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Report on the Administration
of the Assam Rifles
for the year
1944

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INTRODUCTION

I was in charge of the administration of the Assam Rifles throughout the year.

Although the greater part of the administrative work of the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions was still vested in me these units were actually under the direct operational control of the Army. The whole of the 2nd Battalion and the active platoons (5) of the 5th Battalion, however, continued under my complete control under the orders of His Excellency the Governor.

All Battalion areas were visited by His Excellency the Governor of Assam and by G.O.C. 202 L. of C. Area.

I inspected all Battalions during the year under report at various times and the 3rd and 4th Battalions especially during the course of the operations against the Japanese.

2. The Officers named below were released from the Assam Rifles during the year under report :—

2nd Battalion—Lieut.-Colonel H. N. Irwin, M.C., I.A., 10th Gurkha Rifles on the 15th November 1944.

3rd Battalion—Captain D. H. Burnett, E.C.O., 1st Gurkha Rifles on the 21st October 1944.

4th Battalion—Captain P. G. Bond, E.C.O., 2nd Battalion the Assam Regiment on the 26th October 1944.

The following Officers joined the Assam Rifles :—

1st Battalion—2nd/Lieut. D. Carden, on the 28th December 1944.

2nd Battalion—Lieut. R. L. Binnie, E.C.O., 8th Gurkha Rifles on the 25th October 1944.

3rd Battalion—2nd/Lieut. G. J. Howkins, Assam Regiment, on the 30th December 1944.

4th Battalion—Captain J. C. MacTavish, 19th Hyderabad Regiment on the 16th September 1944.

Captain P. A. T. Smith, E.C.O., Assam Regiment, on the 30th December 1944.

Major G. St. G. T. Allen, E.C.O., 7th Gurkha Rifles, on the 21st March 1944.

The following British Officers of the Assam Rifles passed language examinations in 1944 :—

1. Major G. Byron—Elementary Urdu Examination.

2. Lieut. P. P. P. Hutchins—Obligatory Test in Nepali.

3. *Efficiency and Drill*.—The full annual programmes of individual and collective training had to conform to the calls on the personnel as a result of the Japanese invasion of the Manipur Hills and Naga Hills during the year under report.

In the 1st Battalion almost all officers and men were on active service. The demands for guards and sentries were very heavy and consequently training was practically confined to a series of intensive cadre courses run for one platoon at a time preparatory to its going forward. These courses included Physical training, Assault and Battle courses, Route marching, weapon training, Grenade, Field Craft Training, etc. A demonstration platoon was formed with the Headquarter force which became very proficient itself and was invaluable in the training of the fighting platoons.

In the 2nd Battalion.—Instruction in Field Craft and Battle Drill was carried out for all Headquarter platoons. The object was to form a training team for instructing platoons on Detachment and in outposts. The training programme was interrupted on account of the call of the 14th Army for assistance in driving out the Japanese.

The 3rd and 4th Battalions which were mostly affected by the Japanese invasion were virtually on active service throughout the year. Training was, however, carried out as far as practicable. In the 4th Battalion all 'V' Force platoons were sent into Jungle Training Camps. Several platoons were on operational duty with 'V' Force.

The 5th Battalion being a training Battalion completed the training of the recruits of the 1943-44 session and sent them off to the other Battalions as shown below :—

1st Battalion	...	...	...	...	...	45
3rd	..	...	...	...	...	86
4th	..	...	...	...	...	99
5th	..	...	...	...	...	40
						270
					Total	270

The training staff carried out its functions well under the charge of Lieut. Warman of the 1st Battalion. The year ended with 243 recruits under training. The trained men were put through their Rifle and L.M.G. courses and the recruits in dummy grenades.

Various courses of instruction were attended by men from the Assam Rifles Battalions at the different Army Schools at Saugar, Jullunder, Monghyr, Rampur, Poona, Cawnpore, Pachmari and Shillong.

Discipline.—The standard of discipline was well maintained despite the very arduous nature of the duties the Assam Rifles had to carry out in the operational areas.

Musketry.—The annual musketry course was fired as far as practicable in all battalions. The full course was not possible in certain Battalions due to the absence of so many men from headquarters on active service.

