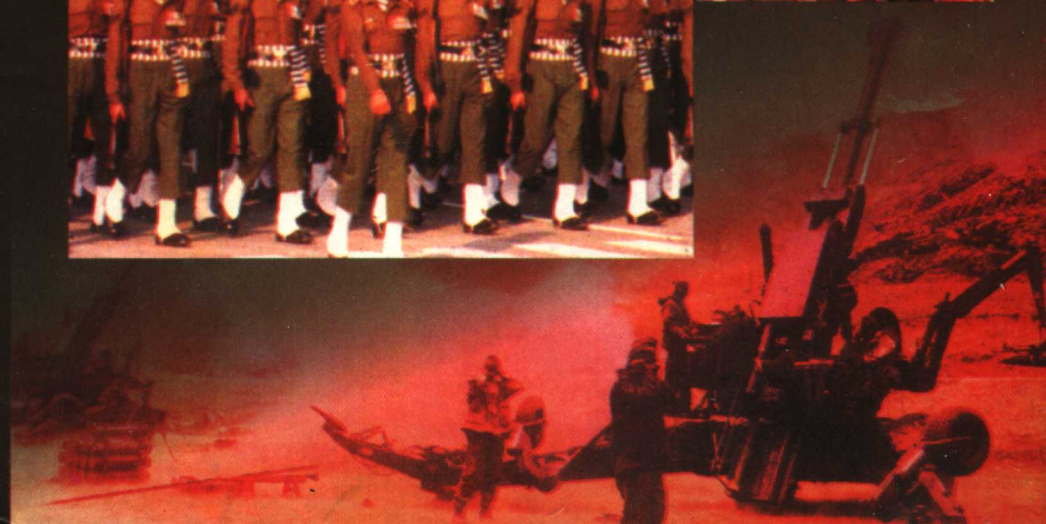


# INDIA'S ARMY

Major Donovan Jackson



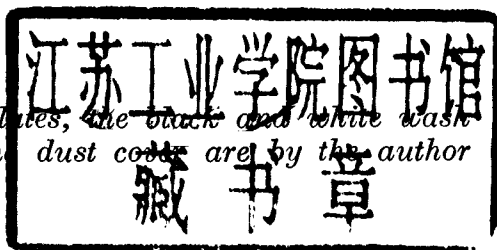
# INDIA'S ARMY

BY

MAJOR DONOVAN JACKSON

(INVICTA)

*All the colour plates, the black and white wash  
drawings and the dust cover are by the author*



SHUBHI PUBLICATIONS

DELHI

## Foreword

by

**Field-Marshal The Lord Birdwood, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G.,  
G.C.V.O., C.I.E., D.S.O., L.L.D.**

TO any old soldier of the Indian Army—after forty-five years of Indian Service, I feel I can describe myself as such—it must be a pleasure to have an opportunity of reading Major Jackson's—what I may call great work—book *India's Army*, and not only to read it but to see the excellent photographs which cover all units and classes enlisted in India's Army. Such has been wanted for a long time, as though individual histories have as we all know been published, it has not been possible up to now, to obtain any volume which contained all, this, Major Jackson has now provided for us.

Individual portions of this have already appeared in *The Statesman*, and the very favourable—indeed great reception they have received speaks for itself, and shows that the complete volume will meet a real want, and I well know how popular it will be. I trust that it will meet with great demands both in England and in India, and I heartily wish Major Jackson all success with it.

Birdwood.  
J.M.

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*Deal Castle.*

## Author's Foreword

THE contents of this book originally appeared in more or less the same form as articles in *The Statesman*, India's principal newspaper, in 1938-39. They were inspired by a series of articles which told of the glories of the British soldier, and by the fact that little has been done to make known to the Indian public something of the history and glory of their own regiments who, as the succeeding chapters will show, have played down the years an almost world-wide part in the protection and advancement of the association of nations now known as the British Commonwealth.

As Lord Birdwood has said, individual regimental histories have from time to time been published, but he would add, largely for private circulation and written generally from a different angle of view to that adopted by the writer, who, while making no claims whatever to literary style or skill, has attempted to present the stories of the regiments of India's Army up to the outbreak of the present war, in a way which he hopes will appear to her citizens and the non-military mind. If he succeeds in that, then he has at least achieved his object.

It is not feasible to give a bibliography, but all the histories were compiled from official or regimental sources, and in most instances with the generous assistance of the regiments themselves—it has been impossible to include all that they would have wished. To them, and to the writers of the published unit histories upon which I have drawn so freely, as well as the individual officers who offered help and advice or supplied photographs and other details which assisted the writer to paint the illustrations, my gratitude. All of the latter were

### Author's Foreword

compiled from old records or material supplied by the units. The full dress depicted is that of 1914 or used since upon occasions when full dress has been worn.

In particular, thanks are due to Lieut.-Colonel Sir Patrick Cadell, C.S.I., V.D., for his assistance and advice over the stories of the regiments which had their genesis in the old Bombay Army, to Army Headquarters and the India Office, for permission to use official photographs, the Military Adviser-in-Chief of the Indian States Forces, to *The Statesman*, and to Field-Marshal Lord Birdwood for his early encouragement and later his kindness in writing the Foreword.

