punjab Infantry 1903: 29th  
Punjabis 1922: 10th Battalion,  
15th Punjab Regiment



*Punjab Regiments.*

Drawn by AC Lovett, 1910.

Postcard from the National Army Museum, London.

From the left you can see:

1. 24th Punjabis, Subadar (*Jat Sikh*)
2. 67th Punjabis, Sepoy (*Khatri Sikh*)
3. 29th Punjabis, Subadar-Major (*Punjabi Musalman*)
4. 21st Punjabis, Subadar-Major (*Adam-Khel-Afridi*)
5. 25th Punjabis, Subadar-Major (*Dogra*)
6. 28th Punjabis, Subadar-Major (*Jat Sikh*)
7. 93rd Burma Infantry, Subadar (*Janjua, Punjabi Musalman*)
8. 74th Punjabis, Sepoy (*Dogra*)
9. 87th Punjabis, Havildar (*Talap*), *Punjabi Musalman*
10. 76th Punjabis, Subadar (*Chach Pathan*)
11. 69th Punjabis, Jemadar (*Jat Sikh*)
12. 84th Punjabis, Sepoy (*Tanaoli, Punjabi Musalman*)
13. 72nd Punjabis, Sepoy (*Punjabi Musalman*)
14. 91st Punjab Light Infantry, Subadar (*Tanaoli, Punjabi Musalman*)

The 29th Punjabis were originally intended for Indian Expeditionary Force "A" (which was sent to France).

The battalion was brought up to full strength with the help of 250 men from the 30th Punjabis.

For the record, it should be noted that the third-to-last figure, of which one can only guess the head, is not identified either on the postcard or in the book which is the source of the postcard (Source 4).

Even with the help of source 3, which also contains a description of most of the regiments' uniforms, help is unfortunately not available.

## **The skirmish at the Tsavo River - 6 September 1914**



Naik (Corporal) Gul Muhammad, 29th Punjabis,  
leads advance on the Tsavo River, 6 September 1914 2). —

The planch's original subtitle is:

*The splendid services of the Indian soldiers in every country ravaged by the War have been rightly recognized. Their brave conduct in action has given much pleasure, especially to the King-Emperor, by whose command many awards have been bestowed.*

*It was during the fighting in British East Africa, at Tsavo River, on September 6th, 1914, that Naik Gul Muhammad, of the 29th Punjabis, was awarded the Indian Order of Merit for conspicuous gallantry, resourcefulness and pluck. He showed a fine sense of his duty in bringing up reinforcements, during which undertaking he was twice severely wounded.*

The battles at the Tsavo River in early September took place in connection with the countering of a German raid against British East Africa (later Kenya), and it was also the Indian army's first effort in the war.



4<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
King's African Rifles 3).

Fra Badges from the  
British Empire  
or Commonwealth.



The fighting involved 3½ Company and the machine gun platoon of the 29th Punjabis (about 360 men) together with the following units of the King's African Rifles (KAR): One platoon from "B" Company of 1/KAR, two platoons from "D" Company of 3/ KAR and "A" company of 4/KAR

The force included i.a. also 1 pc. 12-pdr marine cannon and 1 machine gun, as well as soldiers from various units, set up by volunteers from East Africa, i.a. East African Artillery Volunteers.

The 29th Punjabis lost: 1 Indian officer and 1 soldier (killed) and 9 soldiers (wounded), one of whom is Corporal Muhammad, while the King's African Rifles lost 1 officer (dead) and 8 soldiers (wounded).

### **East African Mounted Rifles**

Although the unit does not belong to the Indian Army, it must be mentioned here, as it was a significant partner of the Indian units in East Africa at the beginning of the war.

When the First World War broke out on 4 August 1914, a number of volunteer cavalry units (mounted infantry) arose in English East Africa. The units were named after their promoters and sponsors - e.g. Bowker's Horse, which was established by a well-known large farmer of the time, Russell Bowker.- or locality/ population group, e.g. The Plateau South Africans, which consisted of South African farmers.



*East African Mounted Rifles, near Longido mountain, 1915.*

From Source 9

The number of soldiers per unit was too small for it to make sense to maintain them as individual units, so they were merged into the unit aptly named the East African Mounted Rifle Regiment.

The regiment, which numbered 335 men per 15 August 1914, was divided into staff and six squadrons (designated A to F). Per On 19 August 1914, a machine gun platoon was added, just as the regiment also housed a signal platoon.

