

1928 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY

January 1.—New Year's Day; halted at RISHRA.
One sick man evacuated to Calcutta.

January 2.—Marched to Fort William and camped on the Fort Glacis.
Captain E. L. O. Baddeley reported his arrival and assumed Command of D Company.

January 4.—The Regiment took over Guards and Duties from the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment.

January 5.—Departure of the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment.
The Regiment arrived in the Fort.

January 7.—The following letter was received from the Headquarters Meerut District:
“*The General Officer Commanding wishes to express to all Ranks of the 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, his appreciation of their work while serving in the United Provinces, and wishes them success, and prosperity in the future*”

January 17.—The Regiment was inspected on a Ceremonial Parade by the General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District.

January 21.—The Demonstration Platoon, the Barrack Rooms, and the Regimental Equipment Mules were inspected by the G.O.C.

January 28.—Annual inspection of books carried out.
The Demonstration Platoon, under Captain W. A. R. Ames, left for their tour of one month in Assam.

February 1.—2nd Lieut. A. S. Collier, Army-in-India Reserve of Officers, reported his arrival for an attachment of 16 days' training and was posted to B Company.

February 3.—200 Officers and Other Ranks (A Company, C Company and 20 Other Ranks of B Company) called out for duties in aid of the Civil Powers from 4 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. in connection with the Hartal Riots.
2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer rejoined the Regiment from leave on Medical Certificate.

February 8.—Captain P. Booth rejoined the Regiment after a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot and took over Command and payment of Letter C Company.

February 14.—Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O. assumed temporary command of the Regiment from February 15 to February 19, owing to the absence on inspection duty in Assam of Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O.

February 18.—Lieut. W. T. Yeoman rejoined the Regiment, having vacated the appointment of Station Staff Officer, Chakrata.

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February 23.—A Draft of thirty-one men for premature transfer to Army Reserve left the Regiment under the Command of Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C., proceeding to the United Kingdom on posting to the Home Establishment, after six years in India. About 300 Officers and Other Ranks took part in the first of three performances of the Calcutta Searchlight Tattoo.

February 24.—Lieut. W. T. Yeoman proceeded to Fatehgarh for duty as Quartermaster of the 10/7th Rajput Regiment on six months' probation.

February 25.—Captain K. Horan rejoined from leave to the United Kingdom. The Demonstration Platoon, under the Command of Captain W. A. R. Ames, rejoined the Regiment and were returned to duty.

February 26.—A Draft consisting of Captain G. Naylor, M.C., Captain A. B. Hamilton, two Sergeants, one Corporal and ninety-four men, arrived from the United Kingdom. Captain G. Naylor, M.C. and Captain A. B. Hamilton took over Command of the Headquarter Wing and A Company respectively.

February 27.—The Machine Gun Platoon, under the Command of Lieut. R. T. Conant, proceeded to Jamalpur to take part in a Machine Gun Concentration.

February 29.—C and D Companies, under the Command of Captain E. L. O. Baddeley, proceeded to Sonapur for Company Training. Lieut. E. C. Richards vacated the appointment of Adjutant and was posted to C Company.

March 1.—A party of three Instructors and twenty-five musketry casuals, under the Command of 2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer, proceeded to Jafferpore to fire Table " R " (India). Captain K. Horan assumed the appointment of Adjutant vice Lieut. E. C. Richards.

March 7.—Lieut. M. T. Stephens rejoined from eight months leave in the United Kingdom and re-assumed the appointment of Signal Officer.

March 8.—C and D Companies returned from Training.

March 10.—A and B Companies, under the Command of Captain H. S. Eagle, proceeded to Sonapur for Platoon and Company Training.

March 16.—The Machine Gun Platoon, under Lieut. R. T. Conant, returned from Jamalpur.

March 18.—A and B Companies returned from training. A Draft of 90 B.O.R.'s left for Bombay for embarkation on H.T. *Dorsetshire en route to United Kingdom for transfer to the Army Reserve and Discharge.* A party of 15 Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men went by the same ship on six months' furlough to the United Kingdom.

March 24.—Lieut. F. Clare, D.C.M., proceeded on eight months' combined leave to the United Kingdom.

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March 27.—No. 536090 W.O. Class II, Hopewell, S., A.E.C., joined for duty.

March 28.—Lieut. R. H. Cooke rejoined from a Veterinary Course at Ambala.

