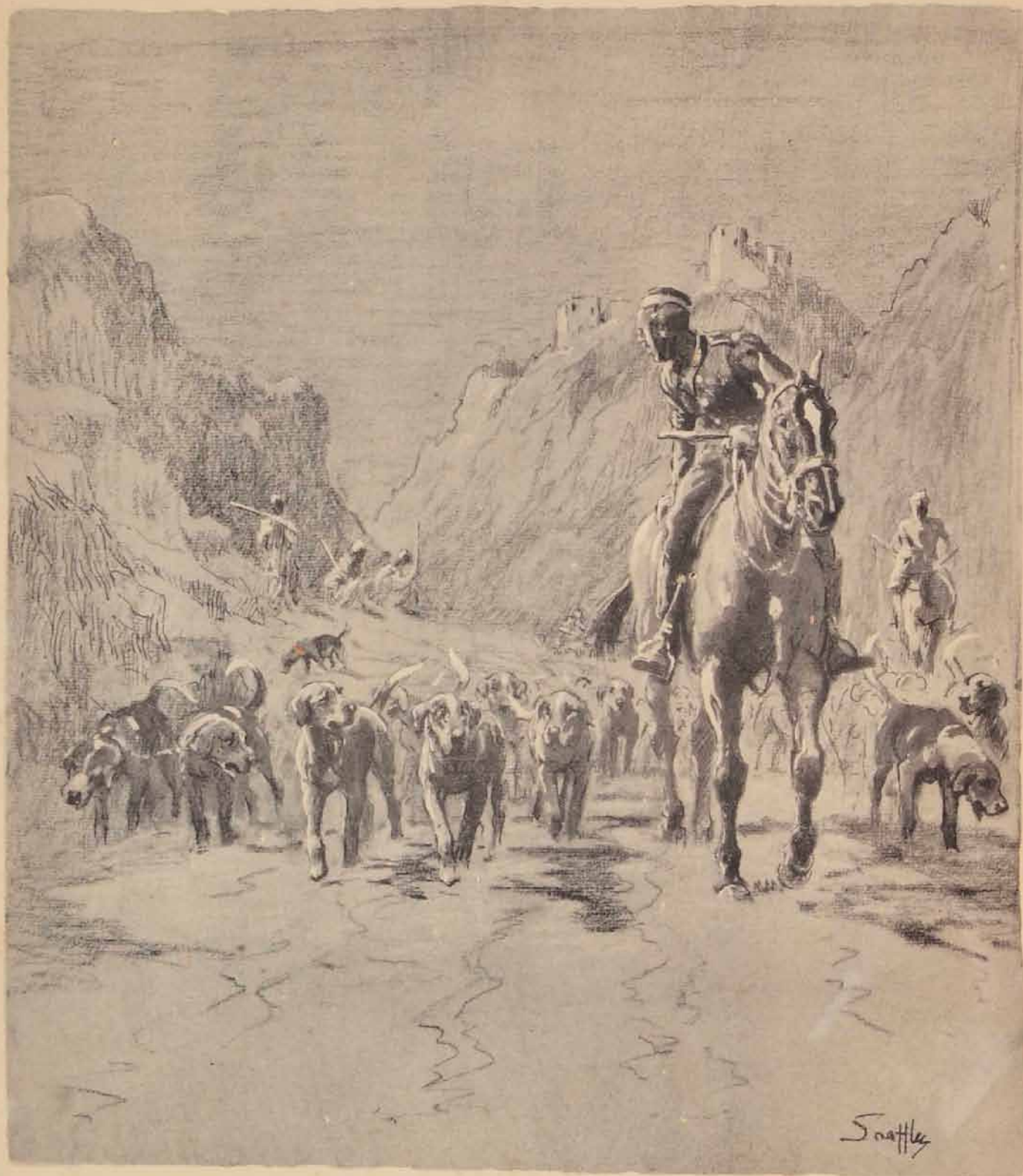


P. V. H.



HISTORY OF THE
PESHAWAR VALE HUNT.

RR Pennington



THE TREK THROUGH THE KHYBER 1880.

THE P.V.H.

by

Captain and Bt. Major G. S. Hurst, M.F.H.

Royal Signals

(Formerly Master of the Nerbudda Vale Hounds)

..

Illustrated by

Snaffles

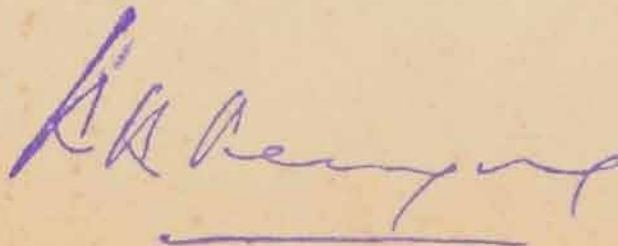
and

Major H. M. Tulloch

The Poona Horse

Printed in Great Britain by

GALE & POLDEN, LTD., ALDERSHOT



DEDICATED TO

VICTOR WAKELY

MILLIS JEFFERIS

RONNIE RICHARDS

JACK HARDY

JONAH

FREDDIE GARRETT

and

DADOS

P.V.H. - - 1932-1934

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Author's Introduction

THE main object in compiling this History has been to produce some permanent form of record of The Peshawar Vale Hunt since its origin. Full and continuous records exist of the sport that has been shown, but these are in manuscript and are seen by few people, apart from the successive Masters of the P.V.H. In a country like India such manuscripts might easily be destroyed, and the full story of the Hunt would then have been lost for ever.

I have had the privilege during my Mastership of the P.V.H. to be in correspondence with many ex-Masters of the Hunt, especially those who were in Peshawar before the Great War. But the number still living who were in Peshawar in the early seventies and eighties is becoming smaller every year. It appeared to me to be most important that information should be collected from the survivors as soon as possible. To my great regret, Brigadier C. B. Kelham, of Instow, North Devon, passed on to the happy hunting grounds just after the work of this History began. I wish to acknowledge here the debt of gratitude that I owe him for all his work in collecting the historical records of the Hunt when he was Master in 1888.

I wish to acknowledge the help and encouragement I have received from those who hunted or turned hounds in Peshawar in the past, and found time to write me such long and interesting letters, especially those who date back to between 1860 and 1914. They are too numerous to mention individually.

The secondary object of the History is to provide a source of financial benefit for the Hunt, which may continue over a few years until the stock of copies is exhausted. All profits on the production are to be handed over to the Hunt. This object could never have been seriously considered had I not received such generous help from the two artists who have illustrated the book. "Snaffles" has been a very great friend of the Hunt since his 1928 visit, and one still hopes next year we shall

see him out with us again. All his sketches have caught the very atmosphere of hunting with the P.V.H., and his frontispiece to this book is, to me, an absolutely historic picture. With similar generosity, Major H. M. Tulloch of The Poona Horse has presented the remainder of the illustrations. Like "Snaffles," his work is well known to all readers of "The Hog Hunters' Annual," and those who know Peshawar will realize how delightfully characteristic it is of The Vale. In addition to these two artists, I wish to thank Mr. Holmes, the famous photographer of the Frontier, for his exceedingly generous help with the photographs which are reproduced in this book.

I wish also to thank Colonel G. H. Russell, C.I.E., D.S.O., I.A., who has helped me so much by reading the proofs of this book during my absence in Australia. But for this the publication would have been very much delayed.

The most difficult part of the whole work has been to decide what attitude should be taken by the historian towards various artificial means which have been employed from time to time to supplement sport in order to produce galloping hunts at that time of the year when coverts are extensive and scent characteristically poor. A history is useless if it ignores facts. The opinions of ex-Masters have been given to me very freely and they vary considerably. There are two very definite schools of thought. Some say that supplementing sport is necessary in this country, and others refuse to hear of it at any price. I have endeavoured to represent the case from both sides, at the same time retaining all the praise which is due to those Masters who remained staunch to legitimate means alone, and who succeeded in showing sport worthy of the P.V.H. early traditions with complete disregard of any temptation that might arise from criticism after a succession of two or three poor days.

GEORGE HURST.

PESHAWAR,

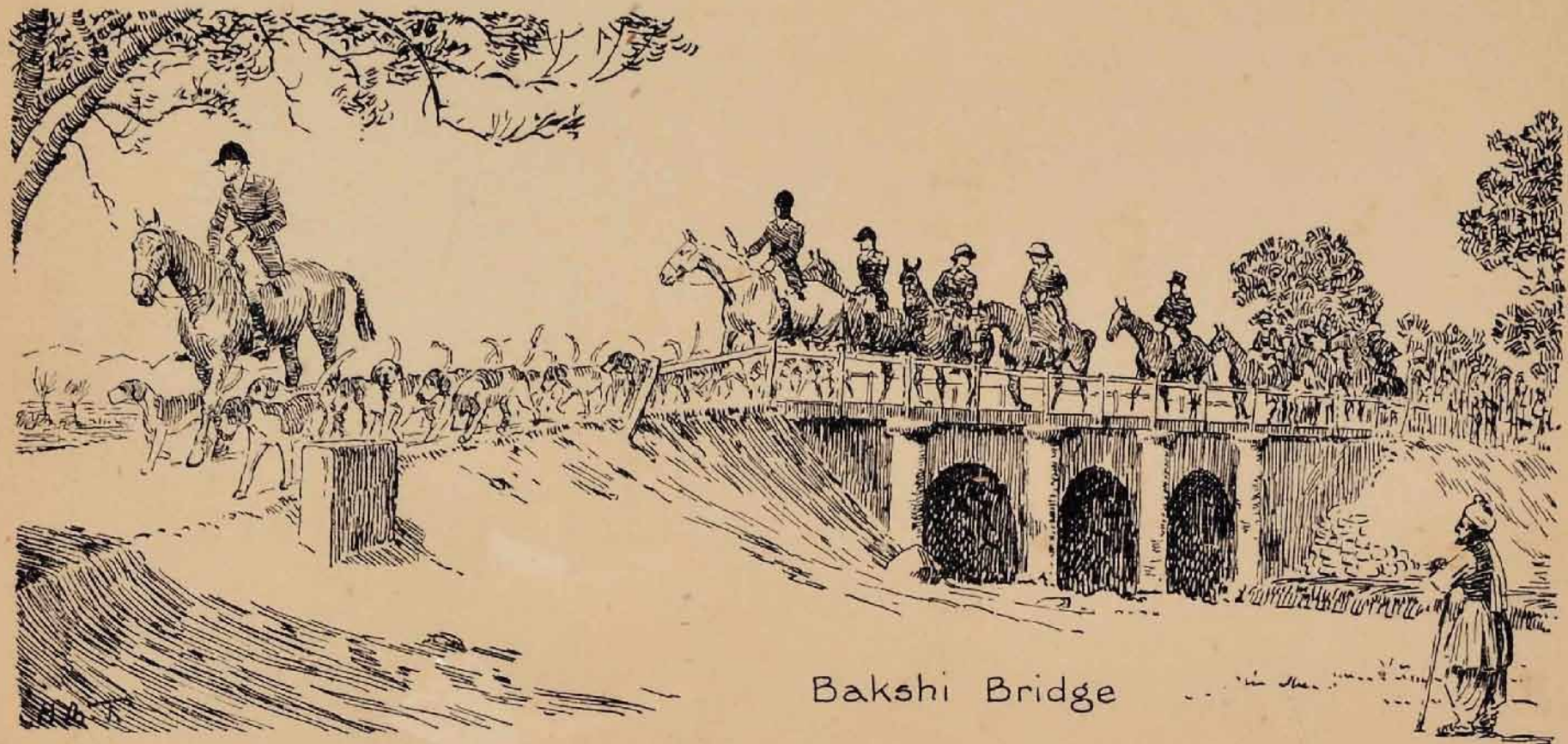
1934

“It is fact, I believe, that in the year 978 A.D. Sabaktagim, Governor of Khorasan, garrisoned Peshawar with ten thousand horses. To this day the inhabitants of the district keep hawks and greyhounds. It may be that mounted hunting parties were a common sight in these parts in the tenth century, and that we are only treading in the footsteps of Alexander, Jaipal, Sabaktagim, Mahmud or Hari Singh, when we go a-hunting nowadays.”

*Extract from an article on the P.V.H. in
“The Pioneer,” January 14th, 1894.*

“The far-famed Shires of the Eusufzaie Valley have long been acknowledged to be the only real hunting country in India.”

Opening sentence in the Hunt Records, 1870.



Bakshi Bridge

The History
of
THE HUNT

CHAPTER ONE

The Days of the Regimental Packs: 1863-1870

THE fact that the country around Peshawar was generally acknowledged as far back as 1870 as "the only real hunting country in India" was mainly due to the sport shown by the large number of regimental packs which had hunted that country continuously since the early sixties.

It was a normal custom in those days for regiments to have their own private packs of hounds. In the early records of the Peshawar Vale Hunt the following regiments are all mentioned as maintaining their own hounds :

The 19th Foot ;	The Rifle Brigade ;
The 93rd Highlanders ;	The 25th K.O.B. ;
The Xth Bengal Lancers ;	The Corps of Guides ;
The 7th Bengal Cavalry ;	The Buffs ;
The 72nd Highlanders ;	The 10th Hussars ;
The 90th Regiment ;	The 9th Lancers ;

and several Horse Artillery Brigades.

The first record of such packs hunting around Peshawar itself refers to the "Bobby" pack of the Hussar Regiment stationed there in 1863. In November, 1865, the 19th Foot, under the command of Colonel R. O. Bright (a good all-round sportsman), arrived at Peshawar with a pack of hounds acquired from the 51st Regiment. Colonel Bright had hunted this pack when his regiment was at Jullundur. After arrival in Peshawar, Major Chippindall took over the Mastership, with Ensign Lorne Campbell and Private Burns as whippers-in. During 1865 and 1866 this pack, under the name of "The Green Howards Hounds," hunted the country close round cantonments where jackal were very plentiful. In 1867 these hounds accompanied the regiment to Nowshera and hunted one day a

week near Nowshera and one day a week around Charsadda. Many folk from Peshawar and Mardan attended the meets in "The Shires," *i.e.*, the country between the Kabul and the Swat Rivers. Sport was excellent. In 1868 the 19th Foot were moved to Rawal Pindi and found hunting impossible in such country. So when ordered to Saugor the following year, *en route* for England, this regiment made its pack over to Peshawar on the understanding that a hunt should always be maintained there. In 1874 the old 19th hounds were still getting puppies in the P.V.H. kennels.

The attractive conditions of hunting in the "far-famed Shires of Eusafzaie" led to other regiments establishing their own hunts in Peshawar. Amongst these, The Rifle Brigade, the 36th and the 104th all had their turns at it. Some of the regimental packs are described as "indeed real cries of dogs being composed of cross-bred mongrel harrier-like tykes." Others were of high standard.

In 1868 Captain Markham, R.H.A., arrived in Peshawar with his battery from Mian Mir, and brought his own pack of hounds. These were originally purchased from The Rifle Brigade, The Guides and The 92nd Highlanders. After a good season in Mian Mir, he hunted his pack at Peshawar from 1868 to 1870, reinforced with the hounds from The Green Howards Hunt.

To quote from the old records :—

"It was not until Captain Markham had got together a really level, well-ordered pack of hounds that proper justice was done to the Shires. Up to the time of his relief by another troop of Horse Artillery he showed unfailing and brilliant sport. Towards the close of 1869 his pack was reinforced by the remains of The A Brigade (The Chestnut Troop), R.H.A., pack which had arrived in Peshawar from Meerut. He was then able to turn out six-and-twenty couples of very first-class hounds, level and handsome; their perfect appearance was not belied by their performances in the field. Indeed, the sport they showed was of so grand an order that Peshawar was startled into liberality 'of the most profuse' as we say in France. After a few private consultations amongst the leading members of the station, a general meeting of the inhabitants of Peshawar was assembled at the Cricket Pavilion at 4 p.m. on January 28th, 1870. There it was decided to purchase Captain Markham's hounds and to establish a station pack."



GENERAL SIR ROBERT ONESIPHORUS BRIGHT, G.C.B.

MASTER OF THE GREEN HOWARDS HOUNDS, 1865

CHAPTER TWO

The Institution of the Peshawar Vale Hunt and the Long Line of Horse Gunner Masterships : 1870-1877.

ON January 28th, 1870, The Peshawar Vale Hunt became a *fait accompli*. It was decided that the "A" Brigade R.H.A. Hounds were to continue with Captain Markham's hounds as the P.V.H. under the new management. Mr. Roberts, R.H.A., who had been Captain Markham's first whipper-in, took over the horn. The first meet was at 10 o'clock at Daoudzaie Bridge on February 1st. From that day to this continuous records exist of the sport shown by the Peshawar Vale Hounds.

There is no doubt that for a time some of the regimental packs continued to exist in Peshawar, but "All in the Valley, whether members or otherwise, were invited to attend the meets of the P.V.H. as readily as they would those of any other pack." The hounds had now become the property of the shareholders (seventy shares at fifty rupees each).

In its early days the P.V.H. owes much to the Royal Horse Artillery. With the exception of two months in 1876, when Captain Studdy, R.H.A., was laid up with a broken collar-bone, the Master was a Horse Gunner from 1870 to 1877. On February 5th, after a farewell breakfast to Captain Markham, hounds drew the coverts around Jalabela. They found at 11.30 and pulled their jack down in the open after a brilliant twenty-seven minutes. Four-Jackal Covert was blank, but in the afternoon hounds brought off a very fine hound-hunt on another Jalabela jackal, and were stopped at 5 p.m.

Altogether hounds were out thirteen times before the end of the season. There was an exceptionally good hunt on February 8th from Darbangi. A jackal from the cane nearby took hounds ten miles over

the biggest part of the country with only one short check ; having run to the Shah Alam he got back by Mathra and from there made for the river again and got to ground in the cliffs—old *Monitor* drew him. Captain Markham happened to be out for his last hunt before leaving Peshawar and it was voted “ the best run anybody present had ever seen for pace, country and distance.”

On April 10th at 3 a.m. hounds left on their march to the hills for the hot weather. Present-day arrangements with rail and lorry and permanent kennels give the Master sufficient worry and trouble when the move to the hills takes place. It is therefore of tremendous interest to read how, for the first sixteen years, hounds were walked to their summer quarters.

One can imagine all the forethought and *bandobast* necessary. Hounds would be moving the whole time through a country well stocked with jackal. The temperature during the daytime would be at least 105 degrees, necessitating hounds moving at night. On several occasions a moonlight hunt occurred. On arrival in camp each day hounds would be picketed in the shade with couples and pegs whilst the Indian kennel staff prepared the feed.

In 1870 hounds stayed at Abbottabad until their kennels at Nathia Gali were ready for occupation, and arrived there on completion of their hundred and thirty mile march on May 8th.

Evidently the Master spent his privilege leave looking after the hounds in the hills. He records that he found them looking “ thin, ill and dirty, coats staring and dull ; no life about them ; evidently something wrong ; servants all at loggerheads. The kennel without any exception the worst, the foulest, the dampest and most ridiculously situated place I have ever seen to keep anything in—might have done for an icehouse. There is considerable excuse for the state of the hounds. The kennels are built on the side of a very large steep khud in dense forest, shut in on all sides by spurs of hills, the sun or wind can never touch them, while the drip, drip, from the trees is enough to keep them wet if the khud drain in the back wall is not already sufficient to do so.”

From being visited daily hounds showed a great improvement, and within a fortnight Mr. Roberts moved the pack by road to the



LIEUT.-GENERAL EDWARD CHIPPINDALL, C.B.

MASTER OF THE GREEN HOWARDS HOUNDS, 1866-7

Brewery Kennels at Murree, which had been used by various packs in Northern India for many years. One night was spent with the hounds in the cow-house of the Dak Bungalow at Changla Gali, and the next day hounds were completely and comfortably settled in their new quarters. The change worked wonders, and on October 29th they marched for Peshawar via Rawal Pindi. On November 1st, 1871, the custom was started of the P.V.H. annual fixture in the Park at Rawal Pindi, which was to continue for many years. Hounds found plenty of jackal in that year, but scent was poor; at 10 a.m. they were called out of cover after a busy morning with delightful music, unrewarded.

Then followed the march to Peshawar, the Master leaving them at Attock on November 8th.

Hounds arrived in Peshawar three days later and were cubbing at Budni Bridge on November 17th.

The season 1870-1871 was an unlucky one. A long-continued drought at the commencement prevented good sport, and when rain came at the best part of the season, about the middle of February, there was such a deluge that hunting was stopped for more than three weeks. On February 15th when returning from Daudzai, where they had been lying out for the night, ready for the meet there (which was cancelled) the kennel staff had the greatest difficulty in getting the hounds back to Peshawar. The Budni and Darbangi Bridges had both gone, and finally hounds were swum over Artillery Ford, during which operation one of the hunt horses was drowned.

