

## THE GARNETT FAMILY IN INDIA...

William Garnett was born on 10 February 1856 in Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire, the last of seven children to Joseph and Eliza Garnett. They were members of the Congregational Church. Joseph appears to have deserted the family and Eliza and the children faced hard times - William later recalled that his mother took up sewing shirts and clothes for those who lived in the area, during which visits young William would tag along and be paid a farthing to hold the horses whilst his mother went inside to take the measurements. No wonder that he left home to try his luck as a shoemaker in Northampton town, but having made the move from the country it opened up other options for him. On 3 October 1877 he enlisted into the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers) for 8 years army service to be followed by 4 years in the Reserve. His age on enlistment was given as 20 years 7 months, his height 5' 8 and a half inches of fresh complexion, dark hair and grey eyes. On 1 January 1878 he was posted to the Cavalry Depot, Canterbury as '1777 Private Wm. Garnett' and spent most of this year and 1879 learning the discipline and training required for army life. In late 1879 he took 3 weeks leave prior to boarding the troopship Malabar on 11 December to join his regiment in India and Afghanistan. Records show that he was on Indian soil on 10 January 1880 when he proceeded to Umballa Depot, and the following month he left to join the service companies participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Afghan War.

The Field Force numbered some 14,000 men and 38 guns with a further 30 guns and nearly 15,000 men on the Khyber line of communication. Among these last were the best part of at least eleven cavalry regiments, including two European ones - the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards and the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars. All these were usually broken up into small detachments used for patrolling the road. They also protected reinforcements going forward, the sick going to the rear and the constant stream of supplies. At other times they were employed in pursuing gangs of tribesmen who tried to cut the telegraph lines and ambush the supply columns. During this war William Garnett was stationed at Jellalabad, Camp Sakd Sing (probably Safed Sang) and at Gandamak, returning then to Nowshera, India and on to Sialkote where he remained until March 1883. During this period he was promoted Lance Corporal (and entitled to the medal for the Afghan War) and then to Corporal. The Carabiniers suffered few casualties during this war because of their secondary role, however it was reported that: "A tragic incident occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> of January, when five men of the Carabineers, belonging to a detachment of cavalry which had been reconnoitring towards the Leghman Valley, in recrossing the Kabul River missed the ford and, getting into a rapid, were swept away and drowned." The 2<sup>nd</sup>. Afghan War was a disastrous campaign for the British forces and Pte. Garnett, and the whole of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Dragoon Guards can count themselves fortunate that they played only a secondary role.

The military cantonment at Sialkote was located in fine open and well cultivated land facing the Cashmere Hills, the base of which was about thirty miles distant.

In 1883 Corporal Garnett was sent to Dalhousie where he remained until May at which time he proceeded to Cawnpore having applied to join the Bengal Unattached List. The attraction of the Unattached List was that it offered soldiers better career prospects in India. So whilst William Garnett was henceforth listed as belonging to the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards he was never in fact with the regiment after 1883. At that time there were numerous appointments with good potential rewards connected with the military departments in India which were filled exclusively

from the ranks of the army, mostly by warrant and non-commissioned officers. These departments were chiefly the Commissariat, the Barrack, the Ordinance, the Clothing and the Stud and Remount. Many soldiers were also employed in the vast civilian Department of Public Works. All such men were borne on the army's effective strength, and all were placed on the 'unattached list', to which about 150 men were admitted each year. Promotion to sergeant, if they were not already of that rank, was speedy. Those who proved satisfactory at their jobs could climb considerable heights, starting with such grades as sub-conductor and ending up as deputy commissaries. This last carried the honorary rank of captain, whilst deputy and assistant commissaries were honorary lieutenants. All except the honorary officers were liable to be recalled to their regiments at any time. In William Garnett's case his parent regiment 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards completed its Indian tour of duty in 1888, whilst he remained in Cawnpore to achieve a status that would most likely not have come his way had he remained with the regiment.

His eight years service with the army was completed in 1885 but William Garnett, probably visualising his future in England back on the land or making shoes in Northampton decided to extend his army service, and the following year he was promoted Sergeant within the Department or Grade of Boot Examiner serving at Alipore. But he was soon back in Cawnpore. On 24 January 1887 he married Bessie Jane, daughter of John and Margaret Pearson at All Souls Church, Cawnpore. Bessie Jane who was born in Cawnpore was 18 years of age and her husband almost 32. John Pearson was born at Armagh, Ireland in the early 1840's and had a similar military experience to William Garnett. He enlisted at Manchester into the Royal Artillery on 27 July 1860 and arrived in India via the Holmesdale on 31 July 1863. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Unattached List in 1867 - subsequently promoted Sub-Conductor in 1873 and Conductor in 1876 within the Ordnance Department. Based at Cawnpore, he was foreman to a well-known Cawnpore identity Captain John Stewart; as overseer of the Blacksmiths Harness Depot and later at the Harness and Saddlery Factory. By 1891 William Garnett was attached to the Army Boot Factory, Cawnpore and later Cooper Allens where he was to spend most of his working years in India.

