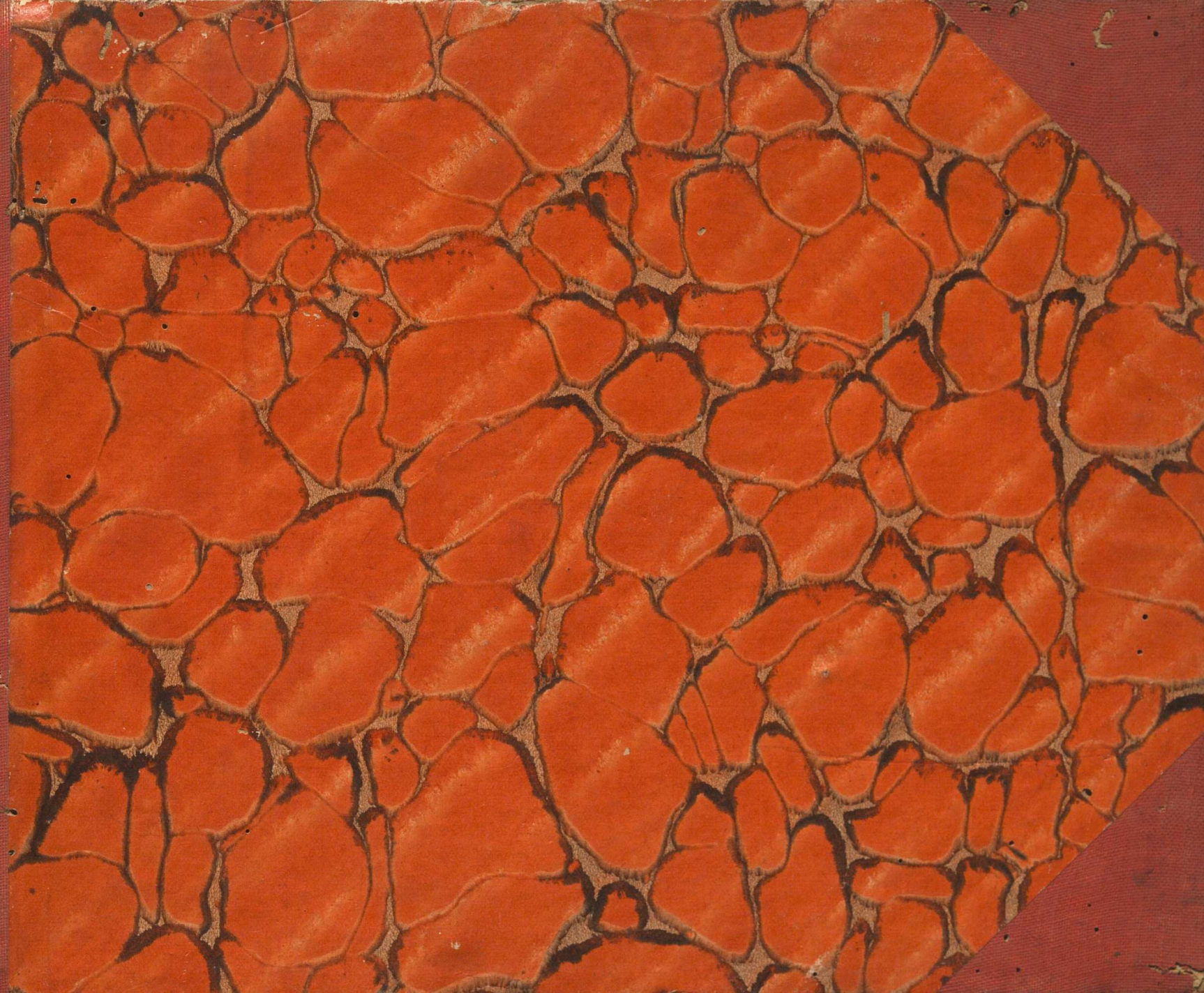


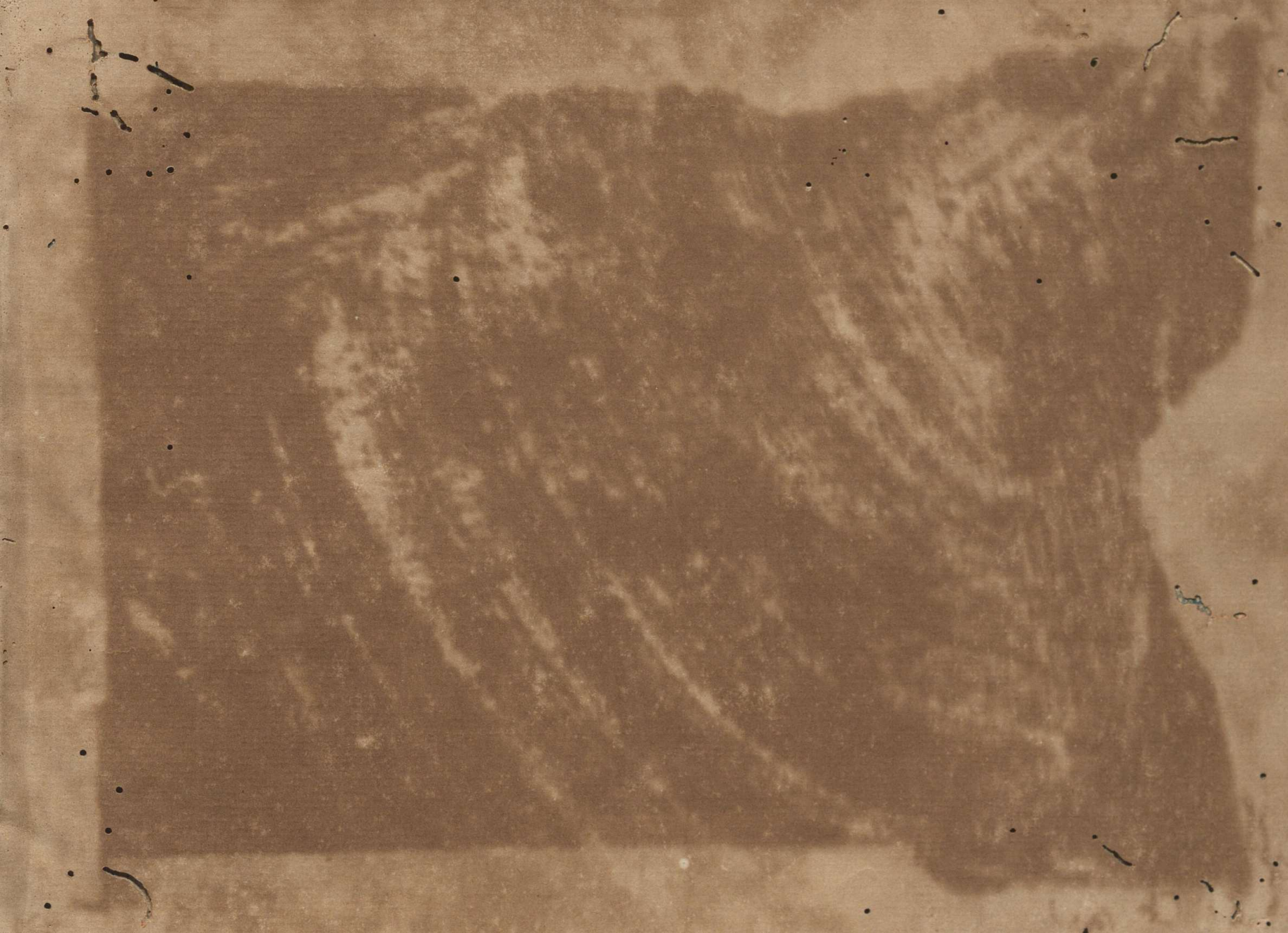
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