Before this, in spite of the drought, hounds had brought off another "of the finest runs ever seen in India," this time in the country beyond the Adezai River. Hounds ran for forty-two minutes with only one check, and having found their jack at Adezai rolled him over in the open near Mathra Arza—a point of over six and a half miles. This hunt covered a multitude of failures.

The season is noteworthy owing to the large extent of new country (somewhat distant, certainly) of the most charming character which was discovered and opened up between the Shabkadar Road and the Swat River, and the country north-east of Torki Jheel.

Since 1927 at least two Masters have made efforts to reopen this grand country. In Major E. Wallace's time floods destroyed the covert

he had rented there before it was used, and during Captain Rutledge's Mastership the Red Shirt Movement prevented him from carrying out his intention.

In 1933-34 hounds revisited this country and were welcomed with traditional Pathan hospitality by the Badshah Sahib of Batigram and the Khan of Serik. These two country squires hunt hares and jackal with a bobbery pack recently christened The Doaba Vale. Doaba is the "district of the two waters" where the branches of the Khiali River flow.

One cannot help realizing how much easier it should be for hounds to hunt this country nowadays, with motor transport in use, than in Ben Roberts' time.

Hounds summered in Murree, and on their return march again had a morning's cubbing in 'Pindi Park.

The pack had four different Masters this season. When Captain Ben Roberts, R.H.A., sailed for England on promotion, Captain Tyler, R.H.A., who had been invited and had accepted the post of Master of the "A" Brigade, R.H.A., Hounds, was proposed as Master of the united packs, and his unqualified and unfettered appointment was carried unanimously. It is interesting to note that the P.V.H. and "A" Brigade Hound Lists were still kept separately, and the puppies were allotted when they were whelped. Captain Tyler had the misfortune to break his collar-bone in his first hunt, and his successor, after a short Mastership, was transferred from Peshawar and handed over the horn to Lieutenant Barry Domville, R.H.A., who hunted the pack for two seasons. In 1871-72 many meets were held in the Kabul and Swat River country, one jack being accounted for near Tungi Thana (twenty miles as the crow flies from Peshawar). Enthusiastic mention is made of the beautiful woodland at Nimborai near Turangzai. This covert still exists and is a natural sanctuary for wild life owing to the Ziarat near by.

The season 1872-73 started late (December 12th) owing to an outbreak of cholera, and to the fact that troops were out in isolation camps.

Early in December, 1873, Mr. Barry Domville left with "A" Brigade, R.H.A., for Ambala. His successor was Captain Studdy, R.H.A., who, "with great bravery and tremendous difficulty only a week before had saved the Master's life when he and his horse had got into a quicksand."



This photograph is said to show

THE FIRST MEET OF THE P.V.H. AT DAUDZAI
ON 1ST FEBRUARY, 1870

Mr. Ben Roberts, R.H.A., the first Master of The Peshawar Vale Hounds, on "Hudibras." Amongst the field are Captain Edwin Markham, R.H.A., from whose private pack the P.V.H. originated; General Sam Browne, V.C., one of the keenest on the original Hunt Committee; also The Revd. J. W. Adams, V.C., Chaplain of Peshawar, 1868, a prominent member of the Hunt Committee who later on saved the pack from destruction on the outbreak of the Afghan War of 1880.

Captain Studdy showed excellent sport until January, 1877. For a short period in 1876, when out of action with a broken collar-bone, he handed over the horn to his second whip, Mr. Egan of the 12th Bengal Cavalry, the first whipper-in having also broken his collar-bone. This season is reported as being an exceptionally fine one. This was due to evenly distributed rains throughout the winter and to the fact that a fair amount of sugar-cane was left standing until late in January and provided excellent holding for jackal. In those days the Hunt owned no covert to draw after the cane was cut, but the more distant country was continually hunted and hounds were kennelled for a week in Shabkadar Fort. The following cold weather Captain Studdy entered his fourth season as Master. A useful addition was made to the pack by the purchase of eleven couples from the 9th Lancers. Owing to another cholera epidemic a late start was made, and hounds accompanied the Horse Gunners to their practice camp at Nisuthu while waiting for hunting to begin. The country there was too dry for sport, but a lot of work and "a fair amount of whipcord" having been put in on the pack they returned "excellently disciplined and in fine order." In February Doctor Taylor, R.H.A., took over in Captain Studdy's absence. This marks the end of a long succession of Horse Gunner Masters, but during the next six seasons the Mastership was retained by The Royal Regiment.

CHAPTER THREE

The Mastership Remains with The Royal Regiment

FOR the next five years the Peshawar Vale Hunt had a most chequered existence. In 1877 almost the whole of the garrison of Peshawar were out on service against Jowakai Afridis. Sport was not very good, and jackal were scarce throughout the season. Exceptionally heavy rains stopped hunting at Christmas, and an outbreak of dumb rabies caused a second stoppage in January. The pack was broken up and trencher fed in bungalows until the first week in March, when they returned to kennels somewhat wild after their bungalow existence, but they managed to put in three days' hunting before the height of the crops caused a closure. A succession of short Masterships and a series of interruptions due to Frontier expeditions around Peshawar naturally caused sport to suffer. By 1879 Hunt finances were in such a serious state that a meeting was held to consider the breaking up of the P.V.H. It was found that subscriptions had fallen off entirely and the Hunt was nearly Rs.1700 in debt. It therefore was decided to raffle the hounds for Rs.2000 in Rs.10 tickets and for the pack to be sold. On October 4th the following circular was sent by the Honorary Secretary of the P.V.H. to all Mess Presidents :

“ A telegram having been received from the Nawab of Jowrah regarding the purchase of the Peshawar Vale Hounds, the time has now arrived to decide whether the pack is to remain in Peshawar or the fine old institution is to become a thing of the past. As I know that there are several officers in this station who are most anxious that the pack should be kept up, I trust that everyone interested in the hounds will attend a meeting to be held at the Cricket Pavilion at 5.30 p.m. on Monday October the sixth to consider the following proposals :

1. That the hounds be purchased by a new Committee to be selected at once ;

2. That the sum required for the purchase of the hounds be collected by the allotment of shares of Rs.50 each ;
3. That the monthly subscription for the maintenance of the hounds be fixed at Rs.10 per member.

I have already been promised the greater part of the sum required for the purchase of the hounds, and the sum which may be put down at about Rs.800 will be made over to the winner of the raffle, regarding which a separate circular has already been issued. I have no doubt that everything will come straight if officers will only come forward at once."

Chiefly due to the efforts of the Royal Artillery and the 25th King's Own Borderers, arrangements were made for the continuation of the old-established pack.

The new Gunner Master was transferred shortly after taking over the horn, and Major Princep of the 11th Bengal Lancers carried on. The general wildness of the pack necessitated a good many bye-days near cantonments to discipline and blood the young hounds. Jack were scarce, but sport gradually improved, and the Master continued to hunt the hounds although he had to hack in from Michni Fort (about fifteen miles). Unfortunately, in a good hunt from the Peach Gardens on January 20th, in jumping over a wall through trees, he fractured his outer skull. Within three weeks he was off the sick list and hunting hounds again. On six occasions he hacked in from Shabkadar Fort (a twenty-mile ride) to do this. He showed fair sport for the remainder of the season.

CHAPTER FOUR

The P. V. H. at Kabul

THE Afghan War prevented any chance of maintaining the Hunt at Peshawar in 1880, and the hounds were advertised for sale. Padre Adams, V.C., who with General Sam Browne, V.C., had regularly hunted with the pack in Captain Markham's days, made arrangements to purchase the hounds with the support of Lieutenant E. Allsop, R.A. (Orderly Officer to Colonel Evans, C.R.A., Sherpur, Afghanistan). By Colonel Evans' desire they were made into a R.A. drag-pack on their arrival in Kabul. They had suffered terribly from the march through the Khyber, but care, attention and help from the medical officers soon pulled them through. That good sportsman, Surgeon-General Hanbury, supervised all the dosing and "ipecacuanha." After a certain amount of trouble good kennels were built at the village of Bemaru, and hounds began work under Captain Campbell, R.A. When he was ordered away, Padre Adams asked Captain Rowley, R.A., Allsop's successor, to take over the horn.

The opening meet was at a village three miles from Kabul on the Kohistan Road; a large field enjoyed a good run. Hounds continued to hunt a drag once a week until the news of the disaster at Maiwand arrived. This scattered subscribers in all directions until only Padre Adams and Captain Rowley remained. The pack was offered to E/B. and to F/A. R.A., stationed at Campbellpur, but telegrams miscarried, and at last, on August 3rd, with great reluctance, it was decided that it would be better to shoot the hounds than to allow them to fall into unworthy hands. Harsukh, the kennel huntsman, had actually started off with a carbine when a note arrived from Captain Campbell, who was returning to Campbellpur with his Battery. Hounds marched from Kabul with this Battery on August 4th, and were hunted for a few days in September by Captain Campbell at Campbellpur. He was ordered

away, and the hounds were sent back to Peshawar to await the arrival of A/C. R.A., from Ambala, to whom Captain Campbell had presented his pack.

Captain Campbell again took charge in Peshawar and hunted the hounds until April, 1881. The pack was then broken up and they were sent out to summer walks, some going to Kashmir, some with the 25th at Cherat, and others with the Queens in the Murree Hills. This procedure did not prove a success, and when collected again in November, 1881, a considerable amount of work had to be put in on them.

In 1882 the last of the Gunner Masters, Major R. D. E. Lockhart, R.A., took over. His Mastership is chiefly noteworthy for the beginning of systematic restocking of the country. Sport was excellent up to the time he handed over in 1884. Except for short periods in 1875, 1879 and 1880, the Mastership of the Peshawar Vale Hunt Hounds had remained with the Royal Regiment since its inception fourteen years before.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Days of Carted Black Buck

THE systematic restocking of the country proved so successful that there was only one blank day for the next two seasons. At the beginning of the following season, at the General Meeting, a most violent and uncalled-for attack was made on the Hunt by an officer of the garrison who shall be nameless. The feelings of the Master are strongly expressed in the records of the Meeting :

“ In the course of his speech this individual said : ‘ As no one desired to hunt and as they never had any sport and nobody could afford it, and polo was much better, it would be better to sell the hounds and give up hunting.’ The speaker did not suggest how the proceeds should be expended, whether in flannel petticoats for the old women of the station, or in a statue for himself. In justice to the speaker, it should be said that had he supposed his speech would be so repugnant to the sporting English instincts of his hearers, it is no more than probable that there would have been no more ardent supporter (indoors being always understood) of the P.V.H. than the speaker. So utterly uncalled for and unsportsmanlike was his tirade against the Hunt that it probably did more good than harm to the prospects of hunting in the Vale of Peshawar. At any rate, it was decided by a large majority that hunting should be continued.”

At this difficult time, General Sir Hugh Gough, the G.O.C., gave his whole-hearted support, and Mr. O. S. Nugent, of the 60th Rifles, carried the horn.

It would appear that jackals had suddenly become scarce again, and carted black buck, imported from the Punjab, were introduced as a means of providing sport. Buck were hunted on three occasions during 1886-87. On the first day the buck took a long time to get moving, but eventually gave a fast hunt of thirty-five minutes, in a circle, from Pukka Ghulam. On the second day he ran for fifty minutes before coming to the Bakshi



A MEET OF THE P.V.H. ABOUT 1890.

stream, where the hunt ended as the buck failed to clear this renowned obstacle and fell back into it. Hounds were whipped off and taken home. The third day promised well to begin with. The pace during the first sixty minutes from Darbangi to Kankola (a point of eight miles) prevented anyone except Mr. Capper, the first whip, from remaining with hounds. Beyond Kankola disaster occurred. The sight of the buck was too much for some Pathans working in the fields nearby, and, as usual, they joined in to help and disabled him with a blow from a lathi; hounds ran from scent to view, pulled their quarry down, and the *coup de grâce* was quickly administered by the first whip.

As no other buck were available that season, from then onwards hounds only hunted jackal. Some very good hunts occurred, and the introduction of buck-hunting seems hardly justified.

For the first time on record hounds did part of their journey to the hills, at Kalapani near Abbottabad, by train.

The following season the pack was increased by six couples from The 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers. The experiment of the last season with carted buck seemed still to have had enthusiastic supporters, and on December 6th hounds hunted a nilgai which had been enlarged near the Taru Road. By a mistake the nilgai had been enlarged at two o'clock, and as the meet was not until 3.30 p.m. hounds had great difficulty in finding him. They found at last in a very small *kebet*, and he went away about ten yards in front of the pack and made for the road, which he would not leave, and ran fast along it to the City. Hounds ran to view straight through the City and came out at the gate next to the railway station, and finally the buck was taken in the Budni River near the race-course. This five-mile gallop down the "hard high" does not seem to have damped enthusiasm, nor did a change in Mastership in the middle of the season put a stop to buck-hunting.

On December 1st, after a very short hunt, the buck took refuge on the top of a house, and, having been restarted, took to the main road back to Peshawar, and hounds had to be stopped. Three other days after buck only produced moderate sport, and once again we find the best hunts of the season were in February with the legitimate quarry.

At the beginning of the next season Captain Kelham of the 74th took over the horn. The summer had been a disastrous one and the pack

had been decimated by dumb rabies whilst in Murree. However, the appeal made by the Master for funds brought splendid response from the station, and Rs.1845 was immediately collected and drafts were purchased from Poona, Ambala and Cawnpore to complete the pack.

Although Captain Kelham only had hounds for one season, and in spite of the difficulties that faced him when he began, he was responsible for raising the standard of the pack to that of its former days. The season was a series of brilliant hunts, and hounds accounted for ten brace of jackal between December 26th, 1888, and March 7th, 1889. After two excursions with black buck at the beginning, Captain Kelham only hunted jackal, and strongly advised all future Masters never to run a buck. Fortune favoured him with the weather, and there was sufficient rain the whole season to make scenting good. On February 16th hounds ran from Agra to Babozai in heavy rain and killed after a superb hour and three-quarters. There were several other hunts almost as fine as this.

In addition to all the work that he had put in with the hounds, Captain Kelham managed in his spare time to collect records and details of the history of the Peshawar Vale Hunt since its institution, and without all his work this History of the Hunt could never have been compiled. By good fortune, in Mr. Ronaldson of the same regiment there was a worthy successor available. When this officer was considered by the Committee for appointment as M.F.H., his proposer said: "Though young in years, I can confidently recommend him to you as likely to show sport than which no finer has been enjoyed since hunting was first started in the Peshawar Vale"; and quoted from an extract from *The Asian* of those days: "Brilliant though his horoscope had been cast, right nobly has Mr. Ronaldson fulfilled it. A fine horseman, a good huntsman with an abundant flow of hound language, and a grand voice withal; a good presence in the field, with a courteous and genial disposition, many a more senior Master of a crack county in England might take lessons from our young fox-hunter in Peshawar."

Sport of the highest order continued, and the new Master persevered with the compilation of the past history of the Hunt; amongst the letters he left on record is one from Captain Markham, R.H.A., from whom the original pack was purchased.

On leaving Peshawar with the H.L.I. in November, 1890, Mr. Ronaldson handed over to Major L. Denning, 26th P.I., a previous Master of the P.V.H. who had returned to Peshawar. Under his management the high standard of the Hunt was ably maintained. This continued so, and good drafts of hounds were purchased from England during the next few years from the following packs: Duke of Beaufort's, Albrighton, Cambridgeshire and the Belvoir, through the Duke of Rutland. Draft hounds were disposed of to Colonel Neville Chamberlain, who had his own pack of drag-hounds in Kashmir. For several years this connection existed, and on occasions later on, when the P.V.H. were suddenly short of hounds, a few couples were taken on loan from Colonel Neville Chamberlain for the winter. In addition to the raising of the standard of hounds in the pack, through the help of the Deputy Commissioner definite arrangements were made in 1894 by which hunt coverts were rented at Agra, Kankola and Meean Gugar, in order to provide holding for jackal after the sugar-cane was cut.

The following year Captain O. S. Nugent, King's Royal Rifles, having returned to Peshawar and taken on the hounds for the second time, appealed to the station for funds to build new kennels in Peshawar. In his appeal at the General Meeting he pointed out that the existing kennels were unworthy of the Hunt and had been in existence probably since the formation of the pack. Good hounds deserved good kennels, and, as it was impossible to build new kennels out of the Hunt subscriptions, he proposed asking for donations from the members of the Hunt who owed to the hounds so many good days' sport. The only possible means by which the high standard of sport could be maintained was by the Master paying a fair price for good hounds at home, and avoiding the temptation to take gift hounds which were usually drafted for faults or vice. The conditions of scent which obtain in the P.V.H. country are, for the greater part of the season, bad. To maintain the traditions of the Hunt the best hounds within the means of the Master are none too good. The subscriptions were hardly sufficient to cover running expenses and the purchase of a few good hounds from home annually. The estimate for the new kennels was put down at Rs.3300. The immediate response to Captain Nugent's appeal was most gratifying, and though probably only a third of the residents of Peshawar were present at the meeting

Rs.1400 was subscribed on the spot. The new kennels were occupied in November, 1895, and are in use to-day. The original plan was improved and enlarged until the total cost was Rs.5800. By March, 1898, the whole of this amount had been cleared off by individual donations, and the very generous help given by the officers of the Tirah Expeditionary Force.

CHAPTER SIX

Surgeon-Captain Hathaway and Captain Tarte

THERE is no doubt that from the point of view of the Hunt it is most desirable that the Master should remain in office for at least two or three seasons, and preferably that he should have had previous experience whipping-in to the pack. If such is the case, good sport is ensured, the policy of breeding is continuous, improvements in the management of the country can be carried out, Hunt finances receive more personal attention from the Master, and, in fact, the Hunt benefits in every way. The Mastership of Surgeon-Captain Hathaway, I.M.S., is only one of the many examples in the Hunt's history that can be given to prove the above. He had already whipped-in to three different Masters, and during his three years as Master showed grand sport. In three years the huge debt of the Hunt changed into a substantial credit. He effected considerable financial saving by choosing whippers-in who mounted themselves. In 1890 there were eight Hunt horses—*Beeswing, Freckles, Brenda, Mischief, Little Star, Cossack, Peveril* and *Glossop*, all country-breds. The Hunt purchased chiefly from Indian Cavalry Regiments, and endeavoured to show a profit in its horse account by selling a few annually, but the upkeep of these animals was a considerable item. From 1898 to the present day the Master and all whippers-in have mounted themselves. The private horses used by the Hunt staff to-day may well represent a capital outlay of Rs.10,000, and their upkeep by their owners means a saving of Rs.400 a month to the Hunt. This is not taking into consideration the six or seven hired Government horses used by the Hunt staff by their own private arrangements.

The Masters of to-day frequently find the great increase of work in the Army has made it more difficult for them to devote the amount of time that is really necessary to the hounds, kennels and country. Unselfish and generous support from the senior officers of the station is

essential, and has seldom been lacking. It is of interest to read in *The Pioneer* of 1896: "Monday, Feb. 3rd, met at Phundu, very small field owing to military zeal; had a nice five-mile gallop and killed"; or again in the Hunt records of 1932: "Second whipper-in unable to get out owing to military duties. Small wonder that they need subscriptions for the British Field Sports Society."

Conditions appear slightly better in 1898, however, when an extract from *The Englishman* about the Tirah Expeditionary Force concludes: "And none have appreciated the hunting more than the sporting members of the present army of blockade, who from general officer downwards have been able to break the weary monotony of their present duty by a capital gallop at least once a week."

Surgeon-Captain Hathaway was succeeded by Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs, who had already whipped-in for three seasons. Unfortunately he left for the Malakand after one season, and two short Masterships followed before he returned in 1901 to carry the horn for four more seasons. During his absence in 1899 the pack summered in Kashmir. The opinion of the Master was that the continued mounted exercise, which was possible at Srinagar, was a tremendous advantage, and for the last three weeks up there he hunted the local jackal.

On his return Captain Tarte found hounds in poor condition, "quite unlike former years. Kashmir does not seem to have suited the hounds. There is a great falling off in the constitution of the pack since 1898-99 from bad drafting." He soon had hounds right again and made many improvements.

By the careful checking of the prices of all kennel supplies and by not having a British kennelman, Captain Tarte saved sufficient money to carry on with the preservation of coverts, which he considered vital to sport with the P.V.H. With the latter he was helped tremendously by that staunch friend of the Hunt, Arbab Mahomed Khaliq Khan of Gulbela.