The regiment was initially armed with hunting rifles and rifles of all kinds, just as the uniform was then quite uneven. Everyone contributed his own mount, so some rode horses and others mules. Judging by the above photograph, the uniform situation was significantly improved and the soldiers appear with a very regimented appearance. Some of the former independent units could provide sufficient personnel to form the bulk of a squadron. Bowker's Horse became B Squadron, while The Plateau South Africans provided the bulk of the personnel for D

The squadron. B Squadron carried the original unit's abbreviated name - BH - as a badge on their troop helmets.

In 1915 the regiment was reorganized and then consisted of:

The personnel from the former D and F Squadrons were used for the regimental staff's special units, as well as reinforcement of the other squadrons. The signal division is not mentioned, but apparently existed in 1915 as well.

**Table 1: East African Mounted Rifles (1915) (Source 13)**

Regimental staff, with

Machine gun platoon

Reconnaissance

platoon Transport

element 2 half-regiments

(*wings*) - Right wing (A and C Squadron)

Left wing (B and E Squadron).

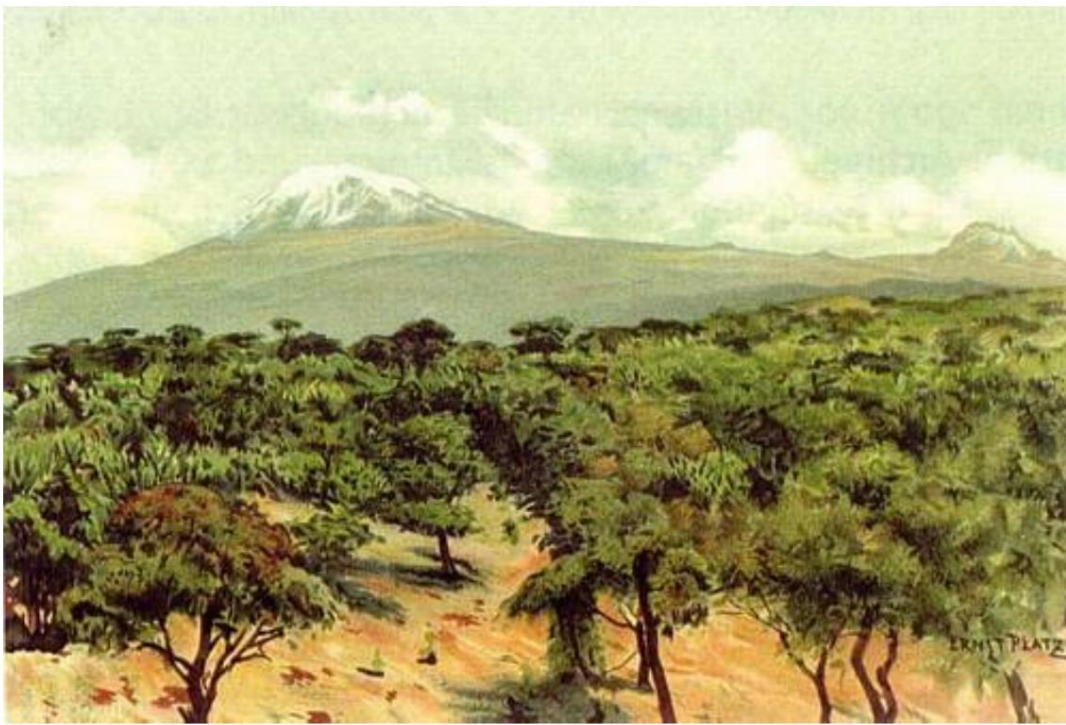
The personnel in the East African Mounted Rifles included a significant part of the male, white population in Engels' East Africa and thereby formed part of the recruitment basis for white officers for, among other things, newly formed units of the King's African Rifles. The South African Lieutenant General Jan C.

Smuts, who took over command in East Africa per 6 January 1916, decided that the personnel were too valuable to be retained together in one unit. The regiment was therefore disbanded in 1916 and a large part of the soldiers received officer orders in other units, including staffs.

The article [The Origins of the Kenya Regiment](#) by Len Weaver (Source 10) provides an interesting insight into the background and war history of the East African Mounted [Rifles 4](#)).

