

**1931 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF FIRST BATTALION DIARY,**

*January 6.* —Information received that Lieut. J. L. Stebbing retires, receiving a gratuity with effect from December 25, 1930 (Authy. L.G.).

*January 9.* —Lieut. J. B. Jarvis promoted Captain with effect from September 21, 1930 (Authy. L.G.).

*January 14.*—Information received that Captain J. B. Jarvis is attached to the 43rd pending posting to either battalion (Authority, W.O. letter P/ 18591/3 (A.G.2(0)), dated 5/1/31).

*January 20.* —The Divisional Commander, Major-General H. S. Knox, C.B., D.S.O., visited the Regiment.

*January 24.* —Information received that Lieut. J. E. Dunbar Kilburn is posted to the 43rd on restoration to full pay (Authority, W.O. letter P/6769/4 (A.G.2 (0)), dated 19/1/31).

*January 31.* —Information received that Captain D. S. Newton-King is attached to the 43rd pending posting to either battalion (Authority, W.O. letter P/6318/16 (A.G.2 (0) ), dated 26/1/31).

*February 6.*— Information received that the undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets are gazetted to the Regiment from the Royal Military College, and attached to the Regiment pending posting to either battalion: —  
Peter John Luard. Howard Gordon Temple. Arthur Peter Godman. John Philip Frederick Miles.

*February 12.*—Information received that Captain R. H. Doyne will be attached to the 43rd pending posting to either battalion on vacating the appointment of Adjutant, May 1, 1931 (Authority, W.O. letter P/15384/7 (A.G.2 (0) ), dated 3/2/31).

*February 18.*—(a) 2nd Lieut. C. A. R. Campbell proceeds to Burmah (with a draft from the 2nd Bn., Manchester Regiment) on posting to the 52nd.

(b) The second Indian Draft, consisting of 1 Serjeant, 2 Corporals and 64 Privates, sailed for Burma on H.M.T. *Somersetshire* on posting to the 52nd.

Captain T. J. W. Winterton conducted this draft.

(c) Draft of 57 recruits arrived from the Regimental Depot to complete their recruits' training at Parkhurst, there being no room for them at Cowley.

*February 28.*—Captain D. S. Newton-King reported for duty and is posted to Letter "A" Company.

*March 1.*—The following 2nd Lieutenants reported for duty on first appointment, and are posted to companies as shown :—

2nd Lieut. H. G. Temple: "A" Company. 2nd Lieut. P. J. Luard: "B" Company. 2nd Lieut. A. P. Godman: "C" Company. 2nd Lieut. J. P. F. Miles: "C" Company.

*March 6.*—Southern Command Cross-Country race. The Regiment obtained 2nd place, thereby qualifying to compete in the Army Cross-Country race.

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*March 7.*—Horses inspected by the A.D.V.S., Southern Command, who expressed himself as being well satisfied with their condition.

*March 16.*—The following Officers attended a Brigade T.E.W.T. at Portsmouth :—  
Lieut-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C. Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O. Captain L. R. Randall.  
Captain R. H. Doyne, and Captain J. B. Jarvis.

*March 17.*—Army Cross-Country Race at Bordon. The Regiment obtained 7th place.

*March 19.*—Isle of Wight Point-to-Point Races. Government Chargers' race won by Lieut. R. T. Conant's "Jorrocks."

*March 26th.*—Regimental Point-to-Point at Poppet's Hill. Won by Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds' "Chatty."

*April 2.*—Regiment proceeds on Easter leave till April 7th.

*April 30.*—Strength: Officers 30, Warrant-Officers 8, Serjeants 33, Corporals 42, Buglers .13, Privates 470, Total 566.

*May 1.*—Captain J. B. Jarvis appointed Adjutant vice Captain R. H. Doyne whose tenure of the appointment has expired.

The Regiment was inspected by its Colonel, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps. He presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to:— R.S.M. H. Lay, D.C.M., M.M. C.S.M. J. Watts, D.C.M. Lance-Corporal H. Bunce. Lance-Corporal H. Hutchings.

*May 11.*—The Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade, Brigadier L. I. G. Morgan-Owen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment for the first time.

*May 15.*—Colonel Infante, Italian Military Attache, visited the Regiment.

*May 29.*—Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham reported for duty and is posted to Letter "C" Company.

*June 6.*—H.M. King George's Birthday celebrated.

*June 11.*—Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., reported for duty on cross-posting from the 2nd Battalion and is posted to Letter "C" Company.

