



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Is this your last Knewslettter?
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January 2017

The Kukri Notebook

Ted Fitzwater

My original intent was to publish a book, or at least a pamphlet, on the *kukri*, that is the reason for the title. Currently I have far too many irons in the fire for that; so this paper, and those to come, will have to do for now.

I am not a long time *kukri* collector. On Father's Day about eight years ago, my wife gave me an imported Atlanta Cutlery *kukri* from the Nepals Royal Naplies Armor; and this is what sparked my interest.

When I go into a new area, my first order of business is to find as much information on my new subject as possible. I started out looking for books on the *kukri*, or at least books that have articles or sections on them. I found very little, and what I did was of little value. I was finally told about an online forum - the International Kukri Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) - and the fog began to lift. I can remember sitting for hours going over various posts on the IKRHS website. A great deal of the information in this paper, and the articles to come, came from that website. (Please note that the IKRHS forum has fallen on hard times. Most of the older posts have lost their pictures due to internet problems.) Another good source on the vintage *kukri* is the Sword Forum International. It is also a very good forum, and I highly recommend it.

With this paper, and those to come, I will be covering the native and military *kukri*. Please note that I am not the source, but rather the compiler of the information. You will also see in my article that there will be a lot of speculation because with the *kukri*, at times, there are not a lot of flat-out one hundred percent hard truths. Have no doubt, however, that I am going to try to give you the best information on the *kukri* as I have been able to acquire it.

Introduction to the *kukri*

The *kukri* is a knife design found throughout Nepal, areas of Northern India and the Himalayan mountain range. It is made in various sizes and styles depending on its intended uses. It is always forward-curved to various degrees. The blade is generally 12" to 16" in length, but longer blades are not uncommon. The handle, often 4" to 6" long, can be made from wood of various types, horn, ivory, bone, various metals, or a combination of materials. The sheath most often found is

made of wood with a leather cover. All-wood sheaths are also common, while all-metal sheaths have rarely been seen.

Origins of the *kukri*

How old is the *kukri*? That is a very good question. I have a friend (Jonathan Sedwell) who has visited the National Museum in Nepal at Kathmandu. The museum has the oldest surviving *kukri*, which belonged to Raja Drabya Shah King of the Goorkhas (1559 to 1570). Jonathan looked at it for sometime, and its form was identical to many we have seen since. This tends to imply it has been an established blade style for some time.

As far as the general origins of the *kukri*, I will briefly go over three possibilities:

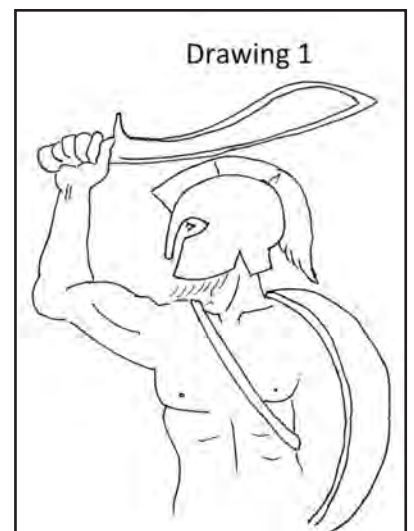


Picture 1.

Reproduction done by Atlanta Cutlery of a Greek *Kopis* sword

1) The Greeks used a forward curved sword called a *kopis* (see Picture 1). Drawing 1 is a rendition of ancient pottery showing Greek warriors using the *kopis* style swords. When Alexander the Great invaded India in 329 B.C., it is possible that this invasion introduced this style of the forward-curved blade to the subcontinent.

Drawing of Greek Warrior taken from pottery using *Kopis* type forward curved sword



Continued on page 8

Most Used Kitchen Knives *continued from page 1*

ahead and use it like any other kitchen knife and see what happens. We've been using it over a year now; and it looks just the same as when I finished it, although I used to cringe at first when I'd see the blade lying in the butter after breakfast.

Each morning one of the first things I do is to eat a piece of banana for the "take with food" pill. I get a hold of a banana in one hand and bring the blade down to the fruit clear of my fingers with the other. With a quick downward flip, the blade slices cleanly through, and the piece I want falls clear on the counter. After many days, if the piece doesn't fall clear, I clean the blade and grab the little sharpener. A couple pulls through on the coarse side puts it back in shape. I think this would be a good bird and trout knife, but I don't foresee it being tested. That is a "used to do" in my present life style.


There is another paring knife in the block that I seldom use, but my wife



does. She had it when we were married and has always liked it. The serrated blade is stamped "FLINT STAINLESS WAVERLY EDGE U.S.A." The blade is slightly longer than the other serrated one. The straight wood handle is too small for me to grip.

The last one I'm going to describe seems to be a good quality knife that might cost \$50.00 or more in a store, but this knife was free to me. It was one of the prizes I won at the last, if I'm not mistaken, raffle held at the OKCA Show several years ago. With an 8" blade and a black ergonomic handle, it is one of the vegetable chopper type designs with a wide blade that have become popular

recently. The edge is slightly curved and has a row of flutes along each side. Janie usually serves raw vegetable salads and fruit with meals; so when I hear a chopping noise, I know she is using this knife, one of her favorites. This blade is labeled VICTORINOX with the familiar cross in shield and an oval logo with VICTORINOX SWISS MADE EXTRA QUALITY inside. There are two sets of numbers and circle containing NSF.

These are the most used knives in our kitchen. I suppose other people have their "most used knives." 



- ✓ Kukri Article
- ✓ The Congress Pattern
- ✓ Dual Advertising Knife
- ✓ Kitchen Knives
- ✓ Great Eastern OKCA Whittler
- ✓ The WWII Collins

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February 2017

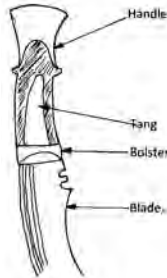
Kukri Note Book Section 1

Ted Fitzwater

This is my first section of The *Kukri* Notebook, with section one we will go over some of the various parts of the *kukri*. We will start with *kukri* tang types.

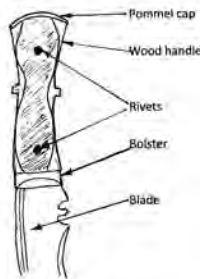
1) The Tang - Generally the section of the blade that goes into the handle and blade to handle is secured depending on the type of tang. There are three types that I know of.

A) Half tang: The oldest of tang styles and it is still in use today but has somewhat fallen out of favor. A hole is drilled into the handle to fit the tang of the blade. The *kami* or knifemaker makes a form epoxy and uses it to secure the handle to the blade tang. The homemade epoxy is made from various types of local tree sap.



B) Rat-Tail or Stick: The tang passes through the handle and secured by a keeper, washer, or in some cases a threaded nut.

C) Flat Tang: This style appeared in small numbers before or around 1900. The Military Mk.2 and Mk.3 use this style of tang.



The wood handles were secured by two rivets. Most had pommel caps.

2) Tang Buttons or keeper - These are what secure the pommel cap and handle to the blade of a rat-tail tang. The tang button may be decorative or very plain in appearance and made of a variety of materials.

Picture, 1: #2 has a very nice sun style keeper, #3 has two sun burst keepers

Picture 2: #4 and #5 both have a diamond style keeper. The diamond keeper is one of the most common styles.

3) Pommel Cap (butt cap) is found on full tang and half tang *kukris*, and the purpose on both styles is to protect the handle. If it is dropped, the handle will not be damaged. The butt cap may be made of bone, horn, or various metals. It may be pinned, secured by a keeper or woodscrews.

Picture 1 and 2: Show five with various types of butt caps. Note all are rat-tail tangs.

Picture 1 Item #1: The butt cap has the tang lightly mushroomed over and pinned at two points to secure the butt cap to the handle. It dates to World War I or earlier.

