

CHAPTER XIX

THE TERRITORIALS IN INDIA

OF the Territorials in India I could write chapters, if space permitted. As it does not, I must be content simply to give a brief record of what I saw of them, of what people thought of them, of what they had to do, and how well they did it.

It is not an easy subject to tackle, nor is it an easy one on which to write so as to engage attention. In the first place, they came to India, these Territorials, at the call of duty, soon after the commencement of a great war, of which no one could foretell the outcome. Therefore a situation so full of anxiety, and pregnant with such grief, precludes light-hearted treatment. Nor do I know many amusing anecdotes concerning the force, with which to enliven the narrative.

Secondly, the units were scattered over an enormous area. I certainly came into contact with them in a large portion of that area, but not sufficiently so to give full details about all. Where I do go into detail regarding certain regiments, and certain individuals, it must be understood that I mean it to be typical of the *whole*. They were part of that whole, which was actuated by the same motive, and displayed equal zeal and energy in making itself efficient. Moreover, all were included in a category, embracing thousands, who never thought to see the East, but suddenly found themselves pledged to four or five years' soldiering in various parts of Asia.

Thirdly, this record, not being a history of the Territorial Force, can have little value except as a statement of facts. It is written more as a tribute to all ranks for their efforts and conduct in India. Indeed, it would seem that, in justice to the "Terriers," a brief account of their doings, trials and good work is really called for.

Lastly, a narrative of the actions of any body of troops is very apt to assume the character of a despatch; and despatches are dull reading, generally very dull reading. I do not mind confessing that I have already written and re-written this chapter four times. The first attempt was simply a despatch, stupid beyond words, I confess it myself. The second and third efforts were not much better. The fourth I thought an improvement, but my publisher, I know, still looks on it as dull. I am not sure he didn't say so, but with some hesitation lest—as he insinuated—I slew him with a kukri.

My fifth and last endeavour I now commit to paper. The number directly interested should be very large, as some 55,000 Territorial troops went out to India. Should others, who know not these men, find it dull, I hope they will skip the chapter altogether. As for my publisher, if he still dislikes it, well, there is always the kukri handy.

In the early part of the war, i.e. up to January, 1915, thirty-nine field artillery batteries and forty-five infantry battalions of Territorials went to India. Some others arrived later on. My qualifications to write on this force consist of the fact that between 1915 and 1920 no less than ten battalions of infantry and three batteries of artillery were under my command, at one time or another; while in 1917-18, as inspector of infantry, I visited some fourteen battalions more. Moreover, when commanding at Abbottabad, I came across hundreds of Territorial officers, and others of all ranks, attending the Mountain Warfare School, established there in 1916 by Army Headquarters.

The senior Territorial units had volunteered for service abroad hoping for the Western Front. The thought of India instead was very distasteful, but they were buoyed up by promises at home that it was only a temporary duty, mainly necessary for purposes of training. When this was *fully completed* they were to be sent back. The exigencies of the service and the aggravated submarine menace made it impossible to fulfil these promises, to the everlasting regret of both officers and men.

If only the Australians and New Zealanders could have been utilised to provide India with white troops, what a saving in shipping, and what a convenience it would have been. As it was, troops from home, going out to India,

actually passed, en route, colonials coming to Europe. Again, when one hears at the present time of a shortage of white soldiers in India to meet certain eventualities, thoughts of the use that could be made so rapidly of these colonial troops come into one's head at once.

Perhaps the people who were most puzzled at the advent of the Territorials were the ordinary natives of India. Led to believe by seditious busybodies that England was at her last gasp, and could never replace the British garrisons sent overseas, they were astonished at these fresh troops pouring into the country. The men, too, were so different from the pre-war regular. Instead of calling them "gora Log,"¹ they felt inclined to designate them "sahibs." All the more so, because of the absence of drunkenness or crime, and their greater command of ready money. This was well expressed by a native shopkeeper in Multan enquiring: "Who are these new soldiers who have cheque books?"

From the very first a weak point in the Territorials was a want of knowledge of "administration" and of Indian regulations—which was natural. This resulted in a good deal of unnecessary discomfort to all ranks. "Conducting parties" from the regular battalions left in India were detailed to meet territorial units, and remain attached for instructional purposes. These afforded them a certain amount of help, but the requirements of the war had already called away the more senior officers and N.C.O.s.