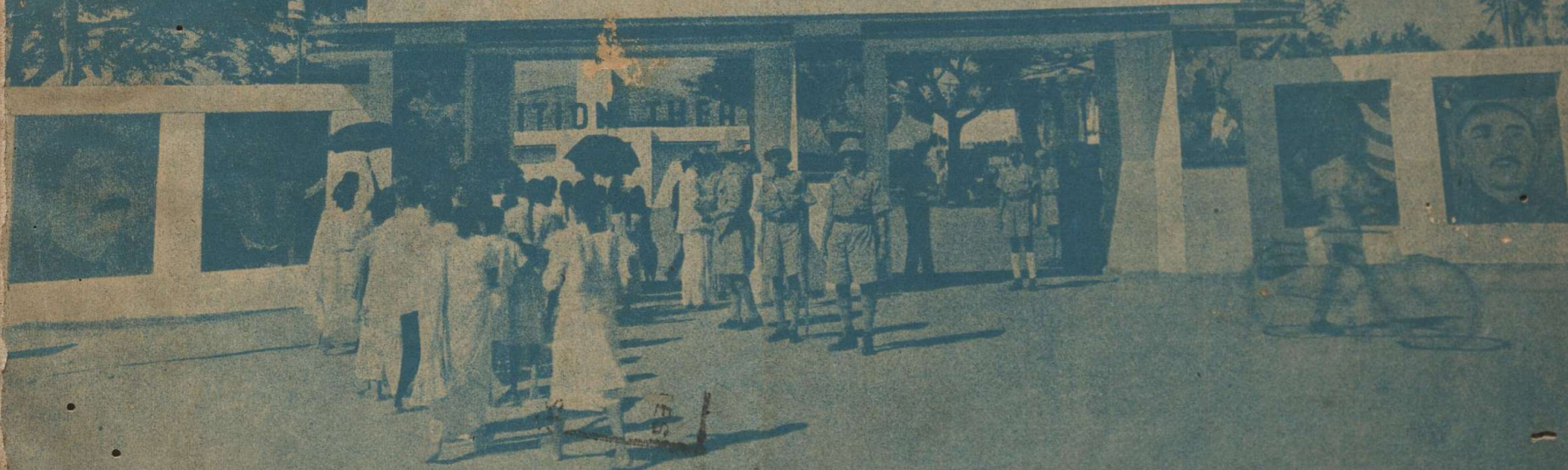


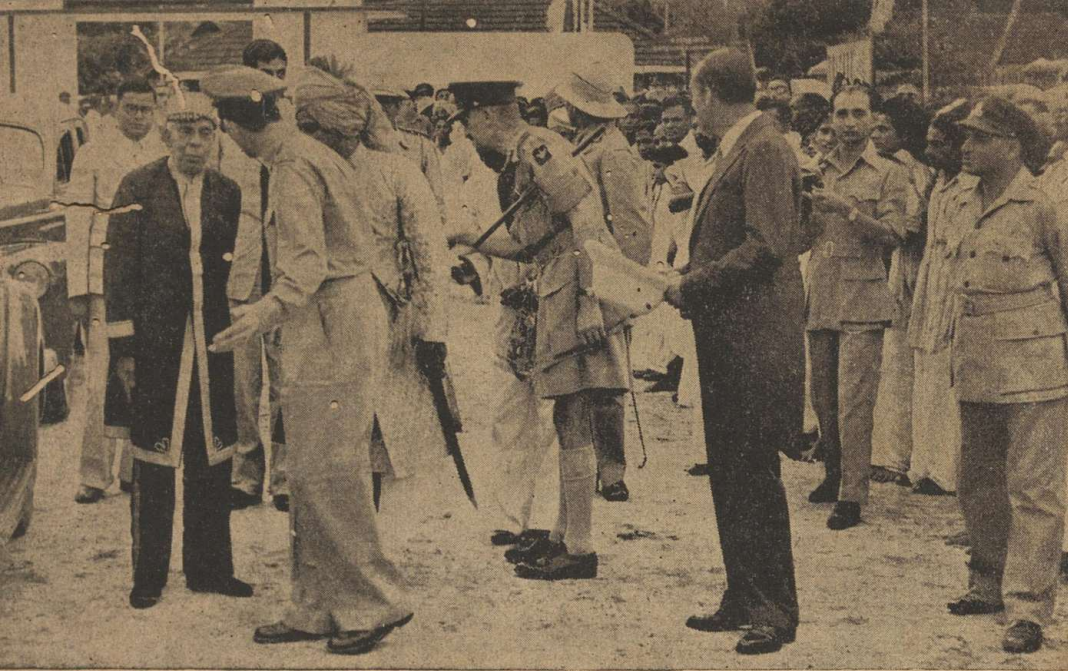
COCHIN INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENT



WAR SERVICES EXHIBITION





Arrival of H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin in the Exhibition Grounds—

THE most spectacular "Show" which Cochin had ever witnessed, and aptly called "the biggest show in the British Empire" was opened on the 3rd December 1944 by His Highness Sree Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, at the Herbert Playing Fields, Ernakulam. On arrival at the Exhibition Grounds His Highness was received by Wing Commander Shaffi and other officers of the Exhibition. After the inspection of the Guard of Honour His Highness entered the Exhibition Theatre accompanied

by Lieut. Col. C. G. N. Edwards, Resident for the Madras States, Sir George Boag, Diwan and high officials of the State and of the Army, Navy and Air Force:

In declaring open the Exhibition His Highness said:

"It is a source of deep personal gratification to me and a matter of pride to my State that Ernakulam, the Capital of my State, should have been given the honour of being selected as a centre for the holding of this WAR SERVICES EXHIBITION which is a function of

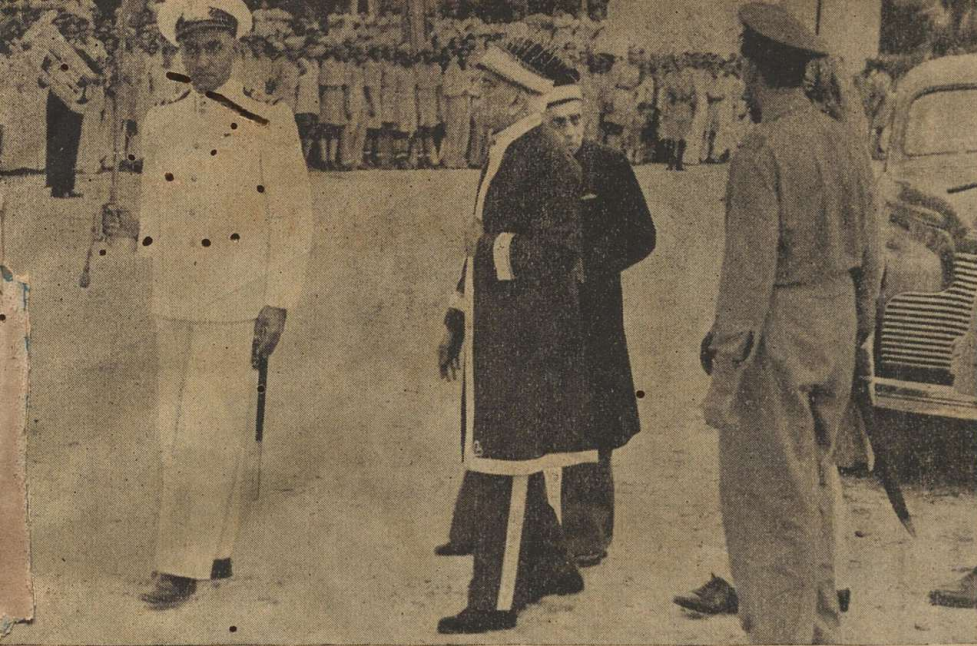
—And inspection of the Guard of Honour



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H. H. The Maharaja and the First Prince proceeding to the Exhibition Theatre

All-India importance. Its presence is a tribute to the War Efforts of my people. We have contributed more than our share and are prepared to put forward greater efforts to hasten the day of Victory. After the impressive speech of the Resident there is no need for me to speak more. Now I wish to congratulate those responsible for the organisation of this on their achievement in erecting this splendid Exhibition in spite of unfavourable weather. It is with great pleasure and pride that I now declare the Exhibition open."

In requesting His Highness the Maharaja to open the Exhibition the Resident for the Madras

States gave a general picture of what Cochin had been doing in the war and of the great war efforts of the State. In the course of his speech he said :

"Now before I ask His Highness the Maharaja to declare the Exhibition open, it will perhaps be appropriate, if I try to give you a brief account of the part that the Cochin State has played in the War Effort during the past five years.

Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin and Major Price in serious conversation. Near are the War Publicity Officer (left) and the Assistant War Publicity Officer





H. H. The Maharaja with Wing Commander Shaffi and Rama Varmha Tampuran inspecting the booths

THE MODEL TOWN

H. H. The Maharaja was interested in it



H. H. The Maharaja enjoying a joke

Cochin State has a population of about 1½ million, of which the adult male population between the ages of 20 and 40 is perhaps about two hundred thousand. The war has brought about a profound change in the essentially peaceful life of the State, which is now geared up to a high war-time activity. There is a Central War Committee whose function is to direct and co-ordinate the entire war activities of the State; and there is a War Publicity Department to keep the constantly changing needs and aspects of the War effort in the public view.

These are assisted by a number of specialised Committees and Sub-Committees and by private individuals whose work has all been of great value.

"Let us take first the State's own military forces. The Cochin State Force was constituted in August 1943 by amalgamating the Cochin Nayar Brigade with the mixed Company which was attached to the Armed Reserve Police. In the short period of little over a year the Force has progressed rapidly; and one Garrison Company has already moved out for service outside the State.

"Then there is another type of force whose role is not a fighting one or even a truly military one, but which is just as necessary to keep our forces in the field. I refer to what are known as "Labour Units". On our Eastern front the war has been to a high degree a battle of labour—labour for opening up communications, construction of roads, airfields, depots, and the like and on the rapidity of this construction our success has depended. Since March 1942, when the scheme was opened, the Cochin State has recruited and despatched to various operational areas where they have been needed no less than 98 such Labour Units. When I tell you that a Unit consists of more than 800 men, you will realise what



H. H. The Maharaja, Lieut Col. Edwards and Mrs. Edwards in front of the Exhibition Theatre

a big thing this is. It involves something like 80 thousand men. Out of these 98 Cochin State Units, 64 have been repatriated after full term of service in operational areas behind the lines. But fresh units are still being formed; and many of the men who have been repatriated, with one unit join up again in another unit after a brief period of rest at their homes. They have formed an essential and most valuable part of the machinery of the War.

