

1922 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY.

January 2.—Men with service due to expire before 1st October, 1922, were transferred to the 43rd. Men eligible for foreign service were transferred from the 43rd to the 52nd, as under:—

From 43rd to 52nd: 1 Sergeant, 3 Buglers, 244 other ranks.

From 52nd to 43rd: 1 Sergeant, 3 Buglers, 58 other ranks.

January 7.—The Irish 'Peace Treaty' was ratified.

January 17.—Lieut. Thorne and 28 other ranks proceeded to Lichfield as advanced party to the Regiment.

January 18.—Irish Recruits discharged, 20 having enlisted for temporary service of six months in Ireland.

January 20.—The Regiment left Tipperary for England. Colonel-Commandant Cameron, C.B. (Commanding 16th Infantry Brigade) addressed the Regiment on parade. Route via North Wall and Liverpool, the Regiment arriving at Lichfield on 21st January.

January 21.—A warning order was received to embark for India on or after 6th March.

January 23.—Second Lieut. J. A. Theobalds proceeded to Light Mortar Course at Hythe.

January 25.—Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C., reported for duty and was posted to Letter C Company.

Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C., took over Command of Letter C Company: to be known as Captain G. F. Plowden's Company.

January 30.—Embarkation leave began.

(During January, two Special Orders of the day were received by the Regiment; they were the same as those already shown in the Record of the 1st Battalion.)

February 12.—Captain and Bt.-Major R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., was posted to the Depot for duty, in relief of Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C., who rejoined the Regiment.

February 14.—Seventeen Officers attended His Majesty's Levee held at St. James Palace.

February 23.—The married families and advanced party, consisting of Major L. Tunnard, Lieutenant G. C. Huggard, and 30 other ranks, 41 women, and 56 children, embarked at Southampton on s.s. *Glengorm Castle* for India.

February 25.—Intimation was received that no short-service men were to proceed to India.

March 1.—Lieut. W. A. R. Ames took over the duties of Adjutant from Lieut. C. R. Horley, M.C., whose tenure of appointment had expired.

Second Lieuts. Stephens and Shiffner joined on first appointment.

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March 2.—Major-General Sir J. Hanbury-Williams, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G. (Colonel of the Regiment), inspected the Regiment and made a farewell speech.

A number of past and present Officers of the Regiment attended the Parade, including Major-General Sir Robert Fanshawe, K.C.B., D.S.O.; Major-General H. R. Davies, C.B.; Brig.-General E. D. White, C.M.G.; and Colonel A. J. F. Eden, C.M.G., D.S.O.

March 4.—Major-General Sir Reginald Hoskins, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. North Midland Area, inspected the Regiment and made a farewell speech.

March 6.—The Baggage party under Captain C. B. Crawford proceeded to Southampton.

March 7.—The Regiment proceeded from Lichfield to Southampton to embark on s.s. *Assaye* for India. The Strength of the Regiment embarking was 21 Officers and 628 other ranks, less eleven deserters.

March 18.—s.s. *Assaye* arrived at Port Said.

March 28.—s.s. *Assaye* arrived at Karachi.

March 29.—The Regiment disembarked and left Karachi in the evening by train.

April 1.—The Regiment arrived at Rawal Pindi. C Company, two platoons of B Company, and the Band, proceeded direct to Kuldana in motor lorries. The remainder of the Regiment remained in the Rest Camp.

The Indian Platoon joined the Regiment from the Connaught Rangers.

April 2.—The Regiment marched to Barakao.

April 3.—The Regiment marched to Tret.

April 4.—The Regiment marched to Kuldana.

April 19.—Headquarter Company formed under the Command of Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C.

April 20.—The Regiment was visited by the Inspector of Educational Training, Northern Command.

April 28.—Major and Bt. Lieut.-Col. G. A. Sullivan, D.S.O., rejoined the Regiment from Egypt.

May 5.—The A.D.M.S. Rawal Pindi District and the Medical Inspector of Drafts inspected the Regiment.

May 8.—Major-General Sir H. Uniacke, K.C.M.G., C.B., inspected the Regiment at training.

Intimation was received that Lieut. C. R. Horley, M.C., on relinquishing the appointment of Adjutant, was posted to the Regiment, also that Major A. J. N. Bartlett, D.S.O., was posted to the Regiment.

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May 22.—Lieut. J. Thorne proceeded for duty at Barian.

May 23.—General Sir W. R. Birdwood, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., inspected the Regiment.

June 3.—The Regiment paraded and fired a *feu-de-joie* in honour of the Birthday of H.M. The King.

June 7.—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the Regiment in Musketry.

June 17.—Regimental Sports held, in celebration of Waterloo Day, which fell on a Sunday,

July 5.—The D.D.V.S., Northern Command, inspected the Regimental Transport.

July 11.—Notification received that Lieut. W. H. J. Coleman was posted to the Regiment, but attached to the 43rd Light Infantry until next trooping season.

July 24.—C and D Companies began individual training.

August 16.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., and Lieut. W. T. Yeoman, with the Machine Gun Platoon, proceeded to march to Abbottabad.

August 23.—Lieut. C. R. Horley, M.C., proceeded to Wellington for an Education Course.

August 25.—Captain C. B. Crawford, C.Q.M.S. Woodford, M.M., and Sergeant Dean, proceeded to Poona to represent the 43rd Light Infantry at the unveiling of the 6th (Poona) Division War Memorial.

