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Today I'm just quotating someone's words. Let's see how many of us recognise this man.

Real Hero of Bharat!

At about 2.30 in the afternoon, General Sir Roy Bucher walked into my room and said, "Eh, you, go and pick up your toothbrush. You are going to Srinagar with V P Menon. The flight will take off at about 4 o'clock". I said, "why me, sir?"

We are worried about the military situation. V P Menon is going there to get the accession from the Maharaja. I flew in with V P Menon in a Dakota. Wng Cdr Dewan, was also there. But his job did not have anything to do with assessing the military situation.



He was sent by the Air Force because it was the Air Force which was flying us in.

Since I was in the Directorate of Military Operations, and was responsible for current operations all over India, West Frontier, the Punjab, etc, I knew what the situation in Kashmir was.

I knew that the tribesmen had come in - initially only the tribesmen - supported by the Pakistanis. Fortunately for us, and for Kashmir, they were busy raiding, raping all along. In Baramulla they killed Colonel Dykes.

Tom and his wife were holidaying in Baramulla when the tribesmen killed them.

The Maharaja's forces were 50% Muslim & 50% Dogra. The Muslim elements had revolted and joined the Pakistani forces. This was the broad military situation.

THE TRIBESMEN WERE BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 7-9 KMS FROM SRINAGAR. I was sent in to get the precise military situation. The army knew that if we had to send soldiers, we would have to fly them in.

Therefore, a few days before, we had made arrangements for aircraft and for soldiers to be ready.

But we couldn't fly them in until the state of Kashmir had acceded to India.

From the political side, Sardar Patel and V P Menon had been dealing with Mahajan and the Maharaja, and the idea was that V.P Menon would get the accession, I would bring back the military appreciation and report to the government.

The troops were already at the airport, ready to be flown in. Air Chief Marshall Elmhurst was the air chief and he had made arrangements for the aircraft from civil and military sources.

Anyway, we were flown in.

We went to Srinagar. We went to the palace. I have never seen such disorganisation in my life.

The Maharaja was coming out of one room, & going into another saying, "Alright, if India doesn't help, I will go & join my troops and fight (it) out".



I couldn't restrain myself, & said, "That will raise their morale sir".

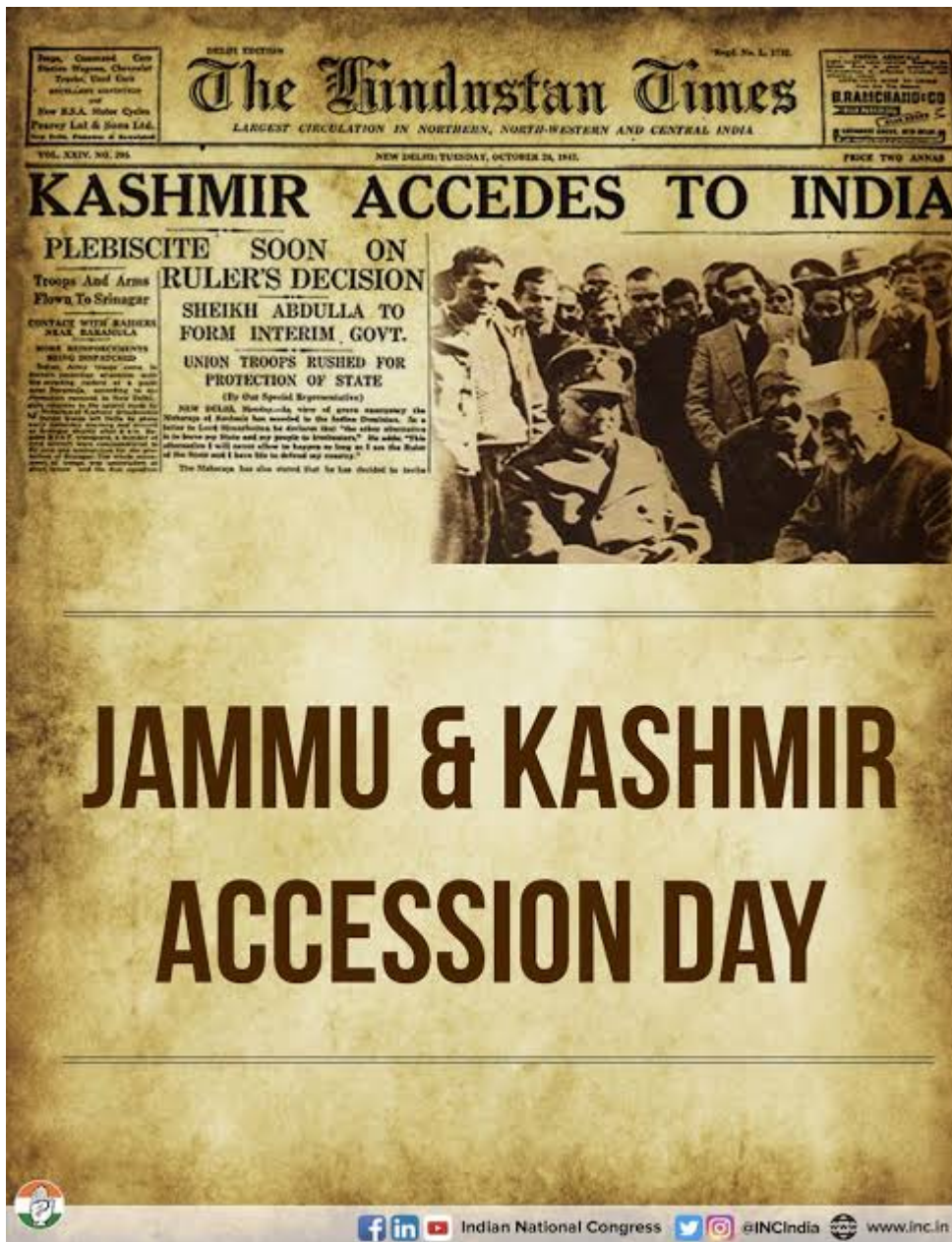
Eventually, I also got the military situation from everybody around us, asking what the hell was happening, & discovered that the tribesmen were about 7-9 km from what was then that horrible little airfield.