"There is another unit too with which the name of the



H. H. The Maharaja near the Model Village



State is directly associated. We now have a ship of the Royal Indian Navy which bears the name of the "H. M. I. S. COCHIN". The public of Cochin contributed three lakhs and sixty thousand rupees towards the cost of this

ship; and the remainder was contributed by the State. It is fitting that a maritime State should be thus closely associated with the Royal Indian Navy; and the people of Cochin can now always feel a special interest in the ship which so proudly bears their name.

Since the outbreak of the War Cochin has sent more than ten thousand men to the Armed Forces in their non-technical branches, and more than eleven thousand to the technical branches—a total of over twenty-one thousand. As is to be expected in a State with maritime



The Final Day—Sir George Boag's (third from right) arrival

traditions, the Royal Indian Navy has not been forgotten; and a considerable number of boys from the State are now undergoing training in the Naval Training Establishments, H. M. I. S. Dilawar and Bahadur. Among specialists, it is interesting to note that no less than twenty doctors from Cochin State service have gone on military service.

Taking these figures with those that I had previously mentioned, we reach a total recruitment figure of about a lakh; and it must be remembered that this does not include the large number of men em-

ployed in Harbour Works and other special Essential services of high military importance.

For the Women's Services I am unable to day to give you any precise figure, because these are not at present available. I can however tell you emphatically that the Women's Services have not been overlooked. The general direction of Women's War activities in the State is in the hands of the Cochin Women's War Efforts Committee. Large number of educated girls of the State have joined the various Women's Services, particularly the W. A. C. (India). Under the Auxiliary

Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, is interested in artillery. Mr. B. V. K. Menon, Joint Secretary, is behind the Diwan



Nursing Scheme, 117 candidates have already been trained; and proposals are now in hand which should make it possible to train a greatly increased number.

Since the outbreak of the War, the Cochin State and its people have contributed in cash more than nine lakhs and sixteen thousand rupees to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and various other Funds, nearly fifty thousand rupees to the Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund. Investments in Government of India War loans exceed twenty-five lakhs; and investments up to date under the National Savings Scheme exceed thirty-two lakhs. This gives an impressive total of more than sixty-seven and three-quarter lakhs. The State has also proved itself a valuable source of war supplies of all kinds, the most important of these being timber, coir and coir materials. Technical training too is being carried on in the State; and

The Diwan introducing the Military Officers to H. H. The Maharaja



Lieut Col. Edwards (Resident, Madras States) and Mrs. Edwards going round the booths

already more than seventeen hundred candidates have undergone technical training of one kind or another.

Finally, the important question of welfare has not been overlooked. There is a special Welfare Department which is responsible for this duty; a State Soldier's Board has been set up to consolidate the welfare work of the soldiers and their families; and a Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund has been opened for the purpose of providing financial relief for members of the fighting forces and their dependants."



A Bird's Eye View of the Exhibition Grounds

The tanks attracted large crowds daily



All roads lead to the Exhibition Grounds



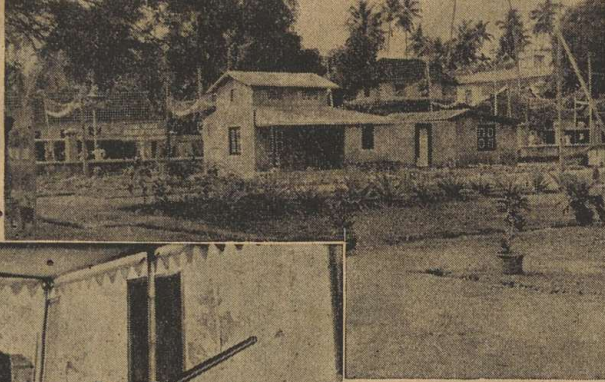
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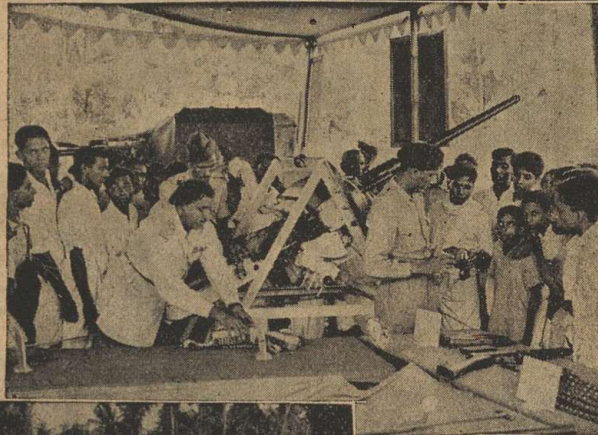
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The Model House



The Exhibition comprised of numerous sections devoted to the organisation, equipment and other paraphernalia of the three armed services, the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The principal exhibits of the Royal Indian Navy were a model (to scale) of a Fairmile warship, torpedoes, mines, breach-loading

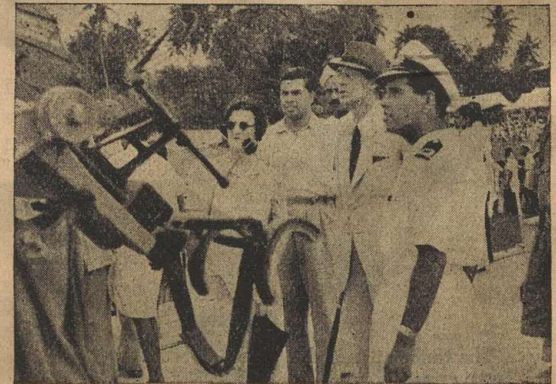
The interest in guns



guns and multiple five inch machine guns. Suspended over the Exhibition Grounds the visitors saw a barrage balloon and in the grounds a working model that demonstrated the value of the barrage over a model city. A grounded Hurricane fighter was an additional attraction. Among the interesting army



Major General Wade in the "Model Town"



Lieut. Col. Edwards in the Artillery Booth

exhibits were tanks of different sizes, armoured cars, guns, mines, bombs, and signal equipment. Various vehicles of interest were on display in the I. E. M. E. section including a Mobile Workshop

