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## 'Memoir for the Indian Political Service - Scheme by Lieut. Colonel L.A.G. Pinhey O.B.E.'

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### About this record

A memoir written by Lieutenant-Colonel Louis Alexander Gordon Pinhey about his career in the Indian Political Service (IPS), 1927-47. The memoir details:

- His education, early career and reasons for joining the IPS
- A description of Baluchistan, where he served as Assistant Political Agent, 1929-30
- A description of Zahidan [Zahedan], where he served as Vice-Consul, 1931-33
- A description of Ajmer, Rajputana [Rajasthan], where he served as Assistant Commissioner, 1933-36
- An account of an earthquake that struck Quetta on 31 May 1935
- A description of Kalat State, where he served as Wazir-i-Azam [Chief Minister] to Sir Ahmed Yar Khan, Khan of Kalat.

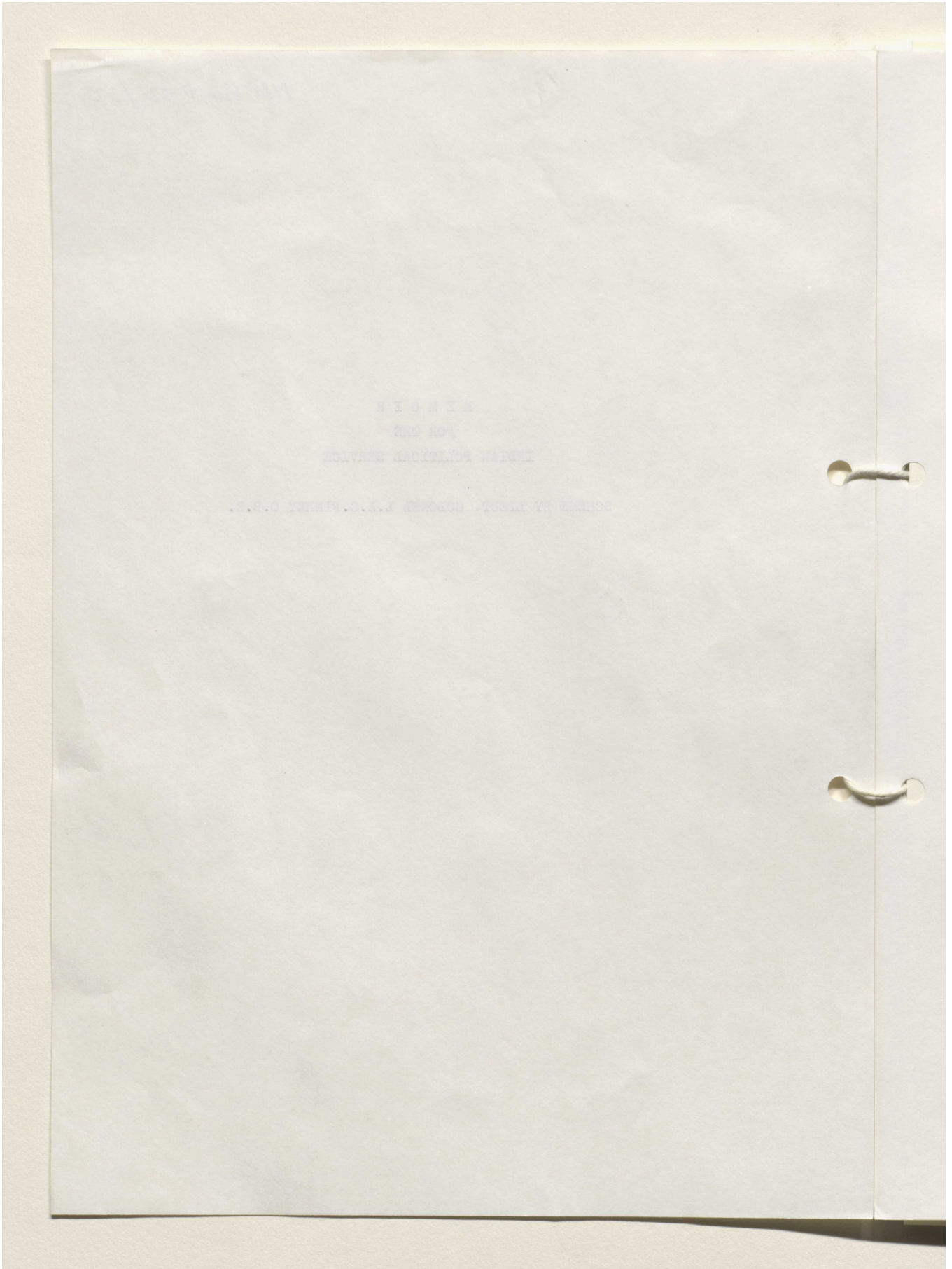
'Memoir for the Indian Political Service - Scheme by Lieut. Colonel L.A.G.  
Pinhey O.B.E.' [1r] (1/44)

1955 Eur F 226/22 (1)

M E M O I R  
FOR THE  
INDIAN POLITICAL SERVICE

SCHEME BY LIEUT. COLONEL L.A.G. PINHEY O.B.E.

'Memoir for the Indian Political Service - Scheme by Lieut. Colonel L.A.G.  
Pinhey O.B.E.' [1v] (2/44)



'Memoir for the Indian Political Service - Scheme by Lieut. Colonel L.A.G.  
Pinhey O.B.E.' [2r] (3/44)

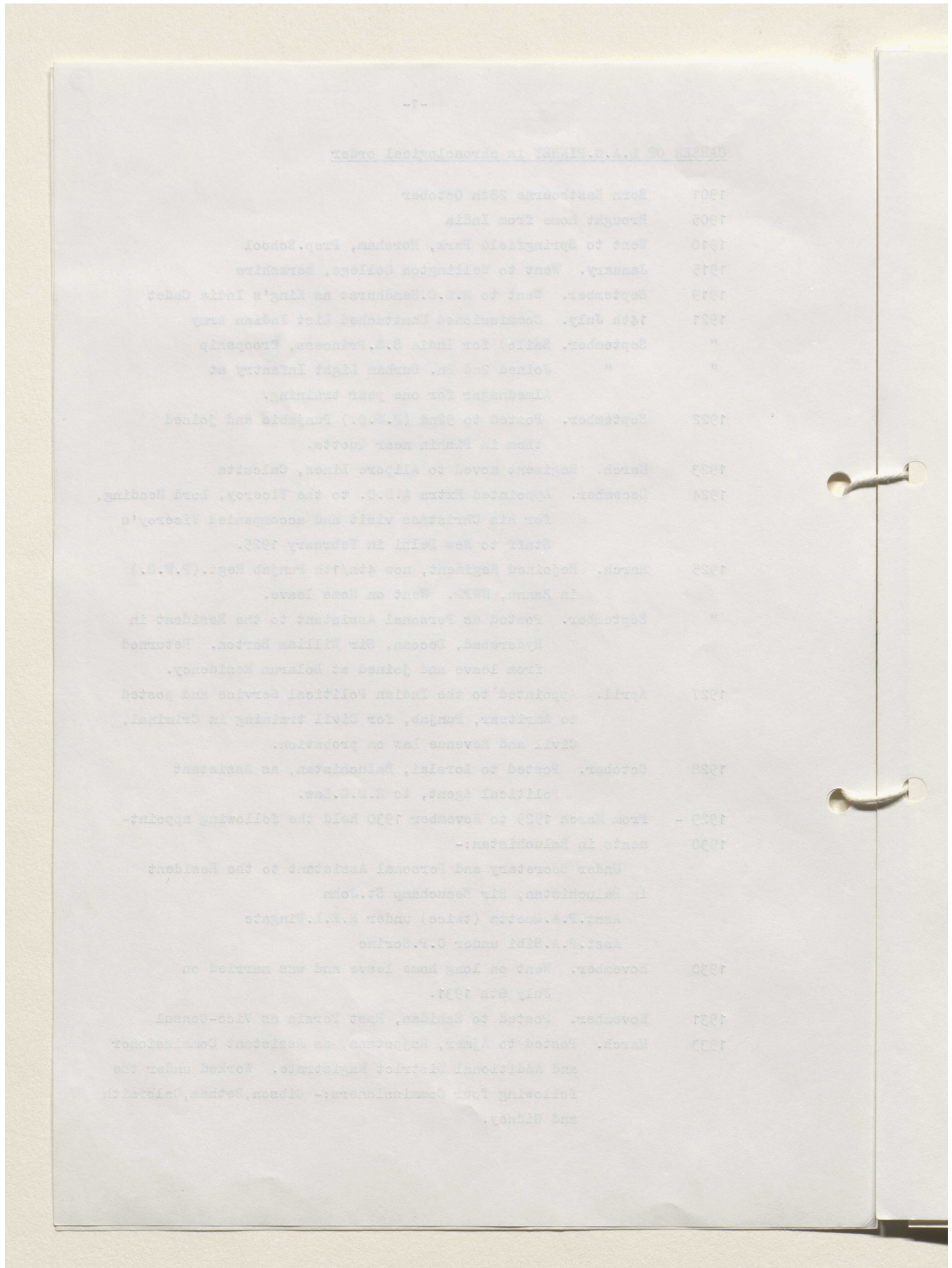
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CAREER OF L.A.G.PINHEY in chronological order

- 1901 Born Eastbourne 28th October  
1905 Brought home from India  
1910 Went to Springfield Park, Horsham, Prep.School  
1915 January. Went to Wellington College, Berkshire  
1919 September. Went to R.M.C.Sandhurst as King's India Cadet  
1921 14th July. Commissioned Unattached List Indian Army  
" September. Sailed for India S.S.Princess, Troopship  
" " Joined 2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry at  
Almednagar for one year training.  
1922 September. Posted to 92nd (P.W.O.) Punjabis and joined  
them in Pishin near Quetta.  
1923 March. Regiment moved to Alipore Lines, Calcutta  
1924 December. Appointed Extra A.D.C. to the Viceroy, Lord Reading,  
for his Christmas visit and accompanied Viceroy's  
Staff to New Delhi in February 1925.  
1925 March. Rejoined Regiment, now 4th/1th Punjab Regt.(P.W.O.)  
in Bannu, NWFP. Went on Home leave.  
" September. Posted as Personal Assistant to the Resident in  
Hyderabad, Deccan, Sir William Barton. Returned  
from leave and joined at Bolarum Residency.  
1927 April. Appointed to the Indian Political Service and posted  
to Amritsar, Punjab, for Civil training in Criminal,  
Civil and Revenue Law on probation.  
1928 October. Posted to Loralai, Baluchistan, as Assistant  
Political Agent, to H.D.G.Law.  
1929 - From March 1929 to November 1930 held the following appoint-  
1930 ments in Baluchistan:-  
Under Secretary and Personal Assistant to the Resident  
in Baluchistan, Sir Beauchamp St.John  
Asst.P.A.Quetta (twice) under R.E.L.Wingate  
Asst.P.A.Sibi under C.P.Scrine  
1930 November. Went on long home leave and was married on  
July 8th 1931.  
1931 November. Posted to Zahidan, East Persia as Vice-Consul  
1933 March. Posted to Ajmer, Rajputana, as Assistant Commissioner  
and Additional District Magistrate. Worked under the  
following four Commissioners:- Gibson, Betham, Galbraith  
and Gidney.

