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Tape 878 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

Sir Charles Dalton, Brigadier and Mrs. Herbert Dinwiddie
4700.0598 Tape 878.1 (Tape 2 of 2)
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Lamarque
4700.0599 Tape 878.2 (Tape 1 of 3)
Sir Charles Dalton and Lady Daphne Dalton
4700.0597 Tape 878.3 (Tape 4 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWER: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Dalton and Dinwiddies: 4/27/1978
Lamarques: 4/28/1978
Daltons: 47/27/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 34 minutes

Dalton and Dinwiddies: 19 minutes

Lamarques: 47 minutes

Daltons: 28 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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INDEX**Tape 878, Side A****Daltons (Part 5 of 5) (878.3)**

- 002 certain subjects were a requirement, which were military subjects like tactics and strategy and military history; everyone would take these types of courses
- 005 there were certain voluntary subjects that could be taken and were added on to your composite scores
- 007 it was impossible to gain direct entry on merit alone; one also had to have good marks in

voluntary subjects

008 there were several different areas to choose from for the voluntary subjects; Dalton decided to “polish up” his French and perhaps learn a second foreign language

011 Dalton went out to France and stayed with a family there; he took the Army Interpretership Exam and passed it while there, which was a sort of an insurance policy

014 Dalton then learned German, the hard way; he spent six weeks in Germany during one leave, where he stayed with a German prince on his farm; this was about 1927

019 Dalton often wonders what happened to the prince, for he was an old German family; his estate has now been overtaken by Poland

035 Dalton cannot remember how he came upon the connection

038 Dalton came home and took the German Interpretership Exam and received a pass in that

037 when it came time to take the Staff College Exam, Dalton polished his language skills and received enough marks to get in

039 the rule was one could not gain entry on averages alone, one had to have a third subject; you had to have at least qualifying in a third subject in order to count your marks in the second language

042 Dalton decided on economics, which was not taken by many officers; he received enough marks to count the other subjects and got into the Staff College

049 Dalton had to pick up some of the Indian language while in India but was not there long enough

051 only English was spoken in the headquarters

054 even if you were English, you never talked to an Indian servant in English; they were not supposed to know English

060 Dalton did have someone to teach him Urdu when he first went out to India; Dalton found they would teach “too well” and would be more proper and correct

064 you did not want to know the university standard in pronunciation because the servants were not used to it

077 Southern India is different from the North; it is not as attractive in climate, it is more or less the same temperature all year and more humid

084 the coast was a good place for training jungle warfare, which was what they wanted before going out to Burma

086 Dalton would prefer not to be soldier or live there, however

088 the mode of life for the British was not all that different, but Dalton was only there during the war

092 life in Delhi was different from those in a small station; it was more like living in London because the everyday items were more “posh”

098 life was more civilized in Delhi: you lived in houses and not mud huts, you had a nice garden, there were plenty of parties and social life if one desired

103 going outside Delhi, one could see a lot more sites; the area around Delhi is full of rich history

108 Dalton enjoyed Delhi

109 Sunday was the day when one would go out early in the morning shooting during the winter, leaving about four in the morning

119 a little after sunrise the hunters would start heading back, have a drink and return home about midday

122 it was a very regular sort of life

123 in the British and Indian armies, there were two holidays during the week, which were
 Thursday and Sunday

128 you were encouraged to get out into the open, like riding or walking; the soldiers were
 always inclined to lay on their beds and sleep

131 one was expected to do something sensible and get exercise

132 the soldiers got exercise by playing team games; the soldiers lead a more sophisticated life
 in India than at home because they were seen as more important people

136 the British soldier in India was a personality; in England he was the bottom but the Indian
 was way below him in India

140 the Indians loved the soldiers because they shared a similar role, that of a servant

142 at home, the soldier was expected to do all of his own polishing and such; it was wrong for
 a soldier to do such a thing in India

147 the barber would go around the barracks with an ordinary razor, shaving all those that had
 paid him for the month before they even woke up in the morning

155 for a time, the British soldiers thought this lifestyle was wonderful; it dulled after a while
 because of things that were lacking, like white women; some took after the Indian women,
 but that practice was highly discouraged