And still they come



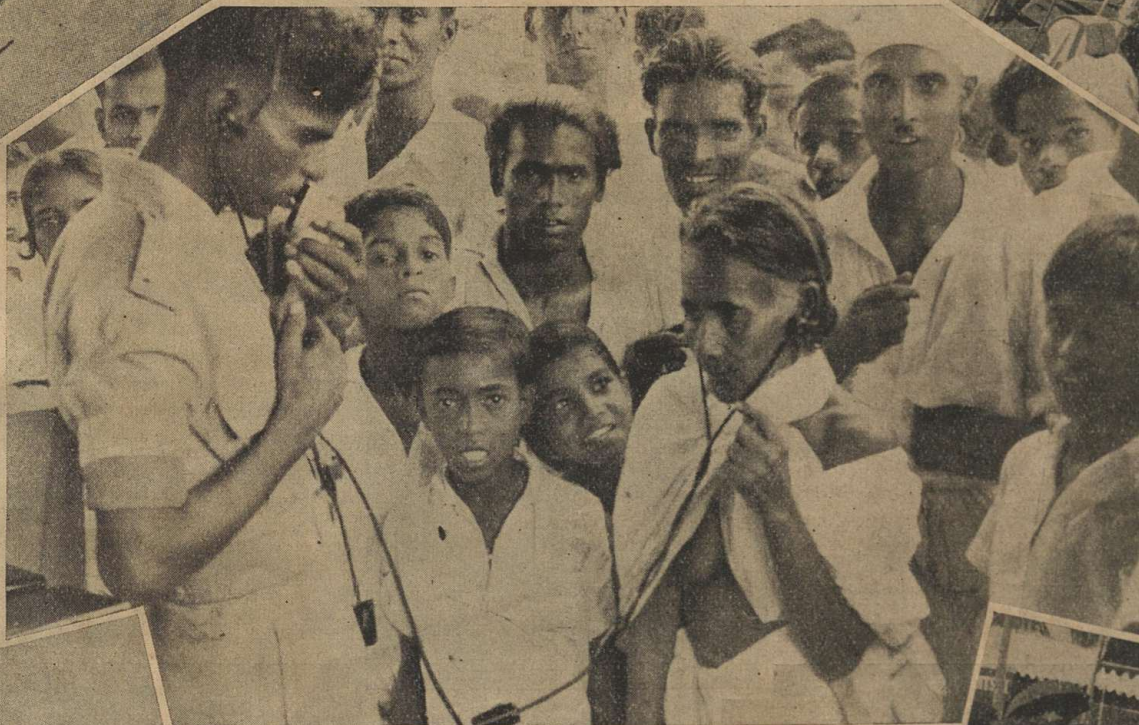


Ladies had their own attractions

Lorry fitted up with Homes Wrecker Equipment used in the field for derelict vehicles. The Army Medical Services had a magnificent display of an advanced Dressing Station including resuscitation ward, an operation theatre,



Exhibition Grounds—
an evening view



The Ladies had
their own "Day"

Perched high
on a tank!

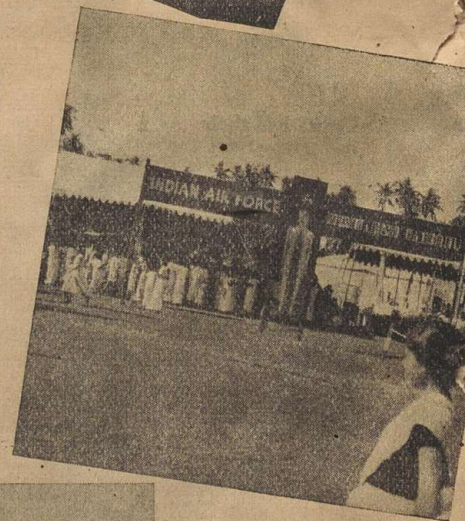


And what did the old lady hear?

and blood transfusion ward. A model of a harbour, complete with docks and ships and showing godowns, stores and miscellaneous



The Booths and
other attractions



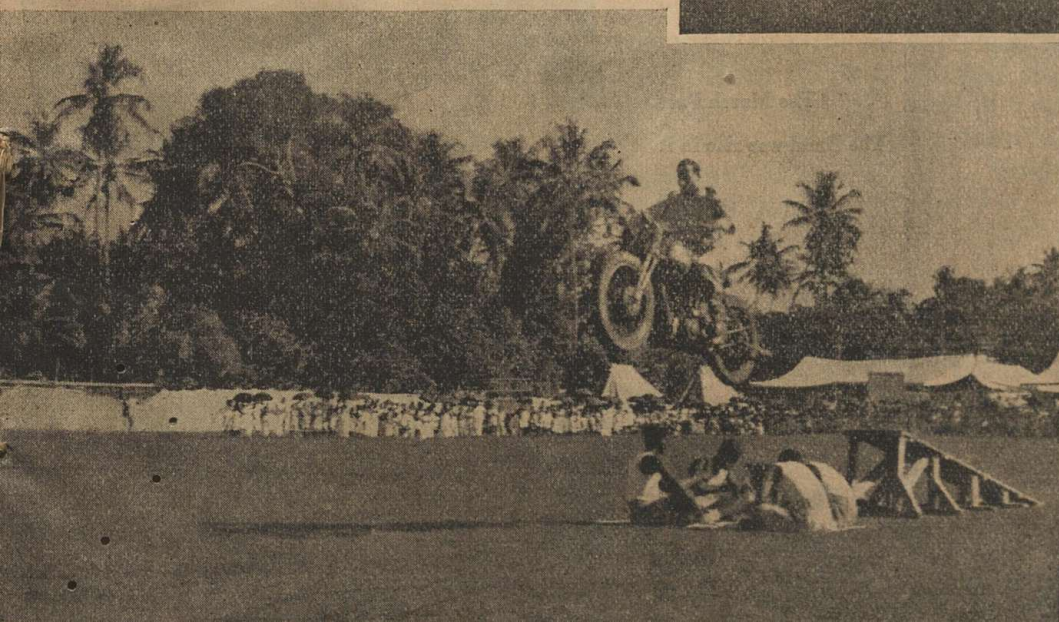
Ubiquitous Policeman
regulating traffic



buildings needed for great installations of this nature was another important exhibition attraction. The Model Town and Village and Ex-servicemen's "Ideal Home" were of special interest. The Cochin State industries, its agricultural products and its forest wealth and the activities of the State Departments of Public Health, Veterinary, Fisheries, Savings, etc. were exhaustively represented. Principles of a wise balanced diet were explained and demonstrated in the Nutrition Section run by Dr. M. M. Shaffi. The "Balanced Diet" meals were both attractive and healthful.