Signalling.—The annual classification of signallers was carried out in the 1st and 2nd Battalions with satisfactory results. The signal sections of the other Battalions were scattered all over the operational area and in cases of emergency these had perforce to be employed on other duties.

4. *Enlistments.*—The number of men enlisted during the year was 246.

Race						Number enlisted
Gurkhas	...	...	...	...	...	214
Assamese	...	...	...	...	...	14
Kukis	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nagas	...	...	...	...	...	9
						246
					Total	246

The above figures excluded the 2nd Battalion which was already over strength to the extent of 50. This was due to the re-organisation of the Assam Rifles whilst under Army control. This was reduced by raising the ban on retirements.

The dearth of Assamese recruits was due to the demands of the Assam Regiment and the popularity of that unit.

5. *Casualties*—

	1944
Retirements	85
Resignations	7
Discharges	7
Deaths	81
Dismissals	7
Desertions	2
Failure to rejoin on expiry of leave	82
Total	271

Under "Retirements" the greatest numbers were in the 2nd and 4th Battalions. The 2nd Battalion was over strength and in order to reduce numbers the ban on compulsory retirement was relaxed. In the 4th Battalion the greatest number retired on invalid pension. The highest figures under 'Deaths' were in the 3rd and 4th Battalions and this was principally due to enemy action. The large figures under 'Failure to rejoin on expiry of leave' were in the 2nd and 4th Battalions. This was presumably due to the man-power position in Nepal, owing to heavy demands from the Army and men going on leave there may have been detained by their relatives. The figures under the other heads do not call for any particular remarks.

The number of "Man-days" lost owing to sickness and "attendance on the sick" is given below :—

		Man-days lost	
		Due to sickness	Due to attendance on the sick
		1944	1944
1st Battalion	.. ..	8,238	58
2nd "	.. ..	11,990	20
3rd "	.. ..	1,184	..
4th "	.. ..	3,392	..
5th "	.. ..	6,052	..

There has been a great increase in the "Man-days" lost due to sickness in the 1st and 2nd Battalions. This was chiefly due to malaria. Several platoons had to remain away from headquarters in the rainy season and the men contracted malaria. The figures in the 3rd Battalion are not complete as the records were destroyed by enemy action.

6. Rewards and punishments—

	No. of officers and men promoted	No. of men drawing Good Service pay			No. of men drawing proficiency pay		Percentage of departmental punishments	No. of men judicially punished	Court Martial	Remarks
		At Rs. 2	At Rs. 4	At Rs. 6	At Re. 1	At Rs. 3/8	1944	1944		
1st Battalion	14	15	73	..	..	808	8.27	..	..
2nd "	28	1	86	..	..	797	6.27	..	1	
3rd "	56	..	..	..	..	..	6.88	..	1	
4th "	121	13	42	18	18	778	9.00	..	9	(a) at Rs.4
5th "	29	6	38	..	..	400	7.73	1	..	(b) At Rs. 8-8-0

Owing to the destruction of the records in the 3rd Battalion as a result of enemy action complete figures for that Battalion could not be furnished.

The other figures do not call for any particular remarks.

The conduct of the Kukis in the 4th Battalion was not very satisfactory during the operations. Out of 52 Kukis who were in action with 'V' force about 18 deserted and went off to their villages to see their families. One officer was suspected of corresponding with the enemy but the charge could not be substantiated.

7. Frontier out-posts.—There was no change in the 1st Battalion.

In the 2nd Battalion the headquarters strength included a full platoon detachment and out-posts established at Margherita and Khimyang. Also a full platoon out-posts at Horukhunma (now called Khonsa) and Dilli Tea Estate was placed at the disposal of the Political Officer, Tirap Frontier Tract. Nizamghat, Rotung, Yembung, North and South Tirap out-posts were not garrisoned during the year.

In the 3rd Battalion the out-posts at Mokokchung, Wakching and Kongnyu continued to be maintained at the temporary reduced strengths. In addition, the escorts for the USAAF Observer posts of Niyasia, Shagot, Lahe and Pongyu were maintained throughout the year.

In the 4th Battalion Tamanlong out-post was garrisoned throughout the year. This out-post was cut off from headquarters during the Japanese invasion and was rationed from the air. Ukhrul out-post was evacuated on the orders of the Military authorities in March and was occupied by the Japanese till July. The out-post was re-occupied immediately after the Japanese were driven back.

