

**1924 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY.**

*January 1.*—Proclamation Day Parade.

*January 2.*—The Regiment marched from Rawalpindi to Riwat, the first stage of the march to join the 13th Brigade, for Brigade Manoeuvres.

*January 5.*—The Regiment arrived at Sohawa.

*January 6.*—The 13th Brigade arrived at Sohawa from Jhelum.

*January 7.*—Brigade Training and Inter-Brigade Training was carried out with the 12th Brigade from this day to January 15.

*January 16.*—The Regiment, forming part of the 13th Brigade, carried out a night march from Gujar Khan to Mandra.

*January 18.*—The Regiment marched from Mandra to Riwat.

*January 19.*—The Regiment marched from Riwat to Rawalpindi.

*January 30.*—The New Peace Establishment was received, and the Headquarter Company was reorganized accordingly.

*February 5.*—Field Firing was carried out by C and D Companies.

*February 8.*—Colonel-Commandant H. L. Knight, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 12th Indian Infantry Brigade, carried out the Annual Inspection of the Regiment.

*February 13.*—2nd Lieut. D. M. O'Connor reported for duty on first appointment and was posted to B Company.

*February 14.*—No. 16 Platoon represented the Regiment in the Rawalpindi District Platoon Competition and gained second place.

*February 15.*—Lieut. Colonel E. R. Clayton, C.M.G., D.S.O. gave up Command of the Regiment to-day and proceeded to the United Kingdom.  
Major L. Tunnard assumed command of the Regiment.

*March 4.*—A Company carried out field firing.

*March 5.*—B Company carried out field firing.

*March 6.*—The Machine-Gun Platoon carried out field firing.

*March 7.*—Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Higgins, C.M.G., D.S.O., joined the Regiment and assumed command.

*March 9.*—A demonstration with tracer ammunition was given to the Garrison by the Regiment.

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*March 14.*—2nd Lieuts. L. G. S. Younghusband and G. T. Pilling, I.A.U.L., joined the Regiment to-day for one year's attachment.

*March 16.*—2nd Lieuts. G. G. Hughes and G. C. H. Wykeham joined the Regiment on first appointment, and were posted to D and C Companies respectively.

Lieut. W. G. Clarke rejoined from sick leave and was posted to D Company.

Information received that the Signallers obtained a figure of merit of 96.98 in their classification for 1923.

*March 21 and 22.*—The Rawalpindi District Assault-at-Arms took place.

The Regiment won the Relay Race, Cross Country Race and Dismounted Assault Course.

*March 24.*—Major G. E. Whittall, M.C., joined the Regiment to-day and took over command and payment of D Company.

*March 29.*—The Training Cadre commenced to train the 1st class of the Individual Training season.

*April 1.*—2nd Lieut. G. E. Shiffner and 180 other ranks, proceeded to take over Barakao Rest Camp.

*April 5.*—Notification was received that Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., has been posted to the Regiment.

*April 7.*—The Advanced Party proceeded to Barian.

*April 9.*—C Company started firing their Annual Musketry Course.

*April 13.*—The first party of the married families proceeded to Barian for the hot weather.

*April 14.*—The second party of married families proceeded to Barian for the hot weather.

*April 23.*—The Regimental Cap Badge was worn in the Helmet from to-day.

*April 30.*—A Company and Signallers proceeded to Barakao on the 1st stage of the march to Barian for a six weeks' tour in the hills.

*May 21.*—The 52nd Punjab Regiment relieved the Barakao Rest Camp detachment.

*May 30.*—2nd Lieut. D. M. O'Connor was transferred to D Company.

*June 3.*—The Regiment paraded at 5.45 a.m., to take part in the Garrison parade to fire a *feu de joie*, in celebration of His Majesty the King Emperor's Birthday.

*June 7.*—C Company and the Band proceeded to Barakao *en route* for Barian to relieve A Company.

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*June 11.*—Notification was received that the remarks made on the Annual Inspection Report for 1923-24, by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief, were as follows :—"Very Satisfactory."

*June 12.*—A Company and the Signallers rejoined the Regiment from Barian.

*June 23.*—The following cable was received from the Depot: "Best wishes from all ranks, Waterloo Day."

*July 16.*—Information received that Regimental Sgt.-Major F. Clare, D.C.M., had been promoted Quartermaster.

*July 19.*—B Company and the Machine-Gun Platoon proceeded to Barian for a tour of duty.

*July 25.*—C Company and the Band rejoined from Barian.  
Lieut. W. G. Clarke proceeded to Poona to take up the duties of A.D.C. to G.O.C., Poona District.

*August 3.*—A guard of honour to General Sir W. R. 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, was found by the Regiment.

*September 2.*—D Company proceeded to Barian for a tour of duty.

