M. M. KAYE

the Raj who used her experience of life in the Empire to create her romantic bestseller The Far Pay

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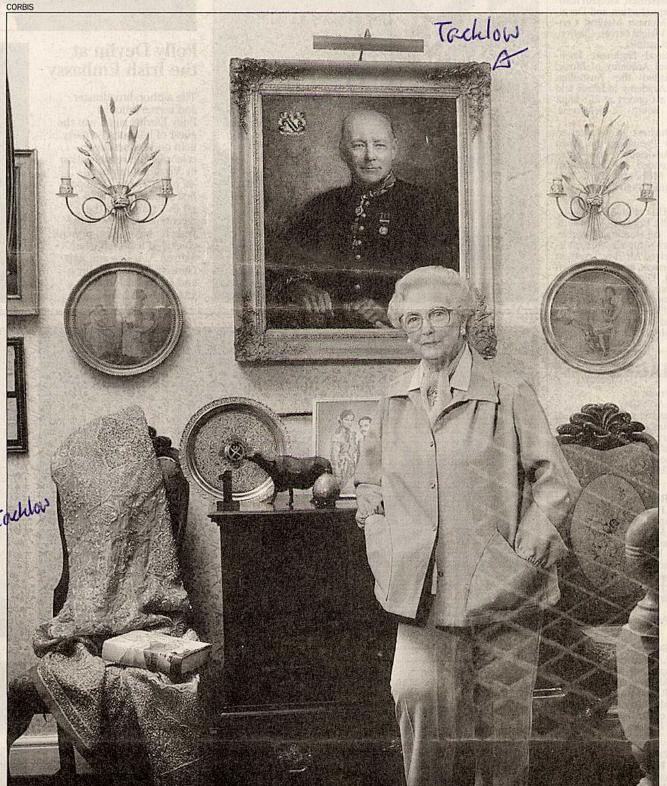
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Lawn he time in expeer father in 1925, to settle

er work back to he revincluded r-Secre-



Kaye at her Sussex home, whose walls were hung with the memorabilia of the British India that had shaped her outlook

ing at Calcutta: ".. jasmine garlands and everything — the temples, the fruit bats, the smells, the noise — was all Indian. I looked around me and thought: 'I'm home, I'm home. . .I'm home!' "

For the 18-year-old Mollie Kaye life now became a whirl of parties, romances

But this could not go on for ever. In 1935 her father died and his daughter, by then 27 but still unmarried, found she could not live on the pittance of a pension allotted to an Indian civil servant's daughter. She returned to England and from a tiny flat off King's Road, Chelsea,

tively illustrated by Margaret Tempest. Among them such titles as *Black Bramble Wood* and *Gold Gorse Common*, remained popular reading for very young children for the next 20 years.

For Kaye the income generated meant one thing: she was able to return to her

there were many was married. Ne could not wait for barked on an affa she became pregn

It was, in the p "hole-and-corner" to avoid disapproing mythical girlfr ably long distancetion. She later de daughter in a sma by a "doctor" wh more than a (dr Halfway through observed a tiger water buffalo frodah. Eventually I divorce and they

She now combinofficer's wife (the ing their marriage had already publis el, Six Bars at Seve tinued in this ve Death Walks in Cyprus and Later republished as Denext 20 years. suspense novels was with Death much later, wrote dren: The Ordina Thistledown (1981)

The first of Kay Shadow of the Mo 1957. It embodi research she had sometimes to the interest which the merged in the fea successor, Trade V set in Zanzibar (s with her husband insurgency), it was but not in term acclaim.

That had to war which she had bee vious dozen years reviewers to com melodrama, and it of life under the F who ruled it. Pau fame), who had c shown a previo stinks", is said to h (the warcry of the he completed Th demonstration of lic voted with its sold millions of co years. It became in 1984. A musica and there are plan

Long before this had retired from retired to Battle she had continued umes of autobiog Morning, Golden Aed Evening appea

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OBITUARIES

M. M. KAYE

Daughter of the Raj who used her experience of life in the Empire to create her romantic bestseller The Far Pavilions

Simla in the years before the First World War, M. M. Kaye put her childhood experience and voluminous reading of history to ions, which was published in 1978. The brought up as a Hindu and growing to daughter of the Raj, born in good use in her epic romance of British maturity in the sub-continent before the Indian Mutiny, it became a runaway bestseller and an immensely popular televindia in the 19th century, The Far Pavilstory of a boy, orphaned in childhood

published several novels with Indian themes in the 1950s and 1960s. She also It was by no means her first novel. She had been writing children's fiction (as Mollie Kaye) from 1937 onwards, and wrote as Mollie Hamilton, the surname during the war. She had researched the of its causes - and the savagery with which it was conducted and then ions that defined her as a writer about India, and which made her a household of the army officer whom she married Indian Mutiny meticulously, and detail repressed — are the subject matter of several of her books. But it was The Far Pavilsion drama.

Before taking up writing, Kaye had been a painter, taking her easel wherever she went on her rambles in India, and

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was married. Nevertheless the

there were many obstacles.

barked on an affair, as a result

could not wait for a divorce

It was, in the parlance of the "hole-and-corner" affair, with he to avoid disapproval by constar ing mythical girlfriends who live ably long distances, to disguise h tion. She later described delive daughter in a small hill station, Halfway through her labour she observed a tiger snatching a water buffalo from beneath he more than a (drunk) medical dah. Eventually Hamilton obt: divorce and they were married by a "doctor" who turned out she became pregnant.

She now combined the role of ing their marriage) with author had already published one detec el, Six Bars at Seven, in 1940 and inued in this vein with such republished as Death in Kenya) suspense novels were subseque much later, wrote further books Iren: The Ordinary Princess (1) Cyprus and Later Than You Th officer's wife (they moved 27 ti Death Walks in Berlin, Death sued with Death in. . titles. next 20 years. All seven