In the 5th Battalion North Lakhimpur, Rupa and Dirangdzong out-posts were held throughout the year. The winter out-post at Seijosa was occupied as usual. The following out-posts were not mounted during the year :—

- (1) Happy Valley.
- (2) Doimukh.
- (3) Bhairab. Kunda.
- (4) Darranga.
- (5) Dikalmukh.

8. *Military operations.*—The year 1944 was probably the most eventful year in the history of the Assam Rifles. The early months saw the gathering of the storm and the long expected attempt at the invasion of India by the Japanese which reached the height of its momentum in the months of March and April.

The Battalions which were involved in the first onrush of the enemy were the 3rd and 4th. The first stages of the battle saw the driving in, or overrunning of various V Force posts the personnel of which were mostly Assam Rifles. Many gallant actions were fought and the long list of awards at the end of this paragraph testifies to the great part played by the Assam Rifles in these operations.

After the initial stages, during which the scattered remnants of the 3rd and 4th Battalions gradually fought their way back to their own headquarters, the great attacks on Imphal and Kohima commenced. The part played by the regular Army has already been told elsewhere, but I am concerned to place on record some details of the work done by our own forces.

Towards the end of March the road between Kohima and Imphal was cut by the Japanese and the later place was then isolated for the next two and a half months, the troops being maintained entirely from the air. Kohima, which sustained one of the most severely fought sieges lasting for about three weeks, was also isolated for a time. At this latter place the 3rd Battalion once more found itself defending its own headquarters in company with British and Indian troops after a period of nearly 70 years, but on this occasion it was against one of the most formidable and savage enemies in the world. The 4th Battalion although surrounded in Imphal, was never actually called upon to fight as a Battalion although most of its personnel were at one time or another in actual conflict with the enemy, and three platoons actually formed part of the garrison at Kohima on which place they had had to fall back.

At the end of March it was decided to bring in some of the 2nd Battalion, which a few months previously had been handed back to the control of His Excellency the Governor, to help to protect the railway between Manipur Road and Nazira, and a few days later in April, a request was made, which was immediately complied with, for the services of eight platoons to accompany the 23rd (British) Brigade under the command of Brigadier Perowne in a flank attack through Mokokchung to Ukhrul. This was a great honour for the Assam Rifles as no other Indian troops were with this Brigade nor were they apparently asked for. After some weeks of very hard fighting in which officers and men of the 2nd Battalion greatly distinguished themselves, the objectives were successfully reached, and after the relief of Kohima and the general repulse of the enemy the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion returned to their headquarters. Unfortunately one of the casualties sustained was Subedar Major Sing Bahadur Rai who insisted on accompanying his men and was unluckily drowned during the course of the operations. The fine example which he set in insisting on accompanying the Battalion will long be remembered.

Among the many honours awarded at various times to officers and men of the 3rd Battalion were an Indian Order of Merit to Subedar Bindraman Rai and two Military Crosses to Jemadar Kharkabahadur Limbu and Subedar Uttam Sing Chettri respectively while two of the British Officers, Lieut-Colonel G. A. E. Keene, M. B. E. the Commandant, and Major M. K. Smith, Assistant Commandant have since been mentioned in despatches. I had the pleasure of visiting the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, just before during and after operations and was very impressed especially in the case of the 3rd Battalion who had a particularly gruelling time, with their bearing and high standard of morale. It had never been contemplated, naturally, that the Assam Rifles would have to take their place in the front line in a major war but there can be no question that their conduct throughout fully deserved all the praise which was accorded them.

Before leaving the battle of Kohima I would like to place on record my appreciation of the conduct and bearing of the civilian clerks and recruit boys of the 3rd Battalion who found themselves involved in this siege and whose behaviour under extremely trying and totally unexpected circumstances never gave any cause for anxiety.

