

DERAJAT LODGE 3206 A HISTORY

The original idea for forming this Lodge was made by British Officers whilst operating with the army in Rhodesia (circa 1904/5). It is believed that Rudyard Kipling was among those considering being a founder he being a long time friend of Lionel Dunsterville. They were considering forming under the Scottish constitution, primarily as many of the then 'would be' founders were Scottish Masons and the thought of trying to get a travelling warrant from the English Grand Lodge was considered formidable as Rhodesia operated primarily under the Scottish constitution?*

However before they could put their ideas into operation, many of the Brethren were moved to the Indian continent to assist the British army there.

The thoughts of bringing a Lodge into being were not forgotten and by 1906 a warrant had been requested from the English Grand Lodge and this was granted on December 8th of that year.

The first meeting was held at the Club House Dera Ismail Khan (DIK for short) on 21st February 1907. The Lodge was not actually Consecrated in the normal manner observed today but Inaugurated, most likely due to the lack of sufficient Senior District Grand Officers being available to fit in with the time the soldiers could meet. They usually met between 21.00 and 24.00, after the days work, in the cooler hours of the evening.

The Inaugurating Officer was the then Acting District Grand Master of Pakistan Wor Bro W. A. Bailey (President of the District Board of General Purposes Punjab), he was assisted by the Acting District Grand Wardens, Wor Bros L.C. Dunsterville and T. McKee. It should be noted that only Wor Bro Bailey was a formal District Grand Officer, the rest of the officers were the petitioners for the Lodge acting for the District.

District Grand Lodge was opened at 20.30 hours in Due and Antient form and the Lodge Warrant was presented and read. Lodge Derajat was declared constituted and after closing District Grand Lodge was opened by the Acting District Grand Master who officiated as Wor Master to install Wor Bro J Shearer as the First Worshipful Master of the Lodge Derajat 3206 (English Constitution).

The Founders were:-

Lt. Col.	Johnstone Shearer	Worshipful Master
Maj.	Lionel Charles Dunsterville	Senior Warden
Lieut.	John Liesching Grinlinton	Junior Warden
Lt. Col.	Herbert Vaughan Cox	
Capt.	Arthur Ditmus Cox	
Clr. Sergt.	Thomas McKee	
Sq. Cdr.	Arthur Edmond Tyler	
Capt.	William Francis Ellis.	

The Petition for the Lodge was recommended by Lodge 'Hope and Perseverance' no 782 and sponsored by Lodge Khyber no 528. The first Lodge Bye-laws were confirmed in open Lodge on the 10th December 1907, approved by the District Grand Master Pakistan on the 13th May 1908 and approved by the MW the Grand Master on 30th May 1908.

The Lodge was to meet 9 times a year where-ever it could, they started with the club house at Dera Ismail Khan, but as this club house was used by many people including non-masons they had to take their chances with it. Thus the Lodge met where ever it could, if the club house was not available.

By reason of being a Lodge on the North West Frontier, it followed that, generally speaking, the Lodge membership was recruited initially from amongst the British Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's of the Army. However, as can be seen from the minutes, the membership moved onto include Officers and Soldiers from the various Indian Army units with which the Lodge members came into contact.

It may also be seen that Masonry was considered universal by the founders as the Nawabzada Ahmad Nawaz Khan, then a Fellowcraft of the Mooltan Lodge 1307 EC was proposed as a joining member at the inaugural meeting. He continued as a strong and active member until the Lodge was removed back to the UK.

The Exigencies of Military life made it difficult for 'normal' regular meetings and thus the Lodge would meet at the 'stated' time and if enough members were not present or the master was absent they would pick another time and hold an 'emergent' meeting, they often held 2 or 3 emergent meetings a month.

The Records of the Lodge show that one Captain F.O. Chatwin attended one regular and three emergent meetings to receive his second degree but had to await the next regular meeting to be passed as the Lodge Master could not get to the meeting due to the operational needs of the army.

The Nawab of Dera, occasionally allowed the Lodge to meet at his residence, usually at the house reserved for his Harem. This was located at the top of a small hill and the Lodge members were requested to take their palliasses (mattresses) with them to the meeting. On the first occasion there must have been much speculation/conjecture as to why they were needed, however the room to be used at the Harem was open on three sides to the elements and the mattresses were used to block up the spaces between the pillars to casual overlooking by the Nawab's staff and family.