## **The skirmish at Longido Mountain - 3.-4. November 1914**

During the staff meeting in Mombasa, where the commander of Expeditionary Force C, Brigadier General Stewart, met with the commander of Expeditionary Force B, Major General Aitken - see [On some of the Indian units that took part in the Battle of Tanga, November 1914, Part 5](#) - it was agreed in relatively loose terms that, simultaneously with the landing at Tanga, an advance across the border between German and British East Africa was to be carried out. The operation was to start on 3 November 1914, the day after the date originally set for the Tanga landing.



*Forest of acacia trees at the foot of Kilimanjaro.*

After painting by Ernst Platz.

Fra traditional association of former protection and overseas troops.

The purpose of the operation was to push the German troops away from the area around Kilimanjaro, from where they threatened the railway connection in British East Africa. It was then intended that the two Expeditionary Corps should meet at Kilimanjaro.

Not Mount Longido well enough, but an impression of the terrain in the area.

The attack force numbered approx. 1,500 men - 29th Punjabis (6 companies totaling 475 men), half battalion of Kapurthala Infantry (378 men), 5 squadrons of East African Mounted Rifles (360 men), 27th Mountain Battery (4 guns), Calcutta Volunteer Machine Gun Battery ( 2 Maxim machine guns) as well as a scout command consisting of Masai warriors (under the command of the Deputy Governor of English East Africa, retired Captain G. St. J. Orde-Browne, formerly Royal Artillery). The commander of the assault force was Lieutenant Colonel ABH Drew, 29th Punjabis.

Read more about the battles in the article [The Battle for Longido Mountain, 3 - 4 November 1914](#) by Dennis L. Bishop and Holger Dobold (By Jingo!). Here it should only be mentioned that the result was not much better than the attempt to conquer Tanga. The force met unexpectedly stiff resistance from German units - i.a. 10. and 21. Feldkompanie [5](#) - and had to withdraw mainly due to lack of water, the force's 100 mules carrying the water supplies (in metal containers) being scattered to all winds by enemy fire. Paradoxically, the presence of the German units was due to the fact that they had not yet received the order from the German Commander-in-Chief, Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck, to advance to Tanga, giraffes having torn down the telegraph wires...

However, the official history (Source 1) emphasizes that, despite the lack of results, the units made a good figure, and Lt. Col. Drew in particular deserves commendation.

## Imperial Service units

Both illustrations and information about Imperial Service units are extremely scarce. There were many indications that the book series *Armies of the Indian Princely States* by Richard Head and Tony McClenaghan, of which Source 4 is a part, would make up for the missing information, but the publishers here regretfully informed me that there will be no more than the six volumes (booklets) that have already been published.



As three of the infantry units of Expeditionary Force C are represented in this illustration, it may bear repeating, although it is also featured in my article *The Indian Army - Training Units of the First World War, Part 1*.



*Imperial Service Troops.*

Drawn by AC Lowett, 1910.

Postcard from the National Army Museum, London.

From the left you can see:

1. 2nd Gwalior Lancer (*Mahratta*)
2. Patiala Rajindra Lancers (*Jat Sikhs*)
3. Kashmir Mountain Artillery (*Dogra (Hindu)*)
4. Kapurthala Infantry (*Jat Sikh*)
5. Alwar Infantry (*Shekhawatl Musalman*)
6. Jihd Infantry (*Jat Sikh*)
7. Nabha Infantry (*Jat Sikh*)
8. Bharatpur Infantry (*Jat*)
9. Indore Transport Corps, Commandant (*Dekhani Musalman*)
10. Bahawalpur Mounted Rifles and Camel Corps Transport 11. Jaipur Transport Corps, Commandant (*Rajput*) 12. 1st Kashmir Infantry, Commandant (*Dogra (Hindu)*)
13. Sirmoor Sappers and Miners (*Brahman*)
14. Rampur Lancers (*Rohilla*) 15. 1st Hyderabad Lancers (*Mogul Musalman*)

### **Bharatpur Infantry (Se Figur 8)**

Bharatpur [6](#)) was an independent state (5,123 km<sup>2</sup>), located in the north-eastern part of India (Rajputana Agency), with approx. 627,000 inhabitants (1901). The *Imperial Service* units of the state included a lancer regiment, an infantry battalion and a training unit [7](#)). —





*Bharatpur Infantry, The Commandant (Jat).*  
Drawn by AC Lovett, 1910.  
Reproduced from a plate seen for sale at MILPRINTS.