At the same time as the above operations were proceeding the 1st Battalion, some of the personnel of which had already had minor engagements with the enemy as members of V Force, were gradually becoming more involved in the fighting, while the 17th (Indian) Division was fighting its way back to Imphal from Tiddim. The 1st Battalion now formed a part of the Lushai Brigade (the successors to V Force in this area), and their task consisted mostly of harassing the enemy who were following up 17th Division and in rounding up Japanese patrols which were attempting to penetrate into our area. It is indicative of the part played by this Battalion that the first two awards to be made to its personnel were two Military Crosses to two of its Gurkha Officers Subedar Asurdhan Rai and Jamadar Deb Singh Chettri, and at this stage I cannot do better than quote in *extenso* certain remarks recorded by the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills, Mr. A. R. H. Macdonald, I. C. S., as they give a clear picture of the excellent work put in by the whole Battalion.

"One day, when the war is over, Some V Force Officer is sure to write a book about his exploits in and around the Lushai Hills during the Japanese invasion of India. To us with the local knowledge to interpret it that book will be the best record of the patient, cheerful and, in the circumstances, essentially effective work of the 1st Battalion of the Assam Rifles on active service in 1944. On behalf of the civilians of the Lushai Hills I am glad to have this opportunity of giving thanks for this gallant body of men who served us so faithfully in such trying conditions".

The foregoing short account will, I hope, give some idea of the part played by those Battalions of the Assam Rifles which had the privilege of taking part in the actual fighting, but it would be invidious to omit the 5th Battalion which did sterling, though possibly not such spectacular, work behind the lines in training recruits for the other four units. Many difficulties arose as regards accommodation, etc., and many improvisations had to be made, but I am sure that all Commandants will agree with me in placing in its true perspective the work done by Lieutenant Colonel R. Booth and his officers in supplying their demands.

Before closing this note I would like to record some of the other activities of the Assam Rifles which, now that hostilities have ceased, are no longer on the secret list.

Apart from such specialists as signallers whose services were fully utilised by the army, mention must be made of the men provided for Psychological Warfare units which played such a useful part in helping to disorganise the enemy. Such was the success of the few men whom we were able to spare as protective troops to this end that at the height of the fighting in Manipur and the Naga Hills a further and insistent demand was made for half a Battalion for this purpose. This demand had unfortunately, for obvious reasons, to be resisted but the compliment remains.

Again, a number of men of the 3rd Battalion were employed to protect the long chain of American Observer posts on the Assam-Burma border. These isolated posts were fed for two years or more from the air and their work was quietly and efficiently carried out in complete harmony with our Allies.

The Assam Rifles have had a strenuous three years of war and the Province has every justification for taking pride in their achievements. I would like to add my own appreciation of this fine corps and to express my own personal pride in having been associated in some small way with its administration. Most of the credit must go to past and present Commandants and Assistant Commandants for the spirit and efficiency displayed by all Battalions which rose so nobly to the occasion at so critical a time.

The list of awards given below covers the whole period of the war on the Eastern Frontier and includes certain awards already brought to notice in previous reports. Although probably not complete, it is, as far as can be ascertained, up-to-date at the time that this report is being written.

M. B. E. (Mily.)

T/Lt.-Colonel G. A. E. Keene, I.A., Commandant, 3rd Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Subedar Ratna Bahadur Limbu, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Sub-Major Singbahadur Rai, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles.

M. C.

Capt. G. St. G. T. Allen (E.C. 198) 3rd Battalion, Assam Rifles (for services in the Middle East).
Subedar Asurdhan Rai ... 1st Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Subedar Uttam Singh Chhetri ... 3rd " " "
Jemadar Kharka Bahadur Limbu... 3rd " " "
Jemadar Deb Sing Chhetri ... 1st " " "

O. B. I. (2nd Class with the title of Bahadur).

Subedar Major Sardar Bahadur Sukraj Limbu, 4th Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Subedar Major Sardar Bahadur Balbahadur Gurung, 3rd Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Subedar Major Sardar Sahib Shamsheer Gurung, 1st Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Subedar Major Gauri Sing Cachari 5th " " "

I. O. M. (2nd class).

Subedar Bindraman Rai ... 3rd Battalion, Assam Rifles.

