

1929 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY

January 1.—Proclamation Parade.

Captain K.Horan rejoined from leave and reassumed the duties of Adjutant.

January 4.—Lieut. F. T. Horan is granted an additional 4 months extension of leave in England pending resignation.

January 6.—Letter "A" and "C" Companies proceeded to Sonarpur for Company Training.

January 7.—The Regimental pattern blue blazer and khaki topee came into use for all ranks for recreational training.

January 12.—General Girouard, Military Governor of Paris, who is staying in Government House visited Fort William and walked round the Mess.

January 13.—A small draft of invalids and men for discharge and transfer to the Home Establishment, strength 11 all ranks, left for Bombay.

January 17.—Letter "A" and "C" Companies returned from the Training Camp at Sonarpur.

January 19.—The Signallers, Buglers and 1 Section M.G. Platoon returned from Jemalpur Camp.

January 20.—Letter "B" and "D" Companies and the Intelligence Section (Buglers) left for Sonarpur for ten days Company Training.

January 21.—The Demonstration Platoon found by Letter "A" Company, left for Chittagong to carry out a series of demonstrations for the local A.F.I. units.

January 22.—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., joined the Regiment from the United Kingdom.

The Signallers, Buglers and 1 Section M.G. Platoon left for Sonarpur for training.

January 23.—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., took over Command of the Regiment from Major W. G. Tolson, M.C.

January 27.—The Demonstration Platoon returned from Chittagong.

January 29.—The General Officer Commanding, Presidency and Assam District, inspected the Companies and Headquarter Wing personnel training at Sonarpur.

January 30.—Annual Inspection at Fort William of the Regiment by the General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District.

January 31.—Captain C. J. Eyston joined the Regiment on posting from the United Kingdom.

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February 1.—Orders issued for polished boots to be worn, and for officers, warrant officers and colour-sergeants to wear jackets except for field training and route marches.

February 2.—A permanent Regimental Cadre was formed.

February 3.—Captain H. Vernon joined the Regiment from the United Kingdom,

February 4.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., joined the Regiment from the United Kingdom. Tattoo rehearsals commenced.

A draft consisting of 17 British other ranks left Howrah for Bombay en route to the United Kingdom for discharge, transfer to the Reserve and Home Establishment, under the Command of Captain A. B. Hamilton.

February 8.—Captain H. Vernon proceeded to Roorkee to attend a course in Field Works.

February 10.—Last party of musketry casualties under Captain H. E. Eagle, left for Jafferpore Camp.

February 15.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., took over Command and Payment of Letter "A" Company, which will in future be known as Letter "A" or Major A. C. M. Paris's Company.

February 21.—The Regimental Cross Country Run was carried out. Company Sergeant-Major Bailey, D.C.M., was the first man home and Letter "B" Company won comfortably.

February 25.—Lieut. C. L. C. Ward rejoined the Regiment from the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

February 26.—Lieuts. Bayley and Cooke proceeded to Pachmarhi for the second Officers' Course at the Small Arms School.

March 8.—Classes for Signallers and Cadre started.
The individual Training programme came into effect.

March 18.—Two cotton shirts sanctioned to be worn in place of one flannel shirt.

March 23.—Draft of 45 other ranks arrived from England, information that 10 more were left at Bombay for isolation. The draft went into segregation.

April 2.—Captain G. Naylor, M.C., appointed officiating Staff Captain Presidency and Assam District.

April 5.—Draft inspected by the Commander, Presidency and Assam District.
District Signalling Course commenced.

April 13.—Information received that Lieut. J. E. Dunbar-Kilburn relinquished appointment of A.D.C to the General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District, from April 2.

April 16.—Letter "D" Company moved to the Hills with the families.

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April 20.—Information received that Lieut. J. D. Palmer and Sgt. Wilson qualified at 1st Qualifying Course at Machine Gun Wing, Ahmednagar.

The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of Letter "A" Company.