Item #2: The butt cap is highly engraved and inlaid with silver. Note the butt cap may be a part of the handle. It dates to the 1920s.

Item #3: This butt cap may have at one time been a silver coin that was hammered and shaped into the cap. It has two copper keepers which is unusual for a rat-tail tang. It dates to late 1930s.

Picture 2 Item #4: The butt cap is green horn and secured with a diamond keeper. When I first got this *kukri*, the wood pommel was damaged; and I could see light through the pommel cap. This told me at once it was not metal. Dated to the 1950s.

Item #5: The butt cap covers the top of the pommel as well as an inch down the handle pommel. Dates to mid-1950s.

4) The Kukri Handle - The *kukri* handle is normally wood; but as you will see, there are a number of variations in materials:

A) Wood such as walnut, chandsen, rosewood, breece, and sisal.

B) Metal such as white metal which can be about anything, Brass and cast iron sometimes highly worked.

C) Horn such as water buffalo, yak, giraffe, rhino, ivory both elephant and marine.

Picture 3 Item #1: This has a traditional half tang of an unknown wood and has no butt cap.

Item #2: A very fine cast iron engraved and silver inlaid handle of a traditional design.

Item #3: A very nice rosewood traditional design handle with a sterling silver butt cap and bolster. There are ivory dots around the pommel and just above the bolster.

Item #4: This is a non-traditional design as is #8. The handle is possibly a Indian black buck horn.

Item #5: This is one of the oldest styles of the collection.

Continued on page 7

Kukri Note Book Section 1
continued from page 1

Its handle is possibly rosewood and is called a hand and a half style. It dates to the early 1800s.

Picture 4 - Item #6: A traditional design with a green horn pommel, then rosewood and finally white metal.

Item #7: This is a solid white metal of a traditional design.

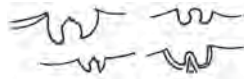
Item #8: Another non-traditional design, it has a light green jade pommel, with mother of pearl, red coral between each section of mother of pearl, and some gold wire between each section of mother of pearl. Needless to say this took a great deal of skill.

Item #9: Traditional design with a bone handle and water buffalo butt cap.

5) Carved Handle Rings - The traditional *kukri* usually has a single exterior ring which serves to hold the *kukri* firmly in the hand, so it will not slip. There are also most often found a number of interior carved rings, I have seen any where from three to six. What do they mean? More than likely they have religious overtones, but it is not known for sure.

Picture 5 You can see how the handle fits in my hand, the large exterior ring fits well between my fingers. Note there are carved rings of unknown meaning in front of the large ring. As stated before, they may have at one time had religious meaning; but it is currently unknown.

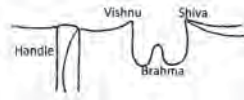
6) Kukri Cho or Kauri/kaura (Notch) - Just about every Oregon Show where I have had my display at least six people will look at it and then come over to my table and ask what the notch is for. There has been a lot of speculation on it, it was thought to be for catching an attacking enemy's blade and twisting it out of his hand, to keep blood off your hand after hack on an opponent, and to sight when you are going to throw. Well, none are even close. The notch is a religious symbol that is supposed to bring the owner good luck. The notch or *cho* come in an endless variety and configuration.



1) Cows hoof, Shiva's temple or the holy trinity, most of the native people in Nepal are of the Hindu faith, and the cow is sacred and the *cho's* shown above are of the most common.

Sheva is the Hindu god who is the destroyer or transformer and is among the holy trinity.

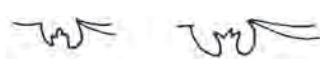
A) Holy trinity in the cow's hoof



B) This Cho design may represent the Red Fort of Agra.



C) Lord Buddhist Symbols.



D) Sita's Temple note Sita is the wife of Vishnu, she is known for her dedication self-sacrifice, courage and purity.



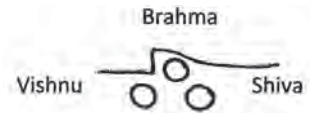
E) Peacock it is a religious symbol for both Hindu and Buddhist. Now there has been some speculation by some that this open winged falcon but for now it is only speculation. One other point this was a popular symbol for Christians because it appears to also symbolize a cross.



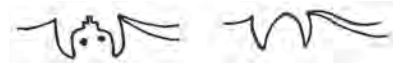
F) These have been called Buddha's eye or the eye of a dove.



G) This is a odd one I have only seen one or two similar, but I think it could stand for the Holy Hindu trinity.



H) These two I think are Buddhist temples and are on Mk1 military kukris. The one on the right has two dots which may stand for the eyes of Buddha.



Picture 6 shows three kukris and the location of the *cho*. Item #1 has a Lord Buddha as does Item #2, and Item #3 is a Military Mk. 1 made in 1914 with the large Buddhist temple *cho*.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

The Kukri Notebook: The Kukri Blade Itself

Ted Fitzwater

The blade may be flat-sided, hollow ground, or fluted, depending on the quality of the blade. If the blade is hollow ground, it reduces the weight without lessening the strength of the blade (Picture 1). I had talked to Wayne Goddard about this a few years back, he told me that doing a good job of hollow grinding, or fluting, a blade takes a good amount of skill on the part of the knifemaker.

In the collection I have, most of the military are flat sided, I would say ninety percent; but at least fifty percent of the native are hollow ground.

Older blades commonly have a single flute or *chirra*, as they are called in Nepal. Two flutes are less common, and three are rare (Picture 2). Now, with modern *kukris* being made in Nepal, I have seen as many as five flutes that are done by electrical hand grinders.

1) *Chirra* or Flute

The intent of the *chirra* or flute is to reduce the weight but still maintain the strength. This is the same as hollow grinding of the blade. There is also a secondary purpose which is decoration; it shows the skill of the maker.

Note: In Nepalese terms for numbers of flutes, *dui* means two and *tin* means three.

Example:

A single *chirra* or single flute



A two *chirra* because of the scallop to the edge.



Dui *chirra* or two flute



Tin *chirra* or three flute



A *tin* *chirra* due to the scalloped edge



2) Spine

The spine consists of the upper and

lower back side. It may be up to a half inch wide on the upper spine next to the handle on some vintage *kukris* (Picture 3). The spine angle of the blade may proceed gradually or abruptly to the point, depending on the design (Picture 4). Place your finger on the upper spine and run it down to the point; you can feel where it changes angle point. Note that in most instances this can be easily seen. The spine may be flat, rounded, or peaked, again depending on the maker (Picture 5).

When I look at a *kukri* one thing I enjoy looking for is whether it has done work or been used. You can tell this by looking at the spine rather than the edge. If it has done work, it will normally have strike marks on the lower spine; it has been used to split wood, possibly for making a fire. The spine has been struck with a hard object and made strike marks. These marks really stir my imagination. (Picture 6.)

3) *Aunlo Bal*

This is the fuller just below the upper spine. It has a religious overtone, as it may be called the sword of Shiva. It may also be more commonly called a blood groove, but for the most part it is strictly decoration and has no functional purpose (Picture 7). The fuller may be forged, engraved, or in modern times machined into the blade. You may see scrolling rather than the fuller. It is found in a variety of designs and may also have some religious meaning. (Picture 8).

4) Belly

The widest section of the cutting edge of the blade. You measure the width of the belly by measuring from the spine to the widest section of the blade.

The wide belly has somewhat fallen out of favor in modern times. You can find vintage ones with belly widths of 2-1/2" to 2-3/4". More modern ones may be 1-1/2" to 2" from spine to widest point of cutting edge (Picture 9).

