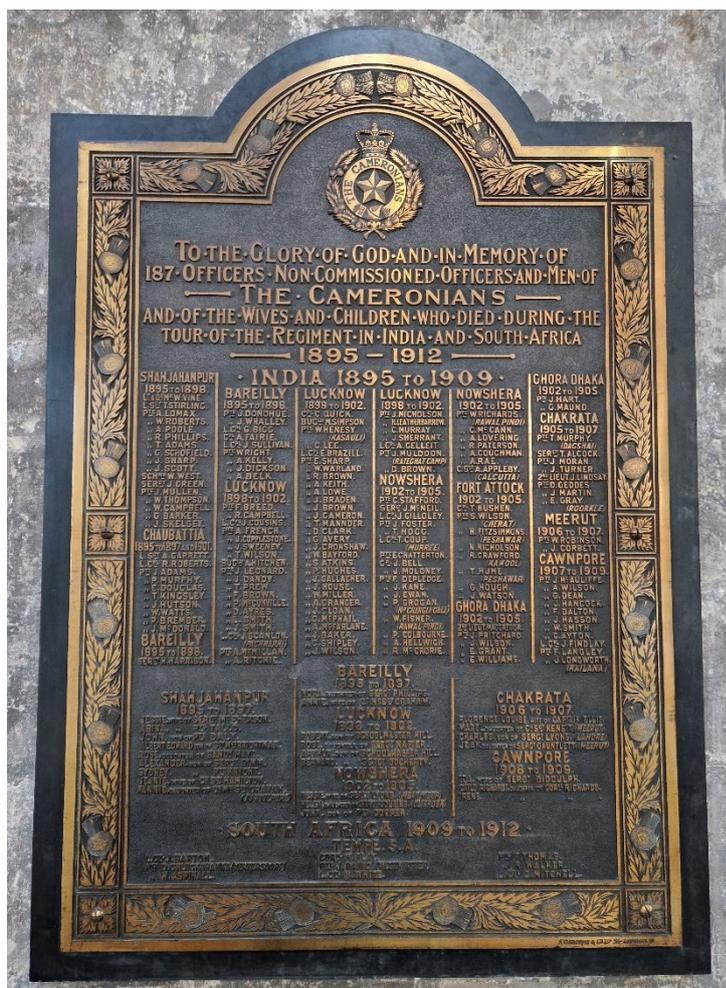


A Military Tour of India by David Gray

I have just returned from a short holiday in Glasgow, and as we always do when we visit a city, we paid a visit to the cathedral. I am sure I don't need to explain the magnificence of British cathedrals, my main purpose was to look at the numerous military memorials that are scattered around the walls of these wonderful ancient storehouses of history. Many memorials are there to commemorate individual soldiers, others cover whole regiments. The one that interested me both because of its construction as well as the story it told was a large bronze plaque erected:

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF
187 OFFICERS NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF
THE CAMERONIANS
AND OF THE WIVES AND CHILDREN WHO DIED DURING THE
TOUR OF THE REGIMENT IN INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA**

1895 – 1912



The 1st and 2nd Battalions toured India from 1895 to 1909, and then South Africa from 1909 to 1912. The 1st Battalion arrived in India in 1894 and stayed until 1909, while the 2nd Battalion was already stationed in India, and later deployed to South Africa in 1899, returning to the UK in 1907, although a few stayed at Tempe until 1912. The Tempe Military Base at Bloemfontein served as a British military post before becoming a key installation for the South African Defence Force. It was established in 1903 to house British troops after the Boer War.

As the title indicates, this magnificent plaque commemorates not only the men who lost their lives during these years, but also their wives and children. This attracted my particular attention as I wasn't aware that it was common practice to commemorate the families of men on these memorials. However, those paying for

Memorial in Glasgow Cathedral

the plaque could, of course, include anyone they liked.

The names of the men who lost their lives during the tour of India (Pakistan did not exist at this time), are divided up into the places in which they died and the years the regiment was posted to that station. Men from both battalions were sent to numerous different stations at the same time.

The different locations in India where men from the Cameronians served and died are set out below:

- **Shah Jahanpur – 1895 to 1898: 17 soldiers died while stationed here.**

Shahjahanpur served as a British military base during the British Raj in India, specifically as a cantonment for British troops. It was a part of the Bengal Presidency and later became a part of the United Provinces. The 167 Infantry Brigade of the 23rd Infantry Division was stationed there among others.

