

1922 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF FIRST BATTALION DIARY.

January 2.— One hundred and one other ranks of A, B, and C Companies proceeded on winter furlough prior to transfer to the 2nd Battalion.

January 3.—No. 2 Platoon returned from Divisional Commander's Guard at Cork. The following extract from a letter from Lieut.-General Sir E. P. Strickland, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., was received :—

"I am sending back the guard with many thanks for their services. They have been smart, keen and vigilant, and I have been in every way most pleased with them. You can rest assured they have kept up the reputation of their unit."

Captain K. Horan attended an Education Course at Shorncliffe.

January 4.—Eighty-four other ranks of A and D Companies proceeded on winter furlough prior to transfer to the 2nd Battalion.

January 10.—One hundred and twenty-eight Other ranks proceeded to Tipperary on transfer to the 2nd Battalion.

Twenty-six other ranks arrived from the 2nd Battalion on transfer.

Sixty other ranks on command were also transferred from the 2nd Battalion.

January 14.—Twenty-eight other ranks were posted to the 2nd Battalion.

January 20.—The following Special Orders of the Day were received :—

By General Rt. Hon. Sir C. F. N. Macready, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., Commanding in Chief.

"The Government having decided that the time has arrived to commence withdrawing troops from Ireland, I wish to express to every Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer and man, my deep appreciation of the services they have rendered during the time they have formed part of the Irish Command. While I feel there is no desire on the part of the Army to rake up past animosities or bitterness, you have been called upon to perform a duty in many respects repugnant to our traditions, and devoid of all the glamour of war, though in many ways entailing greater strain and greater individual danger.

"The call has been answered in a manner worthy of the best traditions of the Service. I honestly believe that no other troops in the world would or could have carried through the work on which you have been engaged without loss of moral and prestige. You, Officers and men, have accomplished the most difficult task that any soldier can be called upon to undertake, and you have emerged with your discipline unshaken, and your conduct, in the eyes of all fair-minded men, blameless.

"When history is written you will find that by your pluck, vigilance, and discipline, you have contributed no inconsiderable share towards what we hope may prove eventually to be settled peace and prosperity of Ireland. I tender to you all my personal and grateful thanks for lightening the burden incidental to the Command of the Forces in Ireland during the last twenty months, and it will ever be an honour and a pride to me to have had the privilege of commanding soldiers, who, whether in peace or war, or under the abnormal conditions in which we found ourselves, have proved second to none."

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Special Order of the Day by Lieut.-General Sir E. P. Strickland, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Commanding the 6th Division :—

" The time has come when the 6th Division, as constituted for service in the South of Ireland, is about to be broken up. We have had two years of severe strain and exceptional hard work. You have been called on to perform the most difficult, dangerous and repugnant duties, in fact the most difficult and unpleasant that soldiers can be called on to carry out. You have been provoked almost beyond endurance, but your discipline has stood the test, and throughout these trying times, you have shown the most admirable restraint, good nature, and impartiality. In so doing you have upheld the name of the British Army and that of your own unit. On leaving this Division you have the great satisfaction of knowing that your duty has been nobly done. You have fought with clean hands, and though in many cases you have inspired fear, yet it has been mingled with a feeling of respect.

" In spite of hard and strenuous duties, leaving but little time for regular training, yet some of you are now better trained than before, by reason of the valuable experiences you have gained, which will stand you in good stead when you are at liberty to carry out normal training. The Division, in spite of all its difficulties, has maintained a high standard of discipline, smartness, and turn out on which you are greatly to be congratulated.

" I much regret losing you all from my command, and I offer you my deep gratitude for your discipline, loyal and unstinted support, and for your soldierly qualities.

" You may well feel proud that you have emerged from these trials with the reputation you have rightly earned.

"I wish you all the very best of good luck."

January 25.—Lieut.-General Sir E. P. Strickland, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 6th Division, visited the Regiment, presented thirty-five British War and Victory Medals, and congratulated the Regiment on their achievements and on their behaviour and discipline. He wished them "Good-bye."
Strength on parade twelve Officers, 179 other ranks.

January 30.—Three Companies of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers took over Castle Barracks from the Regiment.