5) Blade Length

I sat down with a catalog and found that the majority in the collection ran in the

11" to 13" range. The longer blades are out there but not nearly as common. In my collection the longest blade is 17-1/2". I have seen some longer blades over 20". I looked at a very large one that had been sold at the 2015 Show, but it was junk. It was big, maybe in the 25" range, but of poor quality. The larger blades have been used for animal sacrifice in Nepal. These rarely come to the collector's market. (Picture 10).

6) Styles

Some have secondary names. In this section we will look at a few that are in my collection.

Special note: there are military ones that are given official Mark designation such as Mk.1, Mk.4 and so on. But we will go over them at a later date. (Picture 11.)

The first style is called a *budhume* which I do not have in my collection. It is also called a *Big Belly*. It is one of the oldest and largest styles. If you look at Pictures 3 and 4, it is similar in appearance but has a much bigger and wider belly than either of these. I have only seen pictures, I have never held one; they are rare.

(1) *Lambendh* if my spelling is correct. At one time it was also called a *hanshee*, but this was found to be incorrect. It is identified by the handle which is long and narrow; the pommel is very minimal. The blade is usually not very wide; it may be curved as shown, to almost straight. It is very rare and very desirable.

(2) *Sirupate* - I have a number that fall into this category. I have a very good description of this style:

a) has a slender blade

b) the belly is difficult to define (not too clear as to the widest part of the blade)

c) not too strong of a curve in the spine and not too strong a curve in the blade as well. Rather straight than curved appearance

d) shoulder or spine (the point where the blade changes directions) is more to

Continued on page 9

the grip than to the middle of the blade. The *sirupate* is an enduring style in Nepal and still is manufactured. I would guess I have close to 20 that fall into this type; they range in age from 20 years to close to 150 years old.

(3) Longleaf or Broadleaf - The workhorse of the Nepal army around 1900. Some may weigh near three pounds and have an overall length of 19". They are bruits and very cool. This is one of 13,000 that came out of the Royal Armory of Nepal. Currently they are easy to come by. Atlanta Cutlery sells them for \$139.00 plus shipping, including sheath and two small knives. To me that is a buy.

(4) *Bhojpure* sold by Atlanta Cutlery


and others. Of the bulk that came out of the Royal Armory, almost half were of this style. The overall length is around 17". The *Bhojpure* name comes from the Bhojpure valley in Nepal. It still can be obtained from Atlanta for \$129.00 plus shipping.

Special note: Ben Judkins has written an article, *Identifying and Collecting the Nepalese Military Kukri*. It can be accessed online and is an excellent read.

(5) *Chainpure* is recognized by the handle. It has somewhat of a bulbous pommel. The ones in my collection I would classify as weapons, more than tools. They are light in construction and vary in blade styles. The handle again is the key to identification.

(6) What I have heard is this is called a sherpa's *kukri*. It is the workhorse of modern Nepal and is still being made and used. They are very close to the *sirupate* in appearance, with a rough and usually unfinished blade. Handle style will also vary, half tang and rat tail tang. Blade length in my collection are 11-3/4" to 16". The ones I have were probably made in the last 25 years. They will do the job from everyday around the house to self defense.

(7) This falls into the category of most. It has no name beyond it is just a big, old *kukri* and a very lovely one at that.

With my next paper, we will be going over accessories such as sheaths, tinder pouches and the small knives found with the *kukri*. 

PICTURES



#1) A hollow ground blade, both sides of the blade are as you see this right side. I believe I mentioned that 50% of the native ones are hollow ground, military have a much smaller percentage.



#2) (1) quality, commercially made single flute, dates to the 1940s. (2) East India Company two fluted; I think it is a presentation piece. The flutes are much deeper and narrower than any I have seen. The maker of this one,

whoever he was, was very skilled. Dates to pre 1857. (3) A working three flute, it is modern made and the flutes are somewhat shallow. It is relatively modern, maybe 25 years old.



#(3) (1) vintage Nepalese Longleaf military; spine is a 1/2" thick just 1" from the handle. (2) used as a comparison; a little under 1/4" thick and 1" from the handle



#(4) (1) and (2) show two styles with different forward taper styles. (1) World War II Mark 3 has an abrupt change in angle. (2) World War II vintage Mark 2 has gradual change in angle from the handle to the point.



#(5) Different *kukri* spine types (1) flat (2) peaked (3) slightly rounded the peaked is by far the most common spine type.



#6) Both of these *kukris* show heavy use. (1) Nepalese Longleaf dates to pre World War 1 (2) a World War II Mk.2 and the other *kukris* that are in the collection that show similar use; the strike marks are in the same area just beyond the angle changing point.

Continued on page 10

Kukri Notebook 4th Installment

Ted Fitzwater

With the fourth installment of the *kukri* notebook, we will look at *kukri* sheaths style, construction and tools in the *kukri* kit. (Picture 1) Please note there are always exceptions with the *kukri*, but I am trying to provide the reader with the most current and most usable information available. If any additional information becomes available, I will try and provide it in the future.



Picture 1

Contents of a *kukri* kit: *kukri*, sheath made of interior wood with a leather cover, tinder pouch (lower right), *chakmak* sharpening tool to the left of the tinder pouch and the *karda* sharpened utility knife below the *chakmak*.

I will not be going into military *kukri* sheaths with this paper, for the most part they are almost the same; but there are some differences. I hope to do a paper in the fall of 2018 covering standardized military *kukris*, unit and contract made *kukris*, *kukri* sheaths, *kukri* utility items and frogs.

Sheath Types

The most common type of *kukri* sheath consists of a wood interior with a leather cover. (Picture 2) The wood interior has two wood halves held in place by the leather cover. (Picture 3) The wood is soft for ease of carving; the cover is stretched over the wood interior and hand stitched in the back of the sheath. The leather sheath cover is most often water buffalo, but other types of leather are used, such as yak, giraffe, elephant and snake skin. (Picture 4)



Picture 2

Two standard *kukris* with the most common type of sheath, both are wood interior core with leather covers. The leather on both could be water buffalo, but the author does not know for sure.



Picture 3

The wooden interior core of the standard *kukri* sheath. The middle of the picture shows how the *kukri* fits into the sheath. Carving these sheaths is not a skill gotten over night.



Picture 4

This *kukri* has a snake skin sheath cover, it may be hard to see; but if I were to guess, I would say it is cobra skin. I would also guess this is not the *kukri*'s first sheath; there is no place for utility tools and the blue material is to keep the *kukri* from dropping through the owner's sash, as this is where the *kukri* is carried.



Picture 5

The attached pouches on a *kukri*. The front pouch is for the tinder pouch, the larger two pouches are for the utility knives, the *karda* and *chakmak*. The smaller pouch in the center, I am not sure what it is for, or it could be for tweezers, a straw to assist in fire starting or a sharp probe. I just can't tell you for sure; but when I find out, I will let you know.

Generally the *kukri* sheath, at minimum, has three pouches attached on the back side in a large pouch that contains the tinder pouch and two smaller pouches that act as sheaths for two utility knives (which we cover later). (Picture 5) The pouches are generally held in place by stitching, and a strap that goes around the exterior of the sheath. (Picture 6) As I have mentioned before, there are always exceptions.



Picture 6

The strap that assists in holding the pouches in place. It also helps to keep the *kukri* sheath from falling through the owner's sash.

