

## Hill village with workers in the fields and a group of Bengal sepoy in the middle distance



Water-colour painting of a hill village with workers in the fields and a group of Bengal sepoy in the middle distance by James Manson (1791-1862) in 1826. The painting is inscribed: 'J. Manson 1826' and on the reverse: 'Almorah'. The town of Almora was founded in 1560 by the Chand Dynasty who ruled over most of the Kumaon, which comprises the present districts of Nainital, Almora and Pithoragarh. Almora and the surrounding regions were plundered by a Muslim force in 1744 and became an important strategic centre during the Gurkha War in 1815. This region offers breathtaking views of the Himalayas and has traditionally been a popular retreat for people escaping the heat of the Indian plains. The town of Almora is characterised by the local slate stone used to construct houses and roads and is also known for its temples, in particular the temple of Goddess Nanda Devi.