Another serious handicap of the earlier arrivals was the recall to their own units of the regular adjutants they had always possessed. Some were gathered in before the battalion left England, and others soon after its arrival in India. Indeed the Territorials had many difficulties, disappointments and obstacles to contend with. It is all the more creditable to them that, nothing daunted, they played the game all round, from the moment of their arrival until their final departure.

With "complete training" as the objective, it is only natural that their main desire was to reach this goal as quickly as possible. Every effort was made to help them by allotting units to stations where they would remain for some time, and where they would receive every facility

¹ Lit. "gora" = white, fair complexioned, and "log" = people. The general term used by Indians to denote the British soldier.

for training. As regards the infantry, the demands of climate, and the pressing necessities of a world-wide war (combined with an everchanging, and at times somewhat menacing internal situation), made obligatory not only large detachments, when concentration was so necessary, but also frequent moves from station to station, which to them seemed absolutely pointless.

Army Headquarters called early for returns direct from every unit, giving each man's trade, qualifications and former occupation. Commanding officers therefore found themselves denuded, willy-nilly, of N.C.O.s and men, sometimes their best, for clerks, supervisors, mechanics, chauffeurs, signallers, machine-gunners, artificers, and every other kind of specialist and workman. This naturally brought each C.O. to the depths of despair as regards the improved efficiency of his command. Yet it was evident this constant drain was unavoidable, and for the good of the whole.

In the ranks were a large number of public schoolboys and others very suitable for commissions. As the question of the shortage of officers in both British and Indian services became more acute, it was necessary to tap this source of supply. In many cases, the boys themselves were anxious for promotion, and their commanding officers did not care to stand in their way. Anyhow, orders were soon received which, after reviewing the situation, directed that all those considered in any way eligible were to be encouraged to apply. Thus hundreds of excellent officers were provided, but it did not tend to make matters easier for the C.O.

As regards his own officers he fared little better; for as the demand owing to wastage became more insistent, he was called on to supply them not only for personal, general, technical and administrative staffs, but also at a moment's notice to fill the place of casualties in the field.

So much has been said to show the difficulties and perplexities confronting commanding officers, that one may well ask how did they get along at all, and how did they keep up their strength? They got along by steadfastness and grit, and their strength was maintained by frequent drafts of both officers and men from home. At first poor, the drafts gradually improved, although naturally requiring an immense amount of regimental instruction. Many

of the recruits had not even fired a shot from their rifles.

So much for their earlier troubles. It will for ever remain to the glory of the Territorials in India that they never once looked back in their path of progress. Many battalions became so efficient, after two or three years, that there was little to choose between them and some of the best pre-war regular units.

A word about their efficiency on arrival and its gradual improvement. As was only to be expected in such a force, the officers were very uneven. In all units there were some good ones, in many the majority were good, while in a few the standard of officer efficiency was very high. Many were born soldiers, who had really mistaken their profession in remaining civilians. These soon came to the front, and a considerable number were utilised on the staff and elsewhere, where they did most valuable work.

There was Major H. W. Woodall, of the 4th Dorsets, who acquired particular merit, and was rewarded with a Companionship of the Indian Empire. I had three staff officers with me when Inspector of Infantry, one succeeding the other,¹ and all did me extremely well. They had good military knowledge, and their former business experience made them very reliable staff officers.

Speaking generally, and especially of the junior officers, there was at first an absence of the true military instinct, forcing one to class such officers as partially trained civilians instead of soldiers. This instinct in many cases had to be acquired, and it came in due course. In the early days, for instance, few officers had been taught how to give a command, with the result that there was too much unnecessary politeness in issuing orders to the men. This wore off in time, but until it did, orders were apt to be perfunctorily carried out, without any "jump" or alacrity in compliance.

The best officers, and the number was large, had an exceptionally good theoretical knowledge of their profession. It is much to their credit that they had studied their manuals so well, and were able to impart the instruc-

¹ Captain Satterthwaite, 1/4th R.W. Kents; Major Goodman Whiffen, 1/5th East Surreys; Captain Chance, 1/4th Border Regiment.

tion gained. As good a lecture as I ever attended was one given on "protection"¹ by a company commander to his men. He knew his subject thoroughly, put it to his audience in the simplest language, explained the leading principles very lucidly, and gave apt illustrations from military history.