During the whole of Captain Tarte's long Mastership sport was equal to the best of P.V.H. tradition, but in 1901 ophthalmia broke out in the kennels and fifteen and a half couples of hounds were lost. Hunting members of the station subscribed Rs. 2000 immediately for a fresh draft from home. 1902-03 was a season of brilliant sport throughout. Recognition of this and of the Master's ability was not lacking amongst the

members of the Hunt. The following incidents speak for themselves. During his first season Captain Tarte and his whips were the guests of the station to dinner at the Peshawar Club. On March 25th, 1903, the Chief Commissioner invited all subscribers to the Hunt to dinner at Government House to meet Major Tarte, and after many eulogistic speeches handsome cigar and cigarette boxes were presented in recognition of the brilliant sport he had shown. The following year, before handing over the Mastership, Major Tarte was entertained at a large dinner party given by the officers of The Royal Regiment in their Mess, and a silver salver engraved with signatures of many keen followers of the Hunt was presented to him.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Short Masterships and Varied Fortune

THE popularity of the Hunt continued during the Mastership of Captain A. F. Deacon, A.V.C. Distemper and rabies caused a late start. Fields were large and are frequently alluded to in the records of the first part of the season as being unmanageable. On January 14th the Master "took hounds home on account of the field being past all understanding." It is perhaps significant that after this there are no mentions in the records of any further unruliness.

At the end of the season Sir Harold Deane, the Chief Commissioner, from whom the P.V.H. had received such unfailing support for several years, entertained seventy members of the Hunt to a dinner at Government House. After dinner hunting songs were the order of the evening.

Captain Deacon handed over to Captain A. W. Peck, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, who had whipped-in and occasionally carried the horn from 1902 to 1904. Owing to late rains scent was poor until January, but hounds put up some useful hunts. On February 10th the Master proceeded with the expedition against the Zakha Khel. He continued to show excellent sport after his return on February 27th until the end of the season.

Captain F. F. Lance, 19th Lancers, who had been whipper-in during 1907-08, took over the hounds the next season. Sport was good until the end of January, when Captain Lance, whilst out with his squadron rounding up a trans-frontier raiding party near Phundu, was shot through the knee, the bullet also going through his horse. The gang included the notorious Multan, king of Afridi brigands, with a character similar to Robin Hood. After nearly two months in hospital Captain Lance was invalided home, and the records of sport for the remainder of the season are somewhat incomplete. By the middle of February, 1909, Major E. P. England, R.F.A., was in charge, the first Master from the Royal Regiment for twenty-four years.

Rain failing, however, prevented good sport, but the following season Major England retrieved his misfortune. Luck was, however, against him in his third year, when before Christmas twenty-two couples of hounds died or had been destroyed on account of rabies. At great expense a draft of harriers was brought out from home in January, but rabies had not yet been stamped out and there was no hunting.

These disasters naturally put the Hunt heavily in debt. A draft of seven and a half couples of hounds were purchased from the South Staffordshire, Oakley and West Cumberland packs. A most successful season in 1911-12, whilst Captain N. P. L. Heyworth, North Stafford Regiment, was in command, put matters right. Many fine and long hunts were registered, and the enthusiasm and sporting generosity of the members of the Hunt enabled donations of Rs.3000 to be collected in a fortnight. The season finished with a brilliant hunt when hounds ran from the Bara River by Bandu Sheik Ismail and pulled down their jack swimming the Shah Alam forty minutes later without a resemblance of a check, a point of five miles, and nine as the hounds ran. It is regrettable that such a run was marred by an accident to the Master, who came down with his horse after galloping into a quicksand. In getting up he was badly kicked on the head by the first whip's horse. He was invalided home and Lieutenant the Hon. R. E. Grosvenor, R.F.A., took charge for the next two seasons.

In those days it was an established custom for hounds to meet once or twice a season at Risalpur for the benefit of the Cavalry Brigade, and at Mardan by invitation of the Officers of The Guides. The Hon. R. E. Grosvenor finished his Mastership with a tremendous hunt on March 15th in the Risalpur country. The jack was found on an island opposite Nowshera Thana Station and broke across the Rashkai Road through the Grass Farms. Travelling on at a terrific pace with Risalpur a mile and a half to their right, hounds raced across the maidan and lost their jack in the open after a point of eight and a quarter miles, having run twelve and a quarter miles in sixty minutes. The cause of their failure to kill " was an endless procession of A.T. carts on the road which refused to stop for anything like hounds, or a jack, or a Master of Hounds. I was never given an opportunity of finding out where this jack went to avoid these A.T. carts."

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Period of the Great War

ON the outbreak of the Great War the Master, Captain E. D. Pott, 1st Lancers, after a few days' cubbing, proceeded on active service and Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S., who had acted as Deputy Master for the last three seasons, took over the pack and hunted them for the next five seasons up to his tragic death whilst hunting on January 26th, 1919. It is impossible here to record the full gratitude that the P.V.H. owes to this officer for all the work he put in and the manner in which he continued to show sport throughout the difficult period of the war. It is only natural that during such long Mastership many good hunts were recorded, and the advantages of uninterrupted command were evident throughout. He remarks in the records that the hunt from Broken Bridge on February 4th, 1915, was the most enjoyable he had known during his five years with the P.V.H.

On January 26th, 1919, the meet was at the First Bridge of Boats. A Babuzai jack, after tarrying a while in the patches of cane nearby, was pushed out northwards towards the Nagoman River. Hounds checked slightly on the bank; the Master rode into shallow water to encourage them to try over. A sudden drop in the bed of the stream caused his favourite mare, *Hope*, to plunge forward into the deep water. Horse and rider drifted out with the current. Colonel Irvine had only recently recovered from the effects of a motor accident in which he had broken his thigh, and the swift current soon had him in difficulties. Captain Grant of the Khyber Rifles, Mr. Bock of the 13th Lancers, and Major Campbell immediately plunged in to help him, but the ice-cold snow-water, the swift current, and the weight of hunting kit and boots proved too much for any but the strongest swimmer. Captain Grant had to be rescued from the river, but the other two managed to reach the Master. The situation seemed well in hand when their strength began to fail.

By this time Mr. Jones of the I.C.S., Mahomed Afzal Khan of Kareri, and Mahomed Aslam of Hariana had also plunged in to help. The current, however, swept the Master downstream, his horse swimming with him.

It was then that his orderly, Sundal, who had served with him some twenty years previously in the 37th Lancers, made a gallant attempt and actually reached Colonel Irvine. The Master managed to catch hold of the off-rein of Sundal's horse and had only a few yards to go to shallow water. It would appear that at this moment he was struck on the back of the head by his mare's hoof. His head fell forward and he went down. The body was recovered at the ford, a mile and a half away. Those who had been swimming in the river were completely exhausted and in most cases only reached the bank with assistance. Mr. Bock, unable to swim any longer, floated downstream and was rescued by villagers on the far bank.

The funeral of Colonel Irvine was attended by practically every officer, civil and military, in the station and by many Indian landowners from the Vale. Behind the gun carriage the orderly, Sundal, led his late master's favourite mare *Hope*; the Hunt staff followed with two couples of hounds.

There could be no finer monument to the memory of Colonel Irvine than the sport he had showed and the standard of the pack he left in the kennels. His Mastership is another proof of the advantages of a long Mastership, and the period following his death was unfortunately marked by short Masterships with all the disadvantages that go with them.

There is no need in this History to enter into a discussion as to the necessity of artificial means of showing sport during the early part of the season. Anyone who has hunted with hounds in Peshawar will understand the tremendous difficulties that confront the Master, especially up till the middle of January. To begin with, one must have a really fine pack of hounds if sport is to be shown. In the years that followed the Great War this question alone was sufficiently difficult to solve. Hounds were fetching fabulous prices in England, and the P.V.H. financial outlook was far from rosy. Owing to the recent Afghan War in 1919 and subsequent tribal operations, the garrison of Peshawar was continually changing. Many residents who would normally have been the keenest supporters of the Hunt were unable to get out. Many temporary

residents in the station were prevented from doing so as they had not got their hunters with them. Fields were therefore small and the subscription list was low. Short Masterships, so detrimental to sport, became the order of the day, and few of those in charge had the opportunities for getting round the country and studying the habits of the local jackal. Occasionally in the past artificial means of showing sport had been resorted to, and once again they were reintroduced. Rumours of these practices reached most other Hunts in India, and it is most regrettable that on the occasion when H.R.H. The Prince of Wales hunted with the P.V.H. he should have seen hounds hunting a drag.

A shortage of hounds was not the only difficulty. The lack of continuity of policy led to very few Hunt coverts being maintained. The failure of the Alliance Bank of Simla had crippled the Hunt financially and prevented any large drafts from being purchased in England in order to bring the pack up to its former standard. The Masters of this period were faced with the necessity of showing sport, and one can safely say that they gave the field plenty of galloping, and what field is there in the world in which the majority are not satisfied as long as they get galloping! Gradually the number of subscribers increased and funds became available for the purchase of good bitches and stallion hounds from England. This led to an improvement in the standard of the pack during Captain A. R. Wallis' Mastership, and the same period is marked by steady improvement in kennel management as well. The reward for the hard work in these directions enabled the Masters who followed this period to take in hand the working up of the country and the breeding of first-class hounds in kennels.

It is unnecessary to pretend that "painted" foxes are never used in England. It is also common knowledge that a whipper-in ahead, trailing a "doctored" lash on the ground, has before now been responsible for a very fast dart in the open on a poor scenting day, even with some of the most fashionable packs. But those Hunts which never stoop to such practices stand for all that is best in fox-hunting. The Peshawar Vale should stand for all that is best in jackal-hunting. Whatever the difficulties of scent and excessive cover in November and December, those who must be considered the greatest Masters of the P.V.H. have not resorted to artificial means of showing sport.

But it must be borne in mind that it requires at least three years' hard work in the country before one knows the jackal localities, and the parts of the country suitable for hunting early in the season. This knowledge alone is not sufficient as one must be favoured with good scenting conditions if hounds are to show any sport in the open early on.

All Masters of hounds prefer to hunt the genuine wild quarry. To do so in Peshawar requires untiring energy. Artificial earths in country suitable for early season hunting have been tried and have failed. A few remarks are made in a later chapter on the supply of jackal in the Vale. It is sufficient to say here that all must admire those Masters who have withstood temptation and defied all criticism. Members of the field who are ignorant of the difficulties will criticise a succession of poor days' sport, but to the subscriber genuinely interested in hunting a poor day with a wild jackal is preferable to the most brilliant run on a drag-line.

As a general rule scenting conditions in Peshawar are bad during November, December and early January. In some years, such as 1928, a regular rainfall gives hounds a chance of showing good sport throughout the season, but usually hard frosts and sunny days with high dry winds combine to make scent very poor until the later half of January. One can hardly imagine worse conditions for the entering of young hounds or for inexperienced hounds to learn their work. Continual hunting in heavy sugar-cane tends to make a pack stale; it teaches them to cast back when at fault on the edge of covert, and encourages hounds to lose their drive.

When conditions for cub-hunting in Peshawar are compared with those at home one can realize the difficulties. First of all, in Peshawar hounds do not start the season really fit and hard as the hot weather prevents the long period of slow, steady exercise which is possible at home; secondly, scent in the open will usually be too poor for hounds to be able to hunt a jack more than a mile or so, and they frequently get too much battling through heavy sugar-cane; there are literally hundreds of square miles of this type of covert early on. Thirdly, hounds have to start off the season hunting practically nothing but full-grown jackal. There is no doubt that getting plenty of blood and plenty of hunting on a good scent produces the best and quickest results with young hounds'

education. A two-day-a-week pack in England will kill more foxes during cub-hunting than the P.V.H. kill jackal during a whole season. Most of those killed in England are soft cubs, and the young hounds arrive for the "worry" full of spirit and readily help to break up their foxes. In Peshawar, after an hour or so in sugar-cane, hounds definitely show signs of being run out and only kill by sheer dogged determination. When they kill, the young hounds feel more like having a drink than a feed! Such conditions are the very opposite to the ideal and must be borne in mind by anyone who is seriously considering the problems that confront the Master of the Peshawar Vale Hounds.

CHAPTER NINE

Recent Years

IT takes a strong, determined man and an expert huntsman to dispense suddenly with artificial means of showing sport in a country, and all honour is due to Colonel H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., 60th Rifles, for the way in which he put an end to drag-hunting soon after he took over the horn. The improved financial state of the Hunt enabled him to get to work on the organization of the country and the renting of Hunt coverts. These coverts are almost invariably safe finds during the latter part of the season when sport is at its best. From Colonel Ponsonby's time great progress has been made as regards the renting of these reed beds, and at the present time the Hunt owns about fourteen coverts, all of which have proved their worth some time or other since 1927.

To Colonel Ponsonby credit is also due for first making a stand against the unfortunate custom which had sprung up of hounds hunting an advertised drag-line on Christmas Day after a lawn meet at Government House. Such an event may be very sociable and very jolly, but it can hardly be imagined as part of the programme for a pack of hounds at Home.

On handing over the horn Colonel Ponsonby makes a note in the records that after three years in Peshawar he was just beginning to know the habits and living places of the wild jackal of the Vale. When he left for England, Captain E. Wallace, R.A.V.C., who had been whipping-in for two seasons, took over. During his three seasons' Mastership the P.V.H. probably reached its zenith. Such great thought and consideration did he give to the careful breeding of hounds that the standard of the pack was further improved and first-class kennel-bred hounds were entered each year. Brilliant sport was shown to very large fields of true sportsmen. In fact, as "Snaffles" has said, the Hunt could compare favourably with any of the best provincial packs in England.

Working on the lines suggested by Colonel Ponsonby a gradual increase was made in the number of coverts leased by the Hunt. A dry summer (which is held by some to be favourable to a good jack supply, as fewer cubs are drowned in the sudden spates of July and August) was followed by an even distribution of rain throughout the hunting season, which unfortunately so seldom occurs in Peshawar. Scent was better than average. Under such conditions grand sport was enjoyed. Five successive days in February, 1928, serve as a brilliant example of what the Peshawar Vale can give at its best.

February 19th.—A great hound hunt from Kankola Reeds to Cuha Gujar, where hounds were beaten on the dry sandy ground after two hours and forty minutes, with a six mile point and double that as they ran.

February 23rd.—Early in the morning hounds killed after a ringing hunt of forty minutes in the Nahakki—Shakapura—Daman Afghani country. Later on in the morning they gave the field a very fast five-mile hunt from Kankola to the Peach Gardens, where they were stopped owing to the presence of fresh jackal. It was a very wet day, and there was only a small field out.

February 25th.—A bye-day. A jackal from Garhi Mir Tayab opened the day's sport with a fast hunt to ground at Gui, a line that never fails to please. After this a dog-jack from Nahakki led hounds over some of the best of the Daudzai country before paid was put to his account. The mask was presented to "Snaffles," who was on a visit to Peshawar at the time. This game jack had run six and a half miles with a five-mile point.

February 26th.—Once again a jack from Garhi Mir Tayab opened the ball, with the earths at Gui as his point. The variations on this line prevent it from ever becoming monotonous, and when hounds run really fast over the big drains beyond Hariana the field invariably enjoy themselves. A second hunt started from the grass farms and finished at Hariana; though never fast, it was full of incident.

March 1st.—On a good scent hounds pushed a dog-jack from the hills out of Shahi Reeds, and after fifty minutes of the best were beaten two miles from Jamrud Fort, across the Frontier and well into the stony hill country.

The hot weather of 1929 saw hounds in their new kennels at Gharial. In the early days hounds' summer quarters had frequently been changed. Recently they had been sent to Murree. With no exaggeration it can be said that hardly a single hot weather had passed since the early sixties without some serious experience in the hot weather kennels, whereas in Major Wallace's three seasons only one hound was lost during the summer. Future Masters will realize the debt owed to Major A. V. T. Wakely, M.C., R.E., for the planning and building of the new Gharial Kennels. In addition to being a builder of some repute, Major Wakely is also an all-round hound expert. The Gharial Kennels are only one sign of his long connection with the P.V.H. One can safely say that both winter and summer kennels are now worthy of the pack kennelled in them, and leave little to be desired.

Major E. Wallace's second season was perhaps not quite so brilliant as his first, owing to a spell of cold winds and hard frosts in January and early February. But on February 14th, 1929, there was a brilliant hunt from Shahi. Hounds ran for seven and a half miles over the biggest country in the Vale, and, with only two slight checks, marked to ground forty-two minutes later. They had got well away from the field during this hunt; only a first-class hunter in every sense of the word can give one real pleasure in a fast hunt over the Mathra country.

Improvements to the country continued, and once again in 1929-30 the rain was evenly distributed during the winter, and Major Wallace gave his third season's good sport. There were many days which showed brilliant hound work, but there were no outstandingly long hunts. Hounds were very steady and handy throughout the season, and in 1930 Major Wallace handed over to Captain R. F. Rutledge, M.C., The Poona Horse, who had been whipping-in since Colonel Ponsonby's days.

During the summer of 1930 there were many restrictions owing to Afridi activity on both sides of the border. In addition there were the Red Shirt and Congress movements. However, in spite of these, the new Master managed to get round his country during the operations of the summer and obtained nine good coverts for the cold weather. During August Captain W. M. Newill of The Poona Horse, who was one of the whippers-in, won the Military Cross in an engagement with Afridis

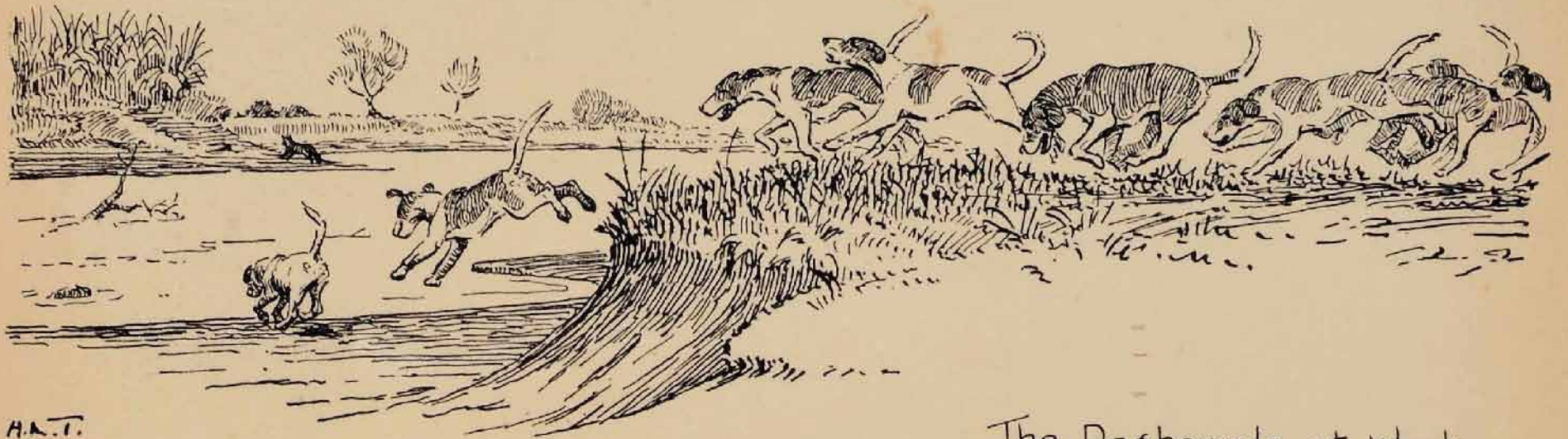
down the Kohat Road direction, close to the site of the Hunt covert at Phandu Bala. When hunting began revolvers had to be carried and a cavalry escort formed part of the field. In spite of such difficulties, Captain Ruttledge showed great sport, and only one day's hunting was lost and that was owing to Afridi infiltration in the Vale.

During his second season Captain Ruttledge had possibly even more difficulties to contend with. Revolvers still had to be carried, and for the greater part of the season ladies were not allowed to hunt. The presence of gangs of dacoits in the reed beds on the Taru Road prevented that part of the country being used before Christmas, when it is so vital to find country in which sugar-cane is not too extensive. This alone was a tremendous obstacle to sport. In addition, influenza broke out in kennels, and there were two stoppages. During one of these periods Captain H. McC. B. Bramwell of the 15th Hussars most generously brought over his pack from Risalpur to hunt the Daudzai and Nagoman country. It was a bitter disappointment to all, including over twenty followers of the Risalpur, that five of the best coverts were drawn without a whimper, and when at last a jack was found in Giddar, scent proved too poor to do much with him.

