

## Bibliographic Data

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<b>Annotation</b>	<p>The British seized many prizes from Mandalay after the Third Anglo - Burmese War in 1885 They consisted of jewellery, ordinance, steamers, elephants, horses, land and buildings belonging to the monarchy. A Prize Committee was organized in Mandalay and functioned for two years after Annexation. Many valuable objects were never mentioned in the official record, nor handed over to the Committee. The prizes were diisappeared in various ways: some were destoryed or thrown into deep water. Others were presented to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and other members of the British Royal Family, or to officers of administrative departments. Some were auctioned off.</p>			
<b>Subject Terms</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Anglo - Burmese War, 3rd 1885</li><li>2. Myanmar - History - Later Konbaung Period , 1837 - 1885</li></ol>			
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# PRIZES OF WAR, 1885\*

Ma Kyan

PRIZES of the third Anglo Burmese war in 1885 consisted of a good many items of valuables, such as jewellery, ordnance, steamers, elephants, horses, land and buildings, etc., belonging to the previous Burmese Government. These Prizes of War were disposed off by the British Government in the course of the next two years. A body was instituted to deal with some of them and it was known as the Prize Committee, Mandalay. It is not unlikely that many "Prizes" were never mentioned in the official records and many others were not handed over to the Committee. Therefore one is confronted with the difficulty of knowing the fate of all these "Prizes," except (1) the Property in the hands of the Prize Committee, Mandalay and (2) Ordnance captured in Upper Burma.

(1) *Property in the hands of the Prize Committee, Mandalay.*

In December 1885 a Prize Committee, consisting of three members were appointed,<sup>1</sup> vide D. O. No. 3 dated 15 December 1885, to take charge of the prize taken at the Mandalay palace by the Army of Occupation. The three members were Lieutenant Colonel W. T. Budgeon, R. A., President of the Committee, Major W. Lambert of the Marine Artillery and one other army personnel. For some months the three officers gave attention to make out what best they could do with the property entrusted to them. Later, the Government decided that "batta<sup>2</sup> instead of prize money" would be given to the troops in Burma and it became necessary to arrange the speedy and profitable disposal of the property in their hands. The Chief Commissioner proposed that the Prize Committee should be dissolved though Lt. Col. Budgeon and Major Lambert should be retained to continue the business, allowing them an honorarium of 1½ per cent on the amount realised. The proposal was accepted by the Government of India and accordingly the Prize Committee was dissolved, and the appointment of Lt. Col. Budgeon and Major Lambert confirmed by Burma Force Orders<sup>3</sup> dated 4 March 1886. It was also stipulated in the Government of India, Foreign Department letter No. 43 C. E, dated 17 February 1886, that the two officers should undertake the work of the Prize Agent in addition to their ordinary military duties and their remuneration drawn at 1½ per cent on the total realisations should not exceed Rs. 5000 each.

The terms thus agreed upon, Lt. Col. Budgeon and Major Lambert diligently carried out their assignment. They utilised the services of certain firms at Mandalay,

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\* This article was written before 1962 and was meant to be published in a Bulletin of the Burma Historical Commission.

1. *Upper Burma Proceedings* (Military Department), 27 February 1886. Hence forth cited as *UBP*

2. Batta—an extra allowance made to officers, soldiers, or other public servants when in the field, or on other special grounds; also subsistence money to witnesses, prisoners and other like. Military Batta originally an occasional allowance, as defined, grew to be constant addition to the pay of officers in India, and constituted the chief part of the excess of Indian over English military emoluments, Henry Yule: *Hobson Jobson*, London 1903, pp. 72-4

3. *UBP* (Military Dept.), 10 March 1886

Rangoon, Calcutta and Hongkong for the various articles under their charge. A good many boxes of "silk kerchiefs<sup>1</sup>, pasos<sup>2</sup>, tamaings<sup>3</sup>, and articles such as oilman storcs<sup>4</sup>, photo albums, lacquer boxes, etc." were sold at the palace auction sales<sup>5</sup>. No list had been prepared for the articles sold and among other things thus sold at the auction sales in the palace were--

- 2 elephants, enamelled and jewelled
- 1 watch pendant lock
- 1 miniature enamelled jewelled horse
- 3 gold jewelled cups
- 2 beetle watches
- 1 gold cannon etc<sup>6</sup>

and dies for coining Peacock rupees. Altogether 76 dies (some for rupees and some for eight annas pieces) were sold to officers of the Army, Navy or Civil Service except the 4 to an European traveller<sup>7</sup>. The proceeds from the auction sales in the palace amounted to Rs 20869.

