

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN
**UNKNOWN
POLICE-MAN**



R. K. Agnihotri

Autobiography of An
**Unknown
Police-Man**

R. K. Agnihotri

M.Sc., LL.B

IPS (1953 Batch)



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Contents

• About the Author	06
• Preface	08
• Foreword	10
• An Opinion	11
• Autobiography of An Unknown Police - Man	12
• The Beginning	15
• The Days of Historical Transition	19
• The Pursuit of Career Oriented Education	27
• The CPTC	36
• Reporting To State Police	58
• Witnessing An Execution Of Death Sentence In The Jail	62
• The Reorganisation of States on Linguistic Basis	75
• Transfer to Bilaspur District	81
• Transfer to Rewa District	101
• Posting as S.P. Bilaspur	117
• Offers of Deputation to Central Government	124

• Posting to Khandwa District	127
• Deputation to Govt. of India	136
• Passing Through Pune and Homage to Lokmanya Tilak	153
• Return to Wireless Training Centre Nowgong	161
• My Arrival at Charbhatia on A.R.C. Day	221
• The Elint Electronic Intelligence	229
• The Air-Operations Course	233
• The Support Flights	235
• The Pre-Monitions of The Coup	237
• The Charm of VIP Visits	240
• The Changing Moods of Smt. Indira Gandhi	242
• The Adventurous Visit of Sanjay Gandhi	247
• Para Jumps at Sarsawa	248
• The Return to The Home State Cadre	259
• The Police Uprising Against Government	273
• The Duties of The D.I.G.Range	276
• Posting Out of P.HQ.	285
• Promotion to the Rank of the Additional I.G.	292

• Posting as Chairman of M.P. Police Housing Corpn. Ltd.	297
• The Silver Lining in the Dark Cloud–Foreign Tour to Europe in 1986	304
• Visit to J&K and Leh	314
• The Challenge of Setting up a New Department of M.P. Govt.- the Directorate of Public Prosecution	319
• I Retire from Service	326
• Quintessence of Life	332
• Appendix-C	350

About the Author

Shri Ramesh Kishore Agnihotri is a retired Director General of Police belonging to the 1953 batch of IPS of M.P. cadre. Born on 11th January, 1931 at Chhindwara in the family of a Deputy Collector, Mr. B.P. Agnihotri of C.P. & Berar, he had his early education at different places like Jabalpur, Bhandara, Gadawara, Durg and ultimately Chhindwara. He stood first in the High School Certificate Exam in the Chhindwara District and was awarded Sir Hyde Geowan medal. He joined the College of Science, Nagpur in 1945 wherefrom he obtained the degree of M.Sc. (Botany) in 1951. Thereafter he joined M.A. course in Public Administration and side by side obtained LL.B. degree from Nagpur University. He got selected for the IPS in October, 1953 and was trained at Mt. Abu and Akola. He served as SP for 8 years after which he was selected by Mr. B.N. Mullick for deputation to Cabinet Secretariat, Govt. of India. After serving for 5 years at Nowgong, M.P. he got promoted ahead of his batch-mates and posted to Tezpur (Assam). Three years later, he was transferred as Base Commander of Aviation Research Centre for 6 years at Charbatia (Orissa). In 1979 he returned to M.P. State and served as DIG (SAF & Sehor Range), IG Training and Chairman, Police Housing Corporation in the rank of DG, Police. Lastly, he was given the task of setting-up the Directorate of Public Prosecution in the State, of which he laid firm foundations.

After retirement he took active part in social activities and delivered lectures on Law and Public Administration. He was president of the Rotary Clubs, Indian Council of Social Welfare, M.P. Branch and Member of the Consumer Protection Council of M.P. State. Currently he is a member of the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) of West Central Railway for a number of years.

He has written a book in Hindi on "Cosmogony" and Evolution entitled "ब्रह्माण्ड की उत्पत्ति से मानव समाज तक" and another book on law entitled "Some Little Known Provisions of Criminal Law". His Autobiography which is in your hands is a candid account of his activities and experiences over the past half a century.

He has traveled abroad, twice to Europe and once to USA.

Ramesh Kishore Agnihotri is Ex-Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh, an IPS Officer of 1953 batch. Born at Chhindwara to Smt.