The Lodge was also recorded as having 'met in the open'. This usually took place in a small valley with the meeting Tyled by sending out members on horseback to the surrounding hills to watch the roads leading to the site. The Tyler(s) communicated with the Junior Warden by hand signals and mirrors, thus assuring the Master that the meeting was not overlooked.

It is also recorded as meeting in the Vedic Bhratri College DIK, Khattar Electrical Works DIK, Officers Club DIK, Church Hall DIK and the upper storey of a galvanised building in the bazaar DIK.

The Lodge continued to meet at the club house Dera Ismail Khan or Rasmak (Northern Waziristan, usually summer months) until the new Freemasons Hall was opened in Dera Ismail Khan (on the 13th April 1926), described as a 'building east of Lockhart Lines', but was actually the old guard room of the fort

originally used by the Indian Cavalry. Much of the funds to bring this hall into operation were contributed by Derajat Lodge and they also supplied the cutlery and crockery for the building, all with the Derajat motto on.

The last actual meeting held in DIK was on the 1st November 1947, a meeting called for 6th December was abandoned as only 3 members were present. By January 1948 DIK was being evacuated as a military base and only the Nawab of Dera would remain a member at DIK. The Lodge warrant was rescued by Wor Bro. C.V. Wright PDGStdBr (Punjab) and brought back to England.

The partition of the Indian continent made it very difficult for the members to meet and consider the future of the Lodge, they being returned to many different locations. Thus the Lodge did not meet again for some time, but by sterling work of Wor Bro J.C.S. Wright managed to get Lodge eight members together at Freemasons Hall London on the 1st October 1949 when it was decided to apply for a transfer of the Lodge to the UK.

Accordingly having gained a dispensation from the MW the Grand Master (UGLE) and the RW District Grand Master of the Punjab, Lodge Derajat met as a Lodge of the Punjab on the 14th January 1950 at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, 20 members were present, when it was formally resolved to remove the Lodge to England. This was granted by Grand Lodge on the 7th June 1950. However the Lodge refused to let go its connection with the Punjab and the formal toast list included the RW District Grand Master of the Punjab. This may be seen from the minutes of the first meeting following removal to London when it was resolved that:-

Proposed by Wor. Bro. V.W. Westwater and seconded by Wor. Bro. J. Lee and carried unanimously that:- although the Lodge has now been transferred to London, The Lodge should not forget that since its inauguration it has been guided by the District Grand Lodge of the Punjab and that we should continue to show our esteem and respect by including the R. W. District Grand Master of the Punjab in the toasts at the festive board.

This continued until 29th June 1967 when the then District Grand Master and his assistant attended the Lodge and they accepted Honorary membership.

The Lodge continued to meet at the Talbot restaurant until April 1970 when it transferred to the Angus Steakhouse, Regent Street. In October 1979 it moved to the London Masonic Centre Clerkenwell and thence to Mark Masons Hall in October 2003, where it currently meets..

Reading of the various minute books show that membership was very fluid during the days of the army, quite often no formal requests for resignation are shown, members just informing the mess Sargeant to close their payment of dues to the Lodge and this acted as the means of resignation. The secretary of those days must have had some problems at times to know exactly how many members there actually were. From the 'summary of meetings' it may be seen that Lodge numbers are unsure in the early days. Some of the numbers in the later years could be suspect, the records have some strange ways of calculating the membership .

Some Members of renown

Maj. L.C. Dunsterville, the Lodge Founding Senior Warden whom became Maj. Gen. Dunsterville and founder of the Dunsterforce. He became Worshipful Master in 1909 and continued on to be District Grand Master of the Punjab (in??).

He was also the school friend of to one of Derajat's regular visitors namely Rudyard Kipling. He went on to form and become founding President of The Kipling Society (one of the few societies form during the name recipient's lifetime) and whom Kipling immortalised as 'Stalky' in his work 'Stalky and Co'. The very first initiate to Derajat, proposed at the inaugural meeting was Maj George Fletcher McMunn, who went onto be Maj. Gen. Sir G. F. McMunn KCB KCSI DSO nad whom became District. Grand Master of the Punjab from 1920 to 1924.