April 24.—Information received that Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., passed promotion examination subject (c) (1) on March 9.

May 1.—Information received that Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., will be attached to the Regiment pending posting.

May 3.—Major Tolson, M.C., assumed Command of the Regiment.

May 11.—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., resumed Command of the Regiment.

May 14.—Inspection by the General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District accompanied by Major-General Rhyse-Pryce, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the relieving Commander.

May 17.—All officers went through the Calcutta Internal Security Scheme with the Commanding Officer in view of a possibility of trouble on May 28.

June 11.—The Gymnastic team gave a display at the Y.M.C.A. in the evening.

June 14.—Major-General Solly-Flood, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., dined with the officers.

June 17.—The Acting General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command (Major-General Solly-Flood, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.), inspected the Regiment.

He watched the Individual Training being carried out, saw the mules and polo ponies, and had breakfast in the Mess, then walked through Letter "A" Companies barrack rooms, cookhouse, corporals' room, sergeants' mess and orderly room, where he discussed various points with the Commanding Officer.

June 18.—WATERLOO DAY.

Orderly Room 7.30 a.m.

All-Ranks dance at the Dalhousie Institute 9 p.m.

Parties of men who will not go to Hills proceeded to Behala for tea and bathing.

June 19.—Swimming contests in Calcutta swimming baths.

A party went to Behala as on June 18.

July 1.—The new organisation of Headquarter Wing, three Rifle Companies and the Machine Gun Company came into force after a telegram had been received on the 29th cancelling the whole thing and another one on the 30th putting it on again; Men of Letter "D" Company were transferred to the other three. Companies and all ex-machine gunners of the "M.G." Platoon, rejoined the Machine Gun Company.

Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., took over Command of the Machine Gun Company, and

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Companies are now Commanded as under:—

Headquarter Wing	Captain E. L. O. Baddeley.
Letter A Company	Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C.
Letter B Company	Capt. C. R. Horley, M.C.
Letter C Company	Capt. G. Naylor, M.C.
The Machine Gun Company.	Capt. E. H. Whitfeld, M.C.

A Regimental Cadre Course was commenced under Lieut. R. H. Cooke, consisting of 28 N.C.O.'s and a Regimental P.T. Class commenced under Lieut. K. S. Wootton.

July 5.—A conference of senior officers was held on the new Standing Orders of the 43rd and 52nd Light Infantry.

July 8.—Information was received that Lieut. M. T. Stephens and Lieut. R. T. Conant, were transferred to the First Battalion under para. 194 *King's Regulations* 1928.

July 12.—Information was received that Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., passed subject (D) for promotion at the examination held in March 1929.

July 16.—The Commanding Officer inspected the newly formed Machine Gun Company on parade for the first time.

July 18.—A Rugby football and boxing team went to Khargpur to compete against the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

July 19.—Letter "B" Company with Buglers under the Command of Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., returned from Lebong in the morning.
Letter "C" Company under the Command of Captain P. Booth, proceeded to Lebong in the afternoon.

July 23.—Information received by private wire that Capt. E. M. Whitfeld, M.C., had received a nomination for the Staff College, Quetta.

July 26.—The Adjutant carried out a Bugle Classification Test and the full establishment of Buglers was made up.

August 14.—The General Officer Commanding, Presidency and Assam District, inspected a Platoon of Letter "A" Company, under Lieut. K. S. Wootton carrying out embussing and debussing and various actions required by a Platoon occupying a street picquet during Internal Security Duties.

The General Officer Commanding, Presidency and Assam District, lectured to all Regular Officers, Officers of the A.L.R.O. and our platoon sergeants on "The Handling of Riots."

August 15.—The General Officer Commanding Presidency and Assam District inspected the Guards and Guard Room of the Regiment.

September 6.—Letter "C" Company under the Command of Captain P. Booth, returned from Lebong.

Letter "A" Company and the Signallers moved to Lebong, Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., in command.