Bhagirathi Agnihotri and Shri B.P. Agnihotri, Deputy Collector of Chhindwara of the then State of CP & Berar. He moved with his father to various cities of CP & Berar and had his school education in various schools of the State. Did his Graduation from College of Science, Nagpur, from where he also obtained a Post Graduate degree in 'Botany' in the year 1951. Not satisfied with this academic excellence. He joined a Post Graduate course in 'Public Administration' and simultaneously obtained a degree in 'Law' from Nagpur University.

He got selected for Indian Police Service in Oct'1953 and was trained at Mount Abu and Akola. He served the State Govt. in various capacities in different positions. His outstanding record did not go unnoticed and he was selected for deputation to Cabinet Secretariat of Central Government. For 6 years he was the Best Commander of the Aviation Research Centre at Charbatia, Cuttack. His carrier in the Police Department is noted for his contribution in setting-up of new institutions.

Not content with a passive post-superannuation life, he is actively involved in various social activities. He is a much sought after speaker on

'Law & Public Administration'. Deeply rooted to social causes and rights of citizens, he has held various positions in several consultative committees and consumer protection councils.

A widely travelled person, he has interests in a vast spectrum of subjects. An avid reader and an inspirational writer, he has two books to his credit. His book in Hindi titled "ब्रह्माण्ड की उत्पत्ति से मानव समाज तक" received wide appreciation. His book on Law titled "Some Little Known Provisions of Criminal Law" was also well received. The book in your hands is his autobiography encompassing his experiences of his journey in time & life.

He has traveled abroad, twice to Europe and once to USA.

Preface

In placing the Autobiography of an unknown Policeman in the hands of the readers, the author has been impelled by the desire to place on record some of the events of the pre-independence and post-independence periods. In particular, the reaction of a young under-graduate student, just 17 years old to the fast moving historical events leading to the independence and the simultaneous partition of the country, I thought need to be chronicled for the sake of record.

By dint of good luck and deep study of subjects, I entered the Indian Police Service (IPS) barely six years after India's independence. Thanks to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's grit and farsightedness, the old administrative structure continued with vigour- not only in old British provinces but also in the newly merged Princely States of the Indian union.

The happiness of the dawn of freedom was, however, counter-balanced by the partition of the country. Carnage suffered as a result of the partition in the north-west and north-east Provinces, added untold distress and soured the advent of freedom achieved after a millennium.

It was a disappointment for many (including me) that the advent of freedom did not bring about a change in the pattern of administrative structure. At the district level the Collector and the Superintendent of Police, who had been the most prominently visible symbols of administrative authority, continued to function in their pristine glory. Despite the creation of local authorities at sub-district and lower levels as well as the installation of democratically elected governments at the State and Central level, these district chiefs' posts continued to enjoy power and prestige almost like the pre-independence days.

It was thrilling for me, a young College student, to be called upon to assume charge of districts police.

As life rolled on, new opportunities of service presented themselves. Having been selected for a wider canvas of the Central Government, I saw large areas of erstwhile NEFA (now Aurnachal) Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country.

Over the years and decades, my mindset changed with new inputs. Reviewing the events in the light of my experience, I started evaluating the

bright as well as dark sides of the day's bygone. I have been compulsively moved to record the account of the momentous past in this autobiography.

The description of the jobs performed by me in the ordinary posts of my career may not be stories worth recording. This may still hold the interest of many young people.

At the end, I have tried to share the ups and downs in my rationalism and religious faith. I have learned that man cannot live by adherence to rational tenets alone or by faith alone.

Foreword

This is an interesting account of the life, times and moments of a typical conscientious police officer, narrated in a simple and lucid style. What is more to the point is that it is an honest and transparent statement without any false embellishments or guided excitement. What comes across is a realist portrayal of how most police officers would go through their careers from beginning to the end in India after independence.

The story is rich in anecdotes. Recapitulation of the vivid details bespeaks of a phenomenal memory. Names, places and events are described in precise terms, generating an aura of authenticity. What is striking is that all relationships, by and large, are described with a depth of compassion which one may not expect a police officer to be endowed with. Where criticism became necessary, fairness becomes manifestly evident. The memoir does not fight shy of recounting misery and rejection as they descended into the rhythm of life which is a tribute to its humility and humaneness. This autobiography can, thus, be easily included in the bunch of memorable ones which in recent past have been penned by eminent civil servants, recently retired.

Anand Verma

Former Director, R & A.W.

An Opinion

Autobiography of 'An Unknown Policeman' is an Autobiography by an eminent and popular Police Officer. The name given to the book exhibits the writer's modesty only.