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- 1936 April. Posted to Quetta as additional Political Agent on special post - Earthquake duty to assist in the re-inhabitation of Quetta City and its surroundings. Compiled and edited the official Earthquake Report. Worked under Sir Ronald Wingate.
- 1937 Went on Home leave in March
- " September. Posted as Secretary to the Agent to the Government of India in Baluchistan, Sir Arthur Parsons, in Quetta. Also to his successor Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.
- 1940 Spring. Services lent to Kalat State as Wazir-i-Azam (Chief Minister), the Ruler being His Highness Khan Sir Ahmed Yar Khan.
- 1943 January. Received the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours and was presented with it by Sir Rupert Hay, A.G.G. Baluchistan at the Sibi Durbar.
- " Posted as Political Agent Sibi
- 1945 Went on short home leave after the War finished on "D" Day. Posted as Political Agent Eastern Rajputana States with Headquarters at Bharatpur. In charge of Bharatpur, Dholpur, Kotah, Bundi and Jhalawar States.
1947. Spring. Before Independence Day on August 14th was given additional charge of the Jaipur Agency comprising Jaipur, Kishengarh, Alwar, Karauli and Tonk States. Moved H.Q. to Jaipur.
- " On August 15th left India on retirement.

Post-India career

- 1949 Employed by British Foreign Office on three year contract as Secretary to the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, Sir Rupert Hay. Contract was shortened as a permanent Foreign Office officer was appointed early in 1951. Was appointed temporarily as Acting Consul in Khorramshahr at the time of the nationalisation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.
- " Consulate evacuated and taken over by the Iranian Government under the orders of Mossadaque.
- " September. Served with the Bahrain Petroleum Company as a Liaison Officer.
- 1957 September. Retired finally.

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1936. Posted to Quetta as additional Political Agent on special post - Karakoram duty to assist in the re-organisation of Quetta City and its surroundings. Completed and edited the official Karakoram Report. Worked under Sir Ronald Wingate.

1937. Went on home leave in March. Posted as Secretary to the Agent to the Government of India in Baluchistan, Sir Arthur Thomson, in Quetta. Also to his successor Sir Aubrey Kesteven.

1940. Spring. Services sent to Lahore State as Warir-1-Team (Chief Minister), the ruler being His Highness Khan Sir Ahmad Yar Khan.

1942. January. Received the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours and was presented with it by Sir Robert Kay, A.C.B. Baluchistan at the 2nd Dinner.

" Posted as Political Agent 23rd. Went on short leave after the war finished on "U" Day.

1945. Posted as Political Agent Eastern Rajasthan States with Headquarters at Jaipur. In charge of Jaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Bundi and Jaisalmer States.

1947. Spring. Before Independence Day on August 14th was given additional charge of the Jaipur Agency comprising Jaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Bundi and Jaisalmer States. Moved N.W. to Jaipur.

" On August 15th left India on retirement.

Post-India career

1948. Employed by British Foreign Office on three year contract as Secretary to the British Resident in the Persian Gulf.

1951. Sir Robert Kay. Contract was renewed as a permanent Foreign Office officer was appointed early in 1951. Was appointed temporarily as Acting Consul in Amman at the time of the nationalisation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Consulate evacuated and taken over by the Iranian Government under the orders of Mosaddeq.

" Served with the Bahrain Petroleum Company as a Liaison Officer.

1957. September. Retired finally.

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Service in the Indian Political Service from 1925 to 1947

1. Introductory - Background

School After Preparatory School in Horsham, Sussex went to Wellington College, Berkshire from June 1915 to July 1919. No particular distinction at school. Passed Army Examination in July 1919 as a King's India Cadet. This was awarded to me on the strength of my father's record in the Indian Political Department where he ended his career as Resident in Hyderabad after being Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Lord Minto.

My father, Lt. Col. Sir Alexander Pinhey KCSI. etc. died in harness and left my mother badly off which contributed to the grant of the K.I. Cadetship to me.

Went to Sandhurst from September 1919 to July 1921.

Commissioned to the Unattached List, Indian Army, on the 14th July 1921.

Spent one year with the 2nd Battalion The Durham Light Infantry in Ahmednagar near Poona.

Posted to the 92nd Punjabis in September 1922 and joined them in Pishin near Quetta. The Regiment later became the 4th /8th Punjab Regiment Prince of Wales' Own.

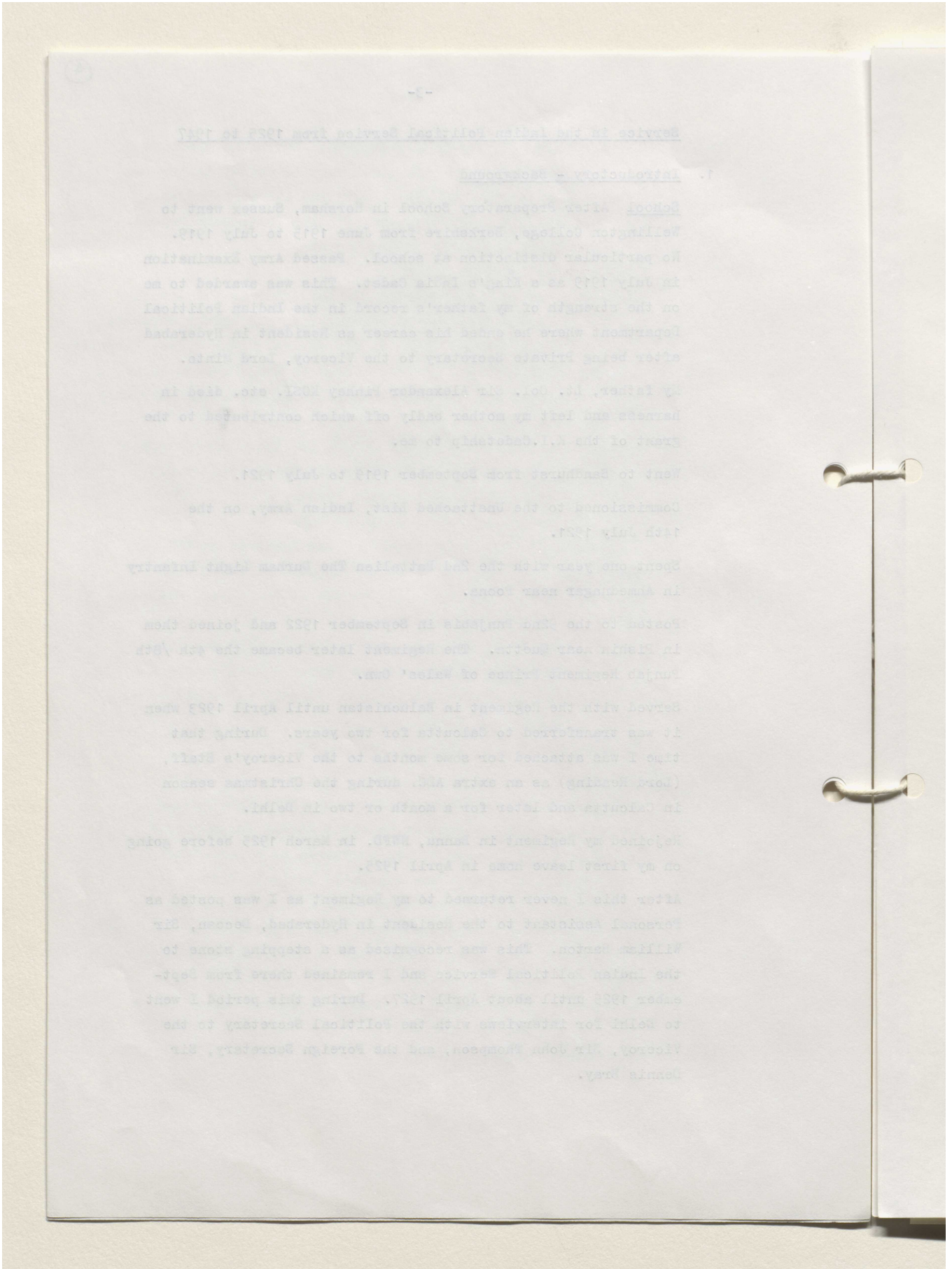
Served with the Regiment in Baluchistan until April 1923 when it was transferred to Calcutta for two years. During that time I was attached for some months to the Viceroy's Staff, (Lord Reading) as an extra ADC. during the Christmas season in Calcutta and later for a month or two in Delhi.

Rejoined my Regiment in Bannu, NWFD. in March 1925 before going on my first leave home in April 1925.

After this I never returned to my Regiment as I was posted as Personal Assistant to the Resident in Hyderabad, Deccan, Sir William Barton. This was recognised as a stepping stone to the Indian Political Service and I remained there from September 1925 until about April 1927. During this period I went to Delhi for interviews with the Political Secretary to the Viceroy, Sir John Thompson, and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Dennis Bray.



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2. Reason for joining the Indian Political Service

After my father died in Hyderabad in April 1916 and my elder brother was killed in Flanders in August 1917, I made up my mind that I wished to follow my father and so joined the Indian Army with this object in view. I had a long family background in India - my father, as stated above, was a senior member of the IPS. and was himself born in Bombay where his father (my grandfather) was a Judge of the High Court. His father (my great grandfather) was Surgeon General of Madras. I had two uncles in the Indian Post and Telegraph, one of whom helped to lay the cable from Kandahar to Kabul during the Afghan war.

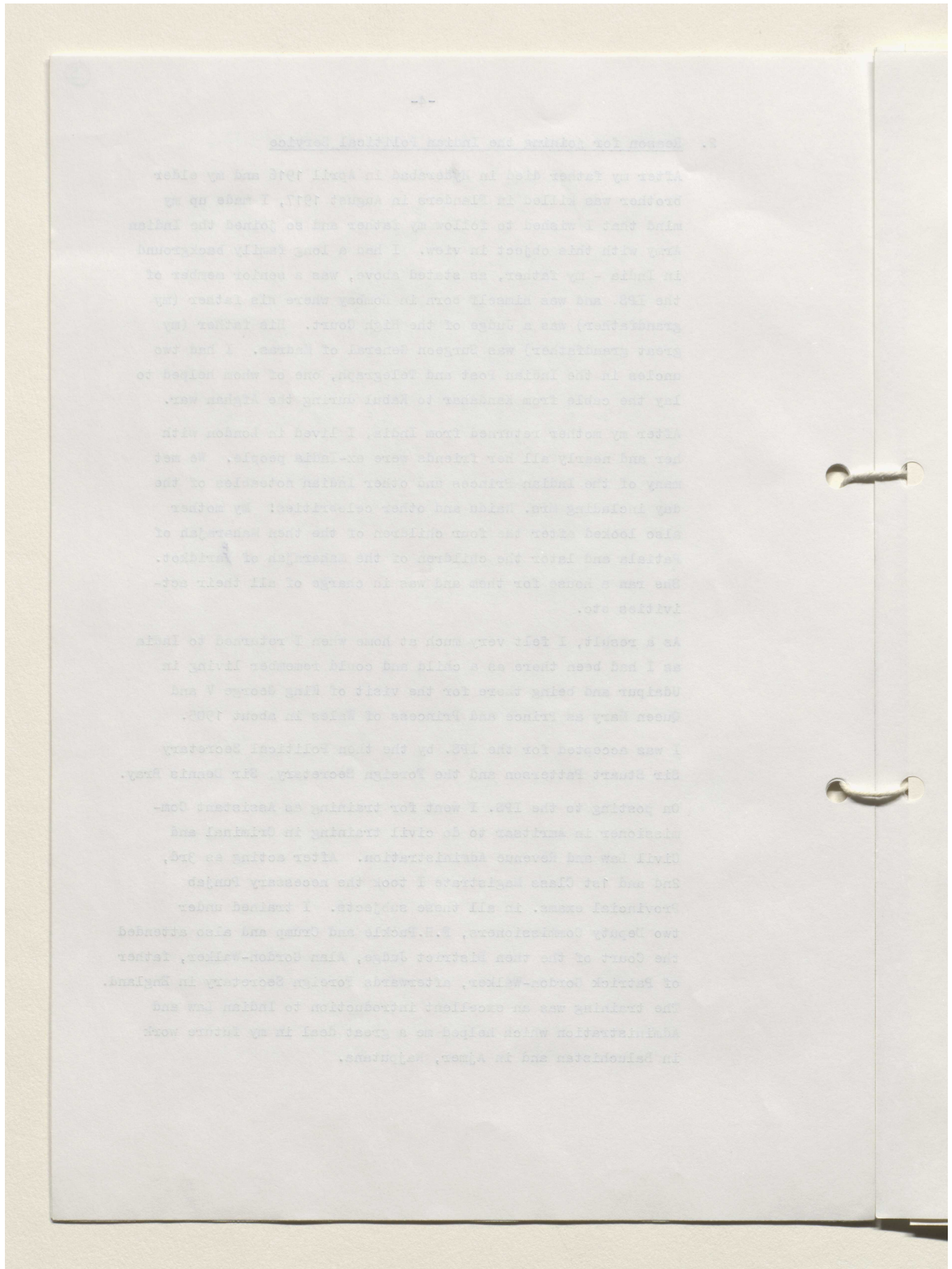
After my mother returned from India, I lived in London with her and nearly all her friends were ex-India people. We met many of the Indian Princes and other Indian noteables of the day including Mrs. Naidu and other celebrities! My mother also looked after the four children of the then Maharajah of Patiala and later the children of the Maharajah of Faridkot. She ran a house for them and was in charge of all their activities etc.

