

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**Tape 885 Finding Aid**

**INTERVIEWEE NAMES:**

Arthur Barlow	4700.0605	Tape 885.1	(Tape 3 of 4)
Colonel and Mrs. John R. Hainsworth	4700.0606	Tape 885.2	(Tape 1 of 2)

**IDENTIFICATION:** Britons in Pre-Independence India

**INTERVIEWERS:** Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

**SERIES:** British Voices from South Asia

**INTERVIEW DATES:**

Barlow: 7/5/1978

Hainsworths: 7/7/1978

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 34 minutes

Barlow: 47 minutes

Hainsworths: 47 minutes

**OTHER MATERIALS:** None

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**Tape 885, Side A**

**Barlow (Part 3 of 4) (885.1)**

- 001 Soviet people were friendly on the whole; doesn't think they made more trouble; had personal influence
- 007 revolution right before he arrived; Chinese city been destroyed by Turkish rebels; unsettled as to who ruled; division of loyalties
- 015 everyday life was uneventful; had to find ways to pass the time; spent time entertaining; played polo twice a week; played a game almost everyday
- 028 was involved in intelligence
- 031 was a radical change from India
- 038 cross the Himalayas, then the Hindu Kush on the border of China and Afghanistan; goes into immense plain that stretches for miles; rarely rains; describes terrain

- 045 canals provided water and irrigation; water rushed down several times a day; extensive system
- 057 spent two years in [Kashgow?]; usual tour length; council stayed there about the same time, maybe three years
- 064 got polio the last month he was there; one leg was saved by daily massages; remembers getting up for the first time
- 074 reputation of living long lives
- 079 went to [Breshaw?] for six months for electric treatment
- 082 beginning of 1938 to 1940 was stationed in eastern states; interesting living quarters
- 086 dealt with tribal matters and primitive tribes; tribes were very primitive; small states
- 097 [Dinkinof?] was poorly governed; [keener?] used to capture wild elephants; shown how to tame elephants
- 114 wished tribes were all under one service; would have been better looked after
- 122 president of eastern states lived in Calcutta; house was supposedly haunted; president's wife claimed to see ghost hovering over her when she slept
- 133 hated city of Calcutta; liked where he was, though; spent time there on tour
- 142 last position as political agent; was the meaning of one's career; enjoyed it very much
- 152 excitement of going between primitive tribes and life in Calcutta
- 156 learned different languages of the different regions; learned Urdu a little; in Western India, didn't learn language; learned a little Turkish and Russian; was beginning to learn Pashto
- 162 disadvantages of moving people from different areas and languages; had to learn as fast as you could
- 171 in India, had large household with servants; cook and assistant cook; it was the way society was; never mixed work then, although may have to now
- 185 names of servants depended on the region you were in
- 194 personal servants tended to be Muslim but not always; sweepers were all low-class Hindus
- 209 used to spend all his money on books; not fair that ICS men not seen as intellectual; many places in India had very little art and knowledge
- 229 British seemed interested in Indian dancing; was more of a personal matter whether you were interested in Indian culture; very different culture that needs to be experienced for a while before it is really appreciated
- 242 India baffles British visitors; services devoted to such things like forestry and such; ICS devoted to interests of the people
- 253 class of person ICS was recruiting mostly from professional upper classes or smaller Indian classes that had lived most of their lives in the countryside; they had sympathy for peasants
- 265 ICS was trusted and had strong influence over people
- 269 ICS preferred to be in countryside rather than in the city and under the eyes of the government
- 274 was the secretary to the resident; valued time spent; not much contact with the people living in the state
- 293 doesn't have special moments to distinguish that time from his time in the eastern states; people really different
- 299 lines of succession
- 310 very interested with elephants
- 312 states are fairly remote, not as much in the eastern states, though
- 316 sometimes barriers in the minds of some of the other services on mixing with others; in big

cities, some services jealous of others  
 333 political barriers made some soldiers jealous  
 339 only contact with other British ranks was during the summer  
 356 mostly came in contact with those from the same class and background, but not exclusively  
 368 afraid of what would happen when India would gain independence  
 387 had thoughts when he first went to India that he would not finish his full term  
 395 had option go to colonial service; went in 1947; wasn't what he wanted; no one over forty-  
 five years old allowed into personal service  
 409 went to Africa in 1948 after time of leave  
 416 ICS reputation  
 420 in Africa, never was able to interact with the people because of position  
 426 liked both places; India and Africa can't be compared because so different; one has such  
 long history and deep culture while the other has none  
 441 life is less comfortable in Africa verses India; Africa not as refined as India; touring is  
 different in both countries  
 473 administrators in Africa verses India  
 485 major contribution of British was skeleton of civil service; always impartiality between  
 classes; reputation of being incorruptible  
 508 just as British mediated between Muslims and Hindus in India, British mediated in Africa  
 between different groups  
 517 was back to Pakistan in the 1960s  
 529 fear of being unwelcome keeps many from going back; feels their administration would be  
 criticized if things hadn't happened the way they did  
 545 end of tape