Shri Agnihotri entered the service after acquiring Master's Degree in Science & L.L.B. . He served the State for eight years of his service and had direct contact with people in every District, before going on deputation to the Central Government for the next fourteen years. Shri Agnihotri has given a graphic description of all the important events to which he was a witness. For example- Prime Minister's visit to Vindhya Pradesh, rights following the suicide by Usha Bhargava at Jabalpur which violently disturbed six districts of the State from Jabalpur to Rewa. While posted at Bilaspur which was disturbed by communal frenzy following the influx of thousands of refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan. He maintained peace in the district and contributed to peace and goodwill of all the sects of society.

Shri Agnihotri had a chance to visit Britain and neighboring countries. He has narrated all the events of his life in a very simple lucid style. The book reads like a novel and gives pleasure just like the short stories of Somerset Maugham at places.

I congratulate Shri R.K.Agnihotri for giving the readers a chance to know how a senior officer can please general public and perform his official duties to the satisfaction of his seniors. The specialty of his writing is that not even the smallest events slipped from his pen.

God gave him a very learned and scholarly wife, very much interested in Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology. Shri. Angnihotri had to bear the great loss and mental torture when his life partner died by cardiac arrest. Under such a mental pressure he continued his work very calmly and peacefully with the result that today he has a large number of friends and well-wishers.

I wish him a healthy and long life.

Dr. Prabhu Dayalu Agnihotri

Former Vice Chancellor, Jabalpur University.

Autobiography of An Unknown Police-Man

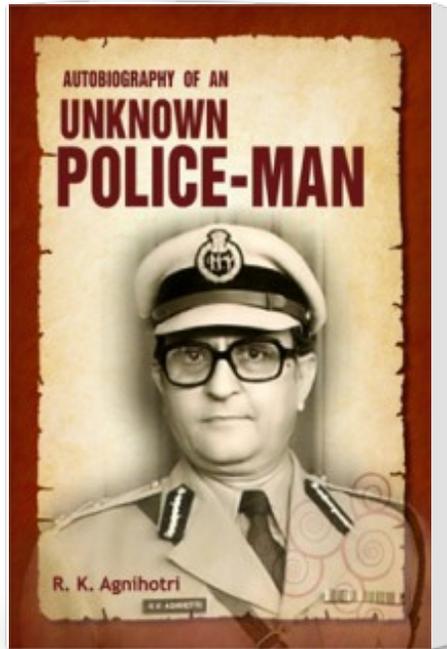
The scene is the tarmac of a World War-II abandoned air base somewhere in Orissa in the eastern India. Far away from my normal duties of visiting scenes of crime, and inspecting Police Stations as a DIG Police, I stand awaiting the landing of an aircraft! Hercules (C-130) is a freak among transport planes. In the capacity of the Base Commander, I have the responsibility to ensure its safe arrival and prompt return. In addition, I deal with matters far remote from policing for six long years – the most thrilling period of my police career spanning over three and a half decades. The national – and even international – importance of the assignment motivated me all through to put in my best. For six years, I had taken leave of my routine duties of the I.P.S and spent my most formative years in a highly romantic, challenging and sensitive job. It is the most colourful phase of my thirty-six years career. An account of these days will be found in the later part of my life history.

When I start working on my autobiography, the recollections of past 70 odd years of my life began to appear and disappear before the mind's eye. Every life is a saga of pleasures and sorrows, success and failures. These are the changing colours in everyone's life. What matters is what has touched you deep and has set in one's memory. There are several instances in one's life that prove to be turning points. Incidents become a part of history some of personal history and a few of the wider national or world history. Events like the advent of independence in the country and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi have left indelible impression on me. Some other events of personal importance became a source of inspiration and guidance. Recording of these events is probably the main purpose of writing an autobiography. The autobiographies of great men and women have inspired us and will do so in all times to come. For Instance, two autobiographies, "My Experiments with Truth" of Mahatma Gandhi and the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin left a deep impression on me in my formative years.

Starting from a small town and coming from a modest middle class family with no inclination of police service, how events played their part in landing me into police is the story of this unknown policeman.

One trait of my personality all my life had been that I tried my best to be a gentleman first and a policeman after that. This may have detracted from the forceful and even ferocious image which is normally associated with a police Officer. Once I got into the other mould I could not get out of it. I reaped the good, and sometimes not so good, consequences of this image.

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