Boxes of silk, velvet cloths and various kinds of cotton goods were handed over to Messrs Truda and Company, Mandalay, for sale. When the original inventories were taken everything that had the appearance of gold or silver were erroneously inventoried as such but were reported as later found to be either copper, brass, tin or some other kind of white metal. All these were sent to Messrs Truda & Co. to be sold for what they would fetch.<sup>8</sup> The Company have had several auction sales claiming to obtain fair prices for goods assigned to them. The amount paid in by them were Rs. 87450-13-0 as accounted for in the Memorandum of realisation<sup>9</sup> attached to the Secretary for Upper Burma's letter No. 139 dated 17 July 1886 and Rs. 48871-0-6 realised in the later sales and accounted for in Colonel W. T. Budgeon's letter<sup>10</sup>No. 4-47 dated 2 March 1887.

All gold and silver articles were sent either to Messrs Hamilton & Co., Calcutta, the Mint Master, Calcutta or to the Executive Engineer, Calcutta.<sup>11</sup> Those sent to Messrs Hamilton & Co. yielded Rs. 67963-12-0. H. Thirkell White, Secretary for Upper Burma to the Chief Commissioner remarked that the result of sales conducted by Messrs Hamilton & Co. on the whole were favourable; but the price realised for silver bowls was very poor, being little more than 20 per cent above the intrinsic value of the silver. Nothing was paid for workmanship, which usually came up to 100 to 150 per cent on the value of silver. In packing for the Mint Master, Calcutta, a good many gold and silver articles which were damaged or of no

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1. Probably ဝိုးပဝါ and ခေါင်းပေါင်း
  2. ဖုဆိုး
  3. ထိန်း (ထိန်း)
  4. Identity unknown
  5. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter dated 20 June 1888, *Burma Foreign Proceedings*, 4 March 1889, No. 1-5 Hereafter cited as *BFP*
  6. *BFP*, 4 March 1889
  7. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter No. 44-86 dated 6 October 1886, *UBP* (Finance and Commerce Dept.) Oct. 1886
  8. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter dated 20 June 1888, *BFP* 4 March 1889 No. 1-5
  9. *UBP* (Military Dept), 17 July 1886, No. 1-2
  10. *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1-5
  11. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter dated 20 June 1888, *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1-5

artistic value were broken up and sent there as bullion. Altogether 6 boxes were sent and the amount realised came up to Rs. 211756-4-0.

Lt. Col. Budgeon, the Prize Agent was faced with the difficulty of disposing some ten tons of rough jadestone under his charge. The Chinamen would not bid freely and offered a poor price. Hence Messrs Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., Rangoon were contacted to arrange sending the same to some trustworthy firm at Hongkong or Canton for auction sale.<sup>1</sup> Then in April 1886 the jadestones were despatched by the *S. S Loire* to Messrs Butterfield and Swire, Hongkong, with certain instructions concerning the sale.<sup>2</sup> But the circumstances were unfavourable and there were no immediate prospects of making any sales. Therefore, Messrs Butterfield and Swire were instructed to sell the jadestone by auction in sections as they deemed fit. By December 1886 a quarter of the whole consignment was sold to the highest bidder and the remainder was left there to be disposed of at judicious intervals.<sup>3</sup> The ten tons of rough jadestone sent to Hongkong procured only Rs. 3170.<sup>4</sup>