As a result, I felt very much at home when I returned to India as I had been there as a child and could remember living in Udaipur and being there for the visit of King George V and Queen Mary as Prince and Princess of Wales in about 1905.

I was accepted for the IPS. by the then Political Secretary Sir Stuart Patterson and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Dennis Bray.

On posting to the IPS. I went for training as Assistant Commissioner in Amritsar to do civil training in Criminal and Civil Law and Revenue Administration. After acting as 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class Magistrate I took the necessary Punjab Provincial exams. in all these subjects. I trained under two Deputy Commissioners, F.H.Puckle and Crump and also attended the Court of the then District Judge, Alan Gordon-Walker, father of Patrick Gordon-Walker, afterwards Foreign Secretary in England. The training was an excellent introduction to Indian Law and Administration which helped me a great deal in my future work in Baluchistan and in Ajmer, Rajputana.

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3. Outline of Career in the IPS.

September 1927 - Training in Amritsar, F.H.Puckle & Crump.  
approx April 1929

April 1929 Assistant Political Agent,  
Loralai, Baluchistan, H.D.G.Law.

Undersecretary and Personal Assistant  
to A.G.G., Baluchistan, in Quetta and  
Sibi - Sir Beauchamp St.John.

Asst. P.A. Quetta - R.E.L.Wingate  
Asst. P.A. Sibi - C.P.Skrine

April - A.P.A.Quetta - R.E.L Wingate. After  
October 1930 the Farley Freer abduction by Afghans.

November 1930 - Home leave.  
September 1931 Married July 1931.

September 1931 - Vice Consul Zahidan, E.Persia.  
March 1933

March 1933 - Asst. Commissioner, Ajmer, Rajputana  
April 1936 under Gibson, Geoffrey Betham, Galbraith  
And Gidney.

April 1936 - Additional P.A.Quetta after the Earthquake.  
April 1937 Wrote the Quetta Earthquake Report.

April 1937 - Home leave  
September 1937

September 1937 - Secretary to the A.G.G. - Parsons & Metcalfe  
April 1940 Short spell as P.A. in Quetta.

1940 - 1943 Wazir-i-Azam, Kalat State

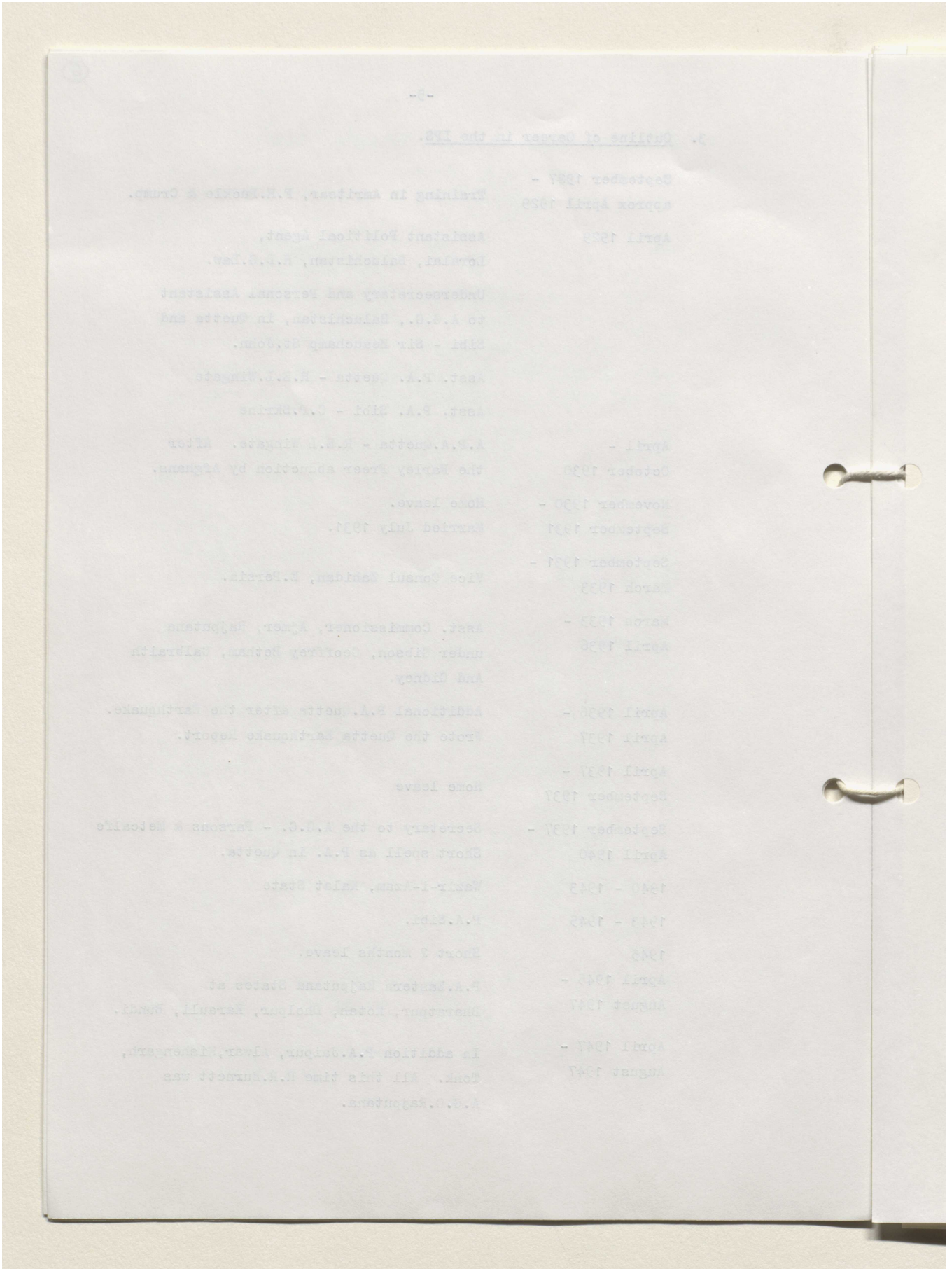
1943 - 1945 P.A.Sibi.

1945 Short 2 months leave.

April 1945 - P.A.Eastern Rajputana States at  
August 1947 Bharatpur, Kotah, Dholpur, Karauli, Bundi.

April 1947 - In addition P.A.Jaipur, Alwar, Kishengarh,  
August 1947 Tonk. All this time R.R.Burnett was  
A.G.G.Rajputana.

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Description of places where I served

Baluchistan My early posts in the Political Service were in Pathan country - Loralai, Quetta and the Northern half of Sibi.

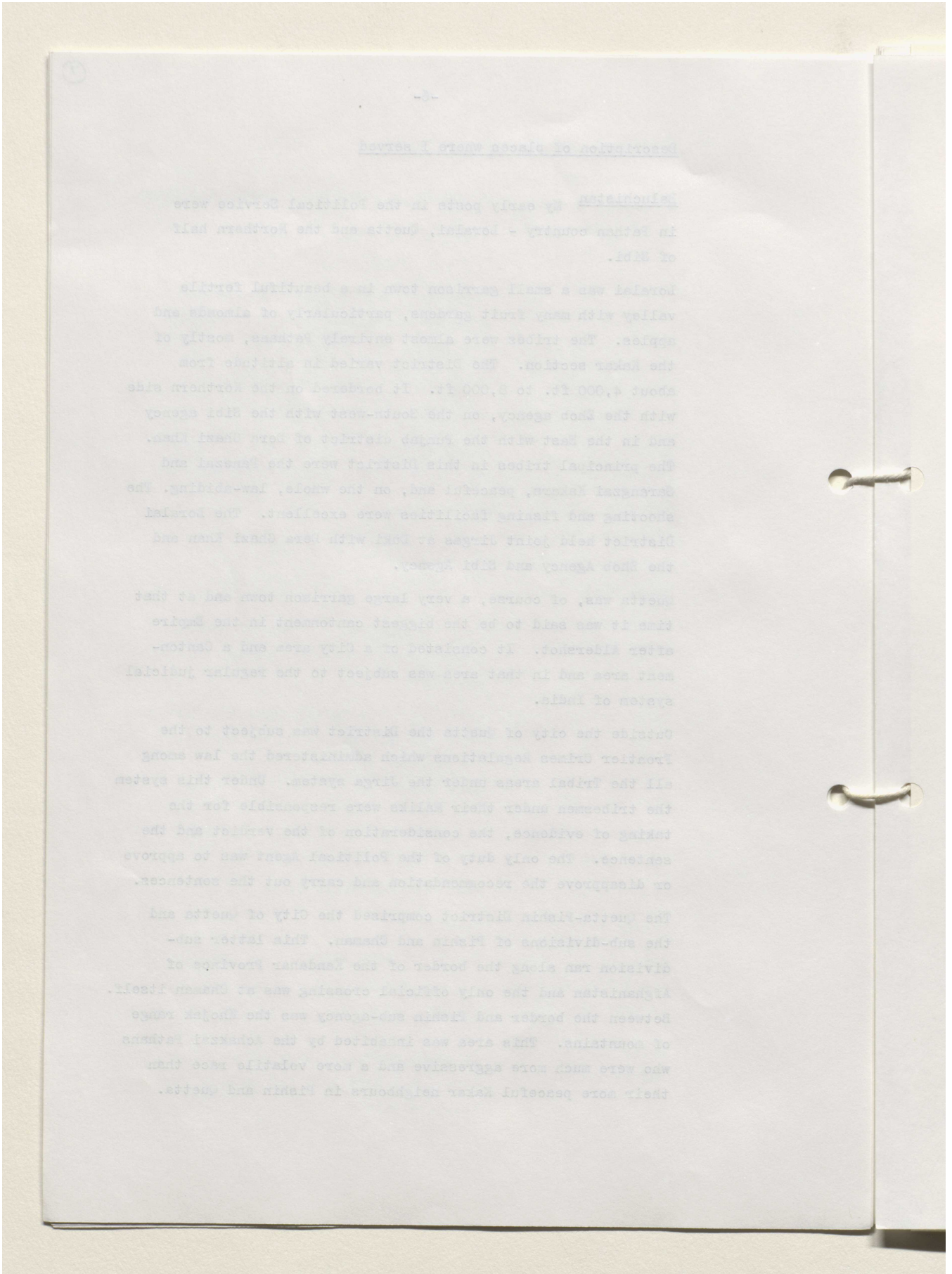
Loralai was a small garrison town in a beautiful fertile valley with many fruit gardens, particularly of almonds and apples. The tribes were almost entirely Pathans, mostly of the Kakar section. The District varied in altitude from about 4,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. It bordered on the Northern side with the Zhob agency, on the South-west with the Sibi agency and in the East with the Punjab district of Dera Ghazi Khan. The principal tribes in this District were the Panezai and Sarangzai Kakars, peaceful and, on the whole, law-abiding. The shooting and fishing facilities were excellent. The Loralai District held joint Jirgas at Duki with Dera Ghazi Khan and the Zhob Agency and Sibi Agency.