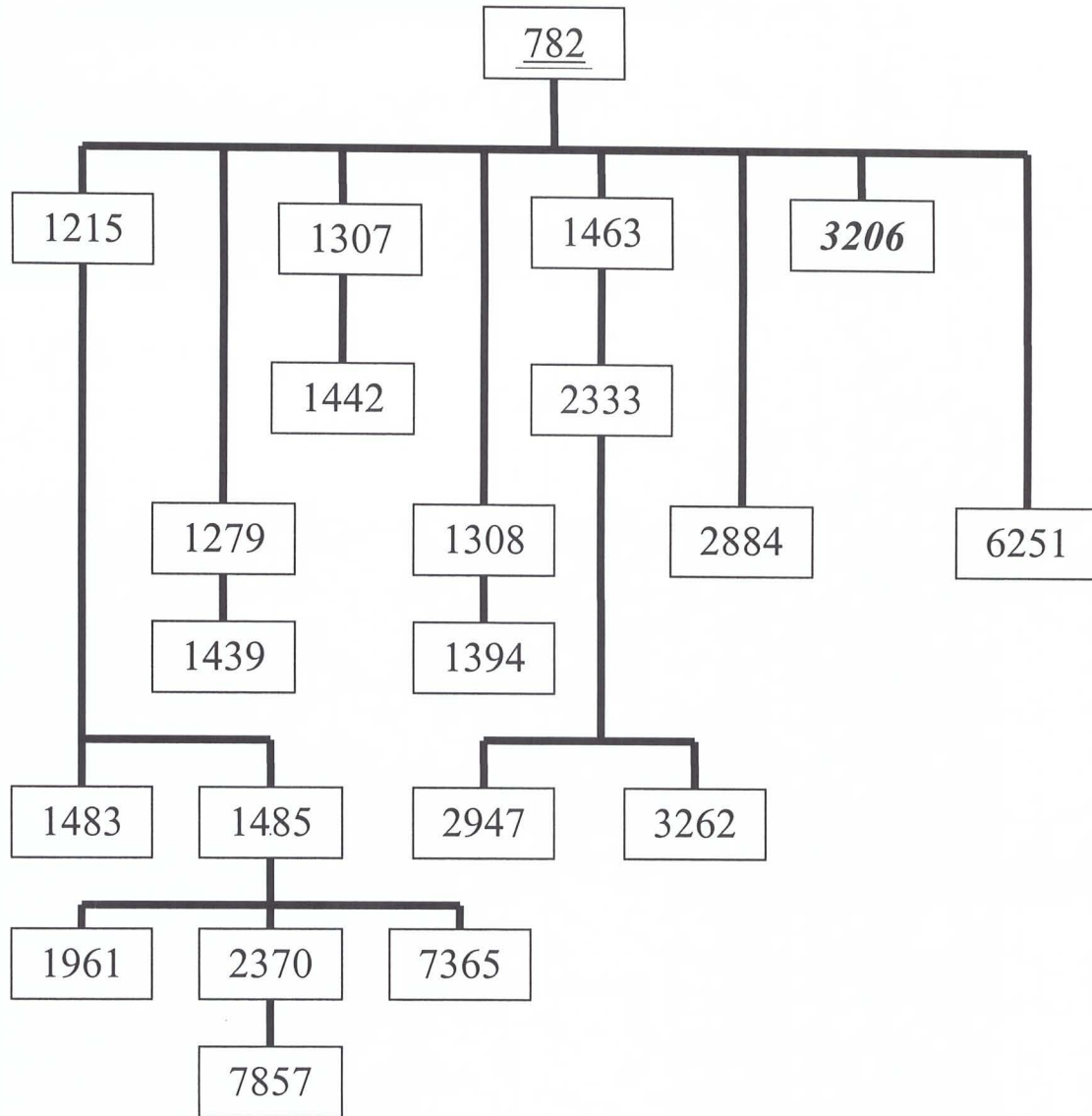
In February 1923, the Lodge initiated Capt Ross Cairns McCay of the 7th Light Cavalry, whom as Lt. Gen. Sir R.C. McCay KBE CB DSO was District Grand Master of Punjab from 1949 to 1953.

VWWestwater

MFScott

Brotehr with VC

(insert genialogy2006)



Lodge Number	Name	(Last known) Location	Notes
782	Hope and Perseverance	Anarkullee, Lahore	Merged with 1215 in 1887
1215	Ravee	Merged with 782	Warrant returned October 1887
1279	Indus Lodge	Dera Ismail Khan	Warrant returned August 1890
1307	Mooltan	Mooltan Punjab	Last met April 1970 Erased, June 1971
1308	Light of the North	Bombay	
1394	Jumna	Delhi	Joined Grand Lodge of India No 18
1439	Morning Star	Palumpore & Kangra	Erased September 1901
1442	Sutjey	Amriza (Bombay)	
1463	Northan Star	Umballa (Bombay)	Joined Grand Lodge of India No 21
1483	St John the Evangelist	Mian Mir (Lahore)	Joined Grand Lodge of India No 22
1485	Lodge of Industry	Anarkullee	
1961	Jhelum	Jhelum Rawal Pindi	Last Met July 1886, Erased 1887