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September 27.—Presidency and Assam District boxing tournament commenced.

September 28.—Captains C. J. Eyston and A. B. Hamilton, left for Shillong for their promotion examination (C).

September 29.—Lieuts. G. C. H. Wykeham and R. H. Cooke, left for Shillong for their promotion examination in subject (a).

October 1.—First Class Certificate examination commenced. The Machine Gun Company and the Intelligence Section under the Command of Lieut. J. D. Palmer and Lieut. C. L. C, Ward respectively left for Jafferpore to fire their annual course.

October 2.—Captain C. J. Eyston and A. B. Hamilton rejoined from Shillong. Lecture to the Regiment by the Metropolitan of India on the subject "Caste."

October 7.—The first draft for the United Kingdom (30 for discharge and transfer to the Army Reserve and 1 invalid) left Calcutta en route to Bombay.

October 15.—Lieut. A. B. Slessor joined the Regiment from the First Battalion. The Machine Gun Company commenced classification.

October 22.—Annual inspection of arms and bicycles by the C.C.M.A., Presidency and Assam District, commenced.

October 25.—On this day and on October 28 and November 1, group photographs of the Regiment were taken for inclusion in a Regimental album.
Extract from *London Gazette* dated 30/8/29, 2nd Lieut. L. L. Falkiner to be Lieutenant. Captain H. Vernon and Lieut. G. G. Hughes rejoined the Regiment from the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

November 2.—The Guard of Honour to be found by the Regiment at the Armistice Day parade commenced rehearsal parades.

November 5.—The Deputy Assistant Director of Hygiene, Presidency and Assam District inspected the lines of the Regiment.

November 18.—Loading of heavy baggage commenced.

November 20.—Advanced Party of the Loyal Regiment from Secunderabad arrived.

November 21.—Our relief, 1st Battalion Loyal Regiment, arrived by train at Howrah Station at 12 noon in two trains.
The Band and Buglers played them from Howrah to the Camp outside Saint George's Gate, where they stayed until we left.
Guards and Duties were handed over at 3 p.m.

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November 22.—The Regiment paraded at 6.15 a.m. and marched to Outram Ghatt where they embarked on the S.S. *Tairea*.

The marching out state was 18 officers and 691 other ranks.

The embarkation was completed by 9.30 a.m. and the ship left at 10.15 a.m.

The Bands of the Loyal Regiment, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and the 3/12th Frontier Force Regiment, played on the Quay.

The following officers embarked with the Regiment :—

Lieut-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., Captain and Adjutant K. Horan, Captain C. R. Horley, M.C, Captain P. Booth, Captain C. J. Eyston, Captain H. Vernon, Captain A. B. Hamilton, Lieut. M. T. Stephens, Lieut. G. G. Hughes, Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham, Lieut. K. Bayley, Lieut. A. B. Slessor, Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe, Lieut. C. L. C. Ward, Lieut. J. D. Palmer, Lieut. L. L. Falkiner.

The following officers had preceded the Regiment with the Advanced Party:—

Captain G. Naylor, M.C., Lieut, and Quartermaster F. Clare, D.C.M., Lieut. R. H. Cooke.

November 23.—At sea a very calm passage.

November 24.—At sea.

November 25.—Arrived at Latter Street Wharf, Rangoon, at about 6.30 a.m.
Disembarked at once.

The Regiment moved to Maymyo and Mandalay in three trains as under :—

To Maymyo.—

First train: Regimental Headquarters, "M.G." Company (less Indian Platoon) and Letter B Company, nine families.

Second train: Letter C Company, Headquarter Wing and Indian Platoon, remainder of families, less those for Mandalay.

To Mandalay.—

Third train: Letter A Company, and heavy baggage of the Regiment, which later came on to Maymyo.

November 26.—The Regiment less Letter "A" Company on detachment at Mandalay, arrived at Maymyo and moved into Alexandra Barracks, relieving the 2nd Bn. Manchester Regiment. The latter left for Rangoon en route to Secunderabad, the same day, sleeping the night in the train at Maymyo Station.

