

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1933

Bordon Camp.

January 27.—Captain J. W. Meade retires on retired pay (*London Gazette*).

February 2.—The following Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military College to be 2nd Lieutenants:—

Rupert Rodney Francis Tress Barry.

Adam John Rivers Steele.

Arthur Clerke Brown. (*London Gazette*).

February 14.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., is seconded for service on the Staff—Staff Captain, Salisbury Plain Area.

The following to be Captains :—

J. E. D. Kilburn, to date January 21.

M. H. S. Last, to date January 28 (*London Gazette*).

March 2.—The Regiment gained third place, out of twenty-three teams, in the Command Team Cross-Country championship, so qualifying to compete in the Army Championship.

March 21.—The Regiment were last in the Army Cross-Country championships at Colchester.

April 19.—The Machine-Gun Company moved to Warminster Camp to fire on the Imber Ranges. This is the first year these ranges have been used at all The road party with the horses and the limbers left Bordon on Easter Sunday and stayed two nights on the way at Popham and Bulford Fields.

April 20.—The Regimental Race at the South Oxfordshire Point-to-Point Races at Poppet's Hill was won by Lieut. The Hon. C B. A. Bernard's "Martin Chuzzlewit" for the second year running. Lieut. J. P. A. Graham rode two winners, one second and one third, at the same meeting.

April 29.—The Machine Gun Company returned from Camp at Warminster, having experienced very bad weather.

May 10.—Lieut. J. P. A. Graham won the Regimental Rifle Championship, and the Officers won back the Lea Cup from the Serjeants for the first time since 1924.

May 14.—The Regiment marched to Camp 47, Bourley Road, Aldershot, to commence rehearsals for the Aldershot Tattoo. Nine Officers and 250 Other Ranks took part in the item illustrating the "Death of Gordon" and the reconquest of the Sudan. The Band and Buglers performed in massed items.

May 26.—H.M. Queen Mary's birthday. This day the Colonel of the Regiment handed over to the Officers a Powder Horn of Peninsula date and formerly the property of a serjeant-major in the Regiment, This was a gift from H.M. the Queen.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

May 31.—The War Office issued a pamphlet entitled "Rules for the Posting of Infantry Officers." This entirely altered the former system of posting of officers abroad and divides all officers into their rosters, captains and majors, lieutenants of six years service and upwards, and 2nd lieutenants of one year's service and upwards. Officers will in future be posted abroad, having consideration to the amount of foreign service they may have already undergone.

June 2.—H.M. the King's birthday was celebrated at Camp 47, Aldershot, on this day because the proper day was Whit Sunday.

June 10,13,14,15, 16 and 17.—Actual performances of the Tattoo.

June 19, 20 and 21.—Letter "A" or Major T. E. Withington's Company won the Imperial Tobacco Company's Cup and the Officers their shoot in the Inter-Ranks knock-out competition, both in the Command Small Arms Meeting held on Ash Ranges.

June 22, 23 and 24.—The Regiment won the Aldershot Command Team Athletic Championships, and so qualified to compete in the Army Championships. Twenty-six teams competed, and the positions and points were:

1st.—The Regiment, 85 points.

2nd.—The Royal Engineers, Aldershot, 78 points.

3rd.—2nd Bn., Q.O. Royal West Kent Regiment, 49 points.

June 28 and 29.—Army Individual Athletic Championships were held at Tidworth. Lieut. C. L. C. Ward (Regtl. Depot) won the quarter-mile. The following were awarded standard badges :—

Captain J. B. Jarvis, throwing the hammer.

Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West, throwing the discus.

Sjt. Smart, the pole vault.

July 1.—Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., posted to the Regiment, having completed a two-years' tour of duty at the Regimental Depot.

2nd Lieut. P. G. F. Young attended a Young Officers' Course at the Small Arms School, Hythe, from May 1 to June 23, and was awarded the highest possible qualification.

September 4.—The following Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military College to be 2nd Lieutenants and to date from August 11:—

John Rupert Patrick Montgomery.

Bernard William Wood.

John Granville.