- **Chaubattia – 1895 to 1897 and 1901: 10 soldiers died while stationed here.**

Chaubattia, near Ranikhet in India, served as a British military cantonment and a hill station retreat during the British Raj. It was established in 1869, primarily to house British troops and provide them with a cooler climate during the hot Indian summers.

- **Bareilly – 1895 to 1898: 10 soldiers died while stationed here.**

Bareilly served as a British military base, particularly during the British Raj. It was part of the British cantonment system, with a significant British presence and infrastructure related to the army. The British established a cantonment in Bareilly, indicating its importance as a military and administrative centre. The city was a base for British troops and played a role in maintaining British authority and control in the region.

- **Lucknow – 1898 to 1902: 56 soldiers died while stationed here, although one was being treated at Pachmarhi, one at Kasauli and one at Rateghat Camp.**

Lucknow was a significant British base, particularly during the Indian Rebellion of 1857, due to its strategic location and the British Residency within the city. The British Residency, a complex of buildings, served as the residence of the British High Commissioner and became a symbol of British authority in the region. In 1857, during the Indian Rebellion, the Residency was besieged by rebel forces, becoming a central location for British resistance.

- **Nowshera – 1902 to 1905: 24 soldiers died while stationed here, although one was being treated at Muree, one at Changli Gali, two at Rawalpindi and one at Calcutta.**

Nowshera served as a British cantonment and base during British rule in India, particularly for troops stationed in the Peshawar Valley. Nowshera was a significant cantonment, strategically located on the banks of the Kabul River. It housed various British units, including infantry regiments, a mountain battery, and a bearer corps. The British established infrastructure in Nowshera, including a hospital, a church, and bungalows, to support their troops. A railway and road bridge were also built across the Kabul River, enhancing connectivity.

- **Fort Attock – 1902 to 1905: 8 soldiers died while stationed here, although one was being treated at Cherat, two at Peshawar and one at Kakool.** (We will look at these three bases later).

Fort Attock served as a British base after they annexed the Punjab following the Second Sikh War (1848-1849). The fort, originally built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, had strategic importance due to its location on the Indus River where trade and military routes from the Khyber Pass converged. The British took control of the fort from the Sikhs, who had previously captured it from the Afghans.

- **Ghora Dhaka – 1902 to 1905: 7 soldiers died while stationed here.**

Ghora Dhaka, formerly known as Ghora Dakha, was a British cantonment, specifically a summer cantonment, in the Hazara District during British rule. It served as a garrison, with British infantry occupying the town during the summer months. The name "Ghora Dhaka" is said to originate from this period, meaning "white soldiers' hill".

- **Chakrata – 1905 to 1907: 8 soldiers died while stationed here, although one was being treated at Dagshai and one at Roorkee.**

Chakrata served as a British cantonment and a summer retreat for British officials during their rule in India. It was developed by the British as a hill station and military base, strategically located between the Tons and Yamuna rivers at an elevation of 2118 metres. The area also has a historical association with the British Indian Army, with a military cantonment still present today,

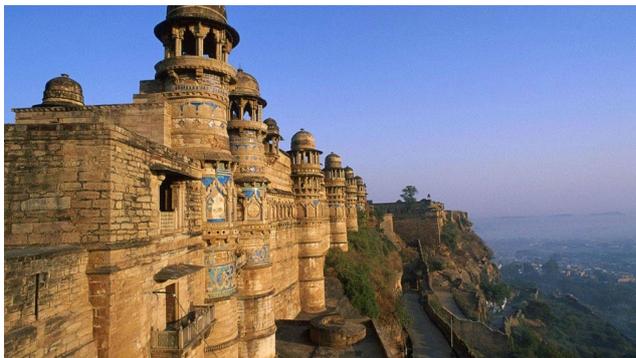
- **Meerut – 1906 to 1907: 2 soldiers died while stationed here.**

Meerut was a significant British military base in India, particularly during the 19th century. Established by the British East India Company in 1803, the Meerut Cantonment became one of the largest and most important British military installations in northern India. It housed a substantial garrison of British and Indian troops, including artillery and infantry, and served as a major recruitment and training centre.

