

**1923 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY.**

*January 1.*—Proclamation Day Parade.

*January 3.*—12th Indian Infantry Brigade Rifle Meeting. Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., C.Q.M.S. Tunbridge, M.M., Sgt. Green, M.M., L.-Cpl. Taylor, Pte. Revell and Pte. Brooks represented the Regiment.

*January 16.*—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., carried out the annual inspection of the Regiment.

*January 20.*—A Company proceeded on trek.

*January 22.*—D Company proceeded on trek.

*January 24.*—Machine-Gun platoon proceeded on trek.

*January 29.*—A Company, D Company and the Machine-Gun platoon returned from trek.

*February 1.*—Battalion Training started.

*February 11.* — Major-General Sir Herbert Uniacke, K.C.M.G., C.B., Commanding the Rawalpindi District, presented medals to Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Regiment after Church Parade.

*February 14.*—Battalion Training ended.

*February 17.*—The Machine-Gun Platoon and D Company carried out field firing.

*February 20.*—2nd Lieut. E. C. Richards joined the Regiment, and was posted to C Company.

*February 21.*—A and C Companies carried out field firing.

*March 1.*—Lieut. P. Booth proceeded to Ambala to attend a course of instruction in Animal Management.

*March 2.*—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 12th Indian Infantry Brigade, inspected the Regiment at training.

*March 18.*—A draft of 16 Non-Commissioned Officers and men joined the Regiment.

*March 21.*—Major-General H. C. Tyler, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., inspected the Barracks.

2nd Lieut. G. R. Cooke and 2nd Lieut. A. F. B. Powell, Indian Army Unattached list, joined the Regiment on 1st appointment for one year's attachment.

*March 23.*—Captain W. L. Barnard embarked at Bombay on H.T. *Marglen* to proceed to the United Kingdom for a tour of duty at the Depot.

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*March 27.*—Colonel Commandant de Free, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding the Rawalpindi District, inspected the Regiment at training.

*March 28.*—Lieut. E. A. Smith, M.C., and 18 other ranks proceeded to Tret to open the Rest Camp for the moves to the Hills during the summer.

*March 29, 30, and 31.*—A Regimental rifle meeting was held on the West Ridge Ranges.

*April 3.*—The Advanced Party, consisting of Lieut. L. W. Giles, M.C., and 25 other ranks, proceeded to Gharial.

*April 4.*—Individual Training of A and C Companies started.

*April 5.*—A draft of 17 Non-Commissioned Officers and men joined the Regiment.

*April 6.*—A demonstration on the system of indicating targets to Artillery was given by the 24th Brigade, R.F.A., at Bokra.

*April 7.*—Lieut. J. Thorne embarked at Karachi on s.s. *Assaye* to proceed to the United Kingdom for a tour of duty at the Depot.

*April 10.*—Examination for 2nd Class certificate candidates held.

*April 12.*—First party of married families proceeded to Gharial.

*April 13.*—Second party of married families proceeded to Gharial.

*April 14.*—B, D, and H.Q. Companies, less the band, proceeded to Gharial under the Command of Major L. Tunnard.

*April 15.*—A and C Companies and the band proceeded to Gharial under the Command of Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C.

*April 23.*—Regimental Training Cadre established.

*May 15.*—An examination for 3rd class certificate candidates held.

*May 22.*—Individual Bayonet Fencing Competition held.

*May 25.*—The Commanding Officer inspected C Company at training.

*May 29.*—2nd Lieut. J. E. Fairlie, Indian Army, Unattached list, proceeded to join the 1-3rd Sikh Pioneers at Sarorogha.

*June 2.*—The Regiment paraded on Gharial Flats to fire a *feu de joie* to celebrate the King's Birthday.

*June 4.*—Intimation received that Major A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., was posted to the Regiment.

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*June 6.*—General Sir William Birdwood, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.S.L., C.I.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, inspected the Regiment at training.

*June 8.*—Colonel Commandant G. Gwyn-Thomas, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 12th Indian Infantry Brigade, inspected the Regiment at training.

*June 18.*—Waterloo Day. The Regimental Sports held.

*June 23.*—An "Assault at Arms" was held in Murree. The Regimental Gymnastic Team gave a display.

*June 29.*—Colonel Commandant H. de Free, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding Rawalpindi District, inspected the Regiment at training.