February 2.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., cross-posted to the 2nd Battalion to complete establishment.

February 8.—The name of Captain J. Blagrove was substituted for that of Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C.

February 11.—Major C. F. Henley and advanced party of 29 other ranks proceeded to Shorncliffe to take over Moore Barracks for the Regiment.

February 15.—2nd Lieut. E. C. Richards, 2nd Battalion, attached to the Battalion till next trooping season.

February 16.—Married families proceeded to Shorncliffe.

February 23.—Castle Barracks evacuated by a detachment of the Regiment and handed over to the Provisional Government, Irish Free State.

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March 1.—Strand Barracks vacated and handed over to the Provisional Government, the Regiment occupying Ordnance Barracks.

March 3.—Forty-eight other ranks proceeded on 28 days' furlough, pending discharge, on completion of short service of three years with the Colours.

March 7.—One hundred and sixty-six other ranks were posted to the Regiment from the 52nd which was proceeding overseas on foreign service.

March 10.—B Company under Captain J. W. Meade and Lieut. L. R. Randall, and Regimental Transport under 2nd Lieut. J. L. Stebbing, left Limerick by train at 09.00 hrs. for Dublin, as advanced party to the Regiment. The former moved into Wellington Barracks, the latter were accommodated in Marlborough Barracks with the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment.

Major J. T. Weatherby, D.S.O., took over Command of the Depot from Major W. E. T. Morland, D.S.O., M.C., who returned to duty and was posted to Command A Company.

March 11.—Advanced party from Shorncliffe of 20 other ranks under Captain J. J. Powell and Lieut. J. E. H. Neville, M.C., arrived at Dublin.

March 18.—A Company under Captain C. R. C. Boyle, D.S.O., proceeded by train to Dublin.

March 20.—Major W. E. T. Morland, D.S.O., M.C., rejoined from the Regimental Depot.

March 21.—The Regiment, less A, B, and D Companies, proceeded by train from Limerick to Dublin.

D Company under Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., and Lieut. J. B. Jarvis left Limerick by road as escort to a convoy of 100 M.T. vehicles.

March 23.—One hundred and forty-one other ranks under Captain K. Horan arrived on transfer from the 2nd Battalion.

Lieuts. B. Burt-Smith, M.C., C. C. Wykeham Martin, and J. E. H. Neville, M.C., reported as having passed in subject (*a*) for promotion to Captain on 28th February.

March 25.—D Company arrived at Dublin.

March 31.—Information was received that Captain K. Horan had gained a Distinguished Certificate at the School of Education, Shorncliffe.

April 1.—A Headquarter Company was formed for administration and disciplinary purposes only. Subdivided into platoons:—

No. 17. Signallers, Scouts, and Police.

No. 18. Transport, Band, Bugle Boys, Tailors and Shoemakers' Shop.

No. 19. Administrative Personnel.

No. 20. Machine Gun Platoon.

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April 10.—The Regiment moved from Wellington Barracks to North Dublin Union, as the former is being handed over to the Provisional Government.

Lieut. J. E. H. Neville, M.C., attended a Light Mortar Course at Hythe.

April 12.—Two Officers and 30 other ranks of A Company proceeded to Vice-regal Lodge to take over Guard Duties.

April 14.—Major A. J. N. Bartlett, D.S.O., posted to the Regiment.

April 19.—The Regiment and Transport were inspected on parade by Col. Commdt. R. D. F. Oldman, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 24th (P) Infantry Brigade.

April 21.—A draft of 43 other ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot.

Lieut. E. A. Packe, D.F.C., qualified in Rifle Course at the Small Arms School, Hythe.

April 24.—Lieuts. B. Burt-Smith, M.C., E. A. Packe, D.F.C., and L. R. Randall attended a Lewis Gun Course at Small Arms School, Hythe.

May 3.—A Company returned from guard duties at Vice-regal Lodge, Dublin.

May 5.—A draft of 15 other ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot.

Captain H. T. Birch Reynardson was struck off the strength of the Regiment on being seconded for duty to the Directorate of the Territorial Army from 29th April.

Lieut. F. C. L. A. Lowndes, M.C., was posted to the Regiment on return from duty on the staff.