The half-battalion in Expeditionary Corps C was deployed to guard e.g. by the Uganda Railway, but beyond this the effort is not mentioned further in the official history (Source 1). Like other Indian units, the soldiers from Bharatpur were also badly affected by diseases, and per On 31 December 1915, the force numbered less than 200 men.



*Bharatpurs rigsvåben 9).* —  
The badge is believed  
to have been  
included in the battalion's badge.

During the First World War, a number of infantry battalions – paid for by local regents and manned by the states concerned – were raised as part of the regular Indian Army. These included the 1st Battalion, 144th Bharatpur Infantry. The battalion existed from 1918 to 1919. (Source 4)

London Gazette [8](#)) mentions that Captain Walter Guy Ayscough, 7th Rajputs, was attached to the half-battalion, probably as the battalion commander's adviser (Special Service Officer).

Bharatpur Infantry was awarded the banners: Kilimanjaro, Nyangao and East Africa, 1915-17.

### Jind Infantry (See Figure 6)



*Regimentsmærke*  
*The Punjab Regiment*  
*(Indian Army) [12](#).*

Jind [10](#)) was an independent state (approx. 3,600 km<sup>2</sup>), located in the northern part of Punjab, with approx. 282,000 inhabitants (1901).

The half-battalion of the Jind Infantry, commanded by Major-General Natha Singh, consisted (as of 5 October 1914) of 1 English officer (Captain MacBrayne) and 450 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and privates. The major-general and the captain were among the wounded at the battles for Jassin, on 18 January 1915.

(Source 1)

An explanation for the very high rank of a half-battalion commander could be that Natha Singh was closely related to the Maharaja of Jind, Ranbir Singh [11](#)), and therefore [held](#) a high post in his country's military forces.

the Jind Infantry, was recorded in 1951 as The 13th Battalion of the Indian Army's Punjab Regiment, which leads traditions from regiments that have participated in eight overseas campaigns, including the Jind Infantry's participation in the East Africa campaign.

The badge is based on the old regimental 69th Punjabi's badge, and with its Greek or Roman galley symbolizes the regiment's willingness to do overseas service.

Unlike the other Imperial Service units mentioned here, I do not currently have an illustration of Jind's coat of arms. A closer offer of a regimental badge from 1914 is therefore not available.

The Jind Infantry was awarded the banner: East Africa, 1914-1917. (Source 4)

### Kapurthala Infantry (See Figure 4)



Kapurthala Coat of Arms 14). \_\_\_\_

The badge is believed to have been included in the battalion's badge.

Kapurthala 13) was an independent state (approx. 1,700 km<sup>2</sup>), located in Punjab, with approx. 314,000 inhabitants (1901).

The half-battalion of the Kapurthala Infantry, numbering 378 men, like the Jind Infantry, had a Major-General as its commander - Major-General Pooran Singh.

The Kapurthala Infantry was nicknamed *the Jagatjit Regiment*, after the Maharaja Sir Jagatjit Singh Bahadur.

Kapurthala Infantry took part in the skirmish at Longido on the 3rd-4th. November 1914. The half-battalion was then deployed in guarding the coastal areas south of Mombasa on the border between English and German East Africa, where it replaced the half-battalion from the Bharatpur Infantry.

On 27 August 1915 the battalion took part in a skirmish at the Ramisi River (Mzima Hill) where it lost 15 men. The area was extremely unhealthy and the soldiers from Kapurthala were badly affected by diseases.

The half-battalion was reinforced by a company of the 4th King's African Rifles and a detachment of the 25th (Frontiersmen) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Later, and probably reinforced by soldiers from the second half-battalion in India, the Kapurthala Infantry was deployed to guard the important Uganda Railway.

The Kapurthala Infantry was awarded the banner: East Africa, 1914-1917. (Source 4)

### Rampur Infantry



Rampur's coat of arms 15). \_\_\_\_

The badge is believed to have been included in the battalion's badge.

Rampur 16) was an independent state (about 2,300 km<sup>2</sup>), located in the northern part of India, not far from

Delhi. In 1901 there were approx. 533,000 inhabitants. The state's military units included two lancer squadrons (cf. Figure 14) as well as the Rampur Infantry, made available to the Indian government via the Imperial Service scheme.