*September 8.*—B Company rejoined at Rawalpindi from Barian.

*September 25.*—Lieut. C. B. Dawkins, Australian Staff Corps, joined the Regiment to-day for one year's attachment.

*October 6.*—2nd Lieut. Showers, I.A.U.L., joined the Regiment to-day for one year's attachment.

*October 13.*—The Regiment moved from Victoria Barracks to Connaught Barracks in Rawalpindi.

*October 17.*—Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Higgins, C.M.G., D.S.O., left the Regiment on retirement.

*November 3.*—Lieut. K. S. Wootten proceeded to Razmak to take up the duties of S.S.O.

*November 5.*—The Quartermaster-General in India visited the Regiment.

*November 14.*—A draft of 3 N.C.O.'s and 98 men joined the Regiment.  
Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., joined the Regiment to-day and took over command of A Company.  
2nd Lieuts. K. Bayley and P. F. Metcalfe joined the Regiment on first appointment and were posted to A and D Companies respectively.

*November 19.*—Battalion Training started.

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*November 23.*—Major G. E. Whittall, M.C., Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C., Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C., Captain P. Booth, Lieut. J. A. Theobalds, Lieut. M. T. Stephens and 2nd Lieut. G. G. Hughes, proceeded to Jhelum to take part in a Tactical Exercise in the Salt Range with the 13th Indian Infantry Brigade.

*November 26.*—Captain H. S. Eagle proceeded to Khewra (Salt Range) to reconnoitre the road for the Regiment, for the march to join the 13th Indian Infantry Brigade on Brigade Manoeuvres.

*November 30.*—Twenty-eight N.C.O.'s and men left the Regiment to-day to embark at Bombay for premature transfer to the Reserve.

*December 8.*—Information received that Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been promoted to command the Regiment, *vice* Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Higgins, C.M.G., D.S.O.

*December 16.*—Forty-five N.C.O.'s and men left the Regiment to-day to embark at Bombay for premature transfer to the Reserve.

*December 22.*—2nd Lieut. G. T. Pilling, I.A.U.L., attached to the Regiment, died from enteric fever at the British Station Hospital, Rawalpindi.

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**BRIGADE MANOEUVRES IN INDIA, 1924.**

THE Regiment formed part of the 13th Brigade, whose Headquarters were at Jhelum, and had to march for four days before joining up with the Brigade. There were other troops from Pindi to join the Brigade, and the column (which was composed of the following: 52nd Light Infantry; 1 Squadron 11th (P.A.V.O.) Cavalry; 22nd Battery R.F.A.; No. 6 Pack Battery; 13th Infantry Brigade, Signal Section; 1 Section, No. 5 Company Sappers and Miners) marched out of Rawalpindi, on January 2, 1924, under the Command of Lieut.-Colonel E. R. Clayton.

We had a most motley collection of camels, followers, bullock carts, etc., but everything went off in good order except that Lady Uniacke, the Divisional Commander's wife, would point out all the bad camel loads to the G.S.O.1.

The first day's march was to Riwat, where we arrived about 12.30 p.m. It was the first time that the Regiment had been out to camp since its arrival in India, but tents were soon pitched, and everyone got settled down very quickly.

The next day, January 3, we had to send all our tents off to Mankiala Railway Station, to go by train to Mandra, as the camels were required back in Pindi for supply purposes. We marched to Mandra and encamped for the night.

On January 4 we marched on to Gujar Khan, and on the 5th to Sohawa, where we halted and waited for the remainder of the Brigade to arrive.

January 6 was a rest day, and everyone was busy tidying up camp. The remainder of the Brigade, consisting of Brigade Headquarters, 2-15th Punjab Regiment and the 4-19th Hyderabad Regiment, arrived in the afternoon.

From the 6th to the 12th we did Brigade Training, rehearsing the schemes that were to be carried out during Inter-Brigade Training. On January 11 it poured with rain, and no training could be carried out.

We organized a cross-country run in the afternoon for the whole Regiment, the winning Company being given jam for tea. It was a huge success and gave everyone something to think about during an extremely dull day.

On January 12, the 12th Brigade arrived and had to fight their way into Sohawa. They pitched their camp next to us, and from the 12th to the 15th we carried out Inter-Brigade Training.

On the night of the 16th, we carried out a night march in conjunction with the 12th Brigade, and attacked Mandra at dawn. Everyone arrived at the right spot at the right time, after quite one of the most miserable nights the Regiment has spent since the war!

D Company were unlucky, and had to go out on outpost duty the same day. However, they returned to camp by 6 p.m. very cheerful, for the manoeuvres were ended.

We marched back to Pindi in two days, and everyone was extremely glad to get back to their happy home in Victoria Barracks.