### **Tape 885, Side B**

#### **Hainsworths (Part 2 of 3) (885.2)**

002 was in Peshawar for thirteen years; depart from war, duties in the province  
 007 was granted leave to England in 1929; returned at the end 1929 while wife stayed in  
 England; daughter born 1930  
 011 we went back, was posted to [Aserystan?] for short time; was brought back as patent clerk  
 officer at north command headquarters; wife and daughter joined him there at end 1930  
 015 nice job because they moved up to the hills in summer; spent winter in Rawalpindi and  
 summer in [Merhia?]; avoided separation; was there for three years  
 020 was almost entirely an office job; concerned with building projects and estimates  
 throughout northern command area; made comments and reported them to senior officers;  
 remained there until 1932  
 028 up until 1932, northwest frontier public works department (PWD) had been run by public  
 works department of the Punjab; northwest frontier decided to establish its own public  
 works; volunteered to help establish public works  
 042 in the department, was there as executive engineer from 1932 to 1935; had interesting jobs;  
 dealt with rebuilding of government house  
 049 rebuilding government house was big job; had nine bedrooms, each with its own bath;  
 large dining room and reception lounge  
 054 also dealt with bridges and road construction; very busy time  
 055 one advantage of job was nice PWD bungalow; first bungalow they ever had that had hot

water and sanitation; was about 4000 feet  
 064 in 1935 received another leave for England; when returned, posted back to Peshawar  
 067 was in charge of canals; covered four major canals that irrigated the main part of the  
 province; from 1935 to 1939; dealt with diverting water from [Cobra?] River; covered  
 500,000 acres  
 082 also did all the revenue work; kept record of summer and winter crops, along with duties  
 for each crop; kept track of individual farmers  
 090 good shooting at this time  
 095 daughter returned with them in 1935; stayed until 1945; son born 1938  
 102 got home leave in 1939; was home a month then war started; recalled back to army  
 108 wife went out in 1940 and was India during the war; took one of last boats out to India;  
 daughter was in boarding school; son was with them  
 119 daughter decided wanted to go to India; came with 300 other school children; was there for  
 the length of the war  
 126 he was away for three years; wife and children were left in Peshawar; difficult because no  
 claims to accommodations, especially in winter; relied on those kind enough to take them  
 in during the winter  
 141 son was too young for school; daughter went to school in [Senya?]; opened wonderful  
 school and headmaster; staff composed of wives with previous teaching experiences; about  
 300 boys and girls; stayed there until she returned to England; never fell behind children in  
 England  
 154 schools weren't available before because children went back to England; went back home  
 around age nine or ten  
 161 was with daughter until she was fifteen, which was uncommon  
 169 travel experience seemed to be an advantage his daughter had over other British girls  
 174 in 1945, wife decided to go back to England because war was out of Europe; wanted to get  
 children to school  
 181 in same month, he was transferred to Delhi; she had no idea where he was; "hoped for the  
 best"  
 194 was released back to public works in beginning of 1946; took over old job; stationed in  
 Borneo; in charge of southern part of province  
 205 Partition was a dreadful time; saw some violence; on actual day, passing through Peshawar  
 and could see the burning Hindu villages; was stopped by road block, but eventually got  
 through  
 231 office was in the middle of long line of offices; gang came through searching for Hindus;  
 Hindu staff members ran into his office for shelter; gang didn't hurt anyone  
 250 after Partition and up until he left in 1952, never ran into any more trouble; never any bad  
 feelings toward Europeans  
 256 after Partition, British population became smaller because of those retiring  
 263 believes ordinary villagers were saddened to see British leave  
 266 during this time, children were at school  
 267 [Percharms?] were nice tribe of Indians on frontier, much better than the southern tribes;  
 southern tribes were known to be fighting tribes; [Percharms?] were lighter skinned, some  
 were tall  
 277 good many British stayed on in Pakistan for one or two years, but not as long as they did;  
 when they left there were only three British left

- 287 everything carried on the same up until they left; clubs still running; not many changes in everyday life
- 297 social life completely changed because there were no British to go out with
- 307 after Partition, tribal fighting decreased; large army camps were abandoned and troops withdrawn; tribes didn't surrender independence, but stopped raiding; became more willing to deal with local government
- 324 believed there was trouble now, mostly due to Afghanistan
- 338 after establishment of army camps in 1922, tribal raiding decreased; tribesmen began visiting and becoming more civilized; believes these are the reasons for the changes
- 353 shortly before leaving, was visited by former body guards; back in 1922, none of them would have left the tribal area; enjoyed being able to go into various shops
- 371 was there during the Quetta Earthquake in 1935; got on ship at Bombay, but was diverted to pick up seriously injured from the earthquake; because was senior officer, was put in charge of the women and children; had to report their status when reached Southampton
- 404 had friend there during earthquake; bungalow collapsed, killing the nurse and child; the husband was away on tour; wife had to be pulled from rubble, but survived
- 428 stories from survivors from earthquake; one woman ended up with the roof on top of her bed and her on the bottom; another couple had been in the garden and watched their car roll out the garage
- 446 never did any big game shooting
- 457 went shooting for the day; one day, friend from another office came in and decided to go shooting that afternoon; by six in the evening, had killed 102 ducks; very good duck shooting
- 478 went on various duck shooting trips; had sixteen shooters; killed between 500 to 800 ducks in one trip
- 503 toured half the time while executive engineer; did not tour as much when became chief engineer; was largely administrative
- 518 toured mostly during the day; had PWD bungalows in most places so would tour between bungalows, not necessarily in tents
- 539 passed the [?] exam in 1926/1927; once passed exam, got extra 100 rupees a month
- 558 end of tape