Lieut. C. L. C. Ward (Regtl. Depot) won the quarter mile at Army Individual Sports, was second in the A.A.A. Championships at the White City, and represented Great Britain against Holland at Amsterdam, Finland at Helsingfors, and Italy at Milan, when he won the 400 metres.

September 15.—Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds embarked for Burma to join the 52nd on cross-posting.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

September 26.—The first Burmese draft embarked., Composition: Captain J. E. D. Kilburn, Captain M. H. S. Last, and 95 Other Ranks.

October 2.—Lieut.-Colonel L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O. commenced a three-months' course at the Senior Officers' School, Sheerness.

October 4.—The Transport Section awarded the second prize in the 1st Division, Inter-Regimental Horse Management and Care of Harness competition conducted during the Corps' exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Designation of the Machine Gun Company altered, to that of Support Company.

October 15.—Major (Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) R. J. Brett, D.S.O., cross-posted to 43rd as Second in Command.

Major T. E. Withington, A.F.C., posted to the Regimental Depot at Oxford, in Command. The following officers have been awarded the Indian General Service Medal with the Clasp Burma 1930-32 while serving with the 52nd :—

Major W. G. Tolson, M.C.

Captain J. Thorne.

Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham.

Lieut. C. L. C. Ward.

Lieut. L. L. Falkiner.

The following letter was sent by the Colonel of the Regiment, as being the Colonel of the Senior Light Infantry Regiment, to the Colonels of all English Light Infantry Regiments and separately to the Colonel of the Highland Light Infantry :—

St. James Palace, S.W. October, 1933.

MY DEAR

As Colonel of the Senior Light Infantry Regiment I am writing to you on a matter which has lately been the subject of much discussion.

I refer to the formation of a Light Infantry Club, based on the lines of the Greenjacket and Highland Brigade Clubs.

Reasons put forward for the proposals are briefly these:—

(a) It is desirable to be able to put forward the united views of Light Infantry Regiments on matters which affect them.

(b) In the event of any grouping of Regiments for promotion or other purposes, it is desirable to ensure that such grouping should be on a Light Infantry and not a Territorial basis.

If such a club is formed, it is felt that it will possess greater powers than can at present be wielded by individual Regiments, and may eventually carry the same weight and prestige as the Greenjacket and Highland Brigade Clubs.

The reason in itself is a very powerful factor.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

As regards the details of the constitution of such a club, the following points are put forward for consideration :—

1. It should be as cheap as possible, say an individual life membership of £2, or an annual subscription of 5s.
2. It should be governed by a committee of one representative per regiment which will elect its own chairman and secretary.
3. It should have a golf meeting, possibly a cricket week, and later, possibly a point-to-point also.
4. It should be registered at Vintons as a Hunt Club so that members can wear buttons.
5. The Club should register its own colours.

A certain amount of correspondence on this subject has already taken place, and there is no doubt that Light Infantry Regiments, generally speaking, are in favour of the preliminary proposals.

If the project appeals to you, I should be glad if you would let me know at your earliest convenience, and when I have received the comments of all Colonels of Light Infantry Regiments I will form a small committee for the purpose of formulating its rules and incorporating its charter.

I, personally, am very strongly in favour of the inauguration of such a club, and propose to give it my full support.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. HANBURY-WILLIAMS,

Major-General Colonel, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

October 30.—Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham appointed an Officer of a Company of Gentlemen Cadets at the Royal Military College with effect from October 6, 1933.

November 1.—Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., and Major G. F. Plowden, M.C., retired on retired pay with effect from to-day's date.

November 10.—Brig. T. D. Dalby, D.S.O., Commanding 3rd Infantry Brigade, made his second annual inspection of the Regiment.

December 1.—Bandsman Hobson represented the Army against the Danes at Aldershot in the annual boxing tournament. He lost on points in a six-round contest.

December 7.—Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley embarked in S.S. *Castalia* at Birkenhead for Burma to join the 52nd

December 8.—Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., embarked in H.T. *Lancashire* at Southampton for Burma to join the 52nd.

December 9.—Maj.-General John Frederick Charles. Fuller, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., placed on retired pay :: he joined the 43rd on August 3, 1898.