V P Menon was in the meantime discussing with Mahajan and the Maharaja. Eventually the Maharaja signed the accession papers and we flew back in the Dakota late at night.

On arriving at Delhi, the first thing I did was to go and report to Sir Roy Bucher.

He said, "Eh, you, go and shave and clean up. There is a cabinet meeting at 9 o'clock. I will pick you up and take you there." So I went home, shaved, dressed, etc. and Roy Bucher picked me up, and we went to the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting was presided by Mountbatten. There was Jawaharlal Nehru, there was Sardar Patel, there was Sardar Baldev Singh. There were other ministers whom I did not know and did not want to know, because I had nothing to do with them.



At the morning meeting V P Menon handed over the accession. Mountbatten turned around and said, "come on Manekji, what is the military situation?"

I gave him the military situation, and told him THAT UNLESS WE FLEW IN TROOPS IMMEDIATELY, WE WOULD HAVE LOST SRINAGAR.



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Afridi Invaders Within 30 Miles Of Srinagar

Coercion, No Solution GANDHIJI ON EVENTS IN KASHMIR

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26. Mahatma Gandhi in his post-prayer speech today, assured his audience that he was aware of the happenings in Kashmir as far as the newspapers gave the news. If the newspaper reports were correct, the happenings in Kashmir were certainly bad, he said. The charge was that the Pakistan Government was coercing Kashmir to join Pakistan. No one could coerce Kashmir or for that matter Hyderabad or little Junagadh or any other state into joining one or the other dominion. What was the solution? He hoped he put it to all his Rajas and Maharajas that they were not the real rulers of their states. The present crises were the creation of British imperialism. The British power had quelled India. The real rulers of all the states were their people and their wish must be supreme. The Rajas and Maharajas would remain only as trustees. The people of Kashmir would decide without any coercion or show of force, within or without, which dominion to which to belong. The rule was of universal application.

Gandhi said that he had received a telegram from Calcutta saying that there, there and it had passed off most peacefully. In Calcutta, a small boat had been raised during his stay there. The telegram said that Gandhi was working strenuously in that behalf. They had sent their members to that place and there too, there was no trouble. They should not try to do this and everywhere else follow in the footsteps of Calcutta. Some Ministers had been to see him during the day. He was the friend of all and, therefore, he would not allow anyone to come to him. He wished those Minister friends to Maharaja, but his heart was heavy in the matter of coercion. Confidently Mahatma Gandhi said he had received a telegram from the Maharaja.

"Mess" Created But Military Situation Well In Hand

Kashmir Premier in Delhi: Attends High Level Conference

V. P. Menon Back in Capital: Reports to Cabinet

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

It is learnt that the situation in Kashmir province is serious as the Afridi tribal column which invaded the State is within 30 miles of Srinagar.

While from a purely military point of view the State authorities are believed to have the situation "well in hand" it is recognised that the invading marauders have succeeded in creating a "mess."

The Premier of Kashmir, Mr. Meherchand Mahajan, arrived here today and attended a high-level conference at which, it is believed, he asked for aid from the Indian Dominion to meet the threat to law and order in the State.

Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary of the Indian States' Ministry, who returned from Srinagar today reported to the Cabinet the

ELECTION FOR SEAT IN SECURITY COUNCIL

India & S. American Delegations Confer

MRS. PANDIT EXPLAINS POSITION

LAKE SUCCESS (New York), Oct. 26.