March 30.—The first party to go to the hills left Calcutta. The party consisted of the Band, 25 men from each Company, and most of the Married Families, and was under the Command of Captain E. L. O. Baddeley and Lieut. J. Thorne. All except one family went to Lebong.

April 1.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., rejoined the Regiment from the United Kingdom on termination of his tour of duty at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Captain E. A. Smith, M.C., left the Regiment to proceed to the United Kingdom on leave pending retirement.

April 2.—Hot weather timings came into force, Reveille being at 5 a.m., two hours' parades before breakfast, and work closing down at 12 noon.

April 7.—The lines of the Regiment were inspected by the D.D.M.S. Eastern Command.

April 9.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., took Command and payment of Letter B Company.

Lieut. F. T. Horan rejoined on completion of the 1st Qualifying Course, 1928, at the Signal School, Poona.

April 10.—Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe proceeded to Kasauli to attend a Qualifying Course at the Army School of Physical Training.

The second party, consisting of all available families and three men per Company left for Lebong.

April 11.—Captain G. Naylor, M.C., took over Command and payment of the Headquarter Wing.

A Regimental Scouts Class was started under Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn.

Captain W. A. R. Ames proceeded to Lebong to relieve Captain E. L. O. Baddeley in Command of Detachment.

April 12.—Smallpox broke out in Royal Barracks in one of the married families blocks. All concerned were isolated and vaccinated. Most of the available Sergeants were concerned, seriously reducing the number of effective N.C.O.'s available for duty.

April 14.—Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham rejoined the Regiment on completion of the 8th Course at the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

April 15.—Captain E. L. O. Baddeley rejoined the Regiment from Lebong.

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April 16.—Results of the Musketry Year 1927-28 are :

Rifle, Table "R."			Lewis Gun, Table "L."		
	<i>Coy.</i>	<i>Average</i>		<i>Coy.</i>	<i>Average.</i>
1.	"H.Q." Wing	81.1	1.	"A" Coy.	126.4
2.	"C" Coy.	78.8	2.	"B" Coy.	123.1
3.	"D" Coy.	77.3	3.	"C" Coy.	107.7
4.	"B" Coy.	77	4.	"D" Coy.	103.8
5.	"A" Coy.	76.3			

Best Shot of Warrant Officers and Sergeants: No. 5239927 Sgt. P. May, "C" Coy. Score—110.

Best Shot of Corporals and Privates: No. 5374048, L.-Cpl. J. Mouring, "H.Q." Wing. Score—117.

Table "L." Best Shot for All Ranks: No. 5175484, L.-Cpl. Smailes, "B" Coy. Score 177.

April 17.—Extract from the "London Gazette," dated March 24, 1928:
Captain K. Horan to be Adjutant vice Lieutenant E. C. Richards (March 1).
Lieut. E. C. Richards is restored to the establishment (March 1).

April 21.—Information received that Lieut. F. T. Horan qualified as an Instructor at the 1st Course 1928, at the Army Signal School, Poona.

April 30.—Information received that Lieut. R. H. Cooke qualified at the Army Veterinary School, Ambala, and that Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham qualified at the 8th Course held at the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

Information received that Lieut. M. T. Stephens passed the preliminary examination in Russian at the end of the Course of Study held at King's College, London, in February, 1928. Captain W. A. R. Ames is granted combined leave out of India for eight months from June 4, 1928.

May 2.—Report on the Signallers' Annual Classification received. A figure of merit of 94.69 was obtained.

May 9.—Lieut. F. T. Horan is granted 8 months' combined leave out of India from June 4, 1928.

May 11.—Information received that the following Officers passed the Promotion Examinations as stated against their names :

Captain H. S. Eagle—C.1., March 6, 1928.

Lieut. G. G. Hughes—A.1., March 5, 1928.

Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe—A.1., March 5, 1928.

May 14.—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., proceeded to Lebong on Inspection Duty.

Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O., assumed Temporary Command of the Regiment.

May 16.—The new Khaki Flannel Shirt was taken into use in place of the Grey Flannel Shirt. Existing stock to be worn out before replacement.

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May 18.—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O. returned from Lebong and re-assumed Command of the Regiment.

May 25.—Captain H. S. Eagle proceeded to Lebong for duty with the Detachment.