Kukri Wooden Box Scabbards

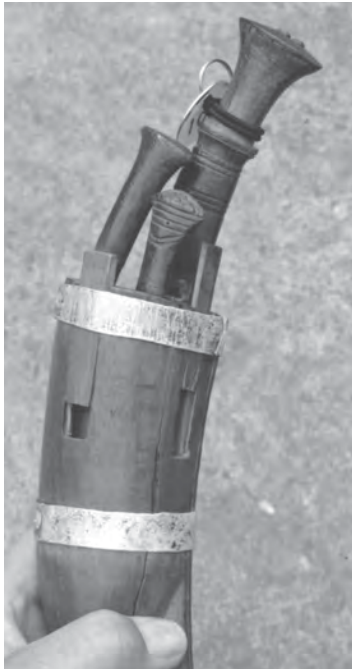
The wood box sheath scabbards are the second most common scabbard types. They normally consist of two wooden halves secured together with bamboo strips or metal bands of brass, silver, tin or aluminum. (Picture 7) The wooden sheath may have a plain exterior or carved. The well-carved sheath may, in many instances, almost fall into the category of fine

Continued on page 5



Picture 7

Three kukris with wooden box scabbards. The top kukri's sheath is very nicely carved with decorative figures going up the center of the scabbard. (Note the top one is missing.) The two halves are held together by bamboo cord. The center kukri is a World War II bring-back and the two halves are held together by aluminum bands. The bottom kukri is an old-timer, very nicely carved with a great deal of use.



Picture 8

An exception to the rule, and this is the only box scabbard I have seen like this. On the back side you have two sliding doors. The one on the left, I think, is for tinder; and the one on the right, I believe, is for coins, but this is just speculation on my part.



Picture 9

A nice native kukri wooden box scabbard carried in a very unusual location. It is very nicely carved and of medium size.

art. (Picture 8) Most box sheaths have a carved out place for two utility knives, and they are located in the same place as in the standard kukri sheath. Normally there are no tinder pouches, but there are always exceptions. (Picture 9)

Kothimora Kukri Sheath

The Kothimora sheath is generally the top of the kukri sheaths. It may have a wood interior with a cloth, leather and metal cover. Note that wooden box scabbard Kothimora sheaths can be found mounted with silver and may have gold inlay with gold panels. The workmanship can be found to be outstanding to fair. (Picture 11) They may be given to people for specific important tasks performed or to military personnel who are retiring from service. Gurka military band members will wear them to show status and position. The kukri itself may be of high quality, but I have seen regular village kukris with great Kothimora sheaths.



Picture 10

The nicest Kothimora sheath I have in the collection; the quality of workmanship is outstanding with very fine detail work. The metal work is all coin silver with a leather under the silver. The middle kukri dates to the 1930s and may have some silver in the metal work but not near the quality of the top sheath. The bottom sheath is the lowest quality of the three, and I don't think there is any silver at all.



Picture 11

The top end and the OK of the three Kothimora sheaths. Note the workmanship on the left which I am sure is all done by hand. I am sure much, if not all, of the decoration on the Kothimora sheath on the right is production done. The left Kothimora sheath has a village kukri, and I am sure that this was a way the owner had to say, "Boys, I have finally made it into the big time."

To be continued in a future *Knewsletter*. 🐦

What is missing in this paragraph?

Q. What's wrong with this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you'd think nothing was wrong with it at all, and in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it you may find out, but you must do it without coaching. If you work at it long, its curiosity in it will dawn on you. 🐦

Kukri Notebook 4th Installment (continued)

Ted Fitzwater

Sheath Types That Are The Exception To The Rule

I have one sheath that is made of water buffalo horn and held together by brass bands. All metal sheaths are rare, but I have seen one that was made totally of brass sheet metal. I do have one that has a brass metal cover which slips over the *kukris* leather sheath and at one time the cover was silver plated. These *kukris* and sheaths fall into the category as tourist pieces and are generally not used by the general *kukri* using population of Nepal. (Picture 12)



Picture 12

Two scabbard types that are out of the norm. The top *kukri* is what is called a lion head, and it is strictly a tourist piece. A metal cover has been slipped over the leather sheath to make it look a little more inviting. The bottom *kukri* sheath has a horn material cover held together with brass bands. I have seen a few of these. Again, it is a tourist piece of little value.

The Kukri Tinder Pouch

In Nepal tinder for fire starting may be very hard to come by, so most *kukris* have a small leather pouch stored in the *kukri* sheath. All pouches are pointed so they may be placed in their *kukri* sheath storage compartment easily. The pouch may have one or two compartments. When there are two, they are located one on each side of the pouch. When

I pick up a *kukri*, I always check the tinder pouch out. You can never tell what you may find coins, first aid supplies and one time a letter from the previous owner's family. (Picture 13)



Picture 13

Various *kukri* tinder pouches. The pouch on the far right has a coin I placed on it. The coin was found in the pouch, and it had been there for a long time.

Karda Kukri Utility Knife

The *karda* is a small, sharp utility knife found located in the back side of the *kukri* sheath. Generally not over 5" long, but rarely I have seen longer. Handles are normal wood, but horn of various types, bone, metal most often aluminum and ivory can be seen. Mostly what it is for is small work, such as skinning a rabbit, work that would be awkward with a *kukri*. They are handy, I know from experience. (Picture 14)



Picture 14

Two variations of the *karda*. The top dates to the late 1800s to the early 1900s. It measures about 6-1/4" overall. The lower *karda* is much later, somewhere in the 1970s to early 1980s. It has a water buffalo handle and an overall length of 4-7/8". Both are handmade.

The Chakmak Utility Knife

The *chakmak* is designed as a sharpening steel for the *kukri*, as a steel to start fire with tinder and a flint for producing

sparks to ignite the tinder. (Picture 15) There is no edge for cutting whatsoever on a *chakmak*. (Picture 16)



Picture 15

A native sharpening a *kukri* with a *chakmak* utility knife. You generally hold the *kukri* down and sharpen toward the point of the *kukri*. If possible you try to rest the point of the *kukri* on something. The individual may have been a World War II veteran. He has a Japanese leather military belt on. He may not be using his own *chakmak*, and his *kukri* looks like it has all its tools.



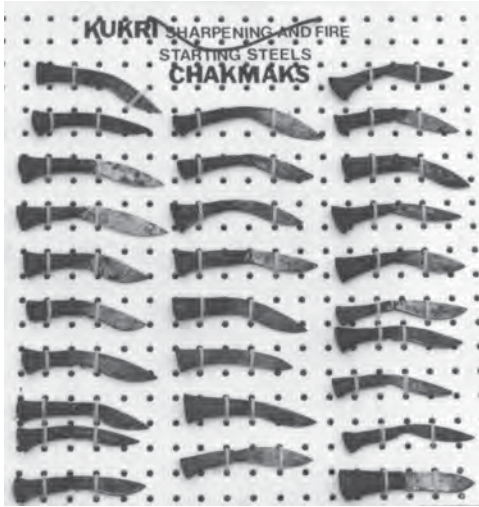
Picture 16

Two *chakmaks*: the top one is dated similarly to the *karda* in the early 1900s and has an overall length of 5" and wooden handles. The bottom *chakmak* is much later, as with the similar *karda* it dates also the 1970s or 1980s. It has a water buffalo handle and measures 4-1/2".

Continued on page 8

The Kukri Notebook
continued from page 2

As with the *karda*, the handle is normally wood; but it can be horn, bone, or in some cases ivory. the overall length may be a little shorter than the *karda*, 1-1/4" - 5". (Picture 17)



Picture 17

Chakmaks out of the Nepal's National Armory cache. They have some variation; and when they make a chakmak of a specific style, they made the karda similar.

I have currently seen two other variations of the *chakmak*, one is fish shaped most often found in village *kukris*. The other has a rasp on one side of the blade and a file on the opposite side. This last mentioned came out of the large Nepal Armory cache, and they were sold for \$1.50 ea. I bought 40; and out of the 40, only six were like the aforementioned. (Picture 18, 19). I am sure there are other variations, but these are the only ones I know of.



Picture 18

Two fish style chakmak. They are seen only on native kukris as far as I am aware. They are solid steel and are close to 4" in length. One side may be etched like a file.