On March 1st, 1931, a poor season was retrieved by a very fine morning's sport. A fast forty minutes early on from Garhi Mir Tayab to Kankola was followed afterwards by a wonderful hound hunt with one hour and twenty minutes in the open and a five-mile point. The Master went straight from the hound van to the Point-to-Point Races and rode the winner of the first race. As he passed the flags he must have galloped over twenty-six miles since the meet at Bakshi Bridge that morning. He was, of course, an artist across country, with many point-to-point successes to his credit during his six years in Peshawar. He maintained that rain need never stop hunting in the Vale, and during his regime hounds did not hunt the sandhill country. It was not only the brilliantly fast hunts over the biggest parts of the Vale, however, that pleased Captain Ruttledge. Hounds and hound work gave him his greatest pleasure. It was good to see the welcome they would give him at the meet. No Master could have had stronger views than he on the ethics of hunting. Like his two predecessors, he would countenance no artificial means of showing sport.

This is the history of the Peshawar Vale Hounds ; interwoven as it is with the story of the Frontier, it is full of incident and tales of vicissitudes and difficulties met with and overcome. It contains few instances of bad management, and it is pleasant to leave this story of the famous pack with sport being shown worthy of past tradition. Long may it continue so.





A.A.T.

The Doghounds at Work

THE HOUNDS

CHAPTER TEN

The Story of the Hounds

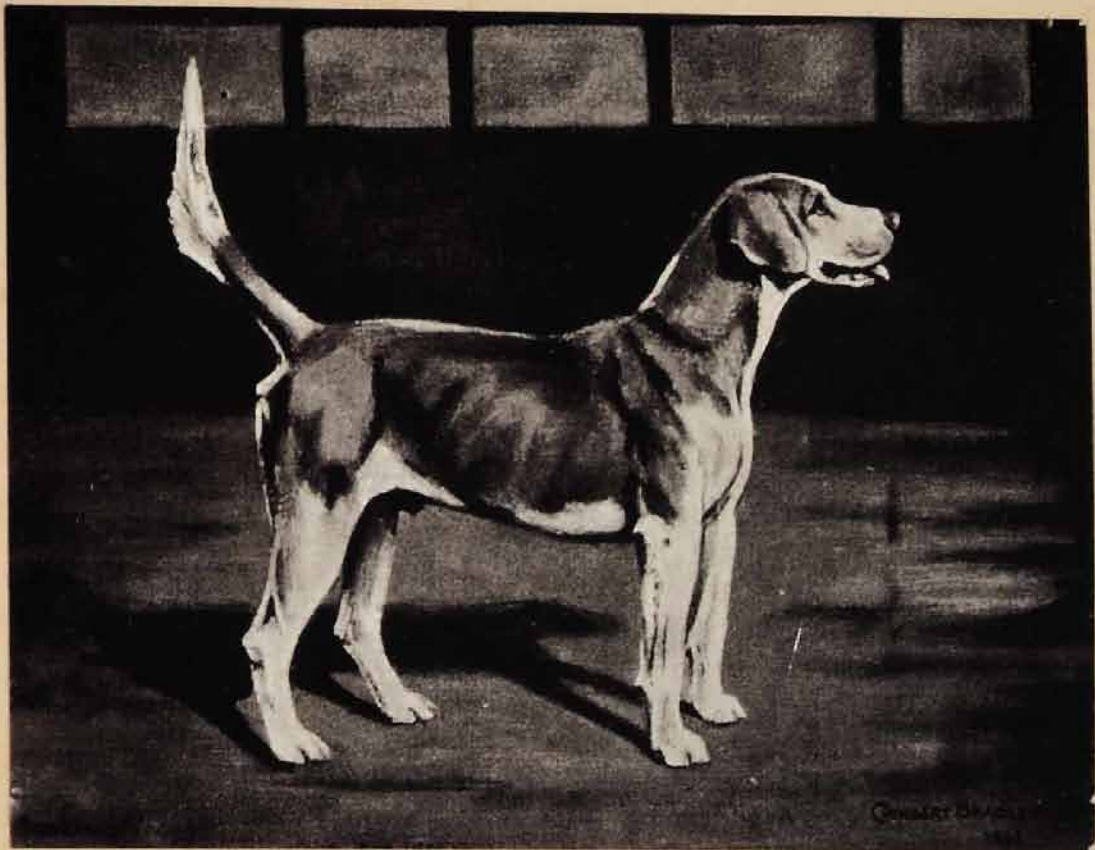
THE pack originated from Captain Markham's Hounds, reinforced just previously with a draft from the Green Howards Hunt. Captain Markham's Hound List is shown as an appendix, and since his Mastership, with the exception of a very few years, continuous lists have been kept up to the present day. From time to time additions to the pack have been made from other packs in India—*e.g.*, 1877 and 1896, The Bombay Hunt; 1901, The Ootacamund Hunt; 1910, The Karachi Hunt; 1909, The Poona and Kirkee; 1914, The Mhow Hunt; and 1920, The Delhi Hunt. In the same way at various times drafts have been sold to most of the Indian packs.

But the majority of the hounds in the pack, especially during recent years, have been imported from England. Most of the famous packs at home have at some time or other been represented in the P.V.H. Kennels. In the early days there are frequent instances of hounds being presented by Masters at Home—*e.g.*, 1897, four and a half couples from Albert Brassey, Esq., Master of The Heythrop, and another two couples the same year from Lord Rothschild; 1914, four and a half couples from Lord Stalbridge and two couples from G. Wingfield Digby, Esq., of The Blackmore Vale; 1915, six couples, and three years later three couples, from The Percy; 1923, one couple from The Royal Calpe; and in 1924 a couple from The Cheshire. Since then hounds have always been purchased. This has been done at the Rugby Sales or through Wilton, the hound dealer of Hanwell, or privately by some friend of the Hunt in England.

It is to the sound judgment of Captain W. P. Browne, M.F.H., and W. B. B. Scott, Esq., M.F.H., both of The Portman, and even more recently to Major W. Rendell, of South Devon fame, that the present high standard of the pack is due. Without the unselfish and expert

help of these gentlemen first-class hounds would have been much more difficult to procure. It has always been the practice, whenever conditions allow, to breed a few home-bred puppies each year. To get good ones well-bred sires and dams are essential. The high standard of the home-bred hounds in kennels in recent years is sufficient proof of the good hounds that have arrived from England. Breeding from second-class stock is waste of time ; the selection of suitable bitches is of vital importance to a pack which normally consists mainly of doghounds. The characteristics of the kennel-bred hounds are their hardiness and their capacity for work. Most of them run up to six or seven seasons. A curious fact is that there is no case on record of a slow kennel-bred hound. The popular theory that country-bred hounds show lack of nose and tongue is a fallacy. In Peshawar they are equal to imported hounds in appearance and work.

To mention a few of the outstanding hounds bred in the Kennels during recent years one may include *Lawless* '26 and *Melody* '26 (Pytchley *Lacer* '20—Bedale *Magic* '21). Both these hounds were entered at eight months and were still doing their work seven seasons later. P.V.H. *Curfew* '27 and *Challenger* '27 (Cheshire *Cruiser* '22—V.W.H. *Beacon* '21) are other examples of the country-bred's capacity for work. *Challenger* was sent to The Delhi Pack early on in life, but both he and his brother were outstanding and have both completed their seventh season. P.V.H. *Counsellor* '28 (Cheshire *Cruiser* '22—V.W.H. *Beacon* '21) was an example of a country-bred hound, absolutely English in appearance and character, with the best sprung ribs imaginable (possibly one of the more usual defects in the country-bred), a perfect nose and absolutely honest and true. The three brothers *Havoc*, *Huntsman* and *Hector*, all over 24 inches with wonderful bone, were for many years able to deceive experts who visited the Kennels and endeavoured to pick out the kennel-bred hounds. They were bred in 1928 by Major E. Wallace, and were by Portman *Havelock* '26 from Carlow *Capable* '26. It has seldom been the practice to breed from country-bred stock, imported parents being preferred. But there is in recent years the case of P.V.H. *Cautious* '28 (Portman *Havelock* '26—Carlow *Capable* '26) being selected as a brood bitch. Her one and only whelp—*Songstress*—is outstanding on the flags, and time will prove whether she inherits her parents' working



SOUTH DEVON VIKING '24

*From the painting in oils in the
possession of Captain R. F. Rutledge*

qualities. Such results can only be obtained when Masterships are not short ones, and with the utmost forethought and consideration before hounds are mated.

Of the imported hounds there have been many of unusual merit. One of the most famous, and to him is given a full page in the Hunt Records, was S. Devon *Viking* (formerly *Viscount* '23). This hound arrived from Wilton, the hound dealer, in the autumn of 1924, and from then till 1932 is continually mentioned in the Records by successive Masters for his exceptional hunting qualities. In kennel he was of independent character, especially towards the end of his life. In the field he displayed the finest qualities of hound work and hound sense. The following is his epitaph: "He was a fine, strong doghound with bone all the way down. When hounds were thrown into covert he invariably went straight to his jack. He had a wonderful nose. He threw his tongue at every stride. No day was too long; no place too thick." He sired several fine litters, and all his children are outstanding for their perfect legs and feet; he handed on his beautifully shaped head and neck to all his progeny.

Some details of his early life in England are available. He was one of a litter of fourteen, of which ten were kept. Five of the litter took prizes at the South Devon Puppy Show, 1924. By 1932 he was the only one of the whole litter still alive, having done seven seasons in India. Presumably conditions for hounds in Peshawar compare favourably with those at home! He was bred by Portman *Valentine* '19 from S. Devon *Songstress* '20, and went back on his sire's side to Belvoir *Weaver* '06, Grafton *Woodman* '92, and so to Belvoir *Weathergauge* 1876. This is the type of pedigree required by a stallion hound in Peshawar.

Viking was out for his last day's hunting on March 6th, 1932. The first two hunts of the day had been fastish gallops from Shahi towards the Frontier hills, where hounds had been stopped each time. After this one jack was killed at Patwar and another left for Regi. *Viking* by this time was feeling his age a bit, and during the fast hunt which followed he was brought on by the first whip, a mile or so behind the field. The jack finally took refuge in a village, and hounds were badly at fault amongst some outhouses. After a few minutes *Viking* arrived; he trotted past

the rest of the pack and crossed the road. Here he winded his jack, and in a few seconds killed him single-handed in a manger. A few weeks later the old gentleman passed on to the happy hunting-grounds. His painting in oils was presented to Captain R. F. Rutledge, M.C., The Poona Horse, when he retired from the Mastership of the P.V.H. in 1932. May there be many more hounds like *Viking* in future drafts, for the Peshawar country demands the very best type of foxhound with all the best hunting qualities.

One cannot leave the hounds without mention of the Kennel Staff. For only a few short periods since 1865 has a British kennelman been employed. Amongst the head Indian kennelmen there are two outstanding characters. The first was Kanai, who had over twenty-five years' service with the P.V.H. He was a great character in his day, and, judging from comments in the Records by some of the Masters, he was also a great rogue. In kennels he was first-class as regards care and attention to hounds. He was employed in the hunting-field as an extra whip. His skewbald country-bred pony *Monkey* was only thirteen hands high. Kanai knew his country, and even if he did not enjoy falling, he appeared to have no aversion to it. But he always managed to be there or thereabouts, and it is regretted that his dishonesty with kennel accounts finally brought about his dismissal.

Since his days Shera has had the job, and is pleased to tell everyone that he is now entering his twenty-fifth year of service. His son Rahm Ali was christened as such in an endeavour to obtain an Indian name similar to *Ramilles*, who was the best doghound in the kennels when this son of his was born. Rahm Ali will doubtless follow his father as head kennelman in a few years' time. Shera has seen the P.V.H. pass through its good and bad times. A more genuinely loyal and solid worker would be difficult to find. His experience with local conditions, sicknesses, treatment of poisoned stake wounds, etc., are of the greatest assistance to every Master that comes along. He has a great way with hounds and a wealth of humour, good nature and cheery optimism. When a sick hound requires careful nursing nothing is too much trouble, and he will sit up all night with a bad case. No smiling face can be more cheery than his when he hears of a good day's sport when hounds return to kennels ; no eyes can flash more dangerously than his when he reproves



SHERA, 1934

one of his dog-boys for some shortcomings. At the Point-to-Point Meetings and other events of importance in his life, such as the move of the hounds to and from the hills in summer, Shera appears in his full dress. This consists only of a brassard with "P.V.H. Jemadar" in red letters, but it is worn with as much pride as the decorations of a soldier, and with his "Burglar Bill" cap set at a rakish angle there is always a definite sporting touch about the old man. Indians of lowly birth seem capable of producing unexpected good value on occasions. One cannot help feeling sometimes that the worth of such servants to the Hunt is only too little realized by many members of the field.

One can spend many a pleasant hour in the kennels with Shera chatting about the hounds, those of the past and those of the present. Every hound's kennel character is known in detail by him. He will show you *Pilgrim*, who always lives aloof from the pack and occupies the corner of the bench in the doghound's kennel in undisputed ownership. There are *Barmaid* and *Vanguard*, who invariably jump the fences of the big yard and spend an hour each morning in one of the smaller grass courts. There was old *Mischief*, who used to balance herself for hours on the inclined brickwork of the wall round the bitches' kennel. There is *Victor*, who likes to bite one's hand whilst out on foot exercise, and never leaves the first whipper-in's side; or *Hanover*, who always comes back from the pack on exercise or out hunting to look for the Master if he is not there. There are the two brothers, *Gamecock* and *Gangster*, who always refuse to draw when being drafted for hunting and finally walk out very slowly and sedately at the end, grumbling the whole time, and with hackles all up make their way like a slow-motion picture to join the rest of the pack. These are only a few of the individual characteristics which make life with hounds so fascinating. In addition to their behaviour in kennels, the Master and whippers-in have the absorbing pleasure of watching each new hound develop his character and hunting qualities. Shera gets none of this pleasure, but his face is a picture when he hears of outstanding good work by any of his charges.

The P.V.H. to-day are a first-class pack, and the kennel staff are really good. The worries and anxieties of the Masters of the present and future have been more than halved by the provision of excellent kennels

in Peshawar and in Gharial. Those at Peshawar date from the days of the Tirah Expedition, and those at Gharial were built during Major E. Wallace's Mastership under the direction of Major A. V. T. Wakely, the C.R.E. Good kennels, good hounds, and good kennel staff go a long way towards the provision of good sport.





Winter in the Vale

THE COUNTRY

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Charm of the Valley

THE Peshawar Vale Hounds hunt some four hundred square miles of country, the cream of which lies to the north and east of Peshawar Cantonments. The boundaries of this country are clearly defined on all sides except the east by tracts which are unrideable.

On the extreme northern and western edges is the dry, stony wasteland lying along the Frontier hills. To the south cultivated and grazing country gradually merges into the sandhills, beyond which are the intricate nullahs and stony foothills of the Kohat Range and of the Kajuri Plain. To the east it is flat and open around Nowshera, Risalpur and Mardan, and this part is hunted by the Risalpur Hounds. This plain is of a completely different character to the Peshawar Vale. The boundary between the two Hunts has been defined as the Kabul River from Charsadda to Pabbi.

The Vale itself is exceptionally fertile, and most of its character is due to the Kabul River, which issues from the Frontier hills near Michni, and then divides into three main branches which stretch right across the country and reunite again on the eastern boundary. Of these branches the Shah Alam, nearest to Peshawar, is fordable in most places during the hunting season; the Nagoman and Adozai (or Kabul River) further to the north are both difficult and dangerous to cross, with very few fords, only two bridges over each and a longish stretch of intricate quicksand where they reunite. Thick fog near these rivers can interfere a lot with sport during January.

Along the banks of these three rivers are grand open stretches of grazing country. Early in the season the saltpetre in the soil works its way out of the grass, resembling a light fall of snow or heavy hoar frost. Until this has disappeared after the January rains the grass-land affords very poor scent, but by February scent holds and there is plenty of galloping during the last two months of the season.

There is no hunting country in India with such a number and such a variety of obstacles to be negotiated. There are many open brooks, dykes and small streams lined with willows. There are the big banks and in certain parts plenty of walls to jump. The description, however, would not be complete without mention of the Peshawar "doubles" and "grids." These consist of two or more water-courses running parallel to each other between grass banks. Sometimes there is sufficient "take-off" between for a horse to change his legs; frequently there is not. In olden days the most intricate of these was known as "The Seven Sisters." Such obstacles demand a bold, clever and temperate horse. To enjoy a fast hunt over the cream of the country there is no doubt one must have the very best hunter in every sense of the word. He must be able to gallop on, he must have scope and be able to spread himself over the broad drains, and he must be clever enough to negotiate the small ones, however blind they are. Once a horse is bogged in any of the larger drains he may be there for two hours or more. Ropes and help from villagers will almost certainly be required.

One of the greatest charms of the countryside around Peshawar is the succession of changes of scenery as the seasons pass. The Masters of the P.V.H. are some of the few who know what it is like out in the Vale in the summer. In July and August, the worst months, long days have to be spent hacking and walking round the coverts, making arrangements for the renting of these from the landowners for the following season. At this time of the year the temperature may easily be 116° in the shade, with a humidity of 80 per cent. The reed beds themselves are up to ten feet high, with never a breath of breeze. Many of the streams which cease to exist in the winter are deep rushing torrents of melted snow water, and can only be crossed by swimming or in a boat. The whole of the countryside is one expanse of verdant green. Thoughts of next season's sport and the genuine hospitality one receives in the villages enable one to disregard the unpleasantness of the weather.

By the time cubbing starts, half-way through October, the country is still riding very blind and the boggy parts are very deep. The banks of the dykes and streams are covered with high grass and weeds. Though there are no long points, a morning's sport is never without incident. Thousands of acres of bright green sugar-cane stretch over the country

in all directions. But the summer has gone and signs of autumn quickly appear. By the end of November the colouring is such as is seldom seen in India. The wild *shisham* leaves have become every shade of salmon and pink, and those of the mulberry trees and of the Persian lilac are golden yellow. Others are turning to copper bronze, and only the *siris* and *pipal* refuse to change their hue. To this autumn scene is always added in the background the deep blue of the hills across the Border.

With the fall of the leaf Pirbala and the Peach Gardens appear like deep brown woodlands at Home. All around the grass and reeds have turned to russet, with the leafless branches stencilled against the sky; in the distance the sugar-cane shows up like a pale yellow ribbon as it ripens for cutting. The deep blue of the hills has gone in the bright, clear, sunny weather, and on the tops are the first signs of snow that gradually comes lower and lower. Severe frosts occur, but only once, on January 31st, 1929, has snow interfered with hunting in the Vale. On that day the meet was postponed till ten o'clock, and hounds found their first jack half an hour later and returned to kennels at five o'clock.

Springtime brings many more bright, sunny days. The last patches of yellow cane are cut and the lower snow disappears. Fogs and rains occur during January and February, and as the sun melts the snows on the hills the rivers begin to run deep and fast. The time is all too short now. Conditions are so ideal. Scent is invariably good; the country is open except for the preserved coverts and woodlands, and horses are asked to gallop every day. The wheat and barley suddenly seem to be growing an inch a day. The Peach Gardens burst forth into four miles of pink and white blossoms. In cantonments there is the scent of orange blossoms in every garden. The swallows begin to collect for their migration to the hills and other climes, and before one can realize it all, crops demand a closure and another season finishes with scent probably "better than it's ever been before." But each year, by the end of the season, one has had one's fun and one's horses have earned their oats.

With each change of colour and of season one finds a definite and distinctive type of hunting. In the autumn the extensive *kbets* of sugar-cane confine hounds chiefly to hunting in covert, and they are seldom seen in the open. The country may get very dry and the lanes and bridle-paths are very dusty. Fortunately, all sugar-cane areas are

irrigated, and the pack can hunt a jack well in covert when they are unable to go a yard in the open. Sugar is a terribly heavy crop for hounds to push through; their courage and determination are seen at their best during some of these early hunts. Three hours in the cane is not unusual. There are so many opportunities for changing on to fresh jack that hounds well deserve those they kill before Christmas.

During the winter the cane is gradually disappearing and the Hunt-preserved coverts are occasionally called upon. At the time of cutting there is no need for irrigation in the cane, with the result that, though scent in the open has improved with the colder weather, scent in covert has deteriorated. Luckily, with years of hard hunting, the jackal of the Peshawar Vale have mostly learned to "go," and they break quickly from the smaller cane patches left standing. A stay-at-home customer may give a very dull morning's sport, but it is better not to leave these faint-hearted ones to spoil another day.

