

# QUOTES FROM BRITISH, EYEWITNESSES, AND OTHERS MANY DECADES AGO ARE REVEALING

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BUDDHISTS OF ARAKAN British Officials, Record Keepers, Eyewitnesses from 1910 - 1949 write about the attacks, the intolerance, the ethnic cleansing, that continues to this day - against the Buddhists (despite the opposite - but erroneous - view of many)

Quotes from British officers and eyewitness accounts of the relentless violence, ethnic cleansing, intolerance, and large-scale massacres of the Buddhists of Arakan reveal the reality, history, and suffering that the Buddhists have endured, and that they have to counter an enemy which has the world largely fooled with its never-ending deceitful and manipulative false media, false history, and false ideology.



Read what trained-to-be-observant officers, report writers, and record keepers wrote - at the time.

The British had no bias against the Muslims, after all, the British brought them in from the adjoining Bengal part of British India (now Bangladesh) because the British knew and acknowledged that they worked harder than the indigenous Buddhists, and the British wanted good results from their agricultural businesses.

### Basic Terminology:

**Myanmar** is a newer name of **Burma**, although 'Myanmar' is somewhat tainted by being imposed by the former military regime in 1989. Both refer the same country with the same borders. Both are used currently.

**Rakhine State (or Arakan State)** is the western-most state of Burma, and borders parts of Bangladesh and India.

**Rakhine** (also spelt **Rakhaing**, and **Yakhine**), and **Arakan** basically mean the same thing, and refer to the culture, language, ethnicity, and continuously populated homeland of the Buddhist people of the area.

The capital of Rakhine State is **Sitetway**, (also spelled **Sittwe**), and before the British came it was known as **Akyab**.

**Rohingya** is a new name (starting slowly in the 1950s, more widespread in the 1970s-1990s) for the more recent Muslim immigrants formerly called **Bengali Muslims**, or **Chittagong Muslims** (which indicate their roots).

The largest historic archeological site is **Mrauk-U**, the capital of the last great Arakanese Buddhist kingdom, 1430 - 1784, which at its time was one of the richest cities in Asia, and which was preceded by several thousand years of Buddhist, Hindu and Vedic Kingdoms.

In 1939, the British established a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the rapid increase of Bengali Muslims in Arakan from roughly 30,000 in 1825 to 220,000 in 1930. That Commission concluded that there would be violence in the very near future if the relentless Bengali Muslim movement across the border wasn't stopped or at least restricted.

And, the Commission was right.

*"I have been told the harrowing tales of cruelty and suffering inflicted on the Arakanese (Buddhist) villages in the Rathaydaung area. Most of the villages on the west bank of the Mayu river have been burnt and destroyed by the (Bengali-Muslim) V Force. The enemy (Japanese) never came near to these villages. Hundreds of villagers are said to be hiding in the hills. It will be the Arakanese who will be ousted from their ancestral land and if they cannot win over (the Muslims) in time, then there can be no hope of their salvation."*

C.E. Lucas Phillips, Brigadier General in the British 14  
India Office Records R/8/9GS. 4243

*"That the Arakanese are gradually being pushed out of Arakan before the steady waves of Chittagonian immigration from the west is only too well known. The influx from Chittagong is still continuing gradually driving all the natives of Arakan further east."*

The Burma Gazetteer by R.B. Smart - Deputy Commissioner Settlement Officer of the Akyab District

*"Maungdaw township has been overrun by Chittagonian immigrants, Buthidaung is not far behind and new arrivals will be found in almost every part of the district."*

The Burma Gazetteer by R.B. Smart - Deputy Commissioner  
Settlement Officer of the Akyab District

*"The Muslims had their origin in the District of Chittagong, in the Bengal province of British India, and all Muslims whether natives of Arakan for generations or recent immigrants were known as Chittagonians, or in the British Forces, as CFs'."*