The commandant of the Mountain Warfare School at Abbottabad told me he was astounded as much at the knowledge of his books by the Territorial officer, as at the difficulty he found in practical application in the field. Adding that his astonishment was far greater when he saw their progress in this matter with instruction and practice.

The non-commissioned officers were most zealous and diligent, with good, sometimes very good, knowledge of their duties. Their weak points were want of initiative and power of command, attributable to inexperience and to lack of opportunity.

The men were most intelligent, fairly well drilled, and very anxious to do well. There was hardly any crime. As an instance, the 1/4th Wiltshire Regiment from the time of their landing in India in 1914 to their departure for Palestine in 1917 had not a single court-martial and no case of drunkenness. I think this must be a record.

Physique and age varied tremendously. The physique in some units was extraordinarily fine, while in others it was not so good. As regards age, one example will suffice. The 2/6th Hants appeared to be mainly boys, while the 23rd Rifle Brigade at Multan were nearly all old soldiers.

The latter² was one of seven Territorial battalions formed in October, 1915, and attached to the Rifle Brigade. The men came from the "national reserve" who at the outbreak of war offered their services for any duty required of them. They had been employed up to date guarding railways, docks and other vulnerable points, and some 250 of this unit possessed war medals or long service and Volunteer decorations.

It came under me at Multan, where it had been

¹ A lecture on outpost duties by Major the Honourable E. Strachey, 1/4th Somersets.

² 23rd Battalion (North Western) (Territorials), raised by Colonel T. E. Turnbull, O.B.E., V.D.

stationed nearly two and a half years. On marching into barracks on arrival the natives had been heard to remark, "These are pukka soldiers and not to be played with!" Multan is a hot place and in the summer of 1918 it struck me the men were feeling the effects of the heat. Getting them moved, they went to Bareilly, looked upon as a very healthy place. Results proved that Multan, though hot, is not unhealthy.

This battalion did some really excellent, though by no means exhilarating, work at Multan. Besides heavy garrison duties, it had to furnish detachments innumerable, including a company at Amritsar. The garrison gunners having left Multan, the guns and machine-guns in the fort had to be manned by the 23rd Rifle Brigade. Fortunately their cosmopolitan composition enabled them to provide teams without difficulty.

One summer the environs of Multan were not only infected with cholera and malaria, but also with a very virulent outbreak of plague. This necessitated a strict cordon round cantonments, towards the city, and involved heavy piquet duty admirably performed. For the Marri expedition the battalion furnished many N.C.O.s and men for various services, while the adjutant was taken, as a base commandant. One N.C.O. left at Amritsar as electrician, after the company was withdrawn, was brutally murdered by the natives in the rebellion of April, 1919.

This is not a tale of woe, but simply a partial record of one Territorial battalion's sojourn in India, with an account of all it was expected to do, and how well it did it. There was none of the exhilarating excitement of hard-fought actions in the field. Only difficult and uninteresting garrison duty with the thermometer reaching 124° in the shade. Such an achievement, cheerfully performed, by a Territorial battalion of old soldiers speaks well for the force, deserves much of the State, and merits the approbation of soldiers and civilians alike.

With such grand material to work on, it is not surprising that its further training was a source of much interest to the Brigadiers concerned. What pleased me so much, just the same as with the Nepalese contingents, was the wonderful responsiveness of the territorials, their eager desire for efficiency, and their keenness to make good.

Advance in proficiency of course varied, and it varied much more in proportion to the help and understanding given by higher leaders on the spot, than to the original standard of preparedness. No troops were more susceptible to *sympathy*. Given sympathy, combined with a thorough understanding of their characteristics, idiosyncrasies and needs, then you were able to get at these people, when there was nothing they could not do. These pages teem with references to sympathy, simply because personal experience is always revealing the fact that it is the most valuable attribute a leader can possess.