This great show was on view for nine days and was witnessed daily by many

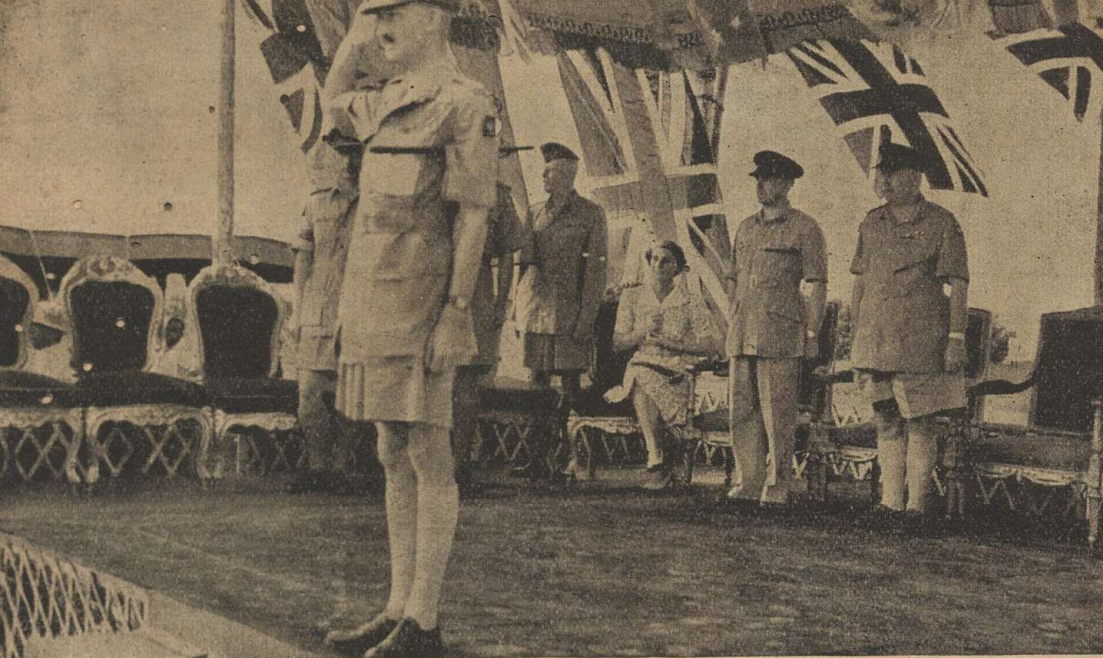
A Thrilling Moment



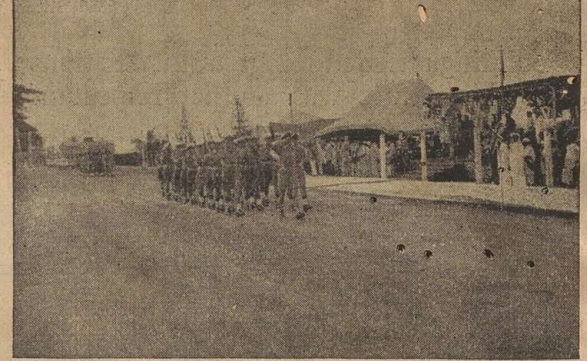
The Model Ship on land!

thousands. Additional daily attractions were Naval Field Gun display, I.E.M.E. display, gun drill, firing and demonstrations by the Cochin State Forces, and also dances, variety entertainments, music, kathakali, etc., organised in the Exhibition Theatre by the State War Publicity Department which spared no pains to make the Exhibition the great success that it was.

On the morning of the opening day of the Exhibition a mile long procession marched



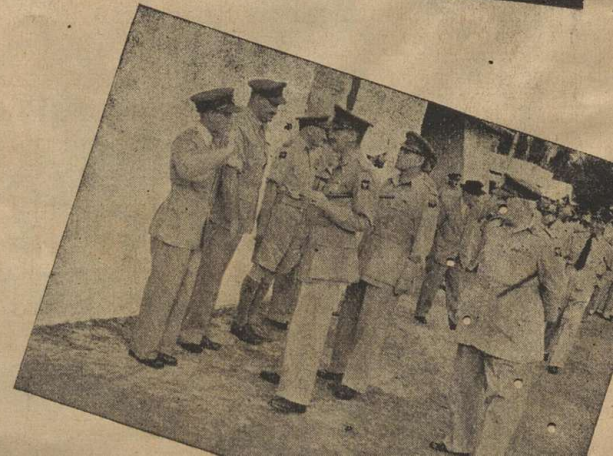
Major General Wade taking the salute at the March Past