159 there was reasonable leave, but the soldiers would get bored after a time; they missed the
 life of those that served in England

187 there was not much crime reported; some would take up shooting and hunting

171 Dalton did as much shooting as he could, although he did not participate in big game
 shooting very often; he preferred the smaller game and snipe

181 shooting around Delhi was very good because of all the crops; the countryside tended to
 vary

184 sugar beets were a common crop

188 the boys and beaters could not walk through the sugar beet crop because it was too tightly
 packed

194 when you reached a patch that you suspected had partridges, one man would walk up one
 side and another would walk up the other side holding a rope; they would “ripple” the tops,
 sawing gently back and forth, disturbing the beets and the birds

201 because the birds could hear the two men coming, they would come out at the angle you
 wanted them to; this was very successful and avoided damaging the sugar beet

208 otherwise, they would walk through the land in a straight line, like in the United States;
 there was not a lot of driving done

212 in Germany, they go shooting in pairs or three at the most; they also use dogs in Germany

216 Dalton preferred to shoot birds because he believes he’s a better shot that way

220 the game in India depended heavily on the water because it was so dry, dusty and hot; the
 place to look was on the river bank

233 there was a cruel way to shoot one of type of bird: they would deliberately keep them away
 from water until they become very thirsty and are not willing to be kept away, which is
 when you shoot

252 Dalton believes that India may have been a little slow in adopting some things like
 mechanization, but it really did not matter because they did not expect to operate in a
 situation that required it

264 many of the Indians could not be mechanized; all of the training was devoted to such things
 as fighting in the mountains and such, situations they knew they would encounter

268 Dalton does not think anyone felt that they were behind the times
 270 things were slower in getting out, like new weaponry, but this was partly a problem of
 finance
 272 the army in India was paid for by the Indian government, not the British; from the time
 Dalton stepped on the boat to India, until the time he stepped off back home, his salary was
 paid by the government of India
 281 one was not conscious of the difference; one was more conscious that it was a better place
 to train because you trained with real men and real weapons in a wide-open area
 291 social life in India was very distinct because that sort of life was based on the station club;
 you were a small community that learned to know everyone else in the station because you
 could not help it
 300 you had to make your life with the people in the community, unless you chose to go off on
 leave with a family from elsewhere
 304 from this stand point, it was very artificial because you knew someone else's business
 better than your own; it was all good natured however and never did any real harm
 308 life in India was much better in some instances; when in the war office, Dalton noticed that
 there was not any social life as far as the army was concerned
 312 in India, one automatically got to know colleagues and their wives because you would
 entertain each other at each other's house; it was a friendly sort of practice
 316 end of interview

Tape 878, Side A cont'd

Dalton and Dinwiddies (Part 1 of 2) (878.1)

317 beginning of interview
 318 if people were recording on paper instead of speech, they probably would have said things
 differently
 327 the authors of the books thought someone should record how people lived and what they
 did; they wanted to record their thoughts and virtues
 338 the men over-seas never cut their hair; they would wrap it in a bun and put it underneath
 their turbans on top
 354 there has been trouble with the police because men have been riding their motorcycles
 without a helmet; they could not fit the helmets on the turbans
 361 there was a certain amount of options when deciding on a regiment
 387 there was an all-Sikh regiment; the regiments had different classes and mixes
 377 the interviewee was in the Sikh regiment; there were about five regular battalions before
 the war and one regimental center
 381 there are now fifteen battalions; the Indian army now numbers close to one million
 385 if you add the 333,000 or so Pakistani soldiers, there is an army numbering over a million
 and a quarter; the whole number of Indian and British army members before the war was
 about 250,000
 392 the Indian Army had an attraction for the British because it was the "Poor Man's Army"
 400 one could get a marvelous life in India with a chance of active service; the British Army's
 active service was normally confined to the Great War and World War II, although some
 did take part in the Frontier campaign
 409 there was always competition to get into the Indian Army
 419 the Frontier was not all "Fire and Thunder"; it was inhabited by a lot of poor people that