As a general rule, and especially with the older units, the Territorial force was to be congratulated on its commanding officers. The first to come under my command was Colonel the Earl of Radnor, commanding the 1/4th Wiltshire Regiment. He had been commanding for some years, knew every man in the battalion, kept a strict discipline, and, looking carefully after the welfare of his unit, had his finger on its pulse in every way. Blessed with a good second-in-command and an excellent body of officers, it is not surprising that the unit was in very good order. To illustrate the fine spirit imbued in the mind of this officer, the following is worthy of mention :

The battalion was quartered at Delhi, and half of it was to remain there for the hot weather, while the remainder went up to Chakrata, a hill station in the Himalayas above Dehra Dun. Lord Radnor was not a young man and had not sojourned in India before. Giving him the option of taking his head-quarters up to the hills, so that he himself would have the advantage of a delightful climate all the summer, he asked me for a little time for consideration. Next morning he told me that feeling responsible for his men, who came from his own country, he could not think of leaving them to swelter below, while he himself enjoyed the cool breezes of Chakrata.

Soortly afterwards Lord Radnor was promoted to succeed me in command of the Delhi brigade, with the rank of brigadier-general, which appointment he retained until his return to England. From there he was deputed to France as director of agriculture at general head-quarters.

He was succeeded in the command of the 1/4th Wiltshires by his second-in-command, Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong, who was an excellent officer much liked and respected

oy all ranks. After being severely wounded in Palestine, this officer died of his wounds at the advanced aid post the day his battalion gallantly captured Miskeh (19th September, 1918).

I came across many other C.O.s far above the average. Playfair of the 2/6th Hants was an old regular, and just the man to raise and train a young battalion of Hampshire lads. Harvey of the 1/5th East Surreys had an excellent unit, he looked well after his officers, knew the men individually, and took the greatest interest in their welfare. He afterwards held commands in S. India and Hong-Kong, not getting home until something like 1920. Waterlow commanded a very thoroughly trained battalion in the 1/4th Border Regiment, which acquired wonderfully good reports, both in Burma and in India.

Then there was Colonel Frank Johnson, D.S.O., 1/6th Royal Sussex, who achieved undying fame as the administrator of martial law in the Lahore area during the disturbances of 1919. His many proclamations, all commencing "Whereas," are admirable models of how such official notices should be framed. The firm, just and unflinching rule he established at a most critical period, not only earned for him the admiration and gratitude of Europeans and law-abiding Indians alike, but the honour of having his portrait hung in the hall of the Punjab Club at Lahore. Beneath is no name and no inscription, simply, in gold letters, the one word "Whereas." A fitting tribute indeed, for all time, to a Territorial officer of exceptional merit.

These few names are given not only as typical of the Territorial battalion commander, but also to bear witness to the valuable services rendered to the State by Territorial officers in a higher and more extended sphere.

The county of Hampshire was very largely represented in India. Besides seven batteries of field artillery, four battalions went out with the 1st Wessex Division on 12th October, and three more followed on the 12th December, 1914. In addition the 9th battalion arrived in 1916 and remained until October, 1918, when it proceeded to Siberia via Vladivostock. No units had a better record in India than the Hampshires, or were more genuinely liked. As regards the 9th battalion, it is interesting to add that it

was the only British unit to go to Siberia (except Colonel Ward's¹ battalion) and that it did very well there.

As related before, anent the Delhi brigade, an order was issued early in 1915 that all Territorial infantry battalions were to undergo a modified form of the "Kitchener test"² at the hands of the brigadier concerned. This was somewhat premature as regards many units. However, remarks about putting the cart before the horse were ignored. Army Headquarters gave their decision, that all those in India must be tested at once. Their idea was to get the relative value of the various battalions. Any modification in the test considered necessary was to be made by the local general concerned. For the Territorials of course the "test" went no farther than the brigade.

At this time there were three Territorial infantry units under my command, namely one senior, 1/4th Wilts, and the others, 2/6th Hants and 2/4th D.C.L.I., much more recently formed. I took the 1/4th Wilts before the others and subjected it to a test of about thirty-three consecutive hours, in which it did exceedingly well, and had not a single casualty from first to last. This was so gratifying that on addressing them for a few minutes after it was over, I gave them the highest praise I could by telling the Colonel that I envied him his command.

Never once did the officers or men get rattled, and yet my system of giving each order on a slip of paper for the next action, as the current one was nearing completion, combined with the unrevealed nature of the whole programme, must have been disconcerting in its novelty alone. Coming back, after delivering the fourth order, as the sun was setting at the end of the first day, I asked my staff officer if the C.O. seemed at all disturbed, and he told me his only remark was: "What, *another*?"