December 17.—Report received of the proceedings of the first committee meeting of the Light Infantry Club held at the War Office ; Major (Brevet Lieut.--Colonel) R. J. Brett, D.S.O., represented the Regiment.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

December 23.—Lieut. C. Clifton and a draft of one Serjeant and 27 rank and file embarked in H.T. *Somersetshire* at Southampton for Burma to join the 2nd,

December 31.—

Detail.	Strength.	Establishment.
Officers	25	28
Warrant Officers Class 1	2	2
Warrant Officers Class II	6	6
Colour-Serjeants	5	6
Serjeants	25	25
Corporals	43	43
Buglers	9	16
Privates	451	665
Total	566	791

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

FIRST BATTALION LETTER, 1933

DEAR EDITOR,

The first three months of the year saw the Regiment completing its Individual Training, finishing with the Officers' and Serjeants weeks. Meade retired in January, and the next month Barry, Steele and Clerke Brown joined from Sandhurst. During the same month, Smyth left us to assume his first Staff appointment, that of G.S.O.(2) at Bulford, where he joined Colonel Bayley. Kilburn and Last were promoted Captain, with twelve and a half and twelve years service, respectively.

On March 2 the Command Team Cross-Country Championships was run, and the Regiment gained third place; twenty-three teams ran. The ground was very heavy and the finish was in Rushmoor Arena in the pouring rain. Graham, fortunately for us, was able to run, although he was busy sitting for the Staff College Entrance Examination. Our place qualified us for the Army Championships at Colchester on the 21st, but there we met our "Waterloo" and brought up the rear. Although the going was better, the course was a long and gruelling one. While we were at Colchester we gladly took advantage of the hospitality of the 7th Fusiliers.

March 19 saw the Machine Gunners move by M.T. to Warminster Camp for the annual concentration, which proved to be a cold and damp affair. This was the first time that Warminster had been raised to the status of a permanent camp, and all agreed that the choice of the site was not a very happy one. Incidentally, we had bivouacked there in 1929 for one night. Edmunds again commanded the mounted party, and they stayed at Perham and Bulford Fields on both journeys. On the return journey one of the lorries, in avoiding another car near Lasham, went through a hedge and down a ten-foot bank, but fortunately without serious injury to its occupants.

On April 20, Bernard won the Regimental Race on his horse "Martin Chuzzlewit" for the second year running, and Withington was first home on a charger. Graham had a real day out, riding two winners, one second and one third. Graham followed this up by winning the Regimental Rifle Championship on May 10, and also fired in the Officers' team which wrested the Lea Cup from the Serjeants for the first time since 1924.

In the autumn of 1932 we were informed that we were to take part in the Aldershot Tattoo in an item called "The Taking of the Cashmere Gate" under the direction of the Chief Engineer. After considerable historical research on the part of ourselves and the Royal Engineers, a very fair scene was evolved. However, in the spring, orders were received that the item planned had not found favour in the eyes of certain people, so at the last moment it was changed to "Gordon and the Sudan." Naturally, we had no historical connection with General Gordon, but the intricate training programme had been already planned and it was therefore impossible to release us.

So on the Sunday, May 14, the Regiment less the Signallers marched to Camp 47, Bourley Road, to carry out rehearsals. The Buglers and the Band were required for massed items, and except for one bugler did not take part in the Egyptian item. The camp turned out to be a very good one and we had excellent weather on the whole. On the Queen's birthday the Colonel of the Regiment had luncheon with us in camp, and presented an old powder horn which was a gracious present from the Queen. A description of the horn and a photograph will be found elsewhere.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

The spectacle of the Regiment parading each evening at 8.40 p.m. for the performances in costume with half-browned and half-chocolate-coloured faces, wearing drill uniform and scarlet tarbooshes, used to excite considerable comment from all who were walking along the Bourley Road.

During our stay in camp we had taken every opportunity to use the range which was half a mile away, and we were rewarded at the Command Rifle Meeting on June 19, 20 and 21 by Withington's Company winning the Imperial Tobacco Company's Cup, and the Officers their shoot in the Inter-Ranks Knock-out Competition.