Guard and Duties were taken over at 1 p.m.

November 27.—Settling into Quarters.

November 29.—Lieut. M. T. Stephens left for the United Kingdom on posting to the Home Establishment.

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December 1.—The Machine Gun Company under the Command of Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., proceeded to Wetwin Camp for a concentration camp.

Brevet Colonel J. A. Yates, C.I.E., D.S.O., officiating D.A.A. and Q.M.G., Maymyo, died.

The Regiment paraded as strong as possible at 4 p.m. as escort and also provided the Band and Buglers, firing party and bearer party for the funeral.

December 2.—Letter "B" Company, Band and Buglers commenced the Annual Musketry Course.

December 6.—Brigadier H. St. G. S. Scott, D.S.O., Commandant Small Arms Schools, India, visited the Regiment, watched Letter "B" Company on the Range and spoke to all officers.

December 7.—Brigadier H. St. G. S. Scott, D.S.O., the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant went to Wetwin Camp where he inspected the Machine Gun Company at Field Training.

December 9.—Letter "C" Company, Signallers and Group 3 Headquarter Wing, commenced Preliminary Musketry.

December 16.—Training for A.R.A. Competitions commenced (King George Cup and Brooke Bond Cup).

December 21.—The Machine Gun Company returned from Wetwin Camp.

December 24.—Letter "A" Company completed Classification.

December 25.—Christmas Day.

The Regiment paraded as strong as possible for Church Parade in the morning. Companies mostly had dinners by Platoons and the rooms were well decorated.

December 26.—A draft left the Regiment en route to Bombay and the United Kingdom for discharge and transfer to the Army Reserve, vocational training and invalids. Strength, 74 all ranks.

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SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1929

DEAR MR EDITOR,

The opening of the year 1929 found the Regiment under Tolson still in the Fort at Calcutta and performing the everlasting round of Guards, Duties, Boards and Courts of Enquiry. The Machine Gun Platoon, Signallers and 24 buglers, the last named under training as runners, were in camp at Jamalpur, while "A" and "C" Companies or rather the skeleton that could be spared from duties were in camp at Sonapur in which delectable spot two Companies at a time were allowed to remain for a short ten days to do their best to carry out a semblance of Company training. Sonapur camp is a pleasant spot situated in the middle of a swampy bit of ground with no shade of any sort. This is approached by a so-called road up which such modern vehicles as motor-cars and lorries can only proceed in very dry weather and down which are carried daily the unfortunate victims of cholera and other diseases from the surrounding villages. From the training point of view it is most inferior, flat as a pancake, boggy paddy fields with collections of a few mud huts here and there, however as this ten days was the only manoeuvre training which we could hope for, the best had to be made of it.

Meanwhile during January a demonstration platoon consisting of 35 men of "A" Company with Sgt. Johnson as Platoon Sergeant, and under the command of Naylor, toured the Auxiliary Force Units in the District giving a demonstration of "How it should be done." They acquitted themselves very creditably and reports of their usefulness and good example were received from all sides, apparently they also enjoyed themselves.

On January 22, Colonel Sanderson arrived and took over command from Tolson, who had been commanding since Portal left for the 43rd in November, 1928. A few days after his arrival, the Colonel was sent for by District Headquarters, and Major-General Ward, always suave and persuasive in his manner, gently intimated that he wanted him to take on the control and management of the Calcutta Tattoo which was to be produced in March. "Of course there is really nothing at all to do, it is all very simple," said the General, the Colonel however had already "had some" at Oxford and suggested that possibly the District Staff were not worked off their legs.

At the end of January the usual annual inspection by the District Commander took place. Everybody tied their books in bundles and took them to the Orderly Room only to fetch them back again quite unharmed the following day. We were inspected on parade and told we were good boys, the usual questions being asked of those displaying medals. Nowadays, those few who had medals must always be prepared with a ready answer on inspections as they are sure to be "for it."