A certain quantities of lead, sulphur and saltpetre, found at Mandalay together with a good many old bullets, to be melted into pigs, were sent through Messrs Truda and Co., to Messrs Ching Taik and Co., Rangoon for sale.<sup>5</sup> The same were shipped to Rangoon by the *Thooreah* on 29 March 1886. As the sale of these things involved certain provisions of the Arms Act the consignees were warned by the Deputy Commissioner, Rangoon not to export them without the necessary licenses. Rs. 19906-14-6 were realised by this sale at Rangoon.<sup>6</sup>

The two officers entrusted with the speedy disposal of the Prize Property had to submit monthly statements of progress to the Chief Commissioner, money realised being credited to the treasury. A consolidated account of realisations based upon Lt. Col. Budgeon's reports and rendered by H. Thirkell White, Secretary for Upper Burma to the Chief Commissioner, came out in his Foreign Department No. 161, dated 11 October 1886. The memorandum showing the realisations up to that date runs as follows.<sup>7</sup>

	Rs.	as	p
Cash found in palace	136169	6	3
Petty sales in palace	20869	0	0
Truda & Co's sales, Mandalay	87450	13	0
Silver sent to Calcutta Mint	43144	12	0
Gold sent to Calcutta Mint	122107	6	0
Sales by Hamilton & Co, Calcutta	67963	12	0
Total	477705	1	3

1. *UBP* (Military Dept) Part II-B, 23 March 1886, No. 16
2. *UBP* 26 April 1886, No. 23
3. *UBP* (Military Dept) Part II-B, December 1886, Nos. 1 and 3
4. Letter No. 787-29G dated 26 October 1888, *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1-5
5. *UBP* (Military Dept) Part II - B, April 1886, Nos. 24 and 27
6. *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1 - 5
7. *UBP* (Military Dept), 11 October 1886, No. 1 - 4

The accounts rendered by Lt. Col. Budgeon were by no means satisfactory. There were discrepancies which were occasionally pointed out by the Comptroller, Burma. He admitted that there had been miscalculation on his part as to the value of articles sold in the palace by auction and otherwise<sup>1</sup>; and that the sums of Rs. 3563, Rs. 1164-10 as, and Rs. 40 on account of Messrs Truda & Co's sales and the sum of Rs. 280, being cash found in the Palace had been inadvertently omitted in his first report, due to the heavy pressure of work.<sup>2</sup> The total realisations, as reported by Lt. Col. Budgeon and accepted by Government as final were.<sup>3</sup>

		Rs.	as	p
Receipts reported (17 April 1886)	—	220546	3	3
Receipts since 17 April 1886	— —			
Messrs Truda and Co.	— —	48871	0	6
Mint Master	— —	211756	4	0
Petty sales	— —	1240	4	0
Messrs Hamilton & Co.	— —	25890	0	0
		503303	11	9
Expense	— —	13417	3	3
Total receipts		489886	8	6

The sale of jadestone sent to Hongkong yielded Rs. 3170, and this added, the total realisations came up to Rs. 506473-11-9. The expenses incurred amounted to Rs. 13416-3-3. This did not include the sum of Rs. 10000 paid to Lt. Col. Budgeon and Major Lambert, being the honorarium allowed to them at 1½ per cent on the realisations.

The Prize Agents were not satisfied with their allowance of Rs. 5000 each. They put up the matter to the Government stating that 1½ per cent calculated on the total realisations of Rs. 506473-11-9 was much more than Rs. 5000 and requested that their allowances be increased. The Government was quite firm with their original decision and directed the Secretary for Upper Burma to the Chief Commissioner, to inform Lt. Col. Budgeon that the prize taken at Kabul in 1879 amounted to more than ten lakhs, and the members of the Prize Committee received only Rs. 1000 each.<sup>4</sup>

Besides the property thus disposed of, there were some articles consigned, under His Excellency the Viceroy's orders, to the India Office, England and the Executive Engineer, Calcutta. Every article that had anything in the way of jewels in it was sent to England for examination as to their value. A box of jewels<sup>5</sup> was sent down from