May 28.—Captain W. A. R. Ames rejoined the Regiment from Detachment Duty at Lebong.

May 28-30.—The Regiment received orders to have one Company standing by during the Bakr 'Id Festival, in case of rioting. Letters A, B and C Companies were ordered to be ready, but "Stand Down" orders were received on the second day.

June 3.—Captain W. A. R. Ames and Lieut. F. T. Horan proceeded on 8 months' leave to the United Kingdom.

June 6.—Special Anti-Mosquito precautions came into force owing to the prevalence of Dengue Fever.

June 13.—The first Hill Detachment returned from Lebong under the Command of Lieut. J. Thorne. They had to dig themselves out of a landslide on the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway and were six hours late in consequence.

Information received that Lieut. K. S. Wootten Qualified "Distinguished" at the 9th (Officers') Course held at the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi, from 21/4/28 to 4/6/28.

June 15.—The second Hill Party, under the Com-m.ind of Captain G. Naylor, M.C., left for Lebong.

June 18.—WATERLOO DAY—The annual Sports were held as Aquatic Sports in the Calcutta Swimming Bath, and produced some keen racing. Inter-Company Relay Races and a Diving Competition were held. Letter D Company were the winners with Letters C, A and H.Q.-B tying for second place.

June 19.—The half-yearly Promotion Examinations for Non commissioned Officers were commenced.

June 20.—Physical Training, under Regimental Instructors commenced. Each Company had one hour a week. Lieut. K. S. Wootten in charge of the training. Young Officers examined by the Adjutant in Regimental Duties.

June 29.—The new method of computing figures of merit for Annual Range Courses (Rifle and Light Automatic) received and published in Regimental Orders.

July 2.—A Semaphore Class, of two per Company, started under Lieut. M. T. Stephens. It will last three weeks. Examination for second and third class Certificates of Education commenced.

July 3.—Orders received that a Guard of Honour is to be found by the Regiment on July 9, on the occasion of H.E. The Governor of Bengal laying the Foundation Stone of the new Bengal Legislative Council Building. Three rehearsals took place.

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July 6.—All Officers (less Field Officers and the Adjutant) sat for an Eastern Command Test Law Paper, under Examination conditions. Three such papers are being set.

July 9.—The Guard of Honour, together with the Band and Buglers, Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., in Command, Lieut. J. Thorne carrying the Regimental Colour and Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn as the Subaltern Officer, paraded at 7 a.m. and proceeded in lorries to the site of the new Building. It was very wet when they started, but cleared up on their arrival. The proceedings passed off satisfactorily. The following letter was received later by the Commanding Officer from the Military Secretary:

"I am directed by His Excellency to thank you for furnishing the Guard of Honour for the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the new Bengal Legislative Council Building this morning. His Excellency was much impressed by the steadiness and smart soldierly turn-out of the Guard. He would like his appreciation conveyed to the Officer Commanding the Guard, and to each individual who formed part of it."

Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., was detailed to attend a British Officers' Local Course of Physical Training at Kasauli from July 14 to 21.

Captain P. Booth is detailed to attend an Army Headquarters Staff College Course at Simla, for one month from July 14.

July 10.—Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe returned from Kasauli on completion of his Physical Training Course, and resumes duty with Letter D Company,

July 11.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., and Captain P. Booth leave for Kasauli and Simla respectively.

Lieut. J. Thorne assumes Temporary Command of Letter B Company, and Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn of Letter C Company.

July 18.—The Officers' Chargers, and all Mules were inspected by the D.A.D.V.S. Presidency and Assam District.

Major-General W. M. St. G. Kirke, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Deputy Chief of the General Staff, arrived in Calcutta on a short visit, and walked round the Company Lines before breakfast, and watched the various Classes of Instruction.

Lance-Corporal Miles, Letter D Company, contracted cholera. All D Company put into isolation at 8 p.m.

July 19.—Isolation ban removed except for ten contact cases. No further cases reported. L.-Cpl. Miles improving.

July 23.—Short Regimental Physical Training Course for Instructors under Sgt.-Instructor Churn, Physical Training Staff, started.

July 24.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., rejoined from Kasauli, and re-assumed Command of Letter B Company.

July 25.—Lieut. C. L. C. Ward rejoined from 8 months' leave in the United Kingdom, and is re-posted to Letter B Company.

Lieut.-Colonel C. L. R. Day, Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, inspected the Signallers.