Quetta was, of course, a very large garrison town and at that time it was said to be the biggest cantonment in the Empire after Aldershot. It consisted of a City area and a Cantonment area and in that area was subject to the regular judicial system of India.

Outside the city of Quetta the District was subject to the Frontier Crimes Regulations which administered the law among all the Tribal areas under the Jirga system. Under this system the tribesmen under their Maliks were responsible for the taking of evidence, the consideration of the verdict and the sentence. The only duty of the Political Agent was to approve or disapprove the recommendation and carry out the sentences.

The Quetta-Pishin District comprised the City of Quetta and the sub-divisions of Pishin and Chaman. This latter sub-division ran along the border of the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan and the only official crossing was at Chaman itself. Between the border and Pishin sub-agency was the Khojak range of mountains. This area was inhabited by the Achakzai Pathans who were much more aggressive and a more volatile race than their more peaceful Kakar neighbours in Pishin and Quetta.

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Sibi District was in three divisions - The Northern Pathan area based at Harnai and including the Chappah Rift and the Khalifat Mountain Range and also the hill station of Ziarat which was the Summer Headquarters of the A.G.G. and Staff as well as the Political Agent and the A.P.A. Sibi.

The P.A. Sibi had three houses - Sibi in the winter, Ziarat in the summer and a small Rest Home in Harnai which was occupied for about one month in the Spring and one in the Autumn. The Sibi division of the Agency ran the area round Sibi itself including the branch Railway to Harnai and Quetta, and also the Baluchi tribal areas of the Marri and Bugti tribes. Sibi bordered on Kalat State and Sindh in the south; the Punjab on the East and Kalat State on the West. There was also a separate Sub-Division of Nasirabad with Headquarters at Jhatpat which comprised the Canal areas on the borders of Sindh inhabited entirely by Baluchi tribesmen who had been given the canal irrigation area.

The two big Baluchi tribes of Marri and Bugti were, like other tribal areas on the frontier, internally semi-independent but under the general supervision of the Political Agent in Sibi and subject to the Frontier Crimes Regulation. Each tribe was headed by a Nawab who had autocratic powers in his own tribal area for internal affairs.

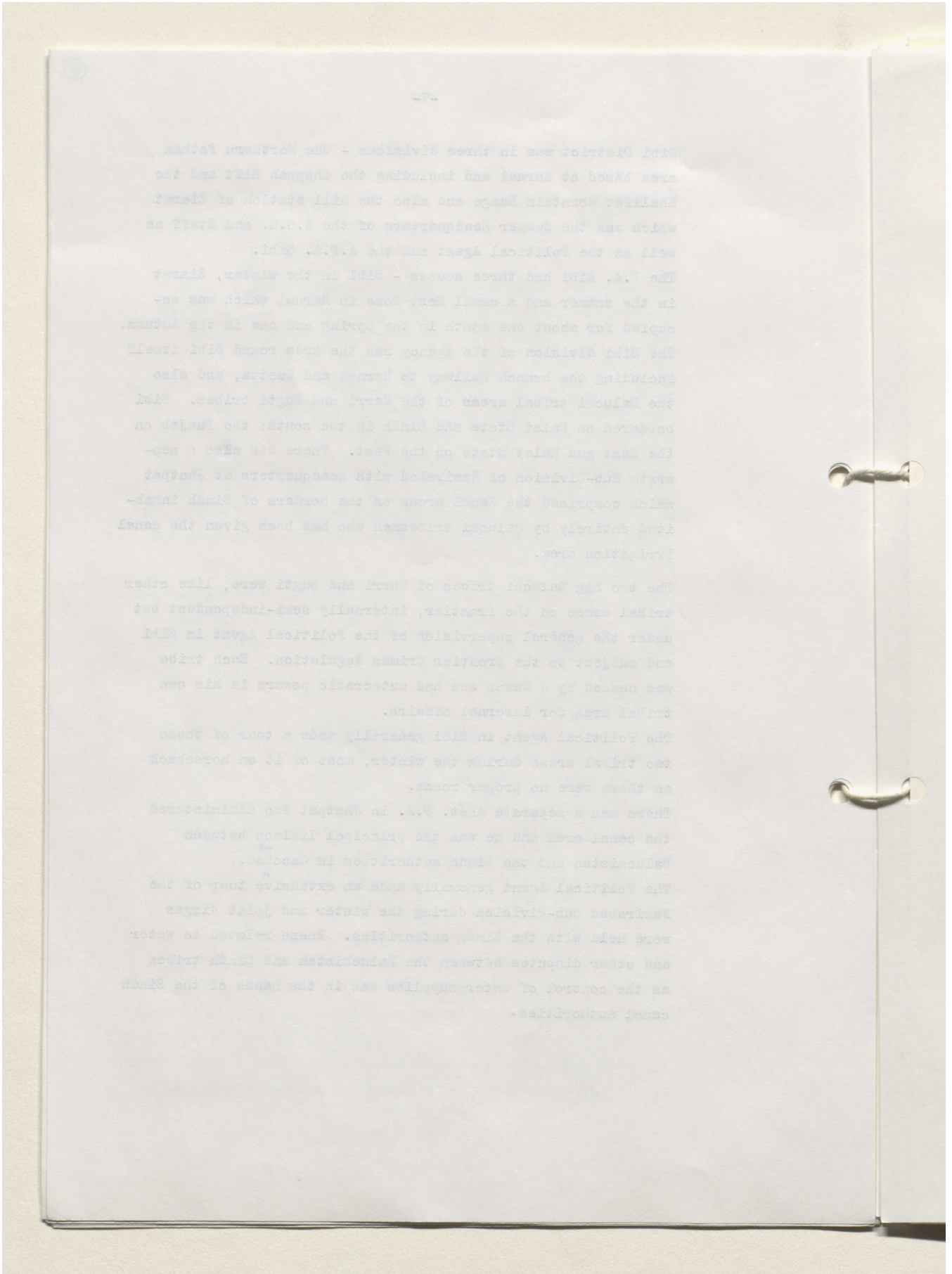
The Political Agent in Sibi generally made a tour of these two tribal areas during the winter, most of it on horseback as there were no proper roads.

There was a separate Asst. P.A. in Jhatpat who administered the canal area and he was the principal liaison between Baluchistan and the Sindh authorities in Jacobad.

The Political Agent generally made an extensive tour of the Nasirabad Sub-Division during the winter and joint Jirgas were held with the Sindh authorities. These related to water and other disputes between the Baluchistan and Sindh tribes as the control of water supplies was in the hands of the Sindh canal authorities.



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Zahidan - East Persia - September 1931 to March 1933

I was posted to Zahidan, East Persia, as Vice Consul in September 1931 in succession to E.H.Gastrell. The Consul in Zabul (formerly Sistan) was Major Clive Daly, a Persian and Arabic scholar of some renown.

The Vice Consulate was a converted temporary hospital for the East Persian Cordon which had been formed during the 1914-18 war. There was of course no electricity and the water supply was from a well in the garden which was very brackish and, as we found out later on, was "quite unfit for human consumption." Filtering was quite useless and we had to devise our own small distillation plant for our drinking water.

Up till the end of the war the railway ran a regular service from Quetta to Duzdap as it was then called. This was a weekly service which brought all mail and merchandise from India and there was consequently an important Customs Office, and rebate was given for certain imported goods for the use of the British Consulates and forces in East Persia.

This railway was closed down after the accession of Shah Reza Pahlevi and a terminus was organised at Nokundi, about fifty miles from the Persian border at Mirjawa. Between Nokundi and Mirjawa there was no road and the lorries and very infrequent cars had to follow tracks of other vehicles over a sandy and rocky semi-desert. It was difficult to average more than 15 to 20 mph. over this section. From Mirjawa to Zahidan there was a good road which was far safer but slow. At that time we had no car of our own and were forced to use the local bus transport - very uncomfortable and bone-shaking.

We were greeted at Zahidan by our predecessors, Major and Mrs. E.M.Gastrell who left the next day or so for India. As this was our first married posting (we had been married at home during my leave) we made the best of things. The local European community consisted of a British Imperial Bank of Persia manager and family, a German National Bank manager and wife, a Belgian Customs Officer and wife, a Canadian Bible Church missionary and wife with an Indian Doctor and an Armenian representative of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. We were a mixed bunch and for our Christmas Party at the Vice-Consulate our mutual language was a very bastard French as the Persian Officers and the Belgians knew no English!

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London - East Persia - September 1937 to March 1938

I was posted to Bahidin, East Persia, as Vice Consul in September 1937 in succession to E.H. Gantrell. The Consul in Bahidin (formerly Shirvan) was Major Olive Kelly, a Persian and Arabic scholar of some renown.

The Vice Consulate was a converted temporary hospital for the East Persian Gordon which had been formed during the 1914-18 war. There was of course no electricity and the water supply was from a well in the garden which was very brackish and, as we found out later on, was "quite unfit for human consumption". Filtering was done uselessly and we had to devise our own small distillation plant for our drinking water.

Up till the end of the war the railway ran a regular service from Qazvin to Baghdad as it was then called. This was a weekly service which brought all mail and merchandise from India and there was consequently an important Customs Office, and rebate was given for certain imported goods for the use of the British Consulates and forces in East Persia.

This railway was closed down after the accession of Shah Reza Pahlavi and a terminus was organized at Kermanshah, about fifty miles from the Persian border at Mirjaveh. Between Kermanshah and Mirjaveh there was no road and the fords and very infrequent carts had to follow tracks of other vehicles over a sandy and rocky semi-desert. It was difficult to average more than 15 to 20 mph. over this section. From Mirjaveh to Bahidin there was a good road which was far safer but slow. At that time we had no car of our own and were forced to use the local bus transport - very uncomfortable and bone-shaking.

We were greeted at Bahidin by our predecessors, Major and Mrs. E.H. Gantrell who left the next day or so for India. As this was our first married posting (we had been married at home during my leave) we made the best of things. The local European community consisted of a British Imperial Bank of Persia manager and family, a German National Bank manager and wife, a Belgian Customs Officer and wife, a Canadian Bible Church missionary and wife with an Indian doctor and an Armenian representative of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. We were a mixed bunch and for our Christmas party at the Vice-Consulate our mutual language was a very bastard French as the Persian Officers and the Belgians knew no English!