*July 7.*—The Regiment gave a Torchlight Tattoo in Murree.

*July 12.*—D Company's Detachment at Tret was relieved by C Company.

*July 13.*—B and D Companies started Individual Training.

*July 25.*—Colonel Commandant H. E. Herdon, C.I.E., Commanding Rawalpindi District, inspected the Regiment at training.

Intimation received that Lieut. R. D. Winsloe is posted to the Regiment.

*August 3.*—Intimation received that Captain J. L. Portal, D.S.O., has been appointed Staff Captain, Waziristan Force.

Intimation received that Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., and Captain P. Booth have been posted to the Regiment on promotion.

*August 7.*—Information received that strengths of British battalions in India were to be reduced by the end of the trooping season.

The names of volunteers for premature transfer to the Reserve were called for in Regimental Orders.

*August 15.*—The detachment at Murree Depot was taken over by the Regiment.

*August 24.*—D.D.M.S., Northern Command, visited the Regiment.

*September 11.*—An examination for 2nd and 3rd class certificate candidates held.

The Inspector of remounts inspected the Regimental Transport mules.

*September 28.*—Colonel Commandant de Pree, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding Rawalpindi District, inspected the Regiment at training.

Notification received that a draft of 30 Non-Commissioned Officers and men would arrive at the end of the year.

*October 2.*—An examination for 1st class certificate candidates was held.

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*October 5.*—The Advanced Party, under the Command of Captain E. A. Smith, M.C., proceeded to Victoria Barracks, Rawalpindi.

A draft of 15 Non-Commissioned Officers and men left the Regiment to proceed to Bombay to embark on h.t. *Marglen*.

Fourteen Non-Commissioned Officers and men for discharge and transfer to the Reserve and one boy proceed to Kneller Hall for a year's course.

*October 10.*—Notification received that 2nd Lieut. D. M. O'Connor has been posted to the Regiment on first appointment.

*October 12.*—One team from each Company fired for the Hopton Cup in the Army Rifle Association meeting.

*October 13.*—An examination for 2nd class certificate candidates held.

*October 18.*—First party, consisting of A, C, and D Companies, left Gharial for Rawalpindi, under the Command of Major L. Tunnard.

*October 19.*—Second party, consisting of B Company and Headquarter Company, left Gharial for Rawalpindi, under the command of Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C.

*October 24.*—A and D Companies started Company training.

*October 29.*—Notification received that Captain H. S. Eagle has been posted to the Regiment.

*November 2.*—The Regiment paraded for an inspection by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India.

*November 10.*—Observed as a holiday to celebrate Nonne Boschen day, which fell on Sunday.

The Regiment was inspected by Colonel Commandant de Free, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding Rawalpindi District, and then marched past.

All Non-Commissioned Officers and men who actually took part in the charge at Nonne Boschen stood at the saluting base. The names were:— R.Q.M.S. Benford, M.M., C.Q.M.S. Tunbridge, M.M., Sgt. Bailey, D.C.M., Sgt. Lynch, M.M., Pte. Lucas, Pte. Argent, Pte. Collier.

*November 12.*—Colonel H. C. Duncan, A.A.G. Recruiting, Army Headquarters, visited the Regiment.

*November 14.*—B and C Companies started Platoon and Company training.

Information received that C.Q.M.S. Tunbridge, M.M., and Sgt. Chalkley were selected for a tour of duty at the Depot.

*November 19.*—General Sir William Birdwood, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, inspected the Regiment at training.

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*November 23.*—Information received that the figure of merit at the classification of signallers was 95.55.

*November 30.*—An examination for 2nd and 3rd class certificate candidates was held.

*December 1.*—Battalion Training started.

*December 3.*—An aeroplane demonstration given to all Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

*December 13.*—Lieut. W. T. Yeoman rejoined the Regiment from Bannu, and was posted to C Company.