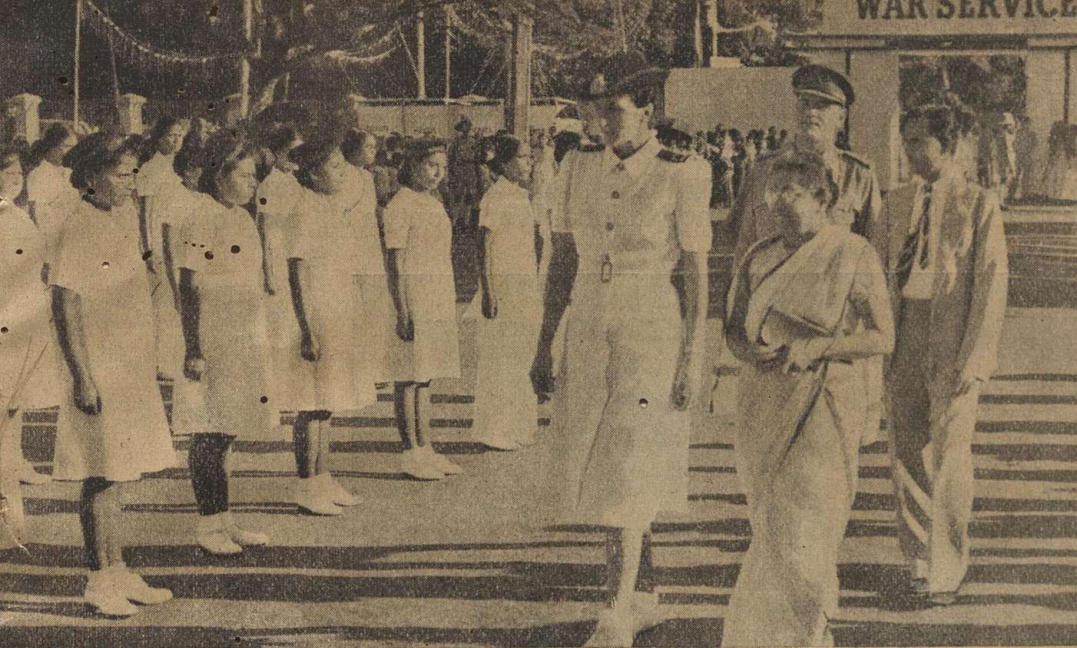


The March Past
The Band was also in it



Major General Wade being introduced
to the Officers on the Services Day





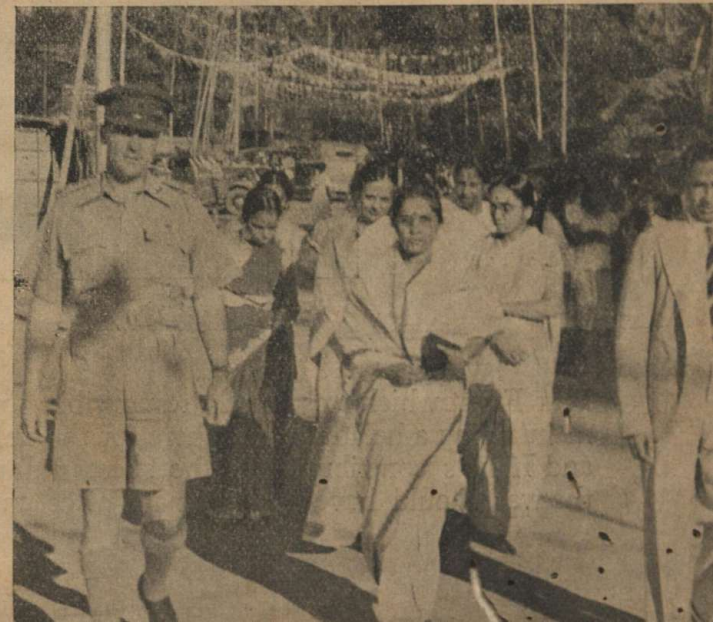
The Ladies' Day—Sreemathi T. C. Ikkavu, Netyaramma (President) inspecting the Guard of Honour

through the town and this parade representing all sections participating in the Exhibition and including the Cochin State Forces, Cochin Boy Scouts and the State Cavalry was watched by thousands when it went through the important roads in the town. It was a spectacular procession. At the saluting base in the Irwin Park Major General D. A. L. Wade, O.B.E., M.C. took the salute. He also presided on the second day of the Exhibition, "Salute the Services Day". On the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th December there were no ceremonial functions in the Exhibition Theatre except the daily entertainment and the usual exhibition programme.

- On the "Ladies Day" Sreemathi T. C. Ikkavu Netyaramma presided. A message in Malayalam sent by Her Highness the Maharani was read by the President who in the course of her presidential address said that the women of Cochin had not lagged behind in their war efforts. She mentioned that "the Cochin Women's War Committee has been taking

a leading part in Red Cross knitting work, in the propaganda campaign and in collecting contributions. Various Ladies' Clubs and Associations have organised benefit performances in aid of the war fund. Women are also taking very keen interest in the amenities for troops and welfare work. The part played by the women of Cochin in air raid precaution work is well known. The response to the call for recruits to the Women's Auxiliary Corps and to the Auxiliary Nursing Services has been very encouraging." Winding up her speech the President said that "the War Services Exhibition has been a splendid achievement, highly interesting and educative. It

Arrival of the President Sreemathi T. C. Ikkavu Netyaramma



has given a realistic picture of warfare in all its various aspects."

Presiding over the "National War Front Day" Sri. T. K. Nayar, State Leader and Minister for Rural Development, said that it was in the fitness of things that the National

brations connected with the Exhibition of such vast magnitude as the War Services Exhibition representing all the important branches of services operating in the present war. Referring to the brilliant record of useful service rendered by the National War Front in all parts of India



National War Front Day—Mr. T. K. Nayar, State Leader (Second from right) and Rama Varma (Appan) Tampuran (right) State Organiser

War Front which was largely responsible for creating and maintaining a healthy atmosphere for the defence of India and India's contribution to the successful prosecution of the war should have its legitimate place among the cele-

the State Leader said that the glowing tribute paid to the National War Front in Cochin by eminent men should serve as an inspiration for more enthusiastic work in future by those associated with this movement.

On the closing day Sir George Boag, who presided, thanked the Exhibition authorities for their splendid arrangements and for the daily magnificent displays in the Exhibition grounds.