Talks are still proceeding between the Indian and South American delegations here concerning the election for the last seat in the Security Council.

It is understood from reliable sources that since South American delegations in discussions with Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the Indian delegate, raised certain questions against voting for India.

One objection is believed to be the fear, among Latin Americans, that India is too closely linked with Britain in the political sense, which would allegedly give Britain an extra vote in the Security Council.

India's reply is understood to have been strong in emphasizing that India is not a member of any "bloc" and is always prepared to vote on any issue according to its interests and in accordance primarily with the Indian standpoint.

Well-informed circles emphasize that although these conversations are going on, they do not necessarily indicate that some Latin American delegations are prepared to break their agreement with Russia and switch their vote from the Chinese to India.

The election issue is expected to come up again about Oct. 28—Reuters.

TEMPLE-ENTRY BILL FOR MYSORE

Chief Minister's Assurance (From Our Staff Correspondent)

BANGALORE, Oct. 27. Replying to telegrams by the Friends Union, Yewawarwarwarwar, last evening Mr. K. C. Reddy, Chief Minister of Mysore said that as soon as possible a bill providing for temple-entry in the State would be introduced. Welfare of Harijans he added would engage the serious attention of the new Ministry Messrs. P. R. Narayana Murthy and Chandrasekharendra (two other Ministers) were also mentioned on the occasion.

"WORK FOR SERVICE, NEVER FOR POWER"

Gandhiji's Message

The A.P.I. adds: Mahatma Gandhi has sent a message to the newly-formed Popular Ministry of Mysore.

In a telegram addressed to Mr. H. C. Danappa, a Member of the Cabinet, Gandhiji said: "Here you will work for service and never for power."

A reference to this message was made by the Prime Minister Mr. K. C. Reddy addressing a public meeting this evening when he continued with the Harijan children. Mr. Reddy assured the people that his cabinet would work according to the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Prime Minister expressed his firm conviction that a nation and its destiny are essential for the preservation of the freedom of this country.

Mr. K. T. Raghaviah, another member of the Mysore Cabinet, has received a message of congratulations from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Minister of India.

**NEW MYSORE MINISTRY TO
BEGIN WORK ON OCT. 27**

Going by road would take days, and once the tribesmen got to the airport and Srinagar, we couldn't fly troops in. Everything was ready at the airport.

AS USUAL NEHRU TALKED ABOUT THE United Nations, Russia, Africa, God almighty, everybody, until Sardar Patel lost his temper.

He said, "Jawaharlal, do you want Kashmir, or do you want to give it away". Nehru said, "Of course, I want Kashmir". Then Patel said "Please give your orders".

AND BEFORE NEHRU COULD SAY ANYTHING SARDAR PATEL TURNED TO ME AND SAID, "YOU HAVE GOT YOUR ORDERS".

INDIAN TROOPS ROLLING BACK KASHMIR REBELS

**'Save Kashmir
From Invader'**

LEADER'S CALL

**"Coercion" Move
Denounced**

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

Kashmir is in dire peril, and the first duty of every Kashmiri is to defend his motherland against the intruder, declares Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmir leader, who left for Srinagar today, in a statement. The "invasion" of Kashmir is tantamount to coercion and compels the people of Kashmir to act in a particular way, namely, to accede to Pakistan. Sheikh Abdullah says every Kashmiri resents this coercion on his will. The Kashmir National Conference has stood for responsible government in the State under the leadership of His Highness the Maharaja, the statement points out. We have fought for our freedom, suffered for it, and we had expected that in the new order we would achieve our objective. It was from conviction that before any

**Delhi Rushes Military
Aid By Air**

**STATE'S ACCESSION TO
UNION ACCEPTED**

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, October 27.

KASHMIR has acceded to the Indian Dominion, and the Government of India have rushed troops to Srinagar to help the Kashmir Government restore peace and order in the State.

The sky was thick with Dakotas over Palam aerodrome in New Delhi this morning, and by the afternoon Indian troops were already in action in Kashmir State territory, beating back the raiders.

Indian troops were despatched in response to urgent appeals for military assistance from both the Maharaja and Sheikh Abdulla, the leader of the influential people's organisation in the State.

Reports of the military situation around Srinagar received today are reassuring. Indian troops and the State forces, assisted by the National Conference,

I walked out, and we started flying in troops at about 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock. I think it was the Sikh regiment under Ranjit Rai that was the first lot to be flown in. And then we continued flying troops in. Then all the fighting took place.

This excerpt is taken from Kashmir 1947, Rival versions of History, by Prem Shankar Jha.

And the person I quoted was none other than Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, India's greatest military commander.