During the month of March, tattoo fever was at its height. Tattoos are so numerous nowadays and, although the 52nd naturally had to find most of the turns, it was not a Regimental show. It is therefore unnecessary to describe it, suffice it to say that everybody worked with a will and the audience voted our efforts to be good and well staged. Unfortunately we had two disasters in that Pte. Maloney in going through the motions of ramming down the charge in his musket was badly hurt in the hand by the blank round going off with the result that he has had to be discharged on medical grounds; and Sgt. Hunt, as the Devil in the modern St. George, motoring fast through the scenery hit a culvert and narrowly escaped death, actually doing a great deal of damage to his knee which we are glad to say is now all right again.

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On completion of the tattoo we all settled down to ordinary life and March 8 was a hectic day as marking the commencement of the Individual Training Programme. On this day a series of Cadre Courses, and in fact every possible Regimental class including one of over 100 men as machine gunners, commenced. The Cadre Courses continued throughout the season and practically every N.C.O. in the Regiment was put through.

Each Company complete in turn, with a part of the Headquarter Wing attached, went to Lebong for six weeks during the hot weather and completed their Individual Training. The Machine Gun Class were the only unlucky ones in this respect as their training necessitated them remaining at Calcutta, but most of these however succeeded in getting a short time in the hills.

On May 3 started what has come to be known as the "8.42," because at this hour the Regimental horn sounds daily to summon every man of the Regiment to ten minutes musketry. The benefit of this daily handling of arms and looking over the sights has, we think, been shown in the results of the one Company and Band and Buglers who have so far fired at Maymyo. No doubt the wonderful conditions, both of range and weather, have had a great deal to do with the immense improvement on last year. At any rate the marksmen have been multiplied by five and the first class shots increased in proportion, only one third-class shot being so far registered.

July 1st saw the Regiment reorganised into a Headquarter Wing, three Rifle Companies and a Machine Gun Company.

The programme of training which had been staged for our attraction on arrival in Burma really staggered us, especially as it was found that the Machine Gun Company had to march out to camp for the concentration four days after our arrival in Maymyo, this necessitated them firing their machine gun course before leaving Calcutta and to Jafferpore they went on October 1. The horrors of this camp can be better imagined than described, torrential rains turned the entire ground into a quagmire, luckily we succeeded in getting beds for the tents and the men at night stepped out of a sea of mud unto the comparative dryness of their beds. In spite of this disadvantage, however, the firing was quite satisfactory, considering the very limited training.

On the eve of Waterloo Day, we had a most successful All-Ranks ball at the Dalhousie Institute in Calcutta. There was a tremendous crowd and the ball-room was full, right up to the end.

On Waterloo Day swimming contests were held in the Calcutta baths, which helped to cool the heated brows after the night before. The inter-company officers' race, which meant that every officer in the Regiment, in spite of protests, had to swim, was a great success, and nobody was actually drowned, although one or two only just reached the shallow end in time.

On Nonneboschen Day we held the Inter-Company team sports and two days later a farewell all-ranks ball, again in the Dalhousie Institute, which eclipsed the Waterloo one.

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On November 21, we were relieved in the Fort, Calcutta, by the Loyal Regiment, and on the 22nd we set sail for Burma to relieve the Manchester Regiment at Maymyo and Mandalay. This move forms the subject of an article in this CHRONICLE and, therefore, calls for no comment here except that it is interesting to recall that from 1804 to 1816 the 52nd had a second Battalion which, in the latter year became the 96th Foot, subsequently 2nd Battalion the Manchester Regiment, whose place we were now taking (52nd War Diary, April 10, 1918).