Picture 19

Two chakmaks. The top is a standard model. The bottom chakmak has the rasp on one side and a file on the other. I have a theory about these chakmaks. I have seen a few Nepal Armory kukris that have three utility pouches, one for the chakmak, one for the karda and the last for this rasp chakmak.

The Multi-tool Kukri

This *kukri* has an abundance of tools in its *kukri* kit. I have heard it called a doctor's *kukri* or medicine man's *kukri*; but I have found nothing to confirm this. The multi-tool may have up to 20 tools in individual compartments. There may be a small saw, woodworking tools, chisels, tweezers, probes, button hook, etc.

The sheath may be standard design wood with leather cover or a wooden box type. The *kukri* is generally of high quality and may have engraving along the spine. (Picture 20)



Picture 20

Some of the tools that may be found on a multi-tool kukri. Left to right: a sharpened probe, small saw, karda, another probe, tweezers and a chisel. This kukri held originally ten tools. There are only about half, and one is a duplicate in this picture.



Picture 21

Shows where the tools are located on the kukri. As stated before, I have seen a multi-tool that had 20 tools. One for about any small job.

The Kukri Notebook

Ted Fitzwater

Editors note: Ted's goal was to publish a book on the subject of the Kukri. The book is a work in progress; and all of Ted's completed articles are on our website. This is the first of several. <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/knews.html>

My original intent was to publish a book, or at least a pamphlet, on the *kukri*, that is the reason for the title. Currently I have far too many irons in the fire for that; so this paper, and those to come, will have to do for now.

I am not a long time *kukri* collector. On Father's Day about eight years ago, my wife gave me an imported Atlanta Cutlery *kukri* from the Nepals Royal Naplies Armor; and this is what sparked my interest.

When I go into a new area, my first order of business is to find as much information on my new subject as possible. I started out looking for books on the *kukri*, or at least books that have articles or sections on them. I found very little, and what I did was of little value. I was finally told about an online forum - the International *Kukri* Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) - and the fog began to lift. I can remember sitting for hours going over various posts on the IKRHS website. A great deal of the information in this paper, and the articles to come, came from that website. (Please note that the IKRHS forum has fallen on hard times. Most of the older posts have lost their pictures due to internet problems.) Another good source on the vintage *kukri* is the Sword Forum International. It is also a very good forum, and I highly recommend it.

With this paper, and those to come, I will be covering the native and military *kukri*. Please note that I am not the source, but rather the compiler of the information. You will also see in my article that there will be a lot of speculation because with the *kukri*, at times, there are not a lot of flat-out one hundred percent hard truths. Have no doubt, however, that I am going to try to give you the best information on the *kukri* as I have been able to acquire it.

Introduction to the *kukri*

The *kukri* is a knife design found throughout Nepal, areas of Northern India and the Himalayan mountain range. It is made in various sizes and styles depending on its intended uses. It is always forward-curved

to various degrees. The blade is generally 12" to 16" in length, but longer blades are not uncommon. The handle, often 4" to 6" long, can be made from wood of various types, horn, ivory, bone, various metals, or a combination of materials. The sheath most often found is made of wood with a leather cover. All-wood sheaths are also common, while all-metal sheaths have rarely been seen.

Origins of the *kukri*

How old is the *kukri*? That is a very good question. I have a friend (Jonathan Sedwell) who has visited the National Museum in Nepal at Kathmandu. The museum has the oldest surviving *kukri*, which belonged to Raja Drabya Shah King of the Goorkhas (1559 to 1570). Jonathan looked at it for sometime, and its form was identical to many we have seen since. This tends to



Reproduction done by Atlanta Cutlery of a Greek *Kopis* sword

imply it has been an established blade style for some time.

As far as the general origins of the *kukri*, I will briefly go over three possibilities:

1) The Greeks used a forward curved sword called a *kopis* (see Picture 1). Drawing 1 is a rendition of ancient pottery showing Greek warriors using the *kopis* style swords. When Alexander the Great invaded India in 329 B.C., it is possible that this invasion introduced this style of the forward-curved blade to the subcontinent.

2) Another possibility is that the origin of the *kukri* is India itself, and that India introduced the *kukri* to Nepal. There is a temple in India called the Hoysaleswara. It has a large number of carvings which date to the 11th century, and



Nepalies Kora

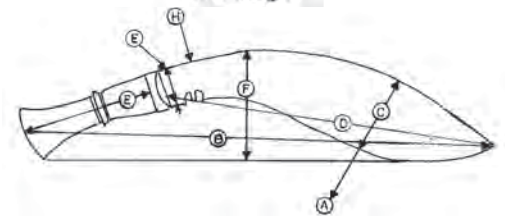
some show Indian warriors using a forward curved blade weapon (see Drawing 2 for a rendition).

3) The third possibility is that the origin of the *kukri* is Nepal itself. The *kora* (Picture 2) was developed in Nepal, so why couldn't the *kukri* have originally come from the warring tribes of the hills of Nepal?

There are other possibilities, but at this time it is up to the scholars. Hopefully they will come up with a more definitive answer.

I will finish this section of The *Kukri* Notebook with drawings of *kukri* measurements including blade length, blade width (belly width), etc. (Drawing 3). Drawing 4 will show all the various parts of the *kukri* and their current names.

Drawing 3



How to measure a Kukri.

- A. Belly
- B. Overall Length
- C. Width at Belly
- D. Blade length
- E. Handle length
- F. Drop
- G. Width at Ricasso
- H. Measure blade thickness here

Drawing of Greek Warrior taken from pottery using *Kopis* type forward curved sword

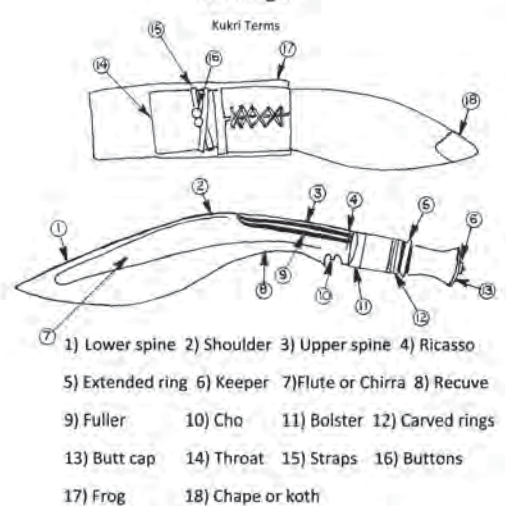


Drawing 1



Drawing 2

Drawing 4



Drawing of carving found at the Hoysaleswara Temple in India showing the warrior with the forward curved sword.

Kukri Note Book

Section 5, English Indian Army Standardized Pattern Kukris

This paper is a redo of a paper I had done for the Oregon Knife Collectors *Knewsletters* back in December 2010. There are just a few minor changes. As before, I covered the Mark1 through Mark 5 kukris.

