

1932 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1932

Parkhurst, 1932.

January 1.—Captain W. G. Clarke appointed Adjutant of the Buckinghamshire Battalion vice Captain W. L. Barnard, whose tenure of the appointment has expired. Captain W. L. Barnard attached to the Depot pending embarkation for Burma.

January 5.—The Regiment returned from Christmas furlough.

January 24.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., rejoined from leave, having been posted to the First Battalion after two years course at the Staff College, Camberley.

January 29.—The following gazetted 2nd Lieutenants in the Regiment:
Fletcher William Lowndes-Stone-Norton from General List, T.A., with seniority April 12, 1929 (University Candidate).
John Wilmot Warner from R.M.C., Sandhurst.

February 18.—Advanced Party moved to Bordon Camp. Strength: Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West, Lieut, and Quartermaster E. Smith and 20 Other Ranks.

February 20.—Lieut. C. W. P. Branson underwent a Course of P.T. at the Army School of P.T. at Aldershot from January 5—February 18 and was awarded a certificate.

February 22.—2nd Burmese Draft sailed from Southampton to join the Second Battalion at Maymyo, strength: Captain R. H. Doyne, 2nd Lieut. J. P. F. Miles, 3 Serjeants, 1 Corporal, 85 Other Ranks.

February 24.—Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn and Lieut. R. H. G. O. Spence completed a course at the S.A.S., Hythe from February 1—23 and obtained a "Qualified" certificate.
Bordon Camp.

February 25.—The Regiment left Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, and proceeded via Cowes and Southampton to Martinique Barracks, Bordon Camp, Hampshire.

February 29.—The Rear Party from Parkhurst arrived at Bordon Camp under Lieut. C. W. P. Branson.

March 12.—Lieut. J. P. A. Graham won the Grand Military Hunters Steeplechase at Sandown Park, riding his own horse "Lare." Value of the race: 500 sovereigns.

March 19.—Lieut. The Hon. C. B. A. Bernard won the Heavyweight Race for the Mounted Infantry Cup at the Staff College Point-to-Point at Wokingham, riding his own horse "Martin Chuzzlewit."

April 1.—Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C., promoted Colonel and appointed Chief Instructor, Staff College, Quetta.

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April 8.—Lord North, Honorary Colonel of the 4th T.A. Battalion died at his home Wroxton Abbey, near Banbury, aged 95. He was at his death the oldest Officer of the British Army on the Active List.

April 13.—Lord North buried at Kirtling, near Newmarket, representative detachments of the Regimental Depot and the 4th Battalion being present.

April 21.—Lieut, the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard won the Regimental Race on his horse "Martin Chuzzlewit" at the South Oxfordshire Point-to-Point held at Poppets Hill.

April 22.—Commanding Officer was present to receive Their Majesties the King and Queen on their visit to Aldershot with the Princess Royal.

April 27.—2nd Lieut. P. M. Hughes underwent a course at the Small Arms School, Hythe, from February 29 to April 22 and was awarded a "Qualified" Certificate.

May 1.—Major (Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) R. J. Brett D.S.O., relinquishes his appointment as D.A.A.G. at the War Office.

May 2.—Major (Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) R. J. Brett D.S.O., appointed Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot at Oxford in succession to Major (Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) (now Colonel) B. C. T. Paget D.S.O., M.C.

May 7.—The Machine Gun Company returned from the Concentration at the Small Arms School, Netheravon, having been there since April 26. The Company went and returned in motor lorries, the chargers and horses moving by march route staying one night on both journeys at Popham Staging Camp.

The Transport won the Driving Competition for the third year in succession.

May 23.—Captain M. Yamamoto, Imperial Japanese Army, arrived for four months' attachment to the Regiment.

May 24.—A draft of recruits arrived from the Depot. This was the first occasion on which the whole journey has been made by motor coach instead of by train.

June 3.—H.M. the King's birthday celebrated by the 3rd Infantry Brigade on the Brigade Square at Bordon.

June 4.—Army Individual Sports held at Aldershot.

Throwing the hammer.—Winner: Captain J. B. Jarvis.

Pole Jump.—2nd equal: Sjt. Smart.

They were awarded Army Athletic Badges.

2nd Lieut. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton promoted Lieutenant with effect from April 12, 1932. (*London Gazette*, dated June 4, 1932.)

June 7.—2nd Lieut. P. M. Hughes posted to the First Battalion, and 2nd Lieut. J. H. Hare posted to the Second Battalion, (War Office Letter 112/Inf./ 2311(A.G.2(0)) dated June 1, 1932,)

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June 9.—Captain L. W. Giles, M.C., won the Regimental Rifle Championship in a shoot off after a tie with Sjt. Instructor of Musketry G. White. This is only the second time the Championship has been won by an officer.

June 17.—The Regimental Dinner held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London.

June 20, 21 and 22.—The Regiment won the Aldershot Command Team Athletic Championships and so qualified to compete in the Army Championships. Runners up—2nd Bn. Royal Tank Corps.

June 25.—A Regimental team of private soldiers won the Inter Ranks knock out competition at the Aldershot Command Small Arms Meeting held on Ash Ranges.