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July 30.—Information received that Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe qualified at a Physical Training Course held at Kasauli from 13/4/28 to 7/7/28. (Authority: I.A.F. X-1847, dated 7/7/28.)

August 6.—A Drill Cadre was started under the Adjutant and the Regimental Sergeant Major, and lasted until September 1.

August 10.—Major P. N. Wilson, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Fusiliers, gave a lecture to all Officers in the Gymnasium on the Palestine Campaign.

Information received that Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been granted 98 days' Combined Leave from September 10 or date of availing, proceeding to the United Kingdom on termination of period of Command. Passages for him and Lieut. E. C. Richards, proceeding to the United Kingdom for a Tour of Duty at the Depot, have been granted on *H.M.T. Nevasa*, sailing from Bombay on September 19. Verification Board on Change of Command assembled.

August 13.—Captain P. Booth rejoined from the Army Headquarters Staff College Course, Simla.

August 16.—2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer proceeded to Lebong for a tour of duty with the Detachment.

August 29.—The second Lebong Detachment, under the Command of Captain G. Naylor, M.C., returned. The Band met them at Sealdah and played them to the Fort.

A list of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men and Families due to proceed home in the forthcoming Trooping Season was published.

The list comprises: 3 Warrant Officers, 1 C.Q.M. Sergeant, 8 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 26 L.-Corporals and Privates for Transfer to the Home Establishment, 1 C.Q.M. Sergeant, 2 Sergeants for Posting to the Regimental Depot, 1 L.-Corporal and 1 Private for Vocational Courses in England, and 5 Privates for Discharge owing to illness.

August 31.—The third and last Detachment for Lebong, consisting of the Buglers and Signallers, under the command of Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn, left for Lebong.

September 3.—Captain K. Horan rejoined from Lebong, and was taken off the "Sick in Quarters" List as from September 1.

September 7.—The General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District gave a lecture to all Officers and Other Ranks of the rank of full Sergeant and upwards on "Mechanisation."

September 8.—Army Order 139/1928, reviving the original title of Bugler-Major instead of Sergeant-Bugler was published in Regimental Orders.

September 10.—Blue Patrol Dress for "Walking-Out" was officially sanctioned on this date. Standing Memoranda No. 30 is therefore cancelled.

September 11.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., proceeded to Pachmarhi to attend a Course at the Small Arms School.

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September 13.—Captain P. Booth proceeded to Lebong on duty.

September 14.—Information received by wire that Lieut. Richards was ill with malaria at Srinagar, Kashmir, and is therefore unable to proceed to the United Kingdom on *H.M.T. Nevasa*.

Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe is detailed as the Draft Conducting Officer to Bombay vice Lieut. Richards.

September 16.—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. and Mrs. Freestun left for Bombay on his proceeding on leave prior to the termination of his Command. He sailed on *H.M.T. Nevasa*, and acted as Officer Commanding the Ship during the voyage.

L.-Corporal Daniels and Private Waters left for the United Kingdom for a six months' Vocational Training Course prior to Discharge.

Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe conducted a Draft to Bombay vice Lieut. Richards, who was sick at Srinagar and unable to return in time. The Draft consisted of details from Presidency and Assam District and Burmah Command.

The Leave details returned from the United Kingdom and were placed in camp in isolation till October 4, owing to infectious disease on *H.M.T. Nevasa*.

September 21.—Captain H. S. Eagle returned from leave and assumed Command of Letter B Company.

September 22.—Information received that Lieut. R. H. Coad, M.M., has been appointed on probation to the 10/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, and is attached to the Regiment for the period of his probation.

Lieut. Richards allotted a passage on *H.T. Neuralia* ex-Karachi on October 12, 1928.

September 25.—Captain P. Booth passed his C examination for promotion.

September 28.—Information received that Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O., has been allotted a passage on *S.S. California* ex-Karachi on November 22, 1928, on his proceeding to the United Kingdom on transfer to the Home Establishment.

October 3.—Provisional instructions regarding the working of the Amendment to Infantry Training, Part I, 1926 dropping the use of the word "Attention" for Light Infantry, were issued to all concerned pending a ruling for use by all Battalions of the Regiment.

October 4.—2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer proceeded on leave.

Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn rejoined the Regiment from Detachment Duty at Lebong.