1. Lt. - Col. Budgeon's letter dated 20 June 1888, *BFP* 4 March 1889 No. 1-5
2. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter dated 20 June 1888, *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1-5
3. Lt. Col. Budgeon's letter No. 4-87, dated 2 March 1887, *BFP* 4 March 1889, No. 1-5
4. Foreign Dept. No. 2072E, dated Simla, 6 September 1886, *UBP* (Military Dept), 25 Sept. 1886, No. 1-2
5. *UBP* (Military Dept) Part II-B, March 1886

Mandalay by the *Yunan* to Prome and thence by railway to Rangoon. From there it was despatched to Calcutta by mail steamer, the box being duly insured for Rs. 60000. Among other things sent to England were a jewelled coat with large emeralds and jewelled betel box which constituted the most valuable part of the property in the hands of the prize Committee.<sup>1</sup> The disposal of those Crown jewellery sent to England falls under another category and hence is left out at present. One box containing articles intended for Her Majesty the Queen Empress and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was also sent to the Viceroy of India for forwarding the same to its destination. We have no idea what this box actually holds except the vague notion that it holds something rare and precious.

Articles of gold or silver of great value were sent to the Executive Engineer, Calcutta. Among them were eleven gold images of the Lord Buddha, each about 15 inches high. If sold, they would fetch a large sum. But the Chief Commissioner, Burma, suggested that on religious grounds they should not be sold; they should rather be sent to the Calcutta Museum with a proviso that they were to be restored if asked for, later, by the scions of the late kings, on purely religious grounds.<sup>2</sup> The final disposal of these articles could not be traced as the later Proceedings were silent in this connection.

The steamers, flats, launches on the river, and machinery found in the factories at Mandalay and Sagaing, belonging to the previous Government, were not placed in the hands of the Prize Agents. Considerable sums were realised—close upon one lakh in cash—and a good deal of machinery transferred for use of Government departments. The value of one steamer and one flat, quite new and in capital order, together with four launches was estimated at 2½ lakhs of rupees. It is reported that if bought new, 2½ lakhs of rupees would buy only two such craft.<sup>3</sup>

All transactions concerning the property in the hands of the Prize Agents came to a close on Government of India's accepting the accounts rendered by Lt. Col. Budgeon as final. The disposal of the articles sent to the Executive Engineer, Calcutta and the India Office, England did not concern these Prize Agents. Lt. Col. Budgeon and Major Lambert were not favoured with an increase of allowance and had to refund their excess drawings; but the Chief Commissioner acknowledged their work as being carefully, wisely and well done and that the realisations by their exertions were much higher than that had been expected.

## (2) *Ordnance, captured in Upper Burma.*

The Burma Expeditionary Force under the command of Major-General Prendergast (See Photo No. 1) captured a good deal of guns, of various make and calibre, in its advance up the river to Mandalay. They were disposed off in various ways, mostly destroyed or thrown into deep water. The capture and disposal of them as mentioned in Major General Prendergast's Diary<sup>4</sup> is as follows.

Myaungbin maw - captured  
8 guns, smooth bore,  
destroyed by Commander Durnford, R. N.

Gwe - Gyaung - captured on 17 November 1885.  
12 cast iron field guns

1. Foreign Dept. No. 161 dated 11 Oct. 1886, *UBP* (Military Dept) October 1886, No. 1-4

2. *UBP* (Military Dept), Oct 1886, No. 1-4

3. *UBP* (Military Dept), Oct 1886, No. 1-4

4. *Burma Military Proceedings*, 1885-6. Hereafter cited as *BMP*

6 brass rifled guns  
3 wall pieces,<sup>1</sup>  
all put on board the *Irrawaddy* and later destroyed by the Royal Engineers.

Minhla<sup>2</sup> - captured on 18 November 1885, (See Photo No. 2)

9 cast iron guns  
6 brass rifled guns  
2 wall pieces  
4 were put on board the *Panthay* and the rest on board the *Thooreah*

Shwe myo - captured

5 brass guns on travelling carriages, calibre 1.3 inches  
6 brass guns without travelling carriages, calibre 1.3 inches  
2 brass guns without travelling carriages, calibre 1.2 inches  
1 brass guns without travelling carriages, calibre 1.25 inches  
1 cast iron gun without travelling carriage, calibre 2 inches  
1 cast iron gun without travelling carriage, calibre 1.9 inches  
1 5 inch brass mortar on bed  
23 wheels for travelling carriages  
8 empty common shell 5½ inches  
1 tampion<sup>3</sup>  
1 gynshore<sup>4</sup>

Sale myo captured

6 cast iron guns.