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We stayed there for about 18 months, our time being cut short by the fact that unfortunately we lost our first child ( a baby of a few months) and the Government of India was kind enough to realise our plight and transferred me to a post in India at Ajmer.

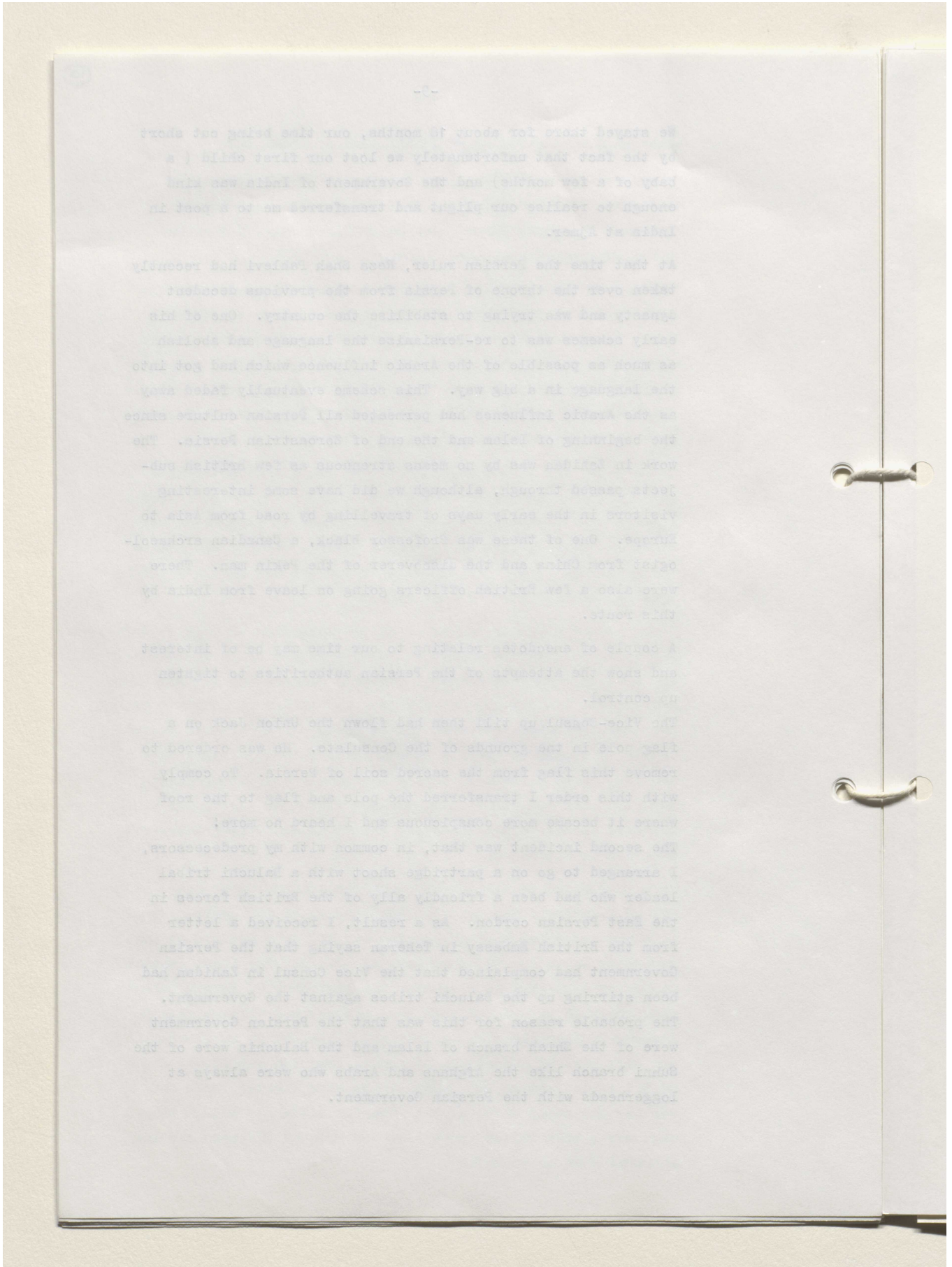
At that time the Persian ruler, Reza Shah Pahlevi had recently taken over the throne of Persia from the previous decadent dynasty and was trying to stabilise the country. One of his early schemes was to re-Persianise the language and abolish as much as possible of the Arabic influence which had got into the language in a big way. This scheme eventually faded away as the Arabic influence had permeated all Persian culture since the beginning of Islam and the end of Zoroastrian Persia. The work in Zahidan was by no means strenuous as few British subjects passed through, although we did have some interesting visitors in the early days of travelling by road from Asia to Europe. One of these was Professor Black, a Canadian archaeologist from China and the discoverer of the Pekin man. There were also a few British officers going on leave from India by this route.

A couple of anecdotes relating to our time may be of interest and show the attempts of the Persian authorities to tighten up control.

The Vice-Consul up till then had flown the Union Jack on a flag pole in the grounds of the Consulate. He was ordered to remove this flag from the sacred soil of Persia. To comply with this order I transferred the pole and flag to the roof where it became more conspicuous and I heard no more!

The second incident was that, in common with my predecessors, I arranged to go on a partridge shoot with a Baluchi tribal leader who had been a friendly ally of the British forces in the East Persian cordon. As a result, I received a letter from the British Embassy in Teheran saying that the Persian Government had complained that the Vice Consul in Zahidan had been stirring up the Baluchi tribes against the Government. The probable reason for this was that the Persian Government were of the Shiah branch of Islam and the Baluchis were of the Sunni branch like the Afghans and Arabs who were always at loggerheads with the Persian Government.

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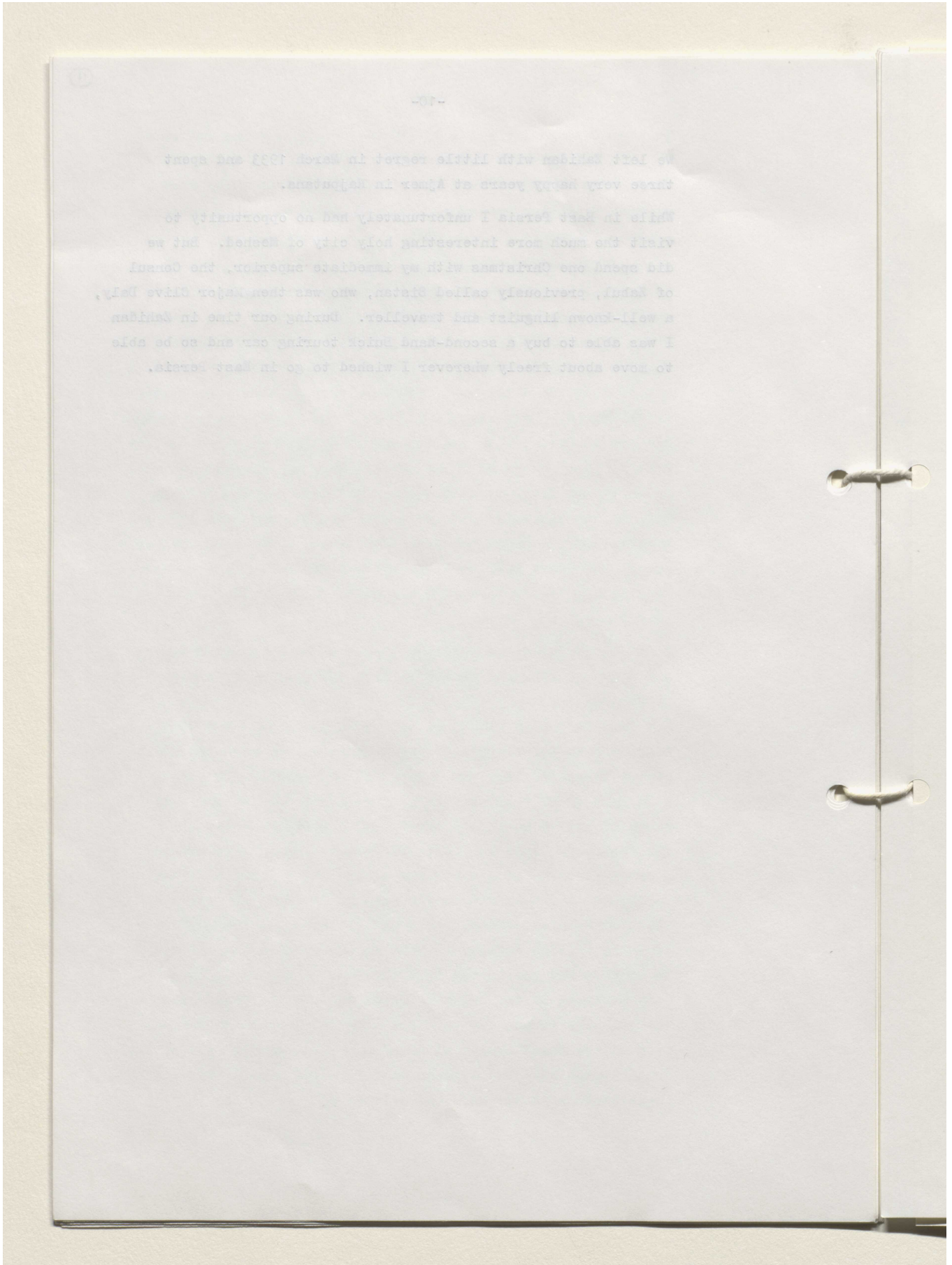
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We left Zahidan with little regret in March 1933 and spent three very happy years at Ajmer in Rajputana.

While in East Persia I unfortunately had no opportunity to visit the much more interesting holy city of Meshed. But we did spend one Christmas with my immediate superior, the Consul of Zabul, previously called Sistan, who was then Major Clive Daly, a well-known linguist and traveller. During our time in Zahidan I was able to buy a second-hand Buick touring car and so be able to move about freely wherever I wished to go in East Persia.

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RAJPUTANA

1. Ajmer - Merwara

Assistant Commissioner to Ajmer-Merwara:

March 1933 - April 1936.

In that time I served under four Commissioners - Gibson, Betham, Galbraith and Gidney. I was Additional Magistrate. Also for some time Chairman of the Ajmer Municipal Committee after the Committee had been suspended by the Government of India for mal-administration.

The District of Ajmer had been carved out of several Rajput States and consisted of three Sub-Divisions; Ajmer itself, Beawar and Todgarh.

Ajmer itself contained two of the most venerated places for Hindus and Muslims in the whole of India. In Ajmer was the shrine of Khwaja Muhi-ud-Din Chisti, a Muslim Saint and his tomb was in the Durgah-Sharif in the middle of the City. Pilgrims came from all over India and beyond to pray at this Durgah and it was a shrine for both Sunni and Shiah sects. Just outside Ajmer was the Pushkar lake, a very holy spot for Hindus with temples all round the lake and a big fair once a year which attracted many thousands from all over India. As a result, of course, there was always a certain degree of communal feeling, but in general this seldom produced the Communal troubles experienced in other parts of India. The only festival which was liable to cause friction was at the time of Muharam when the Shiah Muslims had their mourning celebrations in memory of Hussan and Hussein, sons of Khalifa Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed.