Their first child was Miranda who died at birth on 24 June 1888 and is buried at the Cawnpore Cantonment Cemetery. Walter Joseph was born 24 April 1890, then Elizabeth 20 January 1892 (died following day), Mabel Hilda 9 July 1893, Gertrude Muriel 12 September 1894 and Ethel May 21 November 1895. Walter Garnett died 17 July 1894 of diphtheria aged 4 and was buried at Christ Church, Cawnpore. In the same plot is Gertrude Muriel who died aged one year 2 months and 2 days. The Cawnpore Volunteers consisted of the Cawnpore Light Horse and the Cawnpore Volunteer Rifles and were made up of European civilian and former military personnel living in the area, and they supported the permanent regiments. Lt.Col. Tony Mains wrote an article in the Journal for Army Historical Research in which he probably touches on the truth about the extraordinary status and role played by the Volunteers in India: "No race but the British could have evolved such an untidy military set up - British part time soldiers, owing no allegiance to the War Office and taking precedence before the regular Indian Army - Units which were Clubs, in so far that no one could enlist unless he was accepted by the remainder of the unit, and who elected their own Officers - Cavalry units where all ranks provided their own horses.. During the next two decades (after the Mutiny) Volunteer Rifle Corps sprang up all over India, often very small, wherever there were any number of Europeans."

William Garnett was a good sportsman, and it was noted in The Pioneer newspaper dated Wednesday March 22 1893 - in relation to the Volunteer Sports - that "Trooper-Sergeant Garnett had success on two fronts, winning the V.C. Mounted, as in Tent-Pegging and Russian's Head post practice C.L.H." The 1857 Mutiny and its dreadful consequences for Cawnpore were still very fresh in the minds of all Europeans as was reflected in the Volunteer's motto 'Forewarned, Forearmed' and 'Defense not Defiance'. An extract from the December 1900 edition of Cawnpore Volunteer Magazine gives some interesting historical details about the formation of the Cawnpore Volunteers and William Garnett's contribution towards it: "...About the year 1884, as a result of much indefinite talk and a very general desire to have a mounted body of Volunteers in Cawnpore, a meeting was held, and the present corps came into existence as Mounted Infantry; its designation being subsequently changed to what it has since remained - Light Horse. The first parade took place on the present Green Park, and it was about the largest parade of this corps on record. All Cawnpore seemed to turn out to witness it, and by invitation, Captain Porter, the Volunteer Adjutant from Allahabad, was present. The men literally formed up in 'lumps' and required words of command, so he sent his A.D.C. - old John Finnigan, who was a Lieutenant in the Rifles - to ask our old friend Garnett what was necessary; but John's memory was not too good, and in spite of repeating the words to himself he invariably gave wrong versions to the Adjutant, the result being that Serjt-Major Garnett - then pretty fresh from his regiment was asked to come forward and drill the men. Never was known such enthusiasm. Every man got excited, and movement after movement was gone through until horses were white with foam and the riders were sore, for rising in the saddle was not allowed in those days. The parade, like other things, came to an end and was voted a huge success. The next parade fell in, in sections, which were marched to the Station Theatre to elect Officers and N.C.Officers. Mr. Sterndale, of the Bank of Bengal, was elected Commandant; Mr. G.B. Allen Adjutant; and Serjt-Major Garnett was asked to become paid instructor in addition to his other duties, but as he foretold, Government would not allow this. He was then elected Troop Serjt.-Major, but shortly had to give up the position because Government forbade the Unattached List from becoming Volunteers - a resolution which was afterwards rescinded. Mr. Ball was then made Troop Serjt.Major".

