

History
of the
2nd King Edward's Own
Goorkha Rifles
(The Sirmoor Rifles)

By COLONEL L. W. SHAKESPEAR
2nd K.E.O. Goorkha Rifles
(The Sirmoor Rifles)

Of the wounded, 1 British officer, 1 havildar and two rank and file subsequently died of their wounds, while 1 havildar and 17 rank and file died of disease contracted on service. The total losses of the Battalion were :—

Killed.	Died of Wounds.	Wounded.	Died of Disease.	Total.
30	4	87	18	139

A gratuity was sanctioned to all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men engaged in the operations on the North-West Frontier at the rate of Rs12 per native soldier, and other ranks in proportion.

In connection with the capture of Dargai on the 20th October, 1897, the Gordon and Goorkha Fund was started in Calcutta, on the initiative of the "Englishman" newspaper, with the object of assisting those who had suffered in consequence of the losses of the Gordon Highlanders and the Battalion in that engagement. A sum of Rs8,260 was collected, half being handed over to each regiment. Of the amount thus received, shares proportionate to the number of men engaged were paid to the 2nd Battalion and to the 1st Battalion 3rd Goorkha Rifles, detachments from both of which corps were attached to the Battalion at Dargai. The share of the Battalion was utilised chiefly for the heirs of those who fell at Dargai, and pensions for those who were wounded.

In England a fund—the Indian Heroes Fund—was raised for the relations of men who had fallen during the campaign. The families of 18 men of the Battalion obtained assistance from this source, a sum of Rs1,490 being received for them. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association also sent a donation for the same object.

On the return of the Battalion to Dehra a wish was expressed by all ranks to present to the 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders a memento of the friendship which had existed between the two battalions throughout the Tirah Campaign, and a day's pay was subscribed. For this purpose two kookeries were obtained from Katmandu, where they are manufactured in the State workshops.

His Excellency Sir Bir Shamsheer Jang Rana, Bahadur, was kind enough to specially interest himself in their preparation, allowing them to be made from blades originally intended for himself, and presenting for the handles the horns of a rhinoceros which he himself had shot. These kookeries were forwarded to the Gordon Highlanders in September, 1898, just before their departure for Scotland, one being presented to the Officers' Mess, the other to the Sergeants' Mess.

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