



H. S. Blegg



EDWARD LESLIE GILBERT CLEGG

1899-1944

EDWARD LESLIE GILBERT CLEGG was born on the 24th February, 1899, in Crumpsall, Manchester, England. His father was an Engineering Costing Clerk. Clegg attended the Central High School, Manchester between 1906 and 1912, where he was once appointed a school Bursar. Following his graduation from the school, Clegg joined the Victoria University, Manchester in 1912, and graduated in 1915 with a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics and Geology in First Class. Clegg served through the 1914-1918 World War I, as an Officer in the Northumberland Fusiliers, and saw military action in Italy and France. After the War, Clegg joined Victoria University again in 1919 and obtained the B.Sc. (Honours) degree in Physics and Geology, in 2nd Class, in the year following. In 1938, the Manchester University conferred on Clegg the D.Sc. degree, in recognition of his geological work in Burma.

Professional Career

Clegg was appointed an Assistant Superintendent in the Geological Survey of India on the 15th October, 1920 and reported for duty in Calcutta on the 4th December, 1920. He was attached to the Central Provinces (now parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh), Bihar and Orissa Circles, where he carried out field work under the superintendence of Sir L. L. Fermor. Clegg also carried out geological mapping in the Chindwara district.

Clegg registered as a candidate for the lower standard Hindustani examination held at Calcutta, and passed the examination in August, 1921. He was confirmed as an Assistant Superintendent on the 12th December, 1922, and was deputed to carry out work in Burma, where he spent four years in mapping parts of Minbu and Thayetmyo districts. Results of this investigation were subsequently published as a Memoir of the Geological Survey of India; and the Manchester University gave recognition to this piece of work, by conferring the D.Sc. degree on Clegg.

While in Burma, Clegg was given charge of the Burma Party by E. H. Pascoe, the then Head of the Department on the 22nd July, 1924, during the leave of absence of Dr. J. Coggin Brown. As Pascoe desired to have a Superintendent to take charge of the Burma Party, he recommended Clegg for promotion, and Clegg was appointed Superintendent with



effect from the 10th March, 1925. Clegg returned to Calcutta in 1926, and remained in the Headquarters, first as the Curator, and then as the Officer-in-Charge of the Geological Survey Office. Thus the capabilities of Clegg as an administrator were established.

As one of the representatives of the Mining and Geological Institute of India, and also as a representative of the Government of India, Clegg attended the III Empire Mining & Metallurgical Congress held in South Africa, from March 24 to May 9, 1930. During the Congress, Clegg attended the Technical Sessions in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Buluwayo and Durban, and also took part in excursions to various mines and metallurgical plants of South Africa.

Clegg was transferred to Rangoon again, and took charge of the Burma Party in 1932. He mapped in detail the Mogok area, the Jade mines district, Lai Sai State, and took numerous traverses along the defiles of the Irrawaddy and Uyu rivers. Results of the investigations were published as a Memoir of the Geological Survey of India in 1941. In this work, Dr. Clegg reached the interesting conclusion that the gem-bearing limestones of Mogok are metamorphosed Cretaceous limestones.

While in Burma, Dr. Clegg had excellent opportunities of visiting the Burmese mineral deposits, and acquired intimate knowledge of the oil-fields in Burma. He incorporated this information in his book entitled "(The) Mineral Deposits of Burma" in 1940; and published a Bulletin on Tin and Wolfram in 1944.

Dr. Clegg returned to India from his Foreign Service in Burma, on June 26, 1942. He sustained loss of personal effects, amounting to a total of Rs. 23,000.00 as a result of the Japanese Invasion of Burma, at that time. *En route* to India, Dr. Clegg made a valuable traverse through the Hukawng valley for the Allied Forces.

On reaching India, Dr. Clegg took charge of the Central Provinces party, and later of the sulphur operations at Koh-i-Sultan in Baluchistan.

Dr. Clegg was appointed to officiate as the Director, Geological Survey of India, from July 1, 1943. He was confirmed in this post on January 1, 1944.

Honours and Membership in Societies

1. Trustee of the Indian Museum (July 1, 1943—September 8, 1944).
2. President of the Governing Body of the Indian School of Mines & Applied Geology (July 1, 1943—September 8, 1944).
3. Ordinary Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal (February 7, 1944—September 8, 1944).
4. a) Life Member of the Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India since 1921.
 b) Joint Honorary Secretary, 1927-30; 1932-33.
 c) Vice-President, 1942-43.
 d) Honorary Treasurer, January 21, 1943—September 8, 1944.



5. Patron of the Geological Institute, Presidency College, Calcutta in 1944.
6. Part-time Professor in Geology, Presidency College, Calcutta; November 1926—October 1927.
7. Part-time Professor in Geology, Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur; May 1929—February 1930; and November 1931—April 1932.

Athletics

Clegg played in the 1st team in Rugby in the school, and was also the Captain of the Central High School Swimming team. While in Victoria College, Clegg received 1st colours in the Lancashire County trials in Rugby, and also 1st colours in county trials in swimming. While in Calcutta, Dr. Clegg played for the Services Rugby team, and was one of their best forwards. He won the Calcutta Place Kicking Cup on different occasions. Perhaps as a result of his athletic ability, Clegg had developed the stamina for arduous field work.

In the words of Clegg's colleague, Dr. H. Crookshank, Clegg "shone at administration, but his writings prove that he had a clear, practical brain, good judgment and considerable imagination. These qualities proved particularly valuable to him in advising on the manifold problems of Engineering Geology which he was expected to solve. He will be a very great loss to Indian Science and Engineering.

As a man he combined the 'Pitho's sense and pride o' worth' with a very pretty wit. The Geological Survey of India and his many friends both in India and Burma will long miss his cheery face and friendly smile".

In response to a letter from the officers of the Geological Survey, wishing Dr. Clegg a speedy recovery, following an operation, Mrs. Helen Clegg sent the following reply on August 2, 1944:—

"My dear 'Geologists':

Thank you very much for your letter. I will tell my husband you were sorry he is ill and that you would like to see him.

He, I am sure, will be very happy to have you visit him when he has recovered some of his old strength after the operation, but he is very tired now and we are trying to build up his strength.

I am so sorry I know so few of the names on the list, and I hope we may get to know you all in a happier time in future".

Dr. Clegg died on 8th September, 1944.

A. B. DUTT



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