On 1 January 1898 William Garnett was appointed Sub-Conductor, Commissariat-Transport, Bengal and then on 22 November 1900 Conductor Supply and Transport, Bengal. At about this time the Volunteer Corps was divided into five Sections, the first - Cooper Allen & Co - under Troop Sergeant Major Garnett. The Garnetts' second son Albert Henry was born on 14 January 1899. In April 1902 William Garnett competed in a Light Horse and Rifles athletics event and won the 100 yards flat race for over-35 year olds winning the princely sum of fifteen rupees! On 10 September 1904 William received his first commission and was appointed Lieutenant (honorary) and Assistant Commissary. The following month another daughter was born - Beryl Ruby on 4 October 1904. On 25 August 1906 William was appointed Captain (honorary) and Deputy Commissary, Army Clothing Department and on 1 October 1908 the position of Commissary. Cawnpore was an important supply depot for the British Armies of the East India Company and later of the Crown, and the town was split between the 'civilian' component and the 'military' cantonments. One of the earliest public buildings was the Cawnpore Magazine to house the ammunition and gun powder, built in the mid 1780's. When the relieving forces were approaching Cawnpore during the Mutiny, the Magazine was blown up. The bungalows Merton Lodge, Strathcarron, Ferndale, Glen View, Glen Lodge and Inverlockie

were built on what was once the south side of the Cawnpore Magazine. After William and Bessie's marriage in 1887 they moved into Glen View, a sizeable property in Civil Lines, a part of Cawnpore known as Nawabganj close to the River Ganges. This house was well described many years later by their youngest son Leslie Garnett who lived there until he was nine: Seen from the road, Glenview has a carriage drive from the front gates past the front lawn on the left which was surrounded on three sides by high trees. The carriage drive veered to the left and concluded in front of the porch where there was the 'chabutra', a raised lawn area where the family often had tea or light meals. Beyond the chabutra to the rear was the vegetable garden and fruit trees, including cape gooseberries and orange trees. To the right of the bungalow was a square and servants quarters which was a small village-type area where they lived, cooked, washed etc. The verandah there was where the Garnett children often watched dancing bears, snake charmers. Carriages drew up at the front porch and visitors ascended the steps to the front verandah where, to the right, were a bedroom and toilet. To the left another two bedrooms. Entering the hall one passed the bedrooms and came to a dining room on the right. The kitchens were further to the right leading to the side verandah. After passing another bedroom on the left one entered a very large lounge and to the left of it another toilet and small bedroom. The lounge led out to another verandah at the back with a view to more fruit trees and a low wall. Beyond the wall was a field leading to the River Ganges on the banks of which were situated the burial ghats, and the children would often go there to watch the burning of the bodies before the remains were deposited into the holy river. Amongst their servants, Leslie Garnett recalled a babuchi (cook), syce (groom), mali (gardener), khasama-wallah (kitchen hand), chowkidar (nightwatchman), punkah-wallah (fan worker), ayah (child's nurse), dhobi-wallah (laundryman) and two bearers (waiters). Looking to the house from the road, the bungalow Ferndale (where the Ridsdales lived) was on the left towards the cantonments, and to the right was the city of Cawnpore.

Captain Garnett presumably kept himself fit, for in 1906/07 he was the winner of the Volunteer Corps Tent Pegging Tournament - a game of skill at which one rode a horse with a lance and endeavoured to carry off a number of tent pegs. In this year he won the tournament with a maximum score, 12 points. Whilst he was at the time carrying the rank of Honorary Captain he was also a Volunteer with the rank of Squadron Sergeant Major - it must have been a confusing situation in the status-conscious social world of those times. At the Cawnpore Cantonment Cemetery there is a grave that indicates there was yet another child born to William and Bessie Garnett - the inscription reads: "In loving memory of George Jesse, beloved son of Capt. and Mrs W Garnett who died on 17<sup>th</sup>. December 1908 aged 1 year 2 months and 3 days" William Garnett had furloughs to England from 1 April to 12 December 1891 and again 15 May 1901 to 21 January 1902. William Garnett was awarded the Volunteer Long Service Medal in 1909 at which time his unit was described as United Provinces Horse (Southern Regiment), which was a Cawnpore unit. In 1910 he applied for eight months furlough on Medical Certificate and this was granted (IOR/L/MIL/14/39/45) 'Capt. Garnett would prefer a passage on S.S. Plassy leaving Bombay on or about 11 Mar. 1910, passage required for Captain Garnett and his son aged 11 years' (Sgd.) Colonel, Director of Army Clothing, India. This occasion no doubt marked young Albert's first visit to England, and it was whilst they were away that William and Bessie's last child, Leslie Pearson was born - at Naini Tal on 9 July 1910, later baptised at All Souls Church, Cawnpore as were his brothers and sisters before him. All Souls Memorial Church stands on the site of General Wheeler's ill-fated entrenchment where, during the 1857 Mutiny, the whole European population of Cawnpore was besieged by the Nana Sa-

hib's army - all of them perished either at the entrenchment, at the riverside Sutte Chowra Ghat (which came to be known by Europeans as Massacre Ghat) or at the infamous 'well' where the women were thrown after being killed in a nearby house.