had to live by rating and fetching other people's goods
 428 a large of part of the Indian army "regulars" were keeping "watch on war"; nothing would
 happen for years and then everything would suddenly blow-up
 438 the reasons for doing so were economics because the government used to subsidize them;
 the people believed the government was not subsidizing them enough
 445 the Frontier was about 500 miles; there were about half a million fighting men, if the whole
 Frontier rose up together
 457 the men did give the Indian army great experience for junior officers, NCOs and the men; it
 was the "grounding of soldiering"
 454 this is why there was a long service army, whose individual training was very good; they
 found bases to build on to fight in modern terms
 472 they did not have armor or support; they did have trained men that were full of initiative
 478 when the war began in 1939, it did not look like India would be involved at all; they did
 send a division to the Middle East and trained alongside a couple of British groups
 489 they were going to fight against the Italians; the Italians were all in the bag within a week
 510 when war with Japan began, there was a disaster in Singapore; the Indian troops were raw
 that were trained for war in the desert
 539 there was nothing real particular about the Japanese, except that you had to kill all of them
 549 up until 1914, the government was in complete control; after that, the trouble started
 567 the intention to give the Indians their independence began long before
 576 when Independence did come, it had to be hurried and was too hurried; the differences of
 the peoples litigated any overall plan
 588 the Northern Indians were very different from the Southern Indians; there were about 200
 languages
 601 they still hear from their old bearer, every year since they have left in fact; the bearer is in
 Delhi
 616 their bearer was a Mohammedan that elected to stay in India
 630 end of Side A

Tape 878, Side B

Lamarques (Part 1 of 3) (878.2)

007 when Independence came in 1947, Lamarque found that there was minimal interest in the
 public; all of the newspapers seemed to be concerned with Palestine
 011 Palestine was a problem then; compared with the 400 million people in India, it was
 "chicken-feed"
 014 the departure of the British from Palestine was a difficult operation in many ways, with the
 problem still today
 018 Palestine was an enormous interest to the people of England, although in terms of their
 empirical responsibilities it was a minor affair; India was an enormous affair
 021 having the Palestine affair being put before the Indian Independence was a shock to
 Lamarque; he still thinks they had their priorities in wrong order in terms of British
 importance
 024 after leaving India, the other places the British have left since have followed automatically;
 the others were only possessed because of communications with India
 030 if it had not been for India, Lamarque believes they would have never bothered about
 acquiring the other countries; having left India, there was no point in remaining in any of

the other countries
032 in some ways, Lamarque believes they were a little too slow in giving up the others
because they ceased being important
035 the British had been conditioned to giving India independence at any date after about 1930;
everything was sped up by the war
038 there was no resistance whatsoever in giving India independence from the British; it was
absolutely right to do it when they did
041 Lamarque believes that the Indians could have had independence a lot sooner if they would
have played their card better; much of the trouble was because of the Congress party
alienating the Muslims
045 the Muslims were uncompromising and unprepared to settle
046 the Indians never really believed the British when they said they were leaving; they did not
really believe they would leave
049 no one could quite believe it when the British government set the date; the Lamarques were
in Delhi at the time
053 Lamarque's family did not have any ties with India, except indirectly; them losing interest
in India after a few days was not because of the lack of ties because this was true for almost
every who had went out to India and returned
060 deciding to go out to India was a "casual thing" for Lamarque; he was unsure about what
do when he was an undergraduate
062 someone suggested that he take the Civil Service Exam when he graduated
064 in those days, the home civil service and the Indian Civil Service candidates took the same
exam; Lamarque put his name down for both without giving it much thought
067 when the results came out, he learned he might get into the home civil service in a "dismal
office" that did not sound very appealing; he could get into the Indian Civil Service straight
on, so he decided to go out to India
072 it was one of the wisest moves he has ever made, although it only lasted ten years
073 he joined in 1936 and departed in 1937, at the end of his probationary year; this was spent
at Oxford or Cambridge or London University
079 there were courses in Indian history, a great deal of Indian law, horseback riding, and
languages
087 at the end of the year, they were given an exam in all the subjects; they then went out and
were still given exams in language, law and taxes
091 most of the ICS men were graduates of Cambridge and Oxford; there were a few from the
Scottish universities and from Dublin
094 a university degree was essential, because without one it would be extremely difficult to
pass the exams
096 there was also an interview
102 Lamarque does not think that anyone who went out to India as late as he did would imagine
that India would last the whole time; this was a time when jobs were difficult to get
105 generally exciting life, for the pay was decent and you were given early responsibility; you
would have never gotten those responsibilities if you stayed in England
107 when Government of India Act was passed in 1935, things stabilized in India because this
was an enormous step towards self-government; signaled that independence was not far off
112 there was the expectation that, when they got independence, the European/British civilians
could be absorbed and make a career in an independent country