Not much information is available about the half-battalion in Expeditionary Corps C. Source 1 mentions the unit in connection with guard duties à la Bharatpur and Kapurthala Infantry. The only concrete information is that, after a few weeks' stay in the coastal areas south of Mombasa, on the border between English and German East Africa, the half-battalion is so badly affected by diseases that it is unable to march.

Judging by the streamer, the half-battalion remained in East Africa until 1918, with the bulk of Indian units returning home by 1917 at the latest.

The Rampur Infantry was awarded the ribbon: East Africa, 1914-1918. (Source 4)

### **27th Mountain Battery**

The battery, which consisted of 6 pcs. 10 pdr. mountain guns, was until 29 March 1915 under the command of Major OK Tancock.

From 1 December 1915, the then two Indian mountain batteries in East Africa formally formed a division, although they were usually deployed separately and/or in cooperation with other artillery units.

### **4th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade (East Africa, 1916)**

*(Oberstløjtnant C.E. Forestier-Walker) 27th*

*Mountain Battery (major A.J.T. Farfan) 28th*

*Mountain Battery (major A.M. Colville)*

The division commander, Lieutenant Colonel CE Forestier-Walker, was in command of the 28th Mountain Battery during the landing at Tanga. At the same time as the head of department, the lieutenant colonel was also the divisional artillery officer at the 1st (East African) Division.



*10 pdr. mountain gun from 21st Kohat Mountain Battery.  
From King Emperor.*

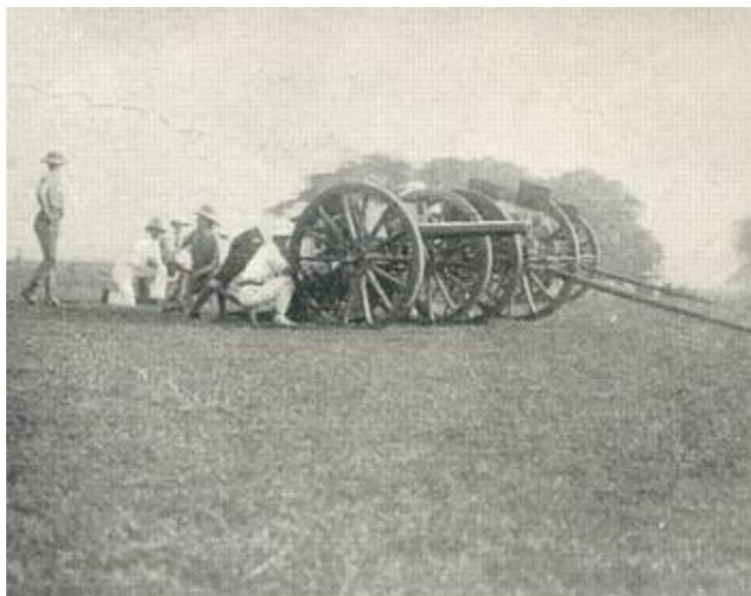


Major OK Tancock, now with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, served from 29 March 1915 to 27 January 1916 as Corps Artillery Officer with the Forces in East Africa concurrently with his duties as Divisional Artillery Officer at nd 2 (East African) Division.

As stated, the photograph is not of a pamphlet from the 27th Mountain Battery, but the pamphlet is the same.

For further information on Indian mountain batteries, see my article [The Indian Army - On Mountain Batteries, 1890-1940](#).

## Volunteer units from Calcutta



*Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers, 1914.*

The heavy weapons of the Expeditionary Force are manned by volunteers from local defense units in Calcutta, from the part of the Indian Army designated *The Volunteer Force*.

The history of *The Volunteer Force* is given in [On some of the Indian units which took part in the Battle of Tanga, November 1914, Part 3](#).

At the same time as my preliminary research for this article, I was lucky enough to find three pictures of the volunteer units from Calcutta - pictures that, at least in our latitudes, must be described as very rare. The images come from a page in the English weekly [The Graphic 17](#), 28 October 1914, acquired via eBay. [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

