

them. They were dressed in a variety of uniforms. Most had puttees and brown ammunition boots of very poor quality made in Tibet. They were a slovenly-looking lot and held themselves badly. Several men were 5 feet 9 inches or 5 feet 10 inches in height, but most were shorter. They had Lee-Metford rifles but with the sights missing; and the rifles were dirty, though they did show some signs of having been oiled. The instructor knew his English drill fairly well. He pronounced his words of command clearly though not sharp enough, and did not trouble to correct errors. They did the manual squad drill, extending and closing, and practised snapping, standing, kneeling, sitting and lying down. With a good English instructor, drill for an hour twice a day, care of arms and some shooting practice, they might have been made a smart squad in a month, Pereira thought. But their present practice was to drill only two hours a week.

The bandmaster came from Darjiling and had been ten years with the Tibetans. He spoke a certain amount of English. The band consisted of seven men. They had two bagpipes from England (or perhaps Scotland!), bugles from Shanghai and side drums. The bandmaster assured Pereira that they had a thousand pieces of music and could play "God Save the King". At Pereira's request the Indian sergeant and one man marched up and down playing "Highland Laddie" on the bagpipes. They played it quite well and without any notes on the spur of the moment.

Praying is the chief duty of the soldier in