C.E. Lucas Phillips, Brigadier General in the British 14<sup>th</sup> Army

In a revealing observation, in August of 1947 the Commissioner of Arakan wrote a report after an official was brutally murdered by Muslims in Maungdaw. He wrote:

*"The assassins were suspected to be employed by the Muslim Police Officer, and have been organizing strong Muslim feelings and dominating the whole area. This is a direct affront and open challenge to the lawful authority of the Burma Government, by the Muslim community of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships..... Unless this most dastardly flouting of the government is firmly and severely dealt with, this alien community will try to annex this territory, or instigate Pakistan to annex it."*



## INSIGHTFUL LETTER BY VERY EXPERIENCED OFFICER IN 1949

**Peter Murray** was a British administrator in Burma before World War II, and then he served as a Civil Affairs Officer (CAO) with the British Army in Northern Arakan during the Second World War. He had learned and spoke fluent Burmese.

Following are excerpts from a memo he wrote in January 1949, to the Foreign Office outlining and explaining the so-called race/religious troubles in Arakan due to the Bengali Muslims' relentless intrusion into Burma.

(Bold emphasis and text enclosed by [ ] is by Rick Heizman)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

26th January, 1949.

(F 1323/1015/79)

SECRET

Letter to RWD Fowler

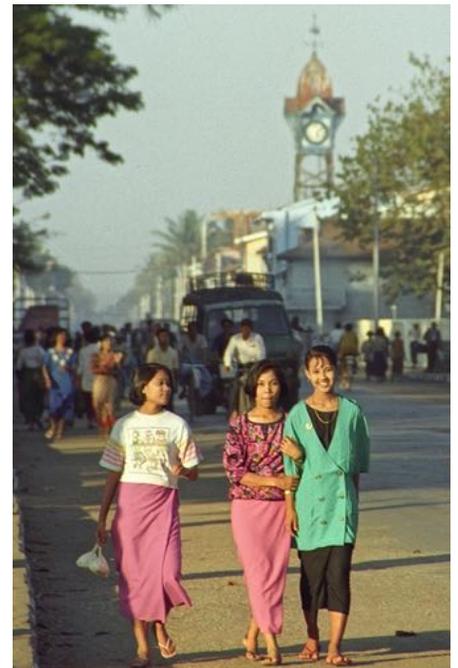
Commonwealth Relations Office

Dear Bob,

As some anxiety is being felt about the disorders in North Arakan and as little seems to be known of the factors involved, I have thought it worthwhile to put on record what I know of the background.

### **The People:**

The **Arakanese** are Buddhists, speaking a strongly differentiated form of the Burmese language. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Arakan was a powerful and important kingdom, stretching to Chittagong in the north, where there was an Arakanese Viceroy, and preying on the shipping of the Mogul Empire in Bengal. The kingdom was subdued by the Burmese at the end of the 18th century, and came under British rule in 1825. Before the war there was a small but powerful and influential Arakanese aristocracy who provided many of Burma's ablest politicians and civil servants, and most of her few successful native business men.





The **Chittagong Moslems** are an off-shoot of the Bengali race, speaking a debased form of Bengali interlarded with Portuguese, Arabic and Arakanese words. They are much more hard working and prolific than the Arakanese, and **fanatically religious**. For the last several hundred years, they have been moving southwards, **gradually displacing and over-running the Arakanese**.

*[Most of these Bengalis were influenced, at that time (mid and late 1800s), by the Islamic Faraidi movement in Bengal based on the ideology of the Wahhabis of Arabia (pre Saudi Arabia). Wahhabism was, and is, one of the most fundamental and intolerant sects of Islam advocating strict Sharia Law and the elimination of all other faiths].*



### **The Situation:**

Eventually [after the 1942 Maungdaw Massacre of 30,000 Buddhists, and the burning of over 400 Buddhist villages, and the chaos of WWII], in March and April 1948, the area appears to have got out of control altogether, and since then the Burmese garrisons have maintained themselves with difficulty in the midst of a hostile Moslem population. The leaders of the revolt called themselves **'Mujahid' (holy warrior of jihad for Allah and Islam)**; their numbers have been put at 3,000 – 5,000, but they undoubtedly have the sympathy and probably active support not only of the Moslem population of the area, which I suppose must be 100,000 – 120,000, but also of the Moslems across the frontier in the Chittagong district, with whom they are connected by the closest ties of race and religion – the frontier is in fact quite artificial at this point. They may have allied with Arakanese Communist rebels against the Burmese administration in the hope of establishing an independent state in Arakan after the overthrow of the Burmese Government's authority by means of such an alliance.