May 15.—The Regiment was inspected on parade by Major-General G. F. Boyd, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.M.

Captain J. Blagrove was struck off the strength on being placed on half-pay owing to ill health.

Lieut. E. A. Packe, D.F.C., took over command of the details at Shorncliffe.

May 17.—Lieut. F. C. L. A. Lowndes, M.C., joined the Regiment and was posted to B Company.

May 29.—Lieut. J. E. H. Neville, M.C., qualified in the Light Mortar at the Small Arms School.

June 1.—The Regiment took over the duties of the Guard at North Wall.

June 3.—The Regiment attended H. M. The King's Birthday Parade in Phoenix Park.

June 18.—Lieut. W. H. J. Coleman, 52nd, joined on return from West Africa, being attached to the Battalion till the trooping season.

Captain K. Horan proceeded on leave prior to embarking for the Malay States to take up the duties of Adjutant, Malacca Volunteers.

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June 28.—All ranks were confined to barracks in consequence of the attack by the Provisional Government Troops on the Four Courts held by the rebels. Fighting continued in the streets of Dublin till 5th July.

June 30.—A draft of 16 recruits arrived from the Regimental Depot.

July 3.—Lieut. B. Burt-Smith, M.C., Lieut. E. A. Packe, D.F.C., and Lieut. L. R. Randall qualified in Light Gun Course at Hythe.

July 21.—Major C. F. Henley granted indefinite leave prior to going on half-pay owing to ill health.

July 27.—Lieut. D. C. Colvill, M.C., passed in subject (a) for promotion to Captain on 19th July, 1922.

August 1.—A draft of 3 C.Q.M. Sergeants, 13 Sergeants, 3 Corporals and 10 Riflemen, arrived on transfer from 4th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, on this battalion being disbanded owing to the reduction of the army.

August 4.—A draft of 18 other ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot and was posted to D Company.

August 8.—Orders were received for all men due for discharge before April 1, 1923, to be brought forward for discharge forthwith.
The Guard at North Wall was handed over to the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers.

August 11.—Information was received that the Regiment would proceed to Shorncliffe on the receipt of further orders.
Captain P. McEnroy, D.S.O., M.C., was posted to the Regiment on disbandment of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment.

August 14.—A draft of 29 other ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot.

August 21.—Eighty-five other ranks due for discharge before 1 April, 1923, proceeded on 28 days' furlough pending discharge.

August 24.—Captain K. Horan was struck off the strength of the Regiment on taking up the appointment of Adjutant, Malacca Volunteers, with effect from July 8, 1922.

September 1.—Colonel Commandant R. D. F. Oldman, C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the Machine Gun Platoon and Light Mortar Section in field work.

September 5.—Colonel Commandant R. D. F. Oldman, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 24th (PI Infantry Brigade, carried out the Annual inspection of the Regiment.
He inspected the Regiment on parade, Barracks. Books, Drafts, and the companies at Musketry and Lewis Gun training.
The number present on parade were 18 Officers and 328 other ranks.
Captain J. W. Meade returned from Machine Gun School, Seaford.
Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., commenced a Lewis Gun Course at Hythe.

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September 6.—The Brigade Commander inspected the Transport Section. Lieut. D. C. Colvill, M.C., was posted to the Regimental Depot for a tour of duty *vice* Lieut. E. Holt, M.C., who is resigning his commission.

September 7.—The Brigade Commander inspected Companies at Field work in Phoenix Park. Lieut. E. A. Packe, D.F.C., was appointed Assistant Adjutant *vice* Lieut. S. C. P. Slattery.

September 11.—Major W. E. T. Morland, D.S.O., M.C., and an advance party of 10 other ranks left Dublin for Shorncliffe.

September 12.—Major-General G. F. Boyd, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.M., Commanding the Dublin District, inspected the Regiment on parade to say Farewell." Forty recruits arrived at Shorncliffe from the Regimental Depot.

September 14.—The Regiment marched out of the North Dublin Union at 13.45 hrs. for North Wall, where it embarked and sailed for England at 15.50 hrs., D Company, the Transport Section, and the baggage, coming over in a cargo boat.

