



DEDICATION OF THE NATIONAL STANDARD

of the

CHINDITS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

at

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL, STAFFORDSHIRE, U.K.

on

SUNDAY 17th JUNE, 1973

3.30 p.m.



3897/2

The Chindit Standard being received by the Right Rev. G. E. Holderness, E.R.D., M.A., Dean of Lichfield, from the Standard Bearer, ex-private K. Batley, Major General S. A. Cooke, C.B., O.B.E., President of the Association looks on. Also in the picture, Escort to the Standard Mr. E. Smout and, on the extreme right, the Rev. A. E. L. E. Noble, Hon. Chaplain to the Chindits Old Comrades Association.



3997/3

The Standard Bearer, K. Balley, escorted by F. Heighway and E. Smout, prepare to slow march down the centre aisle of the Cathedral to hand over the Standard for Dedication. The Regimental Band of the 1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regiment, who furnished the music for the occasion, looks on.



3997/4

Ex-Chindits gather in an informal group after the Service, before forming up to march through Lichfield.



3997/7

The Chindits leave the Cathedral to march through Lichfield led by the Chairman of the Association, Lt.-Col. J. G. White, M.C., B.A., followed by Major C. Balcock, commanding the leading detachment.



3997/8

The "columns" move off led by four Brigadiers. From left to right: Brigadiers C. J. Wilkinson, D.S.O., M. J. Calvert, D.S.O., M.A., P. H. Graves-Morris, D.S.O., M.C., W. P. Scott, D.S.O., M.C.



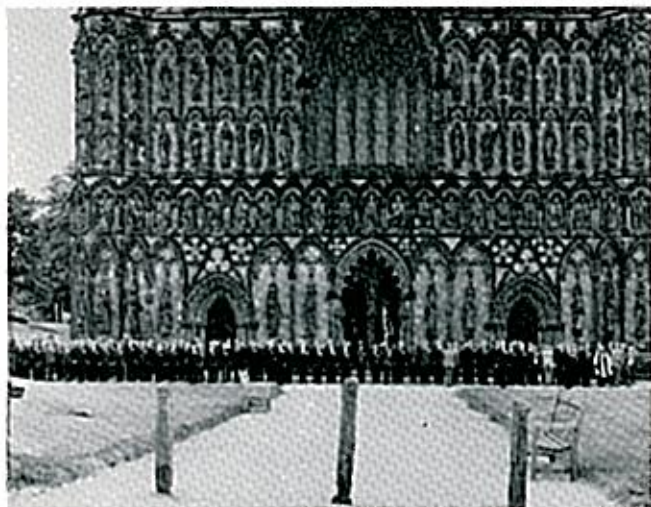
3997/25

The second detachment marches past commanded by Major A. Rallton, M.C.



3997/13

After the Parade, tea and drinks in the Guildhall, Lichfield. Captain C. J. Wingate listens to messages of goodwill read out by General Cooke; Col. E. L. Butler, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L. the Vice-President, looks on.



3997/5

The Parade forms up outside the West Door of Lichfield Cathedral.



3997/6

Ready to move off. The Honorary Secretary (with his back to the camera) marshals the parade.



3997/22

Captain D. J. Wingate, R.H.A., son of our late General takes the Salute. Accompanying him on the platform the Mayor and Sheriff of Lichfield and wives. Col. G. B. Grey, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P. (Hon. Solicitor to the Association) and also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and Mrs. Grey, General Cooke, President.



3997/23

The Chindit Standard is marched past the Saluting Base escorted by serving representatives of the Gurkhas, furnished by 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, at present stationed in the U.K., with the rear of the Escort to the Standard being brought up by Mr. Stamford Robertson, D.F.C., A.M. representing No. 1 U.S.A.A.F. Commando.



3997/15

General Cooke presents a brass replica of the Chindit emblem mounted on the Chindit Standard pike to Lt. (Q.G.O.) Om Bahadur Ghale, 10th Gurkha Rifles (P.M.O.) as a memento of the occasion, Major J. S. Lancaster, D.L., J.P., Honorary Secretary, looks on.



3997/16

Mr. Stamford Robertson, representing No. 1 U.S.A.A.F. Commando also receives a Chindit replica from General Cooke.

THE CHINDITS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

At the suggestion of our Patron, Lord Mountbatten, the various individual Old Comrades' Association organisations throughout the U.K. have now amalgamated into a single national organisation.

It was decided that there should be a National Standard, a symbol of the existence of the Association that would stand the ravages of time and would be for posterity.

A magnificent standard has been produced, hand embroidered in blue and gold silk, depicting the Chindit sign, motto and names of all the units that took part in the campaigns.

It was felt that the Dedication of the Standard should take place in the Midlands, near to our National Headquarters, and on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in June 1973 this was duly carried out at Lichfield Cathedral by the Dean.

Chindits and their families came from all over the World to be present at the Dedication Service which was also attended by representatives of the serving forces to-day who have links with the campaigns of 1942 and 1943.

After the service there was a march through Lichfield, with the salute being taken outside the Guild Hall by the son of General Wingate, Capt. O. J. Wingate, R.H.A.

Afterwards tea was served in the Guild Hall and messages of goodwill were read out by the President of the Chindits Old Comrades' Association, Major General S. A. Cooke.

It is hoped that, at an appropriate time in the future, The Chindit Standard will be laid up in Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire, U.K.