

**VOLUNTEERING IN INDIA: OR, AN  
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF THE  
MILITARY SERVICES OF  
THE BENGAL YEOMANRY CAVALRY  
DURING THE INDIAN MUTINY, AND  
SEPOY WAR. [LONDON-1893]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649730490

Volunteering in India: Or, An Authentic Narrative of the Military Services of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry During the Indian Mutiny, and Sepoy War. [London-1893] by John Tulloch Nash

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN TULLOCH NASH**

**VOLUNTEERING IN INDIA: OR, AN  
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF THE  
MILITARY SERVICES OF  
THE BENGAL YEOMANRY CAVALRY  
DURING THE INDIAN MUTINY, AND  
SEPOY WAR. [LONDON-1893]**





THE BENGAL YOMANEY CAVALRY (VOLUNTEERS) IN THE INDIAN MUTINY CAMPAIGN, 1857-58.

In Memoriam.

DEDICATED TO THE BELOVED MEMORY  
OF  
GENERAL JOSEPH NASH, C.B.,  
A MAN ESTEEMED BY ALL WITH WHOM  
HE CAME IN CONTACT, AND WHO PASSED A LIFE-LONG  
MILITARY CAREER IN SERVING HIS COUNTRY  
WITH RARE DISTINCTION AND HONOUR,  
BY  
HIS ELDEST SON, THE AUTHOR,  
LATE OF THE  
BENGAL YEOMANRY CAVALRY.



## P R E F A C E .

---

IN the following narrative an attempt has been made to relate the military services of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry during the Indian Mutiny, and Sepoy War ; and as truth lies in a small compass, so this little volume contains no fiction, nor will any conjectural narration be found in its compressed chapters of unembellished facts.

Parenthetically, it may be recorded in this place that, as the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry was the parent, or pioneer Corps, of the great Patriotic Force now established and consolidated in England, it is entitled to claim the proud distinction of having undeniably originated the modern Volunteer movement throughout the British Empire, and this narrative will tend to show that the Corps was worthy of that proud position.

Although more than thirty years have elapsed since the "transitory regiment" passed away with the shifting tide of events, the subjoined narrative is the legitimate offspring of my manuscript journal, kept with diligence and care at the time when the various movements, scenes, and actions it describes occurred.

Nevertheless, the mere fact of my having kept this



journal as a sealed book up to the present day, conclusively proves that I never intended to publish its contents, nor did I anticipate ever being asked by the gallant survivors (there are, alas ! few now left) of my late fellow-volunteers to allow it to be published. They, however, see that a Volunteer Age has dawned upon the world since the eventful year 1857 ; and lest in the gigantic strides of the general movement the eminent services they rendered to their country in the darkest days of the Mutiny fade into oblivion, and be lost to them altogether, they naturally seek a descriptive record—an authoritative biography, as it were—to perpetuate the military operations in which they were engaged. I have accordingly traced an unassuming sketch of those familiar operations ; and my readers must never lose sight of the fact that the Government Gazetted records—which are quoted in this plain, unvarnished narrative—substantiate, in every detail, the veracity of every paragraph I have written. And as regards all that concerns the rough composition of my pages, I have to ask some forbearance, for they but reflect, as in a glass, the contents of a journal penned not merely in the days of my youth, but also amid the interminable stir of a Mutiny never likely to be forgotten by those who bore the first shock of it, and passed through its fearful horrors.

LONDON, 1893.

# VOLUNTEERING IN INDIA.

---

## CHAPTER I.

1857 are figures indelibly dyed in blood, and their sanguinary impression stamps one of the most cruel, and sorrowful pages in the history of the world.

In that disastrous year of the Indian Mutiny—which even to the present day continues to furnish authentic material for the revelation of almost unknown episodes appertaining to that memorable period—the following abstract of Notification No. 931, dated July 23rd, 1857, was published by the Government of India :—

“The Governor-General in Council has reason to know that there are in Calcutta, Bengal, and the North-West Provinces many Englishmen whose peaceable avocations have been interrupted by the disturbed state of the country, and who, although in no way connected with the Government, are willing and eager to give an active support to its authority at the present time by sharing service in the Field with the troops of the Queen, and of the East India Company.

“The Governor-General in Council has thorough confidence in the loyalty, courage, and enterprising zeal of the community

to which he refers, and he is satisfied that service rendered in the spirit in which they are ready to give it will be most valuable to the State.

“With the view of availing himself of such service in the most effectual manner, his Lordship in Council directs that a Volunteer Corps of cavalry be formed, to be called the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, and to be equipped and prepared for duty in the disturbed districts,” etc., etc.

At this critical time of national gloom, when there was mourning throughout the length and breadth of England, and Upper India was saturated with the innocent blood of our hapless fellow-countrymen, Volunteers—amid great demonstrations of enthusiasm—cheerfully responded to the appeal contained in the above-quoted notification, and within a week of its publication a cavalry regiment—composed not of “European adventurers and Eurasians,” as was at first surmised, but of young military officers recently arrived from England, or those left idle by the mutiny of their regiments, of clerks in the Government and mercantile offices, of midshipmen belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental and other companies’ ships, of indigo planters, of some unemployed Europeans and Eurasians, of young men related to the best families in the country; and most of these were excellent riders, good shots, and keen sportsmen—was actually formed, mounted, equipped, and ready for service in the field.

Accordingly, on an appointed day, at an early hour the Corps rode forth, and drew up on the Calcutta esplanade for inspection by the Governor-General.