

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

Tape 845 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

C.J. Pelly	4700.0580	Tape 845.1	(Tape 2 of 2)
Fergus Munro Innes	4700.0579	Tape 845.2	(Tape 3 of 3)
H.P. and Margery Hall	4700.0581	Tape 845.3	(Tape 1 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Pelly: 2/15/1978

Innes: 2/14/1978

Halls: 3/1/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 32 minutes

Pelly: 55 minutes

Innes: 16 minutes

Halls: 21 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: Copyright retained by interviewee and/or the interviewee's heirs

NOTE: Copyright and property rights are assigned jointly to Centre of South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge and Louisiana State University and A & M College Libraries and its successor agencies.

INDEX

Tape 845, Side A

Innes (Part 3 of 3) (845.2)

002 even Britons born in India "came home" to England
007 in Britain, he sought others who'd lived in India
011 Britons who didn't live in India can't understand
015 re-adapting to life in England, felt like all his years of training for his job in India had been a waste
023 frequency of visiting with other ex-Anglo Indians
031 brought few souvenirs back from India, few photos
036 his mother never threw anything away

040 Innes has four children, some born in India, and he's been married twice
 047 son who wishes to go back and serve in India
 053 talks about who else they've interviewed
 059 located Innes by looking in *Who's Who*
 067 preparing a wardrobe for India
 073 acquiring his topi, or helmet, usefulness thereof
 077 types of topees, dressing formally
 086 warned of dangers of sunstroke if he didn't wear topi
 090 Anglo-Indian slang
 097 reactions of Britons to India, mostly positive
 101 many women never became more than English housewives in the wrong place
 104 his grandmother hated India because she was torn between being with her husband in
 India or in England with the children
 116 health dangers, dysentery, malaria
 121 childhood memories of India; snakes by side of road, listening to howling of jackal
 133 role of servants, two ayahs that cared for children, one ayah came home to Norfolk with
 them, prejudice of neighbors
 141 called Anglo Indians in old days, until that became the term used for Eurasians
 146 term "the Raj"
 149 Innes interview ends

Tape 845, Side A cont'd

Pelly (Part 1 of 3) (845.1)

151 start of Feb 15, 1978, interview with C.J. Pelly at London House
 153 Oxford colors: dark blue, Oxford supplied many men to India
 157 talks about recording interview
 163 Pelly studied history
 168 de Caro offers Pelly sherry
 171 Pelly wanted to go overseas, might have preferred diplomatic service
 176 accepted into Indian Civil Service on his second application
 181 posted to Punjab, better climate than other places
 185 mostly Muslims and Sikhs in Punjab
 190 Hindu predominance in other areas
 194 relatives who were Catholic missionaries in South India
 199 expectations of India, spent year at university in Oriental Studies after accepted into
 service, exams in Muslim and Hindu law
 211 this was called "probationary year"
 221 persistence of Victorian tradition; also had to pass exam in horse riding
 231 mentions show called "The Americans" to make point about remoteness of Anglo-Indian
 life
 242 tradition of going out on tour on horseback
 252 suggests people to talk to who served in the same province
 265 ships to India
 275 boats that came alongside to sell leather goods, clothing, etc.
 282 duty-free goods
 285 ship called at Marseilles, Cairo

- 290 origin of word “posh”: port outward, starboard home
 294 “Fishing Fleet”: young British ladies who went to India to try to find British husbands
 302 it was desirable to marry a civil servant, pension was as high as regular pay
 310 recalls scene in bar with Fishing Fleet girls
 323 girls went out at beginning of cold weather in India
 327 Pelly also served in Persian Gulf, met oilmen from Texas, names towns in Texas
 340 charming manager from Texas he knew while in Kuwait
 348 air conditioning only known in railroad cars
 354 spent time in hills during hot season
 359 prickly heat, or heat rash
 363 sent wives and children to hill stations during hot season
 370 mentions names of hill stations near various large cities
 376 train journey to hill station
 400 bribery, buying witnesses, hit-and-miss justice
 411 negotiations in Saudi Arabia about boundaries of countries
 421 cavalry station at base of Kashmir hills
 430 Pelly bicycled to court every morning, station seemed to be populated solely by horses
 439 offers to show photos, tries to locate them
 448 Victorianism; had sabers as well as rifle
 452 exchanging calls with an American in the Gulf
 470 persistence of Victorian ideals
 485 emphasis on classics at Oxford
 504 how old-fashioned ideals carried over into British administration, tradition of district officer being autonomous maybe wasn’t good, pros and cons
 524 old-fashioned mail delivery to camp, slow communication
 540 feeling of being cut off from Europe, but good life in many ways, lots of independence in his work