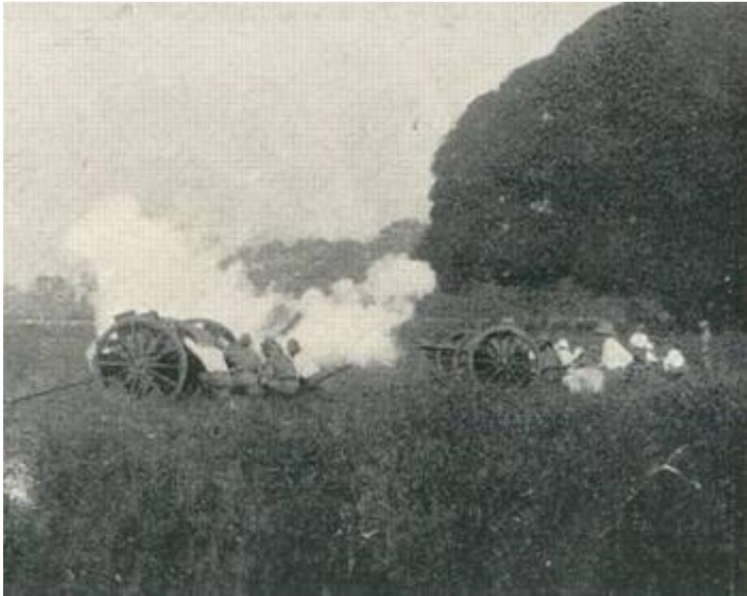
**Table 2: Volunteer units in Calcutta (1914)** (Source 6)

Unity (1914)	Created
Calcutta Light Horse	1872
Calcutta Naval Artillery Volunteers	1883
Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers	1902
1st Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles	1863
Residency Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles	1888
Calcutta Scottish Volunteers	1911

Whether the pictures were taken before or after Expeditionary Force C left India is not known.

In any case, the footage gives an exciting impression of the local defense units

Calcutta.



*Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers, 1914.*

### **Calcutta Volunteer Field Battery**

Calcutta Volunteer Battery - from spring 1916 named No. 8 (Calcutta Volunteer) Battery - was under the command of Major G. Kinloch.

Source 1 mentions that the battery at landing had 6 pcs. 15-pdr field guns.

It seems that these pamphlets were quickly replaced by 6 pcs. 12-pdr guns of the *Breech-Loading type*. 6-cwt that had a past in the English Navy.

The guns and the battery's other wagons were drawn by oxen.



*A naval 12-pounder in action at Fort Dachang, Camerouns, 1915.*

From Source 7.

The guns in the two photographs are 15-pdr field guns (76 mm), which were the standard field gun in the English

army until 1904, after which it transferred to the reserve units.

It seems that the soldiers from Calcutta participated in the entire war in East Africa, and in that way could shine on the volunteer English/Anglo-Indian soldiers in the Indian army 18).

The Calcutta battery's naval guns may have resembled this gun, but most closely resembles the 12-pdr gun of the *Breech-Loading (BL) 8-cwt* type that was standard equipment on warships for use in landing operations.

### **Calcutta Volunteer Machine Gun Battery**

While source 1 clearly describes the battery as belonging to Calcutta, there is no correspondingly certain information about the machine gun company's affiliation here.

A South African soldier, Eric Speechly Thompson 19), has noted in his diary for 12 March 1916 that he meets soldiers who state that they are *Calcutta Volunteer Machine Guns - or rather what is left of them*. On that basis I regard the belonging to Calcutta as established.

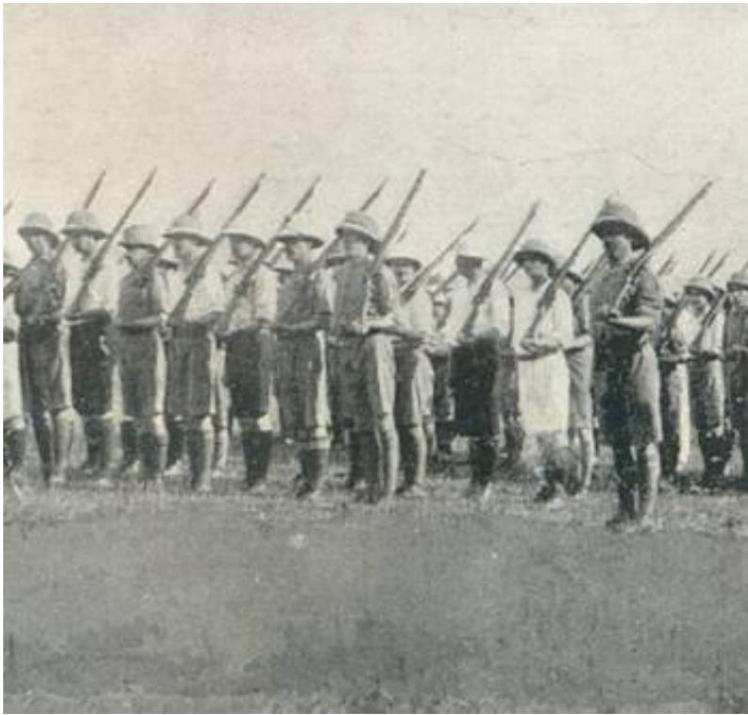
Source 1 mentions that a section of two machine guns consists of 2 officers and 37 men, which is why the company's total strength may have been a good 80 men.