### **The Future:**

It seems unlikely that the Burmese Government will be able to restore order in Burma proper in the near future, let alone in Arakan. The people and the minor officials in Chittagong Division cannot be expected to watch unmoved the struggles of their brothers across the frontier against an alien and infidel administration, and will no doubt continue to support them.

Yours sincerely,  
P. Murray



**A Childhood Experience of Horror and Death  
told to me by a distinguished man (name withheld)  
who told me this experience after knowing each other for a couple of years**

*"It was in 1942 - the year that I was born, during the thick of WWII, in a small village named Mahazoe located on the island of Moheshkhali, straddling the border of Burma and Bangladesh - that the Bengali Muslims attacked the Rakhine Buddhists living between the Naaf River and the Mayu mountain range. The Japanese were advancing and the British were retreating. The Muslims had been armed by the British to fight the Japanese, while the Buddhists refused to cooperate with the British. As the British retreated, the Muslims instead used these arms to attack the Buddhists. Any and all Buddhist lives were in danger, and they all had to flee. Over 360 Rakhine Buddhist villages were burnt down and thousands of Buddhists - men, women, old and young - were killed.*

*This area - between the Naaf River and the Mayu mountains - was populated by majority Buddhists, with a substantial Muslim minority; they were brought in by the British as laborers. These Bengali Muslims were united by their heavily religious politics, and they had weapons, while the Buddhists were more slow-paced and disorganized - and no match for them in a fight.*

*Many groups of frightened and desperate Buddhists fled towards the Mayu mountains; to climb up and over the steep mountain to safety; on the other side of the Mayu the Buddhists were the overwhelming majority.*

*In one of those groups of villagers, who were fleeing to the mountains, was a young cousin of mine. This group had reached the beginning of the mountain when darkness fell. An elderly Bengali Muslim woodcutter appeared as he was returning to his nearby village. The younger members of the group - out of fear for their own and their wives and families lives - felt that they had to kill him under the circumstances, but the elders said 'no, if we spare him he will spare us.' He was made to swear, facing west - the direction of Mecca - upon his Islamic faith, that he would not tell anybody the whereabouts of this group of Buddhists.*



*Just before dawn, as the group was preparing to begin climbing the mountain, hundreds of Bengali Muslims appeared with swords and guns. All the Buddhists in the group - from babies to the most elderly - were savagely and mercilessly slaughtered - except my young cousin, who survived by hiding under a dense bush. My cousin recalled every detail of that horror - everyday of his life."*

# The Beginning of Ethnic Cleansing in Maungdaw Town: 1942

## Eyewitness accounts

Department of Defense Service Archives, Rangoon: CD 1016/10/11

Unidentified eyewitness, *“By May 1942, the Bengali-Muslim men from all the Bengali villages in the frontier area and many more from across the border had gathered, armed with guns and swords and spears, to begin their genocidal campaign against the Buddhist-Yakhine villages.*

*The armed Bengalis set up roadblocks, destroyed bridges, and encircled Yakhine villages. More than 20,000 armed Bengalis had surrounded the town of Maungdaw, in Arakan, very close to the border with the Bengal part of British India (at independence became East Pakistan, and then Bangladesh). All the entry and exit points had been completely blocked and horrifying news reached the town constantly with reports of surrounding Buddhist villages being burnt to the ground and the people slaughtered.*