During the time that I was Asst. Commissioner the Muharam occurred at the same time as the Holi processions of the Hindus and this led to considerable communal tension and it was a major problem of organisation to keep the processions apart. But in the end we were able to do so without any major incident and the only minor incident involved a brick thrown at the Superintendant of Police and a broken soda-water bottle at the Asst. Commissioner's head, but fortunately only our solar topees were damaged! The Muslim (Shiah) procession all carried "Ta'hziyas", representations of the tomb of Hussein in Karbala, Iraq, and these Ta'hziyas had to be thrown into a lake or well at the end of the



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MEMOIR

Pinhey - Memoir

Assistant Commissioner to Ajmer-Merwara:

March 1933 - April 1936.

In that time I served under four Commissioners - Messrs. Heston, Gairdner, and Gidney. I was Additional Magistrate. Also for some time Chairman of the Ajmer Municipal Committee after the Committee had been inaugurated by the Government of India for self-administration.

The District of Ajmer had been carved out of several Rajput States and consisted of three sub-divisions; Ajmer itself, Bikaner and Todgarh.

Ajmer itself contained two of the most venerated places for Hindus and Muslims in the whole of India. In Ajmer was the shrine of Hazrat Nizam-ud-Din Owaisi, a Muslim saint and his tomb was in the bazaar-ghat in the middle of the city.

pilgrims came from all over India and beyond to pray at this bazaar and it was a shrine for both Hindu and Muslim sects. Just outside Ajmer was the Pushkar lake, a very holy spot for Hindus with temples all round the lake and a big fair once a year which attracted many thousands from all over India. As a result, of course, there was always a certain degree of communal feeling, but in general this seldom troubled the communal troubles experienced in other parts of India. The only festival which was liable to cause friction was at the time of Moharram when the Hindu Muslims had their mourning celebrations in memory of Husain and Hashim, sons of Khalifa Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed.

During the time that I was Assistant Commissioner the Bikaner occurred at the same time as the Moharram processions of the Hindus and this led to considerable communal tension and it was a major problem of organization to keep the processions apart. But in the end we were able to do so without any major incident and the only minor incident involved a brick thrown at the Superintendent of Police and a broken soda-water bottle at the Assistant Commissioner's head, but fortunately only our coffee tasses were damaged. The Muslim (Hindu) procession all carried "Ta'beez", representations of the tomb of Husain in Arabia, Iraq, and these Ta'beez had to be thrown into a lake or well at the end of the

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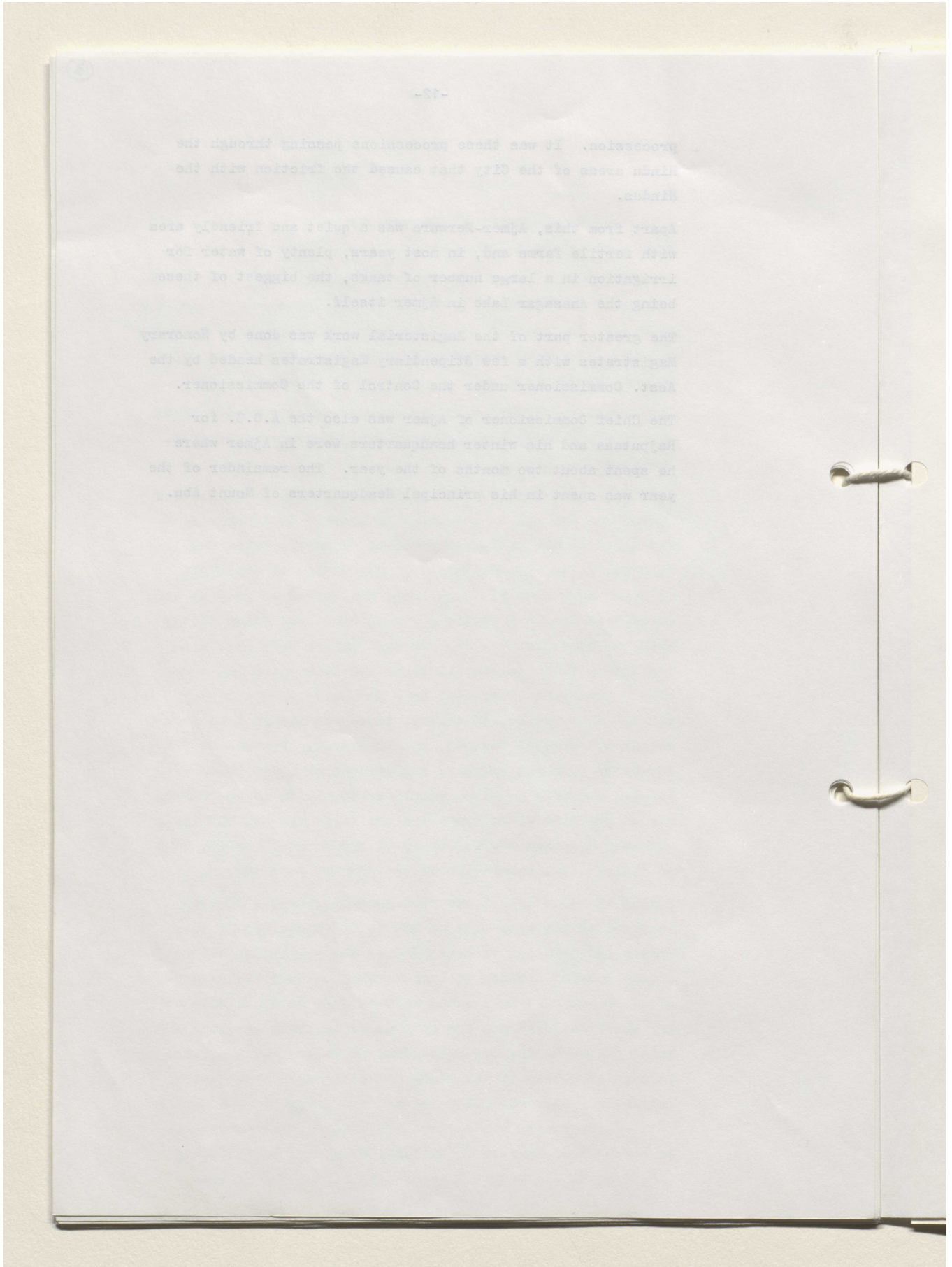
procession. It was these processions passing through the Hindu areas of the City that caused the friction with the Hindus.

Apart from this, Ajmer-Merwara was a quiet and friendly area with fertile farms and, in most years, plenty of water for irrigation in a large number of tanks, the biggest of these being the Anasagar Lake in Ajmer itself.

The greater part of the Magisterial work was done by Honorary Magistrates with a few Stipendiary Magistrates headed by the Asst. Commissioner under the Control of the Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner of Ajmer was also the A.G.G. for Rajputana and his winter headquarters were in Ajmer where he spent about two months of the year. The remainder of the year was spent in his principal Headquarters of Mount Abu.

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QUETTA EARTHQUAKE

On the night of the 31st May 1935 occurred the Quetta Earthquake which devastated the City of Quetta and much of the surrounding area. We were in Ajmer at the time and heard the news on the wireless. Many of our friends were affected, some killed and others injured particularly in the City itself and in the R.A.F. quarters. The main cantonment was hardly affected and the Army did a tremendous job helping to rescue and recover.

As I had an intimate knowledge of Quetta, I was transferred there from Ajmer in April 1936 and posted as Additional Political Agent to help in the rehabilitation of the City and the villages in the vicinity. I was attached to the Earthquake Committee headed by the General Officer Commanding the garrison, Major General Huddleston under the overall supervision of the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan. Senior Civil Engineers and Police Officers from Sindh and other Provinces were deputed to help with the clearing of the City and villages and to hurry regular law and order back to the Province. As wards in the city were cleared they were re-opened for the public to return and earthquake-resisting buildings were constructed. Even after about ten months there were still a few bodies being dug out of the rubble.

After about a year of my return to Quetta the whole city had been cleared and businesses and shops were re-opened, largely in temporary buildings.

One of my functions during this period was to write the official report on the Earthquake which was published by the Government of India in 1938. This gives extracts from reports from various organisations concerned with the rebuilding and reoccupation of Quetta and the villages with appropriate photographs. Copies of this report are probably available in the old India Office archives.

At the end of this period I went on leave in April 1937. I returned to Quetta in September 1937 and was posted as Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General, Sir Arthur Parsons who was followed in 1939 by Sir Aubrey Metcalfe who had been Foreign Secretary to the Indian Government. During this period up till March 1940 I accompanied the A.G.G. on various tours in all parts of the Province. During this time I accompanied Sir Arthur Parsons to install the new Jam of Las Bela, a small

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GENERAL SITUATION

On the night of the 31st May 1935 occurred the Quetta earthquake which devastated the City of Quetta and much of the surrounding area. We were in Ajmer at the time and heard the news on the wireless. Many of our friends were affected, some killed and others injured particularly in the City itself and in the N.W. district. The main calamity was hardly alleviated and the Army did a tremendous job helping to rescue and recover. As I had an intimate knowledge of Quetta, I was transferred there from Ajmer in April 1936 and posted as Additional Political Agent to help in the rehabilitation of the City and the villages in the vicinity. I was attached to the Warpage Committee headed by the General Officer Commanding the Garrison Major General Huddleston under the overall supervision of the Agent to the Governor General in Rajasthan, Senior Civil Engineers and Police Officers from Ajmer and other Provinces were deputed to help with the clearing of the City and Villages and to hurry regular law and order back to the Province. As work in the city was cleared they were re-opened for the public to return and earthquake-damaged buildings were constructed. Even after about ten months there were still a few holes being dug out of the rubble. After about a year of my return to Quetta the whole city had been cleared and businesses and shops were re-opened, largely in temporary buildings. One of my functions during this period was to write the official report on the earthquake which was published by the Government of India in 1936. This gives extracts from reports from various organizations concerned with the rebuilding and reconstruction of Quetta and the villages with appropriate photographs. Copies of this report are probably available in the old India Office archives. At the end of this period I went on leave in April 1937. I returned to Quetta in September 1937 and was posted as Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General, Sir Arthur Baines who was followed in 1939 by Sir Aubrey Matfield who had been Secretary to the Indian Government. During this period up till March 1940 I accompanied the A.G.G. on various tours in all parts of the Province. During this time I accompanied Sir Arthur Baines to install the new law of law, a small