It was now the end of March with two more battalions to test, one at Agra and the other at Bareilly. Well-knowing Agra's capability for heat at this season, it was necessary to hasten there at once. Colonel Playfair's battalion, the 2/6th Hants, was newly raised, the men only partially trained, and until a short time before split up into detachments since arrival in India. I had roughly agreed with him that the "test" came before the unit was

¹ Colonel John Ward, C.B., C.M.G., M.P.

² See Chapter x. (Lord Kitchener).

ready for it, but as a matter of fact it did very well. The "covering" and "overhead" fire in an attack with ball was so bold and so realistic that I marvelled at its temerity and said so. Playfair, with a laugh, muttered something in the sense of, "Where ignorance is bliss, etc."!

There still remained the unit at Barcilly (2/4th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), also a very young one and with little help or guidance given it to date. The material, however, of sturdy Cornishmen, was about the best I had seen. Solid vigorous boys with plenty of life, full of spirits and much interested in their new surroundings.

The heat was pretty bad in any case for a fifteen-mile march followed by an attack with ball, but the intensity of the "test" was much enhanced by a misunderstanding of orders. This resulted in the men having to lie down in the sun for an unconscionable period, and then advance over heavy sand. By the evening they were quite cooked and I was so anxious about their prostration that all night work was cancelled, though the officers and senior N.C.O.s were taken on by themselves.

It was reassuring to find the C.O. quite tranquil about his men. He told me they were very tough customers, and would be all right in a few hours, which confidence was fully justified. It speaks well for the grit and stamina of the men of Cornwall that they were able to come successfully through so severe an ordeal. They were all just as cheery and happy next morning as if they had only attended a picture palace entertainment the day before.

About March, 1916, it was evident that, on account of the aggravated submarine menace and other considerations, it would be impossible to transfer any battalions to the Western Front from India. At the same time possibility of their employment on the North-West Frontier opened up the question of training in mountain warfare, of which neither officers nor men had any experience. The Abbottabad School referred to before was primarily intended for officers and N.C.O.s of Territorial units only, but was later on extended, mainly at my instigation, to instruct officers of all services in this important subject.

A word about this school. From remarks in the public Press after the third Afghan War in 1919 it is evident an opinion prevailed that instruction in this branch of warfare

had been entirely neglected. Nothing could be further from the facts.

The school was first established in the summer of 1916 for forty-eight territorial officers and N.C.O.s at one time for a course of about six weeks' duration. The combination of officer and N.C.O. was found to be a mistake, so separate courses were assembled. Later on the school was enlarged so as to accommodate a hundred senior officers of all services, for a course of about one month. Bar a short period in each winter it has been running almost continually up to date, and only the other day (October, 1921) I heard from General Birdwood that he had been inspecting it.

The course is very practical and most useful to the thousands of officers who have now completed it. The commandant¹ is a man of ripe knowledge and experience with the happy knack of being able to impart his knowledge. You can generally gauge the success and utility of a school by consulting men who have attended it, and whose opinions count. Without any exception those opinions were very flattering, and all were loud in praise of the instruction given.

Speaking of the social side, the advent of the Territorials was a great event to the European population of India. People, especially civilians, were particularly struck with their patriotism and example. All were anxious to show their appreciation of the splendid way these citizens had abandoned homes, relatives, professions and trades, often at great personal sacrifice and loss, to volunteer for service abroad.

On the arrival of the first Territorial Division in Bombay, Lord Willingdon's warm welcome, and the noble hospitality of the Yacht Club in entertaining ninety-seven of its officers at dinner the first night, aptly voiced the feelings of the whole European community.

Later on people vied with one another in fêting the men, asking them out in batches to tennis, musical parties, concerts, expeditions, motor drives, etc. All this came under my own knowledge in places so widely apart as Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Lucknow, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

The Y.M.C.A., as usual, came to the front and did much for the amusement and welfare of the men. Especially

¹ Lieut.-Colonel W. Villiers-Stuart, C.B.E., 5th Royal Gurkhas.

useful and greatly appreciated were their lectures on the country, and the tours they organised all over India. Without these a great number of Territorials would have had no opportunity of visiting in comfort such historic and interesting places as Agra, Delhi, Jeypur, etc.