By the time spring arrives, once a jackal is pushed into the open one is fairly certain of a good gallop. Apart from the Hunt coverts only a few of the larger bogs carry enough reeds in them at this time of the year to attract jackal. The whole of the rest of the country is open. The jack know they must move and they do so, especially the dog jack. His point may be another reed bed or some bog; he may hope for safety in some earth on the river banks, or frequently he may choose the hills. Wherever his hope of safety, he goes there as fast as he can.

Let it not be thought, however, that it is too easy for hounds to account for their quarry at this time of the year. It is never too easy in Peshawar, even when the country is open. Four of the more obvious conditions which favour the jackal are quoted below. To begin with, after the jack leaves covert he is seldom viewed as he can conceal himself so easily by running the far side of a bank or in the bottom of a dry water channel. A huntsman has therefore no "view" to help him when hounds are at fault. Another difficulty is that after eight o'clock men are working in the fields, frequently accompanied by their dogs. Many are the occasions on which a hunt is ruined by the jackal being headed or coursed. Further, when the quarry swims one of the snow-water rivers he leaves little scent on the far bank for a long distance. Usually when this occurs hounds are on their own for some time, as it takes longer to

swim a horse over, and it is very easy for them to lose precious minutes at a critical stage of the hunt. Finally, in the best part of the country beyond the Nagoman, a strong wind always gets up after 9.30 a.m., and only a steady pack can hold the line and not waste time. Such difficulties or similar ones occur in every hunting country and constitute the charm and the interest of sport.

Even when things are not going well in Peshawar one can at least cheer oneself up with the consolation that there is no wire, no tarmac, no electric railway line and no "foot and mouth." When things are going well there is no need to cheer oneself up at all. Sport of the grandest order is shown.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The People of the Valley

OWING to the fact that the P.V.H. country lies along one of the most disturbed frontiers of the world it is not surprising to read in the chapters dealing with the history of the Hunt that there have been many interruptions due to incursions by the Border tribes, and to expeditions against them. Such conditions are peculiar to the P.V.H. In 1898 subscribers from Jamrud hacked over to the meets with a cavalry escort for protection. In 1909 an officer coming in from Jamrud on his way to a meet was shot at on the main road just outside cantonments. On February 24th, 1915, hounds ran from Mathra Jheel across the Kabul River and on into the hills three miles over the frontier. At this time the political situation was none too pleasant. The field was asked to go back into British territory, whilst the Hunt staff collected hounds in the hills with the help of a detachment of the Khyber Rifles.

Interruptions to sport are by no means confined to the early history of the Hunt. In 1930-31 one day's hunting was lost owing to the presence of hostile Afridis close to Peshawar. For two seasons no fixture cards were published, for reasons of secrecy, and a cavalry escort formed part of the field. The Taru side of the country was closed in 1930 owing to bands of dacoits living in the reed beds. Ladies were only allowed to hunt for one month during the whole season, and revolvers were carried by order. In spite of it all the P.V.H. continues, and there is no doubt the Hunt has become an institution in the Valley, representing the best of the British rule to the local inhabitants. It is claimed by many of the big landowners that the continuance of hunting in 1930, in spite of the state of the country after the Afridi attacks on Peshawar, did more than anything else to restore British prestige and to disprove the Congress reports that the British had abandoned Peshawar and handed India over to the Indians.

The P.V.H. is strictly non-political and must remain so. The permanent residents of the country continued to support the Hunt during the Red Shirt Movement. The Master and Hunt staff were able to get round the country with no trouble, although orders had confined all officers without escorts to the barbed wire around cantonments. Even the inhabitants of definitely "Red" villages would offer one tea and hospitality directly they knew that one was merely getting news of jackal. In return both Masters (1931-32) were careful to prevent the Hunt being given political tendencies. Possibly a covert owner had refused to pay his revenue, and the Deputy Commissioner would ask if his revenue could be paid from the rent due to the Pathan for his reed bed. On such occasions it was politely regretted that full payment for the reed bed had already been made.

Only one hostile incident occurred out hunting during this bad period and that was near Taru, on the road to Pabbi, which latter place has for years been notorious as a sink of iniquity and a stronghold of all the worst characters in the district. It lived up to its reputation and became one of the headquarters of the Red Shirt Movement. The incident referred to occurred early in the season when that brilliant horsewoman, Mrs. Rutledge, the wife of the Master, was seriously injured by a fall during a hunt near Taru Farm. Villagers at first refused to provide a charpoy or to assist to carry the lady back to the cars. It was subsequently proved that they had been urged to do so by a Red Shirt agitator touring the district from Pabbi. The following morning a voluntary apology for their behaviour arrived from the headman of the village, and rumour had it that the Red Shirt agent had mysteriously disappeared and been seen no more. Pathan hospitality is a bye-word, and the unchivalrous behaviour towards a woman can have done its participants no good. Possibly feeling they had been duped they resorted to revenge on the agitator.

These Pathans really enjoy the spectacle of the Hunt, and they appreciate the excitement of the chase even if the science is beyond them. Their efforts to join in with their own dogs and their enthusiasm round a covert side near a village can be more than disconcerting. A jackal run to earth has little hope of escape if villagers see hounds mark to ground. But whatever their feelings, they are attractive fellows to deal

with. When one has been out with them on a cold winter night, digging hounds out of some big earth with the aid of a hurricane lamp, or when one has tramped miles across country with them in the heat of July or August, or when they have helped one get one's only hunter out of the bottom of a big drain, one can forgive them their failings. May they always continue to take the same interest in a hunt. May they always get the same excited thrills when they view the hunted jack. May they always get the same pleasure from watching the Sahib-log riding across country behind the Peshawar Vale Hounds, greeting every crash and fall with shouts of applause. How like the Irish they are in many different ways!—ever ready to show some faint-hearted follower “the” place to take a fence so that they may get him to take the largest “lep” for their benefit.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Coverts and Covert Owners

IN the days of the Regimental Packs hounds only used to draw coverts close to Peshawar. But as jack became scarce they went farther afield, and from Captain Markham's time most Masters have preferred hunting the Nagoman and Kabul River country to that close to Peshawar.

Sugar-cane provides all the covert that is required and more besides up till the end of December, when it is cut. There are, in addition to this, three large woodlands. The most famous is Pirbala, about sixty acres of *ber*, *shisham*, wild fig, Persian lilac and nettle tree, carrying a dense bamboo undergrowth. The Budni stream runs through the middle. In the summer, when looking for litters, the wood is like a bird sanctuary and one may find two or three nests of the Paradise Flycatcher. In the winter the cry of hounds may flush a woodcock. This covert is not a popular draw with the field as it holds so many jack, and the undergrowth is so extensive that hounds are usually a long time before they get away. But its value to the country as a breeding-place for jackal cannot be overestimated; and to those who can enjoy the music of a woodland hunt, there can be nothing better than hounds in Pirbala Wood with a good scent.

Three miles farther down the Budni River lie the Small and the Big Peach Gardens, straggling orchards of varying width, stretching several miles along the river. There is no undergrowth except for two reed beds in the smaller gardens, but jack live there permanently and breed there. These huge coverts are very difficult to manage. There are few rides between the trees; the Budni River is unfordable and unswimmable for a horse at most places. In addition, there are plenty of high mud walls and open ditches of no mean dimensions. But here again, however small the prospects of getting hounds away with their jack,

after Christmas, whilst other parts of the country are still poor scenting, there is every chance of a woodland hunt on a good scent. Were early rain to fall no more ideal covert could be found for entering young hounds. Actually a certain number of absolutely outstanding hunts have started from both Pirbala and the Peach Gardens, a fact in itself which proves such coverts are well worth drawing. To the south of the city are other peach gardens—the Wazir Bagh and City Brickfields. All these hold plenty of jack but are impossible to ride through and nowadays are seldom hunted. The danger of the poisonous reed beds in the City Brickfields is a further reason for its unpopularity with most Masters.

Apart from these woodland coverts there are the extensive bogs at Shahi, Charpariza, Dilazak and Sarkhanni, where jack can find a dry bed in the reeds. Most of these are sure finds, but Dilazak is ruled out of the programme owing to its very poisonous stakes. One can hardly imagine the terrible feet injuries that occur when hounds get into such places before the whippers-in can stop them. A staked hound is out of action for at least three weeks, and there have been occasions in the past when hunting has had to be stopped owing to the number of casualties in kennels from this cause. It is better for the Master to make a premature decision to stop hounds than to run the risk of putting his whole pack into the sick kennels for the sake of another half-mile.

The third type of covert in the country, and the most important, is the reed bed. These exist in certain places on the banks of the three rivers and in one or two other isolated places. In the summer they are very extensive, but as soon as they are withered and dry the villagers cut them for use as fuel in their sugar factories. In the summer the Master has marked down those areas he wishes to purchase, and these are left standing. By the time the sugar-cane has been harvested the only coverts in the most part of the country are those reeds purchased by the Hunt. Naturally they are almost certain finds. Danger lies in the fact that they are so dry that they can easily catch fire during February, when they are so vital to sport. But in most cases the Hunt *chowkidars* (keepers) safeguard them from destruction and prevent cow herds from grazing nearby.

It is pleasant to know that the rent for these coverts is finding its way into the pockets of the landowners over whose estates hounds have

the privilege of hunting. This connection between Hunt and farmer will grow in importance in future years. There is no doubt that many genuine friendships have sprung up in the past between Masters and the big landowners in the district. Support from the local Khans is vital and has been, with very few exceptions, unfailing. They are always ready in the heat of the summer to accompany one to reed beds and help in the interviews with the owners, and their hospitality when one visits them at home is both spontaneous and generous.

In the early days it was the custom to name all coverts, and we read of Markham's Thorns, Cruickshanks' Spinney, Cocked Hat Wood and Windybank Covert. Few of these can be identified now. The rivers change their courses, and reeds grow in different places. Even the famous Torki Jheel and Artillery Jheel of the early nineties have ceased to exist. Nowadays coverts are named after the nearest village, which is more satisfactory and leaves no doubt of identification.

For staunch, unfailing support to the P.V.H. it is difficult to beat the record of the family of the Gulbela Arbabs, at present represented by Arbab Mahomed Zaman and his brothers. The old father Arbab Mahomed Khaliq is mentioned for over fifty years in the Hunt records, and only died in 1931. The family claims descent from King Ahmed Shah Abdali, "King of Peshawar and Afghanistan," nearly three hundred years ago. Gulbela has always been the family seat, and the various branches of the clan own over 8,000 *jaribs* of land in that district. Garhi Gula and Gulbela Reeds have been presented to the Hunt for many years, and the other coverts in this district are Giddar, Melugaon, Garhi Karm Dad and Agra.

Between the Nagoman and Shah Alam Rivers is one of the finest stretches in the Vale, well supplied with jackal from the coverts of Nahakki, Garanga, Shakarpura and Meean Gujar, with Kankola just south of the Shah Alam. This is all great hunting country in February, but one gets best results early in the morning before the villagers get out into the fields.

Just north of the Bakshi stream, in the middle of the country nearer Peshawar, is the large reed bed of Garhi Mir Tayab, a famous jackal stronghold from which many fine hunts have started. This covert belongs to Shahzada Azam Beg, who is not a Pathan, but a refugee from

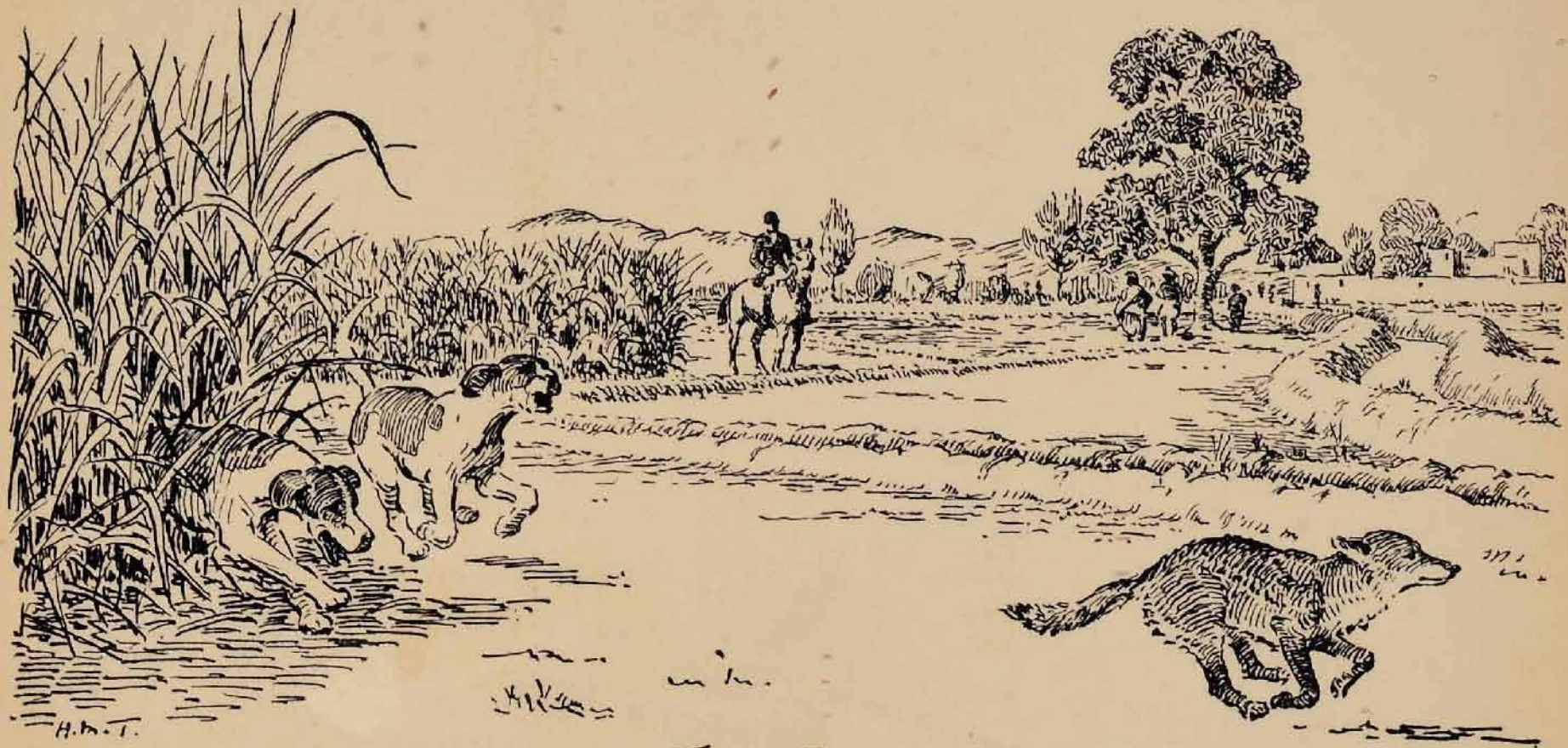
Russian Turkestan. His father, Shah Khudayar Khan, one-time ruler of the ancient state of Kokund, tracing his descent back to Timor and Baber, was the last of a long line of "Kings of Kokund." It is said that this state at its zenith of power extended from "Chinese Turkestan to the Walls of Moscow." Russian trade agents proved to be spies in disguise, and gradually the dependencies of Kokund disappeared under a wave of Russian intrigue which swept over the country. Finally the ruler himself was forced to seek refuge in British India, and his sons now draw suitable pensions from the British Government. Close to Azam Beg's home is the village of Hariana, where lives Risaldar Major Mahomed Aslam Khan—for many years one of the most regular followers of the P.V.H., and one of those who courageously swam the Nagoman in an effort to save Colonel Irvine's life. He now farms a jagir originally presented to his family by the old Durani Kings of Peshawar, and is still a familiar and majestic figure in the field.

On the east side of the country are the villages of the Khalil Marozai family, famous fighting stock. One branch of this family cultivates the fertile lands of Mathra, watered by the Kabul River Canal; the other does its best with the poorer lands of Mullazai, lacking irrigation except when the Bara River is in flood. A long time ago by a family agreement these two houses of the same family exchanged their abode every five years. A more even distribution of wealth was the object, but disagreements and blood feuds began and continued until Afridi Khan of Mullazai, of Khyber Rifles fame, married his daughter to the Khan of Mathra. Enmity no longer exists. The present representatives of the family are Sher Mahomed Khan of Mullazai and Risaldar Major Khan Bahadur Mahomed Akram, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., late of Hodson's Horse, now living in his village of Mathra on a well-earned pension. Most of the land over which the Hunt Point-to-Point is run belongs to this branch of the family. With its equal parts of grass and plough, and good sound galloping banks and dykes, this course is difficult to beat anywhere in the Vale.

A chapter on the covert owners would be incomplete without mention of the other Mahomed Akram, Zaildar of Kafir Dheri, a familiar figure at all meets within ten miles of his home, mounted on his small country-bred pony *Chotu*. Kafir Dheri is out towards the Frontier and is said to have been taken by force by Mahomed Akram's father when he

arrived from the Mohmand country forty years ago, surrounded by his armed escort. When sitting in the walled garden of Mahomed Akram's house, with its swimming bath, shady trees, green grass and flower-beds stretching down to an orchard of orange, pear and almond trees, it is difficult to realize that one is within a few miles of the barren wastes of the Border.





The Quarry.

THE QUARRY

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Wolves and Grey Foxes

ACCORDING to local inhabitants it is only a matter of about a hundred years ago that the Vale of Peshawar contained many woodlands which held sambhur, pig and cheetah. Of these woodlands only Pirbala and Nimborai exist to-day. In a few of the dry parts of the country which are never hunted chinkara can still be found, but nowadays the wild animal life in the Vale is confined entirely to jackals and wild cats. The latter are the only riot in the country. They weigh up to twenty-five pounds, and in the early part of the season cause a lot of trouble in heavy sugar-cane. For the peace of his mind a Master may treat them like badgers, as it is impossible to get to hounds in cane coverts. They are usually killed fairly quickly, and then hounds can be taken away to try for their legitimate quarry.

Up till 1900 there were plenty of grey foxes, and two or three brace were accounted for during some seasons. Now they are only to be found on the sandhills. The spread of irrigation in the Vale is probably the reason for their absence. They are, however, poor sport compared with jackal; they leave a very poor scent except in wet weather, and they ring like hares. An unsuccessful effort has been made to stock Pirbala with red foxes from the hills. These in appearance are almost identical with hill foxes at home, but they did no good in the plains of Peshawar.

Wolves are sometimes supposed to be difficult scenting in India. Even under ideal conditions it is unlikely that a pack of foxhounds would pull down a full-grown wolf who really knew his country. Between 1872 and 1895 hounds hunted a wolf on five different occasions. The records of the wolf-hunts are interesting reading. Of all five only the first was killed, and the ringing nature of the hunt was absolutely unlike what would be expected. In spite of scent being very bad hounds killed after a slow hour and thirty-five minutes, near where they had found.

Their quarry on this occasion may have been sick, or possibly there may have been a litter of cubs near by, as wolves whelp in the winter.

On the next occasion hounds found their wolf near the City Peach Gardens, and they were run out of scent after a very fast seven-mile hunt. They had then made a four-mile point across the Chamkanni Plain.

On December 21st, 1899, from a meet at Daudzai, hounds found a wolf and jackal in the same covert. "The jack soon swung away right-handed, and hounds stuck to the line of the wolf, who took them past Babazai to the Kabul River, where they literally raced over the grass along the banks. Crossing the branches of the river, with Jatti Bala on the left, this grand wolf was viewed only two hundred yards ahead of the pack, cantering along as if out for exercise. At the sound of a view holloa, however, he laid himself out and just strode away from the pack, crossing the Shah Alam where it was as deep and wide as the Thames at Putney and three times as fast. The second whip, Lieutenant Purvis, 74th Highlanders, was the only one to attempt to keep with hounds. Slipping off his mare's back and swimming alongside her, he just managed to hit the only possible landing place on the opposite bank. This was three hundred yards below where he went in. Hounds had picked up the line again on the far side, and with only one sportsman with them raced on to Berber, where they were run out of scent. Fifty-five minutes and an eight-mile point."

In January, 1892, a wolf was found at Agrā, but scent was too poor for hounds to do anything with him. Two years later, in the same month of the year, hounds got on to a wolf near Chaba. A great hunt followed over waterlogged country. Heading as if for the Peach Gardens the wolf swerved away right-handed towards Mahomedzai and over the grassy plain as far as Dilazak. The field had barely managed to make up on the grass what they had lost on the plough before they were again crossing heavy going near Budni. "From there by way of Jabba across the Nisutha Road this wolf made for the long, deep jheel which runs from the Shah Alam towards Akbarpura. Having run the whole length of this, hounds were at fault for the first time in seven miles. A forward cast was unsuccessful, and the Master then tried back, and though hounds had the line again and took it back to the Nisutha Road, their quarry was too far ahead and defeat had to be acknowledged."