### **Calcutta Scottish**



*A Calcutta Scottish commando is inspected by the Prince of Wales in Calcutta, 24 December 1921.*

From Source 13.



*Calcutta Scottish Volunteers, 1914.*

From The Graphic, October 28, 1914.

As an apropos to the above pictures, but without connection with Expedition Corps C, here follows a few pieces of information about Calcutta Scottish.

Although one picture is somewhat later, it shows that the Scottish volunteers from Calcutta could also look quite smart.



*Hunting Stewart tartan.*

From Source 14.

### **Calcutta Scottish - Historical summary (Source 5)**

1911: Calcutta Scottish Volunteers

1917: 44th Calcutta Scottish (Indian Defence Force)

1920: Calcutta Scottish (Auxiliary Forces, India)

1947: Disbanded in connection with India's independence.





Officer fra Calcutta Scottish, 1920 20). \_\_\_\_

Regimental Badge: City Arms of Calcutta, with a St. Andrew's cross in the background. In the upper left corner of the mark: a crown.

Tartan: Hunting Stewart.

Glengerry: Green and white checkered border, with green pompon. The socks' display was correspondingly green and white checkered. It appears that the marking on the side of the troop helmet, as shown in the above photograph, is also green and white checkered, on a dark background.

Major Barnes uses the color white on the insignia and collar; while Source 5 states the color as yellow. For gala use, the battalion wore a white troop helmet.

The number of members of the battalion who have been in possession of the gala uniform has given, and analogously to the English Territorial Army units, been limited to officers and a few others.



City Arms of Calcutta.

Fra New York Digital Library.  
Card No. 24 (of 50) in the *Arms of the British Empire cigarette card series*, published by WD & HO Wills in 1910.

In its heyday, which was in the early 1930s, the battalion consisted of approx. 300 men [21](#)). —

Exactly how much of the coat of arms went into Calcutta Scottish's brand I am not clear.

From the back of the card:

*The arms of Calcutta were granted in 1896, and are chiefly remarkable for the two adjutant-birds which serve as supporters. The sea-lion issuing from an eastern crown and holding a Lotus flower is a singularly appropriate crest. The population of Calcutta, including its suburbs, is 1,106,738.*

Calcuttas motto: *Per ardua stabilis esto* (Be firm through difficulties) was also Calcutta Scottish's motto.

## Sources

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5. *India's Army* af Donovan Jackson, Purnell and Sons, London 1940.
6. *The Army of India and Its Evolution - An Official Report* published in Calcutta 1924 and reprinted by Picton Publishing, Chippenham/Wiltshire 1992, ISBN 0-948251-69-9.
7. *History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery - Forgotten Fronts and Home Base, 1914-18* af Sir Martin Farndale, Royal Artillery Institution, London 1988, ISBN 1-870114-05-1.
8. *Jimmie Stewart - Frontiersman: The edited memoirs of Major-General Sir J.M. Stewart* af Robert Maxwell (red.), Pentland Press Ltd., Durham 1992, ISBN 1-872795-53-6.
9. *The Battle of Tanga 1914* af Ross Anderson, Tempus Publishing Ltd., Stroud, Gloucestershire 2002, ISBN 0-7524-2349-5.
10. The Origns of the Kenya Regiment af Len Weaver, fra Kenya Regiment (Bruce Rooker-Smith).
11. East African Mounted Rifles af Geoff Blackburn, fra Legion of Frontiersmen Australian Division.
12. *The East African Mounted Rifle Regiment* af Greg Novak, Command Post Quarterly nr. 6, 1993.
13. *The Prince of Wales' Eastern Book - A pictorial Record of the Voyages of HMS Renown 1921-1922*, Hodder & Stoughton, London 1922.
14. *The Clans and Tartans of Scotland* af Robert Bain, William Collins & Sons Ltd., Glasgow 1968, ISBN 0-00-411117-6.

