

Sir Harold with his first wife Mona, Barisal, 1931.

Sir Harold married Mona McGregor of Edinburgh. They had two children both daughters, Betty and Pamela, born in Bengal. Betty, mother of Ian, was born in Chittagong on 10 March, 1922, and was baptized there on 9 May, 1922. Betty celebrated her 92nd birthday this year. She lives in Argyll, Scotland. The youngest daughter, Pamela, only lived for three years and is buried at the Christian cemetery In Kuseong. Mona, Sir Harold's first wife died when Betty (Ian's mother) was nine years old. She was buried at the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta. Betty was thus sent at a tender age for proper care and schooling to England to live with Harold's parents. She never returned to India again. In 1935, Sir Harold remarried. His second wife was named Iris Hansen.

Ian's mother Betty still treasures a couple of silver items as mementoes bequeathed to her by her mother Mona, whose mother also the wife of a British ICS officer was given them for opening events in India. These silver items have inscriptions which Ian has not, as yet, deciphered.

Ian is also in possession of two interesting letters written to his grandfather, Sir Harold, in appreciation for his exemplary services rendered during the tragic Bengal Famine of 1943. As a consequence of the terrible famine the Government of Bengal on 15 September, 1943, created a special post of Food & Civil Supplies Commissioner, and Sir Harold was appointed to that role. Later he was also a witness at the Famine Enquiry. Ian quotes from extracts of these original letters written to his grandfather (Sir Harold), one of which was by Sir Khwaja Nazimuddin who had just resigned as the Chief Minister of Bengal. Nazimuddin wrote this personal letter on 31 March 1945 thanking Sir Harold, "for all you have done for the people of Bengal". The other hand written letter was from Sir Azizul Huq, Member of Council, Commerce and Civil Supplies, written from 'Peterhoff', Simla on 10 June, 1944. In it Huq congratulates Sir Harold Stevens on his receiving the distinguished CSI, and addresses him thus, "My dear Stevens" and includes the following sentence, " your devoted, hard-often almost thankless-services to the cause of saving and rehabilitating Bengal will be realised by all those who have had occasion to be in touch with the problem."

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Sir Harold Stevens took retirement on the partition of India in 1947, and like most of his ilk, went back home to Britain. Ian laments that he is unfortunately not privy to more information on his grandfather, Sir Harold, whereby, a more comprehensive biography of his including some unknown facts of that turbulent period in British India could have come to light.

Sir Harold Stevens died at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England, on 23 July 1969.

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