- **Cawnpore – 1907 to 1909: 11 soldiers died while stationed here, although one was being treated at Kailana.**

Cawnpore (now Kanpur), India, served as a significant British military base during the colonial era, particularly during the 1857 Indian Mutiny. It was a key garrison town on the Grand Trunk Road, connecting important regions like Sindh, Punjab, and Awadh. The British established a strong military presence there, including a magazine that served as a defensive stronghold. However, the loyalty of the native sepoys stationed there was ultimately tested, leading to the Siege of Cawnpore and subsequent tragic events during the mutiny.

I wanted to find out more about some of the places that these soldiers were stationed at for so many years. I chose **Attock Fort** simply because of the word 'Fort', and I thought it might be a little more impressive than a simple hill station. How right I was!



Attock Fort

Attock Fort is located at a distance of approximately 80 kilometres from the capital city of Islamabad at the confluence of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was formed at Attock Khurd during the reign of Akbar the Great from 1581 to 1583, following the supervision of Khawaja Shamsuddin Khawafi to shield the entrance of the River Indus. It highlighted a notable role in Afghan-Sikh Wars through the Battle of Attock. Today it is found between Peshawar Road on one side and the

River Indus on the other. Records show that Akber's 'cumbersome fort', with a border of about two and a half kilometres, was built from the sixteenth century because of concern at Kabul. Akber installed

a base here and set up a community of river men to partner the ships. Their village is on the river shore below the fortress.

Materials of Construction and finishes: Brick and Stone



Attock Fort on the Banks of the Indus River

Attock fort is an important structure built on the right bank of river Indus under the supervision of Khwaja Shams ud Din Khwafi to prevent the attack of Afghan tribes. However, records show that there has been some sort of military outpost or fortress located at the crossing point of Indus River between Punjab and what was once the Afghan-Pashtun frontier predating the invasion of Alexander the Great. Attock Fort has also been mentioned in the travel chronicles of Chinese historian Hwen Tsang (631 AD) as well as in the adventures of Ibn-Ibn-e-Battuta (1350 AD).

The fort wall, about two and half kilometres in circumference is a fine representation of Military Architecture. The fort has four impressive gates and are named Lohari gate, Delhi gate, Kabuli gate and Mori gate. It's stone wall rhythmically dotted with battlements descends in step with the contours of the hills to the river, ending in a gate facing the river front. Nearby is a village of fishermen today known as Mohalla Malahan (Fishermen settlement).

British Occupation

The British occupation of Attock Fort was part of their broader expansion and consolidation of control over the northwestern frontiers of British India during the 19th century.



One of the Gates at Attock Fort overlooking the Indus River

The British took control of Attock Fort after the annexation of Punjab in 1849, following the defeat of the Sikh Empire in the Second Anglo-Sikh War. In that year the British East India Company annexed Punjab and took control of the fort from the Sikhs. The fort became an important garrison post for

British troops, serving both defensive and administrative functions. Given its proximity to the Afghan frontier, Attock was part of the British military strategy to guard against Russian influence during the "Great Game" — the geopolitical rivalry between the British Empire and the Russian Empire in Central Asia.



Another view of Attock Fort showing its position on the Indus River

The Fort was used to house British Indian Army troops, including infantry and artillery units. It served as a supply depot and logistics base for military campaigns into the North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). During times of unrest in the tribal areas or conflicts with Afghanistan (such as the Anglo-Afghan Wars), the fort was a key staging point.

Throughout the dry season, Mughals had crossed the river via a bridge of boats, which the British later berthed to landings on either side. Not long after this British engineers unsuccessfully tried to tunnel beneath the river. After this failure, they constructed a road and rail platform in 1883 that worked until the end of the 1970s when the latest bridge was finished near the fortress and saves precious minutes on the route to Peshawar.

The fort continued to be an active military post even after British rule ended in 1947. It is still used by the Pakistan Army today and is not open to the public.

A number of soldiers based at Attock Fort who became sick, were sent to other stations where they could receive better treatment. As we have seen, men were sent to Cherat, Peshawar, and Kakool.

Cherat, where **Private S. Wilson** died, is approximately 76 km from Attock Fort and was established as a British hill cantonment in the late 19th century. It served primarily as a sanatorium and summer hill station for British troops stationed in the Peshawar valley, due to its cooler climate at 4,500 feet. British regiments and Indian units would be rotated to Cherat seasonally to escape the extreme heat and diseases of the plains. It contained military hospitals, barracks, and staff quarters and was also used as a training and rest post for units returning from frontier skirmishes.