This year has not been a successful one for the Regiment in the world of sport. The hockey team deserve great credit for their efforts in winning the Kaivan hockey cup, but we have to remember that this was a junior league. Our football team however was a real disappointment; they played hard, but were undoubtedly outclassed. On the other hand our boxing team covered themselves with glory and ended up by winning the district tournament, being victorious in every weight except one, winning both their special contests, and Pte. Andrews was adjudged the most scientific boxer in the tournament.

The 52nd Gymnastic team is still going very strong indeed, and the show they gave at the Calcutta Tattoo was even better than their previous efforts, which is saying a good deal, at any rate they now do wonderful feats over a horse which, I understand, has been raised to a greater height than that used at Olympia. Wootten, the founder and trainer of this great team, has unfortunately been seized as an instructor at the Army School of Physical Training, India. We hope, however, that his stay there will not be a long one and that he will soon return to us again.

Unfortunately we have lately lost about a hundred men on discharge, transfer to the reserve and to the 43rd, and we regret to say that another 90 or so will have left by the end of the trooping season, amongst these are a number of our best all-round athletes and boxers. However, we hope that we are succeeding in bringing on "the young entry," and that we may get some equally good talent amongst our drafts from the 43rd. On the other hand the number of applications to extend are increased and we have had to apply to Records for additional vacancies.

In addition, Eagle, Conant and Stephens have gone home on posting to the 43rd. In Rupert Conant we have lost by far our best polo player and Martin Stephens and he always kept large numbers of ponies, the want of which will be sadly felt in our polo team.

Maymyo and Mandalay will, as far as can be seen, be our home for the next three years, and, although quiet after Calcutta, will be a good healthy life; we shall succeed in making our own amusements and it will give us a chance of replenishing our dilapidated finances. We hope to be able to give a good account of the doings of the Regiment, both in military and sporting spheres in Burma when the next letter for the CHRONICLE comes to be written.

52ND.

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THE 52ND "ON THE ROAD TO MANDALAY"

AT the beginning of 1929, and even before this, rumour had been rife to the effect that the next move for the Regiment would be to Burma. This was only natural taking into consideration the fact that it is the ordinary routine move from Calcutta and that the Manchester Regiment's tour of duty in that country terminated this trooping season. In spite of repeated applications, both private and official, however, the powers that be refused to give themselves away, and it was not until September 25 that official orders were received that Maymyo was our fate.

The news was received with mixed feelings. The bull points being Maymyo was reputed to be a good station with a climate resembling England, we should have a chance to get down to some training and of doing some good in the musketry line, also it would give us an opportunity of improving our standard all round in football, hockey, polo, and other games and of bringing on new talent; further, big game shooting was good and snipe and jungle fowl abounded, with the result that other ranks besides officers would be able to take part in this form of sport. On the contra side the attractions of Chouringhee, the restaurants and cinemas must be left behind, and we must be dependent on our own resources for amusement, and the hopes of distinguishing ourselves in the big football tournaments of India and appearing in the infantry at polo must be given up for a period of five years. On the whole I think the majority were optimistic in their views and, personally, I think it will be quite to the advantage of the Regiment as a whole.

The relief was a triangular one. We were to move to Maymyo, with one company at Mandalay, in relief of 2nd Battalion The Manchester Regiment, who were under orders for Secunderabad, to replace the Loyal Regiment, who, in their turn, were to take over from us at Calcutta.

Nowadays, there is a good deal of keenness in "Showing the Flag" in those parts of India in which the British soldier is seldom seen, with the result that the Loyal Regiment were ordered to move by train to Tatanagar, the home of the big iron and steel works, where they would detrain and, having stayed there a few days, march to Khargpur, which is an important railway engineering centre. From Khargpur they were to be trained into Calcutta where they were due to arrive on November 21.

The date of our move was fixed for November 22, and we were told that on this date we should embark on the B.I. ss. *Tairea*. After receipt of these instructions the Staff appeared to forget about us and no further orders were received, we started therefore to make some arrangements on our own, direct with the Port Officer and the B.I. agents; eventually we came up against one or two snags which we had not sufficient power to settle on our own and so had to refer these to higher authority, with the immediate result that we were told not to interfere and orders and counter orders followed one another in rapid succession.

