

#DRUNK

Patiala Peg as narrated by Capt Amarinder Singh

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Question: On a lighter note, you come from Patiala. So, where does Patiala Peg come from? What is Patiala Peg? What are its origins?

Answer: Well, that is an interesting story. My grandfather, the one in the middle, was the chairman of the cricket board. The term has been coined by my family. After that, my father was also in the cricket board. He captured India from 32 to 35. Then, my grandfather got ill and had to leave cricket. My grandfather had the Australians come here. They came to Patiala and Amarnath was the young boy. He told me this story. He said

we were called and asked to have dinner and drink and want to be seen in bed by 8 o'clock. And then, he told the other sardars, in Punjabi to have lots of drinks, and that is why they were given lot of booze to drink till 10 PM. So, next day, when the match started, they were seeing 2 balls coming and 3 balls... They were given whiskey like this. So, that was Patiala peg, a appropriate mixture of whiskey and water.

Question: Is Patiala Peg more than 60 ml?
Answer: I don't know that. I don't drink. It is about a little bit of water and more of Whiskey. So only, Australians had to suffer and that's where the Patiala Peg started. The match was in Patiala.



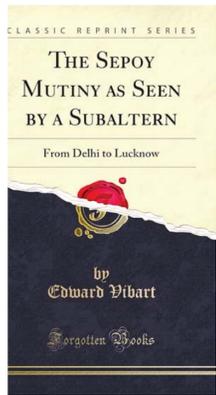
Vibart later recounted hiding in ravines and foraging under cover of night to avoid detection, crediting endurance and opportunistic timing for his evasion. These tactics underscored raw human resilience in disorganized flight, with Vibart sustaining himself on scant rations while pressing towards British-held positions. The personal toll deepened when Vibart learned of the Cawnpore massacre on July 15, 1857, where his mother, Emily Vibart, and at least four siblings, including brothers John (aged 8) and others, were among approximately 200 British women and children hacked to death by Nana Sahib's forces in the Bibighar house after the failed boat escape on June 27. This sepoymotivated slaughter, involving prolonged mutilation of non-combatants, exemplified the rebellion's brutality, with victims' remains dumped in a well; Vibart's father, Major Edward Vibart, had perished earlier in the boat attack from gunshot wounds. En route to Lucknow, Vibart witnessed further sepoymotivated depredations, including reports of mass killings in Delhi where thousands of Indian rebels bayoneted or shot British residents, contributing to an overall toll of roughly 1,000 European deaths there alone by summer 1857.

A Mutiny And A Massacre



This is the worst thing British ever did to Indians. Every male over the age of 16 was killed. There were a few exceptions like Ghalib, who have got special letters or by the virtue of their positions who did not get killed. Anyone in the city over the age of 16 is massacred. Some of the British who see this are horrified. One British describes this massacre, he was all set on the night before the attack to wreak havoc and revenge but what he sees now disgusts him. He says, "The orders went out to shoot every soul. It was literally murder and I was perfectly horrified. I have seen many bloody and awful sights lately but one such, as I witnessed yesterday, I pray I never see again."

Edward Vibart was born on 15 Nov. 1807 at Amberd House, Pitminster, Somerset. He reached the rank of major in the 2nd Bengal Light Cavalry and was in command of the regiment at Cawnpore, at the time of the Mutiny in 1857. At the beginning of June, the mutiny broke out and Major Vibart, his wife, Emily, and four of his children took refuge in Wheeler's entrenchment. The British and their supporters were offered safe passage down the Ganges to Allahabad. He was the last person to leave the defences,



Edward Vibart.

and joined his wife and two surviving children in one of the boats. When the boats were attacked on embarkation, Vibart organised the defence of his vessel, which managed to float downstream over two days, under frequent attack. Finally they were forced to surrender. He had been shot in both arms and is thought to have bled to death on 27 June 1857. His family was taken back to Cawnpore. Emily was killed, as was John, aged 8, William, aged 4, and their baby daughter, Emily. Four of their children avoided the carnage at Cawnpore, three daughters; Louisa (1845-1932), Georgina (1844-1926), and Henrietta (1838-1926). Their eldest child, Edward Daniel Hamilton Vibart (1837-1923), also served as an officer in India and wrote *The Sepoy Mutiny as Seen by a Subaltern: from Delhi to Lucknow* (Smith, Elder & Co 1898). He was 20 years old at the time of the Mutiny.