Lieut. E. C. Richards returned from leave in Kashmir prior to proceeding to the Depot.

October 7.—Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., rejoined the Regiment from leave in the United Kingdom.

Lieut. E. C. Richards proceeded to Karachi *en route* to the United Kingdom for a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot.

Consequent upon the amendment to Infantry Training, Vol. I, 1926, dropping the use of the word "Attention" for Light Infantry, a new drill procedure was issued dealing with this subject and provisional to a definite ruling being arrived at, in conjunction with the Officers Commanding the 43rd and the Depot.

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October 10.—Lieut. R. T. Conant rejoined the Regiment from Leave.

October 15.—The first Musketry Party, consisting of Letters A and C Companies, the Band, and half Group III Headquarter Wing, under the Command of Captain G. Naylor, M.C., proceeded to Jafferpore.

The officiating D.D.M.S. Eastern Command, inspected the lines of the Regiment.

October 23.—The last Hill Party, consisting of the Signallers, Buglers and details from Companies, together with the Married Families, returned from Lebong under the Command of Captain E. L. O. Baddeley.

November 3.—Musketry Camp inspected by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

November 4.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., rejoined the Regiment from the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi Wing, on completion of a Musketry Course.

2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer rejoined the Regiment from Leave.

November 6.—The General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Eastern Command (General Shea) inspected the Regiment (less two Companies) in Fort William. The Regiment was drawn up in mass in fighting order, and after the inspection marched past in fours. The General Officer Commanding-in-chief then visited Barrack Rooms and Messes.

November 11.—The Regiment took part in the Armistice Day Parade at the Cenotaph, Calcutta, in company with all available troops in the Garrison.

The first party (Letters A and C Companies) returned from Musketry Camp at Jafferpore.

November 12.—Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., qualified at the 10th Officers' Course at the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

Information was received that Captain W. A. R. Ames has been cross-posted to the 43rd, and Captain C. J. Eyston to the 52nd in relief of Captain Ames.

November 15.—Lieut. K. Bayley rejoined the Regiment from a Tour of Duty at the Regimental Depot.

November 16.—All Officers attended a Demonstration in Mat-Bridging carried out by the Royal Engineers.

November 17.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief visited the Regiment while passing through Calcutta *en route* from Darjeeling to Delhi. He walked round and watched Companies carrying out their normal parades, and visited the Institutes.

Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O., and the first party for the United Kingdom on discharge or transfer to the Home Establishment, left Calcutta *en route* to Bombay for embarkation on *S.S. Calijornia*. Total numbers were : 47 B.O.R.'s, 12 Women, and 31 Children.

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November 18.—Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., assumed Command of the Regiment vice Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O.

Lieut. and Quartermaster F. Clare, D.C.M., rejoined the Regiment from leave in the United Kingdom.

November 19.—2nd Lieut. L. L. Falkiner proceeded on 8 months' Combined Leave to the United Kingdom.

November 22.—Nonne-Bosschen Day Sports were held in Fort William, under excellent conditions. A good many people attended, and His Excellency the Governor of Bengal presented the prizes at the end,

The result of the racing was as follows :

Points towards the Banner :

Letter "B" Company	12
Headquarter Wing—A	10
Headquarter Wing—B	8
Letter "A" Company	6
Letter "C" Company	4
Letter "D" Company	2

November 23.—The A.D.V.S. Eastern Command inspected the Mules and Officers' Chargers.

November 26.—The Annual C.C.M.A.'s Inspection: Arms and Bicycles commenced.

November 27.—Information was received that Captain H. Vernon has been posted to the 52nd.

November 28.—Lieut. M. T. Stephens returned from Shooting Leave and was admitted to Hospital.

November 29.—The second Musketry Party, consisting of Letters B and D Companies, Buglers and Signallers, and part of Group III Headquarter Wing, under the command of Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., left for Jafferpore Camp, to fire their Annual Musketry Course.

December 11.—A Guard of Honour was formed by the Regiment, under the Command of Captain G. Naylor, M.C, on the occasion of a Durbar held in Government House, Calcutta. Lieut. G. G. Hughes carried the Regimental Colour and Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham was the Subaltern.

December 14.—The Headquarter Wing Musketry Party (Buglers and Signallers), under the Command of Lieut. R. H. Cooke, returned from Jafferpore.

December 19.—The 2nd Musketry Party returned from Jafferpore Camp.