At the end of June we repeated our success and again won the Command Team Athletic Championships, but bad luck robbed us of a place in the Army Championships. Further particulars of athletics will be found elsewhere, as well as an article on Ward's splendid achievements.

As we had to lend our horses to the 2nd Division for their training on Salisbury Plain in September, we did our Brigade Training during the first three weeks in August, which is a much pleasanter time of the year. However, a portion of a night spent in a gravel pit near Caesar's Camp was as cold as any night in late September. We did all our training in shirt sleeves, an innovation which met with everybody's approval and also considerably improved our mobility. The Scots' Guards, on seeing us thus dressed, paid us the compliment of saying that we must be very hardy.

Hardly had we recovered from Collective Training than we found the Trooping Season upon us, and Edmunds was the first to go to Burma, sailing on September 15, followed by Kilburn and Last and 95 Other Ranks on the 26th. In October, Brett left the Regimental Depot and joined us as Second-in-Command, and Withington took his place. Meanwhile Graham, who had been attached to the Royal Military College, was definitely seconded there with effect from the 6th.

On the 1st of the following month, Tolson and Plowden retired. The Brigadier's Annual Inspection took place on November 10, and from the report recently received, he was obviously more than satisfied with what he saw. The Transport were especially praised. They have done very well during the year, getting the Divisional Commander's second prize for their work on Salisbury Plain, and the following report from the Assistant Director of Remounts: "It would be difficult to improve on the general condition and turn-out of the animals belonging to this Unit."

On December 7, Rowley embarked in a packet at Birkenhead, on the 8th Burt-Smith in H.T. *Lancashire*, and on the 23rd Clifton with 23 other ranks in H.T. *Somersetshire* for Burma. This only leaves Barry yet to sail in the New Year in place of van Straubensee with whom he exchanged.

Hunting at Bordon opened with the Drag hunting the fox at the R.A. Mess, and an excellent day followed.

The opening meet of the H.H. at Rotherfield Park gave us the best hunt we have yet had with this pack, and a week later we had an excellent run from the meet at the "Golden Pot." The Drag was quite well patronized, and the lines are steadily improving, van Straubensee had the misfortune to crash while following a line near East — and had to retire to Cambridge Hospital with concussion and a crushed wrist.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

Fortunately, he had not the words "If unconscious, anywhere but Cambridge" stencilled in large letters on his vest, like a certain cavalry officer last year.

On December 4, those optimists who journeyed from Bordon Camp to the "Golden Pot" arrived only to find, after wasting about half an hour, that hounds had to be sent home because of the frost. On the 8th the ice held on Frensham Little Pond, and Jarvis, Hughes, Montgomery and Granville took on all comers at ice hockey daily. Jarvis and Montgomery, who were the sole survivors at Christmas in the Mess, spent the afternoon of Christmas Day skating on Fleet Pond.

Hunting started again on the 23rd, and we are hoping it will not again be held up. The following hunted at Bordon Camp in the autumn of 1933:— Giles, Randall, Jarvis, Bernard, Hughes, Young, van Straubenzee, and Granville.

The following having completed their foreign service tours, are joining in the New Year:— Horley and Ward (both from the Regimental Depot), Hamilton, Richards, and Lathbury.

Yours sincerely,
43RD.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

43RD POWDER HORN

The powder horn, which was given by Her Majesty the Queen to the Colonel of the Regiment early this year, and of which a photograph appears on another page, came into the possession of the Regiment in a unique manner.

Early this year, a firm of antique dealers issued a catalogue of items they were going to auction, and amongst them was a 43rd powder horn. Colonel Blewitt saw this catalogue, and immediately wrote making an offer for it to which the firm replied that they regretted that it had already been purchased by a lady. Blewitt then wrote inquiring the lady's name, thinking that he might purchase it from her; the firm again replied, saying they were not at liberty to disclose the lady's name, but that they had good reason to believe that the horn would be presented to a museum.