1933	14	4	5	3	57
1934	7	2	1	1	56
1935	11	2	4	2	52
1936	9	3	2	3	55
1937	9	3	3	2	49
1938	15	4	5	4	51
1939	12	3	3	1	54
1940	13	4	5	5	58
1941	15	6	5	2	62
1942	19	9	7	6	51
1943	17	6	8	7	52
1944	13	5	4	5	50
Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1945	9	10	4	6	48
1946	10	3	10	5	48
1947	13	3	10	5	48

During this period, troops were evacuated from the Indian continent during partition and the Lodge went into abeyance

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1950	4	1	1		42
1951	4	1	2	1	43
1952	4	2	2	3	44
1953	5	1	2	4	39
1954	4	5	3	3	41
1955	4	5	3	3	40
1956	6	4	7	7	45
1957	6	3	3	3	47
1958	6	4	4	3	47
1959	6	3	3	4	49
1960	6	3	3	3	55
1961	6	4	2	2	57
1962	6	7	6	5	63
1963	6	3	2	3	67
1964	7	1	3	3	67
1965	6	3	5	4	69
1966	6	2	4	3	72

Lodge celebrated it's Diamond Jubilee

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1967	6	3	4	2	71
1968	6	5	4	2	73
1969	6	1	2	4	76
1970	5	1	3	1	75
1971	4	2	1	2	74
1972	4	2	3	3	73

1973	4	3	2	2	76
1974	4	2	4	2	81
1975	4	2	2	1	81
1976	4	1		2	80
1977	5	4	1	2	83
1978	5	3	3	4	80
1979	5	1	2	3	78
1980	5	2	3	1	79
1981	5	1	1	3	76
1982	5	2	2	3	70

Lodge Celebrated it's 75th Year

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1983	5		1	2	70
1984	5	2	1	1	69
1985	5	2		5	67
1986	5	1	1	2	60
1987	5	2	2		59
1988	5	2		2	58
1989	5	1	2	1	49
1990	5	2	1	1	51
1991	5	1	2	1	50
1992	5	1	1	2	46
1993	5	1	1	2	38
1994	5	0	1 +1*	1 +1*	33
1995	5	2*	1*	1*	27
1996	5	1 +1*	1*	1*	24
1997	5		2	1 +1*	21
1998	5	2*	1*	3	19
1999	5	2 +1*	1		21
2000	5	2	1	1	16
2001	5	1	1	2	17
2002	4	1*	2*		16
2003	4		2	1	14
2004	4	1*	1*	1*	12
2005	4	1 +1*	1	1	13
2006	4				

2333	Tarbella Dam,	Quatta, Northwest	
2370	Prince Albert Victor	Lahore	
2844	Lodge Grey	Dharamsala	Earthquake destroyed Lodge buildings and surrounding area, erased 12/1906
2947	Lodge Palmer	Quetta, Baluchistan	Erased May 1908
3262	McMahon	Mark Mason's Hall	
6251	Shankaracharya	Srinagar, Kashmir	Erased May 1908
7365	Lodge Punjab	Queensway New Delhi	Joined Grand Lodge of India No 129
7857	Chenab	Lyallpur, W Pakistan	Last Met Dec 1969, Erased June 1971

(insert summary of Derajat Lodge Meetings)

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1907	7	9	9	9	23
1908	9	2	2	4	
1909	9	4	6	4	
1910	9	8	7	10	
1911	7	4	3	2	34
1912	4	1		2	
1913	7		1	1	28
1914	9	2	1	1	32
1915	2				
1916	3	3			
1917	3	1	2	1	32

Last meeting was 18 April 1917, where on the Lodge went into abeyance until 22 November 1921

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1921	2			1	
1922	20	22	22	24	65
1923	15	10	9	7	51
1924	8	4	4	4	32
1925	12	6	7	7	32
1926	12	8	10	8	42

Lodge Logo first used on December 1926 summons

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1927	11	3	2	2	
1928	9	9	7	8	61
1929	12		2	1	
1930	8			1	50

Derajat Lodge of Instruction first formed

Date	Meetings	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Membership
1931	14	6	8	7	53
1932	13	4	3	4	55