A high point of the British Raj occurred during 1911 when the Viceroy Lord Curzon hosted the Delhi Durbar to coincide with the formal move from Calcutta to New Delhi of India's national capital. Percy Ridsdale was on duty at this Durbar together with the other members of the Cawnpore Volunteers - he also, in his role with the Tent and Durie Department of Elgin Mills, saw at first hand the luxury of the Durbar organisation. The tents for the visiting dignitaries were specially made and lined with satins and velvets with gold thread ropes and gold plated pegs. In order to grow 'instant grass' paddy was planted and flooded, and when a few inches high looked as good as grass. Percy also recalled that where the commemorative stone was laid was not where it is now. It was found that the area originally chosen was a potential flood area, so the stone was surreptitiously moved one night to where it now stands!

An interesting incident took place which Mabel Ridsdale (nee Garnett) was later to recall. 'When King George and Queen Mary, then prince and princess visited Cawnpore one of the places they saw was Cooper Allens and on their arrival (at the factory) they were measured for a pair of shoes and they were made and presented to them when they were leaving. On their round of the factory they were taken into the Government section, where all the boots and shoes of the army were examined and stored. My father was in charge here and he'd been out crocodile shooting just before and had come across some crocodile eggs just hatching. He and Jock Smith, who was with him, took a youngster each, but they didn't live very long, about three months. So my father had his cured and stuffed. The princess saw this on his desk and admired this so much, and of course he had to present it to her, rather reluctantly I admit because it was quite a unique thing.' A tragedy occurred on the River Ganges on the night of Saturday 10 June 1911 when a party of fifteen Europeans, including William Garnett, his daughter Mabel, niece Alma Haupt and Percy Ridsdale proceeded on a country barge for a moonlight picnic. They left the ghat near Cooper Aliens at 9.30pm for a picnic being given by a Mrs. Ryan at Jaj-mau. All went well until the boat was abreast of Massacre Ghat at about 11.30pm when she got into strong currents and keeled over. 18 year old Alma Haupt and two others in the party drowned as well as two native servants. 'The Pioneer Mail' in a detailed account dated 16 June 1911 under the banner 'The Cawnpore Tragedy' stated '...Miss Haupt, a niece of Captain Garnett, was a charming young lady whose loss must touch all who knew her.' A memorial service was held at Christ Church and Alma Haupt's grave lies within the Cantonment Cemetery.

Meanwhile Albert Garnett who had accompanied his father on furlough to England was settling in to schooling at the Alderman Newton School in Leicester, near where he was staying with William Garnett's elder brother James, son and daughter-in-law Jesse Harry and Martha Garnett and their young son Ernest. On his return to India, William Garnett was promoted Major (honorary) in September 1912 and took up the position of Commissary, Army Clothing Department, an outstanding achievement. Two years later at the outbreak of the Great War he was probably looking forward to retirement - he was 58 years old and officially due for retirement on 31 January 1913, but he stayed on throughout the war years and finally returned to England, with his family, in 1919. One of the many departing gifts presented to him included a gold watch with the inscription: "To Major W. Garnett as a token of Esteem and Affection from His

many friends in Cooper Allen & Co.Ltd. and North West Tannery Co. Ltd. Cawnpore, 1883-1919".

The London Gazette of 20 October 1920 announced the following: "The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for valuable services rendered in India in connection with the War. To be dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1919: to be Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order: - Commy & Maj. William Garnett, Ret. Ind. Army".

As for the old family home Glen View in Cawnpore, it still survives - grandson Michael Garnett (with sons Nicholas and Andrew) visited the house where his father Leslie spent his first few years until 1919, in 1987. Even the house sign 'Glen View' was visible at the gate entrance - hanging on its side!

Many famous war heroes served at Cawnpore amongst them Field Marshal Lord Roberts who was born there. The extent of the British settlement is indicated by the presence of over 6000 European graves, including 1000 or so in unmarked graves as a result of the mutiny.