M. M.

No. 25637/3	Hav. Chandra Bahadur Thapa	2nd	Battalion, Assam	Rifles.
No. 32120	L/NK. Yangra Songba	3rd	" "	" "
No. 31168	L/NK. Tilbahadur Gurung	3rd	" "	" "
No. 44419	L/NK. Dhanbahadur Thapa	4th	" "	" "
No. 45219	L/NK. Bombahadur Chhetri	4th	" "	" "
No. 32495	Rfn. Kharkabahadur Chhetri	3rd	" "	" "
No. 44970	" Pathar Sing Limbu	4th	" "	" "
No. 31333	" Rupdhoz Limbu	3rd	" "	" "
No. 27222	" Dhoi Bahadur Rai	2nd	" "	" "
No. 32265	" Jankhothang Kuki	3rd	" "	" "
No. 43853	" Balbahadur Newar	4th	" "	" "
No. 44801	" Dakbahadur Limbu	4th	" "	" "

I. D. S. M.

Jemadar Indra Bahadur Pun	...	3rd	Battalion, Assam	Rifles.
No. 43147	Hav. Manbahadur Chhetri	4th	" "	" "
No. 30172	Hav. Asbahadur Gurung	3rd	" "	" "
No. 13564	Hav. Aishore Rai	1st	" "	" "
No. 13755	Hav. Lal Sing Rana	1st	" "	" "
No. 44180	NK. Pahalsing Gurung	4th	" "	" "
No. 43732	NK. Singbir Lama	4th	" "	" "
No. 43843	NK. Dhanbahadur Ghale	4th	" "	" "
No. 43845	NK. Narbahadur Rai	4th	" "	" "

No. 44151 L/NK.	Monbahadur Gurung	4th Battalion, Assam Rifles.
No. 43077 L/NK.	Aituram Limbu	4th " " "
No. 44759 L/NK.	Dilaram Mall	4th " " "
No. 44358 Rfn.	Jainarain Limbu	4th " " "
No. 43790 "	Nguljam Kuki	4th " " "
No. 32190 "	Gandharu Rajbangshi.	3rd " " "

Bar to I.D.S.M.

No. 43077 NK.	Aitu Ram Limbu	4th " " "
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B.E.M.

No. 24461 Hav.	Dharmasing Gurung	2nd " " "
No. 24996 "	Bombahadur Pun	2nd " " "
No. 25531 "	Imansing Gurung	2nd " " "
No. 25962 NK.	Gyanbahadur Rai	2nd " " "
No. 26848 L/NK.	Manichand Rai	2nd " " "
No. 26038 Compounder	Hav. Sonam Lama.	2nd " " "

Certificate of gallantry

No. 32610 Rfn.	Amarbahadur Rai	3rd " " "
No. 44808 "	Sunkhugin Kuki	4th " " "
No. 44448 "	Deobahadur Gurung	4th " " "

Commendation Card

Lt. P.P.P. Hutchins	...	2nd " " "
Subedar Ratna Bahadur Limbu	...	2nd " " "
No. 24461 Hav.	Dharamsing Gurung	2nd " " "
No. 24996 "	Bombahadur Pun	2nd " " "
No. 25531 "	Imansingh Gurung	2nd " " "
No. 25962 NK.	Gyanbahadur Rai	2nd " " "
No. 43340 "	Dhanbahadur Chhetri	4th " " "
No. 26848 L/NK.	Manichand Rai	2nd " " "
No. 26038 Compounder	Hav. Sonam Lama	2nd " " "
No. 44759 Rfn.	Dilaram Mall	4th " " "

Name mentioned in despatches

T/Lt.-Colonel R. Booth (I.A.266), Commandant.	5th Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Major H.N. Irwin, M.C. (I.A. 330)	Late Commandant, 2nd Battalion Assam Rifles.
T/Lt. Colonel G.A.E. Keene, M.B.E., Commandant.	3rd Battalion Assam Rifles.
Major C.G. Cuerden (I.A. 254)	Late Commandant, 1st Battalion, Assam Rifles.
Lt. M.K. Smith, E.C.O.	3rd Battalion, Assam Rifles
Subedar Eljapao Kuki	4th " " "
Subedar Nakulman Rai	4th " " "
Subedar Bahadur Chandra Uzir	2nd " " "
Subedar Nainsing Chettri	1st " " "
Jemadar Amarbahadur Gurung	2nd " " "