One wealthy jute merchant in Calcutta invited a batch after batch of eight Territorial N.C.O.s and privates, at a time, to his beautiful house there. Entertained them royally on the fat of the land, and sent them out daily in his motor-cars to the zoo, cinema, races, etc., etc.

Nor were native princes and Indian gentlemen behind-hand in offering hospitality and welcome. The Maharajah of Mysore himself received and entertained the 2/6th Royal Sussex Regiment at Mysore, and had them shown over his palace with its priceless treasures. This was a privilege never granted before, or since, to British troops. Entertainments and refreshments were provided at many railway stations and cantonments by Indian gentlemen of various classes.

The Territorials were both touched and gratified at their reception from the social point of view. They reciprocated on their side by forming troupes of players and musicians out of the undoubted talent at their command. Also by getting up "sports," boxing tournaments and musical evenings, not only in the larger stations, but in all sorts of out-of-the-way places.

To bring my British units up to strength when commanding the 4th Division at Chaman in the third Afghan War, the authorities sent me some hundreds of demobilised territorial officers and men from Deolali and Bombay. Men who were actually about to sail home, and men who gulped down their disappointment in the most splendid way, when told their services were absolutely essential. Splitting them up amongst various corps an early opportunity was taken to visit and address each party, to tell them how much we sympathised with their disappointment, and how greatly we admired their stoicism and spirit. I was most sorry for these good fellows almost pulled off the ship to come up to the North-West Frontier. Pulled off too just as the *Lad* said "Good-bye" to India, and were looking forward so eagerly to meeting their wives, children and relatives once more.

Little opportunity was given me of testing Territorials

in the field. I had indeed the 2/4th Border Regiment,¹ with me in the Mohmand blockade line, but there was little serious fighting. The men of this unit were of very fine physique, well disciplined and keen as mustard. It was a great pleasure to deal with them, and have a chat with individual N.C.O.s and men in the blockhouses.

On one occasion a temporary piquet was heavily sniped, and on being withdrawn, when the duty was completed, was followed up by the enemy. I happened to be present as the piquet was nearing camp, and noted the extreme reluctance with which the men withdrew, under orders. As they approached close to me I saw that their eyes were blazing, and they were full of suppressed excitement. Quite a right fighting spirit.

About a month before this, a hundred men of this unit² joined a column of mine to destroy villages. They had to start soon after 4 a.m., and didn't get back until about 7 p.m., having marched twenty-six miles and helped to destroy two villages. It is not exactly child's play pushing over mud walls, and burning houses. This was a very good test of endurance, and they were most cheery over it at the finish.

Did space permit I should like to follow up the subsequent happenings to the battalions I knew when fully trained, and despatched to various fronts. This, however, would take a volume of itself. Some small detail, of two units only, I do append as an illustration of the fact that the battalions from India bore their full share of casualties in the field.

1/4th Somerset L.I., to Mesopotamia from India, 1916.

Casualties in the field.	{	Killed	officers	3,	O.R.	105.
		Wounded	"	10,	"	130
		Died on service	"	3,	"	68

1/4th Wiltshire Regiment, to Palestine from India, 1917.

Served with the 233rd, and, after capture of Jerusalem, 232nd brigade of 75th Division. Continually in action in November, 1917, and from March to September, 1918. Lost several officers killed and wounded (including the C.O., Colonel Armstrong), and about 35 per cent other ranks.

¹ C.O., Colonel J. F. Haswell, C.I.E., V.D.

² Under Lieutenant R. T. Bruckman with two other officers.

But it is not only the units fortunate enough to get on service in Mesopotamia, Palestine, North-West Frontier, etc., who are to be congratulated on their prowess, but also those left behind to the bitter end to deal with revolutionary movements in India itself. As an example, the case of the 2/4th Buffs at Multan under Colonel G. Gosling comes to mind.

Besides keeping that area quiet during the risings of 1919 the men were utilised in the district beyond to travel about in the hottest part of the hot weather, upholding the prestige of the British Raj. Their capable brigadier¹ sent me daily reports of the excellent work they were doing. Amongst other things, he described how they had improvised an armoured van out of railway trucks and sheet iron, which they named "The Multan Lamb." In this the men dashed up and down the line to any threatened point immediately information of pending trouble was received. These services were most valuable, and the mere knowledge that parties of British soldiers could arrive in an incredibly short space of time at any seat of disturbance had a very salutary effect.