March 2nd, 1895, is the last occasion on record of a wolf being hunted by the P.V.H., but it is recorded in December, 1895, that one littered near Chigri Mitti. The wolf hunted on March 2nd was found near Lala just north of the Nowshera Road, and ran by Umar Miyana across by Chamkanni to Phandu Bala. Up to here he had never been extended and hounds had run hard for eight miles. It was then late in the morning and scent began to fail. It is of interest to note that during the afternoon of this day a Station Committee assembled in Peshawar to choose the site for the kennels, in which hounds have been kept ever since.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The Jackal of the Frontier

OF all quarry hunted by hounds in India pride of place must be given to the jackal of the Frontier, as followers of the Peshawar Vale and of The Risalpur will all confirm. Those Masters who have hunted hounds at Home and in India agree that a good Indian jackal is faster and stronger running than the average English fox. And those who have hunted hounds in India down country and on the Frontier all agree that for pace and stamina the dog jack of the Frontier is unsurpassed. He is a quarry worthy of the finest pack of foxhounds. One could ask for no better.

Vixen, as at Home, are apt to ring, but the dog jackals run straight. They have all received their education at the hands of the wily Pathans, who, with terriers and lurchers, sticks and stones, are always ready to hunt or chase any hare, jackal, bustard or gazelle that they view. From the time the cubs are only half grown they learn to use their guile as much as their speed. These jack live and run more like English foxes than those in other parts of India. In February the "travellers" from the hills are beginning to pay their visits to the ladies of the Vale, and they seem to be able to take hounds at top speed for any distance. Comparatively few of these customers are brought to hand, but one seldom grudges such pilots being left for another day.

It is true that "stay-at-home" jack are found. This must be so. They are not by any means easier to kill than those that make an immediate bid for the open. In fact, each season produces two or three long hunts in covert, in which hounds must show the greatest determination on a poor scent to be successful. On one occasion in 1929 it took hounds three hours' hard hunting in Garhi Mir Tayab Reeds to kill their jackal. The same type of hunt in heavy cane early in the season is very hard on hounds. Naturally vixen are more likely to stay than to go. One of the

difficult situations which frequently confront the huntsman in Peshawar is when hounds open in covert on a brace of jack. The dog usually leaves at once, and every effort must be made to pull hounds out on to his line to get the best sport. If this is not done a ringing hunt on a vixen will follow. Considering there are no reed or cane coverts with rides cut, and that hounds can hear little with the dried reeds or cane crackling overhead, hounds seldom get away on really good terms with their quarry under these circumstances.

Cubs are born in Peshawar about the same time as at Home, and there are usually two or three in a litter. By the time cub-hunting in Peshawar starts most of the cubs are almost fully grown, and only a brace or two of real cubs are accounted for in a season. These are from vixen that have littered late. The majority of jackal hunted by hounds in Peshawar during cub-hunting are old, full-grown ones. This in itself is very hard on hounds, especially the youngsters. It is quite normal for a pack of hounds in England hunting two days a week to kill thirty or forty brace during cub-hunting. In Peshawar probably the record is about four brace. So conditions are far from ideal for the entering of young puppies, more especially when it is remembered that scent is probably very poor in the open early in the season, and that sugar-cane is an exceptionally heavy covert for hounds to hunt in.

Up to the end of December jackal are usually found in sugar-cane, and as this crop gets harvested they move into the Hunt coverts, which are all reed beds. These coverts provide very certain finds till the middle of March. By that time the jackal are beginning to lie out in the crops, chiefly barley and wheat. Hunting through crops is poor fun and poor scenting, and the appearance of the "ear" soon brings a closure to the season, curiously enough when scenting conditions in the open are usually perfect. With crop coverts continually changing their shape and location during the season, hounds never have the chance as in England of learning where their quarry lie in each covert. At home the third season hounds will invariably go straight to their fox in covert and unkennel him immediately. In Peshawar this can only occur during the two months at the end of the season when the permanent reed coverts are being drawn.

Shortage of jackal in the country is reported at intervals during the

history of the Hunt. In the opinion of the writer these shortages seldom existed. The reasons for an apparent shortage of jackal in the Peshawar Vale country is usually due to the Huntsman not knowing where his jack are to be found. Possibly he may not have sufficient time to devote to the study of this big question. Another cause for an apparent shortage has been too frequent visits to any one part of the country. Efforts have been made from time to time to restock the country, and have been reported as successful. In the writer's opinion restocking the Peshawar Vale is of little use. In two seasons he put down thirty brace of marked jackal. Of these only one brace were accounted for, and one of these was found within two months nine miles as the crow flies from where he had been put down. All jack, especially dog jack, have that sixth sense of being able to find their way back whence they came, and it is probable that they will do this in time even if brought from a hundred miles away.

The supply of jackal in the Vale is regulated from the continuous ring of jackal strongholds that surround the country. Those areas which supply jack are shown on the map at the end of this book. Breeding earths in the country must never be tampered with. However many short hunts occur from Garhi Mir Tayab to the earths at Gui, it would be a most dangerous policy to destroy them until one was quite certain that they were not the breeding sanctuary of that part of the country. In the larger reed coverts that are left standing, and in Pirbala Wood, stud-bred jackal are found, and litters of cubs can be seen in the summer in all these places. The greatest perseverance must be shown in preventing villagers from destroying or capturing cubs. There is a sale for them in the animal bazaar in the City, and the pelt of a full-grown jack can be sold for a rupee. It is impossible to tell how many jack meet their deaths each year at the hands of villagers' dogs, but one can safely say many more than the average tally for a season's hunting. Local coursing clubs are on the increase. Their activities have caused the shortage of jackal in the grand Mathra country and around Wadpaggi. The activities of villagers' long dogs should be confined to the Chamkanni Plain and the sandhills by Badbher. If this is not done, with the yearly increase in popularity of this local sport, there will be a serious decrease in the jackal supply in the Vale.

It has been mentioned before that most of the Masters of the P.V.H. have preferred hunting the country beyond the Shah Alam and Nagoman Rivers to that close in to Peshawar. This is not entirely due to the fact that those parts are the cream of the Vale, but to the fact that the jackal out there are hardier and straighter running. Close in to Peshawar, in such coverts as the Peach Gardens, the jack are overfed and under-exercised, living by scavenging in the cantonments and city. Naturally a fit jackal is the most likely one to take hounds on in the open. The *habitués* of Pirbala and the Peach Gardens prefer to run round their own coverts and pass on the work to one of their friends whilst they take a breather. It is chiefly during the months when the dog jack from other parts of the country are visiting these coverts that one can hope for some of the outstanding hunts that have given these coverts their reputation. Early on there is little chance of getting far afield with any jack that leaves.

The true wild jack of the more distant country is a very clean feeder. From September to December the chief part of his diet is the juice of the sugar-cane. There is no doubt that the damage caused by them to sugar-cane *kbets* is very considerable. As soon as the juice is sweet and while the cane is still standing, they pierce the lower part with their teeth, wrap their tongues round and suck the juice. When the crop is sold, the purchaser goes through each *kbet*, counting the number of canes thus destroyed. There is therefore considerable loss to the cultivator. Other items on the jackal's menu include berries, frogs, mice, etc. During the latter half of the season jack are found near the jheels and bogs; there they find the winged teal, snipe and duck left by shooting parties. Shahi Bog is hardly ever blank once the snipe come in. An occasional feed from the carcase of a cow or sheep may occur, but the vultures usually work so hard in the daytime that there is little left by the time the jack go out to dine. Out beyond the Shah Alam the jack have to travel to find their food, and hence their performances in front of hounds.

The normal measurements of a jackal are thirty inches from tip of the nose to the tag of the brush; the brush itself is seldom more than eleven inches and generally less. The average jack weighs between twenty and thirty pounds. Vixen are always smaller and more feminine

in appearance, more easily headed and less likely to make a long point. One may possibly not get the same thrill when one sees a jack leave covert as one does with a fox at home, but the most grudging critic must admire his best performances, and the generous enthusiast will hear of nothing against him.



1886



The Pace now Increased.

A. M. T.

THE SPORT

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

A Few Hunts with the P.V.H.

February 14th, 1928.

FROM a letter :—

In six seasons with the P.V.H., during which I seldom missed a day, I cannot remember seeing a better hunt than the one brought off on February 14th, 1928, from Shahi Reeds.

The weather had been wet, and it was one of those occasions which came so seldom when there is a rare scent, so much so that it was hard to keep up with hounds most of the way, and they beat most of the big field of about fifty.

Hounds got away very well with a fine jack that left almost at once, crossed the Shagai Thana Road, and away to the edge of Shahi Bog, which they skirted, then straight on towards Badshah Gul Garhi. There was a lot of "leppin" and the field was badly tailed off as we sailed down at the big stream which crosses the country there. It took its toll, and apart from the hunt staff only three others were left in the picture after it.

The pace now increased and hounds were carrying a grand head as they swung right-handed across the old Point-to-Point course, short of Badshah Gul Garhi. The big drain in the old course had recently been cleaned out, and there were but four of us that came at it. Mrs. Sutherland got down, and the Master, Major Wallace, was in trouble also, leaving the second whip, another and myself to take it in our stride all out. After crossing the Michni Road, short of Mathra, hounds were racing on perfectly together three hundred yards ahead. Here the second whip fell, leaving me to go on alone for nearly half a mile, where, after crossing the Budni River somewhere about where the big stream joins it below Fatch Khan Garhi, hounds were at fault, having run up to this at point-to-point speed. This check allowed the Master, Mrs. Sutherland

and one or two others to get up just as hounds were away again as if for Pirbala Wood, which looked the certain point. They checked, however, a quarter of a mile short of it on the Budni bank, and I remember it was *Foreland* crossed the river and opened with that deep bell-like note of his to put them right and to run on fast to Pirbala, and then slowly across to the Michni Road, through the reed bed there, and on down the dry river bed. Across the Kabul River Canal they were at fault, but were taken on to a "Holloa" from a villager in the direction of Mullazai, near to which they marked in a bank by a road. A couple got in, and when they were got out the jack bolted behind them down the lane right into the pack.

Forty-two minutes to ground—about eight miles as they ran, over as fine a line of country as is in the Vale. Every hound up, but very few of the field. "Oh, vot joy! Vot more can the heart of man desire!" Mrs. Sutherland was presented with the mask, and hounds went on to draw again. They found one jack, which got headed and was killed just outside covert; and another was left which could not go away.

March 1st, 1931.

Whenever hounds draw Garhi Mir Tayab Reeds one expects to run to the earths at Gui, especially if the jack comes away on the east of the covert. On March 1st, 1931, a lovely soft morning after heavy rain all night promised well, but it was a shock to find the reed covert had been burned down and only a charred area of grass remained. The Master took his thirteen couples along to a small patch of reeds towards the village; luck was in and it held. The jack broke away immediately in the direction of the burned covert; hounds could not own to it much through the cinders. Over the drain and across the Ansala Khan scent was a different story; the cry was grand and the hounds drove and then spread; then, swinging again, raced along past Ram Kishan. Up till now one could only think of the earths at Gui as the point, but when they crossed the Hariana Bog and ran over the Shabkadr Road all the excitement of an unusual point was added to the hunt. Hounds were running fast enough for one to steady one's horse in his gallop, and

there is nothing better if one likes watching them at work. They had no difficulties up to Nachapa Bala, but here the pack flashed straight on, except *Weathergauge*, who swung out and showed the Huntsman the line. Hounds took time to come over, and a cold shower had made things more difficult. Towards Kankola they were beaten after forty minutes, of which the first twenty-five were grand.

It was a five-mile hack to the little Peach Gardens after Nahakki had been drawn blank, but once again luck was in. Most unexpectedly, a jack was viewed away by the pumping station, and the delay in getting hounds out of the wood and swimming the Budni was sufficient to make this jack think he was not being hunted, and he ran slowly across to the reeds out on the Grass Farms. From here it would have been so easy for him to have returned to the Orchards, but he had obviously a knowledge of the country as far as Garhi Mir Tayab. Hounds soon had him out of the reeds, *Curfew* right on his brush, and the pack on good terms as well. For the next three miles it was grand, two small bogs and plenty of jumping, and hounds nicely together all the way and easy to see, though the pace was not slow.

The jack seemed as surprised as we had been earlier on in the day when he found Garhi Mir Tayab Reeds were all burned; he appeared to be at the end of his beat, and with the covert still standing would have assuredly swung back to the Peach Gardens here. Hounds were at fault again on the cinders, but a whip's eye caught sight of him away over the grass beyond the Arala Khan. He was out of his country here, and was swinging between the herds of cattle in an attempt to head back to the Peach Gardens. Hounds refused to be lifted and hunted steadily over this bad scenting strip, getting nicely together beyond Charpariza Bog. From here they were never touched—they seemed tied to the line; two bitches, *Wary* and *Greedy*, continually in the lead, and little *Counsellor* helping in any difficulty. Horses by now were reduced to a trot, and only the green barley prevented hounds running to view. After a large circle by Alizai to the banks of the Shah Alam, they swung round Pushtisag and Garhi Shah Mohd, where they were less than half a field behind their quarry. The end came soon after. Hounds ate their jack over five miles away from where they found him, and he had taken them nearly eleven miles in an hour and twenty minutes. One will always remember the

Huntsman turning round after "whoop" to the small field that finished, and saying, "There's a grand pack of hounds for you, gentlemen!" as they broke up their jack on the green headland, and that's what all must have felt.

March 18th, 1933.

Heavy rain all night and during the morning had given us an unexpected bye. The meet was at Darbangi at half-past two. Perhaps it is the result of living in India that makes one appreciate the wet days during the season, but there is no doubt that hounds love the splash of the water and the squelch of the mud, and prospects looked grand. The country was riding deep; the drains and dykes were brimful. The River Budni was in spate, and the smaller streams and canals at high flood level. Unfortunately, there seemed to be no scent at first, and the sun came out bright and warm.

Pirbala Wood, which never fails, was drawn without a whimper, and the field swam the Budni to follow hounds on towards Fateh Khan Garhi. But they had not found a jackal by the time they reached Shahi Reeds, and even there things promised to be no better. There were at least a brace and a half at home, but scent in covert was terribly poor. Luck seemed right out. The first jack to leave was headed and returned to the reeds, where hounds got hold of him. During the worry a second jack left for the hills unnoticed. Hounds picked up his line later, and even then scent was good enough out of covert for them to carry the line across the Kabul River Canal through Shahi Burj, and away over the sandy plain towards the foothills. But they were too far behind to do much good, and once more were taken back to Shahi Reeds. Scent inside was even worse now than before, and though hounds soon found again they could only tell us about it at intervals. Twenty minutes of this sort of game thinned the field down to a handful, and the rest started off on their nine-mile hack home, quite certain that there was to be no sport that day.

The change was as sudden as it was unexpected. But this is so characteristic of Peshawar. The jack decided that he had tired of the game hounds were playing in the reeds, and left across the big drain on the west side of the covert. The pack came to the horn like a flight of swallows over the grass, and burst into music and settled to the line.



"THE LONGER YOU LOOK THE LESS YOU'LL LIKE IT"

Scent was as good in the open as it had been bad in covert. They were soon half a mile ahead, driving towards Zaman Khan Garhi. Horses found the plough heavy going, but by choosing the strips of grass country they held their own, and faint catches of hound music reached one above the splash and squelch of the waterlogged country. Swinging right-handed, hounds crossed the flooded canal and, carrying a great head, raced away from us on the far side. A lucky crossing enabled two of us to get over with nothing worse than wet saddles and boots full of water. Over our shoulder we could see another two of the field off their horses and having a swim for it. No time to stop; just time to silently wish them luck; then on to pick up hounds again. A couple of miles of firm sand with grass here and there was a "real good galloping," and horses enjoyed every stride of the going after the heavy fields west of the canal. On the horizon, near a large area of green barley, a few Pathans were waving wildly. Swinging left-handed up a long stretch of grass, we picked up hounds running towards us, each one of them throwing his tongue at every stride as they hunted each twist and turn of their jackal along the grass headlands of the fields. On they drove, crossing the Mullazai stream into the Takhta Beg Khwar. The cliffs echoed with the cry as they raced along the grass below, and the jack decided he was safer in the fields above. Scrambling up the high banks and screaming on the line, hounds were soon running with lowered sterns across the Pallozai fields, then on over the cliffs again into the Narai Khwar, under the aqueduct to half a mile beyond Nur Afzal Garhi, where we found them clamouring at his earth. Forty minutes of the best on a day like this had taken the stuffing out of most of the horses, and they stood where they were left whilst hounds were called off from the earth and held up. Two and a half couples "shy," and all of them probably to ground, judging by the sounds from inside. It was a big place with many channels and it looked as if we had finished our hunt. But luck had changed since earlier on, and within ten minutes, in full view of the pack, this game jack was bolted. Hounds swept like an avalanche over the cliffs, and there was the rush to get mounted again with only time just to wonder if he was making for the bigger stronghold half a mile beyond. Crashing down the banks of the Khwar and slipping into the stream, we were over just in time to see the jack with the pack hard at him re-crossing the

bed of the Khwar a quarter of a mile further down. Another splash through and out on to the bank, with the pack looking like running into their quarry within another mile. Here, however, he was headed, and by swimming the stream again increased his lead. Hounds had a bit of difficulty in getting up the bank on the far side, and half a mile farther were stopped outside Pirbala, as it was then nearly half-past six and too late for them to enter this big woodland with the prospect of so many fresh jack ahead of them. Only three of the field were up at the end of the hunt. Over eight miles, and horses had had more than enough. The Huntsman decided it was all over for the day, and, sending the pack back to kennels in the lorry, two of the field and the Hunt staff returned to the earths in the Khwar to recover the two couples that were still to ground. Darkness soon came down, and, with a hurricane lamp and a couple of spades, fifty enthusiastic villagers and three hard-working ones, the hounds were dug out by nine-thirty. This ended the season. What finer finish!





A Great Day in the Countryside.

The
POINT - TO - POINT
RACES

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

The Point-to-Point Races

AS can be expected, with such grand riding country at one's door, the P.V.H. Point-to-Point Races have been an annual feature since the very early days. Natural courses exist almost anywhere in the Vale, and there is no need for the addition of any artificial obstacles; in fact, one or two of the bigger doubles usually require a bit of alteration to make them suitable for negotiating at point-to-point speed. The sites usually chosen for the races have natural grand-stands on the mounds which are found all over the country. The locals turn out in hundreds to see the fun, and their enthusiasm increases with the "grief." In fact, it is a great day in the countryside. One can safely say it requires a good man on a good horse to secure a place in any of the races.

