

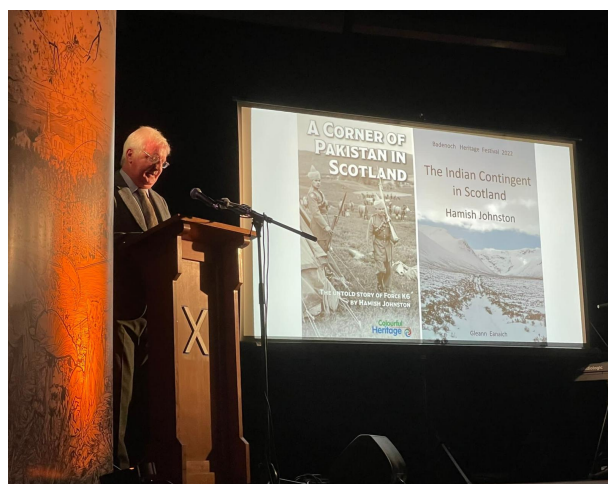


Hamish Johnston

1945 - 2025

Written by Dr Omar Shaikh (Founder) & Dr Saqib Razzaq (Project Officer / Head of Research) at Colourful Heritage

Hamish Johnston was the author of the booklet, '[A Corner of Pakistan in Scotland](#)', a remarkable piece of research that shed light on the story of Force K6 – Muslim soldiers from Undivided India who served in Scotland during the Second World War. The team first connected with Hamish during 2018 when the team undertook to publish two of Hamish's articles into above booklet which can be found on the Colourful Heritage website as e-booklet. We then invited him to the Kingussie Remembrance Service at Kingussie Cemetery in 2018.



Hamish's connection to [Force K6](#) was deeply personal. His step-grandfather, Major John Finlay, served in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps (RIASC) and was in charge of the supply section of Force K6 while they were stationed in Scotland.



He was a passionate and unwavering supporter of Colourful Heritage, particularly our work around Force K6 remembrance. Hamish was always generous with his time — delivering talks, sharing thoughtful words, and attending many of our remembrance dinners, lunches, and services in both Glasgow and Kingussie.

He participated in the storyland's session organised by Author Merryn Glover and Colourful Heritage on the same day as when the Kingussie memorial for Force K6 was revealed in Sept 2022. Further information about this event can be found in the late Dr Ghee Bowmans blog '[We're all Jock Tamson's Bairns](#)'.



More recently, Hamish supported our VE Day 80 event at [Inverness Masjid, Highland Central Mosque](#) in May 2025, where over two days he helped deliver talks to more than 150 young people and elders across many communities. What mattered most to Hamish was education. He was especially keen that young people learn about this shared history and understand the contribution of the Commonwealth, particularly from Undivided India, during the war.



The Pakistani and Indian communities in the UK owe a great debt of appreciation for his work in highlighting the Muslim contribution of Force K6. His kindness, wisdom, and steadfast support will be dearly missed by all at Colourful Heritage and beyond and his work remains an invaluable contribution to our shared history.