Nyaung U - captured on 22 Nov. 1885,

2 12 pounder or 18 pounder field guns  
2 brass carronades,<sup>5</sup> 1 pounder, field  
3 6 pounder carronades on trucks  
4 jingals.<sup>6</sup>

Pokokku (Konywa) - captured on 24 Nov. 1885,

2 field guns  
5 cast iron carronades; all double shotted and primed;  
they were dropped into the river.

Myingyan - captured on 25 Nov. 1885,

21 guns;  
all destroyed by the Naval Brigade except the 3 guns embarked on the  
*S, S. Doowoon*

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1. Identity unknown
  2. Prendergast Diary dated 18 Nov. 1885; but according to the Return given in *Burma Military Proceedings*, 1885-6, p 324, altogether 24 guns were captured at Minhla
  3. Tampion- (1460) A disk-shaped or cylindrical piece of wood made to fit the bore of a muzzle loading gun, and rammed home between the charge and the missile, to act as a wad-1828. *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, 1955 p. 2129
  4. Gynshore-Identity unknown
  5. Carronade- (1779), from Carron in Scotland, where first cast. A short piece of ordnance, usually of large calibre, having a chamber for the powder like a mortar; chiefly used on shipboard, *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, p. 268
  6. Gingall (Jingal) (1818) A heavy musket fired from a rest, or light swivel gun; used in China and India, *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, p. 793; မိန်းဂျင်ဂဲ- *Judson's Burmese English Dictionary*, Rangoon, 1893, p. 395

1 Whitworth gun, 12 pounder, discovered after the occupation of the place. was removed.

King's steamer<sup>1</sup> – captured on 26 Nov. 1885, (See Photo No. 3)

6 cast iron guns, smooth bore;  
all destroyed by the Naval Brigade.

Ava – arms given up (See Photo No. 4)

546 muzzle loading guns and rifles,  
87 breech loading rifles and a large number of spears and dabs; muzzle loading small arms were either sunk in deep water or otherwise disposed.

Ava redoubt – captured on 27 Nov. 1885,

3 cast iron guns, smooth bore, 6 pounders

Ava river bank – captured on 27 Nov. 1885,

18 cast iron guns, all double shotted and 6 pounders.

Ava Fort and Palace – captured on 27 Nov. 1885, (See Photo No. 5)

25 cast iron guns and carriages; destroyed.

9 pairs of serviceable field gun wheels and 10 iron axle trees were handed over to Royal Engineer Field Park.

Mandalay Palace – captured

994 smooth bore, iron

8 cast iron, rifled

158 brass or bronze guns

369 wall pieces

17 brass mortars

Mandalay gun factory<sup>2</sup> – captured

2 cast iron guns

3 brass guns

Mandalay river bank – captured

7 cast iron guns

Sagaing Fort – captured on 27 Nov. 1885,

5 cast iron guns

3 brass rifled guns

Sagaing, at a small earth work - captured

2 cast iron guns

5 jingals

Sagaing, near the pagoda - captured

4 cast iron guns

9 cast iron guns together with 390 muskets were put on board the *Burma* and the rest thrown into the river.

Thabyedan – captured on 28 Nov. 1885,

7 cast iron guns, 6 pounder

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1. The steamer was one that the Burmese Government had purchased for Rs. 250,000 from the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company a few months previously. Prendergast Diary, dated 26 Nov. 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 638, p. 162
  2. Ten submarine mines were found in the course of construction at the Rifle factory, Mandalay. Prendergast Diary dated 2 December 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 639, p. 174



5 brass rifled guns  
 2 small guns  
 1 jingal  
 all were placed on board the *Ashley Eden*.

Nothrof Thabyedan – captured  
 4 cast iron field gun  
 1 bronze gun, dated Cossipore, 1847  
 2 brass gun rifled  
 1 small carronade  
 all destroyed and thrown into the river.