Upon leaving India the Garnetts probably had no idea where they would settle in 'old Blighty' (England) - William's family had dispersed from the Northampton area and one of his brothers had emigrated to the United States. Eventually they purchased a house in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex which became the home county for the Garnetts for the next couple of generations although historically the family had no connection with Essex. Retirement for the Garnetts must have been difficult for them - a loss of contact with their Cawnpore friends, a move into a smaller house without servants, a need to fend for themselves (cooking etc.), a poor climate (England) and a lack of the social standing and lifestyle that they would have been used to. Understandably in view of the upbringing of William Garnett, he appreciated the value of money more than most because he knew what it was like to be without. In retirement he was perhaps mean and secretive about his finances and initially forbade his wife Bessie sufficient funds to open her own account so she suffered financially. William led a quiet and somewhat solitary lifestyle although there were always relatives about; their son Leslie lived with them and Barbara and Philip Ridsdale stayed there often during their school holidays as did many of the other relatives. Albert Garnett's daughter Nan recalls an episode which is illuminating if nothing else: the Elderton Road house had an old plum tree in the back garden and this particular year it had one solitary plum on it - which inevitably went missing when some of the children stayed there. The children Stuart, Pixie, Philip and a very young Nan were asked which one 'thieved it' - no admissions were forthcoming, so the children were marched out to the garden by William and a grain of rice put on to each of their tongues. They were told to close their mouths and if anyone was lying the grain of rice would have blood on it. Needless to say the children were petrified with fear at this development which ended when one of them confessed through sheer fright!

When Major William Garnett MBE died, at Westcliff, Essex on 22 April 1932 at the age of 76, none of the family had any idea where his savings were kept. His daughter Mabel who was in England, thought that there was an account with the Allahabad Bank and when she returned to Cawnpore and asked the manager for details, he told her they could only do this if she knew the account number. An assistant who overheard this conversation, and who played ten-

nis socially with Mabel, gave her a piece of paper with the account number and a suggestion that she hand it to her legal advisers. By this method they were able to extract some of the savings, but were never confident that they had found all the sources. Although 14 years his junior, Bessie Jane died less than a year after William's death, in 1933.

Of the Garnett offspring, Mabel married Percy Ridsdale; it was his second marriage and in the Cantonment Cemetery, Cawnpore lies his first wife Grace Isobel aged 21 and infant son Jack who both died in 1910. Percy married Mabel a year or so afterwards and their first son Geoffrey died in 1913 aged only two months - they had three other children Barbara (Bunty), Philip and Pamela who died of a lung infection in England, having gone there accompanied by an ayah in the hope of recovery. Percy was an assistant working at the Elgin Cotton Mills. They lived in Civil Lines near 'Glen View' at 'Ferndale', close to Hardinge Road. Percy Ridsdale's brother George Montague (Monty) also lived in India where he had an indigo factory in the Bihar district, the Gopalpore Estate. Monty was a keen wrestler which was a favourite pastime in India in those days, and he kept a team of wrestlers 10 compete against other teams. Percy Ridsdale went to Bombay with a cotton broker, but when that venture failed he became editor of a newspaper at Patna. He later went to Bihar with his wife Mabel and daughter Barbara, where his brother Monty had his indigo plantation - Barbara recalls that it was amongst lovely old estates but in the middle of nowhere, and one could hear a car coming from a distance of forty miles. Indigo was in the process of demise with the impact of synthetic dyes during the 1920's, and this eventually led to a replacement from indigo to sugar production. Percy could not find employment in Bihar, so he and the family returned to Cawnpore and Percy went into partnership with an Indian businessman Rai bahadur Bagwan Das again dealing in cotton, and the Ridsdales lived comfortably in a bungalow located near the railway station. In earlier days whilst in Cawnpore, both Percy Ridsdale and his brother Monty served with the Volunteers, and an amusing story is told by Barbara of an occasion when they were being drilled by Sergeant-Major Garnett. During a parade Monty fell off his horse and Garnett said "... who told you to dismount Montague (he pronounced it MONT-HAIGH) to which Montague replied "my name is not MONTHAIGH, it is Montague (pronounced MONTAG-YOU". "Alright MONTAG-YOU" said Garnett, "take five days FAT-IGUE". Quite an amusing story...

William Garnett was a tough disciplinarian but always fair, A story passed down by the family goes as follows: when Major Garnett was appointed Inspector for the quality of leather goods at the North West Tannery he rejected so many pieces that a protest was mounted by the workforce. Garnett was called before the Directors at a meeting and asked to explain himself. He asked for a pair of shoes to be sent for and when they came, bent them in two and putting it between his teeth which were very strong, pulled away the sole from the uppers, thus making his point.