117 for this reason, there was a considerable drive in Britain for recruits to go out to India
120 if it had not been for the war, things may have worked out with Federation
122 the Federation never got going because the princes failed to respond to appeals to enter into
a federation; they could never agree amongst themselves
125 once the war came, all of these activities had to be put on a shelf; this was also a tragedy in
many ways
128 had there been no war and things went according to plan, Lamarque suspects that there may
have been a Federation in India by 1940 or 1941; Independence was a formality of that
131 if the federal government had asked for independence, there would have been no reason for
them not to get it
132 no one in Britain wanted to cling to India as a dependency, which is a fallacy among people
these days; people now think that the British were “clinging” to India, which is not true
135 what broke the hearts of the British was that the only way they could get out of India was to
give them Pakistan
138 the objective of the British rule in India was to unite the country, keep it united, and hand
over a united country when the time came
141 however, this was not to be
144 Lamarque does not think he was that ignorant about India when he went out
145 the year would give someone a certain amount of preparation; before then, one had come in
contact with several people who had been there, even if there were no family connections
149 one would also know a lot about the British history in India
150 not knowing anything about the Indian history prior to the British arrival was a little bit of
a set-back
160 Lamarque was not married when he went out to India; he went out in 1937, then war came
it was near impossible to get leave then
162 Lamarque did not make it back home until 1945; he got married and then went back out
167 in those days, one could not get a pass for a spouse because there was such a jam up of
traffic; his wife came out in 1946 and they both went out to Pakistan
171 after leaving India, Lamarque joined the British Service and went back out to Pakistan for
four years, from 1951 to 1955
175 much of the Pakistan government officials had known Lamarque from the time spent in
Delhi
179 when they returned to Pakistan, they greeted Lamarque with open arms and allowed him to
see all of the files and such; they kept nothing from him
185 Lamarque initially served in Madras; he was then posted to the central government in
Delhi, where he came across the many Muhammadans
187 Lamarque then went to Calcutta in 1944, spending 18 months there; he was then sent to
Bombay for about six months, returning to Delhi in 1946
197 this is the complaint among those writing up Indian history: they come do not come across
many people that served in the south
200 the India Office Library asked retired Indian Civil Servants if they would record their
experiences in India and send them to the library
207 by doing this, they were putting on record what it felt like to be “on the spot” for future
reference for historians about the last days of the British rule in India
214 Lamarque believes about fifty or sixty people have added their experiences to the
collections; Lamarque received a letter of thanks from the office because few of those from

