CELEBRATION IN JESSORE: Bengalis cheering as Indian soldiers entered their city in East Pakistan yesterday. The Indians are now pursuing the retreating Pakistani forces.

Bengalis Dance and Shout At ‘Liberation’ of Jessore

By SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG
Special to The New York Times

JESSORE, Pakistan, Dec. 8
—The Bengalis danced on the roofs of buses. They shouted independence slogans in the streets. They embraced, they cheered, they reached out in spontaneous emotion to clasp the hands of visitors from other lands.

For Bengalis, today was “liberation day” in Jessore—the strategic city in East Pakistan that for eight months, until yesterday, had been under the control of West Pakistani troops, who had come last spring to put down the Bengali rebellion.

The “liberators” are Indian troops. They are almost as happy as the Bengali secessionists whom India supports, but they did not have much time today to stop and celebrate as they continued to chase the retreating West Pakistani forces southeast toward Khulna.

The Indians, too, waved and smiled and posed for pictures from the tops of their armored personnel carriers and tanks while they waited, four miles from Jessore, for orders to move farther down to the Khulna road.

“They are fleeing in panic,”
Confused from Page 1, Col. 6

an infantry captain of the
Seventh Punjab Regiment, said that
the Pakistani troops were
not good equipment and de-
fense, but their morale is in-
themselves.

Most of the Indian troops are as different from the
Bengalis as the professionals—
Punjabi troops from West
Pakistan were as close to the
Corpsmen are nearly
Punjabi. But cultural gaps be-
tween the Bengali citizens and
their Indian relatives have
temporary eased.

The Pakistanis’ Bengalis have
suffered in the Indian
Drive by working with Indian
troops to throw pontoon
bridges across rivers whose
permanent bridges are being
browsed up by the Pakistanis as
they back.

* Pontoon Inflated

A major bridge has been ex-
pectedly demolished on the
main road from the Indian border to
Jesore, which is 23 miles inside
East Pakistan. Five of the six
bays of the steel and concrete
bridge lie in the Khabani River, so
do the railway bridge 1 mile
downstream.

Heavy fighting continued
from the moment the
Indian troops entered Jesore.

From Buses

The atmosphere in Jesore
was even more exuberant.

An Indian armored car rolled by
ready to fire, and the fighting
took minutes. Buses filled with
people from the nearby
camps raced to the
bus station.

Two pontoon bridges were
rebuilt during the night to
Jesore, but they were
rebuilt.

On the muddy bank below
the burned road bridge, hun-

tons of Bengal refugees
crossed the road and
began chanting, "We
not want to be
in Jesore."

The scene today at the
site, which is the town of
Shingergarh, south of
Jesore, looked like a cross between a
bucket bridge and the building of the
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Jesore a month ago. He said
then that it would take the
Mold Kabibi at least two years to
win the independence strug-
gle. "That was if we fought
alone," he said today. "Now
we have heavy help.

"This is a historic bridge for
me," he said suddenly. "I
want to come here to call around
on the water in the moonlight—
with my girl friend." He smiled
over the memory.

As a jeep carrying foreign
newsmen rode from Shingerga-
rh to Jesore, villagers at
the roadside kept shouting
"Victory for Ben-
gali!" and reached out to try
to touch the hands of the for-
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Shots From Buses

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