Ethel Garnett met Donald Campbell in Cawnpore after the Great War; he had arrived from Calcutta where his parents lived. They married in England and had two children Daphne (Pixie or Pip) and Stuart (Stewart or Stu) both born in Cawnpore. Donald sought a variety of employment in India and at one stage he operated tours of wealthy tourists on visits to Indonesia and elsewhere. He and Ethel lived in Bombay for some time whilst they were deciding their future. Donald died at Westcliff on 11 February 1945 aged 56 and is buried at the Sutton Road Ceme-

tery, Southend-on-Sea close to the grave of William and Bessie Garnett. Mabel Ridsdale's daughter Barbara, and younger sister Ethel Campbell, both took up nursing in India and worked at the hospital at the hill-station Naini Tal, a popular haven for the Cawnpore European community during the hot weather. Mabel served with the Womens Volunteer Service (WVS) for a number of years, and was awarded the "Kaiser-i-Hind" (Emperor of India) medal during the early part of the Second World War. Her citation reads: 'You have unselfishly devoted your time and your energies to the organization of the women's war work in Cawnpore and helped in every way possible the well-being of the soldier. At one time, you undertook the management of all hospital amenities in Cawnpore almost single-handed, and later on very successfully organised the railways canteen with the help of other voluntary workers. I congratulate you upon the Kaiser-i-Hind Bronze Medal which is a fitting recognition of your valuable work.'

Barbara Ridsdale married Ken Millage of the insurance company Royal Exchange, and they were living in Cawnpore at the time of the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. World War in 1939. Ken, who was a fine piano player, had his own programme on All India Radio and on one occasion played a 'request' from his mother-in-law Mabel Ridsdale, for the tune 'Trees' her favourite song. Ken Millage's sister was Gladys Shakespeare, a well known accompanist in England. Ken and Barbara lived for some years in New Delhi. They had four children, Barry and Maralyn born in Cawnpore, Toby in England and Jack in New Zealand - the whole family, including Percy and Mabel Ridsdale, eventually settling in New Zealand after Independence. Percy died in 1962 and Mabel in Beryl Garnett, who had attended the Convent School in Cawnpore, met Charles Maxwell (Max) Jenkin in Cawnpore in 1924 when Beryl came from England to stay with her sister Mabel. Max, who was employed by the Chartered Bank, had served with the Honorable Artillery Company (HAC) during the Great War and was shot in the leg, carrying the pieces of splinters in his leg all his life. He and Beryl married at Yokohama in 1929 where Max was then stationed and where Elizabeth (Muffet) was born the following year. They were posted to Kuala Lumpur during the 1930's and later to Rangoon, Burma and managed to escape following the Japanese invasion in late 1941. They went to Cawnpore and stayed with the Ridsdales at the bungalow 'Ferndale', and then to Calcutta to enable Max Jenkin to organise for the banks (all of them) a return to Rangoon following the cessation of hostilities (a project that was code-named Operation Shylock). During this wartime period, their second daughter Susan was born, at the hill station Naini Tal in 1942. Elizabeth (Muffet) went to the Convent school in Cawnpore prior to school in the hills at Naini Tal. Following cessation of hostilities, the Jenkin family returned to Rangoon for a short time, and then left for good in March 1946, heading back to England via troopship. Elizabeth subsequently married Patrick Willcocks who had, coincidentally, been commissioned in the 3rd/6th Dragoon Guards during National Service duties in the early 1950's. This amalgamated regiment, which was also known as the 3rd Carabineers, was the same that William Gamett enlisted in 1877. Elizabeth, who trained as a physiotherapist in England. and Patrick (who worked in Personnel with Kuwait Oil Co., part owned by BP) spent 25 years in Kuwait with the petroleum industry prior to retirement in England.

On his return to India after the Great War of 1914-18, Albert Garnett married Myrtle Elkins, daughter of Major Elkins an army doctor at Cawnpore, and they had two children Nan and Shirley. Albert Garnett was employed by the British India Corporation which had purchased the firm of Cooper Allen, and on return to England in the late 1920's worked in the civil service in London and then with the Soumend County Council until his retirement. They lived at 7

Finchley Road, Westcliff just a short walk from where William and Bessie Garnett had settled, at 21 Elderton Road.