September 15.—Trains arrived at Shorncliffe at 13.00 and 14.00 hrs., and the Regiment marched Moore Barracks.

Special Order by Colonel Commandant R. F. D. Oldman, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 24th (P) Infantry Brigade on the departure of the Regiment from Ireland:—

"I wish to express to all ranks of the 43rd Light Infantry my thanks for and appreciation of the good work which the Battalion has done while it has been under my command. Although the Battalion has been living for the past six months under conditions of discomfort, it has never failed to carry out cheerfully any work which it has had to do, and I wish to pay my tribute to its discipline and good spirit. I wish the Battalion good-bye and good luck in its new station."

September 16.—Lieut. L. R. Randall and rear party arrived from Dublin.

September 18.—A draft of seventy-one recruits joined from the Regimental Depot.

September 27.—Major-General Sir C. D. Shute, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commanding 4th Division, visited the Regiment.

September 30.—Captain P. McEnroy, D.S.O., M.C., arrived on transfer from the Leinster Regiment and was posted to B Company.

October 5.—A draft of twenty-two other ranks joined from the Regimental Depot.

October 24.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., qualified at a Lewis Gun Course at Hythe.

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October 27.—The Regiment paraded at 2.30 p.m. for the presentation to it by Mr. H. C. Lea (an ex-Lance-Sergeant of the 43rd) of his collection of war medals gained by former N.C.O.s and men of the 43rd Light Infantry.

Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., inspected the Regiment on parade and presented medals for the Great War; after this, Mr. Lea formally handed over his collection of medals on parade to representatives of all ranks, namely, Lieut.-Colonel F. H. Stapleton, C.M.G., R.S.M. Cowley, C.S.M. Hedley, Sgt. Grant, Cpl Chambers, Bugler Wyborn, and Pte. White. The Regiment then marched past Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams.

November 7.—A draft of 150 other ranks left for Southampton to embark for India to join the 2nd Battalion.

General Lord Horne, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, inspected the Regiment on parade, and subsequently inspected barracks.

Strength on parade : 20 Officers, and 240 other ranks.

November 16.—Lieut. C. J. Eyston was posted to the Regiment from 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade, on reduction.

Captain P. McEnroy, D.S.O., M.C., took over the command of A Company.

The following letter was received from Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams by Lieut.-Colonel Stapleton:—

Please inform all ranks of the 43rd Light Infantry of the great pleasure it gave me to see such a smart turn out on parade at Shorncliffe last week.

It was easy to see that the present members of the Regiment keep up the credit of their predecessors, and have done so not only during the long period of the war, but in the subsequent trying conditions of service in Ireland.

"As an old 43rd Officer, I feel the greatest pride in all I saw, and as I was leaving, to hear such an excellent performance by the Buglers of the Regiment.

"I know that the medals of former members of the 43rd which were given to the Regiment by Mr. Lea will ever be treasured, and the occasion of their presentation be always remembered."

November 21.—Lieut. M. H. S. Last qualified in a Light Mortar Course at Hythe.

November 25.—A draft of 50 other ranks, under Lieut. E. A. Smith, M.C., sailed from Southampton to join the 2nd Battalion.

Information was received that Lieuts. C. C. Wykeham Martin and J. E. H. Neville, M.C., passed the examination for promotion to Captain.

December 2.—A Guard of Honour was furnished for the unveiling of the Folkestone War Memorial consisting of:—

In Command, Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C.: Lieut. of the Guard, Lieut. C. A. Sawyer; Officer with the Colour, Lieut. D. S. Newton King, and 50 other ranks with the Band and Buglers.

December 7.—Colonel - Comdt. W. J. Dugan, C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the Transport animals of the Regiment.

December 28.—A draft of 28 other ranks arrived from the Regimental Depot.

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**PRESENTATION OF MR. H. C. LEA'S COLLECTION OF MEDALS TO THE
FORTY-THIRD LIGHT INFANTRY.**

OCTOBER 27, 1922, must ever be regarded as a red-lettered day in the annals of the 43rd, for it was on this date that Mr. Hugh Cecil Lea handed over to the safe keeping of the Regiment his magnificent collection of war medals gained by its former Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

All of us had heard of this collection but none of us, except the privileged few who had seen it, realized what a noble gift this was to the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Regiment.