Mark one: Introduced in 1903, generally thought that production stopped in 1915, but it may have been produced as late as 1917. Generally it is a good size kukri (Picture 1), and there are several



Picture 1: Two Mark 1s in my collection. The top Mk.1 is a contract and was shipped to Fort Williams in November, 1914. This is stamped on the handle. The bottom Mk.1 is a Cossopare Arsenal made in 1915.

variations. The primary identification feature is how the handle is secured to the blade. Upon the introduction of the Mark 1, most kukris had a half tang that was secured into the handle by an epoxy like

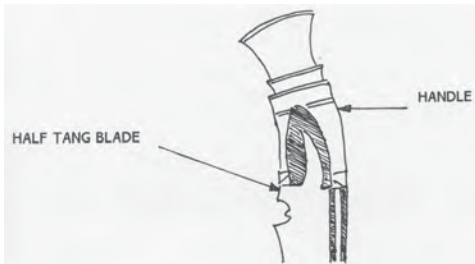


Diagram 2: A half tang kukri. The blade is secured in the handle by a home made epoxy. Some of the ingredients are natural saps and pitches found in Nepal's forests and jungles.

glue. (Diagram 2) The Mark 1 has a rat-tail tang which goes all the way through the handle. It is secured by a round slotted nut that is countersunk flush to the butt of the handle. (Picture 3 Diagram 4) The blade length may vary from 13-1/4 inches to 14 inches and weigh 24 to 33 oz. If you are a kukri collector, this is a must have; they are rare in the United States, but both of mine came from England. Now I did see one at the Oregon Knife Collectors Show



Picture 3: The two butt caps of the Mk.1s depicted in picture 1. Note the slotted round nut mounted flush, or semi-flush, to the butt of the Mk.1s. As far as I know, no other kukri uses this type of blade to handle attachment.

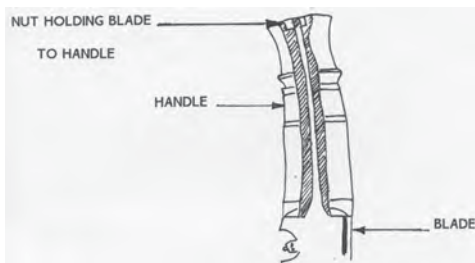


Diagram 4: The handle of a Mk.1 kukri. Note how the tang of the blade passes all the way through the handle and is secured by a recessed nut.

about two years ago, and it was a nice one. So always be on the look out and know what you are looking for.

Mark 1 can be found with no markings whatsoever, but some have been seen from the following manufacturers:

- a) CO=Conspire Armory
- b) FEW= Fort Williams in Calcutta
- c) Qu= Quetta
- d) RP= Rawalpindi
- e) E.Bootia Singh & Son Rawalpindi
- f) ABC= This is not a manufacturer

but is found on both Mk.1s and Mk.2s. It stands for Army Bearer Corp (basically a medic's kukri).

Mark 2: First produced in 1915 to replace the Mk.1 and may have been made as late as 1947. The Mk.2 has a full flat tang with a steel bolster and butt cap; the wood handle is secured to the tang with two rivets. The early Mk.2s have two rings on the handle which keep the hand from slipping when striking an object. The rings can be found on Mk.2s up to the early stages of WWII. (Picture 5) Blade length in my collection varies from 12-5/8 inches to 13-1/4 inches and a weight of 22.4 to 25.6oz.

WWII Mk.2s are common and may be



Picture 5: Mark 2 kukris that are all different contractors. They range in date of manufacture from 1919 to 1944. They are all similar in appearance, with the exception of the second from the top; and this is because of extensive sharpening. The two top earlier Mk. 2s have handle rings which were dropped after 1941 for the most part.

found at most gun and knife shows, but those made prior to WWII are harder to come by and WWI Mk.2s are rare.

Manufacturers of WWI Mk.2 kukris:

- a) Co= Cossopore Arsenal
- b) DAW= unknown
- c) GOB and Co.
- d) E.Bootia and Son Rawinidi
- e) A.S. and Son
- f) RFI= Rifle Factory Ishapove

Manufactures of World War II Mk.2 kukris:

- a) ATD=Army Trader Dharan
- b) MI and MIL= Military Industry
- c) Pioneer Calcutta
- d) JNB=Unknown contractor
- e) M.A.D.= Unknown contractor
- f) SNB= Unknown contractor
- g) RPA= Rawlpindi Arsenal
- h) Qeyoom Bros.= made in what is now Pakistan
- i) MG= Unknown contractor

Another variation of the Mk.2 kukri is called an M43. Primary identification of the M43 is made by the rivets which are recessed into the handle, and there may be M43 stamped on the blade near the bolster.

Continued on page 3

a large number of manufacturers.

Mark 3: The Mark 3 was introduced in 1943. It has a flat tang with a steel butt cap and has no bolsters. It is clearly made for ease of production. The longevity of the Mk.3 is up to debate.

The Mk.3 was used by the Indian Army in the 1980s. How long the British army used the Mk.3 is a big question. I have seen Mk.3s, marked LD with a broad arrow, dating to the 1960s; and another MK.3 marked KED 1975 with a broad arrow. Are they true blue? I just don't know, and for sure I don't know who does.

Special note: The use of the broad arrow was not exclusively used by The British Army. The Indian army used it for some time after they gained independence.

The true WWII MK.3s are hard to come by. Atlanta Cutlery had a few, but they are long gone. (Picture 8) The Mk.3s I have in my collection have a blade length which varies from 11-3/4 to 12-1/2 inches and weighs from 19 to 26 oz.



Picture 8 : Mark 3 kukris. The top and middle are WWII Mk. 3s. The bottom is stamped LD64. These are the most copied military kukris, and you see them at all the gun and knife shows.

Continued on page 8

Manufacturers stamps

MIL=Military Industries

WCS= Windless Steel Company

CMW= Located in Calcutta

K45= K stands for kukri and the 45 the year of manufacture

HW= Unknown but it could stand for

a city called Hardwar located between Almora and Dharadun India. Both Almeria and Dharadun served as Gurkha Regimental centers.

LD 64= unknown

KEO 1975= unknown

RGR= unknown, this stamp was on a very nice modified Mk.3

SA= some proofs mark found on all WWII Mk.3 that I have seen. It is found on some kukris made prior to Indian Independence in 1947. SA stands for small arms.

Mark 4: This is one of the rarest of the military kukris. (There are only 30 known in museums and private collections.) At a glance it looks very similar to a Mk.3 in appearance. (Picture 9) However at closer



Picture 9. This is my Mark 4, and one of the rarest of military kukris. You can see the similarity to the MK.3

inspection it will be noted the Mk.4 is of much higher quality and workmanship. The story I have heard as why the Mk.4 was produced is the kukri at use in the Malaya jungles was not holding up, so a request was made to Walkerton Sword Company. They produced 1400 very high quality kukris. Now there were a lot of stories circulating around as to what happened to most of the Mk.4s. Some thought they still might be sitting in some warehouse stored away, others stated they were not liked by the troops using them because the metal was too hard and could not be shaped by the sharpening steel provided with the Mk.4. But if the truth be known, they were just used up. The jungle is hard on everything. The Mk.4 that I have is stamped WSC 51, and there

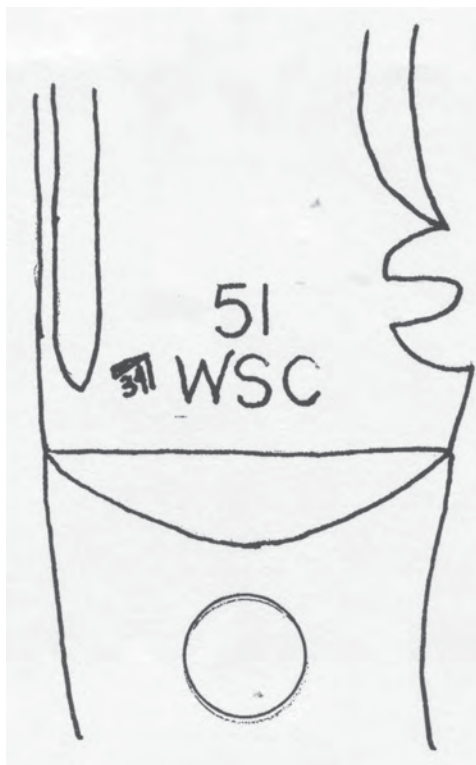


Diagram 10: Diagram of the markings found on a Mark4.

are general proof marks (Steel Diagram 10). The tang is chrome plated to reduce corrosion. The chakmak and karda (note the karda is a small utility knife provided with the kukri) will also have the WSC stamp if original to the Mk.4.