Leslie Garnett left India with his parents in 1919 at the age of 9 (following schooling in Naini Tal) and never returned to India. He attended Leigh Hall College near his parents' home in Westcliff, Essex and learnt how to play the ukelele, at which he became very proficient. The Garnett family bought an Austin car - their first motor car - and Leslie became the 'driver' taking his parents and (often) young Barbara Ridsdale all over the country and up to Scotland. He joined Barclays Bank and married Betty Gladys (Archer) in 1935, joining the army at the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. World War. He was posted to the Royal Army Service Corps and then transferred to the Intelligence Corps with training at Bletchley Park. He served in the Middle East at Cairo, Bizerta, Haifa, and Ismailia, and was discharged as Captain at the conclusion of hostilities. Leslie Garnett returned to Barclays Bank and served with them for many years becoming a branch manager at Leigh prior to retirement in 1970 - he died in December 1985 and is buried at Sutton Road Cemetery. He and Betty Garnett had two sons Gerald Archer in 1937, and Michael Pearson in 1938, both of whom attended the preparatory school Alleyn Court, Westcliff and then the boarding school Framlingham College in Suffolk. They were called up for National Service duty in the 1950s and both served with the RAF in Singapore and Malaya during the 'Malay Emergency'. Following discharge in England in 1957 Gerald Garnett settled on a business career in England, and married Sheila Ronald whose father, Colonel David Ronald CBE, had coincidentally served in Cawnpore with the 77 Battery (which came under the 6<sup>th</sup>. Field Brigade based in Lucknow) between September 1933 and November 1936. Gerald and Sheila had two children Rupert and Clare.

Mick Garnett joined the RAF in 1956 at the age of 17 and was posted to RAF Tengah in Singapore as part of the Far East Air Force. Both Gerald and Mick were denied the opportunity of aircrew training due to both being pronounced 'colour-blind'. Mick was discharged in 1959 with the rank of Corporal and returned to England where he met his cousin Stuart Campbell who was on leave from the Assam tea plantations. Through this association Mick joined the company of Alex Lawrie & Co. of Mincing Lane, London and departed by sea for Bombay in January 1960. He worked on the Balmer Lawrie tea plantations on the north bank of Brahmaputra River, mainly at Harmutty and later Koilamari where he became acting-manager. Shortly thereafter the Chinese invaded over the Himalayas in 1961 and he together with the other Europeans on the north bank were instructed to evacuate to Calcutta. Over a period of time the Chinese who had over-run their supplies, were persuaded by international pressure to return and an uneasy ceasefire set in. Mick was eventually posted to the security of the south bank of the Brahmaputra where he met up with his cousin Stuart Campbell and family who lived on Panitola estate.

Within months hostilities broke out between India and East Pakistan (now Bangla Desh) resulting in more strife and uncertainty and this precipitated the exodus of Europeans from Assam that commenced about 1964. Mick (or Mike) left India for good in 1966 and, following a year running a copra plantation near Madang in Papua New Guinea, joined British Petroleum (Australia) with whom he remained for 26 years mainly in the public and corporate areas, with responsibilities for Australia and the South Pacific. He married Lyndi (Coumbe) in Adelaide in 1975 and had two children Nicholas Archer and Andrew Cranston. During a BP conference in London in the mid-1980's Mike Garnett managed to play a secondary role, for his reserve squadron No.21 (City of Melbourne) RAAF. As a relatively junior Flight Lieutenant he was asked by

his Honorary Air Commodore (Sir John Young) to present a signed copy of the squadron's history to HM The Queen Mother who was Honorary Air Commodore of 21's 'sister' squadron No. 600 (City of London) RAF. This was achieved by the happy coincidence of No. 600 Squadron holding their annual Reception at London's Butchers Hall during the time of Mike's visit. Mike Garnett retired from BP in 1994 and lives near Melbourne, Australia.

With the onset of the two World Wars and then compulsory National Service, most of the Garnett offspring underwent some type of military service prior to settling into their civilian careers. Albert Garnett managed to hide his true age (15 or 16) and enlisted in the Great War becoming a despatch rider with the Irish Horse in France; but they had run out of horses in those early days so they gave him a bicycle. At one stage he was blown off a motor bike by a nearby shell when delivering despatches to the front, and suffered a hearing loss which affected him for the rest of his life. After the war he returned to Cawnpore through the influence of his father who held shares in the British India Corporation. Albert joined the Volunteers and remained in Cawnpore several years prior to returning to England in about 1928 where he and his family lived in London for eighteen months prior to settling at Westcliff, Essex near to the house owned by William and Bessie Garnett, and then occupied by Donald and Ethel Campbell after the death of the elderly Garnetts. Nan and Shirley were both born in Westcliff. Albert Garnett died in 1969 and Myrtle hi 1982, and both are buried at Sutton Road Cemetery.