*The town was already sheltering hundreds and hundreds of Yakhine refugees from nearby Buddhist villages. Many people were injured or severely wounded by Bengali swords as they fled for the assumed safety of Maungdaw. But, now they were trapped in Maungdaw together with the Buddhist population of the town.*

*The wholesale slaughter of the Yakhine-Buddhists in Maungdaw began as the armed and blood-thirsty (and land-thirsty) Bengali-Muslims entered the town.*

*Buddhist families choked the streets carrying only whatever they could manage and tried to leave the town, but were blocked again and again, with nowhere to go.*

*Finally, nearly everyone ended up in the compound of the Maungdaw Buddhist Monastery. The whole place was filled with loud cries of children and fearful voices of adults. The crowd must have been over 5,000 - all Yakhine-Buddhists.”*

Armed Bengali Family in the field.



### The Burning of Maungdaw and the Slaughter of Buddhists

*“By night all we could see rolling flames on the Maungdaw side from Taknaff Town across the wide Naff River. Later we heard the depressing news that tens of thousands of Bengali-Muslims had entered Maungdaw after the town was abandoned and burned down the whole town after taking away everything removable from the Yakhine houses including rice, cooking oil, salt, and every single piece of furniture.*

Mujahideen militants



*All the Yakhine Buddhist villages - there were hundreds of them - on the extremely fertile strip south of Maungdaw Town, between the Naff River and the Mayu Mountain Range were completely wiped out by the rioting Bengali Muslims - within just a few days.*

*While the Yakhine villages at or very near the river were able to escape across the Naff River with their boats, the villages far from the river were burnt down and all the villagers slaughtered by the Bengali-Muslims - as they shouted praises to their Allah.*

*Even Buddhists who intended to trek up and over the Mayu Range to safety, were hunted down, ambushed, and killed by the Bengali-Muslims.*

*At that time, the large village of Ah-le-than-kyaw was the main Buddhist village, and had a small police station. Now it is the biggest Rohingya village, with a large UNHCR supply depot and their area-HQ. Twenty thousand armed-Bengali-Muslims raided the Ah-le-than-kyaw police station and brutally killed all the policemen who surrendered and then set off to kill all the Yakhine men from the villages.*

***The blood-thirsty Bengali-Muslims - doing what their extremist, intolerant Wahhabi Islam expects them to do - burned down the large village monastery, with more than 500 Buddhist women, children, elders, young Buddhist novices, and Buddhist monks taking refuge inside the main monastery building. All 500, or so, Buddhists inside were burned alive that day by the Bengali-Muslims who want the villages, the fertile land, and the fishing grounds of the Buddhists - and they believe that it is not wrong to kill the Buddhists, in fact, their faith claims that the 'idol-worshippers' should be killed, and their property and women are to be taken, and Allah will be pleased.***

Muslims with British guns



*Basically none of the thousands of Yakhine-Buddhists living in surrounding villages escaped the warlike wholesale slaughter. Not even a single mongrel dog escaped the slaughter - let alone a human being."*

*(eyewitness accounts finished)*

This is known as the **Maungdaw Massacre** - the largest slaughter In contemporary Burmese history: 30,000 Buddhists killed, over 400 Buddhist villages burnt and destroyed, over 100,000 Buddhist refugees fled for their lives. From that incident to the present, there has been a non-ending campaign against the Rakhine Buddhists, as well as a campaign of deceit and manipulation of media, history, opinion, and culpability - which has largely succeeded in fooling and manipulating people into demonizing Buddhists and even Buddhism - as the Rakhine people try to keep their homeland, their culture, and their Buddhist ways from falling into oblivion.

-Rick Heizman, Jan 26, 2015, San Francisco      many papers at: [scribd.com/rheizman](https://www.scribd.com/rheizman)  
photos and videos at: [arakan-reality.smugmug.com](https://www.arakan-reality.smugmug.com)      [rickheizmanreality.com](https://www.rickheizmanreality.com)