Bhamo – captured  
 11 cast iron guns  
 2 brass guns

Ningyan – captured  
 15 cast iron rifled guns

According to Major-General Prendergast's report dated 23 December 1885, 1747 pieces of ordnance, including small guns and wall pieces, were captured by the forces under his Command.<sup>1</sup> With later additions, the Return of Ordnance Captured, dated 1 February 1886, submitted by Colonel W. Carey, shows the total to date as<sup>2</sup>

Captured on passage up stream	189 pieces
Captured in Mandalay	1611 „
Since the capture of Mandalay	58 „

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Total 1858 pieces.

The general order in connection with the disposal of the Captured Ordnance was either to destroy them or to throw them into the river. The instructions were promptly carried out. But most of the regiments wanted to retain some of their capture as trophies and permission for the same was earnestly solicited. Some of the regiments seeking permission were:

- (1) the 21st Regiment, Madras Infantry; requested permission to retain one of the small brass guns taken from the battery below Myingyan as regimental property.<sup>3</sup>
- (2) the 25th Regiment, Madras Infantry; to retain the small brass gun, with carriage, taken at Myingyan on 25 December 1885.<sup>4</sup>
- (3) the 12th Regiment, Madras Infantry; to retain two brass cannons taken at Minhla.<sup>5</sup>
- (4) the 1st Madras Pioneers; to retain two small brass cannons taken at Mandalay. The regiment further pointed out that it had, amongst others, AVA and PEGU on its colours

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1. No. 176-T, dated 23 December 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 918 p. 296

2. *BMP* 1885-6, p. 408

3. Letter No. 509 dated 27 Nov. 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 910, p. 290

4. Letter No. 30F.S. dated 27 Nov. 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 910, p. 290

5. Letter No. 31. L, dated 16 Dec. 1885, *BMP* No. 913, p. 295

for participating in the two previous campaigns but that it had no memorials or trophies in its possession. <sup>1</sup>

- (5) the 23 rd Light Infantry;  
to retain three pieces of ordnance. <sup>2</sup>
- (6) the 2 nd Somersetshire Light Infantry;  
to retain the small mortar, they captured at Shwe myo. <sup>3</sup>
- (7) the Rangoon Artillery Volunteers;  
to retain two small pieces of ordnance captured at Mandalay as the Captain of the Corps was present during the operations leading to the fall of the Capital. <sup>4</sup>
- (8) the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles;  
to retain two small brass guns, a few dahs and spears as 14 men of the Corps had served with the Force. <sup>5</sup>
- (9) Capt. E. R. Wells, Commanding the I. F. C. steamer the *S. S. Irrawaddy*;  
to keep one of the cannons captured at Myingyan, for presenting to their Manager as a memento. <sup>6</sup>

Major-General Prendergast put up the matter to the Government of India with strong recommendations that the requests be granted duly. He also suggested that some selected pieces should be presented to Her Majesty and Royal Family, the Viceroy of India, Governors and Commanders in Chief, Her Majesty's ships furnishing contingents, Officers commanding regiments, and certain individuals and public institutions <sup>7</sup> The guns were reported to be useless for military purpose and that they would only occupy valuable space in some arsenal. The following is the proposed list of presentation <sup>8</sup> with the numbers and description of the guns intended as presents.

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1. Letter No. 791 dated 3 Dec. 1885, *BMP* No. 910, p. 290
  2. Letter No. 27. L. dated 5 Dec. 1885, *BMP* p. 290
  3. Letter, dated 15 Dec. 1885, *BMP* No. 913, p. 293
  4. *BMP* 1885-6, No. 910, p. 291
  5. *BMP* p. 291
  6. *BMP* p. 290
  7. Letter No. 176-T dated 23 December 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 918, p. 296
  8. Letter No. 11 - B dated 28 December 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 911, pp. 292-4

## List of Guns Proposed to be Offered for Presentation

to Her Majesty the Queen Empress and other members of the Royal Family and to Officers and Departments below mentioned.