Initial Outbreak and Response at Delhi
The revolt reached Delhi on May 11, 1857, when approximately 300 mutinous sepoys from the 3rd Bengal Native Cavalry, who had risen in Meerut the previous day over rumors that new Enfield rifle cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat, taboo for Hindus and Muslims respectively, marched into the city and incited the local garrison to join them. These rumors, though unproven in distribution at scale, ignited religious grievances that propelled indisciplined sepoys to proclaim Bahadur Shah II as emperor and unleash indiscriminate violence against British officers, civilians, missionaries, and Eurasian residents, killing an estimated 200 individuals in the initial days through shootings, stabbings, and burnings. The massacres, targeting non-combatants including

A coloured lithograph by Bequet Freres showing the British recapture of Delhi in September 1857 during the Sepoy Mutiny (1857-8). (National Army Museum, England).



National Egg McMuffin Day: Celebrating a Breakfast Icon

Observed annually on March 2, National Egg McMuffin Day celebrates one of the world's most iconic breakfast sandwiches. Introduced by McDonald's in the early 1970s, the Egg McMuffin revolutionised fast-food breakfasts with its simple yet satisfying combination of a freshly cracked egg, Canadian bacon, melted cheese and a toasted English muffin. The day is marked by special offers, nostalgia-driven campaigns and breakfast lovers indulging in the classic favourite. Beyond being a quick meal, the Egg McMuffin symbolises how convenience food evolved to fit busy modern lifestyles, making it a lasting staple of global breakfast culture.



#MUTINY



The battle of Cawnpore - the entire British garrison died at Cawnpore (now Kanpur), either in the battle or later massacred with women and children. Their deaths became a war cry for the British.

women and children, reflected a surge of communal fanaticism rather than strategic warfare, as evidenced by the sepoys' failure to consolidate defenses and their prioritization of plunder and slaughter over military objectives.

Lieutenant Edward Vibart observed the outbreak firsthand as the Meerut cavalry rampaged through streets, triggering local sepoymotivated and overwhelming isolated British positions. His unit, part of the mutinying garrison, saw officers like Vibart scramble for survival amid the chaos, with sepoys firing on Europeans without quarter. Vibart later recounted the pandemonium: "The horrible truth now flashed on me, we were being massacred right and left, without any means of escape! I made for the ramp which leads from the courtyard to the bastion above... the bullets whistled past us like hail. To this day, it is a perfect marvel to me how any one of us escaped being hit." This subaltern perspective highlights the rapid collapse of order, as loyal elements disintegrated under sepoymotivated discipline fueled by cries of jihad and caste purity.

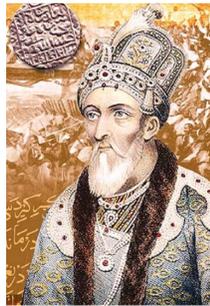
British response centered on desperate improvisation, with surviving officers and civilians fleeing to the Kashmiri Gate or the Ridge north of the city to evade encirclement; Vibart joined this exodus, reaching relative safety amid heavy fire while the rebels looted the palace and arsenal. By May 16, sepoys executed at least 52 captured or hiding British prisoners within

at Aligarh on 6 October 1857, where British forces under Brigadier Greathed dispersed a rebel garrison of about 5,000 with coordinated artillery barrages and cavalry flanks, suffering minimal casualties while capturing significant ordnance. Further south, at Etawah in late October, Vibart's unit contributed to skirmishes against sepoymotivated and politicized resistance, as corroborated by contemporary dispatches. Logistical strains peaked near the Ganges, with forces navigating monsoon-swollen rivers and ambushes, yet maintaining cohesion through fortified night camps and limited reinforcements from Agra. By early November, the column linked with Sir Colin Campbell's main relief army of 5,600 enabled the decisive push to Lucknow on 14-19 November, where integrated cavalry charges broke rebel lines despite facing 30,000 defenders. Vibart's observations highlight the resilience required to traverse hostile terrain against odds exceeding 5:1 in rebel favour at several points.

March to Lucknow and Key Engagements

Following the recapture of Delhi on 20 September 1857, Vibart, serving as a subaltern formerly of the 54th Bengal Native Infantry, joined the British flying column advancing southeast towards Agra, and ultimately Lucknow, to support ongoing relief operations amid the prolonged siege there. The march involved roughly 4,000 troops confronting scattered rebel concentrations totaling over 10,000, hampered by extended supply lines stretching 200 miles and reliance on local forage amid scorched-earth tactics by fleeing insurgents. Key engagements en route included the action

prolonged siege, field commanders issued orders for the summary execution of captured or suspected mutineers to swiftly reestablish control and deter further insurgency. Edward Vibart recorded that "the orders went out to shoot every soul," reflecting the immediate imperative to eliminate threats amid widespread rebel atrocities such as the earlier Cawnpore massacre where over 200 British women and children were mutilated and killed. These actions involved mass hangings, shootings, and executions by cannon, methods estimated to have claimed hundreds of lives in Delhi alone within days, as British forces prioritized rapid pacification over formal trials to prevent the rebellion from regaining momentum. Similar retributive measures followed the relief and full recapture of Lucknow in March 1858, where Vibart had endured the initial siege and subsequent engagements; here, British troops under Sir Colin Campbell enforced executions of rebel leaders and supporters, contextualized by the rebels' indiscriminate killings of British garrisons and civilians during the uprising's outset in May 1857. Vibart's role included participating in patrols and enforcement details that maintained discipline and suppressed lingering resistance, contributing to the localized collapse of organized rebellion without noted excesses beyond operational directives. While some contemporary accounts, such as those by historian William Dalrymple, describe these reprisals as "literally murder" driven by vengeance.