south India had contributed
 221 those in the south were perhaps more Indianized because of the greater numbers of Indian
 officers
 226 if you wanted to know the impact of British rule in India, you would have to go to the
 province of Madras because the British had been there for three hundred years; this makes
 a difference
 237 in the Punjab and the Northwest Frontier, it was only a hundred years of British rule and a
 short time when compared to that in the south
 240 the result for the south was that there were naturally higher intelligent people and spoke the
 most beautiful English
 245 Lamarque was first struck by one of the daily papers in that the English was perfect; they
 were highly literate
 253 this was found throughout southern India, even in the villages; there was a high incidence
 of English-speaking people
 255 Lamarque noticed in Delhi that, in the north, unless you knew the local language, you were
 not going to get very far in villages
 259 in south India, everyone spoke English instead of the local language
 263 as the south grew more accustomed to the British ways, the whole way of life and
 administration was extremely efficient
 269 this made life easier for the administrators; you had an affinity with the people that was
 missing in north India
 274 when Lamarque went to work for the central government in Delhi, he found a high
 proportion of Madras people in the subordinate ranks because of their superb English and
 high intelligence
 279 Lamarque used to claim that the central government was run by the [Madrassies?]
 281 there was a rule in the government that was a type of quota, in which there was a certain
 percentage of jobs available to those from southern India, as well as those from other areas
 287 the Madrassies succeeded in infiltrating themselves into the central government and more
 or less running it from below
 292 south India has been less appreciated because it did not have any real problems
 293 the real problem the British had in India was the Hindu-Muslim conflicts, which were
 continuous
 296 in south India, the population was almost all Hindus; the political conflicts were between
 the Brahmans and the non-Brahmans
 305 the Brahmans were the ruling government when Lamarque arrived in 1937; the
 non-Brahmans were the opposition or "Justice Party"
 308 whichever they were, there was not the fierce tension like in the north; this made life easier
 in a way
 317 because the south did not hit the European press headlines, Madras was taken for granted;
 the whole ran smoothly because they were highly efficient and intelligent
 329 south India was seen as being apart from the north; the attitude of those in the south was
 like that of the Scots to the English: they felt very separate but treated as they were the
 same as the rest of the country
 335 it was argued in Madras that the government, when it legislated upon all India subjects,
 would only have in mind the Indus and Ganges Valleys and never appreciate the problems
 in the South's way of life

341 legislation was often times inappropriate to those in the south; Lamarque made this point in
the writings for the library

348 the Madras government and the central government were in a state of perpetual conflict,
always having violent verbal arguments on various subjects that the Madras government
felt their views had not been given enough attention

353 the legislation that went out from Delhi were not appropriate to south India because the
conditions were so different in so many ways

358 this tension still persists today

367 Lamarque talks of the various districts he served, all of which were in the extreme southern
part of India

378 there was one district in that Lamarque was the only European; looking back, it seemed
like a very lonely life but he did not mind

383 one was so busy with all of the work that kept you moving, whether it was hearing court
cases or touring; you did not notice you were missing a social life

394 as a district officer, Lamarque is unsure if he felt that southern India was being neglected;
he noticed when he was in Madras when the war broke out

409 the British believed there would be a stream of telegrams from London at the beginning of
the war, noting evacuations; none of this happened

421 the British introduced the “sales tax”, in which Canada was the only other country being
introduced to sales taxes at the time

430 it is a very easy tax to collect and impose

433 the British were such amateurs that they did not know how to administer the tax; Lamarque
was put in charge of this

439 Central Government did not like the idea because it was new and saw it as inappropriate
452 when they approached the Central Board of Revenue and asked for the income tax figures
for the businesses, they were told it was a Central Government matter and had nothing to
do with the provincials

459 Lamarque went through the phone book, asking everyone what their “turnover” was; they
eventually figured out the turnover rate and determined the sales tax from there

474 the social relations of those in the South were much easier for many reasons: 1. they had
been there 300 years, 2. English was the universal language, 3. both parties went out of
their way to meet the other in social terms

491 because the Indians were so intelligent, the backgrounds were similar to those of the
British; there was no real problem

496 one of the difficult things to do was to get to know the Indians, especially in North India

498 British women would go out and about; Indian women did not and were kept very much in
the background

502 the southern Indian women were much more open and accessible; there was no problem
with women in social terms like there was in the north, which was a great help to social
interactions

511 there was a certain level of racial discriminations up until the 1940s

518 in the Madras club, only Europeans would be allowed in; it was run by British
businessmen, which were always more conservative and rigid in racial matters

526 one evening Lamarque went out to play tennis at the club; there was a nice man who had
just come out for the ICS, whose father was Indian and on the viceroy’s council and mother
was English

537 the boy was indistinguishable from an Englishman, except that he was slightly darker;
Lamarque and his friend took him along to play tennis at the club as a guest
549 one of the Europeans in there said they could not allow the guest in, which was extremely
embarrassing
556 this was the only time Lamarque experienced something like this because, on the whole,
one was pretty careful not to offend the Indians or the Europeans
565 Bombay was a place where relations between the Indians and Europeans were pretty good
on the whole; the reason was because the large, influential community that was at ease in
both camps
575 end of side B