The very many who wrote to me during the fifteen months the series were appearing in India, and to whom I was unable to answer, will understand my apparent lack of courtesy when I disclose that during that time I was suffering from a serious illness. In fact, the stories would never have been completed had it not been for the greatest helper of all, my Wife. And, let me add, my doctors all aver that during my enforced idleness their completion was better medicine than they were able to prescribe.

Now, war has come upon the world again and the peace-time army strength of 150,000 Indians of all ranks is now being increased, as a first step, to 500,000 men of all arms, trained, equipped and mechanized in accordance with modern requirements and modern tactics. Recruiting has been thrown open to all castes and creeds, and is no longer confined to the so-called "martial classes"; Indianization of the officer cadre is proceeding at speed, and Indian King's Commissioned Officers are being posted to all regiments. Before these lines appear in print, it is certain that the Indian soldier will again be adding fresh glories to the story of his Army.

The war has delayed publication, and military considerations, as well as military duties, prevent any revision of the manuscript to accord with present times; so the writer craves

### **Author's Foreword**

indulgence for leaving the stories of the regiments of India's Army in the style they were written just before this Greater War began.





INDIAN OFFICER (Punjabi Musalman)  
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BODY-GUARD





INDIAN OFFICER (Ranghar)  
SKINNER'S HORSE





KING-EMPEROR'S ORDERLY OFFICER (Punjabi Musalman)  
7TH LIGHT CAVALRY



TRUMPETER (Sikh)  
THE ROYAL DECCAN HORSE





KETTLE DRUMMER (Pathan)  
13TH DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN LANCERS



SOWAR (Jat)  
THE CENTRAL INDIA HORSE





SAPPER (Madrassi Christian)  
QUEEN VICTORIA'S OWN MADRAS SAPPERS AND MINERS

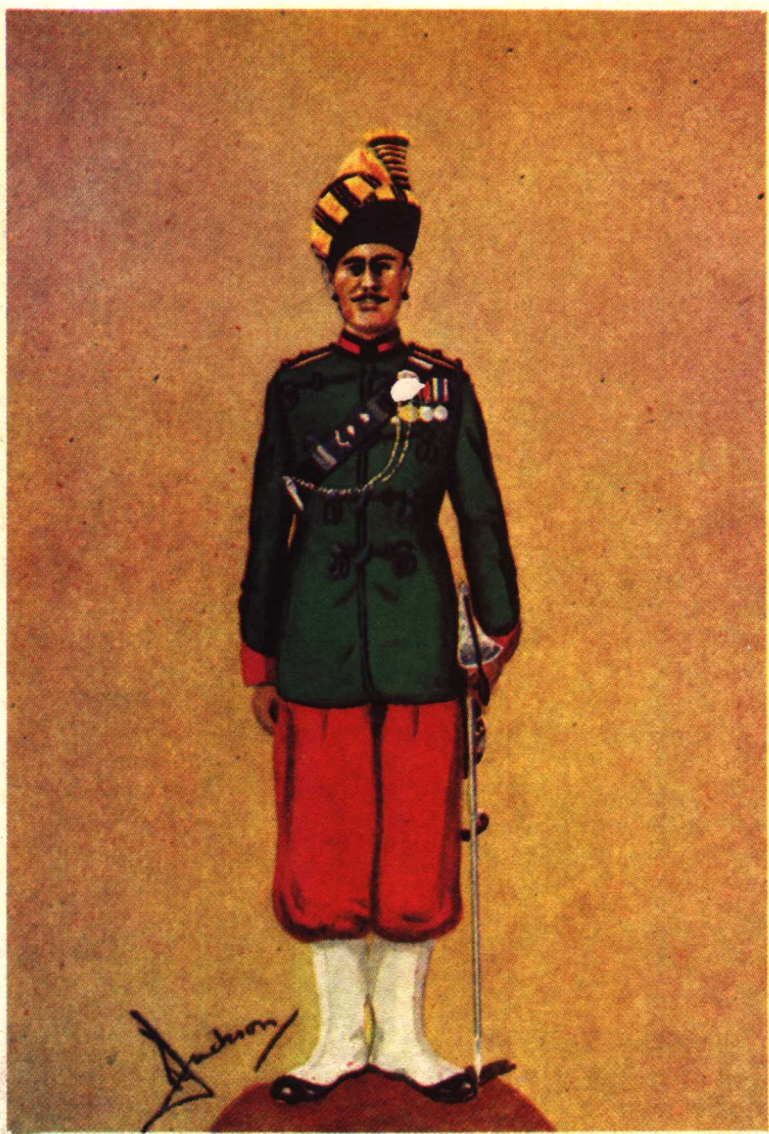


INDIAN OFFICER (Mahratta)  
THE MAHRATTA LIGHT INFANTRY





INDIAN OFFICER (Punjabi Musalman)  
8TH PUNJAB REGIMENT



INDIAN OFFICER (Pathan)  
10TH BALUCH REGIMENT





DRUMMER (Sikh)  
16TH PUNJAB REGIMENT