At the beginning of November packing commenced, and the pioneers as usual were almost unable to cope with the late orders for boxes in which to stow the overwhelming accumulation of kit. On the 19th all our heavy baggage had been handed in and the store was closed and everything was ready to be dealt with by our most efficient baggage officer, Bayley, and his equally energetic chief of the staff, Sgt. Cobb.

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On the 20th loading commenced; the ship being in the stream, all the baggage had to be taken down to the Government wharf on lorries and loaded into lighters, these being taken out to the ship and the baggage put on board during that night and the following morning.

Here I feel that I must make a digression. It was a fortnight under twenty-one years ago that the advance party of the 43rd, on the move from Lucknow to Burma, were loading baggage from the train on to the R.I.M.S. *Hardinge* at the same place. Hammick was in command and I was the subaltern, and I can see him now at the bottom of the hold, stripped to the waist, perspiring freely and exhorting his men to further activities.

In this case things were different, in 1908 we had to load everything with the soldiers, in 1929 the soldiers only had to unload the lorries, after which all the baggage was dealt with by coolie labour. Some days before this, Tolson was taken round the sister ship to the *Tairea* by Capt. Turbutt, the Naval Port Officer at Calcutta, and shown how they proposed to convert the vessel into a temporary troopship; it is interesting to note that Captain Turbutt was an officer on the R.I.M.S. *Bhamo*, which was one of the ships that took the 43rd up the Irrawady in 1908 and therefore an old friend.

The baggage being all aboard the next thing was the embarkation of the Regiment with the families, horses, dogs, parrots and in fact every known variety of pet including the monkey, but excluding the performing flea. After several applications had been refused, the Captain at last consented to allow the married families to embark the evening before the ship was due to sail, and Hamilton and I duly escorted them over in a launch and saw them safely housed on board on the 21st, thus disposing of one of the gravest responsibilities of a move.

On the 21st, also, Tolson and I accompanied by the Regimental Sergeant-Major, Cook Sergeant, and various other representatives, went over the ship and allotted accommodation, etc., and I must say that everything possible had been done for the comfort of all ranks.

On the 22nd "Reveille" was at 3 a.m., and all was activity, kit bags, blankets and light kit was all stacked and lorries arrived to take this down to the Outram Ghat, where it was to be stacked by companies, the only contretemps on this occasion was that Labh Singh, the Regimental tailor, arrived with twenty sewing machines and much more truck as light kit which the Conductor I.A.S.C. in charge refused to move as Regimental baggage; however, with a little gentle persuasion all was got on board the lorries and got away.

After stacking kits the men had a first breakfast and cleaned up the barracks. I inspected the rooms and thought they were extremely good, and we were very pleased afterwards to hear that the Commanding Officer of the Loyals had said that the barracks had been left in an extremely clean condition.

At 6 a.m. the Regiment paraded and marched out of Fort William down to Outram Ghat. Again I cannot help repeating what I was told afterwards, that two officers watching the Regiment march out of the Water Gate, said that the 52nd headed by the band and buglers marching out of the Fort was a most inspiring sight.

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On arrival at Outram Ghat, Companies marched on to their dumps of kits and these were distributed to their owners.

The Commander of the *Tairea* had assured me that at 7 a.m. he would tie up alongside the Ghat, and he was true to his word, for at one minute to the hour he was there and ready for us to start embarkation. The embarkation itself calls for no comment. Companies went on board and sat down at their mess tables until all were on board, when everybody was allowed on deck and had to be restrained from crawling on the awnings and spars and getting into the boats.