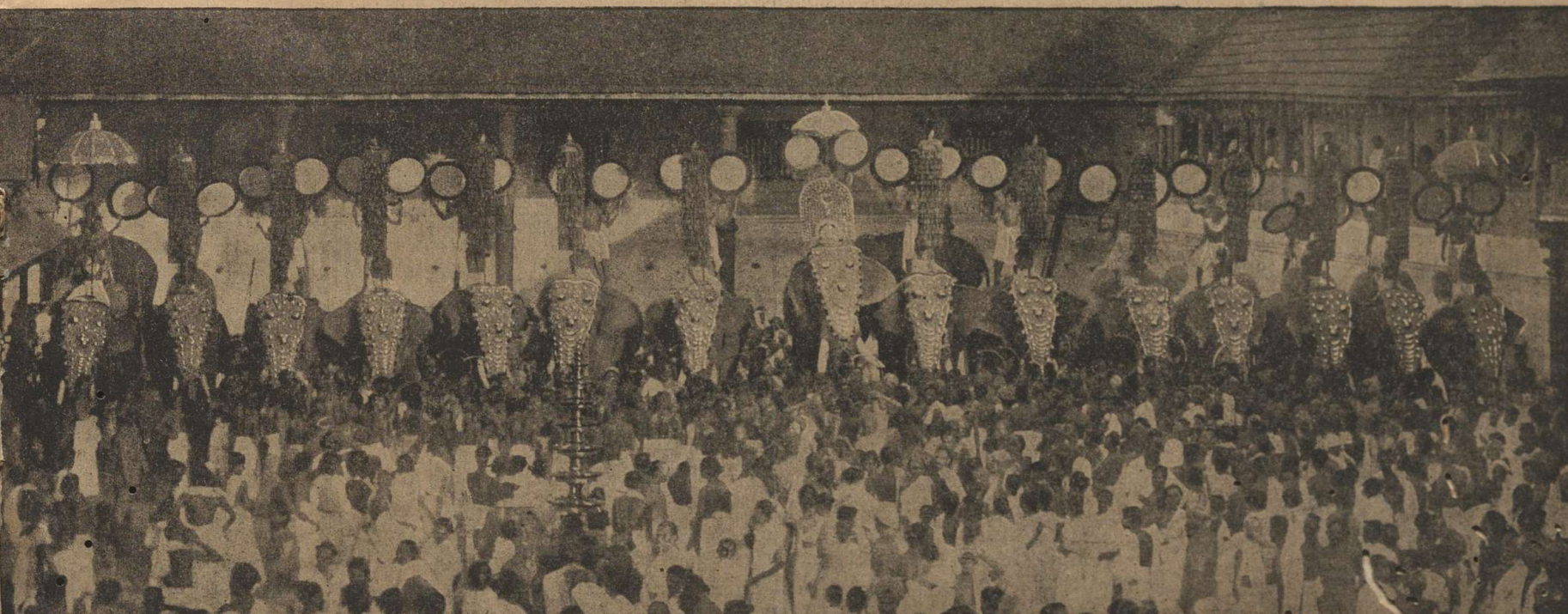
Referring to the educational value of the exhibition the Diwan said that the nutrition and education sections would be of great help to the people who had to depend largely on supplies from outside. That there was scope for indus-

trial development with the assistance of technically trained men who would be demobilised after the war was revealed by the exhibits. He hoped that people who had seen the exhibition would not lose the valuable lessons learned during the Exhibition Week.

Cochin saw a complete picture in miniature of India's martial might and the role of the three fighting services and the ancillary services.

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"Be-decked in golden splendour and in gems and rich attire;
Heavy tread of royal tuskers and the beat of drum of war"





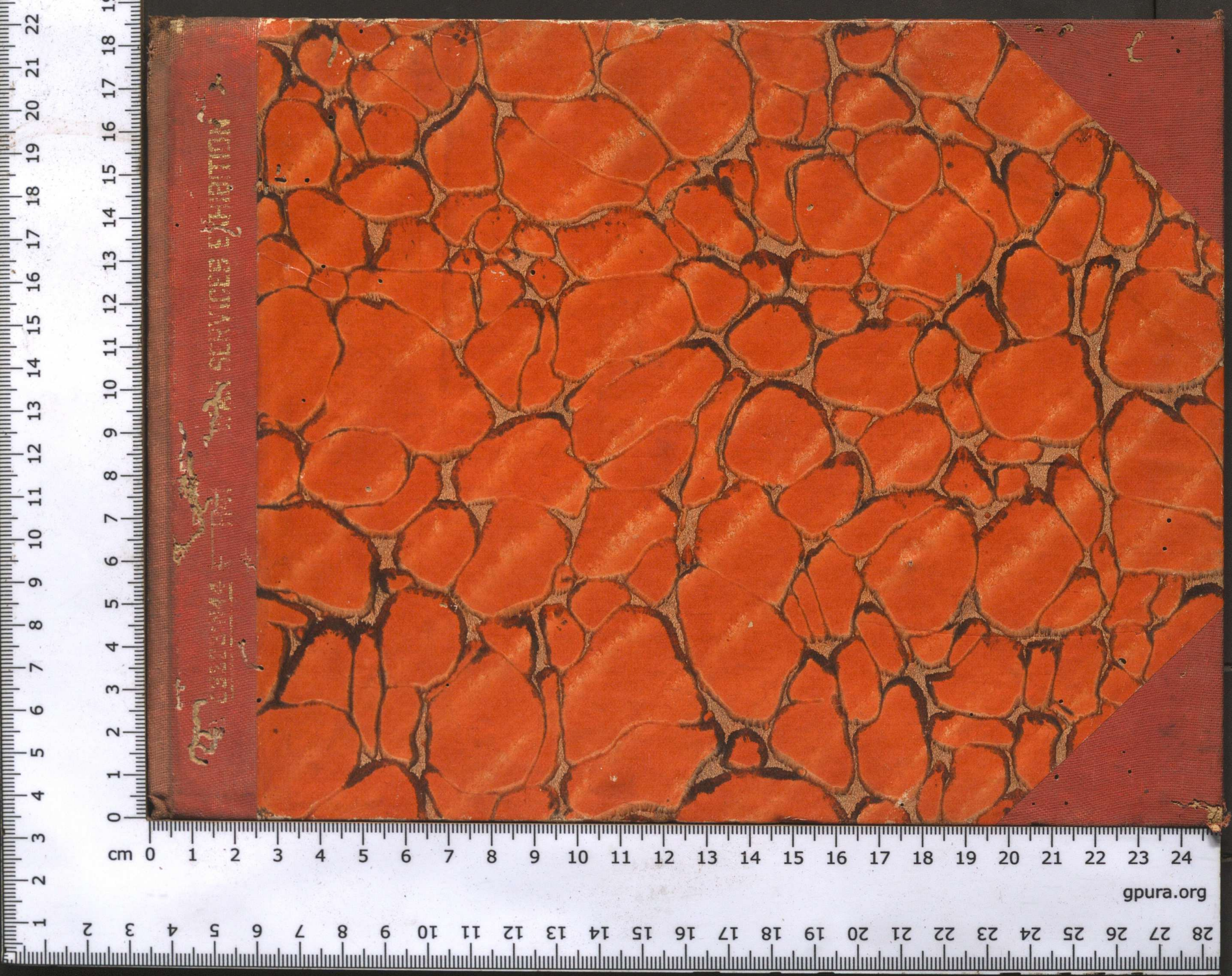
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