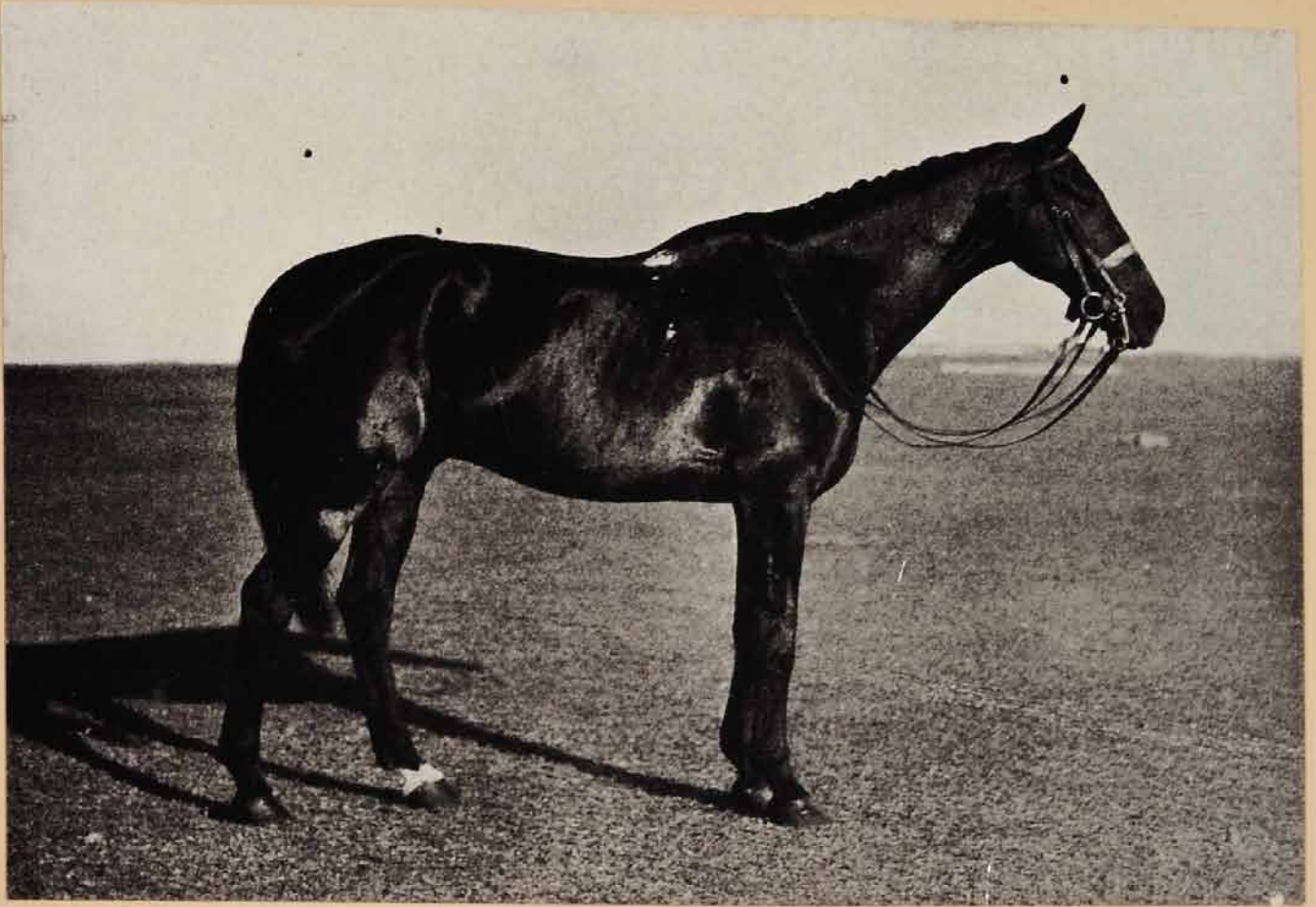
A long article in an Indian daily paper of 1880 gives an amusing sidelight on the early days of point-to-pointing in Peshawar. The writer had entered two horses in different races, and by the end of the afternoon had cleared £400 in side bets. He then challenged a local magistrate, his hated enemy, to ride a match around the course for £30 a side. Despising the magistrate's horse almost as intensely as he hated the magistrate, he relates how, having finished and won, he left the course with all the spectators. The poor magistrate was still far away in the distance vainly trying to persuade his horse to face the fourth jump, a big double, and up till the time the crowd left he had already taken three tosses. Such was the fun and the betting. Needless to say, such large sums of money no longer change hands at the P.V.H. Point-to-Point Races, but the standard of racing is very high.

By 1888, in addition to the races round a flagged course, a *bona-fide* Point-to-Point was introduced "over a secret course of from five to seven miles." Ponies and horses all faced the starter together and were adjudged in their respective classes simultaneously. The prizes

advertised were "Honour, Glory and Twenty-five Rupees to the winners of the horse and pony race. If a pony arrives home first he shall be awarded both prizes." In the first year of this experiment the course was from Kankola to the Peshawar Race Course. It is related that "Some who attempted to prove Euclid's theory that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points arrived home looking like drowned rats. All they had gained was the knowledge that the Budni River is very wet and the village of Boodu difficult of egress once you get inside." The winner was Mr. Capper, R.E., who completed the course in less than twenty-five minutes.

One of the more popular courses nowadays is near Garhi Hamza. This course is first mentioned in the records of 1895. "The officers of the King's Royal Rifles entertained the station to lunch in the gardens of Nahakki Thana, and then a move was made to the Mounds, from which there is such a perfect view of the course. On the Mounds was a totalisator, a roulette table, and a negro band." All races were for "ponies 14 hands and under." This will be a surprise to the modern members of the P.V.H. with their Irish, English and Australian hunters. But in actual fact there were no point-to-point races for ponies over 14 hands until 1896. From then onwards horses have gradually come into general use. Within the last few years the special class at the Hunt Horse Show for pony hunters has had to be cancelled owing to lack of entries. One gathers also that the cost of horseflesh has changed considerably. Up to 1898 races were usually closed to horses which cost not more than Rs.500. "Horses purchased for Rs.150 to carry 10 stone 7 lb., accumulating penalty of three pounds for every fifty rupees over that price up to Rs.500." These conditions continued for several years, but would be impracticable to-day. The type of horse has changed with the type of hound. In one of the earlier hound lists it is written that the average weight of the pack was forty-five pounds. In these days probably eighty pounds would be nearer the mark.

During the last two or three years there has been a great increase in the number of hired hunters. These are used by the majority of the field to-day. The system is economical to the individual, and the Government is well safeguarded. But though this has led to larger fields and has extended the opportunity to hunt to a large number of the

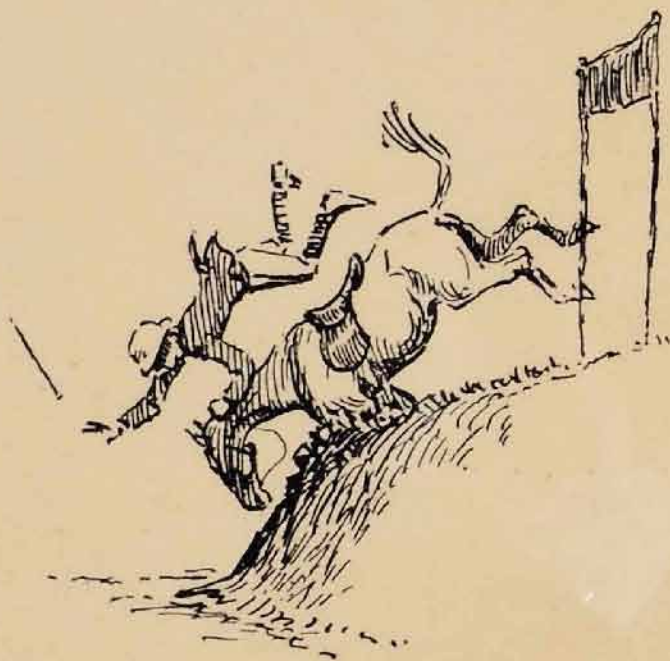


CAPTAIN R. F. RUTTLEDGE'S *OH! DEAR*, 1932

residents in Peshawar, one cannot but regret that the number of privately owned hunters in the station has decreased considerably. Round about 1930 there were many high-class privately owned horses in the station, and one could mention Captain W. M. Newill's stable as an outstanding example, including as it did *Sammy* and *Little Rover*, and Captain R. F. Rutledge's stable with *Ob! Dear* and *Kathiogue*. These were only four of the large collection of brilliant performers in the Vale. *Sammy* was originally owned by Sir Digby Warren of the 7th Hussars, and had been used by Mr. A. A. Ward when whipping-in in Peshawar in 1925. Captain Newill bought him in 1927 and also whipped-in off him. This grand horse was never beaten in a point-to-point race at Peshawar. He won three heavy-weight races and was first in the team race for mounted units at the District Meeting for three years. In addition to his point-to-point successes, this horse won six or seven good 'chases and was second in the Indian Grand Military at Lucknow in 1928. Captain Newill's other horse, *Little Rover*, had already won four good steeplechases before he won the light-weight race at the 1930 Point-to-Point Meeting. Besides their performances as hunters and 'chase horses, both *Sammy* and *Little Rover* had innumerable successes in many of the P.V.H. Horse Shows. Whilst Captain R. F. Rutledge was hunting hounds he had four brilliant horses in his stable—*Ob! Dear*, *Kathiogue*, *Micky Free* and *Ben Levy*. Of these, *Ob! Dear* was the best. He was a brown Australian gelding, and must have been as near clean-bred as does not matter. He was a perfect horse with hounds, and his performances across country were superb. During his five seasons with the Peshawar Vale he won many point-to-point races and prizes in the ring, and there was no better sight than to see him carrying Mrs. Rutledge, the Master's wife, across the Vale. In her capable hands he won the Ladies' Point-to-Point Race in 1929, and in many good hunts this brilliant combination was in the van. Such horses are not easily come by these days, and perfect manners do not always accompany such performances.

Probably the best point-to-point course in the Vale is the one usually selected for the Hunt Meeting beyond Mathra. There is plenty of good galloping grass there, and the obstacles are varied and formidable. In recent years it has been the custom to hold a District Point-to-Point Meeting with Team Races for mounted and dismounted units, in addition

to other races. The profits of the Meetings are usually presented to the Hunt, and there are always large fields and good racing. In 1933 thirty-nine horses faced the starter for the dismounted units' race. With the 1st Cavalry Brigade stationed near by at Risalpur, fields in the mounted units' race are always large, and this race is run at a cracking pace. The 17th Q.V.O. Poona Horse established a record by winning this event for five years in succession, and the present trophy was presented by the officers of that regiment after winning the original cup outright. No other team had ever before won the cup twice in succession. With the good scenting days of January, February and March, horses finish the season ready for the Point-to-Points in excellent condition, and there is no finer close to a good season than when high-class regular performers prove their worth and win the Members' Races.



THE APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

Captain Markham's Hound List, 1870

DOGS.					
Age.					
4	DANGEROUS	...	Manchester—Doubtful	...	Rifle Brigade.
2	DREADNOUGHT	...	Dustman—Motley	...	B/A.
5	BELLMAN	...	—	...	—
1	FURRIER	...	—	...	—
1	PILLAGER	...	Dustman—Merryllass	...	B/A.
1	GUIDER	...	Dustman—Merryllass	...	B/A.
5	MONITOR	...	Valiant—Pastime	...	19th Regt.
2	HOTSPUR	...	Dustman—Merryllass	...	19th Regt.
1	FORRESTER	...	Abelard—Medley	...	19th Regt.
2	BEDESMAN	...	Barrister—Duchess	...	19th Regt.
3	RECTOR	...	Regent—Unknown bitch	...	A/B.
1	BARRISTER	...	—	...	—
1	ALARIC	...	Abelard—Fearless	...	B/A.
1	VALIANT	...	Valiant—Claribel	...	B/A.
1	VANGUARD	...	Valiant—Claribel	...	B/A.
1	VAGRANT	...	Valiant—Claribel	...	B/A.
2	DESPERATE	...	Dustman—Motley	...	B/A.
1	TROJAN	...	—	...	—
1	VICTOR	...	—	...	—
BITCHES.					
Age.					
3	CLARIBEL	...	Dustman—Charity	...	19th Regt.
5	MADCAP	...	Mardoman—Milkmaid	...	Guide Corps.
8	ROMPISH	...	Unknown	...	Rifle Brigade.
5	MERRYLASS	...	Valiant—Ringlets	...	B/A and Guide Corps.
2	ABIGAIL	...	Abelard—Mindful	...	Guide Corps.
2	BRACELET	...	Abelard—Mischief	...	Guide Corps.
2	ACTRESS	...	Abelard—Blossom	...	19th Regt.
4	FEARLESS	...	Traitor—Pastime	...	19th Regt.
6	BARONESS	...	Tarquin—Pastime	...	19th Regt.
1	ARTFUL	...	Abelard—Fearless	...	B/A.
?	CONCORD	...	Valiant—Claribel	...	B/A.
1	RESOLUTE	...	Sire unknown—Racket	...	B/A.
1	BEESWING	...	Bellman—Motley	...	—
1	RINGWOOD	...	Dustman—Modesty	...	B/A.
3	BASHFUL	...	—	...	—
1	CHARITY	...	Valiant—Claribel	...	B/A.
5	VIGILANCE	...	Valiant—Ringlets	...	Guide Corps.

*The "A" Brigade, R.H.A., Pack (incorporated with the P.V.H.
during the Stay of "A" Brigade, R.H.A.,
in Peshawar)*

DOGS.

RICHMOND	...	English, pack unknown.
TRAVELLER	...	English (Southwold).
HECTOR	...	Bufs Hannibal (Bramham)—Gaylass (Oakley).
MERRYMAN	...	Bufs Hannibal (Bramham)—Gaylass (Oakley).
TONEY	...	Bufs Hannibal (Bramham)—Gaylass (Oakley).
FALSTAFF	...	Bufs Hannibal (Bramham)—Melody.
FLORICAN	...	Bufs Hannibal (Bramham)—Melody.
RECTOR	...	Rummager (Badminton)—Lady ("A" Bde.).
BARRISTER	...	Bachelor (Bramham)—Melody (Southwold).
ARROGANT	...	Richmond by Abigail (Richmond English hound).
MINSTREL	...	Rummager (Badminton)—Melody (Southwold).

BITCHES.

GAYLASS	...	—
COMEDY	...	Dustman—Charity (Rifle Brigade).
CHASTITY	...	Abelard (19th)—Blossom (19th).
RAPSODY	...	Rummager (Badminton)—Lady ("A" Bde.).
PROMISE	...	Pilgrim (Southwold)—Abigail (21st Hussars).

PUPS UNENTERED.

DOGS	...	Mercury, Maimer, Guider, Gambler, Pontiff, Pillager, Chancellor, Cruiser, Chorister.
BITCHES	...	Purity, Columbine.

APPENDIX II

Peshawar Vale Hunt

On the establishment of the P.V.H. in January, 1870, the following Rules were drawn up by the Committee of Management :—

1. That the pack of hounds purchased from Captain Markham, R.H.A., be called "The Peshawar Vale Hunt."
2. That the value of the pack be represented by 70 shares at Rs.50 per share.
3. That shares be transferable only with the consent of the Committee.
4. That Shareholders alone have the power of voting at all General Meetings, and a claim to the extent of a rateable share of their original subscriptions on whatever money may be raised by the sale of the hounds, should that event ever occur.
5. That gentlemen who are not Shareholders may become Members of the Hunt by paying an entrance fee of Rs.20, and the regular monthly subscription.
6. That for the present Rs.300 per mensem be raised in equal shares amongst the Shareholders and Members to defray current expenses.
7. That the Monthly Subscription be Rs.5, paid in advance.
8. That the monthly subscriptions be paid to the Honorary Secretary on or before the 7th day of each month.
9. That all Members leaving the Station on general or privilege leave pay their monthly subscriptions in advance for the time of their absence, or make arrangements with an agent in the station for the payment of the same.
10. That a general invitation is hereby issued to all persons in the Vale, whether Members or otherwise, to attend the meets of the P.V.H.
11. That members who while belonging to the Station cease to pay their monthly subscription, and afterwards wish to rejoin the Hunt, be not readmitted until they have paid up all arrears.
12. That should a Shareholder wish to propose a rule, a general meeting be called by the Committee, and ten be considered enough to form a quorum.

APPENDIX III

Record of Sport

Season.	Meets.	Brace killed.	Blank Days.	Field (Approx.)		Remarks.
				Av.	Biggest.	
1870	13	4	1	—	—	From Feb. 1st, 1870, as The P.V.H.
1870-71	36	15	12	—	—	Not including 2 brace of foxes.
1871-72	33	10½	6	—	—	Includes one brace and a half of foxes.
1872-73	24	3½	5	—	—	Includes one wolf.
1873-74	35	3½	9	—	—	Includes half brace fox.
1874-75	14	4½	2	—	—	—
1875-76	37	6½	9	—	—	—
1876-77	20	7½	5	—	—	—
1877-78	17	2	9	—	—	Hunting discontinued Jan. 26th, 1878, to Mar. 7th, 1878, owing to outbreak of rabies in the pack.
1878-79	36	4½	6	—	—	—
1879-80	30	2	9	—	—	—
March, 1880-82	—	—	—	—	—	P.V.H. at Kabul.
1882-85	—	—	—	—	—	Meagre records, but regular hunting.
1886-87	33	7	8	—	—	—
1887-88	31	7	3	—	—	Includes half brace fox.
1888-89	20*	10	1	31	75	*Approximate.
1889-90	27	5½	3	—	—	—
1890-91	32	7½	3	—	—	Includes half brace fox.
1891-92	27	4½	3	—	—	—
1892-93	36	6	6	—	—	—
1893-94	37	5½	13	—	—	—
1894-95	26	3½	5	—	—	—
1895-96	33	8	3	28	51	—
1896-97	40	5	5	37	47	—
1897-98	25	4	3	45	60	—
1898-99	42	4½	6	29	45	—
1899-00	45	12½	7	—	—	—
1900-01	34	9	6	15	22	—
1901-02	23	8	—	—	—	—
1902-03	31	10	2	24	41	—
1903-04	36	8	—	28	50	—

Season.	Meets.	Brace killed.	Blank Days.	Field (Approx.)		Remarks.
				Av.	Biggest.	
1904-05	39	9	2	41	80	—
1905-06	35	7½	3	—	93	—
1906-07	37	11	—	—	101	—
1907-08	37	10	—	35	80	—
1908-09*	21	4	2	35	60	* Up to Jan. 21st.
1909-10	36	10	1	38	90	—
1910-11	No record kept	—	—	—	—	22 couple of hounds lost from rabies.
1911-12	39	6½	5	47	80	—
1912-13	39	10	5	53	110	—
1913-14	41	9	13	—	—	—
1914-15	36	10	7	40	101	—
1915-16	35	10	1	70	180	—
1916-17	34	13	1	60	80	—
1917-18	36	14½	2	67	120	—
1918-19	35	9½	4	48	100	—
1919-20	44	2	17	21	45	—
1920-21	30	5	2	34	75	—
1921-22	35	3	6	42	82	—
1922-23	36	11	—	45	70	—
1923-24	37	12	1	39	72	—
1924-25	42	12½	1	38	74	—
1925-26	40	17	3	46	80	—
1926-27	44	10	1	41	100	—
1927-28	44	14½	4	58	110	—
1928-29	47	8½	3	63	107	—
1929-30	47	12½	2	54	98	2 brace to ground.
1930-31	46	8½	1	42	70	3 brace to ground.
1931-32	40	9½	3	40	72	1½ marked to ground.
1932-33	53	19	2	40	76	6½ brace marked to ground.
1933-34	57	28½	2	48	102	5 brace marked to ground
Average number of Meets				...	...	35 days.
Average number of Jack killed				...	...	8 brace.

APPENDIX IV

*List of Masters of the Peshawar Vale Hunt and those who
have served on the Hunt Staff*

1868-70			
Master	...	...	Captain Markham, R.H.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. Ben Roberts, R.H.A.
1870-71			
Master	...	...	Lieut. Ben Roberts, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain F. G. Ravenhill, R.H.A.
1871-72			
Master	...	...	Lieut. Ben Roberts, R.H.A. (up to Nov. 23rd).
"	...	...	Captain Tyler, R.H.A. (broke collar bone).
"	...	...	Lieut. P. C. Whalley, R.H.A. (from Nov. 25th).
"	...	...	Lieut. Barry Domville, R.H.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. P. C. Whalley, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain F. G. Ravenhill, R.H.A.
1872-73			
Master	...	...	Lieut. Barry Domville, R.H.A.
"	...	...	Captain Studdy, R.H.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. Nutting, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain Green, 12th B.C.
1874-75			
Master	...	...	Captain Studdy, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain Green, 12th B.C.
1875-76			
Master	...	...	Captain Studdy, R.H.A. (broke collar bone).
Deputy Master	...	...	Lieut. Egan, 12th B.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Dr. Taylor, R.H.A. (also Hon. Sec. ; broke collar bone).
"	...	...	Lieut. Egan, 12th B.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. Haslett, R.E.
1876-77			
Master	...	...	Captain Studdy, R.H.A.
"	...	...	Dr. Taylor, R.H.A. (in January also Hon. Sec.)
Whipper-in	...	...	Dr. Taylor, R.H.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. Spragge, 57th K.O.L.I.
"	...	...	Lieut. Hornby, Rifle Bde.
"	...	...	Lieut. Cholmondeley, Rifle Bde.