Jemadar Bhimdal Chettri	...	...	4th	Battalion	Assam	Rifles.
Jemadar Dhanbahadur Thapa	...	...	4th	"	"	"
Jemadar Kharkabhadur Limbu	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 25531 Hav. Imansing Gurung	...	...	2nd	"	"	"
No. 31179 " Dhansuba Gurung	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 43210 " Dhanraj Gurung	...	...	4th	"	"	"
No. 30817 " Indrabahadur Gurung	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 43147 " Manbahadur Chettri	...	...	4th	"	"	"
No. 25892 " Birbahadur Limbu	...	...	2nd	"	"	"
No. 13616 " Jaigopalsing Lama	...	...	1st	"	"	"
No. 13496 " Umansing Thapa	...	...	1st	"	"	"
No. 25594 " Ratiram Mech	...	...	2nd	"	"	"
No. 30887 " Bhowan Sing Gurung	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 31174 NK. (Actg. Hav.) Dhansuba Gurung	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 13875 " Rambahadur Rai	...	...	1st	"	"	"
No. 31382 " Bhimbahadur Thapa	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 31990 L/NK. Phulsing Thapa	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 31652 " Deochand Thapa	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 32257 " Hemkhorie Kuki	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 31056 " Gumai Burra	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 31241 " Tahalsing Rana	...	...	3rd	"	"	"
No. 43156 Rfn. Lalsing	...	...	4th	"	"	"
No. 27131 " Amos Ao	...	...	2nd	"	"	"
No. 26730 " Chatrabahadur Rai	...	...	2nd	"	"	"
No. 15038 " Liantluanga	...	...	1st	"	"	"
No. 32267 " Donpung Kuki	...	...	3rd	"	"	"

9. *Miscellaneous*.—Escorts and other detachments were furnished by the Assam Rifles as necessity demanded.

Commendations

It would be invidious to single out any particular Commandant for special mention when all, in their various ways, contributed so much to the common cause of defeating the enemy. Situations arose almost daily, as the tide of war advanced and receded, which necessitated courage, sound judgment, quick decisions and, above all, tact and I am happy to record that no one was found wanting.

As regards Assistant Commandants I, for my own part, would specially bring to notice the excellent service rendered by Major G. Byron, A. I. R. O. of the 2nd Battalion who succeeded to the command of that unit at the end of the year.

Commandants have also brought to my notice the names of the following British Officers, Indian Officers and other ranks for good service rendered during the year, which I fully endorse.

British Officers

2nd Battalion—Major N. MacLeod.
3rd " —Captain M. K. Smith.
" " D. A. Cleland.

Indian Officers and other ranks

1st Battalion—Sardar Sahib Sub-Major Shamsher Gurung.

Subedar Nainsing Chettri.
 „ Dasrath Rai.
 „ Asurdhan Rai, M. C.
 Jemadar Debsing Chettri, M. C.
 Accountant Jamini Mohan Pal.
 Sub-clerk Ronald Roy Diengdoh.

2nd Battalion—Subedar Major Singbahadur Rai.

Subedar Ratnabahadur Limbu.
 „ Raghubir Thapa.
 „ Bahadur Chandra Uzir.
 Jemadar Gohinram Kachari.
 „ Bharatman Gurung.
 „ Ramlal Gurung.
 „ Amarbahadur Gurung.
 „ Chandrabahadur Gurung.
 Havildar Chandrabahadur Thapa.
 „ Ratiram Mech.
 „ Birbahadur Limbu.
 „ Jitman Tamang.
 „ Deshbahadur Limbu.
 „ Ranjitsing Thapa.
 Riflemen Dhojbahadur Rai.
 „ Chhatrabahadur Rai
 „ Amos Ao.
 Head Clerk, Joy Chandra De Roy.

3rd Battalion—Sardar Bahadur Sub-Major Balbahadur Gurung.

Subedar Uttamsing Chettri, M. C.
 Jemadar Kharkabahadur Limbu, M. C.
 „ Shetulal Chettri.
 „ Thepsing Limbu.
 Head Clerk, Prasanna Hari Das Gupta.
 Accountant, Satya Ranjan De.

4th Battalion—Subedar Major, Tintai Lama.