Peshawar, where Privates **H. Fitzsimmons** and **T. Hume** died, was a key British frontier garrison and administrative hub throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was the base for multiple brigades, cavalry regiments, artillery units, and military intelligence operations. Peshawar was on the direct route to the Khyber Pass, a vital area during the British Empire's "Great Game" with Russia and served

as a launch point for many Frontier Campaigns (e.g., Tirah Campaign, Waziristan Expeditions). Home to the Peshawar Fort (Bala Hissar) and the Peshawar Cantonment.

Kakool, where **Private R, Crawford** died, (also spelled Kakul) is near Abbottabad, which was a major British garrison town. The region was the base of Frontier Force Regiments and supported training and mountain warfare units. It hosted military detachments and was used for recruitment, training, and logistics, especially in cooperation with the Abbottabad Cantonment.

Wives and Children

British troops did often take their families with them on tours of duty to India in the 1900s but with important restrictions and variations, depending on rank, role, length of tour, and time period.

Commissioned officers (and often senior non-commissioned officers) were generally allowed to bring their wives and children to India. They usually lived in separate bungalows or married quarters in cantonments. Officer families were part of British colonial social life — attending clubs, regattas, hill station retreats, etc.

Private soldiers and junior NCOs were usually not permitted to bring families unless they had served a number of years, were granted special permission or they were on an extended posting (often more than 6 years). A small number of soldiers' wives were selected to accompany units, and these women were known as “official wives” and placed on the married roll.

Families lived in designated military cantonments, which had European quarters (often separated from Indian areas), Churches, schools, military hospitals, and European-only clubs. Children were often sent back to Britain (or kept there) for education, especially after age 7 or 8.

Typical tours of duty in India lasted 6–10 years for soldiers, and 3–5 years for officers. Not all families stayed for the full duration; many returned to Britain earlier due to illness, schooling needs, or climate. Some postings (e.g. on the North-West Frontier or during active campaigns) were considered “unaccompanied” and families were not allowed to go.

Disease was a major concern — malaria, cholera, typhoid, and heatstroke were common causes of death for British military families. Many cantonments had British cemeteries with graves of soldiers' wives and children.

There were twenty-five family members who died during the Cameroonians' tour of India. The stations they were based at and the years are as follows:

- **Shah Jehanpur – 1895 to 1897:** 9 people died, although one was being treated at **Jubbulpore**. **Jubbulpore** (modern-day Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh) was a major Cantonment and Military Centre and one of the key British military cantonments in central India. It was the headquarters of the 5th (Mhow) Division, and British and Indian troops were regularly stationed there. It hosted infantry regiments, artillery units, and support elements of the British Indian Army. There were large barracks, training grounds, British officers' quarters, and a military hospital. The Gun Carriage Factory Jabalpur, established in the 1900s, also supplied military ordnance.
The nine that died were:
 - Jessie, wife of Sergeant McPherson.

- Abina, wife of Private Tallo.
 - John, son of Private Daly.
 - Albert Edward, son of Sergeant Major Brightman.
 - Rose, daughter of Bandsman Mayo.
 - Alexander, son of Sergeant Simm.
 - Sydney, son of Private Knight.
 - Jeanie, wife of Colour Sergeant Hamilton.
 - Fannie, daughter of Quartermaster Sergeant Graham (Jubbulpore).
- **Bareilly – 1895 to 1897:** 2 people died.
 - Nora, daughter of Sergeant Phillips.
 - Annie, wife of Quartermaster Sergeant Graham. (see also above).
 - **Lucknow – 1898 to 1902:** 4 people died.
 - Robert, son of Schoolmaster Hill.
 - Rose, daughter of Sergeant Napier.
 - Arthur, son of Schoolmaster Hill.
 - Bernard, son of Sergeant Docherty.
 - **Nowshera – 1902 to 1905:** 3 people died, although one was being treated at **Mean Meer (Mian Mir near Lahore)**, and one at **Cliffden**.
Mean Meer (also spelled **Mian Mir**, near Lahore, now in Pakistan) was a major Garrison Town in Punjab and was one of the largest British military cantonments in the Punjab during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Located near Lahore, it was strategically important due to its proximity to the North-West Frontier. It hosted infantry, cavalry, artillery, and support units.
Cliffden was an often used, generic name, for British bungalows, residences, and rest houses during the Raj. We don't know exactly where this one was situated.
The three that died were:
 - Jessie, wife of Sergeant Lyons (Mian Mir).
 - Helen, daughter of Sergeant Cousins (Cliffden).
 - John, son of Private Cooper.
 - **Chakrata – 1906 to 1907:** 4 people died, although two were being treated at **Meerut** and one at **Lahore**.
 - Florence Louise, wife of Captain Ellis.
 - Mabel, daughter of Colour Sergeant Kensit (Meerut).
 - Charles, son of Sergeant Lyons (Lahore).
 - Jean, daughter of Sergeant Gauntlett (Meerut).
 - **Cawnpore – 1908 to 1909:** 3 people died.
 - Ida, wife of Sergeant Biddulph.
 - Child Richards, daughter of Corporal Richards.
 - Irene Richards, daughter of Corporal Richards.