Ethel and Donald Campbell's son Stuart, also born in Cawnpore., completed his schooling at Lindisfarne College, Westcliff. At the outbreak of hostilities in the Second World War he joined the services. He attended the Royal Naval College at Greenwich and became a Fleet Air Arm pilot with 830 Squadron in Malta in June 1941. He flew many dangerous missions and was shot down over Sicily and taken prisoner onto the mainland, until the Allies invaded from the south. He was moved to Germany and escaped from there with a fellow officer and after many adventures, arrived back in England via Sweden with the assistance of a Swedish Count (whom he had met at Lindisfarne College as a fellow pupil), who was instrumental in helping them with contacts to reach England. Lieutenant Campbell was awarded the military MBE, as had his grandfather William Garnett more than twenty years before. Following conclusion of the war, Stuart Campbell became a tea planter in Assam for nearly thirty years. Like most of his colleagues, he became an auxiliary member of the Assam Valley Light Horse for a short time prior to independence in 1947, at which time all the volunteer units throughout India were disbanded. There were major floods in Assam shortly after his arrival, and Stuart did sterling work as pilot of a light aircraft in monitoring the situation on Balmer Lawrie's many tea gardens throughout Upper and Lower Assam and rendering assistance. Prior to retirement he was Superintendent of many gardens and based at Panitola Tea Estate, the same estate where Mick Garnett managed the Depot Lines out-garden. Stuart married Betty Lawrie a member of the family of Alex Lawrie Tea Company of Mincing Lane, London, and of their Calcutta agents Balmer Lawrie & Co. - and they had three children Ian, Bruce and Linda; Stuart died in England in 1998 and Betty followed in 2002.

Prior to his death in 1991 Philip Ridsdale met with Zoe Yalland MBE who had been of great assistance to Michael Garnett in researching much of the detail about Cawnpore and the family history. As Zoe Wilkinson she had been born in Cawnpore in 1921 at Merton Lodge, the house near Glen View in Nawabganj and so the family was well acquainted with the many offspring

of the Garnetts. Prior to her death in 1994 Zoe sent Michael Garnett the notes that she kept following her recent discussions in London with Philip Ridsdale and these edited comments, give a fascinating insight into social life in Cawnpore in those days. Philip was born on 11 August 1922, his father Percy was at Elgin Mills as an assistant living at 'Ferndale'. Philip was sent to the Convent School at Naini Tal for nine months of the year, and then aged nine to a prep school in England prior to the boarding school at Felsted in Essex. Because of this enforced separation, experienced by so many families in India, Philip felt he did not know his parents well at all, but became very close to his grandparents William and Bessie Garnett who were then living in retirement in Westcliff. He would spend many of his school holidays with them. Philip Ridsdale had few recollections of India, but did recall that when his father Percy returned home after work in Cawnpore, he would habitually go straight to his room to take a bath. The bungalow itself seemed to have interminable rooms. His father would bathe in a large tin tub, sitting in it on a wooden stool with his bearer standing by. Percy was a very hairy man with hair down his back and thick on his chest, contrasting oddly with a bald head; he was soaped all over then the bearer who was standing by emptied bucket after bucket over him to sluice off the soap. A huge Elgin towel was held out and wrapped around him as he stepped out, then after being rubbed down he sat on a chair in his dressing room while the bearer put on his socks and helped him dress. Percy Ridsdale's brother Montague had an indigo factory in Bihar and when he died it was worth thousands of pounds, but it took 12 years to settle the estate and after all the payments to lawyers, high taxes etc. six of the family received a paltry amount each - this was a typical story of life amongst European families in India. Philip did not have a happy recollection of his brief life in India, but he achieved success in his life. Prior to the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Air Force on a short service commission into the Logistics Branch and, upon the outbreak of war in 1939 remained with the RAF as his career. He had many postings around the world, and during the visit to Turkey by HM The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh was appointed their ADC. He served at Norfolk, Virginia, as a part of NATO, and in Norway and Singapore. On retirement he had achieved the rank of Group Captain. He was married to Lorna and they had four children. Philip Ridsdale had a great respect for his grandfather William Garnett. Until his death in 1991, he kept a handsome photo of William dressed in army mess kit, on the reverse of which he had written "Philip G.M. Ridsdale's maternal grandfather; Major William Garnett MBE, Indian Army. A fine horseman, a great man, much admired by me. I spent holidays in Westcliff, from boarding school 1927-33. P.R" Zoe Yalland kindly included this portrait in her excellent book "Boxwallahs - The British in Cawnpore" published in 1994, the year that she died.