The article which appeared in the "Times" on March 24, 1922, was rightly headed "History in Medals," for the earliest medal in the collection was presented within 35 years of the raising of the Regiment, while the latest, those of the last South African War, carry the history of the Regiment down to the beginning of the twentieth century.

The earlier medals were not presented by the Sovereign but by the Regiment, for it was not until the reign of Queen Victoria that medals for war services were awarded. Those for the Peninsular War were not struck till 1848. They appeared with the head of Queen Victoria on the obverse, instead of that of King George III in whose reign the campaign was fought, and were awarded to the survivors only, the 43rd receiving about 400. From then onwards, however, medals have been awarded, and in the words of the Royal Warrant "War Medals and Clasps are granted by Us at Our pleasure in commemoration of arduous campaigns and well fought battles and sieges."

To give a description of the proceedings on this day we cannot do better than quote in full the account which appeared in the "Oxford Times" :

"EXTRACT FROM THE "OXFORD TIMES":-

The two counties of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire have always been conspicuous for their pride in that Regiment of H.M. Army which bears their name—The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Since the war, this pride and interest have assumed a more personal and direct character, and with good cause; for very many of our readers, during four years of war, either themselves served in some battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, or watched unceasingly the fortunes of sons and brothers who on various fronts and in distant lands upheld the honour of the Regiment.

We are, therefore, confident that the account of a ceremony of historical importance in the annals of their Regiment will attract the interest and arouse the pride of the men and women of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The ceremony referred to is the presentation which took place at Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, on October 27 of a collection of medals made by Mr. Lea, a late member of the Regiment. This collection, the fruit of many years of research, of energy, and of absorbing interest, Mr. Lea handed over in perpetual trust to the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the 43rd Light Infantry.

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The generosity prompting such a gift is of itself sufficiently remarkable, but when the nature of the gift is realized it may indeed be said that Mr. Lea has bequeathed to the 43rd Light Infantry a possession of literally priceless value.

For this is no ordinary "collection," no haphazard bringing together of "curios" and collectors' pieces; not an assembly of rare specimens of academic interest. It is perhaps the most living and the most poignant possession that a Regiment can ever hold. For of the 700 medals in this collection, all were won by soldiers of the 43rd between the years 1775 and 1902.

Here is concentrated history; an intimate witness of the many hard-fought fields on which the Regiment bore its part, and at the same time, in each particular medal, a personal memorial to some soldier who lived and fought in the 43rd, maybe a hundred years ago. Reading the names of these men and these battles as they are here recorded transmutes history of the past into a living thing of flesh and blood, of moving, vivid scenes. It is to watch the gradual growth before one's eyes of tradition—the Soul of a Regiment.

Necessarily it is a long process—from the American War of Independence to South Africa in 1902—too long for mention of any but the outstanding incidents. From the American War there is the medal for "gallant conduct" won by T. Loftus at the battle of Bunker's Hill in 1775—the earliest medal in the collection; then the Peninsular War covering the years from 1809-1814, represented by sixty medals, among which is the special medal awarded to Sergeant Newman for "distinguished conduct "at Betanzos, 1809—an incident famous in the annals of the Regiment. Over thirty medals represent the Kaffir War of 1853, with which is ever connected the heroic story of the "Birkenhead." We pass on to the Indian Mutiny, the New Zealand War of '63, Egypt in '84, Burma and expeditions on the North-West Frontier of India, and finally the South African War of 1899-1902, represented by 335 medals won by men of the 43rd.

"This is but a short summary of the large collection, which includes also many interesting examples of old badges and buttons, but it is enough to show how representative it is of the history of the Regiment.

Mention of the Peninsular War reminds one that the ceremony took place amid surroundings appropriately historical; for it was at Shorncliffe in 1804 that the 43rd first served under their great leader, Sir John Moore, who trained them in the Light Infantry tactics in which, during the succeeding years of war in the Peninsula, they were to earn undying fame. Sir John Moore fell at Corunna in 1809, but his influence among those regiments which he loved and led has proved immortal. And here at Shorncliffe, one hundred and twenty years later, Peninsular medals, and medals of many of the men he led, were given once more into the keeping of the 43rd; what wonder that it seemed something more than a coincidence, and that the immortal influence became almost a living presence.

