James Penny - Postings in India WW 2





1942 - posted to Lucknow as a wardmaster (excessively hot weather so pleased to be posted to cooler Ranikhet).

1942 - Ranikhet is the hill station for Lucknow. Temporary secondment as dispenser plus in charge of RAMC personnel. Learning to speak Urdu. Still (2025) home to a military hospital.

← Ranikhet - view from pharmacy

These photos were taken on a camera I still have.

← Ranikhet - Indian DMM (?) - this is written on back of photo.

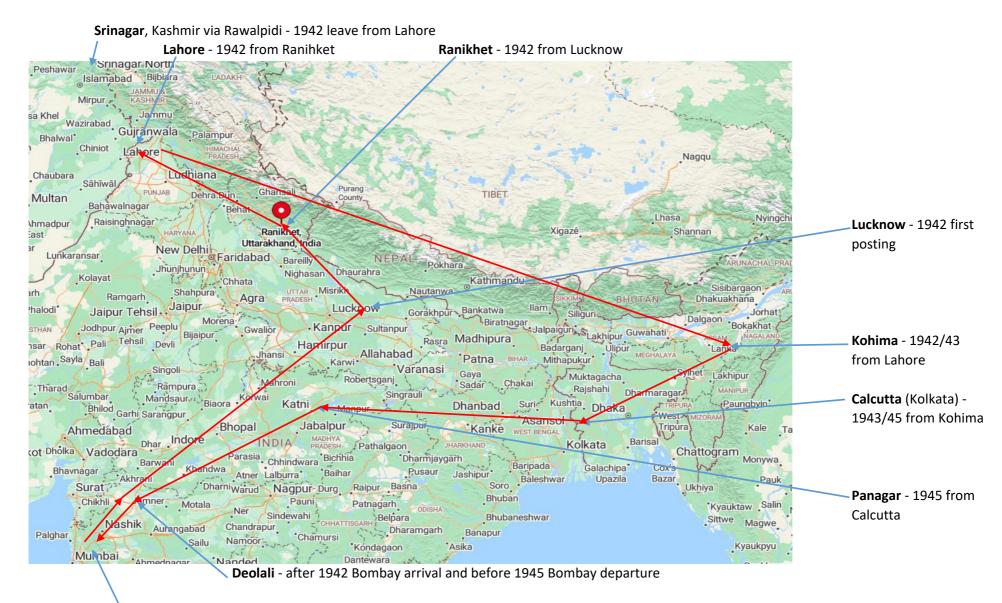
DMM is the train station code for Dharmavaram near Chennai (formerly Madras) - not exactly near Ranikhet. More likely abbreviations may relate to "medical", "division"?

1942 - instructed to proceed to Lahore to join in forming No 53 Indian General Hospital (British troops). Had a week's leave travelling to Rawalpindi then staying on a houseboat on Dal lake at Srinigar, Kashmir.

1942/43 - posted to Kohima hospital. Small garrison of British troops and no fighting at the time. Promoted to RSM.

1943/45 - moved to Calcutta from Kohima on promotion to lieutenant (QM) to join a unit being formed there - No 36 Indian Base Medical Store. After recovering from malaria, posted to Panagar about 100 miles west of Calcutta setting up a medical supply depot as acting Major. Had leave in Darjeeling and wrote a 21 page letter to his mother (which I still have). He had been at Kohima before the very significant fate changing battle there and Imphal but provided medical supplies during the conflict from Panagar.

1945 - end of WW2 and sent back home via Deolali, Bombay, Suez and the Mediterranean to be demobilised in November.



Bombay (Mumbai) - 1942 on arrival via Cape of Good Hope; 1945 on departure then via Suez