*June 12.*—The Regiment won the Wessex Area (East) Team Athletic Championships for the third successive year, so qualifying to compete in the Southern Command Championship. The 2nd Bn., The Dorsetshire Regiment were the runners-up.

*June 20.*—Machine Gun Company moved to Lark-hill to join the remaining Machine Gun Companies of the 9th Infantry Brigade for the Annual Machine Gun Concentration.

*June 24.*—The Regiment was visited by Lieut.-General Sir Cecil Romer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., G.O.C.-in-Ch., Southern Command.

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*June 19.*—The Regimental Dinner held at the United Services Club, Pall Mall.

*June 30 and July 1.*—The Regiment won the Southern Command Team Athletic Championships for the second year in succession although Lieut, M. M. Alston-Roberts-West was crocked. 2nd:3rd Div. Royal Signals ; 3rd:11th Hussars,

*July 5.*—The Regiment moved from Parkhurst to Tidworth Pennings Camp.

*July 6-14.*—Battalion Training in areas around Tidworth.

*July 10 and 11.*—The Regiment competed in the Army Team Athletic Championships at Colchester and were placed 7th. Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West was still unable to take part.

*July 15.*—The whole Regiment engaged erecting camps at Tidworth Pennings and Tidworth Park for the Junior Division O.T.C.

*July 17 and 18.*—Lieut. The Hon. C. B. A. Bernard, L.-Sjt. Smart, L.-Sjt. Stallwood awarded Army Athletic Badges at the Army Individual Athletic Championship Meeting at Colchester.

*July 20.*—All Junior Division O.T.C. Camps cancelled for fear of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. Camp at Tidworth Park dismantled, that at Tidworth Pennings handed over to the other Regiments of the Brigade.

*July 28 and 29.*—Regimental Rifle Meeting held on the Bulford Ranges. C.S.M. Burnell became Regimental Champion for the second time.

*July 30.*—Information received that the Regiment will move to Bordon on or about February 26, 1932, in relief of the 2nd Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers, who are moving to Palestine.

*August 1.*—A party of nine Officers and a proportion of N.C.O.'s moved to Swanage to assist the T.A. Battalions of the Regiment in their Camp.

*August 9.*—Lieut. R. H. G. O. Spence returns to Regimental Duty after three months attachment to the Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at the War Office. Ten draught horses and drivers sent to Aldershot to take part in the practice mobilization of the 1st Division.

*September 1, 2, 3.*—Southern Command Weapon Training Meeting held on Bulford Ranges, some of it postponed owing to bad weather. Infantry Transport Competition held at the same time and were awarded third place.

*September 4-19.*—Brigade, Divisional, and Command Training took place in the wettest and coldest weather of recent years. Fortunately, the Regiment were never soaked to the skin.

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*September 12.*—England won the Schneider Cup outright on the 13th.

Captain E. L. O. Baddeley, Lieuts. G. G. Hughes and P. C. Boileau were flying from Calshot to Hanworth in an aeroplane piloted by the first-named, when, owing to the bad visibility, the machine struck some tall trees on Leith Hill near Dorking, Surrey. One wing was torn off the aeroplane and it fell to the ground killing the occupants outright. "Bill," Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham's German bulldog, who was also a passenger, was killed.

*September 16.*—Lieut. P. C. Boileau buried at Lustleigh, near Newton Abbott, Lieut. G. G. Hughes, only surviving son of Lieut.-Colonel R. G. H. Hughes, formerly commanding the 52nd, buried at Pyrton, Oxfordshire.

*September 17.*—Captain E. L. O. Baddeley's funeral at Cowley, Oxford. Few Officers and men were able to attend these funerals owing to manoeuvres.

*September 21.*—The Regiment returned from Tidworth Pennings Camp to Parkhurst. The Railway and Steamship Companies concerned muddled the arrangements which complicated the move, but everyone arrived in barracks that night. So ended the Regiment's third annual camp on Salisbury Plain, which will always be remembered for the truly appalling weather conditions which disheartened everyone. Several nights there were white frosts, but it only once happened when the Regiment was out all night.

*September 26.*—An exchange between Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., commanding the 43rd, and Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., commanding the 52nd, sanctioned by the War Office (Authority, W.O. letter P/3362/9 (A.G. 2 (0)), dated 22/9/31). Lieut.-Colonel Sanderson is at present sick in Queen Alexander's Military Hospital, Millbank.

2nd Lieuts. Patrick Malcolm Hughes and James Hugh Hare reported for duty having been gazetted to the Regiment on August 28, 1931.