The ceremony of presentation was a befittingly simple and soldierly affair. The 43rd, drawn up on three sides of a hollow square, faced the medals, which had been erected in handsome cases on a veiled dais ; in rear were assembled the spectators, among whom were numbered many past and present members of the Regiment.

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After being received with a General Salute, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., Colonel of the Regiment, inspected the Battalion, afterwards presenting various war medals (1914-1918).

The parade was then called to attention and addressed by Lieut.-Colonel F. Stapleton, C.M.G., Commanding the 43rd.

Colonel Stapleton spoke as follows:—

"Before receiving into our charge this splendid gift of Mr. Lea, I want you all to understand what the possession of such a treasure means to the Battalion.

"I want you to realize that everyone of us and every individual who joins the Battalion in the future is a part owner of the gift.

"Then I want you to understand that there is something more in the meaning of a war medal than its possession by the individual.

"The principal lessons we learn in the Army are those of discipline and co-operation; discipline means endurance and self restraint: co-operation means working, playing, fighting, not as an individual, but as a side. Only by discipline and co-operation can victory in war be won.

"These lessons are being taught continuously in peace time during our army life; the test of the learning comes in war. If victory follows, it means that our lessons in discipline and co-operation have been learnt. Because of victory medals are presented to us by our King.

"Viewed thus you will see that medals become the records of the occasions upon which the Regiment of the recipients has been tried and proved.

"The lesson of discipline is common throughout the Army: the lesson of co-operation is peculiar to the Regiment, it is in fact the spirit of the Regiment. The spirit of the Regiment is built up on traditions, that is, the examples that have been set us in the past.

"You will see now what the significance of these medals is to each one of us, and the help they must give to foster the Regimental spirit.

"They will serve as a constant reminder to us of the deeds performed by our predecessors, and as proof that whenever, since the beginning of the last century, the Regiment has been called upon, it has shown that it has learnt its lesson of discipline and shown its ability to fight as a side".

On the termination of Colonel Stapleton's address Sir John Hanbury-Williams unveiled the collection, the Regiment presenting arms, while the "43rd Slow March" was played.

Sir John then made a short speech in which, after welcoming the 43rd back to a pleasant station in England, he complimented them on their behaviour under most trying circumstances during their long tour of duty in Ireland. He alluded to the special ceremony in which all were taking part that day; he knew that the medals gained by old members of the 43rd would always be treasured in the Regiment, and that the day of their presentation would long be remembered. For his magnificent bequest, present and future generations of the Regiment owed Mr. Lea a debt of gratitude.

The representatives of each rank of the Regiment then took post in front of the parade and marched up to the dais, Lieut.-Colonel Stapleton in the centre, and on his right and left R.S.M. Cowley, C.S.M. Hedley, D.C.M., Sergeant Grant, Corporal Chambers, Bugler Wyborn, and Private White.

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In dedicating his collection to the 43rd, Mr. Lea said:—

"Soon after leaving the Regiment I formed the ambition to make a collection of medals gained solely by men of the 43rd Light Infantry which one day I might present to the old Regiment. It has taken several years of my life but to-day the time has arrived when I can fulfil my Ambition and I can hand over to the 43rd into their safe keeping for all time the medals gained by their predecessors in the ranks."

Colonel Stapleton acted as spokesman for the representatives, and on behalf of all ranks of the 43rd expressed their sincere appreciation of the magnificent gift entrusted to their care.

After three hearty cheers had been given for Mr. Lea, the Regiment marched past Sir John Hanbury-Williams, and the parade was dismissed.

Later the Band and Buglers, in their pre-war review order of scarlet, sounded Retreat and played Band and Bugle marches for the benefit of their former officers and comrades.