July 2.—Captain J. B. Jarvis gained third place in the A.A.A. Sports in throwing the hammer at the White City, London.

July 8-9.—The Regiment won the Army Team Athletic Championships by 20 points from the 1st Bn. York and Lancaster Regiment. Seven teams competed and the Regiment broke the Army record in the One Mile and the Two Miles Relay Races. These sports were held at Aldershot.

July 12.—2nd Lieut. J. H. Hare underwent a course at the Small Arms School, Hythe, from May 2 to June 14 and was awarded a "Qualified " certificate.

Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West proceeded to the Regimental Depot in relief of Lieut. Hon. C. B. A. Bernard. This relief was due to have taken place on May 14, 1932.

July 18.—Regimental Cricket started at the Regimental Depot at Oxford.

July 31.—The 13th London Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) arrive to do a week's training from the Regiment's barracks instead of their annual camp.

August 7.—The 4th Battalion arrive for a week's training.

August 11.—Colonel Ames, their new Colonel, visits and inspects them on parade.

September 1.—The following Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military College appointed 2nd Lieutenants in the Regiment and are attached to the First Battalion pending posting:

Peter George Francis Young.

Philip Turner van Straubenzee.

(London Gazette.)

September 30.—2nd Lieutenants P. G. F. Young and P. T. van Straubenzee joined for duty.

October 8.—Old Comrades Association Dinner at Oxford in the Town Hall, over 300 attended.

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October 11.—The First Burmese Draft sailed from Southampton in H.M.T. *Lancashire* to join the Second Battalion at Maymyo under the command of 2nd Lieutenant J. H. Hare. Strength of the draft: 1 Officer, 110 Rank and File.

October 20.—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O. went on leave and was granted sick leave from the following day in consequence of his being taken seriously ill.

October 24.—Lieut. R. T. Conant was the individual winner in the 1st Division Inter-Brigade Team Event in the Aldershot Command Hunter Trials, riding "Bumble Bee" (Government charger). Lieut. the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard was second equal in the Class for Dismounted Units on his own horse "The Pet."

October 29.—Orders received to reorganize the Machine Gun Company into two platoons and one cadre platoon which later is to be the Mortar Platoon.

November 3.—Lieut. J. P. A. Graham having completed his tour of duty of three years as Adjutant of the Regimental Depot is posted to the First Battalion.
Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West appointed Adjutant of the Regimental Depot.
Lieut. R. T. Conant posted to the Regimental Depot for a tour of duty vice Lieut. J. P. A. Graham.

November 11.—*Armistice Day.* The Regiment paraded and after a speech by the Commanding Officer observed the two minutes' silence.
The rest of the day was observed as a holiday.

November 19.—Major T. E. Withington, A.F.C., joined for duty being attached pending posting after completing four years as instructor in English at the *ecole Speciale Militaire*, St. Cyr.

November 23.—Captain J. Thorne joined for duty on cross-posting from the Second Battalion.

November 25.—Brigadier T. G. Dalby, D.S.O. Commanding 3rd Infantry Brigade made his first annual inspection of the Regiment.

December 13.—2nd Lieutenant J. W. Warner posted to the 52nd and detailed to conduct the draft sailing on February 4 (13/W/1637A.G.2. (0)).

December 17.—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., having done his four years in command retires on half pay. Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O., retires on retired pay.
Major L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O., from the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment to be Lieut.-Colonel in the Regiment and is appointed to command the First Battalion (*London Gazette*).

December 20.—Qualification at a Machine Gun Wing of a Small Arms School made essential before an Officer can be appointed as an Adjutant of a Territorial Army Battalion. (43/SA/578 (M.T.)) dated December 12, 1932.

December 23.—Lieut. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton posted to the Second Battalion and ordered to proceed to Burma in the present trooping season. (P/50240/3(Q.G.2.(0)).

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FIRST BATTALION LETTER, 1932

DEAR EDITOR,

On January 1, Clarke left to relieve Barnard as Adjutant of the Bucks Battalion, the latter being attached to the Regimental Depot pending his embarkation for Burma. On the 24th Smyth joined on posting from the Staff College.

We were all very busy during February packing up and making the very complicated arrangements for our move to Bordon Camp. A reconnaissance party consisting of the Colonel, Plowden and Jarvis went to Bordon to view the Barracks and arrived and left in a steady downpour. Their impression of the buildings—a collection of corrugated iron huts erected in 1904—was definitely adverse. However, a hearty welcome from Brigadier T. G. Dalby, D.S.O., and his staff helped to make the prospect more rosy.

On February 18th, the advanced party consisting of Tolson, West and Smith with 20 others went to take over from the Royal Scots Fusiliers who were going to Palestine. It would take several pages to narrate the intricate arrangements that it was necessary to make for loading the baggage and embarking the personnel as there was, and still is, only one pontoon with a capacity of one ship at a time. Simultaneously the normal civilian packet service had to be maintained. However by means of every one working hard and Wykeham acting as a species of M.L.O. all went well, the main body of the Regiment arriving at Bordon on the 25th. Our move was not made any the easier by virtue of the fact that we sent a draft under Miles to Burma on the 22nd. On the 29th Branson having completed handing over to the Hampshire Regiment rejoined with the rear party.