*September 30.*—Strength: Officers 34, Warrant-Officers 8, Serjeants 31, Corporals 43, Buglers 12, Privates 591, Total 685.

*October 1.*—The new "Standing Orders" compiled by Major (Bt. Lt.-Col.) B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C., under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson and Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., were taken into use. The principle adopted in the orders was the framing of instructions suitable for and acceptable by the 43rd and 52nd.

In consequence of the serious conditions of the nation's finances, reductions in pay foreshadowed in September came into effect to-day. A reduction of approximately 10 per cent, was made in the pay of all ranks who joined before 1926.

*October 5.*—Orders received discontinuing the use of .455 in. revolver ammunition for practice as an economy.

All Ranks are forbidden to proceed abroad on leave except for urgent reasons; this is to prevent the country from losing money.

*October 13 and 14.*—The Regiment provided parties all over the Island for the Annual Perambulation of the W.D. Boundaries in order to maintain its jurisdiction and prevent a right of way being formed.

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*October 16.*—Nomination Day for the General Election.

*October 21.*—Hon. Brigadier-General T. R. F. Bates, C.M.G., Inspector of Mobilization Remounts, War Office, made his annual inspection and stated he was well pleased with the condition of the animals.

2nd in Command's charger "Conqueror" to be destroyed—" old and worn out."

*October 27.*—Polling Day. Occupants of the Married Quarters voted at Parkhurst. Captain Peter Macdonald elected as Conservative M.P. for the Island by a 28,000 majority.

*October 31.*—Strength: Officers 32, Warrant-Officers 8, Serjeants 31, Corporals 43, Buglers 12, Privates 617, Total 744. This is a record strength for ten years.

*November 3.*—Captain S. C. P. Slattery completed a course from October 12 to October 22 at the R.A.F. School of Photography, Farnborough, in "The Military uses of Air Photographs" and obtained a "Passed " qualification.

*November 5.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., was succeeded in command of the 43rd by Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O.

Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham attended a M.G. Course at Netheravon from August 21 to October 23 and obtained "Qualified" classification.

*November 7.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., embarked at Marseilles for Burma to command the 52nd.

*November 11.*—Armistice Day. The Regimental Memorial Chapel was dedicated in Christ Church Cathedral by the Bishop of Oxford at 12 noon.

The Colonel of the Regiment handed over to the Dean the Chapel and the Roll of Honour. After the service the Dean and Mrs. White entertained the Officers and their friends to luncheon in the Hall of Christ Church.

*November 20.*—Brigadier L. I. G. Morgan-Owen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commanding 9th Infantry Brigade, made his annual inspection of the Regiment.

*November 24.*—Captain D. S. Newton-King and 2nd Lieutenant M. Darell-Brown and 103 Other Ranks embarked in H.M.T. *Somersetshire* at Southampton to join the 2nd Bn. in Burma. 2nd Lieutenant P. J. Luard sailed in the same ship but with a draft of the Green Howards.

*December 9.*—The Regiment, less Maintenance Party, went on furlough for Christmas.

*December 21.*—2nd Lieuts. H. G. Temple and A. P. Godman embarked at Southampton to join the 2nd Bn. in Burma.

*December 24.*—Captain S. C. P. Slattery completed a course from November 3 to December 17 at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, and was awarded a diploma.

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**FIRST BATTALION LETTER, 1931**

DEAR EDITOR,

In January Stebbing retired; we had not seen much of him since Bad Langenschwaibach as he had been seconded to the Iraq Levies, where he contracted diseases which ultimately caused his retirement. About the same time news was received that Jarvis had been promoted Captain with effect from the previous September. This brought the number of promotions to Captain in the year 1931 up to 8.

On February 18 Winterton sailed for Burma with a draft of 67, while in the same ship was Campbell with a draft of the Manchester Regiment. During the same month Newton-King came back to us from the Sudan Defence Force. In March, Luard, Temple, Godman, and Miles joined from Sandhurst and we thought that surely we should be able to keep two of them in the 43rd. But it was not to be, and now they all have sailed or are sailing for Burma, making the gap of years wider and wider between the youngest lieutenant in the 43rd and the 2nd lieutenants.

At about the same time some people found several convenient point-to-points to ride in at week-ends. Conant won the chargers' race on "Jorrocks" in the Isle of Wight races, and Edmunds the Regimental Race on "Chatty".