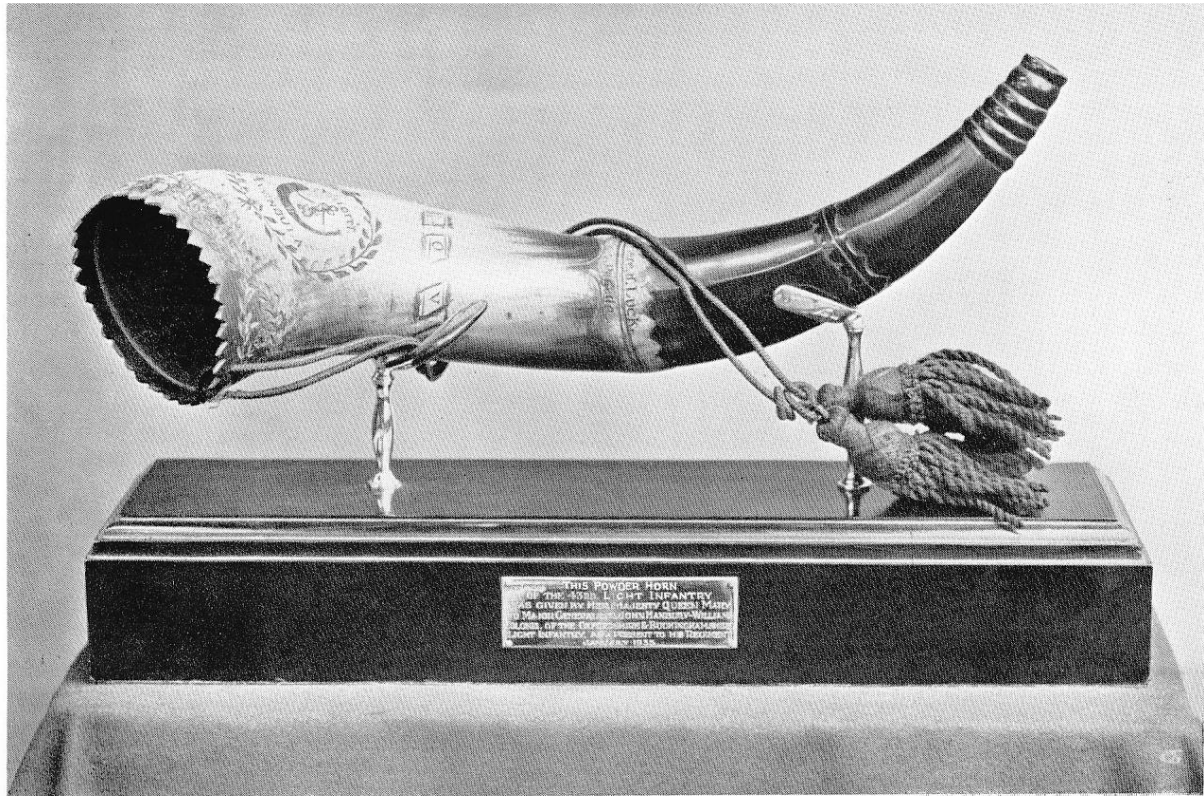
There the matter rested until the Lady-in-Waiting informed the Colonel of the Queen's gracious present and the reason for the firm's mysterious correspondence was revealed. In the meantime the horn had been cleverly mounted on a stand of ebony with two silver arms. Later it was arranged that the Colonel of the Regiment should present the horn to the Officers, and this ceremony took place in Camp 47, Aldershot, on May 26, which was Her Majesty the Queen's birthday. A photograph of the Officers taken on this occasion is published elsewhere.

A brief description of the horn is as follows :— length, 15 1/2 inches; weight, 13 ounces; colour, light grey and black. On it is engraved the 43rd crest and the words "Vittoria" and "Peninsula' round the horn "S.M. 57 J. H. Lovell," and across the broad portion the following :—

"Fill and drink, here if luck.
Finish it, there if no parade."
" Still may you rove
Life's sunny banks
Still may you happy prove
Still may you claim
A soldiers thanks
A soldiers gratitude."

An authority on army costume has given his opinion that the horn was used for keeping the fine priming powder which was poured in small quantities, each time the rifle was fired, into the flint lock action.

1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY



THE 43RD POWDER HORN.