Value: I have not seen one for sale in recent years, but in my original article I mentioned one I had viewed on eBay, asking price was \$1,850.00. It had both chakmak, karda and original sheath but did not sell until the price was reduced to \$900.00. I got mine about a year later, and it did not have the original chakmak or frog. I paid \$900.00. They are, as I have stated, very rare. It's a seller's market. You are lucky to find one at any price.

The measurements of a Mk.4 are as follows: it has an overall length of 16-1/4 inches, blade length of 12 inches, thickness of a blade is 3/16. Note a Mk.3 is 1/4 inch and weight is 23 oz.

Mark 5: The Mark 5 was introduced in the 1960s and is still in use by the British Gurkhas. It is lighter and of a smaller size than previous kukris used by the British Gurkhas. The Mk.5 is produced in Nepal. Most are unmarked, but I have one stamped ORDER NEPAL 1/81. The seller told me that it came out of a Gurkha unit in Iraq. They have a rat-

tail tang with a brass bolster, butt caps and a black horn handle. Quality will vary from very good to tourist grade. The Mk.5 is issued with a chakmak and karda, also with black horn handles. In Jonathan Sedwell's paper, *The 20th century British Military Pattern Issue Kukris*, he states there are three grades of Mk.5s: ceremonial, issue and training grade. (Picture 11)



Picture 11: Mark 5, or also called Service number 1. Top is a standard issue Mk.5 that was presented to U.S. Special forces member R.P. Mohs by the 1-2 Gurkha unit in 1978. The middle and bottom Mk.5 are Ceremonial Mk.5s. The middle is a chrome plated blade while the bottom is polished steel.

In my collection, they have an overall length of 15 to 15-1/2 inches, and a blade length of 10-3/4 to 11 inches and weigh 14 oz.

I can take very little credit for the contents of this paper, I borrowed very heavily from Jonathan (spiral) Sedwell's paper, *The 20th Century Military Pattern Gurkha Issue Kukris*. His paper can be found at the International Kukri Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) website under articles. If you are interested in kukris, the IKRHS website is where you want to go.

Section number 6 of the Kukri Note Book will cover units made and contact military kukris made for the British Indian Army. I will also include clues on how to spot them from native and commercial kukris. 🐉

Kukri Notebook No 6

Kukris You Do Not Want To Collect

Ted Fitzwater

This paper was written following the display I did at the April 2019 Knife Show. It is my hope, by the end of this paper, you will have been educated in some of the pitfalls of collecting kukris and how to maneuver around them.

We had The Antique Bowie Knife Association collectors at our last Show; and if you sat down with one of the collectors and asked him about fake Bowies, he would have a story or two to tell on how good Bowie knife fakes can be. Kukris have not reached the kind of value as Bowies, but they may sometime in the future.

World War I Military Kukri Fakes

Military kukris of this period have increased in value, along with the introduction of fake WWI kukris made available by unscrupulous dealers and collectors. As a serious collector you will develop a wish list of the kukris you would like to obtain. At the top of my wish list for several years was a WWI military kukri, no particular style, but a true WW1 piece. (Picture 1)

I was surfing for kukris on eBay and spotted kukri #3 in picture 1. It was advertised as a 1916 dated British Gurkha Army kukri. The asking price was \$75.00 + shipping. I did find it odd that no one was bidding on it, and the price was so reasonable. I waited until the last minutes before the auction closed and made my bid. I GOT IT! I was thrilled, and I did a war dance around my computer. I could not wait till it was in my hands. When my kukri came in, I went to the International Kukri Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) and posted my prize. To my horror, they told me it was a fake; I just about threw up. I was despondent for days until my wife finally slapped me up along the side of the head and told me to get over it, and I did. Go to Picture 1. There are three kukris; the top, #1, is also an out-and-out fake. Both #1 and #3 are marked as WW1 Mk.2's. The real Mk2 kukri is #2 in the center of Picture 1. Do kukris #1 and #3 look anything like kukri #2? I THINK NOT! Also #1 has brass fittings; brass fittings did not come into use until the 1920s. I knew #1 was a fake when I got it, but I have seen this very style of kukri go on eBay for several hundreds of dollars. So ignorance is not bliss: buyer beware. (Diagram A)

Fake Markings On Kukris

Added markings on kukris really give me heartburn. You have an out-and-out lowlife who wants to make a few extra bucks by adding markings to increase the value of the kukri that he is trying to sell. The examples that I have are shown in Picture 2.

The top kukri is stamped with a 1914 date in front of the handle on the blade. I got this off eBay; it was listed as a British WW1 Gurkha kukri knife. Again I posted in on the IKRHS website and was told it was an original kukri, and a nice one at that; but it was made in the 1930s, not 1914, and had a fake stamp. Okay,



Picture 1)

Both 1 and 3 are out-and-out fakes. They are marked WW1 Mk.2. Number 2 is the original WW1 Mk.2. You can see for yourself there is a substantial difference between the original and the two fakes. Also, as stated in the article, on fake number 1, brass on kukris did not come to use until the mid 1920s. I have never seen brass used on original Mk.2 military of any time period.

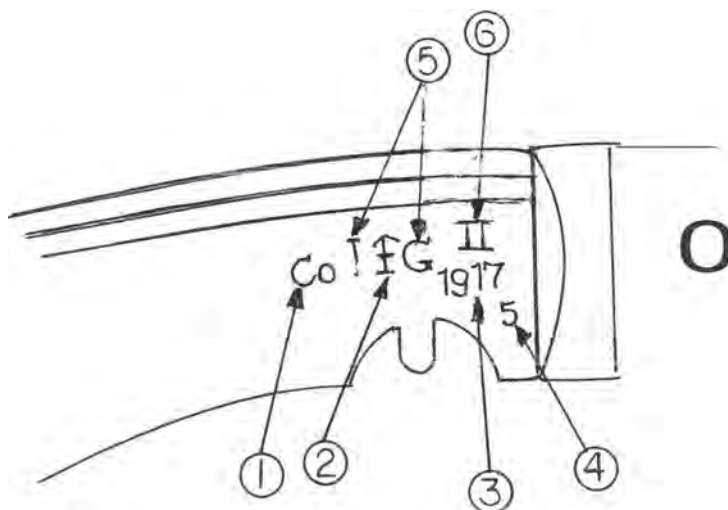


Diagram A) Here shown is one of the most common of WW1 Mk.2 markings. Both fake #1 and #3 have similar markings. These markings are identified as follows:

- 1) Co is the manufacturer
- 2) Broad arrow
- 3) year of manufacture
- 4) inspector's stamp
- 5) Indian government
- 6) Mk.2 style of kukri.

Picture 2)

Sadly these are two faked WW1 marked. I purchased both in good faith and got stabbed for it. Thankfully this is not the norm.



Continued on page 4

Kukri Notebook No 6 Kukris You Do Not Want To Collect continued from page 2

another one bites the dust. There is one other by-product of this 1914 stamp. The value of the kukri with a bogus 1914 stamp is now around \$50.00 on a very good day; whereas, without the stamp, in original condition, it would be worth \$125.00 to \$150.00 (so much for the stamp increasing the value).

Kukri #2 in Picture 2 has some interesting marks also, and most true collectors are very skeptical about those markings. They were sold by a well-known dealer who I will not mention here. The kukri is stamped with a 1916 date and has a British broad arrow stamp above the date. It could very well have been made in that period. But I have never seen one of this type with various supposed WW1 markings, and this leaves me wondering. (Diagram B and C)

One thing I want to emphasize is, if the date is not on a standardized military kukri, such as Mk.1, 2, or 3, it should be questioned as to its authenticity. I have never seen a 100% non-standard kukri that has a stamped date on it. (Picture 3)

Reproduction Kukri Socket Bayonets

Kukri socket bayonets are like some mythical beast that everyone has heard of, but no one has ever seen. Picture 3 has two reproductions. Number 1 has been the most common variation of reproduction that I have seen. It has been sold as a reproduction and as a real deal.