August 26.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., and the Machine Gun Platoon returned from Abbottabad.

August 30.—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 12th Indian Infantry Brigade, inspected the Regiment at training.

September 9.—An examination for 2nd Class Certificates of Education was held.

September 16.—The Classification of Signallers began.

October 2.—The A.D.M.S., Rawal Pindi District, inspected the Barracks.

October 14.—Notification was received that 2nd Lieuts. Heneage, Conant, and Richards, were posted to the Regiment.

October 16.—The 1st Party of married families proceeded to Rawal Pindi.

October 17.—The 2nd Party of married families proceeded to Rawal Pindi.

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October 18.—C and D Companies under the Command of Major L. Tunnard left Kuldana for Tret.

October 19.—Headquarters A and B Companies left Kuldana for Tret under the Command of Captain J. L. Portal, D.S.O.
C and D Companies left Tret for Barakao.

October 20.—Headquarters A and B Companies left Tret for Barakao.
C and D Companies left Barakao for Rawal Pindi.

October 21.—Headquarters A and B Companies left Barakao for Rawal Pindi.

October 23.—2nd Lieuts. Fairlie and Ross and Thompson, Indian Army, joined the Regiment for attachment.

October 30.—General Sir W. Birdwood, S.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A D.C., inspected the Regiment in Marching Order.

November 1.—Intimation was received that Lieut E. A. Smith, M.C., on transfer from the Connaught Rangers, had been posted to the Regiment.

November 10.—Intimation was received that 2nd Lieut. Heneage's posting had been cancelled.

November 10 and 11.—Regimental Rifle Meeting held on the Regimental Range at West Ridge.

November 14.—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., inspected Nos. I and 3 Platoons at Training.

November 17.—Lieut. Colonel E. R. Clayton, C.M.G., D.S.O., Captain Plowden, M.C., Captain Whitfeld, M.C., and Lieut. Ames proceeded to Landi Kotal.

December 5.—B and C Companies proceeded to Camp at Barakao.

December 6.—A draft of 150 N.C.O.s and men arrived from the 43rd Light Infantry.

December 7.—Lieut. C. R. Horley, M.C., rejoined the Regiment from the School of Education, Wellington.

December 8.—Captain J. L. Portal, D.S.O., proceeded to Dera Ismail Khan to take up an appointment as Staff Captain.

December 16.—Major-General Sir Courtenay Manifold, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.D.M.S. Northern Command, inspected the Regiment.

December 24.—A draft of 50 N.C.O.s and men arrived from England.
2nd Lieut. R. T. Conant joined the Regiment on first appointment.
Lieut. E. A. Smith, M.C., joined the Regiment on transfer from the Connaught Rangers.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM THE FIFTY-SECOND.

DEAR MR EDITOR,—

January 1, 1922, found us still waiting in the Huts at Tipperary for the Irish Peace Treaty to be ratified, and hoping for orders to move back to Lichfield. It was not until January 20 that we actually entrained for Lichfield, with a great send-off from the Green Howards who were in the next Camp to us for seven months.

Our departure from the Huts was marked by a fire breaking out as we were falling in; however, this was soon extinguished, not that it mattered as the I.R.A. burnt the Huts down within a few days of our leaving.

We had been expecting to go to the Rhine soon after arrival in England and so had handed over to the 43rd all men ineligible for Foreign Service, viz.: 62 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, receiving in exchange 348. But on reaching Lichfield we found orders awaiting us to embark for India on March 6.

Time was short and preparations were many, but we finally sailed in the *Assaye* on March 7, the married families under Tunnard having preceded us on February 23 on the *Glengorm Castle*. On February 14, all available Officers attended a Levee before going abroad. On March 2, Sir John Hanbury-Williams came to Lichfield to present Medals and to say "Good-bye." We were very glad also to see at the parade Generals Davies and White, besides several other Old Officers, amongst whom there were four ex-Commanding Officers, and eight ex-Adjutants. We embarked on the *Assaye* at Southampton, and left on the evening of the 7th, many former Officers coming to the docks to see us off.

Except that we ran into a heavy storm the first day out, the voyage was uneventful, and we reached Karachi on March 29.

A fifty-four hours' railway journey brought us to Rawal Pindi, in trains fitted with every possible precaution to prevent heat stroke. On arrival at Pindi we received a warm welcome. Half the Regiment was sent up to Kuldana in the Murree Hills in lorries and the baggage and remainder of the Regiment prepared to march the following day.

Kuldana is a scattered hutted Camp, the extreme length of which is about two miles. Most of the huts are on different levels, so we all became as active as goats before we had been there long. Our stay at Kuldana from April to October was uneventful. There was plenty to do before the rain started in re-organizing and training, to make amends for the lack of facilities and opportunities in Ireland.

Amusements chiefly consisted of games on "Gharial Flats," about three miles distant, where also the "Waterloo Sports" were held.

Several Officers began playing polo, though three a-side is all that is possible; still the practice was useful and enabled us to start a polo team during the winter.

The Regimental Hockey Team reached the Semi-Final of the "Lintott Hockey Shield," being defeated by the 32nd Sikh Pioneers after a re-play.

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On October 19, we marched down to West Ridge, Rawal Pindi, glad to be again on level ground, and here we remained for the rest of the year.

Yours etc.,
FIFTY-SECOND.