Bahadur Shah Zafar II. The Last Mughal Emperor, dethroned by the British.

endurance and opportunistic timing for his evasion. These tactics underscored raw human resilience in disorganized flight, with Vibart sustaining himself on scant rations while pressing towards British-held positions. The personal toll deepened when Vibart learned of the Cawnpore massacre on July 15, 1857, where his mother, Emily Vibart, and at least four siblings, including brothers John (aged 8) and others, were among approximately 200 British women and children hacked to death by Nana Sahib's forces in the Bibighar house after the failed boat escape on June 27. This sepoymotivated slaughter, involving prolonged mutilation of non-combatants, exemplified the rebellion's brutality, with victims' remains dumped in a well; Vibart's father, Major Edward Vibart, had perished earlier in the boat attack from gunshot wounds. En route to Lucknow, Vibart witnessed further sepoymotivated depredations, including reports of mass killings in Delhi where thousands of Indian rebels bayoneted or shot British residents, contributing to an overall toll of roughly 1,000 European deaths there alone by summer 1857. His accounts emphasize the systematic targeting of families, with sepoys violating homes and sparing no ages, a pattern repeated across mutiny sites where verifiable records confirm over 500 British women and children slain in targeted atrocities. These events fueled Vibart's determination, as he integrated into relief efforts at Lucknow, surviving the siege's hardships through disciplined foraging and defensive positioning amid ongoing rebel assaults.

British Reprisals and Their Context

Following the British recapture of Delhi on 20 September 1857, after a

very country has its fair share of outdated, unusual, or downright bizarre laws, remnants of a time when societies were very different from what they are today. While many of these laws are no longer enforced, they still technically exist in the legal books, offering a glimpse into the customs, politics, and priorities of the past. Here are three such curious laws from England and France that may sound absurd today but remain part of the legal landscape.

1. It Is Illegal to Walk Down the Street with a Plank of Wood in London

The Law: Under the Metropolitan Police Act of 1839, it is an offence to carry a plank of wood along a pavement in London.

Why Was This Ever a Law? The original purpose of this law was to prevent accidents, obstructions, and public nuisance in crowded Victorian streets. At the time, London was experiencing rapid industrialization, and narrow streets packed with people, horses, carts, and traders meant any obstruction, like someone walking with a long wooden plank, could cause real chaos or injury.

Is It Enforced Today? While it's extremely unlikely you'll be arrested for carrying wood down Oxford Street, the law technically still exists. It's one of many Victorian-era public order laws that remain on the books, even though they're rarely applied in modern times.



2. All Royal Fish Belong to the Monarch in the UK

The Law: According to a statute from the reign of King Edward II (14th century), all royal fish found in British waters are the property of the reigning monarch.

Royal fish include:

- Whales
- Sturgeon
- Porpoises

Why Such a Law? In medieval England, these animals were considered rare and valuable sources of meat, oil, and ivory (in the case of sturgeon). The crown claimed ownership of them as part of its sovereign rights over the seas. The law was codified in legal texts and reaffirmed over the centuries. Even today, if a royal fish is caught or washed up on British shores, it must technically be offered to the Crown.

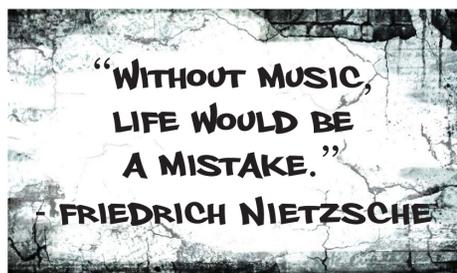
Is It Enforced? While the law is rarely enforced, it has never been formally repealed. It remains a quirky legal footnote, and a warning to those tempted to mix political commentary with barnyard animals.

Why Do These Laws Still Exist? Many of these laws remain because:

- Repealing laws takes time and money.
- They're buried in older legal codes that haven't been overhauled.
- They serve as cultural relics, oddities that reflect the priorities of past societies.

While no one expects the Queen to chase after a fisherman or police to stop you for carrying plywood, these laws serve as reminders that legal systems evolve slowly, often leaving behind amusing or baffling remnants.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman