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IN COLLABORATION WITH

B.D. MEMORIAL SCHOOL



THE DUMDUM CHRONICLES

The name Dumdum was derived from the Persian word '*dumduma*' which refers to a raised mound.

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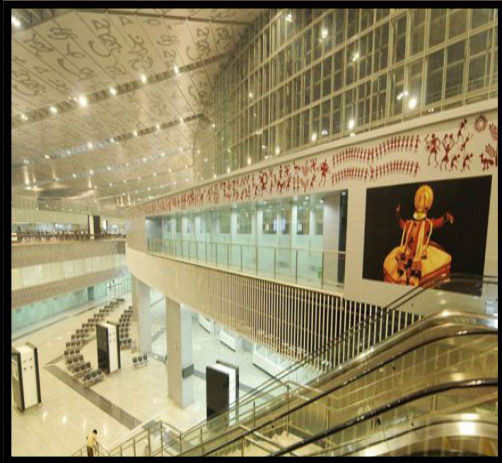
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The History: Dum Dum Airport



THEN



NOW

The name Dum Dum has been derived from the Persian word 'damdama', which means a raised mound. The city of Dum Dum was founded in the year 1783. It was the headquarters of the Bengal artillery until 1853 and has an ammunition factory in which the firearms were first made. Today, it is the site of Kolkata's International Airport. The Airport at Dum Dum, opened in 1924, is one of the oldest airports in India. The Dum Dum region also has jute mills, tannery, glass, match and soap manufacturing factories.



Some facts about the Dum Dum Airport:

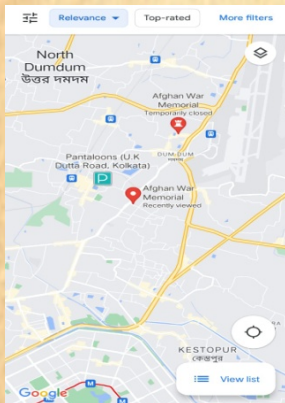
- It Served as convenient stopover from Europe to Batavia (Indonesia) and Australia.
- Founded as early as 1924 and was called the Calcutta Aerodrome.
- Amelia Earhart landed here as a part of her famous around – the – world flight.
- During World War II, Allied troops and the US Army Air Force and the Bombardment Group made their headquarters in the city and used the airport .

HERITAGE SITE: AFGHAN WAR MEMORIAL



Top of Afghan War Memorial,
Dum Dum, Kolkata

It may sound unusual, but there is indeed a road in Dum Dum, North of Kolkata, which is known as the Monument Road. The stranger fact, is, that the monument is located at the entrance of Dum Dum Ordnance Factory.



The monument is shaped like a white tower and has resemblance with the SAHEED MINAR (OCHTERLONY MONUMENT), which is located at the North-Eastern corner of the Kolkata Maidan.

The Dum Dum monument is dedicated to the fallen British soldiers of the First Anglo-African War (1839-42). The Dum Dum Ordnance Factory is located on the Jessore Road and the Afghan War Memorial is visible from the factory gate. A right turn from the factory gate leads to the Monument Road and few steps ahead lead to the Afghan War memorial. The Afghan War Memorial was built at Dum Dum in 1841 after the British lost the fight Anglo-Afghan War. The surviving forces of that fruitless campaign erected a memorial for their dead fellow men at Dum Dum in 1842 to be known as Afghan War Memorial. The top of the minar has beautiful designs and is crowned with intricately designed lightning arrester.

Long before Rabindranath Tagore's "Kabuliawala" found a place in the Bengali mind scape, Afghanistan had a physical presence in the city in the form of a war memorial, commemorating the death of the 20,000 soldiers in the First Anglo- Afghan War.

The plaque on the memorial front lists the names of the dead commissioned officers while the one the back lists those of the non-commissioned officers.



Afghan War Memorial Plaques (Top Left: Plaque at the entrance, Bottom Left: Restoration Info, Centre: Names of Commissioned Officers, Right: Names of non – commissioned officers)

However, all the names are persons of British origin and no slain Indian soldier finds his name in the list. On the right is another plaque, which mentions about the restoration of the Afghan War Memorial in 1980. The complex also houses a small canon but it is not known whether it was used in the First Afghan War.

The ammunition factory that later came up here had a major role to play in sparking off the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857. Today a small complex adjoining to the Dum Dum Ordnance Factory houses the Afghan War Memorial that neither has balconies nor staircases leading to the top.

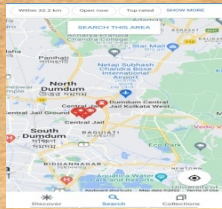
SLICE OF HISTORY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In 1838, an army of 21,000 British and Indian soldiers under the command of Sir John Keane set out from Punjab and reached Quetta in 1839	<ul style="list-style-type: none">retaliated and killed almost 20,000 soldiers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ They captured Kandahar and parts of Kabul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Afghan War Memorial was built in 1841 at the headquarter of Bengal Artillery
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In 1841, Afghans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The ammunition factory was set up at the site in 1846



HERITAGE SITE: (DUM DUM CENTRAL JAIL)



After the disastrous First Anglo-Afghan War, the first Ammunition Factory in British India was set up here. It produced the dum dum bullets. The 1857 mutiny was sparked by products from this factory. The site was also used as a jail where many freedom fighters were hanged.



Central Jail, Dum Dum Cantonment was established in 1937. It is one of the oldest jails and has seen many incidents of Indian Freedom Movement. Eminent leaders like M. K. Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose were housed in this jail. Dum Dum was sparsely populated before the British came. On 6th February 1757, an accord was signed at Dum Dum by the Nawab of Bengal to allow the British to build forts at Calcutta, Dacca and Kashim Bazar. In 1783 a cantonment was established at Dum Dum. Military barracks were built and civilians started coming in to provide essential services to the military personnel. A Cantonment Board was formed to provide civic amenities. The ordnance factory was later established at Dum Dum in 1846. Both North Dum Dum Municipality and South Dum Dum Municipality were established in 1870 thereby marking administratively the different parts of an earlier undefined Dum Dum area.



During the 1857 disturbances the Indian sepoys posted at Dum Dum were affected and Mangal Pandey was hanged. from a tree at Dum Dum cantonment. Dum Dum Cantonment was closed down and the Board was replaced by Dum Dum Municipality in 1929. The temporary setback to Dum Dum arising from abolition of the cantonment and departure of British troops, was partially made up with the shifting of Jessop & Co. from Howrah to Dum Dum in 1928 and establishment of the Gramophone Company at Dum Dum in 1929. Bengal Flying Club, established in 1920, had a small fleet of single engine moth planes. The independence movement led to the sudden development of the Central Jail, where many top leaders and numerous unknown patriots were lodged. The old military barracks made way for multi-storied jail barracks. The environment reverberated with the chanting of Vande Mataram.



Clive House- The oldest Building of Kolkata

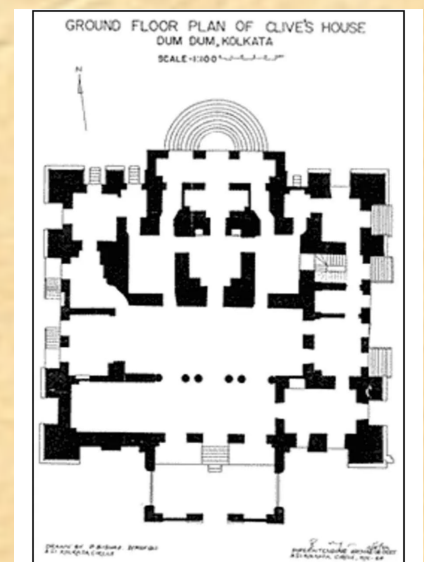
Clive House, popularly known as 'Bara Kothi' was constructed before the invasion of Calcutta by Shiraj-U-Daulah. It was a single storied building which probably served as a Dutch or Portuguese factory or godown. Soon after the Battle of Plassey, Lord Clive constructed the upper storey in Doric architecture.

Clive House witnessed one of the milestones in the history of Bengal- the signing of the Treaty of Plassey between Lord Clive & Mir Zafar. Many other important decisions of the East India Company were also taken here.

