



OLD CONWAYS & INDIA

PART 3: THE INDIAN ARMY & OTHER OCs IN INDIA v1

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From 1859 to 1974 the British training school ship HMS *Conway* trained young boys for a life of service at sea as officers in the British Royal Navy (RN) and Merchant Navy (MN), and in other navies around the world including India.

This article describes Old *Conways*' (OCs) hugely influential involvement in the Indian Navy and its predecessors stretching back to 1859. For completeness this article also covers OCs in the Indian Army and other OCs born/living in India. It is a companion piece to:

- *"Old Conways & India – Part 1: The Indian Navies"*
- *"Old Conways & India – Part 2: Calcutta & The Hooghly"* which describes OCs involvement in the Hooghly River Survey Service, The Bengal Pilot Service and the port/city of Calcutta.

The Cadet magazine referenced throughout this article is *Conway's* "house magazine" published from 1889 to date, see Section 9 Sources. Names in bold are the names of OCs (their years as *Conway* cadets are shown in brackets).

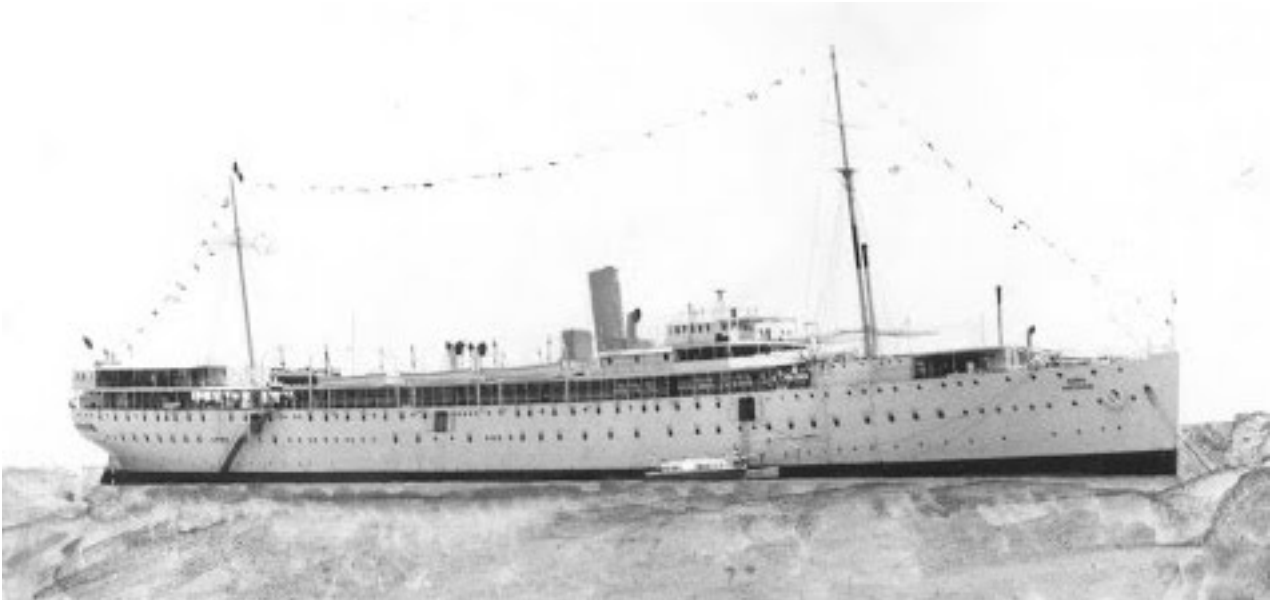
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1 OLD CONWAYS & IMMTS DUFFERIN

In 1927 the RIM's *Dufferin* was saved from the scrapyard and became Indian Merchant Marine Training Ship (IMMTS) *Dufferin*, the Indian Merchant Navy's equivalent of *Conway*, complete with Tops, Cadet Captains and a Viceroy's Gold Medal. The syllabuses and training manuals were by and large in line with those of *Conway* and *Worcester*. She was berthed at Bombay.

- Lt Cdr **Reginald Carr McClement** (04-06) was appointed as her Captain Superintendent in 1937 and held that post until he retired to England in ill health in March 1943.



2 OLD CONWAYS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

Major **Guy (George) Duncan Campbell Beaver** (06-08) Served in the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co trading around Indian ports. He served in the Indian Army during WWI (from 1916) and WWII. In WWII he was mentioned as an Embarkation Staff Officer. The London Gazette announces his honorary rank of Major Indian Army Reserve of Regular Officers and that he "*reverts to unemployment on account of disability*". He died at Crowburgh, Sussex in April 1947.

Col **John Duncan Campbell** DSO (02-04) served in the Indian Army. The London Gazette (1939 June 2nd) says he "*retires on an Indian pension 03.04.39*". The Gazette Of 1944 June 9th says he ceases to belong to the Indian Army Reserve of Regular Officers.

2nd Lt **A P F Charriol** (04-07) wrote to The Cadet in July 1915 that after Conway he had spent some years at sea and then spent two and a half years as an indigo planter in Behar, N Bengal. It was a "*glorious life but unfortunately the pay and prospects were very bad*" so he went back to sea with the Indo China Steam Navigation Co running between Calcutta and Japan. When war was declared he took up a commission in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. His letter to The Cadet July 1915 is on the right.

