

Indian Presence in Tibet

Military Escort and Trade Agent



Harishwar Dayal, the Indian Political Officer in Sikkim and his wife (1949)



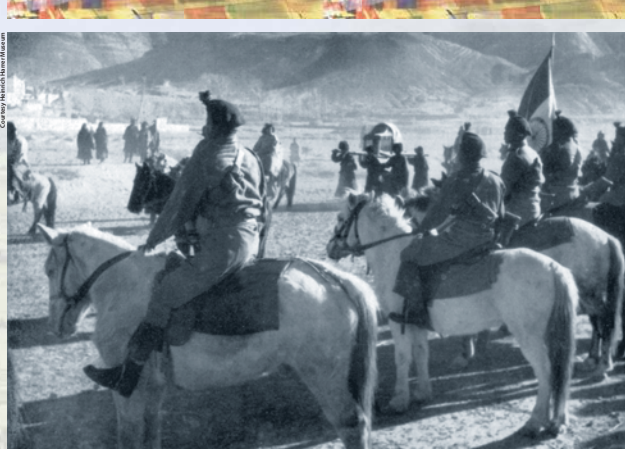
British military escort in the 1930s

Since the Younghusband Expedition (1904), the British (and then Indian) Trade Agents in Gyantse and Yatung were entitled to a military escort.

The Indian presence in Tibet was under the supervision of a senior diplomat, the Political Officer in Sikkim.



Major S.L. Chhiber, Indian Consul General in Lhasa (1956-59)



A guard of honour for the Dalai Lama by the Maratha Light Infantry in Gyantse (1951)



Tennis court for Indian officials in Gyantse



Journalist Lowell Thomas with Dr. Pal and Major Patil of the Indian Army



In 1947, the British hospital in Lhasa became the Indian hospital



Indian officials posted in Yatung

In the early 1950s, the Chinese People's Liberation Army began occupying Gyantse and Yatung.

The catastrophic floods of July 1954 washed out the Trade Agency in Gyantse, killing the Indian Trade Agent and several members of the military escort belonging to the Maratha Light Infantry. The Trade Agency was never rebuilt.



The Indian Mission in Gyantse was washed away by flash floods in July 1954



Apa Pant and Maj. Chhiber with Tibetan officials during a tour in Lhasa in 1957