Amongst those present were the following former and serving Officers of the Regiment:— Brig.-General A. E. Dalzell, Colonels A. J. F. Eden, E. A. E. Lethbridge, C. H. Frith, A. G. Bayley, Lieut.-Colonels A. C. Money, F. J. Newton King, W. H. Cunliffe, R. G. Hughes, R. E. Watt, Majors H. F. Darell-Brown, J. A. Ballard, C. F. Henley, B. C. T. Paget, Captains W. G. Tolson, T. Pears, H. T. Birch-Reynardson, G. Naylor, Lieutenants D. C. Colvill, H. Vernon, and Lieutenant H. P. Clarke, The Chestnut Troop, R.H.A.

The following former Non-Commissioned Officers and men were also present and were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess:—Colour-Sergeants Lakin and Stocker, R.Q.M.S. Connor, C.S.M. Gregory and Ashby, Sergeants Barton, Bartlett, Barlow and Wade, Corporals Bone, Mitchell and Marshall, Bandsmen Minchin, Scarle and Shuttle, Privates Day, Kirk and Mayne.

The collection of medals is mounted in 10 cases and consists of 706 medals as under:— 59 (General Service) Peninsular; 4 Regimental Peninsular; 1 Bunker's Hill, a Regimental medal presented to T. Loftus, June 17, 1775; 1 Regimental medal presented to Sergeant Newman for Distinguished Conduct at Betanzos in the Retreat to Corunna 1809; 31 South African 1853; 32 Indian Mutiny; 72 *New Zealand* 1863; 6 Egyptian Medals 1884 and Egyptian Stars; 15 for Burma in 1889; 112 for North-West Frontier 1897 and 1 Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to Corporal Crowhurst, all of which were actually awarded while serving in the 52nd Light Infantry. 335 South African 1899-1902, 24 Long Service and Good Conduct medals, 1 Meritorious Service. 1 43rd South African Regimental Medal, 1 Light Division Centenary Medal; 2 Football Medals 1906, and one awarded for the stopping of a runaway horse by the Westminster City Council. The centrepieces of the cases are made up of shako plates, helmet plates, cross-belt plates, belt buckles and 43rd buttons.

Mention must also be made of the case containing all the Peninsular Medals and the regimental medals awarded before and during this campaign which are grouped and arranged according to the bars on the medals. There are six of one bar, five of two, three of three, six of four, six of five, four of six, five of seven, seven of eight, nine of nine, five of ten, two of eleven, and one of twelve bars. On this case is a small ivory plate with the inscription "Presented to the 43rd Light Infantry by Hugh Cecil Lea who served in the Regiment 1887-1892."

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The collection is generally in the Officers' Mess, but is taken to the Library every week, and to the Sergeants' Mess when any entertainment or party is held there. During any period when the Regiment may be out of England the collection will be deposited in the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, where the public will have an opportunity of seeing the history of the Regiment visibly and honourably portrayed in medals gained by its former members.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE TO THE SIXTH (POONA) DIVISION.

THE Memorials to the 6th (Poona) Division and the 101st Grenadiers were unveiled in St. Mary's Church at Poona on August 29.

The Regiment had previously been asked to send representatives to attend the ceremony. The representatives sent were Captain C. B. Crawford, C.Q.M.S. J. Woodford, and Sgt. A. G. Dean. Both C.Q.M.S. Woodford and Sgt. Dean had proceeded on service to Mesopotamia with the 43rd in 1914. The former was wounded at Ctesiphon in November, 1914, and the latter in both 1915 and 1917.

The Ceremony was carried out at 9.45 a.m., in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and a large number of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men both British and Indian representing the units that made up the 6th (Poona) Division in 1914. After the Congregation was seated Lieut.-General Sir S. H. Climo, Commanding 6th (Poona) Division, briefly described the War Services of the Division, and the 101st Grenadiers in Mesopotamia and elsewhere from 1914 onwards. The Bishop of Bombay then gave a short address, and at the conclusion the Commander-in-Chief—Lord Rawlinson—unveiled the two Memorials by releasing the curtain of Union Jacks, after which the "Last Post," followed by "The Reveille," was sounded by the Buglers of The Lincolnshire Regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and the 79th Carnatic Infantry.

The Memorials consist of a green and white marble altar dedicated to the 6th (Poona) Division, on either side of which is a marble tablet dedicated to the 101st Grenadiers.