Soon after Lowndes-Stone-Norton from Oxford University and Warner from Sandhurst joined having been gazetted on the 29th of the previous month,, They have now both been posted to the 52nd with orders to embark in the spring of 1933.

Hardly had anyone begun to get straight before we found ourselves in the throes of an Officers' Tactical Week, which took place in some of the coldest weather imaginable. This was followed by the usual bouts of Company and Weapon Training. On March 12 Graham won the Grand Military Hunters' Steeplechase at Sandown Park on his horse "The Lare." This was a great event and was duly celebrated, Bernard followed up Graham's victory by winning the Heavy Weight race for the Mounted Infantry Cup on the 19th. Later on he was also the winner of the Regimental Race.

April 1 was a sad day for the Regiment though a bright one for Paget as it saw him promoted Colonel and appointed Chief Instructor at the Staff College at Quetta. On the 8th Lord North, Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion, died at the age of ninety-five; to the last he evinced the greatest interest in the Regiment. He was at the time of his death the senior officer of the British Army on the Active List and the oldest Household Cavalryman and Guardsman. He was succeeded in his Colonelcy by Colonel W. H. Ames, T.D.

On May 1 Brett relinquished his appointment at the War Office and the following day was selected to command the Regimental Depot. On the 27th the Machine Gun Company returned from their Annual Concentration on Salisbury Plain where they had had very bad weather, which made conditions under canvas miserable.

A description of our athletic activities will be found in a special article on another page, but it must be mentioned here that we again won the Army Athletic Championships.

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On July 1 Hughes was posted to the 43rd and Hare to the 52nd. On the 9th-Giles became the champion shot at the Regimental Rifle Meeting. Paris is the only other officer who has won it before. On the 12th West took Bernard's place at the Depot.

The first fortnight in August saw us acting as hosts for a week each to the 13th London and our own 4th Battalion. This visit was an economy in place of the usual T.A. camps, but it is not likely to be repeated owing to the adverse effect it has on recruiting. We thoroughly enjoyed having the Territorials here and we are having the officers and N.C.O.s of the 16th London here for Easter, while they carry out a T.E.W.T.

September saw us hard at Brigade Training, the Divisional Commander's, and Commander-in-Chief's exercises. The first scheme during which the Colonel acted as Brigade Commander was the crossing of the River Rother in Cowdray Park. We marched to Cowdray the first day—about fourteen miles—and bivouacked there for the night. On the following morning we marched to Cocking and then back in the afternoon to Polecats. We crossed the river at dawn by means of assault bridges and then were on the move practically the whole time until our return to barracks at about 7.30 p.m.

The "Post" scheme, somewhat on the lines of the latter part of the Boer War, saw Tolson, Meade and Slattery as Post commanders, their command consisting of their companies and a section of Artillery and Engineers each. This was an interesting exercise, enlivened by the capture of one force commander and the "assassination" in the Sisera manner of the other; but bad weather spoilt the concluding stages.

The Divisional Commander's Exercise in the Thursley Common area fortunately came to an early close owing to the torrential rain which lasted for five hours.

The curtain of the collective training season was rung down by a scheme set by the Commander-in-Chief, which was in the nature of a convoy exercise. In order to get the stage set we marched on the first day to Old Dean Common, about twenty miles, rising at 3 a.m. from our bivouacs the following morning to occupy a position in the neighbourhood of Lower Star Post. We moved from there to Ash, but never really came in touch with the enemy. We bivouacked that night on the Ranges and came back to barracks the next day in lorries. Tolson commanded the Regiment on all exercises as the Colonel was under doctor's orders.

The Old Comrades' Dinner was held at Oxford on October 10, which unfortunately clashed with the Bucks Battalion one; however, there was no room in the Oxford Town Hall for anyone else and everyone spent a very happy evening together.

On September 30th, Young and van Straubenzee joined from Sandhurst and on November 3 West took Graham's place as Adjutant at the Depot, Conant taking West's vacancy there. On the 19th Withington returned from St. Cyr and Thorne joined from the 52nd.

On December 17, the Colonel and Portal retired and we welcomed Major L. L. Pargiter from the Middlesex on promotion and appointment to command the 43rd.

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For four months in the summer we had Captain Yamamoto of the Imperial Japanese Army attached to us; we all liked him and he seemed to enjoy himself with us although had he spoken better English the attachment would have been more advantageous to both sides. On leaving he presented the Mess with a beautiful picture in silk of a pair of the Emperor's Manchurian tigers, as well as several individual gifts.

We have been hunting with the H.H. or the Bordon R.A. Drag, while Plowden has occasionally supported the Chiddingfold. The following have been hunting at Bordon this season, Portal, Plowden, Meade, Smyth, Randall, Jarvis, Metcalfe, Clifton, Rowley, Hughes, Young, and van Straubenzee. Yours ever,

43RD.