1877-78		
Master	...	Colonel Mylne.
Whipper-in	...	Lieut. Anderson, R.A.
1878-79		
Master	...	Captain J. Cook
"	...	Captain Wilmot
"	...	Colonel Franks
"	...	Lieut. C. J. Long, R.H.A. (on Dec. 5th).
Whipper-in	...	Colonel Franks.
"	...	Lieut. C. J. Long, R.H.A.
"	...	Lieut. Anderson, R.A.
1879-80		
Master	...	Lieut. W. S. M. Price, R.A. (also Hon. Sec.).
"	...	Major A. Prinsep, 11th B.L. (on Dec. 15th, fractured his outer skull).
"	...	Lieut. Stuart-Beatson, 11th B.L. (on Dec. 19th).
"	...	Major A. Prinsep, 11th B.L. (on Jan. 29th).
Whipper-in	...	Lieut. Edwardes, R.A.
"	...	Lieut. Beadnell, R.A.
"	...	Lieut. Stuart-Beatson, 11th B.L. (also Hon. Sec.).
1880-82		
Master	...	Captain Campbell, R.A.
"	...	Captain Rowley, R.A.
"	...	Captain Campbell, R.A.
"	...	Lieut. Knox, R.A.
"	...	Captain Campbell, R.A.
1882-83		
Master	...	Major R. D. E. Lockhart, R.A.
Whipper-in	...	Captain L. Denning, 26th P.I.
"	...	Captain Wyley, 22nd Regiment.
1883-84		
Master	...	Major R. D. E. Lockhart, R.A.
"	...	Captain L. Denning, 26th P.I.
Whipper-in	...	Captain L. Denning, 26th P.I.
"	...	Captain Wyley, 22nd Regiment.
1884-85		
Master	...	Captain L. Denning, 26th P.I.
"	...	Captain Gartside Tipping, 1st B.C. (in January).
Whipper-in	...	Captain Wyley, 22nd Regiment.
"	...	Lieut. E. K. Spence.
"	...	Lieut. Arbuthnot.
1885-86		
Master	...	Captain Gartside Tipping, 1st B.C.

1886-87			
Master	...	...	Lieut. O. S. Nugent, 60th Rifles.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. C. J. Markham, 60th Rifles (also Hon. Sec.).
„	...	...	Lieut. Woodyatt.
1887-88			
Master	...	...	Captain H. R. Lovatt, 60th Rifles.
„	...	...	Lieut. F. Whistler, 74th H.L.I.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. Capper, R.E.
„	...	...	Lieut. F. Whistler, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Lieut. Cavendish, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Lieut. Festing, 87th R.I.F.
1888-89			
Master	...	...	Captain Kelham, 74th H.L.I.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain Cavendish, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Lieut. Festing, 87th R.I.F.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Lieut. Balfour, R.A.
1889-90			
Master	...	...	Lieut. R. W. H. Ronaldson, 74th H.L.I.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. Festing, 87th R.I.F.
„	...	...	Lieut. Purvis, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Captain Cavendish, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Lieut. Kellet, 18th R.I.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain Swinton, 74th H.L.I.
1890-91			
Master	...	...	Lieut. Ronaldson, 74th H.L.I.
„	...	...	Major L. Dening, 26th P.I.
1891-92			
Master	...	...	Major L. Dening, 26th P.I.
Whipper-in	...	...	Surg. Major Donovan, M.S.
1892-93			
Master	...	...	Surg. Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, M.S.
1893-94			
Master	...	...	Surg. Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, M.S.
„	...	...	Captain O. S. Nugent, 60th Rifles.
Whipper-in	...	...	Surg. Captain Hathaway, M.S.
1894-95			
Master	...	...	Captain O. S. Nugent, 60th Rifles.
Whipper-in	...	...	Surg. Captain Hathaway, M.S.
„	...	...	Lieut. Cripps, 60th Rifles.

1895-96			
Master	...	...	Captain Atkinson, 13th B.L.
"	...	...	Surg. Captain Hathaway, M.S.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain Jackson, Devon Regiment.
"	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Lieut. Chichester, Devon Regt.
1896-97			
Master	...	...	Surg. Captain Hathaway, M.S.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Lieut. C. L. Porter, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Captain Jackson, Devon Regt.
"	...	...	Major J. W. Brazier Creagh, M.S.
1897-98			
Master	...	...	Surg. Major Hathaway, M.S.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Lieut. C. L. Porter, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Captain F. W. S. Kent, Northampton Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. Shoubridge.
1898-99			
Master	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
"	...	...	Captain Fife, P.W.O. Yorks. Regt. (in February).
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. F. W. S. Kent, Northampton Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. E. G. Caffin, P.W.O. Yorks. Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. W. Alexander, P.W.O. Yorks. Regt.
"	...	...	Captain Fife, P.W.O. Yorks. Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. W. Hesketh, 12th B.C.
"	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C. (also Hon. Sec.).
1899-00			
Master	...	...	Captain Kellow Chesney, 18th B.L.
"	...	...	Captain J. S. Kemball, 29th P.I. (on Dec. 26th).
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. C. J. Bruce-Hay, The Guides.
"	...	...	Captain J. S. Kemball, 29th P.I.
"	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. W. Hesketh, 12th B.C.
"	...	...	Mr. Macdonald.
1900-01			
Master	...	...	Captain Parry, Hants Regt.
"	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs (end of November).
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. Hext, R.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. Nicolson, 37th Dogras.
"	...	...	Lieut. C. J. Bruce-Hay, The Guides.
"	...	...	Lieut. W. L. Lawrence, S.W. Borderers.
"	...	...	Mr. Clementson (temporary).
"	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C. (also carried the horn when Master laid up).
"	...	...	Vety. Lieut. Edwards, A.V.D. (also Hon. Sec.).

1901-02			
Master	...	...	Captain B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C. (also carried the horn when Master laid up).
"	...	...	Lieut. W. L. Lawrence, S.W. Borderers.
"	...	...	Lieut. N. McLeod, 15th Sikhs.
"	...	...	Captain P. Hasler, Wilts Regt.
"	...	...	Vety. Lieut. Wood, A.V.D. (also Hon. Sec.).
1902-03			
Master	...	...	Major B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain F. G. Thoyts, The Somerset L.I.
"	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Captain A. W. Peck, 2nd P.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. R. F. S. Creek, The Queen's.
"	...	...	Lieut. M. Muirhead, R.F.A.
"	...	...	Vety. Captain McDougall, A.V.D. (also Hon. Sec.).
1903-04			
Master	...	...	Major B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain F. G. Thoyts, Somerset L.I.
"	...	...	Captain A. W. Peck, 22nd Cav. (also Hon. Sec. and carried the horn when Master laid up).
"	...	...	Captain W. E. Hudleston, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Captain J. A. Hartigan, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. R. F. S. Creek, The Queen's.
"	...	...	Lieut. A. F. Deacon, R.A.V.C.
"	...	...	Mr. G. C. L. Howell, I.C.S.
1904-05			
Master	...	...	Major B. R. K. Tarte, The Buffs.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C. (also Hon. Sec.).
"	...	...	Captain J. A. Hartigan, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. A. F. Deacon, R.A.V.C.
"	...	...	Mr. E. B. Howell, I.C.S.
"	...	...	Lieut. A. E. Newland, R.F.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. F. A. Jackson, 21st Cav. F.F.
1905-06			
Master	...	...	Captain A. F. Deacon, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain F. A. Jackson, 21st Cav.
"	...	...	Lieut. A. E. Newland, R.F.A.
"	...	...	Mr. E. B. Howell, I.C.S.
"	...	...	Lieut. Lynn-Smart, 21st Cav.
1906-07			
Master	...	...	Captain A. F. Deacon, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Major E. S. Clark, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. Fowke, Gordon Hdrs.
"	...	...	Mr. Jelf, I.C.S.
"	...	...	Lieut. Lynn-Smart, 21st Cav.
"	...	...	Lieut. Bate, R.F.A.

1907-08

Master	...	...	*Captain A. W. Peck, 22nd Cav. (until Jan. 21st).
"	...	...	Captain E. B. Gordon, 5th Fus.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain A. L. Tarver, Bde.-Major.
"	...	...	Lieut. Bate, R.F.A.
"	...	...	Captain F. F. Lance, 19th Lancers.
"	...	...	Mr. E. B. Howell, I.C.S.

1908-09

Master	...	...	†Captain F. F. Lance, 19th Lancers (until end of January).
"	...	...	Major A. L. Tarver (until Feb. 15th).
"	...	...	Major E. P. England, R.F.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	Major A. L. Tarver.
"	...	...	Captain E. B. Gordon, 5th Fus.
"	...	...	Captain Whitby, 19th Lancers.
"	...	...	Lieut. Newall, R. Warwickshire Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. T. N. Whalley, R. Warwickshire Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. J. H. W. Knight-Bruce, R. Warwickshire Regt.

1909-10

Master	...	...	Major E. P. England, R.F.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. T. N. Whalley, R. Warwickshire Regt.
"	...	...	Lieut. J. H. W. Knight-Bruce, R. Warwickshire Regt.
"	Lieut. W. A. Bates, R.F.A.

1910-11

Master	Major E. P. England, R.F.A. (No records kept this season.)
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1911-12

Master	Captain H. P. L. Heyworth, North Stafford Regt.
Whipper-in	J. M. Ewart, Esq., Indian Police.
"	...	...	Lieut. R. B. L. Bazley-White, R. W. Kent Regt.
"	...	...	Captain J. Mackenzie, 51st Sikhs.
Deputy Master and Hon. Sec.	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S.

1912-13

Master	...	...	Lieut. The Hon. R. E. Grosvenor, R.F.A.
Whipper-in	...	...	J. M. Ewart, Esq., Indian Police.
"	...	...	Captain E. H. Pott, 1st Lancers.
"	...	...	Captain R. J. W. Heale, I.A. (Political).
"	...	...	Lieut. R. B. L. Bazley-White, R.W. Kent Regt.
Deputy Master and Hon. Sec.	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S.

* Proceeded on service with a force against the Zakha Khels.

† Wounded by Multan's raiding gang near Fandu.

1913-14		
Master	...	Lieut. The Hon. R. E. Grosvenor, R.F.A.
Whipper-in	...	Captain E. H. Pott, 1st Lancers.
"	...	Captain H. M. Wilson, 24th Punjabis, A.D.C. to G.O.C.
Deputy Master and Hon. Sec.	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S.
1914-15		
Master	...	Captain E. H. Pott, 1st Lancers (hunted hounds twice only, and was then ordered on service).
"	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S. (also Hon. Sec.).
Whipper-in	...	Captain H. M. Wilson, 24th Punjabis.
"	...	Lieut. A. D. Magnay, 1st Lancers.
"	...	Lieut. W. E. Pollard-Urquhart, R. Sussex Regt.
1915-16		
Master	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S. (also Hon. Sec.).
Whipper-in	...	Captain H. M. Wilson, 1st Lancers.
"	...	Lieut. A. D. Magnay, 1st Lancers.
"	...	Captain J. R. Ramsay, R.F.A.
"	...	Captain E. R. Shearer, 31st Lancers, A.D.C. to G.O.C.
1916-17		
Master	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S.
Whipper-in	...	Captain G. F. Blake, R.A.M.C.
"	...	B. J. Gould, Esq., I.C.S.
"	...	Captain Montague, R.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	Major R. F. Finlay, 58th Rifles.
1917-18		
Master	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S.
Whipper-in	...	Captain G. F. Blake, R.A.M.C.
"	...	Lieut. T. Drake, 21st Lancers.
"	...	Lieut. Hobbs, Armoured Cars.
Hon. Sec.	...	Major R. F. Finlay, 58th Rifles.
1918-19		
Master	...	Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Irvine, I.M.S. (drowned hunting, Jan. 26th, 1919).
"	...	Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Dennistoun, R.F.A.
Whipper-in	...	Captain G. F. Blake, R.A.M.C.
"	...	Lieut.-Colonel R. F. Finlay, 58th Rifles (also Hon. Sec.).
1919-20		
Master	...	Major O. S. Fisher, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	...	Captain G. F. Blake, R.A.M.C.
"	...	Captain V. A. C. Findlay, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	J. Makeig Jones, Esq., I.C.S.

1920-21

Master	...	...	Major O. S. Fisher, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Major H. J. Glendinning, R.H.A.
"	...	...	Captain A. Roberts-George, S. & T. Corps.
"	...	...	Captain Lowe, R.H.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	E. H. Kealy, Esq., I.C.S. (till middle February).
"	...	...	J. M. Ewart, Esq., Indian Police.

1921-22

Master	...	...	Major O. S. Fisher, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain A. Roberts-George, S. & T. Corps.
"	...	...	Captain S. de C. O'Grady, R.A.M.C.
"	...	...	Major T. N. Whalley, R. Warwickshire Regt.
"	...	...	Captain Ryan, 2/2nd Gurkhas.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	J. M. Ewart, Esq., Indian Police (until December).
"	...	...	Major R. H. Macdonald, Royal Corps of Signals.

1922-23

Master	...	...	Major H. A. B. Johnson, 8th K.E.O. Light Cavalry (badly dislocated collar bone, Dec. 31st, 1922).
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain S. de C. O'Grady, R.A.M.C. (carried the horn from Jan. 1st, 1923, to Feb. 1st, 1923).
"	...	...	Captain G. Kirkbride, I.A.
"	...	...	Captain A. R. Wallis, S. & T. Corps (hunted hounds from Feb. 4th, 1923, to end of season).
"	...	...	Captain H. J. Jeffs, S. & T. Corps.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	J. Almond, Esq., I.C.S.

1923-24

Master	...	...	Captain S. de C. O'Grady, R.A.M.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain A. R. Wallis, I.A.S.C.
"	...	...	Captain H. J. Jeffs, I.A.S.C.
"	...	...	Captain J. Ainsley, I.M.S.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain Johnson-Cole, I.A.S.C.

1924-25

Master	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel C. Furneaux, R.A.S.C. (resigned before hunting season began on transfer to Dera Ismail Khan).
"	...	...	Captain A. R. Wallis, I.A.S.C.
Whipper-in	...	...	Major H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., 60th Rifles.
"	...	...	Captain H. J. Jeffs, I.A.S.C.
"	...	...	Lieut. A. A. Ward, R.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. H. Paterson, R.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain W. Johnson-Cole, O.B.E., I.A.S.C.
Hon. Treasurer	...	...	Major E. E. Hills.

1925-26

Master	Captain A. R. Wallis, I.A.S.C.
Whipper-in	Major H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., 60th Rifles.
„	Captain E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
„	Lieut. D. R. H. Gwynne, The Rifle Bde.
Hon. Sec. and Treas.	Major E. E. Hills.

1926-27

Master	Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., 60th Rifles.
Whipper-in	Captain E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
„	Lieut. D. R. H. Gwynne, The Rifle Bde.
„	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., 17th Q.V.O. Poona Horse.
Hon. Sec.	Captain E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
„	Captain C. C. Williams, 7th Rajput Regt.
Hon. Treasurer	Major E. E. Hills.

1927-28

Master	Captain E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	Major A. V. T. Wakely, M.C., R.E.
„	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., 17th Q.V.O. Poona Horse.
„	Captain M. R. Jefferis, M.C., R.E.
Hon. Sec.	Major W. H. O'Riordan, M.C., R.A.M.C.
Hon. Treasurer	Major E. E. Hills.

1928-29

Master	Major E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	Major A. V. T. Wakely, M.C., R.E.
„	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., 17th Q.V.O. Poona Horse.
„	Captain M. R. Jefferis, M.C., R.E.
Hon. Sec.	Major W. H. O'Riordan, M.C., R.A.M.C.
Hon. Treasurer	Major E. E. Hills.

1929-30

Master	Major E. Wallace, R.A.V.C.
Whipper-in	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., 17th Q.V.O. Poona Horse.
„	Captain M. R. Jefferis, M.C., R.E.
„	Captain W. M. Newill, Poona Horse.
Hon. Sec.	Captain D. S. E. McNeill, Poona Horse.

1930-31

Master	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., Poona Horse.
Whipper-in	Captain M. R. Jefferis, M.C., R.E.
„	Captain D. S. E. McNeill, Poona Horse.
„	Captain J. M. Ker, 2/11 Sikhs.
Hon. Sec.	Lieut.-Colonel M. Dockerell, I.A.
Hon. Treasurer	Major E. E. Hills.

1931-32

Master	...	...	Captain R. F. Ruttledge, M.C., Poona Horse.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain G. S. Hurst, R. Signals.
"	...	...	Lieut. R. Richards, R.A.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel M. Dockerell, I.A.
"	...	...	Captain H. F. B. Garrett, M.C., R. Tank Corps (after February).
Hon. Treasurer	...	...	Major E. E. Hills.

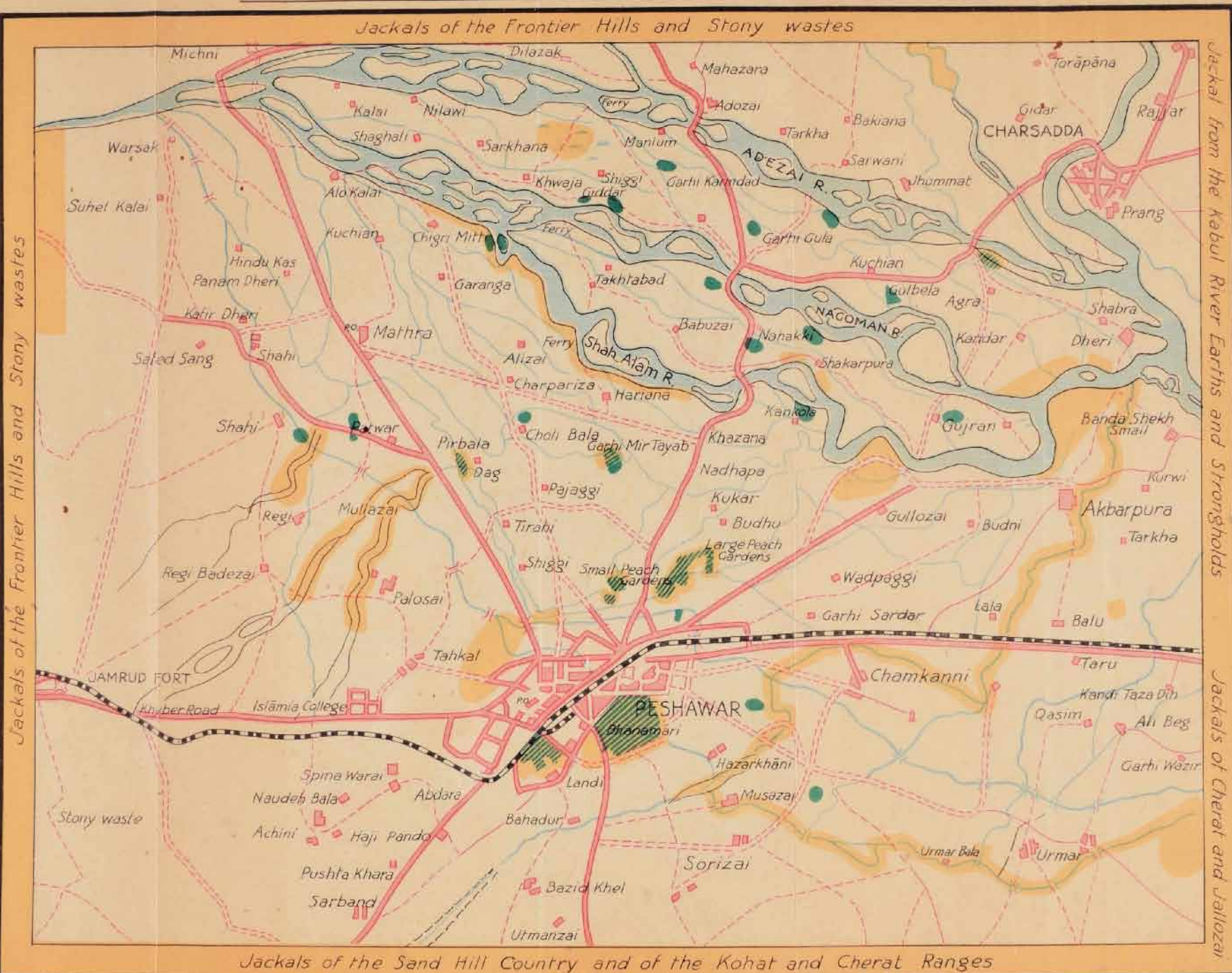
1932-33

Master	...	...	Captain G. S. Hurst, R. Signals.
Whipper-in	...	...	Captain M. R. Jefferis, M.C., R.E.
"	...	...	Lieut. R. Richards, R.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. J. C. Hardy, R. Signals.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain H. F. B. Garrett, M.C., R. Tank Corps.
Hon. Treasurer	...	...	Major E. E. Hills.

1933-34

Master	...	...	Captain G. S. Hurst, R. Signals.
Whipper-in	...	...	Lieut. R. Richards, R.A.
"	...	...	Lieut. J. C. Hardy, R. Signals.
"	...	...	Captain G. F. Jones, 18th K.E.O. Cavalry.
Hon. Sec.	...	...	Captain H. F. B. Garrett, M.C., R. Tank Corps.
Hon. Treasurer	...	...	Major E. E. Hills.

MAP OF THE P.V.H. COUNTRY SHOWING JACKAL SUPPLY.



Green — Permanent woodlands used as Hunt Covers and Reed Beds rented by the Hunt.

Scale. One inch = Two miles

Brown — Localities where jackal live permanently