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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".

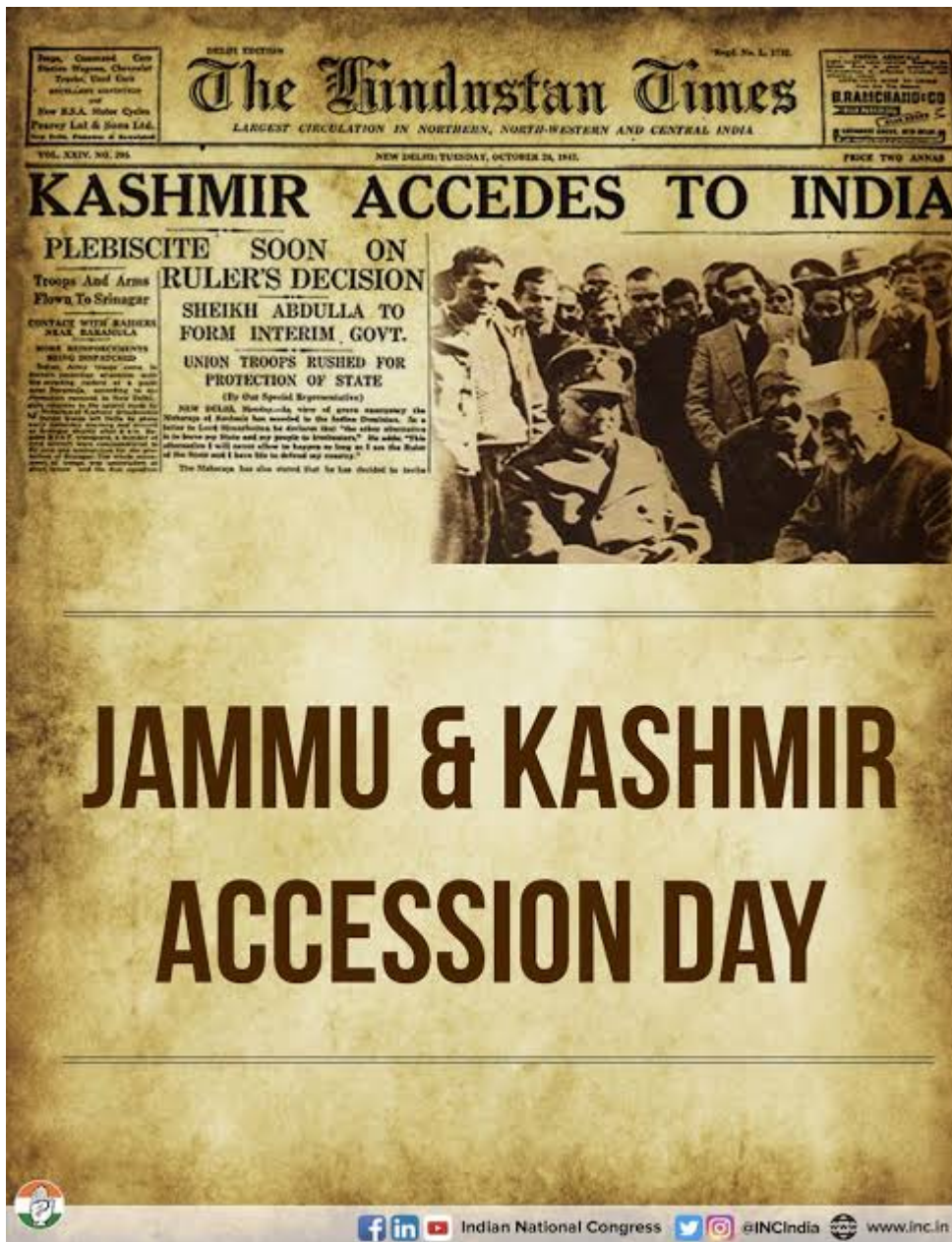
Eventually, I also got the military situation from everybody around us, asking what the hell was happening, & discovered that the tribesmen were about 7-9 km from what was then that horrible little airfield.

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.

REGD. NO. M. 2776. MORNING.

The
Indian Express

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Coercion, No Solution GANDHIJI ON EVENTS IN KASHMIR

**NEW MYSORE MINISTRY TO
BEGIN WORK ON OCT. 22**

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 meant to coerce and compel 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 rule of His Highness the Maharaja, the statement points out. We have fought for our freedom, suffered for it, and we had hoped 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.