On May 1 the Colonel came down and presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to the Regiment. Shortly afterwards the Italian Military Attache, one Colonel Infante, paid us a visit, and his descriptions of life in the Italian Army were most entertaining and illuminating and he kept the whole Mess amused whenever he came.

At the end of May, Wykeham and Tolson joined in quick succession from leave after cross-posting from the 52nd. On June 12 the Regiment won the Wessex Area (East) Team Athletic Championships for the third year running, this time by a bigger margin than ever. Apart from the other three Regiments of the Brigade, our opponents have always numbered the Depot, Royal Tank Corps, Wool, and the Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Hilsea.

Our military and athletic training then became rather complicated as the Machine Gun Company went to Larkhill for their annual concentration lasting a fortnight, the Southern Command Athletic Championships, the A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley, and the Regiment's move to Salisbury Plain also, all took place at about the same time. Unfortunately, during this rather hectic period came the Regimental Dinner which was as well attended as possible considering the circumstances and voted by all the best there had ever been. Everyone agreed that the congenial surroundings of a service club made all the difference.

We were again successful in the Southern Command Sports, even without West's services, as he had hurt himself in the Area Championships. The Regiment occupied its old camping site at Tidworth Pennings and on the next day following its arrival commenced Battalion Training. This only lasted nine days as there were the O.T.C. Camps to be erected at the Park and Pennings. On July 10 and 11 the Regiment competed in the Army Sports at Colchester, but was out of luck and finished bottom. However, a week later at the Army Individual Championships, Bernard, Lance-Serjeants Smart and Stallwood were awarded Army Badges.

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Then occurred what everyone in the Army always tries so hard to avoid. When the Regiment had erected three quarters of the O.T.C. Camps it was decided by the War Office that the chances of cerebro spinal meningitis were not entirely absent, so orders were received to dismantle the camps and recommence Battalion Training. Everyone worked with a will, but the feeling of an anti-climax was definitely present. At the end of July we held the Regimental Rifle Meeting on the Bulford Ranges and Company Serjeant-Major S. Burnell emerged the Regimental champion.

August was devoted mostly to leave for the break period, except that several Officers and Other Ranks were assisting the O.T.C. and T.A. with their Annual Training. Our T.A. Battalions held their camp at Swanage.

September 1 was the zero day for the final spasm of Collective Training which finished on the 21st with our return to Parkhurst. On September 12 occurred the flying accident which resulted in the deaths of Baddeley, Hughes, and Boileau, each one of whom was distinguished in some form of sport. No words of mine can describe the gap they have left, time only can soften the blow. Unfortunately, owing to manoeuvres, only a very limited number of people were able to attend the funerals.

The manoeuvres took place over the same ground over which we have operated for the last two years with the result that the same rivers, ridges, and landmarks were used and known by everyone. The only innovation this year was a sausage balloon used by our side. The usual picturesque Salisbury Plain variety of long-distance cavalry charges took place, initiated by those squadrons who were either tired of the "War" or were determined to water their horses.

On September 26 the War Office informed us that an exchange had been permitted between Colonel Whittall and Colonel Sanderson. Colonel Sanderson took command on November 5 and Colonel Whittall sailed from Marseilles on November 7.

Hughes and Hare joined at the end of September. On Armistice Day a representative body of the 43rd, together with the Band and Buglers, attended the dedication of the Memorial Chapel at Oxford. The kind hospitality of the Dean and Mrs. White was much appreciated afterwards in the Hall of Christ Church.

On November 20 we underwent the annual institution of the Brigade Commander's Inspection which was shorter than usual owing to the Divisional Commander's visit on the previous day. The Brigade Commander also inspected the first Burmese Draft. Four days later they sailed under Newton-King and Darell-Brown; Luard was in the same ship with a draft of another regiment.

No mention has been made of the appalling weather conditions during our camp on Salisbury Plain for the simple reason that they beggared description and our move to Bordon is considerably softened by the thought that our visits to the Plain are now ended for at least some years to come.

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Several reconnoitring parties have visited Bordon and it is generally surmised that once we are there it will not be half as bad as it looks. The Solent and Spithead are pleasant stretches of water for yachting, but as obstacles to moving to and fro from the Isle of Wight they are incredible nuisances.

Our strength, which has been the subject of so much writing, in October rose to 744, and this is a record for over ten years as far as can be ascertained from records in our possession.

For one reason and another there have been few hunting in the Island this summer, and so far only Portal, Meade, Jarvis, Kilburn, Conant, West, Clifton, Spence, Hughes and Hare have been out.

Yours ever,  
43RD