We had three bands to speed us on our way: the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry had very kindly sent their band twenty miles from Barrackpore, The Loyal Regiment's band had come from the Fort, and the 3/12th Frontier Force Band from Alipore. They played, amongst many other tunes, "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Incidentally we were told that the Bandmaster of the 3/12th had been up all night writing out the band parts of the latter tune, and judging by the waving of handkerchiefs by the large gathering of the fair sex from the quay this was a most appropriate one. The voyage lasted three days, the sea behaved properly throughout, and many would have welcomed a few days more. The Captain and all his officers were kindness itself, and were only too willing to do anything they possibly could to make the voyage a pleasant one. The troops were allowed far more latitude than on a trooper, and played games in the morning after "Rounds," including climbing hand over hand up the stays that hold up "the chimneys" The officers indulged in a mild game of skill and chance, while some of their number and all the married families danced each evening to the strains of the Regimental dance band. The band also played in the afternoon in the fore well deck for the edification of the troops and had a rousing reception.

Tolson and I were, to the best of my belief, the only representatives of the Regiment on board who did this journey in 1908, and the only other officers who are still serving with the Regiment who were on the *Hardinge* are Whittall and Paget. Some may remember how the very junior officers of the Royal Indian Marine used to always rise to the bait laid by Guy Blewitt, who would persist in always talking about "the blunt end of the boat" etc.

We arrived safely in Rangoon on the 25th, and, instead of proceeding up the river in the *Bhamo* and the *Sladen*, we found three trains waiting to take us up to Maymyo and Mandalay. With the exception that I delayed the first train by entirely forgetting the married families, there is little to tell of our railway journey. All went according to plan and we reached Maymyo at 11 a.m. on the 26th. Unfortunately the Railway Company had not budgeted for sufficient trucks for our baggage, with the result that this got strewn about their system, and of course those which they decided to send up the hill that evening did not contain the blankets. I fear, therefore, that many spent a cold night; however, we raked up everything we could find, and I hope everybody had some sort of covering.

The Manchester Regiment had vacated the barracks before we arrived, and had taken up their abode on the football ground so that we were able to go straight in.

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The Manchesters marched away in the afternoon to their trains, in which they had to spend the night of the 26th stationary in the station and the next night on the way to Rangoon.

Both Maymyo and Mandalay are much the same as they were when the 43rd were in Burma. Both the Clubs have been added to and are considerably more expensive. The polo grounds are just the same. Maymyo has a passable golf course except for the worm casts, and most of us hack our way round once or twice a week. One or two people are still here, notably Holman Hunt and Thyne, whom many will remember. Another well-known character has only lately left, Wilford, after commanding a regiment in Burma for a short time, has retired to England.

The garrison of Burma has been very much reduced: whereas in 1908 there were The Scots Fusiliers at Rangoon, The Welch Fusiliers at Shwebo, The Irish Rifles at Maymyo, and the 43rd at Thayetmyo, Mandalay and Meiktla, there are now only the Camerons at Mingletoon, with detachments in Rangoon and the Andamans, and the 52nd at Maymyo, with one company at Mandalay. In addition there used to be five Indian regiments, now there are the Maharratta Light Infantry and 1st Madras Pioneers in the Fort Mandalay, the 3/20th and the training battalion, Burma Rifles, at Maymyo, and 2/15th Punjabis at Rangoon. The military police are, however, I am glad to say, still with us and, as ever, the mainstay of the polo. The Police Week, followed by the Mandalay Week, with the usual polo tournaments are, as I write, in progress; we have been down to watch the polo, and realise that we have got to go like blazes and be stick perfect to be any good. The majority of the officers also attended the military police ball which was a great show. I got to bed at 5 a.m. and I think others were considerably after me. Christmas is upon us and loads of provisions, accompanied by hogsheads of beer, are finding their way into barracks for dinners to-morrow. I gather the day starts at reveille with coffee and rum so all should go well.

In conclusion we hope to see our Editor, General Higgins, accompanied by Mrs. Higgins, in Maymyo this summer, and will do our best to show him that the April Week" is still up to the standard of "the good old days."

A.E.S.