December 27.—The Machine Gun Platoon, the Signallers and 24 Buglers (Runners) left for a fortnight's training at Jamalpur Camp, under the command of Lieut. M. T. Stephens.

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SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1928

DEAR EDITOR,

New Year's Day, 1928, found us halted at Rishra, the last halt before reaching Calcutta, and on January 2 we marched into Fort William and camped on the Fort Glacis. On the 4th we took over the guards and duties from the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment.

Shortly after our arrival we found ourselves up to the neck in rehearsals for the Calcutta Searchlight Tattoo, which finally came off on February 23, 24, and 25 and was a great success, though it is rumoured that the gate receipts were not nearly as good as they should have been.

We did "Badajoz" once again, the Pageant of Time, a Gymnastic Display by Wootten and his "tumblers" which was generally voted as one of the star turns of the whole show, and some demonstrations of Old-Time Drill.

The rehearsals were rudely broken into on February 3 by Letters A and C and 20 men of Letter B Companies being called out for duties in aid of the civil power, in connection with Hartal riots. However, all ended well and nobody lost their commissions for shooting up the inoffensive "Wog."

During March all companies carried out Company training at Sonapur, about 14 miles from the Fort, and the musketry casualties were finally disposed of at Jafferpore.

Then on March 30 the first Hill Party, consisting of the Band and a proportion of each company, left for our Hill Station at Lebong and the rest of us settled down to commence the hot weather.

Between March and October most of us managed to get in a spell at Lebong.

There were three main reliefs, namely in March, June and August, the strength of the Detachment being usually about 150 All Ranks.

The main thing noticed about the hot weather was that everyone did an hour's extra work; we had Reveille at 5 a.m. and paraded from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The idea was to close everything down at 12 noon and for everyone to disappear gracefully from the public gaze until about 5 p.m., when it was fit to walk about outside. That was the theory. In actual practice very few of us got away before lunch time and quite a number spent long, weary, dripping hours working in the afternoons.

However, we won't enlarge on the hot weather. It is a fertile subject for article writers in the *Journal* and it would not be fair to "queer their pitch."

Individual Training went steadily on throughout this period, varied twice weekly by a Commanding Officer's parade and an Adjutant's drill.

A Route March was also carried out weekly and we tasted the joys of walking along on melted tarmac—I knew we'd soon get back to the hot weather !

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It started raining in the middle of June and went on till the end of October, which is considerably longer than usual. Although the rain is not comparable to that in the Hills, yet it has an unfortunate knack of being quite fine about 6 a.m., just before a Commanding Officer's Parade, and raining for all it's worth at 5 p.m. when one wants to get some exercise.

The main result of the rain was that everyone got prickly heat and fortunes were expended in testing various powders to try and alleviate the intolerable itching.

However, all the horrors ended at last and in November we began to enjoy real, cold, foggy mornings and to watch the morning sick parade dwindle from 50 to 5.

The last three months of the year have been spent in shooting our musketry at Jafferpore, two companies and half Headquarter Wing being out there at a time, and everyone was pleased to get away from Calcutta for a bit and enjoy the simple life.

At the time of writing the Casuals have not yet finished firing, so it will be impossible to include the Weapon Training returns in this number.

Summing it all up from a soldiering point of view we don't like Calcutta.

We were told on arrival that we should cease to be soldiers, but even then the realisation comes as a shock.

About 150 men are on employ of various sorts, varying from Garrison Police to the R.C. Church Orderly, who combines this noble duty with that of looking after the Soda Water Factory!

And a few days ago we were asked to provide twelve young, handsome men to assist in the Calcutta Amateur Theatrical Company's production of "Ali Baba!"
It's a hard life.

In other ways Calcutta has its points. We see a great deal more of our fellow men than is usual, and it is very good for one to get away from one's own immediate circle and get another point of view.

We also have an opportunity of seeing and taking part in games which are of a much higher standard than those we have had an opportunity of playing for some years.

Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Freestun left us on September 16 and we were very sorry to see them go.

They both lived and worked for one object only— namely The Regiment.

We wish them both the best of luck in the future and take this opportunity of congratulating the Colonel on his recent promotion.

News has just arrived that our next Station is to be Maymyo and we are all pleased at the prospect. It is a healthy station and will be a great change after the damp heat of Bengal.

Yours ever,
52ND