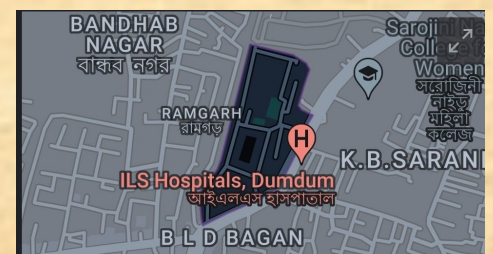
Clive House was built on a mound. Accordingly, it was also known as Dumdum House from the word 'Damduma' which means 'raised on a mound'. The Clive House still stands in a dilapidated condition at 91 Rashtraguru Avenue, Dumdum.



The Clive House during the reign of British



Present day- Clive House



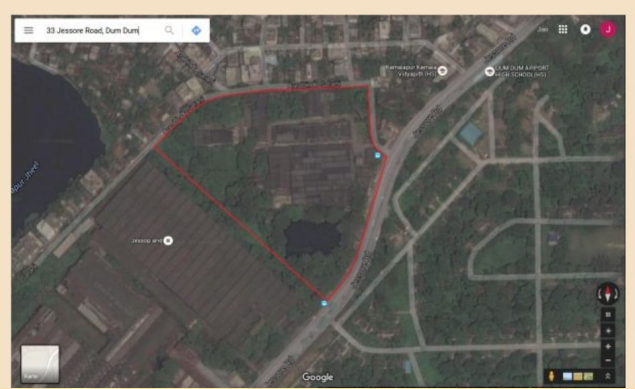
Aerial map view of the Clive House

His Master's Voice - The Label which laid the foundation of Indian Music Industry

The Gramophone Company Ltd., London initially set up its Indian manufacturing facilities in east of Calcutta at 139 Beliaghata Road, Sealdah. In 1928, the Sealdah factory closed and a new factory was built at 36 Jessore Road, Dumdum. The Main Building of the Dumdum factory had one time being the infirmary of the Robert Clive Hospital. The Dumdum factory was equipped with the latest disc record pressing machinery at that point of time.



The HMV factory at Jessore Road



Aerial map view of 33 Jessore Road



The House of Vinyl

The chimney towers over the HMV factory premises in Dumdum. In its prime, its smouldering mouth signalled the health of the music industry. The smoke was a result of the melting of the PVC which was used to make records. "The more the smoke the more the music!"

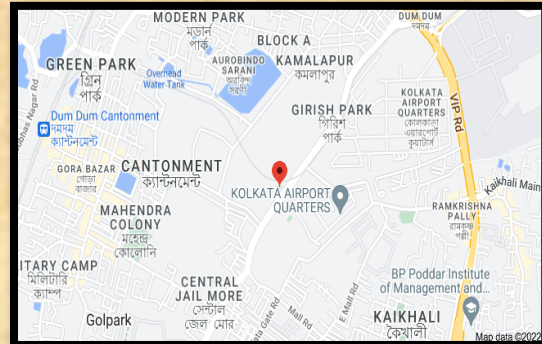


Gauhar Jaan

Gaisberg was the first recording expert of the Gramophone Recording Company. He recorded Gauhar Jaan singing Raag Jogi. This became the first commercially recorded song in the history of Indian music. Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore was also invited to record at the HMV. Raichand Boral and many other prominent composers kept the halls of HMV abuzz. In the year 2000, the company was officially rebranded as Saregama India Ltd. and this was the end of the road for HMV brand in India. A journey of 100 years was over with a new one taking its place.

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THE ORDNANCE BOARD FACTORY



LOCATION:

An important heritage site in the Dum Dum area is the Ordnance Board Factory. In 1775, 'The East India Company established the Board of Ordnance at Fort William, in Calcutta. In 1787, a gun-powder factory was established at Ichchapur which started production in 1791. In 1801 a Gun Carriage Agency was set up at Cossipore that started production in 1802. Dum Dum was the first defence stores in India. Many believe that the Dham Dham sound caused by gun testing in the factory led to the name Dum Dum.



SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ORDNANCE BOARD FACTORY

- The Dum Dum Bullet triggered Sepoy Mutiny.
- In 1906 the administration of Indian Ordnance Factories came under the Inspector General of Ordnance Factories.
- In 1936 it became the Director of Ordnance Factories.
- It was the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the World, 2nd largest in Asia and largest in India.
- Every year, 18th March is celebrated as the Ordnance Factory Day in India.

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