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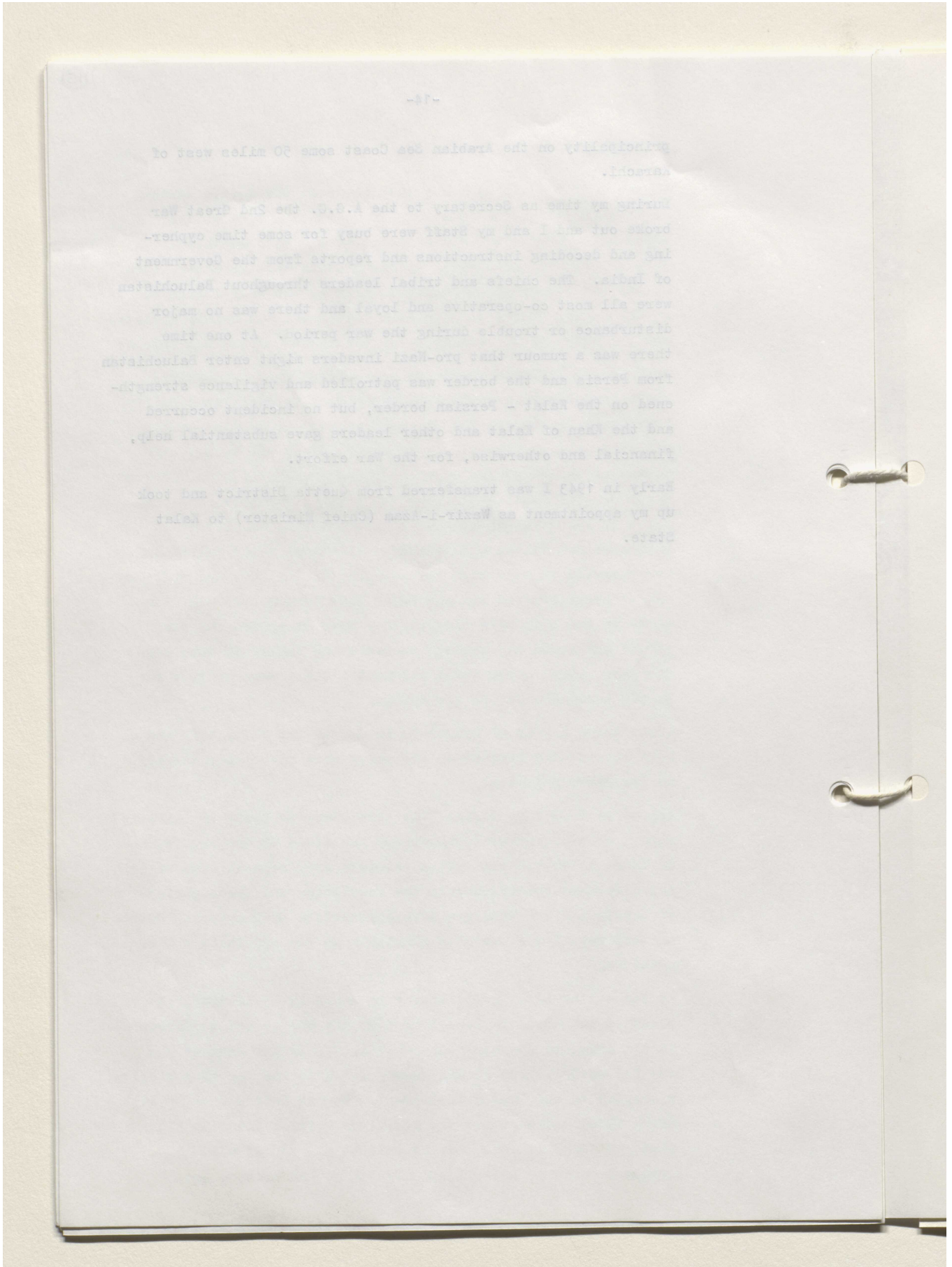
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principality on the Arabian Sea Coast some 50 miles west of Karachi.

During my time as Secretary to the A.G.G. the 2nd Great War broke out and I and my Staff were busy for some time cyphering and decoding instructions and reports from the Government of India. The chiefs and tribal leaders throughout Baluchistan were all most co-operative and loyal and there was no major disturbance or trouble during the war period. At one time there was a rumour that pro-Nazi invaders might enter Baluchistan from Persia and the border was patrolled and vigilance strengthened on the Kalat - Persian border, but no incident occurred and the Khan of Kalat and other leaders gave substantial help, financial and otherwise, for the War effort.

Early in 1943 I was transferred from Quetta District and took up my appointment as Wazir-i-Azam (Chief Minister) to Kalat State.

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Kalat State

The ruler of Kalat State was His Highness the Khan and he had absolute powers in his State subject to the Paramountcy of the Government of India through the A.G.G. in Baluchistan.

The administration under the Khan was in the hands of the Wazir-i-Azam or Chief Minister with a number of Departmental ministers under him to deal with Revenues, Religious affairs, Law and Order, and Finance.

Up till the early 1930's the Wazir-i-Azam for many years was Nawab Sir Shams Shah, a Pathan directly appointed by the then Khan of Kalat and he conducted almost all the business between the Khan and the A.G.G. Baluchistan through a Political Agent stationed at Mastung, about 30 miles West of Quetta. In Shams Shah's day the then Khan was seldom seen and he kept very much in seclusion in Kalat.

In about 1934/35 after the death of Sir Shams Shah and also of the Khan of Kalat, the new Khan was persuaded to take on an officer of the Political Service, E.B. Wakefield, to re-organise the administration which had got into a confused condition. Mr. Wakefield was in the post of Wazir-i-Azam at the time of the Quetta Earthquake on May 31st 1935. He was living in the Kalat house in Quetta at the time and he himself had the great misfortune to lose a small daughter in the earthquake. Mr. Wakefield himself was injured and he and his family left soon afterwards. He was much commended for his work during the earthquake and its aftermath.

Mr. Wakefield was succeeded by Khan Bahadur Mohd. Zaman Khan, an ex-Extra Assistant Commissioner of the North West Frontier, from Peshawar District. His was a temporary appointment while the Government of India and A.G.G. negotiated with the then Khan, Ahmed Yar Khan, a young man of little experience who had once served for a few years in the Zhob Militia. He had not been on good terms with the late Khan, his father, or with the Wazir-i-Azam, Sir Shams Shah.

Mohd. Zaman served on until the outbreak of war in 1939 and in January 1940 the writer, (L.A.G.P.), was accepted as the Wazir-i-Azam on loan from the Political Service.



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Kalaf State

The ruler of Kalaf State was his Highness the Khan and he had absolute powers in his State subject to the Paramountcy of the Government of India through the A.S.G. in Baluchistan. The administration under the Khan was in the hands of the Wazir-i-Azam or Chief Minister with a number of departmental ministers under him to deal with Revenue, Religious affairs, Law and Order, and Finance.

Up till the early 1930's the Wazir-i-Azam for many years was Khan Sir Ghans Shah, a Peshawar directly appointed by the Khan of Kalaf and he conducted almost all the business between the Khan and the A.S.G. Baluchistan through a Political Agent stationed at Lasbela, about 30 miles east of Kalaf. In Ghans Shah's day the Khan was seldom seen and he kept very much in seclusion in Kalaf.

In about 1934/35 after the death of Sir Ghans Shah and also of the Khan of Kalaf, the new Khan was persuaded to take on an officer of the Political Service, A.S.G. Wickett, to re-organise the administration which had got into a confused condition. Mr. Wickett was in the post of Wazir-i-Azam at the time of the Quetta earthquake on May 27th 1935. He was living in the Kalaf house in Quetta at the time and he himself had the great misfortune to lose a small daughter in the earthquake. Mr. Wickett himself was injured and he and his family left soon afterwards. He was much commended for his work during the earthquake and its aftermath.

Mr. Wickett was succeeded by Khan Bahadur Mohd. Iqbal Khan, an ex-Acting Assistant Commissioner of the North West Frontier, from Peshawar District. He was a temporary appointment while the Government of India and A.S.G. negotiated with the Khan, Ahmad Yar Khan, a young man of little experience who had once served for a few years in the 8th Miltia. He had not been on good terms with the late Khan, his father, or with the Wazir-i-Azam, Sir Ghans Shah.

Mohd. Iqbal served on until the outbreak of war in 1939 and in January 1940 the writer, (L.A.S.G.), was accepted as the Wazir-i-Azam on loan from the Political Service.

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This was perhaps the most interesting and rewarding time of my career and I remained there for three years.

Kalat State was divided into two main Divisions, Sarawan and Jhalawan which comprised all the mountainous area from Quetta to the Persian frontier and along the border with Sindh to the sea west of the State of Las Bela, to the west of Karachi. Between the Kalat State border in the North and the Afghan border was the Baluchistan District of Nushki which had its own separate P.A. and staff.

There was also an extensive area of Kalat State in the south-east bordering on the Sibi District in the north and east, and the Sindh Province and Jacobabad in the south. This area was owned by the Khan and Kalat State and leased out permanently to various tribes of Sarawan and Jhalawan on payment of revenue.

In the extreme south-west of Kalat state between Jhalawan and the Arabian Sea was the Sub-division of Mekran with Headquarters at Panjgur. The Chief of this area was the head of the Gichki tribe of Baluchies and at that time it was held by Nawab Bhai Khan Gichki. He was a vassal of the Khan of Kalat but had a great measure of independence. In Mekran were the two ports of Pasni and Jiwanri which both did a good deal of trading - mostly by Dhow - with the Persian Gulf and with the West coast of India, mostly from Bombay northwards. But a good volume of dried fish and shark-fins trade was carried out with Columbo and even, in the case of shark fins, with China.

There was also a small airfield at Jiwanri where the Empire Flying Boats used to land between Karachi and Basra in Iraq. The British India Steamers and mail called regularly at Pasni. Apart from products of the sea, the dates in Mekran were some of the finest in the world and there was a healthy trade in them with India and with Muscat and Oman.

There was another port on the coast called Gwadur with a small amount of land attached to it. This area had been given by a one time Khan of Kalat to a Sultan of Muscat who had been deposed and had fled to Kalat for refuge.

The story of the dispute between Kalat State and Muscat is a long one but after independence, the enclave of Gwadur was

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This was perhaps the most interesting and rewarding time of  
my career and I remained there for three years.  
Kafir State was divided into two main divisions, Larawan and  
Jhalawan which comprised all the mountainous area from Quetta  
to the Persian frontier and along the border with Sindh to  
the sea west of the State of Baluch, to the west of Karachi.  
Between the Kafir State border in the north and the Afghan  
border was the Baluchistan District of Quetta which had its  
own separate L.A.G. and staff.

There was also an extensive area of Kafir State in the south-  
east bordering on the Sikh District in the north and east, and  
the Sikh Province and Jacobabad in the south. This area was  
owned by the Khan and Kafir State and leased out permanently  
to various tribes of Larawan and Jhalawan on payment of revenue.

In the extreme south-west of Kafir State between Jhalawan and  
the Arabian Sea was the sub-division of Larawan with head-  
quarters at Panjgur. The Chief of this area was the head of  
the Ghilji tribe of Baluch and at that time it was held by  
Nawab Khan Ghilji. He was a vassal of the Khan of Kafir  
but had a great measure of independence. In Larawan were the  
two ports of Panjgur and Gwadar which both did a good deal of  
trading - mostly by show - with the Persian Gulf and with the  
west coast of India, mostly from Bombay northwards. But a  
good volume of dried fish and shark-line trade was carried  
out with Colombo and even, in the case of shark line, with  
China.

There was also a small airfield at Gwadar where the Empire  
Flying boats used to land between Karachi and Gwadar in 1922.  
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The story of the dispute between Kafir State and Muscat is a  
long one but after independence, the enclave of Gwadar was

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bought back from the Sultan of Muscat and Oman by the new State of Pakistan and is now part of the Baluchistan Province of Pakistan.

An amusing sideline on this story is that the writer in his capacity as Secretary to the A.G.G. in Baluchistan in about 1939 drafted a report to the then Government of India supporting the claim of the Khan of Kalat for the Gwadur enclave to be returned to Kalat State as it had only been lent to the one time Sultan of Muscat to help him while in exile in Baluchistan, and some years later, about 1949, after independence, the writer as Secretary to the Resident (subsequently Ambassador) in the Persian Gulf at Bahrain under the British Foreign Office drafted a similar report to the F.O. emphasising the Sultan's claim to the territory!