## Postscript - Calcutta Light Horse

More broadly, the Calcutta units are perhaps best known from the film *The Seawolves* (1980), which depicts the efforts of a number of volunteers in a commando raid against a German merchant ship anchored in the port of the Portuguese colony of Goa on 9 March 1943. From its position in a neutral port, the German ship relayed information about Allied shipping traffic to German submarines in the Indian Ocean, resulting in the loss of at least 12 merchant ships.



*Calcutta Light Horse.*

From Amazon.com's review of the book *Boarding Party*

The film, which stars David Niven, Gregory Peck, Trevor Howard and Roger Moore, is about 18 middle-aged men who want to contribute to the war. A number of these gentlemen, incidentally, belonged to the Calcutta Scottish. As I remember the movie, it was quite exciting, although apparently the budget wasn't big enough to pay the actors to get haircuts to look like men from the 1940s...

The real events on which the film is based are described in the book *Boarding Party: The Last Action of the Calcutta Light Horse* by James Leasor, which might be worth reading.

Until the book was published in 1978, the operation had been kept secret.



*Assam Valley Light Horse, i 1920'erne.*

Fra Assam Valley Light Horse (Koi-Hai).

An impression of the service of the volunteer cavalry regiments of the reserve units of the Indian Army can be obtained, for example, by means of reading on beer-going regiments:

Bihar Light Horse (British India Family History)

Assam Valley Light Horse (Koi-Hai).

**To note:**

- 1) S/S Nairung (4,000+ tons) was delivered to the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company in 1892, and in 1914 (date not known) sold to the Bombay & Persia Steam Navigation Company. The ship had also served as a troop transport ship during the Boxer Rebellion and the Boer War. Among other things, of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company (Merchant Navy Officers).
- 2) From a plate drawn by JH Valda, seen for sale at MILPRINTS. The plan comes from the book *Deeds that Thrill the Empire*, Standard Art Book Co. Ltd., approx. 1920.
- 3) The number in the battalion badge is a stylized version of an Arabic number 4. Read more about the regiment in About the King's African Rifles as well as the (updated) English translation The King's African Rifles.
- 4) A Danish relation to the regiment is obtained with the help of Karen Blixen, who at Christmas time 1914 led a column of four ox-drawn wagons loaded with ammunition to the East African Mounted Rifles camp, which was then located near the border with German East Africa. Karen Blixen mentions the event in *My African Farm* (1937), just as the event also forms a scene in the film *Out of Africa* (1985). Karen Blixen's husband at the time, the Swedish Baron Bror von Blixen, also served with the regiment as far as is known.
- 5) See my article German Colonial Troops in East Africa - Uniforms and Organization, 1914 for details on these German askari units.
- 6) Se List of Indian Princely States (Wikipedia).
- 7) The Bharatpur Transport Corps is featured in my article The Indian Army - On Training Units of the First World War, Part 1.
- 8) London Gazette, No. 29639, from 23 June 1916, where it is also stated that the captain was awarded the Military Cross.
- 9) Fra Bharatpur (Royal and Ruling Houses of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas).
- 10) Se Jind (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th Edition, Online Encyclopaedia).
- 11) Fra History of Jind (District Administration, Jind).
- 12) Fra The Punjab Regiment (Bharat Rakshak).
- 13) Se Kapurthala (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th Edition, Online Encyclopaedia).
- 14) Fra Kapurthala (Royal and Ruling Houses of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas).
- 15) Fra Rampur (Royal and Ruling Houses of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas).
- 16) Se Rampur (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th Edition, Online Encyclopaedia).
- 17) English illustrated weekly newspaper, published from 1869 to 1932, see The Graphic (Wikipedia).
- 18) Today's Indian Army still contains all-volunteer units, see Territorial Army (GlobalSecurity.org).



19) Eric Thompson's diary is published as *A Machine Gunner's Odyssey Through German East Africa: The Diary of Private ES Thompson* in *The History Journal* (1987-1988), published by The South African Military History Society. The articles are available via the company's website.

20) Fra *The Uniforms and History of the Scottish Regiments - Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa - From 1625 to the Present Day* af Major R. Money Barnes, London, uden år (ca. 1960).

21) From a post on the Scottish Military Historical Society members' forum. In another post Donald mentions

W. Pedler that he is in possession of an advertisement from a bagpipe manufacturer showing the Calcutta Scottish's Pipe Major in gala uniform.