Transport Jemadar, Dhanbahadur Limbu.
 Havildar Major, Nandalal Newar.
 Head Clerk, Anil Chandra Datta.

5th Battalion—Subedar Major, Randhoj Gurung.

Jemadar, Debilal Newar.
 Accountant, Rabindra Kumar Purkayastha.

Education.—As reported last year the Boys and Girls Schools in the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions, remained closed owing to the evacuation of families. The boys of the 3rd Battalion were sent to the 5th Battalion to continue their training. The education of boys and girls of the 2nd and 5th Battalion continued as usual. There being no Girls' School in the 2nd Battalion the girls attended the Mission School in Sadiya.

Educational training of all Battalions was interfered with to some extent, particularly in the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions owing to operations and military duties. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd class certificate examinations were held in the 2nd, 4th and 5th Battalions. The results of the 1st class certificate of education in the 2nd Battalion were unsatisfactory, due to the fact that the examination papers set by the Army Educational authorities were of rather too high a standard. The results of the other examinations were very satisfactory.

Fifty seven men of the Police were deputed to the 5th Battalion to undergo training in certain subjects, *viz.*, Section Commanders' and Platoon Commanders' duties, Bugling and in Signal and Wireless procedure.

The work of the Motor Transport and Pack Transport establishments were excellent throughout the year under all conditions of war and weather. In the 1st Battalion 3 more Dodge 15 Cwt. and 3 Motor Cycles were issued on the authority of 14th Army. It is to be regretted that all the 3rd Battalion, Pack Transport and all Motor Transport except two lorries were lost owing to enemy action.

All departmental and Public Works Department buildings of the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions were kept in a good state of repair. Some of the buildings were occupied by Army units. As a result of enemy action the buildings of 3rd Battalion were either extensively damaged or destroyed, while those of the 4th Battalion which had received damage in previous years were still in much the same state, although occupied by the Army.

The 2nd and 5th Battalions were provided with Wireless sets during the year under report. Certain personnel were trained at Jubbulpore in the maintenance of these sets.

Relations between the Assam Rifles and the Army and the Civil population were excellent.

Finance

	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
Assam Rifles ...	22,74	20,78	27,62

Out of the amount of Rs. 27,62,638, the sum of Rs. 8,26,410 is debitable to Central Civil Estimates and Rs. 19,36,228 to the Defence Services estimates. The figures for 1944-45 are preliminary and are therefore liable to variation.

The increase is due to the introduction of the Army rates of pay and allowances, increase in strength of the British Officers and in the cost of contingency articles.

The allocation of the cost between the Central Civil Estimates and the Defence Services Estimates has led to some complication in the maintenance of accounts for the Assam Rifles.

R. C. R. CUMMING,

Inspector General of Police, Assam.

STATEMENT (D) I

Showing the strength and cost of the Assam Rifles in the year 1944

Battalion	District	Sanctioned strength of Assam Rifles Force							Cost of Assam Rifles			Vacancies on 31st December 1944		Remarks
		Number of Commandants	Number of Assistant Commandants	Number of Subedars and Jemadars	Number of Havildars and Naiks	Number of Sepoys (including buglers)	Total	Total number mounted (Columns 4 to 6)	Total pay of all ranks	All other expenditure	Total cost	Officers	Non-Commissioned Officers and men	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1st (Lushai Hills) Battalion.	Lushai Hills	1	6	18*	92	850	967	..	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			The strength excludes Non-Commissioned Officer Compounders, supernumeraries and recruit boys. *Excludes two additional Jemadars sanctioned temporarily, vide Government of India's letter No. 28(b)-E/43, dated the 12th July 1943.
2nd (Lakhimpur) Battalion.	Sadiya Frontier Tract.	1	6	18	92	850	967	..						
3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion.	Naga Hills ..	1	6	18*	92	850	967	..	23,12,573	4,50,065	27,62,638			
4th Battalion ..	Manipur ..	1	6	18*	92	850	967	..						
5th Battalion ..	Balipara Frontier Tract.	1	3	10	48	422	484	..						
	Total ..	5	27	82	416	3,822	4,352	..	23,12,573	4,50,065	27,62,638			

N. B.—The above is under the re-organisation scheme sanctioned with effect from the 1st June 1943.