To whom	Number	Description
Her Majesty the Empress of India	38-C	An iron gilt gun 10 inches bore, on a four wheeled gilt carriage, with splinter bar and gun covering.
	104-C	A highly ornamented gun of bronze, of Siamese or Chinese manufacture, representing an open mouth dragon with a Burmese inscription - "Sandoway, Burmese era 1128".
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales	106-C	Similar to No. 104-C
His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh	99-C	Similar to No. 104-C and with the same inscription.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught	...	A gun with Arabic inscription.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Field Marshal Commanding in Chief	28-B	A Krupp gun found in the Palace of Mandalay.
The Viceroy of India	105-C	Similar to No. 104-C, with the same inscription.
Sir Frederick Roberts, V. C. G. C. B. C. S. I., Commander in Chief	...	Two small brass field guns on field carriage.
His Excellency the Governor of Madras	3 & 4-C	Two iron gilt guns, with gilt carriages and limbers complete.
	118 & 125-C	Two bronze guns.
His Excellency the Governor of Bombay	126 & 125-C	Two bronze guns No. 126-C bearing inscription "made by San Burges in Burmese era 1601"
	59-C & 12-D	Two small guns on field carriages.

To whom	Number	Description
Lt. Gen. Sir Harry Prendergast, V.C., C.B., Commanding Burma Field Force.	67 & 68-C	Two brass guns on lion supporters. Theebaw's rifle. One blunderbuss. <sup>1</sup>
The Royal Artillery Repository, Woolwich	107-C	Similar to No. 104-C.
	120-C	A bronze gun with a man's face, with inscription- "Sandoway, Burmese era 1128, Maha Benga Sutna", and another inscription which is unknown.
	1 & 4-B	Bronze guns with four rings
The Volunteers, Rangoon	119 & 127-C	Bronze guns, No. 127-C bears inscription "Taken from Sandoway, 1128 Burmese era".
Royal Mariners } Portsmouth } Plymouth } Division Chatham }	...	... ..
Royal Marine Artillery	...	
Royal Engineers, Chatham	18 & 19-C	bronze guns
Royal Engineers' Mess, Bangalore	206-B	A bronze gun
Time gun, Palace (Mandalay)	14-B	
Chelsea Hospital	8-B	
Royal Navy College, Greenwich	5-B	
Portsmouth Dockyard	6-B	
Plymouth Dockyard	3-B	
Capt. Woodward, Royal Navy H. M. S. <i>Turquoise</i>	...	Two small brass guns.

1. Blunderbuss. (1654), a short gun with a large bore, firing many slugs and doing execution at short range without exact aim. (No longer used in civilized countries), *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, Oxford, 1955, p. 194

To whom	Number	Description
Rear Admiral Sir Frederick Richards, H. M. S. <i>Bacchante</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
Capt. Clutterbuck, Royal Navy H. M. S. <i>Woodlark</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
Royal Artillery Mess, St. Thomas Mount	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding, 2-1st, Royal Artillery	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding, Hampshire Regiment	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding, 12th Madras Native Infantry	...	Two small brass guns.
Colonel Sanford, R. E.	...	Two small brass guns.
Brigadier General White, Commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade	...	Two small brass guns.
Colonel Carey, R. A., Colonel on the Staff, Commanding Royal Artillery, Burma Field Force	...	Two small brass guns on lion supporters.
Officer Commanding 21st Madras Native Infantry	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding 25th Madras Native Infantry	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding 1st Madras Pioneers	...	Two small brass guns.
Officer Commanding 11th Bengal Native Infantry	...	Two small brass guns.
Royal Artillery Mess, Thayetmyo	...	Two small brass guns.
Capt. Aldworth, A. D. C., Bedfordshire Regiment	88 & 89-C	... ..
Lieutenant Ballard, R. N.	70-C & 71-C	... ..
Capt Cooper, Irrawaddy Flotilla Co's S. S. <i>Ashley Aden</i>	...	One small brass gun.

