Harold Clement Anscombe – Life in India

Harold's father died in 1898 and his mother re-married in 1903. Unfortunately there is no record of what Harold was doing in this period. We do know that in 1912 he was a planter living in Chittagong, now in Bangladesh, because that is where and when he married his wife Marie Irene Margaret Baptiste. Actually on the marriage record her surname is recorded as Beautista, but that is the only record of her surname being spelt that way.

He was probably a tea planter as that is the main crop grown in the Chittagong area. In fact Chittagong is still the home of the public tea auction used to set the price of tea throughout Bangladesh.

The profession column in his marriage record also says that he was a Stores Representative. I believe it is significant that his step-father, Frederick William Henry Baldwin, was at this time, recorded as a merchant in Calcutta. It is probable that Harold was acting as a representative for his step-father, supplying goods to the local stores because, as we will see, later on he is recorded as a Merchant's Assistant living in Calcutta.

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Harold Clement Anscombe & Marie Irene Beautista Marriage

Harold Clement married Irene on 17th August 1912 in Chittagong. So we can say that he would have been working there as a planter for some time prior to this. There is no evidence but 1910 is probably a good guess although it could have been significantly earlier than this. Certainly we know Harold and Irene were still in Chittagong in September 1913 because that's when their first child Beryl Alma Marguerite was baptised there.

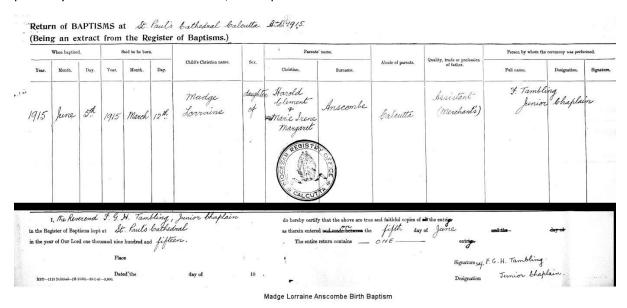
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v		HEN BAPTIZE	ED.	SAID TO BE BORN,			Child's Christian Name.	Sex.	PARENTS' NAMES.		Abodo	Quality, Trade, or Profession of	Name of Priest or Minister by whom the
1	ear.	Month.	Day.	Year.	Month.	Day.	Child's Christian Manie,	oea.	Christian.	Surname.	of Parents.	Father,	Ceremony was performed.
100	913	July	17	1913	May	22	Ronald Dermo Thaller oss	t male	Robert Enuest Bertha ⁺ Inverarity	Jach	Chittagong	J. L. G.	Hugh I Millett. Chaplain.
1	913	Sept	3	1913	July	20	Beryl Alma Marqueite	Temali	Harold Marie	Auscombe	Schittagong	Manager of the Planters Stones	Hugh F. Millett.

Beryl Alma Marguerite Anscombe Birth Baptism

By that time Harold was no longer a Planter but Manager of the Planters' Stores. Presumably this means he was managing a shop which sold goods and equipment to the local tea planters. Presumably also the goods he was selling, or at least a proportion of them, were being supplied by his step-father from Calcutta.

By the time their second child, Madge Lorraine, is born on 12th March 1915 the family have moved to Calcutta and Harold is a Merchant's Assistant. I believe the merchant he was assisting was probably Frederick William Baldwin, his step-father.



Harold and Irene's two sons, Jeffery Trevor and Frederick Alan Owen were also born in Calcutta in 1917 and 1919 respectively. I have been unable to find Jeffery's birth record but certainly on Frederick's their father was recorded as a Merchant's Assistant.

There is some evidence that Harold and Irene remained in Calcutta until they left India in 1946 ahead of independence. There is a record of a Private H C Anscombe being awarded the Indian Volunteer Force Efficiency Medal. In my research I have not come across any other individual in this period with those initials and surname so I assume this was awarded to Harold Clement. However, it is somewhat surprising as the award record states that he was a Private in the Calcutta Scottish Auxiliary Force India (AFI). This is because I am unaware of any Scottish heritage in his ancestry and the Calcutta Scottish regiment was a kilted regiment ".. of volunteers of Scottish descent raised in 1914 as an infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. The regimental dress uniform was Hunting Stewart tartan."

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Assuming this award was made to Harold he would have joined the Calcutta Scottish around 1922 because the award was for 12 years of continuous and efficient service.