

MAHARAJAH TROOPS HIS COLOURS WITH LORD MOUNTBATTEN

With the dust laid in the streets, Bikaner's capital turns out in force to give a royal welcome to India's Governor-General. First to greet him at Hal airport is the Maharajah of Bikaner. One of Lord Louis' staff in Burma, they meet as old friends. Only the family needs introduction. The cheerful Maharajah gives details of their characters, and Lady Mountbatten gives some practical assistance to a thirsty one. Bikaner's hundred year old citadel is the first scene of duty of the distinguished visitor. Here the State Forces, are assembled for review. War veterans all, the force is the Maharajah's pride and joy. Although technically allied to the Delhi Government, he still retains command of his own troops.

Lord Mountbatten takes the salute, recognising in regiments that pass before him the history of India under the British Raj.

Bikaner's Camel Corps gave service to the old Queen Express, saw service in the Boxer rebellion, and fought in the last war as long range patrol force in the deserts.

At lovely Gajner Lake, the Maharajah shows the easy side of life in his domain. Grouse shooting is his favourite pastime.

An excellent shot, the Governor-General proves able to do full justice to the opportunity and the Maharajah, holder of the world's record bag of grouse - can count it as a fairly useful day.