To whom	Number	Description
Lieutenant Churchill, Q-1st, Royal Artillery	...	One small 15 inch brass gun.
Royal Artillery Mess, Banga- lore	...	Two small brass guns.
Capt. Carpenter, R. N., H. M. S. <i>Investigator</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
Lieutenant Trench, R. N., The Pegu Royal Navy Brigade	...	One small brass gun.
Capt. Durnford, R. N., H. M. S. <i>Mariner</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
Lieutenant Carter, R. N., H. M. S. <i>Sphinx</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
Madras Arsenal	98-C	... ..
Commander in Chief, Madras	102-C	Gun with inscription "Sandoway Burmese era 1128".
Commander Becket, Irrawaddy. Flotilla Co's S. S. <i>Palow</i>	...	Two small brass guns.
School of Signalling, Bangalore	...	... ..
Officer Commanding, Bombay Sappers and Miners <sup>1</sup>	...	One Whitworth gun, 3 inch hexagonal.

To the victors the guns were of no military value and they could afford to dispose them off in any way they like; to the vanquished, however, though they were outmoded and quite useless for military purpose, they had and they have historical significance and sentimental values attached to them. The guns bearing the inscription, "Sandoway, Burmese era 1128," indicated King Bodawpaya's conquest of Arakan in A. D. 1784. The List Showed 7 guns bearing that inscription. According to *Konbaungset* the Burmese brought back from Arakan a big cannon of 20 cubic feet length and 6 cubic feet circumference, together with over 2000 field guns, 1000 mortars, and 1000 muskets.<sup>2</sup> It is very likely that the "highly ornamented gun of bronze, of Siamese or Chinese manufacture," (No. 104-C) intended for Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India, had some connection with the "brazen cannon" which formed part of the spoils carried away by the Arakanese at the fall of Pegu in 1599.<sup>3</sup> We might also assume that "the gun with the Arabic inscription," intended for His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, had an interesting historical background. So also is the gun bearing the inscription "made by San Burges in Burmese era 1601" (No.

1. Letter No. 14-B, dated 31 December 1885, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 912, p. 295

2. *Konbaungset*, Vol II, p. 17 and G. E. Harvey: *History of Burma*, London 1925, p. 268

3. Harvey: *History of Burma*, p. 183

126-C), intended for H. E. the Governor of Madras. The date 1601 seems to be Christian era rather than Burmese; to take it as Buddhist era 1601 (i. e. Burmese era 419) would also be too early for the presence of a gun in Burma. The allotments in the List seem to reveal some sentimental attachments of Sir Harry Prendergast to King Thibaw's rifle, which is only natural for the Commander of the Army of Occupation. Moreover most of the small brass guns, cast iron guns, both rifled and smooth bore, breech and muzzle loading guns and rifles, etc., either presented or destroyed, had a great bearing on the functioning of the gun factories established at Mandalay during the reign of King Mindon.

The List of distribution as proposed by Major General Prendergast was approved by the Government of India.<sup>1</sup> The guns were despatched to their various destination respectively. It would be interesting to ascertain whether these guns are still kept at those stations as memorials and trophies.

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1. No. 640 dated 11 March 1886, *BMP* 1885-6, No. 921 p. 297



No. 1. Group of General Prendergast and many of his Staff, taken in front of the Hall of Audience in Mandalay Palace, on 17 December 1885.  
From Lt. Col. W.W. Hooper: *A Series of One Hundred Photographs Illustrating Incidents connected with the British Expeditionary Force*, London, J.A. Lugard, 1887, p. 123





No. 2. Mihnla after its capture. The trees and some sheds and outbuildings had been set on fire by the shells fired from the river. The gun was one of the Burmese. The white pony across which a body is lying belongs to one of the Burmese generals.  
From Hooper, p. 10



No. 3. King Thibaw's war steamer, taken possession of by the British on 26 November 1885.  
From Hooper, p. 15



No. 4 Nominal surrender of the Burmese Army at Ava on 27 November 1885. Colonel Sladen and the Burmese Woon with his golden umbrella were standing in the midst.  
From Hooper, p. 16



No. 5. One of the Burmese Gunpits at Ava; the picture shows a party of Royal Artillery removing the guns which were mostly destroyed as useless.  
From Hooper, p. 17