

Lance Bombardier Davies photograph album of India

Ms. Coll. 1188

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Last updated on February 02, 2018.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

March 3, 2010

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	Lance Bombardier Davies photograph album of India
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1188
Date [inclusive]	1935-1940
Extent	08 linear feet (1 volume and 1 folder)
Language	English
Abstract	This collection depicts the experience of a young British soldier in the 8th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, possibly a lance bombardier named Davies, in India from 1935 to 1940.

Cite as:

Lance Bombardier Davies photograph album of India, 1935-1940, Ms. Coll. 1188, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

The creator of this volume may have been Lance Bombardier Davies who left England in 1935 as a member of the 8th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery. It is possible that he traveled to India on the H.M.T. *Neuralia* and he may have been stationed in Cawnpore. He seems to have been an accomplished

equestrian. Photographs in the volume include "manoeuvres" [sic] and "in action," but it unclear if these photographs were taken during training or more active encounters.

Scope and Contents

This collection depicts the experience of a young British lance bombardier in the 8th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, possibly named Davies, in India from 1935 to 1940. There are about 231 photographs in the album with close to a dozen missing. In addition, there are a half dozen stamps of the time as well as a recommendation letter for Lance Bombardier Davies and two loose formal portraits taken at a different time and place.

The photos taken in India capture both the sights and places Davies visited as well as shots of his fellow soldiers. There are some, but not many, photos of Indians. Davies photographed the various camps in which he was posted, including the camp at Ranikhet, Rourke, Dulikhet, Mhow and Gujri. There are some photos of active duty and of the general military facilities, but most of the military photos are of Davies and his friends engaged in leisure activities: swimming, tennis, soccer, tug-of-war and of the horses.

There are many photos taken during trips. The album starts with his original trip from Europe with views of the Rock of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal and Malta in 1935. There are photos of New Delhi, the Old Delhi Fort Tuclackabad, Lucknow (the zoo, general sights, streets and buildings), Bombay Harbor, Cawnpore (general sights including the Ganges bridge), a trip to Mussorie and Peshawar (photos of winding roads and mountains), and Jhansi. Davies also travels to Burma, and photographs some people, the City of a Thousand Temples, the floods, and fishing. The trip to Kathgodam includes panoramic shots of landscapes and of the mountains as seen from Dulikhet (including Everest, Trisul and Kinchunganga) and cultivated hillsides and pine forests. There is also a set of photographs showing the remnants of buildings after an earthquake in 1935 in Quetta (Pakistan).

The few photos of Indians depict people in their everyday activities as well as traditional acts like the burning ghats, bathing at Benares, workmen and women, and "ramasamme" a procession of Muslim idols.

Almost every photograph is captioned with a typed label and pages are occasionally broadly titled. The creator is frequently in the photographs and is labeled, "Myself." Other individuals who are photographed include Gnr. Armstrong, Dvr. Bartlett, Best, Bdr. Boles, Bdr. Bostock, Brown, "Busty," L/Bdr. Croft, Bdr. Dibden, Jack Donaldson, Griffen, L/Bdr. Jones, Hall, Joe Harry, Kensey, Maloney, "Padre," Sig. Prosser, Tptr. Rudd, Bdr. Sankey, Gnr. Smith, Gnr. Summers, Temple, Gnr. Thomas, Gnr. White, L/Bdr. Williams, Bdr. Wilson.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 2010.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Great Britain. Army. Royal Regiment of Artillery.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photograph albums
- Photographs

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- India--History--British occupation, 1765-1947--Photographs
- India--Photographs
- India--Social life and customs

SUBJECT(S)

- Military sports
- Voyages and travels

Collection Inventory

	Box	Volume
Photograph album, 1935-1940.	1	1
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Loose photographs (includes formal photographs of Davies (presumably) possibly on his wedding day and sitting on a horse) and a letter of recommendation for Davies from an unknown author, 1939, undated.	1	1