

HENRY DALLAL'S HORSE WARRIORS INDIA'S 61ST CAVALRY

By Bridget McArdle McKinney



HENRY DALLAL, A PHOTOGRAPHÉR **FAVOURED BY** ROYALTY WORLDWIDE. HAS PRODUCED A **MOVING TRIBUTE IN** PICTURES TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LAST MOUNTED CAVALRY **REGIMENTS - INDIA'S 61ST CAVALRY** REGIMENT IN HIS IMPRESSIVE PORTFOLIO OF PHOTOGRAPHS, **"HORSE WARRIORS -**INDIA'S 61ST CAVALRY" BUT THIS IS NOT ONLY A TRIBUTE TO INDIA'S 61ST CAVALRY REGIMENT, IT'S TO INDIA AND HER WONDERS AND MOODS.

His interest in cavalry pageantry and mounted regimental life was set in motion serendipitously when he first saw the Household Cavalry sweep by on the Knightsbridge road outside his home in London. He returned some time later to record the Cavalry, its ceremonial duties, and the daily life of what he calls the "tribe". This led to the publication of his first book "Pageantry and Performance" in 2003. His latest award winning book takes us on a journey to Jaipur, the home of the 61st Regiment. The Regiment was created in 1953 at the behest of Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru amalgamating the various state mounted units which existed at that time. Today the regiment includes 273 mounts, purpose bred at the Babugarh Stud Farm.

The Regiment performs ceremonial duties as well as mounted border patrols and to keep equestrian skills at peak undertakes extensive training in all aspects of military horsemanship. In this as in all things Regiment, discipline reigns. Equine sport also keeps skills keen. The Regiment's polo team is at the top of the sport in India and around the polo-playing world.

Through fabulous photography contained in this book, we see the Regiment in all its pomp and ceremonial regalia, and its routine daily camp life, rigorous training, and loving care of the horses and learn the history of the Regiment. But we also discover the Indian traditional horse markets in the Thar Desert, the equine culture of Ladakh, and the legendary Nihang warriors of the Punjab with their unique Marwari horses.

Dallal's photographs range from crisp formal portraiture and still photos to the dizzying flash of a Regimental charge in silhouette at sunset; the smoky fires at the Thar horse market at dawn to the abstract forms of horses at Babugarh Stud, looking more like sand dunes than anything equine. What is quite remarkable is that all of the photographs were taken using traditional photography and not digital photography; all photos are fresh and unaltered – 220 snatches of time in motion.

Dallal is currently working on completing two photograph books: one for the horses of the Sultanate of Oman and another for Qatar. For further information regarding Dallal's photography, please see www. henrydallalphotography.com