Tape 845, Side B

Pelly (Part 3 of 3) (845.1)

- 003 wealth and effectiveness of maarajahs
 013 we could either rule or get out, autocracy
 024 tradition of reverence for a ruler, obeisance
 032 Pelly’s marriage and children
 036 children growing up in India, sending them to England for education
 049 generally accepted that children should go to England for schooling
 053 strain on women of having to choose between children and husband
 062 18th century man was more tolerant than those that followed, less racist
 068 division became deeper after Mutiny
 072 India as a young man’s country, type of person who thrived in India
 079 difficulties for women in India, need to have their own interests
 089 man who preached “village uplift” such as better yields for wheat, sanitation, impact was minimal on country of 400 million people
 103 using camels to help build roads
 111 eccentric man in Shimla
 121 ceremonious nature of British, phrase “putting up a good show”

- 130 British affection for India, feeling that it couldn't last
 137 doesn't talk much about India these days, younger people aren't interested
 146 as Kipling said, India was the paradise of upper class Britons
 153 backlash against British hypocrisy
 162 example of British hypocrisy in Kuwait
 169 living in Indian bungalow, Pelly found it adequate, description of bungalow
 181 relationship between India and Persian Gulf, interests of British in Persian Gulf
 190 Turkish invasion of Gulf
 200 before oil, Britons tried to keep peace in Gulf, without interfering, important as a naval route
 210 Pelly worked in Persian Gulf after India's independence
 215 uniforms, topees, political and civil services had uniforms as well as military
 225 parallel to Czarist Russia regarding uniforms
 230 eccentric gentleman he knew in Punjab
 248 end of Pelly interview

Tape 845, Side B cont'd

Halls (Part 1 of 7) (845.3)

- 249 March 1, 1978, beginning of Mr. and Mrs. Hall interview
 253 Mr. Hall's father was in Indian Army, parents reluctant, thought India already had its day, but Hall joined Army anyway
 260 joined Indian Army because he wanted adventure
 269 arrived in India November 2, 1933
 276 living in tents and huts, area surrounded by barbed wire at his first posting, locals raiding camp and shooting
 286 stayed at Peshawar his first night
 289 moved down to Ambala in the Punjab, big military station there, stayed a couple of months
 294 staying in hill station in summer, training [Kulka?]
 296 Mrs. Hall reminds him of their lunch date
 300 Hall born in Clifton, sub-hill station in what is now Pakistan, mother was a nurse
 307 trip aboard ship home to England as child
 313 attended school in Darjeeling, then moved to Madras, attended school in Bangalore, then home to England at age eleven
 320 remembers playing hockey with children of Indian servants, views from volcanic crater
 340 was junior tennis champion in Southern England, practiced tennis on verandah in India
 348 learned to shoot very young
 350 sadness of being away from family for nine-month school terms
 355 Indian school where kids wore suits in Eaton colors, mostly Europeans, prayers every morning, attended church in Darjeeling
 370 rivalry between Protestant and Catholic European schools, boys expelled for spying on convent girls
 382 disadvantage of schooling in India; weak in languages, Hall never learned French or Latin, found this a great handicap when transferred to school in England
 390 Hall was very good at games, athletics, because of Indian outdoor experience
 403 preparing a wardrobe for India, suitable clothes were very expensive if you bought them

- in England
- 414 relearning language of India
- 420 his puppy that got rabies, went mad, infected thirteen people who had to get shots
- 432 Pasteur Institute in [Kasabi?], provided all the rabies and snake bite antidotes for India, had to get shots every day for two weeks
- 442 info on rabies virus, serum produced from goats' brains
- 460 joining the Cheshires in the Indian Army, one of his cronies got hit by a car while chasing a tennis ball, had his leg amputated
- 475 Christmas Eve drinking whiskey in Bangalore because he and one other man, who'd been forgotten by everyone, not invited to any parties
- 503 choosing unit, considering Gorkhas, applied and got his friend's position, declined when he found out, Gorkhas determined to have Hall in their ranks