In conclusion let me say I shall always regard it as a privilege that I was enabled to watch—and in some cases do a little to help—the progress towards proficiency of a large portion of this fine body of Territorials. My connection, with some units or other, remained unbroken from soon after they landed in India in 1914, to the year 1920, long before which latter date they may be said to have become the "finished article." By that time they had officers and N.C.O.s possessing power of command and certificated at the various schools, signallers complete and well trained, Lewis gunners and bombers handy with their weapons, while the men, confident, hardy and acclimatised were fit to go anywhere and do anything.

It is a record of which any body of troops may well be proud.

But in addition to the Territorials there were other "War winners" in India from 1914-20, for whom a meed of praise is due.

First came the "Boys of the Old Brigade," that force of veterans formed into "Garrison Battalions" of which no less than eighteen came out to India between November,

¹ General P. J. Miles, C.B., C.M.G.

1915, and March, 1917. They came out to "do their bit," with their plucky, but aged, officers to whom years were nothing if they could but serve their country.

I came personally into contact with four pre-war officers well over *seventy*, who were the admiration of all who met them. Poor old Colonel Shepherd, late of the Norfolks, died in harness at Calcutta to everyone's deep regret, for his was the most happy and cheery personality. Colonel Martin, late of the 21st Lancers, and who commanded them in their famous charge at Omdurman, died at Karachi while O.C. troops there.

Colonel Marriott-Smith of the Royal Artillery, and Colonel Wood, late of the Connaught Rangers, I am glad to think, got safely home after a long period of duty in India.

Homage is also due to the civilians of the Indian Army Officers' Reserve and members of the Indian Defence Force, who came forward in their thousands at the moment of their Emperor's need. Some idea of the growth of the former may be gathered when it is stated that in April, 1914, the strength of this reserve was forty-one and in April, 1920, five thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven.

Nor must one forget the Volunteers in India who tried so hard, and for so long, to be taken seriously, and at last to their great content became a Defence Force. Not that their troubles were then ended, for they had only just begun! Mistakes were made and needless hardships were incurred, but to one who like myself in 1917 inspected thousands, there could be but one opinion regarding their earnestness and zeal. Day after day the Calcutta maidan¹ (to mention only one area) was a veritable *champs de mars* with light horse, machine guns, infantry squads, companies and battalions, training away for all they were worth.

The best of the "Indian civil service," and of other State departments, who could be spared to go, set an example by taking on some form of military duty. Many joined the Reserve already referred to, and numbers were killed in action. The more senior ones, even those of the highest standing, who were not already commissioned officers in the old Volunteers, joined the defence force as privates. It was nothing uncommon to find in the ranks high court

¹ Big open plain surrounding Fort William.

judges, commissioners, collectors, private secretaries to the governor of a province, and the like.

Many men, and boys too, for various reasons came from England to India, individually, to "do their bit." The Cadet Colleges of Quetta and Wellington were filled with an excellent type of lad keen on entering the Indian Army. An old friend¹ of mine at home (who retired before he was a major) thinking his knowledge of hill men and hill fighting might be useful, volunteered. His services being accepted he came out at once and was given the 1st battalion 50th Kumaonis to raise. This he did so well that the unit gained much kudos in Palestine, proving itself so efficient that it is to be kept on and not disbanded. An immense gratification to one who left his civil work to take up arms again, and took them up with such splendid zeal and energy.

It has been whispered that India might have done more than she did in the Great War. A complete refutation of this will be found in a pamphlet printed in August, 1919, and now lying in the archives of the India Office in Whitehall. It is entitled :

"Memorandum on India's contribution to the war, in men, material and money."

A truly astounding record, which must be read to be appreciated.

As a true lover of India I shall be happy if any words of mine in this chapter convey to my readers the patriotic and helpful spirit that existed, from 1914 to 1920, throughout our great dependency.

¹ Lt.-Col. E. M. Lang, late of the 1st Gurkhas, and now a partner in Messrs. Lea & Perrin, of Worcester.