Socket bayonet #2 has been called a kukri but truly is not; it is more of a yatagan style blade. A number of the originals have been imported from Nepal for sale to collectors.

You can tell the reproductions from the original. (Pictures 4 and 5) On the original all the work on the bayonet is done by hand and is very crude. The socket is knurled and is done by hand and is very crude. The reproduction is done by modern machine. The slot on the original is also done by hand, whereas the reproduction is done by machine. The original socket bayonet is forged from one piece of material for the socket and blade, but the reproduction is one piece and the blade is another. The two are welded together. I have seen the reproductions doctored up and sold as originals; so buyers be forewarned, do your homework.

I wanted to throw Picture 6 in. It shows a socket bayonet for sale in the Golden State Arms World Of Guns And Other Weapons, copyright 1958. Is it the mythical beast? Well, we may never know.

The Mark 3 Military Kukri

This is perhaps one of the most well known of the military kukris. They were made by the thousands and may still be an issue item in the Indian Army. But true WWII Mk.3's are very hard to come by. There were a few imported by the International Military Antiques and Atlanta Cutlery. They are now long gone.

If I see a MK.3 at one of our Knife Shows, the first thing I look for is marking. One of the most telling marks is a SA stamp.

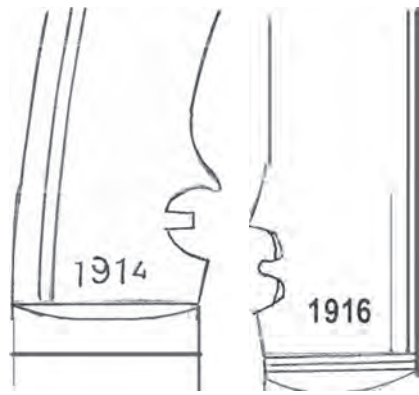


Diagram B) This shows up close the added markings to kukri 1 on the left and kukri 2 on the right. If the date stamp is on a non-standard military kukri, it should always be questioned.

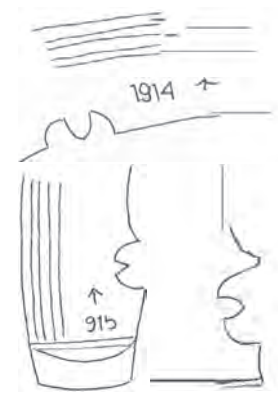


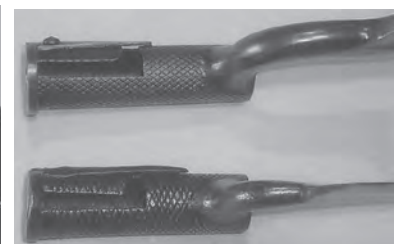
Diagram C) Additional diagrams of markings in picture 2 are similar to those found on kukri 2. The broad arrow stamp on the lower right I question. It would appear to me a modified stamp was used. When you see things like this, it should raise questions.



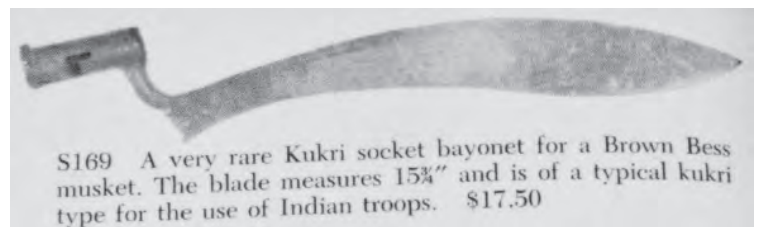
Picture 3) Two of the most common reproduction socket bayonets. Number 1 was purchased at one of our Shows as a reproduction, and number 2 was purchased from Atlanta Cutlery as a reproduction.



Picture 4) Sockets of the yatagan bayonet. The top is the reproduction and the bottom the original. Note the difference.



Picture 5) Socket style yatagan bayonets. The top is a reproduction; the bottom is the original. Note the difference in the slots of the reproduction and the original.



Picture 6) Is this the mythical beast of kukris? We will probably never know.

Continued on page 8



The SA is a British-Indian Army stamp that stands for Small Arms. As far as I know, it was not used after 1947, the year of India's independence from England. The SA stamp may be found on the handle or on the blade, just in front of the handle. The manufacturer's stamp, if it has one, is normally found just in front of the handle. Some collectors have thought that it was the broad arrow mark alone that was the key to the Mk.3 authenticity; but it must also have the SA stamp and, in most cases, a manufacturer's markings. (Picture 7 and Diagram D)


The Lion Head Kukri

This is a classic tourist item. It has been made by the thousands, if not millions. It gets its name from the pommel cap. It is cast in the form of a lion's head. (Picture 8) It is thought that this came from the English officer's sword that had a lion head pommel. They generally have very little value to the true collector unless they have specific provenance. If you walk around our Knife Shows, you may see a number of them. They come in all kinds of sizes and shapes. (Picture 9) Some of the early ones date to the 1920s. What is the value of a lion head tourist kukri to a true collector? Very little. (Picture 10)

Kukri Look-A-Likes

There are a number of large knife types that are often mistaken for kukris. I have two. The two examples I have are one which is seen throughout Southeast Asia. It is called an enep. It is similar in appearance to the kukri. It has the prominent forward curved blade. The other is often called a Philippine bolo. The design is very similar to modern kukris I have seen on eBay. (Picture 11) Always do your homework. Know what you are getting.

I want to add one more bit of information on questionable kukris. These are very ornate kukris coming out of Pakistan, India and other countries in that area. There is currently a buy-it-now, very ornate, kukri on eBay. The asking price is well over \$500.00. I have seen a number of kukris coming out of the aforementioned areas with mother of pearl handles and Damascus blades. Really cool looking. They appear really well made. This is another buyer beware. Do your homework whenever you are thinking of spending this kind of money.

This concludes my paper. As time goes on, more information may become available on kukris. It would appear they are becoming popular. If I get any additional information on authenticity, I will make it available to you. 



Picture 7) Mark 3's: number 1 and number 2 are reproductions and over runs sold on the surplus market. Number 3 and 4 are original WWI Mk. 3 and number 5 is not a Mk.3 but a Mk.4 One of the rarest of the military.

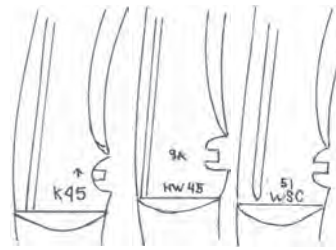


Diagram D) Mk.3 markings far left. K45 stands for made in 1945. Note the broad arrow above, the SA stamp is on the handle, middle HW is the manufacturer, 45 is the year of manufacture, SA stamp is above. The far right is a Mk.4 made in 1951 with the WSC being the manufacturer.



Picture 8) Lion head tourist pommels.

Picture 9) Lion head tourist kukris come in a vast number of variations and sizes.



Picture 11) Large knives are, at times, mistaken for kukris. Number 1 is a modern enep from Southeast Asia with its sheath below. Number 2 is a Philippine bolo also with its sheath.



Picture 10) Grob Kukri. One of the largest lion heads you might ever see. It has an overall length of 46-1/2 inches, a blade length of 3 feet. It has no true historical value. It is classified as an oddity or fantasy piece. The two boys holding it are my grandchildren, Samuel on the left and Steven on the right.