It is tragic to see that some men lost more than one child and at least one lost a wife and a child.

The 2nd Battalion lost very few in comparison during their three years in South Africa from 1909 to 1912, only nine men and no civilians are recorded as having died at Tempe, South Africa.

Detailed images of the soldiers and civilian casualties on the memorial are on the following pages.





TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF
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 TOUR OF THE REGIMENT IN INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA
 1895 - 1912

INDIA 1895 to 1909

SHAHJAHANPUR

1895 to 1898.
 L & Q M & W VINE.
 L SGT T STIRLING.
 PTE A LOMAX.
 " W ROBERTS.
 " A POOLE.
 " R PHILLIPS.
 " T ADAMS.
 " G SCHOFIELD.
 " J SHARP.
 " J SCOTT.
 SCHM W WEST.
 SERGT J GREEN.
 PTE J MULLEN.
 " W THOMPSON.
 " G CAMPBELL.
 " G BARKER.
 " J SKELSEY.
CHAUBATTIA
 1895 to 1897 and 1901.
 L SGT A GARRETT.
 L CPT R ROBERTS.
 PTE J ADAMS.
 " P MURPHY.
 " E DOUGLAS.
 " T KINGSLEY.
 " J HUTSON.
 " W WATTS.
 " P BREMBER.
 " J Mc DONALD.
BAREILLY
 1895 to 1898.
 SERGT H HARRISON.

BAREILLY

1895 to 1898.
 PTE J DONOHUE.
 " J WHALLEY.
 L CPT G BIGG.
 CPT A FAIRIE.
 L CPT J SULLIVAN.
 PTE WRIGHT.
 " A KELLY.
 " J DICKSON.
 " A BELK.
LUCKNOW
 1898 to 1902.
 PTE F BREED.
 " R CAMPBELL.
 L CPT J COUSINS.
 PTE A FRENCH.
 " J COPPLESTONE.
 " J SWEENEY.
 " T WILSON.
 BUCGT A HITCHEN.
 PTE J LEONARD.
 " J DANDY.
 " F PREW.
 " F BROWN.
 " P Mc CONVILLE.
 " D AYRES.
 " J SMITH.
 " J SMITH.
 L CPT J SCANLON.
 (KASHMIR)
 PTE A Mc MILLAN.
 " A RITCHIE.

LUCKNOW

1898 to 1902.
 CPT C QUICK.
 BUCGT M SIMPSON.
 PTE W HENESY.
 (KASAUJI)
 " G LEE.
 L CPT E BRAZILL.
 PTE E SHARP.
 " W WARLAND.
 " R BROWN.
 " A KEITH.
 " A LOWE.
 " J BRADEN.
 " J BROWN.
 " J CAMERON.
 " T MANNER.
 " G AVERY.
 " J CRONSHAW.
 " W BAYFORD.
 " S ATKINS.
 " P HUGHES.
 " J GALLACHER.
 " J HOUSE.
 " W MILLER.
 " A CRANER.
 " G SLOAN.
 " C Mc PHAIL.
 " A Mc FARLANE.
 " J BAKER.
 " C SHIPLEY.
 " J WILSON.

LUCKNOW

1898 to 1902.
 PTE J NICHOLSON.
 " H LEATHERBARROW.
 " C MURRAY.
 " J SHERRANT.
 L CPT A CELLEIT.
 PTE J Mc LDOON.
 (RATEGHAT CAMP)
 " D BROWN.
NOWSHERA
 1902 to 1905.
 PTE C STAFFORD.
 SERGT J Mc NEIL.
 L CPT J GILLOLEY.
 PTE J FOSTER.
 " T HOGG.
 L CPT T COUP.
 (MURREE)
 PTE CHATTERTON.
 CPT J BELL.
 " J MOLONEY.
 PTE F DEPLEDGE.
 " J KANE.
 " J EWAN.
 " P GROCAN.
 (MCHANGI GALL)
 " W FISHER.
 (RAWAL PINDI)
 " P COLBOURNE.
 " A HELLWICK.
 " R Mc CRODIE.