*December 17.*—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., embarked on h.t. *Marglen* at Karachi to proceed to the United Kingdom for a tour of duty as an instructor at the Royal Military College, Camberley,

*December 28.*—A draft of 35 Non-Commissioned Officers and men proceeded to Karachi to embark on h.t. *Braemar Castle* to proceed to the United Kingdom. The draft consisted of 30 Non-Commissioned Officers and men for premature transfer to the Reserve, 5 Non-Commissioned Officers and men for discharge and transfer to the Reserve.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM THE FIFTY-SECOND.**

DEAR EDITOR-

The 1st of January found us still stationed at West Ridge, Rawalpindi. Owing to Garrison duties being rather heavy it was only possible to carry out Company Training by striking off two Companies at a time. Towards the end of January A and D Companies proceeded independently on Trek for about ten days in the Fatchjang and Hasan Abdal area, and with the exception of one or two wet days and the minor troubles always caused by camel transport, both Companies had an excellent time. The Machine Gun Platoon also went out to meet them at Hasan Abdal, and they all came in together at the end of January in time for Battalion Training. Battalion Training took place in the first fortnight of February, and although the country was rather limited a lot of useful work was carried out. As soon as Battalion Training was over, field firing started, and by the end of February all musketry had been practically finished.

During March our time was taken up with training for the Rawalpindi Military Tournament, which took place in the latter half of the month. The Regiment distinguished itself by a Platoon of B Company winning the cross country run, in fighting order, over a course of about 2 1/2 miles, and Whitfeld's Machine Gun Platoon won the "turn out" competition for 1 sub-section of Machine Guns. The Northern India Horse Show took place at about the same time, but owing to a polo tournament coinciding no one showed their ponies to the judges.

At Football the Regimental team did well in winning the District Cup, and eventually arrived at the final of the Northern Army Competition and were beaten, after a replay, by the 2nd Brigade R.F.A. from Lahore, who were considered at the time one of the best British teams in India.

At Hockey the Regiment was not so successful, and were beaten in the second round of the Divisional Competition by the Royal Corps of Signals.

At Cricket also the Regimental team did well, and were only beaten by 1 wicket in the final of the Jamasjee Cup against the R.A.M.C. team.

Polo was in full swing during the winter, and the team entered for its first tournament at Nowshera, and were defeated by a team from the 18th Cavalry in the first round. However, in the Pindi Tournament we met with more success, and although beaten by one goal in the first round by the Pack Artillery Brigade from Abbotabad, we defeated the Sherwood Foresters in the subsidiary tournament and had a good chance of reaching the final but had bad luck in the Colonel being knocked out when playing the Peshawar Gymkhana in the semi-final.

The last three days in March were occupied by a most successful rifle meeting, and judging by the number of entries and rounds fired, nearly every man in the Regiment must have entered for some competition.

At the beginning of April the advanced party went off to Gharial, which was to be our home this year for the hot weather. Before moving up it was possible to start off two Companies at Individual Training for a fortnight.

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In the middle of the month the whole Regiment marched up to Gharial.

Gharial is a very much better spot than Kuldana, last year's station, as there is just one piece of flat ground on which it is possible to play football, hockey, cricket, and polo, and consequently, during the monsoon, life was not quite so dull as it was at Kuldana.

As soon as we arrived Musketry and Individual Training re-started, while the Officers of the other two Companies went on leave.

The Waterloo Sports were held as usual and went off very successfully.

At the beginning of July, A and C Companies, having finished training and musketry, changed with B and D Companies. Stephens, Withington, Richards, and Conant went off into Kashmir and Kistwar, and all returned with some good heads of ibex, thar, and goral; Stephens being lucky in shooting a good markhor.

During the latter half of the summer life at Gharial became rather dull, and everyone was looking forward to the return to Rawalpindi. However, owing to the lightness of the monsoon the football grounds kept in fair condition and it was possible to start the Platoon Football Competition, which was eventually finished off on arrival at Rawalpindi and won by No. 20 Platoon, with No. 14 as second.

In the middle of October we moved down as usual in two parties to Victoria Barracks, as the Regiment is due to stay down in Pindi next hot weather. By this time everyone was back from leave and heated arguments ensued as to who had run the best bandobast and who had been the wisest in the provisions and kit that he took.

The first thing that we had to contend with was an inspection by Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief. We had many practice parades and when the great day came everything went off well.

Platoon and Company Training also started on arrival at Pindi, and Battalion Training started on December 1.

Christmas passed off well, but everybody was very busy preparing for manoeuvres, which started on January 2. During the year Portal left us to become a Staff Captain to the Waziristan Force at Dera Ismail Khan. Barnard and Thorne returned to Oxford for a tour of duty at the Depot.

Kilburn and Clarke were both granted six months' sick leave.

Yours etc.,  
FIFTY-SECOND