Major **W H Brinkely** (29-31) The Norfolk Regt, attended the Staff College at Quetta.

George E Ingram (1899-1901) was reported as a Captain in the Indian Army on August 1922

Lt **Arthur Glynn Lewis** (1895-97), master mariner, in 1918 he was serving in Watson's Horse, Indian Army at Basra. A photo is overleaf.

Col **George William Paris** (30-32) served in the Indian Army Corps of Engineers in WWII. He was gazetted with the MBE, 1946 January 15th, for gallant and distinguished service in Burma as a Major IEME. He died in December 1998 at Lymington.

2 Lt **Daniel George Mark Robinson** (08-09). Member of the Indian Army but attached to 1st Bn South Staffordshire Regt on the Western Front where he was shot through the heart at Festubert on 16th May 1915. A photo is overleaf.

DEAR CAPTAIN BROADBENT,

On leaving the sea in 1911, I took up Indigo planting in Behar (Northern Bengal), staying there for two and a half years. It was a glorious life, but unfortunately the pay and prospects were very bad. I then went back to sea as 3rd Mate of the S.S. "*Yat Shing*" (Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.), running between Calcutta and Japan, via the Straits and China.

When war was declared, I applied for a Commission in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, and was gazetted as 2nd Lieut., on the 5th February, and attached to the 35th Scinde Horse, stationed at Dera Ismail Khan.

The Brigade is now stationed at Tank (which is on the border line), as the Border tribes are getting rather troublesome. The heat here is terrific. We are living in tents on an open plain, and get dust storms (lasting from one to three hours) on an average three times a week. The temperature in my 80 lb. tent yesterday was 125° F., a statement, I am afraid, most people will find hard to believe.

I met Beaver (1906-8) the other day. He has just arrived from Quetta, where he has been in training, and is now attached to the 97th Deccan Infantry.

I hear that Carlton-Smith (1907) is now in France, with a Commission in the K.D.G.'s

Wishing the "*Conway*" continued successes, with kind regards to Mrs. Broadbent and yourself.

Sincerely yours,

A. P. F. CHARRIOL (1904-7).

Tank, via Dera Ismail Khan,
N.W.F. Province,
9th June, 1915.

Maj., (Temp., Lt Col) **Ralph Palmer Taylor** (19-21) was Mentioned in Despatches in 1943 while serving in the Touchi Scouts on detachment from the 19th Dogra Regt.

Lt Arthur Tudor Young (15-16) was born in Darjeeling in 1901. He was a rugby scrum half, capped 18 times for England. Between 1924 and 29. He joined the Royal Tank Regiment but was posted to India serving at Delhi and Lahore. He was ADC GOC Eastern Command, India and died at Bareilly, India of pneumonia on 26th February 1933.



Right: 2 Lt Daniel George Mark Robinson (08-09)

Below Right: Lt Arthur Glynn Lewis (1885-87)

Below Left: Arthur Tudor Young (15-16)



3 OTHER OLD CONWAYS LIVING IN INDIA

- 1885 Jan 21st **Lewis Cope Newman** (1899-1900) was born in Karachi, lived for some time at 2 Grants Buildings, Bombay (Arthur Bunder Rd, Apollo Bandar, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400005) and appears to have lived in India until he came back to the UK to attend Bedford Modern Scholl before joining *Conway* in 1899. His father, William Newman, was a Chief Engineer in the RIM.
- 1869 April 12th Arthur Leonard **Bigg-Wittier** (1885-86) was born in Madras, son of an Indian Army surgeon.
- 1870 April 17th Charles Edward **Bigg-Wither** (1884-86) was born in India. There is no known connection with A L Bigg-Wittier above.
- 1894 August 12th: **Vincente Szczepanowski** (aka **Vincent Stephens**) (1866-67). When Vincent left *Conway* he served in, and qualified as a master in, tea clippers before transferring to steamers. He left the sea to be a tea planter in India but the sea called him back. As well as time at sea he was an excellent electrical engineer. He worked with his half brother, Z de Ferranti in the formation and development of the Ferranti business. He advised the London Electrical Supply Corporation and wrote two books on electrical subjects. A man of many talents he was also a member of the RNAV and while master of SS *Drudge* he conducted trials of the new Sims-Edison torpedo at Spithead. In 1894, aged just 40 years old while serving as Third Officer in Union Company's SS *Spartan* he was lost overboard and never recovered
- 1911 December: **Ernest Douglas Smythies** (01-03) gave his addresses as Hastings Street, Calcutta and the British India Marine Services Club, Bombay. He was in their Indian Coast service between those two ports.
- 1914 June: **Douglas Beecroft Hall** (1894-95) was Assistant Harbourmaster at Chittagong.
- 1916 Early in the year **Smythies** (01-03) had lefty Ondo and was serving as a Captain in the King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). In May he was seriously wounded while serving in the 17th Bn Leicester Rgt. He was convalescing at home at St Helen's Road Hill, Nr Bath, an address that no longer exists. In 1917 he was fitted with an artificial leg.
- 1946 **K G Kinnear** (26-27) was a viscose chemist in a rayon factory in Shanghai.
- All those living in Calcutta are listed in Part 2.