NOWSHERA

1902 to 1905.
 PTE W RICHARDS.
 (RAWAL PINDI)
 " C Mc CANN.
 " A LOVERING.
 " R PATERSON.
 " A COUCHMAN.
 " A RAE.
 CPT A APPLEBY.
 (CALCUTTA)
FORT ATTOCK
 1902 to 1905.
 CPT T HUSHEN.
 PTE S WILSON.
 (CHERAT)
 " H FITZSIMMONS.
 (PESHAWAR)
 " N NICHOLSON.
 " R CRAWFORD.
 (KAKOOL)
 " T HUME.
 (PESHAWAR)
 " G HOUGH.
 " J WATSON.
GHORA DHAKA
 1902 to 1905.
 2ND LIEUT MCGREGOR.
 PTE J PRITCHARD.
 " J WILSON.
 " E GRANT.
 " E WILLIAMS.

GHORA DHAKA

1902 to 1905.
 PTE J HART.
 " G MAUND.
CHAKRATA
 1905 to 1907.
 PTE T MURPHY.
 (DAGSHAI)
 SERGT T ALCOCK.
 PTE J MORAN.
 " J TURNER.
 2ND LIEUT J LINDSAY.
 PTE D GEDDES.
 " J MARTIN.
 " E GRAY.
 (ROORKEE)
MEERUT
 1906 to 1907.
 PTE W ROBINSON.
 " J CORBETT.
CAWNPORE
 1907 to 1909.
 PTE J M AULIFFE.
 " A WILSON.
 " G DEAN.
 " J HANCOCK.
 " F DALTON.
 " J HASSON.
 " W SMITH.
 " C AYTON.
 L CPT J FINDLAY.
 PTE F LANGLEY.
 " J LONGWORTH.
 (KAILANA)

SHAHJAHANPUR

1895 to 1897.
 JESSIE, WIFE OF SERGT Mc PHERSON.
 ABINA, " PTE TULLO.
 JOHN, SON OF PTE DALY.
 ALBERT EDWARD, SON OF SGT Mc BRIGHTMAN.
 ROSE, DAUGHTER OF BANDY WAIN.
 ALEXANDER, SON OF SERGT SIMM.
 SYDNEY, " PENNINGTON.
 JEANIE, WIFE OF CPT Mc HAMILTON.
 KANNIE, DAUGHTER OF WIFE SGT GRAMAY.
 (MEERUT)

BAREILLY

1895 to 1897.

MORA, DAUGHTER OF SERGT PHILLIPS.
 ANNIE, WIFE OF CPT MESTY GRAHAM.

LUCKNOW

1898 to 1902.

ROBERT, SON OF SCHOOLMASTER HILL.
 ROSE, DAUGHTER OF SERGT NAPIER.
 ARTHUR, SON OF SCHOOLMASTER HILL.
 BERNARD, " SERGT DUCHERTY.

NOWSHERA

1902 to 1905.

EDITH, WIFE OF SERGT LYONS, (MEERUT).
 HELEN, DAUGHTER OF SERGT LYONS, (MEERUT).
 JOHN, SON OF PTE COOPER.

CHAKRATA

1906 to 1907.

FLORENCE LOUISE, WIFE OF CAPTAIN ELLIS.
 MARE, DAUGHTER OF CPT KENSIT, (MEERUT).
 CHARLES, SON OF SERGT LYONS, (LAHORE).
 JEAN, DAUGHTER OF SERGT GAUNTLET, (MEERUT).

CAWNPORE

1908 to 1909.

IDA, WIFE OF SERGT BIDDULPH.
 CHILD RICHARDS, DAUGHTER OF CORP RICHARDS.
 IRENE, "

SOUTH AFRICA 1909 to 1912

TEMPE, S.A.

L CPT J BARTON.
 PTE E CHURCHMAN, (VENTERSDORP).
 " H ASPINAL.

CORP W FLETCHER.
 PTE J BAIRD, (MIDWINTER).
 L CPT W WHITE.

PTE F THOMAS.
 " R WALKER.
 L CPT D MITCHELL.