At the beginning of 1943 the Khan of Kalat, Ahmed Yar Khan, who was of a somewhat mercurial nature, had had enough of the writer under the mistaken impression that he was biased in favour of the tribal chiefs as against the rights of the Khan himself. A change was therefore made and Major Norman Ramsey was appointed Wazir-i-Azam and the writer was posted as Political Agent in Sibi, a post which he had always desired as the Sibi District was the most widespread and versatile District in the whole of Baluchistan.

I held the post of Political Agent Sibi for a little more than two years during which I toured the whole of the tribal area. This of course was 100% Baluchi tribal area, run as semi-self-administrating tribes with their own rulers, generally either Sardas<sup>↑</sup> or Nawabs and under the direct general supervision of the Political Agent in Sibi. These Rulers, particularly the Bugtis, were notoriously autocratic and the Nawab had full powers within his own tribal area except for the death penalty. Any cases between one tribe and another or its individual members were decided at joint jirgas at certain fixed times of the year. Many of these joint cases were between tribes of Baluchistan and those of Sindh or Punjab provinces which had joint ~~bodies~~ *borders*.

It is interesting to note here that these tribal areas which were attached to Pakistan after Independence were absorbed, and lost their internal powers. In fact they have become, according to Press reports, almost Communist and are a

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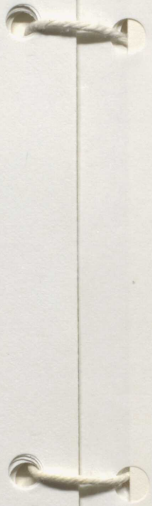
bought back from the Sultan of Muscat and Oman by the new  
State of Bahrain and a new part of the Bahrein Province  
of Bahrain.

An amusing sideline on this story is that the writer in his  
capacity as Secretary to the L.A.G. in Bahrain in about  
1937 drafted a report to the then Government of India support-  
ing the claim of the Sultan of Muscat for the Gwadar enclave to  
be returned to Kutch State as it had only been lent to the  
one time Sultan of Muscat to help him while in exile in  
Bahrain, and some years later, about 1945, after independ-  
ence, the writer as Secretary to the Resident (subsequently  
Ambassador) in the Persian Gulf at Bahrain under the British  
Foreign Office drafted a similar report to the L.A.G. emphasizing  
the Sultan's claim to the territory.

At the beginning of 1947 the then of Kutch, Lord J. Simon, who  
was of a somewhat mercenary nature, had had enough of the  
writer under the mistaken impression that he was biased in  
favour of the tribal chiefs as against the rights of the State  
himself. A change was therefore made and Major General  
was appointed Major-General and the writer was posted as  
Political Agent in Dibr, a post which he had always desired  
as the Dibr District was the most widespread and versatile  
District in the whole of Bahrein.

I held the post of Political Agent Dibr for a little more  
than two years during which I found the whole of the tribal  
area. This of course was 100% tribal area, and as  
semi-self-administering tribes with their own rulers, gener-  
ally either Sarkar or Nawab and under the direct general  
supervision of the Political Agent in Dibr. These Sarkars,  
particularly the Sarkars, were notoriously autocratic and the  
Nawab had full powers within his own tribal area except for  
the death penalty. Any cases between one tribe and another  
or the individual members were decided at joint sittings at  
certain fixed times of the year. Many of these joint cases  
were between tribes of Bahrein and those of Dibr or  
other provinces which had joint powers.

It is interesting to note here that these tribal areas which  
were attached to Bahrein after independence were absorbed,  
and lost their internal powers. In fact they have become,  
according to news reports, almost Communist and are a



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constant threat to the Pakistan Government. Part of this is due to the tapping of rich gas deposits, particularly in the Sui area of the Bugti tribe with all its accompanying commercialisation and influx of outside influences including Unions and left-wing political organisations.

At the time that I held this appointment there were virtually no roads and all touring was done on horseback.

Apart from the Baluchi tribal area the Political Agent Sibi had a sizeable Pathan tribal area in the North of the District and covering the Ziarat range which included the summer Headquarters of the A.G.G. in Baluchistan and also of the Sibi area. This area was dominated by some of the highest peaks of the mountain range including Khalifat, over 11,000 ft. and fertile valleys and a large Juniper forest, which was said to be one of the largest in Asia. It was certainly one of the most beautiful areas in the whole of Baluchistan and the Pathan tribes of the area, Kakars, with the sub-tribes of Panezai and Sarangzai, were among the most peaceful and co-operative tribes in the whole Province. The Juniper forest was commercially important as it produced large quantities of Ephedra and other shrubs with high medical value.

The original railway from Sindh into Baluchistan also ran through the District via the Chappar Rift valley which eventually became a small loop line of the main Sindh - Quetta line through the Bolan Pass. The Chappar Rift line was much in demand as a spectacle for visitors to Baluchistan who were taken on railway trollies through the gorge.

I have written at some length of my spell as Political Agent in Sibi as it was my last post involving direct administration and the most rewarding and enjoyable period of my life as a Political Officer. With three H.Q. houses, one at sea-level in Sibi itself, one at about 4,000 ft. at Harnai and one summer H.Q. at nearly 8,000 ft. in Ziarat, the life was full of very varied problems, with tribes of very different backgrounds and traditions. One could say that basically the Pathans were entirely Democratic while the Baluchis up to that time were essentially Autocratic and much more subservient to their own tribal leaders.

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constant threat to the Pakistan Government. Part of this is due to the trading of opium and heroin, particularly in the hill areas of the North West Frontier Province and the adjoining areas of the North West Frontier Province and the adjoining areas of the North West Frontier Province. Unions and left-wing political organizations.

At the time that I held this appointment there were virtually no roads and all touring was done on horseback.

Apart from the political tribal area the Political Agent also had a considerable tribal area in the north of the district and covering the district range which included the summer headquarters of the A.S.S. in Baluchistan and also of the Sibi area. This area was dominated by some of the highest peaks of the mountain range including Khatlat, over 11,000 ft. and fertile valleys and a large juniper forest, which was said to be one of the finest in Asia. It was certainly one of the most beautiful areas in the whole of Baluchistan and the tribes of the area, Baluch, with the sub-tribes of Khatlat and Garanzai, were among the most peaceful and co-operative tribes in the whole Province. The juniper forest was commercially important as it produced large quantities of guggul and other gums with high medical value.

The original railway from Sindh into Baluchistan also ran through the district via the Chaggar Hill valley which eventually became a small loop line of the main Sindh - Quetta line through the main Pass. The Chaggar Hill line was much in demand as a route for visitors to Baluchistan who were taken on railway coaches through the gorge.

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The 'last lap' - India between the end of the Second World War  
from 1945 till August 1947.

After VE Day 1945 as many officers <sup>a.s</sup> ~~who~~ could be spared were sent on short leave of two to three months as many of us had had no home leave for some years. I myself had returned from home leave in September 1937 and spent the following eight years in India without home leave.

On return from this short leave in 1945 I was posted as Political Agent Eastern Rajputana States with Headquarters at Bharatpur. My charge consisted of the Jat States of Bharatpur and Dholpur and the Rajput States of Kotah, Bundi, Jhalawar and Karauli. Of course the Political Agent had no direct administrative powers or functions in any of those States but was the link between the Rulers of the States and the Government of India through the Agents to the Government of India in Rajputana whose headquarters were at the Residency in Ajmer for the three winter months.

As Political Agent I made fairly frequent tours to all the States in my charge and was the guest of all the Rulers who discussed any questions which were connected with the relationship between themselves and the Government of India, and practised much hospitality and entertainment during the visits.

The States varied considerably in their type of Government but during my time there were no major problems that required any intervention by the Paramount Power, i.e. the Government of India.

The major function of my time in the Agency was the installation of the Maharaja of Karauli. This was one of the most backward of the States in the Agency and the Ruler was all-powerful but had as his Chief Minister a retired Provincial Officer of the Ajmer-Merwara administration. During my visit to this State I was entertained to a tiger-shoot and bagged my first tiger from a Machan in a tree - a proceeding of which I am not particularly proud! During my stay in Rajputana I shot only two tigers which was quite enough for me! These tiger-shoots in Indian States were laid on by the Ruler and the Political Agent or A.G.G. or even Viceroy had no part in



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The 'last job' - 'India between the end of the Second World War

from 1945 till August 1947.

After 12 Sep 1945 as many officers who could be spared were sent on short leave of two to three months as many of us had had no home leave for some years. I myself had returned from home leave in September 1937 and spent the following eight years in India without home leave.

On return from this short leave in 1945 I was posted as Political Agent Eastern Rajasthan States with headquarters at Jaipur. My charge consisted of the Raj States of Jaipur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer and the Rajput States of Kota, Bundi, Dharwar and Kherwar. Of course the Political Agent had no direct administrative powers or functions in any of those States but was the link between the Rulers of the States and the Government of India through the Agents to the Government of India in Rajasthan whose headquarters were at the Embassy in Agra for the three winter months.

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The major function of my time in the Agency was the installation of the Rulers of the States. This was one of the most backward of the States in the Agency and the Ruler was ill-served but had as his Chief Minister a retired Provincial Officer of the Amhar-Bharwar Administration. During my visit to this State I was entertained to a tiger-shoot and bagged my first tiger from a Machan in a tree - a proceeding of which I am not particularly proud! During my stay in Rajasthan I shot only two tigers which was quite enough for me! These tiger-shoots in Indian States were laid on by the Ruler and the Political Agent or A.S.C. or even hierarchy had no part in

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the arrangement of the shoot or in any of its potential dangers!

The Rulers of these States were, on the whole, enlightened and well educated men who took a personal interest in the welfare of their subjects and ruled with the advice of Ministers but, of course, without any attempt to establish electoral procedures. Some of them had their own units of the State Forces which were available for help to the Central Government in case of major wars. The Maharaja of Bundi was himself an officer in the Indian Cavalry before he inherited the position of Ruler and was decorated with the Military Cross while serving with the 5th Probyn's Horse in North Africa.

In 1947 Lord Mountbatten, with the advice and instructions of the British Government, announced that Independence would be given to India and Pakistan from the 14th August 1947. This was after the failure of all efforts to get the politicians to come to an agreement over the division of the two races, Hindu and Muslim. The Rulers of the States were asked to state to which country they wished to be joined and in the end all the States of Rajputana as it was then called, agreed to join with India.

During this period, between about April and August 1947, the Political Agent in Jaipur was promoted and it was not felt necessary to appoint a new P.A. during the last few months of British rule. I was therefore appointed to take over the post of P.A. Jaipur in addition to the Eastern Rajputan Agency and I accordingly moved to Jaipur which was the most populous and important of the States in that joint Agency. This included the States of Alwar, Tonk, Kishenghar and one or two minor States. This meant that my charge included States, particularly Alwar, which bordered on the Punjab in the North. As a result, I had to witness some of the terrible border troubles between Hindus and Muslims at the time of partition without being able to intervene in any way as control had passed to the politicians on both sides and any influence which the Political Officers had been able to exercise had completely disappeared. It was most harrowing and tragic at this time to know that all those massacres and streams of refugees were going on while we were helpless and unable to interfere.

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On the brighter side, I, and presumably other Political Agents were given a most cordial farewell dinner by the Rulers and their Chief Ministers and to this day I hold the last Union Jack flags with the Star of India emblem in the centre, of both the Jaipur and Bharatpur Agencies.

I duly left Bombay with many other Political and other Officers on the 15th August 1947 in the P.&O. liner Strathmore with very many regrets and much sadness after nearly 30 years of a very happy life.

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